



ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST
BOARD MEETING
14 DECEMBER 2023

Report Title: CEO's General Update
Report of: Emma Dagnes, Chief Executive, Alexandra Park & Palace
Purpose: To Provide a General Update on activity of the Trust to the Board of Trustees.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - N/A

1. Recommendations

To note the content of the report and consider any feedback from the stakeholder committees.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report provides a general update including Creative Learning, Park, Property and Events activity.

2.3 The SAC and the CC were invited to consider the information during their respective meetings on 30th November.

3. Governance

3.1 The Trustee Board met on 12th October and appointed Cllr Nick da Costa as Lead Trustee for Environmental Sustainability.

3.2 Updated draft byelaws were sent to the SAC and CC in June and some feedback has been received. The SAC & CC will be consulted on the final draft, although work to replace the existing 1929 Byelaws is unlikely to progress until the next financial year. A timetable will be shared when available.

4. Maintenance, Repairs & Improvements Since Last Reported

3.1 September

- Theatre Dry Riser Service
- East Court Door Maintenance
- BBC, West Yard, Palm Court & North Yard staircase surveys
- West Lightwell roof lantern glazing replacements, Door removal, repairs and reinstatement for colonnade concert use
- East Lightwell removal of disused Ice Rink sign
- Palm Court dome and atrium glazing repairs
- East Court atrium glazing repairs
- Periodic masonry inspections to front west, and rear east/west of building
- Basement south elevation brick renewal and render repairs
- LV Electrical Room and corridor clean
- Panorama Room installation of water supply
- Sump pump installation to Level 1 water bund
- Palm Court box office power reinstatement
- South and West Terrace paving & step repairs
- Bedford Road structural retaining walls, path and railings work
- East Court Visitor Services office door brick works
- North West Hall and West Yard pot hole and bin ramp repairs
- Glass balustrade installed to EMI Tower display and interpretation displays refreshed/extended to East Court south atrium.

3.2 October

- Bedford Road structural retaining walls, path and railings work continued
- North West Hall and West Yard pot hole and bin ramp repairs continued
- Great Hall – double glazed units installation/replacements, including crane lift
- Great Hall plinth and pillar damage repairs
- Ice Rink replacement chiller installation, including crane lift from North Service Yard, and commissioning
- Theatre auditorium doors redecoration
- Periodic masonry inspections to front east of building
- South Terrace pot holes and sunken areas repairs
- North Yard/Theatre installation of smoking shelter
- East Lightwell removal of Ice Rink sign to former entrance

3.3 November

- Rear of building (North Service Yard & Theatre Courtyard) periodic masonry inspections
- Panorama Room toilets heater installation
- Panorama Room lobby roof renewal
- Great Hall – double glazed units installation/replacements continuing.

3.4 Collection Preservation

An archive shelving unit dismantled at Goodwood Archive and donated to the Trust in 2019 has been installed in the former BBC Canteen. The units will enable easy access to the collection, whilst maintaining the required storage conditions to prevent deterioration over time.



Images of the reinstated archive storage units

5. Upcoming Planning Applications

- 5.1. The People's Picture (150 Lifetimes) project will culminate in the installation of a giant mural in the East Court, as well as the replacement of the various interpretation / information boards located around external areas of eastern end of the building (the BBC Tower, Transmitter Hall). Planning applications including Listed Building Consent and Advert Consent will be required and are expected to be submitted to the Planning Authority in the coming weeks.

6. Strategic Projects

- 6.1. In autumn, a mini tender exercise was undertaken to procure the services of a public engagement specialist. The specialist will undertake a first phase fact-finding exercise to establish how users and non-users feel about The Grove, what improvements or changes they would like to see and provide recommendations on next steps. The Committees will be kept informed when there is a timetable for this work.
- 6.2. The Trust is investigating ideas from local community groups to reactivate the Campsbourne Building in the short to medium term. There are a number of works that are required in order to bring the building up to a good enough standard before the Trust can legally lease or licence the building.
- 6.3. An online visitor survey was launched in October to gather feedback and opinions on the northern part of the Park (skatepark, playground and Boating Lake). The purpose of the survey is to gather data that can be used to build the case for moving forward with improvement projects and to help with funding asks.

7. Park

- 7.1 Park visitor numbers for 2022-23 are estimated to be 3.8 million. Although this is lower than the peaks during the pandemic, the numbers remain higher than the pre pandemic averages. This shows the value of the Park to the community.
- 7.2 The Park has retained the Green Flag and Green Heritage Awards this year and has also achieved Gold standard in three London in Bloom categories (large park, heritage park and large conservation area). The London in Bloom judge was impressed with the range of habitats and activities in the Park as well as the volunteering activities undertaken by the Gardening Group and the Friends of the Park.
- 7.3 The Wetlands project final report is due in early-November, it will set out proposals to better manage surface water in the conservation area, create a new wetland habitat to increase habitat diversity and species richness and provide capacity for peak rainwater flows. The report will be used to form the basis of an application to the GLA's Rewilding London Fund in late-November. If the application is successful more information will be provided at a future meeting.
- 7.4 The cricket practice nets previously discussed by these committees and approved by the Board have been constructed by the Alexandra Park Club. The installation consists of three lanes for batting and bowling practice and were officially opened by Catherine West MP in July.

5. Creative Learning

5.1 By the People: 150 Lifetimes - The People's Picture

5.1.1 The Trust was successful in its bid for £88,000 from the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) for a series of exhibitions and events to commemorate our 150th anniversary. The project will encourage collective discussions about peoples' connections to Alexandra Palace, past and present; focussing on topics such as heritage, identity and place. The programme will culminate with the unveiling of a major new exhibition in March 2024, in the East Court, by artist Helen Marshall.

5.1.2 The project has four outputs:

- Output 1** Helen Marshall will create a giant portrait of the Palace, housed in the East Court (using people's selfies sent in through a variety of digital channels).
- Output 2** Digital version of Helen's portrait for people to find their images online.
- Output 3** Outreach programme in schools and residential homes teaching people to mount their own exhibition.
- Output 4** Exhibition in the East Court celebrating with support of unsung local stakeholders who support the palace; including volunteers, friends of groups, trustees etc.

5.1.3 By the People: 150 Lifetimes (Sept – Nov programme)

- 9th-13th Sept. Schools & residential homes (3) sign up to the programme
- 10th Sept. Promotional film for the exhibition is created
- 16th Sept. Project launches - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-66879258>
- 20th Sept. Two Public Launch events were delivered.

These events aimed:

- to share information about the project with volunteers and outlining a range of opportunities for them to engage with the programme, first was face to face followed by a volunteer social attended by the CEO and another online.
- The general public began to submit images, which are moderated by a team of volunteers.
- Volunteer role descriptors were written and 24 volunteers signed up to the programme in a variety of roles; including working in archive, image moderation, tour giving, curation and delivering workshops.
- Young curators were employed to lead on diversity and inclusion for Output 4.
- Tom Hobden, from Unit, begins with Haringey elders to create a 'dance for camera' film.

- 31st Oct-8th Nov Community curatorial team created and guest speakers booked.

3 rd November	2simple commissioned to create digital schools resource promoting employment opportunities in the heritage sector and developing curatorial skills. This will be accessible for schools worldwide.
7 th November	Community Curation began.

Members are encouraged to submit their images: www.thepeoplespicture.com

5.2 Haringey Feast

The Creative Learning team received funding to deliver engagement activities that celebrate communities for both the Haringey Feast and Alexandra Palace's 150th Anniversary.

Using this funding, Alexandra Palace's Creative Learning Young Producers have overseen two commissions which involved the Young Producers:

- forming part of the commissioning panel to review approximately 100 submissions;
- organising and delivering 10 workshops across Haringey primary schools to create tie-dye napkins for the Haringey Feast event. Participating schools included: Alexandra Palace Primary School, Campsbourne Primary School, St. Paul's Primary School, Bounds Green Primary School, Our Young Creatives Network at Ally Pally and John Dewey Specialist College;
- running embroidery workshops at Alexandra Palace's Café Palais with older Haringey residents - also creating napkins for the Feast, working with Mr. X Stitch, (a needlework expert) and sharing embroidery skills;
- leading on digital content for The Feast; capturing the workshops taking place around the borough, including drama, candle making and pottery to create for short films to be premiered at The Feast.

5.3 Unit - AP commission for The Haringey Feast

The Creative Learning team also commissioned a choreographer/ filmmaker Tom Hobden (founder of Unit) to make a 'dance for camera' film with older residents at Latimer House, in Seven Sisters. The film was created to commemorate Alexandra Palace's 150th anniversary and explores the participants' memories of when they were happiest in their lives and will premiere at the Haringey Feast on 19th November with an additional film screening will take place at Latimer House – date TBC.

5.4 Haringey Music Services

Since September, Haringey Young Musicians have been using the Transmitter Hall at Alexandra Palace as a rehearsal space for various activities including:

- 5.4.1 Afterschool ensembles working towards performances at the end of the Autumn Term.
- 5.4.2 Percussion Groups are working towards a joint performance with other borough groups as part of Haringey Feast on 19th November.
- 5.4.3 The Symphony Orchestra are working on an exciting programme of repertoire this term, featuring the Overture from Dame Ethel Smyth's *The Wreckers*, Vaughan Williams' *Sinfonia Antarctica*, and a selection from Danny Elfman's music for *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.
- 5.4.4 Big Band and Stage Band have recently come back from an exciting exchange trip to Sassari, Sardinia. After hosting 25 of their young musicians, dancers and teachers earlier this year, this return journey incorporated workshops, concerts in local schools/theatres, a celebratory joint BBQ and some sightseeing across the island. The highlight was a collaborative concert at the Conservatorio di musical "Canepa". There will be a return concert at Holy Innocents Church on Wednesday 6 December.
- 5.4.5 Haringey Music Service brings 106 young musicians to Alexandra Palace each week (broken down below) as well as 9 visiting professionals (teachers and senior leaders)
 - Training Percussion: 7
 - Senior Percussion: 6
 - Big Band: 18
 - Stage Band: 6
 - Symphony Orchestra: 69

"We are beyond grateful for the support we have received from all at the Palace". Dan Early, Head of Haringey Music Service

5.5 John Dewey Specialist College – film

Young adults with disabilities from John Dewey Specialist College have been working with filmmaker Joe Bloom to make a short film. Using iPads Joe teaches participants basic filmmaking and editing skills. This is a Young Creatives Network project designed to support people 16–28-year-olds who are interested in launching a career in the creative sector.

5.6 Rhythm Stick: Events Management Course & Inclusive Club Night

Created by and for people with disabilities. 15 young people have signed up to the course, which starts on 8th November, and will learn events management skills 'on the job' whilst producing *Rhythm Stick Inclusive Club Night* for people with disabilities to be held in Marcus Garvey library as part of the **Library Lates** series.

5.7 **Biblio-buzz 2024**

5.7.1 In October, the Creative Learning department was awarded a grant from the Tottenham Grammar School Foundation to deliver a programme of engagement activities across Haringey Library Service for Biblio-buzz 2024.

5.7.2 The programme will tour inclusive performances, author readings, panel discussions around libraries over three months, leading to an award ceremony on Saturday 23rd March 2024.

5.7.3 **30 Schools are currently enrolled in the programme:** Alexandra Park School, Belmont Junior School, Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School, Brecknock Primary School, Campsbourne Primary School, Channing Junior School, Chestnuts Primary, Coleridge Primary School, Duke's Aldridge Academy, Fortismere, Greig City Academy, Harris Academy Tottenham, Harris Primary Academy Coleraine Park, Harris Primary Academy Philip Lane, Heron Hall Academy, Highgate Primary School, Highgate Wood School, Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, Hornsey School for Girls, Lancasterian Primary School, Lea Valley Primary School, Muswell Hill Primary School, North Haringay Primary School, Rhodes Avenue Primary School, St John Vianney, St Mary's CofE Primary School, St Pauls Primary School, St Thomas More Catholic School, Torriano Primary, Trinity Primary Academy.

5.8 **Alexandra Palace's North London Book Festival**

5.8.1 Plans are taking shape to deliver Alexandra Palace's North London Book Festival, which will include Biblio-buzz, over 4 days in March 2023.

5.8.2 The programme will celebrate families reading for pleasure together with a special focus on encouraging fathers to spend time reading with children. The programme will also celebrate the writing of Global Majority authors and explore contemporary notions of family.

5.8.3 Waterstones have agreed to support the programme by creating a bookstore in the East Court and we have authors McMillan Press, Harper Collins and many more.

5.9 **Windrush '75 - The Grip Exhibition (Created by Code1)**

5.9.1 Haringey artists Bevali McKenzie, from Code1, worked with older Haringey residents from the Windrush Generation on the exhibition through a photoshoot in Alexandra Palace's Theatre on Windrush Day (22nd June).

5.9.2 The photographs were exhibited at an exhibition at Bruce Castle Museum and will remain part of their archive.

5.9.3 On 31st October the Creative Learning Team hosted an event in the Creativity Pavilion to celebrate and evaluate the project. Sixty participants enjoyed a Caribbean food feast, African drumming, performances, and a DJ set and were able to view their photographs for the first time whilst sharing their experiences of arriving in the UK.

5.10 Other regular partnership activities:

- Café Palais a FREE 1920s café monthly event for older people, people living with dementia and their carers.
- North London Skater group meets a minimum 3 times a week either in the Park or the Wellness Centre (Transmitter Hall).
- Elite Transformations Boxing Club (every Monday & Thursday night)
- Haringey Music Service (every Tuesday & Wednesday for rehearsals)
- Kaos community choir (weekly meet up on Thursdays)
- Young Actors Company are currently working with director Jonny Siddle every Tuesday evening on a version of Macbeth to perform in the basement in February 2024.
- 40 young people attend the Alexandra Palace Performing Arts School every Saturday.
- Events management training for people with disabilities takes place on Wednesday evenings.
- Wild in the Park (Wednesday and Thursdays).
- Singing for the Brain (weekly on Thursdays) for older people with dementia and their carers.
- Nature Connections – schools work with artists Laura Fox to explore a range of curriculum subjects through outdoor learning.
- Monthly Wednesday yoga and sound healing workshops.

5.11 **Volunteering at the Palace**

- a. 81 active volunteers are embedded in numerous departments across Alexandra Park & Palace including:
- a small group collaborating with Fundraising & Development about future strategy, one volunteer providing expert IT consultancy to the Executive Team, various archive research projects.
 - The largest group of volunteers support the Theatre acting as ambassadors for the Theatre and the Palace and ensuring all the visitors have a great experience.
 - who give their time to support the various events run by the Creative Learning team such as Café Palais and Singing for the Brain,
 - The volunteer gardening group meets monthly to tackle different projects in Park and were recognised by the judges for London in Bloom.
 - A regular newsletter is produced to keep the volunteers informed of all the latest volunteering & Ally Pally news.

- b. The CEO hosted a social event with the volunteers in September to thank the volunteers for their continued support and plan the launch of the 'By the People: 150 Lifetimes' project. The volunteers' involvement will be crucial to the successful execution of the project and a large number of them have now signed up for the six roles we've created for them.
- c. **Volunteering in Quarter 1 (April - June 2023) data (updated 2/11/23)**
- 98 – Number of volunteering events
 - 232 – Number of volunteering shifts
 - 845 – Number of hours by volunteers
 - 43 from AP volunteers & 8 from a Corporate Social Responsibility scheme (insurance company)
- d. **Volunteering in Quarter 2 (July - Sept 2023) data (as per 2/11/23):**
- 113 – Number of volunteering events
 - 247 – Number of volunteering shifts
 - 753.5 – Number of hours by volunteers
 - 46 – Number of active volunteers
- e. **Volunteering in data Quarter 3 - *still being compiled***

5.12 Friends of Alexandra Park (FOAP)

The FOAP volunteers continue to open the Park Visitor Centre every Sunday and on the first Saturday in the month for two hours (except on the fireworks weekend) and host regular events (as shown in the table below).

The Friends of the Park are currently planning the programme for 2024. All activities are publicised on the Friends' website and a monthly newsletter for members is produced to report on events and developments in the park.

More information can be found overleaf and on the Friends of Alexandra Park website: <https://sites.google.com/view/newfoap/home>

Table 1 – Friends of Alexandra Park Events

Dates in 2023	Activity/Event	Times	Notes
September			
Sunday 10	AitP for Families	10:30–11:30	Art and nature
Sunday 10	Grove concert	2 to 4	LMB Community Band
Monday 11	Bat walk	7:15 pm	
Tuesday 12	Work party	9:30	
Saturday 16	Wildflower walks	11 + 2:30	
Sunday 17	Bird walk	8 am	
Thursday 21	Work party	10 to 12:30	Grass cutting in the Anthill Meadow
Thursday 21	Art in the park	10 to 12	Art and nature
October			
Thursday 5	Work party	10 to 12:30	Grass cutting in the Anthill Meadow
Sunday 8	Members' walk	11 to 12:30	Nature
Tuesday 10	Work party	2 to 4	Grass cutting
Thursday 19	Art in the Park	10 to 11:30	Art and nature
Tuesday 24	Work party	10 to 12:30	
Saturday 28	Autumn tree walk	11 to 12:30	
November			
Saturday 11	Fungus walk	1 to 2:30 pm	
Saturday 18	Members' walk	11 am to noon	History
Thursday 23	Work party	10 to 12:30	Clearing brambles and saplings in the Spinney
Thursday 23	Art in the park	10 to 11	Art and nature
December			
Sunday 3	Farmer's market	10 am to 3 pm	Calendar sales
Tuesday 12	Work Party	10 to 12:30	Anthill Meadow
Thursday 14	Art in the Park	10 to 11:30	Art and nature

6. Events

6.1 Outdoor Events – Park Monitoring

6.1.1 Summer Series – Post Event

The post event site survey following the outdoor concerts (14th, 21st and 22nd July) scored 82% against a framework of indicators (to ensure the site has been cleared and is free of damage to the parkland). Minor damage was reported to the grass on the South Slope and tarmac in the Paddocks car park as well as some paths and paving slabs. Timely removal of event infrastructure (signs, bollards, fencing) was recorded as an area for improvement.

6.1.2 20th October Private Event

The clearing of litter and event infrastructure (cable ties, signs on lamp posts, bollards) was not completed within the 48 hour timeframe following the private event on the South Slope and South Terrace on 20 October and the overall post-event clean-up score was 60%.

6.2.3 Fireworks was attended by 27,513 people on Friday (3rd November) and 43,315 on the Saturday (4th November). 200 tickets were given to Haringey residents through the Creative Learning Programme. There were 6 noise complaints during the event (compared to 4 complaints received during last year's 1-night event).

- 6.2 20 noise complaints have been received in the current year (April 2023 to March 2024) and are attributed to the following events:

Noise complaints recorded for the 2023/23 Year, since 1 st April 2023		
Date	Event	Number of complaints
23 May	150th Celebration Party	2
30 May	Four Tet	1
10 June	Fatboy Slim	1
14 June	Bastille	2
21 July	Hozier	3
05 September	Fred Again	1
09 September	Fred Again	3
24 September	Cavetown	1
03 November	Fireworks	5
04 November	Fireworks	1
Total complaints to date		20

- 6.3 The events schedule is attached at Appendix 1. Additional information is available on our What's On pages at <https://www.alexandrapalace.com/whats-on/> .

7. **Legal Implications** - The Council's Head of Legal & Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.
8. **Financial implications** The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments.
9. **Use of Appendices:** Appendix 1 – Schedule of Events
10. **Background Papers** – None

Appendix 1 - Schedule of events November 2023 - February 2024

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
1 st November	Rhys Darby	Theatre
3 rd – 4 th November	Fireworks Festival	PARK + ALL AREAS
8 th – 18 th November	Treason	Theatre
10 th -11 th November	Little Simz	Palm Court ALL AREAS
16 th November	The Streets	Palm Court ALL AREAS
17 th – 18 th November	Jessie Ware	Palm Court ALL AREAS
19 th November	Haringey Feast	East Court
24 th – 25 th November	The Prodigy	Palm Court ALL AREAS
24 th November – 7 th January 2024	A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story	Theatre
30 th November	Ashnikko	Palm Court ALL AREAS
2 nd December	Sleaford Mods	Palm Court ALL AREAS
6 th -9 th December	Mosconi Cup - 30th Anniversary	Palm Court ALL AREAS
8 th – 11 th December	Peter Pan on Ice	Ice Rink
11 th Dec -5 th January 2024	World Darts Championship	Palm Court ALL AREAS
7 th -14 th January 2024	Cazoo Masters Snooker Championship	ALL AREAS
8 th February	What's Love Got to do with It	Theatre
17 th February	Roisin Murphy	Palm Court ALL AREAS
20 th February	Masego	Palm Court ALL AREAS
23 rd February	PinkPantheress	Palm Court ALL AREAS