



Stories of Oxford Road

Interview someone in your family or someone you know in your community

Opposite is a picture of the Bell Pub Darts Team.

The darts team of The Bell pub on Oxford Road in Tilehurst were photographed with their winning trophies, in 1945. The pub was later renamed The Restoration.

What could they tell us about, the pub, their friends, living on the Oxford and how they formed the team?

Your family and friends might have lots to say about clubs, community groups and their lives in general on the Oxford Road over the years!



Activity 1: Interview Questions

Below are some questions you could ask in your interview. Some questions are open questions, giving your interviewee a chance to talk. Some questions are closed questions (with yes or no answers) You don't just have to stick with those, you can follow up with questions of your own.

You can record the interview on a phone, in an online call, write down notes or a combination to help you remember what was said!

1. When did you move to Oxford Road?
2. How did you come to live on the Oxford Road?
3. What brought you here?
4. What places did you like to visit?
5. Did you come here with your family?
6. Did you come to Oxford Road for work?

Activity 1: Interview Questions (continued)

You can ask all sorts of questions about living and working on the Oxford Road:

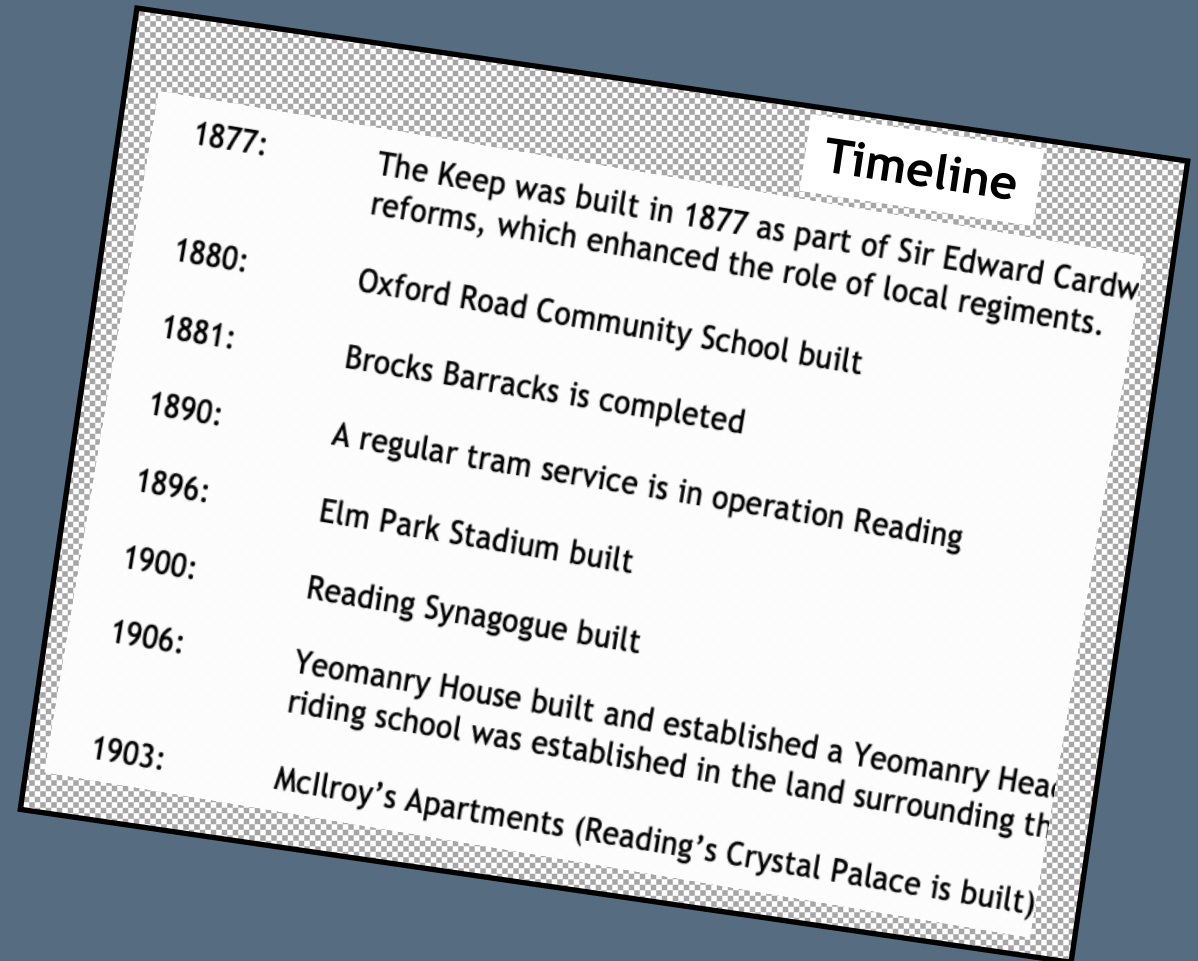
1. Who did you live with - family, shared house?
2. What are your favourite memories of Oxford Road?
3. Where would go for fun - cinema, library, clubs, race-track?
4. Do you have any photos of Oxford Road?
5. Did you go to school on the Oxford Road?
6. Did you have to travel far for work?
7. What is your favourite thing about living on the Oxford Road?
8. How would you describe the Oxford Road to someone who have never visited before?

Use the timeline to write questions

The timeline shows when certain buildings were built. You can see when the Oxford Road was a centre for entertainment, like when the Pavillion Cinema was built or when the McIlroy's Department Store became a huge shopping centre, zoo and hotel. It also shows when Oxford Road started to lose businesses and became a more residential area.

Ideas for questions:

You could ask about, memories of buildings listed in the timeline or the changes that people have seen in the road over time. Find out about people's favourite places to visit!



Use the timeline to write questions (continued)

You can use the questions below or ask some of your own!

Example questions:

- What do you remember about the Pavillion?
- What do you know about Battle Hospital?
- Have you ever visited the Barracks?
- Which shops did you visit on the Oxford Road?
- What do you remember about McIlroys Department Store?
- What do you know about Empire Day?
- Can you describe any festivals that happened on Oxford Road?

Activity 2: Research Board

As you start to interview people and collect stories, put all your research together on a board.

You can add photos, drawings, ideas and stories. This will help you to make connections and share what you have learned with others!



Empire Day - 1938



*I remember when I used to
visit.*



Activity 3: Drawing

Drawing is a great way to get to know the local area. It helps to highlight details that we might miss when we are walking past!

Make some drawings from photographs, memory or in person of the Oxford Road to go with your research board!

