

Milton's Cottage: Paradise Maintain'd

Milton's Cottage at Chalfont St Giles is a Grade 1 listed building. It is a timber framed construction with brick noggings infill, and must have been constructed some time in the sixteenth or early seventeenth centuries. The cottage was restored in the 18th century, when a two-storey wing was added. In the nineteenth century, there were plans to dismantle the building for shipping and rebuilding in the USA, but it was saved for the nation and purchased by public subscription in 1887, Queen Victoria herself making the first donation. It is now run as a museum by the Milton Cottage Trust CIO. It houses a range of priceless artifacts, including a first edition of *Paradise Lost*, the Milton chair, a lock of Milton's hair and an original proclamation, issued by Charles II, banning Milton's books.



Now there is a funding crisis. The Trust “- is able to cover running costs until December 2018” according to chair Simon Avery ”but to ensure we remain open to the public after that, new sources of funding must be found”. The charity has launched an urgent appeal to ensure the continuing operation of the museum at Milton's Cottage. They are also launching the Paradise Maintain'd Endowment Fund to raise funds to help protect and preserve Milton's Cottage in perpetuity. Its target is to raise £ 3.5 million – the level of endowment required to achieve financial self-sufficiency.

For further information about how to support Milton's Cottage please contact the Business Director, Kelly O'Reilly, on 01494 872313 or businessdirector@miltonscottage.org.

You can also join the sister charity, The Friends of Milton's Cottage, www.friendsofmiltonscottage.org.uk