



**LOTTERY FUNDED**



[www.dreadnoughtsouthwest.org.uk](http://www.dreadnoughtsouthwest.org.uk)

9th August 2018

**Dreadnought South West wins National Lottery Support for the Rebellious Sounds Archive of oral histories about women and their activism.**

Dreadnought South West are thrilled to announce that we have received £60,000 from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project; the Rebellious Sounds Archive of oral histories about women and their activism.

It will be based in the South West region. Made possible by National Lottery Players, the project focuses on creating a new community archive of stories that will take the shape of a mobile listening booth, built like a voting booth, so it can tour to gather, record and share these oral histories by women.

This is a significant and poignant culmination of several years of learning, working and visioning to make this project come into fruition.

The project will enable women's voices to be heard in an exciting new way. Touring across the South West, the listening booth will work with Museum's, community venues and organisations. Providing inclusive and accessible opportunities and activities to contribute, participate, volunteer, and learn more about our rich heritage of women who have contributed to activism in the region over the past one hundred years.

Dreadnought South West is an organisation that works with women and girls, but not exclusively, to discover and share stories about women to reveal their significant contributions to our heritage.

2018 is the centenary year of the very first votes for some women in 1918, and so it is timely for a project like to be able to look back into this rich heritage of women's activism, whilst representing the diversity of women's activism in the Twenty-First Century through a contemporary collection. See our website and info sheet for further information.

About the project:

The Rebellious Sounds Archive will be the first community archive collection of oral histories about the activism of women in the South West. It will present a new heritage strand about women through this lens.

A flexible mobile listening booth will be built by Stand and Stare [www.standandstare.com](http://www.standandstare.com) to enable the archive to tour across a strong geographical reach, ready to share & gather further stories. The listening booth will be built to resemble a voting booth, significant when considering the heritage of women's suffrage, democracy, voting rights.

With working relationships and collaborations already in place as part of the preparatory work for this project, it is very exciting to be working with a wide range of Museum's in the South West region. These include RAMM, Plymouth Heritage Centre, RCM, Teign Heritage Centre, Chippenham Museum, M-Shed and Torquay Museum, with further conversations and possible locations taking place.

The project is also supported by Exeter Phoenix Arts Centre, and Vote100 UK, which is the project being led by the Parliamentary Archives team to commemorate the very first votes for women in 1918 [www.parliament.uk/get-involved/vote-100/](http://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/vote-100/) . We have been supported and advised by organisations like the Hypatia Trust in Cornwall whilst thinking about the potential for a project such as this [www.hypatia-trust-org.uk](http://www.hypatia-trust-org.uk) .

In this centenary year of the very first votes by women, this collection is very timely and can work as a catalyst, uncovering previously unknown stories about this heritage. We hope that the contemporary archive of stories will illuminate and inspire people to find out about their heritage and possible connections to the women's suffrage campaign from 100 years ago.

This project presents an opportunity to commemorate, consider, share the heritage of women from that time, before it is lost forever, and the People's Representative Act of 1918, to recognise how women's suffrage has acted as a catalyst for contemporary women's activism.

The stories will ignite wider participatory activities, talks and platforms as ways of sharing this heritage, engage a range of voluntary activities to take place. Following the idea that this is 'Our Heritage'.

Full transcripts will be undertaken so that a physical archiving of these stories is available. Digital output: legacy of the archive will be held on-line via Dreadnought South West's website and will continue to be a resource long after project completion.

Final events celebrating the archive at the end of the project in 2019 will share the stories in new, exciting ways through songwriting and a composer collaborating with three writers to produce a song cycle event at Kresen Kernow.

The following areas of activism will help focus the call out for stories:

BAME  
LGBTQ+  
Disability

Gender Equality  
Racial Equality  
Legislation, Democracy  
Employment rights  
Discrimination at work  
Eco  
Greenham Common  
Older Women

The collection will be developed whilst touring the region and being in residence in a range of locations. This will enable it to be experienced in a wide range of places, by a wide range of people, presenting, whilst gathering heritage of women across the South West.

We want the collection to represent the diversity of women in the Twenty-First Century in the South West region. It is an exciting opportunity to see a joining-up of how women in the South West were and are involved in political campaigning and democratic processes across two centuries.

This archive will enable these two different kinds of heritage mappings to take place.

The RSA takes the form of a flexible, mobile touring archive to enable wider access and reach geographically. To allow it to travel and continue to travel long into the future.

Taking this archive to a range of communities and places allows for a wider range of stories and memories to be captured. What we want is a thoroughly inclusive practice to take place to enable as wide a range of people to access the archive and to take part as possible.

It is of great value to us that the heritage of women has further fore-fronting and platforms like this to make it more visible in contemporary society.

One of this project's aims is to address and prioritise this need and to share with the wider public the value of this heritage strand of women's activism as part of the everyday fabric of our society.

If you would like any further information about the post, project or Dreadnought South West please contact Co-Director: [natalie.dreadnoughtsw@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.dreadnoughtsw@gmail.com)