

Suffolk Building Preservation Trust Ltd

MEDIA RELEASE

12th September 2008

“ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL” – NOT PINK FLOYD, BUT “YELLOW” LITTLE HALL!

Little Hall, Lavenham, one of Suffolk’s most iconic Medieval buildings, is due to have its ‘new’ old look revealed during a ‘topping out’ ceremony next week.

The owner of the building, the Suffolk Building Preservation Trust (SBPT), commenced a £20,000 restoration scheme earlier in the year. The work included repointing of some of the brickwork, repairing many of the timber frames and their painting over with a specially formulated lime wash called ‘Little Hall Yellow’ but in such a way that the grain of the timber was still evident.

The project encountered a number of challenges – not least the discovery that many of the exposed beams were in such a bad condition that such repair work may have to be repeated every three to five years.

According to Director Richard Ward “although we described the recent work to the exterior of the building as ‘the shock of the old’ as we tried to restore it nearer to its original look, it was really something of a compromise”.

“Residents and visitors had got used to the beams being exposed and in a different colour to the rest of the building. So although we have painted the beams alongside the rest of the building in what is called, we have treated them in such a way that the grain and the look of the wood is still visible”.

The topping out ceremony will take place at 12 noon on Wednesday 17th September. Involving the replacing of the final brick will be conducted by the new Chairman of SBPT who is due to be elected that morning. Renowned architectural expert and Suffolk-based author, Norman Scarfe will also be present to give his support to the work.

Also present will be Mick Scott and John Calvino of John W Younger Ltd. - the two skilled craftsmen who worked so diligently on the restoration of Little Hall. ENDS

Notes to Editors

Media organisations are welcome to attend at 12 noon on Wednesday 17th September, but are asked to **contact Paul Simon on (01473) 829171** beforehand.

Images of the 'topping out' will be circulated later that day on request.