

Support our fundraising effort

The Priest's House Museum, the Museum of East Dorset, plays a central part in the cultural life of Wimborne and East Dorset. It is an important tourist attraction in the town, contributing to the local economy. Since its establishment in 1962, the museum's philosophy has been one of community engagement and innovation.

We are the only Arts Council England Accredited museum in East Dorset with:

- Access to over 35,000 objects, including archaeology and local and social history, that tell the story of the people who have lived in East Dorset and shaped and inspired the area
- An award-winning learning service (the museum is the smallest institution to have received the Sandford Award for excellence in Heritage Education, having been given the award five times, most recently in 2013)
- Interactive life-long learning/education activities for all ages and abilities
- Opportunities for local people to engage with their heritage through access to the collections, exhibitions and events, and an exciting learning and engagement programme
- A volunteer scheme which is all-inclusive
- Management of a Tourist Information Centre

The Priest's House Museum Trust has applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for £1.1 million towards its Revival Project, a project intended to enhance community/ visitor experience through a museum which meets the standards of the 21st century and which will carry on for future generations.

In total, we need to raise £400,000 ourselves in match funding to obtain the money from the HLF. The two volunteer fundraisers are working really hard to make this happen.

Please support this community fundraising effort – either by sponsoring an object or making a donation. We want the Priest's House Museum to be even more amazing than it is now.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Ayling - Director



The Revival Project

The Revival Project plans include:

- Changes to the frontage and entrance area to make it more accessible, especially for visitors with buggies or in wheelchairs
- Lift access to the first-floor galleries (currently unavailable to the elderly, the disabled, parents with prams and less-able volunteers) as well as ramps on the upper floor to address accessibility issues
- A new combined visitor reception, shop and Tourist Information Centre which fully amalgamates the TIC within the museum, ensuring this vital community service is kept in Wimborne
- Revitalised displays of the museum's collections, including exhibitions and displays which tell the story of the Priest's House building and the families associated with it; the story of Wimborne; and the story of East Dorset
- Refurbishment and enlarging of exhibition and display space to allow more of the collections to be displayed and replacing outdated exhibition cases to meet the requirements of a 21st century museum, including Government Indemnity Standard cases for significant collections loaned by national museums
- Improved environment, particularly heating and lighting, for the benefit of visitors and volunteers, and the conservation of the collections
- More volunteering opportunities for all ages and abilities, including those with learning and physical difficulties, young people and those wishing to enhance their CVs to aid job hunting or gain life skills.

