

## **Transcript of interview with Edna Green, 8 December 2017**

### **0:00**

West Ham area; Stratford 10 years; Forest gate all life; Born elsewhere; Same house 63 years; All kids born in Newham, one in East Ham; Show off "I'm the only one born in East end" [1:24]; Went to school; Boys separated upstairs; Got offered Scholarship, couldn't accept; Dad out of work; Worked with mum; Mum worked at school; Dad was a labourer, had arthritis;

### **3:00**

Left school in Easter; "left school on a Friday, started work on a Monday" [3:10] Worked as box maker; Had to take boxes to workers "Stack them up as high as you can and ran up two flights of stairs" 8 in the morning until 7 at night; No Saturdays; Overtime Easter and Christmas; Chocolate boxes, cigarette boxes, Match boxes; Made pen cases; Lined cardboard with paper; Didn't do much box making; Worked in by a church; Got self put off; Got a job in a rubber place; Including contraceptives;

### **6:00**

Wasn't too long a walk; "No buses in those days" [6:23]; Did 8 weeks at a Woolworths; Couldn't stand there; Near 20 years old at the time she got married; Used to walk around the street just to walk; Didn't know husband but knew his brothers, aunts, uncles; Went round the fish shop; First time met husband down Stokey road; From then on they were together, 18 months and they got married; Had 8 children; 3 sons; 5 daughters; Lost a baby girl; husband died 35 years ago;

### **9:00**

Husband was a steeple-jack; Would go up buildings and steeples; Barking, work all over the place; October to March not a lot of work; "five weeks after I got married he got put off" [9:59]; Work picked up again; Labour exchange, steeple-jacks could not get jobs as slaters, tilers, painter; Couldn't go into somebody else's work; Worked 13 years; "Got a bit upsie daisy" [10:58]; Would look after a little boy; Did a year doing night work; Did a year with the Daily Mail to get counter express, to get experience; Went to the daily mirror; Mum had the baby, baby only 11 months when she went to work;

### **12:00**

Had to have others in bed; Get up at 10:15; "We always worked together" [10:17]; Used to go to the pictures; Mum was just around the corner; As the kids got older they all did a little bit to help; "Can we go out mum? When you've done so and so." [13:34]; "when they got older one went up the baker" [13:48]; Didn't know what one of them did, he didn't tell her until much later how much he made a week; Had a baby and a bad winter in February 1947; The coal man and the baker had to come around; "We all had to stay in the bedroom for the day to keep warm" [14:29]; Couldn't get enough heat for two rooms; Had their own bedrooms; Got bombed out; Up and down to the council

### **15:00**

Previously got blasted out up at Spotted Dog; Couldn't sell; stuck like that for six weeks; Family went to Mum's when house was bombed; Mother had to move too; Was only in house for eight weeks; they gave me a house; On a Tuesday got back; Sent a telegram to say they got bombed; tried their hardest to get her down Leyton; Did not want to live there; too close to brothers; Moved down the road nearer to when she was young;

**18:00**

Would go round mum's at night; Couldn't go to the Shelter where she lived; People kept rabbits for food; Would go to mum's Shelter; "I've had a good life I think" [20:31]; Street Party for King George jubilee; He died soon after

**21:00**

The Queen's passing; Edward Abdicated; Then the queen; Street party apart from passings; Street party for end of war; Parties indoors; Especially when they're grown up; Rock and Roll days; About 40 to 42 years old when first child got married; Elvis Presley, Cliff Richard, Joe Brown played at parties; Attended all her children's weddings.

**24:00**

All her children and their weddings were local; children now moved away; lists where children and grandchildren are now living

**28:00**

Left Forest Gate 10 years ago; People are different from how they used to be; Atmosphere has changed; Used to have \*unclear\* outside of Forest gate station; Used to go on trip with lady from up the road

**30:00**

Would go in a horse drawn carriage; Would go away during the breaks; Would take trains places, school trips; The Carlton Cinema opened in Green Street, took a lot of children in before the opening; Coronation at park; In forest gate there were five Picture Houses, one got bombed; Queen's and Odeon; Showed different films; Would go to the pictures a lot

**33:00**

Enjoyed reading Jane Grey; When she was a kid they would go over the Wanstead Flats at the top of her road; would go for picnics; Grandmother lived in Durlington Road, two Aunts on Durlington Place; would ride fairy bath from Forest gate, through the park, go out into Port way to visit on a Sunday afternoon; "Families used to be near each other weren't they?" [35:21]

**36:00**

Has not seen all of family in a while; "She don't wanna come to London, she don't [sic] like London" [36:50]; All of them born in London; "They keep in touch, that's all that matters" [37:07]; Did not always go to church; attended Sunday school but not regularly; Remembers Green Street; Jack Bell, curtains, towels, Jewish Market, two brothers, green grocers, pie shop, shoe shop

**39:00**

Plenty of clothes shops; Petticoat Lane; "That was a good market" [39:38]; Liked the auctioneer room; "There was all sorts down there – Everything you think of" [39:46]; Horse racing; Saturday and Sunday worked from 12 until 7; Would find boys playing cards; Used to walk back from the theatre at 12 o'clock

**42:00**

Wouldn't be able to walk alone nowadays; "Someone would say "Goodnight" and I would say "Goodnight" and just carry on" [42:14] "When will you get a boyfriend? "When I'm ready"" [42:35]; not much pressure to get a boyfriend; Husband's family all local; Had ups and downs; Men still

cooked;

**45:00**

They would go grocery shopping on Saturday morning; Would leave money out, none would go missing;

**46:18 audio ends**