One Day in History

One Day in History was a single @-@ day initiative by several UK heritage organisations that aimed to provide a historical record of the everyday life of the British public in the early 21st century . Described as the " world 's biggest blog " , it encouraged UK citizens to write diary entries of 100 ? 650 words of what they had done on 17 October 2006 , and then upload them to the official website of the initiative . The project formed a part of History Matters : Pass It On , a history campaign led by several UK heritage organisations . Submissions were received until 1 November , and 46 @,@ 000 entries were uploaded in this time , many of which were from students and celebrities . After being available to view on the History Matters website , the archive of the diary entries was moved to the UK Web Archive at the British Library and the library of the University of Sussex . The campaign received mixed reviews , with Institute of Historical Research 's David Cannadine and The Guardian 's Dave Hill speaking positively of it , whereas journalist John Plunkett termed it to be a " historical record of people with computers " .

Project

One Day in History was launched as a part of History Matters , a campaign led by several heritage organisations such as the National Trust , English Heritage and the Historic Houses Association , in order to draw attention towards the importance of history in everyday life . Its aim was to record for posterity what day @-@ to @-@ day life was like in the UK during 2006 . British people were invited to write a blog of what they did on 17 October 2006 , and to submit it to become a part of a large online diary . The project was open to all UK citizens and individuals of British origin , and was inspired by Mass Observation , a similar social research project founded in 1937 . The date was chosen to be 17 October by History Matters in the hope that it would be " an ordinary day much like any other of no particular national significance " , and would therefore reflect the everyday life of its participants . Historian Dan Snow explained that the project was intended to be " a detailed account of people 's normal lives when they 're doing nothing out of the ordinary . ... It 's those mundane details , those boring details that will seem extraordinary to people hundreds of years in the future . " The organisers hoped that the contributors could also discuss the impact of history or heritage on their lives that day in their submissions .

Each entry was limited to a length of 100 ? 650 words . To allow some time for drafting and proofreading , participants were allowed to upload their diary entries until the end of the month . Schoolchildren were encouraged to take part , with all 29 @,@ 000 UK schools being invited to participate . On the day itself , the homepages of the 2 @,@ 000 computers in the easyCafe network were all set to the History Matters website , and several celebrities and public figures also voiced their support of the initiative , including Stephen Fry , Bob Geldof and Tony Robinson .

Public response

By the afternoon of 17 October , the One Day in History website had received more than 5 @,@ 000 submissions , at a rate of three per second , and by 1800 BST (1700 GMT) this number grew to 8 @,@ 000 . Within three days , 41 @,@ 250 blogs were posted to the site , and by 1 November , a final total of 46 @,@ 000 submissions were received . The entries were briefly displayed on the History Matters website , before being archived in both the UK Web Archive at the British Library and in the library of the University of Sussex . The National Trust described the project and its response from the public as " hugely successful " .

Media response

David Cannadine of the Institute of Historical Research spoke positively of One Day in History , remarking : " The wonderful thing about these records is we don 't yet know what it is about them that will be interesting in the future . " In promotion of the project , Fiona Reynolds , the Director

@-@ General of the National Trust , stated : " We want this day to have its own place in history and be a snapshot of everyday life at the beginning of the 21st century . " Journalist John Plunkett expressed scepticism of this aim , writing in The Guardian that , despite the intentions of the campaign , it was only going to be " a historical record of people with computers " . He was also critical of History Matters in general , saying that he had " no idea how history [was] going to impact on [him] " . Dave Hill , also writing for The Guardian , described the campaign as a " brilliant idea " . Following the publication of the diary entries , Robert Booth , a journalist for The Sunday Times , remarked that the " monotony of most of [the British public 's] lives was all too painfully obvious . "