

Environment and Climate Change Special Interest Group

Webinar series - #2: Action-Local / Action-Global

Throughout this year we are showcasing a selection of inspiring projects from the Environment and Climate Change SIG. These online events offer an informative window which will enable an introductory look at some of the projects and will also bring together other members of the Oral History Society with an interest in issues related to the environment and climate change.

**YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO OUR NEXT EVENT,
WHICH IS UNDERPINNED BY THE IDEA OF 'ACTION'**

There will be 3 short presentations and the opportunity for discussion of each of them.

28th April at 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm GMT

Our three presenters are:



Jude Allen, 'Soil Voices'

Soil Voices is a new project that documents and examines literary and other narrative representations of relationships between humans and the soil.

We are collecting and curating oral and written accounts of people's individual soil experiences, to include farming and gardening practices, childhood memories, and emotional responses to the soil, exploring how cultural narratives have shaped and continue to shape our attitudes to and understanding of soil.

Jude Allen has a PhD in Human/Animal Metamorphosis in C20th Literature, and a background in both Ecocriticism and the representation of the body. She introduced and curated the Written Word day at the Soil Culture Forum in 2014. She has extensively researched soil and Literature and has published articles on animal transformation and tree communication.

Shelley Trower, 'Libraries, Reading and Environmental Action'

Over the course of our oral history project, Living Libraries, we came to see public libraries as having great potential for supporting environmental action, from their providing of educational information to hosting activist group discussions to getting "greener" themselves. We selected the role of public libraries in 'contributing to a sustainable future' as one of the four strands to discuss in our 'policy pack' (www.livinglibraries.uk/policy-pack). In this short presentation I'd like to talk about my hopes for an oral history project to further the investigation and advocacy of public libraries as spaces that can inform, support, and even mobilise communities in taking environmental action on local, national, and even international scales. As part of that I am also keen to use oral histories to examine what kinds might help to (de)motivate environmental action, which might range from animal books in childhood and nature writing to activist writing such as Klein's *This Changes Everything* and works by Thunberg and other young activists, and apocalyptic dystopias.

Shelley Trower is active on a range of issues relating to the environmental and climate crises. Related publications and activities span from *Place, Writing, and Voice in Oral History* (2011) and *Rocks of Nation* (2015) to her most recent AHRC-funded project, *Living Libraries* (2019-2020)



Sep 16, 2020

The case for public libraries: Contributing to a sustainable future



Craig Fees, Oral History Projects I'd like to see someone do: 'Knitting, Knitting, Litter-picking: Hidden histories and discarded mysteries'

An introduction to litter and litter-picking in the English countryside, with a plea for the role that oral history can play in raising self-awareness, knowledge and understanding of an historically recent phenomenon in which care and the relationship to the environment intersect uniquely with community building and affirming processes. A world in which the destruction of fertility in the soils sits side by side with lost treasures from the 1950s; where off-flung undergarments and the history of changing land use sit alongside forgotten automobile accidents left-behind in the archaeological record, and the stories of long-dead old boys who snuck out of their houses to drink in their cars parked alongside the road. With a possible leap into a river filled with bottles and bones and other waste of a rural world and avoiding too many encounters with tossed and abandoned dog-poo bags: markers of a fascinating paradox in civic/ecological awareness. This really needs to be recorded.

Craig Fees is an Honorary Research Fellow in the History of Medicine at the University of Birmingham; course author and tutor in Oral History in the Centre for Archive and Information Studies at the University of Dundee; a Trustee of the Oral History Society with a special role working with and for Special Interest Groups; a Regional Networker; and a British Library National Life Stories/Oral History Society trainer.

PLEASE EMAIL RIB DAVIS FOR LINK TO JOIN rib.s.davis@gmail.com You will then receive the link the day before the seminar.