

# THE SPITALFIELDS TRUST

## Charing Palace Update April 2024

Friends and neighbours

This is the first of a series of regular updates on the progress of the Charing Palace project.

We are delighted to announce that Ptolemy Dean Architects have been appointed to help us think about the whole of the site and its future use. The practice is highly regarded for its sensitive and imaginative approach to historic buildings, and we are especially pleased that Ptolemy has agreed to join the project because he is local and has known the site for many years, not least as the presenter of the TV programme Restoration on which the Palace was a finalist. In due course we will consult the village and stakeholders on the ideas that Ptolemy develops over the coming months. Watch this space.

To address an issue that a number of you will be aware of: there have been a number of instances of trespassing on the Charing Palace Farm site. We are incredibly grateful to the neighbours of the site for having reported these to us and to the police. We are working with our project team on improved security measures for the barn and wider site which we hope to implement as soon as possible once we have permission from Historic England. The appearance of 37 sheep will also help a little. Thank you for answering our call for livestock to graze the paddock.

In brighter news, Thomas Ford and Partners - the architects for the repair of the barn - are now working closely with engineers, archaeologists and others to consider the delicate task of restoring the barn. The ivy has been given an initial trim so we can have a closer look at the east side of the building. Next steps will include high level inspection to develop a detailed schedule of repairs.

Thanks again for your vigilance, we will be looking for more support and involvement in the coming months.

More news very soon.

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