

**EXECUTIVE REPORT****FULL 12.04.05****CULTURAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR MICHAEL ASHBROOK - PORTFOLIO HOLDER****PHILIP SUTTON - LEAD OFFICER****1 KEY ISSUES - PROGRESS REPORT****1.1 BEACON AND TIC**

Whilst overall Visitor Figures for The Beacon during February were slightly short of last year's figure Harbour Gallery and room hire numbers for February and March were greater than for the same time last year. In fact February visits to the gallery were over twice those seen last year and visits by school groups has risen by a factor of 4 thanks to the excellent work of Arts Development who have arranged a series of workshops with Kells, Kells infants, Valley, Monkwearay and Ehenside Schools to compliment the latest exhibition.

An exciting programme of workshops including craft workshops, "Haven" and "Arty Buoyz", devised by West Walls Studios and Arts Development Officer, Dave Chapple, and "Dinosaur Eggs", "Rocking Romans" and "Remulus Rocks" with re-enactor Ian McNichol have been arranged for the Easter holidays.

On 26 February, the Young Archaeologists Club turned the Education Suite into their very own cave, decorated with prehistoric-style cave paintings. On 26 March the Club travel to Gosforth to investigate the Viking Cross with Norse Mythology expert Rachel Brookes. New members are always welcome.

It is pleasing to note that of the five (out of 14) TIC's in Cumbria that increased their visitor figures during 2004 Whitehaven, Egremont, and Millom all featured.

**1.2 SPORTS DEVELOPMENT**

A Netball Skills Day has been organized at Wyndham School on 6<sup>th</sup> April. We are very excited that coach Anna Newell, a former England Squad Member and head coach for the North West has agreed to take the sessions aimed at young people of all abilities. The day launches a long-term development plan for the establishment of a junior clubs in Copeland as non currently exist.

The New coach Education Brochure is now available from the Community Development Officer (Sport). It includes Netball Level 1 Coaching Course at Whitehaven Sports Centre, Child Protection, FUNdamentals, Long Term Athlete Development, First Aid, Equity, Funding Your Club, Coaching Disabled Performers and other Sport Specific Coaching Courses.

The Healthy Lifestyle scheme has been a huge success. A number of pupils have now collected the points necessary to claim a free leisure activity and we are

pleased to announce that Egremont Pool has joined the scheme. In fact the scheme has been so well received by year 8 pupils, it's been extended to year 7 as well.

The March round of the Sport Action Zone Community Pot saw grants awarded to: Gosforth Greengarth RUFC towards new flood lighting, St James Infants After School Football Club to support a coach through his level 1 football coaching course, Distington Club For Young People to replace old and worn out sports equipment, Furness & District Referee Society, to purchase equipment to train and qualify new referees, North Copeland Youth Partnership to hold a sports festival and Whitehaven Table Tennis Club for a new table tennis robot. The Deadline for the next round of applications, which are available on the website, is 1<sup>st</sup> June 2005.

### **1.3 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

The Parks Dept have just completed further training of 3 members of staff, in basic chainsaw handling, safety and general use. The course will allow them to go on and train for the climbing parts of tree surgery works, once they have been examined under the National Proficiency Training Council criteria.

A further four people within the department are being trained in the use of a vehicle mounted cherry picker. This will enable greater flexibility of working and ensure compliance to The Health & Safety at Work Act and working at Heights Regulations.

### **1.4 WHITEHAVEN CIVIC HALL**

There has been a huge increase in attendances in February and March 2005 compared to February and March 2004 with visits in the period rising from 5721 to 10685. possibly as a result of new full colour advertising and an extremely varied, programme catering for all ages and tastes ranging from Whitehaven Operatic Society's production of The Hired Man to visit by stars of Children's BBC programme "The Happy Gang."

and many different tastes varied programme of events included the, a spectacular fund raising event in aid of the Tsunami featuring the best local bands in the area and Tributes to REM, Bon Jovi & the Clash, under 18s dance event "Temptation" and a

### **1.5 WHITEHAVEN SPORTS CENTRE**

In February the Sports Centre was subjected to 2 days of exacting testing under the nationally recognized Quest quality award. The formal results have not yet arrived but we have been informed that the site has been successful and hopes are high that the scores will have increased

Early indications are that the partnership with Club Success Limited and Impact Sales are proving successful. The Teams have begun to introduce new sales and marketing techniques in order to increase revenue and sales based on membership and monthly payments to use the gym.

A linked marketing campaign has also been launched, in partnership with the Local Health Group, who have provided funding to promote the Council's facility

membership scheme, via the benefits notifications, to people who may otherwise be disadvantaged.

### **1.6 SWIMMING POOL**

In contrast to national trends core swims continue to increase compared with the same period last year and 63 out of 68 Easter swim school places were taken up. It is hoped that the launch of our new swim lesson programme on April 18<sup>th</sup> which include lifesaving 1,2,3 and personal survival lessons and Bronze Medallion training along with the purchase of two exciting new inflatables will attract additional clientele and raise the level of physical activity and health in Copeland.

A new partnership with Routes to Work, an organisation, providing adults with learning difficulties, employment opportunities, has been established and as a result a new trainee will be joining the staff in the next few weeks.

Lewis Bailey, a young member of the Copeland Swimming Club has, for the third year running, qualified for the National Age Group Championships in July. This is a tremendous achievement as nobody from the club has ever done this before and qualifying times have been dramatically reduced in the last few years.

### **1.7 BOWLS AND PITCH**

The weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> April will see some hotly contested Finals which will be celebrated on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at Cleator Moor Civic Hall with a special guest attendance by England International and current England team manager John Bell. (Tickets priced at £7.50 and are available from the reception at the Bowls Centre)

### **1.8 ARTS DEVELOPMENT**

The Parton youth music programme which was delivered over twenty weeks and attracted young people aged 12-19 from Parton, Distington, Lowca, Whitehaven, Workington and Cleator Moor has been so successful that it is being re-launched on 11<sup>th</sup> April as a yearlong development programme. The continuation will be funded by The Sage, Gateshead and Youth Music Action Zone and delivered by the Westricity Partnership.

The Whitehaven Absolute Theatre Group continues to meet every Saturday morning in St Peter's Hall. Funding applications are being considered by The Crime and Disorder for continuation of this excellent project. For the past five weeks we have also used the hall and support of Young Cumbria to deliver a musical sculpture project for a group of ten young people. The resulting work takes pride of place in the hall.

The outreach work of the department continues with The Kosh theatre company (Millom Prison) delivering 5 workshops on physical theatre to 19 young people.

**2 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

None

**3 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

None