

# The Manor Trust Bedhampton

## THE ELMS PROJECT 2018-19

The trustees have resolved to carry out some very much needed works both to the exterior and the interior of this historic building. The Elms serves to house several entities, namely five apartments for the recently retired, an over-night Guest Room that also is available to a relative visiting a resident in the Lodge, the trust's 24-hour Residential Care Home next door. The Elms also provides a home to the Bedhampton Historical Collection, the Trust Office, the Secret Bookshop, which raises funds for the trust and is housed in the Library, and finally the Waterloo Room, a Regency Banqueting Hall used these days for the trust's events and on occasions used by other organisations.

This year a major project for the trustees is to replace the two old gas boilers in the basement that supply the building with hot water and heating and are beyond their expected life-time. This will be a very costly exercise and is one that can only be done in the warm months of the summer. We also are planning to carry out much needed work to update and refurbish the bathrooms of two of the apartments and to refurbish the Guest room with an all abilities toilet in the Guest room, so needed when events are held in the Waterloo Room.

However, perhaps the most exciting is the project we have called 'Refurbishments to the Strawberry Hill Neo-Gothic Elevations of The Elms, Old Bedhampton,'

The works will mainly be five-fold; the repair of the rotten aspects of the wooden doors and windows, the remoulding of the feature lionheads and other mouldings in Roman Cement, the repairs to the cracked or crumbling parts of the render on the walls and chimney stacks, the rubbing down and rustproofing of the metal fire-escape and shutters and finally the repainting of the whole, using Beeck paints on the walls etc, and Akzo-Nobel products on the wooden and metal parts.

The trustees realise that the overall costs in the region of £100,000 will be the heavy drain on the trust's resources and to help ease this burden the trust has made an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant of just over £45,000 for the exterior works just described.

The application involved much preparation, defining the quality and extent of the works needed, researching the traditional materials down their compatibility with other materials more used today, and we have been busy obtaining quotes from contractors who would carry out the work, as well as making contact with the Havant Borough Council's Conservation Officer and the trustees of the Strawberry Hill House of Richmond to seek their support.

The project manager is Richard Pratt, the trust Vice-President. He is assisted by Nigel Gossop, the trust's most energetic volunteer, very knowledgeable on whole raft of matters and contacts, and Paula Humby, the Trust Manager. Richard project managed the £26,000 refurbishment of the Tower of the Waterloo Room in 2015, so he has that experience to call upon.

In making the application, the trust's forward-looking stance has been set out, and it is notable also to recall that the HLF's funds all come from the National Lottery Players. We have submitted the application in January 2018 together with Letters of Support from our Patron, Lord Richards of Herstmonceux, Alan Mak MP for Havant, Cllr Elaine Shimbart and Mr Ron Tate on behalf of the Bidbury Mead Friends, to all of whom we are very grateful for their support. News on the progress or otherwise of our application will be posted on the site as we know it.

Below are some pictures that show the building and why the refurbishments are so necessary. Most of the shots are self-explanatory but if readers have any enquires they would like to make, please go to the 'Contact Us' page on this website.

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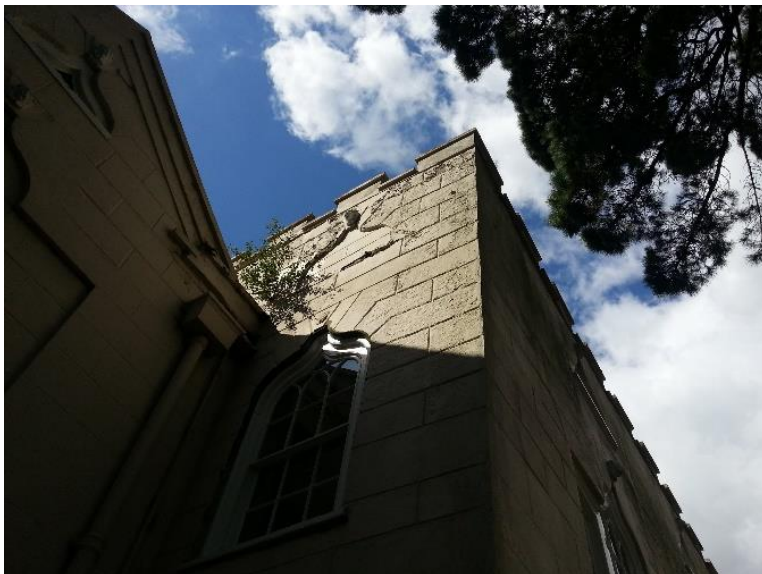




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