

Tithe Barn, Sproughton

The 17th/18th century Tithe Barn is located in the medieval heart of Sproughton Village, close to the River Gipping and Sproughton Church.

The Tithe Barn and Courtyard were given to Sproughton Parish Council in April 1978, under a Deed of Gift and Covenant by Mrs Nancy Hughes-Reckitt, OBE.

The Barn is an eight bay timber framed construction, the South side of which still has its carpenters' marks. It consists of one major space, 7m x 30m, and a wing at either end. One wing has a kitchen and a small meeting room/IT suite (known as the Barley Room); the other wing has been converted for use as a retail unit.



The Tithe Barn is used as a community building for village functions, community lunches, club use, corporate and private hire. Since the insulation works have been undertaken bookings have increased, in particular as a wedding reception venue. The Parish Council is particularly proud that a couple who had decided to have an all 'green' wedding, chose the Tithe Barn as the venue for their wedding reception because of its green credentials.

Insulation Project

In 2009, the Parish Council was awarded grants from Cut Your Carbon of £83,000 and Suffolk, Creating the Greenest County Fund, of £39,000.

The grants enabled the main barn to be insulated.

The weatherboarding was removed and the plywood lining was replaced with a heavier gauge. A layer of Pavatherm insulation was added. The weatherboarding was then replaced with a small air layer between it and the Pavatherm. The Pavatherm insulation used was rated as 'BREEAM A'. It is made from reconstituted saw mill waste.

The midstre doors were renewed and fitted into proper frames. Double glazed doors were fitted behind the midstre doors.

The insulation works have provided acoustic and thermal values to the Tithe Barn. The glazing now admits natural light, a feature that wasn't there before as the Barn has no other windows.

Overview

Age, type: Pre 1800, Civic

Cost: £141,000

Floor space: Approx. 259 m²

Current Energy Usage:

2012/13: Electricity: 14,066 kWh
(54 kWh per m²)

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The Parish Council has sought to make the Tithe Barn usable all year round. Since it is a carbon neutral construction, the Council has been interested in developing the Tithe Barn in a carbon neutral way.

The Tithe Barn complex has been divided into two separate units, the main barn and the retail unit (known as the West Store). The retail unit has been occupied by Sproughton Community Shop C.I.C. since March 2010 and provides locally grown and sourced produce to the community. It has been predicted that 8 tonnes of private car emissions will be saved by the provision of the community shop to the community.

Sproughton Parish Council:

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If you have any specific questions about this case study, these can be directed to the building owner via the website:

www.greensuffolk.org/sgbn