hosking houses trust

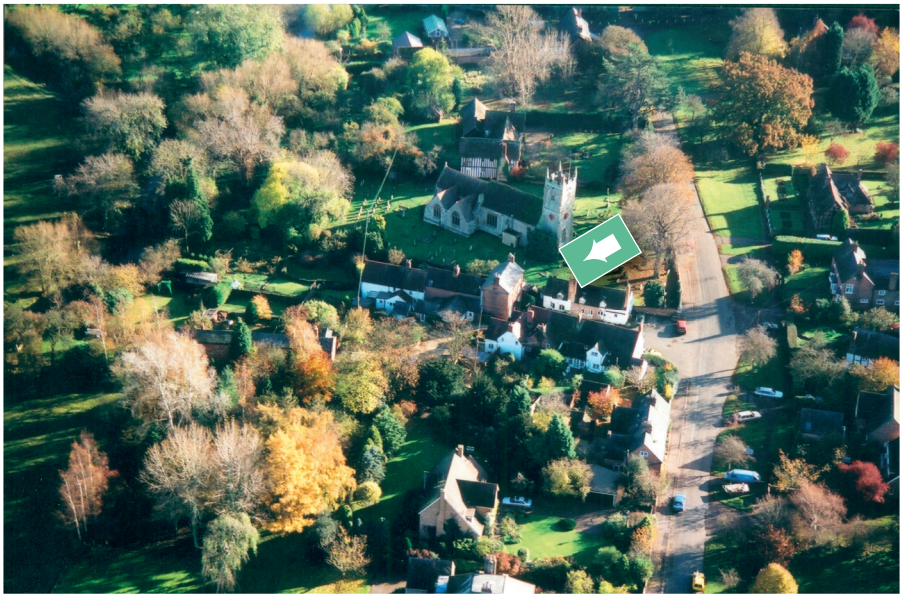
'A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction'.

Virginia Woolf 'A Room of One's Own' Penguin Classics 1928

'And also a four cylinder saloon with a hand operated clutch'.

Attributed to Richmal Crompton





Trust House, 33 The Square

Church Cottage, 35 The Square

Aerial photographs of Clifford Chambers, 1997 'Chair to Air' John Miller

THE HOSKING HOUSES TRUST

What we do

We give free residencies to older women writers, artists and other 'creators' for one month. Residents live in Church Cottage which is on the edge of Clifford Chambers, a small village two miles south of Stratford-upon-Avon. Dated about 1760, the cottage consists of one room upstairs and one downstairs besides a small newly built studio/workroom. It is warm, comfortable and well-equipped for a domestic and working life. There is a tiny garden and open land running down to the nearby River Stour where our boat is available. We offer private time to professional and creative women who need respite from their duties and personal lives.

Eligibility and conditions

Residencies are open to any women who demonstrate a significant level of achievement and who are aged over forty. We are not for beginners but for experienced women who wish to start, continue or complete innovative, personal work on any subject, in any medium or genre. While we welcome applications world-wide from those with a particular reason to come to the UK (such as primary research, contributions to events or performances etc) writers should be writing in English and other practitioners need to speak and write English fluently. Some element of need must also be demonstrated, such as financial, personal, domestic, political, medical or just the weariness of middle age. Our residencies carry no duties, a person's time is her own and financial support can occasionally be offered. While nearly all residencies are for one person, same gender couples are occasionally hosted. Pets are welcome.

How to apply

Data is available on our website and applications are considered once or twice a year by our appointed assessors. Candidates have to complete our form but may add other material and two references are required. Writers may offer any subject matter, and artists/others any genre but their work must be on a small scale (the studio is small). We welcome unusual work and innovation and appointments are made on merit.

Who we are

The trust is run by up to seven trustees, one of whom is chair and our founder, who lives nearby. We have a clerk, three honorary fellows and a patron. We are run almost entirely on voluntary effort but we employ an accountant and solicitor as needed, a handyman/gardener and cleaners for our premises.

Past residents

We have hosted over two hundred women since 2002, including novelists and poets, historians of film and medicine, market places and gardens, also biographers and photo-journalists, performance artists and yoga specialists, theologians and musicologists, playwrights and ,milliners, composers and dancers, lawyers and painters, land-artists and graphic novelists. We would like to attract scientists and others from the full range of professions now open to women.

Where we are

Clifford Chambers is a village of chocolate-box charm within two miles of Stratford-upon-Avon and ten miles off the M40. Rail services are from Stratford or Warwick Parkway station. While residents who bring a car find this useful (the village has no shop) there is a bus service and we offer a good bicycle. The village itself is a cul-de-sac which terminates at the manor house, the nearby church is beside The Square where Church Cottage is situated. It is peaceful and rural, safe and simple.

Status and collaboration

The Hosking Houses Trust was registered as a charity in 1995, becoming active in 2002. In 2024, we were re-registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, involving legal adjustments which included a re-definition of our aims. We have collaborated with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Coventry University, Mercury Musicals (London), 'Ways with Words' (Norfolk) and currently with the Women in Art Prize (London). All these collaborators have extended our range and experience.



** Church Cottage (back view from St. Helen's churchyard)*

Sources of income

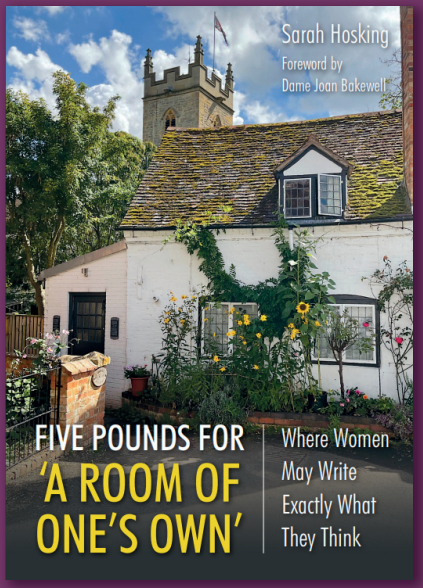
From 1999 until Covid, we conducted a near continuous fund-raising programme to cover annual revenue costs. Capital costs came from: The Foundation for Sport and the Arts gave £100,000 whereby we bought Church Cottage; the Pilgrim Trust rebuilt its chimney; Arts Council England built the studio workroom, and a major grant from the Foyle Foundation gave five years of bursary funding. Full financial data from 2006 onwards is on our website. Currently, revenue costs are covered by regular donations from individuals and charities, reclaimed gift aid and rental income from associated property.

Publications

Since we are highly site specific, we have produced three books that pertain to this immediate area. *'Round the Square and Up the Tower: Clifford Chambers, Warwickshire'* was commissioned, conducted and published by HHT in 2013. It is an eclectic, illustrated study of the immediate area around the church and the land by the river. Its success led to *'Kiss and Part - an anthology'* based on the same area, it was published by Canterbury Press in 2019. In 2026, Brewin Books published *'Five Pounds for 'A Room of One's Own'- where women may write exactly what they think'*, and this is the autobiography of our founder, Sarah Hosking, about how and why she founded the trust.

Our inspiration and our colours

Virginia Woolf's 1928 polemic *'A Room of One's Own'* has been our direct inspiration and we have given her idea bricks, mortar and a credited bank account. 1928 was the same year that women won the vote and so we use the colours of the suffragettes in our publicity; **Green (give), White (women), Violet (votes)**



***Round the Square* - £10.00**
***Kiss and Part* - £16.00**
***Five Pounds* - £17.95**

All available from HHT, Amazon or Waterstones, Stratford-upon-Avon

The future

We would like to buy more property in this immediate area so we may host a wider range of residents. But the trust is the sole beneficiary of the founder, whereby there will be four properties available. In the meantime, we seek capital for further purchase and to consolidate our financial position.

Address and contacts

Office address:
Trust House, 33 Duck Lane, The Square, Clifford Chambers,
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 8HT

Telephone 07925 483991
hoskinghousestrust@gmail.com
www.hoskinghouses.org.uk

A registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (1209930)

How to support us

We welcome donations and legacies.

Our bank details for donations are:
Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-99-50, Account Number 65583662



