

Exploring the sounds and stories of Britain's shores

Last week the British Library launched Coast, a new web space dedicated to sounds and stories from Britain's incredible coastline. Covering everything from superstitions and working conditions to wildlife and entertainment, this collection brings together field recordings, interview excerpts and music from across the sound archive. Many of these recordings...

Recording of the week: Don't try this at home!

This week's selection comes from Nick Morgan, Audio Project Cataloguer for Unlocking our Sound Heritage. Joseph Sussman (1920-2013) was surrounded by music – literally: his house and garage were crammed full of 78s, LPs, CDs, reel-to-reel tapes, cassettes and videos. They vied for space with stacks of printed music and...

Recording of the week: Birth then and now

This week's recording of the week comes from Holly Gilbert, Cataloguer of Digital Multimedia Collections. Gill and Deb have been friends for many years so when Deb split up with her partner during her first pregnancy she asked Gill to be her birth partner. Gill had already given birth to...

Recording of the week: Recording the birds of Japan

This week's selection comes from Cheryl Tipp, Wildlife and Environmental

Sounds Curator. In 1952 Japanese ornithologist Tsuruhiko Kabaya acquired his first tape recorder. This, as they say, was a game changer. For over a decade Kabaya had been diligently documenting the movements and behaviour of wild birds across Japan. He...

Recording of the week: Women in the wine trade

This week's selection comes from Camille Johnston, Oral History Assistant Archivist. At the start of her career Helen Thomson (b. 1933) received some sound advice from a fellow 'woman in the wine trade'. The wine world was dominated by men, and Thomson could name only two women among her peers:...