



HISTORIC RESTORATION

“A treasure to delight and serve our local community” enthuses Canon Rob Morris about the centrepiece of Historic Kings Norton, the 2004 winner of the BBC2 Restoration series.

Following completion earlier this year of the restoration of Kings Norton’s Old Grammar School, the former Saracen’s Head has now also reopened its doors to the public. The 15th century wool merchant’s residence has had centuries of history carefully peeled back to reveal the building’s former glory. Completing the transformation is a brand new wing with all mod-cons to equip this important community facility for the 21st century.

use; ensure that all is both accessible and sustainable – and do it on a very constricted site in full consultation with a bewildering variety of volunteer and professional stakeholders”

Since building work commenced in February 2007 and under the guidance of a dedicated team of specialists and professionals, skilled craftspeople from all over the Midlands have transformed the building.

Birmingham-based APEC Architects, specialists in building conservation and community projects, led the design which Canon Morris acknowledges presented a few challenges:

In the picturesque setting of Kings Norton Green, this building is held in great affection by an army of volunteers who’ve dedicated years of their time to its restoration. As the final preparations were made for its official launch, it was clear that the excitement of its reopening extends across local residents and national press alike, eager to witness the start of a new era for this much loved medieval gem.

“We asked the almost impossible: restore completely and reveal a magnificent but run-down Tudor house and a 17th century Grammar School; replace a decrepit Victorian wing by a wholly modern visitor centre with facilities for lively learning, church and community



“ We asked for the almost impossible... and APEC have done it! The result has already made hardened volunteers speechless with joy.”

Canon Rob Morris, Team Rector of Kings Norton Parish

“We have a lift, a cafe, new light in dark places - and stunning new facilities for the church and community gathering, for work with young people and seniors- and for all of us in between.”

Canon Rob Morris, Team Rector of Kings Norton Parish



HISTORIC KINGS NORTON PROJECT

Restoration of the Old Grammar School and the Saracen's Head

- heritage and learning centre
- community and church facilities and offices
- Buildings owned by the Kings Norton PCC
- Winner of the 2004 BBC2 Restoration Series
- Supported by Heritage Lottery Fund, The Restoration Fund and English Heritage
- Opened June 2008

CLIENT

PCC of Kings Norton	Client
The Project Service	Client Project Director

DESIGN TEAM

APEC Architects	Architects/ Lead Consultant
Linford Group	Main Contractor
Peter Cook	Project Manager
Ridge	Quantity Surveyor, CDM
Hancock Wheeldon Ascough	Structural Engineer
Briar Associates	M+E Consultants

Numerous other consultants were involved in the project. Contact APEC Architects for further information if required.



The Old Grammar School, reopened January 2008