

Heritage Lottery Fund backs BASH

Grant awarded for Sandwich 1457 celebrations

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) have awarded community group Bringing Alive Sandwich Heritage a grant to fund a major project in their historic home town.

The award, totalling almost £45,000, will enable the group to deliver a series of activities to commemorate the 550th anniversary of the siege of Sandwich this summer.

The attack on Sandwich in August 1457 changed the face of the town, and its impact can still be seen today. During the siege the town's mayor John Drury was captured and killed, and mayors of Sandwich have traditionally worn black robes as a sign of mourning since this time.

Programme of events

Events to mark the anniversary of the 1457 siege include a series of open lectures on medieval culture, an exhibition on the siege and 15th century life in the town, and a three day medieval fair over the August Bank Holiday. A colourful pageant and civic procession will take place on the first day of the fair, with dignitaries from the cinque ports and the town's giants in attendance. The fair will open with the sounding of the town's ancient ceremonial moot horn.

Evening events will also take place during the festivities. A concert from international Early Music stars *The Dufay Collective*, performing a programme of popular songs and tunes from the 1400s, will start the Bank Holiday weekend on Friday 24th August. An evening of medieval drama, including a rarely seen mystery play, is scheduled for Saturday 25th August.

BASH's secretary Sonia Frost said: 'We are delighted that the Heritage Lottery Fund is backing this project. Our programme includes some of the country's top performers and historical experts, and will appeal to people of all ages. The grant has ensured that the events will be of the highest quality, and will really mark out this important anniversary for the town.'

Further information

For more details of the project or to contact the group, visit www.B-A-S-H.org.uk or contact Sonia Frost on 01304 617335.

Note to Editors

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. From our great and historic buildings to local parks and beauty spots or recording and celebrating traditions, customs and history, HLF grants open up our nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy. They have supported more than 18,600 projects, allocating £3.6 billion across the UK. Website: www.hlf.org.uk



BASH committee members and volunteers with Sandwich giant John Drury at the town's ancient Fishergate