



destination old town . bridlington

News Letter

August 2020

Hello Friends and Neighbours

We hope you are all managing to keep well.

Last year was so very different to 2020 and lockdown has been quite challenging for most of us. However despite this, the High Street is thriving with lots of activity coming back and old and new businesses expanding. Good luck and welcome to all.



HIDDEN NATURE

Heritage Open Days

As part of Destination Old Town's aim to promote arts, heritage and culture in the Old Town, we have taken part in Heritage Open Days in September when thousands of volunteers across the country invite people to experience local history, architecture and culture, often places that are inaccessible normally, all for free. Last year events supported by 'Destination Old Town' as well as The Priory and Bayle attracted over a thousand visitors to the Old Town many of whom had travelled a long way to get here. Many of these were unfamiliar with the Old Town and were pleased to have found it, vowing to return and tell their family and friends.

This year the national Heritage Open Days scheme, now in its 26th year, runs from 11th to the 20th of September. In recent years DOT has supported two private houses, both built within a couple of decades of each other towards the end of the 17th century, open their doors to allow visitors to see behind the facades and this has been increasingly popular for visitors, helped by the displays of traditional crafts; the sorts of things that would have been common place around here over the Old Town's centuries.

We have been building on this and will hope to do so again in coming years but as you will appreciate, this year everything is different.

For Heritage Open Days this year, unfortunately High Street houses, Bestworth House and The Toft (43) cannot be open for obvious reasons. However, the gardens of these two private houses will be open on one weekend - 12th and 13th September between 11am and 5pm. The Priory will be taking part too focusing on their 'Living churchyard' project.

The Heritage Open Days theme this year is 'Hidden Nature'. Therefore, rather than feeling we couldn't do much this year, we are going to open the gardens which will give new visitors the chance to see behind the houses and begin to understand the development of the Old Town. This way we can accommodate social distancing and hopefully this will still attract lots of visitors to the area.



Bestworth House



The Toft

Old Town shops and private houses can add to the visitor Heritage experience by putting on window displays that showcase the history of their own property. Many of the visitors to the area enjoy this, learning about the area. If you have a garden, please join in and take photographs of what lies 'hidden' behind the frontages of High St, Market Place, Westgate, Kirkgate, Bayle Gate and Church Green. It doesn't have to show all the garden but just an interesting aspect for the 'hidden nature' theme to show the public the range of wildlife in the Old Town environment and this will highlight the wonderful area we live in.

If anyone needs help with photography or printing please ask at the Alex May Gallery.

For more details contact DOT by emailing destinationoldtown.bridlington@gmail.com