

# Case Studies

Oral History  
Projects



PETER RALPH STUDIOS

*Red Kite*

FoCUSed Learning  
and Interpretation

## Special Steart

A coastal stretch facing change

Client – The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

Community based film project to raise awareness of the future of the peninsula

Budget £20,000

Weblink: [www.rali.org.uk/wwt.html](http://www.rali.org.uk/wwt.html)

● In partnership with the local primary school we developed the children's filmmaking, photography and investigative skills. They took an active role in shooting footage for the final film.

● Organised two trips for the children looking at the coastline in their area and how it has changed in recent years.

● Shot location film and oral history interviews with local residents and current and former employees such as rangers, RSPB representatives and the last mud fisherman in the country.

● Recorded voice overs and compiled film.

● School held a 'Red Carpet' event to premiere their film.

● Final film now being shown at the Wildfowl and Wetlands

Trust centre at Slimbridge.

IMPACT - Community now have a greater understanding of the impact of the forthcoming changes and the WWT have closer communications with the area. The children at the school now understand more about the special area near to their school and what will be happening over the coming years when the coastline changes.



# Combe Mill - Oxfordshire

## Victorian Sawmill

Client – Combe Mill Society

Production of film about the mill, three 'Talking Heads' films, animations of the waterwheel and beam engine.

Budget £82,000

Weblink: [www.rali.org.uk/casestudycombe.html](http://www.rali.org.uk/casestudycombe.html)

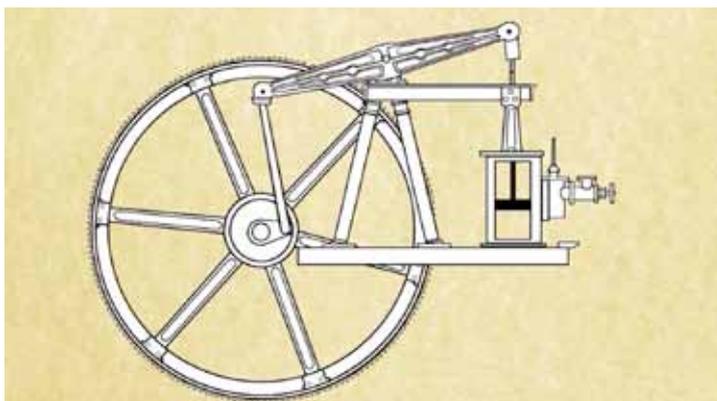
We worked with the local primary school to produce a film based upon the history and function of the mill. The children interviewed people connected with the mill, produced the outline idea for the film and acted in the final production. The film is used to promote the mill as a tourist venue and as an educational tool.

Production of three talking heads based upon characters from the mill. We produced the scripts based upon archive materials.

Production of two animated films showing how the waterwheel and beam engine work.

Installation of purpose-built audio visual units which show eight separate films upon demand.

*Pictures from top: School children learn how to use a camcorder, two scenes from the film, screen-shot of the animated film of the beam engine.*



# Alrewas Archives

Digital archive and oral history project. A three year project to capture and preserve the heritage and history of Alrewas from the 1930 to the end of the 1990s.

Client – Alrewas Arts Festival

Budget £60,000

Weblink: <http://www.alrewas-archives.co.uk>

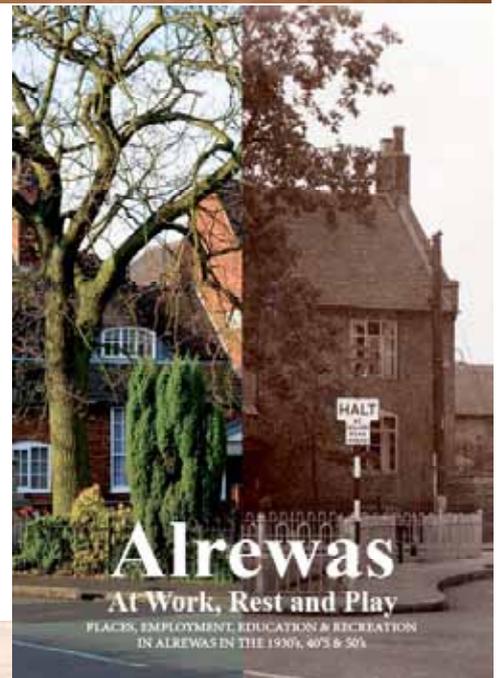
Alrewas Archives is an ambitious three year project which will result in a fully digitised archive situated in the community-owned village hall. My role is that of project manager which includes working with all the volunteers and driving the production of the archive itself, recording (with volunteers) of 80 oral histories and the production of two films and two books. This is a truly inter-generational project which sees the local school and all the children playing an active role. To date one book and one film have been produced entitled “Alrewas at Work, Rest & Play”. The hour long film features not only oral histories but dramatic reconstructions of events and stories and features villagers young and old.



A copy of the film and book were given free to every house in the village (approx 1,500).

Phase 2 will follow the format of Phase one looking at four major themes: PLACES, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND RECREATION. The next book will be an A4, 100 page book with again an accompanying film. We have three reminiscence events planned for 2013 where we will be gathering contact details and stories from the local community.

I have produced all the artwork for fliers and photographs for press releases laid out the book



**Alrewas Archives**  
Phase Two  
‘A Time of Change’  
Places, Education,  
Employment and Recreation  
from the 1960s to the end of  
the 1990s.

Alrewas Arts Festival Committee is delighted to announce the start of Phase Two of the Alrewas Archives project which will run until November 2014. We anticipate a great response from the village and invite you to come along to one, or all, of the open days below. As ever we are looking for photographs, slides, 8mm film, video and of course your stories and memories of the village between the 1960s and the 1990s.

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Sunday June 30th**  
Alrewas Village Hall 10:00am to 4:00pm

**Saturday July 27th**  
Alrewas Canal Festival 10:00am to 4:00pm

**Sunday September 29th**  
Alrewas Methodist Church 10:00am to 5:00pm

We are keen to speak to young and old villagers between the 60s and the 80s who have moved out of the village and we ask that you contact your sons, daughters and friends to help us with the project. We would be delighted to speak to you about the project of growing up in the village if you are available.

Contact Project Manager: [peter@trali.org.uk](mailto:peter@trali.org.uk)  
07792 072433 or 04283 790054

Visit the website at [www.alrewas-archives.co.uk](http://www.alrewas-archives.co.uk)  
and contact us on our contact details

**Alrewas Archives**  
Alrewas Arts Festival  
Alrewas Archives  
LOTTERY FUNDED



# Manor To Phoenix - The Story of A School

An HLF Young Roots project charting the rise and eventual closure of a 1960s school in the urban West Midlands. The premise of the project is to preserve the memory of the school.

Client – Budget £17,500

Manor High School survived a tumultuous period in 1985 when it was threatened with closure. Due to parent support the school became Grant Maintained and thus survived. Almost 30 years later the school is a victim of withdrawn 'Building Schools for the Future' funding and due to falling numbers has now combined with a local high school. As a result of this merger, this much loved school will be closed in July 2013 and eventually demolished.

This project has been very successful in terms of the numbers of former pupils and teachers who have taken part. At the final open day 500 visitors came to see the school for the last time.

Under my guidance the last group of year 7 students have formed the core of the school working group who have been instrumental in making this project such a success.

We are in the process of producing a 100 page book with accompanying DVD. The run of 5,000 will be given free of charge to former staff and pupils following the premiere of the film at The Public Arts Centre in West Bromwich.



## MANOR TO PHOENIX The Story of a School

A book in words and pictures charting the history an development of Manor High School, Wednesbury from 1968 to 2013



*Pictures clockwise from above: Students at the local archive, our first press photograph, a teacher and past pupil meet at the final open day, the cover of the 100 page book.*

Cover based on the original 'Welcome to Manor High School' book

# Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre Interpretive Films for Visitor Centre Client – Bournemouth County Council

Working with research archaeologists to study ancient crafts and processes associated with this important headland.

Budget £12,000



Hengistbury Head is a site of natural and archaeological interest. A new visitor centre is being built for which we are making a series of 28 films:

For these films the oral history interviews have been with a mixture of people including: Hengistbury Head Rangers and other staff, Oxford University Professors or Archaeology, local residents.

We have also made films working with experimental archaeologists who interviews will form part of the archive that is also being produced. Final films have included live action, animated sections and aerial footage, all done in-house. Subjects covered include: History of the head, local memories of living near it and land management and conservation.



