

# *Talking History for schools*

**Primary schools  
bulletin  
No2  
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## **Seen and not heard? How did children live in the past?**

**1912:** Games them days were hopscotch, shuttlecock and battledore always Shrove Tuesday, snobs, whip and top, bowling along with a hoop.

**WWII:** We'd all been issued gas masks...we always had to carry them around. Then, of course, you'd got your identity cards and your ration books.

**1923:** I left school at 14. Some of them went to grammar school, but I couldn't 'cos I knew I had to go to work. I knew very well that my father and mother could use the money.

**1920s:** Travelling wasn't the same as it is today – going from place to place wasn't as easy as it is now by a long way. If you'd got a bike... that's what you used or you might have a motorbike, very few cars.



## **Shaftesbury Junior School leads the way**

Oral history is an exciting resource that can be used with different age groups to support learning across the curriculum. Taking part in an oral history project enables children to develop a wide range of knowledge, skills and understanding, and offers schools the opportunity to develop links with the wider community.

Leicester children at Shaftesbury Junior School and Community Centre, are taking part in a project where they will learn about the ways in which their local area has changed from people who have lived there all their lives. Members of a local history group, which meets at the school once a week, have been examining old maps, photographs and census records of the West End of Leicester. Over the next few weeks, children in Year 5 will interview the adults, and will record their memories of what life was like when

they were growing up in the area. The project will enable children at the school to learn about the past through the first hand accounts of the people who actually experienced it, and will also provide a useful local history resource for the school.

### **Find out more...**

Our Information Sheet 'How can I use oral history in schools?' is a useful starting point for developing your own oral history project, and includes further tips on using oral history as a cross-curricular resource. It can be obtained free from the East Midlands Oral History Archive, Centre for Urban History, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH, downloaded by visiting our website at [www.le.ac.uk/emoha](http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha) and clicking on the **Schools** and then **Information Sheets** links.

## Find out more...

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Leicester  
City Council

Get in touch with the East Midlands Oral History Archive by contacting Sarah Ferrier, our Education Officer, on (0116) 252 5065, by email at [sjf17@le.ac.uk](mailto:sjf17@le.ac.uk) or by writing to:

Sarah Ferrier  
EMOHA  
Centre for Urban History  
University of Leicester  
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You can also find out more by visiting our website at:

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

On our website you can also find information about the work of EMOHA and links to other local and national education and history sites.



Education Officer  
Sarah Ferrier



University of  
Leicester



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## Using oral history in the classroom

Oral accounts can be used to bring a variety of subjects to life, and can support classroom learning in a number of ways:

**History:** speaking about the past and listening to others' memories actively involves children in developing their understanding of the passing of time and its associated language. Children can also explore different points of view and can compare sources of historical evidence.

**Literacy:** oral history can be used to investigate the differences between written and spoken language, and can be a particularly useful resource for children for whom English is not their first language.

**Geography:** oral recordings can be used in conjunction with other sources of evidence to support

the study of settlements and the ways in which a local area has changed.

**Religious Education:** oral accounts from the different faith communities can support children's understanding of the customs, practices and stories associated with them.

**PSHE and Citizenship:** oral history can be used to enhance a sense of identity and belonging, and to promote communication skills.

**ICT:** children can develop a range of skills in ICT through taking part in an oral history project, from research using CD ROMs or the Internet, to taping and editing their own recordings, and combining text and sound using a multimedia software package.

## Useful websites

<http://www.compassed.net/> - 'true stories from ordinary people' living in Walthamstow. This site was constructed by students and staff at Willowfield School and is based on people's experiences of coming to live in Britain from other parts of the world.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/> - online activities related to the History Curriculum for Primary and Secondary school pupils.

<http://schoolhistory.co.uk/> - contains interactive history games, downloadable resources, online lessons and quizzes for learners and teachers from Primary through to A-Level.

<http://vtc.ngfl.gov.uk/> - the 'Virtual Teacher Centre' with useful resources for all subjects and Key Stages.

<http://www.museum-london.org.uk/MOLsite/menu.htm> - click on 'Web Exhibitions' to find 'Remembering the Blitz', which includes activities and oral history accounts of life in London during the Second World War.

<http://www.education.bl.uk/> - the British Library. Click on the 'Words Alive!' button for online resources and activities for Primary children and teachers.

<http://www.archives.org.uk/education/> - ideas for teachers to integrate the use of original documents into classroom learning and teaching.

