Very encouraging that Fylde Coast Dance Development partners are on the increase! In this time of cuts, working together is the key to the way forward.

We are part of a Lancashire Dance Steering group grant application for a Dance Champions NW Regional Dance Mass Participation Celebration at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, as part of the next out2dance festival in May 2011. Forty one partners from dance bodies, school sports partnerships, NHS, education outreach programs and Councils were involved and we are awaiting the result. (see web page section for more)

New Bollywood dance classes in May are being kick started by Grassroots Funding (Community Foundation for Lancashire). Illustrates how a lot of enthusiasm from a small partnership can be effective & achieve one of our Dance Development Plan Community Dance aims; active Shakti –Indian Women’s Association (Fylde Coast), Blackpool Promoting Music (Bpm), Blackpool Council’s Equality & Diversity Unit and Fylde Coast Dance Development working together. Seventy people turned up to the free taster session!

A very successful “Lets Dance” Change4life weekend, a national campaign with our NHS Health partners. A hundred people enjoyed the free Street Dance, Salsa and Boxercise classes at Reform Health Club and many enquiries followed. A newspaper story also helped increase awareness about the role of Dance Development, especially in collecting info for our Dance directory. I also gave an interview on Radio Lance Breakfast Show this week!

My Steering group Dance Development Action Plan priorities were confirmed in February, within the context of 3 days work a week only. My development role is to empower others to deliver the Fylde Coast Development Plan. Main priorities are:

- COMMUNICATION - directory, newsletter, one stop info point etc,
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING – 2 major workshops/year to build up dance infrastructure, facilitate career progression routes etc
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – building partnerships, working groups, mentoring. Two major priorities out2dance festival May 2011 and facilitating a major “intergenerational” project (youth & older people and an element of working together).

The second meeting of the new Freelance Dance Cooperative will be looking at Youth & Intergenerational agendas, also a Master Class Choreography Technique training day.

Victoria Brown will be attending the latter meeting. She is the newly appointed Youth Dance Development Officer for Lancashire. Based at Lancashire Sports Partnership in Blackburn, her role is part time (Tues/ Wed) 01254 584029 vbrown@lancashire.gov.uk She is working as part of a team of Youth Dance Development Officers in the North West to provide information to Youth Dance England and feed into their new three year plan for youth dance. Information on what is happening in youth dance in Lancashire as well as thoughts and opinions on Youth Dance welcome

Other new contacts to welcome: new Wyre Arts Development Officer, Jean Laurie (jlaurie@wyrebc.gov.uk) and her assistant Louise Smith LSmith@wyrebc.gov.uk. Congratulations to Wendy Voo on her promotion to Community Development Officer (01253 658616 wendy.voo@fylde.gov.uk), who has already been active in the sports/dance connection. She and Jean are their Council representatives on Fylde Coast Dance Steering Group.

So all together a lot of keen partners to help us in our Dance Development Quest!

A bumper newsletter this time. Thanks for all your contributions. Sorry its late but just back from spending the last month in a different world, The Gambia & Senegal, West Africa, helping communities to run their music and dance festivals. With no computers and mobile phones, quite a challenge but rewarding. Some wonderful energetic dancing. More of a community celebration than performance, as dance is a way of life there! www.kartongfestival.org

Jenny Milne
(Fylde Coast Dance Development Officer)
WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING...

IN MARCH

Friday 5th
“Power of Women” Dingle Ave., Grange Park
Never underestimate the Power of Women!
That was one of the clear messages underpinning the Power of Women event celebrating International Women’s Day. In total 135 young women from 13 to 19 years old took part in the interactive event organised by Blackpool Young People Services (BYPs) in partnership with Blackpool and Fylde College.
A range of agencies came together to provide information, advice and support to the young women on health, careers, relationships and substance misuse. Henna art, manicures, hair braiding, fitness testing and hand massages were also available and particularly popular.
Tracy Cowle, Locality Manager for BYPS in the North commented that “it was fantastic to see all these young women not just taking part in activities such as jewellery making, Thai Chi, Street Dancing, and Mcing but also discussing and learning about real issues that affect their lives”. Also “how great it was to see youth work in action, with many young women leading on the activities as peer educators”.
Performance and culture were key areas explored on the day with Blackpool Inter-Faith Forum for Youth (BIFFY) performing part of their Dare to be Different drama. At the end of the show there was an opportunity for the girls to have a go at Bollywood dancing.
Sharon Davey, Development Manager Blackpool Young People Services 01253 476735
Sharon.davey@blackpool.gov.uk

Sat/Sun 6-7th
NHS Lets Dance Change4Life free classes at Reform Health Club, 4 Milbourne St., Central Blackpool
Congratulations to David Carew (Street), Jorge (Salsa) & Maria Gregoriou (Reform Fitness) for making this happen and attracting a hundred participants. Great photo of David upside down in the Gazette, increasing awareness.

In April

Wednesday 21st
The 4th Wyre and Fylde Partnership Cheerleading Festival
An example of Schools and Sports Partnership Activity, took place at Cardinal Allen School and was organised by Louise Brunskill (SSCo) from Hodgson and Colette Orwin (SSCo) from Cardinal Allen. 4 secondary schools, Hodgson, Cardinal Allen, Fleetwood and Carr Hill, and 2 primary schools, Manor Beach and Shakespeare took part. (A total of 125 students.) The routines were worked on using coaches and dance instructors Jenna Robinson and Michelle Hughes and staff from the respective schools. The afternoon was an enjoyable event culminating in high quality performances from all schools. Louise Brunskill said ‘The focus was on participation and giving the girls an opportunity to showcase their work to each other and parents. Each girl received a participation certificate and well done to them all for their dedication and commitment and hard work.’
For more info on this event and the partnership visit www.wyreandfyldessp.org.uk.
Note. Jo Cleasby is the equivalent SSCO for dance development in Blackpool schools - jo.cleasby@blackpool.gov.uk 01253 478015
FUTURE EVENTS / WORKSHOPS

IN MAY

Weekly from Thursday 6th until 24th June, 6.30 - 8pm
New Bollywood Dance Class, Beacon Hill Business and Family Centre, Warbreck Hill Road, Blackpool

Bollywood is a rich mix of Indian classical, folk, contemporary, salsa, hip hop etc. Taught by Abhi from the Gujarati Ballet and Arts Association in Preston (www.abhinandana.synthasite.com) and supported by Grass Roots Funding from Community Foundation for Lancashire, this course is open to women only and provides a free crèche.

Adults: first session free, thereafter £3; Concessions: £2; Under-16s: free. Info contact Madhvi on 07859712119.

Plus Special Final Celebration Saturday 26th June 8pm, at The Raikes, Liverpool Road.

Saturday 8th, 7.30pm
“Making Shapes” Burnley Youth Theatre

Dance Festival celebrating Northwest talent. Contact 01254 427767 or makingshapes@hotmail.co.uk

Monday 10th
New Hip Hop /Break classes @ Zest Leisure, Singleton St., Blackpool

5pm Intermediate Breakin n Choreo, 6pm Beginners Breakin (all ages), 7pm Hip-Hop / Streetdance Over 16’s, mich-l@hotmail.com 07594 489412 Mich-L Ramsey Facebook.

Thursday 13th, 7-10.30pm
Charity Ceilidh Dance, Lytham St. Annes High Technology and Performing Arts College

Featuring The Union Street Band and a display by the Mary Whelan Irish Dancers. The dances are great fun, easy to pick up – all proceeds to African Children of Watamu Charity.

Thursday 13th - Friday 15th, Monday 17th - Friday 21st
Behind the Scenes with Nigel Charnock, Lancaster and Morecambe

Unique opportunity to watch the devising sessions for a renowned choreographer’s, forthcoming dance piece ‘Pandemonium’. Two open sessions each day (9-1pm and 2-6pm). The first week at Lancaster University’s Nuffield Theatre; rest at More Music in Morecambe. To register, or information, Gil Graystone 01524 389901 gil.graystone@ludusdance.org.

Friday 14th, 8pm-12
“Salsa De Noche” Co-operative Sports and Social Club, Preston New Road, Blackpool

Salsa/La Rueda lesson between 8-9pm, followed by Latin music for the dance floor. Carol on 01253 401941 or 07967768582. www.noches-del-salsa.co.uk

Friday 15th through 22nd
“Dance Fusion”, Wigan Borough

A week long festival staged across Wigan Borough. Chance to view, and participate in, a wide range of dance activities. www.wlct.org/festivalfever or 01942 828223

Wednesday 19th – 22nd
Billy Elliot – the musical, Lowther Pavilion, Lytham

As part of a national competition to find the best talent Clifton Academy have secured a NW premier of this West End show. Bookings 01253 658666. Academy 01253 721060

Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd
Lancashire Youth Dance Theatre Festival, The Dukes Theatre, Lancaster

Hot Latin event with classes first including an introduction to Kizomba, the latest Latin dance. Followed by party featuring UK Salsa Award 2009 winners Sami & Pilar. www.dancewithpassion.co.uk/inferno

Thursday 27th May through Friday 4th June
Blackpool Dance Festival and the British Open Championships, Winter Gardens, Blackpool

The prestigious Latin & Ballroom Blackpool Dance Festival began in 1920 and now incorporates the British Open Championships 60 countries represented in 2009. Info www.blackpooldancefestival.com or call 01253 625252.

Sunday 30th, 10-6pm
“It’s a Knockout!!”, Youth Festival, Stanley Park, Blackpool

Free event possibly including Street, Cheerleading, and Zumba Latin fitness dancing. Info Paul Latham on 01253 478435 or paul.latham@blackpool.gov.uk

Sunday 30th, 2-5pm
Outdoor Salsa Party, Birley Street, Blackpool

Great atmosphere and encouraging turn out for the first one on May 2nd in the sunshine. Dance and eat at this free event brought to you this time by Noches de Salsa and Visit Blackpool. Information, 01253 478222 or www.visitblackpool.com.
IN JUNE

Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd  2-4pm
Special Tea Dances in support of National Falls Awareness Week at Lowther Pavilion, Lytham & Marine Hall Fleetwood
Stay active & reduce the risk of falling! Monday at Fleetwood’s Marine Hall (01253 771141); Tuesday, Lowther Pavilion (01253 658665). www.helptheaged.org.uk or contact Diane Macdonald on 01253 303251 or diane.macdonald@northlancs.nhs.uk. Regular weekly Tea Dances are held at these venues on these days for ongoing involvement.

Wednesday 23rd June
Afternoon Tea Dance
Saturday 26th June
Gala Night
Tower Ballroom, Blackpool Tower. Part of the Blackpool celebrations for Armed Forces Week. Included in your admission to the Tea Dance is afternoon tea in the Ballroom while you enjoy the sound of the mighty Wurlitzer. The Gala Night will include Beat Retreat by a Lancashire Regiment and Big Band music. www.blackpooltower.co.uk  www.visitblackpool.com

IN JULY

Sunday 25th
Burlesque Show, Under Bar, Bank Hey Street. Blackpool
Hosted by the Kissy Kat Klub, this ticketed event is expected to sell quickly. Cost £10. For more information, contact Boz Phillips on bozphillips@yahoo.co.uk.

Monday 26th July through August 18th
Arts Award Programme
Participants choose two weeks of activities, of which dance & drama are one component (9-12th August). Includes Street, Contemporary & musical theatre, with a back stage theatre tour at the Grand & with the cast of “Oklahoma”. Spaces are limited. So, for those wanting to follow Ben’s lead (see story following) and join the programme, express interest to Lynne, Arts Development Officer 01253 478238 lynne.pattinson@blackpool.gov.uk www.artsaward.org.uk

Ben’s story: Since he was 13, Ben has participated in the Arts Award programme. Now aged 15, he has produced a Dancing Tutorial DVD, taught routines to fellow students at Bispham High School, and been celebrated by Little Boots. He has built two extensive portfolios in two years, and intends a third as an equivalent A-Level course.

Arts Award’s mission is to support 11-25 year olds wanting to deepen their engagement with the arts, gain leadership and creative skills, and to achieve a national qualification. Ben was encouraged to take part by his school’s Head of Dance, who “said it would be a great opportunity to see what the arts are like outside of school and to have a wider knowledge of arts from all over the country”, and speaks fondly of the variety of summer workshops he attended, which included “beat boxing, musical theatre, creative and media, create your own movie, and many more…”.

The workshops promote reflection and evaluation. Ben recalls writing “about every workshop I had been to… about what I actually did in the workshops and then… about what I enjoyed or disliked, what I could have improved on and what was challenging for me.” His reports earned him the Bronze Award; his enthusiasm propelled him onto the Silver Award.

The Silver Award focuses on two units - Art Practice and Arts Leadership – which challenge students to first involve themselves in the Arts, and then to involve others. Building on the Bronze Award’s evaluative practices, Ben regularly attended and reviewed shows and events ahead of creating his own DVD and teaching his own class. After 15 months of work and fun, the ceremony brought Ben and his fellows an exciting reward: Little Boots! Ben recalls being “amazed by the fact that I was being presented with my award by Little Boots” and feeling “so happy” for passing.

With the Gold Award to come, Ben concludes: “I really have enjoyed my time so far during the arts award and I look forward to whatever lies ahead.” Ben recently did a week’s work experience with Fylde Coast Dance Development.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Centre for Advance Training in Dance – Open Day Audition at Preston Sunday 30th May (venue tbc)
The course is open to passionate 12-16 year olds (of any experience level) and provides high quality dance training with a view to progression to full-time training. Attendance is free but must be booked in advance. Information Sally Powell 0161 876 2018 CAT@thelowry.com, www.nwdance.org.uk. Last November at Bispham Arts College. A worthwhile experience. Let’s get more Fylde coast dancers attending!

Bollywood Dance Training for Teachers
Anyone interested in a training after the present course (making Bollywood dance sustainable in Fylde Coast region) contact Madhvi 078597 12119 madhvi.uk@gmail.com

CPD Opportunity for Dance Artists
Wednesday 12th May, 10-3pm. Katy Dymoke with Touchdown Dance company members, leads on developing skills for working with visually impaired/sighted participants (or integrated groups).
At The Brindley Studio, High Street, Runcorn. Cost £20. Bookings 0151 907 8360 laura.donegan@halton.gov.uk.

Integrated Theatre Practice Training Day
Tuesday 25th May, 10-4.30pm. Suitable for anyone working with (or wanting to work with) integrated groups in a creative way such as dance, drama, or music. Takes place at The Hubub Theatre, Warrington. Miriam on 07812 047 757 or hububtheatre@live.co.uk.

Dance Links Training for School Teachers
Friday 10th and Saturday 11th September. Managed by Youth Dance England, this residential weekend two-day training course is designed for Dance Artists and Practitioners wishing to develop their skills in teaching dance in schools. Held in Manchester, costs £75 (including meals and accommodation). For info call 01543 308618 or e-mail dancelinks@ndta.org.uk. Application deadline April 30th.

Saturday 26th 8pm
Bollywood Celebration at The Raikes, 16 Liverpool Road, Blackpool
With Blackpool Promoting Music DJ’s www.bpromc.org. 07736 429935

Saturday 26th, 7pm
HTS: Reloaded at the Opera House, Winter Gardens
16 dance schools from all over Lancashire have chosen numbers from the musicals Copacabana, Hairspray, St Trinians, Grease, Lord of the Dance, Barnum & Sister Act. www.blackpoollive.com
**LOOKING FOR WORK**

**Dance sessions needed for Summer Play Schemes, Blackpool**
Anyone interested in delivering a couple of dance sessions to a disabled group of young people (8-18yrs) and also be available to do the odd session at a mainstream play scheme? Contact Debra Smith, Play Schemes manager, debbie.smith@blackpool.gov.uk  07793 640 863.

**Summer Holidays Activities with Clubs in Fylde Borough Council**
Contact Wendy Voo (Club Support Officer) 01253 658616 wendy.voo@fylde.gov.uk with any ideas for sport/physical activity provision for children/young people during the holidays.

**Dance Company seeking Young People Partnerships**
Lancaster’s Beaumont College offers both residential and day programmes to Learners aged between 18 and 25 with a broad range of physical and learning disabilities. Able to perform or lead workshops, they are seeking ‘young people partnerships’ for their new Dance Company to link in with. If you can offer a partnership, or a platform to get the Company active, please contact Sarah Stimson  01524 541400 or stimsons@beaumontcollege.org.

“African Cultural Experience” with Mbackeh Darboe from The Gambia
Includes dance and drumming workshops and performances for festivals, schools and community groups. Available June 1st – October 26th 2010. www.backtotherootsblackpool.blogspot.com Jen 07533 0146 095

**Looking for a Peruvian Flamenco partner**
Jorge Ulloa-Medina is looking for a flamenco partner for displays. Happy to train an experienced dancer. www.jorgessalsalessons.yolasite.com ju@blackpool.ac.uk 07879 413649.

**Special Gold Card offer for regular dancers at the Tower Ballroom**
With a gold card (£5), you can dance regularly at the Tower Ballroom for £6 a time, instead of paying the £14 daily entrance (Tower Building including Circus) during the season.
www.theblackpooltower.co.uk/goldcard.php or application form from Tower staff. Full list of events & organ roster.

**Useful websites**
www.dancechampions.org The Dance Champions Group formed in 2009 is part of a Department of Health Physical Activity Plan “Be Active, Be healthy.” Aim is get more than 100,000 adults dancing regularly in the run up to the2012 Olympic Games and increase cultural awareness through dance. One day free “mass participation” dance celebrations will be held in London and four regions. Target those who have never danced or lapsed dancers. The regional “beacon ” events to include free taster sessions, as well as signposting to local groups where they can continue to dance. (Lancs Dance Steering Group have applied to host the NW region event.). This activity is being complemented by a new Dance Directory which you can sign up to individually online. (We are investigating possibilities for relating the data we are collecting for Fylde Coast Dance Directory to sites such as this.)

www.wyreandfyldessp.org.uk  Sport and dance partnerships are increasing through the national Sports agenda target to encourage 5 hours a week of sport & physical activity (e.g. dance) 2 hours of PE in school curriculum and 3 hours outside of school hours in conjunction with the community. Fylde & Wyre are targeting each Primary school (key stage 1) with a block of 6 weeks of dance after school, with agreements with 4 freelance dance artists to deliver. They are interested in encouraging more boy’s creative dance.

www.dancevote2010.com Youth Dance England have partnered with Dance UK to help promote DanceVote 2010, the national advocacy campaign to put dance on the political agenda. So far, 910 people have sent emails to their local candidates and we’ve had replies from over 120 different candidates.

www.truskool.org.uk Tru Skool – National Schools Breakdance Battle combines the unique educational expertise of ArtsPool and the unrivalled breakdance know-how of Pro-Create to provide schools across the UK with an exceptional opportunity to learn break-dance skills from the country’s finest breakers and compete in a major competition. Looking for 100 Secondary Schools to enter. Qualifiers Jan/Feb 2011 in Manchester.

**CONTACT US**

Please email any activity you wish to report on, promote or any ideas Include day, date, time, place, what, info, contact, photo. Deadline end of 3rd week of the even months.
To: Jenny Milne (Fylde Coast Dance Development officer) Tel: 01253 476 837 email: jennifer.milne@blackpool.gov.uk Working days: Wed-Fri www.blackpool.gov.uk/Services/A-F/ DanceDevelopment/home.htm

Address:
Places Directorate Blackpool Borough Council Progress House, Clifton Road, Blackpool FY4 US4

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Contents may not reflect Council policies and we are not responsible for any views expressed from contributors.