



# A JOURNEY THROUGH KIDDERMINSTER'S TOWN HALL

Issue 1, Spring 2024



**Hello,**

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter where we will keep you updated on our National Lottery Heritage Funded Project 'A Journey Through Kidderminster's Town Hall'. We will report on the progress of the Town Hall transformation and the heritage activities that are taking place, prior to and upon reopening in 2025. Please contact us if you would like the newsletter in a different format such as audio, easy reader or large print.

## Message from Hugh Peacocke, Chief Executive, Kidderminster Town Council



"The Town Hall has been at the heart of the community in Kidderminster for almost 2 centuries now. The Town Council took it over in 2015 and we are delighted to be leading on the transformation of the building. We can't wait to return there in 2025 and invite the community to join us in the many exciting events which will then take place. While looking forward to the future, we are also very grateful to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for their support for the project "A Journey Through Kidderminster's Town Hall" which will illuminate the Town Hall's past history and role in the community."

## The Story So Far...

Contractors Speller Metcalfe moved in to start the works on the Town Hall transformation in January when the external hoardings went up. They are responsible for the building during this time but the project team are in close communication. Work is well under way as can be seen from the photos. The contractors kindly conducted a hard hat tour in April for some of the Kidderminster College Creative Media students who are volunteering on the project. As Charlie Tromans said of the visit "It was very Interesting to see behind the scenes and all the work they've been putting in, I look forward to seeing it all finished"



We have created a volunteer programme to develop and deliver heritage activities. If you would like to know more please contact Jackie, Heritage Volunteer Coordinator [Jackie.Murrall@kidderminstertowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.Murrall@kidderminstertowncouncil.gov.uk) or tel 07818 506779



The Town Hall Management Team are project managing the heritage project which is running alongside the transformation works. The Grade II listed building is steeped in heritage and as part of the cultural offer that the project provides it will highlight the part it has played in Kidderminster's development and the stories concerning the people responsible. Restoration of the William Hill Organ Pipes has already taken place and repairs to paintings, assets and stone works are to be undertaken shortly. The project also includes schools, college and volunteer opportunities to engage with members of the local community to inspire and involve them with the history and future of their Town Hall.

## Team Info

Kidderminster Town Hall is managed by Kidderminster Town Council. Matt Smith, Town Hall Manager, assisted by Laura Thomas, Deputy Town Hall Manager are responsible for the operations, events and day to day running of the venue. LUF (Levelling Up Fund) transformation works are currently taking place at the Town Hall and we are working closely with Speller Metcalfe Construction Contractors, Consultants and Gleeds Project Managers. We are excited to bring music and cultural events back to the Town Hall when we reopen in 2025!



Jackie Murrall is the Heritage Volunteer Coordinator, responsible for the recruitment, training and ongoing support of volunteers who reflect the diverse communities surrounding Kidderminster. There are opportunities to volunteer in a number of very different roles including research, restoration, digital media and assisting in the interpretation of the building's heritage. Volunteers will also be involved in the design, delivery and management of tours around the building and lead town hall tours both pre and post-opening of the refreshed building.

Jenine McGaughan is a Curator and Creative Producer working in the arts and heritage sector. She is the Evaluation Consultant for 'A Journey through Kidderminster's Town Hall'. Jenine says "I get to gather and track lots of data about the great work happening on the project. I am thrilled to be working on this exciting project because I am passionate about how heritage has the ability to inspire and connect people to the histories and stories of where they live. I am looking forward to seeing and sharing the wonderful impact this work has on the town's heritage assets, but also how we build a community of engaged participants with increased civic pride who are excited to share this wonderful destination with others well into the future."

## Get Involved

We would love local people to get involved and share their memories of Kidderminster Town Hall which will help us to tell the story of the building. Involvement in your community will really make a difference to Kidderminster and its residents as well as visitors to the town. During the transformation works we are producing podcasts of conversations with locals about the Town Hall over the years. We will also be recording people's reminiscences to be available when the Town Hall reopens in 2025.

Please get in touch if you would like to join the volunteer team or have special memories of events or activities at the Town Hall. Please share your stories and photos with us by emailing [Jackie.Murrall@kidderminstertowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.Murrall@kidderminstertowncouncil.gov.uk)



**Kidderminster Town Council**

