

Bridport Town Hall Heritage and Conservation Project

Not just bricks and mortar...

Alongside the physical work to the building, an extensive programme of community based activities ran throughout the project. Over 150 local people of all ages were involved in the project through these activities. Local artists were key to many of the projects, which not only engaged with local schools and community groups, but incorporated their ideas and hands on assistance to create permanent art works within the building, inspired by local history and heritage.

From the outset, the aim was to develop a project that would be of the highest quality and completely unique to Bridport. The Town Council was very keen to involve both the hugely talented artists and makers in the local area and the local community. These skilled and talented people have helped to create something very special, truly reflecting the history and character of Bridport.

BUCKY DOO SQUARE MURAL



In November 2010, over 60 children from Bridport Primary, St Catherine's and St Mary's primary schools worked with Sarah Butterworth to design and paint a 9 metre long mural for the hoardings around the building. Inspired by Bridport and its heritage, the mural depicted the town's three main streets, through the eyes of the children involved.

COMMUNITY LIFT PROJECT



Local artist Darrell Wakelam worked with local disability groups and young parents to create a permanent art work for the interior of the new lift. 50 participants used the history and heritage of the Town Hall as inspiration for cardboard and rope montages.



PURBECK STONE FLOOR



Local stonemasons Karl and Christine Dixon designed and made the inlaid Purbeck stone floor on the ground floor, inspired by the tools and techniques traditionally used in the rope and net industry. Students from the Sir John Colfox School joined Karl on a visit to the quarry. They saw the actual hole where our stone was quarried and toured the factory to see how the stone is processed, to the tiles we have today. The day finished with all of the students trying their hand at stone carving.



OAK RECEPTION DESK



Petter Southall, from Itre furniture in Chilcombe, used traditional boat building techniques in his steam bent oak reception desk. The desk was designed to sit exactly between the two pillars. The wood was sourced locally from Powerstock and Chilcombe.

A number of young adults met with Petter to understand more about the process and considerations of creating furniture to commission.



ORAL HISTORY PROJECT



The project activities are by no means over. Now that the Town Hall is open we are hoping to record memories and stories of how it used to be. It may be an event you attended, a remembered detail that's been replaced, something that happened in the centre of town.

The Town Hall is at the heart of Bridport and we want to use Bridport's memories to bring it alive for everyone. Unless we capture and collect this information now it will be lost forever.

If you have anything you would like to share with us please do get in touch. All information gathered will be preserved by Bridport Museum and we will be creating a small exhibition here at the Town Hall.

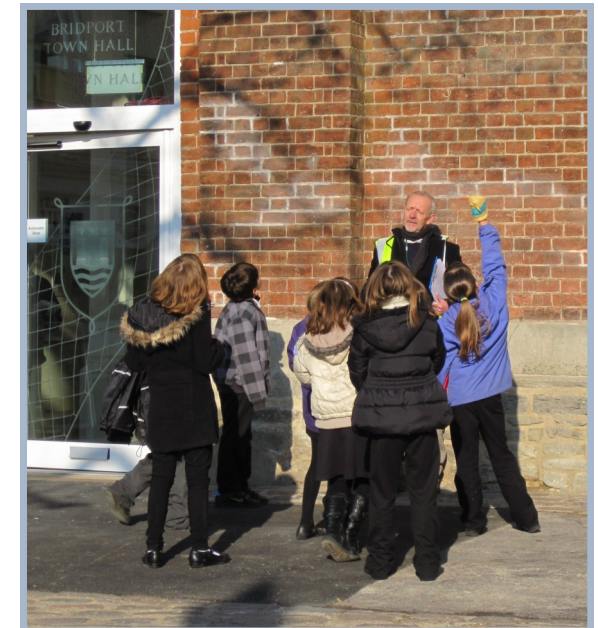
For further information please contact Crystal Johnson on 07968 577867.

WORKING WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS

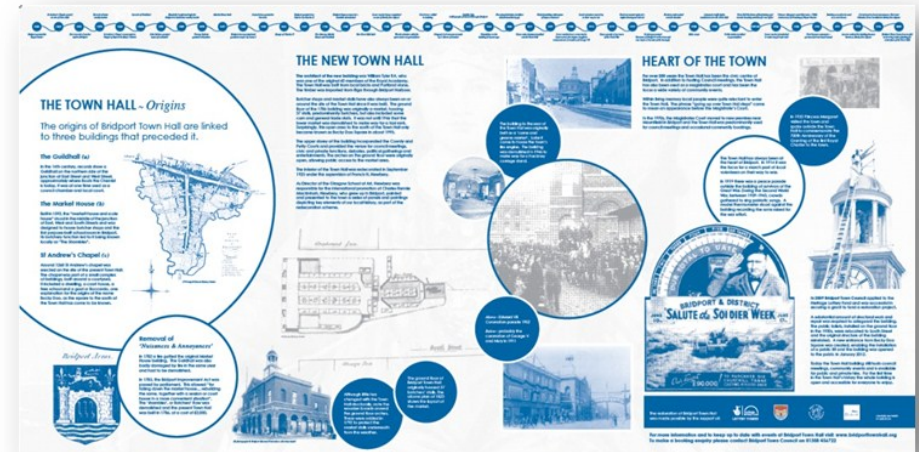


Local schools are being involved in the development of learning resources for the Town Hall. The Newbery paintings will be the focus of one set of materials, offering cross curricular links.

A second theme, linked to citizenship and the Rights Respecting agenda, is also being developed. Within this theme democracy and the potential for a youth Town Council is also being explored.



LEARNING

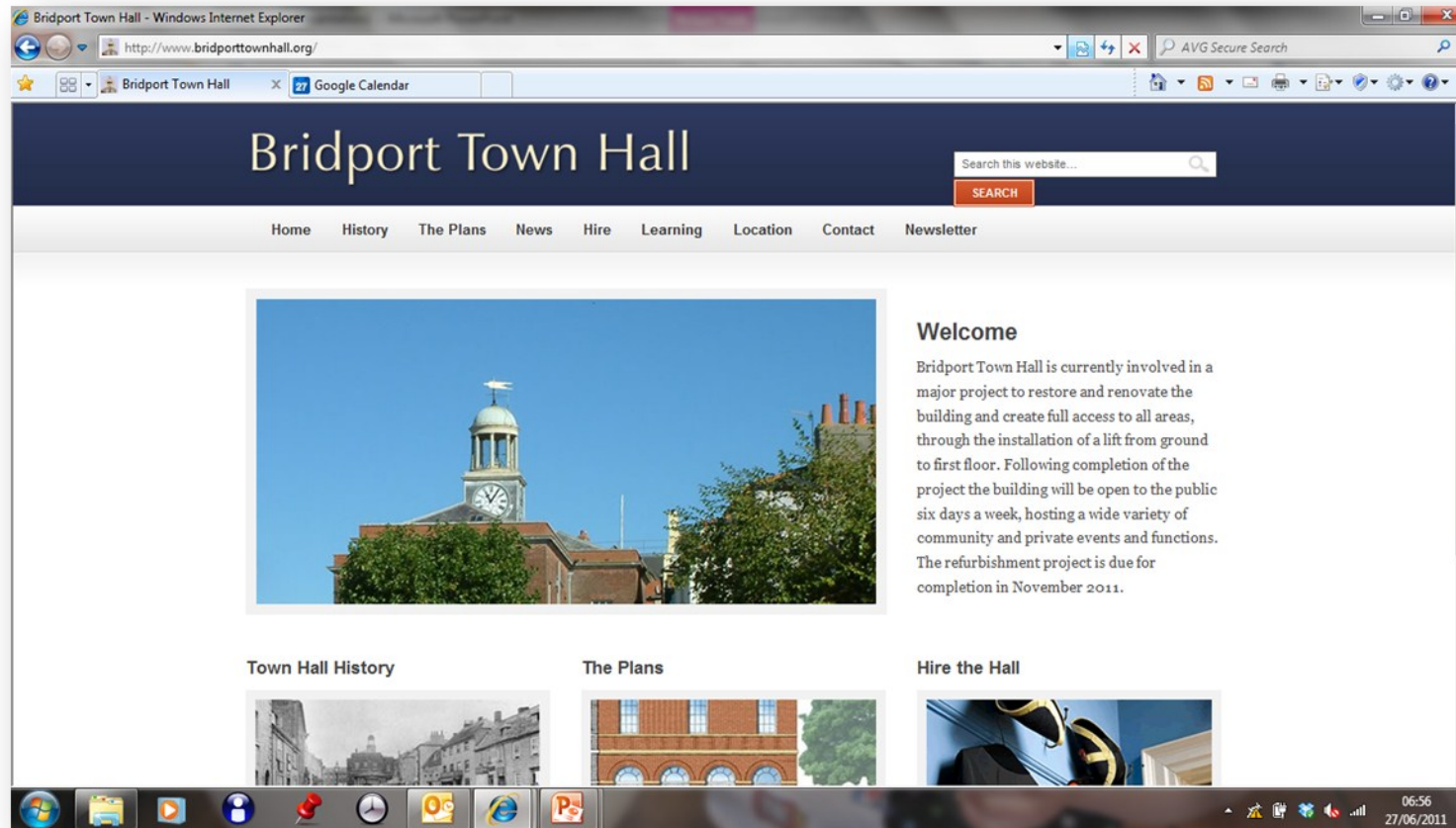


As well as participation, community learning has been important throughout the project. Local designers, printers and the press have been involved to ensure that there have been regular public updates on the project progress.

The new Town Hall website continues to develop and offer information on all aspects of the building and its uses.

Information panels, guides, audio tours and activities for children have also been produced to offer visitors an insight into this important building.

Keep up to date with what's happening



www.BridportTownHall.org