

GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL



PRESS RELEASE

COULD YOU BE A FRIEND OF THE PEPPERPOT?

Godalming's iconic building, the Pepperpot, is in need of friends to assure its future for the next 200 years.

Godalming Town Council is appealing to the local community to show its support for the Pepperpot and help raise £250,000 to carry out a thorough renovation of the building.

The Old Town Hall, affectionately known as the Pepperpot, was built in 1814 with public funds. A recent condition survey of the building showed that around £250,000 needs to be spent on it in order to renovate it sympathetically, both inside and out. Some of the work needed is urgent so we aim to carry that out next spring. Ideally, we hope to complete other, less urgent but necessary, work to the outside of the building at the same time to avoid the expense and inconvenience of erecting scaffolding more than once. Work to the inside of the building is also needed but not yet scheduled.

The Town Council has already been able to identify the £70,000 needed for the initial urgent works. However, to avoid placing a burden on Council Tax payers, we will look into other sources of funding for the remaining money needed. These could be grants from providers such as the Heritage Lottery Fund but also contributions from local residents, businesses and other supporters. We are currently setting up a group to secure the future of the Pepperpot. Known as the Friends of the Pepperpot, the group will help raise the money needed for the renovation work and development of the building. It will also advise on how the Pepperpot can be used for and by the community. Importantly, the Friends group will be tasked with helping to preserve the heritage of

the Pepperpot through historical, artistic and educational projects centred around the importance of the building to Godalming.

Anyone interested in supporting the Pepperpot is welcome to join the Friends group - no special skills or experience is needed, only an affection for the building and enthusiasm to ensure its restoration and future development.

If you would like to find out more about supporting the Pepperpot, either by joining the Friends group, by making a donation, or by helping to raise funds, please contact us using the details below. Alternatively visit our stall on Town Day, Saturday 28 November 2009 - you will find us in Angel Court.

Ends

In case of query please contact:

Louise Goodfellow

Godalming Town Clerk – 01483 523575 or townclerk@godalming-tc.gov.uk

Release Date: 23.09.09