

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr Lynne Bowen, Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder	Council	7 December 2017	11(f)

Executive Report: Leisure and Culture 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 and Culture Portfolio, as set out below.

2. Arts, Events and Volunteering

Christmas Lights Switch On Events

- 2.1** Christmas light switch on events have taken place across the Borough beginning with Fleetwood on 18 of November, Marsh Mill on 26 November and Poulton-le-Fylde on 1 December. Events have been organised alongside parades, festive celebrations and Christmas markets and I would like to thank the many volunteers in our community and colleagues across our Town and Parish Councils for the important roles that they have played in once again making our communities look bright and festive at this very special time of year.

Larkholme Grasslands School Workshops

- 2.2** Two local artists have delivered workshops with Larkholme Primary School which went very well. All the work that has been produced from these sessions has now been collated and a panel which includes officers from across our Engineering, Countryside Ranger and Arts Teams together with Stephen Broadbent will decide collectively what work will be included in the final design options for the Grassland.

Volunteering

- 2.3** The Volunteer Service has been working with the Engagement Team on Together We Make A Difference (TWMAD). Specifically support has been provided to help a group of residents improve an area of open-space in Thornton. Our Volunteer Coordinator will be further assisting the TWMAD roadshow which will be visiting various locations around Wyre from 5-8 December, promoting community engagement and volunteering.

3. Sports Development

Wyre Sports Awards

- 3.1** I can confirm that the Wyre Sports Awards winners who went on to represent Wyre at the Lancashire Sports Awards on 24 November were:

Coach of the Year – Roy Clarke (Shakespeare Primary School)
Community Club of the Year – Wyre Wheels
Young Volunteer of the Year – Joe Stockell
Adult Volunteer of the Year – David Lawson (Pilling Primary School)
Primary School of the Year – Garstang Community Primary School
Secondary School of the Year – Garstang Community Academy
Young Achiever of the Year - Kieran Antony Wilkinson (Sale Sharks Rugby)
Lifetime Achievement - Commitment to Sport – John Ball (Garstang Cricket Club)
Community Project of the year – Fleetwood Town Fylers Football Club
Contribution to Women’s Participation – Chris Morton (Fleetwood Town Juniors)

Congratulations to all of our winners and thank you for the important role that each of them play in promoting and supporting sport in Wyre.

Community Table Tennis

- 3.2** Following a successful funding application to England Table Tennis earlier in the year to provide a table and equipment at Fleetwood YMCA the project has been awarded funding through Healthier Fleetwood to help create a new table tennis group at the centre.

Walking and Cycling Strategy

- 3.3** Lancashire County Council aided by a wider partnership of stakeholders are developing a Cycling and Walking Strategy for Lancashire that aims to tackle worsening levels of physical inactivity. The ambitious plan aims to double the number of people cycling by 2026 and increase walking by 10% over the same period. The strategy will shape local spending priorities aimed at developing Lancashire's walking and cycling offer over the next ten years.

Tackling Inactivity and Economic Disadvantage

- 3.4** Fylde Coast YMCA have recently submitted an expression of interest to Sport England’s Tackling Inactivity and Economic Disadvantage Fund. If successful the development grant would be used to increase capacity and bring together key partners from the Healthier Fleetwood partnership to undertake research and work up a Stage Two application which would be targeted at increasing participation in lower socio-economic groups in Fleetwood, particularly the Pharos and Park Wards.

4. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

- 4.1** The wedding offer at Marine Hall has continued to spark interest and generate new business, with several full page editorials appearing in Fleetwood and Blackpool newspapers. Press reviews have included photos of a happy couple up at The Mount Pavilion. This photo opportunity

has been built into Marine Hall's wedding offer; providing couples with the chance to enjoy this unique Fleetwood asset with wonderful views.

- 4.2** We are receiving an increasing number of filming requests, from local, regional, national and international TV production companies and Radio stations. Several pieces of filming have taken place over the last few months which have featured Marine Hall and events taking place in and around the venue, and there are others still in discussion.
- 4.3** BBC Radio Lancashire will be broadcasting from Marine Hall at least twice this December. Brett and Sally will present their mid-morning show on the 15th as hosts of a Christmas Concert with special guests 'The Band of the Kings Division'. The tickets for this concert were issued free from the BBC and Marine Hall and we expect a full house. The concert will be live on the BBC from 10am until 12 noon.
- 4.4** On Monday 18th, BBC Radio Lancashire return with John Gilmore to broadcast live from our festive afternoon tea dance.
- 4.5** Our new, drop-in singing session, set up at Marine Hall at the end of September, called 'Harmony and Health' continues to go from strength to strength. These sessions are open to anyone and have been taking place every Tuesday afternoon, starting at 1.30pm. The project is a partnership between Healthier Fleetwood and Wyre Council and will run until 19th December. The aim of the project is to improve well-being through singing. No experience is necessary. The sessions so far have regularly brought in over 50 people, many of whom have health issues. These sessions provide non-intimidating and relaxed social interaction. The BBC recently came to film one of the sessions as part of their interest in Healthier Fleetwood. The group has agreed to meet and sing at Fleetwood Market on 14th December as part of the festive community activities taking place there over the coming weeks.
- 4.6** Visitor numbers to Marine Hall have grown over the last few months. The Heritage weekend brought in around 500 extra visitors on top of those already attending events. The Annual Food and Drink Festival was more successful than ever with many of the stallholders rebooking on the day for the Christmas Market which took place on 19th November. Each of these events attract over 5,000 customers; a mix of local people and visitors from much further afield.
- 4.7** The Annual Fleetwood Fireworks Night was also a great success. Marine Hall worked closely with The Rotary to ensure a great night for all. New food and drink concessions were brought in and our bar and café areas (including the Mount Pavilion) were open for visitors to enjoy a drink and keep warm in between the entertainment. Stars from this year's Panto were also in the venue, promoting the show and having photos taken. Over 1,000 people passed through the doors of Marine Hall on the night.
- 4.8** Both Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre were used in connection with Civic Events and Services for Remembrance Sunday.

- 4.9** Thornton Little Theatre has attracted a number of new local hirers, and more of our community groups are coming on board with the Theatre's computerised ticket system rather than trying to sell their own paper tickets.
- 4.10** The new brochure for the Wyre Theatres programme from January 2018 is currently being developed. Next year is already shaping up to be a very busy one!

5. Tourism

Lancashire Tourism Awards – 9 November

- 5.1** Wyre had five finalists in the recent Lancashire Tourism Awards which showcased the best tourism and hospitality businesses in Lancashire. We had one winner on the night which was Dewlay Cheesemakers in the Lancashire Producers and Makers Category. My congratulations go to Dewlay.

Garstang Victorian Festival

- 5.2** Garstang Victorian Festival will be taking place in Garstang on 11 and 12 December. The Visit Garstang Tourism Information Centre is an integral part of this event and, supported by the Countryside Team, will be open on both days and evenings to promote Garstang, Wyre and Lancashire. The Centre will be selling a range of Christmas gifts and will have a small local arts and crafts fair as well as bookable crafting workshops for visitors.

6. Comments and questions

- 6.1** 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.