

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE SPORT AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**COUNCILLOR DAMIAN TALBOT**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING**

**DIRECTOR:**

**MARTIN EDEN**

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**CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT KING GEORGE'S HALL & DARWEN LIBRARY THEATRE.**

The start of the new financial year has been very positive with a small growth in all areas. Blakeys is doing well and has recently promoted the "Children eat Free" over the summer holidays. Excerpts from Dickenson's Real Deal might be shown on TV next spring. One of the most prestigious events at KGH has been the filming of the Northern Soul Film on the 11<sup>th</sup> August with over 1000 extras plus crew and some well known stars, such as Ricky Tomlinson, Steve Coogan and Lisa Stansfield.

**YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICES SUMMER HOLIDAY PROVISION 2012**

The summer holiday programme for children and young people aged 5-19 years is well underway operating out of various venues across the borough. Knott Street Youth Centre is offering seven days a week provision for children and young people from 5-19 years of age. The Leisure Centres also remain popular with activities in the pools and sports halls.

Outdoor evening engagement of young people on the all-weather pitches is again successful with activities at ten venues per day being offered six nights a week. Community Centres are again hosting play programmes for children aged 5-8 years which are very popular.

Programmes for children with disabilities are full to capacity and, as always, are appreciated by parents and carers. The Borough Barge is offering one-night residentials and day trips for children and young people across the borough, and the residential complex at Kentmere is fully booked to the end of August. These residentials are in addition to the Water Park residential which is subsidised by the Eric Wright Trust.

**LEISURE HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

From August 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 the Healthy Lifestyle Team have been commissioned to coordinate 111 clinics delivering the free NHS Health Checks – these checks assess your risk of developing heart disease, type 2 diabetes, kidney disease and stroke. This further supports the commitment through re:refresh to improve health and wellbeing. The first clinics have already been held in the Mall, at Sudellside Fun Day and Darwen Health Centre; all fully booked with 30 Health Checks completed. More community clinics are booked for the coming weeks as well as the agreed focus on delivering health checks in workplaces.

**MUSEUMS SERVICE**

Essential building work continues at Turton Tower. Reconstruction of the chimney is complete and work is now focused on replacing the roof of the main Tower. Despite being encased in scaffolding the Tower is still able to attract visitors. So far this summer the visitor numbers to the Tower are exceeding those for the same months last year. When the scaffold and internal works are finally finished the Tower will be able to present itself as an even more attractive destination for visitors and continue this increasing usage unhindered. Events and activities inside the Tower and in the grounds remain popular which regular farmers markets and the annual outdoor Shakespeare event both well attended despite the inclement weather. It has been very pleasing to see the number of volunteers assisting at the Tower which has been increasing significantly over the past twelve months. Thanks go out to all of the volunteers who are giving up their time.