

# Newsletter

## January 2018



Happy new year and welcome to our newsletter.

To mark the centenary of female suffrage, our Spring/Summer series of Talk Tuesdays (beginning on March 6<sup>th</sup>) will focus on inspirational women past and present. How have women's roles changed over the past 100 years and what challenges do women face today? There will be time for debate and discussion so please come and join in!

Our first 'Serenity Saturday' is on February 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a chance to show yourself some love with our mini-retreat! Nourish your body with a mix of Yoga, Reiki healing, fresh juices and healthy home-made food.

If you use social media, please check our Facebook page for details and booking links or contact me via e-mail or telephone.

We hope to welcome you to one of our events in the near future.

Best wishes,  
Louisa  
Centre Manager

[cotesbachschoolhouse.org.uk](http://cotesbachschoolhouse.org.uk)

01455558373





The photograph on the main page is of an Ash tree on the Cotesbach estate. It is thought to be around 400 years old, making it one of the oldest trees in the country. Unfortunately, as the photo shows, the recent snowfall caused a large part of the tree to collapse.

## A Woman's Place...

Is in the home? Our new series of Talk Tuesdays focuses on the role of women and marks the centenary of women getting the vote by looking at some inspirational women from the past and the present.



With the archive at our fingertips, with its stories of successive generations of women in the same place, we will uncover stories of resilience and achievement, both of women at home who nurtured, educated, adapted and survived, and of the exceptional few who pushed conventional boundaries, pioneers of cultural change, moulded by place, and yet determined to step over and beyond it.

It is our hope that 'A Woman's Place' will trigger further discussion, and a fresh consciousness – for both men and women – about home, about hard won peace and safety, about wider issues such as faith, politics, education and migration and how much we owe to our foremothers for the opportunities and freedom we are lucky to have today.



FEBRUARY 24TH 10.30AM—1.30PM

TAKE TIME TO NOURISH YOURSELF

WITH YOGA, REIKI, RELAXATION,

FRESH JUICES AND HOME—MADE LUNCH.

Treat yourself (or a loved one) to some rest and relaxation on our first Serenity Saturday.

Places are very limited so please contact us to book a place.

£35 per person including all refreshments and lunch. All abilities welcome.

## ARCHIVE ALIVE project seeks youngsters aged 16+

We are looking for A-level age students to help to bring our Archive Alive by presenting it to other young people through their choice of media (photography, film, social media, printed material).

This is a great chance to meet young people from other areas, develop organisation, team working and leadership skills and build up valuable experience to add to a CV.

This project is supported by the Leicestershire and Rutland Youth Social Action Fund and seeks to engage young people in the heritage sector, an area in which they are currently under represented.

Please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to get involved!



Proudly supporting  
youth social action

#iwill



Department  
for Culture  
Media & Sport



LOTTERY FUNDED



The Reverend James Powell Marriott (1819-1871)



## A Victorian Philanthropist: January 1858

As so often happens in the Archive, the bringing together of various documents from around this date reveals a story. It is an interesting one for the light that it sheds on (amongst other things) the role of the Victorian 'Squarson', the Squire/Parson who was both vicar and local landowner. The 'Squarson' in question was the Rev. James Powell Marriott of Cotesbach: Edward Addison was a labourer who was the tenant of one of the reverend gentleman's cottages in the neighbouring village of Shawell.

Document number .4827.3.b (left, with transcription) is a letter addressed to the Rev. Marriott and sent by Addison from Leicester Gaol. He has been imprisoned for debt, as another set of documents (numbered .5447 and dating from the previous year) testifies; he owes 2 pounds 11 shillings and 6 pence to John Goodrich, a baker. There are three summonses requiring Addison to appear before magistrates and make arrangements for payment; each consecutive summons shows a growing amount of costs in addition to the original sum owed. Addison persistently fails to appear and eventually the threat of committal to 'the Common Gaol or House of Correction' is carried out.

The Reverend J. P. Marriott comes to the rescue of his labourer tenant. Addison's letter from prison is annotated in the clergyman's handwriting:

*E. Addison promises to pay if possible 4 shillings a month towards repayment of debt paid by me. I take the expenses on myself.*



Leicester, Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 1858

Sir,

*I received your kind letter and pleased I was to see it and I shall be thankfull to take the offer you now give to me. Please God I live to get out of here. I will endeavour to never to get here again. I am afraid I shall never be able to reward you for your kindness as I have thought much about my wife and children.*

*The money can be paid at the court office, Lutterworth.*

*I remain your humble Servant*

*Edward Addison*

Background: endpapers from a nineteenth century diary in the collection of Cotesbach Archive

## Volunteering

Thank you to all our current volunteers for your hard work and to those who have offered their time in the last month, we really appreciate your help!

If you too would you like to get involved with CET's work, we'd love to hear from you. Currently we would love to hear from anyone who would like to help with Schools Visits, Crafts Sessions, Social Media or cooking or baking for events. If you have another skill you'd like to offer or could help from time to time at our larger events, such as Heritage Open Days in September, please also get in touch.

Please contact: [hello@cotebachschoolhouse.org.uk](mailto:hello@cotebachschoolhouse.org.uk) or 01455 558373.



## Room Hire

Our Glass-Fronted Café Space and 18th Century Schoolhouse (pictured above) are both available for hire and make great, unusual venues for meetings, events and parties. Refreshments and lunches can be provided using as much produce as possible from Cotesbach Organic Gardens. Discounted rates for Charities and non-business Hire. Opportunities for artists also available.

Please contact our Centre Manager to discuss your requirements and to arrange a visit: [hello@cotesbachschoolhouse.org.uk](mailto:hello@cotesbachschoolhouse.org.uk) or 01455 558373.

# The history of CET

*Imagine if your family had kept almost every single piece of paper that passed through their hands, for hundreds of years.*

*What would you have? Where would you keep it? What stories could you share?*

Cotesbach Educational Trust, a heritage education charity just outside of Lutterworth, South Leicestershire was formed after just such a discovery.

The Marriott family, residents of Cotesbach Estate for over 250 years, stored away receipts, letters, diaries, maps, deeds and more offering a rich picture of every day housekeeping to current affairs and global adventures in Georgian and Victorian times.

Thanks to the support of Heritage Lottery Fund and numerous other funders, Cotesbach Educational Trust were able to move over 6000 documents, described by National Archives as “of considerable historical importance” into a temperate Archive housed in the former Coach House.

Our site comprises a glass and oak activity space/café, toilet block in the former milking parlour, and a stunning eighteenth century Grade II listed Georgian Schoolhouse.

Our unique organisation brings history to life, using the past to inspire learning opportunities through school education programmes, public events and activities, loan boxes, volunteering opportunities and Archive visits.

Cotesbach Educational Trust is a registered charity (no. 1126840) and all profits are reinvested back in to our organisation.

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