

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**SERVICE UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD 14 JANUARY TO 10 FEBRUARY 2013****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Committee on a range of initiatives being undertaken to improve and enhance the quality of life for Nottinghamshire people.

Information and Advice**LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & INFORMATION****Author visits to Beeston Library**

2. On 22 January, children and young people's author Deborah White visited Beeston Library to talk to Year 8 pupils from Alderman White and Bramcote Park Comprehensive Schools about her new book, 'Deceit'. Pupils were given an insight into how Deborah researches the material for her books while Deborah enjoyed meeting some of her readers.
3. Children's author Andrew Newbound visited Beeston Library on 8 February to talk to invited classes of Year 5 and 6 pupils from Round Hill Primary School. Andrew shared his love for words and writing by setting the classes a series of literacy challenges as part of the '*Library Games*'. Teams of children competed enthusiastically to solve riddles, conundrums and other word based puzzles. Memory and code cracking skills were also put to the test. Andrew also shared an extract from one of his books and answered questions about being a writer.
4. An ongoing programme of author visits is part of the Library Service's strategy to promote reading for pleasure as studies have shown that this can have a major impact on children and young people and their future. In particular, that reading for pleasure is positively linked with literacy related benefits such as reading attainment and writing ability, breadth of vocabulary, and self-confidence as a reader and that events focusing on reading for pleasure can also promote or enhance social skills in children.

Closing the Gaps through Family Learning at Newark Library

5. On 8 February 2013 parents/carers and children from Lover's Lane Primary School in Newark took part in a family learning event supported by the Adult and Community Learning Service (ACLS) and library staff. This event was part of the Story Power strand of Nottinghamshire's *Closing the Educational Gaps Strategy* (CtG) and as such focussed

on inspiring parents/carers and children to help make stories come alive by using traditional story telling skills and techniques.

6. An ACLS family learning tutor took families on a Story Walk across Newark and showed families how to develop 'reading buddies' in Newark Library, which in turn helped to illustrate stories that were told. Armed with these new skills a librarian then accompanied the families back to the school where 40 more pupils, dressed in pyjamas and carrying sleeping bags, were arriving for a special Reading Camp sleepover. They all then had a lot of fun with some scary, interactive and very noisy stories before settling down for a chip butty supper.
7. Newark Library, working with ACLS and local schools, is planning a further Story Power event for children in the summer. By using the power and joy of storytelling to engage, inspire, and educate, the event will support the CtG strategy and ensure that both adults' and children's literacy skills, including listening, comprehension and reading, are enhanced.

Library Opening Hours Review

8. Following a major review of all library openings undertaken in late 2010 and implemented in April 2011, the report to the then Culture portfolio meeting recommended an ongoing review of opening hours. Since April 2011, minor adjustments were implemented in January 2012 and April 2012 following further public consultation and impact assessment.
9. An assessment of current opening hours has been made in consideration of any requirement for changes during 2013. Library service managers have concluded that the current opening hours are working well and would not recommend any changes in the coming year. A review will be undertaken during autumn 2013 with any recommendations for changes being brought to Culture Committee for approval.

Education Library Service

10. The Education Library Service (ELS) continues to offer a valued service to our local schools.
11. The Service markets itself through Services for Schools and operates on a self funded basis. In 2012/13, 247 Nottinghamshire schools have bought back the service.
12. In addition to providing a service to Nottinghamshire schools, ELS also supports Nottingham schools that elect to buy into the service. A small number of schools outside Nottingham and Nottinghamshire also take advantage of the service.
13. The Service has a stock of 335,000 items and issues 216,000 items per year.
14. ELS also offers a professional development and support package for School Librarians. Five meetings are held each year where staff are brought up to date with new developments and ideas are shared.

15. Typical items loaned include non-fiction books, picture books, novels, big books, dual language materials, DVDs, CD roms, posters, and spoken word CDs.
16. Analysis of the evaluation surveys demonstrates the high regard the service is held in by schools; results for 2012 show an overall satisfaction rate of 98% across all resources services, and 100% satisfaction with all advisory services.

World War 1 centenary commemoration

17. 2014 will mark 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War.
18. The First World War was a turning point in world history. It claimed the lives of over 16 million people across the globe and had an impact on the lives of everyone.
19. Nottinghamshire people and places are connected to the First World War, either through family history, heritage of local communities or its long term impact on society and the world we live in today.
20. The Imperial War Museum is providing national lead encouraging cultural, historic, volunteer and local authorities to contribute to a fitting commemoration to such a significant historical event.
21. There are already a number of projects in the planning stage across Nottinghamshire, many supported by County Council services.
22. A coordination group led by the Group Manager, Libraries, Archives and Information, has been established to ensure the County Council co-ordinates its own activity and its contribution to commemorative activity across Nottinghamshire.
23. A full report to Culture Committee on 26 March 2013 will provide full details of a range of initiatives and seek approval to lead, support and contribute to a number of projects and initiatives.

COUNTRY PARKS

Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre

24. Progress is proceeding on the financial, contractual and design fronts with a view to completion by the end of March.

Tourist Information Services at Rufford Abbey Country Park

25. Over a number of years, discussions have taken place with Newark and Sherwood District Council on the potential for a relocation of its Tourist Information Centre (TIC) from its current site on Sherwood Heath at Ollerton.
26. The longer term ambition is to link the TIC into the new Visitor Centre at Sherwood and this has been reflected in the development proposals put forward by Discovery Attractions.

27. In the short term, and having assessed a range of options, arrangements are now in hand for the TIC to transfer to Rufford Abbey Country Park before Easter 2013 to be managed on a partnership basis. The County Council will effectively host the centre, while Newark and Sherwood will undertake the day to day visitor information duties.
28. The relocation will not only help boost visitors to Rufford but will support a more coordinated and effective tourist promotion for the wider Newark and Sherwood district.

CULTURAL AND ENRICHMENT SERVICES

Sports Volunteering

29. Since the launch of the Olympic Legacy Programme 'Sport Makers', we have registered over 1,200 volunteers and delivered training to over 950 of these Sport Makers across the County, and we plan to train over a 100 more. These individuals have been making sport happen for their local community in various sports from golf and rounders to football and netball. As the delivery element of the Sport Makers comes to a close we are now turning our attention to the collection of 'good news' stories about what these Sport Makers have done. The introduction of the Notts Sport Makers Prize Draw has nearly doubled the number of Sport Makers logging their activity online. The programme has also helped support two local clubs and we are currently planning to work with another three before the end of March 2013.
30. The Nottinghamshire Leadership Academy Network is going from strength to strength with the addition of two more local leadership academies in Broxtowe and Bassetlaw. This brings the total district academies up to seven (Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, City, Gedling, Mansfield and Rushcliffe) with work on-going with Newark & Sherwood. The Network now supports over 230 young volunteers aged between 14-19 years. To further strengthen the Network we have setup a Sub-Group for Young Leadership and Volunteering. The Sub-Group has been tasked with developing a model for leadership development that is both progressive and easy to understand for both the young volunteers and the staff involved with their development.

Handball

31. The 2012 Olympic games introduced several new sports to the international stage. People were able to see sports they had previously only heard of and this created a demand, at grassroots level, for opportunities to 'have a go'. One of these new stars of London 2012 was handball. To respond to these requests the Sports Development team and other partners have worked together to bring handball opportunities to Nottinghamshire. The National Governing Body of Handball has welcomed the support and commitment from the team and has identified the County as a priority area in their whole sport plan.
32. Partnership Funding has been raised from the England Handball Association, the County Sports Partnership, and the City Council to support a full time Handball Activator to develop handball across the County. This post will develop a programme of 'have a go' sessions and hopefully create new teams and competitive opportunities.

Enterprising Ashfield

33. The Arts Development team has been working with partners to create opportunities for new creative businesses in Ashfield. Enterprising local people will be encouraged to set up and grow their creative ideas and businesses under the guidance of experienced entrepreneur Anna Roebuck. An empty shop in Sutton in Ashfield is being transformed into a creative drop in centre, offering arts workshops to the community and providing a selling space for local creative businesses.
34. Students from Sutton Community Academy will work with professional artists and up and coming musicians will follow a programme to develop their potential. The groups will come together to stage a celebratory Community Event and Market in May on Portland Place.
35. Business support, mentoring and progression opportunities will be provided by partners including LEObusiness, Creative Greenhouse, Take Over Radio, Framework's Outram Centre, Sutton Community Academy, The Idlewells Centre and Ashfield District Council's Town Centre and Markets team.

Service Update – Conservation

Sherwood Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme

36. The team is continuing to take a lead role in co-ordinating the development of a bid for £2 million for the wider Sherwood area through the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership Scheme. Greenwood Community Forest and archaeology staff are part of a small co-ordinating group along with Sherwood Forest Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.
37. A successful workshop was held at Rufford Mill, bringing together all the potential partner organisations. The aim of the workshop was to identify overlapping partner aspirations and start the process of building an integrated suite of projects for inclusion in the final application. This was followed by an HLF site visit, which provided further guidance on the development of the bid. The deadline for submission of applications to HLF is 31st May 2013 and a paper on the proposals will be brought to the next meeting of Culture Committee.

Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership

38. Following the official recognition of the LDN LNP by government in autumn last year, the LNP has appointed its first Board drawn from the wider partnership. The Board has senior level representatives from each of the 6 sectors (business, community, education, environment, health and land management) and is chaired by Tony Walker, Deputy Managing Director of Toyota UK. The Board is now developing an action plan for the next 12 months and further reports will be brought to this Committee as work progresses.
39. The County Council's Conservation Team is currently providing the Secretariat for the partnership and attended a meeting for all LNPs with the Minister, Richard Benyon, on 11th February. This meeting provided further guidance on how government expects

LNPs to work with other partnerships, particularly Local Enterprise Partnerships and Health and Well-being Boards.

OnTrent

40. The County Council has been an active partner in the OnTrent initiative for many years. OnTrent is a non-incorporated partnership initiative of over 40 voluntary, statutory and commercial organisations in the Trent catchment. It was founded in the late 1990s as a strategic partnership but since 2006 has concentrated largely on project development and delivery. The Trent Rivers Trust, part of the national Rivers Trust movement, is an independent, incorporated charitable trust which has evolved from the Trent Salmon Trust. It has broadened its activities to a catchment-based approach to improvements to the water environment and has similar aims and objectives to OnTrent.
41. The County Council has supported discussions between the two organisations on closer working arrangements and the implementation of a co-operation agreement over the last year to test the viability of this. It is envisaged that, if the trial co-operation period is successful, the two bodies will merge to form a combined third sector organisation for the Trent catchment in the new financial year.

Heritage Tourism

42. Policy Committee has approved the establishment of a two year post within the Conservation Team. The post will initially focus on working with the County Council's heritage specialists, communities and partners from the tourism and heritage sectors to develop opportunities and links to County's Pilgrim Fathers and Civil War heritage. It is intended to recruit to the post to start in April 2013.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the service update for the period 14 January to 10 February 2013 be noted.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture
T: 0115 9773498
E: derek.higton@nottsc.gov.uk

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