

# CADG: COMMUNITY ARCHIVES IMPACT STUDY

## CASE STUDY NO. 1

### Home Front Recall

Bridging the Generation Gap in the Rhondda Valleys  
&

### Our Mining Heritage

Coal Mining in the Rhondda & the South Wales Valleys

### The Ark Youth & Community Project Tonypandy, Rhondda, South Wales.

<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>The two projects - <i>Home Front Recall</i> and <i>Our Mining Heritage</i> – were both designed to create a historical record of life in the Rhondda Valleys in the twentieth century through an inter-generational project.</p> <p>Breaking down the barriers between younger and older people by increasing young people's awareness of what the older generations in the Rhondda had gone through during the war years and the final decades of the mining industry was a key objective. Producing a valuable educational and historical resource for future generations was another. Both projects can be seen to have achieved their objectives, and also to have had a number of other highly beneficial outcomes.</p> <p>A range of partners from the voluntary, educational and heritage sectors were involved. The projects were led by The Ark Youth and Community Project, a charity based in Tonypandy which works towards the social and economic regeneration of the local community and the wider area.</p> <p>The Home Front project cost £7,500, the Mining project £12,000. Most of the funding was provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund.</p>
<b>Project Exemplifies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>An inter-generational approach in which secondary school pupils capture the experiences of elderly local people.</li><li>Objectives explicitly seeking to strengthen community bonds and to break down the barriers between different groups of people in a community that experiences deprivation and disadvantage.</li><li>Value added. A further project grew out of the Home Front project. This new project increases the opportunities for social and physical activity available to local older people, and the projects have had a more extensive range of positive outcomes than was originally envisaged.</li></ul>

## PROFILE

<b>Project Name:</b> <i>Home Front Recall Project &amp; Our Mining Heritage Project</i> <b>The Ark Youth and Community Project</b>			
<b>Subject matter of archive</b>	<i>Subject matter relates to</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Further Details:</i>
	A specific place / area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Please Specify: Home Front covers the Rhondda Valleys and Mining Heritage covers the South Wales Coal Field</i>
	A special interest, e.g. a particular industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Please Specify: Coal Mining in South Wales (Mining Heritage Project)</i>
	Black or minority ethnic community(ies)		<i>Please Specify:</i>
	Faith group		<i>Please Specify:</i>
	Other:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Please Specify: Inter-generational</i>
<b>Location</b>  <i>Local authority areas are divided into a series of smaller geographical units for the Census and the Index of Deprivation, to allow analysis of individual neighbourhoods. Data is available for small areas</i>	Address: <b>Dewinton Street, Tonypandy, Rhondda, South Wales</b>  Post Code: <b>CF40 2QZ</b>  Geographic area covered: <b>The Ark Project works mainly with the residents of the town of Tonypandy, with some reaching out into surrounding villages and communities, The projects dealt with a wider area</b>  Tonypandy is in the unitary local authority of Rhondda Cynon Taff, which had a population of 231,946 at the 2001 Census. The Census area that approximates to the town of Tonypandy (Middle Layer Super Output Area [MLSOA] 016) had a population of 6,659. The age profile of both areas is very similar to that for Wales as a whole. The vast majority of the population (99%) is white. People in the communities experience high levels of poor health. Nineteen percent (19%) of people in the Tonypandy MLSOA and 16% in the Rhondda Cynon Taff local authority described their general health as 'not good', compared to 12% in Wales. Thirty one percent (31%) in Tonypandy MLSOA and 27% of people in the wider local authority had a limiting long term illness, compared to 23% in Wales as a whole. A significantly higher proportion of people aged 16-74 years did not have any		

<p><i>with a population of around 1,500 people; these are called Lower Super Output Areas [LSOA] by the Census.</i></p> <p><i>Larger areas, formed by combining a number of LSOA's, are known as Middle Layer Super Output Areas</i></p>	<p>qualifications at the time of the Census – 48% in Tonypandy, 41% in the local authority compared to an average of 33% for Wales. The population in Tonypandy has fewer people in social classes AB than in Wales, 11% compared to 18%, and more in social classes D and E than in Wales, 45% compared to 36% (persons aged over 16 in households.) Home ownership is high, at 81%. Forty seven per cent (47%) of owner occupiers own their homes outright, compared to an average of 34% in Wales.</p> <p>Levels of deprivation are high in Rhondda Cynon Taff (Welsh Index of Deprivation, 2005.) Twenty nine of the authority's 152 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's) fall within the 10% most deprived LSOA's in Wales, and 75% of the LSOA's in Rhondda Cynon Taff are more deprived than the Wales average. The local authority contains 1 of the 5 most deprived LSOA's in Wales. Tonypandy itself is relatively less deprived than the area that surrounds it: it falls within the top third most deprived areas in Wales.</p>
<p><b>Dates</b></p>	<p>Date project established: <b>Work on Community Archive projects done between 2004-2006. (The Ark Project was established 2002)</b></p> <p>Date project ended: <b>On-going use of material, and further community archival projects are proposed.</b></p>

## 1. ORIGINS

The archival projects grew out of the work of The Ark Project, a registered charity which provides a wide range of community development and support services, focusing particularly on the needs of local young people. The Ark's overall aim is regeneration; it is not a heritage or history based project.

*Home Front Recall* (HFR) was the first project, and developed out of concern about a lack of understanding between the elderly and young people in the area. It had its origins in a discussion between The Ark's Project Manager and members of 'Communities First' (CF), a network of voluntary sector regeneration and community development organisations funded by the Welsh Assembly to work in the 46 most deprived wards in Wales. Many of these wards are clustered around Tonypandy, and The Ark works closely with a number of these CF projects.

A mapping exercise was undertaken in Llwynypia, a village next to Tonypandy which has a CF project, and this showed that both elderly and young people had a perception of a gulf between them, and had some negative stereotypes about the other group. However, the exercise also found very similar fears and concerns in both groups, and it was seen that common ground could be found. The project developed through discussions with local schools and with local historical societies and veterans groups such as the British Legion.

The second project *Our Mining Heritage* (OMH) grew out of the work of the first one, and was developed by the multi-agency working group that had been sent up to plan the HFR project.

So these projects were originated by a professional employee within a 'grass roots' organisation, and others from the local community and voluntary sector, local schools and other local groups.

The project is not collection-based. The product comprises two dvds, a play and resource pack and photographs (both historic ones from the period being studied and a library of new photographs recording the development of the project.) Initially the projects were not seen as being about creating archive material, but an awareness of their value as an archive resource grew when as the projects developed, and the interest in this aspect of the work has grown.

There has not, to date, been any involvement with the mainstream archive agencies, in part because, as noted, the project did not initially define itself as being about assembling an archive. The Museum of Welsh Life at St. Fagin's was consulted (through their 'Talking History' Programme.)

### *Background:*

The ARK Project is a registered charity which undertakes a wide range of activities including:

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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youth Clubs</li><li>• Mentoring courses</li><li>• Provision of Meeting Rooms</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I.T Suite</li><li>• Holiday Clubs</li><li>• A Credit Union</li></ul> |
|--|--|

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Environmental projects</li> <li>• Community mini-bus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karate Classes</li> </ul> <p><i>To be introduced soon:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drop in Centre</li> <li>• Parent &amp; Toddler Group</li> </ul>
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## 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the archive projects need to be understood in the wider context of The Ark Project's overall objectives.

The Ark Youth and Community Project was set up to:

*'Establish a multi-functional community based facility in the heart of the Rhondda. Our aim is to offer a safe and inclusive venue which provides services for young people and the wider community that offers opportunities for recreation, employment, community education and interaction. We want to empower young children and encourage everybody to play a fuller role in the community.' (from the Ark's website.)*

Their aim is to work for the social and economic regeneration of the local community and the Tonypandy area.

The objectives of the two archive projects were as follows:

### *Home Front Recall: Bridging the Generation Gap in the Rhondda Valleys*

The aim was to create a historical record of life in the Rhondda Valleys during the Second World War through an inter-generational project. Whilst there is a lot of information available about the experiences of those who went away to fight, there was seen to be very little available about the lives of those who stayed in the Valleys during the war years. The objectives of the project were:

- To improve relations and reduce negative perceptions between the generations the area
- To increase young people's awareness of, and empathy with, what the older generation lived through
- To assist the elderly to gain new skills in IT through the transfer of skills from the school children involved in the project
- To produce a valuable educational and historical resource for future generations by capturing the memories and recollections of a group of group who are ageing.

### ***Our Mining Heritage: Coal Mining in the Rhondda & the South Wales Valleys***

This project also sought to address a lack of information about life in the valleys during the previous decades through an intergenerational, multimedia project on Rhondda's mining heritage. The last deep mine in the Rhondda closed over 20 years ago, and many local youngsters knew nothing of the mining past. Local secondary school children engaged with local residents with memories of mining to:

- To break down perceived barriers between the generations
- To preserve and increase knowledge about what had been a crucial industry, in both regional and national terms. Especially, to increase young people's awareness of the importance of mining in South Wales and their knowledge about what happened to the industry between the 1960 and the 1980's
- To increase young people's understanding of, and empathy for, what the older generation involved in the mining industry lived through
- To produce a valuable educational and historical resource for future generations
- To enable young people to gain skills production skills (recordings, dvds, etc.)

Whilst the following effects were not defined as objectives at the outset, they were noted as resulting from the project, and seen as outcomes (as discussed below):

- A growing appreciation of the historical / archival value of the resources produced
- Both the elderly and the young people gaining in self confidence and self esteem as their sense of achievement grew as they saw the quality of what they were producing
- Increased social interaction has resulted from the Home Front project. As part of collecting the information a tea dance was organised. A group of the older people who enjoyed the occasion went on to form a group which has obtained funding to organise further tea dances.
- Appreciation has grown of the historical / archival value of the resources produced.

### **3. NATURE OF PREMISES**

There is relatively little physical 'archive' material as such, over and above what is on the dvds. There are some historic photographs and many others taken provide a record of the two projects. These are kept at one of the participating schools. Most of the historical artefacts used in the filming for the dvd were borrowed from a wide range of sources, and the filming of the mining dvd was done 'on location' at two mines and a nearby Rhondda Heritage Park.

**The Ark Project is considering setting aside space within their large premises for**

collecting and keeping archive material. They proposing to develop another project similar to the first two, which would produce a dvd, but this time would like to obtain material (e.g. photographs, artefacts) to keep rather than having it on loan for a limited period. They are also interested in obtaining some of the archive of the nearby Tower Mine, the last remaining working mine in the area which is due to close in 2007. They would like to develop an 'archive room' within their premises, and create a small display area.

**Background:**

The Ark Project is based in a large converted chapel in the centre of the Tonypandy. The building was disused and run-down when the project took it on. They are still in the process of refurbishing parts of the building. It is a period property, but not of any historic importance, apart from making a general contribution to the streetscape.

#### 4. NATURE OF COLLECTION

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

The collection is primarily digital, in the form of two dvd's which have been widely distributed. There is also an Ark website which features the Home Recall and the Mining Heritage projects. It is possible to view selected parts of the dvds on-line, and to view the photographs taken to record the projects. The physical material collected comprises the photographs, also a play script and a related resource pack.

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

Type of Measure	Quantity - indicate whether feet / metres and if estimate
Cubic feet / metres of material	(E) One cubic foot max.
Linear feet / metres of material	
Number of drawers in filing cabinet	
Other Please specify:	

**4c) Format(s) of material**

Format type	Mark X if applies	Format type	Mark X if applies
Paper / parchment manuscripts		Books	

Visual – film / photographs/pictures etc	X	Pamphlets	
Visual - other		Periodicals/Magazines	
Sound – oral history – planned campaigns; life stories		Electronic – e.g. dvds / cds / web site content / computer records etc.	X
Sound – recorded reminiscence sessions		Objects	
Other ( <i>please specify</i> )			

#### 4d) Heritage Value of Collection

The project considers that the material is important in terms of content – because of the impact it has had / will have in helping local people to understand the (relatively) recent past which has shaped their area and the lives they live today. The projects provide a record of memories and experience that had not been well documented before, from a group of people who are ageing and so may not be around to share their memories for all that much longer.

### 5. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

#### 5a) Range of Activities

Activity	X if applies	Activity	X if applies
Exhibitions / Displays <i>Describe: Both – at launch events, and on-going use by schools of photographs at Open Evenings</i>	X	Community events, e.g. fairs <i>Describe: Schools, during Open Evenings</i>	X
Workshops / meetings / Public lectures <i>Describe: Workshops and meetings:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• during course of projects to collect information</li><li>• run by The Ark to present to partner organisations / use material to gain resources for further projects.</li></ul>	X	Publishing, e.g. local history, newsletters <i>Describe:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Material published as dvds which are widely distributed to schools, libraries, museums, etc.</li><li>• Articles about projects published in community newsletters and local press</li></ul>	

		<b>• Website content</b>	
Participating in campaigns about locally important issues <i>Describe:</i>	<b>X</b>	Collecting sessions, e.g. appeals for photographs / other materials, recording reminiscences, etc. <i>Describe: Appeals for material mostly made through publishing adverts in local papers and articles in paper and community newsletters</i>	<b>X</b>
Collecting oral history <i>Describe: Interviews with older people by school children formed basis for dvd's</i>	<b>X</b>	Theatrical/drama events <i>Describe: Play called 'The Clock' about life in the Valleys during the 1920's and 1940's produced by a Spectacle Theatre, a local theatre company and shown to local schools. There is an associated resource pack which pupil's work through to develop their understanding of their area in their era.</i>	<b>X</b>
Outreach in Schools <i>Describe:</i>	<b>no</b>	Outreach in community centres <i>Describe: For information gathering</i>	<b>X</b>
Outreach in Prisons <i>Describe:</i>	<b>no</b>	Outreach in Nurseries, Play Groups <i>Describe:</i>	<b>no</b>
Outreach in Women's Groups <i>Describe:</i>	<b>no</b>	Other (please specify) <i>Describe: Inter-generational approach</i>	<b>X</b>

## 5b) Key Activities

Core activities of these archive projects are:

- the interviews and information collecting that form the basis of the dvd's
- the inter-generational working

The projects have involved a group of people who tend not to use archives -young people.

The Ark's Project Manager thought that the projects had broken new ground and demonstrated innovation by the way they worked to:

- break down barriers between people, and
- stimulate participant's self confidence and change their attitudes and perceptions so that they start to believe they can achieve something, in an area where de-industrialisation, unemployment and deprivation have produced

a climate of low expectations and aspirations.

## 6. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

### 6a) Structure of Organisation

Structure	Mark X if applies
Registered charity/ Company limited by guarantee <b>Note: The Ark is a registered charity. It is in the process of establishing a company limited by guarantee as a trading arm</b>	X
Written constitution, not legally registered	
Informal – no written constitution	
Part of another organisation <i>Please specify:</i>	

### 6b) Management and Governance

The archive projects were managed by a Working Group set up for the purpose. It is composed of people from the various partner organisations (see. Q.6c.) This Group is currently on hold, to be reactivated when a new project is initiated.

The Ark Project is run by an elected voluntary Board of Management.

### 6c) Partnerships in which the Archive Participates

Partnerships and joint working arrangements include:

***Home front Recall: Bridging the Generation Gap in the Rhondda Valleys***

- **The Communities First Partnerships** of Cymer, Llwynypia, Trellaw and Ynyshir Wattstown – development and implementation of project
- **Porth Community School** - schoolchildren participants
- **Tonympandy Community College** - schoolchildren participants
- **Spectacle Theatre Company** – production of play in schools
- **British Legion** – advice / outreach to older participants
- **Age Concern** - advice / outreach to older participants

- **Y Sgol Y Cyfun Cymer** (Welsh Language School) - schoolchildren participants
- **Mentor Iaith** (Wesh Language Society) - advice

***Our Mining Heritage: Coal Mining in Rhondda & the South Wales Valleys***

- **The Communities First Partnerships** of Llwynypia, Trellaw and Clydach – development and implementation of project
- **Porth County Community School** - schoolchildren participants
- **Tonyypandy Community College** - schoolchildren participants
- **The Rhondda Heritage Park** – venue for filming / advice / loan of artefacts
- **Tower Colliery and The Big Pit** – advice / venue for filming / input into filming through interviews, demonstrations, etc.

#### 6d) Planning Activities

Does the project have any of the following?

**The answer relates to the Ark Project**

Strategy	Business Plan	X	Action Plan	Funding Strategy	X
<b>Note :</b> A Strategy and an Action Plan are part of the Business Plan Each project has its own strategy and plan					

## 7. FUNDING

#### 7a) Funding Received

Type of funding	X if applies	Amount received	Period Covered	What Funding Was For
Heritage Lottery Fund <b>Home Front Recall</b>	X	£ 7,500	2004/05	Production of dvd; project management costs; facilitation of workshops; transport, etc. (both projects)
<b>Our Mining Heritage</b>	X	£12,400	2005/06	
Big Lottery Fund				
Local Heritage Initiative				
Local Authority				
Government (please specify)				
Charity / Trust (please specify)				
Donations				
Subscriptions				
Earned Income, e.g. from sales, fees, etc.				
Other (please specify)	X	£300-400	2004/06	Make up small over-

			<b>spend on an item</b>
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**7b) Funding Applied For (include details of applications to be submitted in near future)**

*None currently for archival / historical projects*

*The Ark is seeking core funding from Charitable Trusts*

*It will seek funding from an appropriate source when have identified next archive-type project*

Type of funding	X if applies	Amount Sought	When Applied	What Funding Is For
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?

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

## 8. SUSTAINABILITY

**The archive projects have been funded on a project by project basis. There are likely to be appropriate sources of funding available for the next proposed project.**

**Support, including help in accessing potential funding for this type of project, may be available from the local Record Office. The Glamorgan Record Office and the Cardiff Museum Project Officer are working together on a project (*Cardiff: One City, Many Voices*) to establish community archives in the geographical area of the City of Cardiff (which includes Tonypandy and surrounding areas.)**

Community archives are seen by both the Museum Officer and the Record Office as an opportunity for cross domain working and establishing new partnerships with each other, other organisations in Cardiff and, of course, the communities themselves. Cardiff is a city of diverse social, ethnic and cultural communities and it is hoped that community archives will promote understanding, tolerance and respect. The Cardiff CAAP hopes to enable communities to record and share their heritage, and to provide an active, practical way for people to gain ICT skills, organisational and communication skills. Other key objectives include promoting a growth in confidence in local communities about what constitutes valid and relevant histories, and furthering the aims of community ownership of these histories.

These objectives are shared by both the Museum Project and the Record Office to assist in achieving the generic learning outcomes listed in MLA's *Inspiring Learning for All*. The aim is the growth of a network of community archives, which is central to the work of establishing a museum for Cardiff and its aim to develop a genuine community museum.

Obviously, The Ark will only have the capacity to carry on developing the archival strand of its work if the organisation itself has adequate core funding (for management, premises, core administration, etc.) The organisation makes extensive use of volunteers to run many of the projects (e.g. youth clubs) but some funding for other projects will also be required to give the Ark a reasonable activity base. Funding for the two core staff ends in 2007, and the organisation has applied for other grants. Its goal, however, is to achieve long-term sustainability by becoming a social enterprise and to become self-financing to a large extent by:

- selling a package of services (e.g. training, services for young people experiencing problems, etc.) at market rates to customers from the statutory, voluntary and private sectors.
- Developing a drop in centre / café in the town centre which could be funded to act as a one stop shop providing information on council services on the council's behalf.

## 9. USERS/ACCESS

### 9a) Accessibility

There is not (currently) a collection that can be viewed, as explained above, so parts of this question do not apply.

The material produced by Home Front Recall and Our Mining Heritage are readily available and easily accessible, in the following ways:

- Descriptions on the Ark's website about both projects, with photographs; major portions of the both dvd's can be played on line through the website, and the copies of either dvd can be obtained for free.

- The dvds have been distributed widely, at no cost. They have been sent to all 13 schools in mid Rhondda and also in Cardiff, all local libraries and some heritage organisations. Most of the Home Front Recall dvds have been distributed; only 5 out of the 100 produced remain. Fifty per cent more dvds were produced of the Our Mining Heritage dvd: 100 of these remain, but the project was launched only 2 weeks previously, and distribution is not finished.

#### **9b) Rate of Usage**

Visitors in person	Number:	Remote contacts, e.g. website users	Number:
Of which how many are 'members'?	<b>Not applicable – see Q9a</b>	Total number of users?	<b>Website shows 2,190 hits. The number went up by 300-400 very recently, following the launch of the Our Mining Heritage Project.</b>

#### **9c) Details about the users**

As there is not (currently) a collection that can be viewed, there are no visitors in person who can be monitored.

The audience for the dvds has so far been a relatively local one, (i.e. the Rhondda area) and has been representative of the area, although the nature of the projects has meant that a somewhat higher proportion are in the older age groups or of secondary school than the age profile for the area as a whole. In line with the demographic profile of the area, users have been white UK, English is mostly their first language though many will also speak Welsh. In an area characterised by high levels of unemployment, low incomes, and high levels of ill health it is reasonable to assume that these characteristics are present in the user group at around the same levels as in the wider population.

Note: A high demand for the Our Mining Heritage dvd has come from the wives of ex-miners who plan to use it as a 'stocking filler' in their husband's present's this Christmas.

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

No

### 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 archive at least once a year)</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Number of members (paying subscriptions, etc: members who also volunteer should be shown in both columns)</u>	<u>No N/A.</u>
<b>Full time (2 f/t staff employed by The ARK)</b>	No: none employed directly by archive project, but projects initiated and managed by ARK staff	<b>No. of volunteers involved in archive projects</b>	<b>20</b>		
<b>Part time</b>	No: 0				

### 9f) Details of staff, volunteers and members

#### Volunteers on the Projects:

The volunteers made an important contribution, particularly with gathering and collating information and organising transport as volunteer drivers. All of the participants in the projects were volunteers including the school children. Although some parts of the projects were done as classroom-based activities, the filming and interviewing by the teenagers was done on a voluntary basis.

The project development team visited local old age groups to invite their members to share their memories. Further information gathering took place via the local newspaper and radio stations.

The Ark Project relies on volunteers. It has a team of 25, 12 of whom contribute significant amounts of time on a regular basis. Around 6 of these volunteers were involved with the archive projects; the others were new. The new volunteers were mostly in the 50 - 65 years age group. One of these is now volunteering on a regular basis in the centre and she has recently been enrolled in a regeneration school so that she can be central to the development of the community youth café.

Volunteers have gained from their involvement: some have learnt new IT skills, and one woman is now researching her family history on-line. Another volunteer driver now has a part-time driving job.

**Staff:** The Ark's Project Manager who was instrumental in designing and running the projects is white, male, not originally from Wales but with strong links to the country and is Welsh speaking.

## **10. EVALUATION & IMPACT**

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

The Home Front Recall Project has been evaluated. All those attending the play and going on the visit to the Exhibition of War Time Life at Cardiff Museum were invited to complete a 3 page evaluation sheet. Thirty two responses were received, and were analysed by an independent researcher. Unfortunately this analysis was not available when the CADG interviewer visited the project. (The project will forward it when it is available.) Eighty young people from local schools and 40 elderly members of the local community were involved in, and benefited from, the project. The tea dances attracted over 450 people.

Our Mining Heritage Project has not yet reached a point at which it could be evaluated. This interview was conducted only a couple of weeks after the official launch of the project. It is proposed that an evaluation exercise will be completed in the near future. This can then be supplied to the CADG study if wished.

### **10b) Overall Assessment**

The Home Front Recall Project is judged to have achieved its objectives. The Mining Heritage Project is judged to have achieved all its objectives during the production stage of the project: it is also continuing to have impacts and fulfil objectives concerned with increasing awareness of the area's mining past and of the experiences of those involved in mining, and of breaking down barriers between generations during the current period following on from the recent launch of the project.

As discussed at Q.2, the projects have also had achieved outcomes that were not necessarily formulated as objectives at the project design stage, but which are central to the Ark's overall aims. Participant's self confidence and self esteem were seen to grow as their sense of achievement grew during the projects. The Ark's Project Manager, who led on these projects, considered that they had helped to develop a sense of belonging to the area amongst local people. This was of particular importance because of the way the area has suffered major economic and social dislocation over the past decades, and the impacts this has had on the local community.

Social interaction between older people has increased through the regular tea dances which have grown out of the Home Front recall project, as has contact between the generations and the breaking down of barriers, as these dances are held at a local school where the pupils serve the tea to the dancers.

In addition, the awareness and appreciation of the historical / archival value of the resources that have been produced has grown significantly during the projects.

**Awards:**

The Home Front Recall project received an *Impetus Award* in 2006. The project received a Certificate of Merit for the work done to promote global ethics by giving a voice to the local community. (Note: Impetus Awards are given by the Impetus Foundation, and are also sponsored by the Welsh Assembly and the Department of Community Affairs, and administered by the CSV (Community Service Volunteers.)

**Things participants have said:**

**'It's all right to read a book, but to hear it first hand brings it to life'** - Schoolboy participating in Home Front Recall.

**'I'm delighted by the interest taken in our lives'** – wife of ex-miner who contributed to Our Mining Heritage

**'It is wonderful to see the youngsters taking such an interest in their heritage.'** Resident, Ystrad, Rhondda.

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

**Citizenship**

Both projects were designed to break down barriers between older and younger people, and have succeeded in bringing together people who had formerly had little contact with those belonging to the other age group. The projects brought together individuals who had not met before, but more importantly provided a bridge across the misunderstandings that existed between the different generations.

Contacts between the two groups has continued, with the young people helping the older people by serving the food and drink to those attending the regular tea dances which are held at one of the schools as a result of the Home Front Recall project. Some of the teenagers are even dancing, and being taught the dance steps by the older people! Social contact between older people in the community has been increased through the projects and the on-going dances.

The projects involved two local schools, and have thereby brought together young people who in the normal course of events would not have had much contact with each other.

## **Community Empowerment / Participation / Improving routes to other services**

A new, successful group has grown out of the archive projects. As already described, the tea-dances which were organised as part of the information collecting stage of the Home Front Recall project proved so popular – with over 450 people attending - that a new group was formed which applied for, and received, funding to carry on running the dances. They are held regularly, at a local school, and typically attract more than 100 participants.

As discussed below, many participants are going on to become involved in multi-million regeneration project in Tonypandy.

By increasing understanding about the recent past of the Rhondda during a world war and then during the demise of an industry which had been fundamental to the nation's economic success, these projects have contributed significantly to people knowing more about the place where they live.

There has been increased contact with Cardiff Museum and heritage organisations: contact with the County record Office is likely now, and should prove beneficial.

## **Improved Community Cohesion / Breaking down boundaries**

Both projects were explicitly designed to break down barriers between two groups of people in the community – teenagers and older people in their 60's and 70's – who had been found to have negative stereotypes of each other. Many of the people in one age group had had little contact with people in the other group, and both sides had worries and fears about the other. The older people felt disregarded by the youngsters and sometimes felt threatened or upset by (relatively low-level) anti-social behaviour. Teenagers were reported as feeling that the older people disapproved of everything they did, and did not make any allowances for them being young. The projects sought to bridge this gulf by helping each 'side' to understand the other better, and to build lasting, positive social relations and strengthen social bonds.

The young people involved in the projects, and those viewing the dvds, have gained in awareness of the experience of those who lived through the war years and those who were involved in the mining industry in the Rhondda. Feedback received by The Ark demonstrates that understanding how hard and difficult these experiences often were has enormously increased the respect that the young people feel for the older members of their community. The older participants have spoken of how pleased and touched they are that the teenagers are interested in hearing about their lives.

**As a result of learning more about the social and economic forces that have shaped the Rhondda over the past century, and understanding how these were experienced by members of local community, young people in particular have become more identified with their community. At the same time, their growing confidence has also led them to become more outward looking, which is also an aim of the Ark project which works in an area where communities can be rather inward looking and people tend to have limited horizons and aspirations.**

### **Improved liveability of area / Community Safety**

**The Ark Project, which led on the two archive projects, is currently refurbishing its own premises, a large run down building in the centre of town. When complete this will improve the appearance of the area as well as adding considerably to the facilities available to the local community. In the future they would like to develop an archive room and a display area in their building.**

**The Ark is a strong supporter of a major regeneration initiative planned for Tonypandy. This will involve re-developing a large disused building in the town – ‘The Powerhouse’- as a heritage centre which would also provide small business units and space for other cultural and historical activities. The project is expected to cost around £7m., and it is hoped that funding might be obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other funders. Tonypandy is known as the place where Winston Churchill sent troops in against striking miners in 1910. The heritage centre would commemorate what are known as the ‘Tonypandy Riots’ and it is proposed to use the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event to raise this project’s profile. The aims of this project are to bring about physical, economic and social regeneration by encouraging tourism, business development and cultural activities.**

**The two archive projects undertaken to date have helped to raise the Rhondda’s profile. The Mining Heritage project was launched by the Lord Lieutenant of Mid-Glamorgan, and the project believe that their distribution of the dvds outside the immediate area will start to improve the image of the area in outsider’s eyes. The Powerhouse project would undoubtedly make a major contribution to this process.**

**Community safety is not the major concern in Tonypandy that it is in many other areas, although the project has in fact had some impact in this field by helping to address older people’s concerns certain sorts of anti-social behaviour by young people.**

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

**Both old and young participants have gained new skills through the two projects, as follows:**

- Older people have learned IT skills from the teenagers
- The older people who set up the Tea dance organisation to run the tea dances have learnt fundraising skills
- Volunteers have learnt research and planning and project management skills
- Young people have learnt production skills (the acquisition of these through being involved in producing the dvd was made an objective of the second project)
- The young people involved improved their communication skills (e.g. through conducting interviews.)
- Schoolchildren in the area have a better understanding of recent historical events and the ways they have impacted on their community than before.

**Some participants have developed new aspirations through the projects:**

- One young person wants to have a career in the media
- One volunteer in her 90's embarked upon a undergraduate degree
- One volunteer has started a training course at 'Regeneration School' in order to better equip her for community development work.

**Many of the participants are either post retirement or still in education so questions of improved getting a job are not relevant. However, one volunteer driver now has a part time job as a driver. The teenage volunteers are likely to have improved their employability / access to higher education through their participation in these projects, as it will be seen to be a positive thing to mention on a c.v. or application form.**

## **Health & Well Being - Physical, mental and community health**

**As described, the project was targeted at the young and the elderly, and has brought a range of benefits to both age groups (see above.)**

**Producing health benefits was not an objective. However, it is reasonable to assume that the physical activity involved in taking part in the tea dances, and the social contact which are part of this activity will benefit elderly participants health both physical and mental. (This is something the Ark could choose to test and measure.)**

**The projects did not take any particular action to involve people with disabilities, though meeting the needs of the elderly, some in poor health, required some special considerations, e.g. provision of accessible transport, etc.**

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

Feedback to the Ark Projects, as described above, demonstrates that participants have experienced a range of benefits from participating in the projects, as follows:

**The older people:**

- enjoyed working with young people
- enjoyed reliving their memories
- felt valued by the young people's interest in their accounts of their experiences

**Younger participants:**

- enjoyed working with older people
- enjoyed learning about the recent history of their area
- enjoyed mixing with pupils from another school

**Both:**

- gained a range of new technical and other skills
- enjoyed creating a product of which they are proud, and which will be seen outside their immediate area
- gained in self confidence
- enjoyed meeting new people
- enjoyed the activities, e.g. the trip people from both age groups took together to Cardiff Museum.

## **11. ACHIEVEMENTS, LESSONS & ACTION POINTS**

**• What the project has done well**

**Key things the projects have done well:**

- Produced a high quality product
- Succeeded in breaking down barriers between generations and created positive relations
- Engaged the community
- Achieved a lot on relatively small sums of money

- Captured recent historical events and experiences that had not been adequately recorded or recognised.
- Increased local people's understanding of the events that have shaped their area and their community
- Led on to ideas for further projects. A project, again involving local schools, is under discussion which would compile a record of young people's perspectives and capture present day experiences. Another project looking at the future of sustainable forms of energy is also planned.

- Problems, how tackled, things would do differently

- Getting people on board required hard work especially at the start of the first project, and communications were difficult at times. If doing this again the project would make more use of existing networks to make contact with individuals and groups.
- This wasn't a problem or a mistake, but when they do further projects the Ark will try to get people to donate objects and historical artefacts which they can retain and use to start a collection and display, rather than borrowing things as they did for the two projects studied here.

- Advice would give others starting a similar project

- Do it! Have a go!
- Be open to what you, as an organisation, can learn from the process. The Ark's Manager considers that he and his staff and volunteers learnt a lot about project management from planning and implementing these archive projects.
- Be ambitious in what you set out to achieve. It is good to be stretched.
- The local communities in which we live are a mine of information: use it.
- Use community involvement from the outset.

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### Documents Attached:
