



malthouse news

St Matthew Housing -
Housing and support for people in need

Issue five - November 2006

The Malthouse now has colour



The new paint colour, Ladylane Yellow, on the Malthouse

When it comes to painting the exterior of a 17th century grade II listed property, it is not as simple as popping down to your local DIY shop and buying a tin of paint that takes your fancy. Oh no, choosing the colour for an old building is serious business, especially when it is not your own house but a property that will be open to the general public.

The Malthouse Architects, Milburn Leverington Thurlow said, "Choosing the right colour for the outside walls is crucial to the overall appearance of an old building, particularly if a property is situated in a built up area. The colour needs to compliment the building as well as the surrounding environment. The selection of colours are typical of the period in which the Malthouse was originally constructed."

The exterior of the Malthouse has developed rapidly since the last issue of Malthouse News. The roofing sections are complete, the outside walls have been rendered and the windows are in place. So to finish the outside of the building, colour has started to be applied to the rendered walls.

Tony Ciorra, Development Project Manager for Northcroft said, "Every time I visit the Malthouse now, I notice new developments on site. The next obvious step was the paint work. Through the advice and guidance from the Project Architects, Milburn, Leverington and Thurlow and St Edmundsbury Borough Council Conservation Department and input from local paint makers, Ingilby Traditional Products, we decided on the Malthouse colour."

Allan Scott-Davies, Heritage Centre Project Manager at St Matthew Housing had previously visited Ingilby Traditional Products to look at the colour chart and to see the old

methods used for producing the paint. Ted Ingilby explained the painting making process, "we use raw lime and ground pigments, like sandstone, ironstone or clay, which are sourced from the local area. This is dried and mixed into a wet lime. At first the colour remains hidden and then suddenly a vibrant colour starts to emerge.

"The Malthouse colour is called Ladylane Yellow, which is named after Lady Lane in Lavenham. This is a colour which you can see in the areas of star attractions, like Lavenham, where all the heritage properties are painted in similar colours."

The colour is supported by Claire Johnson, Conservation Officer at St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

Remember, if you would like to have a tour of the Malthouse to see the new colour of the building, then contact Allan on 01284 732550 or email allan.scott-davies@stmatthewhousing.org



A Malthouse painter mixing limewash, ready to add the Ladylane Yellow colour to it.

By Sarah Yarrow, Funding and Marketing Assistant

Malthouse Project comes to life for Westley Middle School children



In October, the children from Westley Middle School who had created the artwork of the Malthouse which currently hangs on the outside fencing, went on their first tour of the site.

There was great excitement as the school children arrived clutching paper and pencil to capture elements of the building whilst looking around the Malthouse. Allan Scott-Davies led the tour informing the children on how the building once worked as a maltings. Allan explained that horse hair, lime putty and cow dung had been used to seal the walls in the beamed room. This caused much laughter amongst the children!

Jill Anderson, Art Co-ordinator at Westley Middle School, said, "Westley Middle School got involved with the Malthouse Project because we liked the idea of following up on the historic past of Bury St Edmunds, especially as it was a building we did not know about in town.

"The school children have gained an understanding of their locality since being involved with the project. They have learnt about homelessness and the malting process. By visiting the site today, it has really brought the project to life for the children."

Westley Middle School continues to be involved with the Malthouse Project and are producing a second series of artwork around the issue of homelessness.

(top left: Westley Middle School children and Carol Anne Robertson, Art Teacher, look around the beamed room; bottom left: School children head up to the first floor of the Malthouse.)

Heritage Open Day at the Malthouse a real success

On Sunday 10th September 2006, as part of the Heritage Open Days in Bury St Edmunds, St Matthew Housing opened the Malthouse to the public for exclusive tours of the site.

Allan Scott-Davies was the tour guide for the day and reported that he was rushed off his feet. He said, "From the time the doors opened to the public at 10.30am through to closing at 3pm, we had an outstanding number of visitors to the site, all of whom were very interested to hear about the project and see the developments first hand.

Throughout the day, 27 visitors looked around the Malthouse Project. Here are some of the comments received:

"A real insight and such a privilege to see it at this early stage."

"Great insight in a new development and a very good tour. We look forward to seeing the progress."

"A wonderful project. Looking forward to the café opening!"

Due to the success of the day, another Open Day will be held on Sunday 10th December 2006 from 10.30am-3.30pm. To book a 40-min free tour, contact: Tourist Information Centre, 6 Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds or ring 01284 764667.

Conference brings heritage enthusiasts to Bury...and to the Malthouse

Over three days at the end of October, Bury St Edmunds hosted the English Historic Towns Forum conference and as part of the event the guests were invited to a tour of the Malthouse.

Allan Scott-Davies, Sarah Yarrow, Funding & Marketing Assistant and Malcolm Lowe and John Abbott from Milburn, Leverington & Thurlow Architects gave the tour around the site to 14 of the heritage enthusiasts from the conference. There was a lot of discussion and questions raised as the group walked around the building.

At the end of the tour one of the conference attendees said, "I have gathered several ideas and suggestions from this tour which I will present back to my local authority. It has been really useful."



Left: An old Elsey's Yard sign discovered on site.



Heritage Lottery Fund

St Matthew Housing
Registered charity 266521



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Bury St
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For more information or to become a 'Malthouse Friend' contact St Matthew Housing on telephone: 01284 732550 or email: allan.scott-davies@stmatthewhousing.org