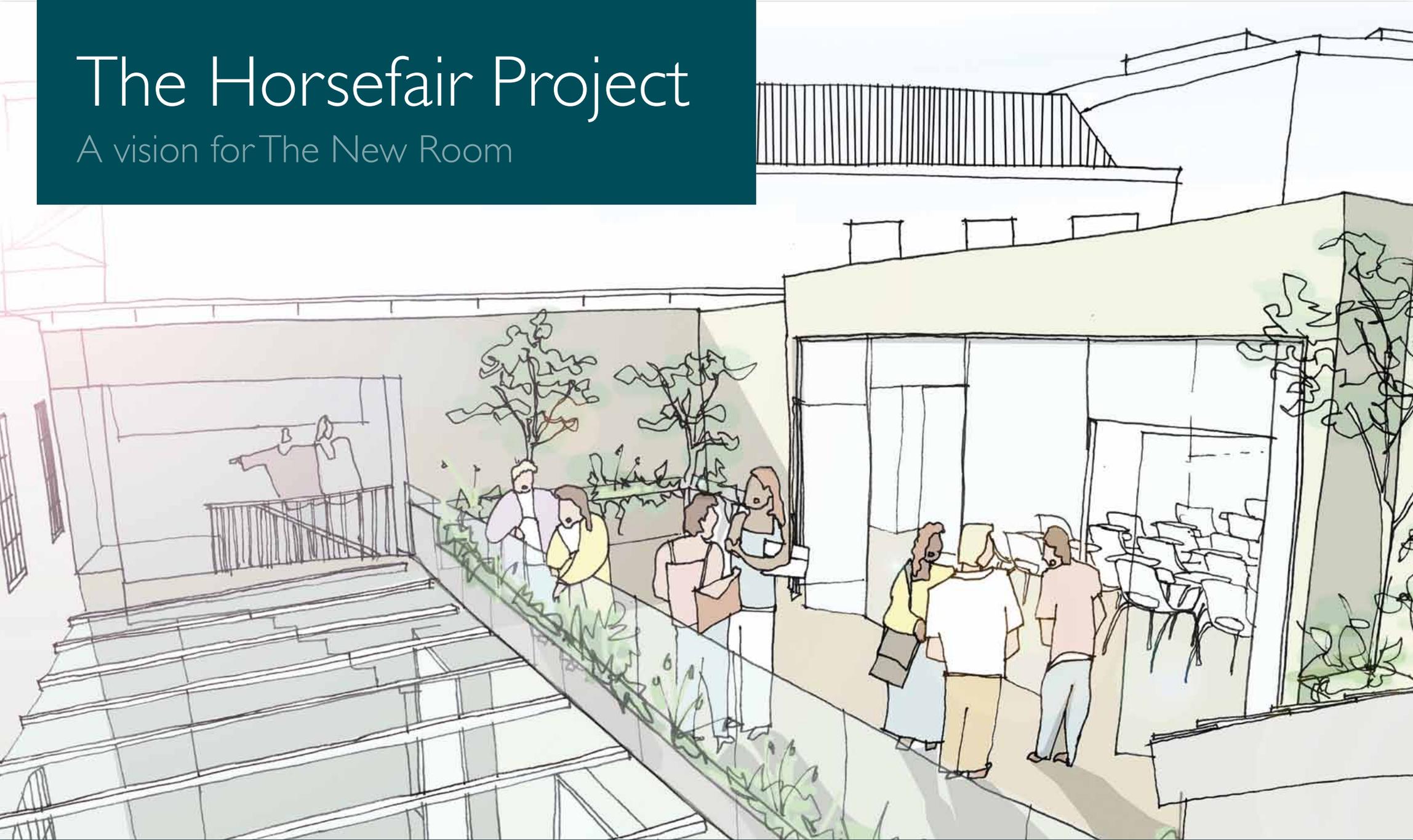


The Horsefair Project

A vision for The New Room



Help us to preserve and enhance the
New Room by offering your support to
The Horsefair Project



The project will build new rooms in the rear courtyard of the New Room that will help us to:

- have the space to create an expanded Heritage Museum in the historic building
- provide a new educational centre in order that the story of the Wesleys can be better told to our many visitors, especially the young
- create a new resource centre to house our archives and an extended library
- provide much needed new visitor facilities including disabled access
- continue serving the needs of the local community

The new building will also help us to provide a sustainable financial future for the New Room so that we can continue to remain open to the public. Every year over 25,000 visitors come to see the New Room and experience the unique atmosphere of what 'The Methodist Recorder' has described as 'the only building which takes us straight back to the beginning of the Methodist story'.

'One does not have to be a Methodist, or even a Christian, to be moved by this enchanting, simple building'.

Mike Jenner: 'Bristol's 100 Best Buildings'

All artist's illustrations and floor plans are subject to final planning permission.

'The cradle of Methodism'

Nicholas Pevsner's Guide to Buildings of England

The New Room is a place that still has service to others as its prime focus but it is also a place of pilgrimage for many because of its rich historical significance.

On 2 April 1739 John Wesley commenced in Bristol the evangelical preaching that has developed into the worldwide Methodist Church. He immediately began raising money to build 'a new room' where the members of religious societies who responded to his preaching could meet. He obtained a plot of land in the Horsefair in Bristol on 9 May and a first meeting was held there on 3 June, even before the building was completed.

The New Room was a place not only for bible study and worship but also for serving the community – a place where education was provided, the hungry were fed, and the sick offered medical treatment. The fellowship classes that were so vital to the growth of Methodism were first started at the New Room. In 1748 Wesley doubled its size and created an upstairs set of rooms where he and other preachers could be accommodated.

Wesley stayed at the New Room every year from 1739 to 1790 and spent nearly 1,500 nights in the building – more than in any other place. It was the first

Methodist building to be licensed for public worship and soon was known as 'John Wesley's Chapel'. Many of the early preaching campaigns were planned from it and eighteen of the annual Methodist Conferences were held in it between 1745 and 1790.

For many years Charles Wesley was based in Bristol and many of his hymns were sung for the first time at the New Room. Among the preachers it accommodated were such important figures as the great scholar Adam Clarke, the young Irish preacher Thomas Walsh, the saintly John Fletcher, and most of those preachers connected with the development of Methodism in America – including Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury. The remains of Captain Webb, the pioneer preacher to America, are buried at the New Room.

Our volunteers ensure that the New Room today can tell the story of the Wesleys to our many visitors whilst also serving the needs of the local community in Bristol.



'Most buildings speak eloquently of the people who built them: none more so than this unpretentious, reserved and yet elegant and moving interior.'

Gomme, Jenner & Little: 'Bristol – An Architectural Guide'

For more information about how you can support the Horsefair Project please look at the New Room website: www.newroombristol.org.uk

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JOHN WESLEY'S CHAPEL
THE NEW ROOM
BRISTOL