

Shown below is a copy of the Press Release of
13 Dec 2018 from the Heritage Lottery Fund

The announcement represents an incredibly important step forward for The Heritage & Cultural Exchange and we will outline overleaf how this Heritage Lottery Fund grant will make it possible for us to take forward our mission of telling the story of Tiger Bay, its heritage and community.



NATIONAL LOTTERY SUPPORT KEEPS MEMORIES OF TIGER BAY BURNING BRIGHT

A new project looking at the history of Tiger Bay, through the eyes of people who came from across the world to work in Cardiff, is getting underway thanks to National Lottery funding.

The 'Tiger Bay - Preserving the Stories' project will build on an archive begun in the 1980's expand the collection to include maritime and industrial history and collect memories and historic images of the former docklands to tell the story of Wales's industrial past.

A STORY WORTH TELLING

Working with around 7,000 photographs as well as audio and videotaped interviews of former local residents whose families moved to the area from across the UK and overseas, a team of volunteers led by a professional will help digitise and preserve the stories of those who played a pivotal role in the area's history. Some information and artefacts were first collected in the 1980s, but have never been properly organised or stored and are now at risk of being lost if not cared for appropriately.

Newer memories will also be recorded and added to this unique collection, from Tiger Bay residents born in the 1950s and '60s and those who worked in the docks and supporting industries.

They will then be featured in an exhibition to go on show in Cardiff, when the project is completed a year from now.

A RACE AGAINST TIME

Gaynor Legall, who is coordinating the project, explains why it's so important this work happens now: "Memories belonging to older members of the Butetown community are steadily being lost, as many of them have moved away or are no longer with us, taking their stories with them.

"Tiger Bay was a thriving industrial hub and community, home to thousands of people from different parts of the UK and around the world who came to Wales to make a new life here. Their contribution played a pivotal role in Wales's industrialisation – and we must act now to keep these stories safe for future generations, which just wouldn't be possible without this National Lottery funding."

Money brought into Cardiff through the docks in the 19th and early 20th centuries, from the shipping of Welsh coal mined in the South Wales valleys, put the city on the map and contributed massively to its growth as the capital of Wales.

No one knows where the name Tiger Bay came from but the name became legendary and workers came from rural Wales, Cornwall, Ireland, Africa, Asia the Middle East, Norway, Spain, Italy and the Caribbean to earn steady wages and start a new life on the outskirts of the city.

Now, volunteers will receive specialist training in how to correctly archive the old and new materials, creating digital copies that will be available online, and interviewing people to add new memories to the collection.

Richard Bellamy, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Wales, added: "The rich history of Tiger Bay is crucial to understanding the Wales we live in today – the make-up of so many different people from diverse communities beginning their new life in Wales has shaped and enriched the country we now live in today."

"These stories are in real danger of being lost to time if we do not take action now, but thanks to National Lottery players we can make sure they're kept safe for many more years to come, and the spirit of this characterful area is not forgotten."

TIGER BAY - PRESERVING THE STORIES

When Butetown History and Arts Centre closed, The Heritage and Cultural Exchange acquired its historical and archival materials. The material is in a poor and disorganised state and is currently in storage at the Glamorgan Archive where the material is not easily accessible, and much work is needed to bring the collection into a useable state.

The aim of the 'Tiger Bay - Preserving the Stories' project is to sort and catalogue everything, ensuring the materials are protected for posterity and to facilitate access to the general public, researchers and schools, sharing the story of the development of Cardiff particularly Tiger Bay and its contribution to the industrialisation of Wales through the stories of the people who came from across the world to work in Cardiff.

This will be quite a challenge.

The long-term plan is that we will move into the newly refurbished Exchange Hotel but unfortunately building work continues to hold up any move to there and so HCE will be using space in Butetown Community Centre for the work. For the task to be executed properly, professional supervision in the shape of a Community Collections Officer is essential. So, much of the funding from the National Lottery will be used for these purposes.

HCE will be putting together a group of volunteers to help with the work, who will benefit from training in the skills required, which will include scanning photographs; converting audio cassette tapes into digital format which can then be listened to and summarised; as well as sorting and listing all the remaining items.

An online catalogue will be created so that all the stories of Tiger Bay and Cardiff Docklands are preserved for future generations and are readily available. The process of photographing and recording oral histories will be re-started to bring the stories up-to-date and add new ones.

We move into the Community Centre at the beginning of the 2019 and hope to have the Community Collections Officer in post shortly after.

The project is scheduled to last 18 months and during that time we will also be running workshops which will be fun and useful. The workshops will look at old photographs and try to identify who is in them and where and when taken.

HCE is actively looking for volunteers to help. If you are interested get in touch using the contact details below.

VOLUNTEERING

Contact: Gaynor Legall: 07966 185537
Trevor Godbold: 07711 957648
Email: info@tigerbay.org.uk

1914-18 COMMEMORATING THE FIRST WORLD WAR AT SEA

In conjunction with The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW), The Heritage & Cultural Exchange has been looking at the effect of the War at Sea on the community of Tiger Bay and the Docks and Cardiff shipping.

Our research has identified 205 ships with Cardiff owners or managers and 128 others that sailed from Cardiff and were lost to U-boat attacks around the UK, in the Mediterranean and off the Norway coast. In many cases the crews survived the experience but over 1,300 seafarers did not. Cardiff based merchant seafarers who fell victim to U-boat attack numbered 224.

We have found newspaper reports of some of the sinkings and the interviews from the survivors of the ss Cambank torpedoed off Anglesey in February 1915 are particularly harrowing.

Our research to date is published on the website – www.tigerbay.org.uk/uboaat-project

The RCAHMW project has been surveying First World War wrecks around the coast of Wales and involving coastal communities in researching the stories of the ships, and the men and women on board.

In November, these groups had the opportunity to present the results of their efforts at an exhibition and conference in Pembroke Dock. Trevor Godbold was there to talk about the effects on Cardiff ships and their crews.



As part of the project we have also been researching the contribution of BAME merchant seafarers and in January, Gaynor Legall will be making a presentation of this information at a conference at the National Archives.

HCE PHOTO ARCHIVE

Many of the images remain unidentified but using social media the community is helping put names to faces, buildings and occasions.

This project is being co-ordinated by Mandy Chambers. Give her a hand.

Facebook Group – Tiger Bay and the World
Twitter - @TigerBayWorld