

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. L Bowen, Leisure & Culture Portfolio Holder	Council	1 December 2016	8(f)

<b>Executive Report: Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder</b>
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## 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Leisure and Culture Portfolio, as set out below.

## 2. Volunteering

- 2.1 The total number of hours donated by our volunteers to the end of September was 7,477, which is an increase from 6,343 at the same time last year and 5,313 in 2014. Our volunteer Digital Champion will soon be delivering a six week programme of basic IT and social media training. It is hoped both residents and volunteers will benefit from the courses. Access to Council services online will be promoted. During December some of our volunteers are also being offered the chance to be trained on dementia awareness. Two courses are planned.

## 3. Arts and Events

- 3.1 Local Wyre artists will soon be offered the opportunity to be involved in a comprehensive programme of professional development run by LeftCoast's Finding Talent officer, Jenny Rutter. The programme, starting this winter, will cover areas such as fundraising, business planning and commissioning.
- 3.2 Local event organisers are to be offered the opportunity to gain certification by completing a course that will qualify them to staff temporary road closures during the carnival and gala season. A successful course which was run three years ago by local traffic management firm Road Safety Services will be repeated in the New Year and will provide training for up to twelve event volunteers.
- 3.3 The Times and Tides Project which explored 'bereavement' through the art forms of dance, creative writing, music and craft making, held a number of participatory sessions during the October half-term at Cleveleys Community Centre. A pocket sized pull out booklet featuring some of the pieces of creating writing will be available soon for those involved in the project. The booklets will be available as a giveaway

from various outlets including our Tourist Information Centres and Co-op Funeral Care Services.

#### **4. Tourism and Visitor Services**

**4.1** Marsh Mill opened and its sails turned for its 222<sup>nd</sup> Birthday on 22 and 23 October. The event had an 'apples' theme as it coincided with National Apple Day. The Chairman of Friends of Marsh Mill shared the good news that a recent bid for £10,000 to the Heritage Lottery Fund had been successful. The sails turned once again for the Marsh Mill Village Christmas Lights Switch On that took place on 27 November. The switch on was a great success with craft stalls and opportunities for festive eating and drinking. The Mill is now closed for winter and will re-open from Good Friday 2017 at weekends only.

#### **5. Comments and questions**

**5.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of Council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.5.

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