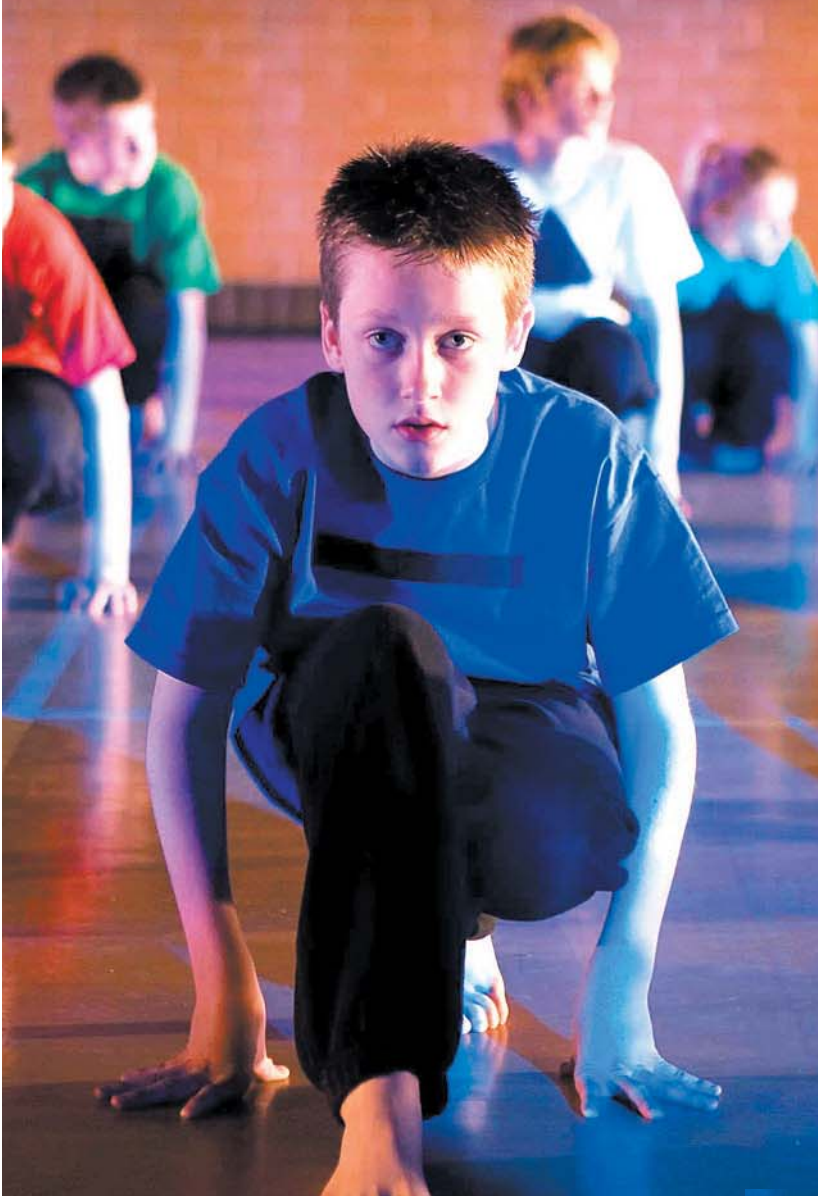


THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN!



Budding male dancers took to the stage and wowed the crowds when they took part in an annual dance event. The dancers, aged between 10 and 18 years old, were all part of DanceEast's Boys in Babergh project, which took place earlier this year. The project, which receives funding from Babergh District Council, saw 65 boys from schools across the district involved, with a final performance in front of friends and families pulling in

the crowds at Sudbury Sports Centre. The performance, was called PLAY and inspired by computer games, saw individual pieces by each school and culminated in all the Boys dancing together at the end of the show. The boys worked in schools with the choreographers - Matthias Sperling, a professional dance artist from London, and local dance artist Tom Hobden - over a number of sessions. Emma Reed, Programme co-ordinator at DanceEast, said: "All the boys who

Walking in sunshine

Keen walkers, families and children all played a part in making the South and Heart of Suffolk's Walking Festival a success.

The Festival, which ran from May 10th to May 26th, picked 40 different walks across the area - from short rambles to the more challenging routes - and encouraged everyone to take part.

Karina Coghlin, Babergh's Tourism and Arts Manager, said: "It is only by putting on your boots and actually walking around that you really appreciate the true beauty of Babergh and we're delighted so many people took part and agreed with us.

"Getting out in the fresh air is something you can do - no matter how fit you are, or aren't - and we made sure that the festival had something for everyone."

All work and no play!

More play areas and a major refurbishment of a Sudbury playground is on the cards after Babergh scooped a £200,000 grant last year.

Now even more children across the district will have the chance to learn through play after Babergh District Council was awarded the cash last December from The Big Lottery Fund.

The Babergh Play Partnership, set up to develop more play opportunities in the district, will oversee the projects.

The cash is going to be used in three ways:

- To fund a play worker who will develop play opportunities in rural areas, work with our sports and leisure staff on school holiday activities and with the extended schools programme.

- The refurbishment of an existing playground in Hawkins Close, Sudbury. A further consultation exercise involving young people and local residents is planned.

- The funding of three new play areas in parishes where there is currently no play provision. Cllr Rex Thake, Babergh's Children and Young People's Champion, said: "We believe all children and young people have a right to play and that it is essential for a child's development and well-being."

took part delivered fantastic performances and it was great to see them having so much fun while being creative."

The final performance was a huge success with a sell-out audience of more than 200 people.

The Boys in Babergh project has already begun planning next year's event. Schools that would like to part are or boys, aged between 10 and 18 years old interested in taking part, should call DanceEast on (01473) 639230.