

OFFICERS' INFORMATION REPORT

1. Civic Matters: Sarah Wallace, Civic Officer

Due to the untimely death of the Town Clerk the Mayor's Bowls match scheduled for the 28 June was cancelled.

The Mayor and Sheriff's first charity event, a sponsored Dog walk, was held on Sunday 9 July. Walkers and their canine friends assembled at Tippers Builder's Merchants at 10.00am before setting off along the canal path and making their way to Pool House veterinary surgery on Fossey Lane, a total of 3 miles. On arrival at Pool House participants were greeted with a welcome cup of tea and slice of cake, there was even a treat for the dogs before setting off on the return journey.



This was the first time such an event has been held and it proved to be a great success, raising around £500.00 for the Mayor and Sheriff's Charities; Guide Dogs for the Blind and Staffordshire Blood Bikes.

On Tuesday 18 July the Sheriff will undertake 'the alternative Sheriff's Ride' – a charity bike ride from London to Paris, a total of over 300 miles. Anyone wanting to pledge their support can make a donation via Councillor Smith's crowdfunding page;

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/andrew-smth-lichfield?utm_id=2&utm_term=x6MNZ7dPA

On Monday 10 July the Mayor welcomed the winners of the Lichfield Primary Schools Speaking Competition to the parlour for afternoon tea.

Ben Ardenwhite, age 10 and Lucy Vanes age 11 both from St Chads Primary School competed against their peers from other local schools in a debate exploring the pro's & cons of HS2.

After signing the visitors' book the Mayor presented both children with a Lichfield City Council pin badge and Johnson coin.



The Mayor is looking forward to welcoming guests to the 'Mayor at Home' on Saturday 29 July. High Tea will be served between 2.00pm and 4.00pm with pianist Duncan Moon providing some light background music.

Preparations continue for the Sheriff's Ride on 9 September and the Dr Johnson Birthday celebrations on 23 September.

2. Markets: John Beard and Lisa Howard, Markets Officers

Market Performance

Tuesday and Saturday markets are still performing well. Income is up by over £400 year to date, despite losing £600 rent due to a Tuesday market cancellation in June.

The Friday and Farmer's markets performed poorly in March & April. In June however we increased rental income by £780 and July's Farmers' Market achieved an increase in revenues for the first time since December. This was achieved by sourcing new traders and encouraging existing traders to also try new days on the market.

New Leaflets

Distribution of the new market leaflets is underway. The circulation list includes Tourist Information Centres, Libraries, hotels, holiday parks and attractions.

Market Square Big Screen Event

Market traders reacted negatively to the relocation of the market for this event. While the City Council's position is clear in that the event was an experiment and would publicise the City and therefore increase footfall and trade, the prevailing view among traders is that they should have been more widely consulted on the relocation and that more notice should have been given.

The issue of appropriate notice is due to the late submission of a request to hire the Market Square from the BID, and is not therefore of the City Council's making.

There has been coverage of the issue in the local press and on social media, and while there is some sympathy for the Traders, the vast majority of comments are in support of the event and believe it to be positive for the City.

The majority of traders decided not to stand at the market on 15 July.

Liaison with Lichfield District Council

The Market Officers have been liaising with LDC to ensure that all necessary applications for events this year have been received and continue to be processed, including Samuel Johnson's birthday partial market relocation and Christmas Lights Switch On event.

3. Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum: Jo Wilson, Museums and Heritage Officer

June was an exciting month at the Birthplace with the opening of the summer exhibition 'Johnson & Garrick: a Friendship in Constant Repair'. The Mayor officially opened the display in an event on Friday 16 June. The exhibition was developed in partnership with Dr Johnson's House at Gough Square in London, and items from the Birthplace will be travelling down to the capital at the end of the Lichfield run in September. Curated by the MHO in collaboration with Birthplace volunteers Nicola Young and Birmingham University Student Megan Farrell, the display also features loans from the Garrick Club, Gough Square and the Potteries Museum. The MHO has arranged high-profile partnerships for the exhibition including leaflet-swaps with the Royal Shakespeare Company and Bowes Museum, and a family-friendly programme of trails and activities will go alongside the exhibition in the school holidays.



June has been a busy month for school visits to the house, with staff welcoming local classes from Fulfen Primary School, the Willows Primary and a group from Thomas's Prep School in London. Adult visitors from various groups have enjoyed tours with Sue Bray and David Titley including Melton Mowbray Historical Society, Nuneaton Historical Association

and the national Retired Pharmacists Group. The Museum's life-long learning programme continues to flourish with a new term of Latin classes, including a new 'Lunchtime Latin' session, as well as Writing and Poetry Groups. For younger visitors, a new Young Writers Group was trialled with local writer Stewart Derry.

Behind the scenes, playwright Carolyn Scott-Jeffs has been visiting the Museum archives as inspiration for a new play based on Anna Seward to be performed at the Garrick Theatre in the autumn. The MHO oversaw the return of nine loaned works to the Cathedral's Turner exhibition, and work continues on plans for the forthcoming City-wide Heritage Weekend.

As part of a project funded by the West Midlands Museum Development programme, an Access Audit was carried out at the Birthplace exploring wheelchair access, facilities for blind and hearing impaired visitors, as well as looking at the Museum's provision for visitors with learning disabilities and general approach to offer something for all age ranges. Some exciting and achievable ideas were put forward, and the written report will be provided by the consultant in the coming weeks.

4. Guildhall: Helen Winter, Guildhall Bookings Secretary

The old Prison Cells remain open to the public on a Saturday from 10.00am to 4.00pm with a volunteer on hand to offer information about their past. Recent visitors to the cells include two school parties who stayed for lunch in the Guildroom afterwards.



We continue to attract our regular bookings including the National Trust, RSPB, U3A, Bridge, Needwood DFAS, Chess, Ballroom Dancing, Heyday Friendship, Italian Class, Three Spires Townswomen's Guild, Darby & Joan, Meditation, Ladies Cameo, Band Practice, Lichfield Poets, Slimming World and the Historical and Archaeological Society.

In the last few weeks we have held two Wedding Ceremonies, four Wedding Receptions, a 30th Birthday Party, 10th Wedding Anniversary Party and a Christening Party.

The Bride, Groom and guests left one Wedding Ceremony in a red double decker bus, and the second Ceremony was a 1940's themed Wedding and reception. Another Wedding ceremony has also been booked in this year's diary, which brings the current year's total to 11.

'Cathedral Pens' held a very successful exhibition in the Main Hall, and have already re-booked to return next year, while Lichfield College students held an end of year Fashion Show in June. Lichfield Round Table also held a dinner in the Main Hall. We have also hosted a Market Research company.

Mercia Juniors FC, a charter standard junior football club held a fundraising ball and dance. The evening was a great success, raising over £2,000. The money will be used to fund new junior football goals and equipment for the coming season. They have also enquired about booking again for next year.

As part of Lichfield Festival a performance of Richard III was held on 9th July. A party of French students were also shown around the building by our Town Crier, Ken Knowles.



5. Twinning: Gabriele Lasch-Burden, Twinning Officer

Thomson Work Placement

Laura Peluso, an 18 year old student from Limburg, completed a three week work experience placement in Lichfield, kindly provided by Thomson Holidays in Bore Street.

On her first day, she was warmly welcomed by the Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Janice Greaves.

Laura studies for a vocational profession as an international office assistant at the Peter Paul Cahensly College in Limburg. Laura was hosted by a generous family from the Lichfield Twinning Association and her work placement was funded by the European Youth Programme "Erasmus+".



Table Tennis Tournament - Limburg

From Friday 16 June until Sunday 18 June, our German Twin Town Limburg-Offheim celebrated their 800th anniversary. As part of these celebrations they organised an international Twinning Table Tennis Tournament, to which 7 members of the Lichfield Table Tennis club travelled. The tournament was held between all four of Limburg's twin towns, i.e. Lichfield, Ste. Foy, Oudenburg (Belgium) and Limburg. The event concluded with a large barbeque party on Saturday evening.



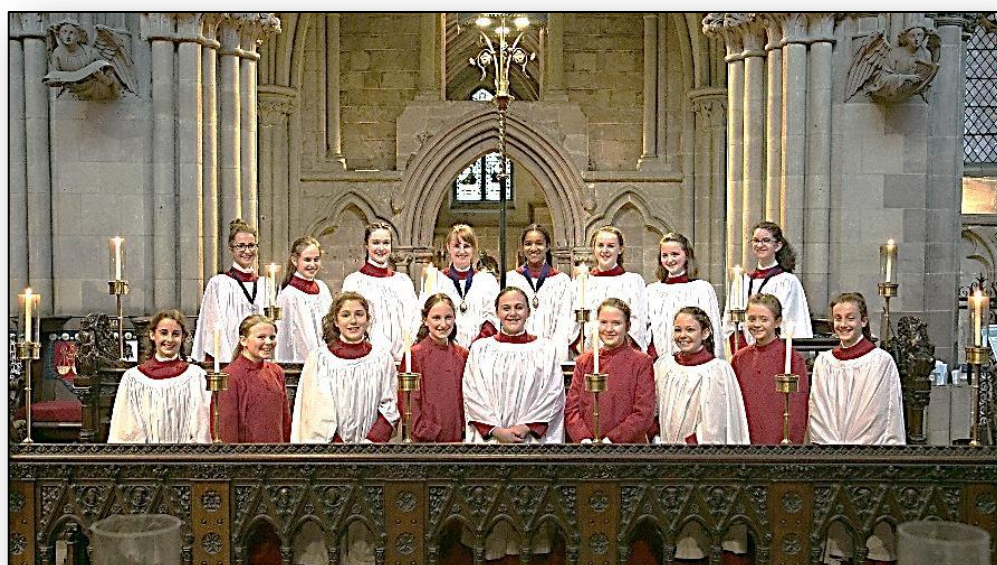
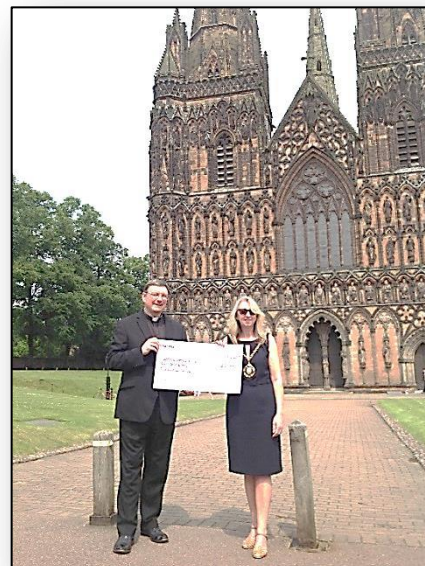
On Sunday all table tennis teams took part in a large procession through the town. The Lichfield players had a wonderful time and are already looking forward to doing it all again in October for the 25th anniversary celebrations of the ring twinning between Lichfield, Limburg and Ste. Foy.

Lichfield Cathedral Girls' Choir

Sixteen Cathedral Girl Choristers, aged from 11 to 15 travelled to Sainte Foy-les-Lyon, from 10 to 14 July. There was a Civic reception for the Choir upon arrival and they gave various concerts in Churches around Ste. Foy and Lyon, as well as participating in joint musical activities with Schola, the Girls' Choir from Lyon's Cathedral. They also had the chance to experience Bastille Day celebrations in France first hand just before returning to Lichfield.

This activity was being funded by the girls themselves, their parents and Cathedral musicians through fund-raising events. Lichfield City Council also provided support, with a Twinning Grant of £200 towards the cost of the exchange.

The Mayor of Lichfield, Councillor Mrs. Janice Greaves, presented the cheque to the Revd. Canon Andrew Stead, who thanked Lichfield City Council for "...this most generous contribution to support the Girls' Choir Tour to Ste. Foy". Martyn Rawles, Organist and Assistant Director of Music, who accompanied the Choir was "...very grateful for Lichfield City Council's support".



Ring Twinning Anniversary

The 25th anniversary celebrations of the Ring Twinning between Ste. Foy, Limburg and Lichfield will be held in Ste. Foy during the weekend of 6 to 9 October 2017, and final organisational preparations are now well underway. In total, 73 guests from Lichfield are travelling to France to join in the celebrations. Visits to museums in Lyon, a river cruise on the Saone, an Ecumenical Church service and international table tennis and tennis tournaments between the three City clubs are planned.

There will be a friendship dinner for all participants, where guests get the chance to talk about events over the past 25 years and to form new friendships. All travel costs and expenses will be borne by the individual participants and accommodation is mostly with Ste. Foy families.

Exchange Enquiries

Limburg City Council will be sending their apprentice Elena Stolz to Lichfield City Council in October for a week's work experience in public organisations, which has become an annual event between our two Cities.

Limburg City Council has confirmed they would like to go ahead with a Christmas Market Light Festival, produced by Lichfield Cathedral artist-in-residence Peter Walker, to enhance their Christmas Market and promote the Twinning relationship of our two Cities.

Limburg's Twinning Association will be celebrating their 30th anniversary at the end of this year. They are looking to incorporate the theme of Lichfield's Garrick300 into their programme and have invited David Titley from the Birthplace to perform at this event.

6. Open Spaces and Tree Management: Nick Burton, Open Spaces Officer



Financed by Tesco through their plastic bag fund, the work at Curborough Community Centre to re-tarmac the patio behind the building has been completed. Two new paths have also been completed at the same time to improve access to the Forest School which is used by a number of groups such as the Rockland School and the 'Young Carers Group'.

Kim Wilkins was involved in this project and the final plan was agreed with her before she became ill. She will be sadly missed by so many groups at the Centre and outside.

Thanks to the support from Lichfield District Council and Staffordshire County Council we now have agreement for the advertising signs and planting at the roundabout on Capper's Lane.

The Whitewall Gallery have kindly agreed to sponsor the roundabout and it is hoped to have the signage completed ready for the Blooming Lichfield judging day on Wednesday 26th July 2017.



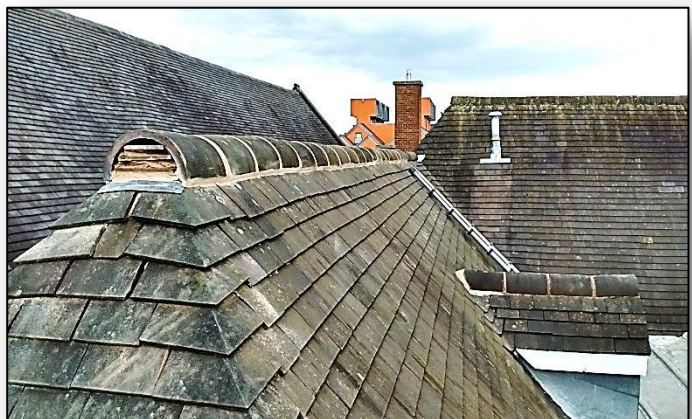
It must have taken some effort to vandalise this litter bin at Curborough to such an extent that the feet were lifted out of the ground. The Community Payback Team ensured the bin was safely back in position and securely concreted within a few days under the supervision of Tony Wilkins.

The OSO has contacted the local PCSO who has promised to keep a close eye on the area.

A portfolio is being produced in order that the Blooming Lichfield judges can appreciate the beauty of Lichfield throughout the year, not just on judging day (26 July). Amongst other aspects the portfolio will include the beautiful flower beds in Beacon Park, community work and the unique heritage of our City.

7. Deputy Town Clerk: Tony Briggs

Repairs to the roof of Donegal House are proceeding well, with the weather being kind at the time of writing this report. The repairs are relatively minor in nature and are preventative rather than reactive. The numerous ridges have been rebbed, broken or missing tiles replaced, woodwork replaced as necessary and repainted and gutters cleared. The opportunity will also be taken to inspect the Guildhall roof at close quarters.



The repairs to the section of floor and supporting joists in the stairwell damaged by the (recently repaired) longstanding water ingress from the stairwell roof are now complete, as illustrated in the 'before and after' photographs below. While in isolation this is a relatively small item, the rotted timbers supported the top level of the wooden staircase that runs through the stairwell. If the issue had not been addressed the timbers would have become dangerous and could have led to the collapse of the top section of the stairs.



The third R&R project to commence during the month is the renovation of the Guildhall beer cellar. The project is limited to the fabric of the cellar with repairs to the flooring, fitted shelving and redecoration being the main tasks undertaken.

Ongoing maintenance to the Guildhall has once again focused on redecoration; the ceiling adjacent to the old prison cells has been repainted, as has the ground floor lift lobby.

The Lichfield City Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to Lichfield District Council as scheduled. The District Council have now commenced the Regulation 16 Consultation which invites further comment on the Neighbourhood Plan from organisations and individuals over a period of six weeks. The consultation is due to end on Friday 18 August 2017.

The Deputy Town Clerk would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillors for their support following the death of Christopher Moulton; it is genuinely appreciated and has helped not only myself but all of the staff through what is a tragic time.

Finally, I would like to place on record my gratitude and admiration for the way in which the City Council team has come together to help and support each other, both professionally and personally, over the past few weeks. Christopher built a close-knit team that we are all proud to be a part of, and we continue the duties of the City Council in his honour.