

Volunteer-led People's Museum in Northumberland awarded £331,674 by the Architectural Heritage Fund.

Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery in Alnwick Northumberland is absolutely thrilled by the announcement that it has received a Capital Grant from the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) towards the Northumberland Hall Project. This grant has been awarded through the AHF's Heritage Revival Fund, delivered in partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Historic England.

This money allows us to start our project to restore and repair the beautiful Grade 1 listed Northumberland Hall which will contribute to the realisation of a long-awaited ambition to transform the Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery into a home for the people, stories, and art, of rural and North Northumberland. This new Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery is at the core of wider plans to regenerate Alnwick and strengthen Alnwick's vibrant town centre economy.

The vision to transform Northumberland Hall into the museum's new home includes refurbishment and renovation of the building and the creation of inspirational interpretation of the Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery collections. The reimagined museum and gallery will be a vibrant base for new permanent exhibitions of stories of the town and compelling and exciting temporary exhibitions. Through this the Museum will continue to be beloved of local residents, as well as becoming a fascinating experience for visitors.

A volunteer run, operated, and led charity, this funding supports Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery at a critical point in its development. Through the dedication of their volunteers the award-winning museum has grown significantly in reputation, scope and reach over the last decade. A move to Northumberland Hall will help continue this growth, whilst supporting community ventures, showcase local creatives, provide meeting space for volunteers and local groups, engage new audiences, and grow visitor numbers.

Northumberland Hall was originally built in 1826 for the third Duke of Northumberland and has been under-used for several years. This project will see the Grade I Listed building revitalised and brought back into productive use. The transformed market hall will be a beating heart at the centre of a bold new vision to regenerate the centre of Alnwick, situating the stories of the people of the town and as well as rural and North Northumberland front and centre. Works are scheduled to commence on the building in late Spring 2026.

Jean Humphrys, the Chair at Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery, said "Trustees and volunteers at Bailiffgate are thrilled to have been given this grant to contribute to the refurbishment of Northumberland Hall. We are grateful to the Architectural Heritage Fund for the continued support we have received from the outset and throughout our journey on this project. We are local people, with a passion for Alnwick and Northumberland, its history and its culture and we are delighted to have this unique opportunity to make an exciting contribution to revitalising the town for the community and its visitors".

Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery are looking for volunteers across a wide range of activities, and there will be events and activities taking place throughout the project, listed on the museum's social media channels and website <https://bailiffgatemuseum.co.uk/>.

Notes to editors

About Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery

Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery is an award-winning, volunteer-run People's Museum based in Alnwick, Northumberland. Housed in what was previously a church close to Alnwick Castle, Bailiffgate preserves, maintains and continues to tell the fascinating stories which celebrate the heritage of Alnwick and the district.

Displayed across three floors, visitors can explore a large collection of items on permanent display, as well as a diverse programme of interesting temporary exhibitions and events. The Museum and its dedicated team of volunteers aim to provide an excellent community, educational and tourist resource to the North East.

Winner of the Kids in Museums 2021 Family Friendly Museum Award, Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery has been recognised as one of the best places in the country for early years children to visit. Great for children and adults alike, Bailiffgate details the stunning county and characters of Northumberland.

About The Architectural Heritage Fund

The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) is a registered charity, working since 1976 to promote the conservation and sustainable re-use of historic buildings for the benefit of communities across the UK, particularly in economically disadvantaged areas.

The AHF exists to help communities find enterprising ways to revitalise the old buildings they love. Through advice, grants, communications and loans the AHF support acts as a catalyst for putting sustainable heritage at the heart of vibrant local economies. For 50 years, the AHF has been the leading social investor in creating new futures for historic buildings.

ahfund.org.uk

Further information

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Northumberland Hall, Alnwick, viewed across the Marketplace. ©Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery.



Architects Impression of the New Northumberland Hall. ©Mosedale Gillatt Architects Ltd.