

Sample interview guide:

Molly Lancaster* Interview Guide (*pseudonym)

- *set up and check equipment (microphones on; soft surfaces; pets; clocks!)*
- *explain project and interview, outcomes and consent form, pause option*
- *use this sheet to note proper noun spellings & follow-up questions*
- *ask brief questions to check record levels (full name, place and date of birth, parents names, siblings names and order; names of spouse and children, with dates of birth)*

This is JV on Friday 16th February at 6.30pm interviewing Molly Lancaster about her season as a debutante. The interview is taking place in Molly's house.

Advise narrator to talk directly and naturally

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- D.o.B
- Place of birth
- Parents' occupations
- Where have you lived, key moves and dates – very briefly
- Siblings
- Education
- Religion?
- Current town you live in
- Present occupation
- Married status
- Children
- Main occupational career if any – very briefly

CHILDHOOD/TEENS:

- Sort of childhood
- Schooling
- Chores as an adolescent, favourite social events
- Religion
- Thinking back to your final year in school, how did you view your choices.
- Parents expectations

DEBUTANTE SEASON: (WHAT HAPPENED)

- What is a debutante
- Tell me about your experience of being a debutante
- Dates of the season
- Who involved in the debutante season.
- What social community involved
- I read that until the 1950s a debutante would hold an ostrich feather fan when she was presented at Court. Was there anything you were asked to do?
- I heard a story that one debutante was so nervous about being presented to the Queen that she vomited in her bouquet. Did you hear of any debutantes being nervous?

Sample interview guide:

DEBUTANTE SEASON: (HOW)

- Going back to the 1960s at that time, would you evoke for me a debutante ball? A breakfast, a party? Difference between them
- How many of the attendees did you know before? Make any friendships?

Invite examples

- Your debutante wardrobe? Cost? Where buy?
- What is your foremost memory about ... Colours, smells, visual element, dresses, conversations, dances, sort of people, friends, famous names, aristocracy,

DEBUTANTE SEASON: (WHY/THOUGHTS)

- What meaning did being a debutante have for you?
- How did being a debutante impact on your future life?
- I've heard it said that the debutante season was the period for a young woman to find her husband. What are your thoughts on that?
- NSIT (Not safe in taxi)

LIFE AFTERWARDS:

- Is the public opinion of debutantes as an elite section of society an accurate reflection of what it was really like?
- Has public record omitted unsavoury details or scandals.

ROUND-UP

- Are there any questions I've failed to ask you which you would like to raise?
- Are there any topics you would like to return to and say more about?