



Undershaw in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's day and Undershaw today. © The Victorian Society

The race is on to save UNDERSHAW

*South West Surrey MP
Jeremy Hunt said:*

"I am adding my wholehearted support to this campaign as I am a big fan of Sherlock Holmes and also a great believer in the importance of keeping the building's literary heritage alive and well for the area and for future generations."



An urgent appeal has just been launched by the Hindhead Together Partnership to find out if Sherlock Holmes fans across the world, as well as nature and wildlife societies, will pledge support for a multi-million pound project to secure the future of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's home, Undershaw.

The history

The house was built by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for his invalid wife Louise in 1897 but despite its history and inspirational location, in recent years it has fallen on hard times.

Waverley has undertaken temporary protection works as a result of vandalism and theft of the lead roof, and has been pressing the owner to resolve the future of the house. Recently it served a Repairs Notice which specified works that the Council would require for Undershaw's proper permanent repair. The Council is now in active discussions with the current owner to convert the original Undershaw to three houses together with the demolition of

the later extension and its replacement with a new wing of town houses.

Until 2004 it was a hotel and restaurant but recent plans for a hotel, wedding venue and museum fell through. The Victorian Society tried unsuccessfully in 2007 to have the house awarded Grade 1 status but this was rejected. The planners have not yet made any decisions on the residential project, which gives Hindhead Together an opportunity to test the level of public support before putting together a business plan and setting an appeal target. Waverley's action has bought time for the building - but speed is crucial if the aspiration for a heritage and visitor centre is to be realised.

Pledge your support now! (see form overleaf)

If you would like to help save Undershaw, and preserve the history of one of the best known UK authors, please pledge your support.

Please let us know as soon as possible by contacting the Hindhead Together Co-ordinator Caroline White by completing the form overleaf.

Caroline can be contacted on 07772 855090 or caroline@hindheadtogether.org.uk or visit www.hindheadtogether.org.uk for more information

www.hindheadtogether.org.uk

Supported by:



National Trust Statement



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
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The National Trust owns and cares for 1600 acres of spectacular SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) land in the Hindhead area, including the rare lowland heath habitat of Hindhead Commons the Devil's Punch Bowl, the largest spring-formed feature in Britain. In a statement the charity said:

“We share the anxiety expressed by the Hindhead Together partnership about the future of Undershaw. Plans to develop this listed building for purely residential use with no recognition of its past history seem very unsympathetic.

Undershaw is of great historical significance and we are keen to see it preserved for local

people and Sherlock Holmes fans throughout the world. If sufficient interest and funding was raised we would be keen to work with the others members of the Hindhead Together partnership to explore whether the property could be used as a visitor centre and gateway to the outstanding landscape of the Devil's Punchbowl.”

Catalyst for a Hindhead renaissance



Hindhead Together Chairman, Poul Christensen, believes that Undershaw is a major national asset that could breathe new life into Hindhead. So the race is on to find people, societies and organisations willing to pledge financial support.

Hindhead Together partners believe Undershaw could represent a focal point for a Hindhead renaissance following the opening of the A3 tunnel and removal of the existing noisy main road.

Hindhead Together partners are working to secure a brighter future for the Hindhead area. We have produced a Concept Statement to guide the redevelopment of the crossroads area with the reunited Devils Punchbowl and Hindhead Commons at the top and Undershaw at the bottom.

In between these two fabulous attractions we want to see a coherent, high quality regeneration of the buildings, creating a thriving mixed use area of housing, shops, cafes and businesses, making Hindhead the place to live, work and visit.

The historical connections of the Hilltop Writers, in particular Conan Doyle, give a



Busy Hindhead crossroads with traffic passing Undershaw on the right.

rich background of creativity upon which to build upon.

The renaissance of Hindhead can be driven by the purchase, preservation and presentation of Undershaw as a visitor and heritage centre, open to the public offering an insight into the life and work of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

The path that visitors will then take from Undershaw to the newly reunited Devils Punchbowl and Hindhead Commons will create that necessary footfall for Hindhead village to become a vibrant bustling place.

I would like to pledge my support...

Name:	
Address:	
Post Code:	
Tel:	Email:
Comments:	

Please detach and return by post to: Caroline White, Project Coordinator
Hindhead Together c/o The Witley Centre Witley, Godalming, Surrey GU8 5QA