



Press Release

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Archives 4 All Initiative Sails On

This year is the 100th anniversary of the launch of the Mauretania. The Archives 4 All initiative, led by The National Archives in Kew, has supported Tyne and Wear Archives Services in drafting their bid to showcase an exhibition about the construction of the Mauretania, and the history of shipbuilding on the Tyne. The exhibition will give members of the community, both young and old, an opportunity to learn about the role that shipbuilding has played in their local history. Full funding for the year-long project - featuring objects from the ship and photographs - was awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

This is one of a range of projects that make up the Archives 4 All initiative. The Archives 4 All initiative is about engaging the community with archives and it is through projects like the Mauretania exhibit that an awareness and appreciation of archives is fostered.

Archives 4 All is phase four of a wider programme called Access 2 Archives, or A2A. Via a website hosted by The National Archives, researchers are able to search and browse for information about archives in England and Wales, dating from the eighth century to the present day. These archives are cared for in local record offices and libraries, universities, museums and national and specialist institutions across England and Wales, where they are made available to the public.

The catalogues from the Mauretania project will be searchable via the A2A database, hosted and maintained by The National Archives.

To find out more about Archives 4 All and A2A, visit <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a>