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## Hidden-History archive made accessible to all

Eastside Community Heritage has been awarded a £250,000 grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to digitalise their Hidden-History Archive.

## Main text

Today, Eastside Community Heritage has received a £250,000 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for an exciting heritage project, “Secrets shared: Unlocking hidden history”, in London. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the project focuses on enabling online access to oral histories, photos, videos and memorabilia, provided by individuals living and working in London from 1915 to the present day.

As well as enabling anyone to access the Hidden-History archive online, the project will also provide training to a range of communities and schools on how to search the archives, and use innovative tools to select contents for creating their own displays, as well as educational and reminiscence activities.

ECH as part of this project has re-established their successful, accredited training centre. This centre will enable trainees to gain qualifications to secure jobs in the heritage and cultural sector. This project will also train volunteers in oral history research, as well as a range of associated cataloguing and digital skills including sound editing. A series of planned workshops will allow community groups and teachers to learn how to use the archive, as well as innovative digital features in order to share selected contents in a creative way with family members, or produce displays, learning and reminiscence activities. These displays and activities can be used directly in sessions or in the classroom. The diverse collections will enable people from different heritage backgrounds to feel represented and the contributions from their community acknowledged and valued. This project will enable local people to be able to relate and connect to their local history, add their own contributions and feel included

## Quotes

Commenting on the award, Stephen Jacobs OBE, Chair of Eastside Community Heritage said:

“This award will enable us to further our mission of recognising the historic endeavours of local people from the East End -and making these stories accessible to those communities who created them”.

Judith Garfield MBE, Executive Director of Eastside Community Heritage said: “We are thrilled to have received this support thanks to National Lottery players and are confident the project will transform how people perceive and use digital archives, as well as how they connect to the local history of their area”.

Stuart McLeod, Director England - London & South at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: “We are delighted to support Eastside Community Heritage in recording the hidden stories of the people of London. This period covers many historic moments for the capital, from the blitz to the Olympics and, thanks to this project, these memories will be documented and made accessible for future generations to learn from.”

## Notes to editors

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### About Eastside Community Heritage

Eastside Community Heritage carries out oral history research to collect personal stories of people living and working in London, and surrounding counties, with a special focus on London’s East End. ECH holds over 4,000 oral histories, and around 40,000 photographs and video material, all preserved for public benefit within our Hidden-History archive.

This archive holds a range of multiple collections which include: diverse communities and heritage (e.g. Bengali, Muslim and Jewish communities), locations (including housing estates such as Woodberry Down, Hackney, and areas which have witnessed huge changes including Docklands, Thames Gateway and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park site), occupations and work (e.g. nurses and factory workers), migration (e.g. Windrush, Little Germany), businesses (Ilford Ltd, Fords, Yardleys). Leisure and sport (e.g. Barking Park, History of sports in Newham), LGBT community (e.g Stories from the Joiner's arms, Being civil in Redbridge), as well as events and periods of history (e.g. Clapton Orient and the Great war, Hidden Heroes, Soldiers from the Empire).

ECH uses materials from the archives to run projects and heritage activities in the community to enhance awareness and understanding of local history, connect people to local heritage, facilitate inclusion and feeling represented, enabling individuals and communities' contributions and experiences to be recognised and acknowledged.

In addition, ECH provides a range of training including oral history research and training for teacher professional development (including for the Museum of London). ECH has re-established its successful accredited, heritage training centre. ECH also delivers workshops to schools, community groups and the public, as well as designing and producing community and online exhibitions, videos, publications and talks. Plus, ECH runs a range of heritage activities including for libraries, festivals and community events. ECH uses archive resources to run reminiscence sessions in a range of community and care home settings. ECH also uses oral history skills to run community cohesion events such as young people in Newham entering into dialogue with local police and the Black Police Association around their experiences of Stop and Search practices. ECH also supports local diverse community and grassroot groups to develop, fund raise and plan for sustainability.

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### About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **Inspire, lead** and **resource** the UK’s heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future. [www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk).

Follow @HeritageFundUK on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/HeritageFundUK), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HeritageFundUK) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/heritagefunduk/) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.

# Further information

Contact: Judith Garfield MBE: office@ech.org.uk 07411536339

Social Media

<https://www.hidden-histories.org/>

Twitter: [@EastsideCH](https://twitter.com/EastsideCH)

Instagram: [@eastsidecommunityheritage](https://www.instagram.com/eastsidecommunityheritage/)

Facebook: [@ EastsideCH](https://www.facebook.com/EastsideCH/)