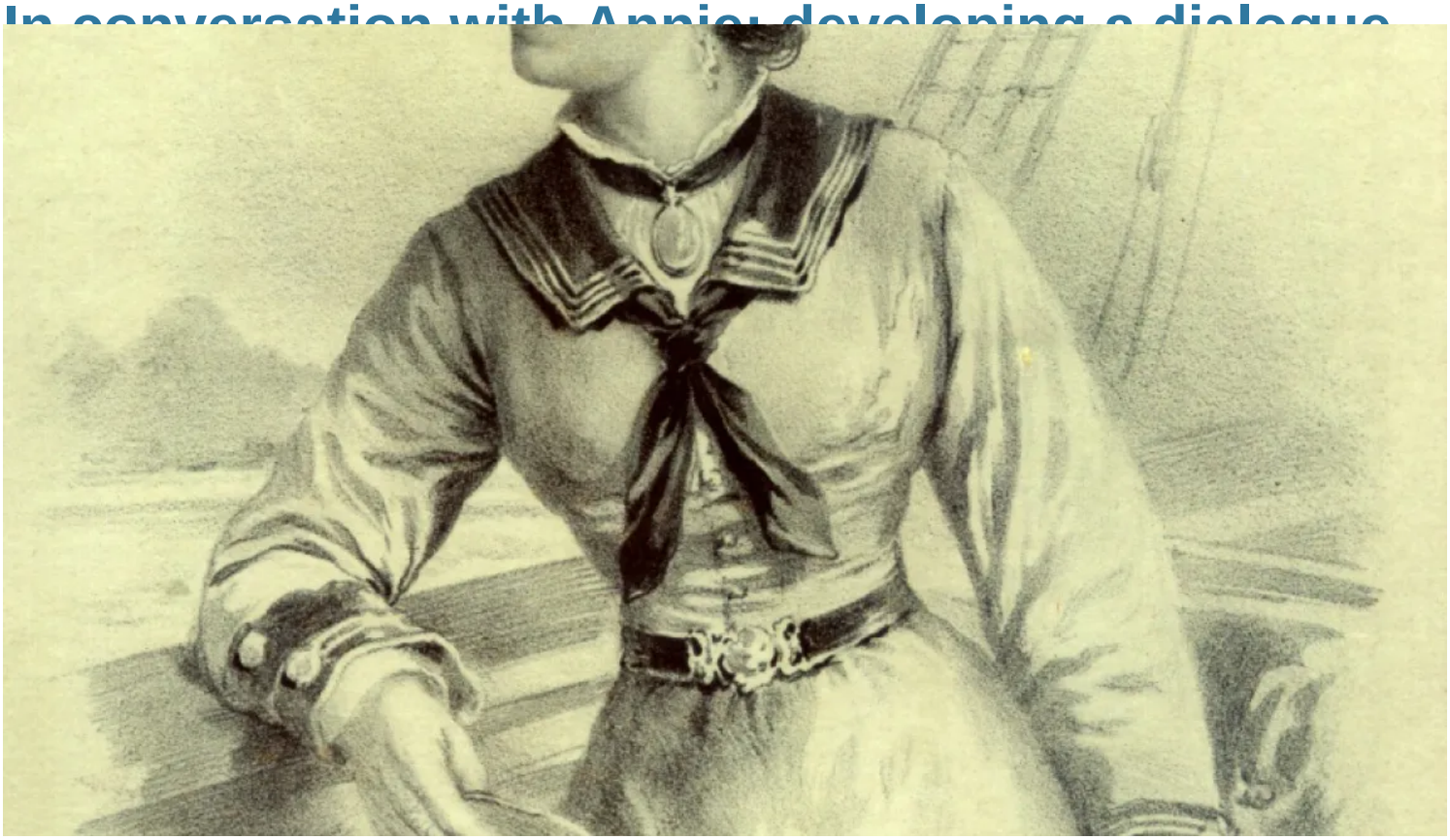
In conversation with Annie: developing a dialogue



Annie Brassey aboard the Sunbeam c1878

This grant will fund their exciting project 'In conversation with Annie' led by local artist and traveller Louise Kenward at Bexhill Museum. The project aims to 'develop a dialogue with local heritage' by exploring and sharing the archive collection of Lady Annie Brassey brought back to the area from her world voyages during the end of the 19th century.

Inspired by Annie, Louise travelled around the world (Bexhill to Bexhill), collecting objects and observations from places where their paths crossed. She will hold drop-in sessions at the museum as she explores the stories behind 15 objects from the archives using Annie’s letters and journal entries as context, and connects them to her own travels. Visitors will also be able to take part in a series of workshops and talks which will build on the museum’s community and education programme.

Reflections on current communication methods as opposed to those in practice during the time of Annie's book 'Voyage of the Sunbeam' (1876-1877), will bring her journal writing to the fore and connect with the museum's use of social media which will play a role in telling people about the project, just as Annie’s book told of her travels.

Commenting on the award, Louise Kenward said: “Having visited other places called Bexhill around the world, I’m now really looking forward to returning to my home town, Bexhill-on-Sea and spending time with my travel companion, Annie Brassey. This grant gives me the opportunity to explore and share the collections she brought back from her voyages,

now held at Bexhill Museum."

Stuart McLeod, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund South East England, said: "Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, we're pleased to support Bexhill Museum as they offer an innovative insight into the collection of one of the first female travel writers. Many of the items collected by Annie Brassey are not currently on display, and this project will ensure people can access them and learn about the heritage stories they can tell."

Notes to editors

About Bexhill Museum

Bexhill Museum is an independent charity. If you would like to support the museum please become a member or make a donation. The museum welcomes new volunteers to help with all aspects of running the museum. Bexhill Museum is open from Tuesday to Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday, Sunday and Monday 11am to 5pm. Vist the Bexhill Museum website for more information.

About Louise Kenward

Intrigued by the discovery that there are three places in the world called Bexhill, Louise set out to find them. 'Bexhill to Bexhill' is an account of that journey, inspired by the local travel writer, collector and philanthropist, Annie Brassey, and the possibility of travelling almost entirely by train. Louise Kenward is a visual artist based in the UK. With an interest in the 'betwixt and between' of the liminal, her work explores this with regards to the physical spaces we inhabit and the mental spaces we dwell. Having completed her MA in Fine Art in 2011, her paper *Self, space and objects: relational practice through the experience of spaces* brought together arts and psychology practice, with a framework of 'inhabiting spaces'.

Further information

For further information contact Louise Kenward, Project Manager at Bexhill Museum, on 01424 787 950.