



Stories of Our Lives – A community project in Chorlton, Manchester

This year, an experimental club formed in Chorlton full of those who all shared the same belief. We all agreed that, given the chance, people with life experience have such interesting and valuable things to say that their stories should be heard and recorded in some way. During 4 drop-in sessions held over 4 Saturdays, older people with memories and stories to tell were connected with locals with an enthusiasm to listen and varying experiences of writing. With true team effort, we shared and recorded over 50 stories – enough to create a book that celebrates the lives glimpsed within it.

As well as this uplifting outcome, participants consistently said that they thoroughly enjoyed themselves during the project, got lots out of it and want more! Because of this, in 2020, Chorlton Good Neighbours and I will continue to run these sessions, this time on a monthly basis, recording the joint efforts of the group in a short booklet of memories 3 times over the year.

So, if YOU are keen to come along, either as a storyteller or memory recorder we would love you to get in touch. The first few sessions will be on Saturday mornings at a Chorlton venue from 9.30 – 12 on January 25th, February 29th and March 29th. The first three topics discussed will be music, early friendships/ first dates then food and drink.

We will continue to use the written form to record people's memories, but if your interest/ talent lies in photography, film making, drawing or another form, we would love to hear from you too as we wish to make this as vibrant, varied and as inclusive a project as we can where everyone can share their skills in a purposeful and fun way.

To get in touch contact me jolenesheehan@live.com or 07939566148 or Helen Hibberd Co-ordinator of Chorlton Good Neighbours on helen@chorltongoodneighbours.org or 0161 881 2925.

Thanks for reading and hope to hear from you soon!
Jolene Sheehan www.joyethic.com

