

Alexandra Palace

ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE **CHARITABLE TRUST BOARD** **2 NOVEMBER 2017**

Report Title: Chief Executive's Report

Report of: Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust (APPCT)

Contact Officer: Natalie Layton, Executive Assistant, APPCT
Email: Natalie.layton@alexandrapalace.com , Telephone: 020 8365 4335

Purpose:

To update the Board of Trustees on current issues and projects at Alexandra Park and Palace. It also provides additional information on the events programme and a range of activities of the Charitable Trust.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A

1. Recommendations

1.1 To note the information.

2. Governance and Strategic Vision

2.1 Board members have been invited to attend a Strategy Day on 21st October to discuss Governance, the Strategic Vision for the Park and Palace and the long term strategy and financial plan for the Trust.

3. East Wing Restoration Project

3.1 Works are progressing with the delivery of the Project to the East Court, Theatre, Theatre Foyer and North East Tower. The completion date remains as summer 2018.

3.2 The Learning and Participation Team continue to deliver the extensive programme of activities funded under the HLF funding. Further details are below in item 8.

- 3.3 The Trust continues to work with the Principal Conservation Officer and Historic England as well as the Economic Development Team in Haringey to develop the use of local labour, improve skills and training as well as engage more apprentices.
- 3.4 Planning and Listed Building Conditions considered and submitted for Listed Building Consent discharge includes:
- East Court Doors, windows, glazed screens
 - Theatre walls and lighting
 - Theatre staircases, new items and servicing
 - Foyer servicing and windows
 - Cleaning of brick interiors
 - Roof level walkways
- 3.5 In addition we inform Haringey Council Planning Department of the level of local employment and of found hidden features
- 3.6 One of the next major applications to discharge the planning consent is the theatre ceiling methodology for repair/replacement.

4. West Yard Storage Project

- 4.1 The steel structure for the storage area was erected over the summer and has transformed the West Yard.
- 4.2 The project has experienced some delays as a result of issues with steel design and fabrication. The Project is expected to be complete in January 2018.
- 4.3 Planning and Listed Building Conditions continue to be submitted and discharged as the project progresses. The Contractor may seek a change to listed building consent for the reinstatement of the supporting bund wall (built to retain the soil on the embankment beneath the West Yard). The Contractor is also seeking a further change to relocate the storm water drainage attenuation tank from beneath the West Yard to the North Yard. Planning permission will be sought and the views of the Advisory and Consultative Committees were sought on 3rd October with no recommendations made to the Board. The documents are available as part of the SAC/CC agenda pack:
<https://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=711&MId=8363&Ver=4>

5. BBC Tower Mast

- 5.1 As part of the original East Wing Restoration project, lighting the BBC Tower mast was considered to be a key visual tool that would go some way in communicating the BBC story at Alexandra Palace.
- 5.2 In November 2016, a trial lighting demonstration was undertaken, and the BBC Tower mast was temporarily lit for the BBC's 80th anniversary and for the Alexandra

Palace Fireworks Festival. The demonstration was deemed a success and was positively received by the public and stakeholders.

- 5.3 The Trust has submitted a listed building consent application to the Council's Planning department for a more permanent mast lighting scheme.
- 5.4 The intention is that the mast is lit for selected commercial and community events such as the Fireworks Festival, key historical events such as the BBC's anniversary and other notable anniversaries. With the studios project currently under review, lighting the mast to mark special events and occasions will send out a clear message to stakeholders, potential partners and funders and visitors that the Palace is still very much 'open for business' and that the Trust remains committed to the socially and historically significant BBC story.
- 5.5 Lighting controls will be provided by a full DMX (Digital Multiplex, a lighting control protocol which allows users to have ultimate control over their lighting needs) lighting control system. An LCD panel will be provided with pre-set scenes and effects. The number of scenes can be altered to suit the requirements of the Trust.
- 5.6 The 'official' period of consultation for the mast has closed, although members of the public are still able to submit comments via the website.

<http://www.planningservices.haringey.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=317634>

5.7 The current lighting Programme:

Events for lighting

- 27 October - World Day for AudiVisual Heritage
- 2 November – 81st Anniversary TV Broadcast from Alexandra Palace
- 21 November – World Television Day

In addition for the Fireworks Festival on 3rd and 4th November for Fireworks.

There are no other planned lighting events in 2017 except consideration for Christmas and some further testing on one night, which (at the time of writing) is expected to be 26 October.

6. **Commercial Director's Update**

Events

6.1 Park Licence

- 6.1.1 The conditions for the Park License were received on 3rd September. These conditions are in draft format and are being discussed with Haringey Council.
- 6.1.2 The SAC requested a meeting with the Trust and Licensing and Noise officers from the Council following the granting of the licence. This took place

on 12th September and was an opportunity to explain how noise is measured and monitored now and in the future. It was agreed that the CEO's report to SAC will include statistics about event noise complaints and the mitigations undertaken or planned to resolve any issues.

6.2 Q2 Events

In Q2 we hosted two of our own in-house events, Summer Festival/StrEATlife in July and StrEATlife in August. Over the August Bank Holiday, The Beast (the world's largest inflatable obstacle course) welcomed 15,000 people to the Great Hall.

6.3 In July, APP held its 3rd annual Summer Festival. This year, the event took inspiration from London's Summer of Love in 1967.

- The Panorama Room was transformed into the *Happening Tent*, where film director Malcolm Boyle spoke about the infamous underground movement of the 1960s, showed clips from his documentary on John "Hoppy" Hopkins, and interviewed Beat poet Michael Horowitz.
- Organic food pioneer Gregory Sams reminisced about the *14-Hour Technicolor Dream* all night rave at Ally Pally in April 1967.
- Performance artist Pete Fowler painted a 9m long psychedelic mural over a period of 7 hours watched by hundreds of festival goers and music fans. The artwork will be mounted and displayed in a public part of the Palace for the benefit of all our visitors emphasising the music heritage of the venue.

6.4 Future Events

6.4.1 We are planning to increase the number of Segway activities in the old Deer Enclosure for 2018. Zip Wire negotiations were not concluded for 2017 but continue for 2018. In addition we are exploring Roof Walks, Abseiling, Bungee and Power Fan for 2018.

6.4.2 The table attached at Appendix 1 summarises the public events scheduled until the end of Q3 (end of December). All special requirements are discussed in detail at production meetings and at Safety Advisory Group meetings as appropriate. Updates since the last report are highlighted in bold type.

6.5 New Year's Eve Road Closure

6.5.1 The Board delegated the decision to close Alexandra Palace Way on New Year's Eve to the Executive at its meeting on 18 July further to consultation with the SACCC, the SACCC considered a report on 3 October and recommended that every effort be made to manage the impact on the surrounding roads from the proposed road closure. The SAC commented that the Board should also note that in contrast to Fireworks event, the main parking pressures will be at the top of the Park as opposed to the bottom. At the time of writing the Safety Advisory Group is considering the appropriate methods to manage the changed arrangements for New Year's Eve. It has been made aware of the issues raised by the Board and the SAC.

7. Park update

- 7.1 In June, our tree safety inspector discovered dumped material from building work in a neighbouring property. We have been dealing with the property owner and builder to get this material cleared.
- 7.2 Following the tree safety inspection this year a schedule of works is due to take place in the autumn. This work includes felling and crown-reduction on unsafe trees.
- 7.3 In June, Oak Processionary Moth nests were found in the Park. The moths are a non-native pest. Their control and management is the responsibility of the Forestry Commission. Follow-up surveys found nests on oak trees right across the Park. The hairs on the caterpillars can cause an allergic reaction that, in some cases, can be serious. The low-level nests have been fenced off and will be removed. The Forestry Commission will undertake spraying in the spring in accordance with the national management strategy.
- 7.4 The construction of the second Go Ape course was completed in time for October half term, with the final element being added in November the “QuickJump” free fall. The existing course has been very popular since opening in the spring and has brought a large number of visitors to the Park.
- 7.5 Alexandra Park achieved the Green Flag Award for the tenth year in a row. The Green Heritage Award has also been achieved. The Park was entered into a number of categories in the London in Bloom Awards with the following results.

Large Conservation Area

Alexandra Park, Alexandra Palace Trust Silver Gilt

Heritage Park & Garden of the Year (Sponsored by MPGA)

Alexandra Park, Alexandra Palace Trust Gold

Large Park (above 25 acres) of the Year

Alexandra Park, Alexandra Palace Trust Gold

7.6 Update on fenced-off area in Lower field

The water dried up, so samples have not been taken. A break in a pipe was identified and repaired in September. The fencing will remain over the next few months as the Park Manager monitors whether the water returns.

8. Learning and Participation

8.1 BAFTA Kids Big Schools Day – 20th June

On 20 June the Learning and Participation team took over the Palace for the first Big Schools Day for 1,060 pupils (Years 5,6 & 7) from 19 schools across the borough. Partnering with BAFTA Kids the event showcased different careers within television linking into the Palace’s place as the birthplace of BBC television in 1936. Through this event we engaged with 9 new schools including 3 secondary schools,

feedback was generally positive and there is a definite appetite from all partners to continue working together should additional funding become available.

Planning for April 2018 is already underway, partners have been identified for our Circus themed Big Schools.

8.2 Schools

The summer term is traditionally the busiest with many schools wanting visits particularly between June and July. This year the Palace welcomed 479 pupils on 12 visits including 3 reception visits, orienteering and joint visits with Willmott Dixon giving pupils the opportunity to visit the theatre.

Over the summer a complete review of the workshops was undertaken to ensure workshops fit with the national curriculum and that activities are engaging and interactive. In September the following workshops will be offered: -

Key stage 1	Key stage 2
<p>Victorian People's Palace Curriculum links: English, History, Design Technology, Art & Design & Geography</p> <p>Using primary sources pupils will discover why the Palace was originally built, why it was named after Princess Alexandra of Denmark and the events and activities that made it the home of "rational recreation and education". Inspired by Victorian programming pupils will make their own Alexandra Palace thaumotope and consider why the Palace is still significant today to local people.</p>	<p>Past, Present & Future Curriculum links: English, History, Design Technology, Art & Design & Geography</p> <p>Accessing an area of the Palace not normally open to the public pupils will look at giant murals to find out why Victorian Londoners visited in their thousands. Reviewing the current "What's On" pupils will consider whether today's events fit in with the Victorian notion of education and entertainment. Considering the current regeneration plans for the East Wing pupils will work in teams to design a banner for the refurbished East Court thinking how the Palace's past inspires its future.</p>
<p>Storyboard to Broadcasting: BBC Curriculum links: English, History, Design Technology, Art & Design & Geography</p> <p>Looking at early footage and photos pupils will consider how television is different today and uncover the technological advances made at the Palace. The importance of narrative in programming will be introduced through "Muffin the Mule and the squeaking shoes", pupils will then make their own</p>	<p>Palace of Leisure & Entertainment Curriculum links: English, History, Design Technology, Art & Design & Geography</p> <p>Throughout the Palace's history leisure and entertainment has been central to attracting audiences from 1863 to the present day. Pupils will chart the development of music hall and variety performances in the Theatre, the innovation of moving</p>

<p>Muffin puppets and create their own stories to perform back to the class.</p>	<p>images in silent cinema to the world's first regular high definition television service in 1936. Pupils will use the development of popular entertainment at the Palace create their own card or board game.</p>
	<p>Arrival of BBC Television Curriculum links: English, History, Design Technology, Science, Art & Design & Geography</p> <p>In 1936, the world's first high definition television was broadcast from Alexandra Palace. Reflecting on the new invention primary sources will be used to prepare for a debate about the move from radio to television. Exploring the technological advances in television whilst based at Alexandra Palace pupils will plan a programme and pitch their ideas to the rest of the class</p>
	<p>New Communities arriving at the Palace Curriculum links: English, History, Design Technology, Art & Design & Geography</p> <p>During the First World War the Palace was used as first a refugee camp for Belgians before becoming home to 3,000 non-naturalized German men. Looking at newspaper articles, letters and diaries pupils will uncover why these two groups arrived at the Palace, what daily life was like and how local people reacted to the new arrivals.</p>

In line with booking trends of the last few years the Palace will be offering 9 visits during the autumn term (3 in October, 3 in November and 3 in December). To engage with Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils the palace will be running 2 special events linking national awareness days to events that have happened at the Palace. A 4-week inter-generational oral history project is being planned for World Audio-Visual Heritage Day (27th October) and a Fake News conference is being programmed for World Television Day (21st November).

8.3 Willmott Dixon

3 Reception class visits were organised in partnership with Willmott Dixon, pupils had the opportunity to visit the theatre and ask questions to the construction team.

Willmott Dixon worked with HEBP (Haringey Education Business Partnership) to agree 1-week work experience placement opportunities in June and July for three schools – Park View (26-30 June), Woodside (03 – 07 July) and Northumberland Park (10-14 July). There were 2 placements for each of the three schools.

In partnership with the North Tottenham Heritage Lottery Funded project Willmott Dixon have recruited a Construction Traineeship who will spend some on the Alexandra Palace site in addition to other projects around the borough.

8.4 MA Culture, Criticism and Curation

Central St Martin's Culture, Criticism and Curation has partnered with Alexandra Palace on a live brief to raise awareness and connect with the Palace's heritage of black performance. The students were asked to engage with and respond to APP's history and target local BAME communities and hard to reach communities of Haringey with an element of outreach. In line with Black history month in October, the students have decided to work with Haringey shed, a local inclusive dance company on a week-long dance and costume making project.

The final exhibition/response will be part of the festival village (where food and beverages are available in the West Hall during events) for 3 nights of live music gig. Students were asked to think about strategies and tactics on how to engage with a music audience who will be attending the Palace not necessarily to learn about its performance and past.

8.5 Summer Activities

8.5.1 Ambitious College – Giant Puppet Making

In July, Learning & Participation invited Ambitious College learners for a two-week giant puppet building project. Inspired from our heritage of puppets and performance, the Learners collectively built 4 giant puppets which were exhibited at the People's Stage at the Summer Festival (22nd of July). Ambitious College is the first college in London specifically for adults with autism and complex needs. The project was extremely successful and Ambitious College have expressed a desire to work with Alexandra Palace again.

The college has offered free training on working with people with Autism to Alexandra Palace staff as a direct result of this relationship. Front line staff from the ice rink, the bar and kitchen and reception will attend this training with the desire of improving Alexandra Palace's access to people with autism.

8.5.2 People's Stage

The People's Stage at the Summer Festival was programmed by the L&P team, which invited local community group and artists to perform. Acts ranged from spoken word, to dance and music, showcasing the talent and diversity of the borough. A total of 9 different organisations performed. The team is looking for ways to continue developing and nurturing these relationships.

8.5.3 Workshops

Alongside the People's Stage the L&P programmed the Grove areas of the Park with drop-in drumming, circus skills and street art workshops. The activities were free to take part in and had a high number of take-up throughout the day. All the performers have expressed an interest in working with Alexandra Palace again.

8.6 Dementia Friendly Activities

Learning and Participation are launching their partnership with a project called Singing for the Brain (Alzheimer Society). On the 15th of September. Weekly choir sessions inspired from Alexandra Palace's musical heritage will be held for people living with dementia and their carers.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to support these sessions and benefit from dementia training and on-going support from the volunteer's coordinator.

8.7 BA & MA Placements

Throughout June and July the Learning & Participation team were supported by a 1st year Event Management student and an MA Museum Studies student. A major part of the BA Events Management role was to support with the delivery of the Big Schools day, including walking routes around the building and scheduling volunteers. Included within the MA Museum Studies placement was a review of the learning programme and creation of new materials ready to launch in September.

8.8 Volunteers

8.8.1 For this quarter, fundraising admin volunteers have given 144 hours.

Volunteers working with the Learning and Participation Team on the Activity Plan and other programmes have donated 483 hours and the volunteer administrator has given 62.25 hours. Total of 689.25 hours.

8.8.2 Volunteers have continued to give their time to assist with schools' workshops and activities, general administration and with the fundraising. A new role has been added to support the curatorial programmes.

8.8.3 The months between June and August have seen a recruitment campaign for volunteers. So far, we have recruited 20 new volunteers which have supported various L&P initiatives, among which BAFTA, the Summer Festival and the Curatorial Projects.

8.8.4 Demographics: Of the twenty volunteers, fourteen have responded to our Equality and Diversity monitoring form, showing we are starting diversifying our current pool of volunteers. The table below shows the results:

Table – Volunteer Demographics

	21-25	25-30	31-40	40+
Age	5	2	4	3
	White	BAME		
Ethnicity	9	5		
	UK	EU	Other	
Nationality	5	5	4	

8.8.5 Written and oral feedback from volunteers has highlighted that most of them felt they learn new skills, and that it was helpful being part of a bigger event.

Quote from one of our new volunteers:

“I just wanted to thank you for giving me the opportunity to volunteer that day. I met new people in London because of the event. Moreover, I was just amazed by how organised you were and how coordinated everything was at the event. I sure learnt new skills that day.”

8.8.6 Curatorial Projects to research and rehouse the photographic archive began in August following a volunteer induction day. The project is set to be rolled out across several months.

8.9 Social

In June we ran the first volunteering social event since the appointment of the new Volunteer Coordinator. Volunteers have been involved in devising and planning future volunteering programmes through a practical workshop during the social event. This has provided very useful insights which will inform the future strategy and training programmes.

8.10 The New Head of Learning and Participation is due to start on 23 October.

9. **Archive and Interpretation**

9.1 In July, a draft Forward Plan for the historic BBC Wing was taken to the Trust Board for comment. An amended version will be taken back to the Board. In the meantime, the team continue to develop interpretation for the studios story.

9.2 A brief and business case for an *Augmented Reality* prototype from Microsoft Hololens specialists *Fracture* to create digital interpretation tools has been set out. The team have been working with Fracture, providing content, voice over, and facilitated filming on site. The finished prototype and video is due to be delivered in September.

9.3 Following project scoping work undertaken during the last quarter, two of the Lincoln Conservation team returned to AP Theatre for 3 days in August with specialist equipment to capture 3D scans of both basement levels and all of the under stage machinery. An open source platform is being created from the processed scans for delivery in December.

9.4 In July and August filming in the BBC Studios was facilitated for the Canadian Centre for Architecture – see project outline below.

On Air. Broadcasting the Modern Movement (TBC)

À l'Antenne. Diffuser le Mouvement moderne (TBC)

The exhibition ***On Air. Broadcasting the Modern Movement (TBC)*** curated by Joaquim Moreno will explore 'A305: History of Architecture and Design, 1890-1939', a televised, third-level Arts Course first aired in 1975 by the Open University (OU), headquartered in Milton Keynes, UK. A key experiment in new forms of higher education within the architectural realm, and an essential example to analyze the relationship between new media as a tool to transform the transmission of knowledge and its dissemination, the creation of the OU and the A305 class will be archeologically studied as a privileged instance for the mobilization of new media environments for educational purposes, and for the convergence of mass media and mass education. The project investigates the A305 Course as a pioneer and key case study in the ongoing development of media education and towards the idea of a globally shared culture today. This exhibition is developed in partnership with the Open University.

9.5 Collections Projects with AP Volunteers were initiated in July with induction and training led by the curatorial team. Rehousing of the photographic collection and research using the digital archive has taken place during August and will continue into the Autumn as further projects are developed and skill levels are improved.

10. Legal Implications

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

11. Financial Implications

11.1 The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments.

12. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Events Schedule