

Message for Transferware Collectors

We wish to express our grateful thanks to those members of your club, who took the trouble to respond to our request for letters to be written regarding the Spode Museum.

Together with letters from members of the Spode Society, they certainly put the cat among the pigeons.

Since then, we have consulted many people, most importantly David Benjamin, Managing Director at Spode, who is also Chairman of the Spode Museum Trust. We are all waiting with bated breath for the decisions of English Heritage and Stoke Council as to possible listing and/or being included in the Stoke Conservation Area.

Unfortunately, if the whole site is listed or included in the Conservation Area, this will seriously restrict the options open to the developer, which might cause him to pull out of the deal. This would probably result in the Spode factory going bankrupt, which none of us wishes even to contemplate.

We are all hoping for a good British compromise, in which some buildings are listed or in the Conservation Area and may be leased back by Spode for retail, workshop, offices and, of course, the Museum. The rest of the site, which is not so important historically, could then be developed, subject to planning consent being given by the Council.

In the meantime, the Spode business cannot afford to run the Museum, as it has done previously. Obviously, we do not want the Museum to close and to lose the services of the curator, so, some enthusiastic members of the Spode Society formed a steering committee in order to set up a fundraising group, which will be known as the 'Friends of the Spode Museum'.

If any of you is able to help us, either by joining the Friends, making a donation, or both, we shall all ultimately benefit.

Bill and Marguerite Coles.