

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE  
AND THE GROUP MANAGER, PLANNING****SERVICE UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD 20 JUNE TO 14 AUGUST 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****Code Clubs**

2. In June and July 2016, West Bridgford, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Keyworth and East Leake libraries all hosted code clubs for children aged 9-11. At a code club, children learn how to create code and program computers by showing them how to make computer games, animations and websites. Volunteers are crucial to running a club and are successfully helping out at some of the libraries. Over the summer holidays, a family learning coding workshop will be trialled at Kirkby in Ashfield Library, where children and parents can learn together, and at the end of the three-week course, learn how to build and program a robotic arm. In September, these libraries will run more code clubs, with new clubs starting at Worksop and Kirkby-in-Ashfield libraries.

**The Big Friendly Exhibition – Mansfield Central Library**

3. 21<sup>st</sup> July saw the launch of the Big Friendly Exhibition in Mansfield Central Library which is open to visitors from 18 July – 2 September in partnership with the Big Friendly Read – Reading Agency Summer Reading Challenge, all inspired by the work of Roald Dahl.
4. The gallery exhibition was created at Mansfield Woodhouse Library, Mansfield Central Library and Hucknall Library by artist Jane Stockley and groups of young people from:

St Edmund's C of E Primary School, Mansfield Woodhouse  
Asquith Primary School, Mansfield  
Oak Tree Primary School and Nursery, Mansfield  
Hucknall National C of E Primary School, Hucknall.

5. Using the Roald Dahl stories as a starting point the young people created giant dream catchers, exploring the magical imaginative stories through art work and creative expression.
6. The Reading Shed art installation was created at Dukeries Library and Ollerton Library by artist Anna Roebuck and groups of young people from:  
  
St Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School, New Ollerton  
Ollerton Community Primary School, New Ollerton  
The Dukeries Academy, New Ollerton  
Forest View Junior School, New Ollerton
7. Inspired by the creatures found in the Dahl stories and his talent for devising new words, young people made 3D artwork to fill a full sized shed as an enchanting reading space for visitors to sit and complete part of the Summer Reading Challenge. Roald Dahl himself wrote all his stories from his own shed sat in an armchair and this is echoed in the Reading Shed that has been created. Visitors can also add their dreams to the BFG dream bottle and invent their own words using the spinners. Foxes, tortoises and giant shoes are all part of the fun and the dreams are being tweeted on @nottslibraries.
8. The shed sits in the Wonderful Woolley Garden of knitted, felted and handmade flowers all made by adult and young people's craft groups that meet in libraries around the County as part of craft bomb and voluntary arts week. 176 young people took part with the artists to create the exhibition and shed. 621 adults and young people worked in 29 libraries to create 36 boxes of flowers for the Wonderful Woolly Garden.
9. The Shed theme continues through the library led Summer Reading Challenge activities with 14 medium card sheds being used creatively to encourage young readers to complete the challenge and 1,500 mini card sheds distributed with "How To" sheets for libraries, including the mobile libraries, to engage visitors in reading through a craft activity.

## **COUNTRY PARKS AND GREEN ESTATES**

### **Rufford Abbey**

10. The Earth & Fire Potters' Fair has been taking place at Rufford Abbey Country Park for many years, after being developed by the County Council's Arts Service. To fulfil the County Council's commitment to provide a fair in 2016, *Inspire* stepped into the breach, arranging for an experienced freelance to manage this specialist event, in conjunction with the Rufford site team.
11. The public event took place from Friday 24 June to Sunday 26 June inclusive, and was successfully delivered, with nearly 7,000 visitors over the three days – very slightly down on previous years' figures but still a busy event. Trading in catering outlets across the three days was brisk, noticeably more on the Friday.

## CONSERVATION

### Greenwood's Community Awards ceremony

12. Greenwood's Community Awards Ceremony was held on the evening of Monday 11 July. Greenwood is Nottinghamshire's Community Forest and the Greenwood Partnership has been working since 1991 to help revitalise its landscape and communities. Volunteers play a big role in looking after, improving and promoting use of local green spaces, so this event aims to acknowledge and thank those community groups, organisations and individuals who have made a difference.
13. The evening started informally with a barbecue, allowing volunteers and guests to mingle and chat. Councillor John Knight then opened the ceremony, in his role of Chair of the Greenwood Partnership, before passing on to Rod Fillingham, Chair of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum.
14. This year there were thirteen award winners, who came from different communities and age groups, and were recognised for a wide range of activities:
  - **ACCESS** (Annesley Community Committed to Sustainable Settlements) – which has played a key role in conservation of Oak Wood Fields.
  - **Alan Saxton** – recognised for his long standing service (and over 250 work sessions) with Warsop Footpaths Group.
  - **Anne Hubball** – a “champion” of the Sherwood Foragers health walking group, who had turned her hand to everything, even playing a witch at Halloween!
  - **Asquith Primary School** – which has an ongoing relationship with Fisher Lane Park, including planting trees and bulbs there.
  - **Mansfield Sea Cadets** – for help with litter picking on Mansfield's Oakham and Quarry Lane Nature Reserves.
  - **Ray Hallam** of Friends of Kingsmill Reservoir – for unstinting litter picking and control of invasive Himalayan balsam.
  - **James Jackson** and **Neil Smith** – two students recognised for their help with practical conservation and surveying activities at Gedling Country Park.
  - **Daniel Green** - for support with practical activities at Carlton Hill and Arnot Hill Park, alongside other green spaces in Gedling.
  - **Irene Bacon** – a longstanding volunteer who has given her time to help both Yeoman Hill Park and the Mansfield Woodhouse Millennium Green.
  - **Skills for Employment Programme** – a group which supports young people aged 16-24; recognised for their enthusiastic hard work at the Forestry Commission's Shirebook Wood and Oxclose Wood.
  - **Diane Townsend**, who has been an active member of the Friends of Moor Pond Wood since its inception.
  - **The Friends of Bennerley Viaduct**, who are working with Sustrans and others to conserve this iconic Victorian structure.

## 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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