

Local Studies Group North West Annual report 2013

In 2013 we had 2 day schools **How to Obtain Heritage Lottery Funding** on Friday 14th June 2013 at the University of Manchester. Karen Ziesler gave a session called "Funding for Local History Projects - Looking at the new HLF grants programme". Karen explained that in order to have a worthwhile project you need to have a good theme and be specific in what you want to achieve. Louise Hesketh, the Visual Arts Development Officer, Halton Council and Jeni McConnell, artist, described their experience in gaining funding for their project 'Exploring Halton's Collections' <http://www.haltonscollections.org.uk> The project had 3 specific aims; to catalogue the collections on a Modes database; to use the Modes database to allow on-line access to the collections; to appoint a Project Artist to interpret the collections and to encourage public engagement. Kevin Bolton, Archives+ Manager, explored the funding experience for the project to transform Manchester Central Library. The development of Archives+ is part of the bigger project to refurbish and develop Manchester Central Library. We had 15 attendees from a range of organisations, numbers attending were a little disappointing, but we had excellent feedback.

The second day school was **Black Britain - Histories, Archives and Research** on Friday 25th October 2013 at Lancashire Archives. This day school began with Julie Devonald from the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust and Race Relations Resource Centre. Julie explained that the AIURRRC is part of the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust and seeks to 'develop anti-racist education'. Neil Sayer from Lancashire Archives gave a talk on 'Black History - What's the Point?' Neil talked about how tracing black histories can sometimes be difficult as there may be nothing in sources to suggest racial origins. Clinton Smith from the Preston Black History Group spoke next. He explained how the Group seeks to research, preserve and celebrate black history in Preston. The day was rounded off by Neil Sayer giving a tour of the archives and revealing documents which showed evidence of slave ownership in the Caribbean. Again attendance was lower than usual, but the feedback was very good along with the interaction.

In addition in November we had a **Networking Event** in the refurbished Liverpool Library. This was an opportunity for librarians and archivists to network and also to experience a tour of Liverpool Central Library. Local historian, Alan Crosby, provided a talk called 'Mining the Past: Archives and Local Studies from a User's Perspective'. We will be organising more network events in the future. This was a free event and we got 40 attendees.

Andrew Walmsley, Chair LSG NW