



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

19th January 2015

Events

The line-up of Christmas events in the town last year saw our town centre come alive during the festive season. In 2014 the Borough Council did even more to help attract visitors into our town and make the town centre a great place for people to shop and enjoy. Highlights included the German Market, the Festival of Carols on the Market Square, the Christmas lights switch on and the Frost Fair.

Planning is already underway for the 2015 calendar of events, including the Alive at Delapre concerts, Chinese New Year, International Women's Day, Diwali and of course Christmas 2015.

The people's tenor, Alfie Boe has been confirmed as the second headline act to perform at this summer's Alive@Delapre concerts on Sunday 19th July. Alfie's distinctive voice has helped him conquer the world's most prestigious opera stages, lead the cast of Les Miserables for nearly a year, and steal the show at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Concert at Buckingham Palace. Every year Alive@Delapre brings some of the biggest and best artists to Northampton, and we are happy to be adding Alfie Boe to this year's event which already includes singer Jesse J.

Culture & Heritage

During December two exhibitions opened at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery. '70 80 Prints takes a close up look at the museum's collection of prints from the 1970s and 1980s and 'Home' showcases work by local artists depicting the town and the surrounding area which brings to a close the 825th anniversary of Northampton having gained a Royal Charter.

Christmas craft workshops for children took place during December at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery. December also saw the second of a series of paranormal events at Abington Park Museum.

This month will see the first of a series of Battlefield Talks commencing with 'The Battle of Northampton (1460)' and the first of two Beginners Ukele workshops with local musician and singer, Sara Spade.

Forums

The Forums have been involved in a number of projects. The Pensioners Forum and the Youth Forum, in partnership with our museums, have been working together on a WW1 oral history project to capture stories that will be digitally archived. Plans for

Holocaust Memorial Day are being finalised, which include a funded documentary being put together by Reelscape Community and Abbeyfield's year 10 drama students. The film will to be shown at the Borough Council's evening event at The Guildhall on 27th January.

Partnership Support

The grant process for 2015/16 is currently open, and the application process will close on the 30th January 2015. The funding pot will be divided against the corporate priorities and outcomes which are aligned to Northampton Borough Council's Corporate Plan.

Customer Services

Tenancy Management have two allocated desks within the One Stop Shop (OSS) where all new property signups are completed. This has helped Housing Officers and Rent Income Officers identify vulnerable tenants and make direct referrals to our Partners within OSS, helping prevent debt, financial exclusion and homelessness. The Citizens Account is being promoted and floor walkers are working closely with Tenancy Management to support new tenants sign up for the Citizen Account. Having Tenancy Management present enables direct referrals where vulnerabilities are identified providing a seamless end to end service.

Customer Services arranged a bespoke training on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults. This was delivered jointly by Housing Management and Housing Solutions to all Customer Service staff empowering staff to make direct referrals reducing risks by ensuring all relevant information being reported as quickly as possible. The Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults training portal has also been completed by all staff.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement