

Press Release:



Embargoed until 00.01hours on Thursday 1st December, 2011

“Unknown Upton” wins Heritage Lottery Fund support

Today, The Upton Town Partnership has received £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project, Unknown Upton. Led by volunteers from the local community, the project focuses on aspects of the history of Upton-upon-Severn which are unknown to visitors or indeed to many local residents.

The project will enable visitors and local residents to discover more about the cholera outbreak of 1832 and to visit the burial ground on the outskirts of the town. It will reveal much about the mediaeval town, in particular the importance of its alleyways and courtyards. It will show the links between the town and its rural environment looking at agriculture over the centuries and especially the links with the river trade in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Interpretation panels to complement those already in place, leaflets and fingerposts to indicate places of interest will be produced. The Partnership’s volunteers, working with local historians and a local graphic designer, will research these topics and produce the materials

The Upton Town Partnership is an organisation which brings together voluntary, statutory and religious groups in the town and its surroundings together with residents and local traders. The Partnership aims to further the interests of the town and its surroundings, to raise the profile of the town and to increase knowledge about it.

Commenting on the award, Simon Wilkinson, the project’s organiser, said: “We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and are confident the project will add considerably to knowledge about the town and interest in its heritage.”

Anne Jenkins, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund West Midlands, said: “This project will enable volunteers from the community to enhance the information resources available for visitors to this beautiful riverside town. Local residents and schoolchildren will also discover much more about its particular place in history, especially during medieval times.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

About The Upton Town Partnership

The Town Partnership was set up three years ago to bring together voluntary, statutory and religious groups, along with residents and traders of the town.

The aims are to further the interests of the town and its surroundings, improve facilities for both residents and visitors alike and raise the town's profile. The Partnership is coordinated by a committee of eight volunteers, all of whom represent various groups in the town, surrounding villages and the district council. The wider Partnership is open to anyone from Upton and its environs. All activities are funded from grants or sponsorship; so far it has overseen the renovation of the Heritage Centre; lobbied for improvements to town street furniture and the river bridge. It has paid for installation of permanent holders for Christmas trees for the town and for banners welcoming riverborne visitors to the town.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported over 30,000 projects, allocating £4.7billion across the UK. Website: www.hlf.org.uk

For further information, images and interviews, please contact

Simon Wilkinson of the Upton Town Partnership on 01684-592894 and simon.wilkinson@upton.uk.net

