

## **REGIONAL BBC NEWS**

We work for BBC Learning in the Midlands. We'd like to let you know about a new series featuring archive film - and about how you might use it to increase awareness of the work that you're doing.

The series will be called **Reel History** - here's a description:

Melvyn Bragg meets real people as they recount fascinating and surprising stories about how life in Britain used to be, as told through the moving reels of the British Film Institute's and regional archive collections. Each episode will see Melvyn visit a new location and will focus on a different aspect of British life. The program will use archive and real stories to highlight the hardships and simple pleasures of the past, as well as the enormous social changes that took place from 1900 onwards, building to a compelling social history of Britain.

Melvyn's tour and the filming will take place during March/April/May this year - and all of the locations have been identified. The series will be broadcast in the **Autumn** with twenty half hour episodes. This is when we can use the interest generated by the programmes to direct viewers to the resources and activities in their area - which could include your organisations.

We're hoping that there will be lots of different events taking place - ideally involving a screening of local footage. We're still working out exactly how we will support such activities - but if you're interested and would like to know more - please do get in touch. The series will almost certainly create more interest in archive film - and so would be a great opportunity to raise the profile of the work that you're already doing. Here's who to contact:

For the West Midlands - Fiona Dye [fiona.dye@bbc.co.uk](mailto:fiona.dye@bbc.co.uk)

For the East Midlands - Helen Sykes [helen.sykes@bbc.co.uk](mailto:helen.sykes@bbc.co.uk)

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Very best wishes

Helen, Fiona and Nigel