**NEWS RELEASE**

For immediate release

**The Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum has received £4300 National Lottery support to help address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on heritage**

The Cottage Museum has received £4300 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to help with the running costs of the museum and the additional costs of making the museum Covid safe.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown began, the Cottage Museum was unable to open for the 2020 season as planned and did not open its doors until August 1st when easing of restrictions allowed and the museum had put in place social distancing measures and all the other Covid secure requirements.

**David Hill, Chairman at the Cottage Museum** said: “Thanks to the National Lottery and its players, we can now minimise the financial losses we would otherwise have made. Most of the grant will be used to help pay salaries for two members of staff to be on duty together, during the times that we are open. Part of their additional duties is to take details for track and trace, do extra cleaning during and at the end of the day and to make sure social distancing measures are observed in order to keep the Museum Covid-secure. We’re grateful that The National Lottery Heritage Fund is supporting us at this crucial time – it’s a lifeline to us and others who are passionate about sustaining heritage for the benefit of all.”

Part of the grant was awarded to buy two 'Touch free floor-standing' hand sanitising stations which will be located in the community room and will add to the other measures being put in place to make the community room Covid-secure by mid October.

The funding, made possible by National Lottery players, was awarded through The National Lottery Heritage Fund’s *Heritage Emergency Fund*. £50million was made available to provide emergency funding for those most in need across the heritage sector. The UK-wide fund was aimed to address both immediate emergency actions and help organisations to start thinking about recovery. In addition the Parish Council has provided additional sanitising gel to use in the Museum and social distancing notices.

**Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive of The National Lottery Heritage Fund**, said: “Heritage has an essential role to play in making communities better places to live, supporting economic regeneration and benefiting our personal wellbeing. All of these things are going to be even more important as we emerge from this current crisis. Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, we are pleased to be able to lend our support to organisations such as the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum during this uncertain time.”

Like the Cottage Museum, other charities and organisations across the UK that have been affected by the unprecedented impact of the coronavirus outbreak and are being given access to a comprehensive package of support of up to £600 million of repurposed money from The National Lottery. This money is supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our communities and spans the arts, community, charity, heritage, education, environment and sports sectors.

Thanks to National Lottery players, £30 million is raised every week for good causes, including heritage of local and national importance. By playing The National Lottery, people up and down the country are making an amazing contribution to the nationwide-response to combating the impact of COVID-19 on local communities across the UK.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund’s Heritage Emergency Fund is now closed for applications. To find out more about how The National Heritage Emergency Fund is supporting the sector at this time please visit: https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/responding-coronavirus-covid-19

To find out more about the National Lottery Good Causes , visit: www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/coronavirus-pandemic-response

**ENDS**

**Photo: \_**DSC9262-1 - A “Mu\sic in the Garden” event held last year, bringing many people together, both local and visitors on holiday, for a pleasant afternoon of music held in the museum grounds.