

Rural England *at its best*



*please help us to keep it
this way*



a group of historic buildings clustered around the parish church...

Recognising that the dangerous condition of the Dominican Chapel could not only mean the loss of a fine building with a fascinating romantic history, but would also detract from the church and the whole group of listed buildings, a group of parishioners decided to try to save it. In March 1998 **Hartpury Historic Buildings Trust**, a charity, was created to acquire, restore and put to good use, this and any other such historic buildings in danger within the parish.

...the timeless beauty of an English country churchyard

The table tomb of Thomas Sloper, who died in 1703, needs urgent repair before it deteriorates any more. Regarded as an important monumental work, with its early stone effigy, its conservation is a Trust priority, but many other old gravestones need expert care if they are to survive much longer.

The Trust however is not limiting its work to the buildings surrounding the church, nor indeed solely to the protection of historic buildings. With the help of the local Ranger Guides, milestones in the area are being rediscovered, uncovered, repaired and mapped.

The Trust has also extended both its name and objects the better to enable it to protect the historic pastoral setting of the area...The cost of repairs and maintenance is escalating all the time; please help us to preserve this unspoilt corner of rural England for future generations.

a fascinating history described

We are committed to sharing our work with others by means of leaflets and guidebooks, information display panels and a website. Your contribution will help others to discover the wealth of fascinating detail about the Trust's projects.

Hartpury Historic Land and Buildings Trust

22 / 24 Church Street, Newent. Gloucestershire GL18 1PP

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Newent
Gloucestershire
GL18 1PP

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affix
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Please help us to protect this tranquil corner of England

The Dominican Chapel

*the ravages of time demanded
an expensive restoration*



In 1794 an order of Dominican Nuns fled from the French Revolutionary armies in Brussels. Escaping to Hartpury Court, they lived there for 45 years. The Old Chapel was built onto the west wing in 1829 for them by the Lord of the Manor *Robert Canning*. In 1934 the Chapel was refurbished and the small Lady Chapel under the gallery was fitted. However in October 1953 it was sold for £150 and became a chicken deep-litter shed. By 1997 the Old Chapel was in very poor repair. The roof threatened total collapse. A pair of large metal agricultural sliding doors defaced the west front. The stained glass and internal plasterwork needed urgent attention.



Viewed from the Church tower, the dilapidated state of the Chapel roof could be seen



...a success story

In August 1998 the Old Chapel was bought by Hartpury Historic Buildings Trust. Emergency roof repairs were completed by March 2000 and with help from the *Heritage Lottery Fund*, the restoration of the Old Chapel was completed in 2002. A fine building with a fascinating history has been saved, and the local community is benefiting – the chapel is now used as a community hall and is available for hire. Contact the Trust for details.



...a major task

Another major task for the Trust is the rescue of a nationally important structure, the Hartpury Bee Shelter – regarded by The International Bee Research Association as unique. Standing 8ft (2.1m) high and almost 30ft (7.3m) in length, the Bee Shelter (listed Grade II) contains 33 boles built to house straw bee skeps. Bee boles became redundant once the wooden hive was developed in the mid 19th century. Built in Nailsworth, Gloucestershire by stone mason Paul Tuffley between 1824 and 1852, the shelter when threatened with destruction in 1968, was rescued and moved to Hartpury Agricultural College. Largely unknown to the public, its condition deteriorated causing alarm to English Heritage. Hartpury Historic Buildings Trust undertook to restore the Bee Shelter and to relocate it to the village churchyard, where the public would find it far easier to visit and appreciate this exceptional structure.

How you can help

Please be as generous as you can and use this leaflet to contact us. It will only take you a minute to play your part in helping to protect this tranquil English setting.

The Hartpury pear

The Hartpury Green is an ancient variety, first recorded in 'Vineta Britannica' 1691, and described by THOMAS RUDGE in 1807 as 'producing a liquor so highly spiritous as to be inflammable!' The village name is Saxon, derived from Hardepirige – the hard pear tree. The tree virtually became extinct and apart from one tree and those grafted from it in the National Collection, the only known specimens are those propagated on behalf of the Trust now planted in and around the parish. One, with other rare perry pear trees, has been planted in the churchyard extension.

I would like to help Hartpury Historic Land and Buildings Trust continue their restoration work with a donation:

- As an annual covenant of £
- As a single donation (enclosed) of £
- By considering a legacy in my will

Please print your name and address and send off this card as soon as possible.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

I am a UK taxpayer and DECLARE that I want all subscriptions or donations I make to Hartpury Historic Land & Buildings Trust of 22/24 Church Street, Newent, Glos., before on or after the date of this Declaration, to be treated as Gift Aid donations.

I UNDERSTAND that in any tax year, I must have paid or had deducted, an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax reclaimed on my donations in that year.

Signed _____

Date _____