

Monday 2nd September 2019

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FUNDING BOOST FROM NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND FOR SIGNAL FILM AND MEDIA TO BEGIN A MAJOR LOCAL HERITAGE PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE PROJECT

BARROW-based charity Signal Film and Media is delighted to confirm it has received National Lottery Heritage funding for an exciting and unique, 2-year heritage photography project '**SEEING THE NORTH WITH SANKEY**' due to launch this winter here at Signal Film and Media. **The National Lottery Heritage Fund** has awarded £234,700 in support of the project which is expected to engage 1000's of people across Barrow and Cumbria.

SEEING THE NORTH WITH SANKEY will start the process of digitisation and repackaging of 15,000 glass plate and acetate negatives and 20 handwritten postcard books. The vast archive was produced by Barrow's own father & son photographers Edward and Raymond Sankey over an 80 year period, and is a treasure trove of images that document the social activity of the town from ship launches to parades, pageants, royal visits and street scenes. They travelled far and wide capturing Cumbria and Lancashire too. The collection is believed to be the largest of its kind which documents Barrow comprehensively between the years of 1890 and 1970. The Sankey family have generously donated the entire archive in the hope it will be accessible for the local community and future generations.

Following the digitisation of the collection, it will be re-housed in cold storage at Carlisle Archive Centre and the postcard books transferred to Barrow Local Archive and Study Centre under the care of Cumbria Archives. Once the collection has been made safe and conserved, Signal Film and Media will work with volunteers to add rich details to the image records, shining new light onto images which might have been unseen for over 50 years.

Later this year, an extensive, creative and hands-on programme of activity will be announced; providing opportunities for both adults and young people to be involved with a wide array of activities such as **field visits & archive research sessions, oral history training, filmmaking, photography, creative writing and sound workshops as well as interpretation workshops with artists, exhibitions** and more. Digital kiosks and a small collection of the original postcard books will be featured in Barrow Library's Local Archive and Study Centre and at The Dock Museum to showcase the Sankey's work through a touch screen interactive form, providing local people with better access. The collection will be made publicly available through a unique dedicated Sankey Collection website

providing future generations with a unique legacy, resources and insight into the dramatic transformation of Barrow and Cumbria over an 80-year period.

A small interim project about the photo postcards produced by the Sankeys ran at Signal Film and Media from October 2018 - March 2019 to gauge interest in the project in support of a bid to The National Lottery Heritage Fund. A short documentary film capturing the collection can be viewed on Signal's Website: <https://signalfilmandmedia.com/seeing-the-north-with-sankey/> and anyone interested can register their interest in the project for on-going updates.

"This is a project frozen in time, so one of the things is the attraction to younger generations; we need to make it relevant still-in a way to give them a great sense of place and pride so they can start to see things differently, especially as they're growing up"

- Postcard Project Participant Jean McSorley

Signal Film and Media would also like to thank the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and the Garfield Weston Foundation for their support of SEEING THE NORTH WITH SANKEY.

If you are interested in hearing more about this project when it launches, please contact julia@signalfilmandmedia.co.uk to be added to a mailing list.

The photographs in this article have been kindly supplied with permission by Joan Sankey, private collector Tim Sankey (no relation) and the Barrow Central Library Local Archive and Studies Centre.

Notes To Editors

About THE NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future.

www.heritagefund.org.uk

Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

About SIGNAL FILM AND MEDIA

Signal Film & Media is an award-winning film and digital media company based in Barrow-in-Furness with a reputation for both high-quality, professional short film production and a wide range of community engagement media projects. Our artist-led company has delivered innovative film and digital media projects since 2001, providing access to opportunities and inspiration through film and digital media, creating award-winning works for exhibition and supporting the development of a vibrant film and arts culture in the area.

www.signalfilmmedia.co.uk

Follow @SignalFilmMedia on Facebook | @Signal_Films on Twitter | @SignalFilms on Instagram
#SeeingTheNorthWithSankey

About CUMBRIA ARCHIVES

Since 1962 the Archive Service of Cumbria County Council has cared for much of the surviving documentary heritage of Cumbria and is committed to providing access to these records through preservation, cataloguing and creating opportunities for public interaction. Visitors are able to access the archives via four centres located at Barrow-in-Furness, Carlisle, Kendal and Whitehaven where original material can be produced within the controlled environment of the public search rooms. Information about over 90% of the holdings of Cumbria Archive Service is publically available via the online catalogue CASCAT. Cumbria Archive Service was the first to be granted accredited status by The National Archives, this external validation shows the service is committed to maintain standards of best practice of archive management and engagement.

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/>

@BarrowLibrary on Facebook | @CumbriaArchives on Twitter | @conservation.unit on Instagram

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