



ARCHITECTS APPOINTED

Welcome to the next chapter of The Story Museum – and welcome to architects Purcell Miller Tritton who will head the design team working on the transformation of our atmospheric old building.

They are joined by the Ramboll Group, providing structural and mechanical engineering services, and quantity surveyors Burke Hunter Adams.

Competition was stiff. More than 64 architects expressed an interest in the project and eight firms were

shortlisted, of which three - Hawkins Brown, Pringle Richards Sharratt and Purcell Miller Tritton - were selected to progress to the final stage, comprising an interview, creative workshop and presentation to Story Museum trustees and stakeholders.

Co-director Tish Francis said: “We were hugely impressed with the range and quality of practices coming forward. It was a tough decision to make. We were looking for a strong sense of engagement with and excitement about the overall vision, and all the shortlisted applicants demonstrated a real connection with the concept.”

creative synergy

Co-director Kim Pickin commented: “Niall Phillips and his team are skilled designers, able to work with a sensitivity to the needs of young and adult visitors. They are also practical and supremely conscious of our need to forge inventive and creative solutions within tight financial parameters. In the final session, we were particularly struck by their performance in the creative workshop and the resonance between a number of their visual design references and our own.”

Design work will begin in September.



Storytime with Mini Grey at this year’s Open Doors

More than 600 people visited us last year during Open Doors Weekend - and this year’s event provides another opportunity to catch up with developments and see what’s been happening. Author and illustrator Mini Grey will be holding storytimes (suitable for 4-10 year olds) on Sunday September 11 at 12 noon and 2pm . She’ll also be reading and signing her latest book *Traction Man and the Beach Odyssey*.

Free guided tours on September 10 and 11 take place every half hour between 11am and 5pm (last entry 4.30pm). Full details on our website.



PURCELL MILLER TRITTON has worked on many of the UK’s best-loved buildings. Few practices have won as many RIBA and Civic Trust awards. The firm is also in the Sunday Times top 20 green companies.

Niall Phillips, above, who will head our project, also brings a talent for establishing funding for projects with big ambitions but small resources. That’s us!

Topsy turvy Alice’s Day

Oxford’s Lord Mayor Elise Benjamin (centre left), along with thousands of others, enjoyed meeting Alice and many eccentric friends at this year’s biggest-ever Alice’s Day. A Wonderland ice cream was whipped up specially for the occasion (right).

Visit www.storymuseum.org.uk/alice for more pictures and info. Next year’s event celebrates the 150th anniversary of the first telling of Alice’s in Wonderland, on July 7/8.



HAPPY FROM THE BEGINNING

Many stories end 'happily ever after.' The Story Museum plans to begin that way - and our latest award is guaranteed to make everyone smile. We've just received a grant from the Happy Museum Fund, which recognises that people's well-being is at the heart of everything we do.

The funding will be used to test our ideas with programmers, architects, artists and potential visitors at every stage of the design process. The Story Museum is one of six selected. Other award winners include London Transport Museum and Manchester Museum.

The Happy Museum's Lucy Neal, left, with Tish Francis, Story Museum.



...and more recognition - from the Prince's Trust

Our pioneering work in schools has won us funding from the Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts. It will be used to support a new project at two secondary schools, Oxford

Academy and Cheney. Around 350 children aged 11 to 14 will experience top quality storytelling and will also be involved in shaping the Museum's design and content.

Extending our groundbreaking work in London

Teachers in Tower Hamlets and Lambeth will be able to learn about Storytelling Schools, thanks to funding from SHINE and The Walcot Foundation. Up until now, The Story Museum has worked in seven local authority areas, with a focus on Oxfordshire. We are keen

to develop our successful model in other areas (especially London), in order to reach new groups of students, their teachers and families, and to increase our national reputation. The programme will kick off in the autumn.

A pressing matter

Anyone interested in printing and old-fashioned letterpress should beat a path to our door this autumn. The Story Museum is giving a temporary home to five antique printing presses from the Bodleian Library, which will be used for workshops. You'll gain a fascinating insight into early book production and a chance to print some work of your own. We're currently installing the presses in one of our empty spaces, ready for action later this year.

All of a flutter

We're now on Twitter and Facebook. Follow us @storymuseum for up to date news of some of our quirky goings-on, visitors and plans. And don't forget to tweet your friends...



Summer reading

Visit our website's home page for suggestions.

Remembering Maggie

A special day for children celebrated the life of Maggie Evans, a young literary agent with a passion for children's writing, who died in 2008. Maggie's Day is a partnership between the Maggie Evans Fund and The Story Museum and will evolve as both the Museum and the Fund develop.

Children from St Ebbes, SS Mary and John, and Sunningwell primary schools helped our artist in residence Ted Dewan create new products for Rochester's Story Supplies, some of which are displayed in our shop window for fictional characters on Pembroke Street.

Parents Bob and Kati Evans (pictured below) hope that Maggie's Day will inspire writers, artists and children - and foster a continuing love of books and stories.



The Story Museum

exists to celebrate children's stories and to share 1001 enjoyable ways for young people to learn through stories as they grow.

We are a registered charity. Our patrons are Michael Rosen, Jacqueline Wilson, Michael Morpurgo and Philip Pullman.

If you would like to make a donation contact office@storymuseum.org.uk

Visit www.storymuseum.org.uk for more on these stories

Photos: Marc West, Mark Bassett, Oxford Mail/Times.; Matthew Pitt. Illustrations: Sarah Garson, Ian Beck.

The Story Museum is a private, not for profit company limited by guarantee (No 4730380) and a registered charity (No. 1107809).