

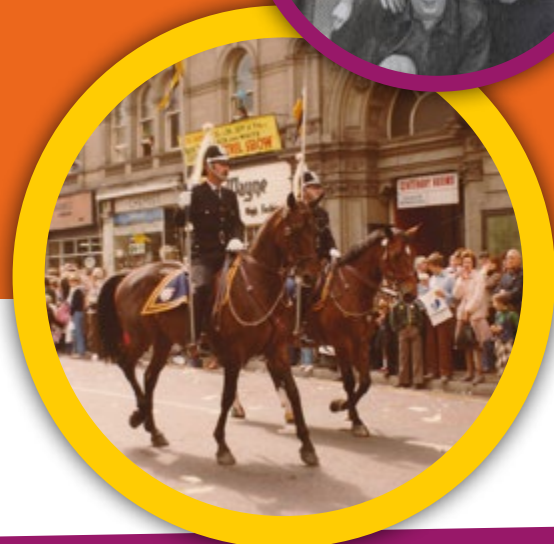



BARNSELY CIVIC

TEENAGE WILDLIFE

REVIEW

**70 YEARS OF YOUTH
CULTURE & TEENAGE
EXPERIENCES IN THE
ELDON STREET HERITAGE
ACTION ZONE**






Over the last 18 months, Barnsley Civic has been proud to be a partner with Barnsley Council in delivering the cultural programme for the Eldon Street Heritage Action Zone project. Our contribution to the cultural programme was Teenage Wildlife.

The original concept for the Teenage Wildlife project was to have a multi-generational project that would explore what it was like to be a teenager in Barnsley over 70 years and the history of Eldon Street would be used as a starting point for those conversations. Between the 1950s and the present day, Eldon Street has been home to cinemas, theatres, dance schools, youth clubs, pubs, bars, cafes, fashion shops, salons and libraries; all venues associated with the teenage experience.

Barnsley Civic's community engagement and visual art programme already had a reputation for exhibitions and engagement exploring teen sub-cultures and their influence on fashion and pop culture, so we were incredibly excited to get our teeth into the process of collecting stories and images.

To ensure we represented a broad age range of contributors, and included marginalised communities, teenagers today and also teenagers born elsewhere, we developed a programme of targeted engagement activity, enabling us to work with different local



community and support groups. We created safe spaces for sharing more personal memories of teenage relationships, bullying, mental health, teenage pregnancy, LGBTIQ+ rights, divorce and war. Some groups worked with artists to explore more creative outputs, including poems, textile artworks, banners and even a piece of theatre.

We have presented the stories and images donated to Teenage Wildlife in many different ways; pop-up exhibitions, performances, a magazine, postcards, a poetry pamphlet and a map.

We are proud to have seen so many people engage with local history in such a unique way and to have been entrusted with so many people's stories and memories, which will now form a permanent Teenage Wildlife youth culture archive at Barnsley Archives.

Jason White,
Barnsley Civic's Community
Engagement Coordinator



1 STREET
OVER 18 MONTHS

184 **STORIES**
TOLD

OF TEENAGE EXPERIENCE AND YOUTH CULTURE OVER THE LAST

70 YEARS



WE COLLECTED
1,139

PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH WILL FORM A
NEW TEENAGE WILDLIFE COLLECTION
AT BARNSELY ARCHIVES

We engaged

68 YOUNG PEOPLE

in creative workshops, in which they shared their own Teenage experiences.

10 PEOPLE

given oral history training and

6 YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

curating an exhibition about youth culture.

14 LOCAL CREATIVES

employed to run workshops and design printed and digital outputs.



"It has been great to be involved in such an insightful project on the histories of LGBTQ+ youth in Barnsley over the past 70 years. It is important that we collate the stories of marginalized groups over time to ensure they are not forgotten."

Project volunteer



"Participating in the exhibition by making pieces was really fun and calming because embroidering is something I really enjoy and the people from the Civic helping us were very nice. Seeing the exhibition and my work on display made me feel really proud too."

Young workshop participant



"It was awesome to see it and be involved. It's so important to take part in campaigns for the LGBTQIA+ community to raise awareness of LGBTQIA+ people and make their voice heard, campaigns and exhibitions can also be used to educate people."

Young workshop participant



"I have enjoyed all the sessions that I've been to and all the workshops. My favourite was the 'If Buildings Could Speak' workshop because even though I didn't grow up in Barnsley, it is nice to know more about where I live. I enjoyed walking around and the stories that I learnt were very interesting."

Young workshop participant

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COMMUNITY GROUPS

ENGAGED IN SHARING THEIR OWN MEMORIES AND CREATING ARTISTIC OUTPUTS INCLUDING TEXTILES, POEMS, BANNERS AND THEATRE.

"I'm an early 2000s kid, and I thought the 80s was ages ago and that it was black and white, but now I've looked into it more, it's very similar to how the world is now. I've only done a few performances and they've always been Panto, so to play a real person is truly extraordinary. I've never been able to feel so relaxed and yet intense in a single moment."

Youth Theatre Participant

"This show means a lot to me because it's the first time I've acted properly, with a full script, and being able to connect to a character, work out what her motives are, how she does what she does and how she connects to the people around her. It's a fascinating thing to do that for the first time and working with such great people as well."

Youth Theatre Participant

184

stories told, but in what decade were they a teenager?



- 50s teens - 7%
- 60s teens - 27%
- 70s teens - 20%
- 80s teens - 22%
- 90s teens - 15%
- 00s teens - 6%
- 10s teens - 35%
- 20s teens - 15%



**WHO DID
WHAT,
WHEN AND
WHERE?**

Project Manager – Jason White

Project Coordinator – Gemma Geldart

Heritage Action Zone Officer – Dr Tegwen Roberts

THANK YOU

to everyone who shared their stories and images with the project, including contributions from Barnsley Museums and Archives, The Tasker Trust, Barnsley Council's Adult Skills & Community Learning, Barnsley Young Writers, Black Bee Creative, Bluebeany Design, BMBC Target Youth Support's LGBT+ Youth Group, Chilypep's Young Commissioners, Feels Like Home, Next Big Thing and We Great Ladies.

Find out more about the Teenage Wildlife project by visiting teenagewildlife.barnsleycivic.co.uk