

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

09 June 2005

Report of the Director of Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2005

Summary

This report informs the Panel of the progress being made towards the above event.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The Heritage Open Days scheme is a national event co-ordinated by The Civic Trust and supported by English Heritage. The aim of the scheme is to celebrate England's architecture and culture. It also offers the public free access to buildings of interest, which normally charge an admission fee. Across the borough properties will be opening their doors to the public during the weekend of Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September 2005.

1.2 Venues

- 1.2.1 To date 23 venues across the borough have signed up to this year's scheme. The promotion of the event has been greatly helped by enthusiastic support and assistance of parish councils. There are five properties listed from West Malling, including St Mary's Abbey, St Leonards Tower and Pilsdon at the Malling Community. Aylesford is well represented with submissions from Preston Hall and The Friars. Village walks are also being organised in Hadlow, Offham and Wateringbury. Garden centres such as Broadview and Donderry Nursery will also be participating in this year's event.

1.3 Tours

- 1.3.1 Two new inclusions in this year's event are guided tours of Haysden Country Park and Leybourne Lakes. The tours at both the Country Parks will take place on Saturday 10 September (time to be confirmed). Places on these tours will be limited to 20 and bookable through the Tourist Information Centre at Tonbridge Castle. The Tourist Information Centre will also be pre booking tours for St Mary's Abbey and The Leigh Barrier. Tonbridge Castle will also be open on Sunday 11 September from 10.30pm-4pm where partial tours of the Gatehouse will be available to the public. Live music will be provided by Wadhurst Brass Band from

2pm–4pm and various exhibitions by Tonbridge’s Art Group and Camera Club will be on display in the Council Chamber.

- 1.3.2 Many churches have also signed up to the event including St Michael’s, East Peckham, St Mary the Virgin, West Malling and the Parish Church of Tonbridge; St Peter & St Paul. For a full list including dates and opening times list see **[Annex 1]**.
- 1.3.3 Bernard Tyson, Chairman of the Historical Society in West Malling has been very helpful this year in co-ordinating participating properties in this year’s event.
- 1.3.4 **Advertising**
- 1.3.5 A leaflet listing all participants, opening dates and times will be available from the Tourist Information Centre towards the end of July. Copies of the leaflet will be sent to all parish councils and Tourist Information Centres within the Heart of Kent region. This list will also be displayed on the Council’s website at www.tmbc.gov.uk. News releases will also be distributed to the local media nearer the time.
- 1.3.6 All venues/properties which completed forms and returned them by 5 May will be included in the national advertising campaign in the Guardian newspaper. If forms had not been received by that deadline, the venue will still be advertised on the Civic Trust’s website.

Background papers:

contact: Lyndsey Bennett

Nil

Peter Wright
Director of Leisure

Heritage Open Days

2005 Confirmed Participants

Venue	Date	Time
Schools at Somerhill	Sunday 11 September	2pm & 4pm
Pilsdon at Malling Community	Saturday 10 September Sunday 11 September	10am – 6pm 10am – 6pm
Broadview Gardens, Hadlow College	Saturday 10 September Sunday 11 September	10am – 5pm 10am – 4pm
Ditton Heritage Centre	Sunday 11 September	10am – 2pm
Preston Hall – British Legion Village, Aylesford	Saturday 10 September	10am – 4pm
Hadlow Village Walk	Saturday 10 September	2.30pm
St Mary's Church, Hadlow	Saturday 10 September Sunday 11 September	1pm – 5pm 1pm – 5pm
The Clout Institute – Freda Barton Collection, West Malling	Saturday 10 September Sunday 11 September	12 – 4pm 12 – 4pm
St Mary's Abbey, West Malling	Saturday 10 September Sunday 11 September	1pm, 1.15pm, 1.30pm, 1.45pm, 3.15pm, 3.30pm 1pm, 1.15pm, 1.30pm, 1.45pm, 3.15pm, 3.30pm
Neolithic Tombs, West Malling	Saturday 10 September Sunday 11 September	2pm & 4pm 2pm & 4pm

Venue	Date	Time
Wateringbury Village Walk Display of Archives	Saturday 10 September Sunday 11 September	2.30pm 2pm – 5pm
St Mary the Virgin, West Malling	Saturday 10 September Sunday 11 September	9am – 5.50pm 9am – 5.50pm
St Leonard's Tower, West Malling	Saturday 10 September Sunday 11 September	10am – 4pm 10am – 4pm
St Michael's Church, East Peckham	Saturday 10 September Sunday 11 September	10.30am – 5pm 10.30am – 5pm
The Church of St John the Baptist	Saturday 10 September Sunday 11 September	2pm – 5pm 2pm – 5pm
The Leigh Barrier	Saturday 10 September Sunday 11 September	10am, 12 noon, 2pm 10am, 12 noon, 2pm
Tonbridge Castle	Sunday 11 September	10.30am – 4pm
Offham Village Walk	Sunday 11 September	2.30pm
The Friars, Aylesford	Sunday 11 September	2pm & 4pm
Downderry Nursery, Ditton	Saturday 10 September Sunday 11 September	3pm 3pm
Leybourne Lakes – Guided Walk	Saturday 10 September	To be confirmed
Haysden Country Park – Guided Walk	Saturday 10 September	To be confirmed
St Peter & St Paul's Church, Tonbridge	Saturday 10 September	10am – 4pm