2022 Grants

An Update for West Horsley Parish Council

'[I enjoyed] working as a team, learning new skills, finding items lost to history'

Archaeological Dig Participant

The Archaeological Project

WHPC gave us £1,000 toward our *What Lies Beneath* project in 2022, which explored the archaeology of West Horsley Place.

The grant part-funded Surrey County Archaeology Unit's expert team (total professional fees £8,470), to spend a week at West Horsley Place, investigating what lies in front of the manor house. They chose two large sites in front of the house, as likely spots to tell us more about the house's history.

The professionals were helped by over 190 volunteers of all ages. We were especially pleased to have several young volunteers, including 30 students from Woking College. We also had a wonderful visit from 120 children from The Raleigh School, who were thrilled to have a first taste of archaeology.

Our finds were medieval, Tudor and later, including buttons, coins, nails.

Participants noted that they had enjoyed:

- 'Being able to experience different parts of it, digging, learning the history of the place.'
- 'Learning more about the history of the house.'
- 'the fascinating and historical site, interesting and helpful people, and the hope of finding "treasure"'

and that the benefits of taking part included: learning new skills, having new experiences, connecting with other local participants and working as a team.

Gladrags: Mulberry Room

The GladRags project was formed in 2020 - a creative community project to reinforce our togetherness during the challenging Covid19 lockdown period. The GladRags Gang are now a regular group participating weekly at West Horsley Place.

In 2022, the Gladrags Gang received £1,000 of funding from WHPC for the Mulberry Room project, which explored new skills, such as quilting and upholstery, while at the same time enhancing the overall appearance and visitor experience of the Mulberry Room at West Horsley Place.

Through its regular meetings, the group has continued to benefit from a sense of wellbeing and community. In 2022, the group enjoyed creating a patchwork quilt, cross stitch sampler, window seats and cushions, lampshades and various rugs for the Mulberry Room.

Guttering & Downpipes

£588 of our total £1,500 grant from WHPC was spent on guttering repairs and replacement on the north elevation of the Manor House (south range, within the lilypond garden).

The remaining £912 purchased approximately 15-20 metres of cast iron gutter, brackets, and necessary tools/consumables.

West Horsley Place

West Horsley Place is an extraordinary Grade I listed manor house and gardens, set within a 380-acre estate, that is being revived and opened to the public.

The entire estate and its contents were gifted to the charity by our founder, Bamber Gascoigne, in 2015. His generous philanthropy and vision allowed us to begin to bring to life 1,000 years of history and enabled us to carry out the most urgent repairs, but we now need to fundraise to complete the repair and conservation of the estate and open it to new audiences, creating a vibrant historic venue for arts and crafts alongside a thriving estate dedicated to increasing biodiversity and sustainable land management practice.

Contact

For further details about any of the projects described here, please contact:

Sarah Asher
Fundraising Manager, West Horsley Place Trust

01483 282032
westhorsleyplace.org

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