

CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE – COUNCILLOR WRIGHT

Grundy Art Gallery

The Grundy has been successful with its application to the John Ellerman Foundation's Regional Museums and Galleries Fund. A grant of £135,000 has been offered over a period of three years to support a new specialist post working with the Grundy and the Heritage Service.

The role of Collections Manager will be responsible for researching and managing Blackpool's historic collections, overseeing cataloguing of the Collections and reaching new audiences through exhibitions.

The Collections include those of the Tower Company, the Winter Gardens and the Illuminations, together with the Grundy Art Gallery's Collection of Victorian, Modern and Contemporary Art.

Together, these collections give an unparalleled view of the development of Blackpool as the first working-class seaside resort in the world. There is also an amount of £5,000 a year to be used for the purchase of new works for the Collections.

This work will also be invaluable to and support the development of the planned new Blackpool Museum. The Foundation receives applications from all over the country and Blackpool Council has been successful in a highly competitive process.

Libraries

Blackpool Arts and Libraries eighth annual Wordpool Festival takes place from Wednesday 2 to Saturday 5 July. This year's festival includes internationally acclaimed authors Ann Cleeves, Peter Robinson, Sophie Hannah and Lindsay Davies, plus exciting new authors Emma Healey, Stephen May and Jon Wallace.

A fund-raising launch party will be staged at 7pm on Wednesday 2 July. This will be a themed evening entitled Murder, Mystery and Martinis and will take place in Stanley Park's Art Deco Café.

Arts and Libraries is also launching its first National Poetry Competition at a special festival event on 4 July hosted by award-winning poet Polly Atkin.

On July 6, the popular Family Day will take place in Stanley Park. This year, the theme is "The Giants Are Coming" and will feature 12 Giant Lands, created by the Wordpool team.

For further information go to www.blackpoolwordpool.wordpress.com

Grand Theatre

The Grand Theatre has just published its new brochure introducing audiences to a vibrant high-quality programme, the first season to be planned by the new Chief Executive, Ruth Eastwood, since coming into post six months ago.

In 2013/ 2014, the Grand welcomed over 135,800 customers with 57,758 people attending an event or show within their children and young people programmes, a 7.9% increase on the previous year. The average ticket price paid in 2013/ 2014 was £15.96, in 2011 customers paid on average £18.16.

In 2013/ 2014, the Grand became one of five national venues in the Royal Shakespeare Company's Learning and Performance Network. The Royal Shakespeare Company's First Encounter Taming of the

Shrew performance in February this year was experienced by over 2,500 children and young people. As part of this key initiative, the Grand will be assisting Blackpool teachers in taking the PG Certificate in Teaching of Shakespeare.

The Grand has just hosted Breakin' Convention, an international festival of Hip Hop Dance Theatre being one of only ten UK venues taking part. In association with Left Coast, Blackpool and Wyre's Creative People and Places Programme, the Grand will be presenting the only UK performances in 2014 of the smash-hit comedy BLAM! as part of its summer season from Wednesday, 20th August to Sunday 31st August.

The Grand presently receives National Portfolio funding for the presentation of a contemporary dance programme and in 2013/ 2014 its total dance attendance increased by 188% and over 1,500 children and young people took part in dance workshops and master-classes.