

Property grants reap success

Morecambe's second Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI): 'A View for Eric', is a five year £1.248 million project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Lancaster City Council.

The project, which started in 2012, is investing in the western end of the Morecambe Conservation Area through building grants, improvements to the public realm (streetscape) and through education and training opportunities for the local community.

One of the most high profile projects has been the restoration of the old Visitor building on Victoria Street, which started in November 2015.

The works involved the demolition of the rear redundant printworks, construction of a small rear extension and various internal works to accommodate a new Morecambe hub for charity, Galloway's Society for the Blind.

Since their initial opening last summer, Galloway's are now able to offer a wider variety of facilities to support people with sight loss in a more central location than their previous base in the West End and with a new café 'Brew me sunshine' that is open to all.

Galloway's are benefitting from a near £125,000 grant towards eligible works to restore the Art Deco façade, including replacement windows to match the original style of the building and restoration of the entrance mosaic and Vitrolite plinth details.

The final piece in the restoration was completed in the summer, with the restoration of the dedication plaque to mark the first opening of the building in 1929.



Above photo shows Lucy Cortese, who restored the original dedication plaque to its former glory.



Above photo shows the former Visitor building before and after its successful restoration.



ERIC'S VIEW THE LATEST NEWS FROM MORECAMBE THI2: A VIEW FOR ERIC

Eric's Café, 245 Marine Road Central

From left to right – 3rd November 2006; 31st May 2012 and, lastly, 1st November 2016.

After benefitting from a THI grant just in excess of £170,000, works to Eric's Café completed last autumn. The works included the reinstatement of the traditional slate pitched roof and stone canted bays to the upper floors, complete with timber sliding sash windows to the front and rear. A traditional curved timber shop front has also been installed, along with yorkstone paving and railings to the private forecourt. The building now offers a more sympathetic addition to the street scene.



26 Victoria Street, formerly A1 Barbers

Husband and wife team Vedat and Stacey Samiloglu have been established on the ground floor corner of Victoria and New Street for over five years, with Vedat's barber business in the front shop and more recently Stacey's 'Beauty and Brows' business operating from the rear rooms.

With a new tenancy agreement in place, they were keen to invest in their businesses, and with the support of a THI property grant towards 75% of the eligible works, have recently replaced their dual aspect shop fronts with timber frames of a more traditional design.

Their ground floor windows along New Street have been replaced with traditional timber sliding sash and general redecoration has taken place. The new shop front makes a striking addition to the street scene and we wish Vedat and Stacey the very best with their ongoing ventures.



Could your property do with some improvements? Grants are still available for target buildings. For more details visit Lancaster.gov.uk/viewforeric or email us at viewforeric@lancaster.gov.uk

Boosting skills to help maintain our history

Over the spring seven traditional practical skills workshops were held at Lancaster and Morecambe College.

The free full-day courses covered introductions to working with lime, stonemasonry, decorative plasterwork, stone lettering and relief carving. A double workshop focused on 3D stone carving where attendees had a go at creating grotesques.

Thirty six people attended the courses, with many attending multiple sessions.

Attendees ranged from architects wanting to expand their practical knowledge, contractors and volunteers keen to understand more about working with pre-1919 buildings, homeowners of traditional buildings eager to learn more about how to look after their homes, and those just appreciative of traditional crafts and keen to develop their design skills in the more creative workshops.

For the second year running, taster stone carving sessions were also on offer during the Vintage by the Sea festival. This year participants were given the opportunity to carve and take home a seaside themed plaque.

Future workshops are looking to include timber sliding sash repairs and stained glass work. If you would be interested in joining us for future traditional skills workshops, please visit www.lancaster.gov.uk/viewforeric.



ERIC'S VIEW

THE LATEST NEWS FROM
MORECAMBE THI2: A VIEW FOR ERIC

Autumn 2017



LOTTERY FUNDED

Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

WWW.LANCASTER.GOV.UK/VIEWFORERIC

The THI grant assisted public realm works 'Connecting Victoria Street' completed in summer 2016.

The works involved improvements to the lower part of Euston Road and the top sections of Victoria Street and Market Street.

The £250,000 THI grant assisted by funding the additional costs of some of the high quality natural materials, such as the yorkstone surfacing and granite kerbs.

The works further included more seating, new trees and new pedestrian courtesy crossing points.

The main aim of the project was to make the area much more pedestrian friendly, encouraging higher levels of footfall off the promenade and into the town centre.

This work has since been further enhanced by footway improvements along the lengths of Victoria Street and Euston Road into New Town Square, being delivered as part of the implementation of the Morecambe Area Action Plan.

Shortly after the works were complete the Street party event took place in Royalty Place; the new open space helping to facilitate small events.

