

SHILDON MEMORIES PROJECT

The Shildon Memories Project continues to go very well. Through drop-in coffee mornings, organised school or community group sessions and Shildon History Day events, our 'Time Detectives' have been exploring the themes of 'Shildon Celebrates', 'Shopping in Shildon' and 'Where people worked in Shildon'.

Shildon History Day events

The Shildon History Day events held at Locomotion continue to be a success, providing an opportunity for local people to get involved in the project and to share what has been discovered by the 'Time Detectives'. Around 60 people took part in the last event on the theme of 'Shopping in Shildon'. Alan Ellwood from the Shildon Recall History Group gave a fascinating slide show of old shops from all over Shildon. Volunteers helped younger visitors design some very imaginative shop windows as a result of learning about shops in the past.

Time Detectives go to Beamish

Pupils from Timothy Hackworth Primary School joined some older residents on a heritage visit to Beamish to follow up some 'Time Detectives' activities exploring memories of school days in Shildon. This was a special treat, thoroughly enjoyed by all despite the rain. The older 'Time Detectives' were thrilled at the opportunity to explore the museum with the younger 'Time Detectives' and everyone was very impressed with the interest and enthusiasm shown by the pupils throughout the day. Jeremy Warr, our heritage writer helped everyone write down interesting pieces to share with the rest of Shildon. We are planning further intergenerational trips to Preston Hall Museum and the Durham Light Infantry Museum in the autumn for residents involved in the project.

Time Detectives explore how 'Shildon Celebrates'

Older and younger 'Time Detectives' have recently explored memories of the Shildon Carnival, May Day celebrations and Durham Miners' Gala. Older 'Time Detectives' were invited in to an assembly at Thornhill Primary School to hear poems that pupils had written as a result of the intergenerational sessions held on this theme. Shildon residents shared some lovely family photographs of the Carnival which ran until 2005.

Big 'THANK YOU!'

A big THANK YOU goes to all our volunteers, the staff at Locomotion and the local primary schools. It is their continuing support and involvement that helps to give the young and older residents in the town the opportunity to have fun together and get involved in celebrating the history of Shildon.

From fur coats to bananas - can you help?

In the autumn we will be exploring the industries that put Shildon on the map. Did you know that the town's Akastra Fur Factory made expensive fur coats for Russia, or that bananas were brought to get ripened in Shildon? If you would like to get involved please contact Brenda Alexander on 01388 720064.