

Alexandra Park and Palace Board

Report Title: **Learning and Community Report**

Report of: **Isobel Aptaker, Education Officer, Alexandra Palace Charitable Trust**

1. Purpose

1.1 To inform the Board of recent and upcoming Learning and Community activities

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Board notes the contents of this report.

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3. Executive Summary

3.1 The Learning and Community team have delivered the War on the Home Front exhibition, Open House and a commemorative centenary Internee Concert recent months

3.2 Community activities such as an initiative with social enterprise Accumul8 and regular liaison with school groups is ongoing

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. WAR ON THE HOME FRONT EXHIBITION

The Palace's year-long centenary exhibition closed to the public on Friday 25th September 2015. Visitor numbers increased following the re-display and addition of new objects with final numbers exceeding 5,300 (over double originally estimated). Plans are now being made to ensure the legacy of the project and to return the loaned objects to their owners.

The Learning & Community team would like to take this opportunity to thank the Exhibition Volunteers for their hard work and dedication over the past 12 months.

7. INTERNEE CONCERT

With funding from the Mayor's Music Fund, Alexandra Palace worked in partnership with the Haringey Music Service (supported by the BBC Concert Orchestra) to deliver two concerts marking 100 years since the formation of the Internee Orchestra at the Palace. Both concerts (matinee and evening) were well attended, with audiences of over 350 which included general public, relatives of those interned and friends and family of the orchestra. The programme included music written and performed at the Palace: including the Alexandra Palace Ragtime by Anton Wuest;- the junior choir from Rhodes Avenue School; and a talk from Curator of Music at the British Library, Dr Rupert Ridgewell.

Feedback from attendees has been incredibly positive and was a fantastic opportunity to talk to local residents about the upcoming restoration plans. All money raised from the collection buckets, hire of the blankets and brochure sales has been will be donated to the East Wing restoration project.

8. ACCUMUL8

The final project of the centenary year will be working with Accumul8, a social enterprise to build the employment skills, confidence and sense of hope for long term residents at North London's YMCA. Young people will spend two days at the Palace finding out about the Palace's role 100 years ago, discussing different reasons for displacement and compare attitudes today and 100 years ago. Working with professors and students from Ravensbourne (specialist Digital Media and Design College) the young people will develop their photography and editing skills to create a 2016 Alexandra Palace fundraising calendar. The calendar is yet to go to print however once it is produced it will be sold at Palace events, Crouch End Christmas Festival and on Accumul8's website.

9. OPEN HOUSE – 19TH & 20TH SEPTEMBER

As part of the London wide festival of architecture Alexandra Palace opened its doors for tours of the eastern end of the building. Tours focused on the upcoming building work to the East Court, Victorian theatre and the BBC studios and were marketed as the final opportunity to see the spaces before restoration work commences. Online bookings went live on 14th August, within 6 hours all spaces on the tours were fully booked with numerous requests for people to be added to the waiting list. Over 200 people visited the palace over 2 days to find out about the how the East Wing will be transformed on completion of the restoration project.

10. SCHOOLS

Since July, 451 pupils have visited the Palace as part of the learning programme. Bookings are now being taken until the end of the Autumn term in December. Our new learning leaflet (November 2015 – 2016) is in the final stages of design. Once approved, it

will be sent to all schools in Haringey, Barnet and Enfield to raise awareness of using the Palace to enrich the national curriculum. The new leaflet includes 6 workshops, 5 self-led activities and 2 outreach programmes (delivered in schools) which examine the history of the Palace, its cultural heritage and explore the impact of the current restoration plans.

11. LOOKING AHEAD

Following the success of the War on the Home Front exhibition, additional volunteer roles are being developed, particular emphasis will be on creating roles for those who may work during the week and wish to volunteer in the evenings and at the weekends. Our popular History Tours will be affected by the start of the construction work on the BBC Studios and Victorian Theatre, so new routes are being looked into and discussed with colleagues.

Since the launch of our volunteer programme, our team of over 50 dedicated active volunteers have donated well over 4,500 hours of their time. As a thank-you, a regular programme of activities and events will be put together, including outings to other historical sites; socials, and additional training so that the team are confident in their roles as the public face of the Palace.

The Arts Award is a programme to inspire young people to grow their arts and leadership talents. Funding is available for new centres to pilot the Discover and Explore Awards (designed for 5 – 11 year olds) with young people interested in the arts. Having met with the Head of St Paul's and All Hallow School, discussions are ongoing about a joint application to pilot the award.

Alexandra Palace's learning programme for schools is continuing from strength to strength. As we strive to engage with all 62 borough primary schools, there is now a core of local schools who are regularly continually booking workshops. To complement our schools programme, the Palace are looking to launch "Ally Pally Pals", a family club designed to encourage repeat visits to the Palace's drop-in family activities, create a database of local families and update about the Palace's ongoing plans.

A programme of 4 themed, drop-in family activities has been planned for school holidays and/or events at the Palace. Free-drop in activities will run in November for fireworks, over the Christmas holidays, Easter and summer, linking with the history of the Palace.

To mark the upcoming BBC 80th anniversary of the world's first regular high definition television programme in November 2016, Alexandra Palace and Haringey Shed would like to secure funding to create an innovative piece of theatre celebrating the birth of the new technology and exploring its impact on modern life. The project will commission a group of young local actors, including those with disabilities, from Haringey to produce the piece of work which will be performed at the Palace in the first week of November 2016.

12. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

13 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

14 APPENDICES

14.1 There are none.