

Meeting Date: 11th October 2022

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Culture, Heritage & Leisure Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Stephen Higgs**

EVENTS

Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

I would like to thank all those across the Council who responded to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. All of our actions under Operation London Bridge were fulfilled efficiently and with dignity.

The City Proclamation of His Majesty King Charles III took place on 11th September in the city centre and was attended by 5,000 people.

A screening of the State Funeral was held in Bitts Park where 300 people came together to share this sad but historic occasion.

City of Lights 2022

Tickets for Carlisle City of Lights are now on sale at the Tourist Information Centre. The event will be held on 21st, 22nd and 23rd October. This year's theme is the Roman occupation. Guests will immerse themselves in a fantastic sound and light experience and be transported through time from the present day to Roman times in Luguvalium – Carlisle. The event is once again supported by Cumbria County Council. Eden Valley Hospice and Jigsaw Children's Hospice will be joining the City of Lights event in October. A torchlight procession will take place between Carlisle Racecourse and the City of Lights event on Saturday, 22nd October. Around 900 people are expected to participate.

Carlisle Christmas Lights

A tender for a four year long capital programme to enhance Carlisle's Christmas Lights closed at the end of August. Funded by the Town Deal, this programme of investment will provide additional festive lighting features to enhance the city centre.

International Market

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend Carlisle hosted the ever-popular International Market. In its 19th year the event never fails to draw crowds into the city centre. Below are the footfall figures for the weekend of the International Market compared with the previous weekend. Footfall during the International Market was +20,092 over the previous weekend.

	International Market	Previous Week	Difference
Thursday	15300	12417	
Friday	16431	13259	
Saturday	22387	12893	
Sunday	11934	9407	
Monday	14361	12345	
	80413	60321	20092

Summer Events in our Parks and Green Spaces

During July and August approximately 20,000 people attended events in our parks such as the three large concerts plus others. Over a similar period of time there have been 17 community / external events hosted on our parks and green spaces.

Talkin Tarn Country Park Outdoor Theatre

There have been three summer performances of outdoor theatre which have taken place in front of over 750 people with a variety of performances from 'War of the Worlds' to 'Wind in the Willows' and 'Much Ado about Nothing'.

CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE

- Cumbria's Museum of Military Life began its 90-day run up to its **90th birthday** from 8th September, when the 'Sponsor an Object' scheme was launched
- CMoML participated in Heritage Open Days, working with the Castle to open the old military cells on two Saturdays in September and to do tours of the Regimental Chapel within the Cathedral on Saturday 10th September
- The Tuesday talks programme has just been relaunched with the first talk held on Tuesday, 13th September, 6.00 p.m. in Alma Block entitled '***An intelligent understanding of its traditions' – 90 years of a Military Museum in Carlisle Castle***
- Afghan Refugees were welcomed to the museum on 19th August – a year after their flight from Afghanistan
- Veterans Lunches continue each month and are well supported
- Summer family workshops were held each Wednesday through the holidays

TULLIE HOUSE

After a very busy start to the summer with admissions almost reaching pre-Covid levels, August was a quieter month for Tullie in large part due to the good weather! However,

footfall to the site remains high due to the ongoing popularity of the Tullie Gardens and outdoor commercial events such as Fizz Fridays which have been extended due to popular demand. The **Uncovering Roman Carlisle** exhibition has been touring venues around Carlisle and district, including Longtown and Burgh-by-Sands, with a visit to The Lanes Shopping Centre at the end of August. The project was awarded 'Community Volunteering Project' of the year at the National Council for British Archaeology's 2022 Awards Ceremony.

The Museum submitted an application to the Levelling Up Fund for its **Project Tullie** capital programme, with a decision expected in the Autumn. Contract preparations for the Castle Street properties are almost finalised, and project management services have been procured for Phase 2 and Phase 3. This will provide essential capacity to progress the project at pace.

ART AND CULTURE

Off the Wall

The Healthy City Team have been working with a local artist and a group of Refugees, with the intention to produce a large piece of art which will be created to celebrate the Hadrian's Wall 1900th Centenary.

Big Buzz Exhibition

During September, an exhibition celebrating pollinators was held at the University of Cumbria featuring photographs and images collected from local people. The exhibition will then tour various locations such as Carlisle Library, Tullie House Museum, The Lanes and various local schools.

LEISURE

Sands Centre Redevelopment

Week commencing 12th September 2022 was Week 95 of the 98-week programme and marked a significant milestone of the "sectional completion" of the new Leisure Centre and swimming pool building. This allows our Leisure Operator, GLL, to commence the transition from The Pools with training and fit-out of the catering offer. Wates Construction Ltd continue to carry out the final work on the project including external landscaping ready for the full opening in October.

Events at The Sands Centre were planned to recommence after the summer break at the end of September.