

# The Signpost to Polish Success

## Polish Heritage in the East Midlands, Our History - Our Story project evaluation



Supported by:



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## **Contents**

<b>1.0 Executive Summary</b>	<b>p. 2</b>
<b>2.0 Introduction – Our History - Our Story</b>	<b>p. 3-4</b>
<b>3.0 Project Delivery and Achievements</b>	<b>p. 5-9</b>
<b>4.0 Project Outcomes</b>	<b>p. 10-16</b>
<b>5.0 Evaluation Review and Findings</b>	<b>p. 17-19</b>
<b>6.0 Conclusions</b>	<b>p. 20</b>

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Questions for Post World War 2 migrants

Appendix 2: Questions for New Migrants

Appendix 3: HLF – survey completed after recording interview

Appendix 4: Exhibition Text

Appendix 5: My Favourite Book workshop feedback

Appendix 6: History workshop feedback

Appendix 7: Poetry Workshop feedback

Appendix 8: Stories of Survival and Resilience workshop feedback

Appendix 9: Evaluation - SPS – Staff and Volunteers questions

Appendix 10: Evaluation - SPS – Contributors and advisers questions

## **Thanks**

This evaluation would not have been possible without the valuable input of staff and volunteers, and those that have contributed and made this important project possible. Thanks also go to the partners and beneficiaries that have contributed to the project and its development, and also helped to give a broader vision of the work.

## **1.0 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 Over the last 2-years the Polish Heritage in the East Midlands, Our History - Our Story project delivered by The Signpost to Polish Success (SPS) has collected and recorded the stories of Polish people who migrated and settled in Nottinghamshire following the Second World War. It has been successful in collecting stories, memories and artefacts that were in danger of being lost.
- 1.2 The project has not only collected these stories and items but has also portrayed them in an engaging manner that has appealed to people from different communities. The project has helped to establish key historical facts and a coherent story of the Polish post Second War community settling in Nottinghamshire and other areas. The project has collected 26 different stories/memories formally, and captured over 250 photographs and artefacts.
- 1.3 Through the work of SPS and the partnerships developed, the project has been successful in reaching and engaging people from different communities across Nottinghamshire, and into other areas of the East Midlands. It has brought the history of this Polish community to a wider audience, and helped to preserve it for future generations. These achievements are highlighted by the popularity of the exhibition, the materials and stories collected, and the fact that the exhibition continues to tour.
- 1.4 Overall SPS has delivered a successful project that has been shaped by the Polish community, has been inclusive, has met the vast majority of its original aims, and added to the three Heritage Lottery Fund outcomes. The project has helped to build links and understanding between the different generations of the Polish community in Nottinghamshire and parts of the East Midlands, as well as with the wider community.
- 1.5 There is a balance for any organisation receiving restricted funding for a project in meeting their original aims and timescales and then adapting to the opportunities as a project is delivered. During the project SPS faced a number of challenges due to the timescales changing and elements of the project taking longer than expected. However, through the commitment of staff, volunteers and partners SPS has responded well to these to be able to deliver a successful project. A further area of development for SPS in delivering this type of project is to build in increased monitoring, with a particular focus on capturing quantitative data.
- 1.6 The continued popularity and success of the project is shown through SPS still receiving requests from both people wanting to add their stories and artefacts to the collection, and partners/organisations wanting to host the exhibition materials. There is an option for SPS to continue this work, as the current project has helped to establish a central resource/hub for others to add their stories too. However, as highlighted within this evaluation, to do this effectively further resourcing and capacity is needed.

## **2.0 Introduction – Our History - Our Story**

- 2.1 The 'Polish Heritage in the East Midlands, Our History - Our Story' project was developed to help establish a record of the stories and memories of Polish migrants who settled in the UK, and predominantly Nottinghamshire, following the Second World War. The project aimed to capture both the stories of their journeys, and also how they settled and established a community in the East Midlands, including their first homes, the areas of employment and work they found, the organisations that they established, the traditions they nurtured, and finally the key political decisions/events that impacted on their lives.
- 2.2 The aim was to capture these stories and memories first hand, before they were lost due to the increasing age of those who had made their journey to the UK during the 1940's, 50's and 60's (mainly after the Second World War). An additional aim of the project was to compare the journeys of older migrants with those who have settled in the UK following EU enlargement in 2004.
- 2.3 The project was developed by The Signpost to Polish Success (SPS) following consultation and discussion with the Polish Second World War community, Nottinghamshire Archives, and East Midlands Oral History Archives (EMOHA). The older community were keen to share their stories, recognising themselves that they had limited time in which to do this. Additionally the heritage partners highlighted that there was a lack of stories and archives from the Polish community.
- 2.4 Before this project the organisations work had focused upon providing support to the newer migrant community, helping them to link with advice and support services, as well as running workshops and sessions to support language and skills development. The 'Our History - Our Story' project was therefore a new venture for the organisation, aiming to further build their links within the Polish community.
- 2.5 SPS were successful in securing funding for the 'Our History - Our Story' project for 2-years from the Heritage Lottery Fund in March 2013. The project commenced delivery in July 2013, through promotional activities, with the Development Worker formally starting in September 2013. The funded post ended in February 2015, but the project continues to deliver through the exhibition materials, information and images touring many different sites and locations, having been invited by a number of partners.
- 2.6 The original aims of the project were to:
- Preserve the memories of post WWII Polish people settling in Nottingham and the East Midlands through oral and written histories;
  - Establish their pastimes, work and other daily activities through interviews and photographs and compare these activities with the new Polish migrants who have settled in the area since 2004;

- Organise an exhibition presenting the history of the migration of the Polish community to Nottingham and the East Midlands;
- Gather artefacts, voice recordings and other memorabilia throughout the project for the department of Local Studies at Nottingham City Library and Nottinghamshire Archives.

2.7 This evaluation will examine the projects delivery against its original aims, and how it has met the outcomes of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the sole funder of this project. Additionally it will look at what has been learnt through the delivery of the project, and highlight considerations for SPS to make if they decide to deliver further heritage activities or projects.

### **3.0 Project Delivery and Management**

3.1 During the 2 years of the project it has delivered the following activities:

- Recruited 11 volunteers to the project (target 10), with an additional 13 people informally volunteering and supporting the projects work;
- Carried out and completed 23 interviews with members of the older Polish community (minimum target 16);
- Carried out and completed 3 interviews with members of the newer migrant community (minimum target 4);
- Prepared transcripts of the interviews, in English, which will be donated to the Nottinghamshire Archives and EMOHA.
- Recorded and developed an archive of approximately 250 different materials and items;
- Created an exhibition for the Nottingham Central Library;
- Developed additional exhibitions at 5 further venues and sites;
- Developed and delivered 4 workshops to present the projects findings during May 2014 (target events 4) with 60 attendees in total;
- Delivered an additional workshop in Chesterfield in October 2014, with an estimated attendance of over 30 people;
- Supported 9 'drop-in' workshops throughout April and May 2014;
- Promoted the project and its achievements via 29 articles in the East Midlands po Polsku newspaper;
- Produced a special issue of the East Midlands po Polsku newspaper, which included a front cover in English showcasing the exhibition;
- Developed 19 posters/promotional materials;
- Developed a specific website to showcase the project and archive materials ([www.empp.co.uk/polish\\_heritage](http://www.empp.co.uk/polish_heritage)).

3.2 A steering group for the project was established during its early stages, this included a range of stakeholders from across the Polish community, as well as partner organisations. The steering group helped to support the promotion of the project, and engagement of the older Polish community which was key to gaining their stories of migration and settling in the UK.

3.3 As this was a new venture for SPS the project was led by a dedicated Heritage Project Development Worker who was recruited to the post in June 2013, and began formally working on the project in September 2013. During the time between them being recruited and taking up the post they volunteered with the project as they were keen to be involved. However, due to difficulties in achieving the requirements of the role the post holder was replaced at the beginning of May 2014. There was a gap of two months between the post holders, with staff at SPS providing additional support to the project during this period, taking on vital roles for the project during a particularly busy period.

3.4 Additionally, difficulties were caused through the timescale of the project being shortened and SPS needing to hold their exhibition in April/May 2014, rather than the originally planned September/October 2014. This created additional pressure

in pulling the materials together for the exhibitions (oral history interviews, artefacts, photography, etc.). This was highlighted in staff interviews where it was common for them to mention a lack of time and capacity to meet deadlines:

- *'There were not enough staff involved to interview and edit.'*  
- SPS staff feedback

3.5 This shortage of time was also highlighted within the recording and archiving of items:

- *'I was surprised how long it took, safe storage, ticketing and logging, thinking of the best way to present items, and selecting the right items for display.'*  
- SPS volunteer feedback

However, the involvement of an increased number of SPS staff to support the project helped to further engage them in the work of the project, and enabled them to find out more about the older generation. As part of the newer generation of Polish migrants the majority of the staff at SPS were not familiar with the full details of the older generations history and journeys, and through their involvement they have been able to build strong links within their community across the generations.

- *'Friends attended the exhibition, they were keen to be involved. Some British friends didn't know anything of this.'*  
- SPS staff feedback

3.6 The second lead worker joined the project in May 2014, and supported its work and development for 10 months. They brought experience of both community engagement and heritage work, and were able to build upon the existing project, expanding the exhibition and activities through developing links with partner organisations. This has continued beyond the funded period, with venues/sites still interested in hosting the exhibition.

3.7 Through its delivery the project was successful in reaching and engaging the older Polish community (and their adult children), being able to interview many more than originally intended. Feedback from partners highlighted how impressed they were with the reach of SPS:

- *'SPS did a really good job of building contacts and links, they brought together a wealth of information and imagery.'*  
- Partner organisation

3.8 This success did add further pressure to the reduced timescale, and to some extent gave less exposure to the stories from the more recent migrants.

- *'(the project) had its own momentum, there was always one more person to contact, to interview.'*
- *'Perhaps we need more time when working with the older generation.'*  
- SPS staff feedback

3.9 Feedback from staff and elder advisors highlighted that the involvement and interviewing of the newer generation was minimised due to the limited capacity and the need to bring materials together for the project launch at the library. With the majority of staff and volunteers being from the newer generation this limited their direct input into the project, and for people of their generation to be able to tell their stories.

3.10 Links were made with schools through the project, with a number being invited and attending the exhibition. However, feedback from staff and volunteers highlighted that it was difficult to build delivery within schools as the project content needed to directly link both to the school curriculum and when the lessons on the subject were being delivered.

3.11 As highlighted earlier, this was the first heritage project that SPS had delivered and managed, and they did require additional time from the Heritage Lottery Fund to complete its delivery. This was due to several reasons including both the change in staffing, and the project's success in reaching a greater number of the older generation. The experience of delivering this type of project for the first time will help SPS to better plan the timescale for future work, building in contingency and slippage where this is needed.

3.12 Despite the time pressures that SPS faced they were able to produce a significant, popular exhibition, and a number of workshops to support the exhibition. The presentation of the stories and images through the banners that were developed worked well as they broke down the timeline of the older generations stories into the different areas that were important to them, and which would be important to any community. Firstly they focused upon their reasons for leaving Poland and the varied journeys to the UK:

- Siberian Exile
- Arrival to the UK

Followed by the necessity for a home and employment:

- Our Home in Britain and Education
- Work

The exhibition then portrayed the story of the communities development within Nottinghamshire through their religion, traditions and the organisations that they established to support their community:



- The Catholic Faith and Social Centres
- Polish Choir and Polish Traditions
- Polish Organisations and Polish School

Finally the exhibition linked the stories to the political situation at different stages in Poland and the UK, highlighting the further difficulties that the older generation faced:

- Victory Parade and Important events
- Returning to Poland

3.13 Breaking the stories, memories and artefacts down in this way and linking it to specific time periods with real events, enables the older generation to give their side of the story. It also provides further background and context for those aware of events, but not aware of the full story (until visiting the exhibition).

3.14 Including the stories of the buildings that were developed and the organisations that were created within Nottinghamshire has also helped to bring the stories to the newer Polish community, as they are able to still see and benefit from the achievements of the older generation.

3.15 Also, by producing the exhibition and stories in English, translating where needed, they enable the project to be accessed by the wider community of Nottinghamshire. SPS staff highlighted that the exhibition and workshops were attended by a mixture of the local community.

3.16 Feedback at the time of the exhibition from staff at the Nottingham Central Library highlighted that the exhibition had been very successful, and was continually gaining interest from visitors to the library. The lead worker at the Central Library at the time of the exhibition stated that:

- *'We received a lot of positive feedback from the wider community, often being told how impressed people were with the scope of the exhibition, as well as how they'd learnt much about how important the Polish story is to the story of Nottingham.'*  
- Lead library worker

3.17 Staff members also stated that there needed to be a greater ability in such projects to respond to changes, or significant increases in workload. This needed to be both internally by the organisation, but also in terms of seeking approval from funders/investors in the project. Having greater flexibility would aid in delivery, enabling SPS to respond to additional demands from partner organisations, people/volunteers involved, and the levels of information and materials contributed.

- 3.18 Feedback from partners has highlighted that some of the imagery (both display and archiving) that came from the project needed improving, there needing to be a greater resolution on these. However, this was mainly due to the partner organisation wanting to use images at a much larger scale than originally intended.
- 3.19 Partners were very impressed with the '*wealth of information and imagery*' collected by SPS. Along a similar line feedback from both staff and partners stated that the website established for the project is '*a good start*', and that more could be added to this to develop and broaden its appeal.
- 3.20 SPS has been able to manage and deliver the work of the project successfully, and there is a clear fondness for and warmth towards the project from staff and volunteers and the older community involved. The stories and artefacts collected and then exhibited have helped to generate ongoing interest with different stakeholders in this project, helping to increase its reach across the East Midlands.

## **4.0 Project Outcomes**

4.1 This part of the evaluation will respond to each of the three Heritage Lottery Fund outcomes individually, giving a fuller picture of the difference the project has made over the last 2-years. The Heritage Lottery Fund's outcomes are:

- The difference made to heritage;
- The difference made for people;
- The difference made for communities.

Taking available information and data from SPS, and adding further details from staff, volunteers, partner organisations and those involved in the project from the Polish community, the report will look at how the 'Our History - Our Story' project has met these three outcomes. The feedback and survey forms used during the project and this evaluation can be found with the appendices for this report.

### **4.2 The difference made to heritage**

4.2.1 The project has created and increased access to a wealth of memories from an important generation within the Polish community, telling their story from the start of the Second World War to settling and establishing a community in the UK in the 1940's, 50's and 60's. The project has captured these memories at a critical time, enabling them to be recorded either first hand, or with the adult children (second generation) of those arriving after the Second World War. They have also been captured and recorded formally through interviews conducted by staff and volunteers at SPS.

4.2.2 Supporting the interviews the project also collected a significant number of artefacts including photographs, and both official historical documentation and personal notes from the older community. A selection of these artefacts were used for the exhibitions, as well as being uploaded to the project website, helping to showcase parts of the stories that were being collected. With these artefacts having been scanned the project has helped to ensure that they are preserved for the future. Through being uploaded to the project website it has also helped to increase access to these, which will continue with them being stored with Nottinghamshire Archives.

4.2.3 Part of the legacy of the project has been its establishment of historical facts that depict how the Polish community established itself in the East Midlands, and particularly in Nottingham. The details of these journeys and settlement have now been formally captured (or translated/transcribed) into English for the first time, helping both the Polish community and wider public to understand the history of the Polish community in Nottingham.

4.2.4 Without the project these memories would have been mostly lost, and in some cases potentially misinterpreted by them being passed on informally within families. The timing of this project has been an important factor in ensuring that

these memories and stories are preserved, and continue to be heard. Interestingly, one of the elder advisers stated that:

- *'My generation already know the story, the younger ones don't. They don't approach and ask us.'*  
- Project adviser

This partly highlights a gap within the Polish community in the UK, between those that came after the Second World War (and their children and grand-children), and those that have arrived more recently. Although all are Polish migrants to the UK, they have come here at different times, and for very different reasons.

4.2.5 The launch and exhibition created a focal point for the project, ensuring that the stories and artefacts collected would be shared in an accessible and open format. As highlighted in the previous section, the banners that were produced for the exhibition were well developed, linking the stories and memories to real world events that most people would have a basic understanding of. The support of partners in increasing the heritage skills of SPS staff and volunteers, and then the ability of the staff to use these skills to interpret and present these stories has been key to this.

4.2.6 Through both the exhibition and workshops the project has interpreted and explained the journeys of the older Polish community, and also the issues they faced when settling in the UK. These stories had not been collected previously, and only known informally within the older Polish community. By using digital recording methods and capturing the voices of those that migrated to the UK (or their adult children's) through the interviews, the project has helped to ensure that these memories and stories can be maintained for the long-term, and also used in future exhibitions and workshops.

4.2.7 Feedback regarding the exhibition and workshops highlighted that there was a mixed understanding from the attendees about the journeys of the Polish migrants, and also their involvement and contribution in the UK Armed Forces during the Second World War. Attendees included a mixture of older Polish community members, newer Polish migrants, and other community members mainly from Nottinghamshire.

The feedback from attendees at the exhibition and workshops was also overwhelmingly positive:

- *'History is often presented from one point of view and it is good to show it from the other side and the history of ordinary people.'*;
- *'Loved the running film show and commentaries. My parents settled here in Nottingham in 1949, and this exhibition was a nostalgic return to my earlier years growing up as a second generation Pole in Nottingham.'*  
- Exhibition feedback

4.2.8 Feedback at the time of the exhibition at Nottingham Central Library stated that it had been one of the best exhibitions that they had held, and that the support of the Nottingham City Council Library services was important to both the Polish community and the wider public:

- *'Apart from being one of the most popular exhibitions I was involved with during my tenure with the City Library Service, it was also one of the most significant insomuch as it was clear how important it was for the Polish Community to have their role recognised by the Library Service (and Nottingham City Council) in this way, particularly at a time when there is a great deal of debate about the merits of immigration.'*  
- Lead library worker

4.2.9 The Oral Histories training provider and contact at the East Midlands Oral History Archive fed back that the project was important as there was gap in the archives in terms of the migration and settlement of the Polish community in the East Midlands. He highlighted that he was aware of several projects that had looked at migration to the East Midlands, but that there had been little on the Polish community gained through these, and that SPS had done really well in pulling the recordings and stories together.

#### 4.3 **The difference made for people**

4.3.1 The project has directly increased the skills of 14 staff members and volunteers at SPS through them being trained and carrying out oral history interviews. Putting these skills into practice within this project has also helped to build their confidence when meeting and speaking with the older Polish generation. SPS staff continued to develop their skills interpreting these stories, writing heritage articles for East Midlands po Polsku throughout the project. They are continuing to write about the history of the Polish community in the East Midlands using the foundation knowledge gained from the project.

4.3.2 Those interviewed during the project provided feedback regarding the importance of the project, in particular highlighting how it helps to build understanding:

- *'Enables the younger generation to understand their heritage.'*
- *'Informs English people about the Polish community in Nottingham.'*  
- Project interviewees

An interviewee who told the story of her mother and father also highlighted that:

- *'Taking part brought me close to my Polish roots, improved my relationships with my parents generation I grew up with.'*  
- Second generation Project interviewee

They also highlighted that the interview process was very good, with 82.6% scoring this 9 or 10 (out of 10) positively. All of the interviewees also fed back that the questions were clear and relevant, that the interviews were the right length, and that they were treated with respect. Discussions with both the elder advisors and staff and volunteers at SPS demonstrated that the project provided a positive and engaging experience for all involved, with there being an aspiration to continue its work where possible.

4.3.3 Members of the older Polish community fed back to staff and volunteers of SPS that the project had helped to show their lives, their hidden histories, and that they were proud of their stories. This sentiment was also echoed by the elder advisors to the project (who also contributed their stories), with one stating that they now feel valued, whereas they did not when they first arrived in the UK.

- *'(I) feel appreciated now, but not then.'*  
- SPS Elder adviser

4.3.4 Feedback from staff at SPS, who are part of the newer Polish community, highlighted that they had learned a lot through this project, and that they were not fully aware of the journeys that the older community had undertaken, or some of the similar difficulties they had faced when settling in the UK. This had helped to change their views about this generation, and although these were not negative before the project, there is now a greater understanding as to why the older generation did not return to Poland following the end of the Second World War.

4.3.5 The elder advisors to the project also highlighted a similar opinion, that through meeting and speaking with the newer generation they had been able to get a better understanding of why they had come to the UK. Through creating these links the older generation have also been able to discuss and find out more about the more recent changes in Poland itself, helping them to link back with their 'homeland'.

4.3.6 As highlighted above, direct feedback about the exhibition and workshops from attendees, as well as from staff and volunteers has been very positive. These events were attended by people from different communities, who had varying levels of understanding about this generation of Polish migrants. This broke down into three broad categories:

- Significant knowledge and understanding - this mainly being members of the older generation attending the events, but also some second generation Polish residents who knew their parents stories;
- Partial knowledge and understanding - this was mainly the second generation Polish community, and the new migrant Polish community; and

- Little or no knowledge - in most cases this related to those outside of the Polish community (mainly English), but did include some from the newer Polish migrant community.

4.3.7 This demonstrates the reach of the project, and its ability to engage different people, with different levels of knowledge and understanding, including those outside of the Polish community. SPS highlighted that they wanted to make the project inclusive and that the majority of the interviews and transcripts of these were in English to help encourage this.

4.3.8 In terms of monitoring of the project it would be good to see some level of change measurement being included to help gauge the difference the project has made in specific areas more formally, for example looking at attendees levels of knowledge both before and after. This is important when attracting a wider mixed audience to an exhibition or workshops like this project has in order to measure the change and not just the overall result.

4.3.9 Through the success of the exhibitions at the Central Library and initial workshops and with additional support from staff the project has further demonstrated its ability to reach and engage people from different communities. This continues through the interest of partners wanting to host the exhibition, so far the project has been additionally hosted at:

- Christian Centre, July 2014, Shirebrook;
- New Art Exchange (NAE), August - December 2014, Nottingham;
- Chesterfield Market Hall Gallery/Town Hall, September - October 2014, Chesterfield
- John Storer House - November - December 2014, Loughborough

The exhibition at the NAE was extended beyond an original 2-months to 6-months due to its popularity. The exhibition was in a prominent position within the NAE building, and they have stated that during the project exhibition period they had 15,942 visitors. This is an impressive achievement for the organisation, and has helped to raise their profile with other organisations that they may not normally link with, as well as with the wider public.

#### 4.4 **The difference made for communities**

4.4.1 Although the project focused upon the stories of the older Polish community, it has engaged a significant number of the newer community both directly through SPS (staff and volunteers) and also through the exhibition and workshops. Feedback from staff and elder advisors on the project also highlighted an improved relationship between the generations. And, although there wasn't tension previously, there is now a greater sense of understanding between the generations through sharing and knowing these stories. In feeding back upon the work of the project, and in particular hearing the stories of migration SPS staff members stated:

- *'(I) felt a great sense of honour.'*
- *'Not only did I learn so much about these important historical times and the lives of Polish post WWII migrants, but I could assist in and enable the retelling of their stories over 50 years later.'*  
- SPS staff feedback

4.4.2 The project has had significant reach, which continues through the exhibition continuing to tour different sites and venues. Feedback from these partners has been very positive:

- *'We have seen a diverse range of communities coming to the exhibition, and there has been no negative feedback, which is unusual.'*  
- Partner organisation

4.4.3 The project has been promoted widely through the organisations own monthly newspaper, East Midlands po Polsku, as well as through their website and partner organisations. This has enabled it to have a greater reach beyond Nottingham City, engaging the Polish community across the East Midlands region. In addition through the launch, exhibition and workshops the project has been able to engage people outside of the Polish community, enabling them to find out more about these stories.

- *'What a lovely way to share a history. It is so good to find out about another aspect of Nottinghamshire people.'*  
- Exhibition feedback
- *'We had a good mixed crowd at the opening, lots of different people spending time together, learning about each other and listening to what we had to say.'*  
- Staff feedback

Additional comments also linked the project to the negative media attention and reporting upon migrant communities:

- *'Exhibitions like this are a great value to Nottingham. Challenging bigotry and mis-information about migrants is essential.'*
- *'It is important to teach English and Polish people about the wider Polish story-beyond stories in the news about immigration.'*  
- Exhibition feedback

4.4.4 From this perspective the project has the potential to change people's attitudes through highlighting the positive contribution that Polish migrants and the Polish community has made in the UK. This counters the majority of the current media representation of migrants.



- *'...not that many (English people) know the real reason why Polish people first came here at the end of the second world war, let alone what a hugely important role they played in winning the War.'*  
- SPS Volunteer

4.4.5 A number of those visiting the exhibition and taking part in the workshops were the children and grandchildren of the older generation of Polish migrants, and highlighted how the stories reminded them of their own childhood and being a second or third generation migrant:

- *'A lovely exhibition, full of facts which echo my Mum's stories. I visited with my daughter and Polish relatives.'*
- *'It reinforced what I already knew and built up my understanding of other people's lives from three different generations and two different countries.'*  
- Exhibition feedback

Exhibiting these stories in their collected format has helped them to gain a broader picture and understanding of their own parents and grandparents journeys and lives settling in the UK. It has also helped to inform them about their own identity and Polish heritage, especially when the majority of reporting upon their community is negative.

4.4.6 The projects positive work has also been highlighted through featuring on the BBC East Midlands Inside Out television programme, which reaches a far broader audience than just the Polish community, and helped to further raise the profile of the project and also SPS.

4.4.7 A significant development for the Polish community has been the increased trust in SPS by the older generation, and their children and grand-children (the second and third generation). There was an inherent risk that if the stories had not been handled sensitively and exhibited in an acceptable manner that this trust would not have developed, and that SPS would be thought of negatively by the older generation and their relatives. Some were aware of the work of the organisation, but did not see a link for themselves, due to the main focus of SPS's work being on new arrivals. Through this project, being able to share personal stories and items, and these being treated in a professional and caring manner SPS has now built and gained the trust of the older generation and the second and third generations.

## **5.0 Evaluation Review and Findings**

5.1 This section of the evaluation will summarise some of the key learning points from the project through identifying the following:

- Identify key factors of success
- Identify current areas for improvement
- Identify the potential changes in context
- Identify future opportunities

## **5.2 Key factors to success**

5.2.1 Community involvement - Engaging the wider Polish community and focusing upon building a steering group of different generations of the community has helped to ensure that this project has had credibility within the two different generations. In particular ensuring that the older Polish community were on-board helped significantly in bringing individuals stories to the project.

- *'I knew nothing about them (SPS) before this project.'*  
- Elder Adviser

5.2.2 Promotion - As highlighted earlier the project has enabled SPS to build trust with the older generation of the Polish community, as well as their children. They have achieved this through using both existing links and promotion (their own newspaper and website), as well as linking more closely with the local Polish Community Centre in Nottingham. The project used a number of methods to promote its work including posters, leaflets and community e-bulletins. However, feedback highlighted that one of the most effective mediums has been through word-of-mouth, building links and trust through the community itself.

5.2.3 Staff involvement - Although not planned, the increased number of staff involved in the project helped to further develop links between the two generations of the Polish community. Prior to this project the organisations work had mainly been with newer migrants, and this work enabled them to work with and engage the older generation. Through this they themselves gained a greater understanding of their stories and the difficulties that they faced. Additionally, by being involved and further developing their heritage skills SPS has been able to continue elements of the project beyond the funded period.

5.2.4 Partnership building - Throughout the project SPS has been keen to develop and expand the number of partners it works with to both build the original exhibition and then to showcase this further. During its second phase following the launch at Nottingham Central Library, the lead worker developed the partnership significantly which has led to the exhibition still being used within different centres/sites across the East Midlands. The partnerships have also continued with SPS currently working with the New Art Exchange on a Polish cultural day in January 2016.

### **5.3 Areas for improvement**

- 5.3.1 Scheduling - Staff and volunteers all stated that capacity and the timescale were an issue within this project, with some highlighting that they didn't realise how long some aspects would take (editing interviews, copying and digitising documents and photographs). For any future project SPS need to ensure that they consider not only the timescales for working with community members, but also with the technical aspects of such projects.
- 5.3.2 Photographs and Scanning - Feedback from partners highlighted that in some cases the photography or scans of documents from the exhibition needed to be developed in order for these to be used by them. In the case of the photographs this was due to the partner wanting to produce images beyond the originally intended scale. However, in also reviewing the projects website, some of documents and pictures within the Gallery section had a low resolution making them difficult to read or see clearly. SPS needs to ensure that they display items at their best to maintain interest in this project. This may mean being more selective over those used within an exhibition or placed on a website, as within the Interviews section. This reduces the total captured overall but ensures that all of those used are at a high quality. This is the difficult balance between the story that is being told/portrayed through the images, and the historical significance of artefacts, and the time/capacity available.
- 5.3.4 Monitoring - As highlighted within this evaluation there needs to be a greater level of quantifiable monitoring carried out by SPS to ensure that they are able to demonstrate the achievement of their outcomes. The focus for the organisation has been on the stories and memories and this is also reflected in the mainly qualitative feedback collected during the life of the project. For any future projects of this kind establishing an outcomes and indicator framework at the beginning will help them to measure both their progress and their overall achievements, including more quantitative measures.

### **5.4 Changes in context**

- 5.4.1 Loss of stories - For any further development of the project there is a risk of missing stories due to the age and health of the older Polish community members who came to the UK during the 1940's, 50's and 60's. This project has taken the stories both directly from those that made the journey to the UK, but also their now adult children. Without projects like this recording the memories and stories there is a danger further collections will not be possible as time passes.
- 5.4.2 Maintaining trust - A key success factor for this project has been the building of trust across the different generations by SPS. This needs to be maintained, both in the short and longer term if SPS are to develop and deliver similar intergenerational projects in the future. Maintaining these relations will be significantly easier than having to re-establish them, or create new relations.

5.4.3 Continued migration - There is likely to be continued migration to the UK from Poland and other Eastern European countries over the next decade. This increase will coincide with a decrease in the number of the previous first generation Polish migrants from the 40's, 50's and 60's, making the work of SPS increasingly focused upon the younger and newer generation. It will be important for them to ensure that these stories are remembered and do not just become part of an archive.

## **5.5 Future opportunities**

5.5.1 Expansion across the East Midlands - The project has focused upon collecting stories from the older Polish community now living mainly in Nottinghamshire, with input also coming from people in Derby, Melton Mowbray, and London. There is potential to broaden this project and to collect further stories and items from across the East Midlands. SPS have already been contacted about carrying out further interviews, and they are keen to do this, to collect further stories and memories. However, as highlighted throughout this report they would need additional capacity and heritage focused staff to help achieve this.

5.5.2 Creation of a booklet - Several staff members and the elder advisers mentioned the development of a booklet or book based upon the interviews and stories collected. This would provide an additional medium to exhibit their findings, but SPS need to consider the additional value of this to them and the Polish community before investing any significant time and resources.

5.5.3 New audiences - As highlighted above there is likely to be an increasing number of Polish migrants to the UK, with many settling in the East Midlands and Nottinghamshire. This presents a new audience for SPS to share these stories with, to help them learn about the older generations' journeys and stories of settling. Additionally, the created exhibition is already continuing to deliver the aims of the project beyond its funding. SPS needs to consider how it can continue this, and how it can support further work with its partners to share their findings from this project.

## **6.0 Conclusions**

- 6.1 SPS has created a new archive of stories, memories and artefacts that were in danger of being lost. By collecting these stories and developing the exhibition they have ensured that the Polish migrants that came to the UK during the 40's, 50's and 60's and settled in Nottinghamshire have been able to share their stories. They have also established and created a coherent story of the Polish post Second War community settling in Nottinghamshire and other areas, establishing key historical facts.
- 6.2 As highlighted within the previous sections the exhibition and materials developed for this have proven to be very popular with both individuals and organisations. Credit must go to SPS for its development of the banners for the project, and how the stories from the older members of the community have been interpreted and linked to events and locations. Achieving this has enabled not only the engagement of both generations of the Polish community, but also the wider Nottinghamshire community.
- 6.3 Without their development and delivery of this project the stories and memories of this generation would have remained disparate and stored informally. It can also not be denied that more of these stories would have been lost. This was highlighted by SPS staff who knew that since the recording of the interviews and exhibition one of the contributors had passed on.
- 6.4 Although the secondary aim of the project to capture and compare the stories of the newer generation of Polish migrants has not been fully achieved, SPS has created the opportunity for the newer migrants to find out about the older generation, and for them to compare the stories collected with their own experiences of migration and settling in Nottinghamshire.
- 6.5 There are a number of learning points that SPS can take from this project to help shape any future heritage projects, and these have been highlighted in the previous section. The primary issues for them to consider are around the timescales for any future project and building in increased monitoring, particular quantitative data recording.
- 6.6 Overall SPS has delivered a successful project that has been shaped by the Polish community, has been inclusive, has met the vast majority of its original aims, and added to the three Heritage Lottery Fund outcomes. The project has helped to build links and understanding between the different generations of the Polish community in Nottinghamshire and parts of the East Midlands. This is a significant development that SPS has made in its work, and would have been difficult to achieve within a strictly social support project, but has been achieved due to the intergenerational nature of this project.

*'My generation already know the story, the younger ones don't.  
They don't approach and ask us.' - Elder adviser*

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Questions for Post World War 2 migrants

Appendix 2: Questions for New Migrants

Appendix 3: HLF – survey completed after recording interview

Appendix 4: Exhibition Text

Appendix 5: My favourite book workshop feedback

Appendix 6: History workshop feedback

Appendix 7: Poetry Workshop feedback

Appendix 8: Stories of Survival and Resilience workshop feedback

Appendix 9: Evaluation - SPS – Staff and Volunteers questions

Appendix 10: Evaluation - SPS – Contributors and advisers questions

## Appendix 1: Questions for Post World War 2 migrants

1. Introduction to the recording
  - the person recording:  
  
name of the person recording, name of the project, date,  
Introducing the person to be interviewed, his/her name + address (town, place, city)
2. Background information to the person to be interviewed:
  - name, date of birth, place of birth, information about family, married, children, grandchildren, profession, current situation
3. When did you arrive in the UK?  
How and why?
4. What happened to you after the war?
5. Why didn't you return to Poland?  
Do you know whether you felt welcomed?  
Did you have any contact with your family in Poland?
6. Why did you settle in this area?
7. How did you find your first job, how difficult was it for you to obtain employment?  
What was it? Was it your profession?
8. What was your biggest challenge when living in UK and how did you overcome it?
9. How do you remember your wife/your husband? What role did she/he play in your life?
10. Did you introduce to any Polish traditions? (Polish food, Christmas celebrations, customs and traditions associated with Christmas)
11. Did you teach your children anything about Poland? (language, customs and history)
12. Did you take your family to the Polish Centre?
13. Did you go to the Polish church?
14. Did you have contact with the Polish community in Nottingham or in the East Midlands?

15. How was your Polish identity maintained or reshaped when living in UK?
16. What kind of businesses did they establish, how did they obtain funding?
17. How did they live in their community?
18. Where did they live? (Any particular district of Nottingham)
19. Were there many Polish entrepreneurs?
20. What influence did the Polish people have on the local community life?
21. What was the hardest / easiest part in integrating with local communities?
22. What advice could you give to younger migrants' generation?
23. Would you like to add anything?
24. Do you have any objects and artefacts relating to you and your family?
25. Can you think of anyone else who would like to make a contribution to this project, tell their story?



## Appendix 2: Questions for New Migrants

1. Introduction to the recording
  - the person recording:  
  
name of the person recording, name of the project, date,  
Introducing the person to be interviewed, his/her name + place, city
2. Background information to the person to be interviewed:
  - name, date of birth, place of birth, information about family, married, children, grandchildren, profession, current situation
3. When did you come to the UK? How?
4. Why did you choose to settle in Nottingham/the East Midlands? Can you remember your first impressions of Nottingham (or any other place) when you arrived?
5. How would you describe your first accommodation? Was it a house, a flat, a room? Was it multi-occupancy? What were the living conditions?  
  
Did you live alone/with other migrants/were they Polish?  
Which area of Nottingham was it located in? How did you find your first job, how difficult was it for you to obtain employment? What did you do? Was it your profession?  
Was it through an agency? (on a farm, in a factory, through a friend)  
  
What do you do now? Do you work in your profession?
6. Do you maintain contact with your family in Poland?  
What did you do in Poland? What was your profession?
7. Do you have children living here with you? Were they born here?  
  
Do your children speak and understand Polish?
8. Do you maintain Polish traditions? (Polish food, Christmas celebrations, customs and traditions associated with Christmas)? Do you introduce your children to Polish traditions?
9. What food do you cook – Polish / world cuisine?
10. Do you have contact with the Polish community in Nottingham or in the East Midlands? What about other communities?
11. What influence do you think Polish people have on local community life?
12. Do you attend any local events? Are they only Polish events?

13. Do you go to the Polish church? Do you take your family to the Polish Centre?
14. Do you feel that you have integrated into local Nottingham life?  
Was it difficult or easy to do so?
15. Where do you shop?  
How did you find the local Polish shops?
16. Do you feel welcomed here, settled, at home? Do you have regrets about moving here, leaving Poland?
17. Have you learnt who your neighbours are?
18. Do you participate in local life?
19. Would you describe your lifestyle as being Polish? Have you absorbed other influences? If so what are they?
20. How do you socialise?
21. Have you thought of returning to Poland?  
Do you ever want to go back to Poland?
22. Would you like to add anything?
23. Do you have any objects and artefacts relating to you and your family?
24. Can you think of anyone else who would like to make a contribution to this project, tell their story?

**Supplementary questions – they should relate to the memories from the UK**

25. What is your most precious and valuable memory and with whom?
26. Who was your best friend in the UK and why?
27. What was your greatest accomplishment in life?

## Appendix 3: HLF – survey completed after recording interview

Number of surveyors: 23

1. 22 people said that they think that the project is important.  
1 – no answer
2. What do you think about this project? Why is this project important or unimportant to you?

Quotations:

It is important to me as I am very much involved in the Polish Community in Nottingham, married to a local English man.
I feel it is important for others to know that in 2 WW I was taken away from my homeland, and 10 years. I was homeless refugee for 10 years, but with strong family morals and good schools, became a useful English citizen, working hard made a valid contribution to the society working as a qualified nurse/ R.M.N.
It will add to the historical archive and add understanding to cultural diversity record of Nottingham which was especially developed by the textile industry.
This project is important because it describes the historical events which brought Polish Community to start new life in Nottingham; their achievements and contribution to local life.
Keeps history alive. Helps with integration and understanding. Shares tradition.
It spreads the knowledge of the Polish population here in Nottingham as well as Polish history.
Polish migrants history needs to be recorded.
The history of Polish exile.
Enables young generation to understand their heritage.
It's very important, this is our history and we want to pass it on to others.
It's important to share our tradition, experience and impact.
This project is impertinent to us – Poles- to maintain our Polishness.
To inform English people about Polish community in Nottingham.
Because it enables people to ..., the opportunity to contribute Polish heritage ... it offers their audience an opportunity to engage in the content and learn about Polish heritage. Melanie – do rozszyfrowania
It is a significant response to scrutinising cultural identity.
It's about who I am. Very proud of Polish heritage. Important to document history for future generation.
Excellent. Very important for Polish people.
Information for future.
It meant a lot to see that the Poles had a real impact in Nottingham.
For Britons to learn about our life here from WW2, in this good country and among good people.
It's very important for people to know about the Polish people who settled here and how much they put back into the community

3. 23 people stated that they would like to see more of such projects; one suggestion: How do Polish people see the British (new immigration).  
1 person didn't answer at all.

4. What is your opinion of today's interview? (1 to 10 where 1 is terrible and 10 excellent):  
13 people scored the interview on 10  
6 people scored the interview on 9  
2 people assessed the interview on 8  
  
1 person assessed the interview on 7  
1 person – no scoring
5. 23 surveyors said that the questions were clear and relevant.
6. 23 surveyors said that they liked the way that the questions were asked and that they were treated with respect.
7. 23 people stated that the length of the interview was about right.
8. 21 people would you like to share objects and artefacts relating to their or their families first years in the UK.  
1 person has no such objects and artefacts.  
1 person didn't answer
9. 6 people stated that they know other people who would want to join the project; 5 provided names and telephone number.  
6 people - no answer  
10 people don't know anybody to recommend.  
1 person needed more time to consider this.
10. How did you find out about this project?  
SPS office - 8  
Church - 8  
[www.empp.co.uk](http://www.empp.co.uk) - 2  
friends - 1  
newspaper- 1
- Multiply answers:  
1 person answered that he found out about the project from SPS office, friends, newspaper and the church.  
1 person found out about the project from our website and EMpP facebook.  
  
1 person found out from her son.

## **Appendix 4: Exhibition Text**

### **Our History - Our Story**

#### **Polish Heritage in the East Midlands**

11<sup>th</sup> of April – 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2014

‘Our History - Our Story. Polish Heritage in the East Midlands’ is an exhibition showcasing the contribution the Polish community has made to Nottingham and the East Midlands since they settled here at the end of World War II. It only references World War II, focusing on the way Polish people formed and established a community post 1945. It presents the community by looking at particular areas: arrival to the UK, first homes, work, faith, traditions, education, establishing organisations, historical events and political decisions, etc.

‘Our History – Our Story’ displays historical photographs, documents, medals and awards, memorabilia, Polish folk costumes, a Polish coal miner’s uniform and other significant items. This collection creates a flavour of the post WWII life of the Polish migrants. However of central importance to the exhibition are the video and audio recordings of the interviews held with representatives of the Polish community. The audio recordings can be accessed via MP3 players. A DVD compilation of the interviews is available on screen.

Interviewing the representatives of the Polish community is central to the ‘Our History - Our Story’ exhibition. The conversations and interviews served as a crucial information source in establishing a historical picture of this community. The individual stories create a collective story of the community and form a picture of its contribution to the history of Nottingham and the East Midlands. This exhibition establishes a history of a community by listening to their stories.

‘Our History - Our Story’ exhibition is a part of an oral history project that aims to preserve and archive the post WWII memories of the Polish community and their life in the UK. The recorded interviews can also be accessed online. They will be donated to the local archives together with scanned photographs and documents. The exhibition and the Polish Heritage Project present a snapshot of a community and the lives of the people who formed it. It has been funded by the

Heritage Lottery Fund, conceived and brought through to completion by the Signpost to Polish Success (SPS) and curated by the artist Marek Tobolewski in partnership with SPS.

## Acknowledgements

The organisers of the exhibition would like to thank everyone involved in the project, particularly the people and their families who agreed to be interviewed and donated items for inclusion in the exhibition. We also want to thank Mrs Wanda Szuwalska, Mr Juliusz Szolin and Mrs Stanisława Giermer, Mr Tadeusz Stenzel, Mr Zbyszek Luczynski, Mr Krzysztof Kozłowski for assisting through their historical insights and consultations; Father Krzysztof Kawczyński and Mrs Febronia Krzanicka for enabling us to access members of the Polish community and promoting the project; the Heritage Lottery Fund for giving us funds for the project; Mrs Teresa Mikula for filming; brothers Marian and Waław Knapczyk for allowing us to use the premises of the Polish Eagle Club, Central Library in Nottingham for enabling us to use their exhibition space, with special thanks to Jason McCormack, Library Development Worker for New Arrival Communities and Dorothy Ritchie, Team Librarian – Information Team; Nottingham City Museums and Galleries, Jukebox Cafe from Radford, Mr Teodor Zborowski, SPS volunteers Andrew Zielinski-Raynor, Sebastian Sęk, Czesław Lerka, Henryk Owczarek and everyone who supported the project and made today's event happen.

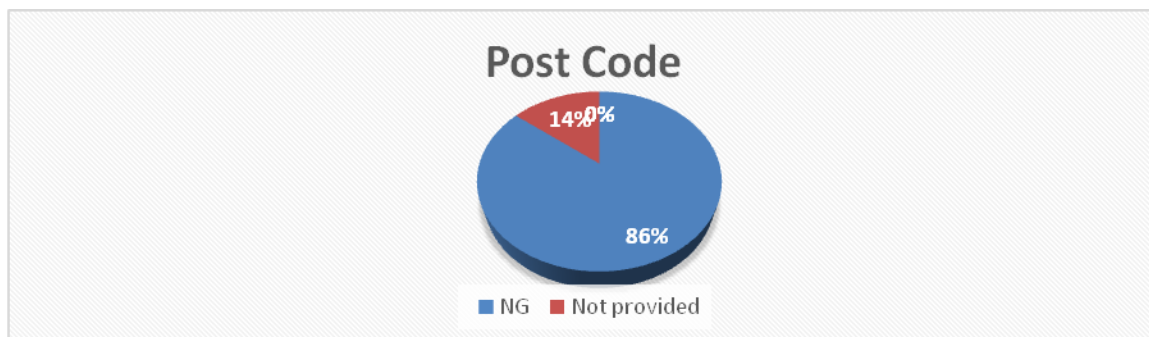
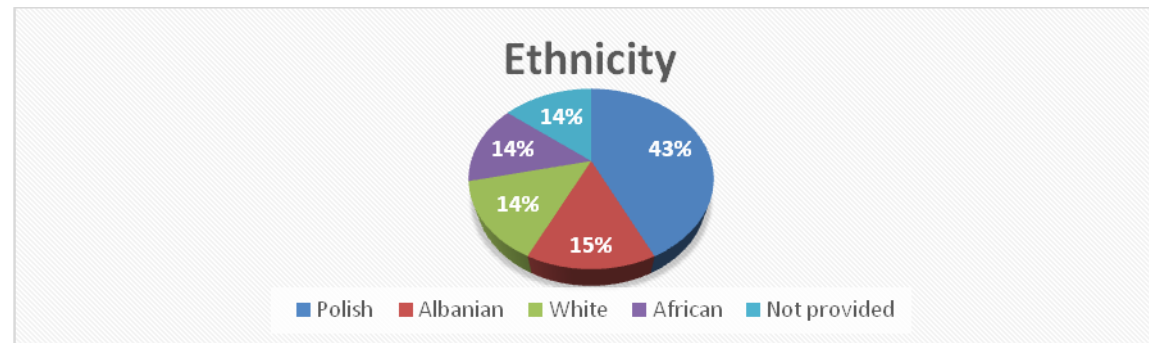
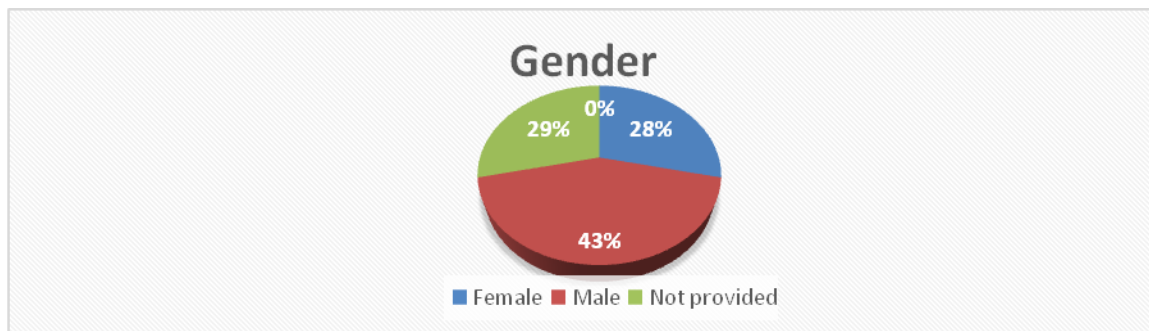
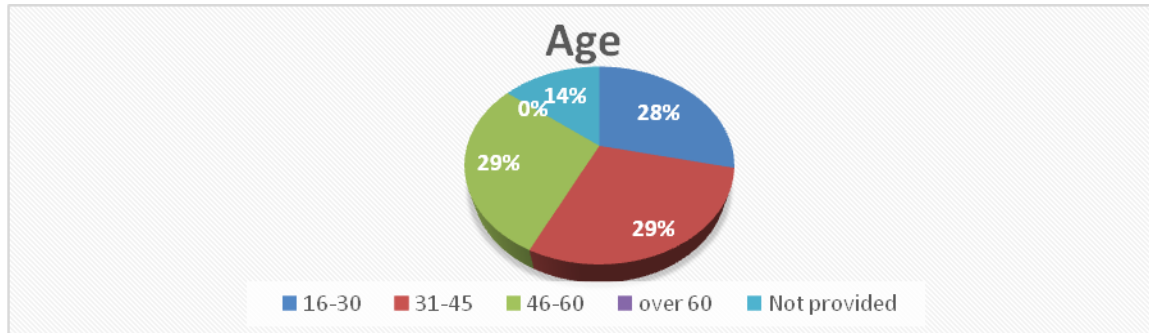
## Appendix 5: My favourite book workshop feedback

Date: 8 May 2014

Location: Nottingham City Library

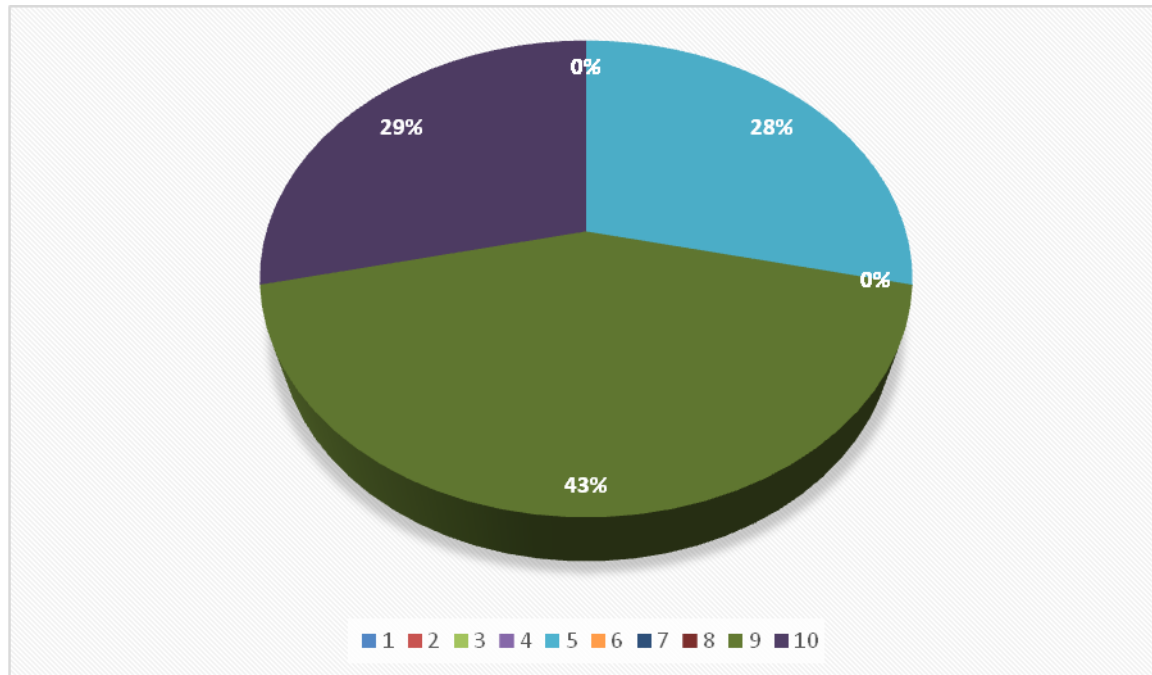
Attendance: 10

7 people out of 10 that attended took part in the survey.

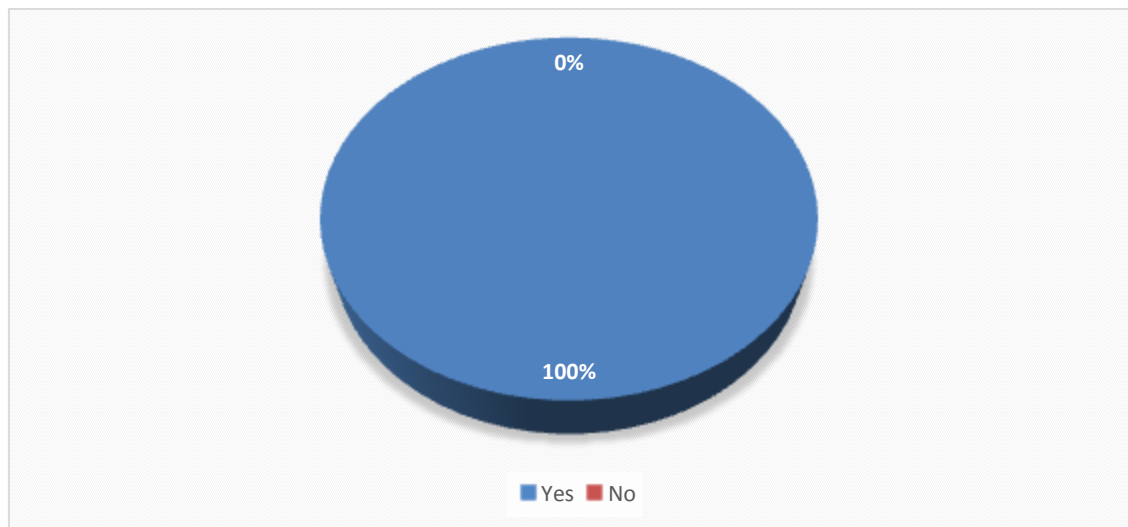


**1.What is your opinion of today`s meeting?**

1-10 scale (Terrible- Excellent)



**2. Would you like to see more of this type of events to be organised?**





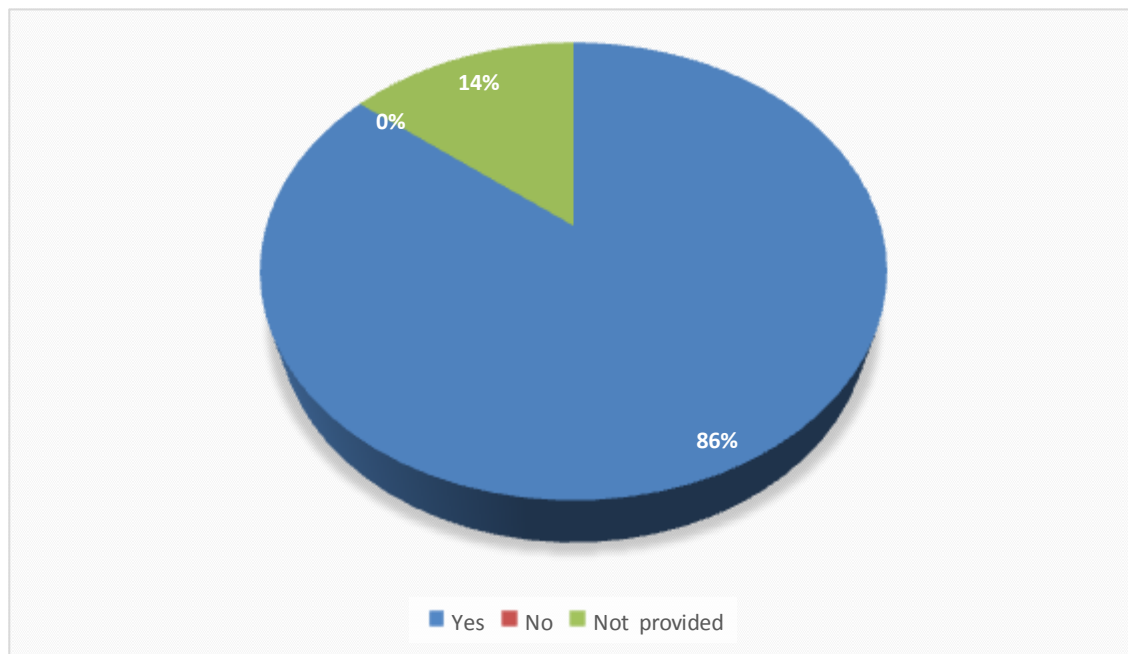
### 3. What have you learnt today?

- Thank you for the opportunity to meet people from all over the world who are interested in books.
- A lot of things about books and authors.
- About different authors and what people like to read.
- Some things about Poland

### 4. What have you learnt during the “Our History- Our Story” exhibition?

- Polish folk costumes.
- The importance of history as made by people.
- I knew most of it, but it was worth to see photos and memorabilia.

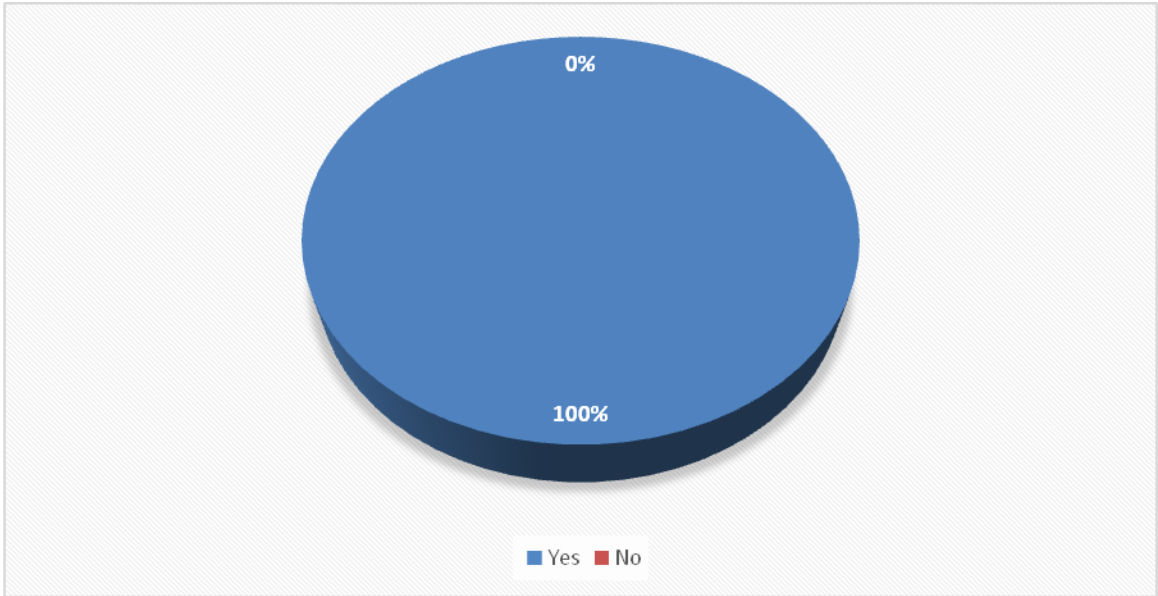
### 5. Do you think it is important to showcase Polish heritage?



If so, please explain:

- We should celebrate Polish culture everywhere it is possible.
- Because it's our roots.
- Because of the need to preserve cultural and historical integrity.
- Because of learn about Polish books
- History is often presented from one point of view and it is good to show it from the other side and the history of ordinary people.

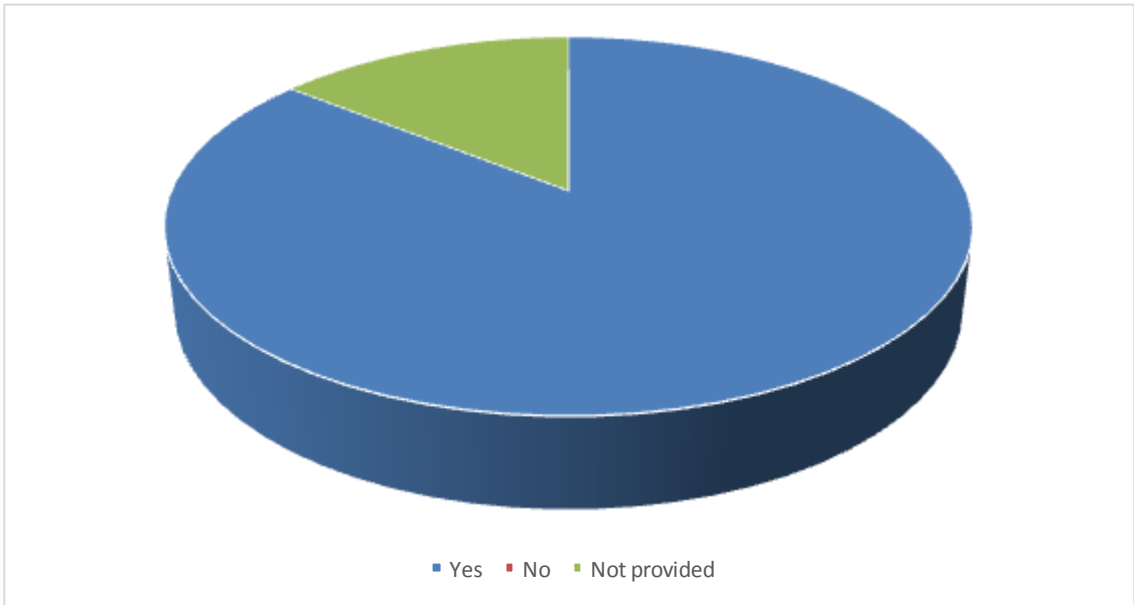
**6. Do you think that it is important to preserve Polish heritage?**



If so, please explain:

- Because of the need to preserve cultural and historical integrity.
- because it is our roots
- Because there is a lot of Polish people in Nottingham.

**7. Do you think that it is important to organise events celebrating Polish Heritage**



If so, please explain:

- We have to remember about our past.
- So that the specific contribution of Poland is acknowledge.

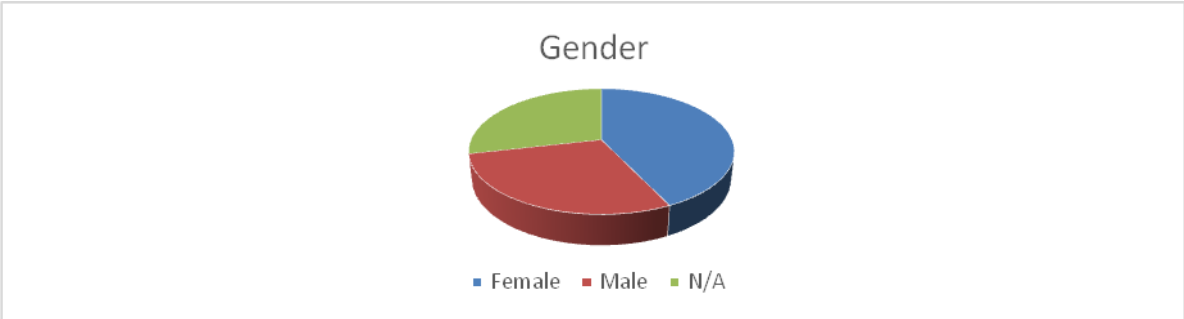
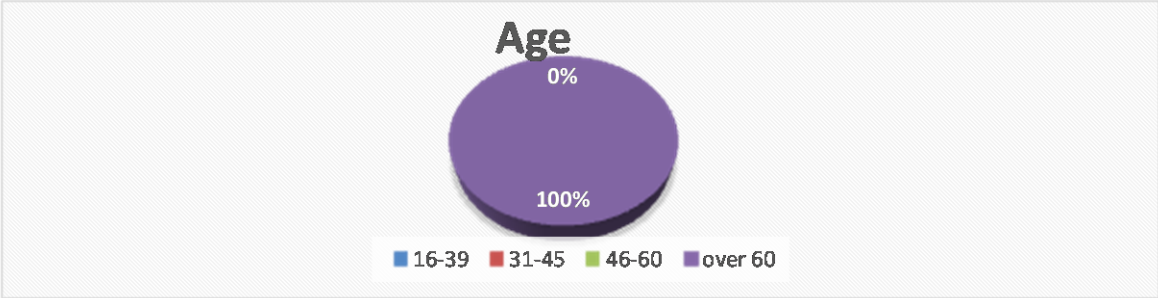
# Appendix 6: History workshop feedback

Date: 13 May 2014

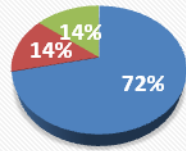
Location: Nottingham City Library

Attendance: 10

7 people out of 10 that attended took part in the survey.



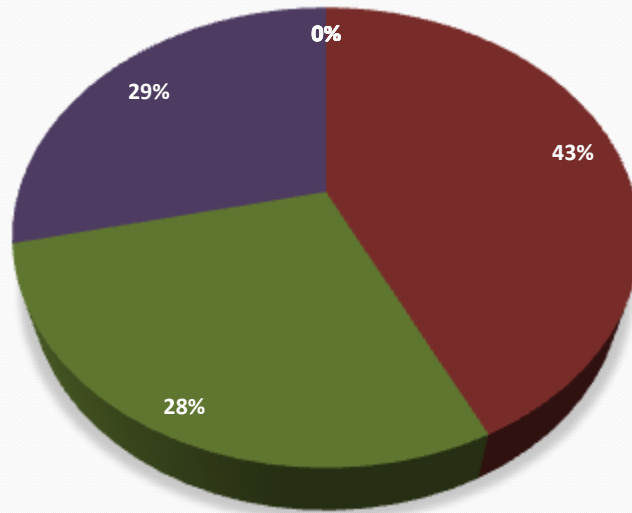
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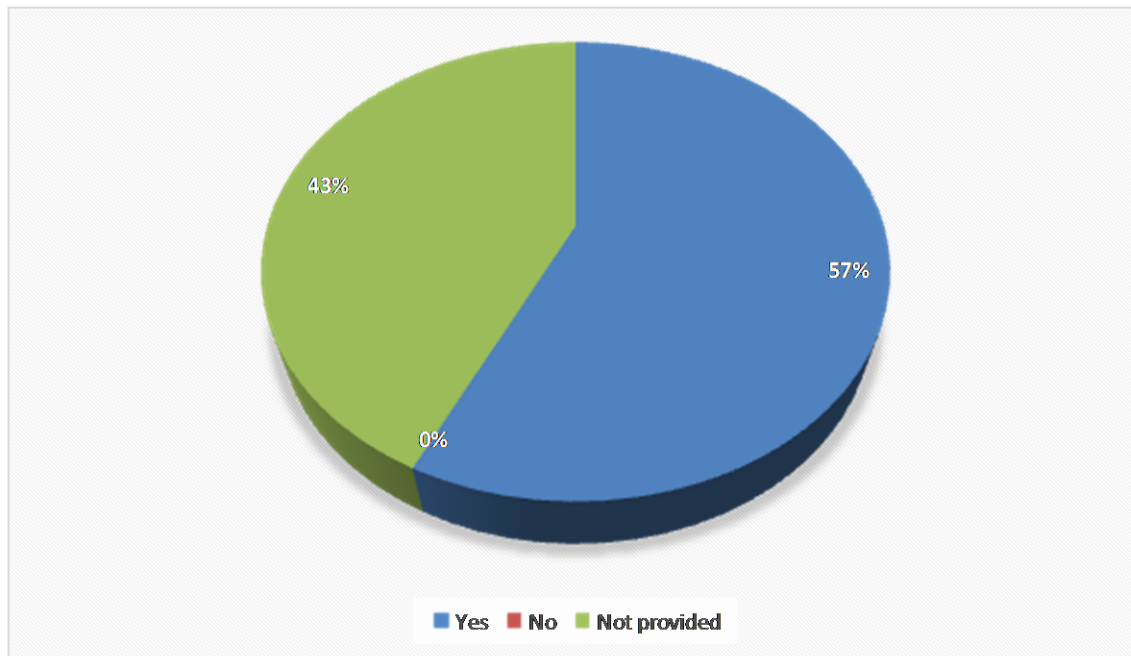
### 1.What is your opinion of today`s meeting?

1-10 scale (Terrible- Excellent)



■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6 ■ 7 ■ 8 ■ 9 ■ 10

## 2. Would you like to see more of this type of events to be organised?



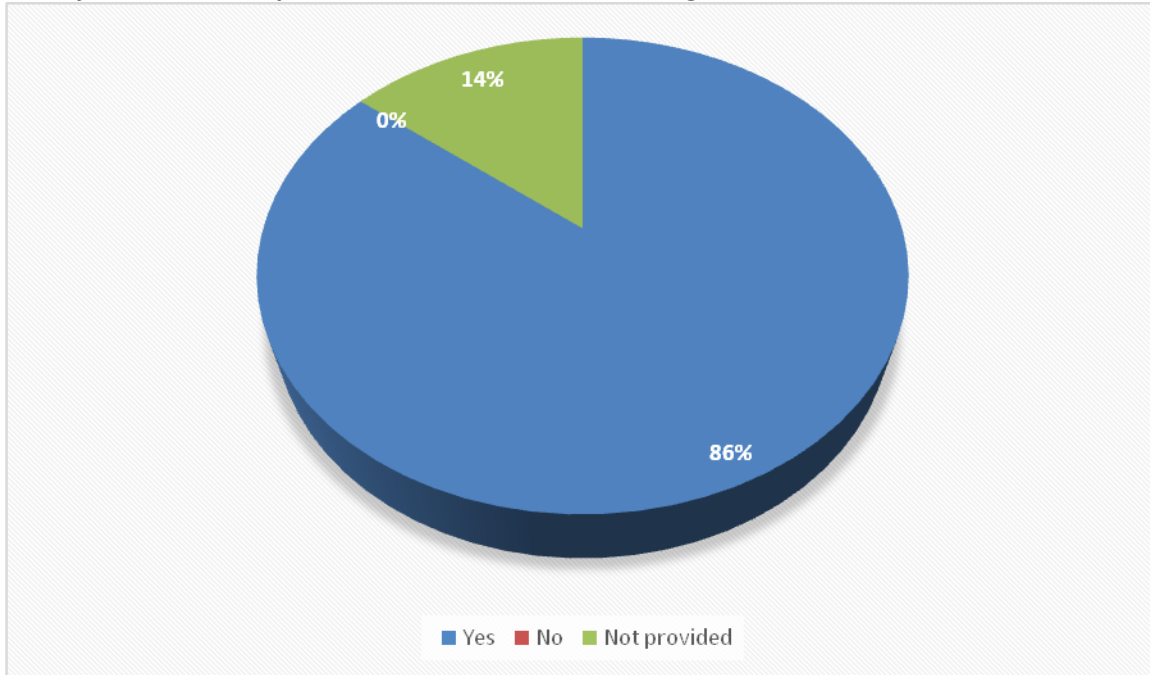
## 3. What have you learnt today?

- so much about the early life of Polish people in England and they journey here.
- The role played by Poles in WWII, unaware before
- Fascinating history about local Polish community and their passions.
- Horrors experienced by Polish, but determination to survive as a notion.
- Experience of Wanda.
- A lot.

## 4. What have you learnt during the “Our History- Our Story” exhibition?

- More about diverse escape routes.
- Amazing experiences.
- The expectation that they would go back-pride they have in their heritage.
- So much about early history and the lives of Polish immigrants

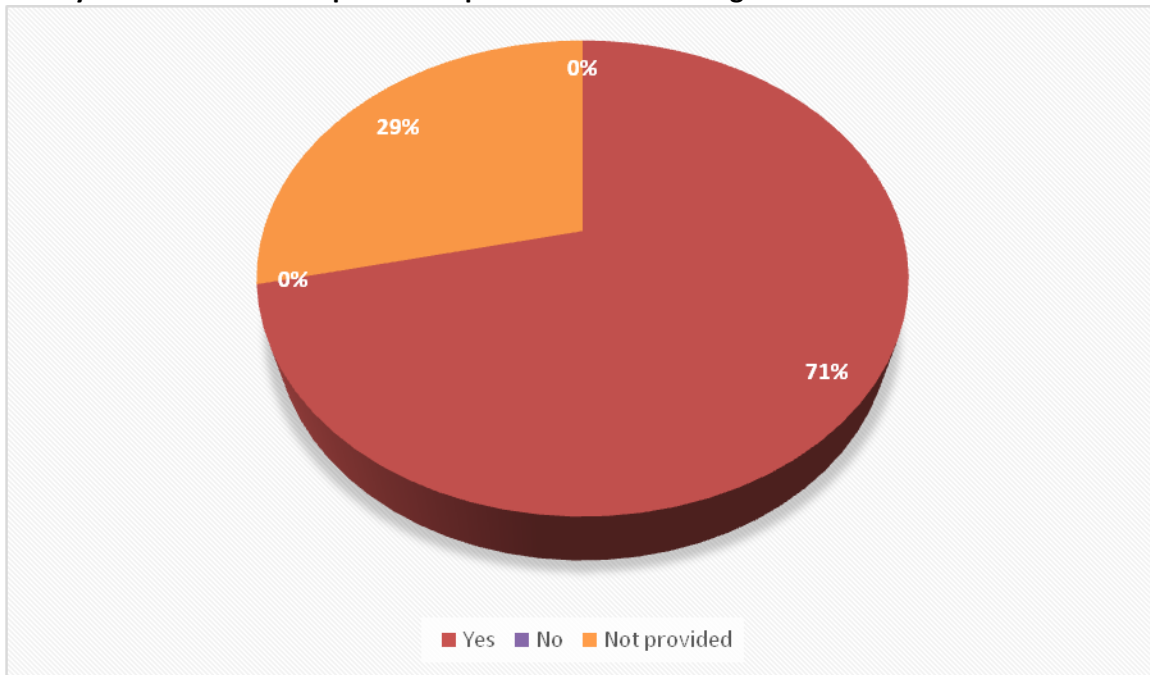
**5. Do you think it is important to showcase Polish heritage?**



**If so, please explain:**

- People should know about their early history and their heritage.
- Improve understanding.
- We learn more of the history and culture
- We need to know your trial and survival.

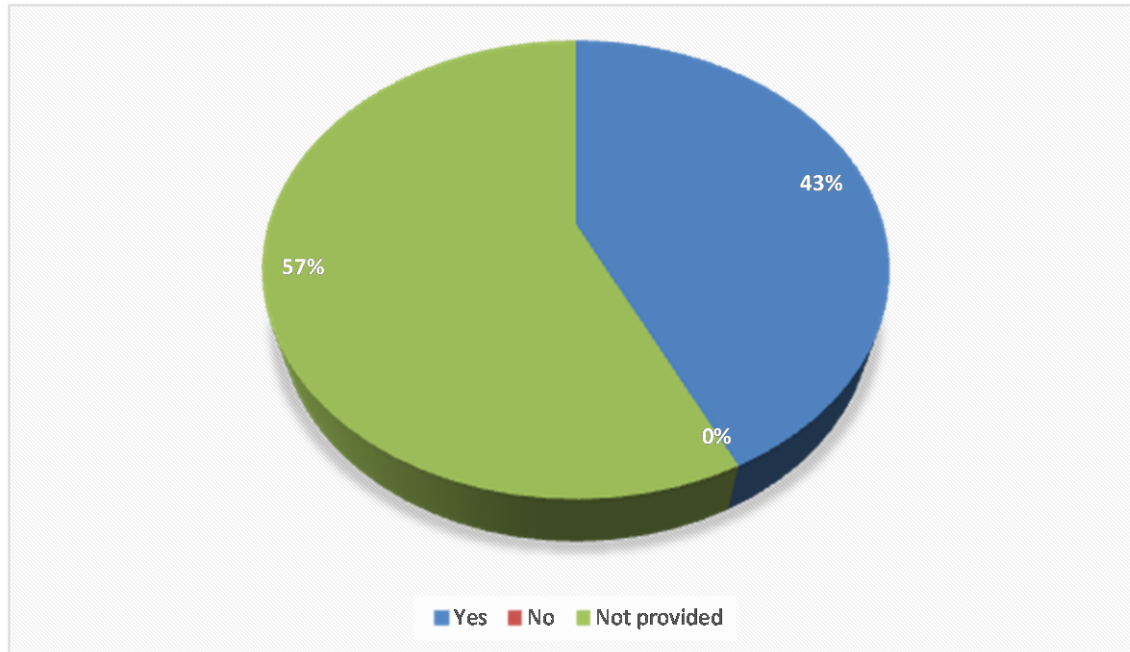
**6. Do you think that it is important to preserve Polish heritage?**



If so, please explain:

- Everyone needs to know about their history
- You are a nation with a heritage.

### 7. Do you think that it is important to organise events celebrating Polish Heritage



If so, please explain:

- We need to know your history.

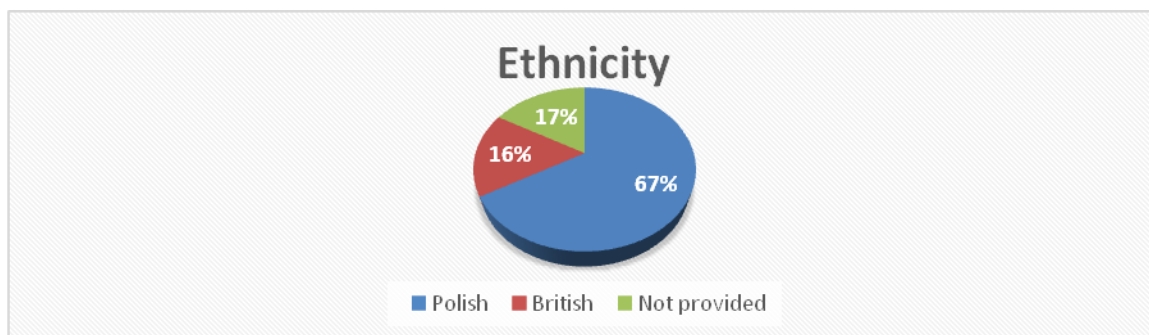
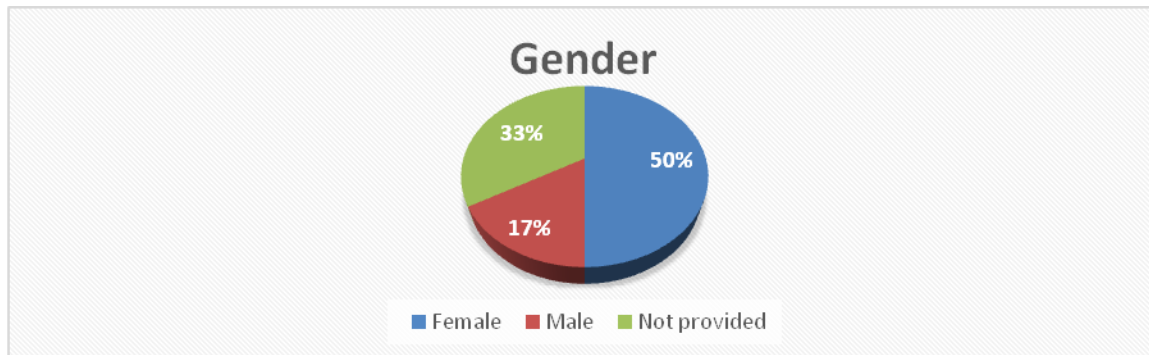
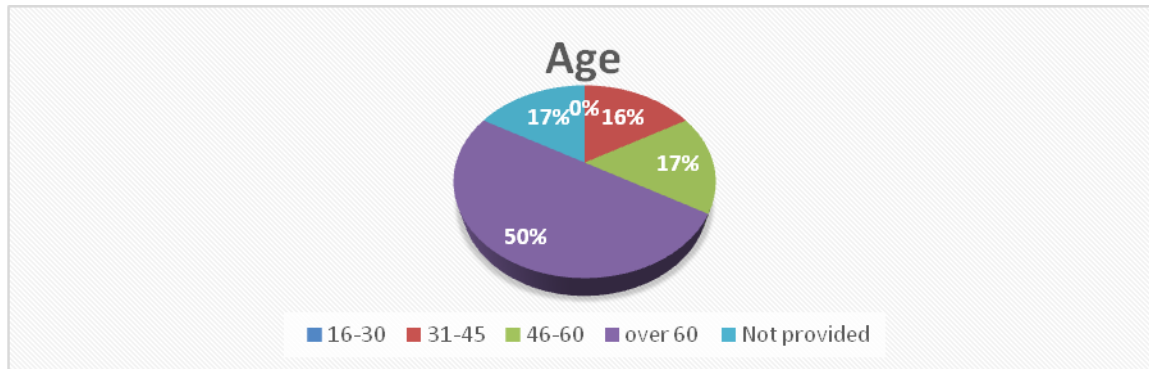
## Appendix 7: Poetry Workshop feedback

Date: 14 May 2014

Location: Nottingham City Library

Attendance: 7

6 people out of 7 that attended took part in the survey.

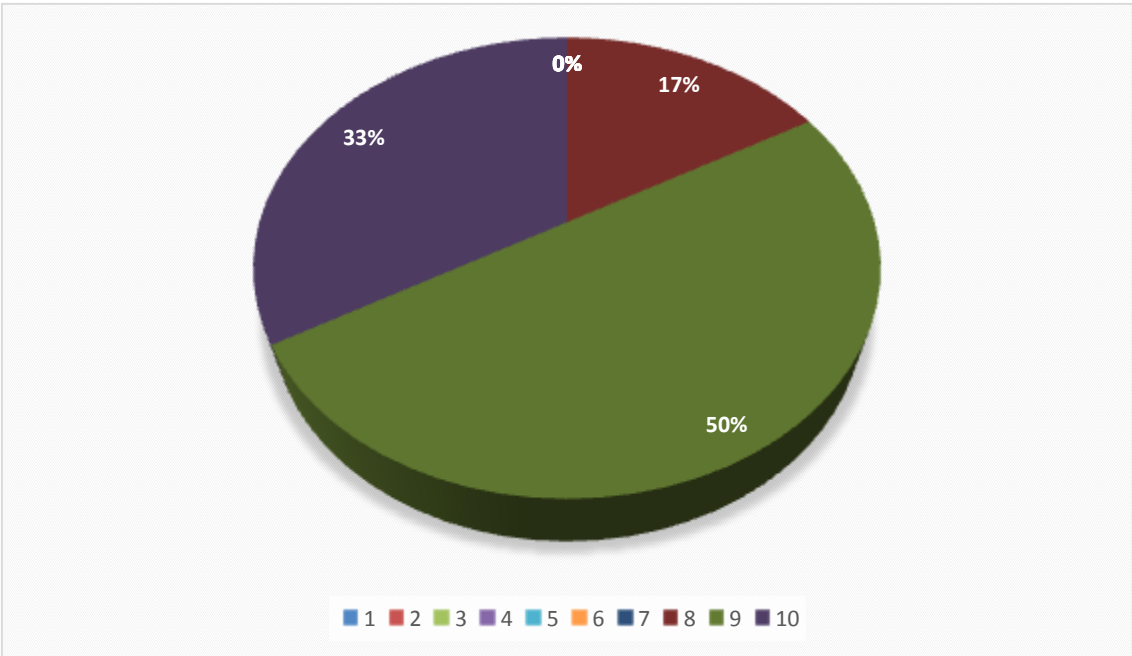




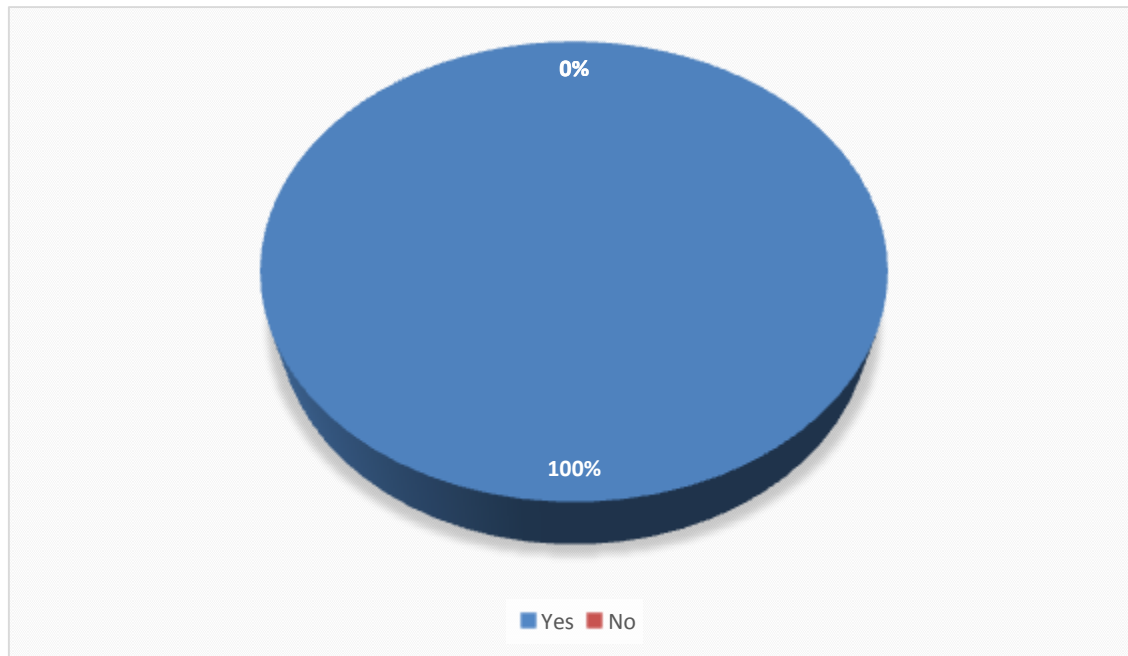


**1.What is your opinion of today’s meeting?**

1-10 scale (Terrible- Excellent)



## 2. Would you like to see more of this type of events to be organised?



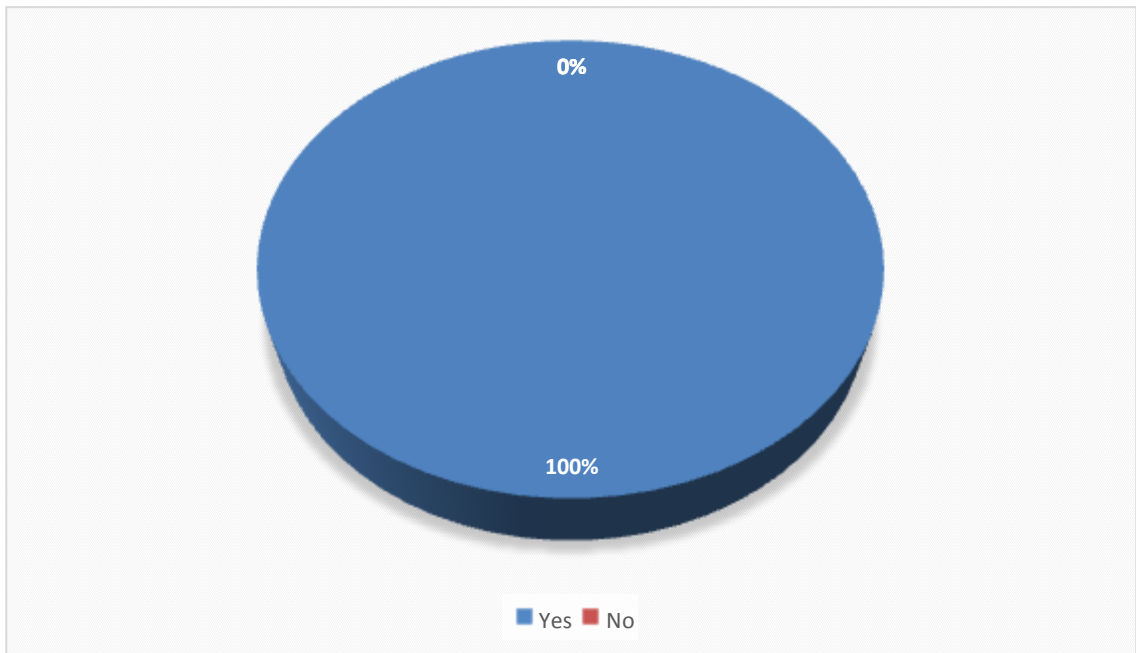
## 3. What have you learnt today?

- People can write poems
- Heard the ideas of a varied group of people brought together by a common interest.
- Valuable advice and help in writing a poem.
- What kind of writing have different poets.

## 4. What have you learnt during the "Our History Our Story" exhibition?

- Respect for everyone who is passionate about writing poetry
- Interesting life stories of people
- Lots more history to discover and record. Can we repeat follow it up in 3 years.
- It has wined interest in people. People have approached us at the church to talk after visiting the exhibition- made people open up.

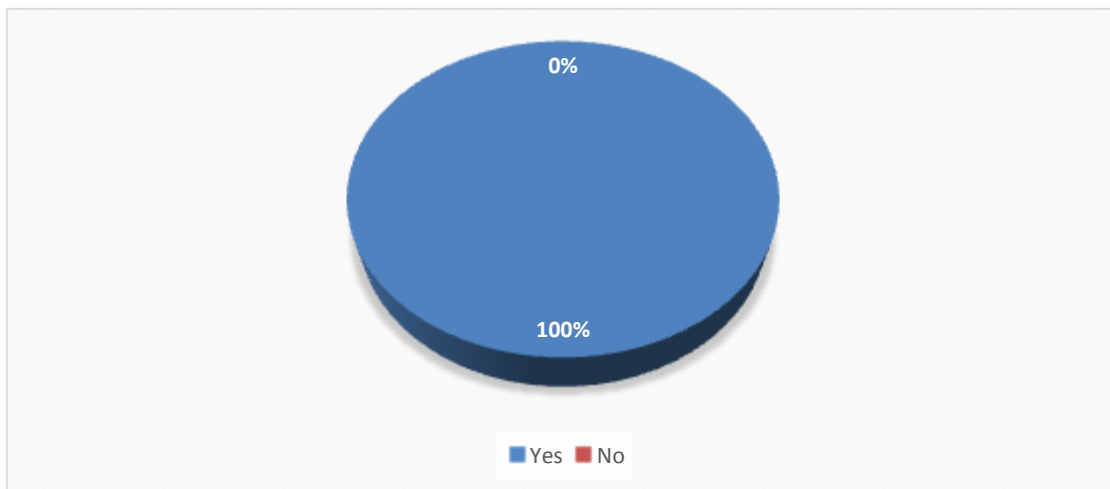
**5. Do you think it is important to showcase Polish heritage?**



If so, please explain:

- For the awareness of British people
- It is shared memory, keeping ideas and values alive. Reminding people of where they come from.

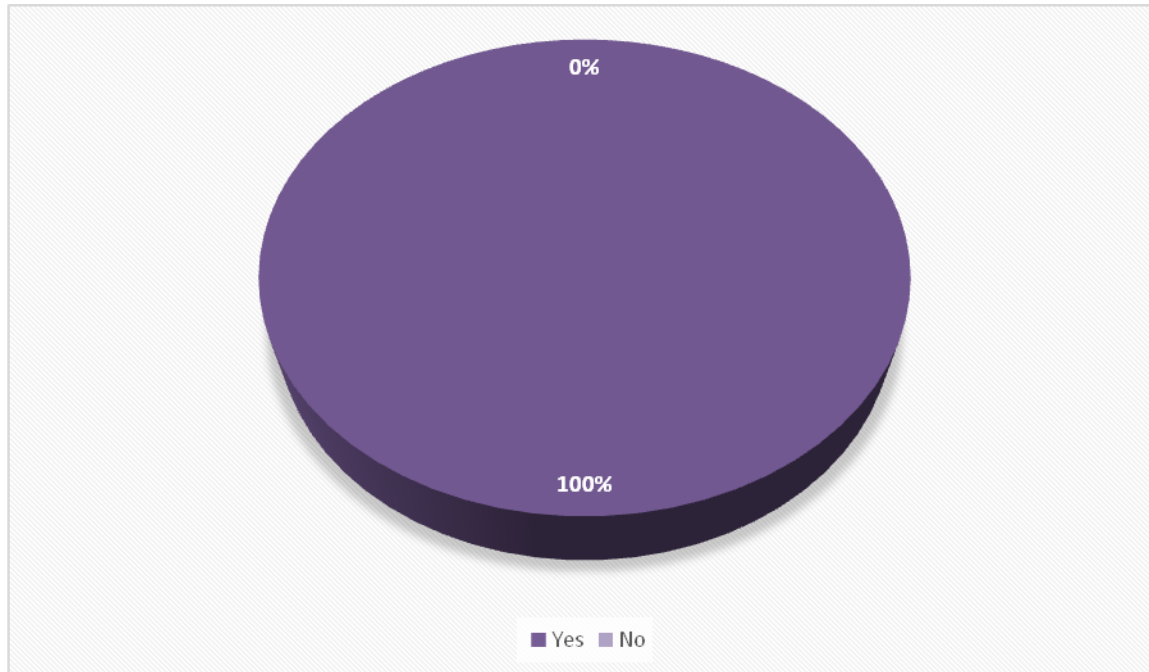
**6. Do you think it is important to preserve Polish Heritage?**



If so, please explain:

- History
- It is shared memory, keeping ideas and values alive. Reminding people of where they come from.
- It is our responsibility

## 7. Do you think that it is important to organise events celebrating heritage



If so please explain:

- Our heritage is very rich and colourful.
- It is important to teach English and Polish people about wider Polish story-beyond stories in the news about immigration etc.
- So new waves understand present and past integration of Poles in Nottingham.
- So the other nations got to know our culture.

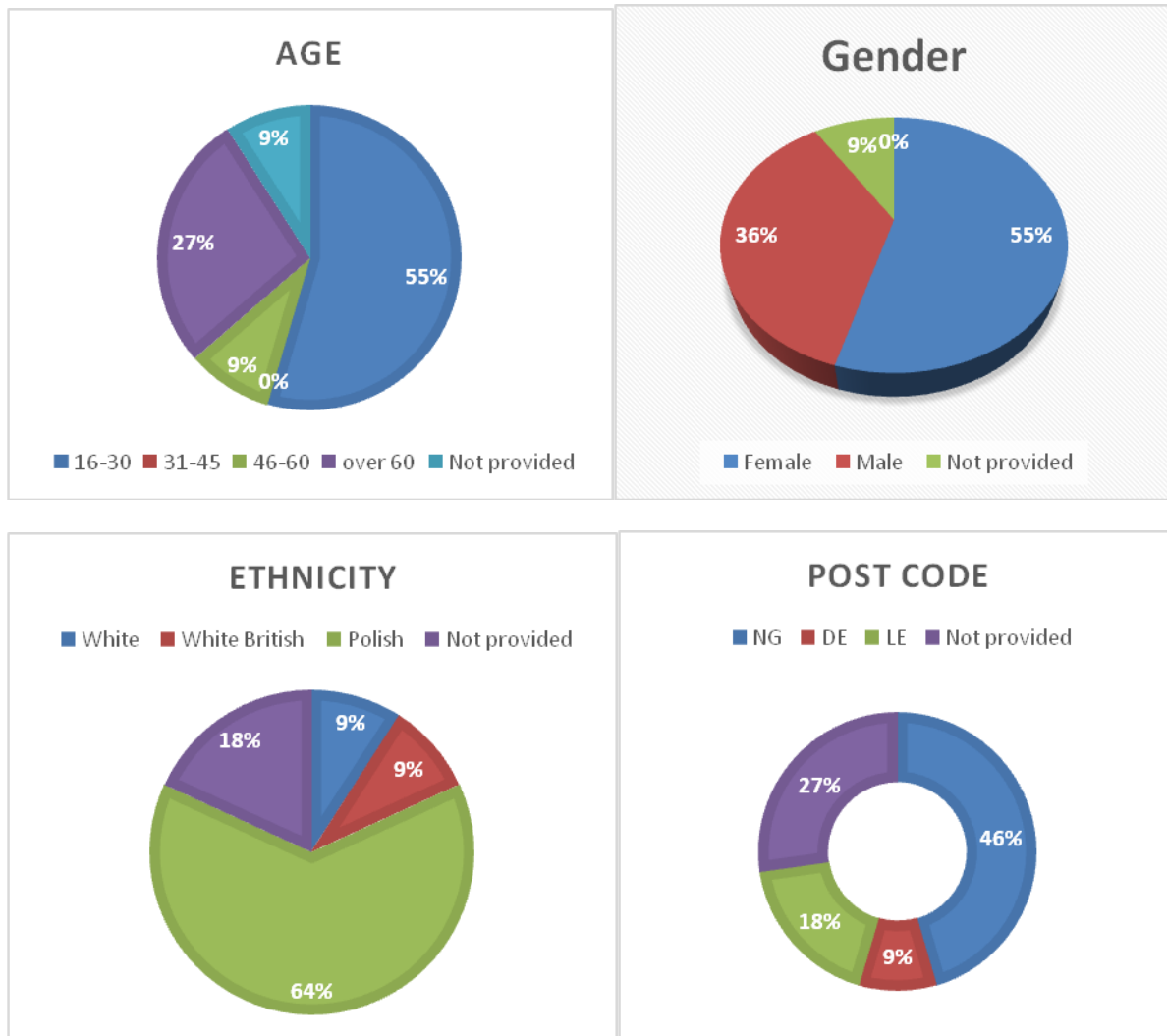
## Appendix 8: Stories of Survival and Resilience workshop feedback

Date: 17 May 2014

Location: Nottingham City Library

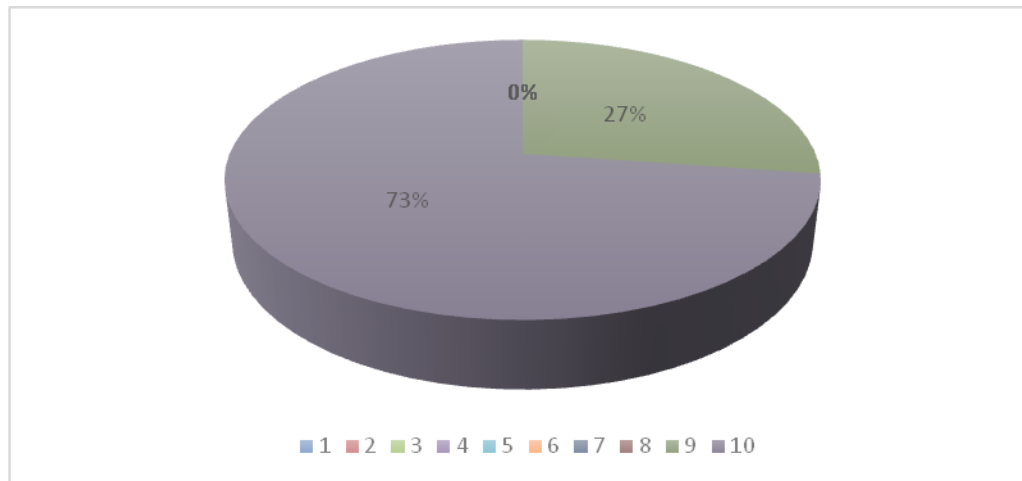
Attendance: 33

11 people out of 33 that attended took part in the survey.



## 1. What is your opinion of today's meeting?

1-10 scale (Terrible- Excellent)



## 2. What have you learnt today?

- Personal experiences of people from resettlement camps
- I learnt how people were sent to Siberia
- I learnt about experiences of those living in the wartime and as it is first hand you get much better idea of what it was like to live like them than just learning it from the textbook. This creates a great sense of empathy.
- I learnt about Polish history, Polish heritage
- History of WWII and the experience of living in this period.
- Living history- the best way of passing history
- Beautiful history I would not have heard otherwise
- History of Polish emigration
- Life experiences during the WWII and after in the UK.
- A little more than I already knew about the exit from Poland to Siberia. My mother family were from Baranowicze and I already knew some background.
- Personal History which remind me of my own history.

## 3. What have you learnt from the Our History- Our Story Exhibition?

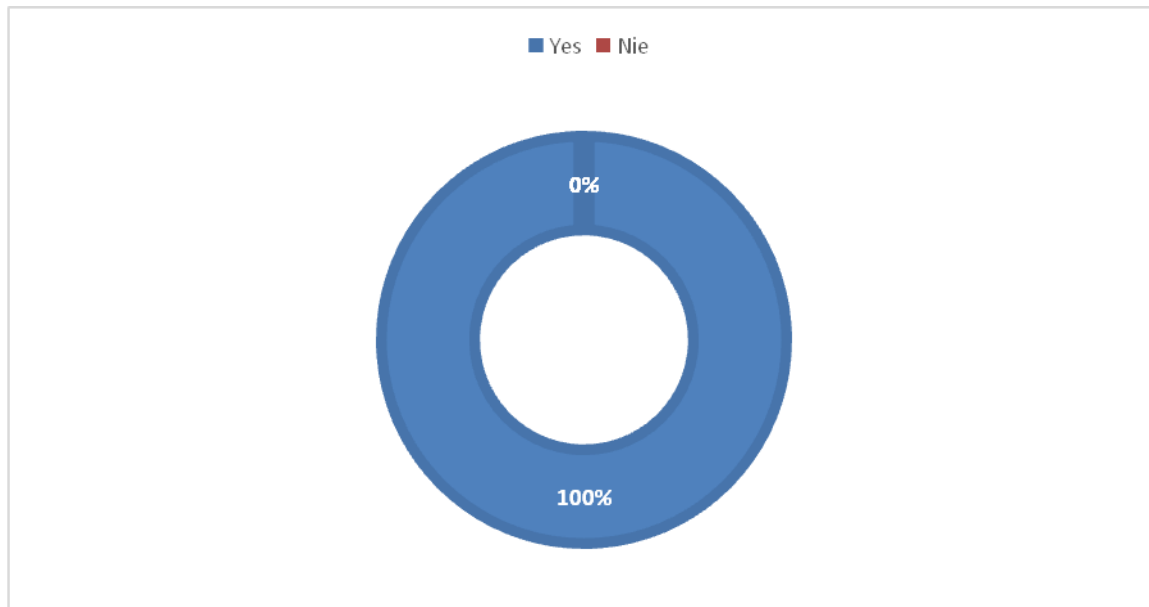
- Memories of my own history.
- For me it was a reminder of my parents lives when they came to England during the War and my own childhood
- Remembrance of the past and present events.
- How important is Polish Community in Nottingham
- I have learnt more about old Polish community in Europe
- Few facts about life in Resettlement Camps in the UK
- A lot of important information about Polish heritage.

- A lot of things that a book could not possibly tell you.
- I have learnt how Polish people were living in the UK after the War.

#### 4. What have you learnt about history of your community?

- That it exists, I am new in Nottingham
- I have learnt about people who experienced Siberian exile and how they came to England.
- How they managed to remain resilient against all odds.
- That we need to remember about important historical events.
- That we have two waves of immigration and that they are different.
- I was part of it- as my parents came over during the war. It was a good remainder.

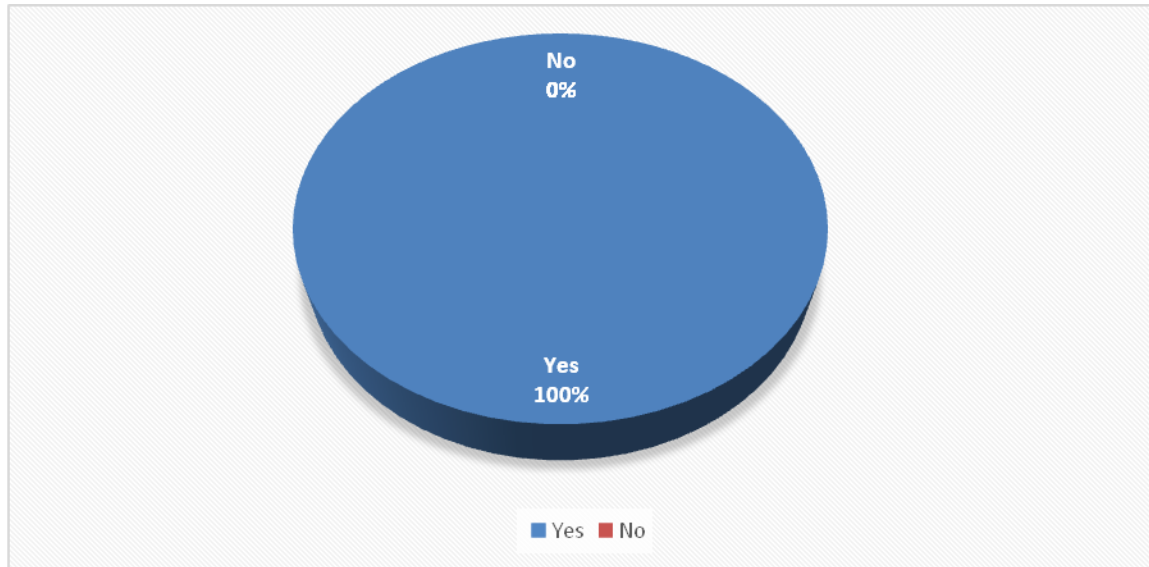
#### 5. Do you think it is important to showcase Polish heritage?



If yes, please explain:

- You have to listen to and live through the history of those people
- Must not be lost, builds bridges
- So that people can learn what actually happened and how the Polish community developed.
- Because people have to know about their roots.
- Cultural awareness
- Because it is our history
- It is important for our generation.
- If we do not showcase it then the Polish heritage may eventually be forgotten about.
- Of course, we are Polish and knowledge about us and our ancestors is very important for future generations.
- It is a part of history and local culture

## 6. Do you think that it is important to preserve Polish history?

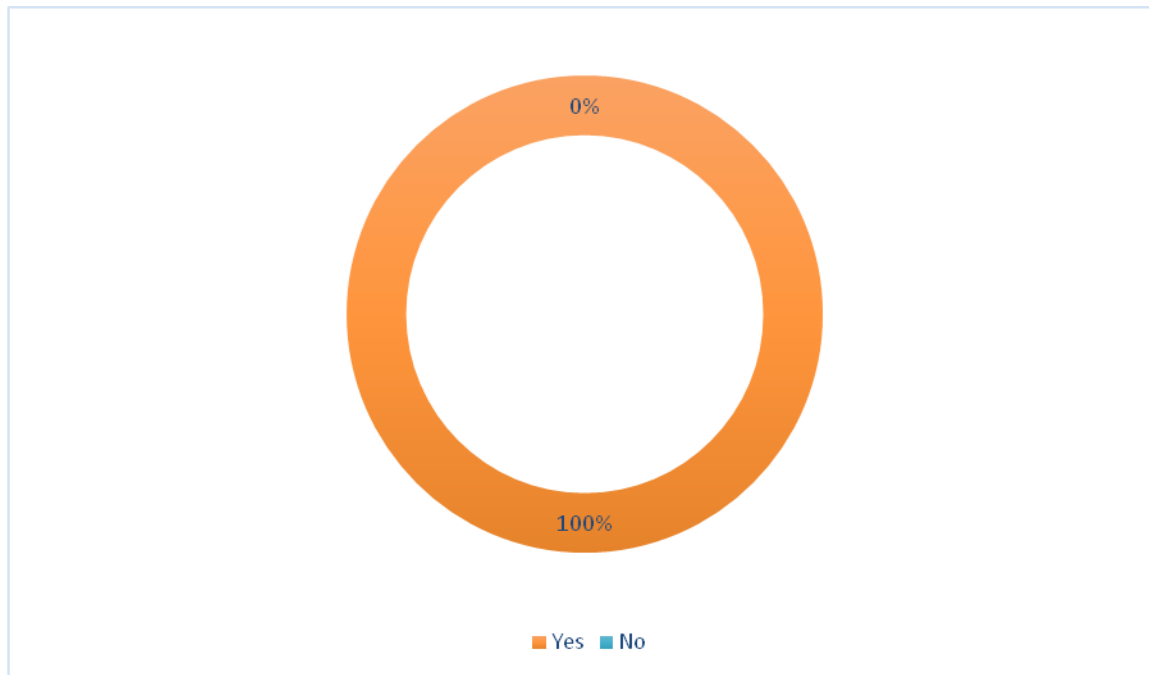


If yes, please explain:

- It is important to pass over our history to the next generations
- Having other cultures in England makes life for us more interesting and we learn a lot about other countries and also become tolerant of other cultures and nationalities.
- It is true token of remembrance and true lesson of history
- Because it is our history
- It is part of our Polish Life. For the future generations
- It is part of history and the events need to be passed to the future generations.
- Must not be lost



## 7. Do you think that it is important to organise events celebrating/showcasing heritage



If yes, please explain:

- So nothing is forgotten.
- So that we do not forget – and generations can learn.
- Keeping culture and cultural values alive.
- People very often concentrate on what is today and what will be in the future but it is important to remember of our history and pass it on to our next generations.
- Yes, but during the weekends.
- Certain aspects of it may end up being forgotten about. It also shows pride in our heritage.
- Through the diversity of local community we learn how to be open and understanding.
- To maintain Polish culture and tradition.
- It is important to keep Polish mentality.

## **Appendix 9: Evaluation - SPS – Staff and Volunteers questions**

- 1) How did you become involved in the heritage project? (Vols - what attracted you to the project)
- 2) What role did you have in supporting and working on the project?
- 3) What activities would you say have worked in engaging the older polish community?
- 4) What activities would you say have worked in engaging the younger polish community?
- 5) What would be your highlight or favorite part of the project?
- 6) Have you seen or noticed any differences the project has made within the Polish community either in Nottingham or more broadly across the East Midlands?
- 7) In your view what has worked well on the project?
- 8) And, what needs improving/changing?
- 9) Are there any other activities or sessions you would have liked to have seen delivered by the project?
- 10) Are there any issues that you think need to be considered if a similar project was developed and delivered again?
- 11) Are there any other partners organisations/groups you would like to see involved in the project in the future?
- 12) Have you seen or noticed any differences in the people's attitudes to heritage in the polish community, or within the wider Nottingham community?
- 13) Do you have any other comments or suggestions upon the project?

## **Appendix 10: Evaluation - SPS – Contributors and advisers questions**

- 1) How did you become involved in the heritage project, how did you hear about it?
- 2) What were your thoughts initially about it?
- 3) What would be your highlight or favorite part of the project?
- 4) And, is there anything that needs improving/changing?
- 5) Are there any other activities or sessions you would have liked to have seen delivered by the project?
- 6) What activities would you say have worked in engaging the older polish community?
- 7) How has telling your story, and hearing others, made you feel?
- 8) Has the project helped you to engage with and learn more about the younger polish community?
- 9) Do you have any other comments or suggestions upon the project?