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Interview Details

Name of interviewee:

Project:

Date of interview:

Language: English

Venue:

Name of interviewer:

Length of interview:

Transcribed by:

Archive Ref: 2016_esch_STOS_21

Okay so can you tell me your full name please?

Erm Gwendolin Eldred.

Can you spell Eldred?

E-L-D-R-E-D

Right and your date of birth?

XX XX 1943.

Right thank you and where did you grown up?

In Forest Gate

Right and did you – with? Who was in your family?

Err we had ... my mum had ten, she had five boys, five girls. You know? and erm err we lived in Forest Gate and we lived in the same turning, Tower Hamlets Road. And when I got married I moved from forty three to forty-four (laughs)

Right

Across the road (laughs)

So when you.. What do you remember, what's your earliest memory of?

Of West Ham?

Well of growing up first of all?

Oh... those I mean it was lovely. I mean we had coronation, we had street parties and it was, it was community. And you know everyone worked with everyone. You didn't lock your doors. You had a string on your latch, around your door and you just put your hands through the door and pulled your latch or you pulled the XXX (0:01:22:0) it was really lovely and you could leave you front doors open all the time you know.

Was the house big where you lived?

No it was two bedrooms. And we had two rooms downstairs, we had my grandad living with us and we used to have to split the front bedroom for the boys and the girls you know. I mean the older ones, got older and left home you know.

So where are you in that?

I was seventh. Yeah I was the one they called the seventh child is full of grace. (Laughs)

(Laughs). So what do you remember of the coronation?

Oh well we never had television. We never had television and we... we went to my grandmas over in Plaistow. XXX (0:02:09:4) and she, my aunt had the telly and we all went there to see it on the telly. We'd never seen the telly before, I'd never watched anything on telly you know.

What was it like?

Oh it was fantastic you know? The coronation, oh it was marvellous you know. I mean it was all celebrations. We watched it on the telly but we you know we couldn't have gone up to London and seen it but we didn't. we always went up to London, we say, you know trooping the colour and things like that and all those sort of things but we went other years you know? but the coronation yeah I mean we had parties... and we had an elderly woman who owned a shop and she took charge of all the money and you know and they had a committee in the road, they organised a party. Everybody bought their chairs and tables out

(coughs)



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And we had it right in the road you know? and we had dancing, singing, all that. So all the old tunes, I mean you didn't have like you got this day and age, radios...

Did they bring the piano onto the street?

Yeah yeah yeah

Right

It was erm... everyone joined in with everyone. Never had cars. There was only one fellow that had a taxi and everyone else never had cars you know. There was only one man who had a taxi.

So did you share a bedroom? Who did you share a bedroom with?

Oh yeah, I shared it now... I had two sisters who slept in a double bed. And erm the ... I had a single bed because I was a poorly child you know, so I had a single bed but I did sleep with the before and we used to have and sometimes we used to be long- err side... you know the long... we used to be sideways on a bed. There could be three of us in there you know. and we had erm a curtain across the middle and the boys were one side and we were the other. I mean there weren't, they were big bedrooms really, well in our time we call it a big bedroom but it wasn't. It used to be the main bedroom. And then the one at the back my mum and dad had and you had the baby in there. Erm there was Eric, David, err Jean, Me, Erin, David, Jean, Me... erm Anne err Robin, no Robin and Anne, Anne was the baby (0:04:50:0)