

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

12 March 2014

Report of the Director of Street Scene & Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 2014 EVENTS UPDATE

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on this year's forthcoming programme of events across the borough.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Members will be aware that whilst the Council delivers some events directly, the Council also plays an important role in assisting community groups to deliver their events, particularly when on Council owned land. In these cases the Council is often represented on committee groups and provides event management advice, in relation to the preparation of health and safety documentation as well as support for the event through the Council's Safety Advisory Group.

1.2 2014 Event Programme

- 1.2.1 Passion Play – Friday 18 April - Churches Together successfully delivered this event for the first time in 2013 at Tonbridge Castle. Approximately 2,000 people attended the play which involved costumed cast members intermingling with the crowd, the arrival of Mary on a donkey and Jesus being fixed to a crucifix. Rehearsals are currently taking place in preparation for this year's play. There is no admission charge for the public to attend.
- 1.2.2 Tonbridge Carnival and Fete – Sunday 22 June - Organised by Tonbridge Lions Club the event involves a Carnival procession through the High Street, a fete with market stalls and live music on the Castle Lawn. Funds raised from the event are donated to local charities. Last year the starting point was moved to Sovereign Way North car park from K College following meetings with Kent Highways and the Council's Safety Advisory Group, the new route proved to be a success and will be repeated this year. The theme for this year's event is the 'Swinging Sixties'.
- 1.2.3 Tonbridge Arts Festival 1-6 July - This event is delivered by Tonbridge Arts Festival Committee which includes representatives from K College, Tonbridge School, Tonbridge Library, the Borough Council as well as local residents who are

enthusiastic about the arts. This year's Festival will focus on delivering a programme of literary, performing and visual arts events at various venues across the town.

Highlights during the Festival include the creation of 'The Big Picture' to mark the launch of the event, the Open Art Exhibition and 'The Big Dance' involving local primary school children. Tonbridge Roundel Poetry group (which was set up following Tonbridge Arts Festival in 2012) will host a poetry evening and competition. Arts Festival organisers are currently liaising with author Sebastian Faulks to see if he is interested in supporting the event.

The Festival will culminate in three days of live music at Tonbridge Castle with the following programme confirmed:

Friday 4 July	Live at the Castle	(Contemporary local groups)
Saturday 5 July	The Magic of Motown	(Fireworks)
Sunday 6 July	Jazz at the Castle	

This year the Committee were keen to introduce different genres of music to the Castle concerts. It was also agreed that one night should appeal to a 'younger audience'. 'Live at the Castle' will comprise of local groups, largely from K College. The Magic of Motown show, which recently sold out at the O2, features popular tracks from artists including the Four Tops, The Temptations, The Supremes, The Jackson 5 and Stevie Wonder to name just a few! The show boasts a superbly choreographed cast, dozens of dazzling costume changes and will culminate in a fantastic firework finale. 'Jazz at the Castle' will feature a number of different bands performing different styles of Jazz. Acts booked to date include 'The Invicta Jazz Orchestra, The Night Owls and The John Hamilton Big Band.

Early bird ticket prices will be available from 1-30 March. Ticket prices have been confirmed as follows:

	1 March – 30 April		1 May – 4/5/6 July	
Live at the Castle (4 July)		£6		£8
The Magic of Motown (5 July)	Adult	£21.50	Adult	£24.50
	Concession	£18.50	Concession	£21.50
	*Family	£67	*Family	£70
Jazz at the Castle (6 July)		£6		£8

*Family – 2 adults + 2 children)

Tickets will be sold through Tonbridge Castle Gateway or online at www.tonbridgeartsfestival.co.uk The Festival will be launched at the end of February with details on all events sent to local media in advance of tickets going on sale.

To date the Festival has secured sponsorship from Warner's Solicitors and Fidelity.

1.2.4 Summer Band Concerts -3/10/17/24/31 August – On every Sunday in August, a mixture of amateur and professional bands are invited to perform at the Castle between 3pm and 5pm. There is no admission fee for the public to attend, and this year's programme is currently being devised. An approach has been made for a return visit from The Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers, with their last performance at the Castle in August 2012. This series of band concerts is delivered directly by the Borough Council.

1.2.5 Medieval Fair/Heritage Weekend - Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September - Organised by the Borough Council, this year's Medieval Fair will comprise of combat displays, have-a-go-archery, a jester and cookery demonstrations. The event takes place from 10am – 5pm both days and is free for the public to attend.

Heritage Open Days celebrates England's fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to places that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Heritage Open Days is a national scheme organised by The Civic Trust, The National Trust and the Heritage Alliance. 2014 is the 20th anniversary of the event. Locally the Borough Council works with Tonbridge Civic Society and The Malling Society to engage properties of historic interest to get involved in the scheme. A leaflet containing details of all participants across the borough will be available in July.

Following the success of Tonbridge Taster Day in 2013 the Town Team are currently considering options for similar future events. Whilst a full scale event may not be taking place in 2014 there is the potential to stage a Dragon Boat Race and consideration is being given to linking this with existing events taking place in Tonbridge on the weekend of 13/14 September. In addition the Town Team are investigating options for events in 2015.

1.2.6 Tonbridge Half Marathon – Sunday 28 September - The fourth Tonbridge Half Marathon is being organised jointly by Tonbridge Rotary Club and Tonbridge Lions Club to raise money for the Bridge Trust, The Phoenix Autism Centre Tonbridge (PACT) and other local charities.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to sign up online at www.tonbridgehalfmarathon.co.uk

1.2.7 Music@Malling Thursday 25 September – Sunday 28 September - The Music@Malling Festival is back for a fourth year and will bring outstanding artists and great music to historical local venues in and around West Malling. Organised by local residents David Kemp, Tom Kemp and Alan Gibbins, this year's Festival will include a schools' performance of HK Gruber's Frankenstein. Musicians from the nationally acclaimed Chamber Domaine ensemble will undertake workshops with local school children in the lead up to the concert. 1,500 local pupils will be

involved in the four performances, narrated by Matthew Sharpe and featuring dancers from the English National Ballet.

The centenary of the start of First World War will be marked with performances of music by Elgar and Ravel written between 1914 and 1918. There will also be a photographic exhibition of West Malling and its surrounding villages from this period.

Shakespeare's 450th anniversary will be celebrated in an evening of words and music with actor Charles Dance. There will also be an exhibition by local artist Graham Clarke of Shakespeare inspired cartoons and paintings – an exhibition which is currently on display at the Globe Theatre in London.

Bach is featured in every concert and includes performances by leading baroque specialist Steven Devine (a director of Finchcocks Museum). James Pearson and the Ronnie Scotts All Stars will perform 'Close to You', a re-creation of the Frank Sinatra album. The James' Pearson Trio will play Bachology – tying in with the Bach theme which runs throughout the programme. There will also be a series of master classes held throughout the Festival for aspiring musicians across the county – a great opportunity for young people to play with leading professionals.

This year's Festival will focus on audience development. Attendance for the 2013 Festival increased by 30% and organisers will continue to work hard to make Music@Malling accessible for local residents as well as drawing in audiences from further afield.

- 1.2.8 Tonbridge Christmas Festival, Sunday, 23 November – Having previously been organised by the Tonbridge Round Table Tonbridge Rotary Club successfully delivered last year's event which was attended by approximately 5,000 residents. The main elements of the event comprised of live music on stage, the Christmas Light Switch On and a firework display over Tonbridge Castle. All of the on stage entertainment was provided without cost by local groups including Tonbridge Rock Choir, performances from local dance schools Razzamataz and Medway School of Dancing with Ricky and The Hats and Bullshed the headline acts. In addition to these elements of the event, Tonbridge Rotary Club introduced a number of market stalls (inspired by 'A Taste of Tonbridge') which were erected on the High Street. Stalls were a mixture of charitable organisations and local businesses. Stallholders paid a deposit to attend the event.

This year the Rotary Club is looking to increase the number of stallholders on the High Street to create more of a 'Christmas Market' experience. Funds raised at the event will be split between covering the organising costs involved (eg stage hire, road closure, security) with the remainder donated to local charity.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 Where events take place on Council owned land, an Events on Open Spaces form is completed by the organisers detailing the activities involved, risk assessments and insurances before being sanctioned.
- 1.3.2 Events that do not use the Council's land and are not organised by the Council are undertaken at their own risk following advice available from the Council.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 In some instances, the Council provides financial support to assist community groups to deliver events, with funds covered by existing revenue budgets. By joining forces with organisations such as these, the Council is able to support a wider arts programme across the borough than could be achieved through direct delivery.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 Where the event takes place on Council owned land, organisers are asked to complete an Events on Open Spaces form which is submitted with an accompanying risk assessment and public liability insurance certificates. Depending on the scale and nature of the event, in some cases, the organisers are encouraged to provide an Event Safety Plan. In these circumstances, the event paperwork is often considered by the Council's Safety Advisory Group. If the event takes place on private land or the highway, organisers are advised to adopt a similar approach with regard to health and safety documentation.

1.6 Policy Considerations

- 1.6.1 Community, Customer Contact, Healthy Lifestyles.

Background papers:

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Nil

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