



North West Local Studies Group Newsletter CILIP Local Studies Group North West

Registered Charity No. 303014

Issue 14 Spring 2014



Welcome to the Spring 2014 Local Studies North West Group newsletter. The photograph pictured above is taken from the “Funding for Local History Projects” Day School, the first of two day schools held in 2013. This Day School received some great feedback from attendees including one person who wrote that they had ‘gained a greater understanding of how the process works and what you need to do to put together a successful bid’. The second Day School looked at “Black Britain: Histories, Archives and Research”. The feedback received from this Day School included comments such as ‘every speaker enhanced my knowledge and introduced me to something new’. The LSGNW also hosted their first network event for librarians and archivists which was really well attended and had people praising ‘such a great event’.

The next day school “Family History: Recent Trends and Older Sources” will take place on Wednesday June 18 2014 at the Grosvenor Museum, Chester. For more information please contact Paul Weatherall by emailing **Paul.Weatherall@gov.im**

How to Obtain Heritage Lottery Funding

Friday 14th June 2013, University of Manchester

Karen Ziesler gave a session called "Funding for Local History Projects – Looking at the new HLF grants programme". Karen explained in order to have a worthwhile project you need to have a good theme and be specific in what you want to achieve. The HLF's new strategic plan is less rigid and gives applicants space to develop their own projects with the single strategic aim of 'making a difference to heritage and people'. There are four funds offering grants under £100k; these are Sharing Heritage, First World War, Young Roots and Our Heritage. For more information about these grants please consult the [HLF website](#).

Louise Hesketh, the Visual Arts Development Officer, Halton Council and Jeni McConnell, artist described their experience in gaining funding for their project 'Exploring Halton's Collections' <http://www.haltonscollections.org.uk/> The project had 3 specific aims; to catalogue the collections on a Modes database; to use the Modes database to allow on-line access to the collections; to appoint a Project Artist to interpret the collections and to encourage public engagement. The project appointed a documentation officer for 9 months. Jenni was the artist in residence for the project. She created displays and exhibitions which brought the various collections together and found links between them. Kevin Bolton, Archives+ Manager, explored the funding experience for the project to transform Manchester Central Library. The development of Archives+ is part of the bigger project to refurbish and develop Manchester Central Library. Kevin stressed the importance of having a solid foundation for a bid and a solid vision that can be referred back to. The vision for the Archives+ part of the project is to develop a centre of excellence and to tell the story of Manchester and Greater Manchester's history. The project will hopefully develop new audiences.

Black Britain – Histories, Archives and Research

Friday 25th October 2013, Lancashire Archives

This School Day began with Julie Devonald from the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah [Education Trust](#) and [Race Relations Resource Centre](#). Julie explained that the AIURRRC is part of the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust and seeks to 'develop anti-racist education'. The Centre has an extensive collection of material focussing on black

history and there is also material on the local history of Manchester. The Centre edits [Ethnicity and Race in a Changing World: A Review Journal](#).

Neil Sayer from Lancashire Archives, gave a talk on 'Black History – What's the point'. Neil talked about how tracing black histories can sometimes be difficult as there may be nothing in source to suggest racial origins. Black history can combat racism and raise an awareness of the long history of black people in the UK. Studying Black History can provide positive role models for young black people and reveal histories that have been hidden or ignored.

Clinton Smith from the Preston Black History Group spoke next. He explained how the group seeks to research, preserve and celebrate black history in Preston. The group along with other community groups were awarded with HLF funding during the Guild to explore memories from previous Guild years. These memories were filmed and are now part of a DVD. Clinton finished his talk by showing extracts from the DVD. The day was rounded off by Neil Sayer giving a tour of the Archives and revealing documents that showed evidence of slave ownership in the Caribbean.

CILIP LSGNW/ARA NW Networking event

Monday 11th November 2013, Liverpool Central Library

The first ever LSGNW networking event was hosted in November. This was an opportunity for Librarians and Archives to network and also to experience a tour of Liverpool Central library and archives. Local Historian Alan Crosby provided a talk called 'Mining the past: archives and local studies from a user's perspective'. We will be organising more network events in the future.



Discussion: Role of Local Studies Librarians

The LSGNW have been hosting a series of discussions about various topics which affect Local Studies. These are a few points from our first discussion which focused on the role of Local Studies Librarian.

As Local Studies Librarians, we take care of the Local Studies collections. We identify gaps and acquire, or even create, sources to fill them. We preserve ephemera and grey literature. We champion the user's right to access to our collections. The majority of the collections are secondary sources. Secondary sources are important, anybody studying local history needs to know what others have already written before they start using the primary sources held in record offices.

Local Studies is the "secret weapon of the library service". Collections and projects can engage new audiences, both in visitor figures and remotely. They can help to challenge perceptions and engage new audiences. Ways of access to records are becoming more inventive e.g. using social media, outreach, remote volunteering, partnerships etc.

New technologies make this an exciting time for local studies. Using digitisation, the internet and social media local studies collections can be made available to users who perhaps would not visit a library. There are also opportunities with established family history websites to display our collections through their web pages. As budgets are tightened this can be an opportunity for income. Financial restrictions are also making the way we develop local studies collections become more imaginative. Manx Heritage have struck a deal with a publishing company to receive PDF copies of local newspapers.

Local Studies Librarians have to develop strong links and relationships with users including community groups, local and family history societies, schools and online users. These relationships not only benefit local studies but also the shareholders of an organisation. For example, local authority users may promote the service through word of mouth, local and national press, talking to councillors etc.

Has this debate inspired you to get involved more with LSGNW committee? By joining the LSGNW committee you can help to advocate and support Local Studies by getting involved in helping to organise Day Schools, treasurer responsibilities, doing a talk for an event, organising a networking event or perhaps you have your own imaginative idea. For more information please contact **andrew.walmsley@lancashire.gov.uk**