

FOW News

Newsletter of the Friends of Old Wymering

SEPTEMBER 2006

WYMERING MANOR LATEST

**WE'VE
DONE
IT!**

• FULL STORY PAGE 2



but this is just the start...

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL



HELP!

**WE NEED
VOLUNTEERS**

If you have some spare time and would like to be involved in the future of Wymering Manor, we need your help !

We are planning annual community events as well as a special education scheme for children so we need people who can act as volunteer guides and others to help in organising events for local people. We also need a Volunteer with computer experience (Microsoft Office) to help with our membership and information services. If you can spare some time and have an interest in the future of this wonderful building we would love to hear from you.

VISIT THE INFORMATION
DESK AT THE OPEN DAYS

WRITE:
FOW Volunteers
Wymering Manor, Cosham,
Portsmouth, PO6 3NL

E-MAIL:
wymeringmanor@yahoo.co.uk

THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR!

JUST THE START

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Thanks to the efforts of the Friends of Old Wymering together with the Portsmouth Society and the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust, a new sustainable future has been secured for Wymering Manor.

Following a detailed presentation to Portsmouth City Council, the Leader, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, approved the proposal for a comprehensive restoration to create a venue for functions, community events and exclusive hotel accommodation.

Specialist craftsmen are now being brought in to deal with the urgent structural repairs to parts of the historic timber framing of the building which is recorded in the Domesday Book.

Once the structure is secure, internal works can begin on decoration and furnishings to create a unique venue for wedding receptions and other special celebrations.

Lavishly furnished period bedrooms, with sumptuous en-suite bathrooms, will add to the occasion.

A great part of the success of the proposal can be attributed to the tremendous support of almost 3,000 people who visited the Manor on special Open Days. **Thank You!**



This fascinating picture of Wymering Manor in the 1920's shows one of the many garden parties arranged by the Knowlys-Parr family. The grounds in those days were much larger and once played host to the annual Wymering Festival which attracted thousands of people for the crowning of the May Queen.

APPEAL TO GARDENERS

FOW have a Garden Group who are taking an interest in restocking the gardens at Wymering Manor. When you are lifting or separating shrubs or perennials you may like to donate them to the Group. Please bring them along on one of the September Open Days or contact Wymering Manor.

GHOSTLY goings on

Wymering Manor is said to be the most haunted house in Portsmouth. Paranormal Investigators have reported "psychic activity" with numerous sightings. There is a list of 17 spirits who are reputed to haunt the Manor. To join a "Ghost Hunt" contact Wymering Manor.

CHILDREN ARE WINNERS TOO!

During the next two years while restoration work goes on at Wymering Manor, local schoolchildren will have a chance to visit and find out more about the history of this fascinating building. Volunteer teachers are still needed to help prepare project packs for children of all ages. Please get in touch if you can help

VOLUNTEERS MEETING

If you would like to help the Friends of Old Wymering, why not come to our next Volunteers meeting at Wymering Manor ?

**Thursday September 28th
at 6.30pm**

THUMBS UP FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE

English Heritage were responsible for the uplift of Wymering Manor to a Grade II* Listed Building. This places the house in the top 10% of the most important historic buildings in the country. English Heritage have given their support to the proposal for the Manor to be used as a Hotel and function venue. Before that can happen, there remains a tremendous amount of work to be done. Urgent repairs to the original timber framing have now been approved and a schedule of essential work is being prepared in conjunction with the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust. Architect Richard Vickery of RBA at Gunwharf Quays is now preparing full plans in consultation with English Heritage and John Pike, Head of the City Council's Conservation Team.



WYMERING MANOR OPEN DAYS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
SEPT. 23rd & 24th
10am - 4pm
ADMISSION FREE

suggested voluntary donation to FOW of £2 per person

Children must be accompanied by an adult

GUIDED TOURS SUBJECT TO
LIMITED NUMBERS EACH DAY

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

*Arranged by the
Friends of
Old Wymering*



DID YOU KNOW?

Here are some of the facts about the history of Wymering Manor.

...Wymering Manor was once near the shore of Paulsgrove Lake.

...William Maldwith lived at Wymering Manor at the time of "The Great Survey" or "Domesday Book" in 1086.

...Peter de Cosham and Fulco de Wymering once held the lands in return for military service at Portchester Castle.

...Wymering Manor is closely associated with the Church of Saints Peter and Paul. Holders of the Manor had the church built in 1180 and added the south aisle and Lady Chapel in 1260.

...There are two Priest "hiding" holes at Wymering Manor, built after the dissolution of the monasteries. Secret staircases once led to a private chapel in the attic.

...Queen Emma of the Sandwich Islands, a friend of Queen Victoria, stayed at the house during her visit to England in 1865. As a result, one of the principal bedrooms is now known as the Queen's Room.

...Wymering Manor was visited by Queen Mary in 1929 after she had visited her husband King George V at Bognor where he was convalescing. She had afternoon tea with members of the Knowlys Parr family and shocked everyone by smoking a cigarette!

HIRE THE MANOR FOR YOUR SPECIAL FUNCTION

Wymering Manor will provide a superb venue for Wedding Receptions, private functions and conferences. Your guests will be able to enjoy the unique historic surroundings.

Although restoration work will be going on behind the scenes, the Front Hall, Dining Room and Drawing Room are to be newly decorated and furnished in time for Christmas events.

The garden will be beautifully landscaped in time for Spring Weddings, providing a great location for those special photographs with the added backdrop of historic Wymering Manor.

Contact Wymering Manor today and come and see what we have to offer.



GRAND DESIGNS

Antiques and period furnishings are set to adorn the eight lavishly furnished bedrooms which will be provided at Wymering Manor if planning permission is granted by Portsmouth City Council.

Almost 100 photographs have been found showing how rooms have been decorated and furnished through the years. These have inspired the interior designers who are at this very moment searching the auctions and antique shops of England.

From Chinoiserie to a Chandelier or Chaise the hunt is on to create, for you, some of the grand opulence which previous residents have enjoyed.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES: 023 9281 9699 or 07856 124 267

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email: wymeringmanor@yahoo.co.uk