

BREAKING WAVES: OPEN CALL FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH A PASSION FOR THE HISTORY OF BARKING AND DAGENHAM

Create London has an exciting opportunity for people with a connection to Barking and Dagenham, as part of our [Breaking Waves](#) project!

Supported by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, the project spotlights the history and fate of Creekmouth village in the wake of the flood, erasing 55 Victorian houses and a church built for chemical plant workers. Often considered the worst natural disaster Britain experienced during the 20th century, the Great Flood of 1953 saw widespread flooding and devastation across East England.

We would love community members to capture the disappearing histories of life in Thames Ward and Creekmouth Village with support from Create and UCL East. These histories will be documented by oral histories experts, residents and creative practitioners, giving a voice to those traditionally excluded from historical records.

We are keen to hear from local community members with a connection to Barking and Dagenham and who have an interest in the local history and heritage of the area. The project will focus on collecting and archiving oral histories of eight previous Creekmouth Village residents who lived in this area during the flood of 1953 or have previous family members with a connection to the village.

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Working alongside the Create team, UCL East's Public History research team (comprising staff and student researchers), we would love for community members to get involved by either:

INTERVIEWERS:

Could you be a community interviewer? You would join the Create London and UCL East teams to collect the oral histories of previous Creekmouth Village residents. If you are keen to learn some new skills and have a passion for the area of Barking and Dagenham we would like to hear from you.

We would ask that community interviewers could commit to attending one informal meeting of the wider team, one training session with UCL and finally work with Create and UCL teams to conduct one oral history interview with one of the former Creekmouth Village residents.

INTERVIEWEES:

Do you have a story to tell? We would love to hear from residents who had lived in Creekmouth Village during the flood of 1953 and would like to share their stories. These stories would be captured in the form of an oral history interview that would be archived within Valence House Museum. If you did not live in the village but have family connections to the village or memories of what the village was like prior to, during, or after the flood we would still be very keen to hear from you.

We would ask that community interviewees could commit to attending one informal meeting of the wider team, one training session with UCL (optional) and finally work with Create and UCL teams to share your stories in the form of one oral history interview.

WHAT YOU WILL GAIN

This project will give you the opportunity to learn new skills, expand your knowledge and network and connect with your local community and their histories.

- You will receive critical training from the UCL East team on how to capture oral histories
- You will develop skills in interview techniques and developing relevant interview questions.
- You will be supported in using oral history capturing technology
- You will get to share your history and stories that will be archived in [Valence House archives](#)
- You will broaden your network, and form a cohort of community interviewers with introductions to the partnering team at UCL, alongside other community organisations.
- Introductions to nearby community members for local knowledge and/or potential collaborators, as necessary
- Support and guidance from Create London's team and UCL East's Public History team
- Meeting and working space at [the White House](#), on Green Lane in Dagenham.
- Credited work that will be shared publicly through the [Valence House archives](#)

WHO CAN GET INVOLVED?

Everyone, over the age of 18 years old!

You do not need to have studied in higher/further education or have any relevant experience in interviewing/research. We are keen to hear from people with an interest and passion for the history of Barking and Dagenham and can bring this enthusiasm to the project.

We would love to hear from you if you are looking for a fun opportunity to learn more about local history, connect with elders, and gain some skills in interviews and recording and sharing your stories.

If this sounds like a project you are interested in, please sign up [here](#) and come along to our **Group Information Session** on **Sunday 11th November, 2pm-4pm**. At this session you will be able to understand a little more about the project and meet the wider Create and UCL teams.

This session will also give you an opportunity to tell us about yourself, your life in Barking & Dagenham, and what makes you want to be involved.

If you have any questions about the project or process, please contact the Community and Engagement Coordinator, Morgan Lewis, morgan@createlondon.org.

PAYMENT

All interviewers for the UCL East Training session and the interview process, will receive a £50 voucher. The voucher will be for Love2Shop which encompasses over 90 brands online and the high street.

TIMELINE

Group Information Session – Saturday 11 November, 2pm-4pm at The White House

UCL East Training Session – Saturday 25 November 1pm-4pm at The White House

Interview Process (to commit to one interview within this allotted time frame) – w/c 20 November 2023 – w/c 11 December 2023

Handover of Recordings and Transcripts – w/c 11 December 2023

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