

ST. GEORGE'S GUILDHALL

May 2026
Newsletter 1

An exciting new phase is now underway at St George's Guildhall, the UK's oldest working theatre and a place of exceptional heritage significance. This transformational project will protect and celebrate the Guildhall's historic fabric while reimagining the site as a dynamic visitor attraction and cultural hub.



PROJECT UPDATES

Current works on site

Significant progress has been made on site over recent weeks.

The scaffolding has now been installed across the site, providing safe access for the range of upcoming external and structural works.

The roof to the main Guildhall and Red Barn have been removed, allowing the project team to finalise the repairs required before they start the restoration. Elsewhere, the demolition of the White Barn is nearing completion, marking an important milestone in preparing the area for the next stage of development.

Upcoming activities and milestones

The next phase of works includes the excavation of the lift pit, an area which has been identified as having a high potential for archaeological discoveries.

Alongside this, repointing works are underway across the site. These will help to stabilise and protect the historic fabric of the buildings as part of the long-term conservation programme.

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PROJECT TIMELINES

Following the start of construction at the end November 2025, the works are now under way with a view to the site re-opening in 2028. Some key dates for the project are set out below:

- Construction Period – Winter 2025 to Summer 2028
- Interpretation fit out – Summer 2028 to Autumn 2028
- Site-reopening – Late Summer 2028

MEET THE TEAM

A high-calibre team has been brought together to deliver the £30.5m transformation of the UK's oldest working theatre into a world-class visitor destination. The team includes:

- **Messenger BCR** – Contractor
- **Haworth Tompkins** – Architect
- **Pulse Construct** – Project/Contract Management
- **Andrew Morton Associates** – Quantity Surveyors

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

There will be lots of chances for people to get involved as the project moves forward. Through the project our contractors will be running open days and hardhat tours, giving everyone a chance to see the work up close.

Alongside the main works, our contractors will be leading a series of *Hands-on Heritage Skills* demonstration events, giving people a chance to see the specialist skills involved in building conservation up close. We're also keen to inspire younger audiences and will be working with local schools and associations to share the story of the works and help them engage with the restoration of St George's Guildhall.

Keep an eye on project updates and stay in touch so you don't miss out on any of these opportunities.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE GUILDHALL

Gain local knowledge, build your customer care skills and receive a rewarding experience in supporting West Norfolk's heritage, culture and tourism sector. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our team

Help us bring our superb local area to life for our visitors

To learn more, contact us at culture@west-norfolk.gov.uk

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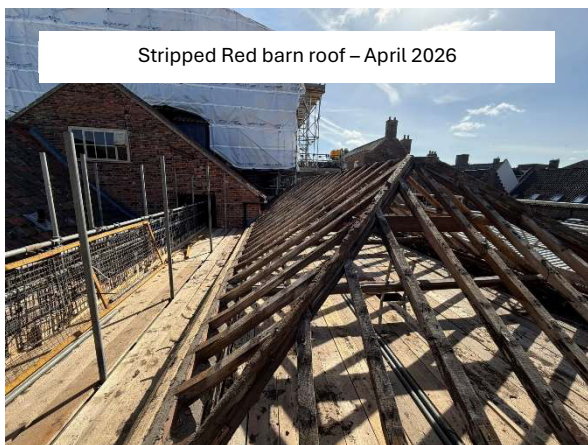
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RECENT SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Stripped Red barn roof – April 2026



St Georges Guildhall Exposed Roof - April 2026



White Barn exposed historical floor - April 2026



Shakespeare barn - April 2026



St Georges Guildhall - January 2026



St Georges Guildhall - March 2026

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