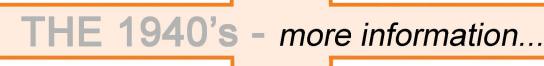# ABOUT : 1940's

1939 - 1945 - During WW2 millions of children were evacuated from the major industrial towns and cities, that were likely to be bombed by the Germans. Each carried a gas mask and sometimes a name label, enabling them to be easily identified by the families who were assigned to look after them.

1944 - Up until the 1940's, most children left school at 14, and education reformists wanted this to change. People were looking ahead to the end of the war and wanted to see a better country emerge with better prospects for the future. Richard Austen Butler, the newly appointed President of the Board of Education, proposed the bill for free secondary education and won the day.

1948 - The Olympics were held in London at short notice, after a 12 year break, due to the war. It was the first Games to be shown on home TV and also new, were starting blocks for sprint races.

1948 - Aneurin Bevan, the Health Secretary, opened Park Hospital in Manchester, heralding a new national health service, available free to everyone and financed entirely through taxation.

1948 - After the war, there was a great shortage of men in the labour market, so men from many of the Commonwealth countries were enticed over, to bridge the void. So, in 1948, the merchant vessel Empire Windrush arrived from the Caribbean, with 492 immigrants aboard, all looking for work and a better life. By 1956 there were 40,000 new immigrants living here.

1949 - Though different types of computers already existed, Manchester University's Small Scale Experimental Machine (SSEM) was the first to have memorised program instructions, (1947). This makes it recognisable as the first modern computer. A modified version, The 'Manchester Mark 1' started research work in this year.

THE 1940's - *more information...*

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you want to find out even more about the 1940's, use the links below :

WW2 - http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Britain.html
Evacuees - http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/events/evacuation
Olympic Games - http://www.olympic.org/london-1948-summer-olympics
Butler Act - http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport/25751787
Computers - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stored-program_computer

(This document may need to be saved to a hard drive, before the links will operate)