

Embargoed until 12.01am on 10 July 2019

Cornwall-based ‘Maker Memories’ Project Wins UK and Ireland Archiving Award

Other Category Winners: Colourful Heritage (Glasgow) and Moycullen Heritage (Galway)

The Community Archives and Heritage Group (CAHG) today announced at its 13th annual conference in Glasgow the winners of its annual awards. CAHG is part of the Archives and Records Association (UK & Ireland), the sector’s leading professional and membership body. CAHG’s annual Awards are highly competitive and receive nominations from across the Britain and Ireland.

The conference is taking place at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow and co-hosted by the Scottish Council on Archives (SCA) and Glasgow Life. The theme of the conference is: ‘Moving Memories: Migration in Community Archives’.

Overall Winner

The **overall 2019 award winner**, the ***Maker Memories*** project, also won the ‘Community Engagement’ category in this year’s awards. Maker Memories is a volunteer-led community project designed to capture the rich and diverse heritage of Maker Camp on the Rame peninsula (Cornwall) and is led by volunteers from Maker and Rame Community Interest Company, in partnership with (and supported by) The Box, Plymouth. For more details and project images, visit: <http://www.makermemories.org/>

In reaching their decision, the judges commented:

“We were impressed by the range of diverse communities that Maker Memories has engaged on this project to date, including and empowering a number of inter-related yet distinct groups, such as young people, the (now) elderly who had once visited the camp, people engaged with the music scene, environmental issues and cultural preservation. The project leveraged close links with the excellent local authority archive in nearby Plymouth, from whose expertise it has drawn to ensure high standards in archiving processes, techniques and skills. Maker Memories is already a very important archive for counter-culture, given the emergence of Maker Camp in recent years as an important music festival. Such communities everywhere need to be documented and made part of history, and Maker Memories is leading the way.”

The heart of the project is collecting stories and social history about the camp, which has existed in various forms over the past 200 years. It draws on oral history interviews as a means of capturing living memory around Maker Camp, originally set up in the 1920s for ‘deprived city children’ and continued through to the early 1980s. More recent oral testimony has centred on the hundreds of musicians that have played at the venue and thousands of

festival-goers following the creation of an annual music event there in 1999. Maker Camp has become a significant venue in the annual calendar of music festivals.

Impressive Runners-up

There are two close overall runners-up this year that take the honours in the other sub-award categories. Winner of the 'Gathering Heritage' category for 2019 is **Colourful Heritage** (Glasgow). The judges commented:

“We loved the story around Colourful Heritage, from humble beginnings in 2010, as an informal conversation among friends over a cup of tea. The project itself fills a significant archival gap in the history of South Asian and Muslim migrants to Scotland. It set out to preserve/record the stories of sacrifice, ambition, identity, community and integration of the community’s early migrants to Scotland in the 1950s and 1960s. The project had an urgent driver – many of its first-hand oral accounts were made by first-generation migrants, now elderly. The testimonies are now available online, part of the UK’s largest online oral archive of South Asians/Muslims, alongside a growing archive of 100-plus videos, providing first-hand accounts of the personal journeys and emotions of the earliest generation. The archival material discusses identity, family life, religion, entrepreneurship, politics and integration into the wider Scottish society. This project was timely, empowering and done to a very high standard, and it has given both a visibility to this important community as well as inspiration to others.”

Further information is at: <https://www.colourfulheritage.com/>

Winner of this year’s new category, 'Most Impactful Involvement in a Heritage Project by Young People' is **Moycullen Heritage** (Galway). The judges commented:

“Moycullen Heritage’s stand-out achievement was publishing the book “Ruaidhrí’s Story – how Moycullen got its name”, to foster an awareness and appreciation among local schoolchildren of Moycullen-born and internationally-renowned historian Roderic O’Flaherty (or Ruaidhrí Uí Fhlaitheartaigh). 2018 marked the tercentenary of O’Flaherty’s death. The tri-lingual book (in Irish/English/Polish) involving four local primary schools and members of the local Polish community, also served the purpose of encouraging social inclusion. We were deeply impressed at such innovative and deliberate efforts to engage with wider communities and, particularly, in the way Moycullen Heritage engaged young people and schools and the model it has created that others may use.”

See <https://www.facebook.com/MoycullenHeritage/> for more details.

Notes for editors and researchers

The Community Archives and Heritage Group (CAHG) awards are organised, judged and presented by the Community Archives and Heritage Group, a special interest section of the Archives and Records Association (UK & Ireland), the ARA, which is the main professional body representing archivists, records managers and archive conservators in Britain and Ireland. For more on the ARA, see www.archives.org.uk

2019 is the eighth year of these awards, which will be presented at the CAHG annual conference at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow on 10 July 2019. The awards are sponsored by **Dr Nick Barratt** (who will present them on 10 July) and **Sticks Research**

Agency. The awards celebrate the importance of community archives and heritage. Past overall winners and category winners have found that acknowledgement in this way encouraged them to generate new ideas and recruit new members. For more on CAHG, the sell-out Glasgow conference and programme, visit <https://www.communityarchives.org.uk/>

Nominations for the **2020** CAHG awards will open later in the year and are open to community groups in the UK and Ireland that are CAHG members (i.e. community archives, community heritage groups, community museums and community archaeology groups). If your group is not already a member of CAHG why not sign up now? It is free to join and makes you part of a far wider network. Perhaps you could be collecting an award in 2020?

More information about the Community Archives and Heritage Group Awards 2018 is available from Jon Elliott at the ARA on jon.elliott@archives.org.uk

Pease also contact Jon Elliott for photographs of the winners receiving their awards at the CAHG annual conference.

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