

DOVETALES

17th Edition – August 2015

NEWSLETTER of the
NAUNTON DOVECOTE TRUST



BRIEF UPDATE OF TRUST NEWS SINCE JANUARY 2015

First, the Trustees have decided that it would be appropriate for them to purchase the font 'Doves Type' – a typeface which was destroyed between 1916 and 1917 by its owner, who took every piece of it (12 ton in all) down to the River Thames (a little each day) and dumped it there, rather than allow his former partner to have use of it. The typeface has been recovered and reconstructed recently and the Trustees felt it was an appropriate font to use for 'Dovetales' – we hope you like it too. The full story is on the internet.

The Trustees are delighted to welcome a further 11 new 'Friends' of the Naunton Dovecote Trust – this brings our numbers up to 92 – a tantalizing eight short of our target of 100 so if you are toying with the idea of joining up, please do so now by contacting Penny Hanks at Spring Barn, Naunton (01451 850459) for the necessary forms.

As many existing Friends were confused by the list in the last issue of new members, there is a complete list of current 'Friends' at the end of this Edition so, if your name isn't there, we would love to have you.

OUR NEXT PROJECT

The main purpose of this brief edition of 'Dovetales' is just to keep villagers, Friends and interested parties informed as to our intentions for taking matters forward on the proposed repairs and improvements at the Dovecote site. We anticipate that our planning and listed building applications will be submitted by the architects in the fairly near future and wish to ensure that everyone is aware of our plans.

Since our last issue, our architects, Andrew Townsend Associates, have arranged for the site to be visited by the SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) Wind and Water Mills expert and by a structural engineer. The former did a detailed appraisal of the two water mills at the site: one of these produced electricity (turbine shed) and the other animal feed (in lean-to). He was able to confirm those aspects of the two buildings' history of which we were aware (as set out in the last Edition) and also put together a plan showing how he believed the mill in the lean-to might have been orientated. However, the concrete floor would have to be excavated to give more information on this and the Trustees hope to incorporate this exploratory excavation into the building process if at all possible so that the maximum historic input can be gleaned.

SPAB has also suggested some archives at the Gloucester Record Office which it hopes might contain more detail on how the Dovecote came into being and its history. David Pickup has kindly agreed to do some preliminary research into this for us.

Happily, the structural engineer thought the Dovecote itself was pretty stable – his only concerns focused on the bulging walls of the lean-to building. Trial pits had been dug against these walls to observe the foundations, which are considerable (1 metre deep and we didn't get to the bottom of them). He recommends that the weak parts of these walls are re-built, retaining any features which reflect past use, especially as we wish to replace the current roofing material with slate which will be heavier.

He highlighted the repairs necessary to the turbine house, which are fairly recognizable on inspection and can be rectified without difficulty. In the first instance, the Trustees are intending to cap off the walls rather than replace the roof, but this can be carried out at a later stage if need be and the roof re-built.

The 16th Edition of 'Dovetales' set out in a lot of detail the four different proposals which we were considering and, in the absence of any negative feed-back from our readers, we are now moving things forward.

To summarise, these are as follows:

1. To make the necessary repairs to the main Dovecote building as set out in the 16th Edition.
2. To repair the lean-to building on the south side, formerly the site of a water mill which ground corn for animal feed: this will involve major repairs to the walls to incorporate the features which reflect its history where possible, to strengthen the wall and timber structures and to re-instate the Welsh slate roof to the original 45° pitch.
3. To repair the turbine shed, initially 'as a ruin' – this will involve strengthening the gables and stone door frame, repairing the concrete and render which line the leat and designing a means of displaying the turbine in situ.
4. To convert Unit 4 of the stable block (by the entrance gate) to incorporate a W.C. and small kitchen. Half will be retained as a storage area for NDT/Community use generally (currently this is utilized for storing the village's flood equipment).

The current trustees are listed below so, if you have comments or questions at this stage, please contact one of us to discuss these. We will continue to keep you informed of progress and thank you all for your continuing support.

Naunton Dovecote Trust:

Trustees: Penny Hanks (Chairman), Donna Renney, Corrinne Powell, David Pickup and Stuart Corbyn

Secretary: Diana Woolley Treasurer: Gerard Hanks

Supported by Sub-Committee Members::

Pat Boulton and Barbara Steiner (Fund-Raising, Events and Publicity)

Keith Russell and Peter Bell (Site Management)

LIST OF FRIENDS OF NAUNTON DOVECOTE TRUST

Ian Adcock and Vanessa Gatford
Alasdair and Moira Anderson
Jo Archer
Jean Bacon
Millie Baker
A. C. and Vivian Barraclough
Annabelle Barton and M. Courtney
Angela Brookes and G. Cossey
Mrs. C. P. Bedford
Peter and Gilly Bell
Jim and Jeannie Beer
John and Christina Binns
David Boehm
Pat Boulton
Emma and Ben Bovill
Mrs. Mornie Button
Christina and Brian Bytheway
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Mr. and Mrs. Peter Chambers
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Corbyn
Robert Crichton
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Dominic Collier
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John Hanks Day
Matthew and Linda Delahooke
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Mrs. Margaret End
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Mr. and Mrs. Chris Goll
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G.A.J. Hanks and Sophie Hoult
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Megan and Nick Hayward
Mr. and Mrs. D. Herbert
Terri and Oliver Herbert-Davis
Mrs. C. W. Hickman
Mrs. Pam Hill and Family
David Hoult
Helen Hoult and Family
Daniel and Caroline Janner
Miss Nicola Joynes
Kylie and Geoff Kendrick
Mr. and Mrs. M. Law
Dr. Dorothy (Joan) Marsden
Mrs. M. Maughan
Mr. J. and Rev. Fiona Milton
Doug and Beryl Mitchell
Richard and Michelle Mitchell
H. R. Mould – Lifetime Friend
Oliver Newton
Jonathan and Joan Noble
Ken and Sara Ogilvie
Richard Osmond
Robert and Rosemary Parker
Corrinne Powell

Len and Nancy Quaranto
Donna Renney
Dr. Paul and Mrs. Ridoutt
David Roberts
Alex Runciman
Karen Russell
K. C. and Mrs. J. M. Russell
Victoria Sears and Family
Kate and Jamie Sanderson
Nikky and Steve Shergold
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C. M. Smyth and Family
Carole, Emma and Will Spiers
Pamela Stevenson and Paul Johnson
Brian and Mary Stevens
Chris and Delphi Stockwell
Barry and Becky Sweeney (Loftus)
Richard Tilbrook
Mr. and Mrs. D. Tucker
Mr. and Mrs. D. A. C. Turton
Cathy Twiston-Davies
Julia Ward
Tony and Jenny Wilson
Mrs. A. E. Wilkinson
Francis Witts
Mrs. Diana Woolley
Mrs. W. J. C. Young

Tenants (includes membership):
David Westhall, M and L Pettet
Pickup Family