

30 years of Game Changing Moments

Celebrating three decades
of transformative impact
on UK national life.

The National Lottery
x Thomas Duke



30 YEARS
OF CHANGING LIVES

30 years of Game Changing Moments

Since its launch in November 1994, The National Lottery has been a game changer for communities, heritage, sport, arts and film, funding hundreds of thousands of projects across the UK. Creating community spirit and national pride. Championing unsung heroes, creative genius and sporting sensations. Saving species, landmarks and even lives. All thanks to National Lottery players.

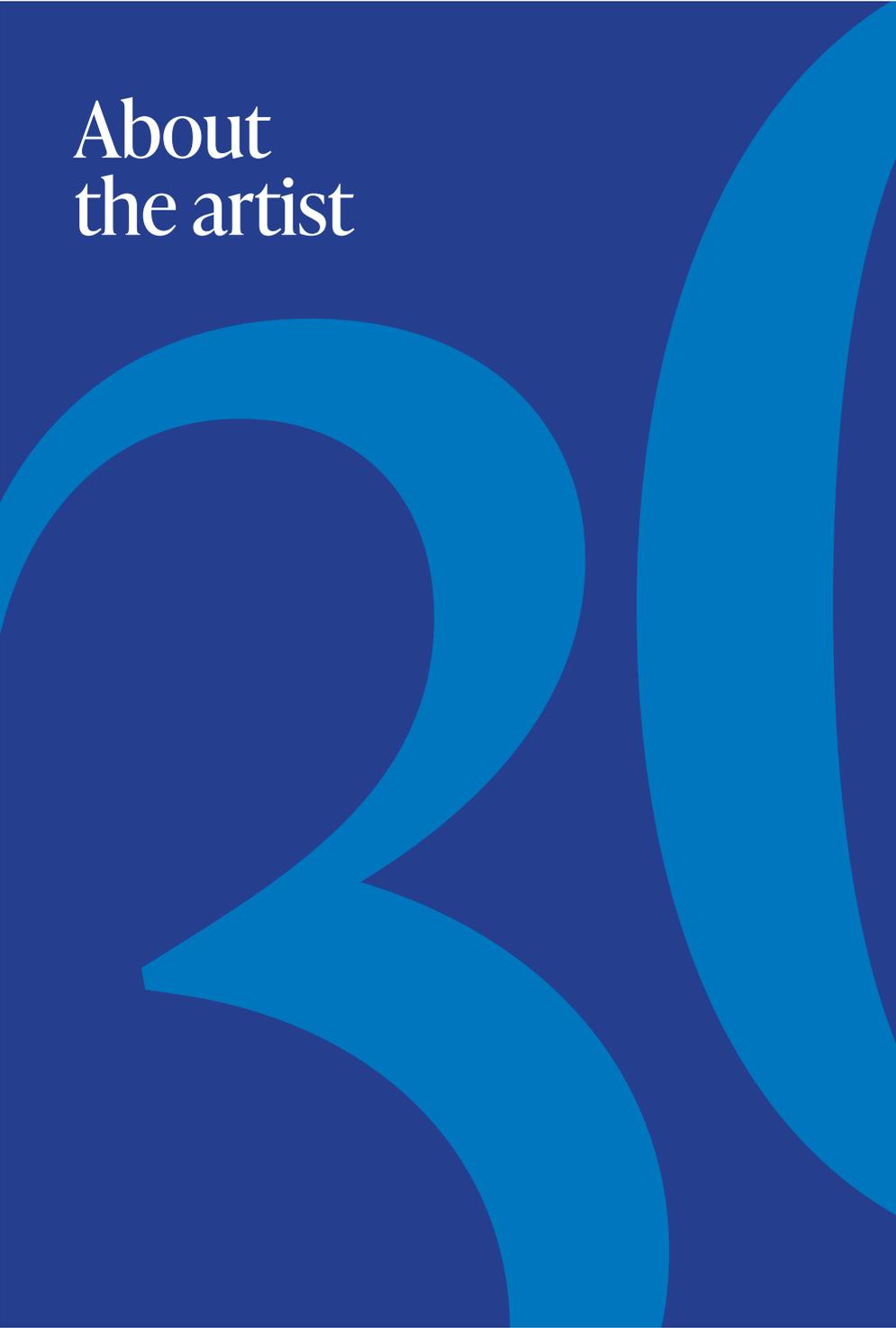
To mark its 30th year, The National Lottery has curated a photography exhibition that features the iconic, Game Changing Moments from the past three decades that National Lottery funding has helped make possible.

Game Changing Moments that are the culmination of years of funding, commitment, training, belief, volunteering, tenacity and much, much more.

That is what this exhibition celebrates.

We would like to extend our enormous gratitude to everyone who contributed to these moments and this exhibition, and to the National Portrait Gallery for hosting it.

About the artist



Thomas Duke

Thomas Duke, known online as @steppingthroughfilm, is a rising social media influencer renowned for his unique approach to cinematic storytelling and visual art. Through his platform, Thomas combines his passion for film with stunning photography, blending both mediums to create a nostalgic, film-like aesthetic that has captivated audiences worldwide. His work involves tracking down the places where iconic film moments took place and holding up a photograph or a still in front of the actual location, aligning it perfectly to create a seamless blend of fiction and reality.

For The National Lottery's 30th birthday exhibition, Thomas has travelled the length and breadth of the UK to recreate 30 Game Changing Moments that The National Lottery funded over the last 30 years, in the style for which he has become famed.

Thomas's rephotographed concept, which seeks to 'see the invisible in the everyday', becomes symbolic of the journey to and impact of those moments. For each, there is real world context, a backstory, and a ripple effect. And a pivotal and often unknown role played by The National Lottery in making them happen.

1994

Sir John Major launches The National Lottery and buys a ticket at a London newsagent

On 19 November 1994, Prime Minister Sir John Major bought a ticket to launch The National Lottery with the ambition that it could “fund a rebirth of cultural and sporting life in Britain.” Notwithstanding his recollection of a panicked few moments when he had to consider what would happen if he actually won the first draw (and what Norma might say when he gave the money back!), he said in 1999 that The National Lottery was “the most successful innovation of any government for years”.

Thirty years after the launch, that statement still rings true with billions having been raised for good causes across the UK, supporting more than 700,000 game changing projects that change lives every day.

With thanks
and credit to:
Sir John Major



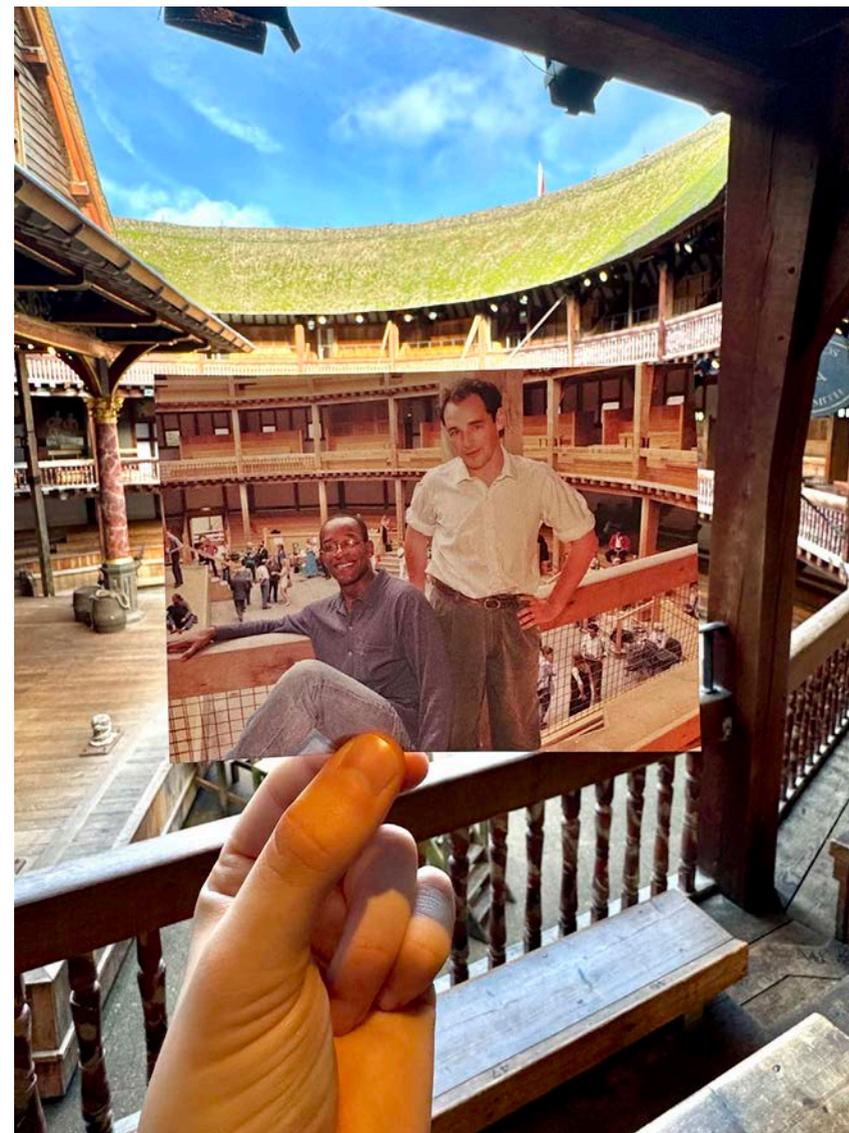
1997

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre opens in London

In 1949, American actor Sam Wanamaker arrived in London and was struck by the absence of an extensive tribute to the original Globe Theatre, finding only a small plaque marking its historic site. Inspired to fill this void, he embarked on a mission in 1970 to reconstruct Shakespeare's Globe on Bankside, committed to using historical materials, designs, and tools wherever possible. Wanamaker set the project in motion, but it depended on the collaboration of numerous architects, scholars, theatre practitioners, craftspeople, and passionate supporters, who worked tirelessly over three decades to bring his vision to life.

Though Wanamaker did not live to see its completion, the theatre opened in 1997 with the help of a £12.5 million National Lottery grant. It has since staged thousands of performances, welcoming millions from around the world and reshaping UK theatre. By making Shakespeare's works more accessible and relevant to today's diverse audiences, the Globe stands in tribute to the unifying power of theatre to bring people together and cultivate a sense of belonging.

With thanks
and credit to:
Globe Theatre
Mark Rylance
Lennie James



1998

Sir Antony Gormley's 'Angel of The North' is unveiled near Gateshead

In 1998, Sir Antony Gormley's 'Angel of the North' was unveiled near Gateshead, towering as a striking symbol of north-east England's transition from an industrial past to a cultural future. Standing 20 metres tall, with an impressive 54-metre wingspan, the 'Angel of the North' was intended to convey a sense of hope, and embrace those who viewed it. The National Lottery played a crucial role, providing more than £500,000 in funding via Arts Council England to realise the vision.

Since its unveiling, the 'Angel' has become one of the most recognisable and viewed pieces of public art in the UK, and draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Its success proved that regional communities could flourish as cultural hubs, inspiring investment and creativity beyond city centres. Today, the 'Angel of the North' remains an iconic landmark, a testament to the north-east's spirit, and a pioneering example of art's power to unify communities.

With thanks
and credit to:
Antony Gormley
Gateshead Council



2001

The Eden Project opens in Cornwall

The Eden Project opened in 2001, transforming a disused clay pit in Cornwall into an ecological marvel and international tourist destination. Founded by Sir Tim Smit, Eden's aim was to promote environmental sustainability and reconnect people with nature. Its two massive biomes house thousands of plant species from diverse climates and environments.

Today, the Eden Project attracts over a million visitors each year. It serves as a living demonstration of the interdependence between plants, people and resources. It continues to have true worldwide impact, promoting ecological awareness, contributing to scientific research and global discussions on climate change and sustainability, and inspiring positive action for the planet.

The National Lottery contributed more than £56 million towards the creation of the Eden Project.

With thanks
and credit to:
The Eden Project



2002

The Isle of Gigha is bought by its community

The Isle of Gigha is a small, picturesque island off the west coast of Scotland. When the island was put on the market in 2001 by its last private owner, the community decided to buy the island themselves, for themselves. With support from The National Lottery, the island secured its self-ownership and preserved its unique culture, heritage and community for future generations.

The community ownership has fostered a sustainable approach to island life, preserving its natural environment and promoting eco-friendly tourism and local enterprise. After this successful buy-out, the communities of South Uist, Assynt and North Harris were inspired to buy their own islands too.

With thanks
and credit to:
The Isle of Gigha
Heritage Trust



2002

Bend It Like Beckham is released

Released in 2002 with backing from The National Lottery, Bend It Like Beckham broke new ground for UK cinema by capturing the experience of a British-Indian girl navigating cultural expectations while pursuing her dream of playing football. Director and writer Gurinder Chadha's ground-breaking film highlighted themes of ethnic identity and gender, resonating with audiences as a reflection of modern multicultural Great Britain. It made overnight stars of lead actors Parminder Nagra and Keira Knightley.

Bend It Like Beckham galvanised a generation of female athletes, with several of the 2022 Euro-winning Lionesses citing the role the film played in inspiring them to build footballing careers. Today it remains a cultural touchstone, celebrated for its contribution to film and the increased visibility it brought to women's sport and diverse voices.

**With thanks
and credit to:**
Gurinder Chadha
Bend It Networks
Parminder Nagra
Hayes & Yeading
United F.C.
British Film Institute
(BFI)



2005

Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson wins two gold medals at the 2005 Paralympic World Cup in Manchester

The eyes of the world were on Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson when she won two gold medals at the 2005 Paralympic World Cup in Manchester. She competed in wheelchair racing and secured victories in both the 100 metres and 400 metres events.

Tanni is one of Wales' most successful athletes and regarded as one of the UK's greatest Paralympians, having won 16 Paralympic medals, including 11 gold medals over five Paralympics Games, in the course of her career. She's also held over 30 world records and won the London Marathon six times between 1997 and 2002. Supported throughout her career by The National Lottery, Grey-Thompson is known for her unwavering dedication. She helped elevate Paralympic sports, and her work with organisations like the British Paralympic Association has ensured greater visibility and support for disabled athletes. She is currently Chair of Sport Wales.

With thanks
and credit to:
Baroness Tanni
Grey-Thompson
Manchester
Regional Arena



2006

This Is England is released

Shane Meadows' groundbreaking and powerful film *This Is England* struck a chord with audiences by authentically capturing the gritty realities of working-class England during the 1980s. The film tackled issues of racism, dislocation, and identity, resonating deeply with viewers, and led to the creation of three sequel TV series.

Produced by Sheffield's Warp Films with backing from The National Lottery, *This Is England* launched the careers of a number of actors from the East Midlands and Lincolnshire, including Thomas Turgoose, Jack O'Connell, Stephen Graham, Michael Socha and Vicky McClure. It also confirmed Shane Meadows' reputation as one of the most exciting British directors of his generation. The film's impact endures as a portrait of a transformative period in UK history, as a legacy that highlights the role of independent cinema in tackling challenging themes about British identity, and as a launch pad for working-class talent.

**With thanks
and credit to:**
Warp Films
British Film Institute
(BFI)
Vicky McClure
Danielle James
Chanel Cresswell



2007

Dame Darcey Bussell has her final curtain call at the Royal Ballet and Opera

Dame Darcey Bussell began her illustrious career with The Royal Ballet, where she became a principal dancer at the age of 20. Renowned for her performances in iconic ballets such as Swan Lake and Romeo and Juliet, she captivated audiences with her technical prowess and emotional expressiveness.

Her final performance with The Royal Ballet took place on 8 June 2007 at the Royal Ballet and Opera (formerly the Royal Opera House); an iconic venue transformed with almost £20 million of National Lottery funding. Bussell performed the title role in "Song of the Earth," choreographed by Kenneth MacMillan to the music of Gustav Mahler. The performance was a significant event, marking the end of her career as a principal dancer with The Royal Ballet in the renowned venue where she had built much of her career. Bussell's farewell was a highly emotional and celebrated occasion, honouring her contributions to ballet and her exceptional talent that inspired future generations of dancers and left an indelible mark on the arts.

With thanks
and credit to:
Dame Darcey
Bussell
Royal Ballet
and Opera



2011

The King's Speech is released

Rooted in the real-life story of King George VI, The King's Speech portrays the unexpected journey of a prince with a debilitating speech impediment, ascending to the throne. Struggling to communicate during a time of national need, George sought the guidance of speech therapist, Lionel Logue to overcome his challenges.

Released in 2011 with game changing funding from The National Lottery, the film starring Colin Firth captivated audiences globally, receiving 12 nominations and winning four Oscars, including Best Picture. By addressing the realities of stammering—a challenge affecting millions—it broke stigmas and showcased the power of determination in the face of adversity. It became the highest-grossing, most successful UK independent film of all time and set a new bar for representation in film.

With thanks
and credit to:
Colin Firth
See-Saw Films
British Film Institute
(BFI)



2011

Michael Sheen performs The Passion in Port Talbot

The vision for Port Talbot's The Passion reimagined the biblical Passion story and set it against the real-life struggles of Port Talbot, Michael Sheen's hometown. The Passion was co-directed by Michael Sheen and Bill Mitchell and created by National Lottery-backed National Theatre Wales, and by Wildworks. Owen Sheers adapted the story to reflect the local people's experience, struggles and hopes, engaging more than 1,000 locals in the cast and crew.

The play unfolded in real-time over 72 hours, drawing 25,000 spectators into the streets of Port Talbot and millions of watchers worldwide, creating a fully immersive experience that blended fiction and reality for onlookers. The experience was transformative for both the town and Sheen, who chose to move back to Wales and dedicate much of his career to community-based work after the deeply unifying experience he had in his hometown.

**With thanks
and credit to:**
Michael Sheen
National Theatre
Wales
Wildworks
Arts Council Wales



2012

The world's first parkrun on a beach takes place in Portrush

Founded by Paul Sinton-Hewitt, parkrun was a response to his own mental health challenges, using free, weekly 5k runs to foster community spirit and wellness. With National Lottery support, parkrun has become a global movement, promoting health and community across 23 countries worldwide.

In 2012, parkrun expanded to new terrain at Portrush's East Strand in County Antrim for parkrun's first beach run. Taking place on a beautiful Northern Irish beach, this parkrun welcomed participants of all ages to experience the natural beauty of the coastline in a unique community event.

With thanks and credit to:
parkrun
James Hislop
Hannah Leetch
Will Miscampbell



2012

Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Street Parties take place around the nation (including Walton Road, Bristol, pictured) and across the world

Since 2009 The Big Lunch has been uniting communities across the UK. It was an idea from the Eden Project and backed by The National Lottery Community Fund which, over time, has resulted in more than a million Big Lunch events that have made a lasting impact; fostering connection, belonging and neighbourhood pride. In the street party tradition for significant Royal occasions that dates back to the end of the First World War, in 2012 an estimated six million people participated in The Big Jubilee Lunch to honour Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. Gatherings also took place all over the world including Nigeria, Tuvalu and even the Arctic Circle.

A decade later, a record 17 million people participated in The Big Jubilee Lunch for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, and millions more joined in to mark The King's Coronation in 2023. Big Lunches sparked lasting connections, with people forming new friendships. They also raised significant funds for local causes UK-wide each year.

With thanks
and credit to:
The Eden Project
Tim Popple



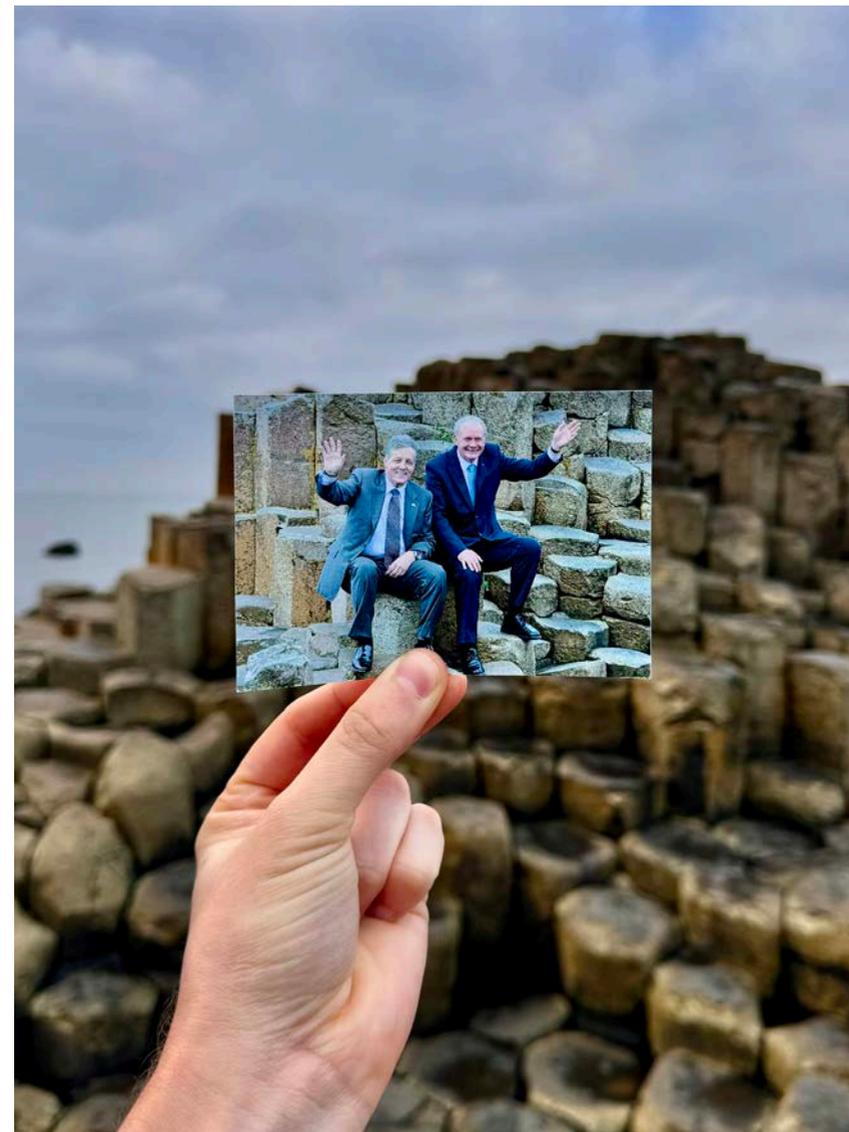
2012

The Giant's Causeway visitor centre is opened by First Minister Peter Robinson and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness

The Giant's Causeway is a UNESCO World Heritage site, visited by approximately 700,000 people each year, making it one of Northern Ireland's most popular tourist attractions. On 3 July 2012, the Giant's Causeway's visitor centre was officially opened by Northern Ireland's then First Minister Peter Robinson and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness. The £18.5m centre received £3 million from The National Lottery.

The visitor centre project represented a substantial investment in the local economy, creating jobs during its construction and ongoing employment opportunities, and encouraging tourism growth in Northern Ireland. The innovative, award-winning design by Heneghan Peng Architects harmonises with the natural landscape, showcasing Northern Ireland's commitment to blending modern architecture with heritage conservation.

With thanks
and credit to:
Peter Robinson
The family of Martin
McGuinness
National Trust
Giant's Causeway



2012

Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill wins gold in the Heptathlon at the London Olympics on 'Super Saturday'

On Saturday 4 August 2012, Jess Ennis-Hill crossed the finish line at the London Stadium (formerly the Olympic Stadium) taking home gold in the Heptathlon. It was a night filled with celebration as Team GB clinched three athletics gold medals in the space of just 44 minutes. Twelve years and three Olympic Games later, the iconic 'Super Saturday' is still regarded as one of the UK's greatest sporting moments.

Ennis-Hill's performance ignited proud jubilation across the nation. The day also marked a turning point for women's sports, with Jess's performance inspiring countless young athletes to pursue their passions. Ennis-Hill's legacy continues to elevate women's athletics to this day.

National Lottery players contributed an amazing £2.2 billion towards the sporting and cultural success of the London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

With thanks
and credit to:
Dame Jessica
Ennis-Hill
British Athletics



2013

Derry-Londonderry becomes the UK's first City of Culture

Derry-Londonderry's designation as the UK's first City of Culture marked a transformative milestone for the city. Emerging from a complex history of social and political divides, the accolade, which was supported with funding from The National Lottery, brought a year of cultural festivities that bridged communities, bolstered pride, and showcased Derry-Londonderry's vibrant heritage on a global stage.

Event highlights included the Turner Prize, The Royal Ballet's first visit in over a decade, Lumiere's enchanting light installations, Frank Cottrell Boyce's iconic Return of Colmcille, and the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, the largest festival of Irish culture anywhere in the world, held in Northern Ireland for the first time. These events not only drew hundreds of thousands of visitors but also boosted local tourism by 50%, contributing £47 million to the economy.

With thanks
and credit to:
Derry City and
Strabane District
Council



2013

The Mary Rose Museum opens in Portsmouth

The Mary Rose is the only sixteenth century warship on display anywhere in the world and represents everyday life from 500 years ago. The conservation of Henry VIII's favourite warship, the Mary Rose, has been one of the largest and most complex programmes of its type. The excavation and raising of the Mary Rose created a milestone in the field of maritime archaeology and remains the largest underwater excavation and recovery ever undertaken.

In 2013, the opening of the Mary Rose Museum marked just over 30 years since the hull of the ship was raised from The Solent, 437 years after she sank. The new museum finally reunited the ship with many thousands of the 19,000 registered artefacts raised from the wreck, and attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world each year.

With thanks
and credit to:
The Mary Rose
Museum



2014

The Kelpies by sculptor Andy Scott are unveiled in Falkirk

The Kelpies, a pair of monumental steel horse heads designed by sculptor Andy Scott, were unveiled in 2014. The largest equine sculptures in the world stand proudly at 30 metres tall, and pay tribute to Scotland's horse-powered industrial heritage, via the mythological water spirits known as Kelpies. Funding totalling £25 million from The National Lottery transformed under-used land into The Helix, where the Kelpies are located, and created an incredible living landmark at the heart of the community.

With backing from a partnership between The Big Lottery Fund, Falkirk Council and Scottish Canals, the Kelpies reshaped Falkirk's landscape, attracting millions of visitors and establishing themselves as one of Scotland's most photographed and celebrated landmarks.

With thanks
and credit to:
Andy Scott
The Helix
Scottish Canals
Falkirk Council



2014

Neil Fachie wins gold in the 1000m Time Trial B2 Tandem with his pilot Craig MacLean at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games

Neil Fachie was born with retinitis pigmentosa, a congenital eye condition that has severely diminished his sight. He first appeared on the Paralympic scene as a track athlete at the 2008 Beijing Games, but subsequently lost his funding after failing to make the podium in both events.

But the resilient competitor refused to give up. He turned up at British Cycling HQ in Manchester, intent on reinventing himself as a cyclist. By the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, Fachie was a success as a six-time world champion, multiple world record holder and Paralympic gold and silver medallist at London 2012. He stormed to gold in the Velodrome with pilot Craig MacLean, winning the 1000m time trial B2 tandem to the delight of a capacity crowd. The National Lottery played a vital role in the success of the 2014 competition by providing significant funding for venue development, athlete preparation, and community engagement initiatives.

With thanks
and credit to:
Neil Fachie
Craig MacLean
Glasgow Life/ Sir
Chris Hoy Velodrome
Commonwealth
Games Scotland



2014

Bletchley Park reopens after a major restoration

Bletchley Park was once one of the world's best kept secrets, as home of the Government Code and Cypher School during World War Two and the hub of Allied code breaking efforts. After the war, the organisation left the site and some of the buildings that housed the Codebreakers were taken over and repurposed, with the occupants unaware of their importance. Other huts and blocks around the site fell into disrepair. No one was allowed to tell the story of what happened there until 1974, when information about Bletchley Park began to be declassified.

In 2009, a painstaking restoration, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, began to bring some of the most derelict historic buildings back to life. With few photographs of the interiors to work with, Bletchley Park looked to its most valuable resource - the veterans. Their testimonies revealed details that allowed the huts to be recreated as they looked during the war. The site now welcomes around 250,000 visitors per year, allowing Bletchley Park to continue to tell its story of ingenuity and human endeavour to future generations.

With thanks
and credit to:
Bletchley Park



2015

Richard III is reinterred at Leicester Cathedral

The reinterment of Richard III took place on 26th March 2015 at Leicester Cathedral, following the discovery of his lost remains beneath a car park in Leicester in 2012. The event marked the culmination of extensive archaeological and scientific efforts to identify the last Plantagenet king, who died in the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. The Service of Reinterment was attended by members of the British royal family and dignitaries, and was broadcast to a global audience of 350 million people, marking the end of a centuries-old mystery in English history.

National Lottery grants contributed to the beautiful funeral pall that draped the king's coffin during the ceremonies, and subsequently to supporting the development of a new exhibition centre at the Cathedral, and funding further restoration of the buildings in the area around Leicester Cathedral.

With thanks
and credit to:
Leicester Cathedral



2016

Paapa Essiedu plays Hamlet in the Royal Shakespeare Company's production at The Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon

In 2016, the Royal Shakespeare Company, a recipient of significant backing from The National Lottery and Arts Council England, cast Paapa Essiedu as Hamlet, the first black actor to play the role at the RSC. Set in an African military state, Simon Godwin's production reimaged Shakespeare's classic in a contemporary and confronting context.

The production pushed boundaries and celebrated diversity in UK theatre, inspiring future casting inclusivity and redefining Shakespeare's reach. Essiedu's acclaimed portrayal broke barriers and earned him Best Performance in a Play at the UK Theatre Awards.

With thanks
and credit to:
Royal Shakespeare
Company (RSC)
Paapa Essiedu
Ewart James Walters



2018

Golden Eagles are reintroduced in Dumfries, Galloway and the Scottish Borders

The pioneering South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project has boosted a previously low population of golden eagles to record numbers, with around 48 golden eagles now soaring in southern Scottish skies—the highest number recorded here in the last three centuries.

The initiative's groundbreaking translocations began in 2018 and since then, have brought 28 juvenile golden eagles (aged six to eight weeks) from the Scottish Highlands and islands to the south of Scotland. The project was also the first in the world to successfully translocate 15 free-flying young golden eagles (aged between six months and three years) to boost the low population of this iconic bird. Several of the translocated birds have established territories and are beginning to pair bonds, indicating potential for future breeding. The project, which has been supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and over 30,000 volunteers and participants, is on track to achieve its long-term goal of a sustainable golden eagle population in southern Scotland. The team will relaunch as a new charity: RUN (Restoring Upland Nature) in 2025.

With thanks and credit to:
South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project



2018

Geraint Thomas wins the Tour De France and is cheered by fans at a homecoming victory parade in Cardiff

Geraint Thomas' dreams of becoming a professional cyclist began when he was growing up in Cardiff. He joined the National Lottery-funded Maindy Flyers cycling club at the age of 10 where he began honing skills which led to him becoming the first Welsh person to win the Tour de France in 2018. Thomas gained the yellow jersey by winning stage 11, extending his lead by winning stage 12, and retaining the lead for the remainder of the race. Greeted with a hero's return, thousands of adoring supporters took to the streets of Cardiff to celebrate Thomas's triumph as he cycled on a victory parade through his hometown, where it all began.

The achievement was a historic moment for Welsh sport, and for Thomas, having overcome numerous setbacks and injuries. The win elevated his status among cycling's elite and inspired many young cyclists, contributing to the growing popularity of the sport in Wales and the UK, and leaving a lasting legacy.

With thanks
and credit to:
Geraint Thomas
Nick Treharne



2018

The Remembrance art installation, 'Poppies: Wave and Weeping Window', is displayed at the Imperial War Museum, London

The major art installation, Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red at the Tower of London, marked 100 years since the first full day of Britain's involvement in the First World War. Created by artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, 888,246 ceramic poppies progressively filled the Tower's moat to remember each British fatality in the war.

With support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, parts of the poppy installation, known as Poppies: Wave and Weeping Window, were then toured around the UK in 2018 at iconic landmarks –including a temporary display at Imperial War Museum London and Imperial War Museum North—to help visitors refresh their understanding of the poppy as a symbol of the very human cost of war.

With thanks
and credit to:
Imperial War
Museum



2022

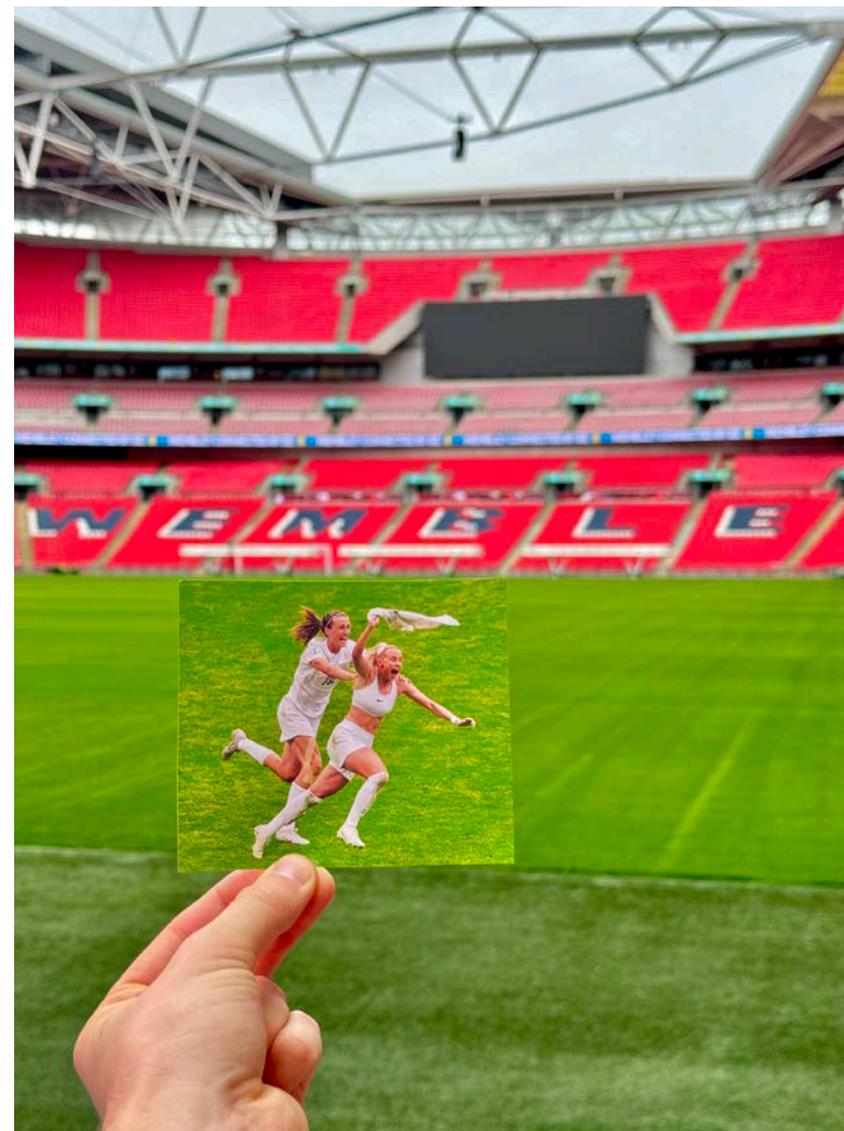
Chloe Kelly celebrates scoring the winning goal at the 2022 Euros Final at Wembley

Chloe Kelly's winning goal celebration at the UEFA Women's Euro Final was instantly iconic. Reeling away, swirling her shirt above her head as she was chased by her teammates, the success story of Chloe and her 22 fellow Lionesses became one for the nation to revel in.

England's victory—the culmination of years of work—took place in front of thousands of people and was a major moment for women's football; inspiring millions, driving record attendances at women's matches and fuelling a surge in grassroots participation. But the impact of the win went way beyond football, sparking national pride, igniting challenges towards gender equality in sports and female representation in the media, and boosting investment and visibility for women's leagues and competitions.

From funding grassroots initiatives and facilities to providing funding to support England's hosting of the UEFA European Women's Championship in 2022, The National Lottery is proud to be part of the journey.

With thanks
and credit to:
The FA
UEFA
Chloe Kelly
Jill Scott



2023

Flying Scotsman's centenary celebrations are launched in Edinburgh

Flying Scotsman, which first left Doncaster Works in February 1923, is synonymous with the golden age of rail travel. Designed by Sir Nigel Gresley, Flying Scotsman became the first steam locomotive to travel non-stop from London to Edinburgh in 1928, and the first to officially reach 100 miles per hour in 1934. The locomotive went on to operate in service until 1963 and later in preservation, which included tours of the USA, Canada and Australia, where it captured the hearts of millions. The National Railway Museum has owned the locomotive since 2004 and, after an extensive overhaul supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Flying Scotsman broke records again in 2016 as the oldest mainline working locomotive on Britain's tracks.

A centenary launch at Edinburgh Waverley in February 2023 was followed by a series of nationwide events to celebrate Flying Scotsman as a national treasure, renowned as a feat of British design and engineering.

With thanks
and credit to:
National Railway
Museum
Network Rail



2023

Liverpool hosts the Eurovision Song Contest

Liverpool hosted the 67th Eurovision Song Contest in 2023 on behalf of Ukraine, symbolising solidarity and support for the war-inflicted country and blending cultural celebration with a poignant message of unity.

It was the first time Liverpool had hosted the event, and it gave the city an opportunity to showcase its rich musical heritage and vibrant cultural scene. The contest, which received support from Arts Council England, The National Lottery Heritage Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund, saw Liverpool transformed with public artworks and installations for the international music competition. The event brought substantial economic benefits to the city, attracting thousands of visitors and global attention, and further cementing Liverpool's status as a major cultural hub on the world stage.

With thanks
and credit to:
Culture Liverpool
Liverpool City
Council



2024

Fern the Diplodocus is unveiled at the Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum opened its transformed five-acre gardens in South Kensington in 2024 as part of its Urban Nature Project, which was awarded a £3.2 million grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Across two outdoor living galleries, visitors can explore the story of planet Earth since deep time and learn about the wildlife on our doorsteps. Fern the Diplodocus was also unveiled as the Museum's newest resident dinosaur in the gardens; a life-size bronze cast based on non-other than Dippy.

To construct a bronze skeleton with the trademark long neck of a Diplodocus, with no visible supports, the team mimicked the role that tendons and muscles would have had when the dinosaur was alive. The journey to creating Fern took three years of extensive collaboration between the Museum, Factum Arte and Structure Workshop. While other dinosaur skeletons are typically displayed indoors with supporting armature, Fern was a feat of incredible engineering, daring to do things differently.

With thanks and credit to:
Natural History Museum



2024

Keely Hodgkinson wins gold in the women's 800 metres at the Paris Olympics and celebrates her victory at The French Flair Bar

On 5th August 2024, after a decade of dedicated training and at just 22 years old, Keely Hodgkinson crossed the finish line of the Stade de France track to claim her gold medal in the women's 800 metres at the Paris Olympics.

Overcoming challenges including injuries and significant hearing loss, Hodgkinson had already shattered records, making waves with a silver in Tokyo and a European Indoor title by age 19. Her victory in Paris, clocked at 1:56.72, marks her as the third British woman to take Olympic gold in the 800m, inspiring millions of young athletes to pursue their dreams on the track and exemplifying resilience and excellence in UK athletics.

Since The National Lottery's funding began in 1994, UK athletes have won more than 1,000 Olympic and Paralympic medals.

With thanks
and credit to:
Keely Hodgkinson
British Athletics



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The National Lottery
x Thomas Duke



