



## Report from the Chair

In August 2021 all the indicators appear to show that we can look forward to happier times in the year ahead. The last 18 months of lockdowns and restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic have meant a curtailment of the usual Chester Civic Trust activities along with our plans to celebrate the Trust's Diamond Jubilee Year. For many of our members loneliness and isolation has replaced the companionship and enjoyment that is usually offered by the Trust's programme of visits, events and lectures.

The good news is that Bishop Lloyd's Palace has now re-opened for business and face to face meetings. We are planning to hold '*Welcome back to BLP*' sessions for members on the **9th and 10th of September** to coincide with the start of 2021 Heritage Open Days. Where possible we are rearranging visits and events that had to be cancelled in 2020 (full details included in this mailing).

Despite the restrictions, we have continued to carry out our core mission to protect and safeguard Chester's built environment. Members of the Trust's New Works Committee have continued to monitor and comment on planning applications. For instance, we registered strong objections to the plans to build housing on the floodplain of the River Dee; plans that were subsequently given permission by a Government Inspector on appeal! Our comments are regularly posted on our website.

We have proactively engaged with Cheshire West and Chester Council on a number of development and regeneration schemes including the Northgate development, the City Centre Heritage Action Zone and the restoration of Dee House. The Heritage Festival went ahead online in June 2021. A partnership with the Inland Waterways Association and the local authority has resulted in a successful application to have the city's waterways designated a 'Heritage Port'.

The Civic Trust is fortunate to have a number of experienced professional planners, architects and engineers as members. A detailed response from the Trust to the Government's consultation on the controversial Planning Bill was led by Andrew Pannell and Ian Gilfoyle.

The top accolade of the 2021 **Good, Bad and Ugly Awards**, that are based on members'

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# Trust Information 2020-21

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## Objectives

The main mission of the Trust is to preserve and improve the built environment in and around Chester and to enhance the quality of life of its citizens. To achieve this mission it has set itself the following objectives:

- To foster civic pride and public interest in Chester's buildings and their settings;
- To champion good architecture, planning and design, and promote sustainability;
- To preserve and enhance Chester's architectural and cultural heritage;
- To improve the quality of life for people in Chester.

In setting the above objectives, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefits.

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## Organisation

The Trust is governed by the **Executive Committee** comprising:

- the three **Custodian Trustees** (who serve in perpetuity)
- the **Officers** of the Trust (Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer) who are elected annually
- between 8 & 12 **elected members** elected annually (who serve a maximum term of 3 years)
- the **President** and all **Vice-Presidents** plus any **co-opted members** (non-voting)

The Executive Committee meets at approximately six-weekly intervals and decides all policy matters relating to the affairs of the Trust. It also approves all significant financial decisions in advance of expenditure being incurred. **The voting members of the Executive are the Trustees of the Trust.**

Five sub-committees support the Executive Committee; **Events, Heritage, New Works, Publicity, and Strategic Development.**

### President

Vacant

### Vice Presidents

Graham Fisher  
Stephen Langtree  
Cyril Morris

### Chairman

Christine Russell

### Vice Chairmen

Peter Cocker  
John Herson

### Hon Secretary

David Evans

### Hon Treasurer

Sue Harris

### Executive Committee

#### Members (Elected)

Nick Clarke  
Susan Denly  
Jean Evans  
Karen McKay  
Hilarie McNae  
Martin Meredith  
Faye Mustill-Daniels  
Andrew Pannell  
Cynthia Phillips

### Executive Committee

#### Members (Co-opted)

Tony Barton  
Ruth Davidson

### Custodian Trustees

Brian Dutton  
Alistair Jones  
John Tweed

### Membership Secretary

Faye Mustill-Daniels

### Address

Bishop Lloyd's Palace  
51/53 Watergate Row  
Chester  
CH1 2LE

### Independent Examiners

Hargreaves & Woods  
Cholmondeley House  
Dee Hills Park  
Chester, CH3 5AR

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## Governance

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable financial policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for the safeguarding of the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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## Membership

As at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 there were 318 individual and joint members of Chester Civic Trust.

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## Events and Activities

From March 2020, the normal activities of the Trust were severely curtailed by the restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The frequency of Executive meetings was reduced and they were held over the Internet on the Zoom platform.

Bishop Lloyd's Palace was not available for hire for most of the year and only certain uses were permitted. This led to a substantial loss of income for the Trust which was partly compensated for by grants obtained through Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The programme of visits, talks and lectures which is greatly valued by our members, had to be abandoned or postponed, along with a dinner to celebrate the Trust's Diamond Jubilee Year.

Nonetheless, as detailed in the Chair's report overleaf, the core activities of monitoring planning applications, engaging with local and national planning proposals and working to preserve and enhance Chester's heritage have continued despite the difficulties.

## Report from the Chair - continued

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Despite the restrictions, we have continued to carry out our core mission to protect and safeguard Chester's built environment. Members of the Trust's New Works Committee



## CORPORATE MEMBERS 2020-21

**AARON & PARTNERS**, Solicitors.

[www.aaronandpartners.com](http://www.aaronandpartners.com)

**ALLINGTON HUGHES**, Solicitors.

[www.allingtonhughes.co.uk](http://www.allingtonhughes.co.uk)

**CHAMPION ACCOUNTANTS CHESTER.**

[www.championgroup.co.uk](http://www.championgroup.co.uk)

**DONALD INSALL ASSOCIATES**, Historic Building Architects.

[www.donaldinsallassociates.co.uk](http://www.donaldinsallassociates.co.uk)

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATES**, Landscape Design.

[www.environmentalassociates.net](http://www.environmentalassociates.net)

**LOVELOCK MITCHELL ARCHITECTS.**

[www.lovelockmitchell.com](http://www.lovelockmitchell.com)

**RAISE ARCHITECTS.**

[www.raisearchitects.com](http://www.raisearchitects.com)

**RAINFOREST** (Ethnic crafts).

51 Watergate Row, Chester.

**STOWE FAMILY LAW LLP**, Solicitors.

[www.stowefamilylaw.co.uk](http://www.stowefamilylaw.co.uk)

**TWEED NUTTALL WARBURTON**, Architects.

[www.tnw-architecture.co.uk](http://www.tnw-architecture.co.uk)

## Chester Civic Trust

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