



# A JOURNEY THROUGH KIDDERMINSTER'S TOWN HALL

Issue 2, Summer 2024



Hello, welcome to the second 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 before and upon its reopening in 2025. Please let us know if you'd prefer the newsletter in a different format, such as audio, easy reader or large print.

## Message from Jackie Murrall, Heritage Volunteer Coordinator, Kidderminster Town Hall

The heritage project 'A Journey Through Kidderminster's Town Hall' is about bringing the Town Hall to life and highlighting its fascinating history and heritage. We are recruiting volunteers to help with this in a variety of roles to suit individual interests and skills. These include digital media, research, historic silverware cleaning and restoration, as tour guides and supporting events. People can volunteer as a one-off opportunity, on a short or long-term, regular basis. Training together with ongoing support will be provided.

To find out more please contact Jackie on 07818 506779,

E: [Jackie.Murrall@kidderminstertowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.Murrall@kidderminstertowncouncil.gov.uk)

Check out frequently asked questions on the town hall website [www.kidderminstertownhall.org.uk](http://www.kidderminstertownhall.org.uk) or pop into Kidderminster Library on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 10.30 – 2.30 (more details below).

**Go on, why not get involved? Join the Town Hall Team of Volunteers!**

## Kidderminster Town Hall heritage event at Kidderminster Library

'Heritage Open Days 2024' runs from 6 – 15 September when heritage buildings open their doors to the public. Whilst Kidderminster Town Hall itself will still be closed, you are invited to drop in to Kidderminster Library on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September** from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm to share reminiscences, souvenirs and photos of visits to the Town Hall over the years. Your stories will contribute to our efforts to bring the building to life upon re-opening in 2025. You may just wish to find out more about future plans for Kidderminster Town Hall so do pop in to chat to the people involved. Jackie, Heritage Volunteer Coordinator will be available to discuss volunteer opportunities too.



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[www.kidderminstertownhall.org.uk](http://www.kidderminstertownhall.org.uk)

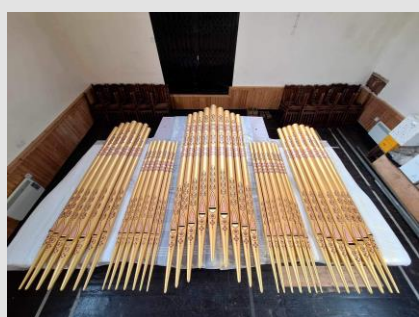
## Schools project

We are delighted to be working with Wyre Forest School which is a broad spectrum special needs school for children aged 3 to 19. The school’s vision is to meet the individual needs of all children at WFS and prepare them for adulthood. As part of the heritage project, there is a need to clean our historic silverware before displaying it in the Town Hall upon re-opening. From the autumn term some of the WFS pupils will carry out this task on a regular basis, following training, which will help them to develop skills and gain experience of a workplace. They will then be invited to tour the Town Hall and see the fruits of their labour, once it is in situ! The school is going to assist and advise us to ensure that the Town Hall is fully accessible and inclusive with, for example, the use of symbols as well as text as descriptors.

We would love to capture the interest of younger children in the heritage of their local area so we are holding a drawing competition for primary schoolchildren in Kidderminster. Wyre Forest School will also take part in the competition and we look forward to receiving all entries, with the winning drawings from each school being featured in a booklet about the Town Hall.

## William Hill Organ

At the beginning of the year the organ pipes belonging to the William Hill Organ at Kidderminster Town Hall were removed and painstakingly restored to their former glory by Stephen Bellion Church Art. They are now being stored in a protective casing in the Corn Exchange until the works in the Music Room have been completed. This fine historic organ was built in 1855 having been ordered in 1854. The Organ’s arrival, some 9 months after the opening of the Public Rooms, was marked by a Music Festival, lasting 2 days in October 1855.



### Podcasts

Our digital media volunteers have been recording podcasts in conversation with people who have been sharing their memories of the Town Hall. The series will kick off with Richard Clarke, Contracts Manager at Speller Metcalfe who talks about the process of transformation of the Town Hall which got underway earlier this year. Podcasts will be available on the Town Hall website shortly. If you have stories to share too, please let us know.

