

Press release

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Market Memories hit the book stalls

As plans for the future of Hereford's city market move ahead, its past has become a cause for celebration.

Around a hundred Herefordshire people came to the Courtyard in October (Tuesday October 16 2007) for the launch of a new book all about the Market - and most of them had contributed to the publication.

A Slap of the Hand – the History of Hereford Market has seen auctioneers and stall holders, farmers and dealers, dairy men and shepherds, drovers and drivers share the memories of Market Day with the book's publishers, Herefordshire Lore.

Bill Laws is the book's editor. "Over forty people have been recorded for the Market project, which was funded by the National Lottery and which has taken almost twelve months. It's a unique collection of recordings and they are being archived by Herefordshire's County Records office for posterity."

The stories tell of Hereford's world-famous pedigree bull sales . . . and its infamous wife sales, of Dean Leigh's temperance market cafe and a memorable race between a prize pig and a champion runner. (The pig won).

Now the county group is working on a teaching pack about the Market for schools. "Because it's just part of everyday life we forget how important these memories are," said Herefordshire Lore chairman John Turner. "We hope A Slap of the Hand will prove as popular as In The Munitions, the story of Rotherwas during two World Wars, which has now almost sold out." Sales from both books go towards Herefordshire Lore's quarterly magazine, In Our Age.

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