

Meeting Date: 5 November 2013

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Culture, Health, Leisure & Young People Portfolio Holder's Report**
– Councillor Anne Quilter

The Old Fire Station

The City Council is currently developing a pilot programme for the Old Fire Station, which includes extensive engagement with local artists to fill the programme over the coming months and promoting the forthcoming Arts Centre to the general public and potential partners.

Between May and September the Old Fire Station was used to build large pieces of art, to be used for the Pageant Parade. A broad variety of community groups and the general public participated through workshops based at The Old Fire Station. Over 300 people took part in the workshops with approx 150 taking part in the parade, alongside 33 newly made giant puppets and large pieces of art.

From October 2013 to June 2014 The Old Fire Station will be used to trial a pilot programme of initiatives. Currently there are five groups who will imminently be using the space:

- Soundwave - opera singing workshops open to the general public;
- Creative Wellbeing - Arts and crafts and creative writing workshops, working particularly with adults needing confidence building and signposting as well as the broader public
- Cumbria Dance - Dance, music and movement sessions for pre-school children
- Impecunious - Puppet making working with participants from the Pageant
- Darth Audio - Digital audio recording studio and workshops open to all.

There are another three groups waiting to confirm dates to join the pilot programme.

Talks are well underway with the University of Cumbria, to look at working in partnership around exhibitions, use of space and formally linking up with students, potentially to offer apprenticeship style opportunities. The University are also interested in being part of our outreach model, offering skills and venues.

From June 2014 the pilot programme will end and the Old Fire Station will be closed for refurbishment until February 2015. In this period the opening Art Centre programme will be developed, as will an active 'arts outreach' programme.

Events

Fireshow

Plans are well underway for this year's annual Fireshow to be held on Saturday 2nd November in Bitts Park, Carlisle. Pre-entertainment will start at 6.30pm and the bonfire lit at 7pm. The whole event is likely to last for around an hour. Admission is free, although collections will be made for the Mayor's Charity Fund and Rotary Club Carlisle (South). Spectators are being asked to generously, as local charities will benefit. It will be the 27th Fireshow event staged by Carlisle City Council. A giant bonfire will be centre stage and more than 2,000 spectacular fireworks will also make sure the event goes with a 'bang'.

This year's Carlisle City Council Fireshow will bring the city's history to life with a sparkling tale that will include Romans, an evil sheriff and a battling King.

The established community event will be themed on 'The Carlisle Story' and will animate the city's history with a dramatic tale which spans from Roman times and includes the Great Fire of Carlisle in 1292. There will also be an appearance by the menacing Sheriff de Lucy who refused the citizens of Carlisle their right to trade, (all because the great fire burnt away the documents proclaiming their rights to trade) and the resurgence of the city as a thriving market town by King Edward III.

This year's theme links in with the Carlisle Pageant, held this August, which also celebrated the city's history and involved the ancient proclamation of the Great Fair by King Edward III in 1352.

Fireshow FunDay

Plans are also underway to hold a Fireshow Funday in the City Centre that will compliment the already popular and successful Fireshow that is held each year at Bitts Park. The aim

is to encourage a mix of young, old and diverse residents into the city centre so that the foot fall is increased, enhancing businesses and engaging with the residents so that they can spend a fun free afternoon in Carlisle before moving on to Bitts Park to attend the Fireshow.

The event is sponsored by Carlisle College and will run from 2pm – 6pm. A variety of activities will take place in the city centre pedestrianised area, the Tourist Information Centre plus a local band playing on the Bandstand. Entertainment will include facepainters, photobooth, mix & mingle crowd entertainers (including a Fire Breather), Fire Service Community Volunteers and some food stalls.

Christmas Lights Switch-On

Christmas Lights Switch-On will take place on Sunday 17th November – event commences at 2pm with entertainment including a carol service, Carlisle Song for Christmas, dance performances, comedy entertainment, panto fun plus some celebrities followed by a countdown to the switch-on at 5.30pm.

Sports Development

Various activities relating to sport and Physical activity continue to be developed across Carlisle and include

- The Sport and Physical Activity strategy is finalised and work is now concentrating on the Sports facility strategy and playing pitch strategy. A steering group involving the University of Cumbria, Carlisle Leisure, Carlisle College, Richard Rose Morton Academy, Active Cumbria and Cumbria County Council are advising on the strategy to produce a coherent plan for sports facilities in Carlisle.
- An agreement with British Cycling to develop trained ride leaders, route planners and organise and deliver over 50 led cycle rides in Carlisle over the coming 18 months. This is thanks to funding from Groundworks UK and British Cycling. The first 2 led rides were organised as part of the Tour of Britain and started at Watchtree Nature Reserve and the Sands Centre respectively. 50 adults and children took part in the rides. A cycle leader course has also taken place to train 10 new adults to be ride leaders.
- Supporting Carlisle Sports Council to organise the 2013 Carlisle Sports Awards. The awards take place on the 26th October at the Shepherd's inn. Local clubs, coaches and volunteers will be celebrated on the evening.



- Successful sports specific camps have taken place as part of the Go 4 it holiday schemes including tennis at Bitts Park and Athletics at the Sheepmount stadium.
- Applied to the tennis foundation for Carlisle to be a disability tennis hub to include the development of wheelchair tennis, visually impaired tennis and tennis for those with physical and mental disabilities. The application was successful and we received £4000 to develop disability tennis.
- We are currently working with England Athletics to develop outdoor running routes linked to Parks and Open Spaces.
- We are currently working with Carlisle Rifle Club based at the Sheepmount stadium to look at facility aspirations linked to Club development.
- The Sport England community activation fund is going well. The SPAA foundation are delivering this for us and the Activate Young People Clubs take place Tuesday to Saturday in different parts of the City including urban and rural areas. A new Asian men's football session has also been set up as part of this scheme.
- The junior tennis programme at Bitts Park attracts 180 young people per week to various parks tennis activities. Free schools tennis is also being provided at Bitts Park and in local primary schools as part of the tennis development plan.
- Currently taking an advisory role with the Harraby Project. This involves ensuring the correct specification of facilities are developed and local clubs, sports and national governing bodies of sport are consulted with.

Tullie House Update

Mechanical Circus Exhibition

This entertaining, circus-style exhibition at Tullie House opens in February 2014 and is inspired by Tullie House's popular Flying Reiver. The exhibition combines modern mechanical sculptures with centuries-old physics games and puzzles to prove that science and technology are alive and absorbing.

The outreach programme will take place in the run up to the exhibition opening and is targeted at schools and youth clubs across Carlisle. There will be a number of workshops which will engage children and young people with arts and culture through bringing exhibits to them. The workshops aim to demystify the museum and encourage people to celebrate local art and culture.

Youth Club participants will receive an accredited award called the Arts Award and will be invited to a celebration event at Tullie House. This funding will be used to target specific

areas of deprivation in Carlisle where children and young people do not access the museum or art projects with a view to bridge this gap.

Tullie House Trust is delighted to have received a grant from the Community Grant from the Cumbria County Council, Carlisle Local Committee and the Cooperative's Community Fund towards a planned outreach programme to accompany the UK premier of the Mechanical Circus exhibition.

Victorian Film Day

With Arts Council funding Tullie House Trust commissioned a film about Victorian Carlisle. They commissioned a digital artist filmmaker, and historical interpreter based on Mr Dixon of Dixon's chimney fame. In the re enactment Mr Dixon did a tour of Tullie House (his home) and was interviewed by various urchins and mill workers from Dixon's factory. The cast, home educated youngsters and their parents will be set within historic photos using the magic of green screen techniques. The film will be used for promotional purposes as an introduction to secondary school workshops.

The Big Draw 2013

On Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 October Tullie House ran a weekend of art activities in partnership with the Big Draw 2013 and the Family Arts Festival. This is the largest drawing festival in the world. Over the weekend Tullie House Visitors joined artist Pui Lee as she invited them to 'Draw Tomorrow' inspired by artefacts from our collection, contemplating how museums in the future may be filled with cases of ancient I-pads and Xboxes and ran by robots!

The Big Draw runs from 1 October to 3 November in fifteen countries, with more than 200,000 people of all ages expected to take part in 900+ events. Hundreds of new and enjoyable drawing activities connect people of all ages with museums, outdoor spaces, artists - and each other. These events are for those who love to draw, and those who think they can't.

Since its launch in 2000, The Big Draw has successfully supported the Campaign for Drawing's aims by encouraging everyone to draw. Big Draw events highlight the power of drawing to help people see, think, invent and take action

Hartnell to Amies Exhibition

Tullie House will be hosting an outstanding costume exhibition of dresses designed by Couturiers Hartnell, Amies and Others. The exhibition is open between 26 October 2013 – 26 January 2014. This retrospective exhibition of stunning frocks, accessories and daywear by Her Majesty the Queen's designers Hartnell and Amies between the 1920s and 1990s. The exhibition showcases the elegant, innovative couture of ground-breaking

designers Norman Hartnell, Hardy Amies and others. It explores how the Queen's patronage of ground-breaking British designers helped put London on the international fashion map after the Second World War and celebrates the timeless elegance of fashionable 20th century British couture. Fashion exhibitions have been extremely popular at Tullie House and the Hartnell to Amies exhibition is going to be no exception. Tullie House is working with fashion and design students. A series of talks, tours and a learning programme will take place throughout the course of the exhibition.

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