



# IT'S CHILD'S PLAY

## Daredevils



We'd go over the **brickworks** (Bletchley), big gangs of us. An old war plane had come down. We'd play camps in that. There was a big high bridge with a little girder on it that we'd run along – very dangerous, I know. We'd play **chicken** with the brick lorries in Newton Road. [Laura Owen, 'Bigger Brighter Better'](#)

They used to have **toilets** at the bottom of the garden, not attached to the house at all. When we saw anyone come down to the toilet at night, they'd walk down with a candle in their hand, and sit nice and quiet. We'd wander down the back and kick the door, make 'em 'oller, and then run. [Hawtin Mundy, 'I'll Tell You a Story'](#)

We'd play **Cowboys and Indians**. To make a bow we'd go down King's at Brookfield Farm to the Brook and get a willow stave, cut it, chop it with a knife and trim it up, bend it, and put a cord on it. For arrows, we'd have the thinner willow sticks. For the spears we'd have elderberry sticks, 'cos they were easy to cut and make a good point on them. One day we were playing over the Hills and Hollows and this bloke, George Stephenson, flung a spear at Eric Brown and hit him in the chin. Still to this day, he's still got that scar where that went in. [Dennis L Cross](#)

The Scouts' hats often had floppy brims but to stiffen them when at **camp**, they would be left on the roof of the tent at night, the dew straightened them up or a milk bottle with hot water would be used on the hat which had been damped. [Audrey Lambert](#)

There was a horse chestnut tree by the church, where we'd get a stone to knock the conkers down. You'd put them in the oven to bake. Then you'd string them up and play **conkers**. I had a 'seventy-niner' once. Some pickled them in vinegar, but one bloke actually had all the middle out of the shell, and filled it up with hard glue, and then put the shell back. That was really a corker that split everyone's conker down the middle. [Dennis L Cross](#)