

Meeting Date: 7 March 2017

Public/Private*: Public

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

OLD FIRE STATION

Discussions regarding the development of new artists collective are going well. The aim is to bring together West Walls artists who are a collective from Carlisle & Eden Artists and represent Eden and parts of West Cumbria. We are looking at several proposals including exhibitions, workshops & potentially a permanent artist space in the yard of the Old Fire Station.

Talks are underway with a Newcastle based promoter that currently helps to programme some of the North's top venues. We are exploring the possibility of work to help bring in even higher profile events to the Old Fire Station on an affordable basis.

The Old Fire Station programme for 2017 is nearing completion and the team are beginning to plan the programme for 2018. Discussions are also underway with Prism arts around several events for later in the year.

VISIT HADRIAN'S WALL SOCIAL MEDIA

As partners with Visit Hadrian's Wall, Carlisle City Council is involved in a monthly rotation of partners along the wall to take ownership of the social media pages. In February 2017 Carlisle City Council monitored the pages and this involved looking after the posts, replies and comments on the Visit Hadrian's Wall Facebook and Twitter pages. Posts focused on national days of interest, Hadrian's Cavalry in Bitts Park, places to visit at the "West end", walking routes, Lanercost and more.

DISCOVER CARLISLE

Website

Details of upcoming events including Jess Glynn, Bryan Adams and Little Mix have been added to the Discover Carlisle website to promote the concerts taking place later this year.

The 2017 Holiday Guide is now out and a competition to win a night at the Halston is running. The competition is only accessible through the link published within the holiday guide. The guide is also accessible through the Discover Carlisle Website as a PDF Download.

Social Media

Both the Discover Facebook page and Twitter account continue to grow in followers. The Discover Carlisle Facebook currently has 2,069 followers and the Twitter account has 3,622 (as of Thursday 2 February 2017).

TULLIE HOUSE MUSEUM & ART GALLERY TRUST – MARCH 2017

Awards & Achievements

Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery are extremely pleased to announce that they won the prestigious BEST MUSEUM award at the Cumbria Life Culture Awards. The award was presented at a special event at Theatre by the Lake on Friday 3rd February- congratulations to all the dedicated teams of individuals both behind the scenes and front of house who strive to ensure they have innovative and engaging activities and exhibitions that will appeal to all visitors.

Following a recent assessment under the VisitEngland Visitor Attraction Quality Scheme Tullie House has also been awarded a VisitEngland Best Told Story Accolade. This accolade is testament to the high standards achieved for visitor engagement, excellent interpretation techniques and content.

Furthermore Going Places UK have awarded Tullie House their 'Cumbria/Yorkshire Museum of the Year 2016/2017'

Hadrian's Cavalry

In December 2016 Tullie House officially launched the Hadrian's Cavalry Exhibition to the press. Following this the Telegraph named Hadrian's Wall one of the top places to visit in the World in 2017, paying particular attention to the Hadrian's Cavalry exhibition and Tullie House was mentioned as one of the highlights.

Working Internationally

As part of Tullie House's working internationally project the Confucius Institute at Lancaster University has assisted the museum in securing a Chinese Language teacher based on site for the next two years. Gloria Huang started her placement in January and will be conducting Mandarin reading, writing and language classes, providing guided tours in Mandarin and will work with the learning, exhibitions and curatorial team to plan and develop the proposed 2018 exhibition in addition to planning lots of exciting activity for schools and for the general public.

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, The Harbin Performance Troupe visited the museum and the Old Fire station on 22nd January as part of a 2017 Overseas Tour Project. They performed live music which was a great opportunity for the general public to attend some free cultural events and experience a performance including traditional Chinese dance, music and marital arts.

East Meets West: The Brushstrokes of Wang Ying exhibition

This exhibition of 47 paintings by artist and Chinese Diplomat Mr Wang Ying opened to the public on Saturday 18th February. A special preview evening took place on Thursday 16th February which was attended by the Mayor, Councillor's and local businesses. Our honorary guests included a number of directors from Confucius institute's across the North West and the Consul General of the People's Republic of China to Manchester-Sun Dali.

Who Do You Think You Are? Sir Ian McKellen

On 25th January, Tullie House featured on the popular BBC genealogy programme 'Who Do You Think You Are?' alongside Sir Ian McKellen. Curator Melanie Gardner showed Sir Ian a painting of Carlisle from the North East, which has been credited to his relative Mr James Lowes, the painting was in a very poor condition and there was a fundraising appeal to help raise funds to have it conserved but with thanks to Sir Ian's generosity the painting has now been conserved and has been featured in the Spotlight Gallery alongside William Hutchinson's 'History of Cumberland' since September 2016.

Young Carers

The Mayor of Carlisle joined Tullie House on the 28th of January to celebrate the achievements of the senior Carlisle Young Carers group who have been meeting monthly at Tullie House for a year. The event celebrated the completion of their Bronze Arts Awards, and marked the beginning of new sessions for 2017 in which the current members would mentor new recruits to achieve an Arts Award of their own.