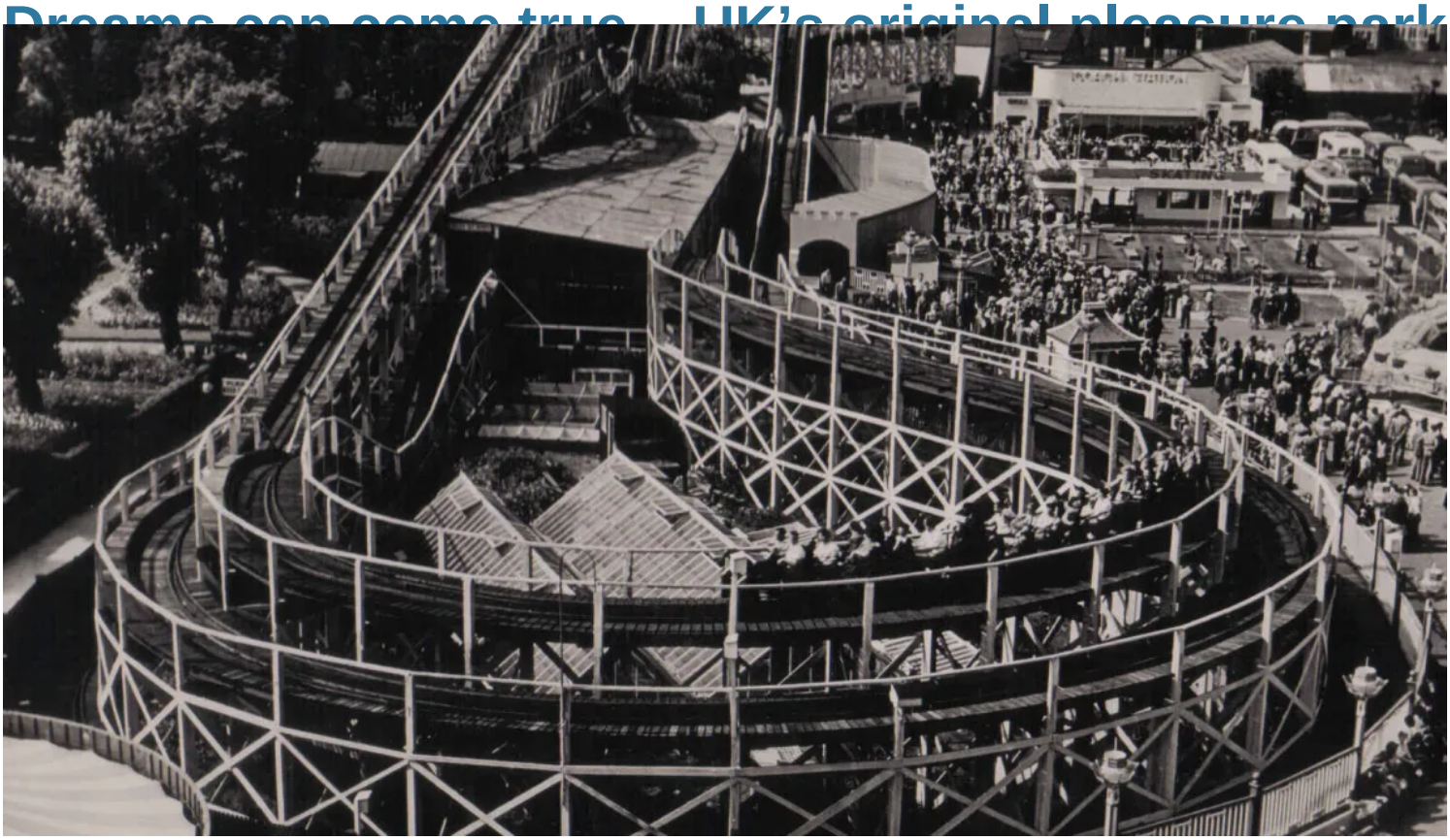
Dreams can come true – UK's original pleasure park



UK's original pleasure park, Dreamland Margate reopens to the public

Margate, a place synonymous with family trips to the seaside and its main attraction – Dreamland. This Victorian theme park, once the height of holiday glamour and kiss-me-quick seaside fun has sadly lain closed for many years.

However, since 2009, major work has been underway to bring this historic site – close to the hearts of Margate locals and visitors alike – back to life.

Thanks to National Lottery players we awarded a grant of almost £6m to reimagine the entire Dreamland site and put it firmly back in its rightful place at the centre of Margate's tourist offer.

Today marks the official opening of Dreamland and the completion of phase one of the wider restoration project due to finish in 2017. Celebrations will be led by stars including Chas 'n' Dave whose famous song *Margate* will be remembered by many!

Phase one of Dreamland includes 17 restored rides, as well as the roller disco, pleasure gardens, restaurants, food stalls, arcades and amusements from the golden age of the British seaside. Over 200 old rides and amusements have been up-cycled and reimaged – transformed into the fabric of the new Dreamland. The site will also wield significant benefits for the local economy and the ongoing regeneration of Margate with phase one alone creating 200 local jobs.

Stuart McLeod, Head of HLF South East, says: “As we head into summer, it’s perfect timing for some holiday fun with Dreamland Margate opening its doors to a new generation of visitors – especially as this week, Lonely Planet has named Kent ‘Europe’s top spot for a family holiday’!. Our investment of nearly £6million is thanks to National Lottery players and we are tremendously grateful for the ongoing role they play in our work. Dreamland is a great example of how heritage-led regeneration can make a real impact on the local economy with Thanet alone benefiting from HLF support of over £17m.”



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Dreamland, the UK's original pleasure park, pictured in the 1960s

UK’s original pleasure park Dreamland Margate re-opens to public