

PRESS RELEASE – PLAISTOW SOUTH BIG LOCAL – NOVEMBER 2015



“Growing Up In Plaistow” – Plaistow South Big Local (PSBL) celebrates £10,000 Heritage Lottery (HLF) Sharing Heritage Grant.

Resident-led community regeneration group, Plaistow South Big Local (PSBL), has received a Heritage Lottery (HLF) Sharing Heritage Grant, it was announced today. This exciting project, “Growing Up In Plaistow”, in Newham and led by PSBL, has been given £10,000 to train young people to interview older residents and record the oral history of the south Plaistow area.

PSBL itself has 10 years of Big Lottery funds to help local residents work together to grow the community life of the area. Other projects they are engaged in include local arts initiatives, money advice and support, the Plaistow Youth Market, and improving local streets and green spaces. All projects rely on local volunteers to make them a success. PSBL will be adding £7000 of its core funding to the HLF grant, and work will be carried out in close partnership with Eastside Community Heritage (ECH).

“Growing Up In Plaistow” will train students aged 15-18 from Newham Sixth Form College and The Cumberland School who’ll go on to work with ECH in reminiscence sessions with over 60 older people, especially those in local sheltered housing. Sessions will be recorded and fully archived, and feed into a touring exhibition visiting local schools, libraries and community centre. There will also be a mobile app and soundscape/podcast telling local stories.

Carina Ancell, History Tutor at NewVIC commented: “Students have a really unique opportunity to be trained in how to record oral history, whilst learning more about the history of the area they live in. The history of South Plaistow is rich and varied and it is great to know that we can help to record the voices of those who have so many interesting memories of the area.”

Joyce Baptiste, a member of PSBL’s Steering Group and History Task Group, said: “As an older resident I’m excited to be part of this inter-generational project to record memories of Plaistow as it was. It’s a great opportunity!”

Judith Garfield MBE, Executive Director Eastside Community Heritage said: “We are delighted to be working on such an exciting and important project to document, preserve and record the people’s stories of Plaistow South during a changing period of the area’s history, and to engage young people to enjoy and participate in the local history and heritage of Plaistow’s many communities”.

The project will start early in 2016 and complete by the end of the year. For more information, go to www.plaistowsouthbiglocal.org.uk

NOTES

About Plaistow South Big Local (PSBL)

PSBL is a Big Lottery funded resident-led community regeneration partnership with 10 years of funding to develop initiatives that involve local people in growing the community life of the south Plaistow area. Our funds are held on our behalf by our 'locally trusted organisation', Rights and Equalities in Newham (REIN).

For further information, images and interviews visit PSBL's website at www.plaistowsouthbiglocal.org.uk, or contact PSBL's Community Development Coordinator, Simon Vincent, at simon@plaistowsouthbiglocal.org.uk or on 079 2010 1740.

About Eastside Community Heritage (ECH)

Eastside Community Heritage was established in May 1993 as a joint venture between Stratford City Challenge and Newham Leisure Services and became an independent charity in 1998. In 1999 ECH established the Peoples Archive and contains irreplaceable oral history recordings from the people of Newham and London. Over the past twenty-one years Eastside has worked with over 15000 individuals, 900 organisations, produced 85 exhibitions, published 18 books, 30 video documentaries and undertaken a total of over 400 community heritage based projects. Much of the organisation's work relies on intergenerational and intercultural practice.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

Sharing Heritage is for any not-for-profit group wanting to explore their community's heritage. With a commitment from HLF of £3m each year, Sharing Heritage grants between £3,000 and £10,000 are now available to groups who want to discover their local heritage. Projects can cover a wide spectrum of subject matter from exploring local archaeology and a community's cultures and traditions to identifying and recording local wildlife and protecting the surrounding environment to managing and training volunteers, and holding festivals and events to commemorate the past.

From the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife, we use National Lottery players' money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about. www.hlf.org.uk