

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 23 AUGUST 2016
 title: GENERAL REPORT
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 PLATFORM GALLERY & INFORMATION CENTRE SUPERVISOR

1 PURPOSE

To inform on the latest exhibitions at the Platform Gallery, for furniture, and pottery.

2 PLATFORM GALLERY AND VIC

The exhibition programme continues to be well received, and information on the latest two is provided below;-

2.1 Inside Out | 30 April – 9 July 2016

Inside Out was a touring show curated by the Crafts Council, featuring 24 pieces of furniture from the Crafts Council Collection. It represented significant makers spanning the last four decades, including Tom Dixon, Tomoko Azumi, and Fred Baier. Featuring a range of materials and techniques, both traditional and cutting-edge, the show offered visitors unique insight into the objects and the craftspeople behind them through archival material, maquettes and drawings. An accompanying website app allowed visitors to hear oral histories with the makers, and watch excerpts of some craft films.

The show was accompanied by weekly curator tours (Monday afternoons) with Helen Cresswell - Gallery & Information Centre Supervisor (Job Share), and invitations were made to local schools to visit the show.

A total of 6,773 plus visitors came to the Platform Gallery in the duration of the show, which is comparatively higher than previous years' records for the time of year. It enjoyed an excellent reception with visitors:

“Loved the Crafts Council furniture exhibition and great conversation with the curator. Really interesting to see furniture instead of smaller/more usual crafty stuff. Thank you.”

“Furniture exhibition – Fascinating! One of your better ones. I really appreciate the effort put into displays in this gallery and am a regular visitor here – living nearby. Keep it up!”

“By far the best exhibition of varied crafts for miles around. Better than anything you find in Manchester. Needs to be treasured.”

“That really did make me think!! Amazing workmanship and a joy to behold. Thank you.”

“Such elegant, ingenious pieces. Would have liked to go online to read info but no internet wifi!”

“Fantastic exhibition – could do with more of this sort of thing – perhaps even more up to date than some of these pieces!”

2.2 **Clay Collective | in collaboration with the Northern Potters Association** now until 8 October 2016

This exhibition showcases contemporary ceramics made by the Northern Potters Association, an increasingly diverse and dynamic regional craft network. Many are names familiar to the Platform Gallery, and one is famed for winning the recent BBC programme *The Great British Pottery Throw Down*. Matt Wilcock kindly opened the show for us, and has allowed us to exhibit the winner’s trophy, made and decorated by the programme’s judges, Keith Brymer Jones and Kate Malone.

The exhibition allows visitors to see and purchase some of the best pottery to be found in the North West, and is accompanied by a pop-up studio which is hosting several of the potters throughout the run. All visitors are encouraged to have a go and play with clay in these drop-in, accessible, family-friendly workshops.

3 **CONCLUSION**

It is hoped these exhibitions will continue to inspire visitors of all ages.

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Community Services 23.8.16 / HC / IW