



New book explores 1001 years of migration in Bristol

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A groundbreaking new book, which looks at 1001 years of migration in one of England's most diverse cities, has been published this week.

Bristol: Ethnic Minorities and the City 1000-2001 provides new insights into the experiences of the people who have made Bristol their home, from medieval Jews to the modern day asylum seeker. This richly-illustrated book seeks to bear witness to their many stories and begins to piece together how these migrants have affected the city's own sense of itself.

This book is the third in a series of fifteen local history books due to be produced as part of the England's Past for Everyone project, which is funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and run by the Victoria County History. The series is published by local history specialist Phillimore & Co Ltd.

The book's main authors are two academics at the University of the West of England. They have been working closely with specialist scholars and volunteers from across the city, who researched archive material including wills, photographs, newspapers, census records, apprenticeship registers and trade union material. Some volunteers also facilitated oral history work in their own communities.

Bristol EPE Team Leader Madge Dresser stated: "It's been a privilege and a pleasure to work on this ambitious project, but also a great responsibility. Our goal has been to put the history of a specific city in a more global context and to stimulate further work by family, local and academic historians. We've aimed to explore the subject as honestly as we can and to shed 'light not heat' on the current public debates on migration and national cohesion."

Trevor Philips, Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, and author of the book's foreword, stated: "This is a richly textured book, full of compelling human stories, many of which have not been published before. It should prove a valuable resource for all those interested in not only how Bristol, but the nation as a whole, came to be what it is today."

Further material uncovered by the team will be available from the England's Past for Everyone 'Explore' website www.ExploreEnglandsPast.org.uk. Visitors to the site will have free access to local history resources such as images, transcribed documents and audio files, and material can be searched by location, time period, building type and theme. A school project based on themes from the book is also planned.

Ends

For further information on the Bristol publication and project please contact Madge Dresser, EPE Bristol Team Leader 01 17 328 4388

For further information on the national England's Past for Everyone project please contact Mel Hackett, EPE Communications Officer 020 7664 4896





Notes for Editors

England's Past for Everyone (EPE)

www.EnglandsPastForEveryone.org.uk

England's Past for Everyone (EPE) is a Heritage Lottery funded local history project, run by the Victoria County History and involving communities across the country. Volunteers are working alongside authors and researchers in 10 counties to bring local history to life. Their topics include the history of ethnic minorities in Bristol, life and work in the lower Medway Valley, and the origins and townscape of Sunderland.

The research will result in an interactive website and fifteen paperback books, which will provide an insight into the way history is investigated and help inspire people to do their own research. The website will contain images, audio visual materials and historical documents which users will be able to search by place, time and theme. EPE is also working with schools to produce curriculum materials, linked to the interactive website.

Victoria County History (VCH)

www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk

Begun in 1899 and dedicated to Queen Victoria, the Victoria County History (VCH) is creating an encyclopaedic history of the counties of England, based on original research and ranging from earliest times to the present.

Over the past 100 years over 230 distinctive large red volumes have been published. General chapters cover subjects such as prehistory, and ecclesiastical and economic history and topographical chapters give a comprehensive, fully referenced account of each city, town, and village in the county. This work is carried out by staff in counties all over England, whose research is edited and prepared for publication by a central team based at the University of London's Institute of Historical Research.

The Institute of Historical Research (IHR)

www.history.ac.uk

EPE central support staff are based in the VCH offices at the Institute of Historical Research (IHR), University of London.

The IHR, under its Director Professor David Bates, offers a wide range of services to historians from the UK and around the world. The IHR promotes excellence in scholarship and teaching through its library, seminars, conferences, fellowships, training, publications and the work of its three research centres, of which VCH is one.





The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

www.hlf.org.uk

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has provided a grant of £3.4million to the EPE project.

HLF enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. From our great museums and historic buildings to local parks and beauty spots or recording and celebrating traditions, customs and history, HLF grants open up our nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy.

English Heritage

www.english-heritage.org.uk

English Heritage is providing 510 new photographs and reconstruction drawings of selected buildings and sites for use by the EPE project. EPE are also working in partnership with English Heritage Education and Outreach departments.

English Heritage is the government's advisor on the historic environment. The organisation is responsible for all aspects of protecting and promoting the historic environment. The National Monuments Record (NMR) is English Heritage's public archive of 10 million items. It's the first port of call for anyone seeking information on the historic environment.

Phillimore & Co. Ltd

www.phillimore.co.uk

Phillimore & Co. Ltd is the publisher for the EPE paperback publications. Based in Chichester Phillimore is the leading specialist publisher of British local and family history.

