



Peak District Food Heritage Project

Aims of the Food Heritage Project

The aim of the project was to capture and record community memories focusing on the production and sale of food in the Peak District using oral history recordings.

The memories are to be presented to the local people and visitors to the area as:

- A book of reminiscence, poems, creative writings etc
- Listening posts in various locations of the Peak District
- A reminiscence website

The project ran for 18 months from October 2006 to March 2008 and was a partnership between The Farming Life Centre and Read On - Write Away!

The Farming Life Centre

The Farming Life Centre is situated in a converted barn at Blackwell Hall Farm within the Peak District National Park. It was set up by a group of interested local individuals to promote improved quality of life for local people and provide a venue for a wide range of health, social and educational activities that help to celebrate hill farming in the past, present and future. The Centre works in partnership with many local and national organisations that offer support and advice to help achieve its aims. Jen Bower is the Farming Life Centre Manager.

The Project

Ten volunteers were recruited to work with the project and underwent two days of initial training provided by East Midlands Oral History Archive (EMOHA) at the Farming Life Centre. The training included:

- carrying out recordings - technical skills eg editing, communication skills, literacy, introduction to computers
- website development skills
- research skills in museums, libraries and archives
- analysing evidence and presenting the story.

Volunteers had the opportunity to work with a local creative writer, David Fine, to explore the value of using creative writing skills to develop oral history memories.

Support for Food Heritage Volunteers

During the 18 months of the project, volunteers received ongoing training and support and the necessary equipment to help them towards achieving the aims of the project. At the end of the project the volunteers had the opportunity to form a reminiscence group at the Farming Life Centre.

For more information on the book, ***Seasons to taste***, which recounts the anecdotes and reminiscences of folk from the Peak District click [here](#).