

Community History Newsletter

Issue 1

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Welcome to Our First Issue

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A very warm welcome to the first edition of our newsletter. As well as being an opportunity for us to keep you informed and up to date about our events and developments it is also an opportunity for you to have your say, so please do let us have your thoughts and ideas.

It has been a very busy few months for everyone at the Group. We began a large project on the history of the Notting Hill Carnival (see page 3), continued to run intergenerational projects, music and drama reminiscence sessions and local

history walks and talks. In addition, the Group supported the Council's summer school programme and is helping Notting Hill Housing Trust undertake reminiscence sessions.

On the 20 September we hosted a one-off open day and exhibition as part of Archives Awareness Month (see p.2). The event attracted over 90 visitors and was a great success. Congratulations to all involved.

The one cloud has been the continued uncertainty surrounding the Reminiscence at Home Project. However, we are delighted to announce that funding to re-start this project has been agreed and we will be recruiting a new part-

time coordinator and volunteers shortly.

Last, but not least, a big thank you to all our volunteers. None of the activities undertaken would be possible without you and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all.



Photo: Visitors at our recent Archive Awareness Month event

Celebrating Black History Month

During October's Black History Month we are running a series of sessions linking older African and Caribbean people with local schoolchildren. We have also developed free learning resources aimed at Key Stage 2 which can be

downloaded from our website www.kcchg.org.uk

We have also organised two special events:

- ◆ Tuesday 21 October 6.30pm: Notting Hill in the 1960s: Exhibition and talk by photographer Charlie Phillips.

- ◆ 21 October – 1 November: Making Carnival Exhibition at Chelsea Library featuring colour photographs of recent Notting Hill Carnivals

Contact Sue Snyder on 020 7792 2282 or email history@kcchg.org.uk for more information

Notting Hill – Love it? or Hate it?’ Exhibition and Open Day

Over 90 visitors came along to an open day and exhibition on Saturday 20 September at the History Group. The event was part of a nationwide series of activities during Archives Awareness Month and was designed to raise awareness of and interest in our Community Archive.

Tony Benn opened proceedings with a short talk and a question and answer session. This was followed by a series of talks, video presentations and slide shows about different aspects of local history which were held throughout the day.

In addition, visitors had an opportunity to view an exhibition about local history and to find out about the work of our archive and opportunities to become a volunteer.

Visitors were also asked to let us know what they ‘loved’ and ‘hated’ about Notting Hill and this generated a fascinating response. A wide-variety of answers were forthcoming ranging from people who loved and others who hated Portobello Road, through to strong views on Trelick Tower, local pubs/bars and even number 7 buses! Full details of what people said they love and hate about

Notting Hill will shortly be available on our website www.kcchg.org.uk



Photo:- Nick White Project Development Manager speaks to Frederica Venn, at the 'Notting Hill—Love it? Or Hate it?' event.

Our Aims and Objectives—Message from our Chair

The aim of the Community History Group, which was founded 14 years ago, is to enlarge people’s experience by involving them in discovering their own histories and the histories of other people and organisations in the local area. We work in a variety of ways, not always obviously connected, but

always with the objective of engaging with individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

We don’t just collect information and file it away or publish it in books – though we do this too. Finding out about one’s past and the past of the area and enquiring how and why

things have changed from how they were in the past is fun.

“Finding out about one’s past and the past of the area and enquiring why and how things have changed ... is fun”

The purpose of this newsletter, of which this is the first issue, is to tell more people about what we do, how we do it and what we plan in the future in the hope that more of you will want to

take part in our work and activities.

Michael Mockridge

Music and Drama Reminiscence Project

‘Dementia touches everyone. There can be few people in the developed world who have not had some connection with dementia.’ Malcolm Goldsmith *Hearing the Voice of Dementia*

Led by qualified Drama Therapist, Sarah Allner the Project works with volunteers, people with early memory loss/dementia in residential or other care settings and care centre staff. The aim of the Project is to enable volunteers and staff to:

- ◆ Develop a basic understanding of early

memory loss and how it impacts on the individual and those around them

- ◆ Challenge assumptions/stereotypes about early memory loss
- ◆ Understand and work with a

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Mas and Mayhem: The Story of the Notting Hill Carnival

The history of Carnival is an extraordinary and a controversial one, but, until now, it is a story which has remained largely untold. All this is about to change. In June we received funding from the Heritage Lottery

Fund and Arts Council England for our Mas and Mayhem project. The project consists of a travelling exhibition,

"At last we can pay homage to those pioneers and activists who struggled against all the odds to keep it alive. We can pass that heritage on to a younger generation by giving them the opportunity to express it in their own way."

Sue McAlpine, Mas & Mayhem Project Worker

supported by an audio-visual installation, and a performance piece, both of which will be launched in Autumn 2004.

'Mas and Mayhem' uses the memories of carnival elders,

members of the committees, masqueraders, designers, musicians, police, councillors, cooks, cleaners, local residents, sound system people and dancers to bring the history of Carnival to life.

If you would like further information about this project or if you have memories of Carnival, good or bad, that you would like to share please contact Sue McAlpine on 020 7792 2282 or email history@kcchg.org.uk



Carnival in the 1970s

Meet the Staff

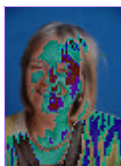
The History group has six part-time staff based in its office at 240 Lancaster Road.



Sarah Allner – Music and Drama Reminiscence Worker



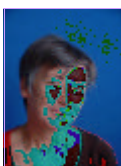
Barbara Card – Project Administrator



Sue McAlpine – Carnival History Project Worker



Mark Roberts – Director



Sue Snyder – Intergenerational Worker



Nick White – Project Development Manager

In addition to its part-time workers an active and dedicated team of volunteers supports the Group's work. We hope to feature the activities of our volunteers in future issues of the newsletter.

Focus on Volunteering for the Management Committee

Like most voluntary organisations we have a management committee which sets policy and oversees our work and staff. Members are trustees and are responsible for seeing that our funds are used for

the purposes for which they were given. The committee meets quarterly for two hours or so at 5 pm and papers for the meeting are sent out in advance.

We are currently looking for some

more members of the committee. You do not have to be a historian, we want members with broad range of experiences that they can bring to the organisation. Anyone interested should contact Dr Nick White on 020 7792 2282 or email history@kcchg.org.uk for more information.

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Founded in 1989 Kensington and Chelsea Community History Group has developed new ways of enabling people to make valued contributions to the community reflecting its varied cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

We encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to study, understand and contribute to the history of the local area and its varied communities. Our projects build bridges between people of different backgrounds and generations encouraging learning and exchange as an aid to understand the past and the present.

Forthcoming Events

- ◆ 21 October — ***Making Changes in Notting Hill 1.*** Notting Hill in the '60s. Exhibition and talk by photographer Charlie Phillips 6.30 p.m. at the Community History Group.
- ◆ 21 October & 1 November: — ***Making Carnival*** exhibition of photographs of recent Notting Hill Carnivals at Chelsea Library
- ◆ 2 December — ***Making changes in Notting Hill 2*** Talk by community activist Bill Richardson.
- ◆ 16 December — Holland Park guided local history walk with mince pies and mulled wine. 11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Starts and ends at Holland Park.
- ◆ 7 January — Avondale Park guided local history walk. 11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Starts and ends at Avondale Park.
- ◆ 12 January — Introduction to Reminiscence Therapy
- ◆ 20 January — ***Making Changes in Notting Hill 3.*** Talk by Tony Allen, stand-up comic and anarchist.
- ◆ 20 January — Introduction to Oral History training with Sue McAlpine. Level 1 at the Community History Group.
- ◆ 27 January — Oral History training with Sue McAlpine. Level 2 at the Community History Group

For more information contact us on **020 7792 2282** or email **history@kcchg.org.uk**

Music and Drama Reminiscence Project

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- ◆ person-centred framework
- ◆ Understand reminiscence and how it can be used with older people with memory loss
- ◆ Understand how music and drama techniques can further develop the process of reminiscence

Volunteers on the project have found the experience to be positive and rewarding and their work is of proven benefit to people with early memory loss/dementia. In the future we hope to develop this project into a fully accredited training course so that volunteers can receive formal recognition for their work.

The current intake of volunteers is working with the EPICS day centre. Recruitment for the next intake of volunteers will begin in January 2004.



Photo: Music and Drama Reminiscence in action

A Statement From Our Director

This newsletter is a tribute to the support that the organisation receives from its volunteers and I hope that one of its main purposes will be to provide a way for volunteers to keep in touch and to encourage more people to get involved with our work.

In the coming year the newsletter will provide more information about our regular programme of activities, events, training courses, walks and talks as well as the many volunteer opportunities that are available. If you have already had some involvement with our activities and felt them to be worthwhile, please do consider becoming a supporter of the history group by applying to join our management committee or getting involved with one of the smaller groups that provide support to particular projects.

These activities are open to everyone so please don't hesitate to contact us to find out more. I hope you will enjoy reading about what we do and if you have any feedback or suggestions for future editions we would grateful to receive them.

Mark Roberts