

The Tank Museum has gained National Lottery support

The Tank Museum in Bovington, Dorset has been awarded initial support and earmarked funding of £2.1million for its plans to launch an apprentice scheme and reach out to online communities.

Space, skills and conservation in action

A number of apprentices will be based at a new seven-bay workshop where they will learn how to maintain the museum's world-class fleet of armoured vehicles – protecting the collection for future generations to enjoy and allowing incredibly popular live demonstrations to continue.

Young people, including those with no previous mechanical experience, will gain skills greatly sought-after by the heritage motor industry, potentially providing a springboard to future job opportunities.

[quote=Stephen Boyce, Chair of HLF South West]"Whether it's boosting employment prospects or turning an interest into active participation, involving young people in the heritage that matters to them is a key priority for HLF."[/quote]

At the same time, the museum will strengthen connections with a growing online audience. A partnership with Wargaming, publishers and developers of the game World of Tanks and sponsor of the museum's annual TANKFEST, has seen an unprecedented number of young gamers turn a virtual interest for tanks into a fascination for the real thing.

Working with students, vloggers and other online communities, the project will continue to explore how The Tank Museum's story can be shared on site, online, nationally and globally.

Stephen Boyce, Chair of HLF South West, said: "Whether it's boosting employment prospects or turning an interest into active participation, involving young people in the heritage that matters to them is a key priority for HLF, so we're delighted to see the opportunities these plans offer."

Transforming The Tank Museum

Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, The Tank Museum has gone from strength to strength.

The project is the final stage of a decade-long transformation, including a new display area, conservation centre and a number of exhibitions, which have helped to secure the future of the collection and attract increasing numbers of visitors and volunteers.

The museum has received £71,800 from HLF to help progress the plans and apply for the full grant at a later date.



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Classic skills and virtual discovery: The Tank Museum drives for a young audience