How we're helping to save the heritage of



Traveller flower sellers in the New Forest in the late 1800s. Photo: New Forest Gypsy Traveller.

Find out how our funding has been used to ensure the living heritage of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities is preserved and continues to thrive.

From music and dance to family, food and memories, the heritage of Roma and Traveller people needs to be recorded and passed on to be sustained. We fund projects that help preserve and share this cultural heritage because we believe that everyone's heritage is important and that heritage is for everyone.

Read on to discover examples of projects that National Lottery players have made possible.

Communities celebrating their heritage

Ando Glaso ran their first Roma Cultural Festival in Glasgow with our funding, celebrating Roma and Traveller culture. Their project also trained volunteers, including young Roma people, to film people from the Roma community sharing what heritage means to them. Read more about Ando Glaso's project.

The Roma of Newport, South Wales project is collecting oral histories and photographs to share at a touring exhibition in Newport, Barry and Cardiff. This project, run by and for the local Roma community, is preserving and shining the spotlight on their rich culture and traditions.



Ando Glaso's project recorded heritage that matters to Roma families in Glasgow including traditional music and dance.

Empowering young people

Salford City Council's Traveller Wagon Project: Bringing Heritage Alive! brought together 20 young travellers and non-travellers to build a traditional wagon and learn about the customs of life on the road. The wagon and an accompanying exhibition toured schools and the local community.

Holmewood in Bradford is home to the UK's largest group of scrap metal collecting 'Rag n Bone' people, some of whom have Gypsy and Traveller roots. Any Old Rag n Bones empowered young people from this community to tell their own story, working with and learning from local artists, photographers and researchers to create an exhibition.



Traveller families camping in the New Forest. Photo: New Forest Gypsy Roma Traveller.

Preserving memories and traditions

First Steps New Forest collected photographs of Romany Gypsy Traveller life in the New Forest between the 1890s and 1950s into an online archive. They ran workshops to help people from these communities research their family history.

Europia's Roma Heritage Project is working with local people in Manchester to share traditional dishes and record oral histories from Roma communities.



Europia ran a workshop during their Romanian Blouse Day event. Photo: Joanna Rajs.

Building mutual respect between communities

Armagh Roma Traveller Support organised workshops and events for locals and newcomer families to help people from different cultures and backgrounds learn about Roma and Irish Traveller cultural heritage. Read more about the project.

We fund living heritage projects

Designing a project to maintain and pass on cultural traditions, knowledge and skills requires a special approach: the community's participation is crucial and in-person events are an important way of collecting and passing on information, skills and memories. Read our guidance on how your project can help safeguard intangible cultural heritage.

We can fund heritage projects from £10,000 up to £10million. Find out what types of heritage we support, and what you can spend the money on.



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dance



Understanding your heritage