

WORK ON THE MARKET CROSS TO BEGIN IN MALMESBURY

Latest news from Malmesbury Town Council

Malmesbury Town Council have announced that work on the town's iconic Market Cross will begin later this month.

The works follow a survey done which outlined what needed to be done to the historic structure to conserve it and safeguard its future.

The famous Market Cross is at the centre of Malmesbury town centre and has been for hundreds of years. It was built in 1490 and paid for by local people. Its distinctive features have made it a reference in historical records, earning it the local nickname of 'the Birdcage'.

The Malmesbury Town Council Planning & Environment committee engaged a conservation's surveyor to undertake a survey of the Market Cross in May 2023. Izaak Hudson from Dittrich Hudson Vasetti, has also surveyed Malmesbury Abbey and other heritage sites across the UK.

The survey was undertaken after advice from Historic England. The Town Council commissioned the survey and some of initial works are included in this year's budget.

Cllr James Slade, who is Chair of the Environment & Planning Committee, said: "The Market Cross represents a large jewel in Malmesbury's crown and we as a council take our responsibilities for its stewardship and preservation very seriously.

"We are pleased to be supported by specialists in the field of ancient monument conservation and look forward to the works proceeding."

Minerva Stone, who have previously worked on the Market Cross, will be undertaking the conservation stonemasonry work. Initial works include cleaning out the gullies and other preparatory work on the structure. Other works will follow in due course.

These minor works start from Monday March 24 for approximately ten days. Works include moss removal from leadwork, loose finial heads and re-securing them, small repairs to the leadwork, and the loft hatch being replaced with a new cover.

ENDS

EDITOR'S NOTES

Attached is an image of Market Cross, the central area in Malmesbury Town Centre that is undergoing conservation construction from March.

If you would like to speak to Malmesbury Town Council about this historic work, please contact Fiona Scott media consultant at 07789 270030, or email fiona@fionascott.co.uk.

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