



Charity School prepares for next steps as £300k of funding is secured

Development work has begun on the [Life in the Community project](#) to restore the former Girls' Charity School and school mistress' cottage in Church Street, Edmonton. This is thanks to initial funding of £289,838 from the [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#) and a further grant of £33,640 from the [Architectural Heritage Fund](#).

The London Historic Buildings Trust and the Enfield-based [Learning for Life Charity](#) have been working together on the regeneration plans for this Grade II listed building, and input from the local community revealed a strong interest in retaining the historic connection to young people, so the project will reflect the school's educational heritage. The result will be a permanent hub where training and work experience will be provided to vulnerable young people, including those with special education needs. The space will also contain a community café and garden, as well as a venue for local events, thus supporting economic revitalisation in the Church Street community.



The project's development phase will include further design work, surveys and acquiring planning permission and listed building consent. The aim of this initial phase is to secure the substantial delivery-phase funding required to repair the buildings and bring them back to life. 'Meanwhile use' of the Charity School by the Florence Trust ([read about it here](#)), will continue until repair work begins after the 15-month development phase. The regeneration project is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

We're delighted that the former Girls' Charity School will once again provide a learning environment for young people in Enfield, and that this project will deliver further regeneration for the Church Street community.

[READ THE FULL PRESS RELEASE HERE](#)

Here's what people are saying about the Charity School's funding...

Georgina Nayler, Chair of LHBT, said "We are very pleased that this important project is making good progress, and this is down to a truly collaborative effort involving our great partners and the really important involvement of the community..."

Stuart McLeod, Director of England, London & South at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: "We're pleased to support London Historic Buildings Trust with their Edmonton Charity School project. It will bring these historic buildings back to life and offer a much-needed space for the community in Enfield..."

This article was written by volunteer Connie Booth, who has also edited this issue of the newsletter.

30TH
ANNIVERSARY
APPEAL

Thought Piece: Youth Engagement in Heritage

All too often, young people are only referred to in the heritage sector as the audience of the future, their involvement in heritage seen as necessary only for the sector's preservation and longevity. Yet youth engagement in heritage is worth so much more than this. Young people are the audiences of today, and engaging them with heritage helps us re-evaluate, rethink, and reshape dominant narratives, which in turn promotes a more inclusive and diverse understanding of history and culture. As the architects of the future, it's so important that young people have the space and encouragement needed to examine our shared cultural past. Heritage can be a source of inspiration and creativity for people of all ages. We know that heritage helps deepen community bonds, a shared sense of belonging and identity.

The heritage sector has never quite known what to do with the 12 to 25-year-old demographic. Medieval jousts, clue hunting and battle re-enactments (to name a few examples) are excellent hands-on activities and experiences which encourage engagement, but these are usually targeted for younger children. However, things are changing; the heritage sector is moving towards more immersive and interactive experiences using the latest technologies. Augmented reality features can bring sites to life in ways they never have before, and the use of digital tools and platforms makes heritage much more accessible and engaging to the tech-savvy Generation Z.

**SHOUT
OUT
LOUD**

Inviting young people into these spaces and encouraging them to respond creatively helps to demonstrate the importance and relevance of heritage to youth audiences. In 2016, the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) launched a £10 million investment to make heritage relevant to the lives of young people aged 11-25. Shout Out Loud (SOL) is English Heritage's national youth engagement programme, one of several projects created through the Kick the Dust funding from NLHF. From using 3D modelling software to map historic collections digitally, to stargazing at Stonehenge, to creating short films exploring ancestry and identity, each English Heritage youth project is aimed at engaging and empowering young people with heritage. Through SOL, English Heritage is working to break down heritage's stigma as something 'traditional', 'for older people', and 'irrelevant,' so that young people can see themselves in historic sites and in the history of their communities. Furthermore, highlighting the stories of underrepresented groups, heritage can be more inclusive and accessible to an increasingly wider audience.

Youth engagement is now a permanent fixture within English Heritage, reflecting the growing desire and trend in the sector to broaden heritage's appeal. Significantly, the three national heritage bodies of Historic England, Cadw, and Historic Environment Scotland now have dedicated activities and programmes to engage specifically with young people. Youth engagement with heritage enables new and innovative ways of connecting with our cultural past, and it's exciting to see how it will continue to dynamize the sector.



**CHANIA FOX,
VOLUNTEER**

Chania is on London Historic Buildings Trust's Marketing Committee and has been a Social Media and Communications Volunteer for the past two years. In her day-job, Chania works as English Heritage's Youth Participation Officer covering the South East and London, developing and delivering projects across its sites to engage young people with heritage.



School workshop hosted by LHBT as part of the Petticoat Lane High Street Heritage Action Zone



Testimonial from an attendee at Building Futures:

"Getting funding for a conservation project can be a daunting prospect. This course provided an excellent start - really knowledgeable speakers gave clear guidance on how to ensure a project is attractive to funders and how to tackle the process of applying for a NLHF (or other) grant. Attending the course was a real eye-opener."

Our First Building Futures Training Session

At the end of January, we launched the *Building Futures* programme with our first training session, *How to Develop Strong, Sustainable Heritage Projects*. This took place at Edmonton Green Library in Enfield, where our own Rosie Shaw and Hannah Southgate were joined by Sophia Mirchandani, from the [Cultural Consulting Network](#), in teaching the session. Sophia has worked in the heritage sector for over 25 years, and she has considerable experience in managing grant-funded community projects.

The one-day session focused on groups and projects located in Hackney, Enfield and Haringey, and we were joined by several community groups from these areas that are considering heritage projects. We had 12 attendees in total.

The morning started with a review of the first steps in starting a community heritage project, including defining the scope and aims, as well as costing the project and gaining an understanding of what funding opportunities are available. We examined a few case studies based on LHBT's projects, including a local Enfield project - the Grade II listed Former Girls' Charity School, located in the Church Street Conservation Area. The building and the conservation area were on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register, and the project's development phase was ultimately funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and the Architectural Heritage Fund. This funding was based on the community benefits of the project, as well as securing the building's future.

During the afternoon Sophia provided an introduction to the NLHF, which is one of the UK's largest dedicated funders of heritage. She gave insights into the processes and timelines of the NLHF's grants, as well as an overview of how to complete the application. The *Building Futures* training series is aimed at supporting and guiding those who are new to developing heritage projects.

OUR NEXT TRAINING SESSION FOR PROJECTS IN BRENT AND CAMDEN IS ON 9TH MAY. CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION.



**NICOLA STOREY,
VOLUNTEER**

Nicola is a Senior Built Heritage Consultant and Building Surveyor at a conservation architectural practice in west London. Throughout her time in the heritage sector, she has worked on a diverse range of projects based throughout London and the South East. Nicola started volunteering with the London Historic Building Trust in January, helping out with events and other historic building projects. She is also a SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) Guardian on the Research and Technical Committee, which advises on various SPAB matters.

Training programmes are generously supported by;



Our 30th Anniversary: a time to reflect on our achievements as we eagerly look forward and plan for our future

We are extremely proud to have saved some of London's most challenging heritage sites over the last 30 years. We have coordinated more than £7 million in funding to remove seven buildings from the Heritage at Risk Register, creating new affordable housing and workspaces, healthcare sites and community spaces across the city.

We're a very small organisation that delivers large and complex heritage projects. For many years the Trust was run by a single freelance Project Organiser, who was supported by a committed and active Board of Trustees. Looking back, it is extraordinary that projects were delivered with such limited capacity, for example, the impressive 700m relocation of the St Pancras Waterpoint.

Over the last four years we've been increasing our capacity, targeting our approach to be in line with local and national ambitions and broadening our reach to make more of a difference. This has been supported by a Capacity Building Grant from Historic England, for which we're extremely grateful. We now have two Project Managers who continue to develop new projects and activities, which enables us to maximise our impact and support more communities in engaging with and championing their local heritage. Furthermore, we've built strong partnerships with a growing number of freelance consultants and professionals. It has been a pleasure to work with such talented people and organisations.

LHBT has a clear vision and set of objectives. We're dedicated to making a difference to communities in London through innovative heritage projects that bring people together. Our current projects reflect our commitment to involving communities at all stages and finding ways to save heritage in ways that meet local needs and identities. We want our future projects to be outstanding models of heritage regeneration – community-based, demonstrating best conservation practices, improving environmental impact, opening up skills development and providing learning opportunities.

London is an extraordinary city with an incredibly rich heritage, but it also has its challenges. We continue to focus on areas where there is the most need, and we are committed to tackling some of the trickiest sites. We work with multiple stakeholders over long periods in order to unlock these opportunities and find ways for them to be relevant to local communities. Our aim is for our projects to demonstrate a collaborative approach that can be beneficial to owners, users and local people.

Our staff and trustees work closely and are supported by a group of dedicated volunteers, many of whom have contributed to this newsletter. We want to thank everyone who is working with us now, as well as those we have worked with in the past, for getting us to where we are today. And we can't wait to continue forward.

We've set up an anniversary fundraising appeal to support our core work.

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**GEORGINA NAYLER,
CHAIR**