

London Region of U3As - SLP Report 2019 - 20

Completed Shared Learning Projects 2019.

Langdon Down Museum: September 2018 – April 2019.

5 volunteers. Leader – Jen Cobb.

This was the fifth SLP at Langdon Down Museum. The project was to research daily life at Normansfield as revealed by the bills and receipts of 19th and 20th centuries. All research contributes to the Museum archives. There was a lively presentation on 17th April 2019.

Life in 17th Century Charterhouse: October 2018 – February 2019.

This was a collaboration between Islington U3A and The Charterhouse volunteers and residents.

6 U3A volunteers, 4 Charterhouse volunteers and Brothers. Leader - Cynthia Adobea-Aidoo.

The group researched details of life in the Charterhouse during the second half of the 17th century as part of the heritage work and restoration of the Great Chamber.

The findings were presented to an audience of staff, volunteers and friends on 7th February 2019.

575 Wandsworth Road: January – March 2019.

5 volunteers. Leader - Helen Long. This was a SW London Network SLP.

This group worked with the National Trust looking at the history of this house and its interior over 200 years. Changes in the local area from Georgian times to the present day were also investigated. The findings have given National Trust volunteers valuable information/stories to use when they undertake tours of the house. The final presentation was held at Battersea Arts Centre on 20th November 2019.

Hampstead Old Town Hall: January – April 2019.

8 volunteers. Coordinator - Brian Levy.

As part of a Heritage Lottery grant, the U3A collaborated with WacArts to identify and capture stories connected with the building, its history and people. Although the project was hampered by staff sickness, and personnel changes, the team contributed to a weekend event of performance and displays at the Town Hall during the weekend of July 27th/ 28th. U3A also contributed to a book to mark WacArts' 40th anniversary.

<http://www.wacarts.co.uk/heritage>

Citizens 800 Royal Holloway University. London: January 2017 – December 2019

Contact: Peter Cox.

A three year partnership involving U3A members, mainly in the London and South East Region.

The focus of the final year was a series of six study days open to all members of U3A.

<http://www.citizens800.org/u3a>

Current and Planned Shared Learning Projects 2020.

Langdon Down Museum: September 2019 – April 2020.

5 volunteers. Leader Jen Cobb.

This is the 6th SLP in collaboration with curator Ian Jones- Healey at Langdon Down Museum of Learning Disability. The focus is on correspondence. This includes letters between families of residents and the Langdon Down family. Information in local and national newspapers will also be researched.

<http://www.langdondownmuseum.org.uk>

The Power of Petitioning in 17th Century England: September 2019 – March 2020.

39 volunteers. Leader Peter Cox

This is a 6 month collaboration with Birkbeck University. Transcriptions of the petitions have been the starting point for investigating petitioners and their communities. This has proved to be a very popular SLP with volunteers working together in 6 separate teams. Initial findings have already led some volunteers to research well outside London. There is a presentation of findings planned for April 23rd 2020.

<http://www.petitioning.history.ac.uk>

The Cary Ellison Theatre Programme Collection: Spring 2020

Leader Sue Leigh.

This SLP is being developed by SW London Network initially, in collaboration with Kingston University.

Cary Ellison was a talent scout who worked for Spotlight. His programme notes cover theatre performances around the UK from the 50s to the 80s. There are plans to roll this project out across other regions.

Expressions of interest are welcome.

Hampton & Kempton Waterworks Railway: Spring 2020.

This project will look at building an archive for the Railway. We hope to find photographs, plans, maps, documents etc. to provide material for exhibitions and displays.

<http://www.kemptonsteam.org>

Transport for London:

TfL is working to transcribe the minute books of early transport companies e.g. London General Omnibus Company and is actively seeking the assistance of U3A. There are also plans to highlight occurrences of notable individuals and events and develop human stories associated with the train and bus companies.

The timing of this is dependent on TfL receiving funding.

Guardian Newspaper Foundation:

We are in discussion with the curator about the possibility of transcribing the pitman shorthand notebooks of Clyde Sanger who worked as an Africa correspondent for the Guardian in the 1960s. There is great potential for developing research based on the contents of the notebooks, which would be of benefit to university students.

Again, availability of funding is an issue.

Legacy and Updates.

Womens Pioneer Housing SLP. April – September 2017. Three of the original group of volunteers are still involved with ongoing research. They gave a presentation at Founders Day in October 2019 and will contribute to the Centenary Founders Day in October 2020. There is an exhibition planned at the London Metropolitan Archives for April 2020.

<http://www.womenspioneer.co.uk/>

South London Botanical Institute SLP. September – December 2018. The volunteers gave a talk on their findings to the friends and volunteers of SLBI in the spring of 2019.

Hearth Tax SLP. January - June 2018

There is a Conference is open to U3A members on March 18th 2020. The Hearth Tax Digital website will be launched

roehampton.ac.uk/research-centres/centre-for-hearth-tax-research/ hearthtax.wordpress.com

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