



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

The Crossness Engines Trust has received £50,400 National Lottery support to help address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on heritage

The Crossness Engines Trust has received £50,400 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to help the Trust respond to the challenges posed by Covid-19.

The Trust works to conserve the historic Grade I listed buildings on the Crossness site, built to house the world's largest Victorian steam rotative beam engines that were installed as part of the system designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette to tackle the problem of sewage disposal in Victorian London. Since the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown began the Crossness site has been closed for much of the year, with a loss of income from open days, guided tours and venue hire. The Trust's staff and volunteers have continued to work remotely and, recently there has been some limited opening of the site but more needs to be done. The grant will fund training for our volunteers, audience development and the modification of the exhibition. We will also be working on the development of new online content for remote access and so that we can engage with those unable to visit the site.

Mike Jones, Company Secretary at the Trust, said: "Thanks to the National Lottery and its players we can now adapt our offer to allow more people to visit safely or engage online with the historic engines and history of London's sewer system. This will help us to generate the income we need to conserve and share with the public this important part of London's heritage. We're grateful that The National Lottery Heritage Fund is supporting us at this crucial time – it's a lifeline to us and others who are passionate about sustaining heritage for the benefit of all."

The funding, made possible by National Lottery players, was awarded through The National Lottery Heritage Fund's *Heritage Emergency Fund*. £50million was made available to provide emergency funding for those most in need across the heritage sector.

The UK-wide fund aimed to address both immediate emergency actions and help organisations to start thinking about recovery.

Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: "Heritage has an essential role to play in making communities better places to live, supporting economic regeneration and benefiting our personal wellbeing. All of these things are going to be even more important as we emerge from this current crisis.

"Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players we are pleased to be able to lend our support to organisations such as The Crossness Engines Trust during this uncertain time."

Like The Crossness Engines Trust, other charities and organisations across the UK that have been affected by the unprecedented impact of the coronavirus outbreak are being given access to a comprehensive package of support of up to £600 million of repurposed money from The National Lottery. This money is supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our communities and span the arts, community, charity, heritage, education, environment and sports sectors.



Thanks to National Lottery players, £30 million is raised every week for good causes, including heritage of local and national importance. By playing The National Lottery, people up and down the country are making an amazing contribution to the nationwide-response to combatting the impact of COVID-19 on local communities across the UK.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund's Heritage Emergency Fund is now closed for applications. To find out more about how The National Lottery Heritage Emergency Fund is supporting the sector at this time please visit: <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/responding-coronavirus-covid-19>

To find out more about the National Lottery Good Causes, visit: www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/coronavirus-pandemic-response

ENDS

Notes to editors

For further information about The Crossness Engines Trust, images and interview opportunities, please contact: Chris Foord (email: chris.foord@crossness.org.uk).

About The Crossness Engines Trust

The Crossness Pumping Station in Thamesmead forms part of the system designed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette as part of Victorian London's urgently needed main sewerage system. It was officially opened by the Prince of Wales in April 1865. In 1987, The Crossness Engines Trust, a registered charity, was set up to restore the installation. It represents a unique part of Britain's industrial heritage and an outstanding example of Victorian engineering which had a direct impact on the health of Londoners by contributing to the eradication of cholera in the capital.

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive change for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

The Heritage Emergency Fund is now closed for applications. Extra advice and support and longer-term skills and capacity building initiatives has also been made available for the heritage sector. [Read more about The National Lottery Heritage Fund's response to the Covid-19 emergency.](#)

About the National Lottery

- Since The National Lottery's first draw took place on 19 November 1994, more than £40 billion has been raised for good causes in the areas of arts, sport, heritage and community.
- National Lottery players contribute around £30 million to good causes every week.
- The National Lottery has made more than 5,500 millionaires but its primary purpose is giving to good causes - over 565,000 individual grants have been awarded across the UK, that's the equivalent of 200 life-changing projects in every UK postcode district.