

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	9 January 2020

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. Self Care Week 2019

- 2.1** As part of the national campaign for self-care week, we have delivered a variety of events across Wyre with the focus being 'Think Self Care for Life'. For this year's campaign we delivered a six week work based programme with Blackpool Sixth Form College to develop a campaign for self-care for young people in Wyre. The outcomes of this project were launched with a social media campaign in association with the college and Fylde Coast Clinical Commissioning Groups and will continue to be promoted in local GP surgeries and schools.
- 2.2** We attended the Hopewalk in Calder Vale with information on mental health and wellbeing services. Our 60+ event for older residents in Poulton, Memory Monday (Community Reminiscence), reached out to 50 residents and was supported by Care and Repair, Lancashire Falls Service and NatWest Community Banking with eight residents being referred through to further support.
- 2.3** In partnership with the Garstang Arts Centre we also delivered an afternoon of art and wellbeing supported by many groups from the centre and the volunteers of the Fun Arts Group. The team also attended the International Men's Health Day Event in Fleetwood, the Health and Wellbeing Festival at Garstang Library and supported Patient Participation Group events at Queensway and Over Wyre Medical Centres. Twenty local cafes supported the week with our Self Care Week coasters on their tables for customers to take home. The artwork created by the Fun Arts Group was shared with the community with details of the health and wellbeing offer from the council on the reverse of the coaster.

3. Tourism and Visitor Services

3.1 We were pleased to support the Garstang Victorian Festival held on 9 and 10 December 2019. The Visit Garstang Centre opened for extended hours on both dates in line with other businesses and activities taking place in the town. Activities at the Visit Garstang Centre included local arts and crafts on display and for sale, traditional crafting workshops and a Wyre Rangers' led workshop as well as the launch of the Wyre Great Outdoor 2020 programme. Media coverage of the event was good with BBC Radio Lancashire covering the event on a number of occasions during the lead up.

3.2 The Lancashire Tourism awards took place in November 2019 and Wyre winners included:-

- Self-Catering Accommodation of the Year – Barnacre Cottages
- New Tourism Business – The Flower Bowl
- Accessible and inclusive Tourism Award – Brickhouse Farm Cottages

3.3 The Marsh Mill Christmas event supporting the 'village Christmas lights switch on' took place on 24 November 2019. There were over 100 visitors who specifically visited Marsh Mill and enjoyed tours led by our volunteers, seeing the sails turn, crafting and a photography exhibition by Stefan Fish.

4. Wyre Theatres

4.1 The annual Pantomime at Marine Hall sold more advance tickets than ever before with three out of the seven planned performances selling out in advance. We have introduced a 'relaxed' performance for the first time and this took place on Friday 13 December, with the support and financial assistance of The Access Fylde Coast Project. A BSL (British Sign Language) interpreter was involved in the Panto for the first time, making our performances more inclusive for customers. We are extremely proud that the panto has been so popular this year. During the same weekend, Thornton Little Theatre hosted a community produced panto which also sold well.

4.2 Marine Hall hosted its first same sex wedding ceremony the day after the Wyre Business awards on 6 December. The Wyre Weddings brand is attracting more attention, especially from couples who want an individually tailored wedding service.

5. Environmental Health

5.1 Our Environmental Health (Food Safety) officers are currently working towards improving hygiene standards within our wet fish processing plants operating at Fleetwood Docks. Officers work with food business owners and Associated British Ports to improve the premises, but perhaps more importantly practices. In the majority of cases we are receiving good co-operation from the food business operators, but where this is not forthcoming the council will have no hesitation in pursuing more formal action as appropriate.

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.

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