

Hi!

BEDFORD

BEDFORD HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE (HSHAZ)

Designed to:

- Enhance the local heritage of Bedford High Street through physical improvements
- Provide grant support for repairs and improvements to historic buildings
- Support a diverse cultural programme, with a variety of community events and projects

Bedford's HSHAZ Programme is well underway, with improvement works to High Street buildings and heritage projects taking place in the community. A variety of cultural events are also planned for residents and visitors to enjoy around Bedford's Town Centre.

The projects have built partnerships with local organisations, businesses and building owners to develop Bedford as a more desirable place to live, work and spend time, while increasing the awareness of Bedford's heritage.



HSHAZ PUBLIC SPACE WORKS

Public space improvement works have been completed on Silver Street and the High Street as part of the HSHAZ projects.

- Re-paving Silver Street (around The Faces)
- Widening the High Street's pavement



Supported by:

HSHAZ BUILDING IMPROVEMENT WORKS

The HSHAZ programme has focused on six buildings along Bedford's High Street, as well as improvement works to the public space.

- **No. 19-21 High Street (Blue Monk)** – conservation work to restore the beautiful architectural features has been carried out. Detailed carved lion heads have been reinstated, and the building has been finished off with a new colour scheme.



- **No. 58 High Street (Sundae's Gelato)** – work has included installing a replacement traditional timber shopfront, as well as red stained-glass details about the windows. Chrome lettering has been added over the windows for 'Sundae's Gelato'.



- **No. 107 High Street (Goldings)** – restorative work to Goldings has included roof repairs and window upgrades. A new replacement shopfront has been fitted and the traditional gold 'Goldings & Co' lettering reinstated above the doorway.
- **No. 90 High Street/1A Lime Street (The Medic Clinic)** – the work to 'The Medic Clinic' building at the corner of 90 High Street and 1A Lime Street will see the replacement of the adjoining shopfront facades.



- **No. 97 High Street (All Ears)** – the shopfront of All Ears will be replaced and moved forward to align with the adjoining buildings. The project also involves the lowering of the shop's threshold to allow level access throughout.
- **No. 113 High Street (Salvation Army)** – repair work to the roof of the Salvation Army shop is being carried out, along with the installation of a traditional timber shopfront.



HAZ COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

The HAZ Community Engagement Programme has involved working with different organisations on projects to celebrate and share the history and heritage of Bedford's High Street with the community.

- **Invisible Folk Walking Tour of Bedford High Street**
The Walking Tour, created by local group Invisible Folk, enables visitors and residents to discover the history of Bedford's High Street. The tour takes in different points of interest, including the John Bunyan statue, Silver Street Faces and St Paul's church. The Walking Tour can be found at: <https://izi.travel/en/app>.
- **Residents' stories of Bedford High Street**
Stonewater Independent Living residents shared their stories of Bedford High Street over the decades for a reminiscence video. Memories included events in the Town Centre and different shops along the High Street.
- **Aragon Lacemakers**
Local group Aragon Lacemakers share the story of Bedford's lacemaking heritage through a display of contemporary lace at The Higgins Bedford and video discussing this important local cottage industry.



HAZ CULTURAL PROGRAMME

The HAZ Cultural Programme aims to bring local organisations and communities together, through a variety of different projects. The programme has funded the following events:

- **Memories of Mandela**
- **Sound System Museum**
- **Luma Sounds Community Event**
- **Take to the Streets**
- **Circus of Illustrators**
- **The Vault Digital Game**
- **Creating Together**
- **Growing Up Italian**

More information about the HAZ Cultural Programme can be found at <https://bedfordplayerstrust.org.uk/haz-cultural-programme/>.

