



## **Irene (Gladys) Jones**

“I can remember very clearly again, the headmistress at this school standing up and saying children could be evacuated to Staffordshire. I want you all to take these forms home and get your mother or father to fill them up to say whether they agree for you to go to this school. Well I was very eager to go I thought well I loved being evacuated, so I took my form home and the only daunting thing was we had to have there was a list, showing that we needed things like shorts and blouses and long trousers, and something called a windcheater, well I’d know windcheater was, it’s like today’s anorak. And I thought well it took my mother all her time to dress me in the meagreist of clothes she’s not going to be able to afford these extra things but anyway she wanted me to go, she was quite happy for me to go and off I went on the 20<sup>th</sup> September to Staffordshire to the Pipewood School. The best day of my life, absolutely the best day of my life, when I went there and it was a beautiful day, a gorgeous autumn day, beautiful sun, sunny day and fields all sort of mellow from you know the end of summer and I could see this lovely school with all these open air gardens and the best thing was I could see all these girls all looking so happy and relaxed and enjoying life and coming from back streets of Birmingham and the bombing it was like moving into another world. And as we went through the gates I thought in my own little way an eleven year old thank you god.”