

# TALKING HISTORY

Primary School Edition - No 5

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There was about 500 of us. We was all took to London Bridge, put on a bigger train, and we didn't know where we were going, you see, and we had to keep stopping because of the bombing. When it got to seven o'clock at night...they said we were going to Leicester.

*Memory of being evacuated during the Second World War. (000383/03, LO/003/C3).*

The house got bombed, so we had nowhere to live, so we just phoned up the farmers to see if they wanted any hop pickers, and we went down...we seen more bombing and machine-gun fire than we did anywhere else really...one of our Spitfires would get a German plane, and we'd all come out from the trees, and cheer him, and he'd come down and do the victory roll.

*Memory of being evacuated during the Second World War. (000383/03, LO/003/C3).*

## Oral History Collections Now Available On Loan

Oral history offers a unique insight into the everyday lives of



'ordinary' people, and is a valuable resource that enables children to learn about the past through the first hand accounts of the people who actually experienced it. It is now possible to borrow a range of oral history recordings from the East Midlands Oral History Archive to support the National Curriculum. For example, children can discover what it was like for local people to live through the Second World War, find out what life was like as an

evacuee, hear about the mischief that children got up to in their spare time, or learn what school life was like in the past.

The East Midlands Oral History Archive's new loan collection is for use in schools and will initially comprise a selection of themed recordings from the Leicester Oral History Archive Compilation Series. Titles include:

- ⇒ The Three R's
- ⇒ World War Two
- ⇒ World War Two Evacuee
- ⇒ Holidays
- ⇒ Public Health
- ⇒ Entertainment

The recordings will be loaned for 4 weeks, and may be copied and used for educational purposes. To find out more about borrowing these interviews, contact Sarah Ferrier, Education Officer, at:

East Midlands Oral History Archive  
Centre for Urban History  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester  
LE1 7RH  
(0116) 252 5065  
[sjf17@le.ac.uk](mailto:sjf17@le.ac.uk)  
<http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha>

## New Collections In The Archive

The East Midlands Oral History Archive's catalogue is now online, and currently includes details of 300 recordings, with the recent addition of the Westfields Collection and the Leicester City Museums Collection.

The Westfield Collection comprises interviews of people living in the Hinckley area of Leicestershire, including Barwell, Burbage and Earl Shilton. Special events and people and places during the twentieth century are recalled, including memories of the bombing of Coventry during the Second World War, local entertainment, the growth of Hinckley, and work in the boot,

shoe and hosiery industries.

The Leicester City Museums Collection gives an insight into the different jobs of museum workers in Leicester, the views of visitors to the museums, the people who have contributed to the collections, and memories collected for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of New Walk Museum.

Other recent additions to the Archive include some unpublished manuscripts by local historian Edna Smith. As well as recording her early life during the 1920's and 1930's, and her work as a Voluntary Aid Detachment (nursing service) during the Second

World War, she has written a detailed account of the experiences of World War Two Italian and German Prisoners of War in Leicestershire.

More entries are being added to the catalogue all the time, covering a wide range of topics. To view the catalogue, visit the EMOHA website on [www.le.ac.uk/emoha/catalogue.html](http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha/catalogue.html) and search for the various collections we have in our archive. The EMOHA website also contains dedicated teachers' pages, online exhibitions, downloadable information sheets and bulletins. These resources can all be accessed from [www.le.ac.uk/emoha/schools.html](http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha/schools.html)

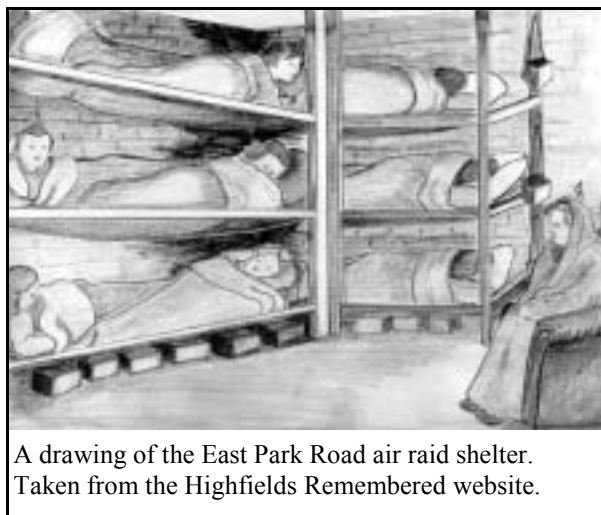
## Useful websites

<http://www.mountainvoices.org/> - this website presents interviews with over 300 people who live in mountain and highland regions round the world. Their testimonies offer a personal perspective on change and development.

<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/> - the ultimate online database of original sources recording the migration experience.

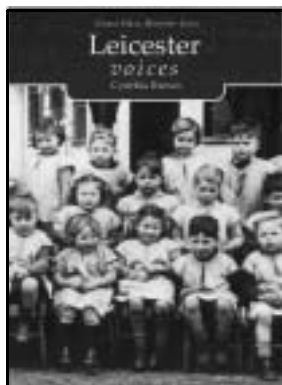
<http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/> - lesson plans, activity ideas and resources for Primary teachers .

<http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/> - the gateway to over 2,500 museums, galleries and heritage attractions.



A drawing of the East Park Road air raid shelter. Taken from the Highfields Remembered website.

<http://westworld.dmu.ac.uk/fmp/web/highfields/mainmenu.html> - reminiscences from the Highfields area of Leicester, which has been home to possibly a wider range of cultures than any other area in the city over the last 80 years.



## Leicester Voices, by Cynthia Brown

Extracts from recordings in the East Midlands feature in a new book, Leicester Voices, edited by EMOHA Project Manager, Cynthia Brown. The book, part of the Tempus Oral History Series, is illustrated with a wide range of archive photographs and covers topics such as health and housing, childhood, play and pastimes, shopping, local political campaigns, and migration to Leicester. It is available from local bookshops, price £11.99, or from the East Midlands Oral History Archive. Send a cheque payable to the "University of Leicester" for £11.99 + £1.25 postage (£13.24 total) to EMOHA, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester.