

Deeds Not Words Towards Liberation



Title

Deeds Not Words Towards Liberation – 100 Years of Women's Socio-Political Activism in Derbyshire, a Vox Feminarum: Women's Voices Project wins Heritage Lottery Fund support.

Main text

Vox Feminarum: Women's Voices based at The Mandela Centre Pear Tree Rd Derby, DE238NQ, has received a grant of £71,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project, '*Deeds Not Words Towards Liberation – 100 Years of Women's Socio-Political Activism in Derbyshire*'. The Project, led by Vox Feminarum, focuses on the origins of women's social and political activism, from the signing of the 1866 Petition, to the present. The Project represents the first County-wide exploration of a hundred year period of heritage which documents the Women's Suffrage and Women's Liberation Movements.

Thanks to National Lottery players, the Project will promote and encourage research, the collection and preservation of records and other artefacts of interest pertaining to Derbyshire women's activism heritage; foster and promote public knowledge and interest in hidden local women's activism heritage; use broader women's activism heritage to create a context in which the role and contribution of Derbyshire women is better understood, visible and more accessible; and, through connecting the past to the present engage local communities in celebrations of women's contributions to life and community in Derbyshire. The Project started in September 2016 with much work having been undertaken behind the scenes for the launch at Derby and Derbyshire Inspirational Women Awards 2017 on March 4th 2017, 7pm at The Waterfall, Derby. The Project will have a big finale in 2018 to coincide with the Centenary of the 1918 Representation of The People Act. The Representation of The People Act realised votes for all men, but more importantly for this project, won the right to vote for women (in this case property owners over 30).

The Project will explore, trace and tell the stories of Derby and Derbyshire women who activated for change; create a commemorative wall hanging of panels contributed by women and groups; document monuments erected in the name of Derbyshire women; create a list of Derbyshire Women change-making movers, shakers and ground breaking pioneers. The Project will also incorporate 3 exhibitions.

Central to the project is an extensive skills programme, which will provide opportunities for volunteers to learn skills such as archiving, oral history interviewing and recording, transcription, film-making and digital imaging equipping them with valuable skills which will enable them to continue the archive long after the project ends

Quotes

Commenting on the award, Sonya Robotham said: “We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and we are confident that the Project will make a significant contribution towards understanding women's heritage in general, but more specifically increase awareness, knowledge and inter-generational engagement and pride about and with women's social and political activism heritage.”

Jonathan Platt, Head of HLF East Midlands said: “Deeds not Words showcases local activism as part of the wider Women's Suffrage and Liberation Movements. It represents a fantastic opportunity for local people to find out more about the women and girls from their community who contributed to the struggle for equality, and we are delighted to support this Project with National Lottery Players' money”.

Notes to editors

About Vox Feminarum:Women's Voices

Vox Feminarum: Women's Voices works to place issues affecting women and girls back/on the agenda and to engage women and girls (irrespective of disability – mental health, learning and physical; ethnicity/race; religion/faith/belief; sexual orientation or age) in raising the concerns affecting all our lives and livelihoods. We are a medium through which the words, actions and concerns of women and girls can be channelled, and we work to be a voice for women and girls who have no voice – a meaningful vehicle in the struggle for change. In particular, we work to Educate, Support, Celebrate and Build.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #HLFsupported. Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections

Further information

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