



Tickhill & District Local History Society

Tickhill Then, Now and for the Future

**Excerpts from our final report to the
Heritage Lottery Fund**

We have now successfully completed the formal funded stage of the Project and these excerpts from our report to the Heritage Lottery Fund will tell you what we have achieved against our three principal objectives.

The HLF gave us a grant of £20,100 and we, as our side of the bargain, had to contribute the time of our volunteers - this we did to a calculated equivalent value of £23,000 - a fine effort by the Society.

We have received lots of compliments on the success of our Project from for example the HLF, the BBC and many members of the public both locally and internationally. This is an excellent outcome of which we can be very proud.

But this is only the start, because we are sure that what has been set up with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund will now continue and grow from strength to strength.

Supported by
 **The National Lottery**[®]
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 Heritage
Lottery Fund

What we said we would do:-

Preserve important heritage material and make it widely accessible

What we did:-

- 1 All of the George Read slide collection has been scanned (c.6000 slides) into digital files which are preserved in the Society's archive and are being added progressively to the website and used as the basis of presentations/talks to groups in the community. The originals have been returned to Doncaster Local History Library (where time will take its toll).
- 2 Additional images and documents (c.1500) have been scanned, restored as appropriate, preserved and shared with the public. Loaned images have been returned to their owners or placed in the Society's archive in line with the owners' wishes.
- 3 Paper copies have been made for exhibitions and for use in schools.
- 4 A website is operational which contains an extensive gallery of the photographs, documents, a brief history of Tickhill, 9 major and 50 minor research articles, 6 summaries of talks by speakers, news about local history etc.
- 5 The website is regularly and extensively visited. Since its launch, the images in the Gallery have been viewed 130,000 times (*one photo viewed 10 times = 10 views; 10 photos viewed once = 10 views*) and an average of some 840 individuals have visited it each month. In 2009, some 360 articles are downloaded each month.
- 6 With the aim of giving coherence to the collection of photographs and enabling people to understand what images are depicting, key images have been captioned and papers written to describe the context to which the photographs relate (8 major "Phototopics" with more than 20 sub-topics).
- 8 A new aim which developed in the course of the Project was to preserve old stock of moving images (one film of Tickhill has been converted to digital format so far and other films are promised) as well as to create a record of Tickhill today using our digital camcorder (Gala and street scenes, done; other events and activities planned).

What we said we would do:-

Engage people in learning about and appreciating their local heritage

What we did:-

1. 13 presentations have been given to local groups and organisations (Age Concern x4, Drop-in-Centre x3, WI, Probus, Yorkshire Countrywomen, Methodist Ladies' Fellowship, Rotary Club, Tickhill Institute). Presentations were interactive – showing images and seeking information. Further presentations are already scheduled for the future.
2. 6 major local history events have been run Project Launch/Local History day Oct 06; Local History fairs Nov 07, Oct 08 and Sept 09; Tickhill Local History day Jan 08; and an exhibition in St Mary's Church to celebrate its 900th anniversary. All events were interactive and the Tickhill Local History Day in particular brought forward many photographs and documents, a lot of information, plus volunteers to take the Project further forward e.g. Oral History interviews.
3. A series of Occasional Papers has been produced, researching local history topics in depth. These are much sought after and several have needed reprinting.
4. An ongoing photographic exhibition is mounted in Tickhill Library; topics change regularly, and people are invited to (and do) contribute their knowledge to deepen understanding of the photographs' content.
5. Local schools regularly use the materials on our website, both the photographs and the articles (9 so far) relating to the history of education in Tickhill. We have created links with local people who participate in Q and A sessions with the children in support of the teaching of local history. We have produced resources in the form of illustrated and annotated guided walks which the schools can use to aid their teaching of local history and a booklet "Treasures of Tickhill" which is a brief, easy-to-read and well illustrated introduction to Tickhill's heritage.
6. Regular contributions are made to Tickhill Today (a monthly magazine circulated to all local homes) in the form of photographs and information about local history activities. Picture spreads and articles have also been produced for local newspapers. The BBC ran an article in the "Who Do You Think You Are?" magazine featuring the Society's activities and the Project.
7. Seven people have been trained in the basic skills of historical research.

What we said we would do:-

Engage people in contributing to their heritage and developing a feeling for its importance for future generations

What we did:-

1. The oral history strand has conducted 16 interviews which have been published on the website in the form of a summary introduction plus longer transcript, with others in the pipeline. This is very active and ongoing with a team of trained volunteer interviewers and a list of interviewees which is constantly updated. CD copies of the interviews are given to the interviewees as a "legacy" for their families and friends.
2. The two local schools have documented a "Child's Christmas in 2007" which is now placed on the website. The schools and day Nursery also contributed paintings to the Tickhill calendar produced by the Society, thus engaging them in an appreciation of local heritage. The illustrated map and guided walk which we have developed recently has been used first by the school and then by the children to retrace their steps with their parents around Tickhill with themselves as guides.
3. The local Explorer Scouts have documented in photo essays young people's views of life in Tickhill in 2007. Both this and the schools' records of Christmas were designed to engender an appreciation of "Now" for "Future" reference. We have given them copies of the educational resource "Treasures of Tickhill".
4. New materials are regularly offered to the Society and re-scanned, preserved and returned or archived in line with owners' wishes. Some of this comes via mail as the website generates interest both nationwide and internationally. Such is the Society's profile that we have received, from the families of late local historians, two significant bequests of papers, photographs and research work.
5. We run regular sessions in Tickhill Library where people are invited to bring in photographs and documents for scanning so that they can be shared across the community.
6. Our links with other groups and societies has led to contributions from the Countryside Group of a history of the development of the local landscape, a survey of its current state (including flora and fauna) and an article about the planting of the Jubilee Wood by young people, a wood for the future.