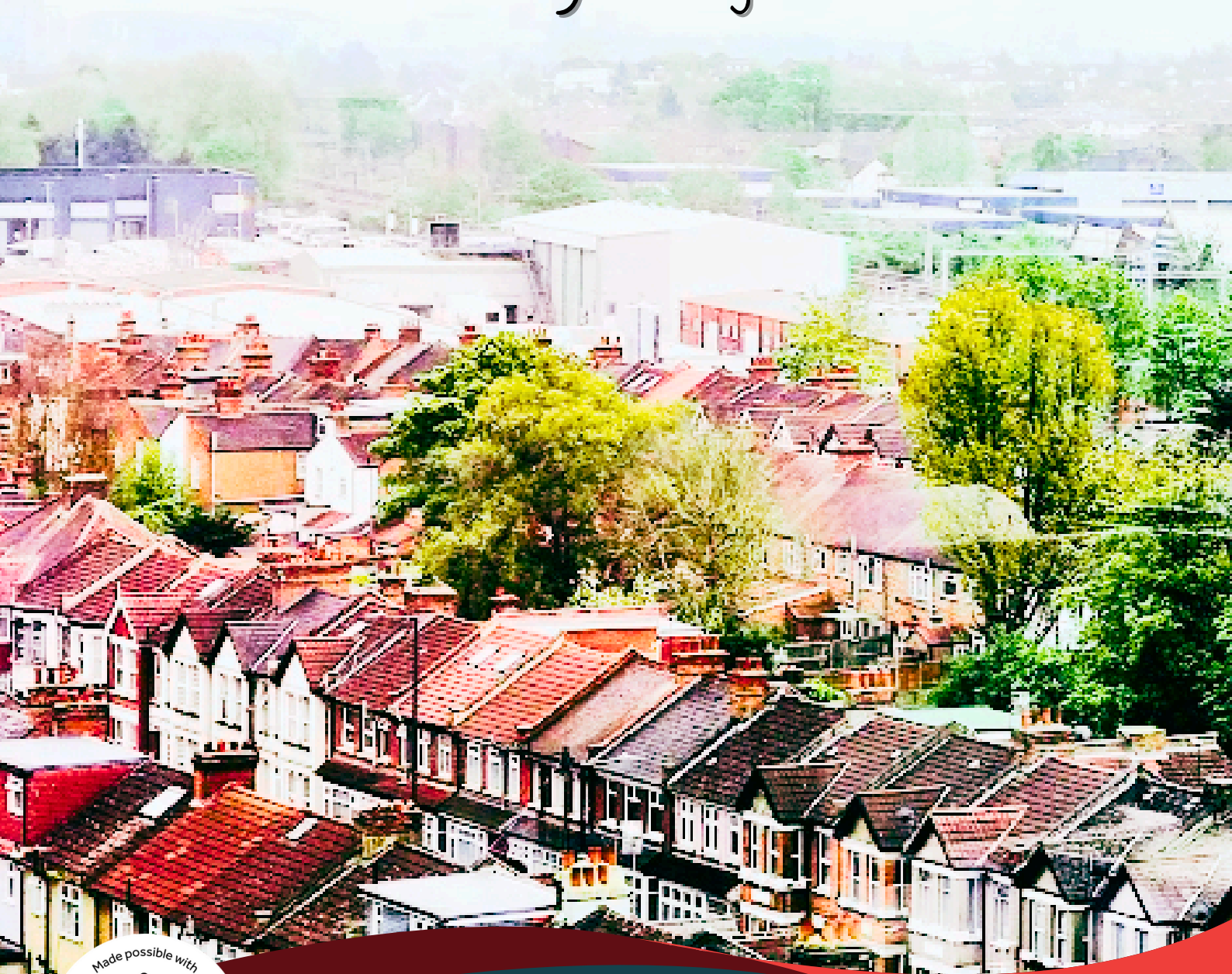


Stories of Harrow

A Guide to Developing Your Heritage Project



Harrow Giving

Introduction

This guide will help you understand the process and stages of a heritage project.

Use the steps and questions to help you plan your own heritage project.



What is heritage?

Heritage can be anything from the past that you value, tells a story and want to pass on to future generations.

Examples include (but are not limited to)

- Oral history recordings of people's stories, memories and songs, as a way of communicating and revealing the past.
- Cultural traditions exploring the history of different cultures through storytelling, or things that you do as part of your community. This could be anything from dance and theatre, to food or clothing.
- Nature works to improve habitats or conserve species, as well as helping people to connect to nature in their daily lives.
- Designed landscapes improving and conserving historic landscapes such as public parks, historic gardens and botanical gardens.

What part of your heritage do you want to better understand and preserve and share with future generations?

What do you value within your community that you want to pass on?

What specifically do you want to preserve or celebrate?

Why does this matter?

Is this heritage at risk of being lost?

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Identifying Heritage



Are you recording people's memories?

Why not explore experiences focused around a particular topic or theme - historical event, period of time, location or profession.

Consider what records, knowledge or experiences have already been documented. How will your work add to this research base or address any missing gaps? This question can be particularly helpful in identifying a specific focus for your project (e.g. a specific time period or a topic area)

How will we support you?

Training programme including workshops in oral history collection, object handling, preservation and archiving.

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Sharing your heritage

Having undertaken your research - you will have gathered information, documented and recorded your heritage but how will you share and celebrate it with others?

How you share your research is called interpretation. Interpretation can help explain heritage, celebrate and bring it to life. Interpretation involves turning your research into something accessible, relevant and engaging for other people. Your aim is to help people learn, explore and make sense of heritage. Interpretation can deepen people's understanding of heritage, encouraging them to think for themselves, reflect and learn. It can be impactful, offering people an experience they might not otherwise have. In this way you can help create social change, leading to greater understanding, empathy, engagement or empowerment.

How will you communicate your research and the ideas about heritage to different audiences and help them engage with it?

Who will you share your heritage with? How can you raise the profile of your heritage?

What opportunities and ways can you identify to share it, particularly with communities who are not familiar with your heritage?

Be imaginative - workshops or cooking lessons, a play created using transcripts of oral histories, an exhibition, audio installation or film, recipe book, or craft workshops

How will we support you?

Headstone Museum will offer guidance on interpretation as part of the training programme. Stories of Harrow will set up and manage a Heritage Network - a peer support network of grant holders.



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Legacy

How will heritage be better preserved, explained and accessible for people beyond the life of the project? e.g. Do you want the stories/information you have gathered to be in a public archive / permanent exhibition or display?

Whether an oral history, a video, photographs or an art piece. How will you ensure your work will be useful and appreciated by future generations?

What is it about your community that you feel makes an impact on the history of the borough? Is there a rising academic interest? Will it bring more people from the community to visit and engage with heritage?

Why is your project unique and does it represent a previously unspoken story? Or is it an exciting update to the history of Harrow?

How do you envision your project being shared or preserved? What format will it take to ensure the widest possible audience?

How will we support you?

All the funded projects will work together to create a collaborative exhibition at Headstone Manor temporary exhibition space in May 2026. At the end of your project, you have the option of donating your research, project documents and outcomes to the Museum and Archives for safekeeping. The Heritage Network and Steering group will consider how to build on this work in the future.

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Evaluation

Evaluation is a structured process to measure impact, benefit and legacy.

Evaluation and monitoring are done throughout a heritage project and help you reflect on your progress, keep on track, identify learning and provide insights to meet challenges/problem solving as you go.

Evaluation helps you:

- Identify what's working well and things you'd like to do better
- Share learning, practical tips and ideas with others
- Demonstrate the difference your work makes to funders, decision makers and other stakeholders.

Evaluation is a way to understand the differences you are making through your work and can help inform decision making in the future.

Remember you will need to do evaluation and monitoring throughout your project.

How will we support you?

We are recruiting an evaluator to support you in gathering information and who will offer training on evaluation and monitoring.

Questions?
alexm@vah.org.uk

Further Resources:

On Understanding your heritage

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/understanding-your-heritage>

On Interpretation :

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/good-practice-guidance/interpretation>

On Evaluation -

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/good-practice-guidance/evaluation>



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