

Horton Chapel Arts & Heritage Society News

July 2016

Welcome to the first issue of Horton Chapel Arts & Heritage Society News

We are a group of eleven Epsom & Ewell residents, all volunteers, who are determined to see the at-risk Horton Chapel become a valuable asset for the whole community.

Our aims

We want to create a new community arts centre in the Chapel. It will be an inspiring place, offering events, education, activities and cutting edge facilities for all ages, along with a cafe for socialising. Horton Chapel would become a hub of talent, culture and creativity in our area.

A permanent exhibition will give people from the local area and beyond the chance to learn about the unique and fascinating history of the five psychiatric hospitals that shaped modern Epsom and pioneered mental health care.

To find out more about us please visit:

hortonchapelarts.org



The story so far

Our Committee was formed in January 2016. Since then we have:

- Convinced the Council to consider proposals for the Chapel from community groups.
- Secured a £10k Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Start-up Grant which allowed us to pay for architectural plans, quantity surveyor estimates and market research.
- Briefed an architect to develop plans for a modern, flexible space that enhances the building's heritage and allows local people to use all parts of the Chapel.
- Researched the Chapel's potential for performances, adult and children's courses and clubs, studios, exhibitions, fairs, digital facilities and cafe/bar social spaces.
- Undertaken professional market research with more than 400 responses.
- Become a registered charity.

90% of people we surveyed supported our vision for a community arts centre.

Links to first ever arts festival



epsom and ewell arts festival

Several members of our group were involved in organising and volunteering for the highly successful MGS04 Epsom & Ewell Arts Festival this year - the first event of its kind held in the borough - including music, art, theatre, film, photography, dance and literature.

This gives us a great platform to build on; we have a wide range of contacts and insight into the sort of arts and music events and activities that would appeal to all parts of the community.

What happens next?

The Council have given community groups a deadline in September to produce sound bids showing how they can make their ideas sustainable. We understand the Council hopes to nominate a 'preferred bidder' shortly after this.

Other groups have expressed an interest to the Council in taking over the Chapel - including three religious organisations and a martial arts club.

We are currently preparing a first-round application for a Heritage Lottery Fund Enterprise Grant, which would enable us to further develop our not-for profit business plan and apply for planning permission. If we are successful, this would be followed by a second-round application to fund the renovation works.

The HLF funding would then be added to funds that the Council is legally obliged to spend on the Chapel's restoration, refurbishment and maintenance.



How you can help

We are all volunteers, and Horton Chapel Arts & Heritage Society is keen to hear from potential donors.

If you would like to support this important community project our Treasurer David Gulland would love to hear from you. You can email him directly at: info@hortonchapelarts.org

We also need the Council to know that our vision for the Chapel is supported. If you can, please let your Councillor know you approve of our bid.

You can find their details at: epsom-ewell.gov.uk.

Keep in touch

Website: www.hortonchapelarts.org

Email: info@hortonchapelarts.org

