

HOME FOR GOOD
Chesterfield U3A and The Derbyshire Law Centre
Shared Learning Project

Five members from Chesterfield U3A volunteered to take part with others in this Project under the coordination of The Derbyshire Law Centre. Other partners in the project were:

Derbyshire Libraries, Chesterfield Museum, Derbyshire Record Office, Picture the Past, Chesterfield Borough Council, Bolsover District Council, East Midlands Oral History Archive and ESP Projects.

Home for Good was a project supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund. It was hosted by Derbyshire Law Centre and the aim of the project was to explore the history and heritage of social housing in the three boroughs of Chesterfield, Bolsover and North Eastern Derbyshire through the contributions of residents. The project collected oral histories, photographs, documents, written accounts, objects and more, and gathered the items together in travelling exhibitions touring the three boroughs throughout the life of the project. There being a final exhibition at Chesterfield Museum in the spring of 2016 before the material was deposited at the Derbyshire County Council Records Office in Matlock.

A website was constructed and contributions gradually built into it until finally the legal timeline on the website sets the material collected in its legal context, showing the effect of legislative changes on residents' lives.

Five members of Chesterfield U3A took part in the project. Three undertook research in the County Records Office and elsewhere which contributed to the history and context of social housing in the area, one member went out and about and photographed some of the older, as well as the newer, social housing within the area which contributed to the exhibitions and website and one member undertook the transcription of oral recordings taken with some of the older residents who recollected their experiences of social housing in Chesterfield, pre and post war. Transcriptions were also taken from others, for example, a notable Councillor and the Architect who were involved in the management or design and build of some of the social housing. Chesterfield U3A contributions to the project material were then absorbed into the

overall findings which were later finalised within exhibitions at local libraries and the final exhibition at Chesterfield museum in the spring of 2016. The website is still available and can be found at <http://socialhousinghistory.org.uk/the>

The archive has been accepted within the Derbyshire County Records Office at Matlock.

The members from Chesterfield U3A who took part in the project received training in how to use the County Records Office (worthwhile in itself) and we found the whole experience enjoyable, absorbing and interesting.

SHIRLEY MOUNTAIN (Chesterfield U3A)