

THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND

CASE STUDY

East England

For 25 years the Architectural Heritage Fund has helped voluntary organisations regenerate historic buildings, creating community and education facilities, workspace and homes. This has often been a catalyst for further regeneration. We have supported relevant voluntary groups with grants, loans and advice on more than 700 projects to date. This is an example.

Community Resource: The Old School House, Lowestoft, Suffolk

The John Wilde School opened in 1788 as a free school to offer education to boys from fishing families. It adjoins one of Lowestoft's historic Scores, sloping lanes leading down towards the sea, originally worn into the landscape by people's feet. Only the oldest building, the Old School House, survived a bombing raid in 1942.



Bird's Eye Walls bought the building in the 1970s but it was gifted to the Lowestoft Civic Society when it became surplus to requirements in 1995. During restoration, an archaeological excavation was carried out, the very



first dig in the historic centre of the town, unearthing finds back to the 13th century. It is now a heritage workshop centre, providing extensive facilities for local historical researchers, and hundreds of volumes of local newspapers on permanent loan are archived here. It is also available for exhibitions and associated functions.

Organisation: *Lowestoft Civic Society*

Contact: *Jane Jarvis 01502 517 950*

High Street/Scores-North Lowestoft Conservation Area

Architectural Heritage Fund assistance: *£126,000 loan in 2001*

The Architectural Heritage Fund – Registered Charity No 266780

We provide grants, loans and advice to voluntary organisations regenerating historic buildings.

Further information is available from:

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