

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM

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| Date of Interview | 27 July 2024 |
| Location of Interview | Rachael's house |
| Name of Interviewee | Rachael Smith |
| Name of Interviewer | Abi Obene |
| Length of Interview | 01:46:29 |
| File format, storage format | WAV |

Tags:

Romani; Discrimination; Horse whispering; Environmentalism; Bare-knuckle boxing; Domestic Violence; Spiritualism; Ilfracombe; Being a witch; Battle of Benfield; Spiritual Circle; Identity; Being a medium; Spiritualism in Ilfracombe

Interviewee's wishes regarding interview use:

The interviewee would like to make it clear that she believes that there are good mediums in Ilfracombe and the surrounding areas - but that there was not the opportunity to talk about them during the interview.

Interviewer's notes / any issues with recording:

Note: mention of assault and attempted assault

Linked objects / photographs:

A variety of photographs provided

Telling Our Stories Finding Our Roots

DEVON'S MULTICULTURAL HISTORY
ILFRACOMBE

| Key Themes and topics covered in interview | Timestamp on recording |
|--|------------------------|
| Childhood spent outdoors | [00:01:00] |
| Identifies as Romani / Romani Father's concern over discrimination, 'Land is for everybody', Horse whispering | [00:03:00] |
| Environmentalism, Her brother's activism | [00:08:00] |
| Bare knuckle boxing, Father's jobs, Bouncing cleared out rabbits, Building / construction | [00:11:00] |
| Parents met at dance, Mother middle class, Differences between parents | [00:13:00] |
| Childhood of two parts | [00:16:00] |
| Domestic violence, Social differences, Escaping to the outside world common, Made her a fixer (counsellor later in life) | [00:19:00] |
| Death of father's parents the end of her family, Father left, Mother gave brothers substances Mention of Assault | [00:23:00] |
| Spiritual experiences, Seeing dead people, Seeing a battlefield as a child | [00:27:00] |
| Sought spiritual and religious answers, Sunday School, Tired of being a witch | [00:32:00] |
| Moved out at 17, Attempted college, Dropped out Mention of Attempted Assault | [00:35:00] |
| Squatting, Living in St Albans. Wake up call and moving on | [00:37:00] |
| Moved into a convert, Began meditation, Spiritual development, Tarot reading, Dipping into other faiths | [00:39:00] |
| Difficult relationships, Night boyfriend died and came back (resuscitated), The Battle of Benfield, Police brutality | [00:46:00] |
| Part of Anti-Nazi League, Pro-environment | [00:59:00] |
| Coming to Ilfracombe, Finger on Map, Walked into a spiritual circle, Moved in 12 weeks | [01:03:00] |
| Meeting husband at circus | [01:09:00] |
| Romany identity, Comparison between then and now re | [01:16:00] |

Telling Our Stories Finding Our Roots

DEVON'S MULTICULTURAL HISTORY
ILFRACOMBE

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|---|------------|
| treatment, Being a medium, How to use it responsibly | |
| Difference between Christian spiritualism and SNU, Spiritualism around Ilfracombe | [01:24:00] |
| History of spiritualism, Personal beliefs on heaven and hell, Ilfracombe Circle collapses | [01:30:00] |
| Still a fixer, Thoughts on how she would like to be remembered, Helping others to help themselves | [01:43:00] |

Interview Highlights:

Childhood, Suppressed / half forgotten Romani upbringing || Father, brother showed her how to box, living in two different worlds - mother and father very different
[00:02:00.0 - 00:07:58.3 and 00:10:07.2 - 00:16:30.2]

Arriving in Ilfracombe, finding a Circle in Ilfracombe **[01:02:23 - 01:08:54]**

Reading and the responsibilities of doing readings for/on people || Being a fixer, providing people tools and the Circle falling into disrepair **[01:15:35 - 01:20:18 and 01:35:53 - 01:38:31]**