



Cathedral Quarter

WESTGATE GLOUCESTER

Cathedral Quarter High Street HAZ - Review of 2022

2022 has been an incredibly busy year for the Cathedral Quarter HSHAZ team, restoring and bringing many of the area's historic buildings back into use, delivering cultural events and activities, and progressing designs for a public realm improvement scheme for Westgate Street.

The Cathedral Quarter High Street Heritage Action Zone (CQHSHAZ) is a heritage-led regeneration programme backed by £1.9m of Historic England funding plus Gloucester City Council, County Council and private sector funding that aims to breathe life and economic activity back into Westgate Street, drawing on its incredibly rich wealth of listed buildings, residents' memories, and its glorious past.

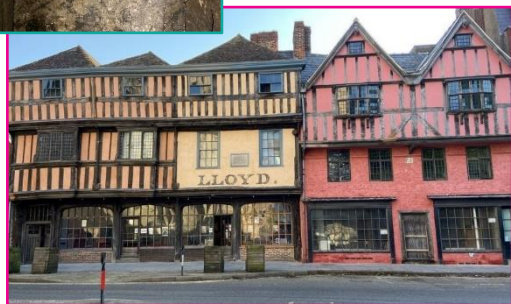
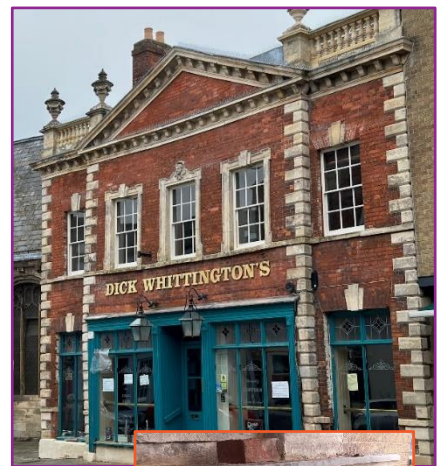
Reflecting on the past year, Claire Dovey-Evans, the HSHAZ Project Manager, said "It's been very rewarding to see the many improvements to Westgate buildings, and the steady progress of the project. With one year left to run, we hope that the street scene and shop front works scheduled for 2023 will make a big impact and attract more people to the street and its wonderful local businesses".

Restoring historic buildings

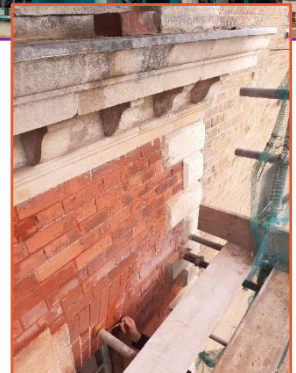
As part of conserving these historic gems, some of which date back to the 15th century, the project is restoring lost architectural features and traditional shopfronts and importantly bringing vacant floors within the buildings back into use.

Successes in 2022 include the **Dick Whittington Pub**, which has seen a ten-month long programme of improvements to the front of the building, repairs to the roof and the creation of first floor function rooms.

A £120,000 grant saw the much-loved Grade I listed building that in parts dates back to the 13th century, brought back to its former glory.



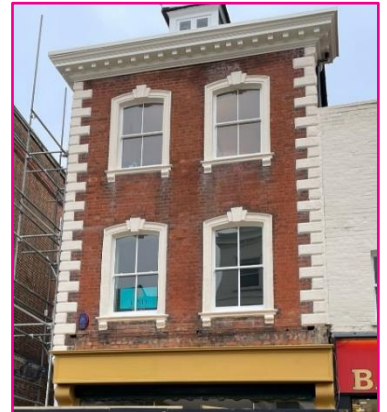
The **Folk of Gloucester** also underwent major restoration works and was given a striking new makeover. Works to the building managed by Gloucester Civic Trust, included restoration of the frontage now decorated in a bold colour scheme based on colours used in the 16th and 17th centuries. A new, more accessible side entrance was installed and



the courtyard re-surfaced. Work also revealed previously unknown features including rare medieval wall paintings.

Another project at 14 Westgate Street, **the former Meek's shoe shop**, is nearing completion. CQHSHAZ has funded the conversion of its upper floors into residential space along with the conservation of a beautiful and unique historic seventeenth-century plaster ceiling on the ground floor and the installation of a traditional shopfront.

Some other Westgate projects made possible by CQHSHAZ include;



29 Westgate Street - new shopfront, inspired by the Art Deco upper windows to create a design for this 1930s building. The ground floor is now occupied by Crystals, and the development also included the creation of student accommodation above, all of which is now occupied.



39 Westgate Street - conversion of upper floors to two flats and restoration of the timber jetty on Bull Lane.

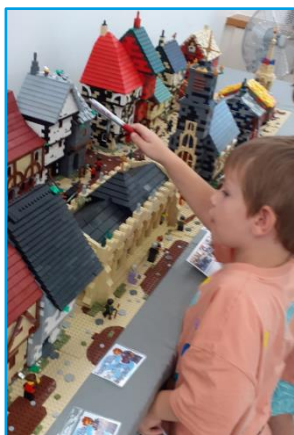
88 Westgate Street - Cathedral Quarter has helped fund a new shopfront and upper floor to this gap in the historic streetscape, bringing it into line with the rest of Westgate Street. The project is due to be completed in spring 2023.

32-34 Westgate Street - Cathedral Quarter funding was used to repair the roof of the former Theatre Royal, a Westgate landmark dating back to 1791. The scheme is also helping to explore future uses for the site.



Bringing memories of Westgate to life

A key feature of the project in 2022 has been its cultural programme intended to engage and inspire local people to find out more about the street's history and heritage. It has seen the staging of everything from ghost tours to lighting installations to Lego recreations of Roman and Medieval Westgate, artists in residence and 3D pavement art showing people the history beneath their feet.



The Lego exhibition in The Folk of Gloucester Museum in July was a roaring success, with 3,000 people visiting it over the course of the two weeks, including many children. The exhibition was based on the scale model reproduction of city centre scenes from the distant past, featuring The Forum (formerly on Southgate Street), The Foreigners Bridge over the River Severn, and a scene of Westgate Street in mediaeval times.

A where to shop and eat guide has been produced and the Cathedral Quarter HQ at no 21 Westgate St has been used as a hub for events, activities, and consultations. A series of art exhibitions are programmed for the unit in 2023.

What's next for the HSHAZ?

Looking to the future the project aims to transform the street scene of Westgate and introduce 'pocket parks', seating areas with planters, 'urban rooms' where people can rest, relax and socialise as well as improved interpretation of the history of the street. A consultation asking local people and businesses for their feedback will be launched early in 2023 with the intention of delivering the scheme over the following 12 months. There will be further shop front improvements including replacement of the one at the new 'Misters' café on the corner of Berkely Street with a more traditional design.



Finally, it was recently announced that the Gloucester scheme is just one of five across the UK that will receive funding from Arts Council England in 2023 to host a summer carnival celebration linked to the regeneration project.

The CQHSHAZ project is overseen by a Steering Group made up of local heritage and business organisations in Westgate Street. It is chaired by the Leader of the City Council, Cllr Richard Cook.

The CQHSHAZ team is based in the Place service and comprises Claire Dovey-Evans, HSHAZ Project Manager, and Oliver Mitchell, Heritage Apprentice.

To keep up to date, visit the Cathedral Quarter website www.cathedralquartergloucester.uk or give Claire a call on 01452 396344.

