

# December fun thanks to the National Lottery

From 11 to 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017 The Museum of English Rural Life is offering a free hot drink and a free gift to National Lottery players. #ThanksToYou

**The Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading will be offering a free hot drink and a free canvas bag to National Lottery players during the week of 11 to 17 December 2017. They are one of 350 participating National Lottery funded visitor attractions across the UK in saying ‘thanks’ to people who have raised money for good causes by buying a lottery ticket.**

The Museum of English Rural Life received £1.8m from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2014. The funds helped redevelop the Museum galleries and public spaces, as well as carry out an exciting programme of community activities. The new Museum reopened in October last year.

Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive of the Heritage Lottery Fund, said:

“December is a wonderful time to experience the UK’s rich, diverse and exciting heritage, which has been transformed by more than £7bn National Lottery funding since 1994. This is a small gesture of thanks and a way of giving something back to the people who buy tickets.”

The idea is simple: any visitor who presents a National Lottery ticket or scratchcard from 11 to 17 December 2017 can claim a free hot drink from the Museum café and the first 50 ticket-holders will also receive a free MERL branded canvas bag.

Isabel Hughes, Curator of The Museum of English Rural Life said: “Thanks to National Lottery players we’ve been able to complete an inspiring redisplay of our collections to appeal to contemporary

audiences including our local urban visitors as well as rural ones from further afield. We really wouldn't have been able to do all of this without that support, so thank you from all of us to all of you.”

For more information, please go to: <https://merl.reading.ac.uk/national-lottery-thank-you/>

-Ends-

### **Notes to editors**

#### **The National Lottery**

National Lottery players raise, on average, over £30 million each week for projects all over the country. In total £37 billion has been raised for Good Causes since The National Lottery began in 1994 and more than 510,000 individual grants have been made across the UK, the majority (70 per cent) of which are for £10,000 or less, helping small projects make a big difference in their community!

#### **The Heritage Lottery Fund**

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)  
@heritagelottery. For more information, please contact Katie Owen, HLF Press Office on tel: 020 7591 6036 @heritagelottery #NationalLottery