18th century Royal Chapel Organ in tune with HLF funding

23/07/2013

The organ, at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Finedon, said to be ‘of the highest historical importance,’ is in need urgent attention; recommended by professional restorers and noted historians who will monitor and evaluate the work.

Vanessa Harbar, Acting Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund East Midlands, welcomed the restoration: “This organ is very rare and important as most of its interior works and external case work remain unaltered, including the Queen Anne coat of arms on the front pipes. We are delighted to play our part in ensuring its future and longevity for generations to come.”

Manuscripts of music first written and performed on the organ will be scribed into modern clefs, notably two pieces of 18th century English by William croft – organist of the Royal Chapel – which will be played at a launch event during in 2014, a date for mid-2014 to be confirmed.

Works to, and around the organ will include; thorough cleaning and retuning, comprehensive collection of community and school activities including school visits, demonstrations, recitals and lessons, a film of the ‘restoration journey’ and opportunities for volunteers to be trained as guides on various aspects of the organ.

Notes to editors

The Heritage Lottery Fund has announced new research showing that heritage-based tourism is now worth £26.4bn to the UK economy - £5.8bn higher than the previous estimate published in 2010.

Further information

Church of St Mary the Virgin: Jonathan Harris on 0160 4881 182 or hjonathan83@aol.com.

Heritage Lottery Fund press office: Robert Smith on 020 7591 6245 or roberts@hlf.org.uk.