

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Wingham Timber Enhances Accessibility at Quex Gardens' Sunshine Project with Donation of Double Wheelchair Accessible Picnic Bench**

Wingham Timber, a leading provider of quality timber products, proudly delivered its donation to the Sunshine Project at Quex Gardens last week; a double wheelchair accessible picnic bench.

The Sunshine Project is an initiative based within Quex gardens at the Powell-Cotton Museum and offers volunteer opportunities for people with learning disabilities, mental health challenges and those who are socially isolated. It is about improving the lives of young people and adults with specific needs by promoting inclusivity and community engagement within the gardens.

The project was recently awarded funding of £56,960 through the AIM Connected Communities Grant, funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) 'know your neighbourhood fund' through Arts Council England (ACE). The Know your Neighbourhood fund aims to support community initiatives that foster connectivity and participation.

The picnic bench will provide a comfortable seating option for visitors to Quex Gardens, ensuring that everyone can enjoy outdoor activities and gatherings in a welcoming environment. This contribution aligns with Wingham Timber's commitment to corporate social responsibility and making a positive difference in the communities it serves.

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Chris Trickett, spokesman for Wingham Timber, said:

"We are honoured to contribute to such a worthy cause and support the invaluable work Quex Gardens and the Sunshine Project are doing in our community. We believe deeply in their mission and vision of engaging volunteer opportunities for adults with learning disabilities, mental health issues, and those who are socially isolated in our community, and we recognize the impact their efforts have on the lives of individuals and families."

Sarah-Jayne, Gardens Community Engagement Officer at Quex gardens said:

"We are immensely grateful to Wingham Timber for their generous donation. This beautiful picnic bench will not only provide an accessible seating area for our user groups, but it also symbolizes the spirit of inclusivity and community support that lies at the heart of our Sunshine Project."

The Sunshine Project's main goals aim to focus on:

- Improved accessibility to volunteering opportunities: The project will create a welcoming environment that caters to diverse needs, ensuring that volunteering opportunities are accessible to all.
- Strengthened organisational relationships: The Powell-Cotton Museum will forge stronger ties with local institutions and other partners engaged in similar work, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration.
- Reduced risk of loneliness: By offering engaging programs and support, the Sunshine Project will contribute to reduced loneliness among its participants.
- Increased levels of social connections: The project will promote social interactions, fostering a sense of belonging and connectedness within the community.



For enquiries regarding the Sunshine Project at Quex Gardens, please contact:  
Sarah-jayne.Rufaeel@powell-cottonmuseum.org

For more information about Wingham Timber and its commitment to community initiatives, visit <https://winghamtimber.com/>



Chris Trickett with Sarah-Jayne Rufaeel





Powell-Cotton Museum and Quex Gardens staff with representatives from Wingham Timber and KCC adult user group.



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### Museum Opening Times:

Museum and Gardens: Weekends and Bank Holidays. 10<sup>th</sup> Feb-March, 11-3pm, April-August, 11-4pm, September-1<sup>st</sup> November, 11-3pm.

Access to Quex House is by free guided tour with standard entry for the museum. Tours will take place throughout the day. Please note Quex House is occasionally closed on wedding days. See website for dates.

### Prices:

Adult: £4.00

Concession: £3.50

Child (4-16): £3.00

Infant (0-3): Free

### Notes to Editors:

- **The Powell-Cotton Museum** is home to some of the worlds' oldest intact habitat dioramas, the oldest of which (the Kashmir Diorama) was completed in 1910. Today, the Museum's collection includes over 20,000 World Culture objects; 6500 mammal specimens; fine and decorative arts from across Asia; approximately 8,000 archaeological finds from the Thanet coastline, and an archive of supportive material including over 30,000 photographs and 40,000 documents.
- **Quex Gardens** is a 7 acre verdant space with sweeping lawns, woodland, flower borders and a walled kitchen garden. Supported by The Powell-Cotton Trust, the gardens are evolving to become a place that is safe and enjoyable for people of all ages and needs. We work with local friends and partners to make



space for diversifying our volunteer team and to develop unique garden experiences such as 'ground to table' cooking and feasting.

- **The Powell-Cotton Museum** supports and welcomes the use of its collections for research purposes. Please contact [collections@powell-cottonmuseum.org](mailto:collections@powell-cottonmuseum.org) to enquire.
- **Opening Times and Admission** The Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House and Gardens are seasonally open on weekends and bank holidays until 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024.
- **Access** The Museum, Gardens and ground floor of the house are wheelchair and pushchair friendly, with one accessible toilet. Complimentary on-site parking is available for visitors, including two dedicated disabled bays.  
<https://www.accessibilityguides.org/content/powell-cotton-museum-house-and-gardens>
- **Travel** Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex Park, Park Lane, Birchington-on-Sea, Kent CT7 0BH  
It can be reached easily by train from London St Pancras or London Victoria to Birchington-On-Sea.  
Thanet's number 8 bus serves Birchington Square. The walk along Park Lane and into Quex Park takes under 10 minutes.  
From London take the M2, or from Canterbury the A28, and follow the signs for 'Margate' and then local signs to 'Quex Park'.
- Please direct general press enquires FAO: Lyndsay Ridley, Head of Operations at the Powell-Cotton Museum. [lyndsay.ridley@powell-cottonmuseum.org](mailto:lyndsay.ridley@powell-cottonmuseum.org)

