

Meeting Date: 09 January 2018

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Culture, Leisure and Heritage Portfolio Holder's Report –**

**Councillor Anne Quilter**

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## **OLD FIRE STATION**

The programme for the Old Fire Station has no weekend availability until June 2018. The folk and blues programme is fully booked throughout the coming year, and comedy events are booked up until July 2018. Events in 2019 are already booked in the diary.

- May 2015 - Dec 2015 (pre-floods)

We held 75 events which attracted over 4000 people.

- September 2016 - March 2017 (post floods)

We held 126 events which attracted over 8000 people.

- April 2017 – Present

We held 300 events which attracted over 9000 people.

## **TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE**

Ticket sales continue to be strong in the run up to Christmas. Events such as the Green Room Panto and festive events at the Old Fire Station have proved particularly popular. We have started selling tickets for events in 2018 and we are continually looking for new ways to expand this service. We have been actively using our social media platforms to promote upcoming events and tickets that we have on sale in the Tourist Information Centre.

We have had a stall at the Christmas Market which has been successful. We were selling a range of gift items including Carlisle Christmas Baubles, cards, Carlisle Brewery Beers, Farrer's Christmas coffee etc. We have also created a range of Christmas hamper from our stock for an alternative gift. The market has enabled us to showcase some of the items which are available in the Tourist Information Centre to a new audience.

We are now taking bookings for 2018 in the Assembly Room. Northern Crafts are returning next year with their monthly craft fayre and Carlisle Yoga are also returning in the summer.

## **COLLABORATION BETWEEN HADRIAN'S WALL AND THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA**

The Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage (CACH) and Historic England, supported by The British Council and by the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site Partnership Board, recently announced their plans to hold a professional seminar in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 2018. This will be the first step in a wider programme of collaboration between these two World Heritage Sites.

The seminar will examine the particular challenges and opportunities of managing large and complex archaeological remains, and will contribute to the sustainable management of these World Heritage Sites. It will provide a forum to share knowledge and expertise, creating a mutual understanding which will enable the UK and China to work together on a wider programme of collaboration.

Despite their historical and archaeological differences, there has been a long-standing sense of common identity between the Great Wall and Hadrian's Wall, which were both included on the World Heritage List in 1987.

## **DISCOVER CARLISLE**

### **NEW DISCOVER CARLISLE WEBSITE**

The new Discover Carlisle website is now live. It has been going through a "soft-launch" phase since Thursday 30 November, which allows us to continue testing, and respond accordingly to feedback received. The website will be launched formally early 2018.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Discover Carlisle Facebook page continues to grow in followers, standing at 2,453 (as of Monday 4 December 2017).

The Discover Carlisle Twitter account also continues to grow in followers, standing at 3,905 (as of Monday 4 December 2017).

## **TULLIE HOUSE MUSEUM & ART GALLERY TRUST – DECEMBER 2017**

### **GOVERNMENT REPORT ON MUSEUMS**

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport have published an independent review of museums in England and the Strategic Review of DCMS-sponsored museums. The report, commonly referred to as the Mendoza Report, is the first review of museums in over a decade to examine the English museums sector. It was commissioned in response to the Culture White Paper in 2016 which called for “a wide-ranging review of national, local and regional museums, working closely with Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund”.

The report focuses primarily on the 1,312 ACE accredited museums and proposes recommendations enabling a more strategic approach to public funding for museums. The report recommends:

- a more prominent and assertive role for Arts Council England;
- a more strategic use of Lottery funding for museums;
- a more active role for Historic England;
- and greater national responsibilities for national museums.

There are 19 case studies in the report. It is very gratifying to see the work that Tullie House has been doing with China cited as one of these best practice examples.

### **CHINA CLUB**

Continuing on from the success of our summer sessions, our Chinese Language Instructor Gloria Huang has been running a lunch time China Club at Scotby School and an after-school China Club at Belle Vue Primary School. Between 15 and 20 children attend each weekly session and have been enjoying learning basic Mandarin and finding out about Chinese Culture. Feedback from teaching staff has been very positive, and both clubs will continue next term with new groups of students. Gloria has also been giving formal Mandarin tutoring to a group of British-Chinese families – seven children have taken ‘YCT’ examinations this term and are expected to pass. Our Chinese Language and Culture Course for adults has also been very well received, with the whole group wanting to continue in the New Year.

### **CUMBRIA YOUTH SERVICES**

Tullie House has received funding from the Hadfield Trust to run a second street art project with Cumbria Youth Services, following the success of a pilot project in October

2016. We worked with a group of young offenders on two graffiti style murals inspired by the Border Reivers and the Romans, which are now on display in the Border Gallery. The participants worked with a professional street artist and will achieve their Explore Arts Awards as part of the project. During the week, our Young Carers group also took part in a street art session, learning new techniques and skills.

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

There was an excellent turnout for our 2017 Black History Month event. Over fifty people took part in a night of discussion, reflection and performance, held in partnership with AWAZ Cumbria. We screened the locally produced film 'This Place' where 16 people from different parts of the world, who have made their homes in Carlisle, talk about the places they have come from and what brought them to Cumbria. Local poets, writers and musicians then shared their creative responses to related objects from our collection, and our Community & Young People Coordinator's presentation of her own local research relating to her Grandmother's journey from Barbados to England in the 1950s.

## **DIWALI**

To celebrate the Festival of Light, Tullie House held a tea light making drop-in during our busiest ever October Half Term, and invited local dancer Priya Sundar and her company of musicians and dancers to give two special performances at the museum, both of which were well attended. We also created a small case display with Indian items from our collection, including beautiful water colour paintings.

## **HEALING ARTS**

Tullie House has been working at the Cumberland Infirmary in partnership with Prism Arts for the last 18 months and, inspired by this work, the hospital has decided to fund a Healing Arts Coordinator for six months to explore ways of using the museum's collection and arts practice to improve the wellbeing of patients and staff at the hospital. The post is managed by a steering group of key staff from the hospital, Prism Arts and Tullie House, and will hopefully be sustained through a funding application to Arts Council England.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

In September, the Paul Leith: Technicolour Carlisle exhibition was subject to an Artistic and Quality Assessment (AQA) by Arts Council England. The AQA praised the exhibition for having been "well-balanced and well-curated" as well as "interesting, engaging and uplifting" and was a fitting end to a very successful and well-received exhibit.

The Percy Kelly: Line of Beauty, A Retrospective exhibition continues to be successful for the museum with over 5,600 visitors having visited it since it opened on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017.