

**Julia Routh Contact: J. Routh@tees.ac.uk**

**Teesside's industrial photographic archives: community engagement, preservation, and cultural resource:** My research shines a spotlight on the significant contribution of volunteers, community-generated archives, and former industrial workers in the creation, preservation, and dissemination of regional industrial photographic collections. In Teesside, the loss of industrial landmarks in the landscape marks a period of transition, in which photographs have a key role in the accessing of industrial legacy as living memory fades. This was highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic, in which a move to virtual events and activities created an increased impetus to use and share archival photographs online. Interviews with heritage volunteers and former industrial workers, and case studies on the Head Wrightson Photographic Archive Project, and the former Remembering Thornaby Group archive, reveal the perspectives of those endeavouring to commemorate and preserve the region's industrial achievements as recorded in these unique but scarce collections. Consequently, this research presents a relevant and timely study which highlights how this engagement not only seeks to address the precarity of these photographs, but also enhances their value as a cultural resource with which to better understand our industrial past.

**Research Impact:** This research has involved working with Stockton Reference Library and Thornaby Town Council to raise the profile of volunteer and public engagement with regional photographic archives. Heritage volunteering and the sharing of histories have been shown to benefit community cohesion and resilience, particularly in marginalised or remote regions, where a renewed sense of community history and identity can be harnessed to foster positive action and plan for the future.<sup>1</sup> Outreach work as a community archivist and researcher on the former Remembering Thornaby Group archive has focussed on reviving the collection by developing 'Thornaby Archive'. This aims to create an accessible space for Thornaby residents in which to invest their own material and stories to the existing collection, facilitating a more inclusive archive that reflects the town's changing population and reveals its hidden histories.

**Future Research:** Following a recent successful viva, I aim to continue research and work on Thornaby Archive, exploring potential funding opportunities. In addition, I plan to develop a strategy for connecting the industrial photographic archives of Stockton Library and Thornaby Archive with other sources in the wider region, following the UKRI/AHRC Towards a National Collection initiative. I also look forward to contributing to the forthcoming Heritage Consortium publication *Inclusive Heritage: Hidden Pasts, Reconciling Presents, Diversifying Futures*.

**Biography:** Following documentary and community work with the Newcastle Photography Group, a BA (Hons) in Photography, Video and Digital Imaging (University of Sunderland) resulted in 'Plumblines', an exhibition exploring the post-industrial redevelopment of Stockton, Hartlepool and Sunderland quaysides. Following a maternity break and period of employment, an MA in History from Teesside University culminated in a dissertation on the 'Picture Stockton' photographic archive. An audience evaluation project was then developed with the North East Film Archive, for a PG Cert in Heritage Research. I am also a poet, with work currently being shown in the installation 'Song: after Nature' at Lindisfarne Castle, Northumberland and work in progress on a future anthology of poems and images.

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<sup>1</sup> D. Beel, C. Wallis, G. Webster, H. Nguyen, E. Tait, M. Macleod, C. Mellish, 'Cultural resilience: the production of rural community heritage, digital archives and the role of volunteers' *Journal of Rural Studies* 54 (2017) pp. 459 – 468.