

West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust

Media Release



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]

through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Trustees Take to the Heights to See Progress on Local Landmark Repairs

Showing no fear of scaling great heights, the Trustees of West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust along with members of the Project Team recently climbed the scaffolding of the Lye & Wollescote Cemetery Chapels building. They, along with their Heritage Lottery Fund Monitor reviewed the progress on the landmark building's repair and traditional heritage construction skills being undertaken on the chapels, thanks to National Lottery players.

West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust owns the Grade II Listed Lye & Wollescote Cemetery Chapels which is now undergoing regeneration following an award of £1million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and successful grant applications to other charitable trusts. The Trust has raised over £1m towards the cost of the project and will safeguard this Victorian landmark by creating a suite of facilities for use by Dudley Council Citizenship & Registration Services.

Specialist heritage contractors Croft Building and Conservation are leading a team using traditional building skills of joinery, stone masonry, ironworking, leadwork, and stained glass. The regeneration project has retained the key features of the outside of the building so that local people and visitors can understand and appreciate the steps involved in maintaining the structure. Inside a series of modest adaptations are being made so that the historic building can be comfortably used for future Citizenship & Registration activities.

During the spring and summer a number of events and activities have been held on site and in nearby community venues to give local people the chance to find out more about the project and future proposals. A further open event on 7 November 2015 is planned for local people to have the opportunity to see behind the scenes the steps being undertaken to bring the complex back in to working use. A growing band of Friends are volunteering to clear ivy from some of the overgrown graves in the cemetery and more are welcome to help out on site or come on tours of the cemetery's interesting graves.

To find out more about forthcoming events contact Carolyn Healy who is also establishing a Friends organisation. If you would like to visit the open day on Saturday 7 November or get involved in the Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapels Friends Group please get in touch with Carolyn by email Carolyn@redkitenetwork.co.uk or call 07805 489296 or 01952 433380.

End

Photo caption: Trustees of West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust and the Project Team review repairs to the Victorian chapels.

Notes to editors:

To find out more please contact:

Friends of Lye & Wollescote Cemetery:

Carolyn Healy: 07805 489296 email Carolyn@redkitenetwork.co.uk

West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust:

John Woodall (WMHBT Deputy Chairman): 07505 113122 email:

john.woodall@wmhbt.org.uk

David Trevis-Smith, Project Organiser: 0121 288 2007 / 07711 601560 or [david@dts-](mailto:david@dts-solutions.co.uk)

[solutions.co.uk](mailto:david@dts-solutions.co.uk) or Tarnia McAlester, Project Organiser: 01746 769409 or

tmcbuildingconservation@gmail.com

Heritage Lottery Fund:

Felix Gott, Communications Manager: 0207 591 6138 or felixg@hlf.org.uk

More information about the exciting project for the Lye & Wollescote Cemetery Chapels building can be found at the project website www.lyeandwollescote.info

Supporting information such as photographs and artists impressions are available on request.

About the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust

The West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust is a registered charity, established in 1985, with specialists in the field of building conservation giving their time on a voluntary basis to serve as Trustees and general operating funds coming from membership subscriptions. The Trust's purpose is to safeguard buildings within the West Midlands that are of historical or architectural importance. Where this cannot be achieved by simply raising awareness to the issues, the Trust will consider carrying out a conservation project itself. As a registered Building Preservation Trust, West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust is able to attract grants and low-cost loans to carry out the type of rescue scheme often necessary with 'Buildings at Risk' and in this way aims to cover the deficit in funding such projects.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife.
www.hlf.org.uk @heritagelottery @HLFWestMids