

hosking
houses
trust

*‘A woman must have
money and a room of
her own if she is to
write fiction’.*

Virginia Woolf *A Room of One's Own* Penguin Classics 1928

*‘And also a four cylinder saloon
with a hand operated clutch’.*

Attributed to Richmal Crompton



Trust House, 33 The Square



Church Cottage, 35 The Square

Aerial photographs of Clifford Chambers, 1997 *'Chair to Air'* John Miller

THE HOSKING HOUSES TRUST

What we do

The Hosking Houses Trust has been in operation since 2002 and exists to offer women writers who are established in their careers residencies in Church Cottage, Clifford Chambers. These can be from one week's duration to three months, but are usually one or two months and often supported by a personal bursary. We offer personal time (there are no duties) besides peace and privacy. Church Cottage is a little eighteenth century property adjacent to St Helen's churchyard, consisting of one upstairs and one downstairs room, also a small, new studio/workroom and tiny garden. It is fully equipped for simple domestic life and for work. There is nearby access to the River Stour.

Ultimate aim

While we have so far hosted writers, since our studio/workroom was opened (May 2019) we wish also to host artists working on a small scale (and in some way incorporating words and letters) and composers.

Eligibility

Our residents must be aged over forty and to have achieved a significant level of achievement, in any field. We are not for beginners but for women who wish to start, continue or complete innovative work on any subject, or in any genre, whatsoever. There must also be a contract for publication or some sort of public dissemination (exhibitions or performance). We also ask that applicants can demonstrate some type of need whether financial, personal, domestic, political, medical or just the weariness of middle age. Occasionally these conditions are waived, but rarely.

We are open to any woman writing in English but applicants from outside the UK need to have a reason to come here, such as original research or attendance at conferences or performances. We expect to host women singly but some partners are included by arrangement. Pets are welcome.

How to apply

Read the website for full details but initial contact should be by e-mail. One of us will then respond and may invite you to phone for discussion or make a full application. We prefer this to be on paper with a CV and justification for the application, also tell us what you want, when and why.

Where we are

Clifford Chambers is a village of chocolate-box charm within two miles of Stratford-upon-Avon and ten miles off the M40. The main Shipston-on-Stour road out of Stratford branches into the B4632 and the village is one mile along. A cul-de-sac, the only street, terminates at the Manor House and the Church; the Square is directly beside the churchyard and Church Cottage is in the far right-hand corner.

Who We Are

The Trust is run by the founder/secretary and between three and eight trustees. There are also four honorary fellows and between one and three patrons. All current personnel are listed on the website.

Status and contacts

We are a charity (registered 1995) no.1076713

Trust address

33, Duck Lane, The Square, Clifford Chambers,
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 8HT

01789 262924 sarahhosking@btinternet.com

www.hoskinghouses.co.uk



** Church Cottage (back view from St. Helen's churchyard)*

Where our money comes from -

Since 1999 we have conducted near continuous fund-raising, making over 3,000 appeals and applications. We created a database of 500 individuals for personal appeals but our significant money comes from other charities, Arts Council England, collaborators on our programme, a tiny amount from earnings, and even less from local businesses. We have received three major grants-
Foundation for Sport and the Arts

£100,000 in 2008 to purchase Church Cottage

Foyle Foundation

£50,000 in 2016 over five years for bursaries

Arts Council England

£37,000 to build the studio/workroom

How we spend it

Carefully. We require £20,000 plus a year on which to run, Church Cottage costs (£5,000), Trust costs (£5,000) and bursaries (£10,000). Commissions and capital development require and receive further funding. All our accounts for the last five years are on our website.

Collaborators

Coventry University Arts and Humanities Department and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust are established annual collaborators with HHT, extending our range and influence. Others are likely to be forthcoming when we extend our property opportunities.

* Church Cottage,
35, The Square, Clifford Chambers
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 8HT



What next?

We plan to extend our properties so that we may accept wider collaboration and host more creative women including artists and composers.

Publications and events

Round the Square and Up the Tower: Clifford Chambers, Warwickshire was commissioned, conducted and published by HHT in 2013. It is an eclectic study of the immediate area around the church and is part picture book, part history and part prognosis (available from Amazon or HHT). The success of this led us in 2016 to commission ten writers to present a fictional story based upon the same area of the village. *Kiss and Part* is published by the Canterbury Press in September 2019 (available from all good bookshops and Amazon).

We hold an annual Christmas carol event in the Guild Chapel, Stratford and other events as opportunities occur.

Writers we have hosted

This includes novelists and poets, historians of film and medicine, market places and gardens, biographers and photo-journalists, performance artists and yoga specialists, theologians and musicologists, playwrights and milliners. We aim to extend this range with artists and composers. All are included on our website under Residence and Gallery.

Finally- our inspiration and our colours

Virginia Woolf's 1928 polemic *A Room of One's Own* remains the inspiration for our charity because although education and social conditions for woman have altered immensely, there is still inequality of pay and opportunities. Our colours are those of the suffragettes-
Green- give white- women violet- votes

DONATIONS WELCOME see our website 'How to Give'