

# Betty Hyde

Betty Hyde is a lovely, elderly lady who is 88 years old. Betty has lived in Caistor for 48 years. Before her marriage, her maiden name was Betty Lamming. We decided to interview her because a lot has changed in Caistor throughout her life.



Betty was born in 1925 in Nettleton on a farm opposite the pub. As Betty grew up, she was quite a tomboy because she normally played with her two male cousins, brother and sister. There was lots of help needed on the farm, so she would generally help by scrubbing the pantry floor (which was the earliest job she was given) and hanging the washing up. A great washing line hung in the orchard- or in the washhouse if the weather was bad. Because there was no electricity when Betty was a child, she and her brother and sister each had a candle to light the room when going to bed. One night she accidentally knocked her candlestick onto her box of matches; thankfully they didn't set fire and Betty picked it back up again.

Unlike children now, Betty didn't have a choice of what clothes she could buy because she says, "Whatever mum bought, I wore". One of Betty's dresses was navy blue with a patterned collar. Her Sunday best was a long pink dress with a pink hat but that was when she was ten. As you know, clothes have to be washed after they have been worn - her mother's job was washing; she used to use the dolly stick and a wooden tub. To drain most of the water out, she used a scrubbing brush and a wash board. To buy clothes, Betty and her mother caught the Grimsby bus into town.



After her happy times at Nettleton, at the age of seven, Betty and her family went to live in Swallow. In 1960, Betty settled in Caistor with her family and that is where they live now. Betty vaguely remembered her primary school memories, but she did tell us about her secondary school memories. She went to the Caistor Grammar School. Back then there were only 127 students. The council funded Betty a bike so she could get there. Betty wasn't the first child of her family to go to Caistor Grammar

School because her older brother and sister were there before her. While it was lunch, the students were always allowed to go for a walk as long as they were back for lessons. The route Betty would always take was around the church where she would look at the gravestone and admire the flowers.

Entertainment was very popular in her family; she loved playing cards and board games when she couldn't go outside and play cricket, catch games, and climbing on the haystacks with the other children in her family. They got together on a Sunday: it was their special family night together. On the farm, they had

lots of dogs but she was forbidden to name or pet them. They had to have a fox hound on Yarborough State farm but Betty thought it was a nuisance since it chewed one of her school shoes. Betty was very musical but she stopped piano lessons. Betty says that nowadays, her children entertain themselves with their laptops and are more into modern technology.



When Betty was younger she always used to celebrate birthdays, Easter and Christmas. She wasn't allowed to celebrate anything like Halloween or New Year. Her favourite birthday present was a signet ring, according to Betty it had been given to her on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Now, her daughter has it and is waiting to pass it down the generation. Her favourite celebration was when she spent time with a family in Caistor- a family of three children. She loved it because one of the children's birthday was the same as hers [but years younger], they were "polite, ate anything and had such good manners".

Apart from two incidents, Betty has really enjoyed living in Caistor with her husband. She is now a mother to 2 grown up children, one of whom volunteers here in the Library.

After the interview, we asked Betty what her favourite building was. Without hesitation, she replied, "the Heritage Centre because it is such a friendly environment".



By Martha and Frankie