Timetable for World War 2 – Life on the Home Front in Chelmsford

The session is 1.45 hours: 10.15 - 12.00 or 12.45 - 2.30pm. The museum opens at 10am.

Please arrive in time to be ready to start the session promptly. If you need to change your arrival or leaving time, please let us know before your visit so we can adapt the session to fit with your travel times.

Lunch space. There is plenty of outdoor space to picnic outside or indoor space if wet or cold.

10am

Museum opens Arrive – toilets, coats and bags put away

10.15am (or 12.45) Whole class introduction

We introduce the group to Bernard and his family who lived in Chelmsford during World War 11 and work out why Chelmsford was a key target for the German Luftwaffe. Through the activities we then explore the 'Big Question' What was life like in Chelmsford during World War 2?

With Bernard's mum

Time to talk to Bernard's mum and discover how rationing changed their lives. 'Go shopping' with your ration book to learn what kinds of meals the family might be eating. Investigate some of the family's clothing and ways Bernard's mum would 'make do and mend' to make things last.

Air raids and the ARP warden

Handle a variety of objects used by the ARP warden, experience what it may have felt like in an 'Anderson shelter', use a stirrup pump and take part in gas mask drills as we explore Bernard's experience living through the blitz in Chelmsford.

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Whole class conclusion

As we delve deeper into newspaper articles from the time we uncover more of Bernard's story and the lasting the impact of the war on both them and Chelmsford.