

'LIVING STORIES' – COMING TO LIFE!

The James Gillespie's Trust oral history project, 'Living Stories' is now underway and the oral historian, Donnie Henderson has been appointed to undertake the lead role in the interviewing of local community members who have agreed to tell their stories of life in this part of the city and their memories of James Gillespie's High School.

In the run up to Christmas, Donnie will be making contact with those who have come forward and will be meeting people and deciding on when to undertake the interviews. It is envisaged that some people may wish to tell their life stories and record their memories and others will have short interludes and incidents to recall. Therefore, we are currently deciding how to present this wealth of material and how to set about recording it all.

There is also now a group of twelve 6th-year students who are engaged on the project and are undergoing training at the end of November in professional interviewing techniques. It is hoped that those who will tell their stories, will allow these young people to join the interviewing, as an integral part of their education and training.

We also are considering holding a community story-telling day, when we hope local people will come and meet us and be prepared to record their memories together or singly, so we can use all the information from everyone who has offered to take part.

It will be a time-consuming process to record the stories and, where necessary, edit the material but we are in no doubt as to how fascinating this will be and how important it is to be recording history for future generations, as it was lived by people who were all there at the time. It is not just the life-changing moments we want to hear, but also the everyday occurrences and the little details that, in the end, the history books do not record.

If you are interested in taking part in this project, no matter what you might wish to do, please get in touch with us at the school:

Please contact Frances Benton on 07711 031 567, or by email to

development.office@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk

or you can call and leave a message at the school office and we will get back to you.