

HERITAGE STORIES

1981

YOUNG PEOPLE IN MANCHESTER REFLECT
ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL ARCHIVES



Manchester
City of Literature



Made possible with

Heritage
Fund

INT-RO



INTRODUCTION TO HERITAGE STORIES

Telling a story to each other is vital to maintaining the wellbeing of a community. Whenever we feel lonely or disconnected, familiarity and warmth can be found in recalling the memories and legends of those who have come before. Many of these stories can be found in our local archive services who collect and store a wide range of resources.

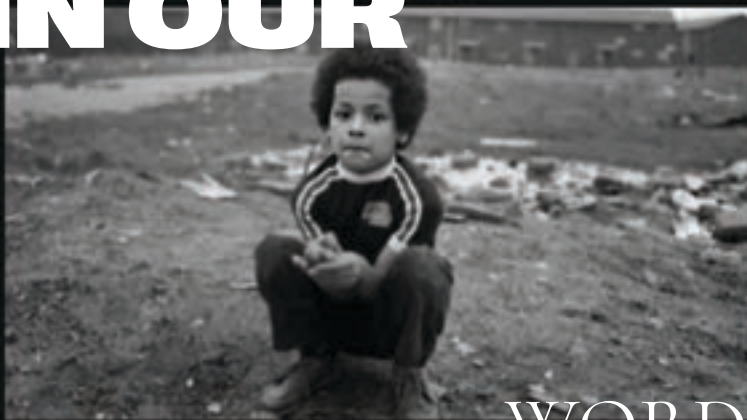
The Heritage Stories project sought to identify and record the important stories of three different communities in Greater Manchester, Tameside, Oldham and South Manchester. The intention was to bring together the interests of local people with the skills of their local archives thereby consolidating the life experiences of community members and extending the knowledge of those housing these memories. We wanted to start a dialogue. This publication will show examples of the activities carried out and act as inspiration for people to feel confident in recording their own heritage stories and to ask their archive and local studies centre for help.



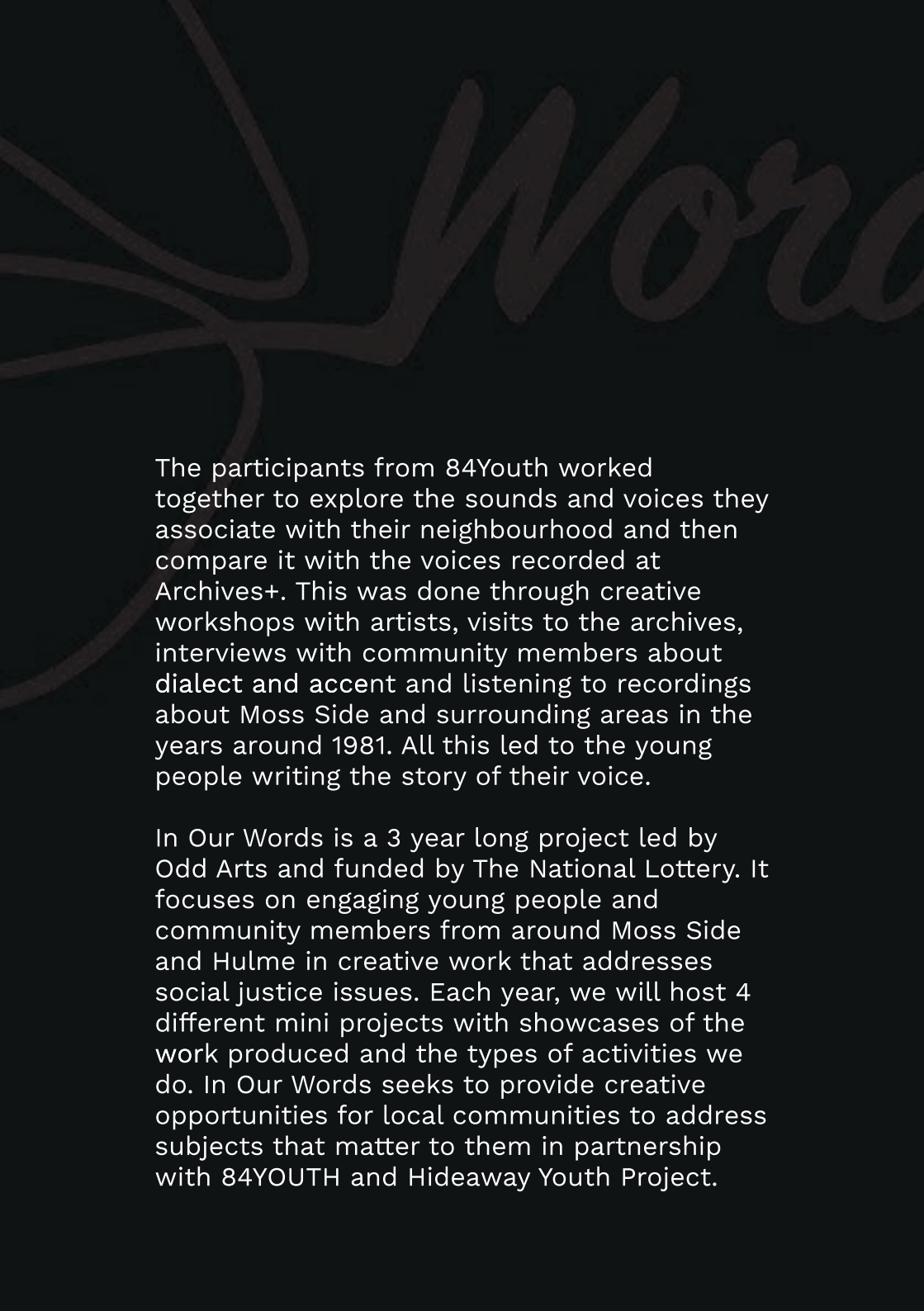
In South Manchester the archives offered support to 84Youth who work with young people impacted by the effects of gun crime. 84Youth are already working with Odd Arts on a 3 year long programme called In Our Words aimed at engaging young people in creative work that addresses social justice, so it was decided that Heritage Stories could collaborate on a short project that would encourage some dialogue. Archives+ would provide some oral history interviews capturing young peoples' experiences 40 years ago, and this would act as stimulus for generating discussion today about what is important to us now.

This publication showcases the dialogue and relationships stimulated by the Heritage Stories project. It is meant to encourage communities to think about their own stories and to show how the local studies resources on our doorsteps can provide support in research, validation and bringing those stories alive.

IN OUR




WORDS



The participants from 84Youth worked together to explore the sounds and voices they associate with their neighbourhood and then compare it with the voices recorded at Archives+. This was done through creative workshops with artists, visits to the archives, interviews with community members about dialect and accent and listening to recordings about Moss Side and surrounding areas in the years around 1981. All this led to the young people writing the story of their voice.

In Our Words is a 3 year long project led by Odd Arts and funded by The National Lottery. It focuses on engaging young people and community members from around Moss Side and Hulme in creative work that addresses social justice issues. Each year, we will host 4 different mini projects with showcases of the work produced and the types of activities we do. In Our Words seeks to provide creative opportunities for local communities to address subjects that matter to them in partnership with 84YOUTH and Hideaway Youth Project.



“Their voice smells
like Manchester rain
on a late spring day;

it’s warm, almost
open, like my new
home.”

See more...



The creative work the young people have produced in collaboration with Odd Arts is called Voices of Manchester, follow the QRcode to see a tapestry of raps, spoken word and other performances telling the stories of young people's voices in Manchester.

Pantoufels BC peng

What's up fam

Innit

Very well reviewed

Lovely, darling.

Y'alright

Gorah

Elephant juice

What's up Bread Bin?

No offence

Wallahi

Liminal

DMC

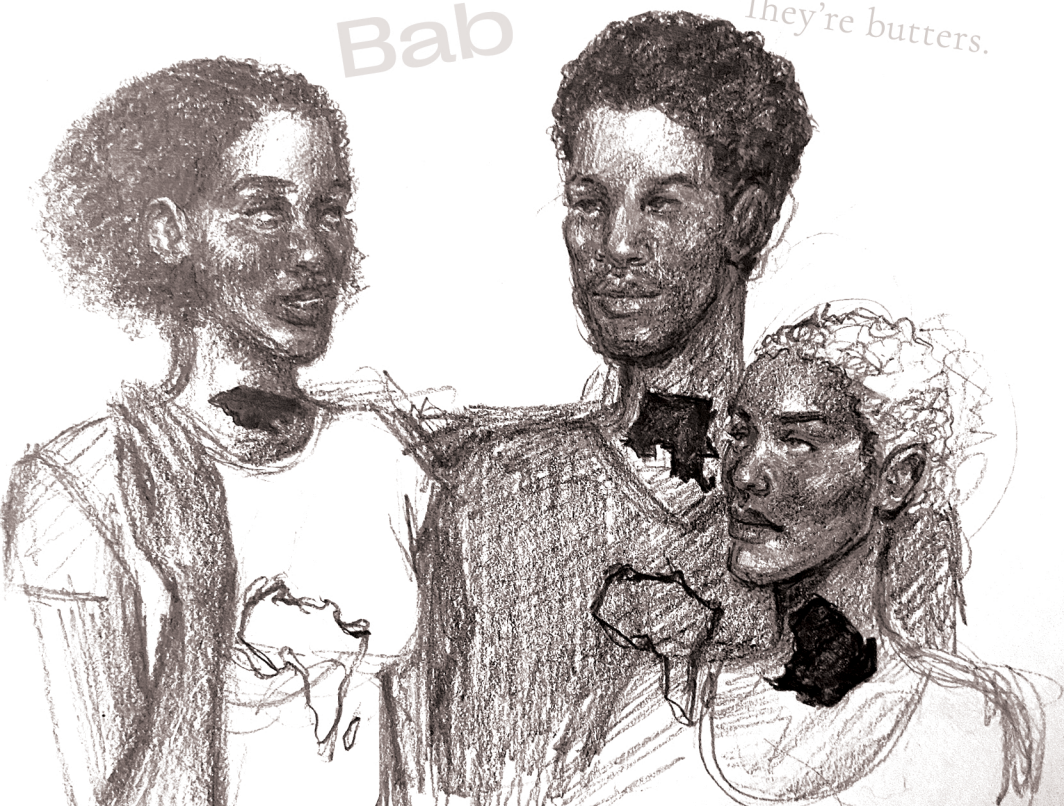
Swear down bro

Go for a brown

Durror

Bab

They're butters.





WORKSHOP Programme



Over 5 weeks, we have researched the histories of Moss Side's multitude of voices through the archives of Manchester Central Library, learning from the men - and women - with an accent van (MMU's finest academics of local accents and dialects), and producing poems about ourselves with Moss Side's own home-grown poet Toreh O'Garro. As we near the end of our project, the group are working towards written, recorded and performed stories of their voices, whether through poetry or other forms.



“arcade days and it pays
selling muffins

looking through old books
and outgrew the puffins
virtually nothings”

See more...



What is the role of the local studies & archives in your area?

Archives+ has created an archive centre of excellence in the heart of Manchester. The project brings together statutory, university and voluntary organisations to provide a holistic range of archive and heritage services from one location. Archives+ raises awareness of and provides easy access to our histories for the broadest possible audiences.

HOW TO research **AND** share your own **HERITAGE STORY**

What kind of resources do you host and how can the public access them?

The Archives+ partnership holds archives from Central Library, the Greater Manchester Record Office, the North West Film archive, the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race relations Resource Centre and the Sound Archive. The stories from some of the archives are showcased in our interactive displays to give a snapshot and signpost to where more information can be found. The archive team also work as much as possible with non traditional archive audiences to broaden the access as much as possible through events and workshops and more.



What was your interest in the Heritage Stories project and what did you hope would come from participating?

Manchester Archives help to tell the story of the history of people in Manchester. Being part of this project would do this, and we're also interested in the stories from the other GM authorities who are involved. Making sure archives feature in the Festival of Libraries is also essential and participating in this, is a good way to achieve that.

Do you hope to inspire more people to tell their stories and how can people share them?

We work constantly to encourage people to find their stories and give guidance to help them collect their stories and to find ways for them to share them through events and exhibitions and in creating their archives.

www.archivesplus.org

info@archivesplus.org

Saturday - Thursday (10am - 4pm)

Manchester Central Library, St Peters Square

HERITAGE STORIES in MANCHESTER

Our partners in South Manchester were 84Youth and Archives+. Our intention was to empower young people to explore their identity and sense of place by exploring the feelings of the Moss Side community decades earlier as recorded in interviews, transcripts and photographs housed at Archives+. The activity was led by Odd Arts as part of their In Our Words programme.



1981

W D S



WHO WAS INVOLVED IN HERITAGE STORIES

ARCHIVES+

We are a youth led organisation with young people deciding on the direction of the project. The national issue of Youth Violence is high on our agenda although we will challenge this by encouraging ownership of projects and alternative routes to adulthood outside of the perceived stereotypes. 84YOUTH aim to deal with the causes of youth violence and challenge the gang narrative through work with young men in particular

84youth

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DUNCANwestley

All photographs were taken by Duncan Westley in Moss Side, 1981



@duncanwestley



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Archives +



WHO WAS INVOLVED IN HERITAGE STORIES

ODD arts

Odd Arts is a Manchester Charity delivering innovative and creative programmes, across all art forms, with vulnerable and excluded groups. We specialise in delivering theatre-based programmes that challenge and change attitudes and behaviours. We work with participants to devise theatre, from their own experiences as well as touring professional interactive theatre performances on challenging topics.

Manchester city of literature

Manchester City of Literature manages the City's UNESCO designation on behalf of Manchester City Council, the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and over 30 literary partners. We want Manchester to be a city where diverse voices and stories are celebrated, creative talent and industries are nurtured and where literary activity changes lives.

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