



## *Remote Reminiscence – Getting Elders Online*

### **Theme #4 – Jobs & Work**

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This activity pack looks at memories of jobs and work.

You can use this resource as a stand-alone series of activities in conjunction with a short film available for free on our YouTube channel.

Why not have a look through and pick ideas to support activities with friends, family and in groups too.



**The link for the accompanying film can be found at the end of this activity.**



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- This section is all about Jobs and Work.
- We will cover 'My First Job' and the world of work, including the domestic sphere, jobs that don't exist anymore, and going out to work.
- The activity pack will include a number of activities to get you thinking about many different aspects of your working life and experiences.

### Icebreaker Activity

- What advice might you give someone young about a career, or someone starting a new job? Any pearls of wisdom?
- Finish the sentence to share interesting experiences of your working life:

'The most unusual job I've ever had was....'



Figure 1: Engine driver hat. Image taken by Summer Dean. Copyright - Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage.



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### Ideas for starters:

- Chat about different related topics including: Leaving school and first jobs, or favourite jobs.
- You could ask questions around: Careers, different kinds of work - manual vs mental, training, apprenticeships, changing direction in a job.
- Think about all the different jobs you have done over the years. Why not make a list of all the different kinds of work you've experienced.

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### JOBS & WORK

Make a list of all the jobs you've done – Think about Saturday work, part time jobs and career too. Ideas:

- Paper round
- Waitress
- Dog walking
- Mechanic
- Librarian
- Office worker
- Volunteering







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- Did you stay in the same or similar job for your whole career? Or did you have a lot of different jobs?
- Is there anything in particular that stands out in your memory? Do you remember certain managers or bosses?
- Do you remember particular colleagues that you worked with? Did you enjoy some tea break banter together? Did they become friends?
- Did you have any particular workwear or uniform? Perhaps you had to wear a hat for your role?



Figure 2: Blue work cap. Image taken by Summer Dean. Copyright - Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage.




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### Activity: Earning a Crust

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- Read the text below and then have a think about some of the question on the next page. See what encourages conversation about this topic.



### Jobs & Work



### GOING OUT TO WORK

Eileen:

“I left school at 15; I left school on a Friday and started a job on Monday in London Road Brighton in the Scottish wool shop. I had seen an advert in the shop window. The manageress was very very strict she would check nails to make sure they were clean.

We worked from 9 until 5.30 with an hour for dinner break and a tea break and always had to be someone on the shop floor. I was paid about one pound two shillings a week. My wage packet went home to mum, but I kept the money the bus fare and tights. I work six days a week and I liked my job.”

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Memory prompts for conversation can include:

- How you found the job.
- Interviews and how this worked
- How much did you get paid and what did you do with this?
- Did you have to move away to find employment?
- What time did you go to and from work? How did you get to the place of work?
- You can also discuss housework as work: 'Every day had a job' was the phrase used. This applied in particular to housework as there weren't the labour-saving devices we enjoy today.

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Figure 3: Image of Sheila Braidwood as WRAF. With kind permission of Royal Voluntary Service.





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### Activity: Jobs that don't exist now

- Have you worked in a role which doesn't exist anymore or is uncommon now?

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### Jobs & Work

## Jobs that don't exist now

Can you think of jobs which used to exist but now don't or are rare? Make a list and see how many you can think of!

#### Ideas:

- Lamplighter, Rag and bone man
- Maid of All Work
- Draper
- Drayman





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### Activity: Remembering Work

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- Think about a particular job that stands out to you and try and answer the questions below.



### Remembering Work

- What time did you leave for work?
- What time did you arrive?
- How did you get to work?
- Did you pay housekeeping?
- What were your colleagues like?
- Did you get on with them?
- What did you wear?
- What did you spend your first pay packet on?





### Suggestions for reminiscing about jobs and work

- See if you can find books that explore different areas of work. You may discover these in your local library.
- Talk to family members, especially younger members such as grandchildren, about your experience. Encourage them to ask questions.
- Think about what insights you could share.



Figure 4: Selection of books on jobs and the workplace. Image taken by Summer Dean. Copyright - Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage.



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### Activity: My First Job

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### My First Job

Can you remember your first job?

- How did you find the job?
- Did you have an interview?
- What was your first pay packet?
- Did you pay housekeeping money
- Did you wear a uniform?
- What was your role?
- What did you spend your wages on?





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### Visual Resources

Watch our short Jobs & Work film here for more ideas and support: <https://youtu.be/WOf4VnPtqD8>

