



PRESS RELEASE

MK50 – The People's Story: We want to hear your stories!

Have you lived, studied or worked in or around Milton Keynes at any point over the last 50 years? Are you interested in being a part of a major heritage project celebrating Milton Keynes' 50th birthday? **Living Archive MK** is seeking **50 people** to be an integral part of **MK50 – The People's Story!**

We want to hear about your memories to help us gather, share and celebrate a wide range of stories from people who have lived or worked in or around Milton Keynes over the last 50 years.

We are looking to select **50 people to interview on camera and create a short, 2-3 minute film of each of the 50 selected memories**. The collection of digital stories will form part of a major, multi-media exhibition in 2018 uncovering the hidden histories and mapping the peoples' story of Milton Keynes.

We are looking for people of all ages and across all backgrounds to share their memories, to help us create a digital portrait of the city, to capture Milton Keynes' diverse voices, people and places. The project will document some of Milton Keynes' most iconic places and events that have taken place across the last 50 years: from the opening of important buildings such as Milton Keynes Central Station, the shopping building, the hospital to The Point, the Peace Pagoda, the first purpose built mosque, the day David Bowie played Milton Keynes Bowl, the Tree Cathedral and many more. These memories will be important in giving the residents of this young city a sense of a common, shared identity.

The most important factor is **for you to share your story or stories with us**. This is a fantastic opportunity to discover more about your local area and to play a key part in a major cultural programme.

How to Get Involved

Please send the following information to apply for this opportunity:

- A written overview of your story (or stories) - in no more than 300 words per memory. Please tell us about your story: when did it take place, where did it take place, who is involved? Why is this story important to you?
- Please complete the application form together with your story overview and email to projects@livingarchive.org.uk.

If you would like to post your story and application form please send to the address below:

Living Archive, Milton Keynes Museum
Mc Connell Drive, Wolverton
Milton Keynes, MK12 5EL

Website: www.livingarchive.org.uk

Facebook: [/living.archive.7](https://www.facebook.com/living.archive.7)

Twitter: @livingarchive1

Deadline: Midnight, Monday 3 July

If you or your community would like to tell your story and have any questions or would like to talk to us, please get in touch with one of the team by contacting projects@livingarchive.org.uk or call 01908 322 568.



A creative cultural and community development agency

Editors' notes:

Living Archive MK has been collecting, preserving and sharing the history and heritage of Milton Keynes for over 30 years. Conceived as an antidote to the assertion that 'new towns have no history', and nurtured by the belief that 'everybody has a story to tell', it has recorded, archived and celebrated the unique history of residents' lives and sense of place. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

- In January 2017, Milton Keynes celebrated its 50th birthday as a new town.
- **Living Archive MK** has been awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to acknowledge and celebrate this anniversary, delivering the 12 month project: ***MK50 -The People's Story***
- ***MK50 -The People's Story*** will use historic moving image footage and new filmed, interviews from a wide range of Milton Keynes' communities to relay memories of place and people: from those that 'made it happen' to the waves of people that have come since – the pioneers who came in the 1970s and the people who have come from all over the world to live here.
- ***MK50 -The People's Story*** will create range of materials, including 50 digital film stories from individuals recalling special events, places or objects that have been significant over the last 50 years.
- ***MK50 -The People's Story*** will create a full length documentary film, a large-scale multi-media exhibition, a book, a website and education resources. The project will present the 50 digital stories online and hold series of public screenings of digitised archive film and video material to stimulate memories.
- **Living Archive MK** is an independent charity which has been collecting documents, sound and video recordings about Milton Keynes life stories and experiences for over 35 years.
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- **Living Archive MK** has hundreds of stories recorded and transcribed, and thousands of photographs and original documents digitised.
- **Living Archive MK** 'gives back' these stories to the community. The recordings and digital archive are a permanent resource for multi-media projects: musical dramas, concerts, documentaries, art and history displays, books and broadcasts, all held by, and for the communities of Milton Keynes and district.
- **Living Archive MK** is a precious resource for local schools, clubs, museums and societies, and for academic researchers, local and family history enthusiasts, enabling users to discover the story of our evolving communities, adding so much to the melting pot of national and international history.
- **Living Archive MK** aids social cohesion in the ever-growing new city and metropolitan borough of Milton Keynes. This work is on-going. The continuing stories of the people of Milton Keynes will be collected from, and for, Milton Keynes's future generations of residents and visitors.

The aims of Living Archive are to:

- collect and archive stories of Milton Keynes' past and present life;
- share those stories in creative and educational ways;
- encourage artists to use our archive as a source of inspiration for artistic expression;
- increase community cohesion and pride of place.