

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 20th June 2018

Events

1. Local History Month: May 2018

The annual festival was launched in Albert Park with a new event 'Albert Park Reminiscence Walks'. Other new events this year included: Tales from the Courtroom, Crime in Victorian Middlesbrough, Cooks Birthplace Walk and Talk and Putting Women on a Pedestal at Teesside Archives.

Old favourite events like the Town Hall Tour, the Empire Tour and William Lane Foundry Tour have continued to be as popular as ever reaching a capacity audience for each and every event within two weeks of publication.

The program of events is delivered by a collection of council officers, community groups, businesses as well as local people who are passionate about heritage and history.

This year Ageing Better Middlesbrough once again sponsored the collection of events and promoted them directly to their members. When speaking to the new audiences who have attended each event a large proportion found out about the event through the brochure they received from Aging Better Middlesbrough.

2. Armed Forces Day: 23rd June 2018

This event is organised in conjunction with the local Armed Forces community. This year's event will feature performances from the Army Cadet Pipes and Drums Corp, A Veteran Bagpiper, The DooWop Dollies and the Apollo Arts Swing Band. Other entertainment throughout the day will be provided by the hilarious Tea Ladies Jean and Morag, unlucky explorers Major 'Eddy' Edward Edmund and Lance Corporal Henry 'Stinker' Hilary who have one objective – to explore the new world and expand the Empire.

The event will take place in the heart of the town centre and feature exhibitions of military vehicles, Army, Navy and Air Force regiments as well as the local cadet forces providing the climbing wall and paint ball activities..... AND if that's not enough there will be make do and mend workshops as well as Nunthopre Knitters sessions who are busy knitting Poppies for this year's Remembrance Day.



3. Middlesbrough Mela: 11th and 12th August 2018

As planning moves forward for this year's Mela, we are turning our attention towards filling the park with colour. The Big Knit Project is being delivered across the town in schools, cafe's, clubs and homes. The response from members of the public who want to create something that will eventually end up as part of the big Knit Mela installation has been phenomenal.

The program of activity planned for the Mela 28 will launch at the end of June.

4. Race for Life: 3rd June 2018

A regular event in the calendar the race for life is now in its fourth delivery year. A sea of pink covers Centre Square as up to 5000 ladies came together to raise awareness and funds for cancer research..

5. Party in the Park: 1st – 3rd June 2018

Another regular feature in the events calendar for Stewart Park the family fun festival is delivered by Crows Fair. The fairground this year featured a jungle fun house, a giant big wheel and a crazy mouse rollercoaster.

6. Nagar Kitan: Sunday 22nd July 2018

Planning has begun for this year's Nagar Kitan parade. The celebration parade will make its way from the Sikh temple on Lorne Street, where prayers will be read, before setting off to the sound of drummers along the procession route to Centre Square. The event is organised by the Sikh temples serving Secretary Jasbir Singh with assistance and guidance from the events team.

7. Rita Ora: August 2018

This event is currently scheduled to be delivered in Stewart Park but is likely to move to Centre Square following a request from the organiser. It is felt that the infrastructure in place around Centre Square would be better able to cope with an event this size. The organiser is committed to working with Middlesbrough Council for the foreseeable future and hopes that Rita Ora is the first of many large scale artists they will bring to the town.

8. Christmas 2018

Planning and consultation of Christmas events 2018 has begun. Winter favourites like the light switch on and parade are pencilled in for delivery with some new and exciting additions to the program being considered.

North East Migration Partnership

9. English Language Delivery for Refugees in the Region

The Partnership has held two sub regional events to help with the challenges around English language delivery for refugees in the region. The events in Darlington and Newcastle were held in partnership with Action Foundation and Voluntary and Community Service which:-

- a) Launched the "Helping Beginners Learn English" guide

This provides tips and guidance on how to assist early learners, it can be used to progress informal conversational English provision as well as a training tool for formal providers of ESOL to assist tutors with pre-entry ESOL learning.



b) Provided the opportunity to support Action Foundation with their Learning English Together project which provides training to volunteers who want to help refugees and asylum seekers with conversational English.

NEMP part funded the initiative to start up last year and it continues to support faith and voluntary organisations in Middlesbrough and across the region. Both are on the learning portal.

The Partnership has also held a raft of training to increase capacity and skills around unaccompanied children working closely with Children's Services from dealing with trauma, triple planning, age assessments and spotting and managing trafficked children. It also held sub regional training for foster carers who currently support or are interested in supporting unaccompanied children who have come to the UK often from war torn areas who may have experienced loss and very difficult and traumatic journeys.

The training was considered excellent by all participants and foster carers felt the networking space was vital to supporting their knowledge and advocacy role for their young people and they asked the Partnership to continue with ways to continue this; which we will explore.

It also provided learning for the team as we hadn't shared our ESOL guide and online English language resource pack with foster carers but they were keen to support their children in this area. All the carers were truly inspirational and provided the partnership team with a lift. The Partnership has not been able to secure as many places in the region to assist with unaccompanied children as it would have hoped. The Partnership has worked with its leads to review its engagement strategy; including writing direct to Leaders and Elected Mayors in the region to seek further commitments going forward. If you are interested in fostering an unaccompanied child or providing a supported lodgings placement please do get in touch.

The Partnership met with the Immigration Minister, Rt Hon Caroline Noakes and it is expected there will be an ongoing direct dialogue with the Partnerships going forward. Key conversations will be:

- a) how the new contracts for asylum dispersal accommodation and advice emerges over the coming months and any new providers - as these are up for renewal; and,
- b) The Governments approach to the future of refugee resettlement post 2020 when the national commitment to house 23,000 refugees is expected to be completed for Syrian resettlement and vulnerable children's schemes.

Supporting Communities

10. Care and Support for Homeless

Rainham House, is a supported accommodation scheme commissioned by the Council for women only (with or without children). They have recently featured in a Homeless Link report for their high standard of accommodation and excellent levels of support in supporting young people out of homelessness

The service offers a high standard of fully furnished accommodation and a large allotment garden with play areas. The service focuses on promoting independence and supporting women in addressing their multiple needs by adopting a person-centred, transparent and flexible approach. By helping residents to develop positive support networks, life skills and resilience, the women are supported to move on from the service, as well as with their lives.

The success of the service in ending homelessness is demonstrated by its high rates of positive move-on: 83% in 2016/2017. Since the service opened in 2011, a total of 64 women have moved on positively. Interviews with staff and residents suggest that the service also performs particularly well with “softer outcomes” such as helping the women gain confidence, self-esteem, and emotional wellbeing, which in turn greatly assists them in achieving their goals and aspirations:

“To get in a place like this, you're ending a lot of crap, but you're also moving on. You move in here, you've got to deal with not just your past, but what you want to do, where you want to go ... I've spent maybe 26 years being angry and stressed out and horrible and trying to work out all my demons and now I'm 26 and I've got a little dream coming on, and for someone that doesn't do dreams, I'm doing alright” (former resident).

11. Integrated Community Safety and Prevention Approach

Middlesbrough Council and Cleveland Police are working together with other key partners to help homeless, rough sleepers, beggars and others with serious personal issues to turn their lives around. This dedicated multi-agency team provides support to people who may have a range of issues including homelessness, addictions or mental health problems.

A campaign has been launched across the town to encourage individuals to make their spare change really count by giving directly to local organisations and charities who provide support to those in Middlesbrough who are in need. This can be done via www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/smallchange

A number of town centre businesses are backing the campaign by displaying posters in key locations throughout the business community. Small information cards which include details of emergency support are also being distributed to those in need.

If you would like further information on the campaign, copies of the poster or information cards please contact debbie_robinson@middlesbrough.gov.uk

12. Domestic Abuse

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) are currently undertaking an audit of domestic abuse services within each local authority. This audit is not an assessment of the services provides, but is aiming to capture which type of services are currently active to get a complete a picture across the country. The audit will inform the government review of funding for domestic abuse services and will provide evidence to inform decisions about the future and sustainability.

The Government are also currently undertaking national consultation in relation to the Domestic Abuse Bill. The main changes are:

- Appointment of regional Violence Against Women and Girls (VWAG) Commissioner who will monitor service provision on a local and national level,
- A broader and more flexible protection order which uses positive requirements,
- A statutory definition of domestic abuse and,

- Improving sentencing guidelines to ensure it takes full account of the impact on victims and children.

13. Selective Landlord Licensing

A Middlesbrough landlord has been ordered to pay back more than £20,000 in rent for failing to license his properties. The court ruling is the latest success for the North Ormesby Selective Landlord Licensing Scheme, which was introduced to offer safeguards both to those in the private rented sector and the wider community. Landlord Carl Blenkinsop was first prosecuted under the Housing Act 2004 last June for failure to license 11 of his properties in North Ormesby. That case saw him fined £5,500 along with court costs of £755 and a victim surcharge of £50.

Following his conviction Middlesbrough Council warned him that continued failure to register the properties would result in him being subject to a Rent Repayment Order, or an Interim Management Order whereby the Council would take on the management of his properties.

With no further contact, the Council successfully applied for a Rent Repayment Order which was awarded April 2018, requiring the landlord to pay back £20,535 in rental monies received in Housing Benefit payments and the housing element of Universal Credit.

The Council has now applied for land charges to be placed on his properties and is actively pursuing him to comply with the order. The landlord continues to remain unlicensed and the Council will now also look to obtain a further Rent Repayment Order and an Interim Management Order.

Members will recall in the last edition the case study below which showed property issues identified during a Selective Licensing Inspection. The SLL Team had arranged numerous inspection visits to a property however the tenant repeatedly wouldn't allow access. An evening visit was made and the tenant finally opened the door. The tenant was initially angry as he was confused as to who his managing agent was as they kept changing. The tenant agreed for officers to carry out the inspection which highlighted at least four Category 1 (most serious) hazards in the property. These included; no boiler, no heating, no hot water, the bathroom roof falling in (which was propped up with a pole), the kitchen was inaccessible and had no cooking facilities.

Due to the condition of the property and the hazards identified, a Prohibition Order was served. The Landlord has since installed a new boiler, new kitchen (including cooking facilities), new bathroom roof, bathroom suite, new rear windows downstairs and a new back door. The landlord has also installed new carpets. Since this time Environmental health have revisited the property and the conditions have drastically improved;

14. Integrated Community Safety Team

CCTV operatives noted a serious assault outside the Soho Nightclub on Albert Road where the instigators disappear via a nearby taxi before the police arrive. Quick thinking CCTV operatives continued to monitor the taxi journey and informed the Police of the location where the individuals were dropped off. These individuals were later arrested.

On Monday May 21st, two Street Wardens (Andy Treloare and Sharon Coles) were patrolling the North Ormesby area when they came across a member of the public who had no pulse and had stopped breathing. A nearby resident had already phoned

Emergency Services. Sharon quickly took over the phone call as Andy started to administer chest compressions. The individual had swallowed their tongue and Andy managed to retrieve it from their throat.

Both Wardens worked on the individual for a total of 7 minutes until paramedics arrived and administered treatment at the scene. Thankfully the individual eventually came around and was taken to hospital to recover.

Service Reporting for April 2018

Street Wardens	
Number of Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	216
Number of Environmental Crime issues	23
Number of Community Engagements	21
Number of low level crime/ police issued and intelligence	47
Total	307

CCTV	
Number of recorded incidents captured	395
Number of reviews/ footage produced by CCTV and police operators	87
Total	482

15. Neighbourhood Safety Team

Antisocial Behaviour in Hemlington

In response to ongoing nuisance in the Hemlington ward, Neighbourhood Safety have prepared a legal file applying for a Supervision Order in response to 5 breaches of a Civil Injunction, which was recently granted. A second Injunction is also being sought against another young person from the Hemlington area.

Partnership Working to Reduce Re-offending

As part of an ongoing joint project with the NHS and Cleveland Police, the Community Safety Officer has led on a project (to reduce violence and improve community safety at Roseberry Park). This project has shown an initial reduction in violent offences towards NHS staff by combining the introduction of increased community intelligence, police support, police and NHS staff direct engagement and other partner interventions which has accounted for some of this reduction initially. Ongoing work continues to increase staff support and resilience and improve information flow to help with housing homeless patients upon discharge as well as reducing reoffending of those patients engaged in criminal activities prior to their admission.

Middlesbrough Retail Crime Partnership

The Community Safety Officer has worked closely with Cleveland Police to create a pilot for the Police and Middlesbrough Retail Crime Partnership (MRCP). The approach aims to empower local retail businesses to become more resilient against retail crime offenders by combining increased staff education on deterrence of shoplifters, location improvements of security whilst working with PCSO's appointed to target through enforcement and supportive interventions on the high crime causing offenders whom account for a disproportionate amount of retail crime and nuisance behaviour. Currently the Community

Safety Officer is engaged in briefing the neighbourhood policing teams, MRCP and North East Retail Crime Partnership groups in advance of the pilot launch in July 2018.

Crime and Antisocial Behaviour at Berwick Hills

One youth stopped for causing Antisocial Behaviour at Norfolk Shops was referred for 121 work with Safe in Tees Valley. Within their 121 work the young person requested a meeting with the police officers involved in the incident so she could personally apologise for her behaviour. Positive multi agency work continues within East Middlesbrough to tackle and reduce the incidents including weekly Task and Finish Group Meetings whereby a significant number of actions are taking place between the Police and Council.

Crime and Antisocial Behaviour at Newport

After reports of antisocial behaviour and criminal activity in and around Crescent Road, the Neighbourhood Safety Officer called a joint meeting with Police and contributed to the implementation of an action plan to address issues in the area.

The neighbourhood safety officer and local Police Officers visited every address in the affected area to speak to residents and provide reassurance and information on reporting procedures etc. Several problem properties and perpetrators have been identified and enforcement/referral visits have taken place. The neighbourhood safety officer has liaised with Safe In Tees Valley Ltd and Linx Ltd to provide youth outreach in the area at key times. Police and Street Wardens are providing extra patrols in the area and all intelligence and incidents are fed back to the Action Plan group for action.

16. Central Library

My Town My Future took place in Middlesbrough, led by Middlesbrough Central Library from April 2017 – April 2018 thanks to Arts Council England funding. It was designed as a two-part project; digitisation and creation of a website and creation of artistic content; all focussing on Middlesbrough past and present. 11 volunteers were recruited to digitise the library photographic collection and to create a website to share the images. Community groups were invited to participate in short, six week courses in photography and creative writing with professional artists, the products of which were then shared via the website. The short course stats were:

- 72 sessions
- 60 participants
- 12 groups

One course member commented:

'I am a long-standing library lover but usually to borrow books and use the computers. The My Town My Future course and the Central Library's series of screenings have motivated me to participate more rather than being simply a "consumer"... I have found more ways of keeping in touch with activities the Library services arrange - and participating in some! I have used Library services to research areas of interest such as local history and geography; photography; various non-fiction areas; as well as to reserve specific books...and.... I have accessed on-line services more frequently.'

17. East to North East

The East to North East exhibition is currently running at Central Library mapping the history of South Asian migration into the town and the subsequent contribution that community has



made to it's development. It centre-piece is a 17th century Quran and also features the story of six local South Asian families, a board looking at the aspirations of Year 10 and 11 young people from Acklam Grange school and a short film to accompany the exhibition. It runs until June 1st but it is hoped the exhibition can be shared more widely in other venues across town.

18. Community Hubs

Marton Community Hub re-opened this month following a four month closure and significant building improvement works. Pictured are members of the friends of group attached to the facility, who along with residents of the area where given a sneak preview in advance of it's official opening. New facilities include training/meeting room, 1-1 space and public toilets bringing it more into line with other Hub facilities in the town.



An employment event was held for residents at Easterside Community Hub. Working in partnership with Middlesbrough Community Learning (MCL) and the Councils Work Readiness Team, the event offered advice from training providers and agencies along with our weekly MCL job club to offering advice on Job search and CVs.

Partnership working with Middlesbrough Community Learning has enabled the Hub to provide free Health and Social Care training for 19+. These sessions gave learners the chance to learn about all the different options that are open to them. JD training ran three sessions from the Community Hub that were well attended by around 10 learners each session.



Residents and members of Ageing Better Middlesbrough had a fun 'crafty' afternoon and produced some lovely work to take home. The sessions help to reduce loneliness in the area by helping residents to make new friends whilst learning a new, fun skill.

Dementia Friends training was held for staff and volunteers at the Community Hub. This training is always very well attended with great feedback from all who attend. The session enables learners to understand better how to recognise the signs of dementia and how best to help.



A Partnership with the Workers Educational Association (WEA) at Grove Hill Hub is enabling us to offer free training to those on benefits and reduced rate to others. Sessions have included Paediatric & Emergency First Aid, Sign language, Craft and Food Hygiene. These sessions are attended by residents from all across Middlesbrough and are ran at times that are also suitable to those that are in employment but want to learn a new skill.

Benefits and debt appointments at both Grove Hill and Easterside continue to be in high demand with appointments booked at least three weeks in advance.

We have been meeting with 'Women Today' which is a charity that empowers black African women in the North East. As there are a high number of their ladies living in North Ormesby they are looking to relocate their main office from Darlington. I am happy to say that they will be moving into North Ormesby Hub within the next few weeks. We hope to be able to introduce them to some of our groups already based here, such as the Craft class and our aim is to provide multi-cultural activities to all of the community.

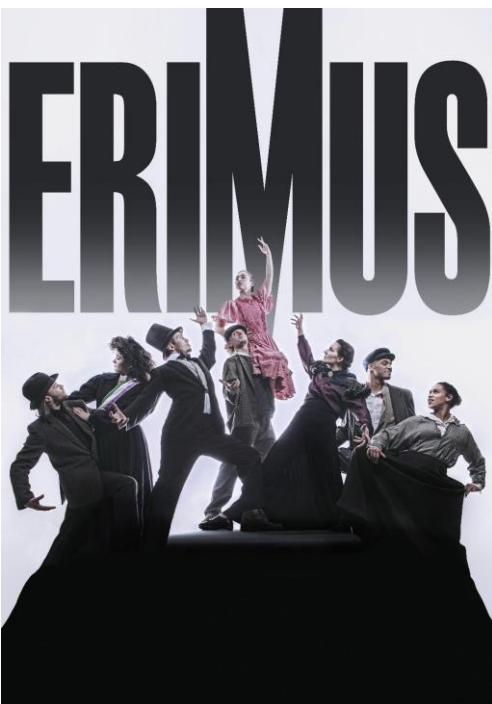


Employment Fair. Thorntree Hub was again the venue of a very productive Jobs Fair this month, arranged in partnership with Job Centre Plus. They're proving to be very effective and look forward to the feedback from them soon. We have agreed that we'll hold these events on a regular basis until such a time when they begin to be less effective. We'll then look at different ways to showcase employment opportunities to people.

Mental Health Awareness Week

Thorntree Hub supported the Mental Health Awareness week by all of the front line staff wearing tags to remind people of how important it is to talk to others and ask that very important question. . ."How are you?". We also included laminating some of our own information cards to distribute to those who enquired about the help/support that's currently available.

Culture



19. Erimus, the Middlesbrough Town Hall Opening Performance

To celebrate the reopening of the Town Hall, Middlesbrough Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England have commissioned Southpaw Dance Company to create a spectacular site specific performance which will bring the new building to life.

Erimus takes its inspiration from Middlesbrough's motto, We Shall Be, and will celebrate the future of Middlesbrough Town Hall, exploring what it means to be from Middlesbrough, celebrating Middlesbrough's rich cultural identity and how the Town Hall acts as a beacon for culture in the Town.

Told in Southpaw's distinctive narrative style, the performance will highlight the history of the building and lead audiences into previously unknown areas, such as the cells and courtroom, culminating in a large-scale mass movement finale, with projection mapping and text derived from conversations with Middlesbrough residents and participants in the show.

Erimus comprises professional dancers and a community cast. The cast have really enjoyed taking part in the show, here are some comments from the group:

- 'Does anyone else feel emotional about this whole journey with Southpaw? I keep having little bursts of tears (happy ones), I just feel so grateful to be given the opportunity to be taught by and dance alongside such lovely people. I don't want this to end.'
- 'This is a truly memorable experience, and I'm sure the rest of the community cast will agree that we are really grateful for the opportunity, your endless patience, and the way you make it all so much fun...focused and purposeful fun!!'
- 'I've never been part of anything like this before, I love music and I have been going to the Town Hall for years, I don't think people realise what an opportunity this is'



20. Middlesbrough Town Opening Performance

Middlesbrough Town Hall opening programme has started, high profile acts Jools Holland and Jon Richardson have enjoyed the new building, as well as school and community groups taking part in the Shine Festival and Cobweb Orchestra performances. The

opening season programme will be based both in the venue itself, in the Town Centre, and in the wards. Below is a picture of the first performance, the Bruckner Linz Orchestra.



21. Captain Cook 250 Dementia Project

The Captain Cook 250 Dementia Project involved 9 people with dementia and the staff at volunteering matters. 2018 sees the 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook's departure from England on his first voyage. The Captain Cook Museum is installing an exhibition titled "Cook Sites", looking at the places associated with Captain Cook around the Tees Valley area. Following on from previous arts project with the group in 2016, they asked the Museum to work with artist, Andy Taylor and paint local places associated with Captain Cook. The project ran over five consecutive Fridays and the finished works will be used to complement the Cook Sites exhibition in the main galleries.



One of the participants, Billy (pictured, left) told us that it was a pleasure to be part of the 250 year anniversary. He really looked forward to coming to the group each week.

