



Press Release - Autumn 2020



Restoration work at Haddon Hall continues at pace following grant from Historic Houses Foundation



Haddon Hall, one of the finest examples of a fortified manor house in existence, is set to receive funds from the Historic Houses Foundation which will enable Lord and Lady Edward Manners, the current incumbents and the first family to live at Haddon for 300 years, to carry out essential restoration work in key areas of the hall.

One of the country's most elegant and timeless stately homes, Haddon has stood strong for over nine centuries and was described by Simon Jenkins as 'the most perfect English house to survive the Middle Ages.' It became known as Sleeping Beauty, as it lay empty for over 200 years before the 9th Duke of Rutland made its renovation his life's work. Lord and Lady Edward Manners have taken up where the Duke left off, and the funds received from the Historic Houses Foundation will enable the completion of the restoration of the Norman and Medieval chapel, including the important early 15th century chancel window with fine stone tracery which is in a critical state, and the restoration of two chimneys in the medieval kitchens, which are also in a critical condition.

The Historic Houses Foundation is a major beneficiary of the Heritage Stimulus Fund, recently announced by the UK Government and Historic England, which will provide invaluable support for restoration work on some of England's most important and vulnerable historic buildings.

One of the leading funders of architectural conservation and one of the only bodies able to support buildings in private ownership, The Historic Houses Foundation identified projects most in need of support and after careful consideration, 18 nationally important properties across England were selected to benefit from these funds – of which Haddon Hall is one.

Work at Haddon has already begun and will continue over the next few months to ensure completion before reopening to the public in Spring 2021. The work will provide employment to a wide range of traditional craftsmen and building professionals in addition to other local employment opportunities.

Lord Edward Manners says: "Haddon Hall is truly grateful to the HHF for their generosity and funding that will enable essential work to be carried out here. Our elegant chapel is enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year, but it is also a parish church and it sits at the heart of our community. Visitors and church goers alike will again be able to wonder at the early 15th century chancel window and its stunning and historic stained glass. In addition, two chimneys on the point of collapse that serve our medieval kitchens will be saved. These painstaking tasks would not have been possible without this terrific grant and Lady Edward and I are particularly pleased that this highly skilled work can be undertaken by local craftsmen and talented professionals in these most uncertain of times."

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Norman Hudson OBE, Chairman of the Historic Houses Foundation says “Our grants go to historic buildings in all categories of ownership, so range far wider than the National Trust. That we have been selected as a Delivery Partner for this money indicates that the Government likes what we do and recognises the exceptionally cost efficient way in which we achieve it. It is good news for historic buildings and good news for jobs and the local community.”

For more information about Haddon Hall www.haddonhall.co.uk

Open for outdoor Mercatum Winter Artisan Market 11-14 Dec.

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