



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grant awarded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund for Film on Brynmawr's Forgotten Black Leader



Roy Francis playing rugby
Image Credit, The Brynmawr Museum and Historical Society

Today, The Brynmawr Museum and Historical Society has announced a £21,960 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to produce a short educational film celebrating the life and achievements of Roy Francis – a pioneering mixed-race leader raised in Brynmawr during the Great Depression.

The film will explore Roy Francis's remarkable story while preserving and sharing Brynmawr's heritage during this challenging period in its history.



Aimed primarily at young people, the project will involve them directly in shaping the film through a series of workshops. Participants will help decide the style and format of animation, ensuring the final film resonates with its intended audience. The film will also support learning during Black History Month.

Andrew White, Director for Wales, The National Lottery Heritage Fund said:

“Roy Francis’s story is an important and inspiring part of Wales’s heritage, rooted in the community of Brynmawr.

Thanks to National Lottery players, this project will bring his legacy to life for new generations while helping to preserve and share the rich history of Brynmawr and the people who shaped it.”

The project will bring together different generations of the Brynmawr community. Museum volunteers, local pensioners’ groups and Brynmawr Rotary Club members will contribute to workshops to help ensure historical accuracy. Young participants will also be encouraged to interview older residents, capturing valuable first-hand knowledge and memories.



Old Brynmawr, Market Square
Image Credit - [The Brynmawr Museum and Historical Society](#)



Alongside telling Roy Francis's story, the film will highlight Brynmawr's wider history. From its rural beginnings as a small group of farms, through industrial growth, to the hardships of the 1920s. It will also explore the Quaker-led "Brynmawr Experiment", which introduced a series of initiatives designed to bring hope and opportunity to the community during a time of economic crisis.

This project also supports the Museum's wider ambition to digitise and share Brynmawr's heritage with future generations.

John Hill the Treasurer of the Brynmawr Museum said

"We are thrilled to have received this support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players we are able to tell the incredible story of a man who was raised in Brynmawr and became a Legend in the world of Rugby League. Just as importantly we can preserve the heritage of Brynmawr."

As there is very little surviving footage of Roy Francis or Brynmawr during this period, the Museum is keen to hear from anyone who may have relevant materials. The workshops will be open to all, and anyone interested in getting involved is encouraged to get in touch via the Museum's website.

Ends

Notes for editors

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. That's why as the largest funder for the UK's heritage we are dedicated to supporting projects that connect people and communities to heritage, as set out in our strategic plan, [Heritage 2033](#). Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations. We believe in the power of heritage to ignite the imagination, offer joy and inspiration, and to build pride in place and connection to the past.

Over the next 10 years, we aim to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to make a decisive difference for people, places and communities. [heritagefund.org.uk](https://www.heritagefund.org.uk)

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Brynmawr Museum and Historical Society

For further information please visit our [website](#) or contact **John Hill** –
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