



## **Media Release:**

### **First open day at Weavers' Cottages**

The first public open day for the Weavers' Cottages project is to be held on Saturday 6 August 2016. The Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust is inviting anyone interested in the cottages to come and see the building conservation work currently in progress. The cottages are on a small site where access needs to be restricted, so those who would like to attend will need to book in advance.

Time slots are 10am, 11am, 12pm and 1pm followed by a heritage walk through the town ending at the Museum of Carpet. There will be the opportunity to view the ground-floor of the cottages and see demonstrations of heritage craft skills, brick-making and blacksmithing involving specialists Tony Mugridge and Paul Ashmore.

All participants will be given a 2 for 1 ticket voucher to use that day or in the future to visit the Museum of Carpet. At the museum representatives of Worcestershire County Council's Archives and Archaeology service will be on hand to talk more about their work and their role in the project.

Due to the restricted size of the site, ticket places will be extremely limited. To book your place please email: [events@wbpt.org.uk](mailto:events@wbpt.org.uk) or call: 07875 377243.

#### **About the Project**

Have you ever noticed these scruffy cottages on the corner of Horsefair and wondered what they are doing there?

Kidderminster once had many cottages like these. Before the carpet industry, weavers made a high quality cloth called Bombazine on small looms upstairs in their own homes. Kidderminster was famous for its Bombazine.

In 1784 there were 7 manufacturers and 1,000 looms but by 1812 this had dropped off to 5 manufacturers and 700 looms.

The row of three cottages in Horsefair are important today as the only ones of their type left in Kidderminster, the earliest of the three dating back almost 300 years.

They are modest in scale and sit virtually unnoticed amidst modern buildings in the Horsefair, attention drawn more by their derelict condition than their significance to the history of the town.

The Weavers' Cottages lay abandoned for over a generation but have recently been purchased by The Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust. Thanks to a mix of grant and loan funding by the [Heritage Lottery Fund](#), the [Pilgrim Trust](#), the [Garfield Weston Foundation](#), the [D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust](#) and the [Architectural Heritage Fund](#), the Trust is repairing the cottages and converting them for modern-day residential use, bringing the buildings back to life, providing much needed town-centre housing and improving the physical environment and appearance of this part of Kidderminster.

**END**

### **Accompanying image**

The image accompanying this release is a recent photograph of the Weavers' Cottages, Horsefair, Kidderminster.

### **About the Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust**

The Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust, a registered charity, aims to rescue buildings 'at risk' that are of historic or architectural importance. The Trust has completed successful projects at Church House, Areley Kings; Wyre Hill, Bewdley; Belle House, Pershore; Load St, Bewdley; and The Sargeants House, Ledbury; where sustainable uses have been found for otherwise abandoned historic properties. [www.wbpt.org.uk](http://www.wbpt.org.uk)

### **About the Heritage Lottery Fund**

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk) @heritagelottery @HLFWestMids

### **For further information, additional images and interviews, please contact:**

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