

## PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release**

### **GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL SAFEGUARDS THE FUTURE OF THE ICONIC PEPPERPOT**

Godalming's most cherished landmark, affectionately known as The Pepperpot, is currently undergoing vital preservation works as part of Godalming Town Council's ongoing commitment to protecting the town's historic heritage.

Built in 1814 at the heart of the High Street, The Pepperpot has served as a symbol of civic pride for over two centuries, embodying the character and independent spirit of the town. It has survived the test of time – from its early days as a council chamber and market hall, through period as a court, lock-up, museum, and community hub.

Today, as residents see The Pepperpot clad in scaffolding, it marks not decline, but a determined effort to secure the future of one of Godalming's most distinctive buildings. Essential repairs are underway to address significant timber decay discovered in the cupola – the iconic 'pot' which gives The Pepperpot its celebrated name and unique appearance.

Godalming Town Council, mindful of its duty to future generations, built up financial reserves to be able to fund the £230,000 cost of the works and overseeing the conservation work necessary to safeguard the structure while maintaining its historic integrity. This work follows in the long tradition of the town resisting previous threats to The Pepperpot's existence, including proposed demolitions in 1897, 1908 and 1913.

Mayor of Godalming, Cllr Paul Rivers said: *"Although The Pepperpot is not exactly beautiful in the classical sense, it has that precious quality of character that defines Godalming. The Council is proud to ensure that this historic, emblematic and iconic building continues to stand strong at the heart of our town."*

Godalming Town Council will keep residents updated as the preservation project progresses. The Council recognises the affection and pride the community holds for The Pepperpot and is committed to ensuring that this treasured building will continue to serve as the town's proud symbol for centuries to come.

Residents are encouraged to follow updates on the Council's website: <https://godalming-tc.gov.uk/the-pepperpot-history/>

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