

Update from the National Trust – March 2020

Following the vandalism of two of our main carpark machines, replacements have been ordered and will hopefully be in place before Easter. The machines were empty, so the thieves caused damage and expense to the charity for no gain. Carpark revenue helps to raise vital revenue to care for the Henge and surrounding landscape at Avebury. Separately, Highways carried out work to re-surface the entrance to the main visitor carpark recently, which has greatly improved the look and safety of the access area.

The new refurbished Circles restaurant is proving popular with both local residents and visitors and we're pleased to confirm that an upgraded attenuator is being specially designed for us to reduce the sound of the extractor fan.

After trying many approaches to discourage jackdaws from damaging the thatch of the Great Barn, we are about to trial a radical proposal by removing part of the protective netting. Latest theory suggests that this may make it harder for the birds to grip onto the roof to pull out straw. We'll let you know how it goes. Continuing on the thatching theme, we have also commissioned work to re-thatch much of the Manor garden wall that borders St James' Church. This will be funded using money raised through the sale of raffle tickets and will start after Easter.

We have submitted the following planning/LBC applications:

LBC was registered on 30 Sep to re-roof and refurbish the potting shed at the rear of Avebury Manor; a decision expected shortly

Re-roof potting shed changing roof from glazed to roman tile roof, retaining skylight. Internal and external refurbishment, structural stabilisation, new concrete slab floor.

Work to be started post Easter, subject to LBC – partly using Raffle money.

Planning was registered on 20 Jan to re-point Manor Farm:

To repair by - cutting out and replacing - defective brickwork to the oil building, the east gable wall and the east wall to the office extension to the rear of the building.

We are regularly moving erosion control fences within the Henge, to close off areas and allow them to recover in these wet conditions. Currently three of the banks are closed off and it is likely that this will shortly be extended to all four banks. However, access to all four quadrants of the circle will remain in place.