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## **Essex Record Office to receive National Lottery Heritage Fund grant**

AN Essex Record Office (ERO) project to preserve the history and memories of former Marconi Company employees is to receive a grant of almost £100,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Part of Essex 2020, the project, '*Communicating Connections: Sharing the heritage of the Marconi Company's wireless world*', is to receive £93,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and aims to preserve the memories of former employees - and others involved with Marconi - through interviews recorded by volunteers. Further funding has also come from Chelmsford City Council's Essex 2020 fund, which provided £2000, and the Friends of Historic Essex.

Founded by Guglielmo Marconi, the company is famous for making the first ever transatlantic wireless communication, which was received in Newfoundland, Canada. Local residents and visitors will be able to learn more about Marconi, and the company's connections to Chelmsford, via an audio trail app which will be developed, while a selection from over 150,000 images at ERO and Chelmsford Museums will be digitised and made available to the public.

Due to the significance of the Marconi Company in Chelmsford's and the country's industrial heritage, temporary exhibitions featuring interviews and images will also be held in the city centre and will be co-curated by a team of dedicated volunteers.

Councillor Susan Barker, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Customer, Communities, Culture and Corporate, said: "To receive such a large grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund is absolutely wonderful. This project will not only allow us to celebrate the rich history of the Marconi Company and its historical connections with Chelmsford but it will also provide an informative and educational experience for all of our residents and visitors."

Richard Anderson, Essex Record Office Archive and Collections Lead, commented: "We are delighted with the grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund as it will allow us to raise awareness of the Marconi Company and its links to Chelmsford's heritage and history.

"We're extremely grateful to our partners, the Marconi Veterans Association, Chelmsford Civic Society, as well as Chelmsford Museums, for their help in developing the project and with Teledyne e2V as they are directly linked to Marconi and have input into this unique industrial heritage."

Dr Mark Curteis, Assistant Museums Manager at Chelmsford City Museum, stated: "Chelmsford City Museum are proud to partner with the Essex Record Office on the project. It fits perfectly with our mission to inspire residents and visitors to discover and explore Chelmsford's stories through shared experiences.

"In this centenary year, it offers a landmark opportunity to foster the sense of civic pride local people have in our Marconi heritage and demonstrate how this legacy continues to influence our lives today."



Dr Katie Deverell, Cultural Partnerships Manager at Chelmsford City Council and co-ordinator of Chelmsford's Essex 2020 hub, added: "The archive is such an important local and national resource, as well as a great example of local science and creativity. Our Essex2020 funding panel were keen to support ERO's ambition to make the archive accessible in new and creative ways.

"The panel were particularly supportive of the engagement of volunteers in the project and saw it as a strength that their voices and experiences would be represented."

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**Notes for editors:**

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**Explore Essex:** Explore Essex brings together a unique group of parks and heritage venues which are owned by Essex County Council. Its mission is to deliver a broad range of exciting facilities and events for the people of Essex. [www.explore-essex.com](http://www.explore-essex.com)

**Essex Record Office:** Established in 1938, the Essex Record Office cares for documents, maps, images, and sound and video recordings that together tell the stories of over 1000 years of Essex history. The public Searchroom is currently closed, but some of the records can be viewed from home through [Essex Archives Online](http://www.essexrecordoffice.co.uk/). <https://www.essexrecordoffice.co.uk/>

**Essex 2020:** A Year of Science and Creativity, is the county's biggest ever public celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM). The Essex 2020 ambition is to forge new and lasting partnerships between business and industry, the arts, education and grass roots organisations, driving innovation and prosperity in the county.

**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](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk).