



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



CUSTODIANS OF HOME

Friday 31 January 2014

The Geffrye Museum of the Home

Those who are responsible for historic houses and domestic artefacts in a professional capacity in the museum and heritage sector and those who are concerned with the historic dimensions of their own homes negotiate similar questions about what is of historical value. Maintaining what is deemed to be historically valuable has to be reconciled with processes of change in terms of the use and form of domestic spaces and structures and with processes of material decay. In both cases, what is done to homes in terms of maintenance, selective restoration, redecoration or reconstruction by 'custodians' of different kinds involve varied approaches to issues of choice, authority and responsibility.

This conference seeks to explore questions of the meaning and nature of renovation, restoration, preservation and conservation across the domains of ordinary private domestic homes and the homes or reconstructed domestic spaces that are curated and open to the public. It aims to bring together museum and heritage professionals, lay-expert practitioners and academics across a range of disciplines and fields who are interested in considering how the material form and contents of domestic homes are attributed historical significance and how that significance is attended to in managing the continuous process of change in both lived-in and curated homes.

The conference is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council as part of the *Living with the Past at Home* research project, School of Geography, Queen Mary, University of London. www.livingwiththepastathome.com It is being organised by the Centre for Studies of Home, a partnership between the Geffrye Museum of the Home and Queen Mary, University of London. <http://www.studiesofhome.qmul.ac.uk>

Conference organisers: Catherine Nash, Caron Lipman, Alastair Owens, Alison Blunt, School of Geography, Queen Mary, University of London, and Eleanor John, The Geffrye Museum of the Home.





Conference Programme

10.00 Registration and Tea & Coffee

10.15. Welcome and introductions

Session 1 10.20-12.30

10.20 Living with the Past at Home: Domestic Prehabitation and Inheritance
Catherine Nash, Queen Mary, University of London

10.50 Living in the Past: Preservation, interpretation, and engagement,
and the 19th-early 20th century home
Kirsten Jarrett, Freelance Educator and Researcher

11.20 Domestic Past for the Homeless
Karen Harvey, University of Sheffield

11.50 Questions and discussion

12.30 – 1.30 Lunch

Session 2 1.30 -4.30

1.30 Leave Home Stay: making art out of domestic uncertainty
Christine Finn, Author, Journalist and Artist.

2.00 The personal histories of things: keeping and caring
Julia Keyte, Sheffield Hallam University

2.30 Tea & Coffee

2.45 In need of modernisation? The challenges of working with vacant
historic buildings.
Charlotte Reynolds, Conservation Officer, Milton Keynes,
City Council

3.15 Kelmscott Manor; in search of William Morris
Anne Anderson, Hon. Research Fellow Exeter University
Associate MIRC, Kingston University

3.45 – 4.30 Question, discussion and closing remarks