



Sharpe's Pottery Museum
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Local school children to give voice to Swadlincote's past

Sharpe's Pottery Museum in Swadlincote is thrilled to announce a grant of £9000 to create a new exhibition 'Voices in the Kiln' for its Grade II listed Kiln Hovel, with the help of local school children.

Pupils from The Pingle Academy will be researching the history of children who worked at Sharpe's Pottery during the 19th century and creating a soundscape of the stories they find for exhibition in the Kiln.

Ron Lane, Chair of Trustees at Sharpe's Pottery Museum said:

'The earth is our wealth' is often used to describe our community, so it is important that young people are familiar with our history and are able to have the opportunity to express their feelings about their local ancestors in such an iconic location as the kiln. This is a brilliant opportunity to bring it to life with voices from the past. We are so grateful to Derbyshire County Council for giving us the opportunity to realise our vision.'

The grant has come from Derbyshire County Council's Community Priorities Programme, thanks to Councillor Stuart Swann who said:

'The County Council is so pleased to award this grant to Sharpe's Pottery Museum. It is a fantastic project that will bring part of our area's rich industrial history to life for local school pupils.'

Registered Address:

Sharpe's Pottery Heritage & Arts Trust Ltd, West Street, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE11 9DG.
Company Registration No. 3820001
Registered Charity No. 1077086

Sharpe's Pottery Museum is an important local landmark and community hub which tells the story of the area's rich industrial heritage 'The Earth Our Wealth'. The site achieves an annual footfall of around 70,000 but the Trust wishes to engage it's harder to reach audiences and to create a legacy for future visitors.

The project will enable local children to explore local heritage and use it to tell their own stories.

Vivien Sharples, Principal at The Pingle Academy said:

"It will be fascinating for our students to find out about the lives of the children in the 19th century and the project will bring history to life! We are very fortunate to have the support of Derbyshire County Council in this project and to be working with Sharpe's Pottery Museum."

It is anticipated that the project will start in the new term and will take four months to complete. There will be a celebration event and opportunities for people to find out more at the Museum and also on the Museum's website <http://www.sharpespotterymuseum.org.uk>. People can follow Sharpe's Pottery Museum on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter for updates as well.