



News Release

July 16, 2018

Aldeburgh Museum wins £745,000 National Lottery funding

Aldeburgh Museum has been awarded the full National Lottery funding of £745,000 it applied for from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for its regeneration.

The award follows a successful round one* application to HLF in 2016 resulting in an award of £77,000. This enabled the development work required for the recent second submission to obtain the full funding needed to implement the regeneration plans.

The new National Lottery funding will enable a comprehensive remodelling of the Museum employing up-to-date interpretative techniques.

Among the many enhancements and additions to the Museum, which is housed in the 16th century timber-framed Moot Hall, will be new exhibition cabinets, a revised layout and visitor orientation, extra space for additional artefacts, improved lighting, digital displays of documents, photography and film, and prominent external signage.

Chairman of the Museum's Trustees, Tony Bone, was delighted by the Lottery award news saying: "This is the culmination of nearly four years of meticulous planning and preparation. I would like to thank my fellow Trustees and our Curator, all of whom are volunteers, for their invaluable contributions, commitment, and above all for their unwavering belief in our project.

"My thanks also go to our partner, Aldeburgh Town Council, our advisers and contractors for their help in preparing our Stage one and Stage two Lottery applications, those individuals, local businesses and organisations who have made donations, and to the National Lottery for its support.

"With the Lottery funding we can turn our vision of a modern, progressive, local museum into reality. The hard work starts here but for now this is a moment to savour".

The Mayor of Aldeburgh, Councillor John Digby welcomed the successful bid: "This is a terrific boost for the Museum, the Moot Hall, and the town as a whole. The Town Council is looking forward to continuing a good working relationship with the

Museum to ensure the redevelopment creates a facility fit for the 21st century and beyond”.

Robyn Llewellyn, Head of HLF East of England, said: “It is exciting that, thanks to National Lottery players, complete redisplay of this museum in the heart of Aldeburgh will tell new stories about the town, captivating everyone who visits.”

The Council Chamber in the Moot Hall, seat of governance in Aldeburgh since Tudor times, is to undergo a major facelift in consultation with the Town Council. Designers are working on plans to improve the Museum element of the Chamber while retaining its historic significance.

The character of the Chamber will not change, but the story of Aldeburgh will be told in a new dynamic way using digital and conventional techniques. At the heart of the development project is the need to retain the gravitas of the Council Chamber and an enhanced experience for the Museum visitor.

The remodelling work, and some minor interior alterations to the Moot Hall which have been approved by Historic England, will take place over the autumn and winter, with tenders expected to be issued in the next few months. The new look museum is scheduled to open in late Spring 2019.

For the 2019 season and beyond the Museum will launch an education outreach programme in partnership with local schools, and organise a series of seasonal community heritage activities designed to appeal to residents and visitors of all ages.

Details of the project can be found at www.moothallproject.org.uk

The Trustees will shortly be recruiting a paid professional Volunteer and Activity Development officer to run the outreach programme and community activities and to oversee the training of the Museum’s volunteers.

To be able to deliver the project the Museum will be seeking additional volunteers. Those interested should contact us via www.moothallproject.org.uk

Ends

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About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLottery.

*Heritage Grants (HG) applications are assessed in two rounds. Aldeburgh Museum was initially granted round one development funding of £77,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund, allowing it to progress with its plans. Detailed proposals were then considered by HLF at second round, where a final decision was made to grant the full funding award of £745,000