

Britain

A diverse society?

New resources for Key Stage 3 to be launched by the East Midlands Oral History Archive and the East Midlands Library and Archive's Council.

Oral history recordings held in the East Midlands Oral History Archive offer a unique record of Britain as a diverse society in recent decades. They not only provide factual information about migration, but convey the feelings and reflections of interviewees in a way which written records cannot.

EMOHA is pleased to announce that it has been awarded funding from the East Midlands Museums Libraries and Archives Council (EMMLAC), under Phase 2 of the Museums and Galleries Education Programme, to develop Citizenship materials for use at Key Stage 3.



Asian Migrants arrive from Uganda in 1972.

The award will be used to draw on these recordings to produce an audio CD and teachers' resource book to support the Citizenship Unit 'Britain – a diverse society?'. The CD and support materials will comprise a range of oral history extracts and will enable students to explore the diversity of their local communities, to consider the benefits and challenges of living in a diverse society, and to understand the importance of respect for others.

The teachers' pack will include basic guidance on the techniques of

collecting, processing and interpreting oral history, and suggestions on how it can be used as a cross-curricular resource. Two copies of the CD and resource pack will be provided free of charge to every secondary school in the East Midlands, relevant curriculum advisors, and postgraduate centres for teacher training in the region. A copy will also be deposited in the five regional Record Offices, and offered free of charge to all East Midlands museums to support their own work on Citizenship with schools.

Sound bites

'In the Caribbean there was no such thing as racism. We knew nothing about racism. So we weren't trained to handle the situation when we came here... We knew everything about England... And yet they knew nothing about us.'

A woman remembers her early experiences of moving to Britain from the Caribbean in 1959.

'There were Basque refugee children in 1936 at Evington... Some of them were quite small. We got by on signs, hand signs, and of course ball games, I mean once anybody takes up anything like that, when you're just playing, you don't bother. I remember we had a

laugh because we couldn't understand each other...'

Primrose Hall remembers the arrival of Basque refugee children in Leicester.

'In those days in India the games weren't as now. We could improvise and make games, or people would come round and sell games that they themselves had made. For example, balls made from mud.'

A man who moved to Leicester remembers his childhood in India.

Put oral history in your plan for next year

Oral history can be used across the curriculum to support learning with students of all ages. If you are currently planning your Schemes of Work for next year, it might be worth taking a look at the huge variety of recordings that the East Midlands Oral History Archive has to offer.

New Collections in the Archive
Recent additions to the Archive include the **Walnut Street Collection** and the **Leicester Oral History Collection**. The Walnut Street Collection comprises 26 interviews conducted as part of a documentary arts project in 1994 and contains the recollections and experiences of people who lived in the Walnut Street and Bede Island area of Leicester, providing an insight into their lives from the First World War through to the

1990's. Colin Hyde, EMOHA's Outreach Officer, conducted the majority of the interviews with Debbie Currie assisting. A publication entitled *Walnut Street: Past, Present and Future* was produced in conjunction with Leicester City Council, and a popular talk based on this is available as part of EMOHA's free programme of talks.

The Leicester Oral History Collection documents the lives of over 500 people from Leicester and Leicestershire, through memories dating back to the early 20th Century. Extracts from longer interviews, compiled into themed recordings, cover a wide range of subjects from transport, farming and industry, to the effects of war and the increasing diversity of the local population.

Titles include:

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

The East Midlands Oral History Archive is now able to loan copies of these recordings to schools. For more information, contact us at the address below.

Details of other collections held by the East Midlands Oral History Archive can be found on our online catalogue at:

www.le.ac.uk/emoha/catalogue/

Training and Talks



The East Midlands Oral History Archive offers a range of training, advice and support for schools wishing to set up their own oral history projects. Training sessions are free of charge and can be held at a time and venue to suit your individual needs. Information sheets covering various aspects of recording and using oral history

are also available from EMOHA free of charge, or can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha/training/infosheet.html>

The Archive also offers talks on a range of topics, including:
⇒ Coming to Leicester
⇒ Leicester's Blitz

Get in touch

If you are unable to find what you are looking for, or would like further information, 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

<http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha>

- ⇒ A Look at the History of Childhood
- ⇒ The First World War
- ⇒ Women in the Armed Forces in the Second World War

For full details of the training and talks available, contact EMOHA on (0116) 252 5065 or email sjf17@le.ac.uk.