



## Press Release

### **Rayleigh Town Museum wins Heritage Lottery Fund Support.**

The Rayleigh Town Museum has received £89,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards the formation and set up costs of the Museum.

Led by volunteers from the local community, the project focuses on the history of our town from the very earliest times to the present day. Extensive building work will soon commence to change the first floor of 91 High Street, the oldest non-secular building in Rayleigh, into the Museum which is planned to open to the public by the end of 2015.

There will be numerous exhibits showcasing our town's history which will include a scale working model of our windmill, maps, postcards, photographs and ephemera for the enjoyment and education of both young and old. The 'Regal Cinema' will be recreated as a lecture theatre for talks and slide shows for everyone to enjoy.

The Museum will be open 4 days a week all year round, manned by a group of 60 volunteers and will be accessible to all by a fully compliant disabled passenger lift.

The Museum will be a heritage hub to attract visitors from the surrounding areas to enjoy not only the other heritage sites in town but also the many shops and restaurants as part of a 'heritage day in Rayleigh'.

Mike Davies, Chairman, said: "The announcement of the grant funding from the HLF will enable our long held aspiration to open a Town Museum become a reality. The Museum is supported by the whole community including the Town Council, local businesses, schools and community groups we are most grateful to all the individuals and organisations who have supported us."

Robyn Llewellyn, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund East of England, said: "This Our Heritage grant illustrates how Heritage Lottery Fund investment benefits people and communities as well as our heritage."

Commenting on the news, Mark Francois said:

"I am absolutely delighted at the news that Mike Davies' proposals for a Rayleigh Town Museum have been successful, not only as the local MP, but as a Patron and 'Friend' of the museum too. Mike Davies and his team have put in an extraordinary amount of work towards the project and I am pleased this has borne fruit in the form of a substantial grant from the HLF. The Museum will be an asset to the town, both to local residents and visitors and I look forward to seeing it progress. I would like to congratulate Mike Davies and his team and all those local people who have joined the friends of the museum, who I am sure will have contributed to today's successful outcome. This is great news for Rayleigh."

### **Notes to Editors**

#### About Rayleigh Town Museum

C.I.O. Registered Charity no. 1,159,405

Museum to be located on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 91 High Street, Rayleigh.

Website: [www.rayleightownmuseum.co.uk](http://www.rayleightownmuseum.co.uk)

#### About the Heritage Lottery Fund

From the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife, we use National Lottery players' money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk).

#### Further Information

For further information please contact Mike Davies, Chairman, Rayleigh Town Museum on 01268 785657 or email: [rayleightownmuseum@tesco.net](mailto:rayleightownmuseum@tesco.net)