

Hall Waberthwaite and St John's Church looking across the River Esk



We want to work with the community to uncover what happened in this place, make sure its history is looked after, celebrate what makes it special and share what we find with local people and visitors.

Please read this and find out how you can help us get a Lottery grant to do all these things!

Update on our Lottery bid:

Many of you will know that St John's Church put in for a Lottery Grant in 2017. This was under a scheme which helped places of worship where there was urgent building work needed.

We put in a strong bid, but didn't get a grant because our building needs weren't as urgent as other applicants. We were all disappointed, but obviously the work we described still needs to be done. This includes: sorting out the severe damp problem, repairing and restoring the box pews and making sure the church is in good repair.

In our bid we had planned ways to make the history of the church easier to appreciate. Our building has a rich and precious history which, at the moment, is hard to understand. Hall Waberthwaite was a key site 2000 years ago when it was the river crossing for travellers. It was significant for the Angles, Romans and Vikings who left their mark on the site through the font and the two cross pieces in the churchyard. St John's also has a rare 17th century pulpit and 16th century bells.

We also planned to explain the site to visitors by displaying and explaining the Anglian cross fragment and working with the school and other groups to produce new guidebooks/leaflets which explain not just the history and the significance of the church and hamlet, but also the habitats, species and geography of the area.

A different grant, the "Heritage Fund", awards money to sites whose heritage is at risk, but we have to have plans to provide facilities on the site for people visiting it. Without those the bid would not succeed.

What next?:

The deadline for this new grant is the end of February. We have talked for years about what to do

with the old Laundry building and we are including work on this as part of our bid. This gives us a way to fund the work on the church, but also gives us a way of putting a toilet on site, and providing other facilities for visitors to the church and churchyard.

Those who know the site at Hall Waberthwaite know that it has a “special feel” to it and we want more people to visit it for more reasons. We have some ideas ourselves – but need to prove that there is local demand for using the building. Local schools have already said they will use it on visits to study the church itself and its history, the churchyard and the surrounding natural environment.

The building is not intended to be another Village Hall but to offer something different for small group use. Below is a way for you to let us have your ideas for ways in which it could be used.

The Laundry building as it is now. It stands at the edge of the new churchyard.



How you can help:

It's important we build up a contact list of people who are interested in our project. Although many people prefer information in a leaflet, in future it's sensible for us to send information by e mail to where possible. There is space below for you to complete a short questionnaire which will give us evidence to include in our bid. It also asks you for your *preferred* contact details. To justify a grant for repairing and fitting out this building to make it useful and usable we have to assess the need, demand and possible uses for it. You can help us by sharing your thoughts. The more forms returned and good ideas, the more chance we will be successful

If the building was restored as a community asset who might be interested and what could it be used for?	
Do you belong to a group or groups, or know of a group who might use it? If yes please give details.	<p>What group/s?</p> <p>What would those groups use it for?</p> <p>Give a rough idea of numbers</p> <p>How often?</p>
Have you any ideas on one-off uses for the space?	
What extra facilities would be useful? (assume toilets, heating and kitchen facilities!)	
<p>Please complete letting us know how you would prefer to receive information in the future.</p> <p>name</p> <p>address</p> <p>email</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Thank you for your help</p>	

This form can be returned either electronically by replying to my email, by post or by leaving it in the porch at Old School, in Woodall's shop or in church.

Contact details are:

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