

Aldermaston History Group
Oral History Project ~ capturing history and memories of Aldermaston
Prompt Sheet for use by Interviewers

It is important that interviews are carried out in a location and at a time with which the interviewee is comfortable and happy. As a general guide, **interviews could last for up to a couple of hours**. That timeline may be a little too much for some being interviewed, so with their agreement, a break could be taken, or the interview be split into two (or more) sessions. We must be guided by the interviewees, who are freely giving their time to us.

We must avoid 'leading' the interviewee. We are hoping to capture, in their own words, their recollection of events; people; and the history of Aldermaston Village and its immediate environs. We are selecting interviewees who will probably be in their seventies; eighties; or nineties, as they have the broadest and lengthiest knowledge of the place. The majority of those selected for interview are known to be most capable of recalling much and be able to put a good story together.

The interviewees will know from the “Information Sheet” about the Project what we are hoping to capture. Interviewees will be provided with a copy of that Sheet (as well as being asked for their written agreement to the recording of their story). The “Consent Form” will be provided separately. **This “Prompt Sheet” is for guidance only.** It provides a few suggestions of 'encouragements' that can be employed if the conversation dries up or the interviewee is diverging too far from our objective.

Not all the suggestions may be needed. The order in which they are employed will vary in line with the ease and fluidity of the individual giving their story. However, there is a certain rationale to the sequence shown below ~~~

- Tell me about the time and place you were born
- Tell me how long you have lived in Aldermaston and/or its environs
- What are your earliest memories of the Village and of your friends and neighbours
- Tell me about your parents and other family members who lived/are living here
- Can you share with me interesting information and facts about your family?
- How large and widespread is your “family tree” and how far back can you go?
- Can you share with me interesting information about friends and neighbours?
- If you were living here as a child, what do you remember of the place from that time?
- Who were your 'best friends' and what can you tell us about them?
- What do you recall about your school-days; your teachers; and other 'influencers'?
- What do you recall of places you visited in your youth or where you went on holiday?
- What did you want to be when you 'grew up' – and did that happen?
- What might you wish you had done differently, if anything?
- Tell me about 'traditions' your family, neighbours and friends maintain/maintained
- What was your first job of work – and where did it lead you?
- Tell me about your employment career and those of family and close friends
- Tell me about special/significant events that took place in the Village over the years
- What has changed in the Village over the years – and how do you feel about it?
- What aspects of modern-day life would you change - if you could arrange that?
- What are the happiest (or saddest) memories in your life in the Village?
- What major World Events do you recall happened during your lifetime?
- And, finally, tell me about something we in the Village do not know about you!