

## **Deborah Griffiths**

### **Concerns over the building of the dam.**

It was as early as 1962 that the North Devon Water Board identified the need for another reservoir in its area and they chose this site as the best option; but you can imagine within a National Park the proposal of a major development like this was not going to have a smooth journey towards its end. And there were considerable objections, of course, to the detraction from the natural beauty, as it was seen to be; and the then National Park Committee objected and various amenity groups such as the Dartmoor Preservation Association, the Ramblers, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and the initial planning application was turned down. But it then went on to a public inquiry which overturned that decision and the matter then went before select committees in both Houses of Parliament, but despite all the kerfuffle, Meldon eventually was chosen as the site and work began on the dam in 1970.