

The Faversham Society

Press release

January 2010

The Heritage Lottery Fund helps the Faversham Society invest in the future

The Society is pleased to announce that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has given the green light to the Faversham Society to work up plans for a grant award of just over £150,000, for its project No 12 Preston Street: The Place Between. The first-round pass* includes a development grant of nearly £21,000 to progress the plans.

The Society has ambitious plans to expand and improve its work in education and learning. It believes in the importance of encouraging people of all ages to learn more about the town and to put it into the context of regional, national and near-continental history. Peter Tann, the Society's Chairman, says: 'Our existing work proves that there is a great interest in everything to do with the identity of the town, and we are encouraged to do more.'

The plans include new displays, more opportunity for inter-active learning, better access, more space for small groups to assemble and so on. Members of the Society have come up with some very creative ideas and solutions. The space at street level in its buildings in Preston Street will be reconfigured – the main changes will be to No 12, which is currently the second-hand bookshop. This narrow early nineteenth-century building, positioned between the Society's two mediaeval buildings will also have its upper floors strengthened to permit public access to more display area.

The entire scheme is estimated at a total cost of about £170,000, so it is important to get the design, planning and project management right. The Society expects this phase of the project will cost about £30,000, and the balance will come from a combination of other grants and from the labours of the Society's many volunteers.

HLF Officers will assist the Society with the development of the project, which must be completed and submitted by the end of 2011.

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Notes to Editors:

*A **first-round pass** means the project meets our criteria for funding and we believe it has potential to deliver high-quality benefits and value for Lottery money. The application was in competition with other supportable projects, so a first-round pass is an endorsement of outline proposals. Having been awarded a first-round pass, the project now has up to two years to submit fully developed proposals to compete for a firm award.'

On occasion an applicant with a first-round pass will also be awarded development funding towards the development of their scheme.

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. HLF has supported 33,900 projects, allocating £4.4billion across the UK. Website: www.hlf.org.uk