Support for Strabane’s Heritage

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HLF funding is behind some of Northern Ireland's most iconic projects, such as the development of a new visitor centre and facilities at the Giant’s Causeway, but it may be surprising to learn that the majority of grants are awarded to smaller, community based projects.

Úna Duffy, HLF Development Manager, said: “Many people assume that HLF only funds large museum projects or historic buildings, like the Ulster Museum. In reality, the majority of our grants go to projects seeking under £50,000, and we are keen to work together with local groups to develop projects that will give the people of Strabane opportunities to experience, enjoy, care for and protect our heritage.

“In Northern Ireland HLF has already invested £135million to enable local people become involved in heritage projects that matter to them. We have funding programmes to support a range of projects and whether you are a youth worker, charity, public body or a member of a community group, if you are interested in devising and delivering a heritage based project, we are interested in talking to you.”

Small grants of up to £50,000 are available through the Your Heritage Programme and £25,000 through Young Roots to enable communities to record, conserve and protect their heritage. Projects might involve the creation of a town or village trail, exploring the area’s industrial history or sharing traditions and stories of the communities past.

The Heritage Grants programme supports larger projects which may involve historic buildings and townscapes, the conservation of natural heritage such as habitats and species or the collection of items, archives and other materials. Groups seeking over £50,000 can apply to this programme.

Funding is also available for urgent repairs to churches, ecclesiastical buildings and other places of worship through the Repair Grants for Places of Worship scheme.

“Northern Ireland has a rich and fascinating heritage and we are hoping to hear some more about the heritage of Strabane. There’s lots of help available to develop your idea and guide you through the application process, so if you are interested in becoming involved in exploring, recording or sharing your local heritage we would love to hear from you.”

Notes to editors

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage.

Since 1994 the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded £135 million to projects across Northern Ireland.

Further information

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