

# Bridport Town Hall Heritage and Conservation Project Newsletter - December 2010

Building work on the Town Hall Heritage and Conservation Project will be starting in the New Year. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and with support from West Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council, the driving force of the project is to open up the Town Hall for everyone to visit and enjoy.

## What will the project do?

The project will provide level access from Bucky Doo Square, with a new lift enabling everyone to take part in activities and appreciate the historic Fra Newbery interior on the first floor. The Town Council will be improving the facilities on offer, including the heating, lighting, acoustics, kitchen and IT provision as well as improving the energy efficiency of the building. In addition, a new community exhibition space will be created at the southern end of the ground floor, alongside proposed new accommodation for the Tourist Information Centre.

As well as the physical work, a wide programme of community based projects and activities has been planned to really help bring the Town Hall to life. These projects have already started, with over 60 children from Bridport Primary, St Catherine's and St Mary's primary schools working with local artist Sarah Butterworth to design and paint a 9 meter long mural to go on the hoardings around the building when the external works start in the New Year.

## When will the works start

**It is anticipated that the building works will commence on 17 January 2011 and they are scheduled to last until the end of the year.**

**There will be regular updates on key dates, as the building works proceed.**



Impression of the new Town Hall entrance from Bucky Doo Square.

## Impact of the works

The programme of works will seek to minimise any inconvenience to residents, visitors and local shops and it is the intention to maintain access around the building. Frampton's the butchers will remain open throughout the work and all local shops should be unaffected. There will be some restrictions on the use of Bucky Doo Square, although we will be doing all we can to maintain use for local charities and bands.

## Contacts:

Bob Gillis Town Clerk  
Daryl Chambers Town Surveyor  
Crystal Johnson Activities Co-ordinator

Contact details below.

## The Builders - Farnrise Construction Ltd

Following a detailed tendering process, the Town Council appointed Farnrise Construction Ltd to carry out the building works. Farnrise is a regional construction company undertaking new build, refurbishment, fitting out and maintenance schemes for both private and public sector clients. The company has experience of similar historic renovation projects, such as the Old Town Hall renovation project in Reigate Market Square for Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and the Guildhall refurbishment for Winchester City Council.



Impression of Town Hall western elevation from South Street.

## Town Centre Toilets

An important factor in the Town Hall development will be the relocation of the main public toilets. Whilst there will be provision in the Town Hall for users and visitors to the building, the project offers the opportunity to provide new purpose built facilities elsewhere in the town centre. Following public consultation last year and based on the options available, the Town Council indicated that its preferred location was South Street Car Park, although this is subject to details of the precise location being approved as part of the planning process. The provision of the new toilets is being funded and co-ordinated by West Dorset District Council. The Town Council intends to provide temporary facilities in the immediate vicinity of the Town Hall when the existing toilets are closed, when the building works start.

## The Paintings

The interior of the Town Hall was redecorated in September 1925 under the supervision of **Francis H. Newbery**, who was at one time the Director of the Glasgow School of Art and responsible for the international promotion of Charles Rennie Macintosh. Newbery, who grew up in Bridport, painted and presented to the town a series of panels and paintings about the town and its history. A key part of the project is to open up the building so that everyone can enjoy the Fra Newbery paintings on the first floor. During the building works, the paintings will be securely stored and undergo some restoration.



## Find out more

Information on the project will be available on a new web site - [www.bridporttownhall.org](http://www.bridporttownhall.org) - which should be live in the New Year. More information will be issued in regular Newsletters and you are also welcome to contact the Town Council (contact details on the front page).

