



HOLDING THE BABY ARCHIVE

(HTB)

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Catalogued by On The Record and Stef Dickers, April 2019

HTB Holding The Baby Archive

2017-2018

Name of Creator: Various

Extent: 3 digital folders, 1 box

Administrative/Biographical History: On the Record are a not-for-profit co-operative (registered as a Community Interest Company), co-founded by Laura Mitchison and Rosa Schling. The organisation specialises in oral history and community archiving projects. Funding is secured for each new project from external funders, for instance the Heritage Lottery Fund. The organisation works as a co-operative, with each project relying on volunteers and participants to shape the outcome and aims. This collaborative approach means that everyone involved with a project plays an active role in recording the histories and making decisions about how the outputs are shared with others.

Custodial History: Deposited with Bishopsgate Institute by On The Record, 16 March 2018.

Scope and Content: Holding the Baby was an oral history project by On The Record. It looked to collect stories of childcare and parenting, creating a podcast series and sound-based exhibition, as well as an oral history archive. Participants were recruited from London's East End and asked to reflect upon the care they received as children and gave as parents, carers and childcare workers. Holding the Baby was funded by Gilda Street Trust in the memory of historian and author, Gilda O'Neill. The archive includes oral histories, digitised documents and recordings from events held in conjunction with the project

System of Arrangement:

The Holding The Baby Archive is divided into the following three series:

HTB/1: Oral Histories

HTB/2: Archive Material

HTB/3: Project Material

Language/scripts of material:

English

Access conditions:

OPEN

Copying conditions:

Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

Finding Aids:

Copy of handlist available in Researcher's Area.

Rules and Conventions:

Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

HTB/1	Oral Histories	2017
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Nineteen oral histories recorded with twenty-two interviewees from the East End of London, discussing their experiences of childcare, both as children and as caregivers, for the On The Record project, Holding the Baby (2017)

OPEN

HTB/1/1	Jane Lane and Andrew Lane	2017
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Interviewee: Jane Lane and Andrew Lane

Date of Birth: 27.07.1935 (Jane) / 17.04.1963 (Andrew)

Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Brief Descriptive Note: Jean Lane and Andrew Lane, mother and son, were interviewed about their respective childhoods and upbringing.

Gender: Female (Jane) / Male (Andrew)

Date of Recording: 26 April 2017

Length of Recording: 02:04:34

Photo Credit: N/A

Summary: Yes

Transcript: No

Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at interviewee's home. External lavalier microphones x 3 and x/y mic attachment.

Recording mixed from lapel mics. Zoom H6. The memory card became full and a short part of the interview was lost. Rain noise audible at one point.

Interviewer's notes: Jean Lane, a retired school receptionist, and her son, Andrew Lane, an author, were interviewed together for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in East London. Jean describes her childhood in Elephant and Castle and her experience of evacuation. In particular she explains the 'culture shock' of returning from life in the countryside to her family home which was overcrowded and had poor conditions. Interview covers both Jean and Andrew's experiences of childhood play, learning and education, Jean's parenting of her two sons, Andrew and Ian, use of childcare such as a playgroup and nursery and Andrew's experience of becoming a parent. Andrew and Jean talk about how Andrew's imagination and love of books developed during his childhood.

OPEN

HTB/1/2

Brenda Crew

2017

Interviewee: Brenda Crew
Date of Birth: 1947
Interviewer: Rosa Schling
Brief Descriptive Note: Brenda Crew described her childhood in Plaistow, bringing up her son as a single parent and work in the Children's Centre connected to Plaistow's Memorial Baptist Church and Lawrence Hall.
Gender: Female
Date of Recording: 12.06.2017
Length of Recording: 01:34:44
Photo Credit: Sophie Polyviou
Summary: Yes
Transcript: No
Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at interviewees home. External lavalier microphones and x/y mic attachment. Zoom H6.

Interviewer's notes: Brenda Crew was interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in East London. She lived with her mother, father and brother in Plaistow. She describes her childhood play with local children, in the park and on bombsites. She married David, who was in the RAF, and moved around the country with him living in various military camps. They had a son, Kevin, but Brenda found life in the military 'lonely' and she returned without David to Plaistow when she was able to buy the house next door to her parents. Brenda and David divorced when Kevin was five, and Brenda describes life as a single parent with her own parents living right next door. Her parents provided a lot of support, but Brenda could also find their proximity difficult. Brenda took Kevin to the playgroup at Memorial Baptist Church and later became a full time member of staff in the day care they provided.

OPEN

HTB/1/3

Eva Turner and Norah Parkin

2017

Interviewee: Eva Turner and Norah Parkin
Date of Birth: 1948 (Eva) / 1956 (Norah)
Interviewer: Rosa Schling
Brief Descriptive Note: Eva Turner and Norah

Parkin became friends when they met at Stepney City Farm in 1986 when both were parents of young children. Norah later became Eva's childminder when she returned to work. In this interview they discuss their different childcare decisions and experiences of parenting.

Gender: Female (Eva) / Female (Norah)

Date of Recording: 15.09.2017

Length of Recording: 02:11:19

Photo Credit: Sophie Polyviou

Summary: Yes

Transcript: No

Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at interviewees home. External lavalier microphones and x/y mic attachment. Zoom H6. Recording made in kitchen and some echo present.

Interviewer's notes: Eva Turner and Norah Parkin were interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in the East End. Eva was born in 1948 in Prague, Czechoslovakia and Norah was born in 1956 in Nottinghamshire. They met in 1986 at Stepney City Farm when they were both living with their young daughters in Tower Hamlets. Eva needed to return to work when her daughter was around nine months old and Norah agreed to be her childminder. They discuss how they learnt to look after children: Norah had worked as a nanny while Eva only learnt about babies when she had her own. Eva describes what it was like going back to work after having children, including her experience of being denied any flexible working by her previous employers in the City. Norah explains why she wanted to stay at home with her children, partly because of her own experience of having a working mother who did not spend much time at home. Eva's parents also both worked, which was normal in Czechoslovakia, but this made it difficult for her to imagine staying at home all the time: 'I would go bonkers'. Interview also covers play, ideas about gendered play and birth in Mile End Hospital. Later, Norah ran a mums and toddlers group at Stepney City Farm while Eva moved to Walthamstow and became part of a cooperative nursery project.

OPEN

HTB/1/4 Hanson Bosompem 2017

Interviewee: Hanson Bosompem
Date of Birth: 1940
Interviewer: Rosa Schling
Brief Descriptive Note: Short interview about family life, mentions relationship with father and daughter, moving from Ghana to the UK.
Gender: Male
Date of Recording: 19.04.2017
Length of Recording: 00:20:50
Photo Credit: N/A
Summary: Yes
Transcript: No
Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at nursing home on x/y mic attachment for Zoom H6. Interviewee hard of hearing and in a great deal of pain, adjusting reclining bed.

Interviewer's notes: None.
OPEN

HTB/1/5 Janice Geeves 2017

Interviewee: Janice Geeves
Date of Birth: 1939
Interviewer: Rosa Schling
Brief Descriptive Note: Short interview describing her childhood during the Second World War in Forest Gate, relationship with mother and sister and experience of depression.
Gender: Female
Date of Recording: 27.10.2017
Length of Recording: 00:23:25
Photo Credit: N/A
Summary: Yes
Transcript: No
Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at The Gate Library, echo in the room. External lavalier microphones and x/y mic attachment. Zoom H6.

Interviewer's notes: None.
OPEN

HTB/1/6 John Newman and Joe Newman 2017

Interviewee: John Newman and Joe Newman
Date of Birth: 1957 (John) / 1990 (Joe)
Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Brief Descriptive Note: Interview covers John Newman's childhood in Tower Hamlets. Joined by his son, Joe Newman, they then discuss Joe's upbringing and John's role as a stay at home dad when Joe was young.
Gender: Male (John) / Male (Joe)
Date of Recording: 11.09.2017
Length of Recording: 02:29:07
Photo Credit: Sophie Polyviou
Summary: Yes
Transcript: No
Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at John Newman's home with external lavalier microphones using a Zoom H6. First half of interview with John Newman, then joined by his son Joe Newman. Thunder storm and rain audible at points.

Interviewer's notes: John and Joe Newman were interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in the East End. John Newman describes his childhood in Tower Hamlets and living on the Burdett Estate. He has traced his family history back to the early 1800s in the East End. Discusses his relationship with his parents and grandmother, the gender roles performed by his mother and father and the places he played. He went to grammar school and later became a social worker. After his son Joe joins the interview John describes how he and his wife Julie became parents with Joe's birth. When Joe was an infant John and Julie decided John would work part-time and be the main carer while Julie returned to work as a teacher. While John worked at Newham Bookshop Joe was looked after by a childminder, which John felt conflicted about. John and Joe remember the activities they did together in those early years and John describes what it was like for him as a stay-at-home-dad, which was more unusual at the time. John and Joe discuss how things have changed for younger people today: it is harder to have financial security now. They talk about parenting, masculinity and what childcare would be like in an ideal world and how things were different for John's parents' generation.

OPEN

HTB/1/7

Joyce Gillman

2017

Interviewee: Joyce Gillman

Date of Birth: 1929

Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Brief Descriptive Note: Born in 1929, Joyce Gillman's account of family life in East London spans five generations.

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 19.04.2017

Length of Recording: 01:05:11

Photo Credit: Sophie Polyviou

Summary: Yes

Transcript: No

Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at nursing home on x/y mic attachment for Zoom H6 and also on Rode Lavalier microphones. A loose connection distorted the latter recording; the first is archived as a result. Background noise of doors opening closing, phones ringing, other residents speaking etc.

Interviewer's notes: Joyce Gillman was interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in East London. Born in 1929 in 'Tiger Basin' in the East End, she talks about how they would play in the streets. Her mother had lost her first two children to illness while her husband was away at sea, which she never fully got over. When Joyce had her own two daughters she worried over 'silly things' like doing 'something wrong' or whether they might choke on a biscuit. She sought advice from her mother and one of her sisters, and used to meet her siblings and their children at her mum's weekly so the children could play together. She talks about being a grandmother and great-grandmother, and the love and worries she has for her children and grandchildren.

OPEN

HTB/1/8

Judith Marchant

2017

Interviewee: Judith Marchant

Date of Birth: 1934

Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Brief Descriptive Note: Judith Marchant describes her childhood, experiences as a mother and her role in founding the playgroup

and Children's Centre at Memorial Baptist Church and Lawrence Hall, Plaistow.
Gender: Female
Date of Recording: 29.03.2017 / 26.05.2017
Length of Recording: 01:41:42 / 00:29:47
Photo Credit: Sophie Polyviou
Summary: Yes
Transcript: No
Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at interviewee's home. External lavalier microphones on Zoom H4n.

Interviewer's notes: Part One: Judith Marchant was interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in East London. Born in 1934 in Birmingham, Judith describes her childhood. Both her parents were teachers. Her mother founded a nursery school when Judith's brother was young while her father worked in a boarding school. Judith was separated from her parents for several months as a child when she was hospitalised with polio. The experience sparked a lifelong interest in sick and disabled children. Judith trained as a teacher, married Colin Marchant, a Baptist Minister and had three children. The family moved to East London in 1965 when Colin was 'called' to West Ham Central Mission in 1965. Judith began meeting with a group of other mothers at the church, and in 1967 they set up what she believes to have been the first playgroup in the borough. This gradually expanded to include an Opportunity Group for children with special needs, a Family Centre for families who needed extra support, day care for children of working parents and eventually became a Children's Centre based across two sites (Memorial Baptist Church and Lawrence Hall). Judith managed the centre until she retired in 1995. The centre continued but closed in the early 2000s.

Part Two: Judith Marchant's interview for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in East London. Judith expands upon some aspects of her work at the Children's Centre, such as the play materials they sourced for free. She explains the different parenting roles taken by her and her husband Colin, and what it meant for her children to grow up in East

London. She discusses the family's life as live in wardens in Lawrence Hall, which housed sheltered accommodation and community space. She describes how they tried to maintain some time for the family in the midst of meeting many other people's needs.

OPEN

HTB/1/9

Kathy Taylor

2017

Interviewee: Kathy Taylor

Date of Birth: 1951

Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Brief Descriptive Note: Short interview about growing up in a rag shop in Canning Town, being looked after by her extended family and playing in the street and on bomb sites unsupervised.

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 21.10.2017

Length of Recording: 00:08:20

Photo Credit: N/A

Summary: Yes

Transcript: No

Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at The Gate Library during the launch of Newham Heritage week, using RodeNT3 microphone and Zoom H6 recorder. Music, talking, noises audible in background.

Interviewer's notes: None.

OPEN

HTB/1/10

Kevin Jenkins

2017

Interviewee: Kevin Jenkins

Date of Birth: 1958

Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Brief Descriptive Note: Kevin Jenkins, youth worker and founder of Community Links discusses his childhood, upbringing and experiences as a parent in part one of his interviews with Holding the Baby.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 21.04.2017 / 07.07.2017

Length of Recording: 01:02:55 / 01:01:25

Photo Credit: N/A

Summary: Yes

Transcript: No

Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at interviewee's home - not a very quiet environment. Internal and external microphones used - two versions of recording.

Interviewer's notes: Part One: Kevin Jenkins was interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in East London. Born in 1958 and brought up in West Ham. Co-founded the charity Community Links when he was 17 years old, and has continued to work in playwork and youth work since. Kevin describes his family life, upbringing, his family's emphasis on the importance of education and his relative freedom to roam at a young age. Discusses having his own children, how this affected his outlook on his work, the childcare he and his wife used and his general thoughts on childcare today.

Part Two: Kevin Jenkins was interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in East London. Born in 1958 and brought up in West Ham. Co-founded the charity Community Links when he was 17 years old, and has worked in playwork and youth work since. In part two of his interview he discusses his career in youth and play work, thoughts on the importance of early intervention, 'risky play' and adventure playgrounds and the current decline of the sector due to funding cuts. Also mentions other aspects of Community Links' work such as their campaign supporting residents of tower blocks to demand changes to the way they were housed.

OPEN

HTB/1/11

Lily Bateman

2017

Interviewee: Lily Bateman

Date of Birth: 1986

Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Brief Descriptive Note: Lily Bateman describes her childhood in Forest Gate, Newham and her experiences as a new parent.

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 26.10.2017

Length of Recording: 01:36:36

Photo Credit: N/A

Summary: Yes
Transcript: No
Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at interviewees home using the x/y mic attachment. Zoom H6. Interviewee's ten-month-old son present during the interview, can hear him making noises at points.

Interviewer's notes: Lily Bateman was interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in the East End. Born in South Korea in 1986 and adopted by Australian parents at six months old. When she was two years old the family moved to East London and her parents divorced shortly after. They had joint custody of Lily. She grew up in Newham, describes where she would play as a child and where she spent time in her teens. Discusses gentrification of Forest Gate, where she continues to live. She had her son Forest at the same time as some of her close friends had babies and found that very supportive. Discusses worries over finances and affordability of childcare. Lily had recently returned to work as a teacher. Would not want to move out of London in case her son experienced racism.

OPEN

HTB/1/12

Lorna Phillips

2017

Interviewee: Lorna Phillips
Date of Birth: 1940
Interviewer: Rosa Schling
Brief Descriptive Note: Short interview about Lorna Phillips' childhood and parenting in West Ham.
Gender: Female
Date of Recording: 19.04.2017
Length of Recording: 00:31:32
Photo Credit: N/A
Summary: Yes
Transcript: No
Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at nursing home on x/y mic attachment for Zoom H6 and also on Rode Lavalier microphones (the latter is archived).

Interviewer's notes: Lorna Phillips was interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history

of parenting and childcare in East London. Born in 1940 she describes her upbringing in West Ham, her parents and relationship with her grandparents. Describes the toys and games she played with her sister. Experience of the war in London as the family were not evacuated. Lorna has lived in the same house, with her sister, her entire life.

OPEN

HTB/1/13

Mahendra Francis

2017

Interviewee: Mahendra Francis

Date of Birth: 07 February 1952

Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Brief Descriptive Note: Short interview about growing up in India and moving to the UK when he was 15. He was looked after by his grandmother when he was a child. He had two daughters in the UK, but his wife divorced him and he didn't see them for ten years.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 27.10.2017

Length of Recording: 00:12:29

Photo Credit: N/A

Summary: Yes

Transcript: No

Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at The Gate Library, echo in the room. External lavalier microphones and x/y mic attachment. Zoom H6.

Interviewers notes: None

OPEN

HTB/1/14

Margaret Peck

2017

Interviewee: Margaret Peck

Date of Birth: 1923

Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Brief Descriptive Note: In part one of her interview Margaret Peck describes her childhood in North Woolwich in the 1920s. In part two of her interview Margaret Peck describes her experience of motherhood in East London.

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 27.04.2017 / 17.05.2017

Length of Recording: 00:25:58 / 01:16:03

Photo Credit: Sophie Polyviou

Summary: Yes

Transcript: No

Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at interviewee's home. External lavalier microphones and x/y mic attachment. Zoom H6. / Recorded at interviewee's home. External lavalier microphones and x/y mic attachment. Zoom H6. Interviewees husband present for much of the interview and makes contributions off-mic.

Interviewer's notes: Part One: Margaret Peck was interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in East London. Born in 1923, she describes her childhood in North Woolwich. Her parents moved to London from Ireland, her mother was a housewife and her father a seaman. She was one of nine children, although three sadly died before reaching adulthood. Margaret describes how and where they would play as children and what kinds of adult supervision there were: parents and neighbours watched them play in the streets, in the park there were park keepers and a 'lady' employed by the London County Council to observe the playground and teachers ran 'play-centres' after school. She was often looked after by a childless aunt. She talks about her Catholic school which she attended from the age of three to 14, and where she experienced corporal punishment. She begins to talk about leaving school to start work in factories and later as a GPO telephonist, and then having her own children, four daughters, when she was 31 to 43, before the interview was interrupted.

Part Two: Margaret Peck was interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in East London. Margaret Peck had three children in three years, and then a fourth nine years later. She was seen as an 'older mother' as she had her first child at 31 and her last at 43. Describes the demands of housework and the activities she did with her children. She talks about how she tried to breastfeed and the process of formula milk feeding, and baby clinics. Her aunt who had looked after her when she was a child came to live with her when her house was being demolished, and was a 'great help' with Margaret's children. Margaret's extended family, which had lived close to each other, all moved

when North Woolwich was redeveloped in the 1960s. Talks about how Irish culture was shared with her children through singing songs and telling family stories. Talks about how things have changed for her children and grandchildren.

OPEN

HTB/1/15

Maureen Waite

2017

Interviewee: Maureen Waite

Date of Birth: 1941

Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Brief Descriptive Note: Maureen Waite talks about growing up and bringing up children in East London and working in the Children's Centre at Plaistow's Memorial Baptist Church and Lawrence Hall.

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 24.05.2017

Length of Recording: 02:38:30

Photo Credit: Sophie Polyviou

Summary: Yes

Transcript: No

Notes on Recording: Recorded at interviewee's home. External lavalier microphones and x/y mic attachment. Zoom H6. Interviewees husband present for much of the interview and makes contributions off-mic.

Interviewer's Notes: Maureen Waite was interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in East London. Her interview is a humorous and detailed account of her life in Canning Town. Subjects covered include her birth (at home) and the births of her own children (one in hospital, two at home). She describes her upbringing: her mother and father were separated and her mother struggled with money. Maureen and her sister and mother lived with Maureen's mother's mother and brother, who had learning difficulties. Maureen describes playing on bombsites and 'trying to make a house better than the one I lived in!' Maureen goes on to describe having her three daughters in quick succession, caring for her mother and uncle at the same time, and working in factories part time. She also gives a detailed account of her work in the Children's Centre, including how much she enjoyed working with the children

from the Opportunity Group who had special needs. She describes how the work became 'less free' with more regulation and health and safety. She gives advice to parents today to talk to their children and put screens away.

OPEN

HTB/1/16

Robert Rogers

2017

Interviewee: Robert Rogers

Date of Birth: 1953

Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Brief Descriptive Note: Robert Rogers grew up in East London and discusses his childhood, relationship with his parents and thoughts on local history.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 30.06.2017

Length of Recording: 01:40:04

Photo Credit: Sophie Polyviou

Summary: Yes

Transcript: No

Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at interviewees home. External lavalier microphones and x/y mic attachment. Zoom H6. First 13 minutes of recording presumed lost when recorder was knocked over and batteries fell out, but was later recovered and so there is some repetition at the beginning. Additional recording where interviewee describes his family photographs he is showing interviewer. Microphone interference and issues with levels on the external lavaliers, the x/y mic recording is the one chosen for archive.

Interviewer's notes: Robert Rogers was interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in the East End. Robert Rogers was born in 1953 in Bow. He was an only child and grew up with his mother and father in East London: first the family lived with his grandparents in Poplar, then in Canning Town and in 1983 they relocated to Dagenham. Robert's childhood centred around his mother and father, their allotment at Mudchute on the Isle of Dogs and his grandparents. Known as the 'Three Musketeers' Robert and his parents would do everything together and made regular trips to watch Speedway, his passion. Robert continued to live with and cared for his parents

as they got older, although his father died suddenly not long after retirement. Robert has been active in local heritage initiatives and shares his enthusiasm and knowledge of local history (which he sees as 'family history') eloquently throughout the interview, describing, among other things, the 'East End lullaby': the sounds the ships made entering the docks.

OPEN

HTB/1/17

Shafiq Ahmad

2017

Interviewee: Shafiq Ahmad

Date of Birth: 06 May 1943

Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Brief Descriptive Note: Shafiq Ahmad describes his childhood in Pakistan, move to East London, work in textile factories, fatherhood and his family life. Also gives an account of driving from the UK to Pakistan in the 1970s.

Gender: Male

Date of Recording: 13.09.2017

Length of Recording: 02:40:44

Photo Credit: N/A

Summary: Yes

Transcript: No

Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at interviewees home. External lavalier microphones and x/y mic attachment. Zoom H6.

Interviewer's notes: Shafiq Ahmad was interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in the East End. Shafiq Ahmad was born in India in 1943 and moved to Lahore after Partition. He talks about his childhood, during which he was mainly cared for by his grandmother. He came to the UK in 1963, and stayed with a cousin in Whitechapel. Describes living conditions for migrants from the Indian subcontinent at the time. After six months of doing nothing but watching cowboy movies Shafiq got a job in a garment factory. Describes how he met his wife in London and how they were married and moved to Canning Town, where they bought their first house. They had their first child not long after; his wife was 16 when she was born. Describes how his mother-in-law cared for their children while his wife and he were 'free' and worked. Describes his belief in a 'strict' upbringing and how he didn't let his

children play alone in the streets. Describes how he cared for his wife during her long illness. Talks about how they looked after his grandson while his daughter worked, and how he still comes to stay with him now, as an adult. Describes a 12-day car journey the family made to Pakistan in the 1970s.

OPEN

HTB/1/18

Shirley Peters

2017

Interviewee: Shirley Peters

Date of Birth: 1947

Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Brief Descriptive Note: Shirley Peters was born in the Caribbean and describes how as a child she was cared for by her grandmother. She talks about her training as a nurse and health visitor, her parenting of her own children, use of childcare and her role as a grandmother.

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 18.09.2017

Length of Recording: 00:58:48

Photo Credit: Sophie Polyviou

Summary: Yes

Transcript: No

Notes on Recording Location: "Recorded at interviewees home. External lavalier microphones and x/y mic attachment. Zoom H6."

Interviewer's notes: Shirley Peters was interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in the East End. She was born in Antigua, but moved to Dominica where her grandmother lived when she was 23 months old. Her mother worked as a nanny and later as a nurse in various places in the Caribbean, later moving to Canada. She was separated from Shirley's father, who was a prison officer and lived in Antigua. Shirley did not see her mother again until she was ten years old. She describes growing up with her strict but loving grandmother who ran the Presbytery for the Catholic church. She had a deeply religious upbringing. She describes the games she would play with other children, the rules they were given to follow and how they were disciplined if they misbehaved. As an adult Shirley moved to Canada to be with her mother, and then to

Britain to study nursing in 1970. She married in Britain in 1971 and had her first child in 1973, her second in 1976. Describes pregnancy, birth and being a new parent. She didn't have many worries or concerns as she had looked after children already and had studied obstetrics and childcare as part of her training. She describes the childcare she used as a working parent and explains why she preferred nursery settings. Describes the challenges faced by people who came to Britain from the Caribbean, who needed childcare so that both parents could work but who found that unregistered childminders often did not look after their children well.

OPEN

HTB/1/19

Sylvia Clarke

2017

Interviewee: Sylvia Clarke

Date of Birth: 1932

Interviewer: Rosa Schling

Brief Descriptive Note: Sylvia Clarke grew up in East London and cared for her younger brother while still a child herself because her mother suffered from depression.

Gender: Female

Date of Recording: 17.07.2017

Length of Recording: 01:31:11

Photo Credit: Sophie Polyviou

Summary: Yes

Transcript: No

Notes on Recording Location: Recorded at interviewees home. External lavalier microphones and x/y mic attachment. Zoom H6. Jean Lane present during interview and speaks but was not wearing a microphone.

Interviewer's notes: Sylvia Clarke was interviewed for Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in the East End. She describes how her mother should have had an education and gone to work, but was forced to give up work at 17 because 'married women didn't work'. Her mother had lost her first children, twins, and had a traumatic birth with her next child, Sylvia's older brother. Sylvia was evacuated during the Second World War, but was called back to care for her new baby brother as her mother had 'taken to her bed'. She believes her mother suffered from post-natal

depression, which she says wasn't seen as an illness then. Sylvia describes the responsibility she was given to look after her younger brother from then on, feeding him, doing the families shopping and later making sure he went to school. Sylvia talks about resenting having to miss out on school to look after her brother. She talks about her grammar school education, her love of music and her career as a school and music teacher. She continued to live with and care for her mother and father until they passed away.

OPEN

HTB/2

Archive Materials

2018

Digital and analogue materials collected as part of the On The Record project, Holding the Baby. The materials explore 7the childhoods and parenting experience of five participants in the project, c.2017

OPEN

HTB/2/1

Judith Marchant

1960-2000

Digital and analogue photographs and documents relating to the Newham's first playgroup and Children's Centre, based in Memorial Baptist Church and Lawrence Hall in Plaistow.

Depositor details: Judith Marchant moved to East London when her husband Colin Marchant, a Baptist Minister, was 'called' to West Ham Central Mission in 1965. At the time they had three young children. Judith began meeting with a group of other mothers at the church, and in 1967 they set up what she believes to have been the first playgroup in the borough. This gradually expanded to include an Opportunity Group for children with special needs, a Family Centre for families who needed extra support, day care for children of working parents and eventually became a Children's Centre based across two sites (Memorial Baptist Church and Lawrence Hall). Judith managed the centre until she retired in 1995. The centre continued but closed in the early 2000s. Collection contains 18 digital photographs and assorted digital documents: promotional material for the Children's Centre and Family Centre, a welcome pack for parents, a newspaper article about the Opportunity Group for children with special needs and a booklet about Lawrence Hall (non-digital). Judith Marchant was interviewed by On the Record for the project Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in the East End about her work and family life.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/1

Photograph: Children's Centre

1976

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts children attending the 'Opportunity Group' in 1976.

Interviewer's note: This was a session for children with special needs and their parents, held two afternoons a week alongside the regular playgroup sessions. It was unusual at the time to have integrated services for children with and without special needs. The experience

was often significant for the parents, as Judith Marchant (playgroup founder) recalls: 'For the mothers that came it was often the first time that this precious child they loved but who was damaged had been handled and loved and accepted within a group. And that was significant.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/2 Photograph: Children's Centre 1976

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts a child with disabilities attending the 'Opportunity Group' in 1976.

Interviewer's note: This was a session for children with special needs and their parents, held two afternoons a week alongside the regular playgroup sessions. It was unusual at the time to have integrated services for children with and without special needs. The experience was often significant for the parents, as Judith Marchant (playgroup founder) recalls: 'For the mothers that came it was often the first time that this precious child they loved but who was damaged had been handled and loved and accepted within a group. And that was significant'.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/3 Photograph: Children's Centre 1967

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts children playing with toy guns at the 'First Friends' playgroup based at Memorial Baptist Church, Plaistow in 1967.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/4 Photograph: Children's Centre 1969

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts a child playing at the 'First Friends' playgroup based at Memorial Baptist Church, Plaistow in 1969.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/5 Photograph: Children's Centre 1970

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts children playing at the 'First Friends' playgroup based at Memorial Baptist Church, Plaistow in 1970.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/6 Photograph: Children's Centre 1970

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts children playing at the 'First Friends' playgroup based at Memorial Baptist Church, Plaistow, using wooden play equipment from Gault, bought gradually as the playgroup was able to afford it, c.1970.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/7 Photograph: Children's Centre 1970

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts children attending the 'Opportunity Group', c.1970.

Interviewers note: This was a session for children with special needs and their parents, held two afternoons a week alongside the regular playgroup sessions. It was unusual at the time to have integrated services for children with and without special needs. The experience was often significant for the parents, as Judith Marchant (playgroup founder) recalls: 'For the mothers that came it was often the first time that this precious child they loved but who was damaged had been handled and loved and accepted within a group. And that was significant.'

OPEN

HTB/2/1/8 Photograph: Children's Centre 1973

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts a group of children at the 'First Friends' playgroup based at Memorial Baptist Church, Plaistow in 1973.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/9 Photograph: Children's Centre 1978

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts a group of children at the 'First Friends' playgroup based at Memorial Baptist Church, Plaistow in 1978.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/10 Photograph: Children's Centre 1976

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts a child with disabilities playing with sand at the playgroup in 1976.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/11 Photograph: Children's Centre c.1960

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts a group of children singing 'Incy Wincy Spider' with parents and staff in background, c.1965.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/12 Photograph: Children's Centre c.1970

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts Judith Marchant (the playgroup founder) with children eating outside, c.1970

OPEN

HTB/2/1/13 Photograph: Children's Centre c.1970

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts a group of parents and children by a paddling pool outside, c.1970.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/14 Photograph: Children's Centre 1975

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends

Playgroup. Image depicts a staff member and group of children reading, 1975.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/15 Photograph: Children's Centre c.1970

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts a child in paddling pool, with another close by, c.1970.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/16 Photograph: Children's Centre c.1970

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts Judith Marchant (playgroup founder) and child on a summer trip, sitting in a pool, c.1970.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/17 Photograph: Children's Centre c.1970

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts parents holding their children on their laps at the 'Opportunity Group', c.1970.

Interviewer's note: This was a session for children with special needs and their parents, held two afternoons a week alongside the regular playgroup sessions. It was unusual at the time to have integrated services for children with and without special needs. The experience was often significant for the parents, as Judith Marchant (playgroup founder) recalls: 'For the mothers that came it was often the first time that this precious child they loved but who was damaged had been handled and loved and accepted within a group. And that was significant.'

OPEN

HTB/2/1/18 Photograph: Children's Centre c.1970

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts Father Christmas

giving a child a present, c.1970.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/19 Photograph: Children's Centre c.1970

Digital copy of a photograph of the Children's Centre and Playgroup in Plaistow; first Friends Playgroup. Image depicts two staff members and child outside, next to wooden play equipment, c.1970.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/20 Newspaper Article: 'Handicapped get chance for fun' c.1981

Digital copy of an article about the benefits of the 'Opportunity Group', a group for children with special needs and their parents, based within the playgroups at Memorial Baptist Church and Lawrence Hall, Plaistow. The article quotes the Group's founder Judith Marchant as well as Eileen Jackson and Stephanie King whose children attended the Group. The accompanying picture shows Stephanie King and daughter Christine, c.1981

OPEN

HTB/2/1/21 Timeline: Children's Centre c.1990

Digital copy of a document displaying a timeline which conveys a brief history of the Children's Centre at the Memorial Baptist Church in Plaistow.

Interviewers note: Chronology of the development of the Children's Centre, from its origins as the Young Wives Group in 1966, up to 1994. Includes details about numbers of staff, volunteers and children, opening hours, funding and finances, charitable status, and building works. The centre began as the Young Wives Group at Memorial Baptist Church, before expanding into a playgroup at Angas Hall the following year. The Opportunity Group followed in 1974, with the Children's Centres at Church and Lawrence Hall opening in 1977 and 1978 respectively. Other key dates include the Family Centre opening in 1983, the closing of the playgroup at Lawrence Hall in 1990 and the separation of the Family Centre in 1991.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/22 Leaflet: Children's Centre 1977

Digital copy of a leaflet regarding the Children's Centre at the Memorial Baptist Church in Plaistow.

Interviewer's notes: The centre was notable for its inclusive approach, integrating children with special needs into all its groups. Play was a key focus of the centre. Judith Marchant (founder) recalls that this approach was popular with children, but occasionally met disapproval from parents.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/23 Leaflet: Children's Centre c.1980

Digital copy of a leaflet regarding the Children's Centre at the Memorial Baptist Church in Plaistow.

Interviewer's note: The Family Centre on Barking Road was founded in 1983, and funded by the London Borough of Newham. It was the first Family Centre in Newham. Janice Chappel was the part-time leader when the centre opened above the church's Children's Centre.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/24 Advert: Children's Centre 1981

Digital copy of an advert regarding the Children's Centre and Parent's Help Centre at the Memorial Baptist Church in Plaistow.

Included in the program of a musical concert: 'In the Beginning', music and lyrics by Colin Waller at Memorial Baptist Church Plaistow, June 4 and 5 1981.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/25 Leaflet: Family Centre c.1980

Digital copy of a leaflet regarding the Family Centre in Newham.

Interviewer's Note: This double-sided leaflet is in English and several Asian languages. The

Family Centre on Barking Road was founded in 1983, and funded by the London Borough of Newham. It was the first Family Centre in Newham. Janice Chappel was the part-time leader when the centre opened above the Children's Centre.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/26 Welcome Pack: Children's Centre c.1980

Digital copy of a welcome pack regarding the Children's Centre in Plaistow.

Interviewer's Notes: Welcome pack outlining the centre's management structure, values and activities, equal opportunities statement and behaviour management approach which was given to parents when their children started attending the Children's Centre.

OPEN

HTB/2/1/27 Booklet: Lawrence Hall c.1990

Booklet, 'Lawrence Hall 1970-1990', including information about the Children's Centre, Memorial Baptist Church, Plaistow, c.1990.

OPEN

HTB/2/2 Maureen Waite 1980-2000

Digital and analogue photographs and documents relating to the playgroup and Children's Centre, based in Memorial Baptist Church and Lawrence Hall in Plaistow.

Depositor details: Maureen Waite worked for 25 years at the playgroup and Children's Centre connected to Memorial Baptist Church and Lawrence Hall, Plaistow, starting in the 1980s - early 2000s. Her collection includes a badge made by staff and children, a 'this is your life' book made for her by co-workers when she retired (digital copy) and photographs of her at work in the Children's Centre (digital copies). Maureen Waite was interviewed by On the Record for the project Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in the East End about her work and family life.

OPEN

HTB/2/2/1 Badge: Children's Centre c.1980

Badge, and scan of the same badge, advertising the Children's Centre, Memorial Baptist Church, Plaistow, c.1980

OPEN

HTB/2/2/2 Farwell Book 2002

Digital copy of a farewell book made for Maureen Waite on retirement from the Children's Centre connected to Memorial Baptist Church, Plaistow, c.1980.

Interviewer's Notes: Hand-made book on coloured sugar paper containing photographs and children's drawings entitled 'Maureen this is your life at The Children's Centre'. Dated from 1984 to 2002.

OPEN

HTB/2/2/3 Photograph: Children's Centre 1980-2000

Digital copies of photographs of Maureen Waite working with children at the Children's Centre, Memorial Baptist Church, Plaistow, c.1980-2000.

OPEN

HTB/2/2/4

Notebook: Recollections

2017

Notebook used by Maureen to record her recollections of childhood and her work at the Children's Centre in preparation for her interview for the On The Record project, Holding the Baby, (2017).

OPEN

HTB/2/3 Brenda Crew 1970-2000

Digital and analogue materials relating to Brenda Crew's family life and work at the Children's Centre connected to Memorial Baptist Church and Lawrence Hall, Plaistow, Newham.

Depositor details: Brenda Crew was born in 1947 and lived in Plaistow most of her life. She became a single mother in the 1970s when she divorced her husband, and lived next door to her parents, who helped her look after her son, Kevin. She started to work at the Memorial Baptist Church playgroup in the 1970s while Kevin was attending the playgroup. She began to work there full time in 1976. Brenda continued to work at the Children's Centre until the early 2000s, running the 'baby room' in her final years there. Collection includes a drawing of 'my family' made by her son Kevin (digital copy), a photograph of the Queen Mother meeting staff and children from the Children's Centre (non-digital), a typed history of the Children's Centre (non-digital) and photographs showing the baby room of the Children's Centre in the early 2000s (digital copies). Brenda Crew was interviewed by On the Record for the project Holding the Baby: an oral history of parenting and childcare in the East End about her work and family life.

OPEN

HTB/2/3/1 Child's Drawing c.1970

Digital copy of a drawing of 'my family' by Brenda Crew's son Kevin, five-years-old at the time. Includes the family dog and goldfish, along with Kevin, his mum and his dad, c.1970.

OPEN

HTB/2/3/2 Photographs : Children's Centre c.2000

Digital photographs of the Children's Centre at Lawrence Hall, Plaistow, Newham showing children and staff in the day-care of the Centre based in the early 2000s.

OPEN

HTB/2/3/3 Photograph : Opening of Rowntree Clifford Close 1978

Digital copy of the opening of Rowntree Clifford Close, sheltered accommodation in Plaistow, 1978.

Interviewer's Notes: The photograph shows the Queen Mother, staff and children from the Children's Centre connected to Memorial Baptist Church, Plaistow and Lawrence Hall. The Queen Mother visited to open Rowntree Clifford Close, sheltered accommodation.

OPEN

HTB/2/3/4 Document: History of the Children's Centre c.2000

Typed document describing how the playgroup, opportunity group, Children's Centre and Family Centre were all the 'first in their field' in Newham. Includes dates and description explaining how all these initiatives began and developed over time, spanning from 1965 to 1995.

OPEN

HTB/2/4	Robert Rogers	1950-2010
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Digital family photographs, 'Baby Photograph and Record Album' and memoirs of Robert Rogers.

Depositor details: Robert Rogers was born in 1953 in Bow. He was an only child and grew up with his mother and father in East London: first the family lived with his grandparents in Poplar, then in Canning Town, in 1983 they relocated to Dagenham. Collection includes a digital copy of Robert's baby book, a baby photograph of Robert (digital copy), a typed document entitled 'Memories of a Canning Town kid' and 12 digital photographs of Robert's childhood and family. Robert Rogers was interviewed by On the Record for the project: Holding the Baby an oral history of parenting and childcare in the East End about his family life.

OPEN

HTB/2/4/1	Baby Album	1953-1954
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Digital copy of a Baby Album used to record information and the achievements of Robert Rogers in his first few months, including first steps and first smile, 1953-1954.

OPEN

HTB/2/4/2	Photograph : Robert Rogers	1953
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Digital copy of a photograph of Robert Rogers as a baby, sitting in a pram in a light coloured hat and outfit, 1953

OPEN

HTB/2/4/3	Document : Memoirs	2010
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Typed electronic document entitled 'Memories of a Canning Town kid' in which Robert Rogers recalls identifying ship horns with the help of his grandfather, childhood trips on the Woolwich Ferry, sports at school, the West Ham FA Cup victory in 1964, Christmas time in Rathbone Market and his father making a Christmas tree from discarded branches, 2010.

OPEN

HTB/2/4/4

Photographs : Robert Roger's Childhood

c.1953

Digital copies of twelve photographs depicting Robert Roger's childhood, c.1953-1963. Robert named the files with the following titles prior to deposit at Bishopsgate Institute:

- 'Working Hard on the Allotment at the Mudshute, Isle of Dogs'
- 'Dogs of War'
- 'Mum on our Allotment at the Mudchute Isle of Dogs'
- 'With my Triang Trainset'
- 'Young Bobby planning the Great Escape'
- 'Mum and me at London Airport'
- 'Robert, Dad, and Grandparents Gregory'
- 'Mum in Sturry Street with Chickens and Rip who was named after the ARP Rescue Dog Hero'
- 'Dad on the Allotment'
- 'Don't he look Angelic, but there is a Devil in there as well!'
- 'I sure was Cute'
- 'Granddads at War, William George Rogers ARP and Albert Edward Gregory RSC'

OPEN

HTB/2/5

John Newman

1989

Digital copies of five photographs taken before and after the birth of Joseph Newman in hospital, 1989.

Interviewers Notes: Images showing Julia and John Newman before and after the birth of their oldest child, Joseph Newman, on the 10th April 1989. John Newman stayed at home to look after Joseph as an infant. John and Joe Newman were interviewed by On the Record for the project Holding the Baby an oral history of parenting and childcare in the East End about his family life.

OPEN

HTB/3	Project Materials	2017
	Digital materials created by On The Record during the project Holding the Baby. Includes recordings and photographs of project events, (2017) OPEN	
HTB/3/1	Vox-Pops and Photographs	2017
	Short recordings collected at the 'Toddler Takeover' of Museum of London Docklands in May 2017. Parents and carers of young children were asked about what childcare they used, what they thought about childcare and what they would like to ask people who were parents or child-carers in the past. Digital photographs taken at the 'Toddler Takeover' of Museum of London Docklands in May 2017. Parents and carers of young children were asked about what childcare they used, what they thought about childcare and what they would like to ask people who were parents or child-carers in the past. OPEN	
HTB/3/2	Recording	2017
	Recording of a discussion where participants share experiences of parenting and childcare. They talk about whether mothers should work, games they played as children, what ideas for learning and play they could share from their own or their children's' childhoods. Experiences shared from the Caribbean, India and UK. OPEN	
HTB/3/3	Vox Pop	2017
	Recording with Shagufta Nasreen (ph) describing being a working mother with her first child and the struggle to find childcare. It's hard to trust childcare. Family would be the ideal for her, her mother came over for the first year and looked after her daughter. She'd like to use the local community where people know people. That would be a way forward so people can go back to work. OPEN	

HTB/3/4

Final Report

2018

Printed document, 'Holding the Baby, Final
Report, March 2018', (2018)

OPEN