

CADG: COMMUNITY ARCHIVES IMPACT STUDY

CASE STUDY NO. 6

House Scouts/North Devon on Disk Winkleigh, Torridge, Northern Devon

Project Summary	<p>Originally set up in this rural village, to encourage and educate people to look after their listed buildings in the village and survey and record them, it expanded into having a general digital archive of photos, documents and maps and became part of a larger digital community archive project, North Devon on Disk. They also have objects and archaeology which have been collected along the way. They have been supported strongly by Barnstaple and North Devon Museum and the North Devon records Office, who have set up their community kiosk – the access point for the archive and a display case for their objects. The emphasis is on awareness and education of the heritage, in a local area.</p>
Project Exemplifies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A small scale project, but subtly educating people in a cut off and rural area about the heritage of their surroundings. Could be replicated across the country in any number of historical neighbourhoods. Making sure the heritage isn't lost through lack of awareness• Originated from community itself and once set up was partnered by the local Museum and expanded• Through the Museum the archive has become part of a small sub-regional network of archives• Its aims are very much focused on the heritage, finding out about it in the village, increasing awareness and empowering people to care for it, as well as providing access to material collected. But there are few 'community' or social aims• Researching heritage, and empowering to care for it has led to local campaigns, in particular putting together a business plan to save the community centre and expand its facility to house the archive.

PROFILE

Project Name: House Scouts/North Devon on Disk	
Subject matter of archive	<p><i>Subject matter relates to</i> X <i>Further Details:</i></p> <p>A specific place / area x <i>Please Specify: Winkleigh</i></p> <p>A special interest, e.g. a particular industry <i>Please Specify:</i></p> <p>Black or minority ethnic community(ies) <i>Please Specify:</i></p> <p>Faith group <i>Please Specify:</i></p> <p>Other: <i>Please Specify:</i></p>
Location	<p>Address: Seckington House, Seckington Lane, Winkleigh, Devon Post Code: Ex 19 8EY</p> <p>Geographic area covered: neighbourhood - Parish of Winkleigh</p> <p>The archive only collects from Winkleigh parish and mainly from the village itself. But inputs onto a software programme called North Devon on Disk that several communities in the sub region contribute to.</p> <p>Description of area:</p> <p>Area is heavily rural, in the southeast of Torridge district, equidistant from Exeter and the north Devon coast. Winkleigh's population has almost doubled recently with the addition of two new housing estates. This brings in more retired older people than families, as there is nowhere for younger people to work (5% more over 65s than the national average and less 20-44 year olds than average). Access to services is poor, with little public transport etc and this contributes to being low down in IoD (119). There are very few BME people in the</p>

	community (99%) white.
Dates	2004 - To present

1. ORIGINS

House Scouts was originally going to be a one off project for. The Civic Trust who wanted to run a project about heritage for the community and with the help of the local Archaeology club they came up with this project, a version of house detectives, run by Janet and Gordon. They went into Barnstaple and North Devon Museum to ask their advice, as the Museum already had a project going about historical mapping of the town and Janet and Gordon wondered whether they could do a similar thing with House Scouts. The Museum however, offered for them to be a village network point for their North Devon on Disk project. They became part of North Devon on Disk, a digital archive project and could access the software that was produced for that. They then added House Scouts onto that software. Now they have the software they can expand the project and hope to go out into the rest of the parish more. As part of North Devon on Disk they also had a community kiosk installed, one case for objects display and storage and one for the computer access terminal. The project also included conservation training. So the impetus was from small part of community, but growth was via a sub-regional wide museum project. The collection was a result of getting people interested in heritage and encouraging them to survey their houses, take photos and bring in objects, so came from the activity.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aim was “to raise the awareness of heritage in the parish and enable folk to look after it”

The aims were not particularly social but more to do with raising awareness of listed buildings, education on how they should be kept and acting as a middle man between planning authorities and people with listed buildings. There was always an element of collecting, to take copies for the digital archive and as part of other activities such as field walking and heritage walks that were arranged. There was an educational element to the original aims too, as the idea was to train people to look at, survey and treat their surroundings and own houses with a more informed view. The training the founders received themselves on surveying can be cascaded down to reach many others. They wished to know more about the history of the village itself too and how it grew and to make this accessible. The physical archive came after and as a result of that.

3. NATURE OF PREMISES

The archive is kept as a digital format on a computer hard drive (with a back up hard drive at the founders’ house) and brought in for public access on Wednesdays and Tuesdays to the community centre. The physical archive is in boxes, cupboards and a

specially constructed storage and display unit in the community centre. The space is not enough and has led to plans to redevelop the community centre (after threat of its imminent closure) with more archive storage space.

The community centre is an old Board School of circa 1874 and is a historic building in its own right, Grade II listed. Because the group is heritage based group, they have been able to assemble ideas for its development that are sympathetic to its history (of which they have been able to research nearly all of it), agreeable to the planning officers

On hearing that the Council saw it as a redundant building and were going to let it run down and close, a business plan was drawn up to show that it was used by the community, by collecting evidence. They have also drawn up plans for its future use and ways to produce income to run it from community use. This can be seen as a small-scale regeneration project, brought together by the heritage/archive group.

4. NATURE OF COLLECTION

4a) Is the collection digital, physical, or a mixture of both?

Mixture of both

4b) How much material do you have in your archive?

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Quantity - indicate whether feet / metres and if estimate</i>
Cubic feet / metres of material	
Linear feet / metres of material	
Number of drawers in filing cabinet	
Other <i>Please specify:</i>	2 map/plan drawers, 1 display case, several boxes, 1 cupboard and a sea chest! of physical material, 5000+ digital records

4c) Format(s) of material

<i>Format type</i>	<i>Mark X if applies</i>	<i>Format type</i>	<i>Mark X if applies</i>
Paper / parchment manuscripts	x	Books	x
Visual – film / photographs/ pictures etc	x	Pamphlets	x
Visual - photographs	x	Periodicals/Magazines	x
Visual- Other		Electronic – e.g. c.d's / web site content / computer records etc.	x
Sound – oral history – planned		Objects (including textiles,	x

campaigns; life stories		pottery and prehistoric flints)	
Sound – recorded reminiscence sessions		Other (<i>please specify</i>)	

4d) Heritage Value of Collection

Digitised material and much of physical material is significant in a local context. They depict and record events, people, places that are significant for people in the village and in a North Devon context. They are good quality records and span a long time period. There is a fascinating record of village events that carries on into the present. Some archaeological remains have been discovered through activities and contributed to knowledge about area. Also new evidence about the history of houses in the village, which have helped build up a picture of the village and its history. Significant again to those who have a connection to Winkleigh and contributing to a historical sense of place.

5. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

5a) Range of Activities

Interviewer Questions:

- Which of the following activities has your archive project been involved in?

Activity	X if applies	Activity	X if applies
Exhibitions / Displays <i>Describe:</i> for fairs, events and other things	x	Community events, e.g. fairs <i>Describe:</i> have set up activities and exhibitions at Winkleigh fair	x
Workshops / meetings / Public lectures <i>Describe:</i>	x	Publishing, e.g. local history, newsletters <i>Describe:</i>	x
Participating in campaigns about locally important issues <i>Describe:</i> the community centre business plan	x	Collecting sessions, e.g. appeals for photographs / other materials, recording reminiscences, etc. <i>Describe:</i> every Wednesday morning and Tuesday evening they have access point in comm. centre where they can receive and scan material. Have also organised field walks to gather archaeology	x
Collecting oral history <i>Describe:</i>		Theatrical/drama events <i>Describe:</i>	
Outreach in Schools <i>Describe:</i> with North Devon on disk, partnered with a school who have the ability to add to the archive with their own projects, but has not been very active	x	Outreach in community centres <i>Describe:</i>	
Outreach in Prisons <i>Describe:</i>		Outreach in Nurseries, Play Groups	

		<i>Describe:</i>	
Outreach in Women's Groups <i>Describe:</i>		Other <i>(please specify)</i> <i>Describe:</i>	

5b) Key Activities

Core activities are collecting and awareness building through the presence in the comm. centre. Collecting can be for the digital archive by scanning things on Wednesdays or through surveying buildings and collecting the records of this. Also training so that other people can be involved is key to success. Eventually want to put on web.

Their exhibitions are very popular and are usually held in conjunction with a village event. They try to make them interactive and for instance have had activity where visitors are asked to identify people and places in displays of photographs of the village 'then and now'. To which they add photographs taken on the very same day, of an earlier part of the fair with a digital camera, which gets people interested.

The access to the kiosk itself, at the same time as the mini-market in the community centre, encourages people to get interested who would never normally go to Museums.

They want to work more with education partners, and although the school partnership has not been too productive there are possibilities to work with the Local Community College and Learn Direct classes, which also will use the community centre. They have also been approached by individual school children to help with projects and this could be expanded more.

6. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

6a) Structure of Organisation

<i>Structure</i>	<i>Mark X if applies</i>
Registered charity/ Company limited by guarantee	
Written constitution, not legally registered	
Informal – no written constitution	
Part of another organisation <i>Please specify:</i> Civic Trust (Winkleigh Society) and Archaeology Club	x

6b) Management and Governance

Project leader is elected at Civic Trust AGM annually. They know they will need a constitution if project expands. They come under the Civic Trust constitution currently, but will need some independent, archive-related governance for the sake of the archive and physical material soon.

6c) Partnerships in which the Archive Participates

They have partnerships with the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon, which is the most significant, and with North Devon Record Office, where they research and will eventually receive some training (not happened yet). North Devon on Disk is also an entity in its own right and works as a network of community archives.

6d) Planning Activities

Does the project have any of the following?

Strategy		Business Plan		Action Plan		Funding Strategy	
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If not, are its plans / activities set out in the plans of the parent / host or other body? NO

7. FUNDING

7a) Funding Received

<i>Type of funding</i>	<i>X if applies</i>	<i>Amount received</i>	<i>Period Covered</i>	<i>What Funding Was For</i>
Heritage Lottery Fund				
Big Lottery Fund				
Local Heritage Initiative	x	£15,329	2003-6	Surveying equipment and community kiosk, computer, printer, scanner
Local Authority				
Government (<i>please specify</i>)				
Charity / Trust (<i>please specify</i>)				
Donations				
Subscriptions				
Earned Income, e.g. from sales, from fees, etc.				
Other (<i>please specify</i>)				

7b) Funding Applied For (include details of applications to be submitted in near future)

<i>Type of funding</i>	<i>X if applies</i>	<i>Amount Sought</i>	<i>When Applied</i>	<i>What Funding Is For</i>
Heritage Lottery Fund				
Big Lottery Fund				
Local Heritage Initiative				

Local Authority				
Government (<i>please specify</i>)				
Charity / Trust (<i>please specify</i>)				
Other (<i>please specify</i>)				

7c) Other Sources of Funding

Is the project hoping to raise funding (or increased funding) from any of the following sources?

<i>Type of funding</i>	<i>X if applies</i>	<i>Target for Amount Sought</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Donations			
Subscriptions			
Earned Income, e.g. from sales, from fees, etc	x		

Funding has now finished with the LHI and nothing more in pipeline as yet, although say there is not much they need funding for currently. But are fully expecting to apply for small grants in the future as well as earn their own income, from means such as providing archaeology training. They are part of a new project 'Explore North Devon' with 5 other community groups, Barnstaple and North Devon Museum and the North Devon Record Office. Does not provide funding directly to the group but will be a productive partnership allowing them to move forward for instance with putting archive on web.

8. SUSTAINABILITY

They have a mixture of grant income and earned income and there is a strong feeling that relying on grants would not be sustainable. They have seen other community groups have problems because of reliance on grants. They are in transition period currently between end of LHI funding and new income. Official funding strategy is not in place and future funding is not terribly robust. There are ideas for income generation however, such as providing archaeology training. However, there are few needs currently for funds and there is a strong acknowledgement that the project needs to be sustainable, they are training other people up to make sure they can take it on

9. USERS/ACCESS

9a) Accessibility

Access to the kiosk, with computer terminal and display, is available to everyone at the mini-market on Wednesday mornings and also Tuesday evenings. They have advertised in the past and people come in to show things. It is more accessible at the market, which people are coming in for anyway, than just by itself. They would like to have more open access and eventually would like to put archive on the web. A new initiative they are part of 'Explore North Devon', run by the Barnstaple and North Devon

Museum and North Devon Record Office and funded by Archives 4 All, should allow this to happen

The exhibitions and events also provide added access.

9b) Rate of Usage

Visitors in person	<i>Number:</i> 100s (not counted) About 150 come to Winkleigh fair event, very busy. And then everyone who comes each week	Remote contacts, e.g. website users	<i>Number: 0</i>
Of which how many are 'members'?		Total number of users?	

9c) Details about the users

A mixture of people, because events bring families and older people. School children. Both 'old' Winkleigh and newcomers. Mainly local people – made up of ethnic groups and employment etc as in the village. i.e. mainly white with average employment status but low access to services.

Idea originally was that it would be aimed at householders doing their own investigation, and to act as a facilitator, so was not set up to be a 'group' of users as such.

9d) Have the numbers of users, or the type of people using the archive changed over time?

None noticed

9e) Numbers of staff, volunteers and members involved in the archive

<u>Staff (count only staff employed by the archive project)</u>		<u>Number of volunteers (i.e. actively helping the</u>	<i>No.</i> About 60 volunteers with 40	<u>Number of members (paying subscriptions, etc: members who also volunteer should</u>	<i>No.</i>
<i>Full time</i>	<i>No:</i>				

<i>Part time</i>	<i>No:</i>	<i>archive at least once a year)</i>	<i>being active</i>	<i>be shown in both columns)</i>	
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9f) Details of staff, volunteers and members

Everyone who works on the project is a volunteer. There are no members as such beyond the volunteer group. The two lead volunteers and project leaders, Janet Daynes and Gordon Fisher have experience in archaeology and through the project have engaged someone to teach them surveying buildings as well as the IT skills needed for the software. Their aim is to provide a cascade of training, which is already in progress, to volunteers and members of the community who wish to 'house scout'.

Volunteers help with surveying houses, historical research but often with an emphasis on their area of interest (for example their own house)

Recruitment is often through the archaeology club.

They could not think of any examples where people had taken further training or got jobs from the project

10. EVALUATION & IMPACT

10a) Has any monitoring and evaluation been carried out by the project/organisation?

None – other than knowing how many digital records there are

10b) Overall Assessment

Yes, they feel it has, it raises awareness of heritage in the area and it has ongoing activities. They have trained people in surveying

ANALYSE THE PROJECT'S IMPACTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN TERMS OF:

Citizenship

It has helped people get contacts – the group have acted as a translator between house owners and people interested in history on one hand and the local agencies such as EH and planning departments on the other. In this sense it can help understanding of needs between individuals and institutions, rather than groups of different people.

In some ways it has helped newcomers to village and older people meet – especially the heritage walks. But it doesn't work in a way that encourages meeting up often, it is more about individuals.

However, the awareness of heritage can lead to the recognition of a sense of place and therefore the 'common good' of the village as an entity and historic place.

Community Empowerment / Participation / Improving routes to other services

Community empowerment has become part of the impact, although indirectly through the campaign for the community centre. This campaign to save it was sparked by several factors, but one of the most influential was the use of the centre by the archive. The main people who run the archive have been the main campaigners for the community centre.

Just by introducing a person to the history of their surroundings it empowers them to understand and be in control of the historical resource. People find out that their families have been here for generations and people discovering this can empower them to begin family history for instance. In fact a family history group has been set up in the village now and they will be using the archive as a research resource.

The proximity of a local resource to find out about history may have encouraged this family history group to set up, rather than travel to Barnstaple to conduct all their research. In this sense improvement to services has been achieved.

It also empowers some people to deal with government, and feel less intimidated by planners – they have some knowledge about their house at their fingertips and they understand what the planners' role is.

More people have visited the museum and record office in Barnstaple as a result of the research for the project.

Improved Community Cohesion / Breaking down boundaries

They don't feel it particularly breaks down barriers. There are some that exist between incomers and 'old' Winkleigh. There have been some instances when the archive activities have brought these two groups to talk to each other, for instance when people want to know about their houses and older people know.

In some ways, knowing about the history and growth of Winkleigh has made people more aware of the community they are in. The recent foundation of the family history group shows this too.

Improved liveability of area / Community Safety

The activities get people thinking about looking after and restoring the heritage in the village and help educate people about old building techniques – some of the older

buildings they've seen as part of house scouts have been rendered badly in the twentieth century and are now in danger of quite severe damage.

Through some archaeological work the group facilitated through EH, evidence was found that contributed to the delay of a large biomass centre being built. The founders of house scouts knew who to contact to survey the area and come up with the evidence which they then took to a separate campaign group who had not previously thought this was relevant to their fight against the new building on a greenfield site. Next time and in the future, the historical awareness that the house scouts project has encouraged may mean that it is someone new feeling empowered to get this involved and increase the liveability.

The connected campaign to save and restore the community centre (the old board school) will bring a building back from threat of residential development.

Education & Lifelong Learning: Acquisition by individuals of new skills and experience (and outcomes, e.g. going on to formal training, etc.)

Yes, new skills have been learnt, especially in surveying houses, where training has been given. IT training has not happened yet, but training to catalogue onto the computer will eventually form part of the programme. The founders act as facilitators, getting in specialist training when needed and then cascading it down to other volunteers.

Everyone who looks at the archive on the computer terminal and in the exhibitions will learn something new about the history of their village.

No people to their knowledge have gone onto to do other training or got jobs as a result of 'learning' activities of the archive.

Health & Well Being - Physical, mental and community health

The interviewees couldn't think of very many impacts connected with health, but they did talk about archaeological field walks, which help get people active. They also mentioned a few people who have been drawn into activities, such as doing extensive historical research in one case, when suffering from depression and in one case MS. This has been an absorbing way to help get better

What personal benefits do participants say that they have got out of being involved in this project or these activities?

People who participate in activities say they thoroughly enjoy it. Also people who view the exhibitions love to see themselves and the places, schools, people they used to know in the photos. They learn more skills and knowledge as part of the programme. Volunteers feel that the activity is interesting and of interest to others

11. ACHIEVEMENTS, LESSONS & ACTION POINTS

- **What the project has done well**

Increase awareness of a sense of place and everyone's stake in the heritage in a local and hard to reach area

Bring in training and new, heritage related skills

- **Problems, how tackled, things would do differently**

Main problem is getting volunteers. They are inspired in the first place, but then have to keep them. (the volunteer pattern is similar throughout Northern Devon – poor turnout than in comparable populations)

- **Advice would give others starting a similar project**

They say you should be prepared to be very flexible on what the project's about, as ideas branch out from the original plan.

Would have liked more support from LHI – a forum for people to help each other and way to get advice.

Don't give up!

ADDRESS, CONTACT DETAILS, REFERENCES AND DOCUMENTS:

Project Address: See below	
Post Code:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Website:	

Contact Name: Gordon Fisher and Janet Daynes	
Contact Address: Seckington House Seckington Lane, Winkleigh, Devon	
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Email: jdgf@btinternet.com	

Other Informants:

Name:	Organisation	Phone No:

References:

<i>List</i>

Documents Attached:

<i>List</i>
