



THE VOICE OF THE TIGER

BUTETOWN
HISTORY & ARTS
CENTRE



September 1994 The Official Newsletter of the Butetown History and Arts Centre No 1

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Firstly, I want to share with you how the Butetown History & Arts Centre developed and in doing so has now helped to create a major new development 'The Voice of the Tiger'.

During the early 80s, Glenn Jordan, an American social anthropologist arrived in Butetown to research his Ph.D thesis. Listening, collecting, and researching the area with some present and past members of Tiger Bay and The Docks communities, it became very apparent to all of us involved with the research that our unique cosmopolitan heritage needed to be collected and preserved before it was lost forever. Research showed that in the 1940s over 57 different nationalities were living in Tiger Bay.

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A VIEW FROM THE PAST



GLORIOUS DAYS in Old Tiger Bay. The one time focal centre for the community of old Tiger Bay, no longer there! (Photo courtesy of Glenn Jordan)

environment of the area changing but the community was fast depleting and our most precious members, the elderly were becoming less visible. We needed therefore to start to collect 'life histories' of our most senior citizens together with old photographs, discharge books, documents etc. This is a major task of the Butetown History & Arts Centre and is a very important ongoing process.

Some founder members are still involved with Butetown History & Arts Centre together with new volunteers who have helped to generate further interest in the organisation enabling us to continue our work.

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Marcia Barry
 Founder Member of
 Butetown History & Arts Centre



Marcia (Brahia) Barry, 1971, and
 Judith Ansell at the first door of Marcia's
 home at No. 30 Dalley Street. "About the
 1960s"
 ©2006, 1989

The Voice of the Tiger Newsletter, (1) September 1994, Accessed: 15 April 2021. Available at: <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/728376>
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In collaboration with the National Library of Wales and British Library's *Unlocking Our Sound Heritage Project*, our group, postgraduate students studying for an MA in Archives and

Records Management at Aberystwyth University, have been cataloguing a collection of digitised oral history recordings from Butetown, Wales. The recordings were created during the 1980s by an academic who was researching Butetown, also known as Tiger Bay, and was interviewing residents about their memories of the twentieth century. Butetown was one of the first multi-cultural societies in Britain and its docklands were a major distributor of coal and other goods during the nineteenth and twentieth century and as such, residents had unique perspectives.

In later years further interviews and discussions took place with aims of preserving the history of Butetown, as the area was going through a series of redevelopments and, consequently, many people had moved away, and some residents were elderly or deceased. One section of the collection contains recordings of the Women's Lives Course, a year-long event that took place in Butetown during the late 1980s that was attended by residents, former residents, and people from surrounding areas. The course held weekly meetings, during which discussions took place focusing on a different topic that impacted the lives of women in Butetown including education, religion, marriage, employment, racism, and family dynamics. During the course participants were taught valuable skills such as how to devise interview questions, the best equipment to use for oral history interviews and technical skills, such as how to use microphones and tape recorders.

The recordings are very interesting, they contain excerpts from previous interviews and the discussions centre around the life of the individual in the original recording who, at times, attended the discussion as well as about similar and different experiences attendees had. Some attendees' parents emigrated to Wales during the twentieth century, or they themselves emigrated to Wales and as a result, they recount stories about growing up in multi-cultural families, the different cuisines people ate and living in different countries, among others. The recordings further contain larger discussions about British culture and society, community identity, and emigration as well as about Butetown and its redevelopment.

The recordings from the Women's Lives Course, consequently, provide invaluable insights into women's lives in twentieth century Butetown, the experiences of diverse communities within Wales, how society was changing as it was approaching the twenty-first century and how community groups sought to preserve their memories.

Cataloguing oral history interviews can be a lengthy process which requires great attention to detail. When our group was introduced to the recordings, we were presented with an initial spreadsheet containing the titles of the recordings and general descriptions of their contents. Prior to listening to the recordings, we familiarised ourselves with the spreadsheet and carried out research into why the recordings were created. Afterwards we began planning how we would approach the recordings, we divided them between ourselves and began listening to them.

Listening to recordings for cataloguing purposes is unlike listening to music or a podcast. Cataloguers listen to determine the main topics discussed, to identify topics which users will be interested in and any material which should not be published. During interviews people, at times, will say things in confidence which they do not wish to be published or which may

be about a sensitive issue. This material, thereby, may be removed from the recording or the recording may be classified as inappropriate for online publication and will only be accessible in-person. After we have listened to the recordings, our team writes descriptions, summaries, and other fields about what we have heard. Descriptions and summaries are not transcriptions, they are concise and yet detailed accounts of what is contained in the material so that users can decide if they want to listen to the recordings. This information may be inputted into archive and library software or another computer programme such as Microsoft Excel.

Rights holders research also must be carried out. All contributors, interviewers, interviewees, and people involved in the recordings such as sound engineers, hold copyright rights over the material and thus, they must be contacted, and their permission must be attained prior to the recordings being published online. If this permission cannot be attained or if the material contains topics which are extremely sensitive, they will be accessible only in-person.

After the recordings have been catalogued and the rights research undertaken, this information is imported into the National Library of Wales and the British Library's catalogues. Some of the recordings within the 'Tiger Bay- Heritage and Cultural Exchange' collection such as the Women's Lives Course recordings, contain sensitive material. Consequently, some recordings may be accessible only in person at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. Although some recordings will not be accessible online, the collection is intriguing, and the recordings are worthwhile listening to in person.

By Evangeline Mills, MA Archives and Records Management Student, Aberystwyth University



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GEORGETOWN DAYS in 1918 Scotland Square, The one time focal centre for the community of old Tiger Bay. No longer there!
(Photo courtesy of Oliver Watkins)

environment of the area changing but the community was fast depleting and our most precious members, the elderly were becoming less visible. We needed therefore to start to collect 'life histories' of our most senior citizens together with old photographs, discharge books, documents etc. This is a major task of the **Butetown History & Arts Centre** and is a very important ongoing process.

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Marcia (Brahim) Barry, left, and cousin Anolis at the front door of Marcia's home at No. 30 Dudley Street. "Seen the Tiger" (1940s)

Cylchlythyr Llais y Teigr, (1) Medi 1994, Cyrchwyd: 15 Ebrill 2021. Ar gael:

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/728376>

Trwydded Archifau Creadigol, c. Canolfan Hanes a Chelfyddydau Butetown

Mewn cydweithrediad â Phrosiect Datgloi Ein Treftadaeth Sain Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru a Llyfrgell Brydeinig Prydain, mae ein grŵp, myfyrwyr ôl-raddedig sy'n astudio ar gyfer MA mewn Rheoli Archifau a Chofnodion ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth, wedi bod yn catalogio

casgliad o recordiadau hanes llafar digidol o Butetown, Cymru. Cafodd y recordiadau eu creu yn ystod yr 1980au gan academydd a oedd yn ymchwilio i Butetown, a elwir hefyd yn Tiger Bay, ac a oedd yn cyfweld â thrigolion am eu hatgofion o'r ugeinfed ganrif. Roedd Butetown yn un o'r cymdeithasau amlddiwylliannol cyntaf ym Mhrydain ac roedd ei dociau'n ddsbarthwr mawr o lo a nwyddau eraill yn ystod y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg a'r ugeinfed ganrif ac oherwydd hyn, roedd gan drigolion safbwyntiau unigryw.

Blynnyddoedd yn ddiweddarach cynhaliwyd cyfweiliadau a thrafodaethau pellach gyda'r nod o warchod hanes Butetown, gan fod yr ardal yn mynd trwy gyfres o ailddatblygu ac, o ganlyniad, roedd llawer o bobl wedi symud i ffwrdd, a rhai preswylwyr yn oedrannus neu wedi marw. Mae un rhan o'r casgliad yn cynnwys recordiadau o Gwrs Bywyd Merched, digwyddiad a fu'n parhau dros gyfnod o flwyddyn a gynhaliwyd yn Butetown ar ddiwedd yr 1980au a fynychwyd gan breswylwyr, cyn-breswylwyr, a phobl o'r ardaloedd cyfagos. Cynhaliwyd cyfarfodydd wythnosol, lle bu trafodaethau gan ganolbwyntio ar bwnc gwahanol a effeithiodd ar fywydau menywod yn Butetown gan gynnwys addysg, crefydd, priodas, cyflogaeth, hiliaeth a dynameg teulu. Yn ystod y cwrs dysgwyd sgiliau gwerthfawr i'r cyfranogwyr fel sut i ddyfeisio cwestiynau cyfweiliad, yr offer gorau i'w defnyddio ar gyfer cyfweiliadau hanes llafar a sgiliau technegol, megis sut i ddefnyddio meicroffonau a recordwyr tâp.

Mae'r recordiadau'n ddiddorol iawn, maent yn cynnwys dyfyniadau o gyfweiliadau blaenorol a'r trafodaethau yn canolbwyntio o amgylch bywyd yr unigolyn yn y recordiad gwreiddiol a oedd, ar brydiau, yn mynychu'r drafodaeth yn ogystal ag am brofiadau tebyg a gwahanol a gafodd mynychwyr. Ymfudodd rhieni rhai mynychwyr i Gymru yn ystod yr ugeinfed ganrif, neu fe ymfudasant hwy eu hunain i Gymru ac o ganlyniad, maent yn adrodd straeon am dyfu i fyny mewn teuluoedd amlddiwylliannol, y gwahanol fwydydd yr oedd pobl yn eu bwyta, a byw mewn gwahanol wledydd, ymhlith eraill. Mae'r recordiadau yn cynnwys trafodaethau am ddiwylliant a chymdeithas Prydain, hunaniaeth gymunedol ac allfudo yn ogystal ag am Butetown a'i ailddatblygiad.

Mae'r recordiadau o'r Cwrs Bywydau Merched, o ganlyniad, yn rhoi goleuni amhrisiadwy i fywydau menywod yn Butetown yr ugeinfed ganrif, profiadau cymunedau amrywiol yng Nghymru, sut roedd cymdeithas yn newid wrth iddi agosáu at yr unfed ganrif ar hugain a sut roedd grwpiau cymunedol yn ceisio gwarchod eu hatgofion.

Gall catalogio cyfweiliadau hanes llafar fod yn broses hir sy'n gofyn am sylw mawr i fanylion. Pan gyflwynwyd ein recordiadau i'n grŵp, cyflwynwyd taenlen gychwynnol i ni yn cynnwys teitlau'r recordiadau a disgrifiadau cyffredinol o'u cynnwys. Cyn gwranddo ar y recordiadau, gwnaethom ymgyfarwyddo â'r daenlen a chynnal ymchwil i pam y crëwyd y recordiadau. Wedi hynny dechreuon ni gynllunio sut y byddem ni'n mynd at y recordiadau, fe wnaethon ni eu rhannu rhyngom a dechrau gwranddo arnynt.

Mae gwranddo ar recordiadau at ddibenion catalogio yn wahanol i wrando ar gerddoriaeth neu bodlediad. Mae catalogwyr yn gwranddo i benderfynu ar y prif bynciau a drafodir, i nodi pynciau y bydd gan ddefnyddwyr ddiddordeb ynddynt ac unrhyw ddeunydd na ddylid ei gyhoeddi. Yn ystod cyfweiliadau, bydd pobl, ar brydiau, yn dweud pethau yn gyfrinachol nad ydyn nhw am gael eu cyhoeddi neu a allai fod yn ymwneud â mater sensitif. Felly, gellir

tynnu'r deunydd hwn o'r recordiad neu gellir dosbarthu'r recordiad fel deunydd amhriodol i'w gyhoeddi ar-lein a bydd mynediad mewnol yn unig iddo. Ar ôl i ni wrando ar y recordiadau, mae ein tîm yn ysgrifennu disgrifiadau, crynodebau a meysydd eraill am yr hyn rydyn ni wedi'i glywed. Nid trawsgrifiadau yw disgrifiadau a chrynodebau, maent yn gyfrifon cryno ond eto manwl o'r hyn sydd wedi'i gynnwys yn y deunydd fel y gall defnyddwyr benderfynu a ydynt am wrando ar y recordiadau. Gellir mewnbynnu'r wybodaeth hon i feddalwedd archif a llyfrgell neu raglen gyfrifiadurol arall fel Microsoft Excel.

Rhaid cynnal ymchwil deiliaid hawliau hefyd. Mae gan yr holl gyfranwyr, cyfwelwyr, cyfweleion, a phobl sy'n ymwneud â'r recordiadau fel peirianwyr sain, hawliau dros y deunydd ac felly, rhaid cysylltu â nhw, a rhaid sicrhau eu caniatâd cyn i'r recordiadau gael eu cyhoeddi ar-lein. Os na ellir sicrhau'r caniatâd hwn neu os yw'r deunydd yn cynnwys pynciau sy'n hynod sensitif, dim ond mynediad yn yr adeilad fydd yn bosib.

Ar ôl i'r recordiadau gael eu catalogio a'r gwaith ymchwil hawliau wedi cwblhau, amlyncir y wybodaeth hon i catalogau'r Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru a'r Llyfrgell Brydeinig. Mae rhai o'r recordiadau yng nghasgliad Tiger Bay, megis y recordiadau Cwrs Bywydau Merched, yn cynnwys deunydd sensitif. O ganlyniad, gall rhai recordiadau fod ar gael yn y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru yn Aberystwyth yn unig. Er na fydd rhai recordiadau ar gael ar-lein, mae'r casgliad yn ddiddorol, ac mae'n werth gwrandao ar y recordiadau yn bersonol.

Gan Evangeline Mills, Myfyriwr MA Archifau a Rheoli Cofnodion, Prifysgol Aberystwyth