

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY ARCHIVE NETWORK

www.ccan.co.uk

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Cambridgeshire's community heritage is both valuable and fragile. Intriguing information, in the form of photographs, documents and memories about community life, is all too often lost to subsequent generations.

The Cambridgeshire Community Archives Network (CCAN) aims to preserve this diverse and easily lost source of cultural and community heritage, and will make it available to the widest possible audience online.

CCAN was developed with the support of a Heritage grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The grant funded a two-year project led by Cambridgeshire County Council's (CCC) Libraries, Archives and Information Service. With the assistance of CCC a website (www.ccan.co.uk) was developed and an initial three year period of web-hosting and support was provided for CCAN groups. Each community group has created its own digital archive on the CCAN website, using local Community Access Points (which form part of the Cambridgeshire Community Network, supported by CCC and established with the assistance of District and City Councils) and a wide spectrum of other community locations including libraries, village halls and sheltered housing schemes.

The CCAN project funding ended in November 2008 and the successful cross-searchable county network now continues to be run by a volunteer-led Executive Committee, ensuring a key project aim, sustainability, is met. The CCAN Executive Committee is now well established and has developed a long-term understanding of 'association' with the **Cambridgeshire Association of Local History (CALH)**, which has a broad spectrum of objectives and aims, complementing those of the CCAN. CALH will use its wide-ranging contacts, experience, and knowledge base to help nurture and guide CCAN, while allowing it to maintain its own sense of identity, administration, and independence. The CALH website (www.calh.org.uk/ccan.htm) has a section dedicated to CCAN and allows direct access to CCAN group homepages.

Cambridgeshire County Council will continue to offer assistance to CCAN beyond November 2008, both by providing web-hosting and server support to CCAN, but also by the continued involvement with the Executive Committee of the Project Manager, Steve Capes.

The CCAN has 48 community groups across Cambridgeshire. These groups are independent, with their own finances and management. Many have chosen to be closely linked to their village local history societies, while others operate on their own.

CCAN's Executive Committee consists of volunteers and experts from a wide range of community archive groups:

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