

Collecting memories for heritage

Want to consider a career in museums, or such heritage organisations as the National Trust or English Heritage? Perhaps you want to head for a career in documentaries – historic or natural history? Or maybe you'd like to dabble in television reporting? Either destination, this project will allow you to lead on the production of a 3-5 minute oral-history film that best tells the maritime stories you find most compelling, from the communities themselves living across the Cornish coastline. You will organise and coordinate a memory event, with the help of our staff, lead a memory session with a group of volunteers from a maritime community and then handpick the narratives you capture. You will then either direct a photographer or take photographs yourselves, with equipment sourced from the university, and bring those chosen stories to life via a series of carefully considered images.

Most importantly, you will also pioneer the project's methodologies for engaging with the outdoors. We want the film to be creatively interactive with the coastline – the historic landscape that you would be capturing. The aim of the film is to raise awareness of the 'untold stories' and encourage young people to use physical activity as a component of researching the historical environment. You may want to make use of the project's partnerships and future events that endorse kayaking, sea swimming, sailing and walking (amongst other coastal activities) and tell your stories from, quite literally, the perspective from the sea. This project is about people, and telling their stories that are so closely entwined with the Cornish coast and preserved in coastal graveyards – or even in the churches themselves. From those involved with smuggling, Barbary piracy and naval conflicts to those more marginalised BAME narratives, there is an abundance of stories, which can feed a particular theme, or current political message that you would like to expose. This short audio-visual film should be cutting-edge and bold, using the project's archive of images, archive and manuscripts to evidence what you are saying.

More about the project...

We are a HLF Young Roots project that started in January 2019. We have 10 case studies across Cornwall, in the form of maritime churches and have been pioneering methods of 'outdoor' research by encouraging all our researchers to explore the sea and its narratives associated with the churches, via mostly water sports and walking. We are now entering our next and final stage of the project that continues to use these methods of research, whilst disseminating them through film. We shall have a local film company to help guide you and offer support – both practical and theoretical, if needs be. We would like every church and a narrative associated with its maritime history to be captured in either one or a series of films. Our research on barbary piracy has already been featured in BBC Radio 4 and BBC Spotlight reports, so we suggest a report as the most suitable style (although we are open to another form of film, if it can demonstrate all our desired factors).

To bear in mind...

You will need to ensure the film is suitable for multiple online platforms. For instance, the film will need to be suitable for the project's online film library, its social media channels as well as featuring on the Churches Conservation Trust's Google Arts and Culture platform and the South West National Trust website.

AND

- How interviewing helps historians gain a deeper understanding of past events, in this case, those associated with maritime history and the church.
- The editing of the audio interviews will mean you'll be acting as a curator. You shall select which stories are most iconic and representative for this particular church site.

- Consider how to curate visuals for the audio. Maybe you will have a set of visuals you will need to attain e.g. the exterior of the church, or maybe you will hear certain buzz words.
- Transcribe the selected audio and ensure the 2-3 minute films offers subtitles for social media and accessibility guidelines.

AND

Use our research wisely and to the full extent. We have film workshops going on simultaneously, involving screen writing and film editing sessions. Use these to think 'outside the box'. For instance, if you are interested in creating a more natural history report, think about the recent project film 'Shipwrecking Nature' which talks about the Torrey Canyon disaster of 1967 where 120,000 tons of crude oil was spilled following the oil tankers shipwreck. Moments like this have dramatically changed our landscape and the people who live there, impacting how they treat the church as a place of refuge. For this particular disaster, the church was used as a care centre for wildlife. We want you to find the stories that interest you and make our project more emotive to humanity. Perhaps this is responding to recent news stories – from Brexit, or Greta Thunberg's environmental activism. Be creative!

Take note of our events and academics...

We have a 'floating lecture' series coming up in March, which will consist of academics talking about their research but quite literally from the sea. We are organising kayaking, sea swimming and walking events. Dr Jo Esra talks about Cornish captives being stolen from the coastline by North African pirates on a sailing boat whilst Dr David Gange (author of *The Frayed Atlantic Edge*) speaks of community stories he discovered whilst kayaking from Shetland to Cornwall.

Helpful sources:

<https://cornishmaritimechurches.co.uk/>

<https://www.downsouthpov.com/>

<http://cornishstory.com/cava/>