

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 Charitable Trust**


**1. Purpose**

1.1 To update the Board 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: **Emma Dagnes, Interim Chief Executive, Alexandra  
Palace & Park**



Contact Officer: **Melissa Tettey, Head of Learning and Community  
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**3. Executive Summary**

3.1 An overview of the Learning programme including the temporary exhibition  
Alexandra Palace; War on the Home Front and a 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, Supporting Activities and Learning Programme)**

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 2900 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.

#### **Lecture Series**

Alongside the exhibition Alexandra Palace is running a bi-monthly lecture series focusing on different areas of the Palace's history during the First World War. Military historian Ian Castle spoke about the use of zeppelins 100 years ago on 20<sup>th</sup> May and the impact air warfare had on local people. The talk was well attended and received positive feedback.

The fifth talk in the series will give by Nick McCormick on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June about the life and work of a German artist George Kenner. Kenner's watercolours show what daily life was like in internment camps 100 years ago. Details of the talk were added to the Alexandra Palace website and the local community forums in the first week of June and a marketing e-shot is planned for the 16<sup>th</sup> June to promote the talk to people on the mailing list.

#### **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 (September 2015). New objects include a collection of watercolour portraits donated by the artist's grandson, a pewter ring currently in Brussels, two silver tennis cups and a weekly visitor permit. The team are currently in discussion with the Imperial War Museum to borrow one of the original George Kenner watercolours. Having now satisfied both the environmental and safety conditions conversations are taking place with our Insurance Company to upgrade the Palace's to cover the painting (to Government standards) whilst it is onsite.

#### **Theatre Project**

To diversify the exhibition audience Alexandra Palace partnered with Haringey Shed (an inclusive theatre company) to run a 3 day workshop (during May half

term) to create a theatrical response to the Palace as an internment camp 100 years ago. The young people were taken on a tour of the building to introduce the story and act as inspiration for their performance together with archive photos and personal stories of the men who were interned here. The project concluded with 2 promenade performances in the Great Hall and Theatre on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> May for visitors, families and friends.

Feedback from everyone involved with the project was incredibly positive, Haringey Shed staff remarked on the improvement of the young people's behaviour, concentration and attitude whilst based at the Palace. Early stage discussions with the Executive Director and Artistic Director are taking place regarding future collaborations linking in with the history of the Palace.

### **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. Tickets for both concerts will go on sale in mid-July and will be promoted through local networks, schools and the Alexandra Palace mailing list. As one of the last public events in the Theatre the concerts will be used to raise awareness of the project and the public fundraising campaign.

## **6.2 Locative App**

As the Palace's digital partner for the War on the Home Front project, Middlesex University are now completing work on an app which will bring stories from the exhibition to life 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.

## **6.3 Core Learning Programme**

Interest from schools in the learning programme remains high with over 450 pupils booked between March and July 2015. While many of the schools visiting are repeat visitors, bookings have now been taken with new schools including Eden, Rokesley and 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. To

introduce the project groups visited the Palace for a 'Past, Present & Future workshop' followed up with electronic resources, archive images and activities to spark ideas for designs. Schools have been asked to submit their carts by the end of 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 at the animals and plants linking in with the science curriculum. The new resources were developed working closely with the year 1 teacher from Eden and were piloted with a class on the 11<sup>th</sup> June. A full day of activities was planned for the group including a nature scavenger hunt, a butterfly hunt, making insect hotels and planting sweetcorn and runner beans in the raised beds by the railway fields. Both the Park Manager and the Park Maintenance team were on hand to help with the planting and to answer questions about working in the Park. Feedback from the teacher and accompanying adults complemented all the staff involved, the activities and how the day was planned. The group will be returning on the 20<sup>th</sup> July for a family picnic which will include vegetables planted on the day.

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 has been developed and will be piloted with Year 7's from Heartlands on the 7<sup>th</sup> July before being rolled out for the new academic year in September.

A new leaflet is being produced to promote all opportunities for schools, families and adults inspired by the history of the Palace. To continue the increase in bookings the new leaflet will not only be sent to schools in Haringey but also the surrounding boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Islington. The leaflet will cover activities from September 2015 – 2016 which are not funded by the activity plan for the Major Heritage Lottery Fund project.

#### **6.4 History Tours 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

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, updated information about the Heritage Lottery Fund project and tea, coffee and cake included in the ticket price. 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.

#### **6.5 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.

## 6.6 Volunteering Update

On the 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June organisations across the UK celebrated the contribution volunteers have made to their organisation. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> June the Palace organised a celebration for our volunteers recognising the tremendous level of support and commitment they have given to Alexandra Park and Palace over the past 18 months. Volunteers had the opportunity to meet the Interim Chief Executive who personally thanked them for their hard work and talked about the exciting changes the regeneration programme would bring, and the direction the volunteer programme would take. Volunteers were given personalised certificates and joined by staff for a buffet in the Palm Court.

NCVO the organisation leading on National Volunteer Week asked the Palace's Volunteer Coordinator also a volunteer, to write a blog about volunteering and the Palace's celebrations. As one of a few heritage organisations taking part in the celebrations the blog was published on NCVO's website, with the Palace's event pinned to a UK wide map celebrating the achievements of volunteers.

To date, a team of nearly 50 volunteers have donated over 4000 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 have organised a Blue Badge Guide to provide training to all public facing volunteers who will be taking place in June and July.

## 7. Community Update

- 7.1 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.

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

**8. Legal Implications**

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

**9. Financial Implications**

9.1 The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make.

**10. Use of Appendices**

10.1 N/A