

Bluecoat and your Community Research

Research question

When you begin your research, decide what question are trying to answer. Some suggestions for this topic are:

How did the Second World War affect my local community?

and

What buildings in my community were lost during the Second World War?

How to find out information

Libraries

Your local library is a great place to start researching. Some libraries have special local history collections and they may have copies of old documents, newspapers and magazines. They may also have access to the internet to assist your research.

Archives

Archives look after printed and handwritten documents, images and film that cannot be kept in a normal library. They can be extremely helpful for local history research, and speaking to the archivist will help you understand the collection and how to search the archive.

The main archive in Liverpool is the Liverpool Record Office at Central Library on William Brown Street.

Online

The internet is a great place to do research but always be careful

when you browse that you are only finding material relevant to your subject.

The best way to start your internet research is by typing in your research question and the name of your local area on a search engine. This will bring up websites that will hopefully give you some clues to your community's past.

Out and about in the local area

Have a look around your local area and search for details that might relate to your research. For example, if buildings have dates on them you can tell whether they were there before the War and survived the bombing.

Talking to people

Local history societies have a passion for the history of their local area. Try to get in contact with one of these groups and see if they can help you with your research. The easiest way to find details is to search 'Local History Society' on the internet, and the name of your local community.