

Introduction

The Voices from the Mills project.

In 2007, the Heritage Lottery Fund sponsored the Voices from the Mills project.

The aims of the project are:

1. To create a digital archive that will record the working lives of people who worked in the cotton mills of Bolton.
2. To create a multimedia website that showcases the recorded interviews of the people filmed.
3. To produce a piece of Drama and Education Pack for KS2.
4. To teach project volunteers how to record oral and video histories through digital media, enabling them to gain a Bronze or Silver Youth Award.
5. To create a DVD-ROM that encompasses all the gathered material and works in conjunction with the educational outcomes.
6. To create a legacy group that continues the work of the project after funding is over.

The first aim of the project was to find, and pay tribute to, the men and women who spent their working lives in Bolton's numerous Cotton Mills. (1939-1989). this aim has been achieved by recording in-depth interviews with 75 ex-mill workers, who live in and around Bolton.

The importance of capturing and preserving the mill workers' memories cannot be over-estimated. The digital archive will serve to remind present, and future, generations of the major contribution the workers made to Bolton's social history and economic growth at a time when - "Cotton was King".

The wealth of the workers' experiences are recorded for posterity, so that future generations can acknowledge, and appreciate, how the cotton industry and its countless workers helped to shape our town.