



HADDON HALL



Haddon Hall to receive funds for vital restoration from the Historic Houses Foundation

Haddon Hall is set to receive funds towards essential restoration from the **Historic Houses Foundation**.

The Historic Houses Foundation is a major beneficiary of the Heritage Stimulus Fund, which will provide invaluable support for restoration work on some of England's most important and vulnerable historic buildings.

This funding will enable Haddon to carry out critical restoration on one of the country's most beautiful and architecturally significant rooms, The Long Gallery, which is at immediate risk of irrevocable damage due to its central bay subsiding to a critical degree. Reports in 2011 evaluating the room's condition recommended immediate restoration of the bay but until now, Haddon has not had the financial capacity to carry out this work.

Designed by Robert Smythson in 1582, The Long Gallery is one of the highlights of a visit to the hall, with many visitors coming specifically to see it. Its impressive 110ft long size has seen it host a wide variety of activities, including civil ceremonies, music recitals, conferences, exhibitions, artisan markets and it's also a firm favourite of film location managers and directors.

Not only is it vitally important for Haddon in supporting the enterprise of the hall, it also contributes directly to the employment of many people within the local area and allowing the central bay to collapse would heavily impact on the financial security of the many employed directly and indirectly, while also being a major loss on a national level.

Lord Edward Manners says: "Haddon Hall is truly overwhelmed and grateful to receive a second round of funding from the HHF, which will enable critical restoration to be carried out on the central bay in The Long Gallery.

"It is difficult to articulate the individual contribution that one room can make to an already nationally important heritage destination. But that is precisely what the Long Gallery does. It is of vital importance to the overall health of Haddon's financial position and contributes directly to the employment of many people within a rural area.

"Lady Edward and I are particularly pleased that this highly skilled work can be undertaken by local craftsmen and talented professionals, to help us safeguard the future of Haddon for generations to come."

Lady Edward Manners says: "On first glance, Haddon's Long Gallery is a vision of Elizabethan architectural perfection but sadly, on closer inspection, one can clearly see the room's blatant vulnerability to time and unsteady foundations.

"When visitors come to Haddon, it really is a joy to see their overwhelming love and admiration for the Long Gallery and it is absolutely wonderful to now be in a position to restore this magnificent room and ensure that people will be able to keep enjoying it long into the future."

Norman Hudson, Chairman of the Historic Houses Foundation, says:

"Historic Houses Foundation grants go to historic buildings in all categories of ownership, so range far wider than the National Trust. That we have been selected as a Delivery Partner for this money indicates that the Government likes what we do and recognises the exceptionally cost efficient way in which we achieve it. It is good news for historic buildings and good news for jobs and the local community."

Ends

For more information about Haddon Hall www.haddonhall.co.uk

