



Acoustiguide
Schools' Tour

**At Milestones – Hampshire's Living History
Museum**

BRITAIN SINCE 1930

SCRIPT FOR RECORDING

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Britain Since 1930

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This topic looks at the way life was changing generally in Britain in the 1930s, including the shift from gas to electricity in the home and developments in home entertainment.

0 INTRODUCTION

NARRATOR

Hello! Welcome to Milestones.

Milestones is Hampshire's *Living History Museum* and it's a very special place. You can actually walk down streets and see the shops, houses and factories that existed here in Hampshire in the past. It will help you to imagine what it would have been like to live in Hampshire over the past 200 years, and it's a very exciting way to explore history.

You're holding in your hand an Opus Click and I'll explain how it works.

As you walk through Milestones, you'll be stopping at certain places to listen to me. The adult with you has a map and will tell you what number to press. All you have to do to hear me talking is to enter the number on your keypad and then press the green PLAY button.

If you want to pause my voice for any reason just press the green button a second time; and when you're ready to go on, press the same button again. If you make a mistake typing in a number, or want to stop my voice completely, just press the red "STOP" button.

You can change the volume by using the switch on the left-hand side of your player.

You can also FAST FORWARD or REWIND using the buttons above the PLAY and STOP buttons.

*The Trail Team shout:
"hello"*

NARRATOR

Noisy bunch aren't they! That's the trail team from Woodcot Primary School and Four Marks Church of England Primary School and you'll be hearing from them from time to time. As we look round the museum they are going to help us to search for clues and give us a few ideas of their own.

Here they are sharing some interesting facts about the building

*Trail team:
Five Olympic sized swimming pools could fit into the museum
136 double-decker buses could be parked inside the museum's walls
66, 250 chickens could stand side by side*

We hope you enjoy your visit but please don't forget to return your Opus Click when you've finished the tour!

Life on the Home Front

73. The Anderson Shelter

NARRATOR

The best place to see the Anderson Shelter is to stand in front of the doorway.

During the Blitz of 1940 it was important to take cover from the bombing raids in the cities and towns. Bomb blast, flying glass and rubble were very dangerous and it was important not to stay in the house during an air raid. Many families spent long hours, sometimes all night, sitting in their Anderson Shelter.

Sound of air raid siren and bombs.

Archive: Taken from *Within Living Memory*

I was awoken by a rushing noise like a hurricane and the next moment the ceiling fell in and broken glass came flying on to my bed. As the dust settled I realised that the small twinkling lights above me were the stars shining through a hole in the roof!

NARRATOR

The Home Secretary, Sir John Anderson, made a plan that a simple shelter like this one, could be built from panels of corrugated metal and put in a shallow hole in the back garden. It would protect families from the danger of air raids.

Usually two bunk beds were placed inside, with a table, some candles and a canister of water. Can you imagine how damp, smelly and cold it must have been in there during the night?

This is from the diary of someone who actually *remembers* going into the shelter when they were a child.

Archive: Adapted from *Within Living Memory*

At first it was very exciting going to the shelter, when we picked up our sandwiches, our thermos flasks, hot water bottles and blankets for the night, but after a while it became a real nuisance, especially when it was a false alarm.

NARRATOR

Families would take a great pride in how their Anderson Shelter looked, and decorate the outside of it - some covered the roof with earth and grew flowers or vegetables on the top.

The Milestones Anderson Shelter isn't original - it's a replica, or a modern copy. The metal is thinner and the real Anderson Shelters did not sit on the surface like this one, they were set into a hole in the ground to protect them from the bomb blasts.

KS2 Britain Since 1930 Audioguide

Talk in your group about what things you think people might have done to pass the time in the Anderson Shelter.

74. Thornycroft Works – inside

NARRATOR

Stand inside the Thornycroft Works by the main door.

Thornycroft's was a very important company in Basingstoke. It moved here at the end of the nineteenth century and stayed right through much of the twentieth century. Thornycroft's made road vehicles like lorries, buses and coaches.

This is a replica of the Thornycroft building as it was during the Second World War.

The Second World War caused many changes to life in the Thornycroft factory. One important change was to the types of road vehicles that the Thornycroft factory was producing. During the Second World War, Thornycroft's made trucks and lorries to transport the army and the air force. They also made Bren gun carriers, guns and torpedo parts.

Another important change was to the factory's working hours. It was so important to produce as many vehicles for the War Effort as possible, that production went on round the clock - all day *and* all night.

During the War lots of women had to take the place of the young men who were called away from Basingstoke to join the army, the navy or the airforce. For many women, this was their first experience of working in a factory.

Maggie – a worker at Thornycrofts:

"My name is Maggie and I love working at the Thornycroft factory. I hate being late though because I have got such important war work to do. Well it's more exciting than my old job working as a maid for Mrs Morgan in Southampton. And I earn more money. Not as much as the men but there you go. And of course I've had to leave home. Mum and Dad were a bit upset at first when I was sent to Basingstoke but my younger brother Tom he's fighting for our country and I told them I want to do my bit as well. So that's why I volunteered for factory work."

Talk in your group about what you think it would have been like to work in a factory like this one.

75. Thornycroft factory – outside

NARRATOR

You are standing outside the Thornycroft factory which made vehicles for the war effort.

The Thornycroft factory was of national importance so it needed to be hidden from enemy aircraft. How do you think this huge building could have been disguised?

Look up high Can you see that the wall has been painted in brown and green camouflage colours? This would have made it difficult for a pilot to see it from the sky. The factory windows would have been blacked out too and the doorways probably covered in camouflage netting, so that the true nature of the building was disguised.

76. 1930s Kitchen

NARRATOR

This kitchen may look old fashioned to you, but in the 1930s it was a very modern kitchen.

Right up until the Second World War many families would have had cooks and maids to do all the domestic work in the house. During the war the servants left to do war work, so most women had to do all the work in the kitchen themselves.

In the 1930s, there were lots of new things available for the home, especially with more houses having electricity for the first time. These helped to make life easier.

Many new homes also had enamel cookers. Can you see the green enamel cooker to the left of the window? The shiny enamel surface was very easy to clean, unlike the black lead cooking ranges before them. The cooker uses gas flames to make the heat to cook the food. There are gas rings on the top to cook food in saucepans or to boil water in the kettle. Under the gas rings is a grill. There is a dial on the side of the oven to control how hot it gets.

This kitchen also has a washing machine. Can you spot it? It is the grey object next to the cooker. It made home laundry much easier than it had been before but it was still very hard work. Firstly, water had to be carried to the machine if it wasn't near a tap. The clothes had to be put in and were swished around using the handle on the top. The dirty water had to be drained out using the tap at the bottom of the machine and taken away and possibly used for something else like washing the kitchen floor. The main benefit was that the machine heated the water itself using a gas flame, rather than having to heat water separately on the stove.

During the war the window would probably have been blacked out with dark blinds or blankets. Food rationing would have had a direct impact on what families were able to cook. For instance, sugar was very limited, and there were very few fresh eggs available, so eggs came in powdered form in a tin.

Before you move on, imagine that an air raid has cut off your gas and electricity - how are you going to cope? That candle on the window sill might come in handy! Can you think why? Talk in your group about your ideas.

77. The Bicycle Shelter

NARRATOR

Have a close look at the bicycles sitting in the rack in this bicycle shelter.

In the early twentieth century, before the car took over, the bicycle was the best way of travelling about. Thousands of people rode bikes every morning to get to work, as most people didn't own a car until after the Second World War.

For instance many of the workers employed at the Thornycroft factory behind you, would probably have travelled there on a bicycle...and left their bike in a shed much like this one.

Can you see that two or three of the bicycles have headlights?

During the Second World War cyclists had to ride without headlights so as not to catch the eye of the German bomber pilots flying overhead.

Talk in your group about what you think it would have been like travelling by bicycle without any headlights. What problems might you have had?

78. The Sweet Shop

NARRATOR

Walk into the shop and look at the rows of sweet jars behind the shop counter.

The bright colourful sweets in jars are made from boiled sugar and were sold in jars like these from the early nineteenth century. Once they were hand-made in the back of the shop by sweet makers who rolled the sticky sugar syrup between their fingers, but by the end of Queen Victoria's reign sweet making had become big business. Some of the names you know today like Rowntrees, Frys and Cadbury date back to Victorian times. By the 1930s mass produced sweets and chocolate bars filled the shelves and windows of the local sweet shop.

There were hundreds of bottles full of strong-tasting sweets - mint imperials, gob-stoppers, aniseed balls, fruit gums, pear drops. Then there were trays of toffee which had to be broken with a little hammer - the toffee became so sticky on hot days that it could stick permanently to your trouser pockets. Yeeuch! And there were things parents didn't like us to buy, like chewing gum.

(Adapted from Shire book on History of Sweets p24)

Probably because you have to remember not to swallow it! Wrigley's Juicy Fruit and Spearmint Gum came to Britain from the United States at the beginning of the 20th century.

Originally boiled sweets would be weighed out on a pair of scales - like the one on the counter, and put into a paper bag. Chocolate companies in particular started to think of new lines in the 1930s such as Crunchie bars, Rolos and Smarties.

Look at the sweets behind the counter. Which ones can you spot that are different from the ones you can buy today? Which ones are the same? Talk in your group about your ideas.

Life in Britain in the 1930s

79. The Cycle Works

NARRATOR

Empire Cycle Works is both a shop, and a place for bicycle repairs. By the end of the Victorian times before the car took over, the bicycle was the best way to get about.

Inside the shop you will find a display of different bicycles through history. If you look closely at the collection you will see how the bicycle has developed and changed.

When bicycles were first invented they used to be heavy and uncomfortable to ride. They were made of wood with iron fittings. One type of bicycle was called the Penny Farthing. The Penny Farthing has a large front wheel and a small back wheel. The idea behind the design was that the large front wheel would move much further forward each time the pedals were turned. These bicycles were ridden by young Victorian men and became very popular for racing. But it was quite a dangerous bicycle to ride as the saddle was so high up. There were lots of accidents - and they usually involved falling headfirst over the handlebars! Can you spot a Penny Farthing in the shop?

Can you see that some of the bicycles have a cross bar between the saddle and the handle-bars and some of them don't. The bicycles without the cross-bars are meant for women, and the dropped crossbar was originally introduced so that women wearing skirts could climb on and ride them. The long, heavy skirts, that many women had to wear in the early part of the century, were a great nuisance, as they could catch in the wheels or wind themselves tightly round the pedals!

See if you can spot any more differences between the bicycles from the past and bicycles we ride today. Talk in your group about your ideas.

80. Leonard Bicknell's Hardware Store

NARRATOR

This hardware shop shows how life was changing in the 1930s. Many people living in the countryside in Hampshire still relied on oil lamps. If you look in the window on the left you should be able to spot a couple of oil lamps on the bottom shelf. In the towns and cities gas was the most popular source of lighting until the *early* 1930s, but it was here that domestic life was about to change mainly because of a new source of energy.....electricity!

From the 1930s, people began to use electricity for lighting, cleaning, cooking, heating and washing. Some people were quite nervous of the new source of power - electricity - and were much more comfortable with the source of energy they were used to - gas. The story goes that householders would keep plugs stuck in the socket because they were frightened that the electricity might leak if they pulled them out. But this was only really in the towns and cities. Electricity wasn't available in some areas of the countryside until after the Second World War.

Now have a look in the shop window and talk in your group about what else you can see that this shop sells. What can you see that people might still buy today and what can you see that they don't?

81. Beale's Toyshop

NARRATOR

This shop window display dates from just before the Second World War in the late 1930s. Do you recognise any toys in the display that you can still buy today?

You may have spotted a skipping rope, a clockwork train engine, a jigsaw puzzleand did you notice the Monopoly board on the top shelf? Monopoly was also available in the 1930s, and it was one of the games that both boys and girls could play. But in the 1930s, boys and girls tended to play with very different toys. Take another look at the display and pick out some of the toys, first for boys and then for girls. The Trail Team will give you a hand.

Trail team

'I think that boys would have played with the steam trains because they are more interested in vehicles and machinery. There is a wooden battleship that boys might like but I would have suspected that girls would have hated that because they hated the war. Well, boys did hate the war but they like playing with toys to do with the war. There's some tin soldiers which boys will play with because they'll play with them like in a battlefield. I reckon that the dollies in there would be more for girls because girls like playing with things like dollies and in our days they play with Barbies and they've got games like Snakes and Ladders which they'd play with both boys and girls to play with together.'

NARRATOR

During the Second World War there weren't very many toys in the shops. People were concentrating on making essential items for the War Effort - toys weren't considered to be essential items, so many factories stopped making them. Children had to make do with what they already had, and mend or patch old toys, or make new ones.

Now see if you can spot a board game that has a very special significance for this museum. *Press pause if you need more time and play when you are ready.*

Did you spot it? There is a board game down in the right hand corner of the window called **Milestones** and it's a kind of game of life. If you look at the pictures on the board you can get some idea of it. The board game is a bit like this museum, because the museum collection is all about everyday life in the past and how it shapes the way we live today.

Now go inside the Toy shop. Milestones doesn't just collect old toys but some new toys as well. With your group, see if you can spot any toys that you recognise. Which toys would you like to play with?

82. H J Wallis, Gramophone Shop

NARRATOR

Go inside the shop called HJ Wallis. It's a radio and gramophone shop.

SFX: Thirties gramophone music

At the back of the shop you can see shelves containing lots of records. Each record has one song on it. People bought the song they wanted to listen to, which they played on their gramophone at home.

A record has tiny lines on it called grooves. There is a needle on the gramophone that runs in these grooves and this produces a very faint sound, which is the music that was recorded on to it. Can you spot a large horn on any of these gramophones? The horn makes the music loud enough to hear clearly.

SFX: Crackley tune of the period.

Now look and see if you can spot the television set.

This television was made in the late 1930s and the shop would have displayed it as an object of the future. In 1936 when BBC Television first began, only *four hundred* people owned a television...there was an hour of television in the afternoon and an hour in the evening, and you had to live close to the transmitter at Alexandra Palace in North London to be able to watch anything *at all*.

Think of the millions of people who own a TV today. But here, in Hampshire it was impossible to get a clear television signal until after the Second World War. In fact it wasn't until the Queen's coronation in 1953 was broadcast live, that people really became excited about television.

Talk in your group about what you would do in your spare time if you didn't have a television.

83. The Gas Showroom

NARRATOR

Go inside the Gas Showroom and look at the display of gas appliances.

Gas lighting was used for street lamps and public places as early as 1813, but the Victorians were very slow to accept new technology in their homes.

But gradually families began to see that gas might have advantages over the old coal-fired cooking ranges.

Gas was much cleaner than coal and it was instant. The old coal ranges could burn up to 12 buckets of coal a day and you had to get up at 6am to light the range just to make sure it would be hot enough for breakfast.

The surfaces of the gas cookers were much easier to clean too. The coal fired ranges needed to be constantly cleaned and polished and pots became blackened with use.

After the First World War, better living conditions meant that many people could afford to replace their old fashioned coal fired kitchen range with modern gas cookers and room heaters. Look at the posters on the wall advertising gas water heaters, gas fires and cookers.

Some of the new gas appliances were extremely decorative. Look at some examples in the glass display cabinet over to the right of the shop.

What equipment do you have in your house today that runs on gas? Talk in your group about your ideas.

84. Collections Corner

NARRATOR

This area of the museum is called Collections Corner. Here you will find all sorts of objects that people would have had in their homes ranging from the Victorian times to the present day - such as those that were used to clean the floor, wash clothes or make tea.

You will probably spot one or two things that are familiar from your own home like a vacuum cleaner, a radio or a kettle. It's very interesting to see how these everyday objects have changed over time.

85. 1940s dining room

NARRATOR

This is a dining room that you might have found in the 1940s and it's one of a set of rooms that shows us what life was like at home at different times during the twentieth century. This room shows the furniture and belongings that a 1940s family might have had.

As you look round the room imagine a 1940s family using this room. How might they have warmed the room, told the time and entertained themselves? Press pause while you look and discuss this in your groups and then play when you are ready.

The first part of the 1940s was dominated by the Second World War and there are one or two objects in this room that help us to remember what happened during the war. There is a large blackout blind sitting under the window on the left. This would have been fitted into the window frame at night to make sure that light didn't attract the German planes. For many people there was a very real danger of being bombed.

The large upright radio sitting on the chest at the back of the room would have given the family the latest news on what was happening in World War II and played wartime songs to cheer them up.

SFX: Possible FX of wartime radio broadcast or music TBC?

This is also the room where the family would have eaten their meals. You might like to talk in your groups at the end of this commentary about how rationing would have affected the food that a 1940s family could have put on that table.

86. Webber's car showroom

NARRATOR

This is Webber's car showroom. There are two cars for sale in the window cleaned and polished.

The Webber family who owned this showroom first started out selling bicycles. By the 1930s cars were becoming very popular so the Webbers decided to sell motorcars and supplied many of the cars here in Basingstoke. Today you see cars everywhere, but 100 years ago only wealthy people could afford them.

The petrol pumps set just to the right of the showroom window would have provided fuel. In 1937 a gallon of petrol would have cost the equivalent of 8p.

Now move inside and find a good place to stand in front of the showroom desk. Look closely at the two cars and think about the ways in which they're different to the cars we drive today.

The shape and style is not as streamlined as a modern car is it?

Think about what the seats are made of and whether you see seat belts, door locks or a boot? Talk amongst your group about the differences. Press pause and then play when you are ready.

Now have a look through the window of the small parts shop to one side of the showroom. What can you see? Items you might like to look for are a can of engine oil, a pair of goggles and a map.

During the war, car headlights had to be blacked out so as not to attract the attention of enemy planes. On one of the shelves there are a pair of blackout covers for headlights. Before you go see if you can spot them. Imagine how dangerous it would have been driving at night during the war with no headlights and no streetlights!