

# STRAWBERRY HILL TRUST

## PRESS STATEMENT

For release on Thursday 21st June 2007

### Heritage Lottery Fund announces Stage Two pass for £4.6 million for restoration of Strawberry Hill

**The Heritage Lottery Fund has confirmed a £4.6 million grant to the Strawberry Hill Restoration Project.**

*Michael Snodin, Chairman of the Strawberry Hill Trust said: "this is a very significant moment in the history of the project as it means that the lease will now be transferred from St Mary's University College to the Strawberry Hill Trust and work will begin on this significant £8.2 million project."*

*Dr Arthur Naylor, Principal of St Mary's University College said:*

*"St Mary's University College is very pleased by the success of the Strawberry Hill Trust in achieving the HLF funding and the partnership funding to enable the restoration project to go ahead."*

During the past two years conservation architects, Inskip and Jenkins, with the involvement of the Trustees, Friends and Guides of Strawberry Hill, have carried out a massive amount of research into the history of the house which will inform the restoration programme. Thanks to the vast amount of surviving literature, visual evidence and accounts, Strawberry Hill, is one of the most comprehensively documented houses in the country.

Partnership funding has been granted or pledged from a large number of trusts, foundations and individuals including the Architectural Heritage Fund, the City Bridge Trust, English Heritage, The Foyle Foundation, The Linbury Trust, The Weston Family Foundation and the Wolfson Foundation. Through the World Monuments Fund, the Robert W Wilson Challenge Fund to Preserve our Heritage made a very generous grant of \$1.1 million in the early stages of the project which has been matched by other funders. The Strawberry Hill Trust is most grateful for all the help it has received including that from many friends in the UK and America and from those donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Now follows a short period of further investigation and preparation. We expect work to begin in 2008 and to be completed and the house opened to the public in 2010 to coincide with an exhibition on Walpole and his Treasures to be shown at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

## Notes for Editors

Horace Walpole built Strawberry Hill between 1747 and his death in 1790, converting a coachman's cottage into what he described as '*my little gothic castle.*' Strawberry Hill Gothic has become an internationally recognised style of architecture and its influence is seen all over the world.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the house was lived in by the Waldegrave family. Here the chatelaine, Lady Waldegrave held her famous political parties and was responsible for adding a wing of grand entertaining rooms. Present day inhabitants of the area have reason to be grateful as it was due to her that Strawberry Hill Station was built in the 1870s.

In 1923, the house was purchased by the Vincentian fathers for St Mary's College. They preserved the Walpole and Waldegrave layers and added some of their own so that the investigation process is a remarkable voyage of discovery through time.

The house will be open to the public on Sunday afternoons until the end of October and for special tours or educational visits by appointment. Contact Strawberrytours on 0870 626 0402

## Education and Access

St Mary's University College in collaboration with the Strawberry Hill Trust is planning to introduce several courses using Walpole's restored villa as a primary source. These include an MA in Heritage studies and Strawberry Hill modules in English, Art and History degrees

The Trust is also working with a group of local schools and colleges and a disabled advisory group to create a lively access and education programme.

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