

## PRESS RELEASE (NO EMBARGO)



### **A brighter future for Saltaire’s historical collection thanks to £93k lottery grant**

The Saltaire World Heritage Education Association has been awarded a grant of £93,172 by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to improve the charity’s long term resilience and prepare for the relocation of the Saltaire Collection to a publicly accessible space.

The Saltaire Collection is currently located in the Exhibition Building Library at Shipley College, and visitors wishing to see the important objects, including original architect’s drawings and plans for the village, can only visit in small numbers by appointment.

The funding, made possible by National Lottery players, will secure professional support to improve business planning for the charity and crucially open up the collection for Bradford’s diverse communities. This will include engagement work across the district to identify how to reduce and remove the barriers experienced when accessing Saltaire’s heritage.

The project, named ‘Bright Future,’ will hire a museum development project manager to identify a new accessible home for the collection, and who will work with museum design experts to complete the preparatory work that will lead to national museum accreditation for the collection.

UNESCO states that Saltaire is a complete and well preserved example of an industrial community, founded in 1853. Whilst the history of its founder, Sir Titus Salt, is relatively well known, the dramatic context for the rise and fall of the district’s textile history, the social histories of Saltaire’s workers and residents over time and the stories of those involved in its continued development are rarely surfaced.

Commenting on the award, Stephanie Webb (Chair of the Saltaire World Heritage Education Association) said: “We’re delighted that we’ve received this support thanks to National Lottery players. The Saltaire Collection reveals much that is unknown about Saltaire’s world heritage and it’s great to know that we are a step closer to making this widely accessible and preserving it for centuries to come.”

**ENDS**

## **Notes to editors**

### **About The Saltaire Collection & The Saltaire World Heritage Education Association**

The Saltaire Collection was initiated by the local community and library staff in 1985/1986 after textile production ceased in Salts Mill. Prior workers and local residents began to donate memorabilia, photographs, oral histories and interesting objects. Later the descendants of the Salt and Roberts families began to add items from their personal collections. As the collection grew, Shipley College agreed to hold this in trust for the community.

By 2013 concerns grew about the need to better manage and preserve the collection and a new charity, The Saltaire World Heritage Education Association (SWHEA), was established to establish good quality management and improved sharing of the collection of around 7,000 items. SWHEA was founded in October 2014 and has since managed the collection through a detailed management agreement with Shipley College.

Many improvements have been made to the management, storage and care of the collection but its accessibility remains limited in its current location.

### **About The National Lottery Heritage Fund**

As the largest dedicated funder of the UK’s heritage, The National Lottery Heritage Fund’s vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future as set out in our strategic plan, Heritage 2033.

Over the next ten years, the Heritage Fund aims to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to bring about benefits for people, places and the natural environment.

The Heritage Fund helps protect, transform and share the things from the past that people care about, from popular museums and historic places, our natural environment and fragile species, to the languages and cultural traditions that celebrate who we are.

The Heritage Fund is passionate about heritage and committed to driving innovation and collaboration to make a positive difference to people's lives today, while leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Follow @HeritageFundUK on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund [www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk).

## **Further information**

For further information, images and interviews please contact Maggie Smith at the Saltaire Collection on 07917357763 or Steph Webb on [stephwebb01@btinternet.com](mailto:stephwebb01@btinternet.com)

### **Images include**

1. Circa 1861/62 Original Architects Drawing. The Bath and Wash Houses
2. 1868 night school poster
3. 1866 Plans for Overlookers and Workers houses
4. Collection volunteers working together