

Wexford County Council Public Library Service

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Wexford County Council, Public Library Management
Services, 6A, Ardcavan Business Park, Ardcavan,
Co. Wexford, Republic of Ireland.

Tel: 00353 53 91 24922, Fax: 00353 53 91 21097

Web: www.wexford.ie/library

Email: libraryhq@wexfordcoco.ie



1. This programme is within strategic objective 4 of the Wexford County Council Library Service Development Plan. The objective strengthens cultural identity, citizenship and community development by harnessing local studies and archives. Digitized information is made available via the World Wide Web.



COUNTY WEXFORD
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAMME

Join us for *the story of your lifetime!*

Everyone has a story to tell. Every story is important. Memories are collected and treasured by the public library service. They are held in trust for future generations. Memories and experiences deepen our understanding of the cultural heritage of the county¹.

The Wexford Oral History Programme

- collects the memory and life experiences of people associated with County Wexford through audio & video recorded conversation.
- conserves records to archival standard.
- makes recordings available locally and globally for research and educational purposes.
- includes this material within publications of popular interest.

This programme will develop through a series of distinct projects which will be rolled out as funding allows.

Two approaches are planned:

- a) Area, e.g. Gorey
- b) Theme, e.g. fishing, community contribution to the Wexford Festival Opera, local festivals, work around the home

Also allowance is made for emergency work where a record is identified as valuable and vulnerable.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Wexford Oral History Programme?

The memories of Wexford people are collected through interview and recorded.

2. Who is being interviewed?

Everyone with a Wexford story to tell is welcome to play a part. We are starting with

- older people
- Witnesses to and practitioners of aspects of Wexford life which are disappearing or under threat e.g. trades & crafts, farmers, fishermen, family shopkeepers,
- Witnesses for areas of County Wexford that are undergoing rapid change
- public representatives and community activists in the broadest sense of the words

3. How are people selected?

You are invited to nominate everyone you know who has an interesting story to tell. Fill out an application form, available from your local library or off the library website www.wexford.ie/library.

4. Who will do the interview?

The interviews are collected into themes. The interviewer is selected depending upon the content. Every interviewer is trained in interviewing and knows the local area or the topics that may be covered.

5. What questions will be asked?

The interview is voluntary so the person being interviewed can decide what he or she would like to talk about.

The library is interested in collecting information about growing up, school, what the home-place was like, special days, good times or bad, people they knew who are gone, personal experiences or adventures, changes they have noticed, work, past-times, local stories.

6. Is there a fee?

No. This is a partnership. Together we are recording, protecting and making an important part of local heritage available to the community.

7. Who will own the record of the interview?

The public library service. The public library service will hold the interview in trust for future generations of Wexford people. Each participant must sign a release form so that copies of the interview can be made, now and in the future.

8. Does the person being interviewed get a copy of the interview?

Yes. Each person interviewed will receive a copy for their personal use and to pass on to their family.

9. What will the library service do with the interview?

The first thing the library will do is protect it. The recording will be transferred onto a computer server, where it will be archived. Also, the conversation will be typed up and held in print on paper.

Copies of the spoken interview will be re-produced on CD. Some copies will be held for researchers within the Wexford Reference Collection of the library service. Other copies can be lent through the public library service.

We expect the interviews to be very popular with local people. Schools, local historians, other researchers and new people moving into the community will find them very valuable.

As the collection grows, more uses for the interviews will become clear.

10. How is contact made?

When the nomination form is received, a first contact is made with either the contributor or another contact person as we are advised. A time and place for the interview is agreed. Every effort is made to suit the contributor. The interviewer will show ID that associates him or her with the programme.

11. Anything else?

We like to take a few photos – for the CD cover and to illustrate the conversation.

