

## ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet **Date:** 28 September 2010

**Subject:** Leisure & Wellbeing Portfolio

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Brian Rolfe **Item:** 6(g)

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### **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder be noted**

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#### **1. Summer Holiday Programme**

The Council's 2010 Summer Holiday programme for children was one of the most successful to date with over 5000 youngsters from 3 – 15 years old participating in the wide range of activities on offer across the district.

The programme was designed and managed by staff from Community Development, Arts, Sports Development and the District Museum Services, along with a team of local young people recruited and trained as Playscheme Leaders.

The Play in the Park programme which offers 'open access' to play opportunities for children and their families was particularly successful, with over 250 people arriving for the first session at Town Mead in Waltham Abbey. Playschemes were also fully booked at each venue across the district and this was the first year that local schools booked and paid for places specifically for children identified as being disadvantaged.

A full report on the Summer Programme is currently being produced which includes income analysis and specific activity highlights and this will be circulated to members during September.

#### **2. District Museum**

##### **Exhibitions**

The very successful Sporting Heroes Exhibition which was developed as part of the 2012 Cultural Olympiad saw a wide range of new visitors to the District Museum. The Exhibition which hosted displays from local clubs and local World Champions included sports ranging from football and rowing, to athletics and badminton and attracted visitors of all ages.

The Museum is now in the process of finalising its new exhibition 'Dawson at 90', which displays the paintings & work of local artist Eric Dawson from Fiddler's Hamlet,

Epping. The paintings have been provided from Eric's private collection and other private collectors along with several from the National Army Museum.

'Dawson at 90' opens a week early on 18 September and runs through to 16 November inclusive.

### **Gallery Improvement**

The Museum team have been working on the redisplay of the 'Social History' Gallery, following necessary building work; this will open in October and has attracted grant aid of £1500 to assist with this work. The new look displays will provide the opportunity for the Museum to show more of our collections than the old displays.

### **Book Publication**

Working in Partnership with the Loughton and District Historical Society, the Museum has supported the publication of a new book on the Life of the 19th century Loughton artist Octavius Deacon, whose sketchbooks are held by the Museum.

### **3. Community Services Newsletter**

A service area newsletter is currently being produced by the Community Services Team which includes Arts, Sports Development, Community development and the District Museum. This will provide members with detailed information about the Summer Holiday Programme, the range of term – time and regular activity programmes that are provided across the district and details for forthcoming events and one - off activities. This will be circulated to members via Members' mail.