



The Abberley Hall Foundation is a registered charity (No. 1088863) one of whose aims is the restoration and maintenance of the hall, a splendid example of a Victorian country house, clock tower and grounds. For further information contact www.abberleyhallfoundation.org.uk

Clock Tower Trivia:

- *J. Taylor & Co., Loughborough cast the twenty bells for the Clock Tower. They weighed a total of 414 cwt.*
- *The names of John Joseph Jones, his wife Sarah Amelia were inscribed on the two largest bells and those of his brothers, sister in laws, nieces and nephews follow.*
- *Four of the bells were second castings as they came out too flat. Two of the original bells went to Broughton near Banbury, another to Elvethan, Hampshire and the fourth to Rochdale Town Hall.*



Rochdale Town Hall

- *In 1939 fifteen of the bells were sold back to Taylors of Loughborough by Arthur Astley Astley-Jones for £1,047. 14. 00 and were melted down.*

First Project Successfully Completed

During the summer of 2010 Paine and Stewart, a London based company with a significant track record in restoring historic buildings such as the Victorian Gothic revival mansion Cardiff Castle, successfully completed our first undertaking for the repair and cleaning of the decorative schemes of Abberley Hall.

We are only custodians of this fine building for future generations and our aim is to retain the effect of the ageing of the rooms but halt the deterioration with the minimum necessary intervention.

Areas of the entrance hall had suffered the effects of water damage from the bathrooms above and the accumula-



tion of 130 years of grime had taken its toll. A team of four were involved with the work from repairing plasterwork, painting and cleaning the surfaces.

We are delighted to report that the project went very smoothly. It was completed on time,

within the agreed budget at £22,618 and with no unpleasant surprises.

Replacement light fittings for the ceiling are being made for us by an historic lighting specialist and should be installed in the near future.

Phase Two

The impressive sweeping staircase and hallway is in a very poor condition and work will begin during the Easter holiday to restore this area in keeping with our aims .

A glass chandelier has been commissioned from

“Legacy Lighting” to enhance the stairwell further and wall lights will be added to illuminate the dresser commissioned by John Joseph Jones.

The estimated cost of this work is £18,900.



Clock Tower



We have recently received a single grant of £4,000 from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation towards the restoration of the twelve stained glass windows in the Oriel Room of the Clock Tower. The central windows in each bay depict the Jones family crest and the outer windows the entwined initials of John Joseph Jones and his wife Sarah Amelia Jones. Together with money raised at the Clock Tower Ball we are well on our way to realising the £25,000 required to complete this work.

Currently, we are approaching various grant making trusts and are open to donations from interested parties.



The Foundation Lecture—Saturday 14th May

We are delighted that Heart of England branch of The Historic Houses Association has kindly agreed to promote The Foundation Lecture which will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday 14th May 2011 at Abberley Hall.

Tim Bridges, an architectural adviser on Victorian and Edwardian buildings with The Victorian Society, will comment on Abberley Hall and its significance within

this period.

Jo Roche, a Trustee of the Foundation and archivist, will follow with a presentation on the history of the Hall and gardens.

Afternoon tea will be served from 3.00pm onwards and guests will be invited to explore the house and grounds at their leisure.



Tickets for this event will be available to Friends and Members of the Historic Houses Association (www.hha.org.uk) at a cost of £20. Please note that there is limited availability so book early..

For private guided tours or illustrated talks contact Jo Roche at re-charge@portopol.fsnet.co.uk or telephone 01299 832666.

Drawings discovered

Nick Joyce, a Worcester based architect, was commissioned to produce a survey on the condition of the external features of the building.

During his investigations he discovered six of the original drawings for the East and West Lodges in a cupboard within the Resources Room. These were

produced by James Piers St. Aubyn, the architect of the Clock Tower, and signed off on 3rd June 1885.

They are in excellent condition and have been framed and will be on display in the passageway off the entrance hall in the very near future and are well worth a look.



