

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE
AND THE GROUP MANAGER, PLANNING****SERVICE UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD 4 JANUARY TO 21 FEBRUARY 2016****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, ARTS, INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY LEARNING****Library Access Points**

2. Following the successful opening in January 2015 of the South Scarle Library Access Point (LAP), a second LAP, in partnership with the Coddington Village Hall Trustees, was opened at Coddington Village Hall on 13 January 2016. This was formally opened by the Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council on 27 February 2016.
3. LAPs are small deposit collections of books on loan from Nottinghamshire Libraries and reflect individual community needs and interests. In addition to agreed library exchanges, volunteers are able to refresh small selections of their collection by using their nearest large local library. Whilst this initiative is supported by the Library Service, LAPs are administered and made accessible by organisers within the local community.
4. Coddington LAP is open twice a month and is available to all local residents. It was started with a loan collection of 300 books and is supplemented with local donations from the Coddington community and includes a previously privately owned reference collection of local history material.
5. This development supports the Council's 'Strategy for Nottinghamshire Libraries' and the key pledges to respond directly to local needs in developing libraries and also to increase community involvement in the shaping of libraries and delivery of library provision.
6. LAPs are in addition to the traditional library provision of branches and mobiles and are a positive step towards increasing access to books and reading in primarily more remote and rural communities in the Collingham area.

Bump, Baby and Toddler Festival

7. The Bump, Baby and Toddler Festival took place at Mansfield Central Library on 16th February attended by over 600 people. Organised by the library service's Early Years Team, the festival provided information and advice for local families on a variety of topics and promoted the importance of reading and sharing books with babies and young children.
8. Over 50 professionals were present, representing 21 organisations including Homestart, Bookstart, East Midlands Ambulance Service, New Leaf, Health visiting teams, Children Centres, and Nottinghamshire Road Safety.
9. A variety of activities were available throughout the day including family workshops such as baby massage run by the Children Centres and craft activities provided by Mansfield Central Library and Mansfield Museum. The Nottinghamshire Road Safety team measured and demonstrated the correct use of car seats and St John's Ambulance demonstrated CPR on babies.
10. Entertainment for the children included a Rattle, Rhyme and Roll session, the opportunity to meet the Bookstart Bear and a live band - Johnny and the Raindrops.
11. Comments from families included:

"Great advice, friendly and enthusiastic staff"
"Very informative"
"My Granddaughter loved all the event"
"Do more".
12. Partner organisations were also extremely positive:

"Fantastic event, we have met so many new families"
"I certainly came away with a few more contacts"
"Brilliant event, really enjoyed coming".
13. Local library staff joined over 40 new members to the library and promoted the fantastic facilities and services at Mansfield Central Library including the hire spaces available to local people and organisations.
14. The day helped many families with under 5s and expectant parents to connect with services in the local Mansfield district, supporting their children's and their own health, development and wellbeing.

Gruffalo Fun Day at Arnold library

15. Arnold Library held a Gruffalo Fun day for children and families. Over 300 children (plus their parents and carers) visited the library to join in with stories, songs and Gruffalo craft activities. The ever popular Gruffalo character made three appearances throughout the day. Some families were visiting the new look Arnold Library for the first time.

16. Events such as this are part of the continued work to promote a love of books and reading and also help attract new audiences to the library to explore what the library can offer.

Author events

17. National Libraries Day, which is a celebration of libraries and the services they provide, saw children's author events at Beeston and Arnold libraries. Racing cars became the theme for the day as picture book author Caryl Hart visited Arnold to talk about her *How to Win a Monster Race* title and Jonathan Emmett visited Beeston sharing his *Silver Serpent Cup* picture book. At both events children were able to take part to create their own racing vehicle.

CONSERVATION

Greenwood Community Forest

18. The Friends of Greenwood Community Forum has appointed a new Chairperson, Rod Fillingham. Rod is a member of the Friends of Gedling Country Park, which supports Gedling Borough Council in caring for this new green space on a regenerated pit tip. The Friends of Greenwood Community Forum provides a network for such groups from across Nottinghamshire to share ideas and mutual support. It also works alongside the Greenwood team to deliver the annual Greenwood Awards, which recognise outstanding effort by local volunteers to look after and promote the County's parks and green spaces.
19. The Conservation Team is currently hosting two placements for students from Nottingham Trent University. Jake Hill and Dayle Bickley are both year 2 students from NTU's Ecology & Environmental Management degree course. Having spent the last 19 weeks working with the County's Country Parks and Green Estates teams, they are now helping to support activities with colleagues in Nature Conservation and Greenwood Community Forest.

Heritage Tourism

20. A celebratory event took place at Rufford Abbey on 26 January to thank the Community Archaeology volunteers and Skills for Employment students for their help. The Community Archaeology volunteers have helped to carry out a number of archaeological investigations at Rufford and a presentation showed how their work has helped to further the understanding of the site. Councillor Knight then presented certificates to the students from the County Council's Skills for Employment programme in recognition of their heritage project which took place throughout October 2015 to February 2016.
21. In January 2016, the first 'Heritage Heroes' certificate was awarded to Hucknall Tourism and Regeneration group for their work in conducting bus tours around the County and running a visitor information point in the town all on a voluntary basis. This pilot scheme is designed to recognise and thank individuals and organisations within the County for their invaluable contribution to the County's heritage offer.
22. On 11 February 2016, the County Council hosted and presented at the National Sports Heritage Conference. The event was organised in partnership with the Sports in

Museums Network. Fifty five delegates attended the conference from a range of local and national universities, museums, sports clubs/grounds and organisations such as the National Football Museum, Wimbledon, Lords Cricket ground and Heritage Lottery Fund. The first day of the conference, held at County Hall, looked at the impact of sports heritage on wider agendas such as tourism, health and wellbeing, community cohesion and education. The second day was held at the Nottinghamshire Archives where the setting up of regional networks was discussed.

Historic Buildings

23. Following the County Council's War Memorials survey, four Listing Applications were submitted to Historic England for memorials in Ashfield. It has now been confirmed that Skegby War Memorial and Stanton Hill War Memorial have been designated as Grade II Listed Buildings. Confirmation is still awaited for two others, Jacksdale War Memorial and Sutton in Ashfield Memorial Cross.
24. Listing applications are being prepared for the following memorials in Broxtowe:
 - Ambulance Training Corp Cadets Cross, Eastwood
 - Strelley War Memorial
 - Cossall War Memorial
 - Waterloo Memorial, Cossall
 - Awsworth War Memorial.
25. The Listing of these memorials will give them higher priority in grant fund applications and provide statutory protection against harmful alterations and development affecting their setting.

Nature Conservation

26. The Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership is developing its strategy with regard to:
 - Good access to nature for all
 - Sustainable development and land management
 - Healthy wildlife populations
 - Clean, green business
 - Resilient natural defences
 - Education and skills.
27. Officers from both Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire County Councils have recently provided significant input into the collation of the natural capital evidence base and a series of workshops with key stakeholders to help to interpret the evidence base and identify threats and opportunities. It is intended that this work will facilitate the strengthening of working relationships between the LNP and the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the update on a range of initiatives being undertaken to improve and enhance the quality of life for Nottinghamshire people be noted.

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