

# Press Release 7 Nov. 20

## **'Two Churches One Town' receives lifeline grant from Government's £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund**

- **Almost 450 heritage organisations in England, including St Mary's church and the Minster in Beverley have been awarded cash from the first round of the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage**
- **Grants of up to £1 million will deliver a lifeline for the heritage sector in England with further support to follow and larger grants for capital projects awarded through the Heritage Stimulus Fund**
- **First major tranche of funding from the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund**

**St Mary's church and the Minster in Beverley** are two of 445 heritage organisations across the country set to receive a lifesaving financial boost from the government thanks to the £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund to help them through the coronavirus pandemic.

445 organisations will share £103 million, including **St Mary's church and the Minster in Beverley** to help restart vital reconstruction work and maintenance on cherished heritage sites, keeping venues open and supporting those working in the sector.

A grant of £600,724 has been awarded towards the total project cost of £875,016 to replace the lead roof and gutters on the east end of the nave of Beverley Minster.

This project is the second phase of a longer-term repair and conservation strategy for Beverley Minster and follows on from a project to re-lead the roof to the Lesser South Transept, in part funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which is due to complete this autumn. The project involves urgent work on the roof and includes replacement of failed leadwork and gutters, and structural repairs to the roof structure.

In addition, a grant of £139,280 has been awarded towards a total project cost of £309,280 to restore the south nave clerestory of St Mary's Church in Beverley. The project forms the second phase in a longer-term programme to repair and conserve the crumbling stonework of the entire church. The project follows-on immediately from the restoration of the North Nave Clerestory which began in 2019 with a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The St Mary's project focuses on the remaining vulnerable part of the Tudor nave. This will safeguard the largest area of the building which is of exceptional interest having been rebuilt (1520-31) on the cusp of the English Reformation and housing a remarkable collection of colourful roof bosses.

This vital funding is from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage and the Heritage Stimulus Fund - funded by Government and administered at arms length by Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Both funds are part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund which is designed to secure the future of Britain's museums, galleries, theatres, independent cinemas, heritage sites and music venues with emergency grants and loans.

433 organisations will receive a share of £67 million from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage to help with costs for operating, reopening and recovery. This includes famous heritage sites across the country, from Wentworth Woodhouse in Yorkshire to Blackpool's Winter Gardens, Blyth Tall Ship to the Severn Valley Railway, the International Bomber Command Centre in Lincolnshire to the Piecehall in Halifax. The funds will save sites that are a source of pride for communities across the country.

12 organisations, including English Heritage, Landmark Trust, Historic Royal Palaces and the Canal and River Trust, will receive £34 million from the Heritage Stimulus Fund to restart construction and maintenance on cherished heritage sites to preserve visitor attractions and protect livelihoods for some of the most vulnerable heritage specialists and contractors in the sector.

The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) has also been awarded a grant from the Culture Recovery Fund through Historic England. The AHF will use the funding to support charities and social enterprises occupying historic buildings to develop new business plans and strategies for organisations affected by the pandemic.

**Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said:**

“As a nation it is essential that we preserve our heritage and celebrate and learn from our past. This massive support package will protect our shared heritage for future generations, save jobs and help us prepare for a cultural bounceback post covid.”

**Lucy Worsley, Chief Curator, Historic Royal Palaces, said:**

“There's no truer way to experience the past than to walk in the footsteps of those who have lived it – that's why preserving our built heritage is so important.

“At Historic Royal Palaces, we care for six nationally significant buildings, opening them to the public and preserving them for future generations. Sadly, the pandemic meant that we had to stop some of our critical conservation work. The grant we have received from the Culture Recovery Fund will enable this work to resume – so we can give some of Britain's most historic buildings the care and attention they deserve, while supporting the specialist craftspeople who are vital for the future of our national heritage. We are enormously grateful to the Government for this support.”

**Tim Carlisle, Chairman of Two Churches One Town, said:**

“Beverley Minster is the largest parish church in England and is equal to the greatest of our cathedrals; after Westminster Abbey (the twin towers of which it may have inspired), it is regarded as the most impressive 'non-cathedral' church in England. St Mary's is often described as one of the most beautiful parish churches of England and of the highest quality. Today these two buildings are among the top places to visit in the East Riding of Yorkshire attracting more than 100,000 visitors and attendees at festivals and events (excluding church services) each year. The

churches 'bookend' the town and between them they determined the layout, the character and the history of Beverley."

**Duncan Wilson, Historic England's Chief Executive said:**

"It is heartening to see grants, both large and small, from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund helping heritage sites and organisations across the country which have been hit hard by the effects of Covid-19. These grants range from giving skilled craft workers the chance to keep their trades alive to helping heritage organisations pay the bills, and to kick-starting repair works at our best-loved historic sites. The funding is an essential lifeline for our heritage and the people who work tirelessly to conserve it for us all, so that we can hand it on to future generations."

**Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive of the National Lottery Heritage Fund said:**

"It is absolutely right that investing in heritage should be a priority during this crisis and this support by Government is crucial. Heritage creates jobs and economic prosperity, is a major driver for tourism and makes our towns, cities, and rural areas better places to live. All of this is so important for our wellbeing and will be particularly vital when we start to emerge from this incredibly difficult time.

"Our heritage is still facing a perilous future – we are not out of the woods yet. But this hugely welcome funding from Government, and the money we continue to invest from the National Lottery, has undoubtedly stopped heritage and the organisations that care for it being permanently lost."

**Kate Mavor, Chief Executive of English Heritage, said:**

"This support for our nation's heritage is fantastic news. Over the last few months, our teams have been working hard to welcome visitors back safely to the great castles, stone circles, abbeys and historic houses in our care. This funding will help us invest to safeguard the historic fabric of these much-loved places, which everyone can learn from and enjoy."

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**Notes to Editors:**

Two Churches One Town is a registered Charity No. 1185773 formed in October 2019. It is believed to be unique for two churches, the business community and a town to come together and form a charity such as Two Churches One Town. The twin purpose of this fund-raising endeavour is to rescue and preserve for the public benefit Beverley Minster and St Mary's and to nurture and grow the unique, lasting links of Heritage, Music and Learning that bind the two churches and the town.

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