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Maryport's Roman museum is going on the road thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund: What can the Romans do for you, today and tomorrow?

Today, the Senhouse Museum Trust (Senhouse Roman Museum) has received a grant of £66,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for an exciting project titled 'Reimagining Roman Maryport'.

Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the project focuses on exploring the Roman heritage of Maryport and West Cumbria as represented in the collections the Senhouse Roman Museum cares for.

People of Maryport and the West Cumbrian Coast will have the opportunity to learn more about their Roman heritage and have a voice in how their museum can serve its future audiences better.

The project's Roman Roadshow will take the museum out into community hubs and schools in Maryport, along the Solway Coast and in West Cumbria where it will host creative and playful ways for people to discover the relevance of Roman heritage to them today.

In addition, the museum will carry out consultation with existing and potential audiences, undergo a governance review and business planning process to develop a resilience plan to support the future development of the museum and its services. This is expected to include the development of a community forum of local people recruited during the project.

The Senhouse Roman Museum cares for and displays an internationally significant collection of Roman artefacts, all recovered from Maryport and West Cumbria. The stars of the collection are the Roman altars, inscriptions and sculptures discovered by the Senhouse family since the reign of Elizabeth I.

Commenting on the award, Jane Laskey (Museum Manager, Senhouse Roman Museum) said: "We are delighted to have received support for this exciting project thanks to the National Lottery players and are looking forward to sharing the museum and its fabulous collections with everyone".

Pete Wilson (Senhouse Museum Trust Chairman) said: "We are privileged to care for a unique and internationally important collection that deserves to be far better known

than it is. We all owe an immense debt of gratitude to the many generations of the Senhouse family, who curated the Collection of altars and other stonework that is unrivalled by that from any other site in the country.'

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Senhouse Museum Trust and the Senhouse Roman Museum

The Trust was formed in 1985 to set up a permanent, accessible home for the Netherhall Collection of Roman finds from the fort and civilian settlement at Maryport, in collaboration with the descendants of the Senhouse family. The Trust acquired the Victorian Naval Reserve Training Battery adjacent to the fort and, following extensive capital work, the museum opened to the public in 1990. Since then the museum and its activities have expanded to serve both residents and tourists visiting Maryport.

The Netherhall Collection includes the largest collection of Roman military altars and inscriptions from a single site in the UK. This collection has contributed to our understanding of the Roman occupation of the Hadrian's Wall frontier and the beliefs and lives of the peoples who saw themselves as 'Roman'.

The museum stands on the Sea Brows in Maryport between the sea and the Roman fort and civilian settlement.

www.senhousemuseum.co.uk

Facebook, Twitter (X) and Instagram – Senhouse Roman Museum

About the National Lottery Heritage Fund

As the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage, The National Lottery Heritage Fund's vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future as set out in our strategic plan, Heritage 2033.

Over the next ten years, the Heritage Fund aims to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to bring about benefits for people, places and the natural environment.

The Heritage Fund helps protect, transform and share the things from the past that people care about, from popular museums and historic places, our natural environment and fragile species, to the languages and cultural traditions that celebrate who we are.

The Heritage Fund is passionate about heritage and committed to driving innovation and collaboration to make a positive difference to people's lives today, while leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy.

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Further information

For further information, images and interviews please contact Jane Laskey (Museum Manager) at Senhouse Roman Museum on 01900 816168 or email senhousemuseum@aol.com