

# Ensuring that our WW1 project won't be over by Christmas

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# World War One in the Vale



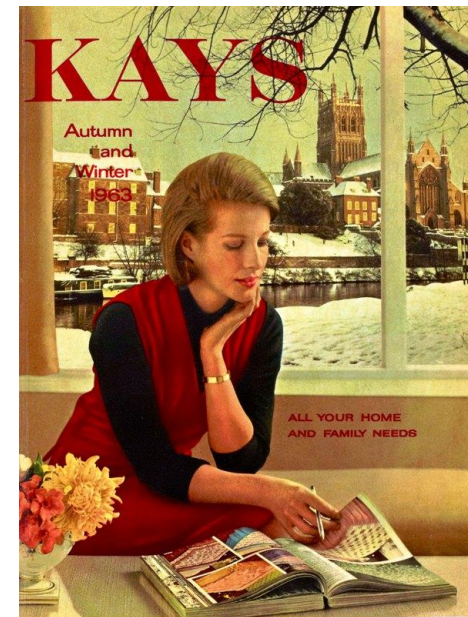
In working together, drawing upon techniques and methodologies developed on three previous projects.

Implement them on programme of collaborative research:

- Academic/community dialogue
- Multiplicity of communication channels
- Choreographing multiple diverse histories

# World of Kays

- JISC eContent programme, strand B: developing community collections (6 month delivery period)
- University of Worcester Research Collections
- [www.WorldofKays.org](http://www.WorldofKays.org) website and online database of 1500 digitised images from the Kays of Worcester mail order catalogues
- Publicised up front by press coverage and active social media profile
- Content generated by oral histories; arts workshops for carers; public events: fashion show, coffee morning
- Student films and performance
- Study day open to academics, heritage and arts sector
- Relationship between academic & community: vintage enthusiasts, Kays staff organisations, artists, Museums Worcestershire, Cultural Studies dept,



# Children on the Move, Staffordshire

- HLF-funded Staffordshire Museums and Archives Services project, supported by MA at University of Staffordshire/Worcester
- Two year delivery period: 2010-2012
- 90 oral history interviews – face to face and skype – all transcribed
- Book, website, mobile exhibition, event
- <http://www.childrenonthemove.org.uk/learning-resources/introduction-evacuation-in-staffordshire>



**Maisie Hamilton**  
Maisie Hamilton was evacuated from





- HLF-funded, Your Heritage grant
- Led by Abberley WI and freelance research coordinator
- Regular team meetings and blogsite to share research
- 3 open meetings to present research to the village
- Oral histories and WI archive catalogued & deposited in WAAS
- Community outputs: a book and a blog with global reach
- Blog now being used to document the next village project: Medieval Abberley Revealed [www.Abberleylives.wordpress.com](http://www.Abberleylives.wordpress.com)
- Academic role to offer reassurance, context of wider research and areas being research wider reading etc,

# Academic/community dialogue

- Need for a dialogue between academic, heritage professionals and community partners which requires time to develop and takes many forms
- Acknowledging limitations, skills, experience
- Need to grow confidence to overcome insecurities
- Use local stories ground the activity in the every day
- Manage the balance / tension between intellectual integrity versus the community myth kitty

# Multiplicity of communication channels

- 360° multi-platform approach
  - Traditional and new media
  - Media: film, text, image, speech
  - Digital dialogues (social media) alongside static sites/book
- Directionality
  - where's the power?
  - what connections can be enabled/created?
  - online facilitates a release of power
  - connecting to unexpected communities

# Choreographing multiple diverse histories

- Collaborative research and rehearsing research in an extra-institutional setting - different approaches, questions, discussions and perspectives and resources
- Multiple producers of competing knowledge progress from individual scripts to communal improvisation
- Choreographer moves from lead position to backstage-even invisible as the performers take precedence in the project and make it their own
- Long term – performers produce ‘shows’ of their own



# All these things applied to WW1 in the Vale

Website and blog

Choreographing meetings  
activities and research

- one-to-one /group chats
- facilitating networking
- engagement events
- <http://vimeo.com/110094031>

Building confidence and  
community conversations, use  
local stories to ground the  
activity in the every day

Projects developing using new  
and traditional media, web

<https://ww1inthevale.wordpress.com/tag/home-front/>

