

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	14 November 2019

Executive Report: Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder

1. Purpose of report

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

2. Cemeteries

- 2.1** I am pleased to report that the new Baby Memorial Garden at Poulton Cemetery, Garstang Road East is now open. The Council has been able to undertake improvement work with grant assistance from the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity (SANDS). The garden includes the creation of a beautiful mosaic by local artist Janine Walker and a plaque provided by Wyre Memorials. It is hoped that this new area will provide an opportunity for peaceful reflection for anyone who has experienced the death of a baby.
- 2.2** SANDS is a charity that supports anyone affected by the death of a baby. The organisation works in partnership with health professionals to try to ensure that bereaved parents and families receive the best possible care and also funds research that could help to reduce the numbers of babies dying and families devastated by this tragedy.

3. Arts and events

Fun Arts Group at Garstang Library

- 3.1** An exhibition is underway at Garstang Library to showcase the work of the Fun Arts Group which takes place every Thursday morning at the library. The session is attended by older people, many of whom have Dementia. The exhibition has a remembrance theme with various types of Poppy Art and will also help promote the Arts and Health programme. After being exhibited at the library the exhibition will be moving to our reception area here at the Civic Centre next to the Unknown Soldier.

4. Active Lives and Community Engagement

My Place Project – Lancashire Wildlife Trust

- 4.1** We have just started a new project with Lancashire Wildlife Trust. The My Place Project is a two year project that aims to help people who have mental health problems through taking part in outdoor activities. The Project Officer will initially be working with individuals referred to the project at North Drive in Cleveleys and at Tower Wood. The project will be supported by our Ranger Service and the Engagement Team.

Wyre Sports Awards

- 4.2** On Wednesday 9 October we celebrated the borough's sporting superstars as the achievements of nine individuals, clubs and schools were recognised at the Wyre Sports Awards.
- 4.3** The awards were given out to showcase Wyre's sporting talent after clubs, coaches, players and parents were asked to nominate those in the community who deserved to be recognised for their efforts.
- 4.4** The winners of the 2019 awards were:
- Primary School of the Year – Hambleton Primary School.
 - Community Project of the Year – YMCA Your Move
 - Secondary School of the Year – Hodgson Academy
 - Club of the Year – Fleetwood Cricket Club
 - Services to Under-represented Groups – Josh Landmann (Para Alpine Skiing and Paratriathlon)
 - Volunteer of the Year – Sarah Skelton, (Garstang Hockey Club)
 - Young Achiever of the Year – Isabella Lyons (Rhythmic Gymnastics)
 - Coach of the Year – Kev McGuirk (Fleetwood Town Juniors)
 - Lifetime Achievement – Steve Abbott (Thornton Cleveleys Football Club)
- 4.5** The Mayor presented each winner with their certificate and they will now go forward to represent Wyre at the Lancashire Sports Awards, the largest celebration of amateur sport in the county, which takes place on 22 November.

5. Marsh Mill

- 5.1** There was an event held for the 225th Birthday Party on 19 and 20 October 2019 with live performances from Scold's Bridle and the Windmill Players. The event was a great success and welcomed around 200 visitors. Photographers visited from the Lancashire Evening Post and Blackpool Gazette.
- 5.2** Marsh Mill will open for the Christmas lights switch-on, on 24 November when the sails will turn.

6. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

- 6.1** Marine Hall took part in Heritage Open Days on 20, 21 and 22 September. These were very popular and welcomed 105 extra visitors into the venue for a tour of the ballroom and to find out more about its heritage.
- 6.2** On Saturday 12 October, world renowned musician Dame Evelyn Glennie visited Marine Hall to give an 'In Conversation with' during the morning followed by an evening recital. This event was funded by 'The Access Fylde Coast Project', a unique project that not only plays an important part in changing preconceptions about disability but is also aiming to enhance The Fylde Coast as an outstanding location for people with disabilities – both visitors and residents. A major part of the project includes a series of events which showcase high-profile disabled performers. Dame Evelyn Glennie has been profoundly deaf since the age of 12. She has overcome many challenges and is considered to be the World's best percussionist. Over 250 people attended the 'In Conversation with', including many local school children who were thrilled to get the chance to ask Dame Evelyn questions and have their photo taken with her and more than 350 people attended the evening recital.
- 6.3** November is shaping up to be the theatres' busiest month of the year with 26 events happening in 26 days at Marine Hall and the same at Thornton Little Theatre. There are only 5 days with no events taking place at Marine Hall in November and only 6 days with no bookings at Thornton Little Theatre.

7. Comments and questions

- 7.1** 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.