

St. Ann's Well, Malvern

Client: Malvern Hills Trust
Completed: November 2017

Believed to be used by the monks from Worcester living in a hermitage on the Hills when they were building Great Malvern Priory in 1085.

St. Ann's Well is situated on the eastern slopes of the Malvern Hills, above the Victorian Spa Town of Great Malvern. It is understood that well house, housing the marble spout, dates back to 1813. The Octagonal section is a latter addition housing the St. Ann's Well Café, dating back to 1860. The octagonal building is now used as a vegetarian and vegan café, providing respite to walkers.

The building was in a very poor state of repair with inadequate facilities to operate as a café including issues with damp and a café kitchen which was no more than a domestic kitchen.

Matthew Gullick Architects worked in conjunction with English Heritage and the Conservation Officer of Malvern Hills District Council to gain Listed Building Consent which was granted in July of 2017. This popular and historically important building needed a sensitive and considered approach. Access to the site was limited and needed to be undertaken during the summer months.

The result was refurbishment and conservation of the building to include a new Café with new solid surface serving counters and new cupboard units. The flooring was professionally and carefully cleaned to bring out the beauty of the Victorian encaustic tiles. The timber boarding which adorned the walls was carefully removed and refurbished and a new ceiling was installed with lighting to compliment the scheme. The door into the cafe from the well room was dilapidated so this was replaced with a bespoke solid timber and glass door etched with 'St Ann's Well'

The upstairs which supported a flat for the café owner was reconfigured to incorporate a new full commercial kitchen with, new bathroom and full redecoration and floor finishes throughout. Asbestos was removed and fire safety measures were introduced throughout the building to help protect this important historic building.

"It is immediately clear how much you have improved the frontage of the Well House. Until recently it looked run-down and tired. Now it looks in very good order, although its 19th century character has been carefully preserved. The replacement of the timber lean-to by a properly built extension is also a great improvement. Inside the transformation has been even more dramatic. The café and function room are pleasant and comfortable, whilst retaining their cottagey character. The servery and kitchen are amazing improvements which ensure they meet today's food hygiene regulations. The modernized apartment now provides enviable accommodation. The people of Malvern can be very proud of their Well House: you have done a good job."

Quote by John Dixon (Chair of Malvern Civic Award Committee)

Matthew Gullick RIBA
W: www.matthewgullick.com
T: 01684 572984

