

Interview of Daphne (Woodlawns Centre) by Dunraven students

A, B, C, E = Students

D = Daphne

A: So what were your hobbies when you were younger?

D: Erm embroidery I was very keen on needlework because we didn't have television. We had the radio and we had earphones (laughter) and I had my own set of earphones and my mother had her earphones and we used to sit and listen together and we would do our embroidery you see that was one of my favourites things and of course going to the flicks. What's the flicks? See that was slang in our day.

A: Is it the cinema?

D: Yeah the cinema. So we used to go to the flicks. My father didn't really approve of me going to the cinema. He had an idea that it wasn't good for the eyes so Wednesday afternoons we had off from school and my father was up in town working and we were down on the South coast and my mother and I used to go to the cinema on a Wednesday afternoon in the sixpennies it was only sixpence but he never knew how many films we'd see...

D: Sometimes we as older people are not very tolerant of are we of young people cos you like noise don't you I mean you like your erm what do you call it the erm you like everything up don't you when you go to a hop see a hop that's slang to us that was a dance a hop. What do you call a dance now?

A: A shubs. A shubs or a rave.

D: A rave?

B: Or yeah to go party you call it shubs

A: What different types of slang did you have?

D: Well you see I've mentioned the flicks haven't I? During the war if a pilot came back and he'd crashed enemy pilots or planes they'd say oh that was wizard prang you know that was a term they used. Erm we didn't use things like cool well even cool's getting old-fashioned now isn't it?

A,B,C, (in chorus) Yeah!

D: Yes that's becoming old hat. Erm different types of slang oh blimey that's still used what does it mean?

A: Oh my god?

D: Yes oh blimey actually it's not very nice but its something the cockneys use. Now how do you know a person is a Cockney?

B: By their accent?

D: Their accent yes (mimics a cockney accent) It's a lazy way of speaking. What's rhyming slang?

A: It's like yeah they say apple and pears.

D: That's right. What's apple and pears?

A: The stairs.

D: The stairs yes! I'm going for my Lillian Skinner that's my dinner so this is a whole language that people speak the cockneys. To be defined as a real cockney you have to be born in the sound of Bow bells in the city of London. That's a definition of a person who is a cockney but a lot of people have a cockney accent which is a shame because we have a lovely language and we don't really make the best use of it always. There's all kinds of slang we used, that every generation uses.

E: I'm guessing you would never have used slang in front of your teachers? Is that right?

D: Oh Not at the City of London nor the convent no. They were very strict on that you wouldn't use it in their hearing but then you see some children when they went home they would speak slang at home they wouldn't speak the way they speak in school you know there was a change there the parents would think they were getting uppity.