

## Top Tips for Recording Your Family

It's great that you've decided that you want to record an interview with your grandparent/great uncle/godmother etc. They will have lots of stories to tell – some you've heard many times and some you've never heard before! Have you ever wondered who their best friend was when they were your age or why they like that particular song? Sometimes it's hard to believe that they were once the same age as you are now and might have had some similar experiences to you.

If you are the older relative who is keen to share your stories why not ask your grandchildren, great niece, second cousin if they would like to record your stories. This could be your opportunity to open their eyes to a different world as well as share those things that we all have in common.

### How to get started

Take some time to think of some questions – you might want to discuss these with some other family members first.

There are various different options to take

1. It could be theme/topic based with various questions about work, school, getting married etc.
2. It could be linked to where they are now e.g. when you were my age? What did you want to do? What did you and your friends do – we do this etc, what do you wish you'd known when you were my age
3. It could be around music – what songs are important to them and why?
4. It could be chronological
5. It could link to family folklore – things you're heard about but don't quite know why or how they happened
6. Or any, all or none of these

### How to record the interview

DIY recording.

There are lots of different ways to record a conversation. You could use technology like Zoom which would enable you to record the video and audio. There are lots of different platforms out there. Have a play with a few and practice with your family to see what works best.

### Supported recording

We have trained volunteers who are experts in exploring topics and themes and can talk to both the interviewee and the interviewer before the recording and can also be there when you record to help if you find the conversation dries up or goes off course. The team will also be able to match you with an audio expert who can support a phone call from a mobile to landline.

### Other things to keep in mind

- Make sure you're ready to do the recording and that you have everything you need before starting (including a cup of tea)
- Think about the background noise that might be picked up on the recording

- You might want to make more than one recording – agree in advance how long you will spend on each session