

ONCE UPON A TOWN

Become A History Detective

Your Mission - Bring History To Life

How You Can Become a History Detective

We'd like you to become a history detective by interviewing your family and friends about growing up in Ormskirk or living through a pandemic in West Lancashire.

Before You Begin

To help you we have prepared a few sample questions, but before you begin you need to make sure:

- The person you have chosen knows what you are going to ask them about and why you are asking the questions.
- You have the right equipment, a pen and paper for writing down the answers and recording equipment so if you miss anything you can go back over it. You could record on Zoom or Skype or you may just want to talk to them in person or telephone them. Please keep to your bubble if meeting in person.
- You have a glass of water for yourself, as you will be doing a lot of talking.

Before you start try to make them feel comfortable and make sure they are ready before you begin.

Interview Topics

The Story of Ormskirk

Ormskirk is a town with a past, some of which is well known but there are still things we know little about. In fact, you or a member of your family may know something about the towns history that no one else does!

We would like personal stories to bring the past to life, it could be your parents, grandparents or maybe your aunt or uncle's experience of living and working in Ormskirk. You can get their story by taking an oral history. This involves you asking them a few questions about their past and the memories they have. They may also have old photographs of the town and we would love to see them.

West Lancashire - The Story of How the Pandemic Changed Our Lives

Tell your story, how has pandemic changed your life. Or you could interview your mum, dad, a relative or friend and help them tell their story, try to find some photographs to help to illustrate the story and submit them with your form.



Sample Questions

Ormskirk Memories

Please tell me your name, date of birth and where you were born.

Where did you grow up?

Have you got any memories about the town, favourite place, shops etc

Where did you go to school?

What was school like?

What did you do when you left school?

Do you have any memories of events in the town centre?

Did you get married, if yes where?

Did you have a job, if yes where?

What do you feel about the town now?



Once You Have Completed The Questions

Read back the answers so you and the person you are interviewing can agree they are correct. Then ask them to give their written permission to submit their story to the Clock Tower, Virtual Museum and Gallery archives.

Lastly ask them if they have any photographs that would help illustrate their story, so they can submit them along with their story. It would be great if they could also provide a photograph of themselves, this is optional.

Don't forget to thank them for their help in preserving heritage for future generations.

Good luck with your mission. We're counting on you!

If you have managed to conduct an oral history, you have done a great job!

All submissions will receive a bronze, silver, or gold certificate.

Thank you for helping to build a Virtual Gallery and Museum.

Covid Pandemic

Please tell me your name, date of birth and where you were born.

When did you become aware of the coronavirus?

How did you feel about the first lockdown in March and how did it affect your daily life?

Did you make any changes to cope with the situation?

What have you done differently this year, compared to previous years?

How have the government guidelines affected you?

What have been the greatest challenges since March?

How have you maintained contact with friends and family?

How have the restrictions made you feel, which has affected you the most?

What are you looking forward to the most once everyone has had the vaccine?



Submit your finished interview as audio, video or a written history at onceuponatownormskirk.co.uk/submit