

Oral History Society Regional Network

Annual Report
and Event 2011

Contents

Annual Report and Event 2011	3
Developing the Network	3
Oral History Website and Yahoo Groups Site	4
Reports from the regions	6
East of England	6
East Midlands	8
London	13
North East	18
North West	21
South East	24
South West	29
West Midlands	33
Yorkshire	36
Scotland	38
OHS Conference 2012	42
Regional Network representatives	43
Network Minutes 2010	48
Network event programme 2011	53

Annual Network Report and Event 2010

Welcome

Welcome to the Annual Network Report for 2011, and thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to it. This year we're trying a new format with columns, similar to the same formatting as the OHS Journal.

The theme of our annual Regional Network event started out as 'Suffolk, East Anglia and oral tradition' and we have a wide variety of people presenting from Suffolk folk singers, the Broadside Boys, to local archivists talking about the dialect in our region. The programme for the Friday night business meeting and Saturday is attached at the end of this report.

The History Department of the new University Campus Suffolk (UCS) has very kindly offered to act as our venue host for the Saturday event. We also have half a dozen local OHS members exhibiting their work for the afternoon session which will be followed by a discussion session facilitated by Graham Smith. I've also attached an information sheet with an outline of our local members' work for the event.

In addition to this session Graham Smith is going to chair a second session: 'The Making of Oral History'

http://www.history.ac.uk/makinghistory/resources/articles/oral_history.html

Graham will talk about 'The Making of Oral History', a subject he writes about in his article published by the Institute of Historical Research (listed above). A discussion and debate is welcomed by all on the subject. Please see the event's programme for further detail.

Just to remind you that the OHS will cover the travel and accommodation expenses of Networkers who are not funded by their institutions, but cannot pay those of non-Networkers who may attend with you. Claim forms will be available at the Saturday event.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Network in the past year in the many varied & creative ways that we all do.

Juliana Vandegrift, Regional Network Co-ordinator

Developing the Network

Developing the Network

The Network this year has remained fairly consistent with minimal change. In the summer we welcomed Alison Burgess to the Network (Dumfries & Galloway).

Other changes are Fiona Cosson has moved temporarily to Lancashire so will cover that area for 6-12th months and Verusca Calabria has decided to leave the Network in order to follow her projects abroad. She will remain a trustee of the OHS and the virtual yahoo group. Thank you so much Verusca for everything you've done for the London Network over the years.

Finally, in terms of developing the Network the OHS has introduced new links and web pages for its OHS members which you might like to promote in your regions to our members. Firstly, there is now a space on the OHS website for its members to post project examples and case studies: <http://www.ohs.org.uk/cases/index.php>

Secondly, there is the new [Oral History Noticeboard](#) developed by Fiona Cosson. A really useful point of information for all things related to oral history & events.

Thirdly, the CPD oral history workshops have been established in some regions and Mary Stewart will be talking about these at our event. Any Networker can take up the baton to facilitate one of these workshops and, based on current feedback, our members found them extremely worthwhile.

Finally, as in previous years the OHS Committee funds a limited bursary scheme to enable Networkers without institutional support to carry out activities to support their Continuing Professional Development. The next application deadline for this is 1 December 2011. Please contact me for more details.

Juliana Vandegrift

Oral History Society Website and Yahoo Groups site

The Oral History Society Virtual Network has a web-area on the Yahoo Groups site where Regional Networkers can access not only archived messages but files posted onto the site – including this Annual Report. If you don't already have access to this, follow the instructions below:

Accessing Files/uploaded material on this email group's Yahoogroups web-area.

- 1) What happens when you click on (or cut and paste into your browser window) <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/oral-history-network/files/> ?
 - a) You get right in, and see a list of files. You're in, these instructions are not for you!
 - b) You get a bumptious Yahoo! sign-in page. Sign in and try again.
- 2) If you don't have a Yahoo! ID to sign in with: Suspend disbelief, read 'Signing up is easy', and click on the link. Jump through the hoops. Billions of people around the world have already done it, so it must be possible.

- 3) Try again. The combination of a Yahoo! I.D. and email-address membership of the oral-history-network email group should be enough to get you in to the files, and you should be able to download or upload as you please - even bits of audio file, if you wish.
- 4) If you've done all that, and still can't get to the Files, then get in touch with me directly at craig@pettarchiv.org.uk.

Craig Fees

Reports from the Regions

East of England

Bedfordshire by (Carmela Semeraro)

A big hurrah! After nearly 100 years, Bedfordshire & Luton Archive Service have accepted the first complete digital Sound collection of oral history recordings, from the "Sands of Time" project about Leighton Buzzard's Sand industry, with associated digital photographs, transcripts, summaries and related historical documents which I collected for the Greensand Trust, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This makes me very happy because finally all the "Sands of Time" material will be available world-wide on the net at www.bedford.gov.uk/archive

My part-time work at Cecil Higgins Art Gallery & Bedford Museum as Community Historian for the Audience Development Project, funded by HLF, is taking me in all sorts of different directions to establish partnerships, including some hard-to-reach groups to promote inclusion through Oral History. Here are just some examples:

- Contributed with Bedford Central Library & Team of Volunteers to the "High Street" BBC project. Sound extract from interviews on Blog on: www.bedfordmuseum.org
- Kempston History Society, charting the development of an ancient, Saxon settlement. Interviews with members about their research will be collected and archived at the Museum.

- Bedford Retirement Education Centre's collection of life stories from participants of the 'writing biography' course.
- Sheltered Homes snapshots of memories from people on the edge of dementia to be published with their photographs.
- Bedfordshire Carers organising Art & Photography classes culminating in an end of term exhibition of work from Family Carers, who also participate with their life story to our collection of archived digital interviews.
- Bedford African and Caribbean group: BACF Commonwealth Connection Project enabling young people to learn about their origins and to take an active part in community life by doing oral history interviews to be deposited with Bedford Museum.

My role is to support and train diverse groups to do interviews enabling us to add to the archive collection of oral history interviews, covering multiple aspects of the social history of the Bedford and its surrounding villages from agriculture to the industrial past to present present-day work. Some of the material will be used in future exhibitions for the opening of the refurbished Cecil Higgins Art Gallery & Bedford Museum. An exhibition in the "Peoples Gallery" will reflect on the multicultural profile of Bedford Borough.

Norfolk (Jonathan Draper)

The Norfolk Sound Archive, which forms part of the Norfolk Record

Office, has continued to work with several groups and individuals who are carrying out oral history project work throughout the county. A lot of the support relates to equipment, permission forms and basic interviewing technique. Many of these partnerships have led to the deposit of recordings with the Norfolk Sound Archive.

A colleague within the Norfolk Record Office has begun interviewing members of the Jarrold family to compliment a project to catalogue the records of Jarrold and Sons Ltd, printers, publishers and retailers of Norwich. I have continued to advise True's Yard Museum in King's Lynn on oral history matters. We have helped Gressenhall Workhouse and Farm Museum with a new permanent exhibition on the Land Army and Timber Corps which is based on oral history recordings. We have given basic advice to a team of students at the University of East Anglia who are interviewing people regarding care of the elderly in Norfolk. Other groups which I have helped include the Dragon Hall King Street Community Voices project, which is based in Norwich; West Somerton History Group; a local history group in Happisburgh supported by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology's Coastal Heritage Project; the Barton Turf, Irstead and Neatishead oral history group; and representatives from the Little Ouse Headwaters project.

On-going work which the Norfolk Sound Archive supports includes the work of Norwich Living History group, the Wise Archive and the Great Yarmouth Voices Project.

Suffolk (Juliana Vandegrift)

Similarly to other posts in this report, I too have had several

enquiries during the past year on how to put a funding proposal together for HLF oral history projects - or sections of a HLF project requiring an oral history element - for projects involving schools and volunteers in the community. Of half a dozen enquiries I've had one group respond with feedback of successful funding.

During the past twelve months there have been a several requests to deliver training courses on how to do oral history which have been spread across Norfolk and Suffolk.

One of the new Continuing Professional Development Workshops for oral historians was delivered in July at the University Campus Suffolk (UCS) and there was a keen interest to hold another one in the Spring.

And for my own personal projects I've delivered nearly 40 interviews for Cambridge University Press with former employees of the last fifty years of so. The recordings are for their own archive and corporate museum which is launched this autumn. It's hoped that a second phase will go ahead next year after April, depending on budget approval.

Essex (Martin Astell)

This year has seen sterling work carried out by Colchester Recalled volunteers in digitising their many cassette tapes. It is expected that all of the recordings - well over 2,000 of them - will be digitised by the early part of 2012. In addition, they are hoping to complete the task of creating word processed summaries

for all of the tapes in the summer of 2012.

Thanks to a grant of £48,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Essex Record Office and Essex County Council Libraries have been able to support volunteer groups in Wickford, Hadleigh and Thundersley, Billericay, Benfleet, Laindon and Rochford District as they set up 'Community Archives'. After many months of hard work, each of the six groups now has an attractive and fully functioning website. The websites have had visits from people across the world, some of whom grew up in south Essex but have since moved on. Part of the project involved members from each of the groups receiving training in oral history techniques and procedures. As you would expect with groups of volunteers, some have taken to it more than others. Members from the Hadleigh and Thundersley group have used what they learnt to contribute a number of interviews to the MLA's *People's Record* project. These recorded local people's views on the London 2012 Olympics mountain biking event which is to take place in Hadleigh.

The Essex Media Workshop has completed an HLF- funded project to gather testimony relating to the Home Guard and Civil Defence during the Second World War. The project has resulted in a DVD entitled *Defence of the Home Front*. This is a follow-up to their previous project which produced a DVD called *Those Blessed Girls* featuring former members of the Women's Land Army.

Another impressive DVD – *Colne Maritime* – has been produced by the Colne Oral History Group. It uses a combination of oral history interviews on video, archive photographs and specially filmed video sequences to tell the stories of boat building, fishing

and yachting in Brightlingsea and Rowhedge in the River Colne estuary. In addition to the main feature, it includes additional extended sections and a separate short film on the almost forgotten art of Punt Gunning. The DVD is an Ariège Arts Production for the Colne Oral History Group Project.

The Essex Sound and Video Archive has received oral history recordings from Elsenham Village History Society and a project led by the sound artist Damien Robinson at Southend High School for Girls. We are also providing assistance to the Silver End Heritage Society which is in the early stages of planning a project to record residents of the art deco model village built by the businessman Francis Crittall

East Midlands

Leicestershire & Rutland (Cynthia Brown & Colin Hyde)

A major development this year has been the relocation of the British Library Theatre Archive Project to De Montfort University in Leicester. The project's physical archive has been transferred from the University of Sheffield to a new dedicated area in the University's Kimberlin Library, giving scope to expand the collection and eventually make some of it available for public access. The project now aims to explore historical and contemporary theatre in Leicester, building on links between the University and Leicester's Curve theatre. This strand is being developed by Gary Day, in the University's Department of English and Creative Writing. See the website at www.bl.uk/theatrchive for more information.

Colin Hyde at the East Midlands Oral History Archive (EMOHA) continues to be involved in a number of projects in

Leicestershire and Rutland, as well as more widely around the region. One example of the latter is 'Migration Stories: making a home in the East Midlands', which enables a wide variety of groups and communities who have moved into the East Midlands since the end of the Second World War to record their stories of settling in the East Midlands and add them to a website and exhibitions. This is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Renaissance East Midlands and Igniting Ambition, and is providing recording equipment and training in how to use it and carry out interviews. Groups involved in the project include the Nottingham Chinese Welfare Association, and the Friends of Thringstone, a former mining village in Leicestershire, who have recorded interviews with coal miners who moved there from Scotland and the North East of England in the 1960s. The project will continue until 2012.

EMOHA is also involved in a new digital collection of local history resources relating to Leicestershire. The 'My Leicestershire' Digital Archive has been funded by JISC (a committee of the higher education funding councils) to create a digital collection of local history resources relating to Leicestershire including oral history interviews, historical films, rare books, historical directories and photographs. The project is a collaborative effort between the University Library, the East Midlands Oral History Archive, the Media Archive for Central England and a number of local history organisations. Recent additions include a film showing Leicestershire framework knitter Martin Green at work in his workshop. Martin is probably the last framework knitter still working commercially in Leicestershire, making and selling shawls and wraps. A new 'Villages Voices' project on accent and dialect in Leicestershire

and Rutland villages has also been launched recently, bringing together EMOHA, the University of Leicester and the Heritage Warden scheme operated by Leicestershire County Council. The project will run from June 2011 to January 2012, and aims to answer such questions as 'how important is the local/regional accent and dialect to village inhabitants today?'. Using word lists and a given text, the project will collect audio samples of accents and dialect from different generations, as well as investigating residents' own perceptions of these. The results will be showcased in 2012 and ultimately form part of a corpus of East Midlands English to be created at the University of Leicester.

Two county museums have recently completed new work on their oral history collections. Harborough Museum has produced an audio guide to the museum to supplement its displays, using extracts from the 200 hours of interviews in its collections. Most of these recorded memories cover the period from the early 1900s, but some stretch back into the 19th century. They include a number of women who worked in the former Symington corset factory in whose building the museum is housed, and part of an interview with Fred Tufts, a First World War veteran, about his experiences on the western front. The oral history collection is available for listening at Harborough Museum by appointment (01858 821085, email HarboroughMuseum@leics.gov.uk). Oral history interviews from the Melton Carnegie Museum's 'Taking Part' project on amateur and professional sport in the Borough of Melton are also available now for listening by appointment at the museum (01664 569946, email meltonmuseum@leics.gov.uk). These include interviews with the secretary of Asfordby Amateurs Ladies & Girls

Football Club, members of table tennis, indoor bowls and fencing clubs, the Chairman of Melton Hunt Club, and Robin Bailey, a conker player who has competed at the World Championship. More interviews will be added in the lead up to the 2012 Olympics.

July saw EMOHA host an enjoyable oral history day on the subject of 'Interviewing'. Projects completed recently include the Leicester Oral History Trail and the My Leicestershire website, which features over 100 interviews from the Leicester Oral History Archive and 100 programmes from the Radio Leicester collection. Ongoing projects at EMOHA include an oral history of Leicester's LGBT communities, Migration Stories, and a project with the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland to celebrate 90 years of the British Legion. Future projects include a British Academy funded project which will use EMOHA's collections to investigate local dialect and a project with Leicestershire County Council which will record new examples of local dialect. Also, we have completed digitising recordings from the family of Leicester playwright Joe Orton and have, in the process, found a few interviews about Tony Hancock with people who knew him, such as Kenneth Williams.

Northamptonshire (Fiona Cosson)

Over the past year I have been involved in work mainly beyond the borders of Northamptonshire and the East Midlands. As a network representative, I have provided my thoughts and guidance to queries from a range of people and places, including Grimbsy Town Football Club, Irish Arts Foundation in Leeds, and

The Federation of Stadium Communities.

Earlier this year, I finished work on *Between the Locks*, a two-year intergenerational oral history project which recorded the experiences and memories of people who lived and worked on the upper tidal Thames. Between 2009 and 2010, eleven students from Christ's School in Richmond recorded the memories of this 'river community' between Richmond and Teddington. As well as recording the testimonies of those working on the River, the students were trained in oral history interview technique and 'river skills' such as rowing, boat-building, lock-keeping and willow-spiling. The recorded testimonies were brought alive through a travelling exhibition and accompanying film. A selection of interview clips is now on YouTube; just search for *between the locks*.

In April 2011, I set up *The Oral History Noticeboard: A noticeboard for Oral History in the UK* (<http://oralhistorynoticeboard.wordpress.com>). It's a blog-style noticeboard for oral history news and views. The Noticeboard is for anyone working with, or with an interest in, oral history in the UK. It covers items and issues in both community/local level oral history and oral history in an academic setting. The idea of this blog is that it is open to everyone to post their oral history stuff, like a noticeboard. If you have something to post and share, you can simply be added as a user and you can post your stuff whenever you like; otherwise, we can post on your behalf. You can now find the Noticeboard linked from the Oral History Society's web homepage and the blogposts on the Society's Facebook page.

This summer I helped to convene The Oral History Workshop, an oral history speaker seminar and discussion forum which meets at Bishopsgate Institute, London. In August, we enjoyed talks from Owen Collins (University of East London) on 'George Ewart Evans and the roots of oral history in Britain' and Hilary Young (Museum of London) on 'Old Guard v New Recruits: The Open University Oral History Project'. We hope to hold another Workshop during the winter, so watch this space!

I'm currently acting as Project Evaluator for Clarets Creative, 'a community organisation being creative about preserving stories and memories of Burnley Football Club' (see <http://www.claretscreative.com/>), whilst also completing my PhD at the University of Northampton, where I am undertaking research into the history of a 'sense of community using oral testimony.

From October 2011, I will be moving to Lancashire and I look forward to continuing as a Network Representative for the North West!

Nottinghamshire (Christina Raven-Conn)

The Local Studies section of Nottingham Central Library continues to support local projects, mainly with advice. We are also happy to receive copies of oral history from local Nottingham and Nottinghamshire projects for archiving and copies for the library's collection where possible.

Upper Broughton project: *Where do we Think we Live?*

The Upper Broughton History Group has been running successfully for 8 years, mainly providing stimulating historical entertainment in the form of

talks and guided visits, but also publicising other local history events and encouraging involvement.

Recently we have become aware that over 80% of the households in the village have moved in over the last 25 years and have little knowledge of significant events in the earlier life of Upper Broughton, many of these families remain outside the more active village community. We are also aware of a need to capture the changes in village life before they are lost to new generations. The project we have designed, and which has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant of £14,900, hopes to enthuse some of these newer families about history that touches their own houses or past generations of neighbours and aims to encourage them to feel a greater involvement with and understanding of the community.

We plan to provide training for volunteers, from the East Midlands Oral History Archive, in the techniques of oral history and then to interview as many people as we can find who have memories of the village in the first part of the 20th Century. We are structuring our interviews around the themes of; The War, Farming, School, Trades and Crafts and Enjoying Yourself and will be using images from an existing archive of photographs as triggers for discussion.

The theme of The War will also be explored through a Question and Answer session at the local Primary School between their pupils and some of our older residents, material from this will be developed into an Education Resource for the school to keep.

When we have processed the recordings we will use them alongside the photographs in an Exhibition in the Village Hall which we hope all

villagers will support, and which will of course also be open to visitors.

Later we plan to set up a History Group Website so that extracts from the recordings can be made available to a world-wide audience.

Lastly we will use the information and views gained from the oral history recordings about three of our themes as starting points from which we will extend research back through the centuries. We aim to produce a deeper picture of Farming, Crafts and Trades and Enjoying Yourself as they were understood by people living in Upper Broughton as far back as the archives will allow.

Information provided by Catherine Jones, Project Leader

**'On the Flats' Hyson Green history project:
(www.hysongreenhistory.org)**

The *On the Flats'* project is being run by the Partnership Council, a community charity based in Radford. The Hyson Green flats were built in 1965 and demolished in 1988 to make way for new housing and the Asda supermarket that now stand on the site. They were a well-known landmark in their day and from talking to former residents, the project volunteers have found that many people really enjoyed living there. For example, several ex-residents have told us that the flats were home to a great deal of community spirit. The project has recently had a series of articles in the local newspaper *The Nottingham Post*

Currently there are a few local projects which are awaiting results of their bids to the HLF; they are as follows: -

The History of Radio in the East Midlands:

This project hopes to investigate the history of radio broadcasting in the East Midlands with the help of interested youngsters aged between 13-19 years. They hope to end up with an event/exhibition and oral history recordings, copies of which will be deposited with the local studies library for reference and for loan. They will learn how a broadcast is made and gain practical experience in a studio.

It is to be coordinated by the Notts WMCA.

The history of the Family First at The Croft, Nottingham in the 1960s and 1970s:

Now Heritage is a Community Interest company formed to carry out oral history projects by Barbara Reed, based in Nottingham and her daughter Emma Golby Kirk, who lives in Bristol and has previous experience in media and oral history work. They are putting in a bid to HLF to fund an oral history project about the history of the Family First, particularly at The Croft, Nottingham from 1966 to 1975 in the 1960s and 1970s. This large house in Alexandra Park could house eight women and their small children at any one time.

The project aims to interview the early members of staff of the Family First at the Croft. If successful with their bid and the project goes ahead they have asked to deposit the results of the project, particularly oral history recordings with the Local Studies library.

European Reminiscence Network (Pam Schweitzer)

During the year, I have responded to enquiries via the OHS website concerning life story and reminiscence work. This has been in three main areas: life story work with ethnic minority elders, life-story work with individuals and groups living with dementia, and theatre and visual arts-based reminiscence projects.

Specific projects which might interest readers are as follows:

Reminiscence in Dementia Care: India:

In autumn 2010 I was invited to India by the Alzheimers Society. My task was to introduce reminiscence work to staff, volunteers, people with dementia and family carers. Through training sessions for staff and volunteers, and practical workshops for families living with dementia in each city, I hoped to show how group reminiscence and individual life story work could increase communication, build identity and personalise care. My husband came with me (as a volunteer and photographer) as he has many years experience as a volunteer in the UK on the "Remembering Yesterday, Caring Today" projects for families living with dementia, which I have been running since 1997.

Over 3.7 million people currently have dementia in India. Families are the main carers and they need support. Most people with dementia live with their families and are cared for at home in large households with extended families and 75% of carers are women. These family care-givers receive no allowances. In the cities there is increasing demand for paid

carers, but currently there is no formal training programme for such workers. Formal short training programmes for these workers are very much needed. I gave practical workshops and illustrated lectures in Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Bangalore, with three or four events in each centre focusing on positive approaches to dementia care using life-story and reminiscence approaches, valuing the person and supporting the remaining key abilities and relationships. The response was very positive and the groups visited have incorporated regular reminiscence activity into their support programmes. There is an illustrated article on the outcomes of this visit in the September 2011 issue of the Journal of Dementia Care.

Life Story and Reminiscence Work in Dementia Care: London & Europe:

Also in autumn 2010, a new project of the European Reminiscence Network was launched entitled "Remembering Together: Reminiscence Training for families living with dementia". Partners in the Network from 10 EU countries UK (London and Northern Ireland, Netherlands, Finland, Spain, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ireland and Germany) are collaborating to introduce Life Story and Reminiscence work into dementia care. They are all following the same guidelines as published in the manual "Remembering Yesterday, Caring Today" (pub 2008 Jessica Kingsley Publishers) but adapting the ideas and exercises to suit local conditions and sensibilities.

The partners are funded to conduct two sets of reminiscence sessions with groups of up to 10 families tracing the life story and involving the participants in drama, music, dance, drawing and painting and other

creative activities. They are meeting 4 times in different participating countries to compare results and to produce a website sharing their experience.

I am co-ordinator of this project, but also have been initiating the London project element. Three projects have taken place since September 2010: one in Greenwich (in partnership with Oxleas NHS Trust), one in Westminster (in partnership with Westminster Arts) and one in Woolwich aimed at Asian elders and their relatives. All have involved creative artists working alongside health care professionals to support the families, with special focus on the enabling creative expression on the part of the people with dementia.

The Indian project was difficult from a language perspective as several Indian languages were spoken within the group. However, we had excellent support from Indian care staff and we employed a Bengali speaking artist on the project. She and the Indian group have collaborated to produce a beautiful wall-hanging which will be displayed in the day centre where they have their weekly meeting.

Incidentally this same "Remembering Yesterday, Caring Today" project has been subject of a research study supported by the National Institute of Health Research with 700 families involved and this study will report in November 2011. As consultant and trainer to this project, I have had to run a series of training courses, many in Greater London, for group leaders, health and social care staff and volunteers.

This last year, I have also been running reminiscence training sessions in London for Dementia UK and for the Reminiscence Network

Northern Ireland in four of their centres.

Learner Workshop for EU Lifelong Learning programme:

The European Reminiscence Network has just been funded to run a week-long workshop entitled "Year Ahead". This is a development of last years "Transitions in Later Life" workshop attended by 25 delegates from 13 countries.

The new project is now in preparation and will take place in London in spring 2012. This Learner Workshop aims to enable participants to undertake an informal life review and a forward planning exercise at a point of change in their lives. Participants may be coming towards the end of their working lives, or wishing to make significant changes, or have already started a new phase of their lives. In any case, they will have years ahead which need planning and this planning needs to take account of their past work and life experience.

The workshop will use creative reminiscence and life review exercises to reflect on our life journeys to date, and will use theatre-based exercises to envision the futures we hope for. Working in small groups and as a whole group we shall test these creative approaches and consider their effectiveness in enabling us to manage change at a personal, psychological and social level. The workshop will be led by reminiscence and theatre practitioners and psychologists with experience in the field. We shall present a written documentation of the processes undertaken, with a view to testing them more widely with groups in our own countries.

Archiving tapes, transcripts, play-scripts, images and related material:

I have been in discussion with several agencies regarding archiving material relating to the first 20 years of Age Exchange Theatre Trust's work. London Museum, V & A, Greenwich University, Rose Bruford College and Keele University have all been most helpful. I hope to resolve this matter in the coming year.

Writing:

This last year, 3 books have come out in which I have chapters:

- Bruce, E. & Schweitzer, P. *Working With Life History* in (ed. Downs, M. & Bowers, B.) *Excellence in Dementia Care*. Pub: McGraw Hill & Open University
- Schweitzer, P. *Experience Shared and Valued* in (ed. Bornat, J and Tetley, J.) (2010) *Oral History and Ageing*. Pub: Open University and CPA
- Schweitzer, P. *Innovative Approaches to Reminiscence* in (ed. Lee, H & Adams, T. (2011) *Creative Approaches in Dementia Care*. Pub: Palgrave Macmillan

Administrative support:

Finally, this last year I have been helped by Anna Kirow, a Polish assistant provided to support European projects through the European Commission who has played an active role in all projects and been a pleasure to work with.

Museum of London (Sarah Gudgin & Solomon Yohannes)

It's been a busy year with work underway on the Recorded Media Project, and preparations to upload oral history extracts from interviews in the oral history collections onto Collections Online, an ambitious project which will give greater access to all the Museum's collections available through the Museum's website.

<http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/Collections-Research/Collections-online/>

We have continued to build our oral history collection, with new interviews ranging from people talking about their experiences of being mixed race, interviewees with ex-employees of the printing and newspaper industry in Fleet Street, to interviews with people whose lives have been affected by the experiences of human trafficking and modern day slavery in London. ***We also conducted ten interviews with Portobello market traders and local residents to capture the market's history, its contribution to London and the challenges facing it currently.***

The Recorded Media Project

Last year work began on the Recorded Media Project which was funded by a grant from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. The project team has been busy ensuring that the Museum's oral history and film collections are being conserved and will be available in high quality digital versions for preservation purposes and lower quality versions for the purposes of access for the future.

Bill Lowry sound engineer and Hilary Young project assistant have assessed the extent and stability of the recorded media collections held between the Museum of London, London Wall and the Museum of London, Docklands. The Recorded

Media Project activities have included the digitisation of 1/3 of London History Workshop Sound and Video Archive audio cassettes and all mini discs held in the Museum's Core Collection. The cataloguing of all the Port and River Collection and 500 new records for the London History Workshop, with another 1000 about to be uploaded onto our Museum database. The new cataloguing profile which the project team developed for the oral history section of the Museum has made searching the digitised collections much easier. The team have also assessed the Museums Film and Video Collections (over 400 objects).

Funding for the project finished in May 2011, and since June 2011 the RMP team have been digitising and cataloguing the Sainsbury's Archive audio collection. In total: 17 reel to reels digitised; 607 cassettes digitised; 10 DATS digitised. The RMP team are about to digitise a small collection of reel-to-reel tapes for Royal Institute of British Architects for preservation and access. The team have also been researching commercial digital archive providers for disaster recovery solutions. Plans are underway for the Recorded Media Project to produce a Tool Kit for other organisation hoping to digitalise their collections.

Freedom From: modern slavery in the capital

This temporary exhibition which will run until 20 November 2011 at the Museum of London, is a partnership with Anti Slavery International and explores the personal impact of human trafficking and slavery in London in the 21st century. The exhibition features a series of large-scale commissioned photographs by Chris Steele Perkins which form the centre-piece of the exhibition,

alongside the personal stories of individuals who have survived trafficking, as well as those who are working in London to eradicate modern slavery in the capital. <http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/Corporate/Press-media/Press-releases/Freedom+from+modern+slavery+in+the+capital.htm>

Portobello Market oral history project

Collecting work on the Portobello Market oral history project is complete. The aim of the project was to collect oral histories of people who are directly or indirectly involved in the market, to capture the recent history of the market, its contribution to the economy and cultural life of London through the narration of individuals. The project recorded 10 new interviews with traders and buyers at one of the liveliest open markets in London and Europe as well as 40 minutes film footage of the market, a number of visitors were interviewed on the spot to highlight the reasons for their visit.

Mixed oral history project

The Mixed project recorded the experiences of 13 people of mixed or multiple heritage born since 1945. The project provided an opportunity to collect new material reflecting a growing shift in society and to consider how far this mirrored attitudes towards communities, race and identity, giving a voice to people of mixed or dual heritage whose stories are unrepresented in all the Museum of London's collections. The main focus of the project was the collection of personal narratives collected through the use oral history methods. In addition, participants donated personal photographs, ephemera, costume and personal belongings to the collection.

(Unfortunately Turquoise Association were unable to participate in the project as planned).

Other activities

The Oral History Department participated in an online workshop/introduction to Story Matters software hosted by Concordia's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling, March 2011. We highly recommend this innovative software, but have so far not managed to implement it into our own work.

The Museum continues to provide advice in response to a steady stream of enquiries from people from a range of backgrounds and sectors working on oral history collecting and display projects, as well as from an increasing number of students looking at oral history as part of museum studies and migration studies courses among others.

Other London projects (Verusca Calabria)

I returned from Asia to the UK in the spring of 2011. From May to July I have been collecting oral histories of former and current staff and students of the former Hatfield Polytechnic, now University of Hertfordshire, to inform a publication about the rich and varied history of the institution due to be published in September 2012. The digital audio interviews will form part of an oral history archive in the making at the University of Hertfordshire library.

In June/July 2011 I ran a number of oral history training days for *Hackney Voices*, an oral history project run by [Family Mosaics](http://www.familymosaic.co.uk) (www.familymosaic.co.uk), a supported housing scheme, to train volunteers with experience of the UK

mental health service to interview other service users from migrant communities in Hackney about their experiences of mental health and racism. The interviews will be included in an exhibition at Hackney Museum as part of Hackney's council's initiative [Mapping the Change](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/mapping-the-change.htm) (www.hackney.gov.uk/mapping-the-change.htm).

In July/August 2011 I have offered my oral history expertise to the [Photographers Gallery](http://www.photonet.org.uk) (www.photonet.org.uk); as part of their project *The World in London*, the gallery has commissioned 204 portraits of individuals from each nation represented in the Olympics who currently reside in London. The gallery is currently collecting some interviews of the 'sitters'; I designed an interview protocol around notions of identity and belonging and I carried out sample interviews and prepared audio clips for the projects' website. I am currently delivering some oral history training for a large group of volunteers who will conduct more interviews in conjunction with this exciting new project. The portraits will be unveiled to the public in 2012 in conjunction with the opening of the Olympics' games; the sound bites of the interviews will be used on the project's website.

Lastly, it is worth mentioning that I have been managing a 'members only' *Oral History Network* on the social network [LinkedIn](http://www.linkedin.com). The network was set up in October 2008 by fellow oral historian [Caspar Below](http://www.oralhistorymatters.co.uk) (www.oralhistorymatters.co.uk), and now there are 461 members from all over the world that actively engage in discussions relating to oral history. For more information and to send a request to join visit [LinkedIn](http://www.linkedin.com). (www.linkedin.com)

North East

County Durham (Sheila Forster)

North East Region

Our Town is an intergenerational project that sets out to explore the heritage, cultural traditions and social roots of Newton Aycliffe in County Durham. Founded in 1947 under the New Towns Act of 1946, Newton Aycliffe is the oldest new town in the north of England. The project will look particularly at the industrial heritage of the town and the changes it has seen over the years.

The project will offer young people opportunities to research and discover how the community has changed over the decades. They will also be able to focus on how the town's industry influenced socio-economic factors and demographic changes over the last 64 years, and how these impacted on communities. *Our Town* will bring together young people, adults and the elderly, oral historians, archivists, and a local community film company to establish a living memory for future generations. 10 young people will achieve Bronze Arts Award Level 1 qualification on the NVQ framework for film-making as well as receiving a reference and a certificate of attendance for their National Record of Achievement. (Brian Wise – Project Manager)

Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums (TWAM) 2010 saw the 150th anniversary of South Shields Museum & Art Gallery (built in 1860 as the South Shields Mechanics Institute, becoming the town's first free public library and museum in the 1870s). To celebrate this milestone a major exhibition, **History in the Making**, was staged at the museum, celebrating the history behind the building over the last century and a half. Adam Bell, TWAM Assistant

Keeper of Social History, interviewed library staff who had worked in the building prior to the library's move into new premises in 1976, discovering what it was like to work in South Shields Public Library in the 1950s through to the 1970s and recording interviewees' memories of other staff members, library users and working practices. Former curators and museum staff members from the post 1976 period were also interviewed, recording how the museum evolved up to the present day and, of course, the memories of the townsfolk of South Shields, who have used the building over the years, either in its days as a joint library and museum or latterly, as a dedicated museum & art gallery, were also captured. Excerpts from these oral history interviews were used in *History in the Making* via listening posts and as quotes on interpretation panels and object labels.

Other oral history interviews recently conducted at South Shields Museum include a number of interviews recording local people's memories of working at and enjoying the products of 'Wright's Biscuits Ltd.', once a prominent South Shields based employer. One interviewee, who had worked at Wright's in the late 1930s and 1940s, described how the factory was run during the 2nd World War, when the ovens operated 24 hours a day, producing biscuits for the armed forces. They even kept going through air raids. For their commitment to productivity and the war effort, each employee received a £1 bonus on VE Day.

At Discovery Museum in Newcastle upon Tyne, oral history recordings recently collected include interviews with Nissan employees about their working life; an interview with Lauren Luke – a well known South Shields girl made famous for posting make-up

tutorials on You Tube; and an interview with the designer of the 'Tyne bike' which was recently added to the TWAM collection. TWAM recently accepted a collection of oral history recordings from the Pakistan Cultural Society's Islamic Heritage project, and Sarah Cotton, TWAM Keeper of Contemporary Collecting, is hoping to do some oral histories as part of the forthcoming exhibition, **Something Old, Something New**, which takes a look at the history of weddings and wedding traditions.

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sarah.cotton@twmuseums.org.uk

Local Heroes Age UK County Durham continues its intergenerational work by funding oral history training for the Year 10 pupils of Parkside Sports College in Willington. The pupils are planning to produce a book and an exhibition based on the oral history interviews conducted with local heroes who live in their school's catchment area. For information on Age UK intergenerational projects visit www.countydurham-ig-network.org.uk

The Denes Oral History Project Groundwork North-East has received £37,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to make a film of the memories of the six parks that make up 'The Denes'. This project will compliment Darlington Council's successful HLF bid to make huge improvements to the parks which stretch across two wards in the town from North Road to Cockerton.

Groundwork and the Friends of the Denes will record people's memories and experiences of the Denes. Lisa Kwok, who is co-ordinating the project, said that it would create a variety of training opportunities and

teach volunteers new skills. After oral history training the volunteers will visit care homes, community centres and schools to gather memories. From the oral history recordings they will create a touring exhibition of the Brinkburn Denes which will visit local libraries, schools as well as the Darlington Railway Museum. Children from local primary schools will be invited to re-enact the memories for a DVD and a book and online blog will also be available at the end of the project.

Leadgate Through Time This was a project carried out with Year 1 pupils (age 5 and 6 years) of Leadgate Infants School, Leadgate History Group and Redwell Hills residential home. The children took part in supervised walks around the village of Leadgate, County Durham, comparing the appearance and uses of a number of buildings over three periods of time: the earliest for which records could be found; the 1960's; and the present day.

The children then explored the history of the buildings – and other memories of growing up in the area, with older people. The original idea had been to work with residents of Redwell Hills Care Home, but snow and severe weather conditions resulted in a change of plan. Instead grandparents, great-grandparents and other family members were invited into the school to discuss and explore changes over the years with the children.

The highlight of this charming intergenerational project was the interaction between the children and the older people. After some simple training in recording the children used special child-friendly microphones to record interviews about living and growing up in Leadgate with their parents, grand-parents and with other members of their school year. The

main impact of the project was that children and adults alike learnt new things about the history and heritage of their area and that the children were able to make connections between their own lives and those of their grandparents. The project also helped to strengthen links between the school and the local community. <http://www.durhamintime.org.uk/3G/index.htm>

Culture Shock! has become one of the largest digital storytelling projects in the world and has engaged with nearly 600 participants, who have created their own digital stories inspired by museum and gallery collections. All these digital stories have been accessioned into the museum collections as part of our contemporary collecting policy.

The digital stories are short, personal pieces of audio visual that people have made for themselves using photographs, sound, moving image or animation and each one usually lasts for about 2-3 minutes.

Whilst digital storytelling is distinct from oral history this project has built on and complements important oral history work undertaken by the project partners and other museums in the region.

For more information about the project and to see all the stories made you can visit our website - www.cultureshock.org.uk

The Middlesbrough 86 Project documents the history of Middlesbrough Football Club through oral recordings and the collection of people's memorabilia. The project examines the history of the club from its conception in 1886 to the present day, with a focused interest in the year of 1986 when the football club was saved from liquidation by a

consortium of business owners, including now Chairman and local self-made business man Steve Gibson.

People also have the opportunity to contribute audio, video and photographic memories, along with memorabilia, in order to establish a full sociological and historical picture. This will be hosted on a project website to be shared with the world and hard copies preserved for the future in Teesside Archives.

Beamish Museum (Jo Bath)

North East Labour History society are undertaking, in conjunction with the WEA, a heritage lottery funded project "Mapping Popular Politics". This has an archival strand, with volunteers searching archives and cataloging material, and also an oral history strand. Around 15 volunteers so far have been trained in interview technique and have begun to interview on popular politics in its widest sense, with early recordings coming from the history of the Co-op movement.

Tyne & Wear (Janette Hilton)

Living History (North East) Regional Oral History Centre

The 2011 Oral History Society Annual Conference, Creation, Destruction, and Memory:

Oral History and Regeneration took place at The University of Sunderland. This was the conference's first outing to the region and consequently a significant milestone for Living History (North East). Living History (North East) intend to build on this development and strengthen the regional network with a new programme of activities and meetings in the coming year. The conference raised the profile of oral history for the region.

A number of organisations have received HLF funding for projects and asked LHNE to support training and development of projects. These include;

Groundwork North East, which supports people and organisations to make changes to create better neighbourhoods, working with many projects in communities. One such project is Doxford Park; this project is based around a small park area in the west of the city. To compliment any restoration, memories are being collected through past gardeners and local people.

North East Civic Trust received training for staff to support project development across the region.

1960's Reminiscence Project. This project worked with young teenagers from an organisation known in the region as ESPA (Educational Services for People with Autism) and young people from Whitley Bay High School and older volunteers from Living History (North East). The project worked as an intergenerational project recording and developing memories from older volunteers of the 1960's. These memories were then developed by the students into a piece of reminiscence theatre that took place in a 1960's Home; re assembled in a grade I listed redundant church.

Oral History and Community History: An Outreach Project. This project has been funded through the Sunderland Local authority to support the development of oral history networks within the city. This was a response to the International conference of 2011. Funding was secured for the East and North sides of the city to work with 6 other groups to develop skills and resources for local communities. In addition a new loan system for equipment would be established to support recording oral histories at a local level. Living History (North East) is leading this project and hope to extend it to the West and the south of the city.

Seaburn and Roker. Sunderland City Council supported the development of a number of oral history recordings to support environmental developments and marketing of the areas of the seafront in Sunderland known as Seaburn and Roker.

DIG. I.T. Sunderland Heritage Forum. This HLF project was completed in August 2011.. The process, development and oral histories are compiled onto an edited DVD. Archive recordings were used to accompany the findings made on the archaeological dig, as an intact street was unearthed and was identified as an earlier street from a thriving community.

Remembering the Past Resourcing The Future

The latest theme that we are collecting material for is 'shops and shopping'.

Currently we are working with the members of the Live at Home Scheme in Hawkey's Lane Methodist Church to put together a picture of the shopping experience in North Shields in years gone by.

North West

Greater Manchester (Rosalyn Livshin)

In 2011 I delivered the OHS and the British Library training course on the *Introduction to Oral History*, which was held in the North West for the first time. The course was held at the University of Manchester in March and was fully attended by people from all over the North West. It is intended to

continue holding this introductory course in the North West.

Over the past year I have been contacted by a number of fledgling projects for advice. I have carried out training with a group in Chester who were focusing on the Chester Mystery Plays in their 'Sharing the Mystery' Project. This project aimed to interview people who had been involved in some way with the mystery plays either as participants or as part of the audience and to collate and conserve the scripts of the plays.

I also undertook training for the Cheshire Gardens Trust who wanted to improve the awareness of the Caldwell Nurseries through an Oral History and Archive project. The family run Nursery closed in 1991 after trading for over 200 years and the Cheshire Gardens Trust wanted to capture stories of the nursery as well as working on its Archive dating from 1789.

2011 has seen the culmination of a major project in the Manchester Chinese Community. After receiving funding from HLF in 2009, the Chinese Centre worked in partnership with MOSI (Museum of Science and Industry) and Manchester Library and Information Services. Through the project a group of 44 volunteers conducted 56 oral history interviews with members of the community. They have undertaken their own research, photographed and filmed community events, and catalogued photographs and documents which have been donated and loaned by the community. The majority of the interviews were in Chinese and volunteers are still translating them, producing detailed summaries rather than transcripts. This is the first time that stories and archives have been collected about Chinese people in Greater Manchester and they reveal

the fascinating and untold story of Manchester's thriving Chinese community.

As a result of the project an exhibition is currently showing at MOSI from Feb 2011 and Jan 2012, a new archive website has been launched at www.manchesterchinesearchive.org.uk with film clips of the interviews, a publication has been produced to help tell the story of the Chinese community in Greater Manchester, an archive of documents, photographs, oral histories and digital material has been deposited with the Manchester City Archives and the NW Sound Archive, a digital photographic archive launched, a film produced and a series of learning and outreach events has been delivered. The dedication and hard work of the volunteers in delivering this project was recognized when the project was nominated the Best Volunteer Archives Project Award of the year.

The Irish Heritage World Centre has been conducting an oral history project, originally based around authentic Irish objects deposited at their Centre. The objects were the catalyst to get people talking about their memories and experiences of growing up in Ireland, of migrating to Manchester, and of living and perhaps rearing their families in a different country to their birth. As the project has progressed it has moved away from the objects and has become life story orientated. 12 interviews have been collected to date with more in the pipe line. The project will culminate with an Exhibition at the Irish Heritage World Centre in the winter.

In anticipation of the 250 Anniversary of the Opening of the Bridgewater Canal this year an HLF project 'The First Cut' has been undertaken. This incorporates oral history recordings

with people who have worked on the canal, live next to the canal or use the canal for work or leisure. This will culminate in a big Exhibition at the Salford Art Gallery from October, showing the history of the Canal, photographs, a film and reminiscences of the Canal, some of which will be heard whilst sitting in a winged armchair upholstered with a map of the canal.

The Ordsall Hall Oral History Work, conducted by the Salford Lifetimes Project, has been incorporated into the new exhibitions at the Hall, which re-opened in Spring 2011 after renovation. The Project wants to continue recording people's stories and memories of the 750 year old Ordsall Hall and is also happy to receive written memories. Another Oral History Project conducted in Salford, and managed by Salford Heritage Services and Salford Arts Development Team, was the recording of memories of Chat Moss. This is a huge area of peat bog that makes up 30% of the City of Salford and which was designated an area of special conservation. The project collected oral histories relating to the social history of Chat Moss, including people who lived on, farmed and spent their leisure time there. These recordings are being added to Salford's archival material about the area, and will also be used to inform and stimulate intergenerational and school-based creative activity to encourage younger generations to understand the importance of Chat Moss in their community.

Manchester (Stephen Kelly)

Oral History work in the North West continues apace. The St Helens Citadel Theatre youth group received a grant from the HLF to produce a performance based on the memories of miners, particularly during the

miners' strike of 1984/85. Oral history work was carried out through recording memories so that these could be used as the basis for the production. The interviews were all done by young people, some with learning difficulties, and the production was organised and performed by the same group of young people. A number of performances were held last year, some at the Citadel Theatre in St Helens and one on the site of what was the last active coalmine in the area.

Manchester YMCA has received an HLF grant to collect sporting memories of its past and present members. The Manchester YMCA has a long and distinguished history in sporting achievement and has always boasted one of the finest gyms in the area. A number of members of the Great Britain wrestling team have been members of the YMCA and have trained at its former Whitworth Street site and its later Castlefield site. The Manchester United Busby Babes of the 1950s also used the YMCA facilities for many years and there is a plaque in the building to commemorate this. Over the years Manchester YMCA members have represented Great Britain in the Olympic and Commonwealth games. Climber Joe Brown was also a member. A group of YMCA members and students from a local Salford school are being trained to conduct interviews which will be carried out over the next six months. A website, exhibition and booklet are planned to coincide with the start of the 2012 Olympic games.

A project focused around Swinton Rugby League Club in Greater Manchester has received an HLF grant to collect memories of fans. The club is one of the oldest in rugby league and the aim is to produce a website and booklet. The project called

Swinton Lions Tales is being run by the Federation of Stadium Communities and will focus on the communities around their past and present grounds. Young students from Swinton High School have been trained in interviewing and have been carrying out interviews with fans and players.

The OHS will be involved in next year's Manchester Histories festival, a two week event to be held in February/March. The Festival, organised by the universities, is held every two years to encourage interest in history and is particularly aimed at local history groups. A workshop on oral history and a further workshop on interviewing techniques will be part of the festival programme.

South East

Hampshire (David Lee)

Another interesting and busy year in Hampshire. There have been a number of notable projects during the year which I know about, including the following: -

Treloar 100+ was led by Hampshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) and Museums and Arts, is a new project in which archivists worked with students from Treloar College at Alton to explore their archives, held at Hampshire Record Office, using a recently-developed methodology called Revisiting Collections. The archives, including an extensive range of evocative photographs and film, date back to the early days of Treloar Hospital's foundation at the beginning of the 20th century, by philanthropist, Sir William Treloar, Lord Mayor of London, who was moved by the plight of children afflicted with non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The

foundation gave rise to the College and School and although the hospital closed in the 1990s, the educational establishments and the Treloar Trust are flourishing and vibrant organisations. Revisiting Collections is a new approach to engaging communities in the interpretation of their archives. By enabling the exploration and capture of additional information, memories, and meaning, the methodology both enhances the existing archive and contributes to a reinterpretation of the story of disability. Part of the project involved oral history interviews with former staff and pupils providing, for the first time, a glimpse into the life of the College and School in the past. One of the recordings is memorable for the achingly sad revelation that friendships, especially close ones, could be ended traumatically by premature death caused by the severe conditions endured by some of the pupils, and this could happen several times a year (still does).

Living Links community project for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has come to an end after three years, but will continue in spirit, as the work is supported by HALS, albeit at a lower level. One of the highlights of the past year was a film project undertaken with the Edge youth group in Gosport. This focussed on the differences between leisure and social activities in the period since World War Two. Cass Productions were employed to work with the group and an introductory session followed by two full days of filming took place in late 2010. The content of the film focussed on interviews with people who grew up in Gosport in different generations, and provided a fascinating account of their experiences and expectations. Oral history recording equipment is now available for groups to use and add to the community project legacy.

Past Matters is one of the projects taking advantage of this. Organised by Winchester Action on Climate Change, the project has been working with people in Sutton Scotney, South Wonston and Weeke communities near Winchester to look at how people in the past lived in relation to their homes, their food and their transport - areas of life that we now relate to climate change. Oral history was used to learn from people's stories of the past and explore ways we might use them to change our approach to life in the future.

Spitfire Lives was an exhibition commemorating the part played by that aircraft, which was developed at Eastleigh in the 1930s, in the Second World War. Two important oral history interviews were recorded with former pilot Dennis Bray and ground crew member Norman Parker, describing their part in this development and its importance to the local area.

'Can You See Me Tommy?' is a documentary film shown at the Portsmouth Film Festival which includes interviews with local people involved in the making of the rock opera film 'Tommy'. They largely featured as extras in the film, based in part at a number of locations in Portsmouth and Southsea, including South Parade Pier. Notoriously, this burnt down during filming and was blamed on its director Ken Russell who, coming from rival city Southampton, was roundly condemned for destroying the pier on purpose!

The recordings mentioned above and, importantly, the original interviews are now held at Wessex Film and Sound Archive.

Finally, the Archive held its last Oral History Seminar in October 2010. It was attended by 32 people from all

over the south of England. Padmini Broomfield, Winchester oral historian and member of the Oral History Society Committee, gave the opening presentation on the subject of good practice and projects. Nick Hayes of Inquit Audio followed, talking about and showing examples of recording equipment and how best to use it, assisted by WFSA Manager on the subject of using video equipment. In the afternoon, Noelle McCormack from Brighton showed how the Life History approach can be used with disabled people and their carers, in particular the mother of a disabled daughter who worked with Noelle to produce a very moving DVD – shown at the Seminar – through the medium of dance. Lastly, Alan Williams, curator of the Balfour Museum of Red Cross History at Winchester, took us through the training and experiences of his volunteers engaged in an oral history project, including preparing for emotional interviews with former refugees and POWs. I have decided to make this the last Seminar because of a number of factors, including local authority cutbacks, the relatively small number of attendees, and the feeling that hands-on practical oral history training is more important these days. To that end, I have offered our Cinema and Education Work Room as a venue for OHS training days in future. We have good audio-visual facilities, equipment, local knowledge and skills which I hope can be put to good use by the Society.

Hampshire

(Padmini Broomfield)

Over the past year I have received several inquiries from across the south east region for advice on setting up HLF funded projects. I also received inquiries from as far afield as Northern Ireland and the USA

suggesting that the OHS website is attracting hits from people seeking information and advice on oral history. An update on some of the projects for which I provided advice and training:

This is my home now, an HLF funded project, recorded the stories of people who had arrived in the UK seeking refuge and are now settled in the Southampton area. 25 individuals aged between 20 and 90 who had fled conflict and persecution in their own home countries such as Azerbaijan, Chile, Iraq, Vietnam or Zimbabwe among others, were interviewed by project workers and volunteers. The project culminated in the launch, during Refugee Week June 2011, of an excellent book, exhibition and website (www.myhomenow.org). The book featuring stunning photographs by a local photographer is on sale on the website. The exhibition, which includes a 'Talking Globe' with sound extracts, is currently on display in Southampton and will tour various museum venues in Hampshire during 2012.

St James Park – Shirley Heritage Project, has been collecting memories of the local park which is being transformed in an HLF funded regeneration project. The oral testimony has inspired and formed the basis for two arts based projects. An intergenerational project, 'Art for the Park', involved pupils from a local secondary school who were given training in interviewing two older people. This was followed by art and photography workshops to develop the designs for a Zip Wire Wall Mural. Interwoven into the design are silhouettes that reflect stories told by older people about how the park has been used over time. A former Air Raid Precaution building was renovated and converted into a cafe. A local artist used oral testimony as

her inspiration to design a frieze of images for the cafe windows. Project Manager, Michaela Lawler-Levene presented a paper on this project at the 2010 OHS annual conference in Sunderland.

(http://www.fosjp.org.uk/history_shirley.html#oral_history))

Showpeople of Hampshire: The Hampshire Archives Trust has received funding from the HLF to capture and preserve important aspects of Hampshire showpeople's heritage. Volunteers received training to carry out 15 interviews with older/retired showpeople, 10 with working showpeople and 5 with fairground enthusiasts. An extensive private collection of fairground photographs has been catalogued and packaged for future preservation. Project Manager Jo Ivey reports on recent activities with two local schools: "Two schools have allowed us to give children from the showpeople community a **Flip** camera to take away with them when they travel with their families. The idea is to record their daily lives on the showground and compare this with life at school. A Big Build Day got school children building all sorts of rides." A local film maker will compile contemporary filmed footage with archival footage and stills as well as photographs taken by the children.

Kent (Jocelyn Goddard & Manda Gifford)

Canterbury Museums Service

The coastal museums continue to use oral history as a regular component in gallery exhibitions and hope to expand this into the permanent displays. Recent gallery examples include *Toytown* at Whitstable Museum (based around key memories, images and loans of

favourite toys) and *Not the End of the Pier Show* at Herne Bay Museum (celebrating people and events on and around the Pier). These exhibitions continue to be the outcome of strong partnerships with local memories groups initiated and facilitated by the museum service.

Care staff based at Rye participated in a reminiscence facilitation workshop, facilitated by Canterbury Museums Service, exploring work with images and objects.

The Ash Heritage Group has purchased, with grant money, a digital recorder and other equipment for carrying out oral history interviews. Currently, these are focussing on local memories of the Second World War. The recordings will be held at the Heritage Centre which has been built by the Heritage Group, and which will be formally opened in September.

Jocelyn's news

Jocelyn has been acting as a mentor for Heritage Lottery Fund's London team, spending a few days with successful grantees to enable them to make the best use of their project resources. She acts as another link between HLF and OHS, building on the training the groups receive and encouraging best practice. In the last year she has contributed to the development phase of some large grants (Heritage Grants), between successful Round One and Round Two applications. Here are two examples:

The Alliance for Inclusive Education (ALLFIE)'s *What Did You Learn At School Today?* project. This has a focus on disabled people's experience of education over the last 100 years, through the telling and recording of personal memories and histories of school. The collection,

designed and delivered by disabled people, will become a public archive and will also be a practical tool for schools, colleges and other education providers to bring to life debates on citizenship, equality and diversity.

www.allfie.org.uk

The African Heritage and Educational Centre is working on *The Past*. This project aims to collect and collate the memories and experiences of Ghanaian, Nigerian and Caribbean people who have lived and worked in the three boroughs of Waltham Forest, Hackney and Newham. There is a special emphasis on the cluster of industries dotted in and around the Olympic village. The project will run until June 2013, with the highlight being an exhibition during the 2012 London Olympic Games.

<http://www.ahec.org.uk/thepastproject.htm>

Some of the community groups Jocelyn works with are new to oral history and to HLF. Their projects are smaller (within the Your Heritage strand). An example of this is the *Greenwich Nepalese Integration Project* run by the **Community Empowerment and Support Initiative**. This project aims to document and disseminate the history of Gurkha participation in the British Army, their cultures and traditions, through oral history recordings, research, film and photographs.

<http://cesi-uk.org/programmes.html>

Kent and Medway news (from the Web)

In our Memories: Milton Creek

Milton Creek's industrial past is being brought to life through a community

history, arts and education project. As part of the continuing regeneration of the creek near Sittingbourne, *In our Memories: Milton Creek* aims to ensure that, as the area changes through regeneration, its role is remembered and celebrated. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, work has begun with an oral history project, gathering together the stories of people who remember the industries – barge building, brick making, paper mills and cement works. These recordings will then form the foundation of an oral history archive.

www.miltoncreekmemories.co.uk

Medway on Screen Project

Medway on Screen was a community history project run by Screen Archive South East, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project ran for a year, concluding in spring 2011. It drew on unique films from the archive, exploring the social and industrial history of the Medway and West Kent in the 20th century. The project used these archive films as a catalyst to discover, share and celebrate the many different voices, memories and histories related to the River Medway and the towns and villages it passes through. Community events were organised throughout 2010/11 in Maidstone, Rochester and Tonbridge. The project worked with participants to gather and preserve individual memories, historical information, oral history interviews and related historical materials uncovered by the people of Medway. An interactive *Medway on Screen* website was developed as part of the project and this provides an opportunity to view the films and share memories of the Medway and West Kent.

www.brighton.ac.uk/screenarchive

The Town Unearthed

A project exploring Folkestone's pre-1500 past is to launch a new phase exploring the area's oral history. *The Town Unearthed* project is looking for people to tell stories handed down from parents to children, or told to those new to the area. In February 2011 a shop in Tontine Street was opened to display artefacts from a newly excavated Roman villa site. Over 300 bags of artefacts have so far been removed from the villa on the cliffs above Folkestone. Lynda Pearce of the community archives and heritage group said: "What we are embarking on could be termed *the archaeology of the mind* because we want people to dig into their memories of things they were told."

www.atownunearthed.co.uk

Looking forward in Kent

Jocelyn and Manda would be interested to hear whether there is sufficient interest to revive the *Kent Oral History Discussion* network (KOHD). Initially this could be in the form of e-mail information sharing, with the option to have a get-together in East Kent in the spring, perhaps with a speaker (eg to deliver a technology update). Please send any expressions of interest in the network and/or the get-together to:

jehgoddard@yahoo.co.uk and/or

manda.gifford@canterbury.gov.uk

Surrey (Janet Nixon)

It's been a quiet year in Surrey for oral history recording, but there's a lot of interest in developing and seeking funding for projects covering a very varied range of topics from mental health to young men in the Asian community to people who worked in the engineering industry.

There has been some one off recording including an interesting interview with Austen Playfoot who was one of the torch bearers on the 1948 Olympic torch route. This interview has filled in missing detail for the archive record and given a glimpse in to the life of the amateur runner on national service in post war Britain.

Rib Davis has been working with Walton Charity (for their 800th Anniversary) and Walton Oak School on oral history leading to a play about the town of Walton-on-Thames within living memory, which will be performed by the children in the autumn.

Mental Health continues to attract strong interest for oral history recording. A series of interviews is scheduled for Autumn 2011 with ex-patients of Netherne Hospital in Coulsdon and Brookwood in Woking. Whilst another project is currently being developed to record the life stories and experiences of ex-patients from nearly all of Surrey's many mental health hospitals.

Plans are being made by The Spike in Guildford to record the memories of current and now retired staff who were in the middle of a major reorganisation of local hospitals in the 1980s. The interviews will form part of research and a resulting exhibition tracing the change of use of The Spike from a casual ward attached to the old Workhouse then to a hospital and now to a heritage site (Well worth a visit if you're in the area).

South West

Gloucestershire (Craig Fees)

1. Around Gloucestershire (and some environs)

It has been a busy year in Gloucestershire.

Cashes Green on the Map

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cashes-Green-on-the-Map/254829625936>

Although its Facebook site has quietened down, "Cashes Green on the Map" is an ambitious local oral history project centred on the Cashes Green area of Stroud.

Churchill and Sarsden Heritage Centre (Oxfordshire)

<http://www.churchillheritage.org.uk/>

Although in Oxfordshire rather than Gloucestershire, Churchill and Sarsden Heritage Centre visited to discuss and take advice on the oral history component of their Heritage Lottery Fund-supported project to refurbish and develop a special exhibition on the impact of World War Two on the village.

Fair Shares

<http://www.fairshares.org.uk/time-banking-in-gloucestershire/stroud-stonehouse-dursley-a-beyond/9-articles-stroud/26-life-histories-project.html>

Time banking organisation Fair Shares announced a project through which Fair Shares members would "visit older members to take notes and make recordings of their memories, then write them up into a 'life history'."

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

[http://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/gwt/gwtlog.nsf/WEBARTICLES/EA4A7A2B19FFCC50802578DA004FE299/\\$FILE/Wild-Daff-oral-history-poster.pdf](http://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/gwt/gwtlog.nsf/WEBARTICLES/EA4A7A2B19FFCC50802578DA004FE299/$FILE/Wild-Daff-oral-history-poster.pdf)

The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust initiated a Wild Daffodil oral history project, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Hidden Lives of Barton and Tredworth

<http://www.glos.ac.uk/latestnews/archive/february11/Pages/hiddenstories.aspx>

The "Hidden Lives" project of the University of Gloucestershire, the Gloucester Theatre Company and Gloucestershire Archives was awarded £48,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund to gather the stories of people living in the Barton and Tredworth areas of Gloucester. According to the press release, "Some of the stories [collected] will form the material for a piece of Reminiscence Theatre, which will be devised and created by young actors recruited from the local area and toured across the county. Contributors can also be involved in turning their stories into short films, using an approach called Digital Storytelling. All of the contributions will be uploaded to a community website, providing a window onto the diversity of experience within this multicultural area."

John Moore's Museum, Tewkesbury

<http://www.johnmooremuseum.org/Our-Collections/Living-Voices.html>

The John Moore's Museum in Tewkesbury began to go online with their Heritage Lottery Fund-supported project recording the memories of individuals who have lived in or been responsible for the upkeep of the Merchant's House/Abbey Lawn Cottages over the past few decades.

Kempley Tardis

<http://www.kempleytardis.org.uk/heritage.php>

Welcome, too, to the Kempley Tardis, gathering together in one small but internally expansive place the documentary and

narrative heritage of the two landmark churches within Kempley Parish, featuring both written and oral history.

Tales of the Riverbank

<http://www.glos.ac.uk/latestnews/Pages/TalesoftheRiverbank.aspx>

The University of Gloucestershire supported work by third year radio students Kris Surtees and Ben Wayland in recording a series of oral history interviews about life and work on the River Wye, as part of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Beauty's "Overlooking the Wye" project. The two students were contracted and paid through the University Media School's Student Media Projects, "set up to up to handle the increasing number of requests for students to work on media projects for small to medium-sized local businesses and third sector organisations. "

Transition Town Cheltenham

<http://www.transitiontowncheltenham.org.uk/evdiary.php>

Transition Town Cheltenham invited people to sign up for its oral history project to remember when Cheltenham used to grow more of its own food.

University of Gloucestershire and Flood Heritage

<http://livingfloodhistories.wordpress.com/>

The University of Gloucestershire's ongoing engagement with local communities, memory and flooding (see <http://www.jisc-content.ac.uk/collections/community-flood-archive-enhancement-through-storytelling-co-fast>) continued with a second Workshop at the beginning of January 2011 on "Flood heritage: exploring flood archives for understanding the known pathways to resilience". Oral History Regional Network

representative for Worcestershire
Julia Letts presented a paper on
'the potential of oral history in
exploring flood heritage', the video
of which is on the University of
Gloucestershire website:
[http://flashmedia.glos.ac.uk/resources-
general/videos/flood_heritage/julia_letts.mp4](http://flashmedia.glos.ac.uk/resources-general/videos/flood_heritage/julia_letts.mp4)

2. At the Planned Environment Therapy Trust Archive and Study Centre

Craig Fees

<http://www.archive.pettrust.org.uk>

Personally, it has been a busy year. Alongside answering queries and offering advice as Regional Networker, as co-tutor for the Sound and Vision Module of the University of Dundee's Centre for Archives and Information Studies, I have completely revised the unit on oral history, and seen several cohorts of students through to completion; presented a session in the Wiltshire Local History Forum's "Voices from the Past: A Day School on Oral History" in Bromham; and conducted a two hour session on oral history with history students taking Dr. Iain Robertson's 'Methods of Historical Enquiry' module at the University of Gloucestershire. As a Trustee I have regularly attended meetings of the Oral History Society Committee, and chaired a session at the Annual Conference in Sunderland.

At the Planned Environment Therapy Trust Archive and Study Centre, which is my base as Regional Networker for Gloucestershire, life has been more than dominated by our Heritage Lottery Fund-supported project, "Therapeutic Living With Other People's Children: An oral history of residential therapeutic child care c. 1930 -c. 1980".

"Therapeutic Living With Other People's Children: An oral history of residential therapeutic child care c. 1930 to c. 1980"

<http://www.otherpeopleschildren.org.uk>

Technically, this ambitious project began in January 2010, but the full project team of oral historian (Gemma Geldart), project archivist (Frances Meredith) and project administrator/transcriptionist (Chris Long) came together in April 2010 for an eighteen month project which (as this is being written) is just coming to an end. Against the backdrop of organisational change within the Planned Environment Therapy Trust itself, the team quickly got into stride with an Open Day and an Archive Weekend within a matter of weeks. Archive "Weekends" are three-to-five day residential events in which, typically, former children and staff from different generations of a therapeutic school or home live together at the Archive, handling and helping with archives, being recorded and recorded, and generally exploring with the project team the memories, realities and emotions of their lives, and especially their lives in relation to the specific therapeutic home or school. We had twelve of these of Archive Weekends, in one of which we brought together former children and staff from a number of communities with students and staff of Trinity Catholic School in Leamington Spa to focus on Performance: The students are putting together a production which will later go on tour, and the Weekend provided opportunities for training, recording, and learning together with the former children and staff who were there.

A feature of the project were Assessment, Training and Advisory (ATA) Events - Events in which people with experience and expertise from outside the project are brought together with members of the project team and volunteers to explore various areas of the work, and the issues and questions that had, might, and should arise. The ATA Event devoted specifically to oral history had all the excitement and depth of a CPD Event, as did a second, exploring Transcription. Transcription proved to be an extremely stimulating area for the project, as described in an article for the Spring 2011 issue of the Oral History Society eNewsletter by Chris Long, "It's not just typing - reflections of a transcriptionist".

As well as fieldwork and Archive Weekends, the project has worked closely with Assistant Principal Stephen Steinhaus, up to 35 students, and other staff of Trinity Catholic School to create a performance based on existing archives and the archives and oral histories produced by the project (some recorded by students themselves). The first taster of what the students are creating came on day two of the two-day project conference. The conference was entitled "The Struggle of Memory Against Forgetting: Telling the story and sharing the experiences of residential child care", and was organised in partnership with the History of Medicine Unit at the University of Birmingham, and the Institute for the History and Work of Therapeutic Environments; taking place in September in the CPD Centre of the University of Birmingham Medical School. (for recordings of presentations see

http://www.otherpeopleschildren.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=215:project-conference&catid=86&Itemid=22).

The second outing for the students came at the 'end-of-project' celebration at the Archive and Study Centre in Toddington, when members of each of the five participating communities took part. Drawing on his own twenty years of professional performing, Stephen Steinhaus stressed what a unique opportunity it was for the students to be able to work so closely and gather such rich and meaningful feedback from the people most closely involved in the stories the students are trying to tell. As this report is being written, venues and opportunities for performance are being solicited: Please get in touch with Chris Long (see below) if you have a potential place or occasion.

A project booklet was compiled in the run-up to the conference, and is an excellent record of the background, activities, outcomes, and responses of participants. For a copy, please contact Chris Long at chris.long@otherpeopleschildren.org.uk. That mention indicates another of the positive outcomes of an immensely rewarding project: Both oral historian Gemma Geldart and administrator Chris Long have been retained by the Planned Environment Therapy Trust, along with archivist Craig Fees.

West Midlands

Birmingham & area (Helen Lloyd)

At the end of 2010 the Heritage Lottery Fund in the West Midlands produced a useful leaflet for anyone in the area who wants funding for an oral history project. It outlines what kinds of projects they fund, what their grants pay for and who is eligible to apply. By the time of publication, they'd already given £6 million to more than 260 oral history projects in the West Midlands, but they're keen to receive more ideas for projects, particularly from their priority areas of Birmingham, East Staffordshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, Tamworth and Walsall.

Further information:
www.hlf.org.uk/inyourarea/WestMidlands/Pages/Oralhistoryprojects

One of the projects they've funded recently is a history of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, launched in March 2011 by the charity Birmingham Focus. The project will record memories of people who attended BRIB schools or Queen Alexandra College, or who worked for Focus in the past or who can contribute in any way to the history of blind and visually impaired people in Birmingham. In addition to the oral history archive, there will be a multi sensory exhibition and a Key Stage 3 workbook for History in schools.

In Nuneaton, the Museum and Art Gallery has trained a group of volunteers to record memories of National Service from 1948 to 1963, under the title 'Bedbox, Blanco and Boots'. And memories of work and entertainment in Nuneaton in the 1940s and 50s are being recorded by young people at Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre, funded by a Young

Roots grant to Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action.

In Walsall, members of the Fifty Plus Forum joined forces with local young people to record the memories of residents in Blakenall, Leamore and Bloxwich. The project was called 'Know Your Place' and the interviewees included former miners, bargees and travellers.

There's an increasing interest among immigrant groups in inter-generational projects, to ensure that younger people are aware of their heritage. For example, the Polish Expats Association has launched a project to record the experiences of Polish people who have arrived in the UK since EU enlargement in 2004 and link these with the experiences of earlier Polish migrants. The project is called 'From Exile to Freedom' and the aim is to promote Polish culture and heritage and to bring the different generations together through a DVD, a brochure and a photographic exhibition at The Drum arts centre in Birmingham.

Also in Birmingham, the Community Interest Company, Aspire4u, has launched a project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to explore Jamaican culture and in particular the origins of Jamaican food. It's called the Nyam Project, after the Jamaican word for eating, and aims 'to get the younger generation of Jamaican descendents to keep the culture alive for future generations'.

In Burton-on-Trent, the East Staffordshire Racial Equality Council is organising the Burton Mixed Heritage Oral History Project to involve young people in recording the memories of people with a mixed heritage background from the 1940s onwards. They will take part in creating a DVD

and a resource pack for use in schools.

In a single week in July 2011, I talked to Somali teenagers in inner city Birmingham about recording the memories of their parents and grandparents, and to teenagers in the market town of Montgomery about recording the history of their local cricket club. On both occasions I reflected on the privilege of working in a field that allows me to share in experiences so different from my own.

Worcestershire (Julia Letts)

As a freelance networker, I find it very difficult to keep in touch with what is going on in such a vast and diverse area. Alongside other West Midland Networkers, I have developed a good relationship with HLF West Midlands this year, and am regularly called upon to give voluntary advice and information to groups which are applying for funds. This is time consuming and often frustrating, particularly when the groups don't have the courtesy to tell you if they were successful or not. In June I ran an OHS Introduction to Oral History course, hosted by HLF West Midlands, and attended by two of their staff. Helen Lloyd (West Midlands Networker based in Birmingham) has reported on some of the many 260 oral history projects HLF West Midlands has funded this year. I will restrict my report to any others that I've had personal dealings with and any other Worcestershire based projects I have heard about.

Hallow History Group is just starting a project to research, record and present the history of farms and mills, past and present, in and around the village of Hallow (just north of Worcester). During the course of the year-long project, the group will work with all age groups in the community,

including school children from Hallow Primary who will record the memories of some of the older inhabitants of the village. A lively series of events and publications are also planned by the group.

Work on an oral history archive at the **Kidderminster Carpet Museum** (which will open in October 2012) continues apace. A group of volunteers have been recording former carpet workers and collecting memorabilia and documents, bringing together memories of people who were part of the trade when it was at its peak, from the post war years through to the mid 70s.

Grow with Wyre is a community project celebrating the 6000 acre Wyre Forest on the border of Worcestershire and Shropshire. The Forestry Commission is the lead partner in a 3 year HLF funded scheme, one element of which is an audio project called 'The Nature of Wyre - A Forest Relived'. Through the work of a dedicated volunteer, twenty local residents have been interviewed to archive memories of local crafts, industries, farming, orchards, wildlife and people. A set of CDs will be available at the end of this year.

Volunteers with **Stourport Forward** are recording interviews with people from Stourport on Severn with connections to the town's canal basins. The plan is to create a small oral history archive of memories and experiences, and to display extracts from the interviews in the town's Windlass Heritage Rooms.

I am currently working with volunteers from the **Friends of Croome Park** to create a memories CD called Croome Voices. This will contain extracts from the 70+ interviews recorded over the last few years with people with connections to

the National Trust's Croome Court in mid Worcestershire.

Sharing the Past: This is the legacy of several oral history projects in Worcestershire over the past five years. Worcestershire County Council commissioned me to create an audio reminiscence box called 'Sharing the Past' for use in sheltered accommodation, care homes and nursing homes. The box is also being used on a Dementia Specialist Course run by the University of Worcester, which is aimed at those working with dementia sufferers. I am running two modules on Life-story Interviewing and Therapeutic Reminiscence.

Black Country Stories is a 3-year project run by Multistory to create a photographic portrait and archive about everyday life in the Black Country. To complement Martin Parr's photographs, Multistory has commissioned a series of oral history interviews with some of the people photographed by Martin Parr. Extracts from the interviews will eventually be on display with the photographs at the Black Country Stories Exhibition at The New Art Gallery in Walsall.

Voices through Corridors: This is an HLF funded project by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, following major redevelopment of the Walsall Manor Hospital site. The aim is to capture people's memories of the hospital, which was a central part of this community for many decades. Volunteers will be trained to interview local residents, patients and NHS staff, creating an archive of recordings which will be shared and used in different ways.

The Hive, a new library and archive centre in Worcester which will bring together the City and University libraries and the County's Archives. The Hive, which you can't miss if you

visit Worcester with its gold-topped domes reflecting in the River Severn, will have a prominent audio visual element to it. The first theme when it opens in July 2012 is 'Memory' so I have been working with others find ways of using and displaying recent oral history collections in the public spaces.

Diggin' Time: This is an intergenerational project in an area of North Warwickshire where the main industry used to be coal mining. The aim of the project, funded by HLF, is to create a greater understanding between younger and older people through oral history and its use. The project has just started. Focus groups are working with local communities and training young people to interview older residents and explore common community myths such as back doors being left open, people feeling safer than they do now and how people looked after each other in mining communities. Once this information has been collected from local residents, a DVD will be made to be delivered in local schools. An exciting series of school workshops, based on the DVD will also be delivered in primary schools.

Worcestershire Record Office (Maggie Tohill)

Worcestershire Record Office's direct involvement in oral history work has continued to be low key as time for the move to the new Worcestershire Library and History Centre gets ever closer and staff concentrate their time on preparing for the move which is scheduled to start in February 2012. Some work has begun to look at how audio visual material might be used around the new building but this is still very much at the planning stage. We hope that once the office move

has been completed and we are open to the public again we will be able to pick up more active oral history work again.

Our digitising staff have continued to copy older style recordings into digital format as part of our preservation work focussing in particular this year on interviews held on cassettes.

Volunteer work has also been somewhat quiet We have had one volunteer come forward who wished to undertake a small project at home. We have given him the task of transcribing and summarising some recordings we made with a local school. He may also undertake some follow up interviews once we reopen to the public in July 2012 we hope to revive our programme of volunteer work.

Cataloguing Kays project: The University of Worcester have been working on a six project to create a web archive of fashion images 1920-2006. The project includes some community history and reminiscence work. The project coordinator has sought some advice and guidance from us in the early stages of the project and will be depositing recordings with us once they are complete.

Yorkshire

North Yorkshire (Van Wilson)

Over the last year the York Oral History Society has had to move from its home in the city archives, due to reorganisation and closure of that building. We now have the collection partly in the city library's storage facility and partly in the archive of York Archaeological Trust. The city library has got through the first stage of a lottery bid for a new extension

which will house, amongst others, the York Oral History Society collection which now totals over 500 interviews and 5000 photographs.

We are currently applying for funding to digitise and transcribe a number of First World War interviews carried out on reel to reel recorders in the 1970s, we also aim to produce a publication using extracts from these recordings.

One of our members, Brian Freeborn, is interviewing members of the ambulance service, where he worked before retirement. Mike Race continues to interview people who owned shops and family businesses in the city.

I have just finished a book on the history of Clifton, a suburb of York, which is 50 per cent research and 50 per cent oral history. I interviewed over 40 local people and found some wonderful stories. I am just beginning a new project on sport in York to tie in with the Olympics in 2012, to celebrate York men and women who have excelled in particular Olympic sports. We have archers, rowers, sailors, hockey players, fencers, footballers, swimmers, taekwondo masters, volleyball players, runners, cyclists, divers, horse riders, boxers, wrestlers and weightlifters amongst others, including competitors in the Olympics and Paralympics, so it is proving very interesting.

South Yorkshire (Michelle Winslow & John Tanner)

The South Yorkshire Regional Network hosted its 12th event on Saturday 25 June in the centre of Sheffield. The day brought together seventeen oral historians from around the region to share experiences and hear presentations by local projects.

Emily Chalkley and Barry Elliott, third year students taking 'Community

History' at Sheffield Hallam University, presented their work conducting interviews with community historians in Sheffield and Barnsley. John Burns, Kayleigh Fletcher and Barry Elliott have interviewed members of a group at Wincobank, North Sheffield, who are campaigning to turn to a local chapel into a heritage centre. Whilst Emily Chalkley interviewed history enthusiasts for 'Experience Barnsley', a project collecting stories for a new Barnsley Museum opening in 2012 (www.wearebarnsley.com/experience-barnsley). In addition to helping with the progress of both projects, the students very much enjoyed the experience, such that three of them are keen to continue with oral history in the future. For more information contact Alison Twells: A.Twells@shu.ac.uk

Charlie Wells of The Faceless Company (www.facelessco.com), gave a reflective presentation about their work on the Agbrigg & Belle Vue community project: Stories of Movement, Migration and Home Faceless. They asked: 'Why we did oral history and would we do it again?' Faceless worked with groups of people who live, work and visit the area to interpret stories and create art work and illustrations for an exhibition and a book. There was lively discussion around both projects, with plenty of opportunities for the group to raise oral history issues pertinent to their own work.

The following are a few examples of further oral history work taking place in and around the South Yorkshire region.

For a special summer exhibition in 2012, the National Coal Mining Museum plans to interview people from ex-mining communities about their sporting interests. The Exhibition called 'Colliery Champions; Mining, Sport and the Olympics' will look at, amongst other things, the development of sporting facilities and

groups within mining communities and what has happened to them since the decline of the pits. They are keen to make contact with people in former mining communities. Could anyone who is interested please contact Anne Bradley, Curator (Social & Oral History): social.history@ncm.org.uk or telephone 01924 848806.

Wild Rose Heritage and Arts (WRHaA) is a community oral history charity that records people of all ages who have lived or worked in or around Hebden Bridge and the upper Calder valley, West Yorkshire. They originally collected and archived oral history projects and memorabilia, but have expanded their activities and focus to include intergenerational interviewing, dissemination activities and recording contemporary oral histories. They aim to understand the ways in which people both change and are changed by the places in which they live and work. By looking at the themes of change and diversity they believe that oral history can play a valuable role in the fostering of communal identity, by giving participants both a sense of belonging and the confidence to participate in the life and work of the wider community. Contact: Tony Wright (Manager) by phone 01422 843398 or email <mailto:info@wildrosearts.net>. Web address: www.wildrosearts.net

The Moor Memories project has been focusing on the collection of oral histories detailing life and work in the moorland communities of the Peak District and has gathered information on farming, forestry, water workers, gamekeeping and moorland management, as well as first-hand accounts of the early campaigns for access to moorlands. The project will make the material available through a permanent archive at the Moorland Centre in Edale, as well as running drama workshops for young people based on the stories collected, and

creating mobile phone downloads for walkers, in the tradition of the Clarion Rambler handbooks of the 1930s and 1940s. Three booklets are also in production, including one based on the South Pennine moors around Holme Village which is the last place in England where the tradition of domestic peat cutting still continues. Volunteers have been trained in oral history collection and have been central to gathering material for the project. Moor Memories is managed as part of the Moors for the Future Partnership, which has gained valuable insight into historic methods of managing the moorland it now conserves. For further information contact Julia Shergold:

Julia.Shergold@peakdistrict.gov.uk

An oral history and photography service in the Sheffield Macmillan Unit for Palliative Care, Northern General Hospital (NGH), has run successfully since April 2007 with the support of the NGH Charitable Trust. The service enables people who have contact with the unit, patients, family and friends, to produce their own audio life story recordings and photographs with the support of specialists in oral history and photography and a team of excellent trained volunteers. The creation of audio digital recordings and photographic images can enrich experience of palliative care and to date we have conducted 144 oral history interviews with 82 people. For more information please contact Michelle Winslow:

m.winslow@sheffield.ac.uk

An important development in South Yorkshire is a collaboration between regional networkers Michelle Winslow and John Tanner, and Alison Twells, Sheffield Hallam University. They are currently developing a web-based Community History Forum to showcase oral and community history projects in the region. Hopefully next year's network report will carry news of the Forum's successful launch, its

role in supporting oral historians in the region and providing a platform for their work.

Scotland

Scottish Oral History Centre (Angela Bartie & Arthur McIvor)

It's been an exciting and busy time at the Scottish Oral History Centre over the last year – we can only provide a brief snapshot of the range of projects, developments and events that have occurred or are ongoing. These come in addition to our continuing oral history training seminars and the work that we continue to undertake on projects going on in the wider community.

In September last year, we were delighted to welcome Dr Andrew Perchard to the newly created position of Research Coordinator (a post to which he brings his considerable research and oral history field experience). Andrew is continuing his work on the impact of 'deindustrialisation' on identity in Scotland since 1945 (funded by the British Academy and Royal Society of Edinburgh), and is currently developing an international collaborative project in the broader area of the social impacts of deindustrialisation on communities. Andrew is also editing the 2011 edition of *Scottish Labour History*, which is devoted this year to oral history, and dedicated to the pioneering labour and oral historian Ian MacDougall, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Scottish Labour History Society (SLHS). In conjunction with SLHS, and the Scottish Working People's History Trust (who celebrate their twentieth anniversary in 2012), the Scottish Oral History Centre are organising a one day conference, hosted by the

Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC); 'Understanding the Past and Facing the Future: Labour and Working Class History in Scotland' will be held at the STUC on Saturday 5 November 2011 (more details can be obtained from Andrew Perchard). Interviews for the British Academy funded project 'Narratives of Glasgow: Oral Histories of Youth Gangs in Easterhouse, c. 1960-1975' by Angela Bartie and Alistair Fraser (Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, University of Glasgow) are nearing completion. In this, Angela and Alistair have been working on a collection of interviews conducted in 1969 with boys who were in youth gangs in the Easterhouse area of Glasgow, and are doing follow up interviews with some of those who were originally interviewed over 40 years ago alongside new interviews with others who were involved in youth gangs between 1960 and 1975. Juliette Pattinson is completing an oral-history based book on the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry during the Second World War, looking particularly at gendered subjectivities during this period (a theme she has also published articles on recently) while Arthur McIvor is completing his book on work in Britain since 1945 and continuing to work with David Walker on 'The Voice in the Museum' project.

This Scottish Oral History Centre and Glasgow Museums collaborative project was discussed in OHJ (Vol 38, No.2, p.25) but since then work on the Glasgow Museums oral history collection has gathered pace. Around 200 of the 300+ interviews have now been digitised and summarised; a process that has helped reveal the content and quality of this 'forgotten' oral history archive. A catalogue of the archive is now in the process of being created and thereafter will be hosted on Glasgow Museums

'Collections Navigator' website. The new web pages will provide much needed information about the collection as well as access guidance for the general public. Also emerging from this AHRC funded project a new school resource is being developed entitled 'Shipyards to Office Blocks: Voices of Glasgow People in the Workplace c.1950-2000.' This resource will utilise audio clips selected from the archive to help pupils engage with the meaning and social identity of work and the workplace. Further, a new resource is being developed for use within the Open Museum section of Glasgow Museums. The Open Museum has enjoyed a successful history of working within communities, engaging with a wider audience through collaborative projects, object handling and reminiscence kits. It is hoped that this new resource will help deliver new material for use in a variety of future projects. The process of digitisation and summarisation has helped identify certain gaps within the collection and consequently a new oral history project was initiated. More than 20 new interviews have already been undertaken with more in the pipeline. The new interviews focus almost exclusively on the working lives of the respondents who include engineers, teachers, civil servants, bankers, and some specialist staff who at one time worked as creative designers in the Templeton and Stoddard Carpet manufacturers. It is hoped that this oral history project will continue beyond the life of the AHRC funded project providing new material for Glasgow Museums and schools.

Our postgraduate community remains strong, with projects being undertaken in a range of areas including the 1989 revolution in Czechoslovakia (David Green), an intergenerational study of the Jewish

community (Fiona Frank), cultural representations of the Reserved Occupations (Linsey Robb), and Women in agriculture, 1920-1950 (Alison Burgess). Alison Chand is progressing well with her Ph.D funded by the AHRC (Collaborative Doctoral Award) on Glasgow's War and Masculine Identities in the Reserved Occupations. Now in her second year, she has undertaken approximately thirty new interviews with men who worked in reserved occupations in Clydeside during the Second World War. She is also working extensively with the existing oral history collections at Glasgow Museums Resource Centre in Nitshill. We are looking forward to welcoming new doctoral students utilising oral history in their research during this coming academic year.

Outside the SOHC, we can report briefly on lots of interesting projects currently on the go (and we know of many more in the pipeline). The HLF Scottish Council on Deafness (SCoD) project 'Presenting the Past: My Firsts' launched the first in a series of DVDs arising out of their project in April 2011. This exciting project, for which Angela Bartie and Arthur McIvor of the SOHC were delighted to provide training for, saw nearly 60 deaf people between the ages of 50 and 88 interviewed in British Sign Language (BSL) and filmed in locations around Scotland. The first DVD focuses on memories of employment, with more DVDs planned on a range of themes arising out of the interviews (contact Lillian Lawson, SCoD: www.scod.org.uk). Our Research Fellow, David Walker, who worked on the M74 DIG Public Archaeology Project, informs us that a free booklet has been published to coincide with the opening of the M74 Completion, the final section of the M74 motorway: D Drew, *The Glasgow We*

Used to Know: The Archaeology of the M74 Motorway Completion Project in Glasgow and South Lanarkshire. This booklet highlights the various public projects that were undertaken in combination with the archaeological dig conducted prior to the construction of the road. Amongst the many projects discussed the M74 oral history project features quite prominently. The testimony and photographic images help to bring to life the social and economic conditions experienced by the respondents over many decades in this area of Glasgow. Importantly, future academic publications relating to the archaeology will cite the oral history outcomes as important in helping inform the archaeological discoveries. All of the 24 interviews were digitally recorded and transcribed and the entire data set, including historical images of the respondents and their environment, has now been deposited at the Scottish Oral History Centre. The Lighthouses and Citadels school project looked at Scotland's heritage in the form of lighthouses, and in particular at Ailsa Craig and the Mull of Galloway Lighthouses as a local resource to schools in South Ayrshire Council. Around 200 children from six schools participated on the project. The teachers and children received some basic training in oral history from David Walker of the Scottish Oral History Centre before going on to interview former lighthouse keepers and their families. An exhibition of the children's artwork and interviews was held at the McKechnie Institute in Girvan, South Ayrshire between December and March. Devised by Jenny Renfrew, Senior Cultural Co-ordinator, the project was funded by Heritage Lottery, Museums Galleries Scotland, South Ayrshire Council, and the Scottish Arts Council. The children's interviews with the lighthouse keepers are now available on the SCRAN website.

We also have lots of exciting developments to look forward to over the coming year. Next academic year, oral history will be embedded further into the undergraduate curriculum in the School of Humanities with the launch of the new team taught class Oral History: Theory and Practice. Our successful bid for strategic funding from the University of Strathclyde means that we will be able to embark on a programme of infrastructural development, and also welcome our first Visiting Professor at the SOHC in spring 2012: Professor Steve High, of the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling (Concordia University). We are also pleased to announce that Dr Toby Butler, of the Raphael Samuel History Centre and the University of East London, and sociologist Dr Tim Strangleman, University of Kent, have been made Research Associates of the Centre. Finally, we are looking forward to moving to a purpose-built SOHC Lab and Archive in the new School of Humanities building in 2012.

Dumfries & Galloway (Alison Burgess)

I have been involved with two groups, one of which has finished their project. Springholm Village Voices aimed to produce a booklet and DVD (incorporating both images and sound bites). This was successfully launched but the very small committee want to continue interviewing and recording. The other group is just beginning to focus on their project. Within Dumfries and Galloway, the Library and Archive Service are in the very early stages of starting an oral history archive. Initially, the focus of the interviews has been those involved in the Home Guard and people who were evacuated to this region. We are looking for

interested people who might like to volunteer with this project. For more information, please contact Alison Burgess on 01387253820 or alison.burgess@dumgal.gov.uk.



2012 ORAL HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The next OHS annual conference, Displaced Childhoods: Oral history and traumatic experiences will take place in Reading on 13-14 July 2012. The conference aims to bring together oral history practitioners who explore the topic of disturbed, disrupted and traumatic childhoods within academic, community and therapeutic settings.

Oral history interviewing has been increasingly utilised as a way of exploring the effects of war, evacuation and conflict on children, as well as former children; the treatment and welfare of children living in war zones and the wider disruption to family life. This conference aims to address both internal migration and the global movement of children from countries such as Spain, Germany, the former Yugoslavia and Iraq throughout the course of the twentieth century, in particular its long-term psychological and emotional impact. Other themes the conference will address include the 'Forgotten Children' forcibly migrated to Australia/USA/Canada, childhood experience of natural and civil disasters, disrupted childhoods, long-term separation and segregation including children's homes, hospitalisation, and the development of therapeutic environments for children and young people with emotional, social and behavioural disorders. We'd like to hear from people who have worked with fostering, crime and juvenile delinquency, children of alcoholic or mentally disturbed parents, young people in mental institutions or those who have grown up in violent households. The event will be held in association with the Research Centre for Evacuee and War Child Studies, University of Reading

Papers are invited which draw on current projects or recently completed work using oral history and related methods which address these topics. We would particularly welcome papers on the methodological and ethical issues surrounding working with traumatic or potentially traumatic narratives of childhood – how to deal with sensitive issues, the question of interviewing adults recalling their childhood selves, reflection on the interview process and the experience of recording with children and the use of oral history within therapeutic contexts. The conference will be of interest to all those working in the field of oral history.

Please send an abstract of no more than 400 words by **31 December 2011** to Belinda Waterman: Department of History, University of Essex Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ Belinda@essex.ac.uk +44 (0)1206 872313

Regional Network Representatives

Regional Network Co-ordinator

Juliana Vandegrift, Freelance oral historian, Ipswich,
Juliana.vandegrift@btinternet.com

Deputy Regional Network Co-ordinator

Padmini Broomfield, Hampshire, 07891 077856, padmini@ohs.org.uk

East of England (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk , Suffolk)

Martin Astell, Sound Archivist, Essex Sound and Video Archive, Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6YT, tel. 01245 244624,
martin.astell@essexcc.gov.uk

Jonathan Draper, Archivist, Norfolk Sound Archive, The Archive Centre, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DQ, 01603 222692, jonathan.draper@norfolk.gov.uk

Carmela Semeraro, Community Historian, Cecil Higgins Art Gallery & Bedford Museum, Castle Lane, Bedford MK40 3RP, 01234 217418, carmela.semeraro@bedford.gov.uk

Juliana Vandegrift, Freelance oral historian, Ipswich,
Juliana.vandegrift@btinternet.com

East Midlands (Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland)

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Christina Raven-Conn, Team Librarian, Local Studies Library, Nottingham Central Library, Angel Row, Nottingham NG1 6HP, tel: 0115 9152873,
Christina.Raven-Conn@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Fiona Cosson, freelance oral historian, Northampton, 07941 126 354, fionacosson@hotmail.com

London

Verusca Calabria, Freelance Oral Historian, 0779 1092850,
info@veruscacalabria.co.org (until 31st December 2011)

Rob Perks, Curator of Oral History, British Library, National Sound Archive, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB, tel. 020 7412 7405, rob.perks@bl.uk

Pam Schweitzer, Director, European Reminiscence Network, 15 Camden Row, Blackheath, London SE3 0QA, 0208 852 9293, pam@pamschweitzer.com

Sarah Gudgin & Solomon Yohannes, Curators of Oral History and Contemporary Collecting, Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London, EC2Y 5HN, 020 7814 5756, sgudgin@museumoflondon.org.uk/syohannes@museumoflondon.org.uk

North East (Durham, Northumbria, Tyne and Wear)

Jo Bath, Freelance Oral Historian, County Durham, 0191 232, jo.bath@ohs.org.uk

Sheila Forster, Freelance Oral Historian, County Durham, 0798 6363219, Sheila.forster@ohs.org.uk

Janette Hilton, Project Director, Living History (North East) Limited, The Regional Oral History Centre, The Old Donnison School, Church Walk, East End, Sunderland, SR1 2BN, 0191 5654835, janette.hilton@lhne.co.uk

North West (Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside)

The Secretary, Ambleside Oral History Group, The Secretary, Ambleside Oral History Group, c/o Ambleside Library, Kelsick Road, Ambleside LA22 0BZ, tel. 01539 432507

Emma Chaplin, 39 Downham Road South, Wirral, CH60 5SE, emma@emmachaplin.co.uk

Stephen Kelly, 17 Hartington Road, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 8UZ, 0161 861 9289, sfkelly@ntlworld.com

Rosalyn Livshin, 48 Park Road, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 0FA - 0161 740 3941 rlivshin@bigfoot.com

Andrew Schofield, North West Sound Archive, Old Steward's Office, Castle Grounds. Clitheroe Castle, Clitheroe BB7 1AZ, tel. 01200 427897, NWSA@lancashire.gov.uk

Jason Hurley, Oral History Consultant, 262 Eaves Lane, Chorley PR6 0DZ, 01257 416596

South East (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Sussex)

Padmini Broomfield, Hampshire, 07891 077856, padmini@ohs.org.uk

Jocelyn Goddard, 41 Linden Avenue, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1RX, 07872 622102, jehgoddard@yahoo.co.uk

Manda Gifford, Outreach Officer, Coastal Museums, Whitstable Museum and Gallery, Oxford Street, Whitstable, CT5 8DB, tel. 01227 772379, fax 01227 772 379, Manda.gifford@canterbury.gov.uk

Sheila Jemima, Southampton, 023 80 553680, jemimasheila@googlemail.com

Roger Kitchen, 3 Stacey Avenue, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, MK12 5DN, tel. 01908 313514, rogerfkitchen@gmail.com

David Lee, Film & Sound Archivist, Wessex Film and Sound Archive, Hampshire Record Office, Sussex Street, Winchester, SO23 8TH; tel. 01962 847742, david.lee@hants.gov.uk

Janet Nixon, Learning Officer (Archives), Surrey Heritage, Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND, 01483 518746, janet.nixon@surreycc.gov.uk

South West (Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire)

Craig Fees, Planned Environment Therapy Trust, Archive and Study Centre, Church Lane, Toddington, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL54 5DQ, tel. 01242 620125, Craigtfees@aol.com

Kayleigh Milden, Associate Research Fellow in Oral History, University of Exeter, Dept. of History, Cornwall Campus, Penryn, Cornwall, TR10 9EZ, 01326 371891, K.M.Milden@exeter.ac.uk

Marilyn Tucker, Wren Trust, 1 St. James Street, Okehampton EX20 1DW, tel. 01837 53754, marilyn@wrenmusic.co.uk

Garry Tregidga, CAVA, Institute of Cornish Studies, University of Exeter in Cornwall, Tremough Campus, Penryn, Cornwall, TR10 9EZ, 01736 371888/01736 371891, g.h.tregidga@exeter.ac.uk

West Midlands (Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire)

Julia Letts, Oral History Producer (based in Worcestershire), tel. 01905 453023 julia.letts@virgin.net

Helen Lloyd, oral history consultant, Birmingham, 0121 689 0681, info@oralhistoryconsultancy.co.uk

Margaret Tohill, Archivist, Worcestershire Record Office, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP, tel. 01905 766358,

RecordOffice@worcestershire.gov.uk,
<http://worcestershire.whub.org.uk/home/wcc-records.htm>

Yorkshire (North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire,)

Clare Jenkins, 17 Crimicar Lane, Sheffield, S10 4FA, clarejenkinsbbc@tiscali.co.uk

John Tanner, Project Manager, Barnsley Museums Service, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Town Hall, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2TA, 07738 475394, JohnTanner@barnsley.gov.uk

Van Wilson, York Oral History Society, tel. 01904 630970 (after 6.00 pm),
vann@vanalexinamay.freeseerve.co.uk

Michelle Winslow, Academic Unit of Supportive Care, University of Sheffield, Sykes House, Little Common Lane, Sheffield S11 9NE, tel. 0114 262 0174 ext 28,
m.winslow@sheffield.ac.uk.

Northern Ireland

Linda Ballard, Curator of Textiles, Ulster Folk & Transport Museum, Cultra, Hollywood, Co. Down BT18 0EU, 02890 395120, Linda.ballard@magni.org.uk

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Arthur McIvor, Director, Scottish Oral History Centre, University of Strathclyde, McCance Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow, G1 1XQ, 0141 548 2212/2236, a.mcivor@strath.ac.uk

Howard Mitchell, 53 Charterhall Grove, Edinburgh, EH9 3HT, 0131 667 7602, howardmitchell09@googlemail.com

Alison Burgess, Local Studies Officer, Dumfries and Galloway Council, c/o Ewart Library, Catherine Street, Dumfries DG1 1JB, 07715 509929 or 01387 253820

Wales

Emma Chaplin, 39 Downham Road South, Wirral, CH60 5SE,
emma@emmachaplin.co.uk (North Wales)

Andrew Edwards, Co-director of Welsh Institute for Social & Cultural Affairs School of History, Welsh History & Archaeology, Bangor University, College Road, Bangor, LL57 2DG, 01248 382839, a.c.edwards@bangor.ac.uk

Julia Fallon, Head of Centre, Leisure & Events, Cardiff School of Management, UWIC, Colchester Avenue, Cardiff CF23 9XR, 02920 416322, jfallon@uwic.ac.uk

Beth Thomas, Keeper, Dept. of Social and Cultural History, St. Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff, 029 2057 3426, Beth.Thomas@museumwales.ac.uk

Oral History Society Regional Network

Minutes of Business Meeting held at the Barnsley Town Hall, Church Street, Barnsley, S70 2TA

On Friday 29th October at 6.00 pm

Present: Cynthia Brown (Chair), Padmini Broomfield, Emma Chaplin, Craig Fees, Janette Hilton, Jason Hurley, Clare Jenkins, Roger Kitchen, Elspeth Millar, Rob Perks, Graham Smith, John Tanner, Juliana Vandegrift, Michelle Winslow

In attendance: Mary Stewart, OHS Committee; Elspeth Millar, British Library

<u>Item</u>	<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<p>Apologies for absence received from:</p> <p>Angela Bartie, Arthur McIvor, Carmela Semeraro, Christina Raven Conn, Garry Tregidga, Janet Nixon, Jo Bath, Jocelyn Goddard, Jonathan Draper, Julia Letts, Linda Ballard, Margaret Towhill, Pam Schweitzer, Sarah Gudgin, Sheila Forster, Steve Kelly, Verusca Calabria, Helen Lloyd</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the 2009 meeting:</p> <p>Read and agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising:</p> <p>Rob reported that the Heritage Lottery Fund is the only organisation with no cuts announced so far although this may change in the near future. HLF are still encouraging all to apply for funding. It was suggested that it's very much worth all regional networkers contacting their own HLF regional offices to establish a connection.</p>	
4.	<p>Regional Network Update:</p> <p>Three new networkers have joined recently in the last twelve months: Jason Hurley (North West), Fiona Cosson (East Midlands), Helen Lloyd (West Midlands)</p> <p>Cynthia said that the regional network now has pretty good coverage and we've filled in all the big gaps. No one has left the network in the last year.</p>	
5.	<p>Continuing professional development:</p> <p>The annual regional network event is intended to provide continuing professional development for regional networkers. Cynthia reminded networkers that the OHS Committee funds a bursary scheme to enable Networkers without institutional support to carry out activities to support their Continuing Professional Development. The next application deadline for this is 1 December 2010. Please contact Cynthia or Juliana if you</p>	

	<p>would like additional information about this. Funds are limited, but take-up in the past has been low, so networkers are encouraged to think if you might be able to benefit from this.</p> <p>Mary Stewart gave an update on how the oral history development workshops went in Sheffield and London. (Twelve and nine people attended). Mary is presenting feedback and a paper at the next OHS committee meeting in December about the workshops. The next CPD workshop will be in Manchester (see OHS website for details).</p> <p>Mary reiterated that it is hoped that eventually these development/discussion workshops will be ‘owned’ by our society’s networkers and members in the regions. It is hoped that they will be inspired to organise and participate in these workshops rather than them being centrally orchestrated from London every time.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>OHS website and Regional Network:</p> <p>Michelle Winslow requested photographs from our networkers to add to their website pages. Networkers can update their own biographies and information and if they need to know how then please contact Michelle.</p> <p>The Homepage for the Regional Network needs Juliana’s name written on it as the new regional network co-ordinator. There was a discussion about making the regions clearer on the front page.</p> <p>Michelle promoted the online discussion board which is open to all our networkers and the access for members to the JSTOR journals online and the members only pages where they can post documents e.g. minutes, reading material.</p> <p>The new Facebook OHS page is up and running for all to join</p> <p>Michelle informed us that over the next twelve months Anthony will develop a new look website for the OHS.</p> <p>Cynthia mentioned the electronic OHS newsletter she edits and that she is always looking for articles and photos. Please contact Cynthia for further details.</p>	<p>Regional Networkers</p> <p>Regional Networkers</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>OHS Strategic Review – update on progress:</p> <p>The OHS strategic review was conducted eighteen months ago. Graham reported that the Higher Education group is now up and running. Last year the OHS completed a survey with its members and the results were especially informative for the OHS committee to use for action to review the OHS aims and goals. The results of the survey indicated that regional members would like to see more regional events so Graham pointed out that this is a good cue for the society’s regional networkers to take on the baton and perhaps organise a local event in their region if they’re not already doing so. One of the regional network’s aims is to connect to our members and be active and create a platform for</p>	

	<p>all to showcase their oral history work and discuss.</p> <p>Cynthia offered to send out the membership contact details by each region in case a networker wished to organise a local event with its members.</p>	<p>Cynthia Brown to distribute regional membership data to everyone</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Training :</p> <p>Rob mentioned that there has been a higher demand than ever previously for video and oral history training. Heritage Lottery Fund has increased their requests for training in oral history courses. There is a higher number of PhD and HE students taking the introductory courses. A total of seventeen courses were run in 2010 (twelve in London and nine in the regions). The OHS has recruited six new trainers to cover all geographical gaps in the regions to ensure training can be provided. The new trainers are: John Tanner, Julia Letts, Kate Richardson, Sarah Lowry and Ros Livshin.</p> <p>Mary, Cynthia and Michelle have written a new family and oral history training course which will be launched next year.</p> <p>The statistics show that approximately 25% of those who attend courses are OHS members or become members as a result of their attending the training course.</p> <p>Graham Smith gave an update about the OHS Higher Education plan to work in partnership with HE institutions to develop their own form of oral history training with guidance from OHS but without the society being put in the position where the HE institutes don't employ an oral historian because they can send their students to an oral history centre. Graham said there was a discussion going on about the OHS potentially holding a summer school annually to train PhD students etc.</p> <p>Cynthia mentioned during this agenda item that the editors of the OHS journal were very keen to receive more articles from HE institutes and Rob requested articles too for the Public History section of the journal. He said it needn't be all about theory.</p> <p>Michelle also gave an outline of the new follow-up course for people who have attended the basic OHS training and want an opportunity to review and develop their skills. This is open to people who have completed at least five interviews.</p>	<p>Open to all networkers if they wish to write an article for the journal</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Network event 2011:</p> <p>There was a short discussion about holding next year's regional network event in East Anglia with possibly an oral tradition and folklore theme with an open approach to interpreting the theme for discussion and to invite local members. The venue could be in either Ipswich or Norwich. Juliana will look into this and report back later in the year.</p>	<p>Juliana Vandegrift to make arrangements</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>OHS Annual Conference 2011 – Oral History & Regeneration, University of Sunderland, 1-2 July 2011:</p>	

	<p>Janette Hilton gave an update on behalf of the conference committee about the general progress for the organisation of next year's annual conference. Key points to note are they still open about who the key speakers are. Janette is in discussion talks with the local city council and the regional developers. It was agreed that more promotion was needed in the newsletter for example and different avenues needed further exploring. There was mention of holding a community showcase with scheduled slots throughout the day as seen in the International Oral History Association conference in Mexico a couple years ago.</p>	
11.	<p>New Regional Network co-ordinator:</p> <p>Cynthia said goodbye to the network in the sense that she is stepping down from her role as the Regional Network Co-ordinator, although she will be continuing as a networker. She introduced Juliana Vandegrift as the new co-ordinator. The transition has now taken place and enquiries about network matters can be directed to Juliana.</p> <p>Graham paid a warm tribute of thanks to Cynthia for all the good work she's achieved in the role for the last nine years. Cynthia's other roles on the OHS committee will continue as usual e.g. Current British Work report and the newsletter and training courses.</p>	
12.	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>Cynthia and the networkers gave thanks to John Tanner for hosting the 2010 annual event in Barnsley. It was a fantastic location and venue! Padmini and Juliana were also thanked for their background involvement with the event and putting together the Regional Networkers' Annual Report which is now on the website and has been emailed to all networkers.</p>	

Oral History Society Regional Network

Network Business Meeting 2011

Date & Time: Friday 11th November 2011 at 6 pm (concluding no later than 8 pm)

Location: Ipswich Record Office, Gateacre Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2LQ (plenty of car parking at the venue)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2010 meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Regional Network update
5. Continuing Professional Development
6. OHS website and Regional Network
7. OHS Strategic Review – latest update
8. Training
9. Network event 2012
10. OHS Annual Conference 2012: *Oral History of Disrupted & Traumatic Childhoods*, Reading, 13-14th July 2012
11. Any other competent business

Oral History Society Regional Network

ANNUAL EVENT 2011

Saturday 12th November 2011

10 am – 4 pm

**Location: University Campus Suffolk (UCS), Waterfront Building
Neptune Quay, Ipswich, IP4 1QJ**

(Please arrive promptly to sign in at the reception area
& make way to the room etc)

Theme: 'Suffolk, East Anglia and oral tradition...'

09:30	Arrive for tea/coffee/ reception sign-in (please allow at least 20 mins)
10:00	<p>Welcome & Introduction: Juliana Vandegrift, Regional Network Coordinator, Oral History Society</p> <p>UCS & Oral History: Dr. Harvey Osborne, <i>HISTORY, UNIVERSITY CAMPUS SUFFOLK (UCS)</i></p> <p>Background: The host university has an active interest in oral history and in recent years has supported its undergraduates and graduates in a number of community-based projects encompassing varied themes. Some recently completed work in conjunction with the Ipswich Maritime Trust has involved recording the memories of those who captained commercial sailing barges based in Suffolk ports.</p>
10:30	<p>'The Girl with the Tape Recorder' - Maggie Grenham, Rodney West, joined by John & Daphne Gant of the Blaxhall Archive Group (BAG)</p> <p>Background: The Blaxhall Archive Group was formed in 2003 and consists of people of all ages interested in recording and researching the social history of the parish of Blaxhall. The group was inspired to continue the celebrated work begun by George Ewart Evans (Ask the Fellows Who Cut the Hay) who lived in Blaxhall in the 1950s, recording villagers' farming tales of agricultural life. In 2006 and 2009 the group collectively published two books, 'Blaxhall Living in the Past' & 'Blaxhall's Creative Past' with accompanying DVDs. Two years ago Maggie Grenham & Rodney West organised a brilliant celebration in Blaxhall to mark the centenary of the birth of George Ewart Evans.</p>
11:00	<p>Mat Bayfield & Eric Sedge of the 'Broadside Boys' chat about their lively songs based on their observations and every day experiences of life in Suffolk</p> <p>Background: Two Suffolk musicians influenced by the county they live in and the real ale they love! An eclectic blend of original material inspired by Suffolk life combined with a heady brew of popular songs covered in their trademark unique and rustic way. The Broadside Boys, "held together with baler twine and oak, usually fuelled by Adnams finest and with more grunt than a Massey Ferguson!" perform live music in and around local Suffolk pubs.</p>
11:30	Coffee break
11:50	<p>'Suffolk Voices Restored' presentation by Bridget Hanley, Archivist from the Suffolk Record Office, talks about their recent project</p> <p>Background: 'Suffolk Voices Restored' was a Heritage Lottery funded project aiming to preserve and improve access to oral history recordings held at Suffolk Record Office. The project successfully preserved the authentic voice of Suffolk and has made</p>

	<p>the recordings accessible for current and future generations. There was a steep learning curve along the way and Bridget Hanley describes the history and development of the project, including its use of volunteers and input from school students, with information about the content of the resource.</p>
12:20	<p>'Essex Voices: How to Speak Essex' presentation by Martin Astell, Sound Archivist from the Essex Sound & Video Archive about their recent CD</p> <p>Background: 'How To Speak Essex' was originally printed in a small limited edition by the Essex Record Office in June 2009. It was an unexpected press sensation, spawning articles in the UK dailies and the news even raised eyebrows in India!</p>
12:50	<p>Continuing Development Workshop programme for Oral History Society members. What are the workshops and how can the OHS Regional Network get involved?</p> <p>Discussion led by Mary Stewart (Curator, Oral History at British Library and member of the OHS/BL Training Liaison Group).</p> <p>Background: Over the last year or so the British Library/OHS Training Liaison Group has coordinated a set of Continuing Development Workshops. The workshops are designed to provide a space for OHS members to think and reflect about oral history practice and theory, and to network and make links with other oral historians in their area. So far three workshops have taken place, one each in London, Sheffield and Ipswich and we're currently exploring running workshops in Manchester and the South West.</p> <p>Feedback from the attendees and organisers has been really positive and we'd like to extend the Continuing Development Workshop series to more locations around the country – but to do that we need enthusiastic OHS members to run them! Could that be you?</p>
1.15	<p><i>Sandwich lunch & refreshments provided & chance to catch up and link straight into next session...</i></p>
2:00	<p>East of England Oral History Projects – interactive 'Learn & Share' session with local members of the Oral History Society who would like to share their projects with the regional network and other OHS members</p> <p>Background: This is a dedicated session providing an opportunity for our local members to exhibit their oral history projects and/or research. It's a forum for open discussion & everyone can visit the displays during this 45 minute session. Every group or individual is asked to think about the following for discussion at 2.45pm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your one burning issue which frustrates you with your project? What obstacles have you come across and have you managed to overcome them? If not, why not? • What are your successful highlights which you'd like to share and what tips can you give?
2:45	<p>Group discussion/reflection session for all participants (Facilitated by Dr. Graham Smith, Department of History, Royal Holloway University of London, Chair of Oral History Society)</p> <p>Background: In this session we reconvene to share with the group and reflect on the emerging themes/tips that were discovered in the 'Learn & Share' session with the local member groups. Did any common themes emerge? What can we learn from each other and how can we build on our experiences?</p>

<p>3:15</p>	<p>'The Making of Oral History' discussion facilitated by Dr. Graham Smith http://www.history.ac.uk/makinghistory/resources/articles/oral_history.html Graham Smith will talk about 'The Making of Oral History', a subject he writes about in his article published by the Institute of Historical Research (listed above). A discussion and debate is welcomed by all on the subject. Central points up for discussion are: Memory & its multiple layers and how do community groups address this? What do they gain or lose by addressing/not addressing these layers of memory within the communities they interview? Re-visiting memories/stories over a lifetime – how is this tackled in community histories?</p>
<p>3:45</p>	<p>Round up of the day - Any final questions/queries (4:00 pm: Close of day)</p>