NHS at 70: The Story of our Lives

Claire McDade, Oral History Officer, NHS at 70

This talk will provide an insight into the work of one of the largest community oral history projects taking place in the UK today. The NHS at 70 project was partly inspired by the 2014-18 World War One commemorations and the fact that there are now no remaining veterans of that war alive to tell their stories. The NHS was founded in 1948 and its 70th anniversary in 2018 was a major event with people marking the date with events around the country. The project was set up by Dr Stephanie Snow, a historian of medicine and healthcare from the University of Manchester, initially aiming to capture the stories of people who remembered the foundation of the NHS. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, this ambitious project is now taking place across Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland between 2017 and 2020, gathering oral histories from hundreds of participants. The interviews are largely being carried out by teams of trained volunteers in each locality supported by a core team in Manchester.

Claire McDade will explore the Scottish part of the project, the process of running the project and the types of stories we are capturing. Claire is a graduate of the Universities of Glasgow, Strathclyde and Leicester and has spent her career working in community engagement and management in museums, galleries and cultural organisations across the UK. She is now working on a number of heritage engagement projects for the University of Glasgow and Manchester.

This event takes place at the Scottish Oral History Centre, 222 Graham Hills Building, 40 George St, University of Strathclyde, (Maps: http://www.strath.ac.uk/maps/)

The talk begins at 5.30pm, and you are welcome to join us from 5pm onwards, with snacks and light refreshments provided.

For more information or to be added to our mailing list, please contact James Ferns (james.ferns@strath.ac.uk) or Rory Stride (rory.stride@strath.ac.uk). You can find out more about the Scottish Oral History Centre via our website: https://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofhumanities/history/scottishoralhistorycentre/