



September 2026 – Newsletter 4

Welcome to our September newsletter. This month, we shine a spotlight on the fascinating archaeological works taking place within this remarkable Grade I listed building. As we continue the restoration journey, preserving and protecting the site's rich heritage remains at the heart of everything we do.

A key aspect of the project is the close collaboration between our contractors, specialist consultants and heritage experts to ensure that every element of the building's history is respected and carefully considered throughout the reconstruction process. This approach not only safeguards the past but also allows us to uncover and better understand the stories hidden within the fabric of the site.



One of the most exciting discoveries to date has been the Guildhall's original floorboards which have since been validated and confirmed as dating back to 1419 when the Guildhall was originally built. We know these boards were present in 1592 when it is believed that Shakespeare was performing in King's Lynn, so this is likely to be the surface he was walking on. Finds such as these provide a fascinating glimpse into the building's history and remind us of the significant cultural heritage we are helping to preserve for future generations.

More recently, work has begun in the area where the building's new goods lift will eventually be installed. This important addition will greatly improve accessibility and operating efficiency of the building when it reopens.



Could this latest dig reveal yet more hidden treasures from the site's past? Only time will tell. We look forward to sharing the next chapter of this exciting journey and any new discoveries that emerge as work continues. Stay tuned for our next issue to find out what lies beneath the surface!

SEPTEMBER EVENTS



SEPTEMBER

Heritage Open Day - Sunday 13th September

Robert Armin Festival - Thursday 17th September

Schools' festival celebrating Robert Armin.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

The Dragon Festival – Free Entry

- **Saturday 7th November** - The town-wide Dragon Festival returns to give youngsters another opportunity for creative play and performance with Dragons! [Read more here.](#)

MEET THE TEAM

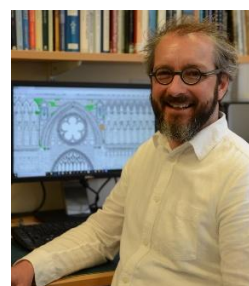
This issue sees the introduction of our Field Archaeological Services (FAS), who are specialists working on behalf of the Borough Council. The FAS Heritage team have been uncovering the many stories hidden within the Guildhall, helping to reveal how the site has evolved over hundreds of years. From detailed building surveys and archaeological investigations to exploratory excavations across the site, the team is at the forefront of documenting discoveries as restoration works progress. Every uncovered feature, historic surface and archaeological find is carefully recorded, creating a rich archive that is developing our understanding of one of King's Lynn's most important historic buildings.



Jonathan Clark
Senior Historic
Buildings Archaeologist



Justin Garner-Lahire
Senior Field
Archaeologist



Richard Jackson
Recording
Archaeologist

Importantly, the discoveries and insights gathered by the team are directly informing the development of the future visitor experience, helping shape how the Guildhall's story will be told when it reopens. Through detailed research, photography and analysis of the building's medieval origins and its changing layout over time, the team is uncovering stories that will be brought to life for visitors through interpretation, exhibitions and immersive experiences, ensuring the Guildhall's history remains at the heart of its future.

JOB OPPORTUNITY - BE PART OF THE GUILDHALL'S LEGACY



Robin Lewis, Development Director

As Development Director, I have the privilege of leading the team through the next chapter of the remarkable story of St George's Guildhall. Together with an exceptional team spanning construction, creative direction and programme delivery we are preparing this world-class venue for an exciting new future.

To support the next phase of the programme, we would like to share the exciting news that we are about to go out for the recruitment of a dedicated **Operations Director** to join our team and play a pivotal role in bringing this nationally significant cultural destination to life. This is a fantastic opportunity to provide strategic leadership for the operational requirements of **St George's Guildhall & Creative Hub**, ensuring its successful establishment and the long-term sustainability of this nationally significant cultural heritage and creative destination.

If you are passionate about culture, heritage and creating a legacy for future generations, we would love to hear from you.

Interested? Details of the role will be published in October on the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, and St Georges Guildhall websites. For an informal conversation, contact Robin.lewis@west-norfolk.gov.uk

PROJECT UPDATES

Current works on site

- Timber repairs to the Red Barn Roof are nearly complete.
- Mortar repairs have started in some areas around the site.
- Scaffold adaptations have been made in preparation for the Lift pit excavation.
- Roof repair works have commenced around the site.

The next phase of work includes:

- Install the Crown Post Truss
- Begin excavations to the Shakespeare Barn lift pit

PROJECT TIMELINES

Following the start of on-site works at the end November 2025, the works are well under way with a view to the site re-opening in 2028. Key dates are set out below:

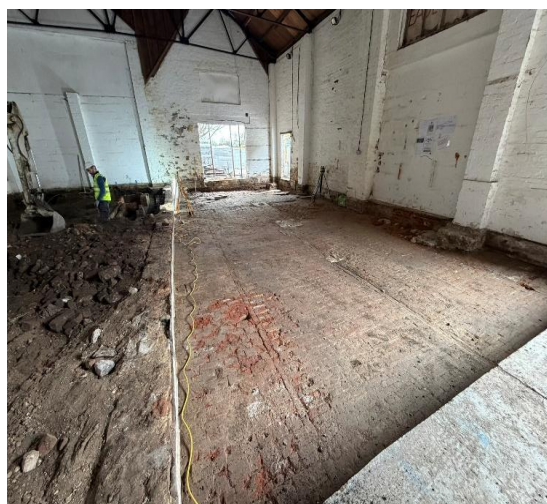
Winter 2025	Summer 2028	Summer/Autumn 2028
 Construction Period	 Interpretation Fit Out	 Site Reopening to Visitors

Please note: Site reopening is scheduled for late summer 2028, overlapping with the interpretation fit-out phase as final works are completed.

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Guildhall Floorboards



White Barn Floor



Riverside Restaurant Timbers



Shakespeare Barn Floor

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

There will be lots of chances for people to get involved as the project progresses. Our contractors and events team will be running a range of activities and engagement events for everyone to take part in.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE GUILDHALL

Gain local knowledge, build your customer care skills and enjoy a rewarding experience in supporting West Norfolk's heritage, culture and tourism sector. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our team and help us bring our superb local area to life for our visitors. To learn more, contact us at culture@west-norfolk.gov.uk

To keep up to date with all the latest developments, visit the Council's Facebook page [here](#), where we regularly share project news, team video updates, and information about upcoming activities and events.