

# News Release

**Date 15 July 2010**

## **Restoration work to start on memorials**

Work will start next week on a £50,000 scheme to restore listed tombs and memorials at a tiny village parish church.

The state of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century tombs and memorials at West Littleton has been a concern for more than a decade, but it is only in the past year that parishioners have been able to secure grant funding for the work.

St James's church has appointed specialist firm Nimbus Conservation to carry out the delicate restoration work, which is expected to take two to three months to complete.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) awarded a grant of £16,500 while the Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust – which uses landfill tax money – has come up with another £15,000. A number of other organisations and trusts have also given their support and donations have come from visitors to the church as well as from supporters of village events throughout the year.

Work will start on Monday and, while it is taking place, visitors to the church will have the opportunity to see demonstrations of these important heritage skills for themselves, including masonry, archaeological recording and conservation techniques.

An historical trail around the village and church – parts of which date back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century - is also planned.

Project Coordinator David Adams, said "We're really looking forward to seeing the work get underway. The support and interest in the project has been fantastic."

The church has set up a website – [www.stjamesmonuments.org](http://www.stjamesmonuments.org) – to outline the background to the work and to record the restoration as it progresses.

It also contains details of the research carried out on the families commemorated on the tombs and memorials.

HLF Head of Region for the South West, Nerys Watts said: "We are delighted that the important work to restore the West Littleton tombs and memorials is about to start and that it will allow so many people to learn more about the skills that enable us to preserve our wonderful heritage for future generations"

Angela Haymonds, Secretary of ICET said: 'The Tombs and Memorials project is a first for ICET and an exciting new venture into the world of restoration. Now the project



is about to start, visitors will be able to watch the work in progress and learn from the specialised heritage skills needed to ensure its success. I am very much looking forward to seeing the restored tombs and memorials'.

## **ENDS**

### ***For further information, please contact:***

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### ***Notes to Editors***

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. From our great museums and historic buildings to local parks and beauty spots or recording and celebrating traditions, customs and history, HLF grants open up our nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy. Since 1994 it has supported more than 26,000 projects, allocating over £4 billion across the UK. [\*\*www.hlf.org.uk\*\*](http://www.hlf.org.uk)