

ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE
CHARITABLE TRUST BOARD
19th JULY 2016

Agenda Item: 10

Report Title: Learning & Participation

Report of: Isobel Aptaker (Learning Officer)

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Purpose:

To update the board on the progress of the learning programme. Highlights from the last 5 months include: -

- 867 pupils booked in for first 3 months of financial year
- 24 families took part in May Half term "Holiday Craft & Skate"
- Park Walks 7th May – 31 tickets sold with positive feedback from 100% of attendees

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A

1. Recommendations

To note the content of this report.

2. Introduction/ background

2.1 The report has been renamed Learning and Participation in line with the recruitment of a new Head of Learning and Participation. The team's remit is to: -

- 1) Build engagement in the history, heritage and activities of APP;

- 2) Recruit develop and manage a team of volunteers to access a wide range of skills and experience, provide quality learning opportunities and enable them to act as ambassadors for the organisation;
- 3) Increase the visibility of APP in the local community.

3. Schools

- 3.1 In the first three months of the financial year the Learning and Participation Team have welcomed over 830 pupils to the Palace. This is the highest number of visits since the programme launched in 2013 and includes new bookings from St Martin of Porres in Haringey in addition to Wren Academy in Barnet and Firs Farm in Enfield. Of the 63 borough primary schools the Learning & Participation Department are currently engaging with 27.
- 3.2 In June and July, the Palace is supporting Year 3 and Year 4 pupils from St Paul's and All Hallows through the Explore Arts Award. The Arts Council, England scheme aims to encourage children to take part in the arts, be inspired by different art forms and develop leadership and presentation skills. It is hoped that the Trust will be able to offer this to other schools in Haringey from September.
- 3.3 Planning is already underway to develop new workshops for the new academic year to launch in September. Ideas include an outreach project focusing on the East Wing project (in partnership with Wilmott Dixon), taught workshops about in the Park and a Year 7 and 8 local area research project.
- 3.4 A new learning leaflet will be produced and sent to all Haringey, Enfield, Barnet and Islington Schools for the start of the academic year in September. To engage with schools not currently engaging with the Palace the Learning Officer will meet with Head Teachers and distribute leaflets to the lead schools of the Network Learning Communities.

4. Families

4.1 Discover Alexandra Palace – Easter Activities

Over 6 days of the Easter holidays the Palace ran free drop-in family activities based in Meeson House in the Grove. With the new Xplorer programme (family friendly navigational activity) families used basic map reading skills to find markers placed around the Grove before taking part in nature themed art & craft activities. The activities were manned by the Palace volunteers supported by the Friends of the Park with in excess of 200 people taking part.

4.2 Holiday Craft & Skate – May Half Term

For 2 days of the May Half term (1st and 2nd June) the team worked with the ice rink to offer a morning of activities. Families explored the Boating Lake and South Terrace using the Xplorer maps whilst collecting twigs, leaves and flowers from the ground. On returning to the East Court children contributed to a giant collage of the

Palace before making their own Palace inspired picture to take home. The morning ended with a 1-hour skate on the Ice Rink.

The activities were promoted through contacts with local schools, family database and local networks (Bowes & Bounds Green Connected, Alexandra Park Neighbours & Haringey Online). 71 tickets were sold in advance of the event (£2 for the orienteering & £4 for ice skating) with a further 6 purchased on the day. The activities received 100% positive feedback with a high majority of new users to the ice rink.

4.3 Kids Zone – Summer Festival

To engage with families at the Summer Festival (23rd July) the Learning and Participation team will be running free activities, in the Grove, inspired by events and activities that have happened in the park since opening in 1863. Activities will be drop-in between 11:00 & 15:00 and will be manned by the Palace's team of volunteers.

4.4 Explore, Craft & Skate – August

Building on the success of the May activities the team are planning six days of activities in August (23rd, 24th, 25th, 30th, 31 August and 1st September). To engage with the largest number of people (approx. 90 per day) the team are looking at running three sessions (of 3 hours) each day. Families will use the Xplorer programme to explore the Park, take part in animal themed art & craft activities in addition to a 1-hour ice skate.

To complete all 3 activities, the total cost per child will be £8 (£4 ice skating, £2 Xplorer programme and £2 Arts & Craft). The discounted ice skating is only valid for families taking part in at least one of the other activities. Accompanying adults are £4 for ice skating with no cost for Xplorer or Arts & Craft.

5. Lifelong Learners

5.1 Park Walks

To encourage repeat visits from people signed up to the History Tour database the team piloted Park Walks on Saturday, 7th May. Supported by our team of volunteers a new script was written for 70-minute walk of the Park leaving from CUFOS and finishing in the Palm Court. Ticket prices included a brochure with a map of the park and historical images to take away and tea, coffee and cake. 100% of the attendees gave positive feedback on their visit.

Working closely with the volunteer team, plans are well underway for the next set of Park Walks on the 2nd July. Following disappointing sales for the June park walks ticket prices were reduced to £8 per person (£6 concession and £4 children). At the time of writing this report 71 tickets have been sold with only 19 remaining.

5.2 Open House – 17th September

In order to open up areas of the Palace not usually accessible to the public we are making safe areas of the basements, using income from the history tours. Half hourly tours will leave from the South Terrace on Saturday, 17th September and enter the basement from Traitors Gate. Visitors will have the opportunity to see the bunk bed, jail, bread ovens and workshop machinery remaining from when the Palace was used as an internment camp in the First World War. Bookings for the tours will go live on the website on the 1st August.

5.3 Upstairs Downstairs – October

The Trust is currently planning two days of tours on the first weekend of October that will provide an opportunity for visitors to access the basement and the Rose Window balcony. All income raised will be put towards the £1 million fundraising target.

6. Volunteers

- 6.1 As a thank you to the Palace's team of 51 active volunteers the Trust took part in National Volunteers Week on the 2nd Week. Since September 2013 the team have donated over 6,290 hours of their time, and in 2016 alone have donated over 415 hours of their time. In monetary terms if they were paid the minimum wage for these hours it would equal £45,288. We must acknowledge, however, that the skills provided by the volunteers would command a higher pay rate in many cases.

7. Legal Implications

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

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 All activities run by the team were planned and budgeted for within the annual expenditure of the team. Currently activities for families and school workshops cover costs (purchasing materials, printing, volunteer expenses & room cleaning) but where there is any additional income (tours & talks for adult) it is invested back into the department for other audiences.
- 8.2 The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments.

9. Use of Appendices

None