



Heritage Lottery Funding for oral history of Leicester's Heritage Development

An ORAL HISTORY project focusing on the development of Leicester's heritage from World War Two to the present has been awarded a £45,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The project, called "Changing Leicester" will tell the story via oral testimony of the beginnings of heritage development in the 1950s and 1960s, continuing through the evolution of archaeological research and finally reaching a peak with the discovery and re-interment of the bones of King Richard III which put Leicester on the world's map. The project will record changing perceptions of the importance of buried remains and local heritage, the impact of heritage preservation on local people and the way that heritage preservation is reflected in the media.

The project will be led by the Leicestershire Archaeological & Historical Society in partnership with Leicester Arts & Museums Service and the University of Leicester's East Midlands Oral History Archive. Project staff and volunteers will seek out memories and memorabilia from across the city and there will be an exhibition in a Leicester museum and exhibitions which will tour community venues in 2017. There will be a programme of exciting events including community activity days, talks and walks and a celebration event to share the results of the project with people in Leicester.

The sound and documentary records created will be lodged with the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland for future generations to use. New pages will also be added on the Society and Story of Leicester websites.

Commenting on the award, Dr Richard Buckley, chairman of the Leicestershire Archaeological & Historical Society said: "We are delighted to be involved in this project to research and create sound recordings about Leicester's heritage development; we hope that people will take the opportunity to become involved as volunteers. The Society is very grateful for the award from the Heritage Lottery Fund."

Cllr Piara Singh Clair, assistant city mayor responsible for culture, leisure and sport, said: "I'm very pleased we have been able to support the Leicestershire

Archaeological & Historical Society in their bid for Heritage Lottery funding. Leicester has a rich heritage and it is wonderful that we will be able to record people's memories of their relationship with the heritage around them."

People can get involved with the project by emailing their memories of the heritage development in Leicester, for example their experience of archaeological digging locally and of campaigns to save historic buildings to: yolanda.courtney@ntlworld.com

Notes to editors –

About the Leicestershire Archaeological & Historical Society

The Society was founded in 1855 and it aims to promote the study of history, archaeology, antiquities and architecture of the county. Membership stands at around 400 and in addition some 100 institutions receive our annual publication around the world.

Our main activities centre around the lecture programme, publications, historic buildings and research. Each year we publish a series of articles in our annual volume of Transactions which also includes a summary of all archaeological activity which has taken place in the city and county in the previous year. We also publish annually the Leicestershire Historian and two Newsletters.

Having celebrated our 150th anniversary we now look forward to strengthening the work of the Society in order to maintain its position as the premier archaeological and historical society in the county.

Our website is <http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs/>. Our members have a tradition of association with oral history, via the Living History project and BBC Radio Leicester, on which this project will build.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

From the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife, the Heritage Lottery Fund uses National Lottery players' money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about. <https://www.hlf.org.uk/>

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