

Please provide us with a summary of your PEARL Grant project, how it went and what the impact was using the framework below as well as adding / attaching any additional information or outputs you feel relevant.

Activity Title:	A digital archive for Old Dalby
Grant-holder name:	Heather Hughes

- 1) Please provide a summary describing the final project as it was delivered. Include details of when and where the activity took place, and any changes made to the original proposal alongside why these took place.

The intention of the project was to share/disseminate knowledge of digital archiving that the IBCC Digital Archive team had built up over the past four years. We believed that it could be possible to ‘package’ information in such a way as to be of use to communities, organisations, and families thinking of setting up their own digital archive.

We had intended for there to be a number of sessions with the community of Old Dalby; for various reasons (not least of which is that they were quite quick, enthusiastic learners!) we ran two workshops in the Old Dalby Village Hall: one on 22 June and one on 30 November 2019. The first centred on setting up an archive ‘store room’ – the scans of documents and recordings of interviews – and was conducted by myself and Archive Technician Robin Evans. On this occasion, we left behind a loaned audio recorder, a scanner and laptop, with instructions as to how to use all of them.

The second session focused on adding material to the online archive; for this one, the whole team (Robin Evans, Dan Ellin, Alex Pesaro and myself) were present; the session was led by Alex, our Digital Archivist. Both sessions were accompanied by handouts prepared by the IBCC Digital Archive team.

Interspersed with these, the Old Dalby archive group held two ‘collecting’ days that were deemed highly successful.

- 2) Assess the outcomes of the activity and its impact on people who engaged with it. Please include details of;
 - a. What was successful?
 - b. What did not go so well?
 - c. What would you do differently next time?
 - d. What was the impact? Please include a summary of how many people have engaged with the activity (face-face, online, via social media etc.). Include any qualitative or quantitative evaluation data and comments.



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2a. Working with the archive group at Old Dalby was a really positive experience. Each of the sessions was attended by about 6 local group members and deliberately included lots of time for questions and discussion, as well as instruction. What made this very positive was that the group was determined to get an archive up and running – they had National Lottery Heritage Fund support to do this, so there was a strong incentive. Moreover, they were passionate about collecting and sharing local history, and were very focused on what it would take to realise their aims of getting this resource online.

2b. Different to our expectations (rather than ‘not so well’) is that we anticipated we would have to visit more often. Two visits turned out to be fine – and we have agreed to be on hand going forward.

2c. This was a very valuable learning experience for us; probably we will fine-tune our handouts and build in more assistance about formats for uploading material to the content management system (ie digital archive).

2d. Before this project, the group at Old Dalby were not sure at all about how to create an online archive. Not only did they learn the various steps – in the second session, they started adding material to their new Old Dalby Digital Archive! The impact therefore is the transfer of knowledge, enabling a community to share its history online. As noted above, about six members of the local archive group attended each session. However, the reach will be the entire village (population c1200), particularly those who donate materials.

In terms of feedback we have received the following:

Email 23 June 2019: Thank you very much for our training yesterday, we all felt we learned such a lot and it was great to get warnings about potential pitfalls. We are meeting again on 10 July to sort out next steps and planning but I am sure we will be asking you for more advice after that.

I think we are all exhausted after our Feast Day, it went well and the painting shields was a great hit, we ran out of them after an hour! We managed to talk to some of the younger parents and lots of them were really interested in the history so I think the project is working.

Email 16 December 2019: We are very grateful to you for all your training and support. I am sure we will meet again and remember any of you are welcome in Old Dalby at any time! [Attached to this were photos of the second collection day]

- 3) How has your public engagement activity had an impact on research? This could include new data, new questions generated by the public, how the engagement has changed or shaped your research etc.

At the same time (roughly) that we were working with the archive group, Prof Carenza Lewis was working with the Old Dalby community on community archaeological digs. Some of the images and stories from this will feed into the digital archive. We feel there is an opportunity to work on a joint article on best practice



working with local communities and their heritage. The folks at Old Dalby would be very willing to share their experiences for this.

- 4) Are you hoping to repeat, continue or carry out further activity following on from your PEARL grant? If so, please provide details.

We used the initial workshop to inform our participation in *Being Human 2019*. We would much like to examine how we can take this forward, meeting two requirements: assisting groups to build community digital archives but also generating income for the team at Lincoln: there is so much potential to support other groups but we are unable to meet this demand unless we find ways of generating income from our activities: the team needs to grow in size.

- 5) Please describe any outputs from your project you could provide to support future PEARL and public engagement activities at the University such as;
- Photographs / films
 - Evaluation data
 - Methodologies
 - Contacts

Images from the recent archive collecting day are attached to this report. We have permission for these to be used by PEARL. We think the methodology we are developing to support community online archives is worth researching/rolling out further. Our initial and most ambitious project – the IBCC Digital Archive itself – has been a piece of action research; rolling out applications like this will form part of our ongoing reflections and outputs.

- 6) Are there any further comments, ideas, suggestions or other you would like to share?

We are really very grateful for the PEARL support we have received. We feel that we have fulfilled the aims of our project. We would like to explore the concept of how to work with community/organisational groups further.