

Hockley and Brook Cottages

Update

All three houses have been cleared of the building debris so a full survey could take place. During this time we had all hoped that we would be able to salvage some of our treasured belongings. Sadly other members of the public seem to have had the same idea and gained access prior to the occupants and salvaged these items for themselves.

To add further pain to us we had all hoped to be able to continue to nurture our gardens and more importantly keep the grass cut around the scaffolding as required by the HSE. However we have all had our outbuildings and sheds broken into and our gardening equipment stolen which as you can imagine is further devastation and heartbreak.

The full findings of the forensic investigation are yet to be issued however it is clear that the fire was not as a result of the chimney of 1 Brook Cottages. At this stage it is not clear if the cause will be determined as is the case in the majority of thatch fires. With this in mind the current planning application has been submitted to reinstate the cottages using the "dorset model" details of which can

be found on the thatch advisory website for those thatch residents who may have been interested.

As a result of people gaining access and rumours of children "playing" in our properties we have had to erect the secure hoarding for both security and safety

The results of planning application are due on the 9th September. If planning is agreed we will be able to go to tender for the rebuilding of all 3 cottages.

Both Brook cottages have substantial damage to the main oak frame and will have to have a new frame added where possible to the remaining frame. The timber frame will be built in a work shop and then craned into position so it will still continue to look as if nothing is happening on site. The site is still considered a dangerous structure as the oak frame is so badly compromised there is no support for the elevations of the cottages which "could" fall down and this is the reason for the continued restricted access.

Hockley cottage has not suffered as badly and work will be able to start onsite once planning and the tender process is complete. However Hockley cottage still remains an unsafe structure.

We have been approached by various people and societies that want to gain access to the "site" and have turned down these requests as despite the current conditions of the buildings they are still our homes!

It is going to be a difficult project to oversee as the site is very tight with hindered access for workmen, machinery and materials and with this in mind, it would be appreciated if consideration could be shown with regard to parking on the bridge and parking/seating in front of Hockley cottages once building commences. We need as much access as possible during the building process, and we still need access now as we are having to bring gardening equipment with us whilst we all try to keep on top of our over growing gardens.

We are hoping to have the buildings rebuilt and water tight with the scaffolding down by April 2014. The buildings will then need a drying out period before internal works can start and have been told currently it will be no less than 12 months once planning has been agreed before we can even hope to be able to move back to our homes.

Sharon Aldridge



Tea Break Conundrums

Painful puns

While realising that I am in serious danger of assassination for presenting these and then having the nerve to ask you to complete them – but I just can't resist the temptation. There are some old favourites and some you may not have seen. I'm sure you know what to do by now.

1. I tried to catch some fog,
He says he can.
2. I know a guy who is addicted to brake fluid.
This girl said she recognised me from the vegetarian club, but I've never
3. I'm reading a book about anti-gravity and I

5. They told me I had type 'A' blood, but it was.
6. In America, why were the Indians there first?
They
7. Broken pencils are
8. England has no kidney bank,
but it does have a
9. I used to think I was indecisive, but now.

And I couldn't resist finishing with this one.

- 10 I did a theatrical performance about puns,
it was.

The unbelievable solutions can be found on page 37