Oral History – Some Questions & Prompts for Interviews

Begin all recordings with:

1. Your name (as interviewer) and date of interview.

2. Ask the person being interviewed (interviewee) to state their name, age (can be approx.) and address.

3. Thank the person for agreeing to be interviewed about ….. (the particular topic previously agreed)

Basic information / introductory questions: exact phrase will depend on topic. Keep questions open ie where they need to say something other than yes/no

When did you first start at / live at/ go to ..... 

How long where you at ...... 

Where is / was location of ..... 

Why were you at .../ start work at.../ did you move to...

What did you do there? – what are your particular memories

What changed during your time there – different jobs/ classes/ improvements to home.

Who were you there with – any particular person / group.

4. ‘Prompt’ questions (in case you / they get stuck) such as – but please leave a listening ‘gap’ before prompting.

   Tell me more about.....

What happened next?

How did it make you feel?

What did you think about .......... happening?

Why did you think this was?

5. At the end of the interview

   Thank the person for taking part and go through the permission letter and what will happen next.