**27th February 2023**

**PRESS RELEASE FOR *GIZ A JOB* HERITAGE PROJECT**

**Title: *Giz a Job* community heritage project seeks volunteers to help tell story of the 1981 People’s March for Jobs**

**Sub-title:** The Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre has been awarded a £70,000 grant by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver *Giz a Job*, a ground-breaking community oral history project that seeks to tell the story of the 1981 People’s March for Jobs.

**Main text:**

**Our Project:**

Working out of Liverpool’s north end, *Giz a Job* will support a group of volunteers to produce an intimate ‘people’s history’ of the March and the wider right to work movement.

The scheme will be delivered in three distinct stages:

1. volunteers will receive free training in transferable heritage skills (archival research, oral history interviewing and exhibition design) provided by Liverpool Archives, the Oral History Society and the Museum of Liverpool.
2. utilising these newly acquired research skills, participants will explore relevant documentary archive material housed in various archives across the North West; whilst gathering oral testimonies from key witnesses to the March. Meanwhile, several free public events (heritage walks, reminiscence sessions and a historical talk) will be organised.
3. volunteers will work alongside local creatives to produce an exhibition, educational booklet, public artwork and website, which will be launched to the public early next year.

**The Heritage of the March:**

*Giz a Job* will provide an intimate account of the first People’s March for Jobs, which culminated in May 1981 when approximately 500 protestors arrived in London having undertaken a 200-mile trek from Liverpool. Over the preceding 4 weeks, the group, which was largely spearheaded by jobless young adults from Merseyside, passed through 25 towns experiencing mass redundancies.

At each location, the Marchers collaborated with civic leaders and community activists to organise rallies highlighting issues surrounding unemployment, race, disability and gender inequality. The March concluded with a huge music festival in Brockwell Park and a 150,000-strong demonstration in Trafalgar Square.

This evocative act of popular protest not only galvanised the labour movement, but also awakened the public’s conscience to the plight of mass unemployment.

**Call for Participants and Contributors:**

*Are you passionate about the history of Liverpool? Do you want to gain experience in the heritage sector? If so, become a volunteer for the Giz a Job project!*

Project organisers are seeking to recruit a team of 16 participants (aged 18+), who will receive training in archival research, oral history interviewing and exhibition design.

All training and travel expenses will be paid for by the generous National Lottery Heritage Fund grant. Food and drink will also be provided at each volunteer event.

Prospective trainees aren’t required to possess any experience of volunteering or working in the heritage or arts sectors. As long as they are eager to learn about Merseyside’s labour history, they will be welcome!

Greig Campbell is also looking to speak to potential interviews, so if you or someone you know took part in or supported the 1981 People’s March for Jobs, please contact him on the details provided (see below).

**Quotes:**

**Commenting on the award, Project Coordinator Greig Campbell said:**

*“The Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre is delighted to have received this support thanks to National Lottery players. The history of the right-to-work movement is intimately woven into the fabric of Liverpool. However, for far too long, unemployed people have been mistakenly portrayed as a defeated and passive lumpen mass; too disorganised or ambivalent to take agency over their lives. The project will remedy this by providing a history from below of the March.”*

**Musician Keith Mullen**, a former marcher himself, added:

“*The late 70s and early 80s was a time of upheaval. There was nothing in Liverpool back then. The city was derelict. Highest unemployment rates in the country. It was desperate. They’d taken away the opportunity for young people to progress. This was the backdrop to the March. It’s important that young people learn about its history. Giz a Job will remind us that these freedoms we take for granted weren’t just handed to us. They were fought for – a fight that continues to this very day.”*

**Sharon Brown**, Curator of Land Transport, Industry and Work at Museum of Liverpool, continued:

“*We believe this project will be helpful to not only the wider public and those interested in labour history, but also to us at the Museum of Liverpool. The outcomes of the work will expand our knowledge of this key event in Liverpool’s economic history and allow us to look at developing an online exhibition to complement the project*.”

**Notes to Editors:**

**About The Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre:**

Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre was established in 1973 as an alliance between local community activists, Liverpool City Council, Liverpool Law Society and the John Moore’s Foundation. For five decades, they have provided access to justice and support to communities on a range of

social welfare issues. These include supporting sick and disabled people, those impacted by cuts to Universal Credit - the unemployed, people working in the gig economy and employees on a zero-hour contract.

Website: [www.vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk](http://www.vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk)

Twitter: @VLCLiverpool

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/VLCLiverpool](http://www.facebook.com/VLCLiverpool)

**About Project Coordinator, Greig Campbell:**

Dr Greig Campbell is a Liverpool based labour historian whose research interests include post-war working-class social history, collective responses to de-industrialisation and grassroots community activism. As an experienced heritage consultant, he supports marginalised and misrepresented communities discover and celebrate their own histories.

**About The National Lottery Heritage Fund:**

Using money raised by the National Lottery, the Fund inspires, leads and resources the UK’s heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future.

Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.

Website: <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/>

Twitter: @HeritageFundUK

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/HeritageFundUK](http://www.facebook.com/HeritageFundUK)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/heritagefunduk/](http://www.instagram.com/heritagefunduk/)

**Additional Notes for Editors:**

* the full title of the project is: *Giz a Job: an oral history of the 1981 People’s March for Jobs*
* the scheme will end in April 2024
* please use attached flyer (double sided) and/or illustration
* if deploying illustration, please credit artist Peter O’Toole
* historic photographic images available on request
* feel free to use the attached logos (Giz a Job and Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre)

If you have any questions about this press release or the project itself, please contact Greig Campbell:

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