

local groups, including oral history interviewing, audio editing, interpreting old photographs and digital storytelling. This has allowed group members to record and disseminate stories with people they know within their own community.'

The project has also organised events including memory days, memory walks, storytelling workshops and professional recording sessions. A series of workshops has been delivered to primary schools, inspired by digital stories made with farmers in Cornwall, as well as stories from local farmers who visited schools.

● Further details: 'Tallys an Tir' blog <http://cornishstories.com>

■ GLOUCESTERHIRE TODDINGTON

Craig Fees, archivist at the Planned Environment Therapy Trust (PETT), is also a course tutor and author in oral history in the Centre for Archive and Information Studies (CAIS) at the University of Dundee. In November, one of his students recorded a life story interview with Mrs Margaret Jacobson, born in Southern Rhodesia in 1929, who talked about her time at Beacon Hill School.

She entered it in 1936 at the age of seven and recalled it as 'a huge experience in my life'. Beacon Hill was founded in 1927 by the eminent British philosopher Bertrand Russell and his second wife, the author and social and political activist Dora, and is one of the best-known progressive schools of the inter-war period. The PETT Archive is concerned with progressive and democratic schools ('therapeutic communities for normal children', in Albert Lamb's phrase) as well as therapeutic communities and environments; and a copy of the recording has been deposited in its oral history collection. A twenty minute excerpt about Beacon Hill has also been uploaded to their website.

● Contact: Craig Fees, email craig@pettarchiv.org.uk, to listen to the interview: website www.petttrust.org.uk/archive/index/whp

■ WILTSHIRE DEVIZES

News of a project, 'Voices of Volunteering: Seventy-five Years of Citizenship and Service', based at the Royal Voluntary Service Archive and Heritage Col-

lection in Wiltshire which will gather between sixty and eighty oral histories from current and former volunteers and staff. These will be made available online and form the core of a new set of learning resources centred around citizenship. It will also train Royal Voluntary Service volunteers across Great Britain to collect and preserve additional histories from their own nations, regions and areas.

● Further details: Matthew McMurray, archivist, Royal Voluntary Service Archive and Heritage Collection, tel 01380 730211, website www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/our-history

■ WEST MIDLANDS

■ WOLVERHAMPTON UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

In 2013 the Arena Theatre, University of Wolverhampton was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £18,500 for an education, theatre and heritage project, 'Counter Culture'.

It worked with pupils from West Park Primary School and Penn Hall School in Wolverhampton to look at the changing role of the counter in community life, 'charting the progression from local shops and services on the high street, to call centres and automated check-outs, and the resulting impact on the life of communities'. The seven month project also aimed to develop children's communication skills and confidence, and to 'build pride in local communities'. It began with the collection of oral histories and culminated in March 2014 with a performance based on these at the theatre.

Archive materials have been produced and will be lodged at Wolverhampton City Archives; and an exhibition will tour schools and libraries in the city. The project was supported by the Sir Barry Jackson Trust, the Grantham Yorke Trust and the Dorothy and Edward Cadbury Trust.

● Contact: Alison Vermee, Theatre Development Officer, Arena Theatre, tel 01902 323171, email a.vermee@wlv.ac.uk

■ WORCESTERSHIRE REDDITCH

Jestaminute Community Theatre (JCT) has been awarded a grant of £28,400 by the HLF for a project, 'Engineering the

Past', to investigate the industrial heritage of Redditch from the start of the Second World War in 1939 until it was incorporated into a New Town in 1964. This will be used to collect oral histories from local residents about their working lives in the town; and to share them through exhibitions, performances and podcasts. JCT is working in partnership with Worcestershire County Council Heritage services, Redditch Local History Society (RLHS), Age UK (Redditch), Mettis Aerospace Ltd, Redditch Borough Council and schools in the Trinity pyramid.

As the theatre's website notes: 'The period between 1939 and 1964 represents an important time for our town. Many industries in Redditch played a significant role during the Second World War and in the immediate post war period. Redditch is well known for its work with needles and fishing hooks, but less seems to be known about this other important industrial heritage. Names like High Duties Alloys (HDA), British Small Arms (BSA), Royal Enfield, Terry's Springs and many more Redditch-based companies had huge international reputations. It is important that we celebrate this industrial history and record the personal memories of those who worked at this time. Like the incorporation of the new town, this period saw a lot of people move into Redditch to work in the new factories and the expanding existing companies.'

● Contact: Andy Higgitt, tel 01527 514049, email jestaminute@blueyonder.co.uk

■ YORKSHIRE

■ NORTH YORKSHIRE YORK

From the Quilters' Guild of the British Isles, based in York, which has received a grant of £89,100 for a three year oral history project, 'Talking Quilts: saving quilters' stories'. This will be led by volunteers and aims to 'document, preserve and share the UK's rich and diverse quilting heritage and the stories of quilters. "Talking Quilts" will capture the stories of today's quilt-makers in their own words through recorded and transcribed interviews, together with photographs of their chosen quilt, creating a freely available digital archive. It will provide opportunities for the public to learn about our quilting heritage, the importance of quilting as a diverse



social practice and its emergence as a creative art form.

'We have a rich quilting heritage in the UK that dates back hundreds of years. Whilst there are excellent sources of published information about our textile history, we lack an archive that captures the memories and stories of everyday quilters. As communications are increasingly digital, the need for recording and preserving stories for posterity has become ever more important. The project is supported by the Quilters' Guild and inspired by the "Quilters' Save Our Stories" (QSOS), organised by the Quilt Alliance in the USA, which for eleven years has recorded more than 1,000 interviews and archived these at the Library of Congress in Washington. "Talking Quilts" builds on a successful pilot study using adapted QSOS methods by Dr Pauline Macauley with volunteers from London Quilters.'

The first phase of the programme was launched at Volunteers' Week in July 2014

in Yorkshire and Teesside, before moving on to a further seven regions over three years. The project will be delivered by teams of volunteers in each region who will work closely with a national project manager. Every volunteer will receive training in oral history interviewing techniques and the use of digital recording equipment. The project aims to complete a total of ten inter-

views in each region and will culminate in the development of an online oral history archive of British patchwork and quilting.

Project manager Vicky Martin says: 'The enthusiasm that "Talking Quilts" has been met with in Yorkshire and Teesside, from both the quilting and non-quilting communities, has been wonderful. The region has a vibrant crafting community and local quilters are keen to make sure their stories are recorded. We know that many quilters have a special quilt that tells a story, it may remind them of a particular event, time period, place or person; it might be the first quilt they made, or one where they tried something new. "Talking Quilts" is all about using that object to start a conversation, bringing it to life and then sharing that story.'

Regional 'Talking Quilts' co-ordinator Dorothy Baird said: 'We are very excited to be the first region to take part in the project. We have a dedicated and enthusiastic group of volunteer interviewers who have received oral history training. They are really keen to get out and talk to the people who are the bedrock of quilting in our region.'

The Quilters' Guild of the British Isles has around 6,600 members and aims to promote the appreciation, knowledge and understanding of the art and craft of quilt-making, along with its techniques and heritage. The Quilt

Museum and Gallery, with over 800 heritage quilts and quilted objects, is also in York.

● Contact: Vicky Martin, Project Manager, email info@talkingquilts.org.uk, website <http://quiltersguild.org.uk/learn/talking-quilts-oral-history-project>

■ WEST YORKSHIRE BRADFORD

'Moving On', a project run by Bradford's Thornbury Centre and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, has produced a book depicting Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in Bradford, through photographs and testimonies from community members. This celebrates their culture and history 'with a local flavour', and is expected to be particularly useful for professionals who work with these communities.

Speakers at the launch included Violet Cannon, Gypsy and Traveller Inclusion Officer from the Thornbury Centre; Alex Jagger, Central Europe Volunteer Coordinator from Amnesty UK; and Tim Smith, photographer for the 'Moving On' project.

● Further details: Thornbury Centre website www.thornburycentre.com

■ NORTHERN IRELAND

■ COUNTY LONDONDERRY DERRY

Based on a press release: A £1.2 million digital archive focusing on 'The Troubles' is to be established by the University of Ulster in the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) at its Magee campus in Derry. The two-year project, 'Accounts of the Conflict', will offer long-term storage and preservation of stories related to life in Northern Ireland and the border region during 'The Troubles'; and organisations, groups and individuals will be able to deposit digital copies of stories in the archive.

It will be funded by £948,000 from the European Union's PEACE III programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, with the university providing the balance. It will link to the CAIN (Conflict Archive on the INternet) website, an existing resource providing a comprehensive collection of information on the conflict. The project will also catalogue the work that has been carried out on story-telling in and