



## Lost Voices

Arts Council England has awarded us a grant through its Develop Your Creative Practice programme to develop and explore new forms of storytelling to bring lost voices from the past to life. The award will fund collaboration with local history societies as well as professional historians at universities, starting with a simple question, “What stories do you think should be told?”

Together, we will explore ways to tell these stories truthfully. An actor might talk to an audience or a camera - a lost voice from the past. They might interact with an archive recording of voice or film, tell a story or react to an event from the past. A letter or diary might be read by a local person in the accent of the writer to share digitally.

This builds on recent work for a Heritage Lottery project called Origins that researched and told the story of Scottish prisoners of war transferred to the Fens in 1651 to labour on drainage works. Examples outputs from this project can be viewed by clicking on the link below.

<https://youtu.be/WmuV7tJSziA>

We first hope to identify the stories to use in the project, working with local historians. Anyone is free to offer the stories they have researched from their local areas and we will choose one or two to use in the project. We will also talk to local schools about how the outputs might be shared in a way that create a teaching resource to help engage children with stories from their local areas.

Following this, we will work through the rest of the year with local actors and storytellers to experiment in new ways to bring these stories to life. An open event in early 2022 will then showcase the work. We also plan to hold a workshop to share what we have learnt and open up a discussion about how best to tell the stories in the future - how everyone might become involved.

If you wish to share your stories, become involved in our work as a storyteller, actor or technician or simply wish to learn more, please visit our website [wildhead.co.uk](http://wildhead.co.uk) or e-mail us on [wildheadarts@gmail.com](mailto:wildheadarts@gmail.com). Outputs from the project will be posted on our website throughout 2021.

