

Historic Buildings Survey and Research

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As an historic building consultant who has worked in a professional capacity with both private clients and volunteer groups in and around the Masham area for the past 15 years I am writing in support of the application for a Heritage Learning Centre in Masham town to act as a hub for local people and visitors alike interested in the heritage of the area. There is no current town museum or heritage centre - surprising in such a unique and historically rich place. To have the opportunity to establish such a centre in an historic building such as a bakery (complete with ovens) located in the heart of the town, is an opportunity not to be missed.

Research undertaken by several local archaeology and history groups as well as a number of independent researchers has greatly added to our understanding of the area from the Bronze Age period through to the social and economic history of more recent times. Information relating to various projects has been deposited at the local archives at Northallerton County Record Office, and although accessible, lacks the immediacy and impact of having all the information to hand at a local centre.

Other records, most notably a large collection of documents released by Trinity College Cambridge relating to its ownership of land and property within Masham and the wider Shire since the Dissolution of the Monasteries is of great local significance and I feel should be held in a local repository such as the proposed Learning Centre and available for consultation by interested parties.

To have a Heritage Learning Centre in the heart of the town would provide a base where information could be stored and made easily accessible, allowing for a more interactive appreciation by both young and old of how the past touches the present and the present, the future.

Jen Deadman October 2016