

PRESS RELEASE

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Fieldwork – Everyone has a story to tell

“Wonderful, engaging stories from rural Herefordshire What a joy!” says comedienne Jo Brand of The Rural Media Company’s Fieldwork project, to be premiered locally by Bromyard and Eardisley history societies this month.

Fifty local farmers and agricultural workers took part in media and heritage workshops to record their own memories, dig out old photographs and turn them into 2 minute digital stories - their voices, photographs and sound effects beautifully evoking their lives of 50 or 60 years ago.

Young children delivering farm milk in the early hours, goose fat used to waterproof boots, the one-armed smithy, Freddy the pig killer, rogueing wild oats, the mole-catcher's tale - these are some of the intriguing memories preserved in this Heritage Lottery funded project. Fieldwork is having its local premieres before going on national release at the Borderlines Film Festival. The Bromyard screening will take place at 7.30 on Tuesday 20th January at the Conquest Theatre, Bromyard and the Eardisley one at 7.30 on Thursday 22nd January at Eardisley Village Hall. To reserve a place, please contact: Alison Chapman or Natalie Preece on 01432 344039 or email nataliep@ruralmedia.co.uk

“Digital stories are the perfect medium to capture real voices and memories – lives that could disappear in the mists of time and be lost forever.” Says Jane Jackson of The Rural Media Company, “Fieldwork is our third DVD in a series of high profile digital stories collections.” Travellers Remember in 2006 featured Gypsy and Traveller families’ reminiscences of life on the road in the 1960’s and 70’s and Migrant Stories in 2007 gave voice to some of the seasonal and migrant workers in Herefordshire in 2007.

The Rural Media Company, with support from Herefordshire Council's Archive and Museum services, and the two local history societies has produced an informative booklet to accompany the Fieldwork DVD, well illustrated with archive photographs. This will offer all ages an enjoyable and accessible approach to the county's agricultural history. The DVD will be available from www.ruralmedia.co.uk in March 2009.

Release ends

Note to Editors

- Fieldwork is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- The Rural Media Company works throughout the UK. It combines community and informal education, training and advocacy with the professional skills of the media industry. The results are effective, high-impact, high-quality media projects and educational materials at the cutting edge of current policy and debate.
- Image Captions: Still from 'The Molecatcher's Secret'; Still from 'Rabbiting'; Jo Comino from The Rural Media Company works with Harry Paske, on his story; Bill Laws from The Rural Media Company listens to Edward Legge tell his story; Workshop participants in Bromyard discuss one of their digital stories.

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