

HAGLEY HALL

Work to bring hall back to former glory



Lord Cobham is pictured in front of the historic Hagley Hall



Lord Cobham and site boss Ron Graham



Stonemason Ian Murray at work



Ron Graham shows Lord Cobham the detailed plans for the work

Hundreds of years of history are built into the very fabric of Hagley Hall and its sprawling parkland.

Yet for months, tonnes of scaffolding has surrounded the 18th century building.

But the renovated building will soon be stepping out of the shadows in time to celebrate a landmark occasion.

Hagley Hall and Park owner Lord Cobham, Christopher Charles Lyttelton, has made it his mission to return the hall to its former glory and restore the park to allow visitors to once again walk around the Grade-I listed parkland. It will open in April and Lord Cobham hopes to host an open-air charity event this summer celebrating

Report by Andrew Turton
 the building's 250th anniversary. Conservative estimates for the restoration work already run into several million pounds and Lord Cobham says funding for major projects still needs to be found.
 Top priority are repairs to the fire damaged roof which has never been properly repaired since 1925.
 Leaks have sprung in the temporary felt roof which has hastened a £1 million pound funding bid to English Heritage to bring back the hall's traditional Mansard-style slopping roof. While news of the funding bid has yet to come through, English Heritage

together with conservation group Natural England have been working with Lord Cobham on a number of urgent projects at the hall and the 350-acre parkland.

Stone masons have also been on site replacing 240 balusters surrounding the roof and the entrance steps.

Aldridge-based restoration building firm Midland Conservation Ltd has sourced Dunhouse Buff stone from County Durham which closely resembles the original stonework of the hall.

Lord Cobham said: "I want to reconnect the park with the people of Hagley and the surrounding areas. It had been a focal point for the village for many years."