

New Projects for Sulgrave Manor



We have a number of small and medium sized projects and sponsorship opportunities which may be of interest for an individual or family group to support.

COOKING AND
CLEANING



The Manor &
Collections

Silk Shoes, circa 1690-1720



We have two pairs of ladies' shoes, purchased for Sulgrave Manor in the 1920s by the Sulgrave Committee. Made of silk brocade, leather and edged with silk ribbon, these shoes were luxury accessories that were made to be worn at special occasions. In the past they were on open display and are now in urgent need of cleaning and conservation so we may display them in the Manor.

The cost is £7,000/\$9,500

George Washington's chair (c. 1780)

This George III period chair, believed to be part of a set once at Mount Vernon, was gifted to Sulgrave Manor in 1923 by Robert Dana Washington. It holds both historical and interpretive value. The chair has been in storage for many years due to the poor condition of its upholstery. Conservation will preserve each layer and either apply a reproduction cover or display the original materials with interpretation.

The estimated cost of treatment is £4,000 /\$5,400.



Longcase Clock Conservation

We need to carry out conservation works on our longcase clock dating from 1730's to hear it chime once again in the Manor. Made by clockmaker Thomas Utting of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, records show that it has been a central feature in the Parlour since the room was first restored in 1930.

The cost to repair the clock is £3,000/\$4,000.

Collection Conservation

We would love to share more of our collection with the public. In order to bring items into our displays some will need conservation, cleaning or glazing. For example one of our portraits of George Washington requires work to its gilded frame. Conservation is costly with each task requiring at least £1,000 (\$1400).

If you are interested in supporting conservation works at Sulgrave Manor please speak to us and we can share our most urgent projects.



Flemish Tapestry, or Verdure Panel (c. 1650)

This piece, also known as a verdure panel, was purchased by Viscountess Lee in 1921 for display in the Great Bedchamber. Its inclusion reflected the importance of textile art in high-status interiors of the period and formed part of a wider effort to furnish Sulgrave Manor with objects that reflect Anglo-American heritage. It requires full treatment and a new hanging mechanism to allow for safe display. The estimated cost of conservation is between £20,000 and £22,250/ \$27-\$30,000.

Conservation Lighting

We are seeking funding to install conservation-grade lighting across key display areas within the Manor. This upgrade will ensure light levels are carefully controlled, UV exposure is minimised, and objects are presented in a way that enhances both preservation and visitor experience. Improved lighting will also help guide visitors through the rooms, highlight key narratives, and create a more engaging atmosphere. The total cost will be confirmed following a specialist assessment.

Embroidered Picture with Central Painting (c. 1650)

This rare embroidered picture is believed to have strong links to the Washington family and may have been one of the few personal possessions taken to colonial America. It was gifted to Sulgrave Manor by Viscountess Ruth Lee.

It features a unique combination of embroidery and a central painted panel, with no known parallels from the period.

The embroidery is currently unstable and has never been conserved. Proposed treatment includes surface cleaning, securing loose threads, and remounting.

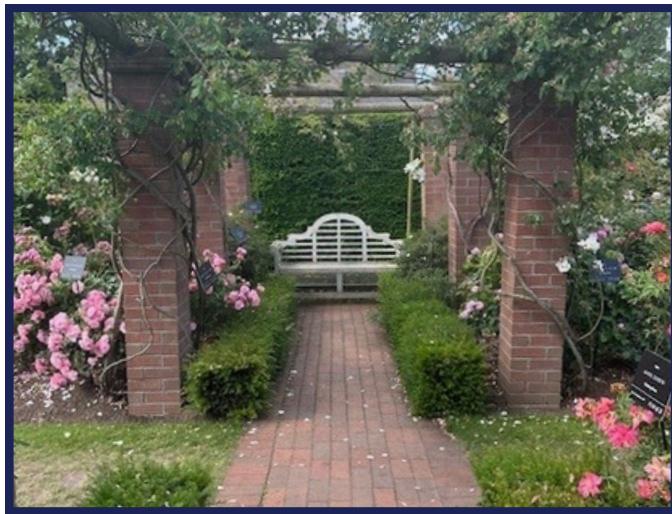
The cost of conservation and re-framing is £4,500/\$6,000.



A photograph of a garden path. A light-colored gravel path leads into the distance, framed by two rows of young trees with green leaves. The path is bordered by a low, mown grass lawn. The sky is bright and overexposed.

In the Garden

New Rose Garden



Following the successful project to re-develop the Lower Herb Garden, the team have set their sights on the remaining area.

Requiring replacement dry stone walls, paths and borders the plans for this area are to create a new Rose Garden featuring all types of Roses with a focus on David Austen style shrub roses on the main beds.

The cost of this project is
£10,000/\$13,500

Greenhouse

The garden team produce and protect all plants for the garden in one domestic sized greenhouse. With plans to introduce new borders there is a desperate need for a bigger and more versatile space. The team have researched and asked for funding for a new larger, multi bay greenhouse which can also be used to provide vital wet weather work space for volunteers.

The cost of this project is
£20,000/\$27,000



Furniture Sponsorship

Sponsoring a teak bench or picnic set at Sulgrave Manor is a wonderful way to remember a loved one – particularly if they have had fond memories of visiting Sulgrave Manor, or involvement in the Friends of Sulgrave Manor during their lifetime.

The cost of a bench is £2,000/\$2,700 which is guaranteed for 10 years with a plaque of up to 10 words fixed to the back of the bench.



Learning & Engagement

A Moving Story Community Project

Taking John Washington's immigration story as its inspiration, the Moving Story display considers the challenges and opportunities of moving to a new community and what part we all play in our own communities.

We would like to welcome new audiences to the Manor and in particular engage with those who have a moving story of their own. In this project the team will establish links with community organisations working with them to build confidence, strengthen community links and add to our displays for all visitors.

The cost of this project is £3,000/\$4,000.

Explorers' Map

It has been some time since we have had a printed trail around the Manor and Garden. We would love to produce a high quality leaflet to engage families during visits, highlighting plants, features and objects around the property.

The cost to design and produce this material is £4000/\$5,500.



The 'Poor House'

During school visits children learn about the life of wealthy wool merchant Lawrence Washington. As a way of meeting more key learning areas of the national curriculum we would like to create an area showing what life was like for working people at that time.

Our shepherd's hut, to be sited within the garden, would include a raised sleeping area, cooking utensils and a spinning wheel.

The cost of this project is £6,000/ \$8,000

Costumes for the Learning Team

Our Learning Team welcome schools every week. At present the team have one heavy wool costume each, which are starting to look worse for wear. We would love to invest in some new costumes for our team which are newer and more historically accurate.

It would also be wonderful to have a cooler linen costume for the summer months.

The cost of this project is £1,000/\$1350



Supporting the Trust



Endowment - The 250 Club

It's been over 100 years since funds were raised for an Endowment for Sulgrave Manor. No new donations can be added. The income from this fund supports some of the Manor's costs today, but with increasing costs we recognise we need to do more to sustain the Manor and the Trust's work in the future.

To mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence we are launching a new endowment campaign - The 250 Club. We aim to welcome 250 supporters to support our new Endowment and to become members of the 250 Club.

Legacy

Keep making a difference

Thanks to the generosity of previous legators we have been able to introduce green energy to Sulgrave Manor, helping to make us more financially and environmentally sustainable. We have received objects for our collection which enrich our museum and engage our visitors. These legacies play a vital part in planning our future.



If you could help support any of the initiatives listed here please contact our CEO, Alison Ray at alison.ray@sulgravemanor.org.uk.

Thank you for your support