



28 May 2020

Dock Museum secures major National Lottery grant

An exciting new heritage gallery, made possible by a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £816,700, will tell the story of shipbuilding in Barrow-in-Furness at the town's Dock Museum.

Shipyards Town focuses on the rich heritage of Barrow's main industry from the 1950s to the present day, as well as looking to the future.

The total cost of the project is just under £1 million, with the National Lottery Heritage Fund contribution made possible by money raised by National Lottery players. All additional funding has been secured, with BAE Systems contributing £100,000 and the Sir John Fisher Foundation also making a donation.

Shipyards Town is a two-year project that will include the creation of a new permanent shipbuilding gallery, the building of a research room, an upgrading the museum's entrance and the introduction of a fun family-friendly "Squeeze in a Sub" learning zone.

Solar panels will be installed too, as part of the Low Carbon Barrow policy.

Dock Museum curator Sabine Skae said, "Our new gallery is an amazing opportunity to showcase the long and important history of Barrow-in-Furness as a Shipyards Town. The funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, BAE Systems and our other supporters provides us with the chance to show off this heritage in the way it deserves."

The venture will see the creation of three new posts at the Dock Museum: a Project Manager, Digitisation Officer and Education Officer. A suite of educational activities will be provided for children aged from one-year-old up to adults. A new volunteer scheme will see people involved in developing and delivering events and educational activities, as well as learning new skills vital for the functioning of the museum.

David Renwick, Director of England, North at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: "Barrow-in-Furness is home to a fascinating legacy of the UK's industrial heritage, and we're delighted to be able to support the creation of the Dock Museum's new gallery Shipyards Town. We're very proud to have invested in Barrow-in-Furness' heritage in recent years with initiatives such as our MicroGrants programme, and we are proud to continue to do so through grants for fantastic projects like this. We can't wait to see the project progress, and see Barrow-in-Furness' wonderful history brought to life for the Dock Museum's visitors."

Two new shipbuilding films will be commissioned, and a pair of new walking trails starting from the museum will be developed so that the town's shipbuilding heritage can be explored in detail.

As well as their financial contribution, BAE Systems have donated an internationally-important collection of 3,000 images from its shipbuilding archive. Some of the pictures will form part of the new gallery, while all the images will be restored before being scanned and made available to the public online and in the museum's research room.

Paul Ethell, BAE Systems' HR Director said, 'We are delighted that funding for the Shipyard Town project has been secured. We are proud of our ship and submarine building heritage and the Dock Museum is a place where people can learn about the history of Barrow and about the legacy upon which today's success is built. We see the Dock Museum as playing a vital role for years to come in helping to tell the story of Barrow for the benefit of its townsfolk and visitors. We look forward to our continued collaboration'.

Councillor Ann Thomson, leader of Barrow Borough Council, said: "This award is excellent news for The Dock Museum and indeed the whole area.

"Barrow has a very proud shipbuilding heritage which helped shape our past and still has an important role to play in our future.

"Shipyard Town truly is a superb project which will expand opportunities to share our unique story with people of all ages in a variety of fun, engaging and educational ways."

Embargo until 8am 3 June 2020

Notes to editors

About the Dock Museum

The Dock Museum is a popular venue run by Barrow Borough Council. The museum takes its name from the Grade II* listed dock in which it is sited. It is free to enter and has a well-used educational programme.

Follow @DockMuseum on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **Inspire, lead** and **resource** the UK's heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future.

www.heritagefund.org.uk.

Follow @HeritageFundUK on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

Further information

Sabine Skae

The Dock Museum

Barrow-in-Furness

North Road

LA14 2PW

Tel: 01229 876401 (direct line)

sskae@barrowbc.gov.uk