

LOCAL HERITAGE GRANT CHEER FOR CHANGING TIMES – CHANGING
LIVES – A SHIREGREEN EXPERIENCE PROJECT

Shiregreen United Reformed Church is celebrating this week following the announcement that their project to research the last 70 years of the church and the Shiregreen Estate itself is to receive a Local Heritage Initiative (LHI) grant totalling over £12,000.

The LHI is run by the Countryside Agency with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Nationwide Building Society.

The grant will help the church members and the people of Shiregreen to record stories and collect photographs recalling their memories of the last 70 years. It is our intention to create both a CD Rom and a coloured printed booklet with stories, records and shared experiences, and these items will be available in the church, in local schools and the local library.

Group members and local people will study the early records, collate stories and pictures, and work with local schools to produce a living history of this ever changing estate.

The project will provide an opportunity to identify new needs and requirements within the community. It will help the church to recognise how and what it might do to support the local people today. The church will ask local people what place it might have in their lives today. The project is not meant to increase the worshipping congregation but to offer new mid-week activities that are relevant in today's changing world.

The project will also raise awareness through exhibitions, photographic displays and a publication by work of mouth and information sharing.

Group member Una Martin says: "This is a unique opportunity for us to learn more about the estate which many of us grew up on and a church which was then, and still is, the centre of the local community".

Dawn Shelford, LHI coordinator in Yorkshire and the Humber region adds: "The LHI scheme has proved popular in many parts of the region.

“Grants are available to help community groups learn more about their local heritage and take practical action to explore and interpret it. Further information can be obtained from the LHI information line on 0870 9000401 or by visiting www.lhi.org.uk.”

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Notes to editors

1. Local Heritage Initiative will run for ten years from 1999. The Countryside Agency administers the Local Heritage Initiative in England and distributes grants on behalf of the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Initiative is designed to provide cost-effective grants to encourage communities to take practical action to care for their local heritage. There are plans to develop similar schemes for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Countryside Agency is responsible for advising government and taking action on issues relating to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the English countryside. Website - www.countryside.gov.uk

2. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. From our great museums and historic buildings to local parks and beauty spots or recording and celebrating traditions, customs and history, HLF grants open up our nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy. We have supported more than 10,000 projects, allocating over £2billion across the UK.

3. The projects grant-aided to date have received lottery grants typically ranging from £3,000 - £25,000. Details of projects may be viewed at the website (www.lhi.org.uk).