

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

COUNCILLOR DAMIAN TALBOT

PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING

DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN

DATE: 1-10-15

KING GEORGE'S HALL

Comedy and concert highlights this period included a return performance by Jimmy Carr which attracted over 1250 people and performances by rock legends the Stranglers, Stereo MC's and Iron Maiden's Steve Harris. The Mall chose KGH for their annual award ceremony for the first time this year and immediately rebooked for 2016. The wedding season has now commenced with KGH hosting 6 weddings between July and September.

DARWEN LIBRARY THEATRE

The DLT Film Society programmed several children's film showings during the summer holidays which have attracted good audiences. 'The Bond Now Are', a local band sold out their performance at DLT. The new monthly Comedy Club nights are thriving and proving a big success and the Afternoon Variety shows continue to serve the community.

RE:FRESH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

2014/15 saw the highest recorded level of active adults and the highest ever recorded levels of physical activity. There were 654,998 BeeZ Card attendances, which is an increase of 31,927 compared to 2013/14. Free leisure attendances remain a significant underpinning factor for the success of increasing participation rates with 50% (326,397) of beeZ card attendances being re:fresh free leisure activities.

BLACKBURN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Cotton to Gold exhibition will be showing from 12 September until 14 November. Cotton to Gold is an extravaganza of many of the best items that have been given to the Museum. We will be showing E L Hartley's Turner watercolours, R E Hart's medieval book collection and gold coins, T B Lewis's collections of Japanese prints and Orthodox Christian icons, Bowdlers beetles and the Howard's collection of British birds..

The exhibition opening coincided with heritage week. The private view was on Friday 11 September. Cynthia Johnson gave a talk on Hart and his Collection on Saturday 12 September. John Goldfinch Head of Incunabula, British and Early Printed collections at the British Library also gave a talk on the early printed Works in Hart collection on Sunday 13 September.

SUMMER OFF FOR FUN 2015

Young Peoples Service delivered a wide ranging and comprehensive programme of activities for children and young people of all abilities, aged 5-19 years during the four weeks of August. In addition family fun days were delivered throughout the Borough every weekend.

Highlights of the OFF programme included:

- Outdoor adventurous activities such as mountain biking, water sports, activity days at the Anderton Residential Centre, dinghy sailing and powerboating courses.
- 2 and 3 day residential delivered throughout the summer.
- MUGA activities every evening across each of the neighbourhoods.
- Play schemes within Leisure Centres and Community Centres every afternoon throughout the four weeks.
- Mobile play schemes throughout the four weeks in the Borough's parks and open spaces.

The family fun days proved a great success and included activities such as the climbing wall, face painting, badge making etc. Fun Days were held in Blackburn Town Centre, Mill Hill Community Centre and Park, Darwen Knott Street, Bangor Street Community Centre. The Leisure Inclusion team also offered all day, all week provision for Children with Disabilities at Kaleidoscope Youth Centre. Activities included dance & movement, cooking, arts & crafts, boccia, wake & shake and sensory activities.