

Press Release: Print Works

Immediate



National Lottery Heritage Fund say ‘start the press’!

A new project is set to celebrate the Isle of Thanet’s lost printing industry, after Kent arts organisation Appletye received a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The £26,600 grant for the Print Works project will enable Appletye to catalogue and digitise archives from Margate firms The Thanet Press and Martell Press, and record the stories of the people who worked there. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the project focuses not just on the work of the industry, but also the clubs, social societies and life of the families involved in the firms.

Founded over a hundred years ago as part of the Bobby & Co group, The Thanet Press was taken over by Eyre & Spottiswoode when their London factory was destroyed in the Second World War. It became a nationally-important printer with clients including the Royal Family, national galleries & museums, and Government. The Thanet Press site is currently being redeveloped, as Tracey Emin’s new studio, an artist print studio, and gallery space.

Martell Press, founded by brothers Charles and Henry, was a commercial printer active during the heyday of the Isle’s tourism industry and serving many tourism-related businesses. In the later years of the business, Martell Press was based on Northdown Road, Cliftonville. That building is now a coffee shop.

For Print Works, young people from Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate will explore the archive and collect stories from people who worked at The Thanet Press and Martell Press. The Special Collections team at the Templeman Library, University of Kent will train the young people. They will also have opportunities to see how the printing industry worked, producing prints on small presses. At the end of the project, the young people will hold a celebratory event, and the story

they uncover will be told in an exhibition at the Templeman Library, on the university's Canterbury campus.

“The archives from our two printers tell a story of an Isle of Thanet industry that was highly skilled, and nationally known,” says project manager Dawn Cole, “and it’s important that we capture that now, as the old sites are being redeveloped.”

Print Works will be launched in May. For further information, visit www.appletye.org or the organisation’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Appletye.org

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Notes to editors

About Appletye

Appletye develops and manages arts and heritage projects, and provides resources, training, and professional development for heritage professionals working with artists, and for artists working with archives, heritage assets, and heritage sites. Exploring the role of archives and heritage in artistic practice, and the role of the arts in understanding, opening up and informing archives and heritage, Appletye is a new organisation, set up by experienced arts and heritage professionals.

www.appletye.org

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund



Using money raised by the National Lottery, we Inspire, lead and resource the UK’s heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future.

www.heritagefund.org.uk.

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