



Dean Heritage Centre  
 Camp Mill, Soudley, GL14 2UB  
 01594 822170  
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## Summary of Batch 4 recordings

Various interviews recorded in the early 2000s mostly by John Fowler. Interviews of Foresters from early to mid-1900s.

Ref. no	Name	Place	Occupation	Content
2021.6.1	John Belcher	various	Teacher + DHC volunteer + local historian	4.30 mins of John talking about his family
2021.6.2	Ruby & Brian Russell	The Pludds & High Beech	Brian: miner Ruby: healthcare assistant & post office	Ruby & Brian's life growing up & then working in the Forest in the 1940s 1950s. Descriptions of what life used to be like in The Pludds /High Beech
2021.6.3	Mabel Beech 1	Ruardean Hill	Various admin jobs	Childhood in the 1920s & 1930s, Ruardean Hill, family, school, Sunday school, WW2
2021.6.4	Mabel Beech 2	Ruardean Hill	Various admin jobs	Forest life during and after WW2
2021.6.5	Eric Morris	The Pludds	Freeminer & Quarryman (President of the Freeminers Association)	Eric talks about growing up in the 1930s & 1940s on The Pludds, The 'Bag of Nails' pub, his working life, working in collieries, working with explosives, freemining & Waterloo disaster
2021.6.6	Ann Bayliss 1	Gatcombe	unknown	Recording centres around her childhood in the 1940s, family, education and the fishing business in Gatcombe
2021.6.7	Ann Bayliss 2	Gatcombe	unknown	More focus on Ann's later life and decline of fishing. Talks about stop net fishing, lave net fishing
2021.6.8	Ann Bayliss 3	Gatcombe	unknown	Recording of slideshow on family history & fishing but DHC does not hold the images



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2021.6.9	Harry Trigg	Bullo Pill	various	Harry Trigg discusses his childhood in Bullo Pill 1930s and his employment as a firefighter, driver and later at sea. In parts difficult to listen to due to buzzing sound.
2021.6.10	Muriel & Ken Smart	Drybrook	Domestic service	Muriel Smart describes her family and growing up in Drybrook 1930s as well as her employment as a maid, Forest life 1940s including wartime. Her son Ken discusses his earliest memories, like those of his father.
2021.6.11	David Blick & Barbara at Forge	Recorded at the Forge Centre at Foxes Bridge Cinderford	Folk musicians	Recording of David Blick and Barbara's folk concert at the Forge Resource Centre on 12.10.2004. David & Barbara sing various folk songs, tell amusing stories, and some audience sing-a-long. The Forge Centre Cinderford is a day centre for senior citizens with audio & visual impairments.
2021.6.12	David Blick 3	Recorded at the Forge Centre Cinderford	Folk musicians	Recorded Weds 13th January 2004 at The Forge Centre Cinderford on Folk traditions. Talk by David Blick & Barbara who are well known in Folk scene. Discuss traditions in the year from January to December. Then traditions such as Morris & clog dancing. Songs at various points. Elsie Olivey present & very vocal. Not very good sound quality. Nb. Same as 2020.6.5
2021.6.13	Noreen Hawkins	High Beech	farmer	Interview of Noreen Hawkins of Smithway Farm The Pludds. No date stated but interview was c. 2006 when Noreen was 80 years old. She describes her family, life on The Pludds when she was a child, their milk round on the farm and transport.
2021.6.14	Mrs Phil Stephens	Lydney	laundress	<i>Same as 2020.6.37</i> Growing up in Merthyr Tydfil & Cardiff in late 1910s 1920s, moving to Lydney, family, working at her father's laundry, marriage & family, war years, Forge Centre



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2021.6.15	Keith Wilks 1	Lydney	RAF + teacher	Childhood in the Forest in the 1920s-30s, war years, his employment in the RAF and later as a teacher
2021.6.16	Keith Wilks 2	Lydney & Berry Hill	Teacher at Bery Hill School	Talks about working in 1950s at Berry Hill School as a handicraft teacher; the school, teaching, colleagues, students, camping school trip
2021.6.17	Harold McOwan 1	Lydney Far East	Armed Services	1 <sup>st</sup> interview is growing up in Lydney in the 1930s 1940s. Harold talks about childrens games, his father who worked on railways, school, Youth club, wartime, evacuees & his service in WW2 in the far east
2021.6.18	Harold McOwan 2	Lydney	RAF Pine End Works	2 <sup>nd</sup> interview is the end of WW2 onwards. Harold talks about working at RAF Innsworth in Gloucester then Pine End Works in Lydney. Also - helping to run the Air Training Corps in Lydney as an instructor then Chair
2021.6.19	Jack Pritchard 1	Ruardean Hill Newham Bottom	Bakery – delivering bread Building work Armed Services	1 <sup>st</sup> interview is growing up in Ruardean/Newham Bottom in the 1920s & 1930s. Slad (Ruardean Woodside) School, 1926 miners’ strike & hardships, Westbury workhouse, mining, hodding, domestic life, delivering bread with a donkey & serving in the army in WW2
2021.6.20	Jack Pritchard 2	Ruardean Hill Newham Bottom	Armed Services	2 <sup>nd</sup> interview continues with Jack’s service in WW2 in North Africa & Italy, his life in the Forest after the war, his involvement with the British Legion Drybrook branch and his role as a County Councillor in the 1970s
2021.6.21	Alice Hyett 1	London, Essex, Quedgeley, Lydney, Blaisdon, Huntley	Longhope Turnery Farmwork	1 <sup>st</sup> interview growing up. Born in London 1928 but family moved around a lot, growing up in 1930s, hard times, moving around, schools, father’s work in construction, Gloucester Aircraft Co, then Huntley sawmills
2021.6.22	Alice Hyett 2	Blaisdon, Huntley	Farmwork	2 <sup>nd</sup> interview covers adulthood and wartime (WW2): working on a farm, bad accident at work and being in Gloucester hospital, marriage, first home & domestic life in the 1950s, husband’s work for Major Ackers & Cyril



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				Hart, having children, moving to Blaisdon & running a poultry business, Alice a founder of Blaisdon W.I.
2021.6.23	Alice Hyett 3	Blaisdon	Prudential Insurance	3 <sup>rd</sup> interview covers later adulthood, widowhood & old age, summing up of life, how things have changed
2021.6.24	Bruce Freeman & Janet Box 1	Cinderford	Childhood only	Bruce & Janet are brother & sister. 1 <sup>st</sup> interview is them growing up in Cinderford in the 1940s. Family & domestic life, father was a miner, their health issues and hospital experiences, childhood games and playing
2021.6.25	Bruce Freeman & Janet Box 2	Cinderford	Bruce – Listers + engineering firm in Gloucester Janet - housewife	2 <sup>nd</sup> interview more on growing up 1940s 1950s into adulthood, more on family, leisure activities, grandparents, grandparents serving in WW2, Janet's struggle with ill health, marriage & children
2021.6.26	Bruce Freeman & Janet Box 3	Cinderford		3 <sup>rd</sup> interview they are joined by cousin Elizabeth & her husband. They talk about childhood, family, 1960s Forest & lives of Elizabeth and her husband who was in the army
2021.6.27	Bruce Freeman & Janet Box 4	Cinderford		4 <sup>th</sup> interview takes a closer look at Bruce's childhood in Cinderford in 1940s, teens and early adulthood 1950s 1960s. Describes pranks & games as a child + social life in teens & twenties. Marriage & children. More in depth descriptions of Forest & life
2021.6.28-35	Dialect recordings	various	various	Recordings by John Fowler in 2003 to record the Forest dialect. These are in a different style to the rest of the recordings which were interviews. In these recordings, Foresters are either recorded talking amongst their selves, or asked questions about dialect, or they talk about Forest words & sayings and read Forest poetry and authors. Some of these are at times difficult to follow as they often all talk at once!



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2021.6.28A	Dialect 1: Marian & David Williams with friends Dora Gwilliam, Rene Cullis, Beryl Badman	various	various	Recorded in 2003 at the home of Marian and David Williams. A group of friends sharing Forest stories and chatting with much humour and laughing. Discuss Forest words and sayings.
2021.6.28B	Dialect 2: Eric Freeman	Taynton	farmer	Recorded in 2003 with Eric talking about the words and sayings he uses and grew up with in the Newent area. He explains the meanings and pronunciation of words gone out of fashion now.
2021.6.29	Dialect 3: Marian Williams, Cuthbert Brain, Dorothy	Ruardean	various	Recorded in 2003 with Marian & Dorothy talking to Cuthbert aged 85 years old about their family's life around Ruardean. Discussions mostly about mining plus domestic life when they were young, Brain family & Trafalgar pit, pits around Ruardean
2021.6.30	Dialect 5: Marian & David Williams, Dora Gwilliam, Beryl Badman, Rene Cullis, Keith Morgan and Doug Baglin	various	various	Recorded in in 2003 at the home of Marian & David Williams with a group of Foresters who share Forest anecdotes and stories and talk about Forest characters with much humour. A few Forest poems are read, mention of Dennis Potter
2021.6.31	Dialect 6: Marian Williams, Rene Cullis, Alan, Dora Gwilliam, Beryl Badman	various	various	Recorded in 2003 with no particular theme. Chatting about Forest life, explain Forest words, recital of FW Harvey poem
2021.6.32	Dialect 7: Marian & David Williams, Irene, Harry, Phylis, Betty and Doug	various	various	Recorded in 2003 at the home of Marian & David Williams with a group of friends. Various Forest memories, WW1, 1920s-1940s, Whitecroft pin factory, Pine End works, 1926 strike, chapels and Cuthbert Brain
2021.6.33/34	Dialect 8: Marian & David Williams, Beryl Badman, Dora Gwilliam, Rene Cullis, Janette Box (nee Freeman), William Bruce Freeman, Ken Saville	various	various	Recorded at Marian & David's home in October 2003. The group converse amongst themselves about Forest life; childhood memories, stories read of Billy Cann, mining, humorous stories.



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2021.6.35	Dialect 9: Marian Williams with Billy Cann	Ruardean Woodside	Billy was a miner & in the army WW2	Dialect recording at the home of Marian Williams with Billy Cann in September 2004. They share childhood memories & stories of the Forest. Billy also talks about mining & experiences in WW2 in the army. Billy wrote his memoirs in a booklet 'Son of the Forest'.
2021.6.36	Doug Brown 1	Drybrook	Armed Services	1 <sup>st</sup> interview with Mr Brown describes life growing up in Drybrook and the Forest in the 1920s/1930s. Domestic life, his father, school, his love of sport; played football for Cinderford & played cricket for Ruardean Hill, talks about being a driver in WW2 in the far east
2021.6.37	Doug Brown 2	Drybrook	Armed Services	2 <sup>nd</sup> interview with Mr Brown who talks more about his wartime experiences, his involvement with the British Legion after the war when he became the Vice Chair and football and cricket
2021.6.38	Group interview of Dorothy Butler, Kathleen Smith, Cuthbert Brain and Marion Williams	various	various	Group interview of Foresters by John Fowler recorded in 2003. Dorothy shows paintings by her late husband of local scenes like mines, quarries, churches which the group share memories of, Kathleen reads poems and the Foresters reminisce about their lives in the Forest, particularly mining
2021.6.39	Kate Cook 1	Cinderford	Domestic service Red & White bus conductor Edison Swan cableworks	Interview 1 recorded by John Fowler in 2003, Kate talks about her childhood in the 1920s in Cinderford, poverty, workhouse, school, domestic service, bus conductor for Red & White, Lydbrook cableworks, WW2
2021.6.40	Kate Cook 2	Cinderford	Domestic service Red & White bus conductor	Interview 2 with Kate Cook in June 2003. They discuss Kate's work on buses in the war, her marriage & children



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				1940s/50s, her involvement in village life, her son's life, her childhood hobbies, and old age.
2021.6.41	As above			
2021.6.42	Pearl Hawdon 1	Bream	teacher	Interview 1. Born 1921, describes childhood in Bream 1920s, 1930s -1950s family, domestic life, school, wartime, evacuees, marriage & children, teaching
2021.6.43	Pearl Hawdon 2	Bream	teacher	Interview 2 Pearl talks a bit more about childhood, then about how the Forge Centre is a life line for the visually impaired with lots of activities + she talks about her poetry followed by a reading of one of her poems
2021.6.44	Pearl Hawdon 3 (poem)	Bream	teacher	Pearl Hawdon reads out her poem 'Give Thanks'. The poem discusses themes of visual impairment, activities at the Forge Centre, and friendships. (track 3 mins long)
2021.6.45	Henry Howell 1	Edge End	miner	Same as 2020.6.18 see batch 3
2021.6.46	Henry Howell 2	Edge End	miner	Same as 2020.6.19 see batch 3
2021.6.47	Joan Janes 1	Darlington NE England and Blakeney	Teacher	1 <sup>st</sup> interview by John Fowler November 2002 Joan was born in 1929 & grew up in Darlington North East of England and describes her childhood. She married & moved to Blakeney. Joan describes 1950s early marriage & having children, and her work teaching evening classes & her husband' work.
2021.6.48	Joan Janes 2 & 3	Blakeney	retired	Recording December 2002 of handbells at the Forge Centre followed by 2 <sup>nd</sup> interview December 2002 with Joan talking about her loss of sight and how she has adapted her life, tried to be independent & become involved at The Forge Centre in Cinderford with many different activities.



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2021.6.49	Joan Janes 4 (images)	Blakeney	retired	Joan talks about photographs from her life (which DHC do not have)
2021.6.50	Vernon Jordan 1	Cinderford	miner	Interview 1 recorded in 2003. Vernon was born in Cinderford in 1924 and talks about growing up in the Forest in the 1920s/30s, childhood, school, family, father was an ostler at a local colliery, working life as a miner and WW2.
2021.6.51	Vernon Jordan 2	Cinderford	miner	Interview 2 recorded 2003 talks about adulthood 1940s onwards: having children, sport, post war work, mining, mine rescue, working in Gloucester, retirement.
2021.6.52	Vernon Jordan 3	Cinderford	miner	Interview 3 only 12 mins long, recorded after interview 2 in which Vernon talks about a few of his belongings like a trophy and a mine rescue badge.
2021.6.53	Jane Sterry	Ruspidge	Domestic service Cook	Recorded in 2002. Jane was born in Ruspidge in 1910 and describes childhood in 1910s/1920s. Also talks about father's work in a local colliery, school, family, pets, wartime and changes in community life.
2021.6.54	Norma Skidmore	Bream	Factory work	Recorded in 2003. Norma was born in 1935 at Bream Woodside and talks about childhood 1930s/40s, family, wartime, working in factories, single parenthood, losing her sight & The Forge Centre Cinderford.
2021.6.55	Terry Ward 1	Lydbrook	Various – navy, Eddie Swan cableworks, Lister's, Rank Xerox	Interview 1 recorded 2003. Terry was born in Lydbrook in 1928. He talks about growing up in Lydbrook & the Forest in the 1930s 1940s then later life at work at Lister's & Rank Xerox.
2021.6.56	Terry Ward 2	Lydbrook	Various – navy, Eddie Swan cableworks, Lister's, Rank Xerox	Interview 2 recorded 2003 in which Terry talks about Lydbrook and how it changed, Lydbrook brass band, WW2, Lister's & Rank Xerox.





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2021.6.57	Terry Ward 3	Lydbrook	Various – navy, Eddie Swan cableworks, Lister’s, Rank Xerox	Interview 3 recorded 2003 in which Terry talks about photographs of Lydbrook. Nb. DHC does not have these photographs.
2021.6.58	Ruth White	South Gloucestershire	Wartime munitions	Not Forest related, but interesting account of working at Newman’s munitions factory in Yate South Gloucestershire during the war.
2021.6.59	Ronald Martin Rosser 1	Gorsty Knoll	childhood	Part 1 of Ronald recording his memories onto a tape for his son. Tells of his parents, family and early years growing up at Gorsty Knoll in the late 1920s.
2021.6.60	Ronald Martin Rosser 2	Gorsty Knoll & Coalway	childhood	Part 2 of Ronald continues talking about life at Gorsty Knoll cottage when he was a young boy, daily routines of work & household chores for parents, mining shifts of father, going to church and Sunday school.
2021.6.61	Ronald Martin Rosser 3	Coalway & Broadwell	childhood	Part 3 of Ronald talking about his childhood in 1931; life at Prosper Cottage Coalway, domestic life, Broadwell Church & Sunday School, Broadwell School.
2021.6.62	Ronald Martin Rosser 4	Coalway & Broadwell	childhood	Part 4 of Ronald talking about his childhood at Prosper Cottage Coalway. Talks about how kids entertained themselves in the 1930s, descriptions of the cottage & domestic life, father’s work mining, mother’s work in the house & helping neighbours.