

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

**Committee:** Cabinet **Date:** 22 February 2011  
**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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### **Sports Leisure Management (SLM)**

Work on the contract extension from January 2013 to January 2016 is now well advanced, awaiting final documents for signature. Alongside this the plans for the new sports hall at Waltham Abbey Pool are nearing completion and submission for pre-planning, but Members are reminded that until financial circumstances improve, the scheme itself will not proceed. All internal works at Loughton Leisure Centre are now completed and only the external walkway is still to be completed.

### **Museum**

The Museum Officer has provided talks on the work of the Epping Forest District Museum to a range of local organisations including; The Copped Hall Trust, Enfield Ramblers, Epping Probus and Loughton Historical Society.

Members of the Museum team attended the major tourism show at Alexandra Palace on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January, as part of a joint marketing initiative with Waltham Abbey Town Council, the Waltham Abbey Town Partnership and the Royal Gunpowder Mills.

The Museum staged a muster of the 44th East Essex Regiment of Foot Soldiers Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2011. The regiment re-enacts life of the 2nd Battalion, who fought with great skill and courage during the Napoleonic Wars, including the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. Members of the Regiment were in full uniform at the Museum and demonstrated different parts of their kit. Shoppers saw them practicing their drill on Sun Street!

The current temporary exhibition 'Beyond the Frame' runs until 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011 and will be followed by 'Memories of Childhood', which opens on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

The Museum will also be displaying a selection of the historic wedding dresses held in the collections to commemorate the Royal Wedding.

Forthcoming events - Artist Val Osment: Chinese Fans - Saturday 19 February 2011 from 11am to 4pm. Fans were originally developed in Japan and China, made from materials such as wood, jade, bamboo, feather, silk and metal. The Chinese claim to be the first to have applied a painted design to a fan. In this workshop, artist Val Osment will be on hand to help you create your own beautiful fan.

- Paint the Queen: Tuesday 22 February 2011 from 12 noon to 4pm. Look and Learn are holding a special children's art competition to commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's 85th birthday. Come along to the Museum and paint your portrait of the Queen, then if you wish you can enter it into Look and Learn's EIRR Children's Art Competition. More information about the competition can be found at [www.lookandlearnart.com](http://www.lookandlearnart.com). Full details of how to enter your artwork will be given on the day.

- Explore the Collection with William Winters - Saturday 26 February 2011 11am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm. Meet the famous Victorian antiquarian and historian of Waltham Abbey, William Winters at the Museum. William will be here to talk about the treasures on display, and some unusual stories from the history of Waltham Abbey - his book is still one of the most important histories of the town ever written.

### **Community Development**

The team will be running a week long Playscheme during February half term (next week) at White Bridge School in Loughton. The Playscheme is almost completely booked up and, once again, local schools have funded 20 "free" places for children identified as being in particular need of this service.

The Council's Reality Roadshow - Safety Awareness Event for Year 9 secondary school pupils was held at Davenant Foundation School and Roding Valley High School on 17th and 18th February. Organised by the Community Development Team on behalf of the Safer Communities Partnership, Reality Roadshow offers young people a range of awareness scenarios provided by agencies including Alcohol and Drugs teams, who deliver impactive work to dissuade youngsters from misuse of drink and drugs.

The Youth Council are in the process of planning and developing a Personal Safety DVD and are working closely with other young people from the Ignite Youth Club. Auditions are being held and filming commences during half term week.

### **Community Arts**

Work has started with local residents and community groups on the Limes Farm estate, Chigwell, to create an original art work for display in the refurbished and extended Limes Farm Hall facility which is due to open in the Autumn.

As part of the run up to London 2012, the department will be running a series of practical workshops, in partnership with Licensing and town councils, for local residents and groups who wish to hold their own special events for London 2012 and the Royal Wedding.

### **Community Services**

Healthy Living Festival – A very successful Healthy Living Festival has been taking place over January and February in two of our key super output areas, Debden and

Shelley. The Festival has included a wide range of activities for people of all ages including cookery workshops, fitness classes and baby massage. The finale of the Festival in each area will take place during half term week and will be a family film screening of a Columbia and Sony Pictures Animation 'Cloudy with a chance of meatball's'. Both of these events are sold out.

HealthWorks Project – The Healthworks Project Co-ordinator, Sarah Bellairs was appointed in November and a Project Assistant, Katie Corcoran started with the project in January. To date, both have been networking with key partners and agencies to gain local knowledge and an understanding of the issues affecting young people in Waltham Abbey. Two consultation sessions have already been delivered in Waltham Abbey involving 36 young people.

The project will continue to network and consult with young people and key organisations, as well as holding it's first steering group meeting and planning meeting with young people. A number of HealthWorks sessions are planned around healthy eating, sexual health, education and fitness over the next few months and further outreach sessions are due to be undertaken on the streets of Waltham Abbey in the Spring.