

How do you bring archive materials, 120 school children, 50 adults, a storyteller, an artist and an archaeologist together in one project?

The answer is FOOD!

Performer and storyteller Nicky Rafferty and visual artist Clare Taylor delved into the vaults at Nottinghamshire Archives, with help from archaeologist James Wright, to find the inspiration for the tea towels you can see in this very different exhibition.

### Home Cooked Heritage Workshops:

In February and March 2019, participants came together at Inspire Library Home Cooked Heritage Workshops to explore the heritage of recipes unearthed in Nottinghamshire Archives. They brought along their family food stories and precious recipes. These were often jotted on scraps of paper or saved through the generations in handed-down books. Participants also brought embroidered table cloths, aprons and utensils along with many memories. They shared and celebrated their own food heritage with Nicky and Clare.



The workshops served up a large helping of creativity as participants used vegetable inks to write and record their favourite recipes and cherished memories. Participants made butter and enjoyed a feast of bread, cheese and Nottinghamshire gingerbread alongside a generous pinch of reminiscence delivered in the form of sweets of the past. Who remembers their first taste of bubble gum and what memories are evoked by the mention of Fruit Salads, Sherbet Fountains and Spangles?



### Thank you

All who participated in the workshops at; Nottinghamshire Archives, Beeston Library, West Bridgford Library and Worksop Library.

### Home Cooked Heritage with Schools

Year three and four pupils from Bilsthorpe Flying High Academy and Greenwood Primary and Nursery School started their Home Cooked Heritage experience with a visit to Nottinghamshire Archives. Archaeologist James Wright took them on a journey back in time and asked them to imagine where people ate their dinner hundreds of years ago? What might they eat and how would they cook it?

The children were fascinated to discover what was hidden in the pantry accounts dated 1726 from Rufford Abbey, unearthed in Nottinghamshire Archives. They looked for hogs, turnips, chamomile flowers and pecks of salt in copies of the original documents. Storyteller Nicky Rafferty and artist Clare Taylor led them to learn more about the history of food through singing, drawing and imagining the taste of blackbird and apple pie!

Over two more days of creativity in school, pupils produced stunning artwork as their imaginations were tempted with even more tasty morsels from Nicky and Clare. They had fun with ingredients and recipes, learning more about the history of food as told in traditional rhymes and songs. Their artwork, drawings and collages made with vegetable inks and stains record their experiences and illustrate the learning sparked by the archive documents.



### Thank you

Staff, pupils and volunteers from Bilsthorpe Flying High Academy and Greenwood Primary and Nursery School, Kirkby-in-Ashfield.

Staff at Inspire's Heritage Services.

Lucy Brouwer, Researcher and Art Historian for volunteering to support pupils visiting Nottinghamshire Archives.

Home Cooked Heritage is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

## About

**Home Cooked Heritage is a Heritage Lottery Funded programme**, consisting of workshops with children and adults who have creatively explored the theme of food. The exhibition of archive materials and contemporary responses will tour library galleries and will then be added back into Nottinghamshire Archives for future food historians to uncover. **Nottinghamshire Archives** is a fabulous resource open to the public holding over 4 million documents waiting to be discovered.

### Home Cooked Heritage Exhibition tour dates

West Bridgford Library: 12 April - 30 May 2019

Worksop Library: 5 June - 18 July 2019

Mansfield Central Library: 23 July - 2 September 2019

Beeston Library: 17 September - 31 October 2019

Nottinghamshire Archives: 5 November - 14 December 2019



**Nicky Rafferty** trained as an actor and has worked as a performance storyteller for over 20 years. Her work includes family story walks, storytelling workshops and events for clients including The National Trust & Nottingham Contemporary. Nicky brought the stories and characters found in the archives to life to help participants uncover their food stories and come to see their own place in history.



**Clare Taylor** a freelance artist educator, known as Curious Clare - Bus and Bird Arts, champions learning and creativity within communities by providing tailor made creative experiences. An experienced community coordinator, Clare has designed and delivered bespoke creative learning sessions for a broad spectrum of learners. Clare has lots of experience of working with heritage and used this experience and her creativity to get the best from participants.

**James Wright FSA** an archaeologist currently studying for a doctorate at the University of Nottingham. With over 20 years of experience, he has published two books and a string of popular and academic articles. James teaches and makes regular appearances for the BBC talking about history, archaeology and folklore. He also acted as a consultant for Channel 4's Time Team.

James worked with the Archivists, using the heritage documents, to bring the history of food prepared in both humble and privileged settings to life. His knowledge set the scene for the project and was used to underpin the stories of how grand stately kitchens, domestic homes and school canteens have produced the incredibly varied range of edible creations specific to their time and place.



### Library & Archives heritage talks with James Wright

West Bridgford Library: Tuesday 23 April, 2.30pm

Worksop Library: Wednesday 10 July, 2pm

Mansfield Central Library: Tuesday 23 July, 2pm

Beeston Library: Wednesday 16 October, 2pm

Nottinghamshire Archives: Friday 6 December, 2.30pm