

The Board Report for Living Archive Milton Keynes From 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019

Accommodation

LAMK is still located in two separate rooms at MK Museum: a Training Centre for volunteers and adult learners; and an office for administration and research. Space for storage was severely limited when MK Council's Holne Chase facility was closed during the year. Although a three-year agreement has been signed with MK Museum to use its new store, the overall reduction in storage space necessitated having to sell or give away some material. The Archive Strategy Group, of which LAMK is a member, has considered a centralised archive base for MK – although the delivery of this is still pending. Throughout, LAMK has maintained its full work output.

BFSTC's funding for a *Bletchley Community Heritage Officer* - and its venue in Bletchley Library - ceased during the year. *Discover Milton Keynes* has continued in MK Central Library.

LAMK has continuously benefitted from the goodwill and support of MK Museum colleagues, staff and volunteers while the Museum progressed with its new extension - and LAMK continues to look forward to creating mutually beneficial projects to serve the people of Milton Keynes.

Staff

- *Anouska Lester* left LAMK to begin her studies for PhD; *Rachel Chapman* took over as Administrator in November
- *Herbert Booth* was appointed as Archive and Volunteer Officer in March
- *Melanie Jeavons* continued as General Manager.

Other members of staff were appointed as project officers funded by the grant providers of a specified project – for example:

MK50 (HLF): The original project manager Anna Doyle left LAMK and her role was taken over by Anouska Lester who completed a highly successful set of interviews and subsequent book: *MK50 The People's Story*. She also gave a talk to AHA-MK. The interviews were published on-line and on DVD.

Other Projects

- *Heritage Open Days*: Now in its sixth year under LAMK management, this borough-wide project required liaising with 90 events from organisations – the most ever! - to collate, publish and promote the programme. This was highly successful, with a record number of visitors yet again – over 17,000 – and with hundreds of volunteers involved. Another very successful lunch for 2019 organisers was held in March when preparations were made for a first-ever 10-day festival.
- *Discover Milton Keynes Showcase*: Now in the eleventh year of this project and with around 75 exhibitions mounted so far, LAMK has continued to research, prepare and display in Milton Keynes Central Library with several exhibitions going on tour to local libraries, despite the budget being reduced.

- *Linford Manor Park Project (HLF and Parks Trust):* A 'Down Memory Lane' event started this project in March; LAMK was set to train volunteers as interviewers, collecting memories of Gt Linford.
- *Soulbury Pump House (HLF):* This renovation project undertaken by the Canals and River Trust started up with LAMK managing its community engagement.
- *Bradwell Abbey and Me project:* From February, LAMK started to train participants to interview members of the public about their memories of the Bradwell Abbey site, in collaboration with Interaction and MKCDC. A Saturday Film Club for young people was also set up – to transcribe and edit interviews for sound-posts around the site.
- *Old School House:* A small project involving research for images and interviews about the Old School House in Wolverton
- *MK Museum events:* These included a small exhibition of Christmas images as part of the Museum's Christmas openings; assistance with the *HERstory of Women in Objects* exhibition; and a highly successful 40s Weekend with around 600 visitors and healthy sales.
- *Film screenings:* A further screening of 'Make No Little Plans' took place on MK's birthday (23rd January) at MKCDC, Bradwell Abbey.
- *Living Archive Band:* The Band continued to disseminate Living Archive's material through performances of original songs composed inspired by local peoples' lives – including at York House in November and with MK Community Choir at the Ridgeway centre in December.
- *Website development:* This continued with Facebook, Twitter and You-tube enhanced with volunteer contributions
- *Sales:* A steady flow of sales both online and at events have supplied some profit.

LAMK Volunteers - who include the members of the Board, continued to work to deliver what is the essence of our work – 'Everybody has a story to tell' – so that we can support community cohesion in neighbourhoods across the Borough of Milton Keynes and protect a most precious commodity – its heritage and pride of place. Busiest days at the MK Museum site continue to be Tuesdays and Thursdays, when volunteers scan images, research for current projects and transcribe oral history and interviews – the latter being much in demand.

At Christmas, volunteers are invited to a special lunch when we can thank them for their efforts and spoil them a little.

LAMK Trustees/Directors

Roger Kitchen continued as Chair.

Poppy Hollman and Robert Excell continued as Vice Chairs.

Marcus Lang resigned and Ann Sidgwick took on the role as Honorary Treasurer.

Martin Ferns, Marion Hill and Sarah Ralph became Trustees.

Helaine Griffin, Elizabeth Bancroft and David Bruce continued as Trustees

Mel Jeavons took on the role of Company Secretary

The Board considered a review of the Business Plan for 2018-21, prepared by the LAMK Board Subcommittee which continued regular meetings throughout this time, monitoring developments and preparing strategic options for the main Board.