



# TOLPUDDLE OLD CHAPEL TRUST

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## Welcome

### Friends of Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust (TOCT) Newsletter – January 2017

There has been so much happening that the Trustees of TOCT thought now was the right time to update those that have signed up as Friend of TOCT and all those interested in the project to renovate the former Methodist chapel in Tolpuddle as a 'quiet place in the heart of an historic Dorset village'.

### Heritage Lottery Fund round 1 success

We had great news in September when we heard that our round 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was successful. TOCT have received initial support for the renovation project with development funding of £63,700 awarded to help TOCT progress our plans. This initial funding together with in-principle support for the delivery stage of £329,300 allows the Trust to produce detailed plans for the renovation and repair of the former chapel, as well as creating interpretation and community engagement activities to tell the history of the building and its connection to the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

The development phase has also been supported by grants from the Architectural Heritage Fund and Dorset County Council. We are planning for this development phase to take until Autumn 2017 when the round 2 HLF application will be submitted. Key work in the development phase are securing planning and listed building consent, developing interpretation and activities plans and securing the £200,000 of match funding needed.

### Project Team in place

With the confirmation of the development funding the TOCT Trustees have been able to recruit key members of the project team to take the project to completion. These team members are:

- Architect – Paul Richold of Architecton
- Project Manager – Martin Cooke of Heritage & Leisure
- Activity & Interpretation Planner – Lucy Johnston

### Plans for 2017 developing

As part of the development phase of the project Lucy will be planning lots of activities and trial events to inform the project. Ideas under development include; school visits to the former chapel and Tolpuddle, touring a multi-media presentation to local groups, offering guided visits as part of Heritage Open Days in September and a number of activities over the Tolpuddle Festival weekend on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July including cob making workshops and the opportunity to view inside the building and meet the trustees.

### Communicating our messages

Since achieving the HLF success we've managed to secure some great publicity about the project with coverage in local press, in the Methodist Recorder and

Church Times and a tremendous article in The Guardian published on Boxing Day and online. TOCT Chairman, Andrew McCarthy and Project Manager, Martin Cooke have also been interviewed by Radio Solent with their Facebook post receiving over 2,000 hits.

The project to renovate the former chapel is attracting worldwide interest due to its importance in the development of Methodism in Dorset and as the foundations of the Tolpuddle Martyrs and particularly, George Loveless' believe in social justice which was formed many years before their arrest in 1834.

In this development phase we will be working hard to communicate the project as wide and far as possible, we will be updating our website and using Facebook to communicate regular project progress and news.

### **How to get involved**

Being able to show to funders the great support we now have from over 100 'Friends of TOCT' has really helped our funding applications. As the project moves forward there will be opportunities to get involved and help in a number of ways. To have an informal chat contact Andrew by email to [tolpuddleoctrust@btinternet.com](mailto:tolpuddleoctrust@btinternet.com)

**Next newsletter – June 2017 with project updates and what's on at the Festival**

### **Supported by:**



**Trustees: Andrew McCarthy (Chairman), Robert Brunt, (Secretary),  
Rev Stephanie Jenner, Adrian Whittlesea.**