

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

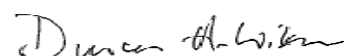
1. Purpose

1.1 To update the Committees on learning and community programmes

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Board notes recent progress with the Trust's learning and community
programmes

Report Authorised by: **Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive**



Contact Officer: Melissa Tetley, Head of Learning and Community Programmes
Alexandra Palace and Park 020 8365 4321

3. Executive Summary

3.1 The Learning and Community team has taken significant steps since inception to
raise the profile of the learning programme and community engagement programme.
Interest in the programmes offered and joining the volunteer programme remains
high and new volunteering opportunities are continually being developed.

3.2 An overview of the Alexandra Palace - War on the Home Front is included within the
report.

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

4.1 N/A

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

5.1 N/A

6. Background

6.1 Learning and Community Update

6.2 Schools

An email encouraging teachers to bring their new classes to the Palace was sent Friday, 29th August and this will be followed up with regular emails to the learning contact list and presentations at the October Primary and Head Teacher's Forum. Within the last week there have been several enquiries regarding workshops in November 2014, January 2015 and May 2015.

Alexandra Palace hosted the September staff meeting for Campsbourne School and Children's Centre on Monday, 22nd September. During the meeting an overview was given of the current learning programme and the workshops linking to the First World War exhibition. Our learning offer continued to be promoted to other schools in the Borough.

6.3 Alexandra Palace: War on the Home Front

Alexandra Palace's exhibition commemorating the centenary of the First World War opened with a Private View on Monday 15th September marking 100 years since the first Belgians arrived at the Palace. Guests included 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 finished 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 on Thursday mornings (10:00 – 12:00), Friday afternoons (14:00 – 16:00) and the first Saturday (10:00 – 13:30) of every month between 25th September 2014 and 30th September 2015. Additional opening days will be added subject to demand. The team are also exploring options to offer the exhibition as an add-on to clients such as Antiques and Big Stamp exhibitions. A verbal update on the progress of the exhibition 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. We are currently looking at dates in October for Heartlands to bring their Gifted and Talented Year 9 and Year 7 students to visit the exhibition and take part in the learning programme. Capital Garden Centre has very kindly offered to donate a number of resources for the 2014 learning programme including straw, broad bean seeds and soil.

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 with support from AP staff 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 a newsletter.

An email was sent to learning contacts and all schools in Haringey on Friday, 29th August promoting the exhibition and the learning programme. A follow-up email will be sent the first week of October and an evening event for teachers is being planned for November to promote the exhibition and learning programme.

6.4 Events

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.

6.5 Open House

Alexandra Palace opened its doors on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st September as part of the annual Open House event offering First World War themed tours of the building. Over the 2 days we welcomed over 440 people to the Palace, feedback from the event is still being collated from the visitors and volunteers who helped deliver the event but overall we were pleased with how both days ran.

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 park contractor John O'Connor 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

Public consultation is now underway for the activities and ideas that will inform the Activity Plan which is a requirement of all HLF grant submissions. The public consultation is designed to engage with stakeholders, special interest groups, economically disadvantaged and voluntary organisations, youth groups, senior groups, disability and mental health awareness groups, diversity awareness groups, educators and the general public to help shape the activities that could be of interest at Alexandra Palace.

The activity plan questionnaire entitled Have Your Say has received over 1639 responses and closed on the 12th September for online entries. Postal

entries were accepted until the 19th 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. A verbal update of the consultation will be provided at the meeting.

Trustees are invited to note progress and activity on our Learning and Community programmes

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 in the preparation of this report and has no additional comments to make.

9. Use of Appendices

- 9.1 There are none.