

Happy New Year everyone! 2021 has certainly started where 2020 left in terms of the national lock-down, but an important difference is this time we can see an end point, we can see locally vaccination centres have opened in Loughborough and Melton and no doubt many of you reading this will have already had the jab. I'm writing this on a cold January morning but I'm more optimistic than ever that by the summer we will have returned to something approaching normality.

Call for people to share memories of Loughborough Fair

People are being urged to share their memories of Loughborough Market and Fair as part of plans to celebrate its 800th anniversary this year.

The first fair was held in Loughborough on July 31, 1221 to mark the feast day of St Peter. It was in the same year that a charter to hold a market in Loughborough was granted to the Lord of the Manor. Both a market and a fair have taken place in some form in Loughborough since that date.

To mark the occasion, Charnwood Museum will host an exhibition to celebrate the milestone. People are being asked to share their memories, pictures, films and memorabilia for use in the exhibition and as part of an archive. The exhibition is a partnership between Leicestershire County Council and Charnwood Borough Council, with Loughborough Local Studies Volunteers leading on the historical research.

Organisers of the exhibition want to hear from people of all ages who have memories of the fair – whether from many years back or much more recent. No memory is too small or insignificant for inclusion, as the organisers are hoping to include as much of the sights, sounds and smells of the fair as they can. As well as sharing the memories in the exhibition, they will also be used to create a community film, add to the East Midlands Oral History Archive and catalogue in the archives at the Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Anyone who would like to get involved and share their unique connections to Loughborough Fair is asked to get in touch by emailing: louise.sharples@leics.gov.uk.

To me it's a remarkable thought that when Loughborough Fair was given its charter, Henry III was King of England and Genghis Khan was conquering large tracks of central Asia, The fair has continued with very few interruptions since, I wonder if it'll still be going in another 800 years??

A46 closed overnight from 22nd February for 5 nights

On 22nd February 2021, the A46 will be closed in both directions (north bound and south bound) between Syston and Six Hills for 5 nights, 21:00 till 05:00 each night. This is as part of the junction improvement work at the Seagrave/Thrussington junction associated with the Leicester City FC training ground which has been built at Park Hill, Seagrave. All the slip roads onto the A46 between the A607 Syston Northern bypass and Six Hills will also be closed during this time.

Keep up to date on Facebook

Last year I set up a Facebook page which I use to keep people up to date on a wide variety of things going on locally (not just from Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council, but also from other organisations that will be of interest to people like the local NHS and Police). If you're on Facebook, please do check it out – just search 'Cllr James Poland' or put 'Cllr James Poland Facebook' into Google.

I hope you all stay safe and if you need my help with anything please do get in touch.

Cllr James Poland CC

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