



PRESS RELEASE

TELLING OUR STORY:

ST ANTONY'S CENTRE TRAFFORD PARK HERITAGE PROJECT CELEBRATES £7,800.00 HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND GRANT

St Antony's Centre is one of the first groups in the UK to receive a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) **All Our Stories** grant, it was announced today. The exciting project '**Park Life**' led by the Trafford Park Heritage Centre has been given £7,800.00 to prepare an audio visual exhibition with digitized images and digital recordings by people who lived or worked on the Trafford Park industrial estate. Besides images, the exhibition and online resources, an activity pack for schools to help children understand the lives and experiences of those from the Trafford Park area will be prepared. In 2013 a number of recordings and celebration events will be held which will include local songwriters and musicians performing, including songs developed from the stories.

All Our Stories, a brand new small grant programme, launched earlier this year in support of BBC Two's *The Great British Story* – has been designed as an opportunity for everyone to get involved in their heritage. With HLF funding and support, community groups will carry out activities that help people explore, share and celebrate their local heritage.

The popular series presented by historian Michael Wood and supported by a programme of BBC Learning activities and events got thousands of us asking questions about our heritage and inspired us to look at our history in a different way through the eyes of ordinary people.

The programme and HLF All Our Stories has proved a real hit and now '**Park Life**' is one of hundreds of successful projects around the UK to receive a grant. St Antony's Centre and its Trafford Park Heritage Project will be working with former residents and employees to capture the unique history of the residential community and industrial estate over the past 100 years. Opportunities will be given for people to participate in the project as well as learning new skills in digital recording; editing material and producing community exhibitions. It is also hoped that local schools can offer their own ideas and join in the creative interpretation of the stories and images.

TV presenter and historian Michael Wood, said: "*We British love our history, and no wonder: few nations in the world, if any, have such riches on their doorstep, and so much of it accessible to all of us. It is*



really tremendous that the people of Trafford Park have been inspired to get involved to tell their own story and to dig deeper into their own past. It's brilliant that so many people are being given the chance to get involved through the All Our Stories grants. Having travelled the length and breadth of the British Isles this last year filming The Great British Story, I am certain that fascinating and moving stories will be uncovered which will not only bring to life the excitement of local history, but will illuminate and enrich every community's connection with the national narrative."

Commenting on the award, Kevin Flanagan, Director of St Antony's Centre stated *"I am delighted by the announcement as this is the first time we have received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Trafford Park has such a unique place of national importance in the industrial heritage of the UK, its title as 'Workshop for the World' was well deserved, thanks to the vision; hard work and commitment by people over the past 100 years. These are stories and voices that need to be heard. At its heart is a people's story which 'Park Life' will celebrate and reach out to engage and make known the hidden secrets of this place in the heart of Greater Manchester. We cannot wait to get started on this new step in our own history."*

Sara Hilton, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund North West, said: "Clearly the success of All Our Stories has reinforced the fact that we are indeed a nation of story tellers and that we want to explore and dig deeper into our past and discover more about what really matters to us. This is exactly what the grant will do for 'Park Life' as they embark on a real journey of discovery."

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Notes to Editors:

All Our Stories:

All Our Stories is a new, simple, funding programme for 2012 with grants available ranging from £3,000-£10,000 developed so everyone can get involved in their heritage. From researching local historic landmarks, learning more



about customs and traditions to delving into archives and finding out the origins of street and place names All Our Stories will give everyone the chance to explore their heritage and share what they learn with others. This programme is now closed to new applications and decisions were made in October 2012.

Heritage Lottery Fund:

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported 33,000 projects, allocating £4.9 billion across the UK. Website: www.hlf.org.uk.