



SANDWICH GUILDHALL PROJECT NEWS

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Guildhall Project Newsletter!

In this edition: • Lantern Making • Accessibility Forum • Design Team • Market Street consultation
• Christmas Lights Switch On

CONSULTATION EVENTS

You may have spotted the A New Vision for Sandwich team out and about over the last few weeks, hosting consultation events to find out what people think about the Guildhall, its forecourt and the museum.

As well as popping up at the #iwill Youth Social Action and Volunteering event run by DDC at Discovery Park, the team were also at a lantern making workshop at St Mary's Arts Centre organised by Sandwich Community Events in the run up to the Christmas Lights Switch On. Both events were a great opportunity for families and young people to chat to the team about the activities and workshops they might like to take part in as part of the future project.

Participants were asked to vote for activities that they would like to get involved in. Young people were very enthusiastic about getting involved in hands on activities such as plays and performances, and crafts linked to museum artefacts and the heritage of the town. These ideas will all feed into the Heritage Lottery Fund application, and will form the basis of an exciting programme of events in the future.



ACCESSIBILITY FORUM

On 2nd December an event was held at the Guildhall to bring together volunteers with disabilities, their carers, and people with knowledge of the issues facing disabled people. The hope was that a few volunteers would come forward to be part of the Accessibility Forum, to share their thoughts, ideas and views for the project from the perspective of a person with visual, sensory or learning disabilities.

The event was a huge success! The event was run informally as a drop in, with staff on hand to chat about the various aspects of the project over a cup of tea, and a slice of Christmas cake.

23 people came forward as volunteers on the day. Their valuable involvement will help to ensure that the Guildhall Project takes into account the needs of all sections of the community, and that activities and designs proposed are accessible for all.

If anyone would like to join the Forum, please contact Mady Outen via email museum@sandwichtowncouncil.gov.uk or at Sandwich Town Council.

GUILDHALL FORECOURT DESIGN TEAM

Dover District Council has completed the appointment of a Design Team to work on the design for the forecourt and to coordinate with Kent County Council in relation to the area of highway adjacent on New Street. Architects HMY and Mark Hanton Studio have joined the Guildhall Project Team with the aim of submitting a planning application in the spring in preparation for an application to the Coastal Communities Fund to support the delivery of this project.

Both architects are Kent based, and have worked on projects in East Kent including the visitor centre at Betteshanger Park, Folkestone Harbour Square and Radnor Park, Folkestone. Designs will be progressed with past consultations in mind, but ample opportunity will also be given for residents, businesses and visitors to have an input into proposals, so please sign up for updates via the Sandwich Topic on Keep Me Posted.





SANDWICH TOWN COUNCIL STAFFING

Sandwich Town Council appointed a part time Heritage Development Officer (Mady Outen) to support the delivery of the Heritage Lottery Fund project at the Guildhall – particularly in connection with the museum and the archive. With the success of the new museum, and momentum picking up on both the current heritage programme and A New Vision for Sandwich, Sandwich Town Council has now made this a full time post, including the management of the museum and archives, and the volunteers. Mady’s new job title will be Museum and Heritage Manager, to reflect the increased responsibility within the role.

Mady has 8 years of museum experience in different heritage institutions most recently as Community Curator at the Kent Mining Museum and before that at Canterbury Cathedral caring for their object collections. She has recently completed her Museum Studies Masters as a part time student with the University of Leicester. Mady said: "I am looking forward to getting started in early December and I am excited for the opportunity to work more closely with such an exciting and varied collection and project."

MARKET STREET CONSULTATION

KCC are currently consulting on a proposal to make Market Street one way and close Potter Street to vehicles. On the advice of the A New Vision for Sandwich Board, Sandwich Town Council are funding the works to improve traffic movement, pedestrian safety and protect buildings as per the Sandwich Masterplan. A copy of the Masterplan can be seen on the Sandwich Town Council website and a hard copy is available to view at the Town Council offices at the Guildhall.

The scheme involves introducing a one-way system in Market Street, from Delf Street to The Butchery. Additionally Potter Street would be closed to motor vehicles using lockable bollards – which subsequently could be unlocked in emergencies. The parking allocation would remain unchanged.

KCC are keen to get as many views as possible from the public and affected businesses. To view the consultation plan visit www.consultations.kent.gov.uk. To have your say on the proposals please email sandwichconsultations@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 41 81 81 Monday – Friday 8am – 6pm.

REPORT ON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Christmas officially started in Sandwich on 25th November with the town’s annual Christmas Lantern Parade and Lights Switch On. The Christmas Lights and the Switch On event are organised by a team of volunteers, who have worked with local traders and the Sandwich Community Events Association to expand the array of lights on display this year. The Guildhall forecourt and carpark were filled from the afternoon into evening by crowds enjoying live bands, mulled wine and fairground rides. As darkness fell, the Lantern Parade wound its way through the narrow streets. More people than ever took part this year, and there was a fantastic display, accompanied by Blocco Fogo Samba Band. The parade made its way back to the Guildhall where the lights were switched on by Elizabeth Adams. There was even a little magical ‘snow’ courtesy of the King Street Traders.



Content for Sandwich Guildhall Project News is provided by the Board of A New Vision for Sandwich, and the Guildhall Project Team. The newsletter is produced by Dover District Council and edited by Community Development Support Officer Elliott Allen. If you are interested in or would like to receive regular updates regarding volunteering, consultations or information about the Guildhall project please contact museum@sandwichtowncouncil.gov.uk, community@dover.gov.uk or sign up to Keep Me Posted via www.dover.gov.uk

