

News



War time project for History Group

CUMNOCK History Group has landed a bumper grant that will see them carry out a WWII prisoner of war camp project.

The group received £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Sharing Heritage grant.

The Cumnock History Group (CHG) will now use the cash to explore the history of Pennylands Camp 22, a Second World War prisoner of war camp on the Dumfries House Estate.

Cumnock History Group works with volunteers who are interested in the history and cultural heritage of Cumnock and the surrounding area. The volunteers are known as History Champions.

Archaeologists have uncovered much of the physical layout and uses of the camp and unearthed intriguing personal finds such as badge moulds, toys, bottles and military insignia.

The group will build on that work through oral history, desk and archival-based research, and an archaeological survey of the remains of a camp hut.

Oral history research will capture the memories of people who lived in or near the camp during its occupancy and who were themselves its inhabitants.

The group are now keen to record and preserve their memo-

By Chris Marzella
Reporter



ries before their knowledge and unique experiences are lost.

The group's History Champions will receive comprehensive oral history training with support from Dr Sue Morrison, Oral History Consultant, to digitally record interviews and produce audio clips. They will also be trained by Cumnock History Group in conducting primary and secondary research, focusing on the camp's inhabitants, uses and its eventual demise.

The Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust is support-

ing the project through hospitality and web based resources. The Trust's Curator, Thomas Breckney is also providing supporting history materials for the project.

Addyman Archaeology will deliver a two-day event where volunteers and members of the public can discover the base of one of the remaining camp huts and learn a range of professional recording and desk-based assessment techniques.

History Champions and the wider public will take part in a range of activities, including a reminiscence and launch event, educational talks at Dumfries House and the Baird Museum in Cumnock and a celebratory event at the end of the project.

The Champions will help produce a mobile exhibition, website and social media pages, digital information packs and assist with public lectures and school presentations to further circulate project findings.

The Pennylands Camp 22 project will start in January and end in October 2017.

Commenting on the award, Bobby Grierson, Chair of Cumnock History Group said: "It's fantastic that we have been awarded this grant and we can't wait to get started. We are eager to discover more about the Pennylands camp, its inhabitants and its impact on the local community.

"We are all really excited about involving more people and sharing this heritage and history with everyone."

Lucy Casot Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund Scotland said: "Pennylands Camp 22 is a fine example of HLF's Sharing Heritage programme that, thanks to National Lottery players, makes it possible for local people to choose what is important to them, what they want to save, and how they want to spread the word throughout their community."

