

## NEWSLETTER

July 2022

# PROJECT UPDATE

## Great Progress on Old Chapel Site.

Sally Strachey Historic Conservation (SSHC), have made great progress renovating Tolpuddle Old Chapel. For the latest updates see:

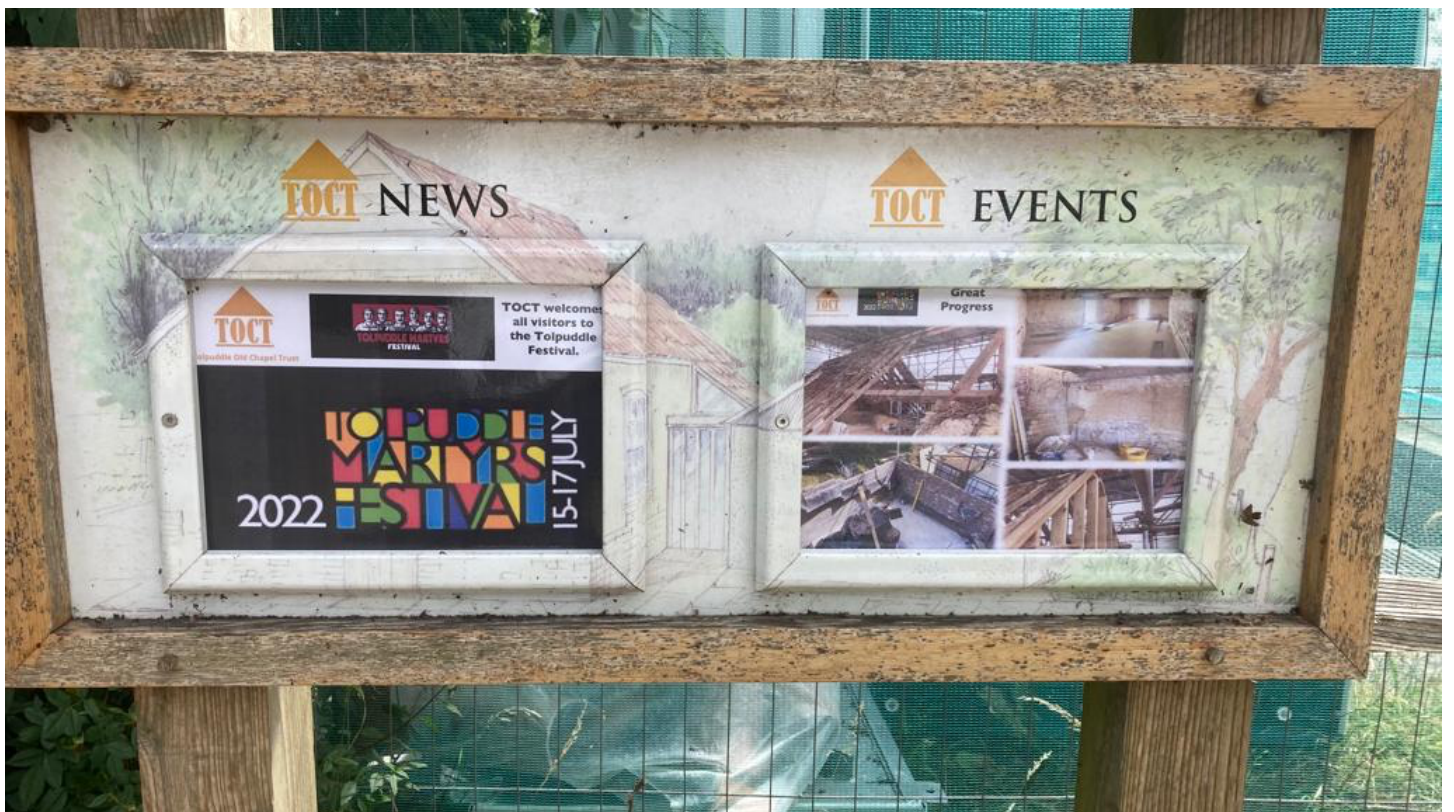
[www.tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org](http://www.tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org) or on Twitter- [@TolpuddleOCT](https://twitter.com/TolpuddleOCT)



Jason Ive, (Jason Ive Building & Carpentry) & Andrew McCarthy. (TOCT Chair) view a King Post.



WELCOME TO ALL OUR VISITORS TO



# *THANK YOU!*

## Thank You to all our sponsors & supporters.

Sincere thanks to everyone who has sponsored or supported our project to save Tolpuddle Old Chapel and remove it from the Historic England's 'At Risk Register'.





# Funding will enable:

- The full restoration of the Old Chapel.
- A new extension, situated adjacent to the east wall of the chapel, to support events and activities.
- A year-round programme of activities and Interpretation.
- A pilot schools programme, engaging students with the history of Tolpuddle and the Dorsetshire Labourers.
- Various volunteering opportunities.
- A secure future for the Old Chapel and the stories it tells.

Please help TOCT tell its unique story by supporting our work to save this iconic building.

[www.tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org](http://www.tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org) or on Twitter- [@TolpuddleOCT](https://twitter.com/TolpuddleOCT)



# Welcome to our latest volunteer

One of the desired outcomes of funding by the National Lottery Heritage Fund is to provide varied opportunities for volunteering. We welcome Martin Pendergast as our new **Events & Activities Coordinator**. Martin will liaise with community groups, individuals and organisations who would like to explore the use of the Old Chapel for 'niche' events. Martin can be contacted at [info@tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org](mailto:info@tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org).

Martin is originally from Hertfordshire and moved to Birmingham to study. He worked professionally in education at Secondary and Higher levels for forty years in the West and East Midlands, Wiltshire and finally in Bournemouth. He retired eight years ago when he moved from the family home in Broadstone with his wife Trish and their dog at the time, Joshua. Retiring to a rural area was always his goal and that was realised in Tolpuddle. Martin now has another retriever called Dulcie, to replace the loss of Joshua and they have enjoyed many walks in the surrounding countryside.



Opportunities for new volunteer roles are:

Facilities Coordinator (care of the building) & Volunteer Coordinator (lead our team of welcomers), [info@tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org](mailto:info@tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org).

# New Members of Project Team

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund

## Kathy O'Borne. Formal Learning Consultant.



I am the Formal Learning Consultant for Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust. It is my role to create an exciting and accessible learning programme which will engage local children and other visitors with the history of the building. As well as planning activities at the Old Chapel, I will also provide self-directed resources that can be used before and after visiting the site.

The Old Chapel is an amazing new resource for local schools - a direct link to 19th century Tolpuddle. A fantastic example of traditional cob building techniques, the Old Chapel is also a great starting point to explore the history of the Dorsetshire Labourers (later known as The Tolpuddle Martyrs), their Methodist faith and the harsh living & working conditions which drove them to challenge the status quo.

I hope children who visit the Old Chapel will connect to the past but also make links to their lives now. What is fair and unfair? What can we do if we feel unfairly treated? How can we fight against injustice in society?

This small building is a wonderful example of how ordinary people took control of their lives and changed society for the better. I want a visit to the Old Chapel to be educational, inspiring but also lots of fun!

Kathy O'Borne.



## Nick Morris. Interpretation Consultant.

I founded my design studio, Wallis Agency, in 2007. Over the years we have worked with a number of local and national heritage organisations, partly driven by my own interest in history, particularly that of my native Dorset. I have managed many similar projects with the National Trust, English Heritage, Swanage Pier Trust, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and RNLI, as well as more locally in Dorchester, with Dorset Museum, the Keep and Dorset History Centre.

As the interpretation consultant on this exciting project, I will be using my past work in this sector to create an engaging visitor experience that will hopefully last beyond the initial visit. I try to produce interpretation which stimulates people to use their visit to explore further, going on to their own journey of discovery.

*“I’m hugely inspired by Dorset’s history. The project at Tolpuddle Old Chapel is a wonderful opportunity to tell important stories, centred around a building which, as a former chapel, also inspired visitors of the past. I’m really looking forward to the work.”*

Nick Morris





## Could you be a Trustee?

As the building work proceeds on Tolpuddle Old Chapel, we can see clearly that the plan to 'Save the Martyrs' Legacy' is on course for completion, and that by the end of 2022, TOCT



will be entering the next exciting phase of its development: the Old Chapel as a centre for visitors, as well as a range of educational and enriching activities.

It is likely that over the next eighteen months there will be vacancies on the Board of Trustees, and we welcome expressions of interest from prospective candidates.

A key element in the Old Chapel's future will be its sustainability as an historic building for visitors and as a vibrant activity centre serving local needs and initiatives in education, in culture, and in general well-being. We will be particularly interested in appointing Trustees with recent and relevant experience in the following areas:

- Fundraising and income generation.
- Financial Management.
- Project Management.
- Dorset networks of relevant organisations.
- Digital communications.
- Leadership of volunteers.

An interest in and enthusiasm for heritage as a community resource is, of course, essential. These roles are entirely voluntary and unpaid.

If you are interested in taking up this opportunity and would like to know a little more, please contact **Professor Philip Martin** for further details or submit a letter of application, including your CV, stating why you wish to be considered as a trustee and how you feel you can contribute to the aims of Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust.

E. Mail to [info@tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org](mailto:info@tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org)