

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**28th May 2016**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

#### **Hosking Houses Trust launches fund-raising campaign to support 'A Room of One's Own'**

Tucked away in the village of Clifford Chambers, just two miles outside Stratford upon Avon, is a literary hideaway - Church Cottage. The one-up one down cottage is owned and managed by The Hosking Houses Trust, a charity set up in 1995 by Sarah Hosking with the vision of providing a creative space and financial support for women writers over 40 in need of peace and space to concentrate on their work. Since residencies started in 2002, the Cottage has been home to 70 creative women. The HHT is now looking towards the future by launching an on-line giving campaign to fund much needed renovations, an extension to the Cottage and to extend the opportunity to other creative women over 40, including musicians and visual artists.

The Hosking Houses Trust is asking for donations of any size through a new Crowdfunder project which will launch on June 1st and run for 8 weeks. Donations have rewards attached, from an invitation to a Christmas concert to a full weekend visit to the Cottage, visit to the RST and Shakespeare properties and their name on a residency.

Founder Sarah Hosking says 'Having successfully established a 'Writer in Residence' (and it has taken about three thousand letters over ten years to achieve), my aim now is to establish similar, endowed opportunities for a visual artist, a composer and a 'something', perhaps combining the arts, sciences and philosophies in tranquil, domestic circumstances. In order to achieve this, the Trust needs to raise £20,000 over the coming years to carry out repairs and extend the cottage which is needed to offer women artists as well as writers this valuable opportunity. We hope that people will support us through donations - large or small, all are being rewarded through our Crowdfunder project and we aim to ensure all those who help us feel involved in our journey.'

Marion Fleetwood, a Stratford based musician who is helping the Trust in this new venture, says 'For a Trust as established and respected in literary circles to branch out into Crowdfunding is both admirable and wise. The aims of the Hosking Houses Trust are very specific, and in these times of charities chasing ever smaller or over-subscribed sources of funding they need to be creative in their fundraising. The lovely thing about Crowdfunding is that not only does it raise much needed revenue, it also involves people in projects. People who donate in this way get to become part of a charity which does something really remarkable for a demographic often overlooked in the race to find the next young starlet. I have benefited from a short residency at the cottage, during which I didn't need to think about anything other than my work - a rare luxury as a working mum of two! I could concentrate on my creativity and during three days wrote the lyrics and basic musical arrangements for half an album. With

my own experience of successfully Crowdfunding a solo album last year, I'm very happy to support the Trust in return through my experience in Crowdfunding so other women can benefit from a similar residency.'

The Hosking Houses Trust and Church Cottage have welcomed writers in residence as part of the Stratford Poetry Festival and in collaboration with the RSC, and previous writers in residence have included Joan Bakewell and Salley Vickers. For the majority of each year though, the people the Trust supports are chosen from hundreds of applications from women over 40 (one of the conditions for being considered) who need time, space and financial support to complete a work, away from the pressures and demands of normal, everyday life. Previous residencies have been held by librettists, novelists, biographers, medical and social historians, broadcasters, photojournalists, performance artists and even a milliner.

To make a donation, visit [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/the-hosking-houses-trust](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/the-hosking-houses-trust)

More information about The Hosking Houses Trust can be found on their website:

[www.hoskinghouses.co.uk](http://www.hoskinghouses.co.uk)

## **ENDS**

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