

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 March 2023

COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA GAY - CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, WELLBEING & CULTURE

For the period February to March 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters - Culture

Sheringham Little Theatre – A revamped space at Sheringham Little Theatre called ‘The Hub’ opened in February. The building has become more energy efficient.

Deep History Coast (DHC) – the DHC as part of the *Extraordinary Extinct™ Norfolk* project went very well and formed part of the activity worksheets that were promoted as part of Norwich Science Festival. These were well received by families who participated in the two-week trail at Chantry Place shopping centre.

Orchestras Live (OL) – Our Partnership continues to add breadth to the Cultural Programme in North Walsham (being delivered alongside the High Street Heritage Action Zone). The OAE hosted a live mini performance in the newly opened pop-up gallery and a full performance in St Nicholas Church. Both were well attended and well received. The arrangements for next year are being considered.

North Walsham High Street Heritage Action Zone Cultural Programme (CP) – A fabulous event launching the new pop-up gallery place took place at the beginning of March and was well attended with young people from NWHS.

Three of the 35+ craft workshops have taken place and been sold out, and crafters have been very vocal in their support. Workshops delivered so far include needlefelting, silversmithing and scrapbooking. More of these type are planned plus additional ones (Mosaic, Cyanotype) throughout the next few months. As well as valuable skills training, it has provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the improvements taking place in the town and ideas for the future, proving to be a good opportunity to develop ‘social capital.’

The program continues on track to deliver a broad range of activities in 2023, including heritage interpretation linked to the HSHAZ wayfinding initiative; mosaic design/installation; New Stages (play/pantomime), Paston Footprints, orchestral concerts, music and dance projects and ‘upcycled prom’ pop-up-shop.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Norfolk Museum Service. A meeting will take place soon (ahead of the new season) to talk about the involvement and plans for the coming year.

3 Meetings attended

In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings and briefings, I attended the series of Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment events which took place in North Walsham on March 3rd and the North Walsham HAZ Cultural Consortium Board meeting on March 7th. I also attended the opening of The Last Voyage of the Gloucester exhibition at Norwich Castle on February 25th.