



Dean Heritage Centre  
 Camp Mill, Soudley, GL14 2UB  
 01594 822170  
[www.deanheritagecentre.com](http://www.deanheritagecentre.com)

## Summary Batch 2 Oral history recordings

**2002.34** 12 recordings of interviews arranged by Elsie Olivey through The Forge Centre for Visual Impairment in Cinderford in 1999/2000

**Plus** various other recordings of interviews from the 1990s up to 2000

Reference number	Name	Place	Occupation	Summary content
2002.34	Forge Centre interviews	Cinderford	Forge Centre for the Visually Impaired	12 Interviews with people in their 70s, 80s, 90s about growing up & living in the Forest
2002.34.1	Cyril Elsmore	Ellwood	Garage owner	Childhood in Ellwood, apprenticeship, chapel, WW2, Speech House demonstrations, 1926 strike, own business
2002.34.2	Wilf Edwards	Bream	Miner	Childhood, Parkend pit, Norchard colliery, mining, hodding, Speech House demonstrations, gypsies
2002.34.3	John Halliday	Cheltenham	unknown	Growing up in Cheltenham, choir boy, religion & churches
2002.34.4	Ivy Haile	Cinderford	Domestic service Cook	Childhood in Cinderford, school, working as a cook, Bilson, married life, WW2, tin church, gypsies
2002.34.5	Marion & David Williams	Ruardean Woodside	Teachers	Domestic life, Ruardean Woodside, Slad school, strike, WW2, schooling (both teachers)
2002.34.6	Douglas Barnard	London Berry Hill	Seaman	Growing up in London, the navy
2002.34.7	Maggie Addis	Bream	Domestic service Farmwork Carters	Growing up in Bream, mining, home life, domestic service, encroachment, Severn tunnel, brother killed in car accident, war, hard times, entertainments
2002.34.8	May Benfield	Joyford	Domestic service	Growing up in Joyford, father a freeminer, school at Christchurch, domestic life, domestic service



Dean Heritage Centre  
 Camp Mill, Soudley, GL14 2UB  
 01594 822170  
[www.deanheritagecentre.com](http://www.deanheritagecentre.com)

2002.34.9	Dorothy Davies	Lydney	Domestic service Bus conductress Dinner lady	Home life, Lydney, docks, working in Alvington Isolation Hospital, working on Red & White buses, WW2, marriage
2002.34.10	Leslie Watkins	Cinderford Ruspidge	Armed Services Red & White buses, Garage Fielding & Platt Parish & District councillor	Childhood, Cinderford, 1926 strike, school, life as a soldier in WW2, Forest in wartime, Dr Bangara, politics, work, Ruspidge, gypsies
2002.34.12	Sylvia Elliot	Bradley Hill Soudley	Domestic service Office work Gloucester Aircraft Company	Growing up at Bradley Hill, school, Childhood, home life
2002.34.13	Walter King	Berry Hill	Miner, Pine End Works Lydbrook wireworks Hospital porter	Growing up, work mining/Pine End/Lydbrook wire factory, gypsies, health
2003.25.1	Archie Freeman	Cinderford	Miner	Early life, family, school, pre WW1, mining, Crump Meadow, WW1, chapel
2003.25.2	Archie Freeman	Cinderford	Armed Services	Life in Gloucestershire regiment during WW1, fighting abroad
2003.25.3	Archie Freeman	Cinderford	Council - Laying water mains Red & White buses	Interview by Bess Anstis. Post WW1, working for council on water mains, working for Red & White buses on maintenance, courting, marriage, Cinderford, WW2 & Home Guard
2012.4.8	Radio 4 programme - Dennis Potter Christmas	Berry Hill	Television dramatist, screenwriter and journalist	Potter talks about Christmas as a child with contributions by Berry Hill Primary School children & Berry Hill Silver band
1994.53.33+ 1995.86.1	Forest of Dean Male Voice Choir	Forest of Dean	Choir	No introduction so not known where/when recorded. Various songs recorded.
1996.110.1	Cuthbert Brain	Ruardean Hill	Farmer Preacher	Ruardean Hill, farming, droving, preaching, paying tithes
1996.75.1	The Jovial Foresters	Forest of Dean	N/A	This song was popular in the Forest. Unclear exactly when it was created but certainly around in the late 19 <sup>th</sup> century onwards. Copy of 1938 recording of the song, see summary for lyrics and



Dean Heritage Centre  
 Camp Mill, Soudley, GL14 2UB  
 01594 822170  
[www.deanheritagecentre.com](http://www.deanheritagecentre.com)

				<a href="http://www.glostrad.com">www.glostrad.com</a> for more information
1997.22.1	Eileen Symmonds	Kensley Lodge near Coleford + Cinderford	unknown	Not an interview. Eileen reads some of her memoir about growing up in the Forest of Dean. Full memoir in DHC archive. Grew up at Kensley Lodge, family, father was a miner, 1926 strike, Speech House demonstrations, school, life as a child
1997.27.1	BBC Radio programme 'End of the Line' on Lave net & Stop Boat fishing and Free mining	River Severn Gatcombe Bream	Fishermen Free miners	Radio presenter Paul Heiney. Speaking about fishing on the River Severn – fishermen Bill, Tony, Ronald plus Ann Bayliss discuss lave net fishing & Stop net boat fishing for salmon Speaking about free mining – Gilbert Kear and Don Johns at Old Park Colliery in Bream discuss free mining
2020.5.1	BBC Wales Radio programme 'Out & About in the Forest of Dean' presented by Vincent Kane	Forest of Dean	Interviews with Forestry Commission staff Geoff Carter and Gary Trigg, Verderer Cyril Hart, DHC director Ian Standing & Jonathon Wright from Clearwell Caves	History of the Forest, Forest as a National Park, living in the Forest, Verderers, recreation, tourism, Dean Heritage Centre, Clearwell Caves, Free mining
2020.5.2	Bream Male Voice choir & Lydney Ladies Choir	Forest of Dean		Unknown date/location. Recording of a live performance. Various songs, see summary for a list.
2020.5.3	Jack Aston 1	London	Childhood	3 interviews. 1 <sup>st</sup> is childhood - growing up in London, family
2020.5.4	Jack Aston 2	Woking Forest of Dean	Navy, Working for Shell, Own business, RSPCA, baker, running a Guest House	2 <sup>nd</sup> interview middle part of his life – national service in the navy, working for Shell, living in Woking, marriage & children, various jobs, how he moved to the Forest of Dean
2020.5.5	Jack Aston 3	Near Brierley	Retired	3 <sup>rd</sup> interview later part of his life - living at Trafalgar House (run as a Guest House), ill health, Drybrook Male Voice Choir, the Forge Centre
2020.5.6	Keith Morgan 'Albert's	Forest of Dean	Barber	Keith recites poems from his book Albert's Dree Wiker



Dean Heritage Centre  
Camp Mill, Soudley, GL14 2UB  
01594 822170  
[www.deanheritagecentre.com](http://www.deanheritagecentre.com)

	Dree Wiker'		Poet	
2020.5.7	Bream Male Voice Choir & Springfield Ladies Choir	Forest of Dean		Recorded in Bream Christmas 1980. Various songs, see summary for a list.
2020.5.8	Emma Luker	Bream	unknown	Talks about growing up in Bream, The New Inn, Bream Court Farm, maypole, local stories
2020.5.9	Radio Gloucester programme about Foresters in Illinois USA	Forest of Dean Cuba Illinois USA	Miners	Radio journalist interviews descendants of Forest miners who moved to Cuba in Illinois USA in the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century for better work & pay. Memories of both Forest of Dean & USA