

Greensand Country Landscape Partnership

Celebrating Greensand Country - Stories of the Landscape, Oral History Project

- Do you live or work in Greensand Country?
- Are you interested in local history and oral history?
- Are you looking for a new challenge?
- Would you like free training in archiving, research and oral history?
- Would you like a project you can do entirely remotely?

Then this project is for you.

Project Overview

Greensand Country Landscape Partnership is looking for volunteers to uncover and gather stories, past and present, from across Greensand Country. These stories will provide inspiration for our commissioned artists, whose work will be presented during The Greensand Festival in May 2021.

A key part of the project is collecting living memories from those who know and love Greensand Country in order to build the Greensand Country Oral History Suite, which will be housed on the Greensand Country website. The final stages of the project will involve volunteers collating findings ready for the Greensand Country Archive which can be used for generations to come.

Volunteers will receive free training from industry experts in Oral History, Archiving and Historical Research to provide them with the necessary skills to embark on this exciting project. Training begins in January 2021 and the project culminates in May 2021.

Commitment and requirements

Volunteers will need to be able to commit to at least two hours a week for five months (approx. 50 hours in total)

You will need access to a computer and a quiet place to work

Training

Volunteers will be asked to undertake the following training in late Jan 2021/Feb 2021:

Four half day sessions in Oral history (remote learning, 25th, 26th, 27th Jan 2021 & Feb 2021 TBC)

One half day session in archiving (remote learning, dates TBC)

One half day on historical research (remote learning, dates TBC)



What can you expect to gain from the project?

- New skills which can feed into your work, hobbies or creative practice
- 21 hours of free training
- Free access to equipment and software
- Small group sessions with commissioned artists and Community Arts Officer
- Access to archives in Bedfordshire
- A greater understanding of your local area
- New friendships and a community of likeminded individuals

Who can apply:

- Volunteers are welcome from all backgrounds, but we ask you be over the age of 18
- Ideally volunteers will live or work in Greensand Country. However, we would also like to hear from individuals across Bedfordshire who are interested in Greensand Country

How to apply:

To find out more about the project and to book your place on the training sessions please email Sally Christopher on sallyc@greensandcountry.com.

Please note: We are committed to ensuring that this opportunity is accessible to everyone. If you experience or anticipate any barriers within the process, or require any help to make an application, please contact us.

We can also be contacted at The Old School, Cardington, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK44 3SX.

Information about Greensand Country

‘Greensand Country’ is an island of distinctive, beautiful and loved countryside, based on a band of higher ground ‘Greensand Ridge’. The Greensand Ridge is a narrow, wooded sandstone ridge over 40 miles long, stretching from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay, rising out of the surrounding clay vales.

It contains all of Bedfordshire’s remaining heathland, more than half of its woodland, and more surviving historic parkland than any other landscape in the country, often surrounding notable manor houses. This landscape character is a legacy of its underlying Greensand geology, which led to much of it being regarded as ‘marginal land’ not suitable for agriculture, as well as its management over centuries by major estates.

Greensand Country Landscape Partnership are thrilled to have gained funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver a Landscape Partnership programme and an array of exciting projects which will help us raise awareness of the heritage value of the Greensand Country and to reverse the gradual decline in the distinct landscape character of this beautiful and loved place. The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded this funding in January 2017. The programme will run until June 2021.

Visit us at www.greensandcountry.com

