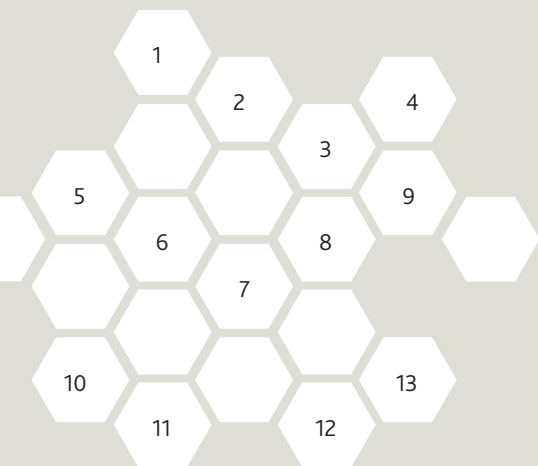


The **Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)** supports world-class research that furthers our understanding of human culture and creativity. It supports research and postgraduate training in a wide range of subject areas, from ancient history and heritage science to modern dance and digital content. Research into these areas helps us to interpret our experiences, probe our identities, interrogate our cultural assumptions and understand our historical, social, economic and political context. It adds to the economic success of the UK, through its contributions to the knowledge economy and innovation agenda. The research we fund can lead to improvements in social and intellectual capital, community identity, learning skills, technological evolution and the quality of life of the nation. For further information, please go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk

Connected Communities

Connected Communities is a cross-Council Programme being led by the AHRC in partnership with the EPSRC, ESRC, MRC and NERC and a range of other organisations to understand the changing nature of communities in their historical and cultural contexts and the value of communities in sustaining and enhancing our future quality of life.

A growing body of work under the programme is exploring the temporal dimension to communities, while other clusters of projects are exploring issues such as cultural value in community contexts and 'community and performance'. Another strand of research is exploring the potential for arts and humanities to support approaches to engagement with communities as active participants in the research process, through the creative arts and media, narratives, crafts and by enhancing consideration of issues such as ethics, power and voice.



Front cover images

1. *The Sound Craft Vision Place Open Day Event at Huddersfield in June 2012. Image: University of Huddersfield.*
2. *Beverley Butler and Anna Sexton (UCL) discuss the objects with a member of the Dragon Cafe audience at one of the Archaeologies of the Mind events. Image: Anna Sexton.*
3. *Mencap annual report (1988). Image: University of Huddersfield.*
4. *Switchboard displayed at The Dugdale Centre, Enfield. Image: National Museum of Science and Industry.*
5. *Swansea's Industrial Past. Image: Swansea University.*
6. *Andy Barrett, of Hanby and Barrett. Image: John Legge.*
7. *Youngsters at the CAER project open day. Image: University of Cardiff.*
8. *Dr Jess Oliver working with a community volunteer on the Bennachie Landscapes Project. Image: The University of Aberdeen.*
9. *Project Open Day at Leeds University. Image: University of Leeds.*
10. *Industrial railway scene, Tyneside. Image: Newcastle University.*
11. *Sarah Dhanjal (UCL) introducing Year 4s to life stories and archives as part of the ALDATERRA Living Archaeology of the Place Project. Image: with permission of ALDATERRA projects.*
12. *'Asylum Heritage Montage' by an ArtSpace participant. Image: University of Leicester.*
13. *Two young local residents use their knowledge to assist project artist Paul Evans in the co-creation of the HEART of Cardiff Heritage Trail at the vibrant Ely Festival in Cardiff, July 2013. Image: Cardiff University.*



“The Community Heritage projects within Connected Communities Programme promise to open up powerful new collaborations between academic and community researchers. They will equip huge numbers of community researchers to better research, understand and communicate the stories of their own heritage and history. These exciting developments should open up a new era for research into Community Heritage in the UK, producing distinctive research insights and opening up new research agendas that could not be achieved without the complementary insights of both academic and community researchers.”

KERI FACER Connected Communities Leadership Fellow, The University of Bristol



“The Arts and Humanities Research Council has been an enthusiastic partner in this ground-breaking collaboration. Communities are a vital part of the cultural, creative and social narrative within the UK. Helping communities to understand their own heritage can often be passive with a researcher entering a community and telling it about its history, placing the community as the receiver of interpretations about its own past. This is where this group of projects is so important and unique: in putting the communities in control of research questions and challenges, empowering them to take curiosity into new contexts, the funding has enabled community researchers to take forward their own interests.”

MARK LLEWELLYN Director of Research, AHRC



“The Heritage Lottery Fund supports thousands of community heritage projects throughout the UK every year. We were delighted that our partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council meant that in 2012 we could offer a unique opportunity for groups funded under ‘All our Stories’ to work together with university researchers to bring an extra dimension to their projects. Over 150 organisations – from residents’ associations and local history groups to arts and disability charities-connected, mostly for the first time, with academic researchers to explore their heritage, learn new skills, and create new knowledge together. We value these partnerships highly: they’ve helped people ask deeper questions and confront challenges; they’ve broken down barriers; they’ve brought new insights; and they’ve enriched many lives. Most importantly working with the university researchers has helped communities value their heritage and tell their stories with confidence and pride.”

KAREN BROOKFIELD Deputy Director (Strategy), Heritage Lottery Fund

INTRODUCTION

Our heritage is all around us – in our buildings, our institutions, our histories and, perhaps most importantly, in our communities. Our desire to understand our community’s heritage – whether that be a local, regional, or a national community – is a powerful one indeed.

The Research for Community Heritage initiative – along with the ‘All Our Stories’ programme run by the Heritage Lottery Fund – begins with this premise, that this desire of a community to understand and explore its heritage is of great significance to communities, and further, that academic research can bring rich insights and deep knowledge to our appreciation of that heritage.

A partnership of value

Academic research has a natural affinity with a community’s wish to discover its own heritage. Both are founded on curiosity, passion and the love of knowledge both for its own sake and to help us understand the world around us. As the many examples in this publication show, each also brings something distinctive and powerful when brought together – communities bring their sense of belonging and their appreciation, knowledge and understanding of their own lives and localities; academics can bring the knowledge, rigour, experience and insight born of concentrated and sometimes lifelong research. The combination can be exciting and empowering for both as academics are brought into contact with questions and ideas that feed their research and community groups are exposed to new techniques that can help inform their activities.

The partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund was therefore both a logical and exciting one and, as this publication shows, an important



“The National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement is proud to have been part of the Research for Community Heritage project. The partnership between two funders provides the perfect vehicle to realise the potential of mutually beneficial collaborations between community organisations and academic researchers. This innovative partnership has established new ways of working for communities and universities – and has led to the creation of a wealth of heritage projects, new skills for researchers from universities and communities, and partnerships that will continue in the future. The NCCPE are keen to support public engagement, and will be sharing the learning from this project to inspire others to engage.”

SOPHIE DUNCAN Deputy Director, National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement

and productive one too. The parallel initiatives have shown what is possible when different perspectives are brought together and when genuine ‘co-production’ or ‘co-creation’ of research becomes the goal. Many of the projects funded involved Early Career Researchers, who took an active role in connecting community groups with the resources the university has to offer.

The examples here speak of a wide spread of collaborations spanning a wide range of community and academic interests, from music, the environment, history, archaeology, health, multimedia, oral history, archives, transport and many more, through some 150 projects, involving 21 universities and Research Organisations, and across all regions of the UK.

environments, places and spaces, and community cultures, diversity, cohesion, exclusion, and conflict, themes which are almost all represented in this booklet.

From conception to collaboration

Research for Community Heritage began in 2012 with funding awarded to 21 universities to explore partnerships with community groups interested in applying to HLF's 'All Our Stories' programme. Universities were encouraged to hold open days, to reach out to community groups in their towns, cities and regions and give specialist input to groups developing a bid to the HLF. Soon after a second phase of the project began when groups which had been successful in their HLF bids joined together with AHRC funded researchers to undertake collaborative projects. The examples presented in this publication include those from both the first and the second phase of the initiative. Also showcased are a selection of 'Community Heritage Development Awards', projects given larger pots of funding to develop work in the area of community co-design and co-

production of community heritage research.

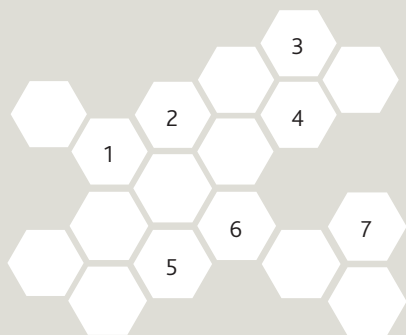
The National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) has played a key role in the development and the delivery of the partnership, brokering relationships between community projects and academics and supporting a large cohort of early career researchers to work on public and community engagement activities.

If the tip of an iceberg is one tenth of the whole, then this publication can only represent merely the tip of an impressive and substantial set of collaborative engagements that have redrawn the map of what is possible when two organisations, two funding cultures and two quite different sectors collaborate to explore and enrich our communities' heritage.

Further information

We hope you enjoy reading about the projects outlined in this publication. If you would like further information on anything featured here, please write to:

connectedcommunities@ahrc.ac.uk



1. A local community engagement event at Swansea University. Image: Swansea University.
2. Down Our Street project working with local children to explore the stories behind street names in the Gilesgate area of Durham. Image: Down Our Street.
3. CAER project open day. Image: University of Cardiff.
4. Leeds University war memorial project Open Day. Image: University of Leeds.
5. Digital 3D reconstruction of the North West Cambridge Gun Tower at Pembroke Historic Dockyard. Image: The Digital Building Heritage Group, De Montfort University.
6. Members of the Colonsay and Oronsay Heritage Trust excavating the foundations of a 19th-century fisher cottage that underlies their visitor centre on Colonsay. Image: University of Ulster.
7. Geographic Survey with community partners at Barrow on Trent. Image: Dr Judith Mills, University of Nottingham.

University of Aberdeen

Sharing All our Stories Scotland

Elizabeth Curtis



Oral History and Schools Workshops, Paisley, April 2013. Image: Elise Kelly, Weaving Musical Threads.

The project team, led by Dr Elizabeth Curtis, engages with diverse communities through work with All Our Stories projects by providing tailored workshops, fieldwork and training in methods for heritage research. These provided the opportunity for groups to meet, share insights and work face-to-face with University staff. The team focus upon the heritage of place and landscape, including how to run community oral history projects, and community empowerment. The team have developed an online community learning hub which is open to all 51 Scottish All Our Stories projects, allowing the groups to share progress and make connections. Several members of this team are part of the AHRC Community Heritage Development Award 'Bennachie Landscapes' project led by Jeff Oliver.

“The Weaving Musical Threads committee is delighted that the Gathering Threads All Our Stories project had the chance to collaborate with Aberdeen University. Gathering Threads is working with pupils in Paisley schools to educate them about the mill heritage, mainly through poetry and drama. Using poet led workshops, direct accounts, Thread Mill Museum visits and personal research to enhance the pupils' work – culminating in a published anthology.”

ELISE KELLY Weaving Musical Threads

University of Bristol

Know Your Bristol Stories

Professor Robert Bickers

This initiative has been building on the collaborations established between the university team and local partners, and involves the researchers working across two different HLF projects, 'Orchard Roots Bristol', and 'Avonmouth and Shirehampton WWI stories', as well as with Bristol City Council's 'Know Your Place' digital mapping project. A core feature of the collaboration with 'Orchard Roots Bristol' is branching out and connecting urban and rural communities by linking Horfield Organic Community Orchard with an AHRC project that is mapping the disappearing orchards of Somerset's Quantock Hills in partnership with the local Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Service.

For more information:

www.bristol.ac.uk/public-engagement/events/know-your-bristol



Shannon Smith conducting interviews for the Orchard Roots Bristol project at the Horfield Organic Community Orchard. Image: University of Bristol.



“Working with the University of Bristol team has helped realise our ambition to re-map the orchard. Their practical support enabled us to record stories from orchard members and the wider community. These stories, combined with our researches into

historical records, have revealed the surprising extent of the cultural roots of our orchard.”

SHANNON SMITH Voluntary Co-ordinator of Horfield Organic Community Orchard

University of Cambridge

Cambridge Community Heritage (Phase Two)

Dr Carena Rachel Lewis

In this project, researchers from the University of Cambridge provided advice, training and support to 27 community groups in running their own community heritage project. Groups ranged widely in their interests, including local historical societies, church groups, traveller communities, schools, football clubs, women's groups and military regiments. The Cambridge Community Heritage team consulted with each group to identify their needs and provided training in aspects of archaeology, local history, archives, oral history and writing for publication, followed by tailored support for a wide range of community heritage project activities including archaeological excavation and field-walking, recording personal memories, theatrical performances, and even knitting. As well as responding to the needs of diverse communities, the project has generated a wide range of new data for research and archive material across a range of heritage-related disciplines.



Sixth-form students from two state schools around Saffron Walden in Essex begin their excavation looking for the lost ditch and castle. Image: University of Cambridge.



“The museum wanted to provide more practical opportunities for local students to get involved in archaeology and to further our knowledge of the castle and the town’s history. The combination of the HLF grant and the professional expertise from the university has enabled us to do just that.”

CAROLYN WINGFIELD Curator, Saffron Walden Museum

University College London

Continuing to Dig: supporting and sustaining innovative community heritage projects in London and the South East

Dr Andrew Flinn

Continuing to Dig followed up the work of *Dig Where We Stand* project by continuing to be motivated by a collaborative approach towards community heritage and by a shared understanding of the significance of individuals and groups taking steps to better understand their own history. The objectives of the project remained to connect heritage expertise located within UCL with a wider audience, deepening existing relationships and establishing new partnerships. Their work with the All Our Stories projects included developing and co-producing a series of talks and presentations exploring the connections between heritage, mental health and identity and jointly developing an oral history trail.



“Hoxton Hall have greatly benefitted from partnering with UCL’s Dig Where We Stand team, supporting us to deliver a project of real relevance to the community of Shoreditch and our organisation. They helped us to explore the ethics of our work and ensure we were working within best practice guidelines.”

LORNA MCGINTY

Education and Heritage Co-ordinator, Hoxton Hall



Louise Martin from the Institute of Archaeology (UCL) teaches WAS member Jenny Searle animal bone identification. Image: Kris Lockyear, Institute of Archaeology, UCL.



Digital 3D reconstruction of the North West Cambridge Gun Tower at Pembroke Historic Dockyard.
Image: The Digital Building Heritage Group, De Montfort University.

De Montfort University

Digital Building Heritage: Phase II

Dr Douglas Cawthorne

The Digital Building Heritage team worked with HLF community heritage groups across the UK to assist them with digital technologies to visualise, interpret and communicate their historic buildings and structures to a wider audience. The largest of these projects was the Pembroke Dock Bicentennial Trust who worked alongside the team in a co-production process to digitise documentary information. The Digital Building Heritage Group virtually reconstructed the dockyard in 3D to show what it was like in the 1850's and to examine aspects of its architecture and engineering. Many secondary initiatives have arisen from the project both within De Montfort University



“Working with De Montfort University has given us in the first instance a modern and exciting outcome for the project in the digital animation, easy to share with the larger community. In addition, in developing the background resources we have been

able to connect with a diverse group of people in the community both local and away and bring together resources in one place which is a new development.”

SIAN DUREAU The Pembroke Dock Digital Building Project

and in the wider Heritage Community which engage with, preserve and enhance public understanding of the historic environment.

For more information:

<https://digitalbuildingheritage.our.dmu.ac.uk>

Durham University

North-East Heritage Partnership

Dr David Petts

The North-East Heritage Partnership aimed to bring together the existing research strengths in exploring the historic environment at Durham University and develop a programme for training local community groups and individuals with the key research skills necessary to help build their own research projects. They were able to develop a number of outreach activities and build links between different academic and service departments. Workshops covered everything from looking at historic landscapes to preparing exhibitions and using social media. All of this has helped a number of local organisations find out more about the past of their neighbourhood.



“The workshops proved invaluable to exploring further the heritage elements of the North Pennine walking trail – “A guide to Isaac’s Tea Trail Hidden Heritage in England’s North Country”. The workshop which included a study of medieval field patterns was particularly helpful. Information from other workshops also contributed to the recent Heritage Open Day’s event featuring Isaac’s hearse house at Ninebanks in Northumberland.”

ROGER MORRIS Isaac’s Tea Train, Allendale

Members of the local community, Durham students and staff and volunteers from the US working together excavating the Roman fort at Binchester. Image: David Petts.



University of East Anglia

UEA Research for Community Heritage Ideas Bank: Realising Your Idea

Dr Sarah Spooner

The Ideas Bank has supported a diverse range of community groups across the east of England in both developing and delivering their All Our Stories projects, ranging from an investigation of eighteenth-century ‘poors land’ to the wider context of the medieval Paston letters. The project team is made up of academic researchers working alongside community partners, including the Poppyland Publishing, the National Trust and the Norfolk Rural Community Council. The team also includes three early career researchers who have delivered a series of training workshops on research skills and project management, as well as mentoring individual groups.

For more information:

<http://ideasbankatuea.wordpress.com>



Ideas Bank Workshop at the University of East Anglia.

Image: University of East Anglia.



“As a local publisher and multimedia developer it’s been greatly stimulating to work with the Ideas Bank. With the experience we have of production for video, the web and print we hope we’ve made an important contribution in understanding the digital world and conversely the aims, interests and enthusiasm of the groups have taken our knowledge and planning forward.”

PETER STIBBONS Poppyland Publishing

University of Hertfordshire

Partners in History 2: connections and collaborations in regional heritage

Sarah Lloyd

The Partners in History project explores the processes of collaborative research, with the overarching objective to break down barriers between academic and community researchers by supporting grass-roots initiatives in local history and heritage, and establishing sustainable mechanisms to share knowledge and expertise. The team provided training in oral history, archives, and the use of digital technologies to express and share research. The team also developed digital resources, such as a dedicated site within History Pin, which aids them in creating a sustainable legacy which reflects the work of those currently involved with community projects, and serves as a platform from which further research collaborations can develop. The project demonstrates that universities can play a vital role in connecting histories and showcasing projects across regional and academic communities.

“Our Members and the University Team have been ‘equal partners’ throughout our collaborative Project – equal in that we acknowledge each other’s knowledge, experience and expertise.”

JEFF LEWIS Smallford Residents’ Association



Partners in History: interviewing with University of Hertfordshire video booth at St Julian’s Church Hall, Sopwell May 2013. Image: University of Hertfordshire.

University of Huddersfield

Mental Health and Learning Disabilities: Heritage and Stigma

Dr Rob Ellis



The Sound Craft Vision Place Open Day Event at Huddersfield in June 2012. Image: University of Huddersfield.

The Heritage and Stigma project is designed to link academic understanding of the histories of mental health and learning disability with areas of current practice, and raise awareness and understanding of issues in the present and past. With the follow-up funding, the team have been able to offer advice and support as research professionals in order to ensure the successful delivery of All Our Stories projects. The *Mental Health and Learning Disabilities* team worked alongside Leeds Mencap, St Anne’s Community Services and South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, resulting in an exhibition, online materials and publications, as well as the creation of new archival resource.

“St Anne’s believe that the partnership with the University of Huddersfield will have a positive impact on the public’s perception of adults experiencing mental health issues. This partnership will help raise awareness and help the people we support to demonstrate that they are an important part of the community and that their contribution to local life is important.”

TONY BEECH Area Manager, St Anne’s Community Services, Leeds and Kirklees

University of Leeds

Discovering First World War Heritage(Phase two)

Professor Alison Fell

Alison Fell's project team at the University of Leeds supported six All Our Stories groups in their research projects on different aspects of First World War heritage. This involved a series of workshops, including training sessions led by experts in military history and genealogy, and a trip to the National Archives at Kew. All participants in the projects – both university and community researchers – have benefited from these interactions, and have learnt from each other, feeding back into each other's research projects. The relationships the project team formed, especially with community 'brokers' such as Leeds City Council, museums staff and community leaders, have been invaluable.

For more information:

<http://arts.leeds.ac.uk/legaciesofwar>



“Working with Leeds University has meant that there have been opportunities for all members of our project team, whatever their previous experience, to improve their own research skills. The opportunity to visit the National Archives and other venues

has been invaluable and inspiring. Staff at the university have been helpful, knowledgeable and informative.”

SUZANNE CALLAGHAN Craven Museum and Gallery



David Stowe, community researcher, presenting his research into the Leeds University war memorial at a project Open Day. Image: University of Leeds.

University of Leicester

Building and Enriching Shared Heritages: A Toolkit for Community Organisations

Professor Rosemary Sweet

The *Building and Enriching Shared Heritages* project team aimed to develop further existing relationships between the University and the wider community. The project team delivered a series of face-to-face workshops and online training resources and provided mentoring in order to equip the HLF groups with the skills to enhance their research projects and to give them the capacity to deliver on the funded grants. The project also created an opportunity for early career researchers to gain valuable experience of public engagement and working with diverse groups of people through mentoring.



“As the creator of a local history blog, *The Irish in Leicester*, I have found the training and support offered by the History department at Leicester University invaluable. I have attended several of the workshops this year and have always come away with enhanced

skills, great ideas and new contacts”

LYNDA CALLAGHAN

Leicester and Leicestershire Irish Forum



'Asylum Heritage Montage' by an ArtSpace participant. Image: University of Leicester.

University of Lincoln

'Telling Our Stories', support for HLF funded community groups, provided by the 'Looking Back for the Future' team, University of Lincoln

Dr Leslie Hicks

The 'Telling Our Stories' project follows on from the 'Looking Back for the Future' Research for Community Heritage project, which formed relationships with 12 community groups who the University of Lincoln had not had previous engagement with. In the second phase the project team, led by Dr Leslie Hicks, offered tailored and individual project advice to five community groups, with focus on interviewing techniques, film-making and production, website design, construction and maintenance, archiving, prose writing and drama. The University team have been



“Working with the University of Lincoln has been a fantastic enabler to our project firstly through the design of the website and secondly working with our five partnering primary schools to give them skills in telling stories, interviewing skills and video/audio

capture. The project is particularly important because it has captured memories and artefacts about local history before they are lost and the community has started to be involved in this process.”

GEOFF TAYLOR Chain Bridge Forge, Spalding

able to learn about untold local histories, community cohesion and the ways in which different communities relate to each other over time.



Spalding schools' workshop day at the University of Lincoln. Image: Rob Coley and Adam O'Meara.



CoolTan Arts 'Shuffle talk' at Science Museum, July 31st 2013. Image: National Museum of Science and Industry.

National Museum of Science and Industry

All our Stories support

Ms Annika Joy

The second Research for Community Heritage grant enabled the Science Museum to support community and interest groups to run their own heritage projects and initiatives. They provided various forms of community support, such as training in research methodologies, facilitating access to Science Museum Group collections and archives and project formation guidance. The Museum was able to demonstrate the value of research as a public engagement offer as well as gaining greater insight into non-specialist understanding of and engagement with STEM subjects

“As the CoolTan Arts' volunteer coordinator, I organise and facilitate meetings and visits to museums. The All Our Stories project offers a great opportunity to delve into the history of mental health and its legacy. Moreover, it gives CoolTan Arts volunteers a platform to share their interpretation, knowledge and experiences with mental health and its history to a broad audience.”

KAYA VOLKE Volunteer Project Coordinator for All our Stories Project at CoolTan Arts

which can be used in future exhibition interpretation and audience engagement. The grant enabled the Museum to create stronger relationships with community groups.

Newcastle University

*Research for Community Heritage
Phase Two – Follow-up Funding NE England
Andrew Newman*



Industrial railway scene, Tyneside. Image: Newcastle University.

The project team sought to match the needs of community heritage groups, funded under Phase 1 and new groups under Phase Two, with the expertise of staff and available resources. The team worked closely alongside the local community groups, and the strong partnerships enabled them to be more responsive to the needs of each community groups. The University team addressed the training needs of community groups and provided bespoke support. The University supported the groups with projects on oral history, archival research, exhibition production and digital media. One project that came out the partnership was 'Our Northumbrian Singing Heritage' where songs were collected from older people in the Northumbrian area around Alnwick.



“The North Tyneside Steam Railway Association recently embarked on a project to research the network of railways which ran from the Backworth area, past the Stephenson Railway, to the River Tyne. We are currently sorting through collected material, in order to

produce an interactive display early in 2014.”

ROBERT STAPLEY
North Tyneside Steam Railway Association

University of Nottingham

*Writing Our History, Digging Our Past Phase Two
Dr Richard A Gaunt*

The second phase of the Writing Our History project supported 15 community-based groups to deliver their All Our Stories projects. They were able to enhance the outcome of those projects by giving access to academic facilities, resources and expertise, and develop new long-term relationships with community partners. Early career researchers acted as the first point of contact for the community groups, providing general advice and support. They also organised workshops, networking events and facilitated applications to the Project's "Challenge Fund" by identifying and matching needs with resources across the University. The range of activities supported includes field surveys, contextual research, further skills development and the design and production of exhibition materials.



“The Remembering Wartime Thoresby project is about volunteers collecting key memories from WW2. Academic support from The University of Nottingham has greatly increased our confidence in researching, and training workshops have improved our skills. This

community and academic collaboration means we now have a great quality archive for the future.”

CAROLINE HUGHES Stonebridge Trust,
Remembering Wartime Thoresby HLF project



*Geographic Survey with community partners at Barrow on Trent.
Image: Dr Judith Mills, University of Nottingham.*



Clydach Heritage Centre group at community workshop led by Swansea University. Image: Swansea University.

Swansea University

Cymunedau Cysylltiedig 2: Researching the Industrial and Post-Industrial Heritage of the Swansea Valley

Professor Huw Bowen

The second phase of the project enabled Swansea University to further develop local community-focused collaborative research and provide targeted support to local projects and activities supported by the All Our Stories programme. Through the production of local community research the project continues to enhance a major heritage-led urban regeneration project centred on the Swansea Valley. The project now works alongside a larger and broader range of community partners and groups including local community



“The practical and academic help which we have received from colleagues at Swansea University has been of immeasurable benefit to us in this our first foray into oral history. The courses which have been set up to help improve our skills have been of great benefit and the tutors chosen for their knowledge of the subjects.”

GWYN EVANS Clydach Heritage Centre

support centres and societies, religious and minority groups, local primary, secondary and welsh speaking schools and local enthusiast and historical societies.

For more information:

www.swanseavalleyhistory.com

University of Aberdeen

Bennachie Landscapes: Investigating Communities Past and Present at the Colony Site
Dr Jeff Oliver

On-going research at the Colony site, on the iconic hill of Bennachie in northeast Scotland, is bringing historic and contemporary communities together. A collaborative effort between the Bailies of Bennachie, a local community group who were formed in 1973 to care for the area, and the University of Aberdeen is helping to shed light on the history of this 19th century crofting settlement. The team take a co-produced approach to archaeological and historical investigations of past life on the hill. A particular focus is on how schools can interact with community heritage research through direct involvement and the results will be incorporated into curriculum development.



“Working with researchers has informed us of the discipline of archaeology, enabling us to follow processes rather than just scraping around in the dirt.”

COLIN MILLER
Bailies of Bennachie member

University College London

Sensing the late Iron Age and Roman Past: geophysics and the landscape of Hertfordshire
Dr Kris Lockyear



Graeme Spurway using the Foerster magnetometer at Ashwell.
Image: Kris Lockyear.

The *Sensing* project team undertook a series of magnetometer surveys on sites of interest to the project partners. The team sought to create a pool of trained volunteers able to undertake geophysical surveys, which was achieved through participation on the surveys and through a week-long course held at Verulamium, the Roman city at St Albans. In order to maintain the momentum of the project, the project partners are setting up a new cross-society group, *Community Archaeology Geophysics Group*, which will aim to coordinate the survey work of the various societies and build on the collaboration created by the project.

For more information:
hertsgeosurvey.wordpress.com



“I greatly enjoyed the course and I felt it was very well pitched towards the needs of ‘amateur’ archaeologists and local societies. The tutors and the taught sections of the course were excellent but the best bit was having the opportunity for practical hands-on experience of a wide variety of techniques.”

MIKE SMITH Wheathampstead History Society



Community Volunteers and Project Staff at Bennachie Landscapes Project. Image: The University of Aberdeen.

Cardiff University

Digging Caerau (CAER Heritage Project) Dr David Wyatt

Over the summer of 2013 community members and schoolchildren from West Cardiff worked alongside archaeologists to uncover the secrets of one of Wales' significant historical sites, Caerau Hillfort. Digging Caerau's mission is to help the people of Caerau and Ely to connect with this site's fascinating past and make it relevant to the present. From the outset the project's key objectives have been to put local people at the cutting-edge of archaeological research, to develop educational opportunities and to challenge stigmas and unfounded stereotypes ascribed to this part of Cardiff.

Alongside the Digging Caerau project, the HEART of Cardiff Project is working with local community groups to design, develop and establish a circular heritage trail



“Thanks to Digging Caerau literally hundreds of local people have visited the site and have dug together, learned new skills, shared local knowledge, and have celebrated together. We have found new pride in the history of our community, and have been inspired to continue building community for the future.”

DAVE HORTON

Community Development Worker, Action Caerau Ely ACE

around the Ely and Caerau district connecting the Caerau hillfort site and the nearby National History Museum at St Fagans. Digging Caerau and HEART of Cardiff have also run in synergy with Action Caerau & Ely's All Our Stories HLF Funded *Pathway to the Past* which has involved local young people and residents in the creation of a heritage trail across Caerau Iron Age hillfort.



The CAER project roadshow at Ely Festival where local residents of all ages offered the HEART of Cardiff team advice on routes, important way-marks and local stories. Image: Cardiff University.

The University of Nottingham

Trade and Transport on the Trent, 1850-1970
Dr Richard A Gaunt

This project uses relevant records, photographs, memorabilia and oral history reminiscences to explore the history of the River Trent and associated canals in the post-railway age. The project team looked at life on board boats on the river and canals and life ashore in riverside communities whose economy depended on proximity to a major commercial waterway. It is working closely with the Newark Heritage Barge which restored a former working barge, 'The Leicester Trade', as a floating museum dedicated to the subject. A series of discussion workshops on board the barge, involving members of the two partner organisations and representatives of local historical groups and special interest organisations, is helping to determine the content of the book which will be displayed on board 'The Leicester Trader.'



“The skills which University History staff bring to this project complement those of our own members and we are delighted to be working them towards creating a floating heritage centre for the Trent.”

LES REID

The Newark Heritage Barge CIO Project Manager



The Leicester Trader. Image: Newark Heritage Barge Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Image: The University of Nottingham.

University of Sheffield

Transmitting Musical Heritage
Dr Kate Pahl

The Transmitting Musical Heritage team worked with three organisations that represent the range of musical experience occurring in Sheffield including refugee musicians, long term residents with roots elsewhere and indigenous traditions. Alongside the University of Sheffield staff, members of these organisations worked on their practice and produce work that contributes to and draws on the developing understandings of music as a cultural product of society. The award enabled the team to transfer the site of research to the spaces of their community partners, and their reflections and co-analysis form the basis of the project team's findings.

“I think the fact that we have to feedback and reflect on it is actually, in some way, a bit of a privilege because I don't think you necessarily get that as musicians”

NANCY KERR Community partner



Jaheda Choudhury and Vanessa Rani (Declaration Kriol). Image: Aysegül Thornett.

University of Ulster

*Heritage, Community and Sustainability:
Researching the Later Historical Archaeology of
Colonsay*
Dr Colin Breen

This project brought together academic archaeologists, heritage professionals and the Colonsay & Oronsay Heritage Trust to conduct research into the late medieval archaeology and cultural landscape of Colonsay, which was a time of social change and conflict in Western Scotland and Ulster that led to the effective collapse of the medieval Gaelic Order and marked the transition of society into the early modern period. Community partners took an active role in designing and delivering a programme of archaeological survey and investigation and producing project outcomes. The archaeological findings have illustrated the changing nature of society and landscape on the island and across the region and

highlighted the wealth of surviving evidence from this period.

This project built upon the network of researchers, community groups and schools in Ulster and Argyll developed in Research for Community Heritage project *Community-led Heritage Knowledge Co-Production for Sustainable Development: community archaeology in Ulster and the Western Isles of Scotland* and Research for Community Heritage *All Our Stories Ulster and Western Scotland; Follow-up funding for community heritage research*.

“To be able to draw on professional expertise has been invaluable. Our relationship with the research team has given everyone so much more confidence; confidence in the value of our heritage and confidence in our own achievements; a belief that what we are doing is worthwhile.”

CAROL MCNEILL

Member of Colonsay and Oronsay Heritage Trust



Members of the Colonsay and Oronsay Heritage Trust excavating the foundations of a 19th-century fisher cottage that underlies their visitor centre on Colonsay. Image: University of Ulster.



“The combination of the link-up with the Heritage Lottery Fund and the funding provided by the AHRC meant that we could devise and provide advice, support and training for community researchers that would not otherwise have been funded. These activities raised our profile among community heritage and archaeology groups in the region and sparked further funded projects (one ‘follow-on’ project and two co-production projects). We hope that these beginnings will lay the foundation for a sustainable framework within which academic and volunteer researchers will continue to exchange expertise and enhance each other’s efforts.”

PROFESSOR ELIZABETH HARVEY University of Nottingham, Writing Our History and Digging Our Past: Enhancing and Expanding Community History and Archaeology Through Academic Engagement



“This AHRC Award has been instrumental in developing the Digital Building Heritage Group’s capacity to assist community heritage groups and other members of the public working with historic buildings. Not only has it allowed equipment and personnel to be dedicated specifically to engagement with Heritage Lottery Funded partners but it has encouraged a range of other, secondary initiatives both within De Montfort University and in the wider Heritage Community which engage with, preserve and enhance public understanding of the historic environment.”

DR DOUGLAS CAWTHORNE De Montfort University, Digital Building Heritage Phase II



“The University of Lincoln is committed to community participation and engagement and the ‘Telling our Stories’ project has served to consolidate this in a very direct and practical fashion. By virtue of AHRC and HLF working together under the Connected Communities research programme, intensive and formal partnerships have been brought about which were unlikely to have occurred naturally. We anticipate that these relationships will develop further and will be sustained beyond the lifetime of this AHRC project, thereby fostering community engagement with the University in an ongoing fashion.”

DR LESLIE HICKS University of Lincoln, ‘Telling Our Stories’, support for HLF funded community groups, provided by the ‘Looking Back for the Future’ team

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