

## **Life on Lockdown: record your experiences of the pandemic**

### **What we're doing**

At Birmingham Museums, we want to capture and preserve Birmingham people's experiences of living through the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, before memories change and these stories are lost.

We've put together this 'how to' guide so everyone can record their own stories, or interview family members they're living with.

This guide will give you information on the best way to get a good sound recording and the kind of questions you might like to ask.

### **Location – where to do your recording**

Before you start, think about where you're going to sit. Background noise can ruin recordings, so find a quiet room, turn off or unplug your phones, and keep pets out of the room. Keep windows closed to cut down on traffic noise.

### **Equipment – what to use**

You can use a smartphone, or a laptop with a microphone, to interview someone you live with, or you can record a video call.

Think about where you position the phone/laptop though – you don't want to hold it up the whole time or you'll get arm ache, so try to rest phone/laptop on something that will bring it close (but not TOO close) to whoever you're interviewing.

You might want to test out your recording equipment first – does it pick up your speech? Is there a ticking clock in the background? Are you in a comfortable position?

Make sure you know how the recording programme works, how to start and stop a recording, and how to save it so your hard work isn't lost.

### **Questions – what to ask and how**

It's a good idea to ask a few questions beforehand. You might want to start with:

- Can you tell me your name, your age, and which city you live in?
- Can you tell me something about where you're living and who you live with?
- Thinking about the pandemic lockdown, can you tell me how your work/shopping/leisure has changed?

Record your story in whatever language you're most comfortable using.

### **What next?**

- Don't forget to save your recording!
- Copy your recording to a computer if you've done it on your phone as a long interview might take up a lot of space.
- Check that anyone you've recorded is happy for you to share their story.

Share your story with us – email it to [Stories@BirminghamMuseums.org.uk](mailto:Stories@BirminghamMuseums.org.uk) or share it on Twitter, tagging us @BMTEngage and using #BrumLockdownStories