

The Great Barn Project

History

The Great Barn at Manor Farm is a grade II listed tithe barn that dates back to approximately the 13th century. Along with the Manor house, the barn's history is amazingly well documented through the huge collection of medieval manuscripts that were written in the house from around 1220 to the mid 15th century. From the 13th century, the tithe barn has been a very important building within the village, originally storing the crops produced by the medieval farms, it last stored wheat in 1994 after which the huge midstrey doors closed for the last time.

Today, the condition of the tithe barn has deteriorated substantially with over 700 years of age, and its use as a farm building has become very unsuitable for a long time.

Aim and Objective.

The first main objective of the project is to restore and conserve this fine and important medieval Tithe Barn. A number of roof timbers have decayed and are in need of replacing also the structure of the West midstrey has become unstable due to rain and water damage.

It is therefore the intention to put the Tithe Barn into a good state of repair so as to prevent further deterioration of the fabric of the building, to make good the original large main timber barn doors to the west and east elevations, and restore as many of the original features as possible.

Second Aim and Objective.

The Tithe Barn, together with other existing buildings, will provide a venue and associated facilities, for the whole community to use. The farm already hosts some of the village events providing an outside area within the farm courtyard but at present there are limited toilet or kitchen areas to support them.

Third Aim and Objective.

To provide a venue for a permanent exhibition and displays tracing the history of Bourn and local area through the ages.

Fourth Aim and Objective.

To make the tithe Barn accessible to schools and universities for study and research. Cambridge University have begun using the tithe barn as a research site for their students.

Fifth Aim and Objective.

To make the Tithe Barn available for people to see inside, whether local or visiting, and to make the building accessible to all abilities.