

Heather Hacker. Born 1926 and Joyce Collibet. Born 1930.

I can remember in 1936 I saw a film about the Dionne quintuplets. If I go back that far, that was when I was 10. There was Robin Hood. That was very spectacular and Errol Flynn was a bit of a heartbeat! Robin Hood really stands out. The Fred Astaire films, that was also in 1936, I remember them very well. Brighton Rock's further on. When I came back from Africa I caught up with the Duke of Yorks and all the cinemas in Brighton. That would be in the 40s. My experience of cinemas has changed since then. Subtly, you know. When you think of Brief Encounter, I grew up in that time, when it was all a bit clipped. You can still watch that film and thoroughly enjoy it. It's entertaining.

In the 40s I worked and I think I earned £2.50 a week or something like that. I don't remember how much the cinema cost but we went regardless and we'd queue up for 4 hours outside the Odeon in West St on a Sunday afternoon. It was the thing to do. Queuing was part of it, but I don't know what we paid. We'd go on the beach and then you'd queue up for cinema. It didn't worry us. It was quite fun. Then we'd have a cider, and that was the weekend.

I'll bet you lot wouldn't queue up for hours. You didn't grumble. You enjoyed the people in the queue. Men used to come along and dance to keep you entertained. And you hired a stool. Say you go to the Savoy Theatre in London, you'd go and buy your stool, go up and have lunch, come back and sit on the stool until you were let in. But people haven't got time now. It was a big, big deal.

I think life was less complicated and we could certainly make our money spin. It was interesting to see the newsreels we used to have. News wasn't so beastly in those days was it. I mean, now you wouldn't want to see the news! We'd often pop in there for half an hour near the clock tower. I don't think they've got any heroes like Errol Flynn now. He was a wicked fella but God he was attractive. You know - dressing up as Robin Hood and swinging on a rope and all that! Good stuff!