

## Ewewright on collecting stories ([SA 74/2/5/1](#))

The artist Ewewright describes collecting and recording the stories of elders across Essex for the Caribbean Takeaway Takeover project. The interviews with the elders were shared at an exhibition at the S and S Caribbean Cafe, St Johns Street, Colchester, in the summer of 2018. The interview was recorded for ECDP (Essex Cultural Diversity Project) Radio in 2021. The presenter is Nita Jhummu.

“I sort of like found in Essex– I just went and found all the Caribbean people, say 80 upwards. All the sort of– from that 50s and 60s era. Anyone I could find, literally. And so we managed to track them all down, and they were all in their little houses, you know. And we tried, we said well, tell us your story. From the Caribbean community– our communities are very closed. Mothers and fathers, they don’t really talk that often. You’ve got to really– they are very suspicious still of a lot of authority. What are you going to do with the story? Etcetera. So we had to– it wasn’t an easy process, getting them to talk about their stories. And I was so happy that they were able to share those stories.

We recorded them, and they are all archived at the Essex Record Office as part of the project. That was most important for me. To get the stories, and be able to make sure they’re archived for ever. So that when the next generation and the generation after that, when they look around at Windrush, and they look around at these recordings and these archive institutions, you’ll see some Windrush stories there that they can listen to, so they can refer back to those pioneers. I call them ‘pioneers’, those heroes, who became the foundation for all of us, in a sense.”