

Clara, 94, lets this crazy world go by

MRS CLARA Gosling, of Salem Street, thinks life today is "crazy" at times. But then 94-year-old Mrs Gosling admits that she grew up in an age entirely different from the present and she just happens to prefer the way things were in her earlier years.

She was born at Quadring Eaudyke, and lived there until she was 15. She was the second in the family — with one elder brother and five younger ones.

Then her family moved to Amber Hill and in 1901 she married one of her father's workmen there.

After a time of hard saving she and her husband managed to buy a smallholding of their own, with one cow and one pig.

They moved to Gosberton in 1915 and lived there together until her husband's death about ten years ago. Mrs Gosling has four sons

and four daughters, all living in the Gosberton area.

She admits that life is much more comfortable now in many ways, but says that she does not take kindly to many aspects of modern life.

She does not go outside her cosy little home very often but likes a short walk up the road if the weather is good.

A home help calls on her each morning to get her breakfast and do some cleaning. Then another woman calls to help with the housework again and make lunch.

And in the evenings she is helped to bed by another neighbour, 92-year-old Mrs Watts.

She used to go regularly to the village's Good Companions' Club and to church. But now that she is not so active she is for the most part content to sit beside her fire and let the crazy world go by.

STORIES: Pam Browne
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Mr John Braybrooks, now the carpenter, was very young when his family's wheelwrights' business was in its heyday. He is pictured here as a five-year-old with his father (centre) and workmen in the once busy yard

OLD ARTS GO FOR PROGRESS

LIKE his father before him, John Braybrooks used to earn a living as a wheelwright. But over the years he has had to depend more and more on another skill.

His Gosberton yard is now used just for carpentry. The wheelwright side of his business began to fade out after the Second World War.

His equipment is now all electrically powered. A few years ago a petrol engine used to power his saws and before that they were all hand driven.

All a far cry from when the business started 70 years

ago or when John joined his father on leaving school. But progress has not changed the nature of this family business.

John and the one man he employs, Mr Roy Booth, still concentrate on small jobs. "We mainly do repairs in houses and farms in Gosberton and surrounding villages," said John.

Mr Braybrooks is married and his daughter, Gillian, works at Spalding Post Office.



Mr John Braybrooks, Gosberton's wheelwright turned carpenter, busy in his workshop