

OFFICERS' INFORMATION REPORT

1. Civic Matters: Lucy Clarke, Civic Officer

On Wednesday 17 July, The Mayor, Cllr Mrs Deborah Baker led the Lichfield City Council team in the annual Swinfen Broun Challenge Trophy bowls match against the Lichfield Museum Bowling Club. Despite the best efforts of the City Council team, the Bowling Club took the trophy once again with a score of 108 to 44. After the match the Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriff, Dr Daryl Brown, presented the trophy to the President of the Club, Mr Geoffrey Parkinson and thanked everyone for taking part and supporting the event. The challenge match has been played since 1924 but it was not until 1926 that the trophy was donated by local benefactor, Colonel Swinfen Broun. Next year's match has been scheduled to take place on Wednesday 24 June 2020.



On Saturday 27 July The Mayor and Sheriff held their first charity event since taking office in May. Guests at the Indoor Street Party, including the High Sheriff of Staffordshire Mr Ashley Brough, were all welcomed with a glass of summer punch on arrival and musical entertainment by Tommy T. Traditional Union Flag bunting decorated the grandeur of the Guildhall along with flags for everyone to wave and join in with the songs.



Representatives from the Mayor and Sheriff's chosen charities, St Giles Hospice, Lichfield and Hatherton Canal Restoration Trust and Lichfield Voluntary Transport for the Disabled were also in attendance to support the event. The Mayor and Sheriff would like to thank all those who attended the event raising over £600 for their chosen charities. They would also like to thank Paul Smith, Fruit Stall on the Lichfield General Market for kindly donating fresh produce for the party.

On Friday 23 August The Mayor and Sheriff held a Charity Barn Dance. The Mucky Duck Ceilidh Band provided the music with caller Mike Gentles. Over 75 people attended this great family fun event with lots of laughter and enjoyment throughout the evening. The Mayor and Sheriff would like to thank all those who attended the event in aid of their chosen charities, St Giles Hospice, Lichfield and Hatherton Canal Restoration Trust and Lichfield Voluntary Transport for the Disabled. They would also like to thank Brewhouse & Kitchen for kindly donating a cask of ale for this event.

Preparations remain ongoing for Sheriff's Ride on 7 September, Samuel Johnson Birthday Celebrations on 14 September, Remembrance Sunday on 8 November and Mayor & Sheriff's Charity Ball on 23 November.

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



The Summer months have been full of visitors and activities at the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum. 3000 visitors came in July alone, consistently high compared to last summer, but with a 25% increase on income from donations and shop sales this year. Some August days have seen over 150 visitors to the house. Current events include 'Paintings in Focus', a self-guided trail of the Museum's Art Collections and associated hands-on art and sketching activities, and the popular 'Summer Fun at Sam's House' family craft sessions on Thursdays, themed this year on Johnson's Travels. The Birthplace is also part of the Lichfield Planetary Trail for the summer, in partnership with Lichfield Library.



As part of the Paintings in Focus programme, Museum Attendant Sarah Dale has led two public guided tours of the art collections and hosted an event for the Lichfield Society of Artists, which is hoped to be the start of several collaborations with the Museum. Attendant Sue Bray gave a talk to a full house at the Great Wyrley History Society.

The Museum has hosted two work experience weeks for Sixth Form students from Landau Forte Academy Tamworth and Netherstowe School, and a research visit from a Harvard University PhD candidate. Francesca Blanch-Serrat from the University of Barcelona, a pre-doctoral research fellow working on Anna Seward, has begun a three-month stay as visiting scholar, working with the Birthplace Seward manuscript collections and using Lichfield as a base for her work in archives across the UK.



Behind the scenes, arrangements for Johnson's Birthday are underway alongside city partners involved with Lichfield Heritage Festival, and rehearsals have begun with Intimate Theatre for 'The Girl in the Picture', a new drama written by long-serving former Museum Attendant and playwright David Titley. Book conservator Arthur Green visited the collections and is working

on repairs of Samuel Johnson's copy of Twiss's 'Travels in Portugal and Spain', gifted to Johnson by the author. Museum Administration Assistant Penny Taylor attended a training session at Derby Museums, funded by Art UK, on caring for and documenting sculpture in Museum collections. The Birthplace team also continues to support the Guildhall Prison Cells, which have received over 2000 visitors on Saturday openings since April.

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

The Lichfield in Bloom judging took place on 17 July with some fabulous projects for the Judges to see such as 'Monks Walk' with its perennial beds. The City Council would like to extend its thanks to Lilas Rawling for her organisation, Harry Wiggins for his chauffeuring and everyone else who helped on the day. The results of the competition will be known on 5 September.

The grass meadow in the Festival Garden should be cut around the same time as the publication of this report. The grass will be used in composting at the Dovehouse Community Garden. Also planned for the



Festival Garden in September is the annual visit of the CPCG conservation group who will be clearing around the brook to ensure the healthy flow of water and to reduce clogging by the marginal plants. Lichfield District Council have been instrumental in the organisation of this event and in clearing the undergrowth around Franciscan Heights. A new dog bin at the Eastern end of the

gardens provided by Lichfield City Council will help to reduce the amount of dog litter.

The wet weather over the Summer months has meant that everything has grown at a much faster rate than usual. As a result, the grass mowing continues, and the start of hedge cutting has been brought forward to keep the paths navigable. Clearing up tree branches in the exceptional Summer winds has also been necessary and frequent.

A student from Netherstowe school was able to witness a wide variety of work during a work experience week with the Open Spaces Officer in July.

Preparation for the Sheriff's Ride continue in earnest with the clearance of gateways and tracks. A new route to avoid using Eastern Avenue has been suggested and work has begun to clear a green lane which has been unused for 5 years. Two mature trees that had fallen across the path will be removed and Miller homes have helped in improving the access by removing some fencing in preparation for the riders to pass through when the ride takes place on 7 September.

Before Cutting

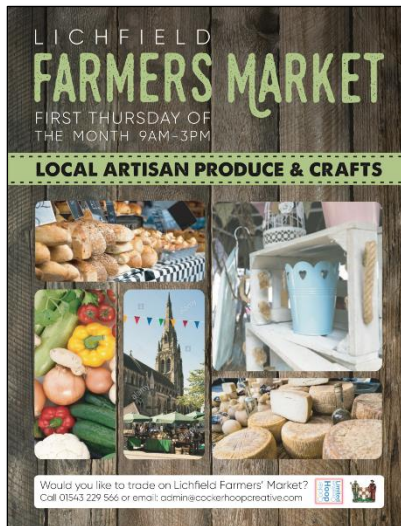


After Cutting



4. Markets Report: Jordan Appleyard, Markets Officer

Stall occupancy on both the Tuesday and Saturday markets has increased in recent months with almost all stalls filled. Bella Dame clothing has purchased a yearly Street Trading licence which has facilitated their return to the Market Square on Sundays, alongside the fish and chip van and ice cream van. Stall occupancy on the Friday Markets remains low. In an effort to redress this, the Markets Officers are actively seeking new Traders and contacting former traders to see if they wish to return. They are also promoting the £1 discount per stall for those who wish to pay monthly in advance.



The Markets Officer has been liaising with Cockerhoop Creative to promote the monthly Farmers Market through Facebook and Twitter. Newly designed posters and flyers have been handed out to traders from other markets and displayed in key locations. The Markets Officer has also been on hand throughout the numerous Festivals held over the summer to ensure the smooth running of the Market operation.

During the summer months routine maintenance was carried out on the marquee fixings on the Market Square in preparation for the Samuel Johnson Birthday celebrations. The bollard housings have also been repaired in readiness for the winter months. The installation of bollards around St Mary's end of the square is working well and thus far has assisted in deterring unauthorised parking. The City Council's stall contractors are also monitoring any vehicles which are parked on the Square and reporting back to the Markets Officer.

Following representations from Traders regarding the use of the Market Square skip a report was submitted to Council. At its meeting on the 30 July the Council resolved to retain the

provision of refuse facilities for the Friday and Saturday Markets. Traders have all been informed of this decision.

5. Twinning: Gabriele Lasch-Burden, Twinning Officer

During the summer holidays, when schools and colleges are closed, there have been no exchanges between our twin cities.

Preparations are being made for the forthcoming visits by two Limburg Council apprentices to Lichfield City Council in early October, as well as a Limburg drama class taking part in next year's 'Mysteries'. The next Twinning Walking weekend will take place in June 2020 and next year's official ring twinning celebration will be held in Limburg in late September.

6. Guildhall: Helen Winter, Guildhall Bookings Officer

Although it is the school holidays and bookings are relatively quiet, many of the regular hirers have still been attending the Guildhall. Eight meetings have been held in the building and the National Citizenship Scheme (Learn by Design) has also held three workshops for young people. The SCC Older People with Disabilities Commissioning Team held an information session in the Guildroom during July.

July and August has seen a return of Market Research bookings. The companies have decided to return to Lichfield City Centre instead of their usual location of Birmingham as the Guildroom is so easily accessible.

A 70th Birthday party was held in the Main Hall at the beginning of August and during the August bank holiday weekend there was a craft fair in the Main Hall as well as the ever popular Lichfield Leather sale in the Guildroom. From the end of August, there are bookings in the Main Hall every Friday and Saturday until Christmas.

The Bookings Officer is pleased to report that repairs to the lift have now been completed and that a new dishwasher has been installed in the first floor kitchen. The relatively quiet summer period has also allowed for maintenance work to be carried out including replacement of the Guildroom lights with LED alternatives as part of the 2019/20 Repair and Renovation programme, and repainting of the ground floor corridor. The 'City of Lichfield' locomotive nameplate which dates from 1944 and was stored for many years at St Mary's and returned to the City Council this year has been put on display on the first floor corridor.

Boley Park continues to attract regular bookings, despite the usual quieter summer period.

7. Deputy Town Clerk: Sarah Thomas

The Deputy Town Clerk is working closely with the newly appointed Markets Officer and is also assisting the Civic Officer with preparations for the Sheriff's Ride.

Health and safety risk assessments remain ongoing and preparations for the Christmas lights Switch On continue.

During August and September, the Deputy will be attending Planning and Council meetings.