

## Press Release

### **Scampton Church Community Partnership is awarded substantial grants by The National Lottery Heritage Fund & The FCC Communities Foundation to create the Scampton Community & RAF War Graves Heritage Centre.**

Scampton Church has received a grant of £150,923 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and an FCC Communities Foundation grant of £99,090, for an exciting heritage and community project to create the Scampton Community & RAF War Graves Heritage Centre in Scampton village. The project is costing £343,000 and is made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the Landfill Communities Fund and also by public donations.

Working in partnership with RAF Scampton, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), local schools, Scampton Parish Council, Springline Good Neighbours Scheme and The Dambusters Inn, the project aims to create a vibrant and welcoming venue that will benefit the whole community. This includes local schools and other organisations which cater for the young and old in the area.

The grants will enable the installation of a new lit path, all access wc, welcome and refreshment area, and central heating.

In addition, visitors will be able to explore the rich history and heritage of both the 14<sup>th</sup> century church and its 107 Commonwealth war and service graves to 'keep their stories alive'. Digital consoles will be installed to help tell the stories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and to teach the next generation of the Commonwealth War Grave Commissions (CWGC) work. Furthermore, the CWGC hopes to use the church building as a regional hub, where free talks for the public can be given and exhibitions can be displayed. The facility will also provide the much needed space for the community's Good Neighbours Scheme to provide local services for the elderly. It is hoped that the project will be fully completed by the Spring of 2023 and will become a new community asset following the closure of RAF Scampton.



**Commenting on the awards;**

**Liz Shaw, Head of Engagement, England, Midlands and East at The National Lottery Heritage Fund said:**

"We are delighted to support Scampton Church Community Partnership on this important community heritage project. It's thanks to National Lottery players that we are able to support projects like this, and this funding will ensure that the heritage of Scampton will be preserved for future generations."

**Penny Horne, spokesperson for FCC Communities Foundation, says:** "We're delighted to be supporting the Scampton Community & RAF War Graves Heritage Centre Project and pleased our funding will make such a difference to so many groups of people within Scampton and the surrounding neighbourhoods. FCC Communities Foundation is always happy to consider grant applications for projects that benefit local communities and we're looking forward to this one having a positive impact very soon."

**CWGC Public Engagement Coordinator, Megan Kelleher, said:** "Scampton has a rich military history, and this is reflected in its churchyard. The CWGC has been working with the wider community to ensure that the stories of those buried at Scampton are not forgotten, and the site provides plenty of examples regarding the intricacies of our work in Britain. We want to continue to work with the church and others to share the extraordinary stories of ordinary people remembered by us."

**Wing Commander Neill Atkins Officer Commanding RAF Scampton, said:** It is fantastic news that the Scampton Church Community Partnership has received such generous grants, which will enable important works to further strengthen the Church's role as a hub for the whole community. RAF Scampton has been part of that community for over a century, recognised through the RAF Chapel, the 107 military graves and, most recently, the installation of a new stained-glass window commemorating RAF Scampton. With our Station closing by the end of 2022, it is fantastic to know that its role within the wider community will continue to be recognised through the partnership's fantastic project.



### Notes to editors:

**Scampton Church** is a member of a community partnership which includes: RAF Scampton, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Scampton Parish Council, Scampton and Pollyplatt Primary Schools, The Springline Good Neighbours Scheme and The Dambusters Inn. We are passionate about serving our local community. We run the Scampton Community Lottery, the proceeds of which helps to support community activities. We recognise and value the importance of 'Keeping Safe' and providing access for all. Our grade 2\* listed building dates from the 14<sup>th</sup>C, and is closely linked with the RAF and the Red Arrows. We are the guardians of 107 Commonwealth War and Service Graves. Although on the Historic England 'at risk' register, we have persevered in keeping the building open for a number of years for community activities. We also welcome many visitors to view the RAF heritage here, including the war graves, a stunning RAF stained glass window and peaceful RAF chapel.

**FCC Communities Foundation** is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community projects through the Landfill Communities Fund. [www.fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk](http://www.fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk). Follow @FCC\_Communities on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #FCCGrant.

**The National Lottery Heritage Fund** uses money raised by the National Lottery to 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](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk). Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund.

Since the National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.

### Further Information:

For further information, images and interviews, please contact Joe Bartrop (Project Coordinator) on 07870665245 and [joe@scamptonchurch.org](mailto:joe@scamptonchurch.org) or Rev. Sue Deacon (Local Minister) on 01522 730167 and [info@scamptonchurch.org](mailto:info@scamptonchurch.org).

