ST. GEORGE'S GUILDHALL

October 2026 – Newsletter 5

Welcome to our October newsletter. This month, we shine a spotlight on some of the conservation works taking place within this remarkable Grade I listed building, continuing the restoration journey and preserving the site's rich heritage which remains at the heart of everything we do.

Restoration of the building's historic brickwork is continuing to make steady progress, with skilled craftspeople carefully repairing areas that have weathered over many centuries. As a Grade I listed building, preserving as much of the original fabric as possible is at the heart of the approach, ensuring that the character and craftsmanship that make the building so special are retained for future generations.

A key part of the work has been the careful selection of materials. Where bricks are beyond repair, replacements are chosen to closely match the original in colour, texture and size, helping to maintain the building's historic appearance. Traditional lime mortar has also been selected to match the original mortar wherever possible, helping to maintain the building's historic character while allowing the brickwork to perform as intended

The combination of specialist conservation skills and carefully sourced materials will help ensure St Georges Guildhall remains a source of pride for the community for many years to come





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UPCOMING EVENTS



NOVEMBER

Saturday 7th November - The town-wide Dragon Festival returns to give youngsters another opportunity for creative play and performance with Dragons! Click here for more information.

MEET THE TEAM

This issue we meet the St George's Guildhall Creative Hub Development Director.



Robin Lewis, Development Director

For Robin, leading the Programme is about much more than managing milestones and budgets. It's about bringing people together to deliver an ambitious project for King's Lynn.

As Development Director, Robin oversees the overall delivery of the programme, ensuring strong governance and decision-making arrangements are in place and that progress, budgets and risks are carefully managed.

Communication is also at the heart of the role, from working with key stakeholders and elected members to keeping the public engaged as the programme develops.

Having spent much of his career in the private sector working on projects and programme delivery with a major high street brand, Robin brings extensive experience to the role. But there is also a very personal reason why this particular project matters.

"Norfolk has given me and my family a wonderful place to live and work for more than 30 years. The chance to lead this amazing project is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

"It's a chance to work with a great team, breathe new life into our historic buildings and support ambitious plans that will make a positive difference to people across King's Lynn and the wider region."

JOIN OUR TEAM – OPERATIONS DIRECTOR ROLE IS LIVE



As mentioned in our September newsletter we would like to share the exciting news that the recruitment of a dedicated **Operations Director** to play a pivotal role in bringing this nationally significant cultural destination to life is now live. 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, or maybe you know someone who is, then we would love to hear from you.

The role and more information can be found here: http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/JoinUs

PROJECT UPDATES

Current works on site

- Brick repairs have started to the Guildhall
- Red barn roof is nearing completion with roof tiles being installed.
- Lightning protection has been approved at planning and is being installed.

The next phase of work includes:

- Install the steelwork to support the Crown Post Truss and complete the works.
- Complete the roof of Red Barn and progress other exposed roofs

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:

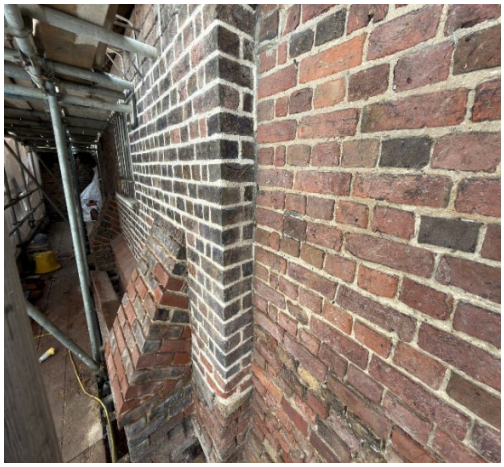
Winter 2025	Summer 2028	Summer/Autumn 2028
Construction Period	Interpretation Fit Out	Site Reopening to Visitors

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

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Works completed to rout out the old mortar



New mortar completed

GET INVOLVED

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.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? POP IN AND SEE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Our volunteers are based at No.29 King Street, adjacent to the Guildhall building and are happy to share lots of information and knowledge on the building's history, the vision for the project and stories of old.



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You can pop in to see them during the following times:

	OCTOBER 2026	NOVEMBER 2026
Monday to Friday	10am – 4pm	11am – 3pm
Saturday	12pm – 3pm	12pm – 3pm

TALES OF OLDE

Did you know? the building is said to have some rather unusual security guards! Legend tells of five or six ghostly monks who walk the corridors, watching over lone women and making sure they never need to feel afraid. Spooky… but strangely reassuring!

WANT TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER?

If you want to join our team of volunteers, gain local knowledge, build your customer care skills and enjoy a rewarding experience in supporting West Norfolk's heritage, culture and tourism sector, (with the odd ghost story thrown in for good measure!) then get in touch. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our team and help us bring our superb local area to life for our visitors. Volunteering is carried out on a rotation basis a few hours a week. 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.