

Finding those stories for film and 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 and journalism? Either destination, this project will allow you to lead historic research that discovers the most compelling of maritime stories across the Cornish coastline. From attending archives, local museums, conferences and project events, you will meet new industry professionals whilst driving forward new research. From writing blogs, contributing to heritage websites and online exhibitions, you will gain the opportunity to publish your writing on professional public platforms. Your research will also contribute to a series of short films, to be written, filmed and edited at the end of March 2020. So if you want your research to make the movie – get involved with this fantastic screen writing opportunity too!

Most importantly, you will pioneer the project's methodologies for engaging with the outdoors. We want film to be creatively interactive with the coastline – the historic landscape that you would be capturing. The aim of the films will be 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. Your writing and the stories you're telling, 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 your writing is suitable for multiple online platforms. From featuring on 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

Use our research wisely and to the full extent. We have oral history memory events going on simultaneously, involving local communities recording their own stories. Use these to think 'outside the box'. For instance, if you are interested in creating a more natural history blog-style 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/>