

## East Midlands Oral History Archive

Information Sheet  
#5

Oral history  
contacts and  
research sources



## Oral history contacts & research sources

The following is a list of organisations and sources relevant to oral history. Contact them direct for information about their services. For an outline of resources for the history of Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland, see EMOHA Information Sheet #16.

---

This sheet will give you:

- Contacts for oral history research in Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.
- A list of national and international bodies specialising in oral history.
- A guide to oral history archives in the UK

---

## East Midlands Oral History Archive

Centre for Urban History  
University of Leicester  
Leicester  
LE1 7RH

Phone: 0116 252 5065

Fax: 0116 252 5062

Email: [emoha@le.ac.uk](mailto:emoha@le.ac.uk)  
[www.le.ac.uk/emoha](http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha)

---

### Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland

#### East Midlands Oral History Archive

Centre for Urban History  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester  
LE1 7RH  
Tel. 0116 252 5065  
Email: [emoha@le.ac.uk](mailto:emoha@le.ac.uk)  
[Http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha](http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha)

Lottery-funded project to establish the first large-scale collection of oral history recordings for Leicestershire & Rutland. An online catalogue of the collection is currently being developed. Free advice and training is available to individuals and organisations throughout the East Midlands. Visit our website for further information, and links to other oral history projects in Britain and other parts of the world.

#### Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland (ROLLR)

Long Street, Wigston  
Leicester, LE18 2AH  
Tel.: 0116 257 1080  
email: [recordoffice@leics.gov.uk](mailto:recordoffice@leics.gov.uk)  
<http://www.leics.gov.uk/museums/records/>

The Record Office houses the collection of the East Midlands Oral History Archive, which is currently being catalogued. Appointments to listen to the material must be made in advance.

#### Community History

Central Reference and Information Library  
Bishop Street  
Leicester  
Tel. 0116 299 5417/5401  
email: [central.reference@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:central.reference@leicester.gov.uk)  
<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/services/>

The Community History section of Leicester City Libraries has a collection of oral history recordings relating to the City of Leicester, along with documentary reference material, including books, newspaper cuttings and photographs. Enquiries are welcome, but this material is not available on the open shelves, and it is essential to make an appointment to access it.

---

### National and International Contacts

#### Oral History Society

The Secretary  
Oral History Society  
c/o Department of Sociology  
Essex University  
Colchester, C04 3SQ  
Tel. 0171 412 7405  
<http://www.oralhistory.org.uk>  
Email Rob Perks: [Rob.Perks@bl.uk](mailto:Rob.Perks@bl.uk)

National and international organisation which promotes the collection and preservation of oral history. It organises conferences and other events, and publishes a twice yearly journal, Oral History. For details on membership and activities, as well as practical advice, see its website.

The Society operates a Network of regional representatives, who can be contacted for advice and information. A list of these is also on the Society's website. Cynthia Brown of EMOHA is the representative for Leicestershire, and can be contacted at [emoha@le.ac.uk](mailto:emoha@le.ac.uk). She can also provide details of other regional representatives for people without internet access.

#### International Oral History Association

[http://www.ioha.fgv.br/inscripcion\\_in.htm](http://www.ioha.fgv.br/inscripcion_in.htm)

Provides a forum for oral historians around the world, to foster international communication and cooperation and a better understanding of the nature and value of oral history.

## Major UK oral history archives

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>BBC Education Twentieth Century Vox</b><br><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/20cvox/">http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/20cvox/</a>  | Some of the oral history programmes made for Radio 5 Live since January 1997, on topics such as transport, work, leisure and migration.  |
| <b>BBC History website</b><br><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/multimedia_zone/audio_video/audio/index.shtml">http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/multimedia_zone/audio_video/audio/index.shtml</a>  | Audio memories from national, regional and local radio, searchable by topic or place. Also includes a collection of contemporary reports of significant historical events, and advice on conducting oral history interviews.   |
| <b>Birmingham Millennibrum collection</b><br>City Sound Archive, Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery,<br>Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 1RZ<br>Tel: 0121 235 1672.<br><a href="http://www.millennibrum.org/oralhist.html">http://www.millennibrum.org/oralhist.html</a>  | Life stories of 150 Birmingham residents from a wide range of backgrounds and ages.  |
| <b>Bradford Heritage Recording Unit</b><br>Bradford Central Library, Prince's Way, Bradford, BD1 1NN<br>Tel.: 01274 753600.<br><a href="http://www.bradford.gov.uk/council/libraries/central_page.html">http://www.bradford.gov.uk/council/libraries/central_page.html</a>   | Oral history archive which also publishes books and organises exhibitions.   |
| <b>Essex Sound Archive</b><br>County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1LX.<br>Tel: 01245 855456.<br><a href="http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/heritage">http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/heritage</a>  | Sound & video archive based at the County Record Office.   |
| <b>Imperial War Museum</b><br>Department of Sound Records, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ.<br>Tel: 0171 416 5000.<br><a href="http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/sound.htm">http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/sound.htm</a>   | Recorded experiences from the Boer War and the First and Second World Wars, through to post-war conflicts such as the Korean War, the Falklands and the Gulf.  |
| <b>Living Archive Project</b> , Milton Keynes<br>The Old Bath House, 205 Stratford Road, Wolverton, Milton Keynes MK12 5LR<br>Tel: 01908 322568.<br><a href="http://www.livingarchive.org.uk/docs/whowere.html">http://www.livingarchive.org.uk/docs/whowere.html</a>  | A cultural and community development organisation which uses oral history in publications, plays and other community projects.   |
| <b>London, Museum of</b><br>London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN.<br>Tel: 0171 600 3699.<br><a href="http://www.museum-london.org.uk/MOLsite/menu.htm">http://www.museum-london.org.uk/MOLsite/menu.htm</a>  | Around 4000 hours of recordings on different aspects of London life, including 3000 hours of interviews by the London History Workshop Centre between 1982–1990.   |
| <b>National Sound Archive</b><br>The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB<br>Tel. (0)20 7412 7440.<br><a href="http://www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/nsa.html">http://www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/nsa.html</a>   | Over a million discs, 185,000 tapes, and many other sound and video recordings. The catalogue includes entries for almost two-and-a-half million recordings, and is updated daily. Key oral history collections include the Millennium Memory Bank and the National Life Story Collection. |
| <b>North West Sound Archive</b><br>Clitheroe Castle, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 1AZ<br>Tel: 01200 27897.<br><a href="http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/lifelong/ro/sound.shtml">http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/lifelong/ro/sound.shtml</a>   | Regional collection including dialect, music, local radio programmes and the sounds of the region (textile machinery, railway engines etc) as well as oral histories.  |
| <b>Nottingham Local Studies Library</b><br>Local Studies Library, Central Library, Angel Row, Nottingham NG1 6HP<br>Tel. 0115 915 2828.<br><a href="http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/coun/department/leisure_com/libraries/services/localstudies.asp">http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/coun/department/leisure_com/libraries/services/localstudies.asp</a> | Collection of oral history recordings & transcripts.   |
| <b>School of Scottish Studies/Scottish Oral History Group</b><br>University of Edinburgh, 27 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD<br>Tel: 0131 667 1000.<br><a href="http://www.sss.ed.ac.uk/archives/index.html">http://www.sss.ed.ac.uk/archives/index.html</a>  | Recordings from oral history groups throughout Scotland, along with the School's own fieldwork collections   |
| <b>South Wales Coalfields Collection</b><br>South Wales Miners' Library, Hendrefoelan House, Hendrefoelan, Gower Road, Swansea.<br>Tel. 01792 518603.<br><a href="http://www.swan.ac.uk/swccc/">http://www.swan.ac.uk/swccc/</a>   | Oral histories from the South Wales coalfields covering a range of subjects.   |
| <b>Ulster Folk and Transport Museum</b><br>Cultra, Holywood, County Down BT18 0EU<br>Tel. 02890 428 428  | Oral histories of Northern Ireland.  |
| <b>Welsh Life, Museum of</b><br>St Fagan's, Cardiff CF5 6XB<br>Tel: 01222 569441.<br><a href="http://www.nmgw.ac.uk/mwl/archives/sound/index.en">http://www.nmgw.ac.uk/mwl/archives/sound/index.en</a>   | Recordings on all aspects of Welsh folk life and culture, the majority in Welsh.   |
| <b>Wessex Film and Sound Archive</b><br>Hampshire Record Office, Sussex Street, Winchester SO23 8TH.<br>Tel: 01962 847742/846154.<br><a href="http://www.hants.gov.uk/record-office/film.html">http://www.hants.gov.uk/record-office/film.html</a>   | Regional archive covering Dorset, Wiltshire, Berkshire and the Isle of Wight.  |