The Dairy

I used to go round in the milk cart with Bunny Harding and Tom the horse drawing it. I then went out with Stan Rogers in a Bullnosed Morris and helped him deliver milk. This was village experience you don't get now. It was magic - it really was.
George Freer

We used the water meadows; the milking herd went down there every day and then came back up to be milked and then they went up to the pasture at night. They used to drown the meadows, using the hatches. We used to feed off one meadow, pen the water in another meadow and it would stop in there about a week until the grass had grown and they were back in there about three weeks after.
Bob Edwards

When I went to school I used to take people's cans of milk down to the dairy - down the farm at Heale. Mr Ware he was the dairy man. I used to take the cans down in the morning on our way to school and collect the milk when we come out of school in the afternoon. I used to have like seven cans of milk - from down the road, our own here and all up the lane to Scotland Cottages, right up there. I used to go all up there every morning to get an empty can and take it back up there when it was full in the afternoon. I used to get tuppence a week from one lady, somebody else might give thruppence and somebody else give me fourpence. It didn't add up to much. The old lady used to take it because she used to smoke you see - my grandmother. She used to take it to buy a packet of fags. I suppose she thought it was easy money. She smoked Players cigarettes and they were about elevenpence for a packet for ten.
Barbara Portnall

Powell's dairy cows coming down the track by Ogbury Cottage, 1949

Mid to late 50s, I spent a bit of time up at Heale Farm - when I was 14. I used to go because my cousin, he was a year older than me, he actually worked at the dairy there and I used to go up and give him a hand, especially weekends. We used to pick up all the droppings in the yard; I used to carry buckets of water and he used to have the brush and we used to clean the yard down. In the dairy, as well as the pint measure, there was an enamelled mug - about a half pint mug. And if I could get in the dairy without the dairyman seeing me, I used to lift the funnel up and get the half pint of milk up, ice cold and help myself straight from the cow and straight down. A couple or three months ago, I was at the vets talking about milk straight from the cow and one of the vets who was close by listening said. "You mustn't drink milk straight from the cow, you could have this or you could pick up that." I said. "It never killed any of us - that was quite common when I was growing up."
Mike Penny