



**Cambridge  
Community  
Heritage**

**Historic Writtle - Village life through Misfortune and War. Heritage Writtle and Writtle Archives celebrate a Heritage Lottery Fund grant.**

Heritage Writtle and Writtle Archives, it was announced, are some of the first groups in the UK to receive a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) "All Our Stories" grant. This is to research and document how Village life has been influenced by misfortune and war from the Romans to World War II. The project will create an awareness of the long, interesting and pivotal events that occurred in Writtle over a period of over 2000 years and their impact on the people. The book will be available in 2014 for the centenary of the start of World War I

All Our Stories, a brand new small grant programme, launched earlier this year in support of BBC Two's *The Great British Story* – has been designed as an opportunity for everyone to get involved in their heritage. With HLF funding and support, community groups will carry out activities that help people explore, share and celebrate their local heritage.

The popular series presented by historian Michael Wood and supported by a programme of BBC Learning activities and events got thousands of us asking questions about our history and inspired us to look at our history in a different way through the eyes of ordinary people. The programme and HLF All Our Stories has proved a real hit and now "Historic Writtle - Village life through Misfortune and War", is one of hundreds of successful projects around the UK to receive a grant, following collaboration with Cambridge Community Heritage at the University of Cambridge in preparing its proposal. "Heritage Writtle and Writtle Archives are involved in the archaeological, historical and recorded "life" of Writtle and work closely with each other. The aim of the project is to bring together many diverse pieces of information in one book that reflects the rich history of life in the village, and will be continuing to receive support from Cambridge Community Heritage while running the project in 2013.



We want to include reminiscences of the Land Army Girls of WWII who we know worked on Writtle farms. Does anyone know or can they identify the land-girls that are in this photo?

Indeed we would appreciate any memories or stories with a wartime theme, from you, your friends and relatives about Writtle from 1900 to 1945. This could include the SAS, POW camps, anti-aircraft batteries, bomb drops, aircraft landing fields, the Home Guard etc.

We will be having a "Memories Day" on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April in the Parish Office from 2.00 – 4.00pm. We would like to invite anyone who lived here or had relatives here, who have stories with a "wartime" or

“misfortune” theme before 1945, to come and tell us all about them, and have a cup of tea. Please contact us if you would like to join us.

TV presenter and historian Michael Wood, said: “We British love our history, and no wonder: few nations in the world, if any, have such riches on their doorstep, and so much of it accessible to all of us. It is really tremendous that the people of Writtle have been inspired to get involved to tell their own story and to dig deeper into their own past. It’s brilliant that so many people are being given the chance to get involved through the All Our Stories grants. Having travelled the length and breadth of the British Isles this last year filming The Great British Story, I am certain that fascinating and moving stories will be uncovered which will not only bring to life the excitement of local history, but will illuminate and enrich every community’s connection with the national narrative.”

Commenting on the award, Wendy Hibbitt said: “it’s great that we have been awarded this grant and we can’t wait to get started. We love where we live and know there’s so much more to discover about our past. We are all really excited about telling other people about our findings and sharing our heritage and history with them. The grant towards our book will allow us to piece together information from the Writtle Archives, particularly information on the bombing and memories of the first and second world wars, combining it with our archaeological finds from Heritage Writtle back to the distant past. We will be able to remind people of events long past which would surely have had a marked effect on the way of life in our village. “

Robyn Llewellyn, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund East of England, said: “Clearly the success of All Our Stories has reinforced the fact that we are indeed a nation of story tellers and that we want to explore and dig deeper into our past and discover more about what really matters to us.”

**If you have further information, images and interviews etc that may help us, please contact**

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