

Report Title: **Report of the Head of Learning and Community Programmes, Alexandra Park and Palace**

Report of: Melissa Tetley, Head of Learning and Community Programmes , Alexandra Park and Palace

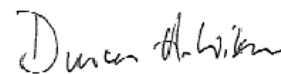
**1. Purpose**

1.1. To update the Committees on the learning and community programme

**2. Recommendations**

**2.1 That the SAC and CC notes recent progress with the Trust's learning and community programmes**

Report Authorised by: **Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive Alexandra Palace and Park**



Contact Officer: Melissa Tetley, Head of Learning and Community Programmes Alexandra Park and Palace

**3. Executive Summary**

3.1 An overview of the Learning programme including the temporary exhibition "Alexandra Palace : War on the Home Front", development of the 2014 learning programme, Open House (20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> September) and links with local schools

3.2 An update on the volunteer programme

3.3 An update on the HLF Activity Plan

**4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)**

N/A

**5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

N/A

## **6. Background (Learning and Community Update)**

### **6.1 War on the Home Front (Exhibition and Learning Programme)**

Alexandra Palace's exhibition marking the centenary of the First World will open with Private View by invitation on the 15<sup>th</sup> September. Guests include delegates from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Alexandra Palace volunteer researchers, representatives from local and national museums and the collectors who have generously allowed us to borrow their objects. The event will finish with a preview of the short film produced by our project partners Middlesex University which brings to life the story of the internees at the Palace with poems, letters and diary extracts.

The exhibition will be open to the public Thursday mornings (10:00 – 12:00), Friday afternoons (14:00 – 16:00) and the first Saturday (10:00 – 13:30) of every month between September 2014 and September 2015. Additional opening days will be added depending on the number of tickets sold and we are exploring offering the exhibition as an add-on to clients such as Antiques and Big Stamp exhibitions. A verbal update about the number of tickets sold will be given at the meeting by the Learning Officer.

To ensure our 2014 school workshops fit in with local schools' studies of the WW1 centenary, they have been developed with a member of the History Department at Heartlands High. One of the activities that has been developed for the learning programme is planting broad beans and decorating plant pots with images inspired by the allotments created during the Palace's time as an internee camp. Capital Garden Centre has very kindly offered to donate all the resources required for this activity.

Our bespoke 2014 learning programme for schools and a talk and tour of the Palace for lifelong learners will be available Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. During opening times the exhibition will be manned by two Exhibition assistant volunteers who will welcome visitors to the exhibition, provide additional information about the Palace's role, encourage visitors to complete evaluation forms as well as signing up to our newsletter.

An email was sent to learning contacts and all schools in Haringey on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> August promoting the exhibition and the learning programme. A follow-up evening event for teachers is being planned for November.

### **6.2 Core Learning Programme**

Final preparations for the new academic year are going well. A email encouraging teachers to bring their new classes to the Palace was sent Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> August and this will be followed up with regular emails to the learning contact list. Within the last week there have been two enquiries regarding workshops in January 2015 and the first week of May.

Alexandra Palace is hosting the September staff meeting for Campsbourne School and Children's Centre. During the meeting an overview will be given of the current

learning programme and the workshops linking to the First World War exhibition. If successful we will look at rolling out this offer to other schools in the Borough.

### **6.3 Additional SAC Member**

Following the successful appointment of Frances Hargrove, Head of St Mary's N8 to this committee, we would like to nominate David Cole from Heartlands High, if he is successful in being appointed regular meetings will be organised with both teachers on the CC to advise on current and future developments.

### **6.4 Open House (20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> September)**

Following the success of offering guided tours for last year's Open House, we will be running First World War themed tours leaving the East Court (Ice Rink Entrance) every half hour between 10:00 and 15:00. We are offering 20 pre-booked places per tour with a small number of walk-in places available per tour for Big Stamp visitors or Ice Rink users. Bookings went live mid-August and within 2 weeks, 7 of the 20 tours are already full.

We are very grateful to both the Friends of the Theatre and the Alexandra Palace Television Group who have agreed to be onsite both days, to assist with the delivery of the event.

### **6.5 Trading Company cross-over**

Final preparations for the Alexandra Park BTEC music industry module are now taking place for late September 2014. The group will meet with Alexandra Palace event staff during build up for "1975" followed by a tour of the building. The group will return to watch the concert accompanied by school staff and the Learning Officer.

### **6.6 Volunteering Update**

Currently the Palace has over 50 active volunteers supporting the Trust in a variety of roles. These include WW1 researchers, History tours volunteers, history of the palace researchers, volunteer co-ordinator and learning administrator volunteers. Interest in volunteering at the Palace remains high and has led to additional roles being created supporting the park and the regeneration team.

A team of park volunteers supported by the Park Manager and our contractor John O'Connor the park contractor worked on pruning and tidying the rose garden which was built by Belgian internees in WW1.

A team of volunteers have been supporting the Regeneration team cataloguing and archiving historical floor plans which have been vital in helping the team understand how the Palace was originally used and helped inform the current designs for the new spaces to be created as part of the HLF project.

From September 2014 the Learning and Community team will introduce additional volunteer roles supporting the team with the WW1 exhibition and the core learning programme for KS2 and KS3 pupils.

As the volunteer programme reaches its first anniversary a summer social event has been organised for volunteers and staff to come together to celebrate the success of the volunteer programme.

## 6.7 HLF Activity Plan

The activity plan questionnaire entitled Have Your Say has received over 1300 responses and is due to close on the 12<sup>th</sup> September for online entries with postal entries being accepted until the 19<sup>th</sup> September.

Alternative accessible formats of the survey have also been produced to ensure the consultation is as inclusive as possible. Consultation is also taking place using a number of different methodologies in order to involve different groups of people in the consultation process. In addition we are also consulting specifically with a number of disability and mental health representatives within Haringey because people will engage in a variety of ways.

When analysing the results of the consultation we will not only be looking at the results of the survey but the public consultation as a whole, the *Have Your Say* Questionnaires are not the only way we are engaging with harder to reach groups and the survey is not representative of the consultation as a whole.

110 consultation requests via email have been sent to community groups and organisations in Haringey. As a result we are engaging with 40+ groups, either by phone interviews, email interviews or face-to-face meetings. The conclusions will be reported when analysis is complete.

## 7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 The Council's Assistant Director, Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments

## 8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted on the contents of the report and has no additional comments to make.

## 9. Use of Appendices

- 9.1 There are none.