



The Home Front

1939-1945



This is Elizabeth, her brother James and their mother. They lived in Newhaven at the start of the Second World War.

Use this booklet to explore the Home Front Exhibition and find out about life in wartime Britain.

Find the **Women at War** section of the exhibition to help you with these questions.

Why did women become such a large part of the workforce?

.....

What is this woman's job?.....

Find 4 other jobs that women did.....

.....

Which one appeals to you and why?.....

.....

Why do you think women with children didn't have to work?

.....

.....



Next, look for a really big photo of a **Bombed Street**.

Look carefully at the photograph.

Pick one person and look carefully at their face. How do you think they are feeling and what are they thinking?.....

.....

.....

Think about what dangers you can see. What does the hose on the ground tell you?

.....

What do you think the people are going to do now?

.....

In the middle of the exhibition room you'll find some cabinets holding items related to **air raids and civil defence.**

Can you find the stirrup pump? What was this used for?.....
.....

Using the items in these cabinets and the posters on the walls, can you identify three Civil Defence/ARP jobs?

.....
.....
.....

Look for the **Kitchen.**

Can you find four differences between your kitchen and this one?

.....
.....

Can you see the food in the bin? Who do you think this is this for?.....

.....

Opposite the kitchen you will find a **Shop.** List the names of foods we still have today:

.....
.....

Our shop looks quite well stocked but many of the things that you take for granted would have been **rationed** during the war. This means that you would only have been able to buy a certain amount of a particular product.

Find out how much Elizabeth and James would have been allowed of the following items:

ITEM	QUANTITY
Milkpints
Sweetsg
Jamg
Sugarg
Cheeseg

Prices

How much would you have paid for the following:

Sausages (450g) p
Sweets (450g) p
Butter (450g) p
Fresh eggs (6) p

When you get back to school find out how much you would pay now

What was the Black Market?.....

What was in short supply?.....

We were healthy due to rationing. Why was this?.....

.....

Near the entrance to the exhibition room you will find a street that has been hit by bombs from an air raid.

Make a list of the sounds you can hear.

.....

.....

.....

What is the name of the shelter that the woman is laying in?

.....

What is the official title of the men in the black uniforms?

.....

Air Raids in Newhaven

Look at the information boards on the walls near the bombed street to find the answers to these questions.

How many civilians were killed in Newhaven during the war?

.....

How many civilians were injured?

.....

How many times did the air raid siren sound in Newhaven?

.....

Gas Masks

At the start of the war everybody thought that the Germans would drop poison gas, so civilians were issued with gas masks.

Find the case with the gas masks in it and make a sketch of one in this box.

While you are here you should visit the **Air Raid Shelter** and experience an air raid for yourself, just like James and Elizabeth would have done if the siren had sounded while they were at school. Don't worry though, this one isn't real!

While you are in the air raid shelter sit quietly and listen to the speaker. Write down six words that explain how you felt while the raid was happening.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Near the air raid shelter you will find some information about **Evacuation**.

At the start of the war, Newhaven was thought to be too dangerous for children to stay. Elizabeth and James were evacuated. This means that they were sent to live with strangers in another part of the country.

Examine the display on evacuation and fill in the gaps below.

I was put on a train with a on my coat. When we arrived we were lined up in the There was no organisation, people just came along and you out. I was theone left standing there. I remember thinking 'this is good, because if no one picks me I'm back '.

How would you feel about waiting to be chosen?
.....
.....
.....
.....

Leaving Home

Make a list of the things you think Elizabeth and James would have taken with them when they were evacuated.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

What would you want to take with you?

.....
.....
.....

Fortunately, the Second World War did eventually come to an end. Can you find out when? Find the display board called '**VE Day and After**' and find these dates.

Victory in Europe Day (V.E. Day)

Victory in Japan Day (V.J. Day)

Look in cabinets in this section of the exhibition to discover how life changed after the war. Can you find two good changes and two bad ones?

Good

.....
.....

Bad

.....
.....

And you're all done!

We hope you enjoyed finding out about everyday life in wartime Britain.