

PRESS RELEASE: Accreditation

July 2008

MUSEUM WINS MLA APPROVAL IN RECORD TIME

Court Barn Museum, in the Cotswolds, has been awarded Full Accreditation status by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). That is not news in itself, since many museums in the UK are accredited. The news is that Court Barn only opened as a museum one year ago and it has already reached the nationally agreed standards for UK Museums.

Court Barn, which opened to the public in July 2007, is an independent museum and the brainchild of a group of local enthusiasts called the Guild of Handicraft Trust. The museum was created through the generous support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Guild of Handicraft Trust raised the £1.3 million needed to create the museum.

The groundbreaking museum is situated in the beautiful old town of Chipping Campden and tells the story of how a small town, in a beautiful setting, became a gathering place for people from the Arts and Crafts movement onwards. The museum has been created to celebrate these talented designers, craftspeople, artists and architects, such as **C.R.Ashbee** who worked in Chipping Campden and the north Cotswolds since about 1900.

MLA's Accreditation process, which is in its twentieth year, sets national standards for UK museums, and each museum, when applying, must show that it meets those standards in its governance and management, the services which it provides for visitors, and the care of its collections.

Frank Johnson, Hon. Curator of the museum, said: "We are proud to have been awarded Full Accreditation so quickly. We worked on our application while we were still creating the museum, and that put us under pressure. But it was worth it. It showed us the ground rules of good museum practice.'

Mark Wood, Chair of MLA, said: 'Being awarded Accreditation is an impressive achievement. It recognises the high standard and service that Court Barn Museum provides and acknowledges the hard work of the staff.'

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