

PRESS RELEASE

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Hull celebrates proud fishing heritage

Hull's rich fishing heritage is to be celebrated at an evening of inspiring stories that will make you laugh, cry, but above all feel proud of the city's fishing roots.

Fishing Heritage Talks: An Evening with Alec and Peter is taking place on Friday June 30 at the beautifully restored 'Fishermen's Church', St. John the Baptist off Hessle Road.

Dr Alec Gill MBE has documented life on Hessle Road for decades through photography and has authored many books about Hull's fishing heritage. He will share stories about the Hessle Road fishing community and talk about the brave plight of Hull's Arctic Trawlermen.

Alec said: "Fishing at sea is the most dangerous job in the world. The Arctic Trawlermen were the last of the great hunters. I've always been inspired by the fishing families of Hessle Road and their relationship with the sea."

Peter Naylor is a well-known local artist who recently created popular public sculptures memorialising the 158 Squadron at Lissett and the Memorial to Lost Trawlermen which stands on St Andrew's Quay. He will give a fascinating insight into the making of the Memorial to Lost Trawlermen sculpture and sharing the story of how he designed and made the long-awaited tribute.

He said: "I'm humbled and flattered that the Lost Trawlermen's Memorial means so much to people. It's been an absolute privilege to make it."

The talks complement the Fishing Heritage Art Exhibition, a collection of artwork curated especially for Hull 2017 as part of the Creative Communities Programme. The exhibition, which runs from Friday June 23 to July 9, will include traditional paintings and drawings alongside sculpture, print, models, videos and more.

Adam Cotson, exhibition organiser, said: "As part of our 17-day festival of celebration in honour of Hull's fishing heritage, we are proud to present an evening of talks with Alec Gill and Peter Naylor. It has been a pleasure organising the Fishing Heritage Art Exhibition and it has been a privilege to have met skippers, trawlermen and local artists.

"There are so many heroic and tragic stories connected to the fishing industry and it is inspiring to hear them. These stories are central to Hull's identity and we hope to pass on some of these stories through the exhibits and talks planned."

Martin Green, Director of Hull 2017, added: "Hull's history is rooted in the fishing industry and it is important that we recognise that in the Hull 2017 programme.

"Alec has an incredible amount of knowledge about Hull's fishing industry and Peter's Lost Trawlermen's Memorial at St Andrew's Quay is a poignant tribute to those who lost their lives at sea.

"This is yet another example of the fantastic projects that are being put together as part of Hull 2017's Creative Communities Programme."

Tickets for *Fishing Heritage Talks: An Evening with Alec and Peter*, which takes place between 7pm and 10pm, cost £5 and are available from www.hullboxoffice.com/events/fishing-heritage-an-evening-with-alec-peter-fishing-heritage-talks

The Fishing Heritage Art Exhibition opens on Friday June 23 from 6pm to 9pm. It will then be open daily from 12pm to 4pm, except Saturdays, when it will be open from 10am to 4pm.

On the final night, Sunday July 9, there will be a Sea Sunday Service from 10am to 12pm which will include a special unveiling of a plaque commemorating joint losses from Hull and Iceland.

For more information, visit www.hull2017.co.uk/whatson/events/fishing-heritage-art-exhibition/

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Fishing Heritage Talks is one of 60 new projects to receive funding through the Hull 2017 Creative Communities Programme, which is being delivered in partnership with the Big Lottery Fund, a Principal Partner of Hull 2017.

A total of £750,000 is being invested in the programme, which was set up to celebrate, nurture and support local talent and develop opportunities for emerging artists.

In addition to cash from Hull 2017 and the Big Lottery Fund, the projects will receive staff support to build capacity in the arts sector, helping to create a legacy. The Creative Communities Programme is also being supported by Hull and East Riding Charitable Trust.

The projects - which range from photography exhibitions to music and food festivals and choral and orchestral concerts to audio-visual installations - will see local artists, community groups, cultural and other organisations in the city working with local people of all ages to create new artistic work, events, installations and other activity throughout 2017.

For a full list of projects visit: <https://www.hull2017.co.uk/discover/article/sixty-community-projects-inspire-creativity-across-hull-2/>

About Hull UK City of Culture

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 is a 365 day programme of cultural events and creativity inspired by the city and told to the world. Hull secured the title of UK City of Culture 2017 in November 2013. It is only the second city to hold the title and the first in England.

Divided into four seasons, starting with Made in Hull, this nationally significant event draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have made such a significant contribution to the development of art and ideas.

Hull 2017's second season, Roots and Routes, runs from April to June and explore Hull's unique place as a gateway to Europe and one of the world's busiest ports. Its maritime history and global connections inspire the stories of the city; this season of work will also celebrate Hull's international links, including Rotterdam, Reykjavik and Freetown.

Freedom runs from July to September. Building on the legacy of Hull-born anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce MP, *Freedom* will explore the concept of freedom in all its many forms. The final season, Tell the World will run from October to December.

The Culture Company was set up to deliver the Hull 2017 programme and is an independent organisation with charitable status. It has raised £32 million, with over 70 partners supporting the project, including public bodies, trusts and foundations and local and national businesses.

Key contributions are coming from: Host City - Hull City Council; Principal Partners - Arts Council England, BBC, Big Lottery Fund, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, KCOM, KWL, Spirit of 2012, Yorkshire Water and the University of Hull; Major Partners -Associated British Ports, Arco, BP, the British Council, British Film Institute, Green Port Hull, Hull Clinical Commissioning Group, MKM Building Supplies, P&O Ferries, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sewell Group, Siemens, Smith & Nephew and Wykeland Group. The National Lottery has contributed more than £10m of this funding, making it the largest single funding body for Hull 2017.

68 per cent of the funding is dedicated to public facing activities, including the widest range of cultural events in every corner of the city, with a further 11 per cent for legacy and contingency. More than £5 million is being invested in volunteering, learning and community engagement. £1.6 million is being invested to ensure a legacy after 2017. This includes capacity building, such as supporting existing events so they can grow, staging curtain-raiser events, developing future programming for after 2017 and building a new platform to support a unified ticketing system for the city.

Hull 2017's International Partners are: Aarhus, Denmark, which is European Capital of Culture 2017; Reykjavik, Iceland; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and Freetown, Sierra Leone (twinned with Hull). These relationships are reflected in a number of events throughout the year.

For information go to www.hull2017.co.uk

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About Big Lottery Fund

- The Big Lottery Fund is the largest funder of community activity in the UK. It puts people in the lead to improve their lives and communities, often through small, local projects.
- It is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by National Lottery players for good causes. Every year it invests over £650 million and awards around 12,000 grants across the UK for health, education, environment and charitable purposes.
- Since June 2004 it has awarded over £8 billion to projects that change the lives of millions of people. Since the National Lottery began in 1994, £34 billion has been raised and more than 450,000 grants awarded.

About Hull & East Riding Charitable Trust

The Hollingbery Family founded the business in 1933 with the first Comet superstore opened in Hull in 1968. The business was subsequently sold to Kingfisher and in 1985 the charity was established with the defined purpose of donating funds to help and support charities, both national and local, and other deserving causes, provided that direct benefit was forthcoming for people who live in Hull or the East Riding of Yorkshire.

For more information, including on how to apply for funds, see <http://hullandeastridingtrust.org.uk/>