

Shooting the Past

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The memories of one of South Wales' Jewish communities are to be captured for an exhibition and website, thanks to a grant of £33,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The award has been given to Cardiff Reform Synagogue (CRS), who will work in partnership with Butetown History & Arts Centre, renowned for its work in portraying local black and minority ethnic communities, using photography and life stories.

Commenting on the award, Colin Heyman, manager of the project on behalf of CRS, said: "Members of our community have a wealth of fascinating stories to tell. They have been deeply involved in Welsh life, for example, as writers, actors, taxi drivers, nurses, engineers, secretaries and charitable workers – not to mention Cardiff City supporters. This award will not only enable us to record their reminiscences and carry out photographic portraits, but more importantly enable us to gain a picture of how the Jewish and Welsh people have interacted over the last 70 years or so. By knowing more about our past we can also move more confidently into our future."

From memories of life in Germany in the 1930s and fleeing persecution to happier memories of growing up in the South Wales valleys, from serving in the forces to charitable work, the stories will weave a tapestry showing a diverse community.

Glenn Jordan, Director of the Butetown History & Arts Centre, said: "I am very pleased to be involved with this project as a photographer and oral historian. These are stories that need to be told; these are faces that deserve to be remembered."

Jennifer Stewart, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Wales, said: "This is a project which will provide a lasting record of the Jewish community in South Wales. Recording the memories and stories within our communities is vitally important. We were really impressed with how volunteers will be involved in the project and the wide range of activities that will be offered so that people can find out more about the history of the community."

The material will be used to put on an exhibition which can be displayed at venues around Wales, and to create a website where people can find out more about these fascinating stories.

Notes to editors

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported more than 28,800 projects allocating over £4.3 billion across the UK, including more than 1,800 projects totalling over £200 million in Wales.

Further information

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