

Local Childhoods
Children's Play and Social Lives in Bishop Auckland
in the Iona and Peter Opie Archive (1950-70) and Since

Information sheet for participants

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether or not to participate it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it involves. Please read the following information carefully and contact one of the project leads, Dr Julia Bishop or Dr Yinka Olusoga (contact details below), if there is anything that is not clear about the research or you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the project?

In 1950-1970, hundreds of schools in Britain encouraged their pupils to contribute to a nationwide survey undertaken by folklorists Iona and Peter Opie. The children noted down their games and activities and the school sent them to the Opies. The Opies used the information in their books on children's lore, language and games. These contributions have been preserved and are gradually being made publicly accessible as part of the online Opie Archive at the University of Sheffield (www.opiearchive.org).

In this project we want to find out more about the local communities where the Opie schools were located and how children's social lives and play have developed in these communities since the time of the Opies' research in the 1950s and 1960s.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been contacted because you grew up in Bishop Auckland, one of the locations where a school contributed to the Opies' survey. We are interested in your knowledge of the local area, and your experience of growing up and playing there in the second half of the twentieth century.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part is voluntary. It is also flexible so that it is possible to choose which aspects of the project you wish to take part in. This is done on the consent form. If you do not wish to participate at all there will be no negative consequences. If you do decide to participate, you may withdraw at any time by contacting Dr Julia Bishop or Dr Yinka Olusoga.

Are there any expenses or payment involved?

There are no expenses or payment involved for taking part in this research.

What will I have to do if I take part?

We would like to ask you some questions about your childhood memories of play, your background, and the school you attended. You will be invited to take part in an interview with a member of the research team. The interview will take place by phone or online. The interview will take about half an hour and will be recorded. Other ways of answering the questions, such as in writing or self-recording, are possible if you would prefer.

We will also ask you if you would like to share or create or share a copy of a photograph, film or drawing relating to your childhood play. We would like to make these publicly accessible as a supplement to the Opie Archive. The use of these materials is subject to the consent of anyone else featured and of the person who created the materials.

What possible benefits and disadvantages are there to taking part?

It may be enjoyable to recall the past and contribute to a better understanding of continuity and change in children's social lives in the second half of the twentieth century. Childhood memories can sometimes bring up mixed emotions, though, and you do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to.

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

The information that we collect about you during the project will be kept strictly confidential and will only be accessible to members of the research team. A pseudonym will be used in any public outputs, such as reports or publications, unless you have given explicit consent for the use of your real name.

An important exception to this is if you choose to share a photograph or film of yourself since this will contain identifying information. If you wish to remain anonymous, you should not take part in this aspect of the project.

It is likely that others will be interested in the information you provide as part of this project. We would therefore like to preserve it and make it available to others, now and in the future, provided that they agree to respect the confidentiality of the information as you have specified. We will contact you separately about depositing the information in an archive for long-term preservation and re-use, and will ask for your explicit consent for the data to be shared in this way.

What is the legal basis for processing my personal data?

According to data protection legislation, we need to inform you that the legal basis we are applying in order to process your personal data is that 'processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest' (Article 6(1)(e)). Further information can be found in the University's Privacy Notice <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/govern/data-protection/privacy/general>.

If we collect any data that is defined in the legislation as more sensitive (such as your ancestry, ethnic or cultural background), we also need to let you know that we are applying the following condition in law: that the use of your data is necessary 'for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific research purposes or statistical purposes' (9(2)(j)).

What will happen to the data collected and the results of the research project?

The data collected will be stored securely on Google Drive at the University of Sheffield with access restricted to the project research team. The interviews will be transcribed and we will send you a copy of the transcription for you to approve.

We will contact you again to let you know about plans to deposit the information in an archive and to seek your consent specifically for this.

Who is funding the research?

The project is being funded by the Sheffield Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Scheme and the School of Education internship initiative. The work is being conducted under the auspices of the ongoing British Academy 'Childhoods and Play' project which focuses on the archival collection of Iona and Peter Opie, relating to the play and traditions of children https://www.opiearchive.org/about/childhoods_and_play.

Who is the Data Controller?

The University of Sheffield will act as the Data Controller for this study. This means that the University is responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

Who has ethically reviewed the project?

The project has been ethically approved by the University of Sheffield's ethics review procedure, via the School of Education.

What if something goes wrong?

If you are concerned about a safeguarding issue, further information can be found in the University's safeguarding policy. The designated safeguarding contact is Dr Yinka Olusoga. If any other problems occur in relation to your participation in the project, either during the project or after it, please contact Dr Julia Bishop or Dr Yinka Olusoga. If you have a complaint about the conduct of the project please contact the Head of the School of Education, Professor Rebecca Lawthom: edu-hos@sheffield.ac.uk.

How do I give permission to take part?

Please read the attached consent form carefully and contact Dr Julia Bishop or Dr Yinka Olusoga if you have any further questions. If you then decide to take part, complete, sign and date the consent form, indicating which parts of the research you wish to take part in. Then give the form to a member of the project team who will also sign it and give you a copy of it to keep.

Contacts for further information

Dr Julia Bishop (j.c.bishop@sheffield.ac.uk)

Dr Yinka Olusoga (e.ulusoga@sheffield.ac.uk)

Thank you for taking part in the project!

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