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## Seventeenth Edition

Hello and welcome to the seventeenth edition of the Historic Quarter newsletter. In this edition you will find updates, news and highlights from Middlesbrough's High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) as the conclusion to the four year programme.

Hear how you can get involved with a new I Spy The Historic Quarter trail encouraging people to explore the area and look up at the fantastic historic architectural features. Find out more about the final elements that complete the HSHAZ physical improvements. Read through and be inspired by some of the highlights from across the programme between 2020 - 2024.

As ever, we encourage you to **Get involved**, **Find out more** and **Be inspired...**

Get involved.



## I Spy The Historic Quarter

I Spy The Historic Quarter trail is now available to pick up for free from Middlesbrough Railway Station or a digital copy can be found on the [Historic Quarter website](#).

It features architectural elements illustrated by Aphra O'Connor from buildings within the Historic Quarter, just a short walk from the station. A lot of the points of interest are above our heads, but some are closer to the ground including recent artworks installed on Zetland Road and in Exchange Square. **Can you spot them all?**



## Find out more.

### Public Realm Improvements

**Improvements to Zetland Road - a key throughfare into the Historic Quarter - conclude the HSHAZ funded physical works.**

Traffic calming measures, new lighting, planting, pavements and pedestrian crossings have been implemented. In collaboration with the local community, artist Aphra O'Connor designed a decorative border for the crossings, inspired by the architecture of the former Barclays Bank at 1 Albert Road (now known as Bloom).

Exchange Square's planters have been used to tell the story of the HSHAZ programme. The planters now feature comments from those involved in the programme and artwork by Aphra.

Image Credits Rachel Deakin



# Programme Highlights

Be Inspired.

Throughout the community engagement programme approximately 4500 people have participated, with many attending events in person as well as interactions online

**A Heritage Schools project** involved 149 people in a Discover Boro Arts Award.

**Walks, tours and events** as part of Heritage Open Days, Local History Month, building site tours and Discover Middlesbrough with over 1000 attendees.

**Architectural Investigators** tours and skills sessions with 48 people.

**Oral history training** as part of Make It More Middlesbrough led by Navigator North.

**A dedicated Historic Quarter website** accessed over 5500 times by online visitors.

**The HSHAZ Advisory group**, with local historians, artists and the wider creative community, community group leaders, events organisers, cultural organisations, Council regeneration and culture teams, library and archive services and local colleges coming together to inform the programme.

**“The HSHAZ has broken down barriers, opened doors, literally, by being able to go inside buildings that you've walked past every day and learn a bit more about it has brought historians together and people from the general public to come in and share their perceptions and memories....I've learned a lot and I'm sure a lot of people have... just by opening the door to people.”**

HSHAZ Advisory group member talking about the impact of the programme.



## Property Grants

**Middlesbrough's HSHAZ has been a catalyst for four private property owners to invest in the repair and restoration of their vacant or under-utilised buildings.**

**1 Albert Road** - Now Bloom Global Eaterie and Show Hall have brought the previously underutilised ground floor area of their building back to life.

**2-3 Exchange Place** - Former Kalinka and soon to be restaurant The Muddler, occupying the development on the ground floor. The upper floors are being converted into additional office space by Commerce House.

**9 Zetland Road** - The Zetland Hotel has seen crucial external repairs and development works to enable the upper floors of the building to be brought back into use.

**2-6 Albert Road** - Chequers Bar and Nightclub plan to bring previously unused parts of the building back into use, expanding their current offer.

## Property Grants

The property repairs have been complemented by renovating Exchange Square, in the heart of the HSHAZ, as well as Zetland Road.

The square has new paving, lighting, planting and seating. The Grade II listed Henry Bolckow statue and keystone heads from the former Royal Exchange have been cleaned and conserved and a new ramp has made the space accessible. Exchange Square was central to Hi Street Fest which was attended by over 10,000 visitors in summer 2023.

When surveyed before the works people were either neutral or disagreed with the statement **"Exchange Square creates a good first impression of Middlesbrough"**. Following the works the majority agreed (75%), followed by strongly agreed (25%).

A representative at Mercury 3 (a firm based in Commerce House) highlights the benefits:

**"If the works hadn't been done, and some of the buildings brought back into use, we probably wouldn't be there. We originally established our head offices across Leeds and we recognised that the north east and Middlesbrough is a place of good growth at the minute and we'd like to be part of that. We wouldn't have considered it if there hadn't been the investment that you've made as part of the project. It's fantastic"**.

## Thank you

We would like to thank each and every one of you that has been involved, attended events, taken part in activities, shared knowledge and worked with us to make the HSHAZ programme a success. We couldn't have done it without you.



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