

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

15 September 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 event activities that have already taken place this year as well as highlighting events still to come.

#### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 2014 has already proved to be a busy year. The Council has supported many community groups and other partners in the delivery of their events and in some cases, delivered the events directly. Some events are ticketed and others are free of charge. With regard to the community group events, the Council is often represented on the organising committee and provides event management advice particularly relating to the preparation of health and safety documentation. In other situations, in kind support is allocated to assist groups with their event planning (e.g. marketing, printing, contacts) and in some circumstances funding is available to support the activity along with officer time. Depending on the scale of the event, organisers are encouraged to liaise with the Council's Safety Advisory Group.

1.1.2 The events highlighted below are delivered with the support/assistance of Tonbridge and 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 Events to date

1.2.1 Tonbridge Passion Play – The second Tonbridge Passion Play took place on Good Friday (18 April) and was well supported by the community with around 1000 spectators attending. Organised by Churches Together, the event, saw the Castle play host to a dramatic presentation depicting the Passion of Jesus Christ.

- 1.2.2 The Commonwealth Baton – Members will be aware that the Commonwealth Baton came to the Borough on Thursday 5 June. The event was delivered in partnership with Kent County Council with support from Dame Kelly Holmes who attended in her capacity as President of Commonwealth Games, England. School children were at the event to participate in the celebrations.

The school children also met the Commonwealth Baton Bearers who included Millie Knight (Britain's youngest-ever winter Paralympian), Caroline Lorenzo (one of Kent's most committed sport volunteers), John Simmonds (helped establish Kent Bowls Development Alliance), Roland Gooding OBE (acknowledged for his contribution in promoting Physical Education and sport for young disabled students), Lewis Church (17 years old and already an outstanding decathlete and 400m hurdler who trains with Tonbridge Athletic Club) and finally Lizzy Yaronld (Lizzy shot to fame earlier this year winning a Gold medal in the skeleton event in the winter Olympics in Sochi).

After the event at the Castle, school children went on to other venues across the town including the Racecourse Sportsground, the Angel Centre, Tonbridge Pool and Tonbridge School athletic track to take part in have-a-go sports activities. The event at the Castle drew national press coverage and was broadcast live on the BBC.

- 1.2.3 East Malling Arts Festival – Organised by The Beat Project, the event took place between 16-28 June. Various activities took place including 'food art' workshops, a food market, an art exhibition and a theatre performance in the grounds of the St James Centre by Applause Rural Touring Company.

- 1.2.4 Applause Rural Touring Scheme - (East Malling, Wrotham, Ryarsh and Aylesford) Rural touring helps local people, financially and otherwise to promote professional arts in community spaces. Each scheme offers a range of arts events at an affordable price to a network for voluntary promoters. These volunteers then promote and sell tickets for each event in their own village, nurturing their audience and building confidence in the quality of what is on offer. Some performances take place outdoors at village fetes or festivals.

This year, 8 performances have taken place across the borough to a total audience of 2400. These were all outdoor activities at various village fetes or festivals including 'Picnic in the Park, East Malling, Wrotham Village Fete, Ryarsh Fete and Aylesford Big Lunch.

- 1.2.5 Tonbridge Lions Summer Carnival – The annual carnival, organised by Tonbridge Lions Club took place on 22 June. Thousands lined the High Street to watch seven bands competing in the Southern England Marching Championship followed by a procession of 33 colourful floats, majorettes, dancers, classic cars, walking groups and a traditional Gurka band. After the parade the crowds made their way to the fete on the Castle Lawn.

This year's event raised £4600 for local charities including Hospice in the Weald, Kent Air Ambulance, Y2 Crew, St John Ambulance and Demelza Hospice.

- 1.2.6 Illyria Open Air Theatre – This year Tonbridge Castle played host to three performances from Illyria. These were Roald Dahl's George's Marvellous Medicine, Shakespeare's Macbeth and the other about the adventures of Robin Hood, the heroic outlaw from English Folklore. These events are well supported by residents and attract largely a family based audience.
- 1.2.7 Tonbridge Arts Festival – This year's festival took place from the 1- 6 July and was launched with the unveiling of the 'Big Picture' by the Mayor at the Watergate. The Mayor was accompanied by children from Slade Primary School who performed their world record ocarina piece. The weeklong festival comprised of a variety of literary, performing and visual arts events taking place at numerous venues across the town. Highlights included The Open Art Exhibition at K College, the Roundel Poetry evening at the Rose and Crown Hotel, and three days of musical performances at Tonbridge Castle.

Three very different musical performances took place at the Castle. These included contemporary style modern bands performed by local young people, the Magic of Motown and an afternoon of different types of Jazz. Sales for the Magic of Motown reached a capacity figure of 1500. Tickets sales for Friday and Sunday were largely sold at the gate on the night of the event.

- 1.2.8 Band Concerts – The visit to Tonbridge Castle by the Royal Engineers band marked the start of the August band concert season and it is estimated around 500 people came out to support the performance by the army. The band played a mixture of marches, musicals and popular light classics as well as a few war time favourites.

Other groups that performed at the Castle in August included 'The Night Owls', East Peckam Silver Band, Bacchus Wind Orchestra and Maidstone Wind Symphony. The Hildenborough Women's Institute served refreshments to the crowds. The concerts were well supported by residents each week and have become a firm favourite in the annual events programme.

### **1.3 Forthcoming Events**

- 1.3.1 Tonbridge Castle Medieval Fair – Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, this event is a popular family friendly activity with lots for visitors to do and learn about life in Medieval times. Activities included have-a-go-archery, a punch and judy performance, face painting, owl display, a jester as well as combat displays, cookery demonstrations and a blacksmith and forge. There is no charge to attend the event and it runs from 10am – 5pm on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Typically 1000 people attend each day.
- 1.3.2 Tonbridge Town Team's Dragon Boat Race – Following the success of Tonbridge Taster Day, Tonbridge Town Team decided to organise a second 'Dragon Boat

Race' to take place during the same weekend as Heritage Open Days and Tonbridge Castle Medieval Fair.

The event will be taking place on Sunday 14 September and this year there are 13 teams taking part including organisations such as Tonbridge Round Table, Tonbridge Rock Choir Tonbridge School, Tonbridge Juddians and The Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Concert Band.

- 1.3.3 Heritage Open Days (Borough Wide) – 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 admission. This year there are 21 properties taking part and 5 events taking place during the weekend of the 13 and 14 September. There are three new entries including Aylesford Pottery, where visitors can see the potters at work in the studio, the control tower at Kings Hill, where there will be an opportunity to view the heritage artwork and tour the newly renovated building and Hadlow Tower which is offering a chance to climb the tower and explore the exhibition centre which will show a 3D virtual tour explaining the history and restoration involved in this project.

A leaflet detailing all participants in this year's scheme has been produced and further information can be found online at [www.heritageopendays.org](http://www.heritageopendays.org) A list of participants can be found at **Annex 2**

- 1.3.4 Tonbridge Half Marathon – The fourth Tonbridge Half Marathon has been jointly organised by Tonbridge Lions Club and Tonbridge Rotary Club and will take place on Sunday 28 September. The course is a traffic free, scenic and undulating route along country lanes around Tonbridge and Leigh. Runners are encouraged to raise money for their own chosen charities. Over £50,000 was raised in each of the first three years. The event will take place on Sunday 28 September starting from K College at 10am.
- 1.3.5 Music at Malling - The fourth Music at Malling festival will take place from the 23 – 28 September. The festival brings international artists to historic venues in and around West Malling. This year the festival will commemorate the centenary of the onset of the first World War featuring music from Ravel and Elgar. Each festival features contemporary music alongside the classics. This year's, world renowned composer H K Gruber, will be profiled with six performances of his iconic pandemonium – Frankenstein! These concerts will be the culmination of a ground breaking outreach project involving hundreds of children in local schools working with the English National Ballet and Chamber Domaine.

Other events include James Pearson, Artistic Director of Ronnie Scotts performing a set inspired by Bach and a tribute to Frank Sinatra. Shakespeare's 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated with a concert of words and music featuring actor Peter Dyne from The Globe Theatre, London. There will be a family concert featuring Peter and the Wolf as well as chamber music from leading musicians Steven Devine, Sacconi Quartet, Richard Harwood and Jonathon McGovern.

Famous artist Graham Clarke makes a welcome return with an exhibition called Thatrickles. There will be talks illuminating the themes of Music at Malling including 'Bach the air he breathes' by Professor Jeremy Begbie – a leading academic from Duke University, USA and master classes will be held throughout the festival delivered by a selection of artists featuring throughout the festival. The festival promises to be a special and memorable series of events held in glorious local venues.

The full programme of events throughout the festival can be found at [www.music@mallings.com](http://www.music@mallings.com)

- 1.3.6 Tonbridge Christmas Festival – Organised by Tonbridge Rotary Club, this year's event will take place on Sunday 23 November. The event will comprise of live entertainment, the Christmas Light Switch On and a firework display. This year, the Christmas Light Switch On will be done by the Pantomime Cast from the Angel Centre production. Also, in addition to the entertainment in the High Street, there will be extra activities for families taking place at the Chequerboard area near the Angel Centre after the main activities in the High Street have finished.

## **1.4 Legal Implications**

- 1.4.1 The Council has regular liaison with community groups, and provides advice and support with regard to the preparation of health and safety documentation in relation to the event. Depending on the scale of the event and taking into account any unique elements making up the event, it is likely that the organisers will be invited to attend the Council's Safety Advisory Group. The Safety Advisory Group comprises of emergency services representatives as well as Council staff representing services such as Environmental Health and Building Control. It is recommended that event organisers take on board the advice given by this body of event management professionals.

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

- 1.5.1 With specific reference to Tonbridge Arts Festival, Music at Malling, Tonbridge Castle Medieval Fair, the Summer Carnival and Tonbridge Christmas Festival, these events are supported from within the Council's arts and tourism budget. In some cases private sponsorship is sought by community groups to supplement the contribution from the Council. In particular, this year, Tonbridge Arts Festival were successful in obtaining private sector support from Fidelity, Warners Solicitors, John Newton and Company, Waitrose, Ward Homes and MCM Net.

## **1.6 Risk Assessment**

- 1.6.1 Where the event takes place on Council owned land, organisers are required to complete an Events on Open Spaces application form, undertake a risk assessment and in some cases, an Event Safety Plan is required. Should the organisers be booking other organisations to provide music, catering or other

elements, the Council recommends that they obtain copies of their public liability insurance certificate and a risk assessment from these external providers,

## **1.7 Policy Considerations**

### 1.7.1 Healthy Lifestyles, Customer Contact, Community.

Background papers:

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