



**Old Grammar School**



**St Dionysius Church**



**Symington Building**



**Harborough Theatre**



# Market Harborough Cultural Quarter



POWERED BY  
**LEVELLING UP**



# Market Harborough

## Cultural Quarter

Four iconic buildings, steeped in history and offering exciting cultural events welcome visitors to the heart of town. Immerse yourself in arts and creative activities, heritage, music, performance and live entertainment that's all here to experience and enjoy.

The Cultural Quarter promotes the area around Church Square and Adam & Eve Street where amazing architecture is centre stage of a great cultural offer.





# St Dionysius Church

The medieval church was originally a chapel with the earliest parts dating back to the thirteenth century. The steeple rises 45 metres to the top of the spire and is one of the finest in England. The building remains an important historical and architectural landmark that opens to visitors daily.

Offering a vibrant social hub, the church is transforming to be a multi-use welcoming space at the heart of the community. With talks, concerts, performances, films and cultural events all taking place inside the church alongside services.





# The Symington Building

With large windows to bring natural light for hundreds of machinists, this building housed the Victorian corset factory of the family business, R & W H Symington & Co Ltd. Many features remain with archive photographs of the workforce on view. It has been transformed into a hub for the public services of Harborough District Council and Leicestershire County Council. Harborough Museum boasts displays of many local artefacts and features the Hallaton Roman Helmet amongst its treasures. Market Harborough Library brings additional footfall to the cultural area.

Both services host successful cultural activities including re-enactments, exhibitions co-curated with the local community and creative workshops. Key partners that will bring the cultural quarter to life include Harborough Arts Cluster, Creative Harborough, Creative Leicestershire and Cultural Leicestershire.



**Harborough  
Museum**

**Creative  
Harborough**



# Harborough Theatre

Although it looks like an old merchant's house from the Elizabethan period, with stone walls, mullioned windows, leaded lights and stout oak doors, the building was, in fact, constructed as a cycle-shed for the corset-makers in the nearby factory!

Market Harborough Drama Society has presented plays here since 1947, initially hiring the first-floor hall as a performing space. The Theatre now presents an 118-seat auditorium, a stage, film screen, a 50 seat studio theatre which doubles as a lounge and bar. A packed programme of events and shows runs throughout the year.

Harborough Theatre commemorated the 90 year anniversary of the Market Harborough Drama Society in 2023 with a year long exhibition in collaboration with the Harborough Museum.





# The Old Grammar School

The “building on stilts” is how locals refer to Market Harborough’s best known landmark. The timber framed Old Grammar School was built in 1614 to house a school above the undercroft, where market traders sold their wares protected from the weather.

This area comes to life and attracts visitors with an exciting mix of events :-

- Arts Fresco - Market Harborough
- Market Harborough Classic Car Show
- Harborough Walking Festival
- Heritage Open Days
- Naseby Heritage Trail

Find out what’s on in the event calendar at:  
[visitharborough.com/events](http://visitharborough.com/events)





# Potential and Opportunity

The Cultural Quarter offers great prospects to revitalise Market Harborough and create a vibrant new identity. Marketing and branding ignites and brings together the buildings and architecture with local businesses and exciting events.

Economic benefits :-

- Increased number of events
- More public participation leads to improvements in wellbeing
- Consumer spending is increased
- Enhanced profile of artists, local cultural groups and venues
- Town centre footfall is improved
- Boost for the evening economy
- Hospitality and leisure offer is strengthened
- Potential for job retention and creation
- Enhanced community cohesion by joint working across the cultural sector
- New visitors are attracted and tourism is developed

