

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**28 February 2012**

**Report of the Chief Leisure Officer**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Information**

**1 MUSIC/ARTS FESTIVALS**

**Summary**

**This report updates Members on plans being made towards a number of Music/Arts Festivals taking place across the Borough. Some events are run directly by the Council with others being delivered by local community groups.**

**1.1 Background**

1.1.1 Members will be aware that the Council delivers a varied annual programme of events including Tonbridge Castle Festival of Music. The Council also supports a number of community groups across the borough with regard to event delivery and this partnership approach has been reinforced with the ongoing commitment to Tonbridge Arts Festival and more recently East Malling Art Festival and Music at Malling.

**1.2 Tonbridge Arts Festival**

1.2.1 The second Tonbridge Arts Festival will take place this year from the 15–24 June. Once again performances will take place at several different venues across the town including K College, Hillview School for Girls, Tonbridge School's E M Forster Theatre, Tonbridge Castle, and the Riverside Centre. As with the first Festival, the committee is concentrating on delivering a varied programme of Literary, Visual and Performing Arts. Confirmed patrons this year are comedian Arthur Smith, sculptor Guy Portelli, author Victoria Hislop and writer/director Victoria Pile.

1.2.2 The visual arts section will consist of another Big Picture (Tonbridge Art Group working with local schools), open photographic and art exhibitions. The literary side will be staging an event called 'The Word', being held on the Castle Lawn, where invited authors will be talking to visitors about their books. Patron Victoria Pile will be interviewed by Mike Fenton Stevens in a Q & A session. Victoria is the writer and director/producer of Channel 4's winning comedy series Smack the Pony/Green Wing and Campus. Guy Portelli will be speaking about

his time on Dragons Den and how it helped him develop his business. The sounds effects guru for the Wallace & Gromit films will also be holding a workshop.

1.2.3 There will be a 'Battle of the Bands' night, where local bands can show off their talents, Arthur Smith will be the compere at an evening of comedy with local comedians, and the committee is hoping to book a very well known band from the 60s/70s to close the Festival on the 24 June. Tickets will be available online and from outlets in the town, and prices will be kept to a minimum wherever possible. For further details visit [www.tonbridgeartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.tonbridgeartsfestival.co.uk)

#### 1.2.4 **Arts in Tents – Olympic Opening Ceremony**

1.2.5 Tonbridge Arts Festival Committee is also working with local schools to create an 'Olympic Opening Ceremony'. Ten schools have been allocated a different Olympic country and will research the cultural life that exists there and the role that the visual, literary and performing arts play in the life of the population.

1.2.6 The schools will then present the information they have found in an exhibition. This exhibition will include information about national costumes, theatre styles, music, dance, styles of visual arts, culinary customs or anything else that they find interesting during their studies.

1.2.7 The event will take place on Friday 15 June at Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground. Those involved in this event will be encouraged to then make their way to the launch of 'The Big Picture' by the Watergate.

### 1.3 **Tonbridge Castle Festival of Music**

1.3.1 Members will be aware that at the last meeting of this Board it was agreed that the Council would enter a partnership with Opera Brava for a second year to deliver three nights of classical performances. It was also agreed that the dates of the event would be changed from the traditional first weekend in July to the third weekend in June to coincide with this year's Tonbridge Arts Festival. The programme has been confirmed as follows:

Thursday 14 June C S Lewis' Prince Caspian (from the Chronicles of Narnia)

Friday 15 June Puccini's La Boheme

Saturday 16 June Rossini's Barber of Seville

1.3.2 Last year, for the production of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, Opera Brava worked with Sussex Road Primary School. For this year's Festival, Opera Brava will be working with up to 80, 7–13 year olds from Slade Primary School on the production of Prince Caspian.

- 1.3.3 Over a week long project the children will work with Opera Brava's Musical Director, designers and singers before performing live in front of their audience. Scene by scene, they will gain a complete understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of every aspect of this incredible art form
- 1.3.4 Tickets for all three performances are available to purchase via the website [www.operabrava.co.uk](http://www.operabrava.co.uk) or by calling the box office on 01444 443000. Alternatively they can be obtained from the venue.

## **1.4 East Malling Arts Festival**

- 1.4.1 Plans for a second East Malling Arts Festival are currently being discussed. It is anticipated that the Festival will offer a similar range of workshops and activities to last year's inaugural event including photography, painting, dancing and sewing.
- 1.4.2 This year's event is once again being delivered by The Beat Project in partnership with local community groups. The Festival will run for two weeks from the 4 June.

## **1.5 Music at Malling.**

- 1.5.1 Music@Malling is an international Festival of Music that draws together the community with a fascinating programme of events that bring international artists to historical local venues in West Malling, Kent.
- 1.5.2 The 2012 Festival will run from Thursday 27 September to Sunday 30 September and promises to be unique and special - entertaining the local community with fantastic concerts and providing a groundbreaking outreach project that inspires creativity in local primary schools.
- 1.5.3 The Festival promotes the work of contemporary composers alongside the standard classics. In 2011, the world famous Mark-Anthony Turnage was the featured composer. For 2012, Judith Bingham and Huw Watkins are resident composers and their music will be heard alongside Mozart, Mendelssohn and Chopin: composers that were a favourite of Charles Dickens who celebrates his bicentenary in 2012.
- 1.5.4 Full details will be available on the Festival website [www.musicatmalling.com](http://www.musicatmalling.com).

## **1.6 Legal Implications**

- 1.6.1 The contract between the Council and Opera Brava was prepared with Legal Services and was signed by both parties.

## **1.7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 1.7.1 The Music/Arts Festivals outlined in the report are supported by the Council's arts programme revenue budget. The partnership approach to the events offers good

value for money, bringing a programme of arts performances to residents across the Borough.

- 1.7.2 Arts in Tents and Music at Malling both received financial support from the first round of the Council's Community Enhancement Fund.

## **1.8 Risk Assessment**

- 1.8.1 A detailed Event Management Plan will be produced for the Tonbridge Festival of Music in close liaison with the Council's Health and Safety Officer.

## **1.9 Policy Considerations**

- 1.9.1 Community, Young People.

Background papers:

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Nil

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