

Dragon Hall Heritage Volunteers: Local History



King Street Community Voices was a project, based at Dragon Hall, Norwich from 2010 to 2012. It was funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of about £50,000 and directed by Natasha Harlow, then Learning Officer at Dragon Hall.

Its aim was to create an archive of digital recordings of the living memories and experiences of people who lived, worked or socialised in King Street, Bracondale, Ber Street, Rose Lane, the area between the River Wensum and Rouen Road and from Carrow Bridge to Tombland.

A team of volunteer interviewers was trained in oral history interviewing skills and in digital audio and video recording techniques. Interviews with seventy seven people were recorded and the recordings are now held by the Sound Archives of the Norfolk Record Office and the East Anglian Film Archive.

The Transcriptions

The twenty two documents on this website are transcriptions of the interviews of twenty nine out of the total of seventy seven people interviewed for the project. Some documents consist of an interview with just one person; some are based on a number of themes and consist of the recordings of several people.

The transcriptions are a vivid first hand record of social history, covering the King Street/Ber Street area from just before World War II up to approximately the 1960s. Above all they illustrate how much people's lives and communities have changed in that period: their family and working life, schooling, churchgoing, friendships, shopping and leisure pursuits. Not least, they show how much the character of King Street itself has changed from a busy, predominantly working class, area of terraced houses, numerous shops, pubs and businesses – also a red light district – to a largely residential area with numerous apartments and new houses.

Paper copies of these transcriptions have also been deposited at the Norfolk Record Office. The audio recordings complement some earlier recordings of interviews of King Street residents undertaken in the 1980s. These should be available at the Norfolk Record Office under the 'Unlocking Our Sound Heritage' project.

Permissions and Data Protection

All the interviewees represented in these transcriptions signed a document at the time of the interview agreeing that their interview would be "preserved as a permanent public reference resource for use in research, publication, education, lectures, broadcasting and publication worldwide on the internet". Copyright now belongs to the Norfolk Record Office who have agreed to the use of the transcripts in this way.

We believe that the publication on line of these transcriptions conforms to the General Data Protection legislation and we have informed as many as possible of the interviewees of our intention to place the transcriptions on line. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who has concerns about the content of any of these documents or who wishes the transcript of their interview to be amended or deleted:

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