

Leek Town Council



Annual Report 2017-18

Leek Town Mayor, Cllr. Brian Johnson

For anyone to serve their town has the Mayor is a great privilege, to be given the opportunity to do this twice is indeed a great honour. Very sadly, a good friend and fellow councillor Robert Plant, who had indeed been Town Mayor on three occasions and served as a district and town councillor over the last thirty years, sadly passed away on Christmas Day last year, he will be greatly missed at Leek Town Council.

There have been many highlights during the year, not least of all again being able to meet and be involved with so many wonderful people who undertake so much incredible voluntary work in the community. Events such as my Civic Service at St Edward's Church, the Great Get Together and the Christmas lights switch on event, which was supported by thousands of local residents and visitors to the town, will remain in my mind for many years.

My fundraising abseil down St Edward's Church was particularly memorable and the money raised will go to local young people's organisations. I would like to specially thank my Consort for the year Sheena Pearce, who also abseiled with me and who has been a constant support throughout the year.

My thanks go to all the volunteers who help the Town Council deliver events and activities and the guides who carry out the tours of the Nicholson War Memorial. Many thanks also to Bill Lomas, the Leek Town Crier who does a great job in promoting Leek, and not least our very hard-working Town Clerk, Mrs Julie Taylor without whom the town council would not function.



EVENTS COMMITTEE

To commemorate the life of the late Jo Cox, the Events Committee joined in with the national Great Get Together team and staged a two day family event in the town centre and Brough Park in June. The weather was glorious and the 100 metre giant waterslide again proved extremely popular. Attractions included: local live bands, fairground rides, free face painting, the Buxton Billerettes, Tribe Academy and Totally Locally stallholders. The Town Council provides the Christmas decorations for the town centre and the switch on event always attracts a large crowd.

Two reindeers led the parade and the Leek Town Mayor switched the lights on promptly at 7.00pm. Christmas Carols were led by Leek Salvation Army Band and the crowd was entertained by Thunder Hammer, Smile and Liz and Marcus Birks.

ALLOTMENTS

Leek Town Council is responsible for 235 full plots and 50 half-plots spread over seven sites. There is still a demand for allotments with 25 people on the waiting list. The annual allotment competition organised by Leek Allotment Holders & Gardeners' Association took place at St Paul's Community Centre, Novi Lane in August and the winners each received certificates and a rent free year! The annual rent this year remains the same at £30.00 for a full plot and £15.00 for a half plot.

THE NICHOLSON WAR MEMORIAL

The monthly tours attract local residents and tourists and are organised by volunteer guides from April to September on the first Sunday from 1.00pm to 3.00pm and third Saturday from 11.00am to 1.00pm. Around twenty to forty visitors attend each tour and additional tours are arranged for community groups and schools.

There are eight flag flying commemorative services held at 11.00am, organised by Leek Royal British Legion on the following dates:
8th May VE Day, 14th June The Falklands, 1st July The Battle of the Somme,
31st July Passchendaele, 15th August VJ Day,
15th September Battle of Britain Day, 24th October El Alamein,
11th November Remembrance Day.

Further information about the Nicholson War Memorial and the Friends group may be found at: www.nicholsonmemorial.org.uk

BALL HAYE GREEN RECREATION GROUND

The new play equipment installed in April has been enthusiastically received by the local community. The bronze plaques on the memorial arch commemorating the fallen from World War One, will be refurbished in time for this year's centenary commemoration.

GRANTS

£14,830 was donated to the following organisations: Leek Citizens Advice Bureau, Support Staffordshire, Leek Sports Council, Leek Arts Festival, Friends of Brough Park, Leek Blues Festival, Leek Swimming Club, Team Tintin, Brough Park Running Club and Foxlowe Arts Centre

FINANCE

Leek Town Council's element of the Council Tax in 2017/18 was £139,887 representing £21.95 per annum for a Band D property. The Council Tax in 2018/19 will remain the same at £21.95 per annum for a Band D property.

COUNCILLORS

Leek Town Council has twelve councillors, who are elected to represent one of the six wards in the town and they have a four-year term of office. The next elections take place in May 2019.

Leek North

Cllr. Margaret Lovatt
Cllr. Charlotte Atkins

Leek South

Cllr. Keith Harrison
Cllr. Susan Coleman

Leek East

Cllr. Brian Johnson
Cllr. Pamela Wood

Leek West

Cllr. Ben Emery
Cllr. Neal Podmore

Leekbrook

Cllr. John Povey
Cllr. Gail Lockett

Birchall

Cllr. Roy Tomkinson
Cllr. Stephen Wales

The Town Council meets in the Council Chamber at Moorlands House, Stockwell Street, Leek at 7.00pm or in the Town Council Office at 6.30pm and members of the public are welcome to attend. There is a public participation session at the beginning of each meeting.

The remaining meetings this year are:

Tuesday 19th June at 6.30pm Planning committee in the Town Council Office

Tuesday 17th July at 7.00pm, Town Council, General Purposes and Planning in the Council Chamber

Tuesday 21st August at 6.30pm, Planning Committee in the Town Council Office

Tuesday 18th September at 7.00pm, Town Council, General Purposes and Planning in the Council Chamber

Tuesday 16th October at 7.00pm, Town Council, General Purposes and Planning in the Council Chamber

Tuesday 20th November at 7.00pm, Town Council, General Purposes and Planning in the Council Chamber

Tuesday 11th December at 6.30pm, Planning Committee in the Town Council Office

**Leek Town Council
Financial Statement for 12 months to 31 March 2018**

	Income £		Expenditure £
Balance b/fwd	57,229	Staff/Office/Administration	62,888
Allotment rent	7,345	Allotments	7,746
Precept/grant	145,526	Grants	14,830
Vat	12,252	Vat	11,948
Events/Christmas	7,769	Events	7,221
Lengthsman	2,120	Christmas	34,585
SMDC	5,000	Ball Haye Green play equipment	20,000
Gazebo hire	4,121	War Memorials	2,465
Sundry	862	Mayor/Deputy Allowance	2,900
		Street lights	2,113
		Ball Haye Green	886
		Summer flowers	2,064
		Gazebos	2,812
		Insurance	2,954
		Elections recharge	6,979
		Audit	738
		Flags and bunting	3,477
		Sundry	2,704
Total	242,224		189,310
Cheques unpresented	4,381	Bank accounts	57,295
Grand Total	246,605		246,605