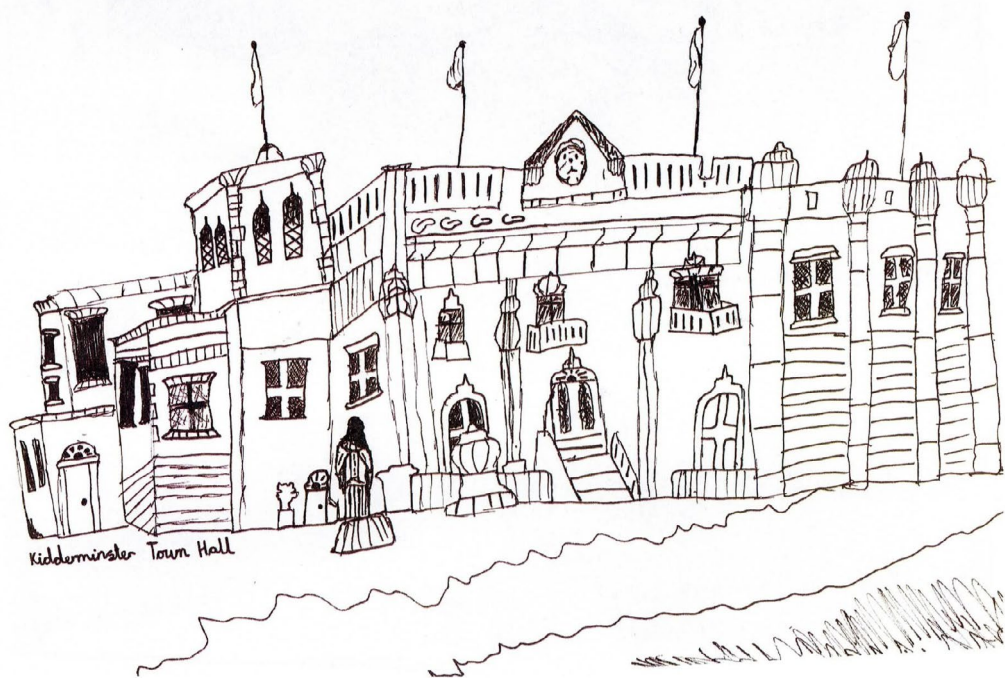
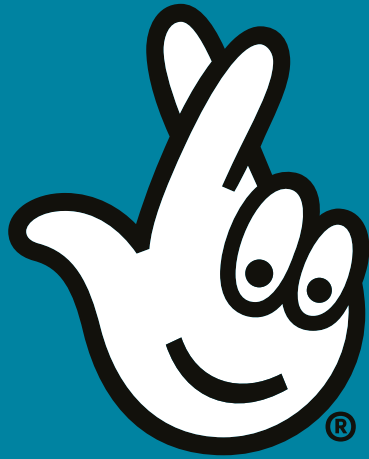


A Journey Through Kidderminster's Town Hall 2023 - 2026



Made possible with



Heritage
Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has enabled us to celebrate and reveal the history of Kidderminster Town Hall, it's people, and the town. As part of the project in 2024/2025 we invited Kidderminster primary schools to take part in a drawing competition to engage the interest of the younger members of the community. We had many fantastic entries which were judged by the Mayor of Kidderminster 2024/25, Councillor George Connolly.

We are delighted to publish this booklet featuring the winning entries from the schools who took part

- Wyre Forest School
- Foley Park Primary Academy
- Offmore Primary School
- Heronswood Primary School





Foley Park
Primary Academy
Year 4 Winner



Foley Park Primary Academy
Year 6 Winner

Kidderminster Town Hall

The first element of the building to be completed was the Corn Exchange, where farmers who grew corn from around this part of north Worcestershire could come together and trade their produce. It opened in January 1855. The Music Room opened in November 1855 with a two-day music festival and went on to host a range of events.

The second phase was the creation of the Town Hall as the place where local government is based with its offices and Council Chamber. The new building was completed in January 1877 and when it was first built, it also contained a police station, cells, an exercise yard and courtroom - that courtroom remains.

These winning drawings show the main features of the Town Hall.

Foley Park Primary Academy
Year 1 Winner



This winning drawing features both the portrait and Mouseman table.

King Charles Room

The King Charles Room is a glorious mixture of old and new and is dominated by the portrait of King Charles I. When the police moved out of the Town Hall, dry rot was discovered and so it was decided this was the perfect opportunity to create a meeting room that combined contemporary design with traditional furnishings and fittings. The room was opened by the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester in late October 1959. It was called the King Charles Room in honour of the 1636 Charter granted to Kidderminster by King Charles I. This was granted as a result of a petition after a dispute over the payment of local tolls with the lord of the manor, Henry, Lord Abergavenny.

Alderman Talbot donated the portrait of the King, which had been in his possession since about 1949. It is a two-thirds length version of the original portrait by Anthony van Dyck, now in the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle. The portrait has been professionally conserved with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Mouseman hall table was purchased directly from the Yorkshire manufacturer Robert "Mouseman" Thompson whose furniture features a carved mouse on almost every piece. The accompanying chairs were actually purchased second-hand.



Héronswood Primary School Year 1 Winner

Stained Glass Window

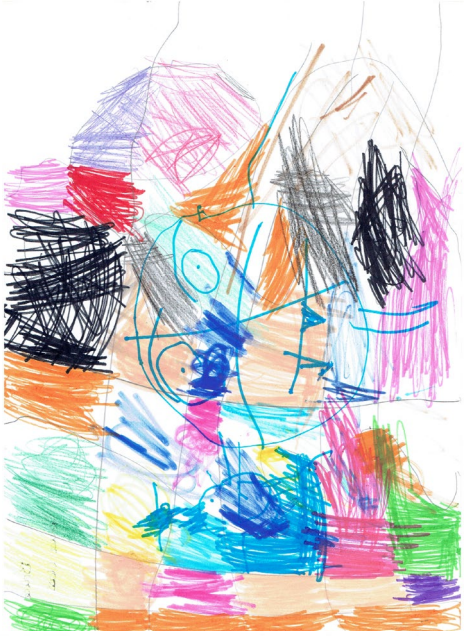


Wyre Forest Pathway 3 Winner

The impressive window in the King Charles room was designed by stained glass artist, Antoine Acket, and shows the Mayor, Town Clerk and magistrates processing to church. It includes children and historical figures: Sir Rowland Hill, founder of the Penny Post, the statue of the 17th century preacher Richard Baxter as well as important town workers: a carpet weaver, postman, police constable, nurse, ratcatcher, market supervisor and weights & measures inspector.

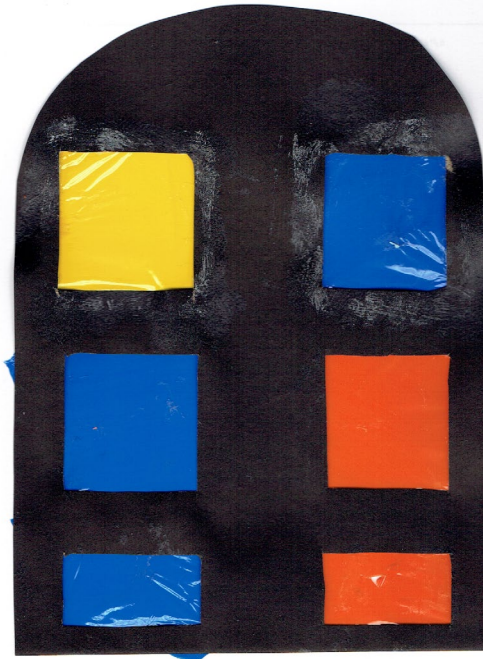
We invited our local primary school children to design their own stained glass windows and these are the colourful results as shown on this and the following pages.

Wyre Forest School Winner

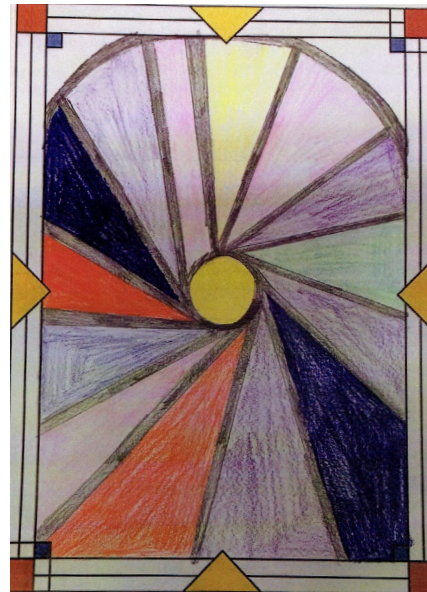


Heronwood Primary School
Year 3 Winner

Wyre Forest School Winner



Offmore Primary School
Aged 11 Winner



Wyre Forest School Winner



Wyre Forest School Winner



Foley Park Primary Academy
Year 5 Winner



Heronswood Primary School
Year 2 Winner



Wyre Forest School Winner

Stamps

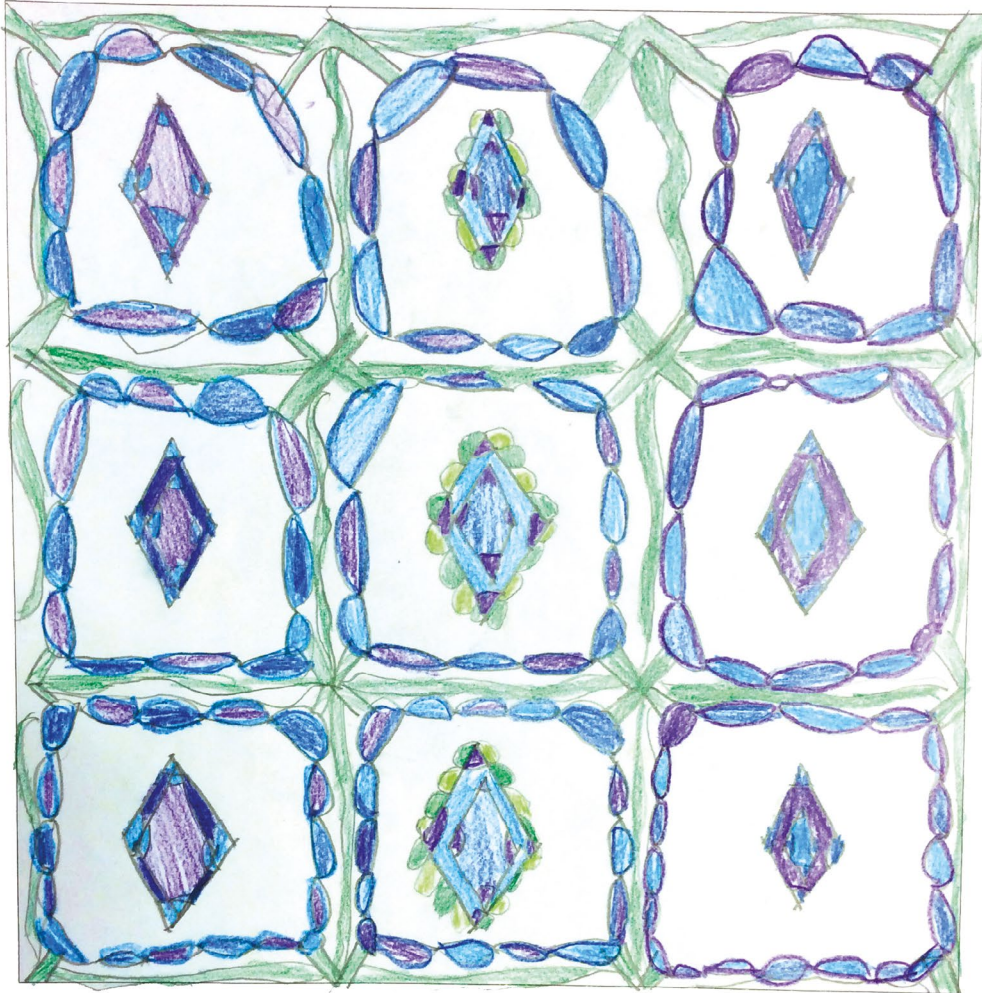
Rowland Hill was born in Blackwell Street, Kidderminster on the site of what became the Telephone Exchange on 3rd December 1795. He was the third of six brothers and two sisters. During the 1830s he became interested in the need for postal reform as at this time postage was paid by the recipient and was very expensive, discouraging the use of the system by the working classes. As a child, Rowland had been greatly moved by his mother's embarrassment when a letter had arrived unexpectedly and she was obliged to send young Rowland on an errand to sell a bundle of rags to pay for it.

In 1837 Rowland published a pamphlet "Post Office Reform: its importance and practicability" which was eventually accepted by the Treasury and led to them giving him a temporary position in order to implement his plans for a system of prepayment. The Penny Black stamp was introduced in January 1840 and was an immediate success. Rows of Penny Blacks featuring Queen Victoria were printed on to sheets consisting of 240 stamps with an adhesive on the reverse of the sheet. The huge drop in the price of postal charges encouraged even the working classes to send letters. This in turn showed the need for the education of the masses and a growth in literacy. The system was rapidly adopted by many other countries.

Our local primary school children designed their own stamps and these are the deserving winners.



Foley Park Primary Academy
Year 2 Winner



Offmore Primary School Winner, Aged 10



Heronswood Primary School Year 5 Winner

Using money raised by National Lottery players, The National Lottery Heritage Fund supports projects that connect people and communities with the UK's heritage. 'A Journey Through Kidderminster's Town Hall' was made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, we have been able to celebrate and reveal the history of the building, it's people, and the town.



Front Cover: Heronswood Primary School Year 4 Winner