

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

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DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN  
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### **Community Assets**

Opening of the new Shadsworth Hub - The Shadsworth Hub build is complete, the official opening was held on Monday 27th June. The £4 million Shadsworth Community Hub and Enterprise Centre provides a community facility above five retail shops on the ground

### **Young People's Service**

The past couple of months has been a particularly productive period within the neighbourhood sessions with Youth Work Curriculum completed by 78 juniors (8-12 yrs) and 198 seniors (13-19). Delivery focused on prevention and early intervention work around substance misuse and relationships (bullying, home life, sexual, CSE). In addition to neighbourhood sessions 21 residentials were also delivered to engage young people around team building activities, substance misuse, relationships, Cleaner and Greener theme and Community Cohesion, which concluded with a borough-wide community cohesion football tournament.

Leisure Inclusion – Young People's Services in partnership with Children's Services will deliver the summer short breaks.

Universal holiday provision has been commissioned to Blackburn Youth Zone. We are supporting BYZ to ensure an effective offer is placed over the busy summer holiday period to meet the needs of local children and young people and their families.

### **Healthy Lifestyles**

A Volunteer Celebration Event was held on Sunday 12th June at Audley Sports and Community Centre, as part of National Volunteers week. Re:fresh's 100+ volunteers contributed 8,190 hours of their time in 2015/16 to promote the benefits of being physically active and supporting individuals and groups to improve their health and wellbeing. The re:refresh programme also supports accredited training for volunteers to increase community capacity and opportunities – award certificates were also presented during the event.

## **Witton Park**

There has been a conscious effort to increase the number of events held at Witton Park in 2016-17, successfully attracting a varied range of new events whilst retaining popular, annual bookings.

Funding has been secured through Tesco's National Charity Partnership to install new walking / running routes with way-markers through the park along with new information lecterns. "A Walk in the Park" family fun day will launch these new countryside developments

The refurbished athletics track continues to attract new bookings. Local schools secondary schools continue to regularly use the outdoor facilities for their PE classes and school sports days have been held most weeks since half term. Several primary schools from within and outside the borough have come to the park to enjoy the outdoor learning activities offered for their summer school trip.

## **Eid in the Park**

At 8.30am on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July, over 1200 people attended an outdoor prayer event at Witton Park Arena to celebrate Eid Al-Fitr day. Eid in the Park Blackburn Committee organised the event to help unite the communities of Blackburn and the surrounding areas.

The celebrations were an important milestone as thousands of people across the borough have spent the previous four weeks fasting for around 19 hours a day. The Eid celebrations mark the end of Ramadhan. It was especially pleasing that this year there was one Eid on one day for everyone across the Borough to celebrate together.

The event's Charity partner was the Human Appeal and proceeds from the three days were donated to this good cause.

The Eid celebrations in Blackburn continued with events at Witton Park the following weekend on Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10, 2016. A family fun festival was organised and people from all communities were invited to take part in a variety of different activities including: Funfair Rides, Donkey Rides, Bouncy Castles, Mini Golf/Crazy Golf, Archery Food Stalls, Clothing Stalls and much more.

## **Library Services**

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 21016, the Library Service said farewell and a happy retirement to two of its senior managers, Kath Sutton, Service Manager retired after a career in Libraries spanning 36 years. Jean Gabbatt, Principal Librarian retired after a career spanning 37 years, 31 of which were spent working in Blackburn. Kath and Jean were instrumental in managing significant changes in the library service including the introduction of new technology such as the new library management system, RFID self-service machines and WIFI.

### **Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery**

The first four folio editions of the plays of William Shakespeare are on show at Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery until 31 August. This unique exhibition commemorates the 400th anniversary of the death of the playwright. Included is one of 5 first editions that remain in this country, on loan to us from Stonyhurst College. Blackburn's own Edward Hart collected fine examples of the Second, Third and Fourth Folio, which he gifted to the people of Blackburn for display in the museum, of which the 3rd Folio is an extremely rare survivor of the great fire of London. The exhibition is supported by a talk the eminent Shakespeare scholar Professor Sir Brian Vickers on the 8th July at 2 pm thanks to our continuing partnership with the University of London.

### **ARTS SERVICES**

#### **Blackburn Urban Room**

Urban Room Blackburn is a month long festival that focuses on urban culture and looks at art and architecture in public spaces. It kicked off with Blackburn Open Walls, a project that saw six female street artists decorate walls around the town centre from Lords St West, The Mall and Youthzone. It was curated by artist Hayley Welsh originally from Blackburn who now lives in Australia and included Blackburn based Alexandra Gallagher

Activity will happen throughout July including on Friday July 15 a tour of Blackburn's Cotton Exchange will be held by Alastair Murdoch, Chair of Re:Source a charity that is aiming to restore the building. He will explain plans for the redevelopment and regeneration of the former Apollo cinema and the transformation of it into a new cultural asset for the town. This will be followed on Tuesday, July 19 by A Modern Blackburn which sees architect Altaf Master from Capita explain the ideas behind the design of Blackburn's new bus station in the context of other contemporary buildings he has designed.

For more information about Urban Room Blackburn visit [www.blackburnisopen.co.uk](http://www.blackburnisopen.co.uk)