

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

10 June 2014

Report of the Director of Street Scene & Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 EVENT UPDATE REPORT

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Members on events taking place across the borough throughout the summer.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Members will be aware that whilst the Council delivers some events directly, many are delivered in partnership with community groups. Some events are ticketed whilst others are free to attend. In some cases, the community group will be responsible for the event, with the Council providing event management advice and assistance with the preparation of health and safety documentation. Where appropriate, the event will be considered by the Council's Safety Advisory Group. This often depends on the scale and nature of the event.

1.1.2 The events highlighted below are delivered with the support/assistance of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. However, numerous other events take place across the borough through Parish/Town Councils. All Parish/Town Councils have recently been contacted regarding events in their area and a summary of the responses is highlighted at **[Annex 1]**. It is the intention to seek these event updates on a quarterly basis to advise this Board, to update the Council's website and help provide events across the Borough.

1.2 Forthcoming Event Programme

1.2.1 Tonbridge Carnival and Fete - Organised by Tonbridge Lions Club, the event will take place on 22 June. The Carnival process comprises of variety of walking groups and floats. The procession will start with the Southern England Marching Band Champion ship at 12.30. This year's theme is 'The Swinging Sixties'. Following the Carnival there will be a fete on the Castle Lawn with entertainment and market stalls. Funds raised from this year's event will be donated to local charities.

1.2.2 East Malling Arts and Food Festival - Organised by the Beat Project, this event will take place between 16-28 June. The Festival will include 'food art' workshops,

food market, art exhibition and a theatre performance in the grounds of the St James Centre. Residents will be able to try new skills by joining in with the Craft and Chat group and the Art group.

The Festival will be launched on 16 June when the public are invited to take part in an all-day craft project to create a large scale piece of artwork.

- 1.2.3 Open Air Theatre - Illyria Theatre Company will be visiting Tonbridge Castle three times over the summer. This year they will be performing:

Date	Performance	Ticket Prices
19 June	George's Marvellous Medicine	£11 (adult), £7 (child)
9 July	Robin Hood	£11 (adult), £7 (child)
23 July	Macbeth	£11 (adult), £7 (child)
27 August	Pirates of Penzance	£14 (adult), £10 (child)

Tickets can be purchased from Tonbridge Gateway. Public are encouraged to bring a picnic.

- 1.2.4 Tonbridge Arts Festival - This event will take place between 1–6 July at various locations across the town centre. The Festival is organised by representatives from K College, Tonbridge School, Tonbridge Library and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. The committee is keen that a wide variety of literary, visual and performing art events are included in the Festival programme.

The Festival will be 'launched' on 1 July with the unveiling of the 'Big Picture' by the Watergate. Children from Slade Primary School will re-enact their World Record Breaking ocarina performance to mark the occasion. Other events taking place during the week include 'Terrifying Tonbridge' a grim and gruesome guided walk featuring true tales of terror from the town's less illustrious past, literary quiz, an evening with artist Guy Portelli of Dragon Den's fame (and festival patron), a poetry evening, a flash fiction workshop and a have-a-go art and craft area at the Angel Centre.

Alongside these activities there will be an Open Art Exhibition at K College (Hawthorn building) from 1–6 July, 10am – 5pm. The Open Art Exhibition is open to all artists who live, work or study in the borough of Tonbridge and Malling. This year, the exhibition will include a Young Artists Showcase for 11-16 year olds.

The Festival culminates with three outdoor performances at Tonbridge Castle. The confirmed programme can be found below:

Friday, 4 July	'Live at the Castle' (local contemporary bands)
Saturday, 5 July	Magic of Motown (with fireworks)
Sunday, 6 July	Jazz at the Castle

For 'Live at the Castle', an X Factor style audition process took place at K College. Committee members were looking to book a diverse range of music genres for

this event with some bands performing covers and others singing their own compositions. Groups that have been booked include Keys Deleted, Searching for Pie and Talk That Talk. It is anticipated this event will attract a younger audience.

For 'Jazz at the Castle Kent, Youth Jazz Orchestra will open the Sunday afternoon concert with the John Hamilton Big Band closing the show.

Tickets are still available for the Friday and Sunday night events and can be purchased online at www.tonbridgeartsfestival.co.uk or in person from Tonbridge Gateway.

- 1.2.5 Summer Band Concerts - Tonbridge Castle band concerts take place every Sunday in August between 3-5pm. There is no admission fee to attend these events. Bands confirmed for this year are as follows:

3 August	Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers
10 August	The Night Owls
17 August	East Peckham Silver Band
24 August	Bacchus Wind Orchestra
31 August	Maidstone Winds

The aim is to provide a mixture of musical genres as well as balance between professional and amateur groups. We are delighted to welcome the return of the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers who last performed at the Castle in 2012. This year is the first time that Tonbridge based; Bacchus Wind Orchestra will have played at the Castle as part of the summer season.

Many people attending the concerts bring a picnic. Hildenborough Women's Institute will be serving refreshments (tea and coffee) from the Council Chamber. Donations welcomed.

- 1.2.6 Music at Malling - This year's event will take place from 25–28 September. The Festival brings outstanding artists and great music to historical local venues in around West Malling. Organised by a local resident, 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, which will feature dancers from the English National Ballet.

The 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 Scott's 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 country – a great opportunity for young people to play with leading professionals.

More details can be found at www.musicatmalling.com. Tickets can be purchased from Tonbridge Castle Gateway.

- 1.2.7 Medieval Fair - This event will take place during the weekend of Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September. Activities at the Medieval Fair will include have-a-go-archery, combat displays, cookery demonstrations, Punch and Judy, skittle alley and Bosco the Jester. There will be Medieval music throughout the weekend and a hog roast will be available.

There is no admission fee to attend and the event is open from 10am and 5pm on both days.

- 1.2.8 Tonbridge Town Team's Dragon Boat Race- Following the success of the inaugural Dragon Boat Race on the River Medway at the Taste of Tonbridge event last year, Tonbridge Town Team has decided to organise the Dragon Boat Race on Sunday 13 September. 13 teams have already confirmed their involvement and these include the following organisations:

Tonbridge School	The Bridge Trust
Tonbridge Round Table	Tonbridge Parish Church
Tonbridge Rock Choir	Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Concert Band
St Stephen's Church	Tonbridge Juddians
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's Mayor's Team	Jane Brucknall (friends and family)
Drew Waugh (friends and family)	Bidborough Dragons
Brenda's Boaters	

- 1.2.9 Heritage Open Days - 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. Every year during the second weekend in September, buildings of every age, style and function throw open their doors. It is a once-a-year chance to discover architectural treasures and enjoy a wide range of tours, events and activities that bring local history and culture to life

Nationally the event is organised by Heritage Open Days National Partnership which includes The National Trust, Civic Voice, and the Heritage Alliance. The scheme is funded by English Heritage. At a local level, the Council works with

The Malling Society and Tonbridge Civic Society to co-ordinate the borough wide response. The event will take place during the weekend of the 13-14 September. To date the following venues have confirmed their participation:

- Guided Walk of Haysden Country Park
- Jane Austen Tonbridge Walk
- Hadlow Tower
- Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Tonbridge
- St Saviours, Tonbridge
- Tonbridge Castle
- Tonbridge Town Walk (Civic Society)
- The Oast Theatre, Tonbridge
- Schools at Somerhill, Tonbridge
- The Twitch Inn, West Malling
- St Mary's Church, West Malling
- The Clout Memorial Institute, West Malling

A leaflet listing all participating properties will be available from Tonbridge Castle Gateway the end of July.

1.2.10 30th Twinning Anniversary Tonbridge and Heusenstamm - This year marks the 30th Anniversary of twinning between Tonbridge and Heusenstamm. In order to mark the occasion, a series of events has been planned for the weekend of the 13-14 September. Formal invitations have been sent to the Mayor of Heusenstamm and it is envisaged a select gathering will come to Tonbridge to celebrate this milestone. The Civic guests will stay at the Rose & Crown Hotel and take part in the various activities. These include visits to Hadlow Tower and West Malling, a chance to watch the Dragon Boat Race and Medieval Fair activities.

In addition to the formal civic arrangements, the Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Concert Band has invited its twin band, The Heusenstamm Stadtkapelle, to come over that weekend. The band has entered a combined 'German and English' team into the Dragon Boat Race. There will be a joint concert at Judd School on Sunday 14 September from 5.30pm – 7pm. Both bands have been twinned for 30 years. 23 members of the band are coming over to join in the weekend celebrations.

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

Runners are also encouraged to raise money for their own chosen charities - over £50,000 was raised in each of the first three years! The course is a traffic-free scenic and undulating route along country lanes around Tonbridge and Leigh.

Race headquarters will once again be at K College with separate male/female changing facilities, secure bag and valuables storage, sports massage facilities and a warm-up area.

The entry fee is £18 for affiliated club members and £20 for non-affiliated runners, both for online and postal entries. Postal entries should be received by Wednesday 24th September. For entries received after this, the race packs should be collected on the day of the race from race headquarters

On-line entries will be accepted up to midday on Friday 26th September. For on-line entries received after Wednesday 24th September, the race packs should be collected on the day of the race from race headquarters.

More details can be found online at www.tonbridgehalfmarathon.co.uk/

- 1.2.12 Tonbridge Christmas Festival - Organised by Tonbridge Rotary Club, this event will take place on Sunday 23 November. The event will start at 1.30pm with a marching band on the High Street from the section of Avebury Avenue – the Big Bridge. On stage activities will run from 3–7pm and will include entertainment, Christmas Light Switch On and a firework display. There will also be market stalls in the High Street whilst the event takes place.

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 along with 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 the event safely. Such costs relate to elements including road closures and the provision of a professional security team. Examples of this approach include Tonbridge Lions Carnival and Fete and Tonbridge Christmas Festival. On other occasions, the event is supported by funds from the Council's Arts budget as is the case with Tonbridge Arts Festival and Music at Malling. 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 When the event is held on Council owned land, the Council will require a risk assessment and a copy of public liability insurance to be provided. Depending on the scale and unique features of the event, it may be that an Event Safety Plan is required and the detail is considered by the Council's Safety Advisory Group. As a matter of best practice with regard to event health and safety, the Council would encourage event organisers to carry out similar procedures.

1.6 Policy Considerations

1.6.1 Community, Healthy Lifestyles.

Background papers:

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Nil

Robert Styles

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