

# THE CHARLTONS POTTERY PROJECT



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**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



*Embargoed until 00.01hours on 6 July 2013*

## **The Charltons Pottery Project wins Heritage Lottery Fund support**

Today, The Charltons Historical Society and the Central Somerset Outdoor Learning Partnership announce the award of a £4,400 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), through their Sharing Heritage<sup>1</sup> programme, for an exciting initiative, *The Charltons Pottery Project*, based in the villages of Charlton Mackrell and Charlton Adam in South Somerset.

Led by volunteers from the local community, the project aims to inspire more people of all ages to take an active interest in local history and to engage with learning about pottery and archaeological remains from their area. The project, launched with displays and activities at The Charltons Village Day on Saturday July 6th, will run through the summer and autumn of 2013. It will include a review of existing ceramic finds from the area; activities to extend the collection; talks on the Roman period and archaeological finds in Somerset; and an exciting living history element to engage younger participants.

The area is close to Roman settlements and routes (the Fosse Way) and the data collected will add to existing knowledge of the area during this period. The project will also involve Eddie Daughton, an expert in ancient ceramic technology who will be supervising the build of a reconstruction of a Romano-British kiln and pottery-making at Hallr Wood in Charlton Mackrell. Young people, school children and volunteers will assist with this experimental archaeology and there will be a special open day to test the kiln out and as a final celebration. Dates and further information about events and how to get involved will be released soon and are available from the organisers and their websites.

[www.charltons-mackrell-adam.org.uk](http://www.charltons-mackrell-adam.org.uk)

<http://wilderwoods.org/>

*UPDATE: The kiln construction, pottery making and other activities being organised by CSOLP in Hallr Wood, Charlton Mackrell, will take place in September / October 2013.*

*The pottery artefact assessment workshops will take place at The Fox & Hounds in Charlton Adam - the first dates are Sunday 21st July from 2.30pm; Monday 29th July from 6.30pm; Sunday 11th August from 2.30pm; and Monday 19th August from 6.30pm.*

Commenting on the award, Celia Mycock, Research Secretary of The Charltons Historical Society, said: "This is wonderful news. The HLF grant will enable us to work with CSOLP to involve a wider range of people in learning about the history of this area and to provide volunteer and training opportunities in a series of practical workshops and talks."

Debbie Millar of CSOLP said: "We are thrilled that we have received the support of the HLF 'Sharing Heritage' programme and very excited by our partnership with our local Historical Society. The original idea for the kiln part of the project came from one of our regular participants who wanted to make pottery in the wood. We also had a young recent graduate of archaeology from the village volunteering with us and together we discussed options to make the dream a reality. This project will inspire young people to take an interest in the past by giving them practical, hands-on insights into how things used to be made. The wider project has something for everyone, whether you are an enthusiastic amateur who would like to learn about identifying and interpreting archaeological finds; someone who has found pottery in your garden; or someone who would like to have a go at field walking - do get in touch with the organisers to find out how to get involved."

Commenting on the grant award, HLF's Head of South West, Nerys Watts, said: "Ancient pottery is arguably the most significant archaeological evidence of how people lived in the past. helping to identify inhabitants and assign dates to the occupational layers of individual archaeological sites. It is usually plentiful and relatively well preserved and can therefore provide clues to many aspects of ancient cultures including economic status, technological advances, religion, and noteworthy events. We are delighted to be able to support this fascinating project which will help a wide range of people to understand the significance of pottery as archaeological evidence, and gain an insight into the historical role of the potter."

**ENDS**

## **Notes to editors**

### **About The Charltons Historical Society:**

The Charltons Historical Society is a wholly volunteer run community organisation, formed in 1996 to collect and share historical data relating to the combined civil parish of Charlton Mackrell. The Society has held a number of well-attended exhibitions as well as regular meetings with speakers. In 2006 the Society contributed volunteers to the Heritage Lottery funded Castle Cary to Durston Railway Centenary project and also produced a book about life in the villages during the years when Charlton Mackrell railway station was open. The Society's Chairman, Duncan Black, had achieved an MA in Archaeology as a mature student and when he died suddenly at Christmas 2008 he left a significant archive and the collection of artefacts which has inspired this project.

[www.charltons-mackrell-adam.org.uk](http://www.charltons-mackrell-adam.org.uk)

### **About the Central Somerset Outdoor Learning Partnership:**

CSOLP is a small educational charity that works with all ages and abilities. They prioritize young people, many of them disadvantaged and/ or struggling in school and offer regular therapeutic sessions to improve self worth, ability to learn and motivation through the development of practical skills in an inspiring woodland environment. This project will work with existing school groups but will also be open to others who are interested, including college archaeology students and local children.

<http://wilderwoods.org/>

### **About the Heritage Lottery Fund:**

**Sharing Heritage** is for any not-for-profit group wanting to explore their community's heritage. With a commitment from HLF of £3m each year, Sharing Heritage grants between £3,000 and £10,000 are now available to groups who want to discover their local heritage.

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. 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 almost 35,000 projects with more than £5.3bn across the UK. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

### **For further information, images and interviews, please contact**

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