

Example of a Your Heritage project that meets our aims relating to: participation and learning



Project title: River tales
Applicant: Age Concern Herefordshire & Worcestershire
Grant awarded: £43,000 (57%)
Project length: 2 years 4 months



Project participants at Ross Regatta

1. Summary

Age Concern Herefordshire & Worcestershire's 'River tales' project collected reminiscences from older people who had lived and worked along the four rivers of Herefordshire: the Wye, Lugg, Arrow and Frome. Around 250 people were interviewed and their memories of farming, flooding, leisure, mills, wildlife, accidents and folklore were captured. Many of the interviews were filmed and a DVD was put together of selected stories, including the memories of the oldest participant who recalls paddling in the Wye in the first decade of the 20th century. The DVD was included in a learning resource for local schools and distributed to care homes, libraries, museums and heritage centres to help get people talking about their own memories of living by the rivers.

2. The aims of the project

The project had two main aims:

- to collect reminiscences of older people who lived along the four main rivers in Herefordshire to provide an insight into the social and economic changes that occurred throughout the 20th century; and
- to pass on those stories to younger people and to encourage more people to share their stories through the production and distribution of a DVD.

3. Benefits for heritage

- The project has created a resource for understanding life in the 20th century in the county.

- The original recordings and transcriptions are held as a permanent record at Hereford Record Office. Without the project, these stories might eventually have been lost.
- Participants also recorded information about the natural and man-made environment of the county which would otherwise not be available.

4. Benefits for people

- Over 250 people shared their stories by taking part in 50 workshops throughout the county. 36 stories are on the DVD.
- The DVD is being used to stimulate reminiscence and discussion by a range of groups including the residents of local care homes and history societies.
- Children at three primary schools worked with a composer to develop sound tracks and illustrations to accompany the DVD. An education pack, including the DVD, was sent to 104 schools to support National Curriculum Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 geography, history and science.
- The project has enabled one generation to inform another and encouraged young people to see the older generation in a new light.

5. Lessons learnt

- Promotion opportunities are on-going and were much greater than envisaged, partly due to the success of the project; promotion work is time consuming and there should have been more allowance for it in the budget.
- People who said they would do things such as organise reminiscence workshops or evaluate the resource didn't always follow through. Lots of additional work can be generated by volunteers not meeting your expectations and this should be factored into your project planning.
- Don't underestimate the time needed to comply with funders' reporting requirements, particularly when you have more than one main funder.

6. Long term benefits

- All project material is publicly available at Hereford Record Office.
- The DVD is still being used by a range of organisations.

7. The budget

Main project costs	£	Funding	£
Workshop facilitators	5,500	Other grants/cash from applicant	30,570
Design, writing and producing DVD, promotional and educational materials	43,150	Non-cash contributions	1,920
Training/ expert advice	4,760	HLF grant (57%)	43,000
Overheads, travel, volunteer labour, VAT, inflation	22,000	Total costs	75,490