£12.2million investment to help save UK's historic

St. Conan's Kirk, Argyll, Scotland Photo: Andrew Prins

From the only thatched ice house of its kind to the oldest picture house in Northern Ireland, we have awarded 12 heritage buildings life-saving support.

This funding stretches from Argyll and Cardiff to Belfast and Lowestoft and will breathe new life into historic spaces. The sites will be transformed into important assets at the heart of their local communities.

Five projects have received a combined total of £10.4m in grants and a further £1.8m has been awarded to seven organisations to develop their plans to revitalise heritage.

Eilish McGuinness, Chief Executive, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: “Saving heritage is core to what we do, and we look forward to seeing these fantastic projects improving the condition and understanding of the important heritage they guard, reducing the amount of ‘heritage at risk’, and delivering transformational projects for communities across the UK.”

The five projects receiving heritage grants are:

Two circus performers perform a balancing act inside a wooden barn-style building

Duo Vita Circus perform at the Ice House in Great Yarmouth Photo: Paul Marriott PA Wire

Historic Ice House, Great Yarmouth (£1,968,061)

Built between 1851 and 1892, the site was once used to house freshly caught seafood ahead of transportation to London's Billingsgate fish market. Led by Out There Arts, the site will be brought back to life as a Centre of Excellence in Outdoor Circus and Arts.

The Strand Arts Centre, Belfast (£768,069)

Led by Belfast City Council and the Strand Arts Centre, Northern Ireland's oldest cinema will be transformed with our funding. Visitors will step back in time for a 'living museum' experience of a pre-war cinema.

Victorian market, Cardiff (£2,091,500)

The Grade II* listed market in Cardiff's Castle Cultural Quarter will be restored by Cardiff Council, revitalising its structure and reducing energy costs. The site opened in 1891 and stands on top of the infamous Cardiff Gaol and gallows site.

St. John's Church in Chatham, Kent (£2,318,287)

A corner view of Lowestoft Town Hall from outside

Lowestoft Town Hall, Suffolk

This 'at risk' building is set to become a thriving, sustainable Gateway Community Hub. The project, which will also receive £1m from the future High Streets Fund via Medway Council, will revitalise heritage in Chatham for generations to come.

Lowestoft Town Hall, Suffolk (£3,257,512)

Vacant since 2015, Lowestoft Town Council will restore the Grade II listed building. It will establish a community venue to engage local people, improve residents' lives and transform the town's historic heart.

Our funding is helping organisations develop their projects

A view of the Alice Billings House with people walking around outside.

Alice Billings House, Stratford

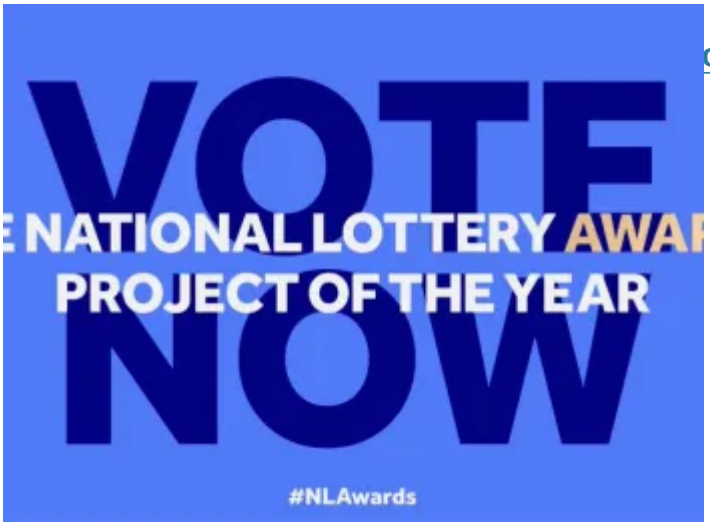
Seven more organisations have been awarded development funding to finalise plans for creating community hubs for engagement, education, creativity and wellbeing:

- **St Conan's Kirk, Argyll, Scotland** (£93,792)
- **St Collen's Church, Llangollen, Wales** (£94,886)
- **Alice Billings House, Stratford, Newham, London** (£467,172)
- **Rock Hall Revival, Bolton** (£466,662)

- **Woodoaks Farm, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire** (£201,392)
- **Ellesmere Yard, Shropshire** (£409,993)
- **Napper Cottage, Cranleigh, Surrey** – England's first Cottage Hospital (£58,700)

Find out how our funding is supporting heritage and communities

Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. Discover how our new Heritage 2033 strategy aims to boost local economies and celebrate heritage.



oted in communities

National Lottery Awards 2023 shortlist announced! Who will get your vote?