

Capturing Histories of Our Elders in East Oxford

We are sending you this information sheet because we would like to invite you to take part in a groundbreaking oral history project. This project has been devised by The Oxford Foundation and will be delivered in collaboration with:

Oxfordshire Lieutenancy
Oxfordshire Shrievalty
Faculty of History, University of Oxford
Equality and Diversity Unit, University of Oxford
Oxford Brookes University
Cheney School
Oxford Spires Academy
Magdalen College School
Various Community Leaders from the Black Minority Ethnic (BME) communities

However, before you decide whether to participate we would like to outline why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read this information and ask us any further questions you may have or if anything is unclear.

What is the purpose of the study?

This oral history project will seek to train and build the historical knowledge and research skills of 24 x Yr. 9 (14 Yrs. of age) students from diverse backgrounds to enable them to become 'Young Historians'. These students will be drawn from our three partner schools from East Oxford – Cheney School, Oxford Spires Academy and Magdalen College School.

The 'Young Historians' will be trained and guided by an Advisory Board consisting of Dr. Kate Tiller, a leading local historian from Kellogg College (University of Oxford), key community representatives and other stakeholders to help Young Historians capture the stories in of 20-25 Elders (50/50: Male/Female) in a digital format drawn from our diverse Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities in East Oxford. In particular, we aim to use our long established relationships across the communities to capture stories of individuals whose stories might otherwise have been lost. This project will aim to explore such themes as:

- Journey to Oxford and their first impressions;
- Experiences of the local education system;
- Socio-economic life;
- Involvement in local politics and civic engagement;
- Identity;
- Faith & Worship.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This project has been devised by Imam Monawar Hussain, Founder and Director of The Oxford Foundation with advisory support provided by the Strategic Board represented by:

Mr. Tim Stevenson, Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire;
Professor Graham Upton, High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, whose theme for his year in office is 'Celebrating Diversity';
Dr. Kate Tiller, Kellogg College, University of Oxford;
Dr. Richard Huggins, Oxford Brookes University
Tish Francis, Co-Director, The Story Museum

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The Young Historians will be hosted for training, with the kind support of Professor Jane Humphries, Chair, Faculty of History, University of Oxford, George Street, Oxford, on 28th September 2013. The training sessions will be delivered by Dr. Kate Tiller (University of Oxford); Dr. Angela Davis (University of Warwick); Kuldeep Kaur and Izzy Mohammed (Untold Stories, Birmingham City Council); Ahmed A. Rahman and Derek James will provide video filming training; and Imam Monawar Hussain (Founder of the Capturing Histories Project).

Lunch and refreshments on the training day are being generously provided by the Faculty of History, University of Oxford. Speakers on the day are volunteers and are generously supporting this project without a fee.

Dr. Richard Huggins, Associate Dean, Oxford Brookes University has kindly provided a grant to purchase some of the equipment that will be used in the project. Funding is being sought to cover costs of the project and significant operating costs are being borne by The Oxford Foundation.

Why have I been asked to take part?

The project aims to interview 20-25 Elders from Black Minority Ethnic communities in East Oxford. We would like a 50/50 split between men and women representing a diverse group of BME communities. We think that you would match these criteria and that is why we are requesting your participation.

Do I have to take part?

It is not compulsory for you to take part, however, we believe that your story will give unique insights into the experience of coming to and living in Oxford. This will make an important contribution to our project and we very much hope that you will therefore participate. If you agree to take part you will be asked to sign a consent form. But please note that you will still be free to withdraw at any time and we will not ask you to give any reasons if you choose to do so.

I want to take part but I want to remain anonymous. Is that possible?

We want to make sure that as many people from as diverse backgrounds as possible take part in this project so that it reflects the make-up of East Oxford. This means that some persons might feel more comfortable giving an anonymous audio interview rather than a digital video interview, we will make every effort to accommodate this. Please contact the under-signed person to discuss this further.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

This project will leave a lasting legacy through making available online on The Oxford Foundation 'Capturing Histories Series' webpage all of the captured stories in a digital format of Our Elders in East Oxford for researchers, local communities and schools to utilise:

- This project will develop students' understanding of different communities, cultures and faiths in East Oxford and how these communities, cultures and faiths have evolved over the last 50+ years thereby contributing to greater social cohesion and appreciation of local cultural richness;
- To instill an appreciation of local history in students and to provide them with the research skills/knowledge to become effective 'Young Historians';
- This project will strengthen intergenerational understanding between the young and the Elderly in the area;
- This project will draw together the diverse communities of East Oxford thereby developing stronger relationships between the diverse communities and make the sharing of heritage a common focus;
- This project will engage parents and East Oxford communities to highlight the powerful stories through at least one school exhibition in East Oxford for a sharing of the heritage captured;
- Through this project to develop a stronger sense of belonging and identity in young people from BME communities;
- This project will deepen understanding in young people and the broader communities of the journeys and experiences of the BME Elders;
- To strengthen effective working and partnership between the Independent and State school sectors.

What does taking part mean?

If you agree to take part we will arrange to digitally record an interview with you at one of our partner schools. We would happily arrange for transport if that were required and also confirm the names of the two students who will interview you. The interview will last between two to three hours. We will also arrange a meeting that will bring together students and

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interviewees to meet each other in an informal setting. At the conclusion of our research we will also launch the project at a key location in Oxford to highlight our work.

For further information please contact Imam Monawar Hussain on 07710 561499 or by email monawar@theoxfordfoundation.org.uk. Thank you.

Please complete the Reply slip below to opt in.

If you decide to take part, please keep this information sheet and return this reply form to:

Capturing Histories Series
The Oxford Foundation
Clarendon House
52 Cornmarket Street
Oxford OX1 3HJ

Your Contact Details

Name:

Address:

Telephone number at home / work (if appropriate):

Best time to telephone:

Email:

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