



JEAN TABOR BEING INTERVIEWED BY SHARON

# Rock Around The Clock NEWSLETTER

## Rock Around the Clock

A Pilot Reminiscence & Oral History Project

**Hello Residents, Family & Friends**, this newsletter is to introduce ourselves. We have met some of you already but for those who don't know; we have been developing a pilot oral history project 'Rock Around The Clock'. Through running some activities over the last month at Station House we have started to document some wonderful memories.

### We are:

Sharon Woodward Artist & Film-maker in residence.

Sharon is an independent award winning filmmaker with a keen focus on community and history.

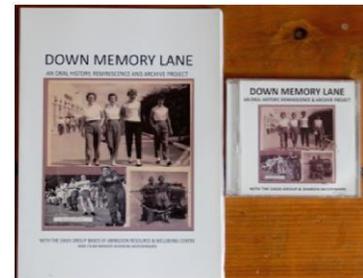
Cait Sweeney Project assistant.

Cait is an artist and designer with a particular interest in the art and architecture of memory.

**Other projects** we've worked on include 'Down Memory Lane', a series of short films and a book created with the Oasis Group at Abingdon Resource and Wellbeing Centre, capturing and recording their memories for future generations. A copy of this is available at the local library.

### Introduction.

Our first visit began with some archive film footage from the 1950's, using these as ways of exploring memories and history with the group.



Residents recalled how gardens had changed; people used to keep chickens and pigs in the back garden and grew much more food.



### Elizabeth, Betty and Joan

One of the commercials we watched offered cash prizes of £10 and £5, which is roughly the equivalent of £100 and £50 today.

## Printmaking

with Helen Jacobs

Following on from the previous week Helen brought in a number of books, labels and adverts from the 1950s for people to feel inspired. By using a simple printing technique a fantastic selection of prints were made by the group.



## All that jazz

with Nick Gill

Wheeling in his upright piano, Nick entertained us all with a wonderful selection of songs and music from the 40's and 50's including; Doris Day, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, Louis Armstrong, Fats Domino and Elvis.

### Photos & Memories

Residents were invited to share their photos and memories. Richard and Isabel had a photo of their wedding day, as did Jean with an AWOL story to tell and Griff told us how he met his wife at a football match in Culham.



## An Eclectic Collection

with Cait Sweeney

Cait brought in some objects from an on-going art installation; an eclectic collection of objects from the home spanning the last 100 years or so. Objects included: 1950s Vogue and Harpers magazines, a hairdryer, an Electrolux vacuum still in its original wooden box, old biscuit tins and a box of Milk Tray chocolates before they were owned by Cadbury's.





*Nick Gill entertaining residents with music and song*

## WHAT NEXT?

**Rock Around the Clock** has been a pilot project, introducing various activities and workshops as a way to explore and share people's memories in order to preserve them for future generations.

Sharon has filmed the activities and workshops along with interviews from some of the residents. Over the next couple of months she will be editing this footage to make a short documentary film, with a screening taking place at Old Station House.

Residents who would like their own copy can order one from Sharon at the screening.

The activities and workshops have been 'taster sessions' offering an example of what we could potentially explore.

For those who aren't comfortable with being interviewed on camera, perhaps there are other activities you would like to see take place in the future?

We value any contributions or thoughts about domestic life at home or abroad during the post war era as they are a brilliant way of putting this time into context.

We welcome any feedback and would like to look at who might benefit from partnership with this project such as educational establishments Museums and Libraries.

Rock Around the Clock has been supported by the Vale of the White Horse District Council with thanks to:

Arts Development Officer  
Abigail Brown and the Rock Around the Clock committee:  
Elizabeth Aldworth, Betty Bowsher, Jeff Denton, Jackie Leader and Carol Flynn.

If you would like to discuss this project further please Contact:

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Noel Horsfield



Mr & Mrs Tabor



Isabel and Richard Smith



Gladys Carter



Gladys a 1920s child