



Oral History Society newsletter

Summer 2012

Oral History Society annual conference

Displaced childhoods: Oral history and traumatic experiences

Booking is now open for this exciting conference, which will showcase how oral history is increasingly being used to explore the effects on children and their adult selves of traumatic events such as war, evacuation, conflict and growing up in care. We have a diverse line up of speakers from both the UK and overseas, presenting papers on a range of topics around displaced childhoods. The conference will be of interest to all those working in the field of oral history, as papers will also look at methodological and ethical issues.

Key themes of the conference:

- Internal migration and the global movement of children from Spain, India, the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda
- The 'Forgotten Children' forcibly migrated to Australia
- Childhood experience of civil disasters
- The effects of growing up in care and long-term hospitalisation
- The development of therapeutic environments for children and young people with emotional, social and behavioural disorders



Keynote speakers are: Dr Joanna Sassoon, project manager of the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project at the National Library of Australia; and Professor Lynn Abrams, author of *The Orphan Country: Children of Scotland's Broken Homes* and *Oral History Theory*

The conference is taking place at Southampton Solent University – apologies for the change of venue but various administrative issues meant that the previous venue was no longer suitable.

As well as commemorating the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, Southampton is also marking the 75th anniversary of the arrival of Los Niños, Basque children who fled the Spanish Civil War. An oral history of Los Niños is being published this year as a book and the project will be discussed at the conference. For more information on booking and registering go to www.ohs.org.uk/conferences/2012.php

An A4 copy of the poster forms the last page of this newsletter. Please display it in your workplace if applicable. Thank you!

New Heritage Lottery Fund programme to give away £1m

In April the Heritage Lottery Fund launched a new funding programme, All Our Stories. The £1m fund will provide grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 to community groups, heritage organisations and charities who want to find out more about their local area. The fund is being launched to coincide with a BBC programme, The Great British Story – A People's History. The deadline for applications is 31st July. For more information go to www.hlf.org.uk/news/Pages/AllOurStories.aspx

The Listening Project

The BBC has launched a website to accompany the Listening Project. The programmes are short snippets of conversation between close friends and relatives, intended to create a picture of Britain today. Anyone can record a conversation, some of which will be broadcast on Radio 4 and archived by the British Library. To learn more go to: www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/the-listening-project

Archive on 4: the Great Listener

In this Radio 4 documentary Alan Dein, oral historian and radio documentary maker, tracks down some of the people interviewed by Tony Parker, a ground-breaking and pioneering oral historian. The programme aired on 12th May but is still available on the Radio 4 website. You can also hear Alan's series Lives in a Landscape, documentaries about contemporary life in the UK, on Wednesday mornings at 11am until May 22nd. To listen to either Lives in a Landscape or Archive on 4 go to www.bbc.co.uk/radio4

Regional networkers' annual event – November 9th and 10th

All regional networkers are invited to this year's annual event to be held at the University of Leicester. This is a great opportunity to catch up with other networkers and offer and receive support. It includes a session on continuous professional development. This year's theme is Celebrating Anniversaries Using Oral History and we would love to hear your ideas on what to include in the programme.

The night before the event there is a business meeting at 6pm, followed by an evening meal which all networkers are welcome to attend. More details will be sent out in the autumn. Networkers without institutional support can claim the cost of travel and accommodation.

Contact Juliana Vandegrift to submit programme ideas or for more information:

juliana.vandegrift@btinternet.com

Oral history and labour history

Thirty people met at the Bishopsgate Institute on March 24th to discuss oral history and labour history. The symposium, organised by oral history project Britain at Work, showed that there is a great deal going on across the UK and interest in a follow-up event. Join the email discussion group at: oralhistory-subscribe@yahoo.com

Reminiscence Theatre Archive launch

The Reminiscence Theatre Archive of Pam Schweitzer is now at the University of Greenwich. Between 1983 and 2005 Age Exchange Theatre generated oral history interviews, transcripts, correspondence, show reports, photographs and play scripts. From these, students performed 10-minute plays at the launch on 5th May. For more information contact Heather Lilley lh23@gre.ac.uk

Writers needed

History Workshop Online (www.historyworkshop.org.uk) is seeking contributions to its online content in the form of articles, reviews and submissions to its Radical Objects section. Articles need to be around 1000-1500 words long and ideally accompanied by copyright-friendly images. The site, which describes itself as a forum, laboratory and virtual coffeehouse devoted to the practice of radical history, will also publicise relevant events and notices. Contact Lorna Richardson for further information or to post a notice: lorna@historyworkshop.org.uk

If you have any news items please email annecgulland@yahoo.co.uk You can find the OHS on Facebook, follow us on Twitter [@OralHistorySoc](https://twitter.com/OralHistorySoc) or visit our website: www.ohs.org.uk