

WARM visit to the Bevy 8/9th September 2017



Friday 8th September 2017 saw Mark and 4 Warmies set off soon after 8am on an exciting trip to the Bevy Community Pub in Brighton. We were to take part in their 'Brains at the Bevy' event where we would present the 'Researching Local History' project in which Steve and a group of WARM students researched the story of Gertrude Walters and her sewing machine starting from a plaque on the machine.



Despite gloomy predictions about motorway traffic hold-ups from some of our nearest and dearest, we had a straight forward journey and by 12 noon were being welcomed to the Bevy by Warren, who had previously stimulated us with his presentation about the Bevy at the UALL conference in York, and urged to join the 'Friday Friends' for a splendid midday meal featuring, among other excellent food, leeks cooked specially as a tribute to the 'visitors from Wales'.

This friendly gesture set the tone for the next 24 hours, during which we were introduced to many members of the Bevy committee and told about the plethora of very varied activities which take place at this exciting venue: (thebevy.co.uk). Over lunch we discussed how the place worked and especially how our contribution to 'Brains at the Bevy' would fit in to a very busy Friday night at this popular community pub. Apparently the 'Brains' events are usually held in the dining area of the

open plan pub, but since Friday nights are extremely popular in the pub and therefore very loud, it had been decided that we should give our presentation in the 'training kitchen' at the rear of the building which is a quiet space and provides a large screen and seating for about 20 people. There were a few 'hiccups' getting the presentation data onto the screen via our data stick, but a call to Charles the Bar Manager soon had the screen operational and we were ready when the audience started to arrive around 6pm.

'Brains at the Bevy' is described as 'A series of short and enlightening talks from local academics' and has recently included talks on air pollution; ageing; free speech and other subjects. The talks are free and last about 30 minutes followed by time for questions. They are open to anyone and following the talks, there is the opportunity for the speakers to relax in the bar, chat to the audience and enjoy the friendly pub atmosphere.



Just before 6pm our audience began to arrive, the room was comfortably full, some academics came from Brighton University, including their 'widening participation' officer, others came from diverse backgrounds and there were even two people who had arrived from California just that day to do some academic work at the University. The presentation was a very relaxed affair – not difficult in such a friendly atmosphere, and the audience soon engaged and afterwards asked very relevant questions, regarding the work and the capabilities approach which is so key to the research undertaken by WARM students. The questions continued afterwards as we made our way into the bar and interest did not abate despite the music and noisy sociability one might expect in a popular pub on a Friday night. At the end of the evening two of the group were happy to retire to our hotel while the others accompanied Warren to a local party, staying out into the early hours of Saturday.

Despite this, Mark was up and ready to participate in the 'Bevy Park Run' (the 4th hilliest park run in England) next morning while some of us had breakfast on the sea front and visited the famous Brighton Pier.



Back to the Bevy then to write down contact details take a few more photos and then say farewell to our new friends before the long drive back to Newport. A slowish run but we were all well satisfied with the weekend and full of ideas for the future of WARM.