

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting:	Culture, Leisure and Economic Development Decision Meeting
Subject:	The Detectives - Conan Doyle Collection
Date of meeting:	8 February 2022
Report by:	Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services
Wards affected:	All

1. Summary

1.1 This report sets out to inform the Cabinet Member of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection's recent successful £100,000 Arts Council funding application 'The Detectives'. It details the overall project and the first successful immersive projection project 'Illusions of Mystery' delivered in Central Library, as a part of the We Shine event.

2. Purpose of the report

2.1 To update the Cabinet Member on the details of the Arts Council funded project 'The Detectives'.

2.2 To share with the Cabinet Member the first Detectives' project - Illusions of Mystery, part of the We Shine event

2.3 To show how the Conan Doyle Collection is building on its extensive experience with volunteers in a formal project to showcase the positive outcomes it can achieve.

3. Background

3.1 The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection - Lancelyn Green Bequest is the tangible result of Richard Lancelyn Green's lifelong interest in Conan Doyle and his work. The Collection testifies to the worldwide interest in Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes over the last century and to the wide range of Conan Doyle's interests.



THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

- 3.2 Since the Conan Doyle Collection arrived in Portsmouth in 2004, there has been a huge amount of volunteer involvement. From the initial cataloguing, through to volunteers being involved in more outreach activities from 2011 onwards, such as updating social media sites and the website, helping at events, writing study packs and researching for various outreach projects. Volunteers have become an integral part of delivering the Conan Doyle Collection to members of the public in various ways.
- 3.3 Volunteers have come from all backgrounds and walks of life. Most volunteers seeking work based experience have left their voluntary roles to take up paid employment or other voluntary roles to further enhance their skills.
- 3.4 There have been a multitude of public events, activities, talks and workshops over the years, usually managed by freelance practitioners, artists and authors along with staff and volunteers supporting. Although this has been positive, it is has often been a one off or short experience showcasing a small section of the Conan Doyle Collection.
- 4. The Detectives, Arts Council funding**
- 4.1 Funding for a two-year project was sought from the Arts Council's Library fund, looking at Health and Wellbeing and Culture and Creativity, part of the Universal Libraries Offer but also themes that sit within Portsmouth's 2040 City Vision: A healthy and happy city and A city rich in culture and creativity
- 4.2 The £100,000 application was successful, and work started in August 2021 to recruit people (known as Detectives) who wished to gain work based skills who have a disability or learning difficulty, come from a substance misuse or mental health background.
- 4.3 It is to give Detectives an opportunity to contribute at their own level to projects or tasks within a Cultural setting, giving Detectives the skills they request to realise their ambitions.
- 4.4 Skills are gained by using the Conan Doyle Collection as a resource to design and deliver projects led by the Detectives and overseen by artists, authors or creatives for the wider public, therefore spreading the word about this amazing Collection.
- 4.5 There has been a Community Development Officer (22.2 hrs) recruited through this project, Alanna Burchett. There will be a total of 7 projects delivered within a

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

two-year framework and there are 7 short term, repeated placements with various PCC cultural services, e.g. Museums will take volunteer Detectives on to photograph objects from the collection.

5. Illusions of Mystery - We Shine event

- 5.1 Commissioning a London based projection artist William Lindley to work with a group of Detectives. Three participants with learning difficulties from Enableability and a man with quadriplegic cerebral palsy interested in becoming a projectionist from Salvation Army
- 5.2 This team had 6 weeks to devise and create an immersive light projection show for the We Shine audience demographic, held on the 18, 19 and 20 November.
- 5.3 The team chose Spiritualism and Sherlock Holmes archive images from the collection, learning how to handle archives, risk assess the event, produce their own soundtrack and recreating, manipulating and photographing images, they created an immersive piece called Illusions of Mystery using 6 projectors around the Menuhin Room on the 3rd Floor, Central Library.
- 5.4 There were approximately 600 visitors over the three-night event, with positive feedback: 'Absolutely fantastic - a wonderful immersive experience enhanced enormously by the soundscape'; 'fascinating and unexpected!', 'I stayed for like an hour - loved it, great atmosphere.'
- 5.5 Each participant attended one of the event evenings and two dressed up as Sherlock and potentially will be interested in taking part in Summer of Sherlock, and another participant who is very keen to pursue a career as a projectionist will now start on a separate project in the Menuhin Theatre to realise this ambition, using the Conan Doyle Collection's past talks.

6. The Detectives - next projects

- 6.1 This two-year project will continue with a number of projects:
 - Worldwide Doyle Project 2022 & 2023
 - Exhibition project 2022 & 2023
 - Summer of Sherlock 2022 & 2023
 - Letters from the Archive Autumn 2022

Alongside this, there will be placements for volunteers throughout libraries and museums:

- Book of the Month volunteer
- Photographing the Conan Doyle Collection objects

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

- 2 x volunteers in front of house roles, museums
- 2 x volunteers in libraries in various roles as required and suited to volunteers' requirements.
- Social media and website volunteers

- 6.2 Each project will have a group of Detectives working with a professional artist or author to deliver the event, exhibition or talk to the wider public. The tasks Detectives will undertake will range from recruiting artists, writing risk assessments, learning a new arts based skill through to supporting more vulnerable volunteers with small steps such as travelling to a new work space, or forming a weekly routine by attending the Central Library.
- 6.3 Each task is set by the individual Detective, and our outcomes will be measured on their achievement of these tasks.
- 6.4 Alongside recruiting Detectives, we are looking to recruit Buddy volunteers to support those who need additional support in volunteering with us.
- 6.5 We aim that all Detective volunteers will have a meaningful and worthwhile experience, engaging in culture in a very hands on way and we will be able to signpost volunteers so they can complete their journeys to other organisations or into paid work or other voluntary roles at the end of their time with us.
- 6.6 Throughout the delivery of this exciting project we will be required to provide regular feedback to Arts Council England on the delivered elements and how these meet the outcomes of the project and will continue to provide updates through the Culture, Leisure & Economic Development meetings going forwards.

.....
Signed by
Stephen Baily
Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Appendices: None

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:



THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of document	Location