

The Old Pig House, Widecombe

The Old Pig House, Widecombe, has now been restored thanks to funding from *Parishscapes* and the Dartmoor Communities Fund.



Above. The restored building and garden, September 2018

The aim of the project, led by Roger Claxton and David Ashman of Widecombe History Group, was to restore the dilapidated building using traditional materials and techniques and create a small memorial garden and accompanying interpretation. The garden, which is open for the community and visitors to enjoy, includes a local planting scheme, a seating area and a noticeboard that will, throughout the year, include displays on the History Group's research, flora and fauna, Dartmoor rural skills, village life and history. The Pig House itself contains a growing collection of farming artefacts and the interior is viewable through clear acrylic panels.

The restoration of the Pig House has brought a huge amount of interest to both locals and tourist alike to a part of Widecombe which isn't usually frequented. People often go to see the Saxon Well, but turn back after that. Now they have more to interest them and many have commented very favourably on the change from a falling down building to what it is now a fully restored Pig House, with a Heritage Garden

Project participant



Above. The Pig House as it looked in June 2017

The site, adjacent to the Saxon Well, was generously donated to the Widecombe History Group by a local resident and is within the village conservation area. The memorial garden has been dedicated to all past members of the History Group including the late Anthony Beard and Joanna Radford, whose artwork illustrated the History Group's previous *Parishscapes* project, the publication of the *Devon Dialect ABC* (available to buy from NP visitor centre's or via the History Group's website).



Above. During the work, a small-scale archaeological excavation took place which revealed an area of original cobbling, November 2017

The site and its amenities are accessible to all so next time you're passing, do call in – the garden is a lovely spot for a picnic and as one local resident commented “*a good place to sit and reflect on the past, and consider your future*”.



Above. The adjacent garden and seating area

[I've enjoyed] seeing [the project] come to fruition and how people really were so pleased with it – it had made a difference to many people within the village – really worth doing

Project participant



Above. Huge thanks to all those involved in the project including Ann and Roger Claxton

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