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**Bradford on Avon
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Conserving and promoting our heritage



PRESS NOTICE, 24 February 2016

Iron Duke project wins Heritage Lottery Fund and PRISM Fund support

The first rubber rolling machine in Europe, known as the Iron Duke, will return to Bradford-on-Avon for the first time in nearly 50 years thanks to grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council.

Bradford on Avon Museum has been awarded £55,500 by the Heritage Lottery Fund and £18,000 by the Arts Council's PRISM Fund to restore and display the machine which was central to the establishment of a rubber factory at Kingston Mill over 150 years ago.

Working with partners Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust and BoaCan (the Bradford on Avon Community Area Network), the Museum will also run a range of community activities exploring this vital part of the town's industrial heritage.

Wiltshire Council and Bradford on Avon Town Council are also contributing to the project, which is estimated to cost £97,000 in total.

Information about the machine and its significance will be on panels and on-line, there will be booklets and a series of public talks and volunteers will be involved, learning new skills by taking part in the restoration and interpretative work. Past workers at the rubber factory will be involved, as will school children researching what it was like to work in the industry and its significance.

Commenting on the award, Chris Dale, Treasurer of the Museum, said "We are delighted to receive these grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and from the PRISM Fund. With our partners the Preservation Trust and BoaCan, we have been preparing this project for several years and it is wonderful to know that we now have the funds that will allow us to proceed."

Nerys Watts, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund South West, said: "Thanks to National Lottery players, Bradford on Avon Museum will now be able to restore the Iron Duke, the first rubber rolling machine in Europe and an important part of the rubber factory heritage of the Kingston Mill site in the South West."

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Bradford on Avon Museum:

The Museum Society was incorporated as a charity in 1987 and provides a museum, which is free to visit, at the town's library. It also supports local activities and events, such as community digs and groups researching local archaeology and oral history.

www.bradfordonavonmuseum.co.uk

About the Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust:

Established in 1964, the Preservation Trust is a charity which campaigns for and helps to restore buildings and artefacts of architectural and historical significance in Bradford on Avon, to national award-winning standards. It undertakes environmental projects and maintains a keen interest in planning issues. www.bradfordheritage.co.uk

About BoaCan:

BoaCan is an independent network of individuals, groups and organisations, providing 'a local voice for local people'. Working with Wiltshire Council, the Town Council, and other key community groups, it fosters a co-operative, project-based approach, with minimum fuss and bureaucracy. Since its inception in 2009, it has partnered on the delivery of the Olympic Torch Celebrations, the development of Made in Bradford in Avon, the formation of the local Air Quality Alliance, the annual Retail Survey, the founding of The Hub@BA15, the Disability & Access initiative, and several other significant contributions to community wellbeing and development. BoaCan is a network which is open to all.

About the PRISM Fund:

The Preservation of Industrial and Scientific Material (PRISM) Fund awards grants towards the costs of acquisition and conservation of items or collections which are important in the history and development of science, technology, industry, and related fields. www.artscouncil.org.uk

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Heritage Lottery Fund - Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife.

www.hlf.org.uk@heritagelottery

Further information:

For further information, images and interviews please contact Chris Dale (Treasurer, Bradford on Avon Museum) on 01225 862198 or David Moss (Chairman, Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust) on 01225 863946.

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