

## Axminster Remembers

Action East Devon has received a grant of £40,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to deliver an Oral History project in the Axminster and surrounding area.



Entitled *Axminster Remembers*, the project will capture local people's memories of life in Axminster during World War Two. These records will form part of an oral history archive to be stored at the Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter and at Axminster Heritage Centre.

Volunteers are being recruited and specially trained to collect oral histories from older people including those suffering from more advanced memory loss, to create a permanent record of life in World War Two.

Action East Devon is also working with Axe Valley Community College to hold tea parties and create temporary exhibitions where students will meet people with memories of the War and hear first-hand what life was like.

Axminster's role in World War Two was particularly significant because it was the southern starting point of the Taunton Stop Line; a World War Two defensive line of pillboxes and anti tank obstacles, running north to the Somerset coast. It was also the location of a United States Army base, which housed the 315<sup>th</sup> Station hospital before and after the D-Day landings.

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Action East Devon is a member of NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action)

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