

Intergenerational work in Ethnic Minority communities
‘A journey through our history’
- the Leeds Jamaica Society Project

A presentation to the Leeds Neighbourhoods for all ages Network
April 25 2006

The Jamaica Society (Leeds) ran an Intergenerational Project called “Our Journey! Our history!” the heritage project.

The objective of the project was to bring together 3 generations of Jamaicans to explore new and dynamic ways of recording this history by involving elders, adults and young people, the project had to look at ways in which it could address the problems facing this generations.

The Project was designed to encourage young people to use their history as a source of empowerment – so that it can inspire and guide them towards greater achievements. It wanted to ensure that it just not bringing them into the process to receive information, but also to bring their own perspective as they interpreted the first generation’s stories / accounts, and for them to assess how relevant the past was to their present and future.

Over 80 elders and young people participated in the project. The Caribbean elders shared with the younger generations through participatory storytelling sessions and video taped interviews, their stories and experiences of migration and their efforts to achieve a sense of community. The young people documented this information through paintings, creative writings, computer-generated timelines and video production workshops.

Our Journey! Our History! culminated in the **publication of a book “A Journey Through Our History”**. The book was launched at an event on October 31st, 2003 to celebrate Black History Month.

The display board was produced along with publication of a book and focused on 18 piece exhibition of timelines from both the adults and the young people. A 22 piece art exhibition of work done by the adults and young participants with an accompanying DVD. The final outcome is a documentary called strangers with blood ties: The Story of Caribbean Child Migrants which came out of the Video workshops.

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A journey through our history book by Melody Walker is available from Jamaica Society (Leeds) publication at £14.99

