



A JOURNEY THROUGH KIDDERMINSTER'S TOWN HALL

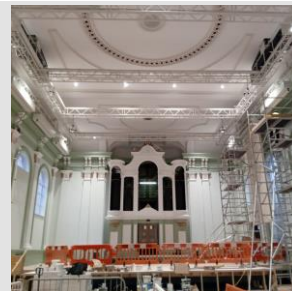
Issue 5, Spring 2025



Hello, welcome to the Spring 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, T: 07818 506779

E: Jackie.Murrall@kidderminstertowncouncil.gov.uk or check out frequently asked questions on the Kidderminster Town Hall website www.kidderminstertownhall.org.uk where you will soon find an audio version of this newsletter.

Kidderminster Town Hall Transformation Project Update



The transformation work being carried out by Speller Metcalfe is on schedule and the contractors are due to complete and return the site to the Town Council in May 2025. It is shaping up nicely and the most striking and visible part of the transformation is the atrium with the installation of the new roof, connecting the two buildings. We expect the Town Hall to re-open to the public in Autumn this year.



KIDDERMINSTER COLLEGE

Molly and Drew, pictured above, are two of the Kidderminster College students who have been involved in recording audio for our newsletters as well as podcast episodes, to be published soon. Our thanks go to the college staff who have supported the media students to get involved in the heritage project and gain useful work experience.



Pupils, teachers and a parent from Foley Park Academy taking a hard hat tour to see the progress of the Town Hall.

www.kidderminstertownhall.org.uk

Heritage research activity

Our team of research volunteers have been busy gathering information from a range of sources to find out more about the artefacts from the Town Hall. They have been looking into the heritage as well as the stories of some of the influential people who have featured over the years. Photos below show some of the subjects for their research.

- Silver trowel presented to the Mayor of Kidderminster, on the laying of the foundation stone of the Municipal Buildings, on 24th May 1875
- Commemorative shuttle in silver, on a polished wooden base with a sealed scroll inside a swing lidded body. Presented to the Right Honourable Stanley Baldwin MP Prime Minister 15 Oct 1928
- The Queen's 1957 visit to Kidderminster
- King Charles painting, dated 1636
- Mouseman furniture



Their research findings will be used in a number of ways, including:

- Interpretation boards and information plaques
- Content for a booklet about the Town Hall
- Information to plan and conduct Town Hall tours
- Further information to be held digitally and accessed via a QR code and the Town Hall website

Badland family visit

Sisters Jane and Caroline Badland, born in Kidderminster in the 1850s, were famous for living to more than 100 years of age. They were present at the visit of Emmeline Pankhurst in 1912 when she addressed a packed public meeting at Kidderminster Town Hall and were introduced to the late Queen Elizabeth when she visited in 1957. In March, family member Charles Badland who lives in Florida, USA met Gay Hill, who is leading the research of the Town Hall. They viewed a painting of the sisters on display in the Civic Room at Wyre Forest House as well as a medal awarded for lifelong support of the RSPCA. They are planning a longer visit to the UK in 2026 to tour the transformed Town Hall itself.

**** Volunteers needed ****

If you would like to get involved with the project please contact Jackie Murrall, Heritage Volunteer Coordinator T: 07818 506779 E: Jackie.Murrall@kidderminstertowncouncil.gov.uk



Kidderminster Town Council

