

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

24 February 2015

Report of the Director of Street Scene and Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 2015 EVENTS UPDATE

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Members on this year's proposed events that will take place across the Borough.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Council supports many community groups and other partners in the delivery of events and in some cases, delivers events directly. 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. 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.

1.2 Forthcoming Events

1.2.1 Summer Carnival & Fete - Tonbridge Lions Club are in the process of organising this year's event which will take place on Sunday 21 June. Last summer the Carnival and Fete raised £7000 which was donated to local good causes including youth projects, health related charities and helping the elderly.

1.2.2 Open Air Theatre - Illyria Theatre Company have been engaged once again to bring two evening performances to Tonbridge Castle this summer. The following performances have been agreed:

Iolanthe

Wednesday 22 July

The Taming of the Shrew Thursday 27 August

- 1.2.3 Open Air Cinema - The Council has entered into negotiations with The Luna Cinema company to host open air cinema this summer at Tonbridge Castle. Luna Cinema is the country's leading producer of open air cinema. The company delivers a selection of classic and popular film titles at iconic venues which currently include Hampton Court Palace, Kew Gardens, Kensington Palace, Lulworth Castle and Leeds Castle.

Visitors to this event are encouraged to bring friends, family and a picnic whilst they enjoy their favourite film on a giant screen. The combination of a classic film and a beautiful setting makes for a magical cinematic experience and a perfect way to spend a summer's evening with the back drop of Tonbridge Castle. The Council has provisionally agreed the following dates and titles:

Friday 24 July Top Gun

Saturday 25 July Dirty Dancing

The proposed ticket prices are £12.50 per adult, and £8.50 for children (aged 15 and under) excluding booking fees. Tickets will be sold online from the Luna Cinema website www.thelunacinema.com and will also be available from Tonbridge Castle.

This new venture will provide additional income to the Council as Luna Cinema have agreed to provide a percentage of ticket sales while covering the costs of the activity. There is also an opportunity to review and potentially increase this if this year is successful, potentially bringing further income in future years.

Further discussion on operational aspects and details including concessionary prices are planned and expected to be finalised shortly to begin promotion of the screenings from March.

- 1.2.4 Tonbridge Arts Festival - The Arts Festival committee has advised that this year's event will focus on 3 days of music performances at Tonbridge Castle during the weekend of the 10/11/12 July. The proposed programme and ticket prices for this year is as follows, with final confirmation from the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers expected mid March:

Friday 10 July	Cannon School of Irish Dancing Razzamatazz & Tonbridge Rock Choir	£5
Saturday 11 July	80's Tribute Night featuring No Jacket Required (Phil Collins)	Ticket Price until 30 th April £21.50 adult £18.50 concession £62 family.
		Ticket Price from 1st May £24.50 adult £21.50 concession

		£70.00 family
Sunday 12 July	Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers with The Brompton Military Wives Choir	£10.00 adults £8 concession

Tickets will be available to purchase online at www.tonbridgeartsfestival.co.uk and from Tonbridge Castle once the programme is finalised.

For this year's event, Tonbridge Arts Festival committee has secured financial contributions from Fidelity, Warners and MCMNet.

- 1.2.5 Summer Band Concerts - The annual Tonbridge Castle summer band concert season proves as popular as ever with regular audiences of around 300-400 each Sunday in August. Commissioned by the Council, the criteria for programming includes a varied style of music (concert band, jazz, brass band) and a mixture of amateur and professional groups. Each year, the Council is inundated with requests from groups who wish to perform at the venue.

This summer's programme has been confirmed as follows:

John Hamilton Big Band	Sunday 2 August
1 st Whitstable Scout Group Brass Band	Sunday 9 August
Invicta Jazz Orchestra	Sunday 16 August
Second Wind Concert Band	Sunday 23 August
Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Concert Band	Sunday 30 August

- 1.2.6 Medieval Fair - 2015 marks the 8th anniversary of this event at Tonbridge Castle. The event continues to prove popular with residents and attracts around 1000 people each day. The event will take place along side Heritage Open Days, during the weekend of the 12th and 13th September.

Last year saw the introduction of a Blacksmith and Forge which was a successful addition to the event and it is hoped they will be included again this year. Other activities on board for this year include the combat displays, cookery demonstrations, Punch and Judy, Jester, Hog roast and Medieval Music and Dance. Previous stall holders have been contacted regarding their involvement and it is hoped that additional stalls may be added to further enhance the event.

As this year is the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, consideration is being given to how this can be incorporated into the popular event, especially given the involvement of Tonbridge Castle in the significant historical event.

- 1.2.7 Heritage Open Days - The national Heritage Open Days Scheme will take place during the weekend of Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September. Last year 27 places of interest across the Borough were listed in the Council's leaflet. It is hoped this year a similar level of support will be secured. The Council works with Tonbridge Civic Society and The Malling Society to help co-ordinate the local activity and promotion.

Registration opens in March. Letters will be sent to Parish Councils and previous participants to encourage their involvement. The Council is always keen to engage with new venues who may be interested in taking part and news releases will be issued to this effect. A leaflet detailing all participants will be available from July. Entries will also be available to view on www.heritageopendays.org.uk

- 1.2.8 Tonbridge Dragon Boat Race - Following on from the introduction of the Dragon Boat Race in 2013 and the success of the event in 2014, Tonbridge Town Team has confirmed this event will take place once again this year on Sunday 13 September.

- 1.2.9 Music at Malling - 2014 saw the 4th Music at Malling event take place between the 23 – 28 September. Festival organisers produced a variety of events ranging from concerts, music masterclasses, art exhibitions and fascinating talks by leading academics. The festival aims to bring international artists to historic venues in and around West Malling and to this end, organisers have continued to deliver high quality performances in a variety of unique venues including St Mary's Church West Malling, Pilsdon at The Malling Community and the three churches along the Pilgrims Way; Birling, Addington and Trottiscliffe.

Music at Malling has some themes that are included in each festival. These elements are that the event includes a schools performance, profiles contemporary music alongside the classics and more recently dance with the introduction of partnership working with the English National Ballet.

Festival organisers have approached the Council with regard to their plans for 2015. Based on previous years, it is likely the festival will take place from the 24 – 27 September. A more detailed update will be available at the next meeting of this board.

- 1.2.10 Tonbridge Half Marathon - The 5th Tonbridge Half Marathon will take place on Sunday 4 October. This event is jointly organised by Tonbridge Lions Club and Tonbridge Rotary Club. The race starts at West Kent College and follows a scenic and undulating route through Tonbridge and Leigh which is traffic-free. 1400 spaces are available with a further 100 places reserved for charities. On completion of the half marathon, runners will receive a finisher's medal, goodie bag and new for this year a technical t-shirt.

Each year since it started, the event has raised around £50,000 for local charities. It is hoped the same level of support will be achieved in 2015. Registration for this

year's event is now open. More details can be found at www.tonbridgehalfmarathon.co.uk

- 1.2.11 Wrotham Festival of Fusion and Light - Organised by Kent Equality and Cohesion Council (KECC), this year's event will take place on Friday 16 October. This will be the third year running that the festival has taken place with support from the local community increasing each time and involvement through school participation and business support.

Initially the event comprised of a winter lantern parade which started from St George's Church and travelled up to the Cricket Pavilion. This was followed by a cultural celebration of music and dance. Last year, thanks to increased funding including this Council's Community Enhancement grant, the event culminated with a variety of performances on stage, catering stalls and a firework display. This proved popular and attracted an audience of around 500.

The organising committee, which includes representation from the Council together with the 4 schools in the Pilgrims Way Partnership; St George's Primary, Platt Primary, Trottiscliffe Primary and Stansted Primary, are looking to develop this further still for 2015. The basic concept of the event will remain the same in that KECC will continue to work with arts organisation Same Sky and the local schools to produce the lanterns. With the commitment of funding from the Borough Council and applications being made to the Arts Council and Kent County Council, the hope is to encourage more schools in the locality to come on board for next year, to enhance the activities at the Cricket Pavilion to include pop up art/craft workshops for children at the event, increase the choice of catering available and improve marketing activity. The organisers are considering production of a programme to help with sponsorship. The programme would be distributed to schools and residents well in advance of the event to raise awareness and help with fundraising.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 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 possible 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.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Consideration

- 1.4.1 With specific reference to Tonbridge Arts Festival, Music at Malling and Wrotham Festival of Fusion and Light, 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.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 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

1.6 Policy Considerations

- 1.6.1 Community, Healthy Lifestyles, Customer Contact

Background papers:

contact: Lyndsey Bennett

Nil

Robert Styles

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