

*Orpington Priory Community Hub's bid for The Priory contained detailed plans for musical, family, educational and Festive events with pledges to work closely with local organisations and the Orpington community. V22 made similar pledges. What progress has V22 made fulfilling their promises to the local community the last 2 years?*

During the first phase of V22's custodianship of The Priory, we have let out those spaces that are self-contained and in a good state of repair – meeting our commitment to provide studios for local artists and creative businesses whilst bringing in revenue to help fund further works. We are currently at 78% occupation in the Priory building. The Great Hall has been retained as a community space that can be opened to the public.

We have participated in Open House London 2017 and 2018 attracting a significant number of visitors to the space and hosted the Christmas Carol service in 2017. We have also hosted the Enchanted Children's festival 2018 and 2019. We had an artists' talk in 2018 as part of our Young London Extended Programme that attracted many new visitors to the Priory. We are continuing to work with this artist to develop a sculpture and site-specific work to form the starting point for gardens in the front of the building and are in communication with a Bromley Museum curator with whom we hope to work in the future as well as Richard Gibbons of Friends of The Priory and Gardens.

Another local artist's practice-based Masters includes a great deal of research around the Priory, Orpington and local history. We are working with her toward presenting a show of this work in Autumn 2019.

We were due to host the London South East College Creative Industries Department end of year show in mid-June 2018. The college unfortunately cancelled the show in early June 2018. We were in talks with *Your Orpington (formerly Orpington Priory Community Hub)* and had offered to host a number of events throughout 2018 including a quiz night, village show and Christmas concerts. Unfortunately the events trustee never got back to us, though we are happy to pick this up again to collaborate on events.

We have had some requests that we haven't been able to pursue at the moment due to parts of the building not being in a usable state. To repair would require funding and building consent, which is a lengthy process. For example, viewings have been held regularly and though there has been some interest for things like Yoga and children's dance workshops, on viewing the space, concerns about the floor being too cold has meant such workshops have fallen through. We always keep such requests on file to be contacted in the future, when the spaces become more usable.

We have also had some requests that are unfeasible for the safety and security of the building, such as fireworks and graffiti workshops. All requests are monitored and replied to. All visitors who have expressed an interest in contributing to a more formal events programme once it is established (as they require production support etc.) are kept on file for the future.

We had extensive conversations from mid 2018 with a local café provider, which we hoped to launch this Summer. Unfortunately this fell through, though we hope to revisit this in the future with the same provider or another local provider.

We have been in dialogue with London South East College to collaborate on a number of projects and, as is the nature of working with a larger education institution, this has been a gradual process. We have four different projects that we will be working with the college on and that we expect to be on going throughout 2019 and 2020. These projects include: organising a clean-up day of the surrounding Priory areas with students in construction; a landscape design project with the built environment and architecture students to create a design proposal for the front car park as a garden and event space; and commissioning a research and marketing project for students to design a questionnaire and research tool on the use of the Priory in order to engage and attract a diverse range of users for the space. Finally, we have offered use of the Great Hall to host exhibitions by the college students and hope to have more collaboration and events in future.

We have been advertising the use of the Great Hall for community use but, other than the above, have not had much interest. We are excited to develop a long-term community programme in Orpington, from our experience with other spaces, this does take time, careful planning and funding in order to be successful. We are also sensitive to upholding the condition of the building and its listed status. Once we have more tenants move into the space this should become more sustainable.

We are currently trialling a booking platform with our Community Studio in Forest Hill, to make community hire easier and if successful we will extend it to the Great Hall of the Priory.

Works are underway to convert the former library into 19 studios. The future tenants who have already booked spaces are planning to host workshops and understand that they will become part of a community programme which can become the part of the neighbourhood around it. Once these studios are full there will be a considerably greater presence in the building, and we hope the burgeoning community and events programme will continue to grow.