

Community News

Hidden Stories, Hidden Voices Story project



'It is from the doings of the ordinary townfolk in days gone by that we gain a real knowledge of the kind of people our forefathers were and the conditions in which they lived.'

So says Herbert W Cooke in his 1934 publication 'Bygone Loughborough'. This book which draws on the work of earlier authors, including Edwin Goadby, a local Baptist minister, and William George Dimock Fletcher, another clergyman, who spent his early working life in the town. Both men began sharing their historical snippets as 'chapters' in Loughborough newspapers. Many years ago, Dimock Fletcher's books on Loughborough inspired me to share my own snippets of research online and in newsletters, and I've since become a bit of a 'Dimock Fletcher geek'. This is partly how I got to this point and through helping at the Old Rectory Museum, Loughborough Archaeological and Historical Society and running activities to collect the memories and stories of modern-day 'ordinary townfolk.'

This is a creative project, delivered through workshops in which people learn a little about the history of the Old Rectory and the part of town it sits in and then use this to spark off writing about their own past. You don't need to be a regular writer to take part - the activities are short, chatty and fun - and you're more than welcome to bring photos to share with others and to write about.

A wonderful young writer - Ellie Johnson - is supporting me in the workshops. Ellie has attended All Saints Church since she was a child and is excited to be taking part in recording some of its history. We look forward to meeting anyone who might like to come along to the workshops at the Parish Church, to hear stories from Loughborough's past and add to its continuing story!

6th, 13th and 20th of September
1.30 pm till 3.30 pm

Contact Alison Mott at
charnwoodcreatives@gmail.co.uk or on
01509 210767 to reserve your place.

The 'Hidden Stories, Hidden Voices' project is run by Writing East Midlands, with funding from the Arts Council and Charnwood Borough Council. The project runs until October, following which there will be an exhibition at the Old Rectory Museum and an anthology published of some of the stories created at the workshops.

You can see a film about how Alison first discovered the Old Rectory at www.wevideo.com/view/1077480561.