

What were the aims of the project?

The aim was to produce a reminiscence project based on the lives of elderly people in the village. It was intergenerational with young people in the drug rehabilitation unit and the older people in the village. It was also meant to improve ICT skills.



How was the project implemented?

The project took the form of a coffee morning at the drug rehabilitation unit. A full diary of events is attached.

What were the results?

There are now a number of oral history tapes which need to be edited and word processed. There is an exhibition of photographs with writing to explain the photos. There is some video footage of the village and some of the project as it ran.

Added Value:

- ☺ Two young men joined a literacy class (one left due to leaving the unit).
- ☺ One joined an ICT class.
- ☺ One joined a numeracy class and has gained an Open College Certificate.
- ☺ Learners have built good relationships with each other and the tutor and project manager have both said how lovely it has been to see the young men working with the older people.

Diary of events at the Oral History Project

😊 Week One

The two young men who live at Anster House have joined a Basic Skills class to improve their writing skills. They told the tutor that they might like to write about their lives. Five older people attended and the oldest learner to come to the first session is 98 years old. They have brought in old photographs of Tintwistle and have decided that the first part of the project will be 'landmarks' and how they have changed.

😊 Week Two

One of the young men has enrolled on a computer course, as he wants to be able to write up people's memories on the computer for the exhibition. Another young man has joined a numeracy class.

😊 Week Three

There are now ten elderly people in the group. They are beginning to pair up and record their memories more formally (if they don't all talk at once!). They are planning a trip to Portland Basin. Portland Basin is an award winning museum housed in a reconstruction of the historic 1834 Ashton canal warehouse. Learners can discover the life and work experiences of the people of the day. Learners can explore a typical street of 1928 with its shops, houses, school, chapel and doctor's surgery - all brought to life with the latest audio-visual techniques.

😊 Week Four

Anster House had an open day and put up exhibitions about their lives at the centre: gardening, converting the cellar, their trip to the theatre with the Basic Skills class, poems they had written and the photographs so far from the Oral History project. Two have made enquiries about joining a counselling course in January.

One resident has expressed an interest in doing dry stonewalling. I was able to give him information on where such a course is available. Another resident wants to write a book or play about his life. The Basic Skills tutor is hoping to take them to the Royal Exchange Theatre to join in a drama workshop.

😊 Week Five

Portland Basin was a great success. Three young men and seven elderly people joined in the day. The experience brought back memories of

Tintwistle in times gone by, and many photographs were taken. A display is being produced of the visit. They also had lunch together.

😊 Week Six

One young person has left the project and is now living back at home. It is hoped that the two new residents who have arrived will be recruited into the project. It was one elderly person's birthday and she provided cake! Pictures were photocopied, mounted and laminated for the display using the new equipment. The tutor reported that the learning goes hand in hand with lots of laughter.

😊 Week Seven

One young man has been to have an interview with a view to joining the Access to Higher Education course. Two residents have expressed an interest in the counselling course in January. They have started to work on their exhibition and have been using the computer to write about their photographs.

😊 Week Eight

Some of the learners went to photograph the well dressing in the village. They continued to work on their exhibition and have arranged for it to go to Hadfield Library when the project stops in a couple of weeks. A celebration is planned for the final week and there was a great debate on who would be best to do the food! One of the young men who has been in a numeracy class has been awarded an Open College Certificate - Exploring Number. It is the first certificate he has ever had.

😊 Week Nine

Lots of laminating, word processing and printing of photographs. All the participants would like the project to continue in September and it is hoped that a book can be produced recording the work done.

😊 Week Ten

Celebration - certificates were awarded to all the learners. They had a buffet and a good time was had by all. They all look forward to meeting together again in September.