

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE
AND THE GROUP MANAGER, PLANNING****SERVICE UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD 10 OCTOBER 2016 TO 2 JANUARY
2017****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****The Big Draw STEAM powered Exhibition Opens in Inspire's Worksop Library Gallery**

2. Everton and Mattersey Primary School children creatively marked the opening of Inspire: Culture Learning and Libraries, Big Draw Exhibition at Worksop Library Gallery on 18th November.
3. 30 young people, all of whom have work in the exhibition, helped Inspire to celebrate by working with artists in the Library and officially opening the exhibition. The exhibition is a celebration of the talent of the County and features light up drawings from all the workshops that have been held across the County during October's Big Draw Festival and a film about the project by local film makers:

<https://vimeo.com/191956179>
4. Inspire secured an Arts Council Grant for the Arts to extend the workshops to smaller libraries and to work with schools to run Big Draw workshops and add more amazing artworks to the exhibition.
5. 1,500 people participated in the Inspire Big Draw in over 30 libraries and in partnership with 17 schools.
6. Big Draw is for anyone who loves to draw, as well as for those who think they can't! Bringing together Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics, STEAM recalls our industrial past and the fusion of creative innovation, enterprise and the arts.
7. All ages across the County have worked with artists and Inspire to explore technology with creativity. Using conductive drawing materials, they have created beautiful drawings, added an electric circuit and turned art into science.

8. Library Gallery Tour dates are as follows:
- Worksop 15 November – 21 December 2016
 - West Bridgford 4 January – 19 February 2017
 - Mansfield 22 February – 17 April 2017
9. Founded in 2000, The Big Draw (formerly The Campaign for Drawing) is an arts education charity that promotes visual literacy and the universal language of drawing as a tool for learning, expression and invention. The charity leads a diversified programme encompassing advocacy, empowerment and engagement, and is the driving force behind the The Big Draw Festival – the world's biggest celebration of drawing:
- www.thebigdraw.org
10. Inspire runs the biggest library based Big Draw in the country.

The First – A Play about World War 1 for younger audiences

11. Worksop, Newark and Arnold libraries hosted a powerful theatre performance for schools in November. *The First*, a play about World War 1 for younger audiences is produced by The Spark Arts for Children. The Spark are Inspire's partner in an ongoing project called *Among Ideal Friends* which aims to give children, families and schools the opportunity to take part in great art and culture on their doorstep.
12. 250 Year 5 and 6 pupils from St Anne's Church of England Primary (Worksop), Sir Edmund Hillary Primary (Worksop), Barnby Road Academy (Newark) and Killisick Junior School (Arnold) attended their local library to see a performance.
13. The play tells the story of two best friends from a small town in the East Midlands and their experience of signing up to fight in the war. Feedback from children and teachers was very positive; with children reflecting on the experience of those that fought and the impact on their lives.
- "The visit was fantastic. I cannot stress how much we enjoyed it and how valuable we feel it has been". Barnby Road Academy*
14. The timing of the shows around Remembrance Day gave an extra resonance to the performances.
15. Among Ideal Friends is a new theatre touring consortium developed by The Spark Arts for Children in partnership with Libraries in the East Midlands. The Spark will be touring five seasons of theatre performances and workshops to libraries in Nottinghamshire County, Nottingham City, Leicester City and Leicestershire County in partnership with Rutland.

Inspire's new website

16. Inspire launched its new website at the beginning of November (www.inspireculture.org.uk). As well as having lots of information about Inspire's services, the website includes the facility for customers to book tickets for our many

events. Inspire and its web developer, Rock Kitchen Harris, has worked closely with the Council to ensure that all events information is syndicated between the Council's and Inspire's websites. Lots of positive feedback about the website has been received.

'An Inspired Christmas' – 9th December 2016

17. 2016 is the first year Inspire has been responsible for music development in Nottinghamshire's schools. December saw the culmination of 9 months' work with an event entitled 'An Inspired Christmas'.
18. This was a seasonal showcase for schools partnered with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain (NYCGB) and Nottinghamshire Music Hub to perform the work they have created. This popular and successful event took place at the prestigious Nottingham Royal Concert Hall, and was compered by former TV presenter and Inspire Board member John Hess.
19. The concert was a truly inspirational occasion, attended by many specially invited guests from Nottinghamshire County Council, Inspire members and partners from the music and cultural community in the County, and most of all hundreds of proud parents and families supporting the performers in the school choirs.
20. The Nottinghamshire schools involved in the concert along with performers from the NYCGB were The National Academy Hucknall, Tuxford Academy, Outward Academy Portland and The Minster School, Southwell. Alongside them we enjoyed singing from two of our Nottinghamshire singing hub schools John Blow Primary and Abbey Primary.
21. One of the NYCGB choral group who performed at the concert said:

"We were all bowled over by the complexity of the arrangements being performed by the partner schools and it was a real testament to the partnership with NYCGB that, on the vast stage, the very talented pupils were demonstrating complex extended vocal techniques with such ease."
22. The partnership between NYCGB and Nottinghamshire Music Hub was launched in May 2016 with a performance by school students from South Wolds and The National Academy along with the 2015-16 Fellowship octet at the Royal Concert Hall. The partnership is challenging the schools to create new teacher-led acappella ensembles which will establish themselves as a vital part of their school's artistic culture through regular performance. Working with the NYCGB artistic team with support from members of the NYCGB Fellowship Programme, the partnership will ignite a choral culture within secondary schools which will change students' expectations of singing, encourage individual and collective excellence and create a pathway for talented singers to progress to further opportunities regionally and nationally via auditions for NYCGB's five choirs. Nottingham's Royal Concert Hall will provide a high-profile stage for key performance and education events throughout the programme.

COUNTRY PARKS AND GREEN ESTATES

23. Despite variable weather, the Festive Season is normally a busy time at Rufford Abbey and Sherwood Forest Country Parks, which open every day through the holiday period

except for Christmas Day. A programme of family events tempts local people and tourists to visit (and spend in onsite commercial outlets) by providing low cost family fun in a relaxed country setting.

24. At Sherwood Forest Country Park, Tree Dressing Day on 4th December celebrated National Tree Week in England's most famous forest. This was followed on 9th – 11th December by 'Sparkling Sherwood', an extremely popular winter event whereby Sherwood's ancient oaks are gently illuminated. Other family favourites included St Nicholas's winter grotto, a Christmas Trail and the novel but well-loved annual Dog Grotto, presided over by 'Santa Paws!'
25. Rufford Abbey Country Park's traditional Christmas grotto and Christmas Trail took place each weekend from 19th November. Last year's woodland storytelling event was further developed this year and 'A Children's Tale' featuring elves and magical candy trees proved a seasonal highlight. Other entertainments ranged from brass bands and barbershop quartets to a night-time ghost hunt event, which sold out within a few days of being advertised.

CONSERVATION

Greenwood Community Forest

26. Tree planting in Greenwood Community Forest will receive a boost this year thanks to extra support from the Woodland Trust's 'Trees for Schools' programme. This is a Defra-funded programme, which provides free packs of trees for primary schools to plant in their grounds or in public spaces. There are a number of different packs available, to provide for different needs and each including between 30 and 420 trees.
27. The Woodland Trust is particularly keen to reach out to schools that have not previously received one of their packs, and so has recruited a number of partner organisations to help them in promoting and delivering the scheme. The Greenwood team was successful in its bid to provide this support in the districts of Ashfield, Mansfield, Broxtowe, Gedling and Newark and Sherwood. There are 71 schools that have not yet received a pack in these areas and the Greenwood team will be contacting them direct to encourage an application and to offer any support needed to allow the school to organise a successful planting.
28. Greenwood has also re-launched its own Community Tree Planting Grant Scheme, which offers up to £250 for schools and community groups to plant trees. Schools taking advantage of the Woodland Trust's 'Trees for Schools' programme may also apply for one of Greenwood's grants, to allow for more extensive planting, or to include some larger trees within their scheme.
29. Primary schools in Bassetlaw and Nottingham City may also be eligible for the 'Trees for Schools' programme: support in these areas is being provided by the Sherwood Forest Trust.
30. Schools that are interested should contact the Greenwood team on 0115 993 2600 or greenwood@nottscg.gov.uk.

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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