

Meeting Date: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Public/Private\*: Public

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

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### **TULLIE HOUSE**

Tullie has had an excellent start to the new financial year, with footfall in April and May reaching 86% of pre-Covid levels and paid admissions exceeding pre-Covid. Retail and catering figures are also climbing, setting us up for what will hopefully be a strong recovery year for the Museum. These numbers are in large part down to the popularity of the two Hadrian's Wall 1900 exhibitions, with 'Uncovering Roman Carlisle' in particular capturing the enthusiasm of locals and tourists alike.

Our summer exhibition '**Once Upon A Planet**' opened to the public on 25<sup>th</sup> June. This exhibition is part of a two-year project funded by the prestigious Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund and will see Tullie work with the community to explore the issues of climate change using the Museum's Designated Natural Science Collections.

The Museum's **Project Tullie** capital programme continues to gain significant momentum. In the last fortnight we have received Permission to Start from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for Phase 3 and are nearing the end of contract preparations for the Castle Street Properties for Phase 2. In addition, we are currently working on a submission to the Levelling Up Fund in early July.

Finally, the Museum had its annual **Visit England VAQAS** inspection this period and achieved a fantastic 92% rating. In addition, the Museum has been nominated by the Assessor for Visit England's Best Told Story Award.

### **UNCOVERING ROMAN CARLISLE PROJECT**

- The Uncovering Roman Carlisle Project finished exhibition in Tullie House on 11<sup>th</sup> June and has moved to a new phase with a travelling exhibition celebrating the community excavation at Carlisle Cricket Club

- The exhibition will take place between June and September and visit six venues in the Carlisle district
- More information is available at [www.tulliehouse.co.uk/urc](http://www.tulliehouse.co.uk/urc)

## **CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE**

- Cumbria's Museum of Military Life held its first Military Festival over the Platinum Jubilee weekend. Re-enactors, military vehicles and a talks programme attracted visitors to the Museum and Castle on the Friday and Saturday
- The Museum supported the City Council's event in Bitts Park working alongside the Local branch of the Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Association
- June's Veteran's lunch saw 24 attendees at a Platinum Jubilee Picnic Lunch in the grounds of the Castle, which also kickstarted Armed Forces Week
- The Museum supported Armed Forces Day in the City Centre on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> June and hosted Carlisle Veterans Hub on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> June

## **EVENTS PROGRAMME**

The Events Programme is well underway in Carlisle. The Easter International Market was the first large scale event of the year. Over the Easter weekend footfall in the City Centre was 78,500 up 22,800 on the previous weekend. The Hawker Festival was also a great success with an increase in footfall of 6,500 over the previous weekend.

Carlisle's celebration of Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee commenced on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June with the lighting of beacons by the Mayor and Mayoress at Carlisle Castle. On Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June the City Council delivered the "Community and Hope" event at Bitts Park. This event brought the community together to celebrate the Jubilee and see the Pageant in London live on a big screen.

Armed Forces Day was celebrated in the City Centre on 25<sup>th</sup> June. The event was supported by Cumbria Museum of Military Life, the Military Vehicles Trust, Devil's Porridge Museum, Cumbria CVS and the Royal British Legion

**Food at the Frontier** – This project links with the Hadrian's Wall 1900 Celebrations, and links food production to the changing landscape, soils, climate and elevation along the Wall from West to East. Following a soft launch at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event in Bitts Park, an event was hosted at Stanwix School to talk about food and the Romans. The children prepared and ate food similar to that which the Romans would have eaten, made and prepared by local chef John Crouch. STEM Ambassador, Tony Dixon, inspired the children through demonstrations of Roman engineering, including Roman building.

**The Street Art Festival** took place at Tribe Carlisle over a period of five days, showcasing nine local, national and international artists. This gave an opportunity for people to view live art in progress.

## **Future Events**

Plans are coming together well for a 'City of Lights' event in October, the return of the Fireshow in November and a Christmas Market in November/December.