

# 25 years: our advent calendar

01/12/2019



To celebrate 25 years of National Lottery funding for heritage, we're delving into our archive this festive season to look at some of the many inspiring projects over the years.

Heritage can be so many things – memories, archives, parks, museums, landscapes, culture... This month we present just a small selection of some fantastic projects supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund over the past 25 years.

We'll be sharing a different project on each day of advent, running through each year of our 25-year history. Head to [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to see more using #NationalLottery25 #AdventCalendar.

## December 25 – Places of Poetry, 2019

In 2019, the Places of Poetry project launched the search for thousands of poems.

The project was inspired by Michael Drayton's Poly-Olbion (1612-22) which describes England and Wales. The 15,000-line poem was published with unique maps by the engraver William Hole.

An interactive map based on those 17th century maps [has been created](#). Ordnance Survey data allowed map users to zoom to a high-level of modern detail and choose where to pin their

poems – whether on a town, local landmark or street-corner.



Inspiring poetry

Communities were invited to add their own poems to the map and poem workshops took place across England and Wales.

Professor Andrew McRae of the University of Exeter, one of the project's leaders, said: "We hope the map will inspire people to write, whatever their age or experience."

"The aim is to encourage people to think about heritage from different angles, such as environmental, industrial, religious, cultural or sporting. We want to celebrate the diversity, history and character of the places around us."

## A festive poem from the map

### Christmas At Golitha Falls By Clare Dwyer

Under a hard white winter sky,

small fields of moorland grass;  
granite walls hem King Doniert's Stone.  
We drop down the steep-sided river valley.

Leaving the car, cold air hits  
sharp as lemon on the tongue.  
Hearing the peaty water busy amongst stones  
clamouring for the freedom of the sea.

We pick our way through tree roots  
exposed over time by passing feet,  
stepping on brown leaves  
their edges lightly frilled with frost.

Little trickles of bird song are woven  
into the soft sibilants of water  
pouring over, through, boulders;  
banks hang with diamante icicles.

All is just as it should be,  
this shining winter walk  
to ease our stomachs.  
We turn for home, to tea and Christmas cake.

## **Other featured projects**

### **24 December**

Tees-Swale Naturally Connected, 2018

## **23 December**

[Back from the Brink](#), 2017

## **22 December**

[Unlocking the River Severn](#), 2016

## **21 December**

[Lincoln Cathedral](#), 2015

## **20 December**

[Beamish](#), County Durham, 2014

## **19 December**

[Titanic Hotel Belfast](#), Northern Ireland, 2013

## **18 December**

[Ben Nevis](#), Scotland, 2012

## **17 December**

[Temperate House](#), Kew Gardens, 2011

## **16 December**

[The Piece Hall](#), Halifax, 2010

## **15 December**

[Stonehenge](#), Wiltshire, 2009

## **14 December**

[Mary Rose Museum](#), Portsmouth, 2008

## **13 December**

[York Minster Revealed](#), York, 2007

## **12 December**

[People's History Museum](#), Manchester, 2006

## **11 December**

[Victoria & Albert Museum](#), London, 2005

## **10 December**

[Wedgwood Museum](#), Stoke-on-Trent, 2004

## **9 December**

[Royal Festival Hall](#), London, 2003

## **8 December**

[Stowe House](#), Buckinghamshire, 2002

## **7 December**

[Imperial War Museum](#), AirSpace, Duxford, 2001

## **6 December**

[SS Great Britain](#), Bristol, 2000

## **5 December**

[Newsplan](#), UK-wide, 1999

## **4 December**

[Cardiff Castle](#), Cardiff, 1998

## **3 December**

[British Museum](#), London, 1997

## **2 December**

[Lister Park](#), Bradford, 1996

## **1 December**

[Museum of Scotland](#), Edinburgh, 1995



## 25 years of funding for heritage

[Over the past 25 years](#), The National Lottery Heritage Fund has been the largest dedicated grant funder of the UK's heritage. We've awarded £8bn to more than 44,000 projects across the UK.



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