



National Association of City and Town Sheriffs of England and Wales
Cymdeithas Cenedlaethol Siryfion Dinas a Thref Lloegr a Cymru

Hosted by



CITY OF CHESTER
SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



THE 36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE – CITY OF CHESTER
Friday 1st October – Sunday 3rd October 2021

30th June 2021

Dear Fellow Members

The City of Chester Association warmly invites you to their historic City for the Annual Conference Weekend and to celebrate the 900th Anniversary of Chester's Shrievalty.

Chester has the most complete City Walls, the oldest Racecourse, the largest Roman Amphitheatre in Britain, a Cathedral founded in 1541 with Europe's finest example of medieval carvings and, of course, the unique 700 year old double height Rows with their shops and cafes.

Storyhouse, our nationally acclaimed Arts Centre, was opened officially in June 2018 by HM The Queen accompanied by Meghan Markle on their first official engagement together. If you stay a little longer you could visit Chester Zoo, the most visited UK attraction outside London and home to 35,000 animals from 500 different species in acres of glorious gardens.

Itinerary for the 36th Annual Conference – City of Chester

Friday Reception: Chester Town Hall.

Entrance steps with lift available

6.30pm: The Lord Mayor will welcome guests into the Mayor's Parlour before moving into the Council Chamber next door for the Reception. There will be a welcome from the Sheriff of Chester followed by a reception drink in the Council Chamber, after which a hot dish will be served in the Assembly Room. Information about our local restaurants will be available for those who wish to eat again later in the City.

Saturday morning: Chester Town Hall

10.30 am: Committee Room 1 will be available for current Sheriffs to don their chains. Tea & coffee will be served.

PLEASE NOTE: It is protocol for City and Town Sheriffs to apply in advance to Chester Civic Office for permission to wear their Chains of Office.

11.00 am: AGM begins in the Council Chamber. (**Deadline for motions 1st August 2021**)

12.30 – 1.00 pm: At the conclusion of the AGM there will be a brief reception for current Sheriffs, followed by a light lunch for all guests in the Assembly Room, before they depart for their chosen afternoon activity at 2.30 pm.

Tour options: all tours will leave from the Town Hall at 2.30 pm

- 1) City bus tour (with short boat trip on the River Dee if available)
- 2) Guided tour of Chester Cathedral (approx. 1 hour)
- 3) City walking tour with Blue Badge Guide (approx. 1 hour)
- 4) A Talk on the Regalia of Chester City in the Town Hall
- 5) Free Time (or Chester Races or Chester Zoo - at your own expense)

Saturday evening:

The 36th Annual Conference Dinner will be held at The Chester Grosvenor Hotel, an award winning, 5-star luxury hotel in a prime position in the centre of the City. The hotel's flagship restaurant has held a Michelin Star since 1990 and we have negotiated an excellent deal with the hotel for a 3-course dinner at just £40 a head. An additional course – a Cheese Platter – will be sponsored by the local Sheriffs' Association.

Table wine will be at your own expense and there will be a pay bar should you wish to purchase additional drinks.

Dinner jackets are preferred but not obligatory

Tables of 10. **NB:** if you wish to sit with particular friends or group, please ensure you complete the relevant section of form A

7.00 pm: Drinks reception in The Alford Room at The Chester Grosvenor Hotel

7.30 pm: Dinner will be served in The Belgrave Suite at The Chester Grosvenor Hotel

Our special guest for the evening is Chester's Mr. Matt Baker BEM (Composer, Musical Director, Performer, etc.)

MENU

Ricotta and lemon tortellini, pea velouté, mint crisp

Roast breast of chicken, confit leg, Autumn squash, hazelnut and garden herbs

Caramel mousse, chocolate mirror, iced Madagascan vanilla

Coffee and sweetmeats

Cheese Platter

A Vegetarian/Vegan option will be Chef's Choice

(it is essential that you register any special dietary requests in advance by completing the relevant section in booking form A)

Sunday morning:

9.15am: Sheriffs to robe at Chester Town Hall before processing to Chester Cathedral for the Service starting at 10.00 am. The procession will form in the Foyer of the Town Hall in order of precedence. It would be very pleasing to see ladies wearing hats, if possible. **PLEASE NOTE:** There is a strong possibility that the Cathedral may delay the start of the Service by half an hour, so our timings will need to change accordingly.

9.40 am: Sheriffs and party to process across the Market Square to the Cathedral, and entrance through the Great West Door, where seating will be reserved.

10.00 am: The service begins. Our NACTSEW service will be incorporated into the Cathedral's Harvest Festival service.

11.05 am : Service ends. Return to Chester Town Hall for official photographs. Then Sheriffs to disrobe at the Town Hall.

12.15 pm: Bacon baps (or vegetarian/vegan alternative) with tea or coffee in the Refectory at Chester Cathedral or in Chester Town Hall.

13.00 pm approx: Farewells and guests depart.

900th Anniversary of Chester's Shrievalty 2021

It is thought that Chester was the first English town to have a Sheriff and is first mentioned in a charter to the Abbey of St Werburgh around 1121.

From an early date Chester had two Sheriffs at a time, they were men of great importance in the City and were responsible for many aspects of City government.

Under the Great Charter of 1506 one of the Sheriffs was chosen by the Mayor, former Sheriffs and Aldermen and the other was chosen by the Freemen of the City who were the only people entitled to vote at the time.

*After The Corporation Act 1835, Chester elected only one Sheriff each year and this continues to the present day. Today the office of Sheriff is ceremonial and their only official responsibility (apart from civic duties) is the important annual inspection of the City plate, performed since **1908**, in order to check that all the City silver is accounted for.*

**We look forward very much to welcoming you to the City of Chester for the
36th Annual Conference Weekend**

Due to the unknown restrictions that may be applicable at the time, imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, our arrangements and timings may have to be altered, but we will endeavour to change as little as possible.

We feel it is necessary to restrict the number of guests to 120 and would be very grateful if you could let us have your booking forms well before the closing date of Saturday 15th August.