

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee: Cabinet**

**Date: 17 February 2009**

**Subject: Leisure and Young People Portfolio**

**Portfolio Holder: Councillor Heather Harding**

**Item: 7(i)**

---

## **Recommendation**

**That the report of the Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder be noted.**

---

## **Management Journal Awards 2009 – Active Health**

An application has been submitted to the MJ Awards 2009, under the category 'More People, More Active, More Often' in respect of the Active Health project, which is delivered through Sports Development.

The project, which is funded through Big Lottery and was introduced in summer 2008, focuses specifically on older people and is already attracting around 400 participants each week to a range of regular of exercise classes and walks. In addition, a series of fitness resources are currently being developed through the project, to enable older people to exercise in the comfort of their own homes or independently of the structured programme. These include a seated exercise DVD; seated exercise leaflet and a series of audio walking guides.

The project has been highlighted as a model of good practise across the East Region.

## **District Museum**

The beautifully decorated 12<sup>th</sup> century Waltham Abbey Bible is now on permanent display in the District Museum, along with the remains and reconstructed bronze bust of a 14<sup>th</sup> century senior member of the clergy of Waltham Abbey, who was buried below the floors of the Chapter house of the Abbey Church. The bust was created by one of the world's leading forensic archaeologists from impressions taken from the skull. These significant pieces of local history are also accompanied by a range of other medieval treasures, in a specially created display case, which was funded through the Museum re-display programme.

From January 31<sup>st</sup> through to April 21st, visitors to the Museum will also be able to enjoy the exciting temporary Tudor and early Stuarts exhibition, which includes a major loan from the Victoria and Albert Museum, of a pair of 17<sup>th</sup> century Court gloves, owned by the Denny family from Waltham Abbey. Other notable attractions include a print by local artist John Fox (author of the Book of Martyrs) and loans from the Heneage family who owned Copped Hall.

The Museum has also recently been fortunate to acquire a painting of Epping Forest by Jacob Epstein, thanks to external funding from the Arts Fund and the Museum, Libraries and Arts Council and V&A purchase funds.

## **Community Development**

Two new children's holiday activity programmes will be launched this year, with the introduction of 'Play in the Park' and 'Green team'.

Play in the Park is based on the Play Rangers schemes of the 60's and 70's, where staff take equipment to community locations and organise group games, and is especially designed to provide an accessible and affordable service to local families, by reducing staffing and overhead costs.

'Green Team' is a new programme developed with the Council's Country Care team, which is aimed at primary and secondary age groups and is designed to encourage children and young people to care for the environment: raise awareness of environmental issues and encourage youngsters to make use of the natural resources that are available to them locally.

### **District Play Strategy – More funding available!**

Officers have just been advised, that further to the £243K received for play facility development in the area, they are invited to apply for a second round of funding from Play Builders Fund. If successful, the Council could secure a further £100k+ to improve more playgrounds and youth facilities in the area.

### **Epping Forest Arts – 'makedo&mend'**

Throughout 2009, young and elderly people across the District will be participating in an exciting arts project entitled makedo&mend, which is being produced in partnership with London College of Fashion and a wide range of local partners including the District Museum; residents of sheltered housing and The Willows Children's Care Home Ongar.

Inspired by the ethos of post war 'make do and mend', the project combines contemporary style, with fashion, music, dance and film of the 1940s. It has been specially designed to encourage intergenerational dialogue; provide positive diversionary activities for young people and address cases of social isolation. Throughout the year, participants work will be showcased in a magazine, fashion video and performances at motiv8 2009, and eNgage at Harlow Playhouse