



**UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN**

School of Language, Literature, Music & Visual Culture
King's College
University of Aberdeen
Aberdeen AB24 3UB

Tel: 01244 272625
Email: langlit.school@abdn.ac.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Shotley Bridge Swordmakers: 'Elsewhere To Be' Research Participant Information Sheet

Thank you for showing an interest in being interviewed by me for my PhD Project, 'Elsewhere to be'. After you contact me to say that you are 18 or over and descended from one of the Shotley Bridge swordmaking families, I will contact you to agree a time and date to meet to carry out this interview.

If you agree, I'd like to record the interview (sound only) on two recorders. This is so that we don't get distracted by me typing on a laptop or writing in a notebook. But if you would prefer not to be recorded, I am happy to take notes instead.

All your personal information, forms and interview material will be stored securely in two places: first, on my personal laptop, which is password protected, second, in a secure 'cloud' account provided via the University of Aberdeen – all files, devices and accounts will be password protected. The only people who will have access to this material will be me and my supervisors (Dr Helen Lynch, Dr Wayne Price and Dr David Wheatley) for the purposes of supervision and/or audit. Three years after the end of my PhD, all files will be securely deleted from my personal laptop and also from the University account.

This research will be used to help me to write a novel about the Shotley Bridge swordmakers. This will be a work of fiction, but it will be inspired by the real-life swordmakers and their families. I have not yet decided which families the novel will feature, or even whether I will use the actual families (I may decide to make up my own characters, which may or may not be inspired by the real-life swordmakers). In any case, I reserve the right to blend fact and fiction in

the writing of my novel. Interview participants will not be allowed sight of the novel before its publication and will have no control over storyline or characters.

The copyright and intellectual property of the novel and any associated publications will be owned solely by me (Helen Steadman); likewise, any royalties from any resulting novel or associated work will belong to me (Helen Steadman). You will be named and thanked in the acknowledgement section of any resulting novel; however, if you prefer not to be named, you can be thanked anonymously (or not at all, if that is your wish). But there will be no financial reward or benefit to you, nor will you be provided with a copy of the resulting novel.

Participants must be at least eighteen years of age. Participation in this research is entirely voluntary. You may withdraw from the research at any point. You may also withdraw your interview contribution from the research after the interview has taken place; this can be withdrawn at any point up to the date where the novel has been submitted for publication (as a rough guide, this is likely to be October 2019).

Before you can take part in the research, I need to obtain what is called ‘informed consent’ from you. If you are happy with the terms and conditions set out in the attached form, please complete the form and return it to me two weeks before the interview goes ahead. This allows for the necessary ‘cooling-off’ period.

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed as part of this research. I am looking forward to interviewing you and hearing about you and your ancestors.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Steadman
PhD Candidate