

Midsomer Norton Town Hall Transformation Project



September 2022 Newsletter

www.midsomernortontowncouncil.co.uk



In the first weeks of the Town Hall Transformation Project asbestos is being removed from the first floor, and evidence of work completed 1902-1906 has been uncovered on the ground floor. Phase one of the project will remove the warren of rooms on the ground floor and the mezzanine floor which currently divides the windows.

Conversion work for the Urban District Council was carried out during the period 1902-1906. Kelly's Directory for 1910 reported "in 1906 the Council converted it [the Market Hall] into offices for the Surveyor and the collector, adding the Council Chamber and County Court offices, at a cost of about £2,500."

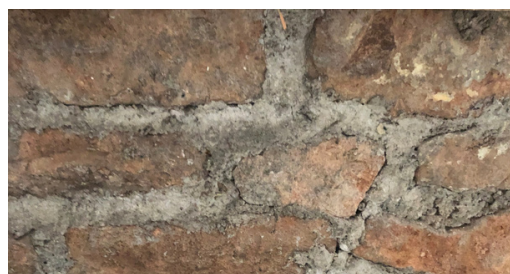
Parquet Floor



Remains of a parquet floor have been discovered beneath layers of carpet and lino. There may be cobble stones underneath the parquet.

Meeting Rooms

The "Ground floor offices with boarded dado, including the Council Room" (Kelly's Directory 1910), which were meeting Rooms 1-4, have now been knocked through revealing a stone wall..



Mezzanine Floor

"A mezzanine floor was inserted over the ground floor offices, excepting the Council Chamber which remained the full height of the original market hall." Kelly's Directory 1910. The lathe and plaster floor can be seen in the picture below. A mixture of ash, horse hair and lime was used and the ash contains pieces of coal.



Dividing Wall



"An unbroken dividing wall was installed on the ground floor blocking the north end (council offices, with new entrance door under the balcony) from the Salvation Army Hall at the south end (now the Beauchamp room and adjoining spaces)." Kelly's Directory 1910.



Handing over the Keys

Flanked by councillors, officers and contractors, Midsomer Norton Mayor, Cllr Lynda Robertson ceremoniously handed over the keys to the Town Hall on September 12th 2022, so work can begin on phase one of the project to transform the historic hall into a community building fit for the 21st century. The Mayor said: "What we're trying to do, is to put it back to how it was when it was first built. It's a building that means so much to everybody. It's going to be an amazing place for the town."

The refurbished Town Hall and reinstatement of a Market Square at the Island are seen as key components of the Town Council's High Street recovery plan. Cllr Gordon Mackay said: "This is our chance to not only protect a historical asset, but make it useful and valuable for the community...in combination with the reinstatement of a market square at the Island, it's going to make a real difference."

Town Hall Transformation Gets Underway



Front row:

Midsomer Norton Town Clerk Donna Ford, Cllr Richard Robertson, Mayor Lynda Robertson, Cllr Pete Moccock.

Back row:

Cllr Gordon Mackay, Midsomer Norton Community Trust Manager Alex Davis, Midsomer Norton Town Trust Secretary Jo Corbett, Greenwood Projects Project Manager Nicola Dyer, ph3 Architect Sean Redmond, ANG Artelier Group Director of Construction Warren Summerfield, ANG Artelier Group Senior Site Manager Damon James, Cllr Steve Plumley.

Midsomer Norton Town Council

The Town Hall and Public Toilet are now closed, as work has begun on the Town Hall Transformation Project.

Town Council staff will be available in Unit 14, South Road, on Mondays and Thursdays between 1.30pm and 4pm.

Please contact the office on the usual number (01761 418 701) or email, if you need to book appointments at any other time.

administrator@midsomernortontowncouncil.co.uk

See our website for more information.

<https://www.midsomernortontowncouncil.co.uk/townhall/>

