

Fair Oak History exchange

WHEN

You

WERE ME



Fair oak get talking

By Isaac Espeseth

Fair Oak, Eastleigh



PROJECT OVERVIEW

"When You Were Me" is aimed at celebrating local history. The project seeks to foster connections across different generations, combat loneliness, and inspire young people to explore the history of their area. It aims to highlight the enduring sense of community togetherness throughout history and which is still present today.

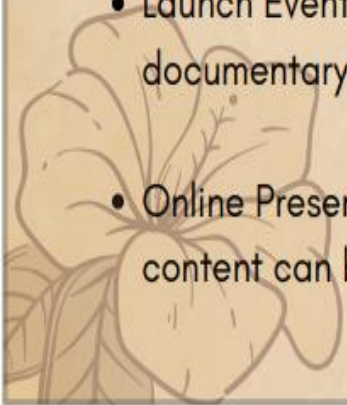
We hope this will encourage the sharing of stories among different generations, fostering bonds and creating opportunities for learning about personal and shared experiences.



Project ideas...

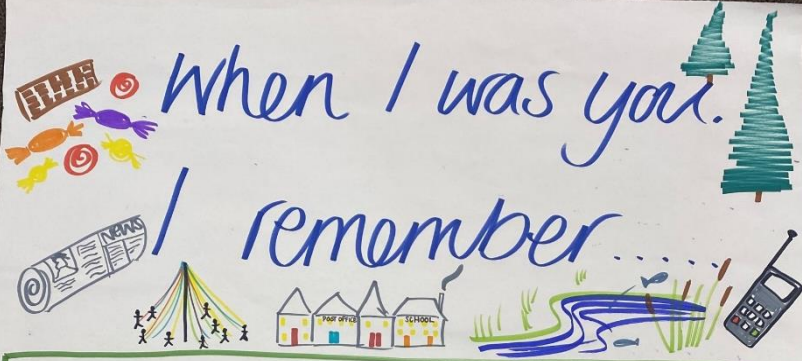


- Research and Documentation: Young participants will research the history of their local area, conducting interviews with older residents, and collecting photos, documents, and stories.
- Workshops: Organise intergenerational workshops where young participants share their digital arts and social skills with older generations while learning from their experiences and knowledge.
- Content Creation: Collaboratively produce an blog/website, to showcase the most important local histories.
- Launch Event: Host a launch event at the community café to unveil the website and premiere the documentary film, highlighting the project's achievements.
- Online Presence: Develop and maintain an online platform where the documentary, and related content can be accessed and shared with a wider audience.



Meeting one

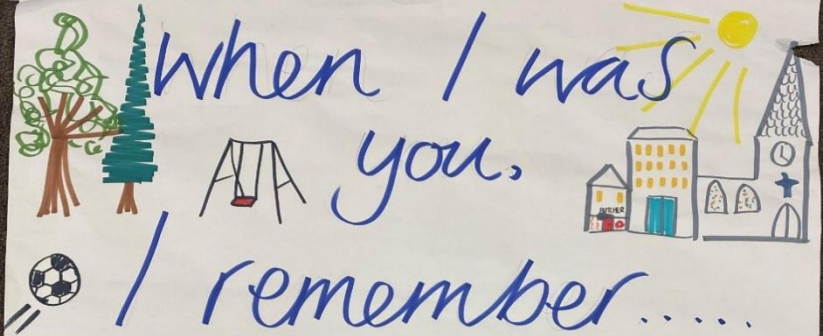
- **November 2023** – Mrs McNay met with the Parish Council and guests (older residents of Fair Oak) to discuss the aims of the project.
- They recorded their memories of growing up in Fair Oak and what they would like the outcomes of the project to be.



When I was you.

I remember

- Doodlebug over the beaches, while handing out washing Mum pushed Christine into nettles to hide.
- Riding on back of Mum's bike from Fair Oak to Eastleigh to do a show @ Eastleigh TH for Carnival in 1954.
- I kept awake by water running down the drain on first night in Fair Oak - something not heard in London because of noise.
- 1953 - Norman's mum used to deliver telegrams @ the sand of the bell at side Fair Oak Post office.
- Fair Oak was a farming village.
- Scrumming @ 12 years old. *Wandered 4 miles without Mum & Dad working.*
- I am used to play camps on bomb sites in London - *Fair Food London so diff. to Fair Oak.*
- Went to school on Trolley-Bus in 60's - *Bluebelling, Strawberry Picking, Egg Patties, Powerball, Egg.*
- Primroses, chestnuts, blackbarring, Jam & *Baking*
- *worked in ston. Spring bol. Cowslip wine, Roast dinner, Favourite gets.*



When I was you.

I remember.....

- World War 2 → always hungry due to rationing.
- Chapped legs → cold weather, always wore shorts. *Chilblains.*
- The winter of 1963 → Weeks off school due to snow. *Children would play.*
- Didn't have many toys so made own fun. *70's bin strikes + rats!*
- *80's Riots in News*
- *Hot summer '76 ???*

The Research is



Done.....



How would you like the information presented??

↑ a lot of places / people
↑ don't have computer

- Website / Web Pages hosted on PC website
 - talking about project / history of Parish
 - Oral History Recording / Video - bench in Bishops Waltham history recordings
 - think about standard questions or just speaking - less formal.
 - Captured as permanent Record
- Gathering / 1st Discussion.
- visit with children to HCC Archives.
 - Downloadable / Printable Document - Blended Approach
 - History Trail around FO - Display Cases.
 - Old Photographs - Replicate children in Market Street from Fido's - with children today.
 - Showing of Film @ event (showcase event)
 - Podcast.

Meeting two

- **December 2023** – Christmas coffee morning.
- Our guests were invited to Wyvern to meet with History club.
- This was to record their stories about the local area.
- They completed written surveys and took part in interviews with History club members.













Some of our findings...

Alan James Diver – born 1955

“Fair Oak was smaller, quieter, very friendly! I remember the swinging 60s and England winning the World Cup in 1966.”

Christine Holloway – born 1938

“Fair Oak carnival was the best – everyone joined in. It was a procession round the village. It was enjoyed by many people. There was a funfair. It was 1947.”

John Dunne – born 1948

“I remember the fields opposite the pub being all strawberry fields. It’s just housing now.”

Keith Browning – born 1945

“Life was tough. There were no toys, any we had were second hand if we were lucky. School was hard. Play was outside, we were climbing trees. There was no TV then, but it was safe, and we made our own fun.”

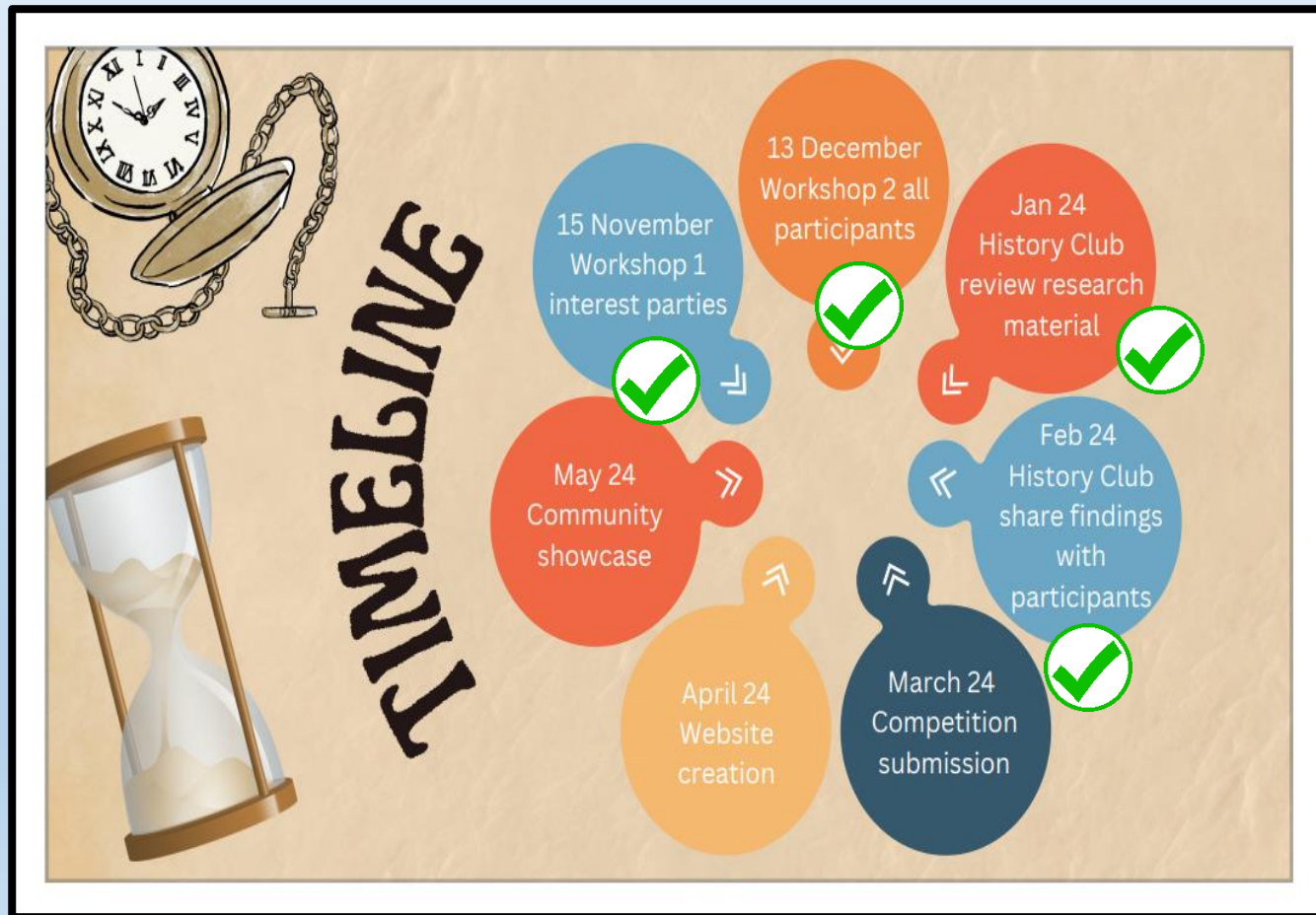
Iris Price

“There was only Fair Oak School – no Wyvern! Fair Oak was small and a bit old fashioned.”

Nona Whittle

“When I first attended Fair Oak School, there were no toilets. We had to ‘bucket and chuck it’ over the school fence.”

So, what is next for our History project?



- History club want to produce a website to show their findings.
- History club members want to go into assemblies to talk to other students about the importance of local history.
- We will continue to work with the Parish Council with the final aim of producing a permanent, interactive display.