

Oral History Interviewer

We are looking for four Oral History Interviewers to join our team as part of our [Your Story](#) activities. Each Interviewer will receive one day of training from the Oral History Society, record five oral histories, write up a summary of each interview and attend an evaluation session.

Time: May - August 2021 (must be available for training on Thursday 27th May)
Contract: Part-time, freelance/self-employed
Fee: £1200 (£100 per day, 12 days)

Following a day of training and support from Julia Letts (accredited trainer for the Oral History Society) over Zoom, each Oral History Interviewer will be matched with 5 people to interview. The times and dates of these interviews will be scheduled in accordance with both the Interviewer and Interviewee's availability, making this a great role for people who require flexible working. The Oral History Interviews will take place in-person, most likely at each interviewee's house and each interview will take approximately an hour. If there is a change to the Government's COVID-19 roadmap then interviews will either be delayed or will take place online.

Following each interview, the Interviewer will be responsible for uploading the recording and providing a summary of the interview. Each interviewer will receive training on how to do this as part of the training with accredited trainer Julia Letts.

Each Interviewer will be paid £100 per interview and £100 for uploading it and providing a timecoded summary. The Interviewer will be reimbursed for their expenses and paid to attend the training and evaluation sessions. 60 Miles by Road or Rail will provide new recording equipment in line with the Oral History Society's guidance.

As our project focuses on exploring Northampton and Corby's New Town legacy, the majority of our interviewees will be over 65. You can find out more about the subject of the project by checking out [our website](#) or reading below. Please note, it is not a requirement that you are hugely knowledgeable about New Towns to apply to be one of the Interviewers. You don't need to be currently living in Northamptonshire but you will need to be able to travel to the area for the interviews (costs will be covered).

Full interviews will be archived at the East Midlands Oral History Archive and edited versions will be presented on our website. The copyright of each interview will be jointly owned by the interviewee and 60 Miles by Road or Rail Ltd, not the Oral History Interviewer.

How to apply

If you are interested in applying for one of the four Oral History Interviewer roles please provide us a CV (no more than 2 pages) and a video (no longer than 3 minutes), addressing the following points:

- **Why would you like to be an Oral History Interviewer with us?**
- **What's your connection to Northamptonshire? Would your preference be to interview Northampton or Corby residents?**
- **Share with us an experience that required listening skills**

Please note, the video can be filmed on your phone, tablet or laptop. It should be sent as a WeTransfer link in an email to the below email address. We're not looking for professional or flashy editing skills, we just want to get to know about you. If you are unable to send a video due to access requirements, please submit your answers in written form (no more than 500 words) or as a voice recording (no longer than 3 minutes).

Your CV doesn't require a specific job history or a number of credits. We're just interested in what skills and experience you could bring to the role (in work, whilst volunteering, in school etc.)

Both your CV (as an attachment) and video (as a link) should be emailed to andy@60milesbyroadorrail.co.uk with Oral History Interviewer in the subject line.

Deadline for applications: 10am Wednesday 5th May

Second-round interviews will take place on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th May on Zoom

If you would like an informal discussion about the role, the project or to ask any questions, please contact Andy in good time before the deadline.

Important info

The role is on a freelance contract and you will be responsible for your own tax and national insurance responsibilities.

We are keen to create a diverse team representative of our local communities. We encourage applications from everyone interested in being part of this project. We are committed to a policy of equal opportunities embracing diversity in all areas of activity and positively welcome applications from disabled people and people of all ethnicities and genders.

If you require any access support in submitting an application to us, please email courtenay@60milesbyroadorrail.co.uk

Who might this suit

- Anyone who is either interested in extending their historical knowledge of Northamptonshire or gaining new history skills. If you haven't done any oral history recording before this will provide excellent experience for future heritage work or history courses.
- Anyone who wants to gain experience in communication skills, media/radio skills and any jobs related to working with people. Oral history is all about building up rapport with people. We will also be working with professional audio equipment used by TV/radio producers.
- Anyone who fancies doing something completely different, likes listening to stories and wants to have a go at recording some.

What you'll get from the experience

- Learn new skills including how to make oral history interviews, how to use digital recorders and how to summarise and edit your interviews.
- Work with a small friendly team to create a unique archive of recordings that will contribute towards a larger arts, heritage and community project.
- Receive training and support from Julia Letts, an accredited trainer for the Oral History Society.
- Discover a huge amount of new information – the type of things that would never be put in history books.

Who we are looking for

We will provide training so you **don't** require previous experience in recording oral histories. We're keen to work with a range of different people so we encourage you to apply! The only qualities we will be looking for are as follows:

- A strong link to Northamptonshire (preferably currently living here, however this is not essential) and interested in Northampton and/or Corby's past and present.
- A willingness to learn new skills and attend a training and evaluation session
- A curiosity of the past and an interest in other people's stories. Empathy is more important than interviewing experience.
- Confidence to work independently. Whilst you will not be responsible for selecting people to interview, you will be expected to make contact with the interviewees and meet them by yourself (most likely at their home). You will be responsible for liaising with the Project Manager to arrange the collection of recording equipment, and cleaning these in line with our COVID-19 policies.
- Good computer and organisation skills. Responsibilities include uploading audio onto a secure cloud server and completing a summary sheet.
- An ability to work with others. You will be part of a small team who will need to communicate with each other regularly.

About the Training Day

All recruited Oral History Interviewers will be expected to attend a one-day introduction to oral history training course on Zoom on **Thursday 27th May**. The course will run from 9.30am to 4pm (with breaks) and will cover everything you need to know to start recording oral histories. The first session will concentrate on what oral history is, understanding memory and the legal and ethical responsibilities of interviewers.

After a morning break, the second session will focus on the practicalities of interviewing, from the first time you contact your interviewee through to completing your recording and getting it ready for the archive. There will be opportunities to interact, discuss scenarios, learn about interviewing techniques, operating digital recording equipment or doing online interviews.

In the afternoon, there will be a chance to plan, undertake and review your own interviews, and also learn about necessary interview data and paperwork, GDPR, copyright and writing summaries.

At the end of the day there will be time to discuss the next stage of the 60 Miles by Road or Rail project. You don't need any previous experience in oral history to attend this course and there will be a firm emphasis on meeting new people, working as a team, having a go and having fun.

The course will be run by Julia Letts, a member of the Oral History Society's training team. Julia, a former BBC Radio producer, has been working as a freelance oral history producer and trainer for nearly 20 years. She is excited to be working with 60 Miles by Road or Rail and sharing her love of oral history with the project interviewers. Have a look at her website www.lettstalk.net

About the project

The 60 Miles project, which relaunched in April 2021, is a year-long intergenerational cultural project inspired by Northampton's and Corby's New Town heritage. There are four strands of activity:

- **The Show** about Northampton's New Town story returns to Royal & Derngate in Autumn 2021 - an upscaled and updated version of the show we previewed in 2018.
- **Hometown:** working with communities in Northampton and Corby to co-create two new pieces of work inspired by their relationship with their own hometown.
- **Old Town New Town:** a series of events led by New Town Heritage Research Network exploring wider aspects of the New Town developments in Northampton and Corby.
- **Your Story:** gathering as many personal stories as possible and documenting them in different ways including: oral histories, written and photo stories and creating a documentary film.

If you're interested in being interviewed or contributing your story rather than being an Oral History Interviewer, you can find out more about how you can [Get Involved](#) on our website, or by emailing Katie Welford (Digital Community Engagement Producer) at katie@60milesbyroadorrail.co.uk

About us

60 Miles by Road or Rail started in August 2017. Theatre director Andy Routledge returned to his hometown of Northampton and wanted to cultivate a platform for Northamptonians of different generations to come together to question and strengthen their collective and individual relationships to the town.

He discovered that 2018 marked 50 years since the designation of Northampton becoming a New Town – an event that led to its rapid expansion as thousands of families were welcomed from overspill areas, primarily from London. It was a fundamental moment in the makeup of Northampton, and yet it was a story that seemed to be largely untold.

Andy brought together a team of local professional artists (Ryan Leder, Subika Anwar-Khan, Davin Eadie, Dan McGarry, Helen Crevel, Jo Blake and producer Courtenay Johnson) and between them they interviewed 114 people about their experiences of Northampton becoming a New Town. Interviewees included members of the Northampton Development Corporation (the taskforce who oversaw the town's expansion), some of the first residents to live in the newly built estates and who helped nurture the new communities, and Northamptonian natives who witnessed the town's identity change very significantly and very quickly.

Whilst the artists were drawing the various stories together, Northamptonshire County Council declared bankruptcy and severe cuts to its social services were announced. The county was on the front page of the Guardian and the New York Times as an example of a local authority going bust as a result of the government's austerity measures. The project took on a greater urgency with the anger of a town in crisis and had a great amount to say and contribute to our contemporary political landscape.

In September 2018, we previewed the new theatre production, 60 Miles by Road or Rail. It played to a packed home-crowd at Royal & Derngate as part of their Generate programme for emerging artists. Following the success of both the production and the community processes leading up to it, the team started planning for next steps.

Throughout 2019, we put together a new programme of activity and secured ambitious funding bids from Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund, National Lottery Community Fund and Northamptonshire Community Foundation. Due to the pandemic we have rescheduled our new year-long project to take place in 2021. In addition to building on the arts and community activities that we started in 2018, we will be hosting heritage events and activities in Corby which was designated a New Town 18 years previously

More about the project can be found on our website:

www.60milesbyroadorrail.co.uk