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PRESS RELEASE

Heritage Lottery Fund award helps bring Exeter History into the 21st Century

Disabled people from Exeter will be given the chance to research and explore the history and heritage of their city, thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, it was announced today. Community, Equality, Disability Action (CEDA) is to receive £17,100 in funding to explore the heritage of Exeter from the Romans to World War II and to produce three interactive podcasts. The charity which is based on the Exeter Business Park will work with disabled adults and children to plan a number of exciting opportunities that residents of the city can get involved with. The CEDA users will also be responsible for creating the podcasts that will be available to download from the internet later this year.

The project will be delivered in 3 phases: Exeter's buildings and sites; Exeter at War; and Changing Views – Living in Exeter. The oral histories collected as part of phase 3 will include interviews with older generation disabled people to help the participants understand how attitudes towards and life for disabled people has changed over the last 100 years.

CEDA will deliver a full programme of events across Exeter, including reminiscing coffee mornings, city tours, interesting talks and educational workshops. The aim of the project is to raise public awareness and understanding of the heritage value of such an historic city; and to promote opportunities for community involvement.

Modern technology and social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook will be used to record and disseminate the findings. MP3s and CDs will also be used to record material to be distributed to libraries and community learning providers.

CEDA and the project participants will present 'A History of Exeter' event at the end of the project to showcase the work and invite wider comment and engagement.

Commenting on the award, Craig Bowden from the CEDA Activity Hub said:
"This funding will allow us to bring the heritage of our great city to life in a new modern format. The idea came from our users and its wonderful news that it can actually happen"

Commenting on the reasons for the award Nerys Watts, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in the South West, said: "Exeter's rich and varied history provides a wealth of opportunities for local people of all ages to explore how their city developed from its earliest beginnings. This project will ensure that some of the best known buildings and sites from the city's past are made truly accessible to residents and visitors alike, and that valuable first hand recollections of important historic events can continue to be shared with future generations."

Local residents are invited to submit their own memories of Exeter for inclusion in the project and to find out more about the project contact CEDA by calling 01392 360645

- ENDS -

Patrons: Roger Jefcoate CBE & County Councillor Saxon Spence CBE

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For further information, please contact

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Notes to Editors

The Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. 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 over 30,000 projects, allocating £4.5 billion across the UK.

www.hlf.org.uk

CEDA

Community, Equality, Disability Action (CEDA) is a Devon wide charity based in Exeter providing social and learning opportunities to disabled adults and children with physical, sensory and learning difficulties. The organisation works in the community and has an activity hub based in Exeter with access to ICT, arts and crafts, sensory and life skills facilities.