

THE SPITALFIELDS TRUST

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CHARING ARCHBISHOPS PALACE Neighbour Newsletter – w/c 21st July 2025

Dear friends and neighbours,

We are delighted to share that the long-awaited buttress application should be issued for consideration in the coming week or so.

We are most grateful to Reverend Sandra Marsh, who has kindly agreed for a printed set of the drawings to be made available for viewing within the church in due course. Otherwise, the full application will be available online on the Ashford Borough Council website once they have fully registered and validated the submission.

In terms of an update in respect of the rest of the site:

- Archaeological studies have been undertaken within the pastures, with the aim of providing more historical information to both ourselves and Historic England. Due to the scale of the trenches, some heavy plant machinery was required. Alas, all they found was chalk. These trenches are now in the process of being made good, and the sheep will be back shortly;
- Bat emergence studies have commenced at the Great Hall, and will continue through until autumn;
- More regular grounds maintenance is now taking place to keep unwanted vegetation at bay. This has also included some crown reduction to a mature Sycamore on site (works as approved by Ashford Borough Council) and we have commenced the process of cutting back vegetation on boundaries. Please bear with us as we work our way around site, but do not hesitate to draw any urgent matters to our attention;
- We have also had CCTV drainage surveys undertaken which have highlighted some need for repairs, but we understand we can complete these without requiring trenches which could affect archaeology;
- The masterplanning review continues, and is looking into fresh and updated proposals to restore the site, and ensure its long-term protection. Ptolemy Dean Architects have been appointed to undertake this work, and they will be undertaking a community engagement event in due course;
- We continue marketing the site looking for suitable partners and owners who can help us secure the future of the site;
- We are working on a schedule of 'open events' whereby access to the Great Hall will be made available, and the next such date will be **Monday 25th August**. We have been kindly supported in this by the Charing District Local History Society, who will be providing access on this date.

The link for booking tickets is: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/archbishops-palace-charing-public-access-day-tickets-1500832463299>

This first open day is intended to be a smaller event with limited availability to better understand the potential impact on parking and our processes. We will have more events becoming available, and these will be listed on our Eventbrite page, and shared by way of these newsletters. So we look forward to being able to share this with as many of you as possible over time.

As ever, we thank you for your continued interest and support in this site. If you have any particular questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us at: Charing@spitalfieldstrust.com

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K Maclean'.

Katharine Maclean
For and on behalf of The Spitalfields Historic Building Trust

Charing Project Manager

BA(Hons) MArch MSc ARB AABC

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