

YOUNG ROOTS NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2009

Young Roots and Intergenerational Youth Work

At last Government policy has caught up with the Heritage Lottery Fund! For many years Young Roots projects funded by HLF have demonstrated the benefits of intergenerational work for both the older and younger generations, and now the Government recognises the value in terms of community cohesion, mutual understanding, combating isolation and generating respect.

However, if you are interested in developing intergenerational work, consider the opportunities that a Young Roots grant presents. Most of our most successful projects have involved intergenerational work through oral history. These projects release the wealth of history that is



locked into the memories of older people, and different generations learn what a positive experience it is to engage with each other. A Young Roots grant can provide not only the equipment for recording interviews, (audio, video or both!), but also the training in how to conduct an effective interview. CoastNET's recently completed project *Jaywick – Life on the Edge* made extensive use of oral history and you can see a description of the project at:

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

Other projects have engaged in intergenerational work by enabling young and older people to work together on common issues. *Teen Ages* aimed to increase understanding amongst young people in Broadland of what it was like to be a teenager in and around Norwich in the 1950s. The project created a small touring exhibition on teenage culture in Norfolk over the past fifty years. The exhibition was researched and developed by a group of 10 young people working with a group of 10 older people from the generation that invented teenage culture in the 1950s, and education staff and heritage workers. The exhibition was taken to local schools in order to promote greater understanding between generations.

The Young Roots programme offers grants of £3,000 to £25,000 targeting young people aged 13 to 25. For more details go to www.hlf.org.uk/youngroots



Case Study – Back to the Future with a Suffolk Twist

Applicant – Enterprise Lowestoft, Community Interest Company Award - £25,000

The project

Lowestoft has been, and still is, in the throes of the regeneration of its physical, economic and social environment, and through a heritage-inspired pageant and show, and re-enactments of the town's cultural heritage young people explored and interpreted the town's past, ensuring that that historical and cultural heritage is not lost, but is valued, retained and passed on to future generations. The young people researched many aspects of the town's history and celebrated them through a town pageant, cultural show and re-enactments, creating a sense of Pride of Place in a special part of Suffolk.

The young people

A small group of young people were involved from the start with local historians, re-enactment specialists and Town Centre Management staff to develop a historical timeline and plan the project. The timeline was sent to schools and youth organisations throughout the town, with an invitation for groups of young people to select an event, undertake further research and prepare a presentation for the pageant. In all over 220 young people were involved.

The project was particularly successful in engaging young people and giving them ownership of the whole process:

“The idea of being in control of a large event, whereby young people made all the main decisions seemed like a perfect opportunity. In normal society, things are run the other way around; we are told what to do and rarely ever will we get to be part of anything big to show that we too possess ideas and skills. Therefore, this greatly excited me, particularly when the potential scope was so immense”. Becky Lo, Participant

The young people's planning group also ensured inclusiveness by involving young people from the local Pupil Referral Unit, Special School and club for disabled youngsters. All those in the planning group achieved their Vifty award, and all others had the opportunity to work towards other awards.

The pageant

The collective enthusiasm, energy and hard work exhibited by the young people involved in the design, organisation and presentation of the final project created a fantastic, colourful and thought provoking festival of the historical events that have shaped the town of Lowestoft over the years:

“When the event took place on the 11th of July I was amazed to see the turn out. It was an amazing day with so much history to explore and so many facts thrown around. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and had some wonderful feedback from local people saying how we should make this event more common throughout Lowestoft. I learned so much from this experience, and I learned so much about Lowestoft as well. It was completely beneficial”. Kacey Baker, Participant

Top Tips

1. Engage young people from the start – they should be involved in project planning before the application is submitted. They will have to be patient while we take 10 weeks to give an answer, but they will have ownership of the project.
2. Young Roots projects allow young people to engage with their heritage whatever their ability – look for the opportunity to engage those with learning or other disabilities.
3. Challenge the young people! Three members of the planning group gave a presentation to 150 members of the Chamber of Commerce and local council about the project, boosting their self confidence and enhancing their communication skills.

Young Roots and the Environment

Did you know that we fund projects that support our natural heritage and inform young people about the environment? We are working in partnership with the regional office of the Wildlife Trusts to arrange a training day that will bring together those who work with young people and wildlife experts to look at the opportunities for Young Roots funding. This will take place in spring 2010, hopefully at a Wildlife Trust visitor centre, giving the opportunity for a great day out in beautiful and fascinating countryside as well as giving information on how to access up to £25,000 for a young people's project. Further information in the New Year.



Recent Young Roots Awards

To qualify for an award, a Young Roots project must:

- Provide new opportunities for a wider range of young people aged 13 to 25 to learn about their own and other people's heritage;
- Allow young people to lead and take part in creative and engaging activities;
- Develop partnerships between youth organisations and heritage organisations;
- Create opportunities to celebrate young people's achievements in the project and share their learning with the wider community.

Your project must also create either:

- New opportunities for young people to volunteer in heritage; or
- New opportunities for young people to gain skills in identifying, recording, interpreting or caring for heritage

1945: Coming Home

£23,300

This is an out of school project to create a piece of theatre to mark the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, focusing on homecomings of local servicemen and women and the effects on their families and the community.

A small team of pupils spent a day fact finding at IWM Duxford and met with the museum's Education and Access staff. The team were immediately attracted to the stories of the men and women documented in the museum. In particular they were fascinated by the story of a man who survived the war as a rear gunner and they were compelled to find out what life was like for him and others when they got home from the war.

Chesterton Community College

High House Farm

£25,000

As part of the Royal Opera House Production Park development the Grade II listed, 16th Century High House Farm buildings will be refurbished and reopened to the public. This project aims to provide a link for local young people between the history and heritage of the farm and its future usage within the Production Park.

In consultations young people have expressed an interest in exploring how the site was previously used as a farm, its agricultural history and its development through the years. The young people involved will take part in workshops to carry out research, develop ideas to communicate their findings and using this knowledge will then design and make large scale painted boards telling the story of High House. The boards will be displayed on the site when it is reopened in September 2010.

Royal Opera House

Memphis Belle £21,400

During WW2 Bassingbourn was the base for the famous Memphis Belle aircraft. This project aims to inspire young people with this exciting local history in partnership with Duxford Imperial War Museum. Young people will interview older people in the village about their experience of the Americans who worked in the air base and will present their findings in a play for primary school children and the local community. The project will help young people to understand the impact and influence of the presence of the US Air Force in Bassingbourn (and beyond) on local people during the Second World War, including the influence of American servicemen on the lives of many young people in Bassingbourn.

Bassingbourn Village College

Family Tree £25,000

The Family Tree project has been developed to enable 20 young people with Aspergers Syndrome to learn about their family history and to explore how their local community has changed over time. It was also show how the lives of individuals are recorded, and how this has changed over time. The project will be delivered in partnership with Cambridgeshire Family History Society.

This project is designed to provide new opportunities for the young people to learn about their own and others' heritage. The young people will take the lead in the project

and will explore creative and engaging activities to help with their research. The young people will develop an open event to present their achievements to invited organisations, historians, family and friends.

Red 2 Green

Traditional Seaside Summer Theatre
£25,000

The project will research into the heritage and history of Seaside Summer Theatre. This will take into account traditional Repertory Theatre as well as the End of the Pier Shows. The project will cover the whole of the Eastern Region. We will be researching the backgrounds, shows and artists involved as we are aware that many successful artists began their career in Summer Theatre. We will visit all the Summer Theatres in Norfolk and Suffolk, as well as the V & A Museum which currently holds the theatre archive from the Theatre Museum.

The project will culminate in an exhibition at the Little Theatre Gallery and a film detailing the project and celebrating the heritage of Summer Theatre. The exhibition and film will tour the Eastern Region. There will also be a live performance by the young people as the project includes the opportunity for young people to experience working on a summer show.

Sheringham Little Theatre

For further information contact:

Stuart Hobley
Development Manager
Heritage Lottery Fund
Terrington House
13 – 15 Hills Road
Cambridge,
CB2 1NL

01223 224 881 stuarth@hlf.org.uk

Nigel Blanchford
Young Roots

07960 644 594 nigelb@hlf.org.uk

Heritage Lottery Fund website:
www.hlf.org.uk