

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

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

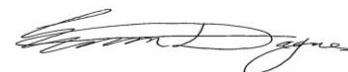
**1. Purpose**

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: **Emma L Dagnes, Interim Chief Executive, Alexandra Palace and Park**



Contact Officer: **Melissa Tettey, Head of Learning and Community Programmes Alexandra Palace and Park, Alexandra Palace Way, Wood Green, N22 7AY Tel 0208 365 4321.**

**3. Executive Summary**

3.1 An overview of the Learning programme including the temporary exhibition Alexandra Palace; War on the Home Front, progress update on the learning programme in 2015

3.2 An update on the volunteer programme

3.3 An update on the community programme

**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 (Learning and Community Update)**

### **6.1 War on the Home Front (Exhibition)**

Following the launch of the War on the Home Front exhibition in September, the exhibition continues to be open to the public every Thursday morning (10:00–11:00), Friday afternoon (14:00–17:00) and the first Saturday of the month (10:00-13:00). When the exhibition is open to the public it is manned by a dedicated team of volunteers who welcome visitors, answer questions and provide additional information about the Palace's role 100 years ago.

To date the exhibition has welcomed over 2,700 visitors, with an exhibition redisplay planned for June alongside a summer programme of supporting activities (see list below), it is anticipated by September 2015 between 3000 & 3500 people will have visited the exhibition. To increase the diversity of visits the exhibition is being promoted widely across the Borough of Haringey and the surrounding boroughs of Islington, Enfield and Barnet.

#### **Exhibition Redisplay**

A number of visitors to the exhibition have had relatives who were interned at the Palace, a few have objects connected to their family that they have kindly agreed to loan us for the duration of the exhibition (until September 2015). New objects include a collection of watercolour portraits donated by the artist's grandson, a pewter ring currently in Brussels and two silver tennis cups. The team are currently in discussion with the Imperial War Museum to borrow, one of the original George Kenner watercolours. Having now satisfied their environmental condition requirements the loan has been passed to the Arts Council for a decision about the Palace's security procedures.

Once the re-display has been completed (June) it is hoped that we can encourage people who have already visited to return to see the new objects and additional reference material.

#### **(Supporting Activities)**

##### **Photography Project**

A 4-week photography project inspired by how Alexandra Park and Palace was used as a refugee and internee camp during WW1 will take place between June & July. The project aims to engage young people aged 16-25 living in Haringey, Enfield, Barnet and Islington classed as NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

Through the participatory photography process the participants will learn how to use photography to tell a story and convey their experiences and perspectives to peers and the general public. The project will culminate in an online exhibition on the Alexandra Palace website in addition to the First World War centenary History Pin platform. Plans are also in place to have a pop up display at the Palace with one young person offered the chance to shadow a professional photographer at an event during 2015.

## **Theatre Project**

To diversify the audience to the exhibition Haringey Shed (an inclusive theatre company) will be holding a 3 day workshop at the Palace (27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> May) for the young people to create a theatrical response to the story. To inspire the group the event will start with a tour of the building with access to archive photos to bring the story of how the Park and Palace were used 100 years ago to life, with the personal stories of the men who were interned here. The project will conclude with 2 performances of promenade theatre during the Friday opening of the exhibition for visitors, families and friends.

## **Internee Concert**

To mark 100 years since the formation of the Internee Concert Orchestra, Alexandra Palace will be hosting a free concert (funded by the Mayor's Fund) in collaboration with the BBC Concert Orchestra and Haringey Music Service on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Members from each section of the BBC orchestra will rehearse with the youth orchestra in advance of the concert to assist with the music and answer questions about life as a professional musician.

There will be a matinee which will be promoted to local schools and community groups and an evening performance introduced by Dr Rupert Ridgwell, the Curator of Music at the British Library. The event will be the last public show in Theatre before construction as part of the HLF project begins.

## **Locative App**

As the digital partner for the War on the Home Front project, Middlesex University are now working on an app which will bring to life stories from the exhibition to Park visitors. The project has become far more complex than the team initially envisaged, both professors and students have encountered a number of issues regarding the scope of the project and the amount of content relating to the story. In March Palace staff tested the prototype which resulted in a number of changes being requested; university staff are now working on improving the overall experience. It is expected that the app will be fully tested and live before the Summer Festival on the 25<sup>th</sup> July.

## **6.2 Core Learning Programme**

Interest from schools in the learning programme remains high with over 450 pupils booked for May 2015. While many of the schools visiting are repeat visitors, bookings have now been taken with new schools including Rhodes Avenue who are hosting their June staff meeting at the Palace to inspire their teachers to visit the Palace.

The Haringey primary schools competition launched at the beginning of April for classes to make a cart for an egg inspired by the history of the Palace. Groups are encouraged to visit the Palace for a 'Past, Present & Future workshop' followed the visit - electronic resources are sent to the schools with archive images to spark ideas for designs. Schools have been asked to submit their carts week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> June, with the winning class receiving tickets to the Red Bull Soap Box race on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

To continue the increase of schools visiting the Palace new programmes are being developed to engage with different ages and areas of the curriculum. Working with the Park Manager and the Friends of the Park a learning programme is being developed for classes to explore the Park, looking for flora and fauna. A year 1 class (aged 5) from Eden are visiting on the 11<sup>th</sup> June to pilot a number of the new trails. Pupils will have the opportunity to plant sweetcorn, runner beans, radishes, carrots and chard in the new raised beds in the railway fields and the day will finish with a Q&A with the Park Manager and the Park Maintenance team.

To date the majority of workshops have been for primary schools, after looking through the Secondary History curriculum and following meetings with History Teachers at Heartlands and Alexandra Park School, a new Industrial Revolution workshop is being developed. The workshop will be piloted with Year 7 & 8's from Heartlands before the school breaks for summer in July.

A new leaflet is being produced to promote all opportunities for schools, families and adults inspired by the history of the Palace. The learning programme has increased dramatically since the first booklet was produced and it is planned to circulate the leaflet to all schools in Haringey, Barnet, Enfield and Islington in July. The leaflet will cover activities from September 2015 – 2016 which are not funded by the activity plan for the Major Heritage Lottery Fund project.

### **6.3 History Tours**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April 575 people visited the Palace as part of the History Tours, new elements of the tour included a photo montage of BBC images and a talk in the mock up studio and a discounted tea and cake package for all visitors. Overall the feedback from the tours remains positive, but the team are focussed on looking at additional ways to improve the visitor experience and to attract new audiences. Proposed changes include varying the start of the route from the East Court to Palm Court, making more archival material accessible and offering tours in different languages.

### **6.4 Trading Company cross-over**

In addition to the concert planned for September 2015 the Learning and Community team are working on activities for the Summer Festival on the 25<sup>th</sup> July. The team are supporting the Ally Pally Summer Festival with History Tours with a new route which will include the Great Hall where the organ will be played, and drop-in family activities at the Rose Garden inspired by the Palace's role 100 years ago. Families will learn about the daily lives of the men interned at the prison and then make model boats which will be sailed on the Rose Garden Fountain.

### **6.5 Volunteering Update**

To recognise the tremendous level of support and commitment our volunteers continue to demonstrate, as part of National Volunteer Week (1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June 2015) on 2<sup>nd</sup> June the Palace will hold a BBQ on the beach to recognise the contribution volunteers have made over the past 12 months. To date, a team of nearly 50 volunteers have donated over 3000 hours with volunteers helping us in a variety of ways these include research, History Tours and forthcoming WW1 History Tours, archiving, marketing, learning, community engagement, park/horticultural, and photography.

The team have conducted a Training Needs Analysis with our volunteers and incorporating feedback from the public following our History Tours, there is a need to provide additional training to support volunteers as we seek to continuously improve the Tour experience. The team are currently organising in house training for all Guides.

## **6.6 Community Update**

The team is currently exploring the ways the Palace can support young people in Haringey, in addition to the NEET photography project, the Palace has partnered with The Challenge to National Citizen Service. NCS is a government-backed programme which brings together young people from diverse backgrounds, providing them with strong skills for life, work, and adulthood. NCS is an intensive, part-residential programme followed by a number of social action days, designed to empower participants to meaningfully impact their local community and gain new life skills.

The programme is divided into three stages: NCS Personal Challenge - Get Active Participants face their fears; develop confidence and bond with team mates on an action packed residential. NCS Team Challenge - Get Involved Teammates work together to learn a new skill in sport, media, photography, music, drama or enterprise in a university setting. NCS Social Action - Make Your Mark Using their newly-acquired skills, teams design a social action project in their local area and pitch their project to win funding to make it happen. The Palace will be hosting the final stage of the project Action - Make Your Mark - participants will be taken on a tour of the Palace to get a clearer idea of how the organisation operates before being given the opportunity to practise presentation skills in front of senior managers to receive constructive feedback.

## **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.