

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

14 May 2012

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 EVENT UPDATE

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Members on arrangements regarding a number of events taking place throughout the year.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Members will be aware that each year, the Council delivers an annual event programme across the borough. Some events are delivered directly by the Council, whilst others are organised in partnership with local community groups. Support from the Council includes funding (where appropriate), event management advice and practical support.

1.1.2 2012 will be a particularly busy year with both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics.

1.2 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

1.2.1 This year Queen Elizabeth II will become the second Monarch in British history to achieve 60 years on the throne. To mark this occasion, 2012 beacons will be lit across the United Kingdom. The Queen will light the National Beacon at Buckingham Palace on Monday 4 June, after which communities and individuals throughout the United Kingdom will follow suit. Tonbridge Castle will be lighting a beacon as part of this initiative, together with a number of Parish Councils, supported financially by the Council through the Community Enhancement Fund.

1.2.2 Other activities planned on Jubilee Day include a free concert on the Castle Lawn, with live music provided by the Second Wind Concert Band and Blues Brothers Little Brother. The public will be encouraged to bring a picnic and enjoy an afternoon of live entertainment from 12 noon to 5pm. The Council has also been working with local schools to use the beacon as a way of raising children's awareness of the historical role and significance of the monarchy. Schools have been asked to create a board game or a portrait of the Queen. The winner will have the chance to light the beacon at Tonbridge Castle.

- 1.2.3 This year, Tonbridge Scarecrow Trail, organised by Tonbridge Rotary Club, has been moved to the weekend of the 2, 3, 4 June to coincide with the Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend. Local schools and organisations are already busy making Scarecrows based on the theme of 'Sporting Heroes'. A competition will be run with questions requiring the identification and close of observation of the scarecrows, with completed competition forms entered for a prize draw. Funds raised from this event are donated to Carers' First.

1.3 Tonbridge Carnival

- 1.3.1 Organised by Tonbridge Lions Club, this year's Carnival will take place on Sunday 10 June. The Carnival theme is 'Sport for All'. The procession will leave K College at 12.30pm and proceed along the High Street to the Castle. The procession will include The Southern England Marching Band Championship, a display of classic cars and Morris Dancers. The fete on the Castle lawn will include Punch and Judy, clowns, children's entertainment area, a climbing wall, bungee trampolines, children's rides and a full arena programme presenting local talent.
- 1.3.2 Last year's event raised £6,000, which the Lions Club donated to youth projects, health related charities and helping the elderly.

1.4 Tonbridge Castle Festival of Music

- 1.4.1 For this year's event, the Council is once again working in partnership with Opera Brava to bring three nights of classical performances to Tonbridge Castle. Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2012, Opera Brava is a professional opera company specialising in touring opera, corporate events, and education work.
- 1.4.2 For this year's event, Opera Brava will be working with 90 children from Slade Primary School, who will take part in a special performance of CS Lewis' Prince Caspian. As well as learning about how to put on a production and designing and making props, the children will be rehearsing and singing so they can perform alongside the professional singers on the night.
- 1.4.3 The following performances make up the programme for this year, which has been moved a little earlier in the summer calendar to coincide with Tonbridge Arts Festival:
- Thursday 14 June – C. S. Lewis' Prince Caspian
 - Friday 15 June – Puccini's La Boheme
 - Saturday 16 June – Rossini's Barber of Seville
- 1.4.4 Professional singers from English National Opera and Covent Garden will perform each night and each performance will be in full costume. Audiences will be able

to bring along a picnic (and tables and chairs if they wish) to enjoy on the lawn during each event.

- 1.4.5 Tonbridge Castle Festival of Music has received financial support from Warner's Solicitors, and tickets are available to purchase online at www.operabrava.co.uk, from the Box Office 01444 443000 or by visiting the venue in person.

1.5 Tonbridge Arts Festival

- 1.5.1 The second ten-day Tonbridge Arts Festival will take place from 15–24 June and has been organised by representatives from K College, Hillview School for Girls, Tonbridge Library and Tonbridge School. The Council is represented on the committee and gives event management advice as well as supporting the event financially and providing access to Council owned venues free of charge.
- 1.5.2 Organisers have worked with local schools and community groups to devise an exciting programme of literary, visual and performing arts that will take place at various venues across the town. Patrons include comedian and 'Grumpy Old Man', Arthur Smith, local artist, Guy Portelli (of Dragons Den fame), novelist Victoria Hislop and comedy writer, Victoria Pile.
- 1.5.3 The Three Degrees, well known for their soulful voices and fabulous stage shows, have been confirmed to close the Festival.
- 1.5.4 A full list of events is available online at www.tonbridgeartsfestival.co.uk Tickets are now on sale from the Angel Centre and updates are available on facebook and twitter.

1.6 Maidstone Triathlon

- 1.6.1 The Borough Council has previously been approached to support a Triathlon event on 24 June 2012, in partnership with Maidstone Borough Council. The event will be run by Team Outrageous Ltd, and will begin with a 400m open water swim at Leybourne Lakes Country Park with competitors then cycling to Maidstone for a 5k run within Mote Park. The event is planned to celebrate the 2012 Olympic year and is being run in support of Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research. Event details are being finalised in liaison with Maidstone Borough Council's Safety Advisory Group and the maximum number of participants will be 300.

1.7 Olympic Torch Relay

- 1.7.1 Members will be aware that the Olympic Torch Relay will be coming through Borough Green on Friday 20 July. The Council has an agreement with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) which states that when the Torch, Torchbearers and accompanying convoy come through the Borough, the Council is responsible that these elements pass through safely. The

Council is also directly responsible for traffic management, road closures and crowd safety.

- 1.7.2 To coordinate the Council's approach to this event, an Officer Study Group was established which meets regularly to discuss developments as information is disseminated from LOCOG. The Council is also represented at the Kent-wide Olympic Torch Relay Group and discussions/actions from those meetings are reported back to the Officer Study Group. Local Parish Councils and local Members have been kept updated and a series of newsletters are being distributed to local residents.
- 1.7.3 There will be three Torchbearers in Borough Green, each carrying the Torch for 300 metres. To date, the Council has been advised of two Torchbearers, these being 18 year old Ben Breen from Meopham and 40 year old Amanda Menzil from Higham.
- 1.7.4 Bloco Fogo Samba Band, The Hartley Morris Men and Bosco the Jester have been booked to entertain the crowds before and after the Torch Relay.
- 1.7.5 As part of the planning process for the Olympic Torch Relay, an Event Safety Plan has been produced. This document provides general information about the event and details the management plans and actions of the organisers with regard to public and worker safety. The Event Safety Plan has been circulated to and considered by the Council's Safety Advisory Group. The event is being focussed on residents of the local area due to the constraints of the village in accommodating large numbers of spectators.

1.8 Summer Band Concerts

- 1.8.1 The ever popular, traditional Sunday afternoon band concerts will return once again to Tonbridge Castle in August this year. This summer, I am pleased to advise that one of the Army's premier bands, the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers, will perform on the Castle Lawn on Sunday 5 August. This is a return visit for The Royal Engineer Band, who were in Tonbridge last year when they marched through the High Street as part of the Freedom Parade for the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment.
- 1.8.2 The rest of the confirmed programme for this August is: Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Concert Band 12 August, Jon Hamilton Big Band 19 August and East Peckham Silver Band, 26 August.
- 1.8.3 All concerts are free of charge and take place between 3pm and 5pm.

1.9 Tonbridge Castle Medieval Fair

- 1.9.1 Back for a 5th year, the Medieval Fair will return to Tonbridge Castle on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 September. Members of the public will have the opportunity to come face-to-face with men-at-arms, hear stories of battles past and find out what

they wore and ate. Medieval dishes will be prepared over open fires and men and women will be creating crafts from 600 years ago. There will also be have-a-go Archery sessions and Bosco the Jester will be on hand to entertain the crowd together with Rough Musick who will provide foot-stomping folksy ballad tunes and country dances throughout the weekend.

- 1.9.2 The Medieval Fair takes place during the same weekend as Heritage Open Days. Organised nationally by English Heritage, Heritage Open Days celebrate England's fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Locally the event is co-ordinated by the Council in partnership with The Malling Society and Tonbridge Civic Society. The Council produces a leaflet which lists all participating venues. This will be available from Tonbridge Gateway and all Council owned leisure facilities from the beginning of August.

1.10 Music at Malling

- 1.10.1 Music@Malling is an international Festival of music that draws together the community with a programme of events that bring international artists to historical local venues in and around West Malling.
- 1.10.2 The 2012 Festival runs from Thursday 27 September to Sunday 30 September, entertaining the local community with concerts and providing an outreach project to inspire creativity in local primary schools.
- 1.10.3 The Festival promotes the work of contemporary composers alongside the standard classics. 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.
- 1.10.4 Full details will be available on the Festival website www.musicatmalling.com.
- 1.10.5 The Council supports the Festival financially and provides access to marketing resources.

1.11 Tonbridge Christmas Festival

- 1.11.1 Organised by Tonbridge Round Table, this year's event will take place on Sunday 25 November. The event includes the switching on of the town's Christmas Lights, an afternoon of musical entertainment by local artists on stage at the Watergate and culminates in a firework display over Tonbridge Castle. Money raised from the event is donated to the Round Table's chosen charity. This year the event is once again sponsored by Parkers and The Medway School of Dancing and will be delivered with support from KM FM.
- 1.11.2 The Council's involvement for this event includes the provision of the Christmas lights, support with traffic management issues (road closures and crowd barriers)

and crowd safety (provision of a professional security team in place) and funding of the fireworks.

1.12 Legal Implications

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

1.13 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.13.1 A number of the events 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.

1.14 Risk Assessment

1.14.1 Where an event takes places on Council owned land, organisers are required to complete an Events on Open Spaces application form, provide a risk assessment, public liability insurance and an Event Management Plan where appropriate. These documents are circulated to the relevant Council departments for comment. Feedback to event organisers is provided by the Council's Health & Safety Officer.

Background papers:

contact: Lyndsey Bennett

Nil

Robert Styles
Chief Leisure Officer