



## Arts, Museums & Heritage Forum Newsletter

7 April 2014

Dear Forum Member,

I am delighted to tell you that North Hertfordshire District Council has been successful in its Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid towards the new North Hertfordshire Museum. We have just received confirmation of a grant of £914,400 from the HLF for our 'Unlocking the Heritage of North Hertfordshire' project. This will fund the fit-out of the new museum, ensuring that it tells the story of the District through bright modern displays.

The grant will allow the designers Mather & Co to ensure that the displays in the new museum reflect the history of North Herts. in the way that we know, from our Stage 1 HLF-funded consultation, reflects the aspirations of the local community. Downstairs there will be a gallery telling the history of the District in a chronological manner, from prehistory to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There will also be an air-conditioned temporary exhibition gallery on the ground floor, in which we will be able to display high-quality works borrowed from other museums. The galleries upstairs will be themed, looking at how we have lived and worked in North Hertfordshire over the years. Some favourite items from the old museums will be re-displayed, as well as items which the public may never have seen, such as our wonderful football collection, and material about local suffragettes.

Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the museum will have state-of-the-art display cases and lighting, which will help ensure that the facility looks modern and welcoming for the many visitors the museum hopes to attract. Some of the grant will go towards materials to help the cleaning and packing of the hundreds of museum objects that the team – of staff, interns and volunteers - is currently processing, and there is also funding for a part-time Audience Development post for the first year of operation. Now that the HLF funding is secure, I will shortly be in touch giving dates of further Forum meetings, to be held at key stages during the development of the new museum.

We are extremely grateful to HLF for its support, which will ensure that next year North Herts. will have a really first-class museum.

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter, please contact Ros Allwood, Cultural Services Manager on 01462 435197 or [ros.allwood@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:ros.allwood@north-herts.gov.uk)