



# SANDWICH GUILDHALL PROJECT NEWS

**Welcome** to the second edition of the Guildhall Project Newsletter!

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• KCC update • Board Member Focus

## GUILDHALL MUSEUM

The newly refurbished Guildhall Museum opened to the public on Saturday 6th May 2017. With the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund the interior has been completely reconfigured, with new display cases, reception area and audio visual equipment installed.

Some of the former fixtures and fittings have found a new home at the White Mill Rural Heritage Centre.

The museum team have worked hard to select a wide range of artefacts to illustrate the rich and varied history of Sandwich, many of which have never been seen by the public before. Volunteer stewards have been trained and are now ready to give a first class welcome to local residents, national and international visitors.

The project was undertaken by a combination of national museum experts and local tradesmen. Museum design was carried out by Daniel Sutton of Design Map, who designed the Cutty Sark museum. The museum refurbishment was undertaken by Benchworks who have worked at the Barbican, the V&A and the Science Museum. The specialist customised display cases came from Armour Systems who have provided cases for The Higgins, the Wonder Rooms at Selfridges and the 'Valor in the Pacific' exhibition at Pearl Harbour. Local firm Wyman's undertook the electrical work.

Special thanks for the successful funding application must go to Linda Elliott, the voluntary Honorary Curator & Archivist, who has been volunteering for just over a year, but has achieved a huge amount during this time. Linda has worked tirelessly pulling together the work for the refurbished museum, making new contacts and arranging partnership projects – including work with Royal Holloway and the University of Kent.



Now that the museum has reopened, Linda is now going to concentrate on work within the Guildhall Archives, bringing it up to modern standards, completing cataloguing and arranging for the return of many items to the collection currently held outside Sandwich, for example copies of the extensive medieval year books and the other documents discovered in the bound book that contained Sandwich's Magna Carta and Charter of the Forest.

**The museum is free to visit and is open Wednesday-Sunday 10am-4pm so why not pay it a visit!**

## TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

In line with our development of the Museum we will soon have a set of high quality display cases and display boards that can be utilised for temporary exhibitions in the Guildhall Court Room. Exhibitions will include a Cinque Ports/Speakers Year, Battle of Sandwich and then tentatively pencilled in is a Kitchener Camp exhibition. Further details to follow – watch this space!



## EXTRA RESOURCES FOR THE GUILDHALL PROJECT

As the scope of the Guildhall Project took shape, it became apparent that extra resources were required at the Town Council to support the Guildhall Project. Sandwich Town Council and Sandwich Toll Bridge Fund are in the process of appointing consultants to assist with Project Management and Business Planning.

## GET INVOLVED

So far we have held a number of consultations regarding the Guildhall project; the regular user group meeting which took place at the Guildhall in early March was a great success and the online survey has been completed by nearly 150 people, we also had a fantastic response during our consultation event at the 1940's weekend. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have taken time out to help us out with our consultations and hope you will continue to do so at future events throughout the summer. If you haven't had a chance to complete one of our surveys, please head to the A New Vision for Sandwich page on the Dover District Council website.

If you are interested in or would like to receive regular updates regarding volunteering, consultations or information about the Guildhall project please contact us at **community@dover.gov.uk** or sign up to Keep me posted via **www.dover.gov.uk**.



## KCC UPDATE

Following recommendations in the 'Which Way for Sandwich' report; Kent County Council (KCC) has started design work for No Name Street, the Guildhall Bus Stop and Market Street. At this early stage a number of options are being considered including making better use of the Guildhall bus stop and improving the flow of traffic to aid pedestrian movements and businesses loading and unloading safely.

### Ideas being explored include:

- a) **Raising the levels of the roads to be in line with the pavements and improving the surface to help slow vehicles**
- b) **Moving the zebra crossing near Costa to align with the majority of pedestrian movements**
- c) **Making No Name St more pedestrian friendly with wider footways and reduced traffic flows.**
- d) **Making Market Street one way heading north.**

Local businesses have been contacted, and wider public consultation will take place when preliminary designs have been completed.

## BOARD MEMBER FOCUS - DISCOVERY PARK

Each issue, we will bring you a few words from one of the A New Vision for Sandwich Board Members about the role they are playing in the Guildhall Project. Our first contribution is from Kimberley Anderson of Discovery Park.

Discovery Park has always strived to be at the heart of the Sandwich community - sponsoring the annual King Street Party and Christmas Lights Switch On and volunteering at the town's summer events. Discovery Park is more than just a business park, we've always seen it as a community; a community of businesses that are proud to be part of Sandwich. We are working to put Sandwich on the map as a location for amazing science research and drug discovery, and we want to do all we can to support actions to ensure the town's future success.

We look forward to playing our part in breathing new life into this historic landmark with all the benefits that will bring - from boosting tourism to delivering a community resource that will serve this beautiful town for generations to come.

## Sandwich Guildhall Project News

is produced by Dover District Council and edited by Community Development Officer Hannah Batley who can be contacted via **community@dover.gov.uk**

Full information about the council and its services can be found online at **www.dover.gov.uk**

