

Life Stories – some questions

Family

How many children did your parents have?

Gender?

Ages?

Where were your parents from?

Did any grandparents live nearby?

Any other family members?

Home

Where did you live?

Did you move house at any time?

What kind of house did you live in?

What furniture did you have?

What facilities did it have?

Street/District

What district did you live in?

How would you describe the district?

Local Families

Were there families that stand out in your memory?

Why?

Were any families important locally?

Childhood

What events stand out in your childhood?

Describe an ordinary day?

Who were your friends?

Describe the games you played?

Did you have birthday presents?

Did you have Christmas presents?

Were New Years' Eve/Bonfire Night big celebrations?

School

What school did you go to?

Was there rivalry between schools?

Can you remember any teachers?

What were they like?

What were you taught?

What was discipline like?

Did you like school?

Shops/Shopping

Describe your local shops?

Did your mother use certain shops?

Why?

Part-time Jobs

Did you have any part-time jobs?

How much were you paid?

Did you keep your wages?

Did you do any particular tasks in the home?

Pubs

Which local pubs do you remember?

Gangs

Were there any local gangs?

Who was in them?

Did they have feuds?

The District

Can you remember any old wives tales?

Were there any street bookies?

Were there any money lenders?

Were there any pawn shops?

Did you have any street parties?

Who organised them?

Were there trips from the local pub or factory?

What was the community spirit like?

Was there anyone of particular interest in the district? (Vicar, doctor, etc)

Charity

Were you ever on the Means Test?

Did you receive charity? (soup kitchen)

Housekeeping

What kind of food did you eat?

What did you have each day?

Did your father give all his wages to your mother?

Grandparents

Which grandparents did you see?

Work

What was the main employment locally?

What did your father do?

How much did he earn?

Was he ever out of work?

If so, how did he get by?

Did your mother work?

If so, what did she do?

How did she sue her wages?

What did people think of married women working?

How did you get your first job?

What was it like when you started?

Did you get any special training?

How did you progress?

What happened when there were disputes/strikes?

Politics

What way did your family vote?

Were any of your family politically active?

Were any involved in trade unions?

Religion

What part did religion play in your family life?

Did you go to Sunday school?

What influence did the Church have on social life?

Courtship/Marriage

How old were you when you went out with boys/girls?

Who did you marry?

How did you meet?

Describe your wedding?