

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***£30,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant paves way for new William Blake Heritage Trail to celebrate poet's life***

Visitors to Felpham will be able to find out more about visionary poet William Blake's life in the village thanks to a £30,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

Students at Felpham Community College have been awarded the cash by the Heritage Lottery Fund's Young Roots programme to create an interactive heritage trail offering visitors insights into the three years Blake spent living on the south coast.

The students will spend the next few months researching Blake's time in West Sussex and writing and designing interpretation boards to be installed at key locations in the village. They will also be working with video production company Millstream Productions to provide audio-visual material relating to each location. The films will feature on a website to support the trail and will also be accessible via QR codes on each interpretation board.

Blake moved to Felpham in 1800. His cottage survives and has recently been bought by the Blake Trust. It was in Felpham that Blake famously had an altercation with the drunken soldier John Scofield, who was trespassing in his garden. This led to Blake's trial for sedition because of Scofield's allegation that he had cursed the king. While awaiting trial, Blake wrote the short poem *And Did Those Feet In Ancient Time*, which later became the hymn *Jerusalem*.

The students will be supported in their research by West Sussex Records Office, which will teach them to search archives effectively and give them access to all materials they hold relating to William Blake and his time in Felpham.

Rachel Searle, teacher at Felpham Community College, said: "....."

### **About the Heritage Lottery Fund**

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported almost 35,000 projects with more than £5.3bn across the UK. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk).