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## **Ingestre Festival Association wins Heritage Lottery Fund Support**

Today, Ingestre Festival Association has received £9,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) through their Sharing Heritage programme, for an exciting project Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Ingestre Hall 1613 - 2013. Led by volunteers from the local community the project focuses on sharing the heritage of Ingestre Hall.

The project will enable the community to learn about Ingestre Hall's history and the skills and talents of people who helped to create it. We will hold four days of activities, from the 28 -31 August 2013 with the fourth day funded by HLF, being a day long festival which provides activities for adults and children to try out or observe skills that have survived over centuries and engage in historic talks, parades, heritage trail and music and drama workshops.

Ingestre is a small rural community with less than 200 residents. It has a rich built and landscape heritage dating back to the Bronze Age. It first appeared in the Domesday Book in 1086. Ingestre Hall was built in 1613 was home to the Earls of Shrewsbury and was bought in 1960 by Sandwell Council who use it as a residential arts centre.

Ingestre Festival Association was set up to hold festivals to celebrate this rich heritage, to share, learn about and enjoy the skills and talents of people as well as significant events of historic, cultural and social interest with the wider community. They are supported in this by many local organisations whose range of skills is amazing. *Opera Ingestre, Chetwynd Choir, Theatre Ingestre, Ingestre Stables, Andante Choir, Ingestre Church, Ingestre Bell ringers, Ingestre Residential Arts Centre (owned by Sandwell Council), Ingestre & Tixall History Society, Stafford Archers, Friends of Ingestre Orangery (leased by Sandwell Council to them) and Ingestre Park Golf Club. We are also grateful to our sponsors.*

Gill Broadbent said: "We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and are confident that the project will enable us to create, in a wide range of formats, the first detailed record of Ingestre Hall's rich heritage which can then be shared with everyone."

Reyahn King, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund West Midlands, said: "Sharing Heritage is a wonderful opportunity for communities to delve into their local heritage and we are delighted to be able to offer this grant so that Celebrating the 400th anniversary of Ingestre Hall 1613-2013 can embark on a real journey of discovery. Heritage means such different things to different people, and HLF's funding offers a wealth of opportunities for groups to explore and celebrate what's important to them in their area."

