

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

MAJOR RESTORATION OF GODALMING'S ICONIC PEPPERPOT

Godalming Town Council is pleased to confirm the continued progress of vital restoration works on The Pepperpot, one of the town's most cherished landmarks.

Following extensive surveys and opening-up inspections in early 2025, serious underlying structural issues were revealed—prompting the Council to approve emergency works in April 2025 and, most recently, an additional £149,000 to ensure full and proper completion of the project. This decisive action brings the investment in the current phase to £316,000, securing the future of this Grade II listed building for generations to come.

Key Progress Highlights:

- **Clock Restoration:** The Pepperpot's historic timepiece is being restored by Smith of Derby and is scheduled to return in August 2025.
- **Copper Roof and Joinery:** The dome, barrel, and support columns of the cupola have been removed for specialist treatment. While the dome and barrel are in sound condition, rotten column bases will be replaced.
- **Structural Repairs:** Critical repairs are underway to the arches, brickwork, and render. A previously hidden crack in the High Street-facing arch is being carefully stabilised using concealed metalwork, with oversight by structural engineers.
- **Window and Ceiling Repairs:** All windows have been restored and the undercroft ceiling will be reconstructed using a finish approved by the conservation authority.

A Historic Responsibility

While earlier decisions dating back to 2009 saw repairs partially deferred due to budget constraints, the cumulative cost of delay—exacerbated by inflation and gradual deterioration—has made full restoration both necessary and urgent. The Council's actions now reflect a commitment to generational stewardship.

"Completing these works will not only preserve an iconic piece of Godalming's architectural heritage, but it will also protect future taxpayers from inheriting a far greater liability," said Cllr Paul Follows, Leader of Godalming Town Council.

The project continues to be carefully managed for both heritage sensitivity and value for money, with ongoing financial oversight from the Policy & Management Committee.

For updates, visit: <https://godalming-tc.gov.uk/the-pepperpot-history/>

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