



A JOURNEY THROUGH KIDDERMINSTER'S TOWN HALL

Issue 4, Winter 2024/5



Hello, welcome to the Winter 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

In this issue we are delighted to celebrate the involvement of the younger members of our community with the Town Hall heritage project

Primary School Art Competition

Four Kidderminster schools entered the art competition; Offmore Primary School, Foley Park Primary Academy, Heronswood Primary School and Wyre Forest Special School. Entries will be judged by Councillor George Connolly, Mayor of Kidderminster and we are all impressed by the high quality and interest demonstrated by pupils from across the year groups. Pupils have used the Town Hall, its history and artefacts for inspiration. These include the stained glass window in the King Charles Room, the cell below the courtroom, Sir Rowland Hill as the instigator of the penny post and of course the painting of King Charles 1st. The winning entries selected from each school will be featured in a booklet to be made available at Kidderminster Town Hall when it reopens in 2025.



The pictures shown above are a selection from the entries submitted by Kidderminster schools.

Our thanks to all the participating schools for engaging their pupils with the heritage project.

www.kidderminstertownhall.org.uk

Historic Silverware

9 pupils aged 14+ from Wyre Forest Special School participated in the heritage project during the Autumn term as part of their work experience programme. After training, a demonstration and then donning their PPE, the pupils threw themselves into cleaning some of the historic silverware which will be re-installed in the Town Hall. It was great to see their enthusiasm and pride in a job well done, polishing and brightening the previously tarnished silverware. One of the items they cleaned was the magnificent Loving Cup shown below, heavily decorated with people, animals and leaves, dated July 26th, 1894.



At their final session they showed the Mayor of Kidderminster, Councillor George Connolly the pieces they had been working on and the materials they had used. The Mayor then presented certificates to the pupils on completion of their voluntary work experience.

Kidderminster College Media students

Media students will resume the recording of a series of podcasts in January. They will be in conversation with people who have had links with the Town hall and their reminiscences including past Mayors of Kidderminster. Let us know if you have any stories to share!

Historical Research

Gay Hill, a semi-professional historian, is leading the historical research being undertaken for the heritage project. A team of research volunteers are working with Gay to uncover the stories and history of Kidderminster Town Hall, it's important role in the town and it's artefacts. They will be using the local history resources at Kidderminster Library, including photographs and the microfilm machine to access newspaper reports from over 100 years ago as well as the internet. Our thanks to the library for their support with this project.

If you would like to join the volunteer team please contact Jackie Murrall, Heritage Volunteer Coordinator on 07818 506779, E: Jackie.Murrall@kidderminstertowncouncil.gov.uk

Evaluation Consultant

We are delighted to welcome Nina Price who joined the Town Hall team in November as Evaluation Consultant on the heritage lottery project.

You can contact Nina at nina.price@kidderminstertowncouncil.org.uk



Kidderminster Town Council

