

Headline: Shared Freedom - Shared Future, A Project to Change Perceptions

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‘Shared Freedom – Shared Future’ is a project conceived by students of Whitecross who want to illustrate to young people the common history between native English people and Polish immigrants to Hereford, in particular the stories of local post-WW2 Polish settlers to the area who fought with Britain to the end of the war.

The desired project outcome would be for others to believe that people of different nationalities can work together to achieve good things and prevent the bad, as well as being inspired to give an immigrant a chance, when they might not have done so before. We are also hoping to teach more people about the contribution of the Polish during WW2.

When asked what they knew about how the Polish contributed to the war, and how Polish people currently living in Hereford are seen, most seemed quite neutral: “I don’t know, I just know they fought.” They are seen as “hard workers that help the community” and “normal daily people”. However, there are some negative views, such as locals afraid that immigrants will steal all their jobs.

As you can see, the British people have limited knowledge when it comes to the involvement of Polish people in World War 2. Poland was split between Stalin and Hitler, after Russia made a pact with Germany; despite the fact they were originally going to protect Poland with both Britain and France.

Aboudee, an Arabic student from Whitecross High School, was asked about his life in Hereford as an immigrant: "I feel normal, not so special about being one of the only two Arabic students here but I do feel valued and respected. I was helped by refuge action when I first came here 9 months ago. I came to England with my dad and mum to escape from the war in Syria. I was helped by teachers to improve my English."

The opinion on immigrants is varied between people and despite many of them being treated badly there are many people who help out.

To find out more about the project, visit these sites:

www.whitecross.hereford.sch.uk/shared_freedom_-_shared_future.html

<https://vimeo.com/208463869>

Also, visit our Facebook page, Shared Freedom-Shared Future

Please help us make the Project film by donating:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/whitecrossschool-hereford