

CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE – COUNCILLOR WRIGHT

Arts

The Arts Service has been successful in securing a grant of £36,560 from the Arts Lottery to continue the development of the successful Fylde Coast Youth Dance Company.

In July, the company had the wonderful experience of taking part in the first ever Commonwealth Youth Dance Festival in Glasgow. This brought together 36 selected groups from across the Commonwealth in three days of workshops and performances. The company worked alongside dancers from India, Namibia, Canada and Australia. The young people also took part in the Big Commonwealth Dance, which took place simultaneously in Glasgow, London and Sydney.

The Arts Service will provide a two-year programme of high-quality opportunities for children and young people across the Fylde Coast to experience all aspects of contemporary dance with the new funding.

Heritage

This year's Fylde Coast Heritage Open Days programme was launched in August alongside a new exhibition at the Stanley Park Visitor Centre. This was a new way of promoting the open days for this year. The programme is coordinated as part of the Blackpool's Community Heritage activities. The programme now includes 54 different events and venues and is one of the biggest in the country. Feedback gathered at previous events shows there is great interest locally with many Blackpool residents taking the opportunity to learn more about their local heritage. It is also popular with visitors, some of whom make a weekend break specifically to visit heritage venues.

The Blackpool Treasure Trove is a Heritage Lottery-funded 'pop-up museum' project. It is part of Blackpool's Community Heritage Programme, which is run in partnership with the Volunteer Centre and Blackpool Civic Trust. The project is about groups of local people working together with the Heritage Service to learn more about Blackpool's fantastic history, get 'hands-on' with the historic collections and find out more about how museums work by visiting other places. The groups then work with artists to research and then design their own 'pop-up museums'. The first part of the project has concentrated on young people. The groups include Blackpool Sixth Form, young carers and our Arts Award students. The focus is now moving towards engaging older people. The 'pop-up museums' will be appearing in unexpected places over the next year. These appearances will be an opportunity for people to find out more about Blackpool's heritage and give officers a chance to talk to residents and visitors about the new heritage museum project.

Grundy Art Gallery

The Grundy has been successful with its application to the Arts Council of England to continue to be a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) for a further three years from April 2015 to March 2018. The Grundy will receive a total grant of £129,366 over the three years towards the presentation of a high-quality contemporary art exhibition programme and associated engagement programme with the community and young people.

Grand Theatre

The Grand Theatre has also been successful in its application to the Arts Council to continue to be a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) from April 2015 to March 2018. The Grand will receive a total grant of £479,976 over the three years for the presentation of a high-quality contemporary dance

programme. The Grand was one of a small number of organisations across the country to receive an increase in NPO funding. For the Grand this equates to a 36.2% increase on the NPO funding received during the period 2012 to 2015.