

### Case study - Heritage Counts 2015

Theme demonstrated by case study:	Community-Led Restoration of Grade 2 listed Building
Name of project/group:	The Beaufoy Institute Regeneration / London Diamond Way Buddhist Centre / Diamond Way Buddhism UK (charity) Diamond Way Teachings and Centres (charity)
Location:	The Beaufoy Institute  39 Black Prince Road  London  SE11 6JJ
Duration (if applicable):	Started in January 2013, work continues

#### Short description of project:

The aim of the Beaufoy Institute Regeneration project is to:

- build a strong community by sharing the joy of restoration and development of the Beaufoy Institute
- establish a lively London Diamond Way Buddhist Centre for benefit of Kennington and wider London.

The Diamond Way Buddhism UK and the Diamond Way Teachings and Centres charities are behind the project. The two charities are run completely by volunteers (trustees and regular members are not paid), and 95% of their funding comes from donations from their UK and international support base. Recently, they managed to secure a grant for the roof repair from Listed Places of Worship.

#### What would have happened without this project/group?:

Property developers, who acquired the adjoining plot of land, planned to convert the Grade II Beaufoy Institute into flats. The annex would have been demolished to maximize the potential for development for new flats. Consequently, the active community spirit would have been lost and Beaufoy would have ceased to function as a D1 public building.

How did the project achieve its objectives?:

The Beaufoy Institute is being restored and developed mainly by volunteers who quite often are specialists themselves who are happy to share their knowledge and skills with other keen volunteers. Where skills are lacking or risk of failure is too great, the charities employ external consultants and contractors (such as a new heating system or an annex roof repair).

What difference has it made? Main outcomes and outputs.

The project has brought back to life a locally-loved gem with community spirit. It also gave a lease of life, activity and security to the immediate area, due to the continuous presence of residents, guests and volunteers.

As a result of the project, the historic fabric of the building has gone from 'slow decay' to a 'fair' status, according to the Historic England Heritage At Risk Register.

What were the main lessons learnt or challenges would anything be done differently?

A lesson learnt was to bring more highly skilled volunteer builders/craftsmen and project management skills to the project at an early stage. This would enable highly-experienced professionals to guide volunteers on specific restoration issues.

What is the future for the case study?

The project will continue to fulfil the community intent and the scope of the planning permission. The skills and experience acquired by volunteer members are used now in their professional life and shared with friends who run similar projects in the UK and abroad.

Please refer to the blog to see the activity of the centre and building project. It will be in position to release 'before and after' images in due course. See: <http://www.buddhism-london.org/beaufoy-blog>

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