

Starting to Dig.

Introducing 'Dig Where We Stand'. Developing and sustaining community heritage at UCL

Dr Andrew Flinn

Dig Where You Stand?

- Sven Lindqvist, *Gräv där du står* (1978) and article in *Oral History* journal 1979
- ‘Factory History could and should be written from a fresh point of view – by workers investigating their own workplaces’
- ‘...a handbook which would help others, especially the workers to write these factory histories in their own neighbourhoods and their own places of work’
- ‘History is dangerous...History is important because the results of history are still with us’

Today's programme

- An opportunity to meet and discuss heritage and history-making and how we might support each other in doing that
- To hear about some history / heritage techniques
- To learn about the HLF's All Our Stories programme
<http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/allourstories.aspx>
- To talk about the resources (people, places and things) in UCL that might be available to you to support your work
- To find out what you are interested in and how we might work together

Arts & Humanities Research Council: Research for Community Heritage

- 21 projects funded 2012 including UCL and Science Museum in London
- Pulling together teams with range of interest and expertise in 'heritage' and in working with groups interested in heritage
- 'Research with communities not on communities'
- Open days and activities to facilitate partnership & collaboration between HE researchers and others (community groups) interested in researching their community heritage
- 2nd round of AHRC funding in autumn to work with HLF funded community heritage projects

The bigger picture – other partners and relationships

- BBC The Great British Story - A People's History
 - TV series, heritage events and roadshows, promotion of local activities
- Heritage Lottery Fund - “All our stories”
 - £1m approx funding stream available for small community heritage projects (£3000 - £10,000)
 - Projects include “visits, using collections, talking to people, recording heritage” and varied, digital outputs
 - July application, October decision
 - Groups encouraged to explore possibility of working with universities to enhance their project
- National Centre for Coordinating Public Engagement
 - is to work at connecting universities and community groups

UCL's Dig Where We Stand

Our team includes people with interests and expertise in:

- Archaeology
- Community archives & community history
- Oral history
- Digital humanities
- Public geography
- Film studies
- Museums and Special Collections
- Public Engagement

But can also draw in expertise in a range of other subjects relating to your heritage interests

Dig Where We Stand: Objectives

- Develop new and existing long-term research collaborations with groups interested in their community heritage.
 1. Organise series of events and open days to work on different community heritage projects and facilitate connections and knowledge exchange
 2. Establish community heritage research space on UCL website
 3. Working on bringing together different elements of community heritage, notably community archaeology and community archives / history
 4. Encouraging greater participation by young people in community heritage activities
 5. Work with groups to develop innovative community heritage research products

In the future?

- Autumn workshop / event/s with HLF funded community groups (and others)
- Focusing on range of community heritage activities and developing partnerships between heritage researchers and UCL staff
- Partnership work will be supported by second round of AHRC funding
- Partnerships, projects and ideas can be developed not just for All Our Stories but also for other AHRC and HLF funding streams

Questions? Comments?

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