



A JOURNEY THROUGH KIDDERMINSTER'S TOWN HALL

Issue 3, Autumn 2024



Hello, welcome to the Autumn issue of our newsletter where we keep you updated on our National Lottery Heritage Funded Project, 'A Journey Through Kidderminster's Town Hall'. To find out more please contact Jackie Murrall, Heritage Volunteer Coordinator on 07818 506779, E: Jackie.Murrall@kidderminstertowncouncil.gov.uk or check out frequently asked questions on the Kidderminster Town Hall website www.kidderminstertownhall.org.uk

Update from Matt Smith, Town Hall Manager

Kidderminster Town Hall Transformation Project



I am pleased to report that good progress has been made on the project since its commencement in January this year. The majority of the ceiling repairs have been completed and painted, the audio and visual installation has commenced and tiling in the toilet areas has started. Additionally, all roof and stonework has been finished and the courtyard canopy has been put in place in preparation for the ETFE roofing (Ethylene TetrafluoroEtilene) to be installed.

The project remains on schedule for the planned completion date next summer. It's an exciting time as we watch everything come together to provide an up-to-date facility that will be future proofed for the benefit of the community.

Wyre Forest Historical Research Group Chairman Gay Hill and members of the group were involved in some of the research towards the grant application for Kidderminster Town Hall in 2019-20. We are delighted that Gay, a semi-professional historian, will be leading the historical research now needed for the implementation of the heritage project. Gay's main involvement will be to teach any newcomers how to go about researching the main sources for local history, both online and in person, and to support and mentor the research volunteers. This support is likely to include tours around Kidderminster Library's Local History Collection and possibly the Hive in Worcester and the Museum of Carpet archive. Practical training on using a microfilm reader for newspapers etc not available online will be included. A great chance to learn from our local expert!

**** Volunteer researchers needed ****

If you would like to get involved in this aspect of the project please contact Jackie Murrall, Heritage Volunteer Coordinator on 07818 506779, E: Jackie.Murrall@kidderminstertowncouncil.gov.uk

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Heritage event held at Kidderminster Library in September



The heritage event served as a great opportunity to consult and update the public regarding future plans for Kidderminster Town Hall. We heard from several community members who shared their cherished memories of the Town Hall, adding a personal touch to the event. Bill and Janet Charles told us how they met at the Town Hall in the 1960's when famous bands used to play there, and that they have just celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary in September! Their connection to Kidderminster Town Hall continues as their grandson Adam carried out his work experience in the summer with staff involved with the Town Hall refurbishment, which he told us he thoroughly enjoyed.

The exhibition featured some of the many choirs who have performed at the Town Hall over recent years. Visitor Stephanie Thomas commented "I have enjoyed many concerts by Kidderminster Choral Society and one favourite is their Christmas concert. It is multi generational with an element of fun audience participation. We have gone with 3 generations of our family, all dressed in something red and everyone, young and old, thoroughly enjoyed it. I really hope it will return to the new stage as an annual Christmas treat. Best ever concert by the Choral Society was A Night at the Opera.....loved every minute of that one. Outstanding! I am so looking forward to the first public performance there".



Got 2 Sing choir leader Charlotte Crowe said "Leading a choir at Kidderminster Town Hall is such a treat. It is a truly beautiful space, the acoustics are stunning and, knowing all the amazing performers who have sung and played there, walking up the steps on to the stage feels like such an honour".

We look forward to welcoming back all of our fabulous local choirs when the Town Hall reopens.

We had an excellent turnout to the heritage event, especially from our regular Town Hall users and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. We left the exhibition up for a week so that other visitors to Kidderminster Library and the Job Centre could view it. We are planning a similar event in future to take place on a Saturday to enable more people to come along, so watch this space!

