

ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND LEISURE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 7 March 2023
Time: 6.30 p.m.
Venue: Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors Garten (Chairman), Hastie (Vice-Chairman), Bryant, Forecast, Fort, Mrs Gooch, Harper, Hinder and Naghi

The Chairman will assume that all Members will read the reports before attending the meeting. Officers are asked to assume the same when introducing reports.

AGENDA

Page No.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Notification of Substitute Members
3. Urgent Items
4. Notification of Visiting Members
5. Disclosures by Members and Officers
6. Disclosures of Lobbying
7. To consider whether any items need to be taken in private due to the possible disclosure of exempt information
8. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2023 - to follow
9. Presentation of Petitions (if any)
10. Question and Answer Session for Local Residents (if any)
11. Questions from Members to the Chairman (if any)
12. Forward Plan relating to the Committee's Terms of Reference 1 - 3
13. Maidstone Museum Archaeology Gallery Update 4 - 12
14. 2023/24 Events Plan 13 - 26

Issued on Monday 27 February 2023

Continued Over/:

Alison Broom

Alison Broom, Chief Executive

INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

In order to ask a question at this meeting, please call **01622 602899** or email committee@maidstone.gov.uk by 5 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting (i.e. by 5 p.m. on Friday 3 March 2023). You will need to provide the full text in writing.

In order to make a statement in relation to an item on the agenda, please call **01622 602899** or email committee@maidstone.gov.uk by 5 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting (i.e. by 5 p.m. on Friday 3 March 2023). You will need to tell us which agenda item you wish to speak on.

If you require this information in an alternative format please contact us, call **01622 602899** or email committee@maidstone.gov.uk.

To find out more about the work of the Committee, please visit www.maidstone.gov.uk.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2023 TO 31 MAY 2023

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the key decisions which the Executive or Lead Members expect to take and the non-Key decisions that the Executive or Lead Members expect to take during the next four-month period. The plan will be updated weekly for the relevant period and a new plan for a new four-month period, published monthly on the last Friday of the month.

A Key Decision is defined as one which:

1. Results in the Council incurring expenditure, or making savings, of more than £250,000; or
2. Is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards in the Borough

The current members of the Executive are:

→	 Councillor David Burton Leader of the Council DavidBurton@maidstone.gov.uk 07590 229910	 Councillor John Perry Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Corporate Services JohnPerry@Maidstone.gov.uk 07770 734741	 Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid Lead Member for Communities and Public Engagement LottieParfittReid@Maidstone.gov.uk 07919 360000	 Councillor Martin Round Lead Member for Environmental Services MartinRound@maidstone.gov.uk 07709 263447
	 Councillor Simon Webb Lead Member for Housing and Health SimonWebb@Maidstone.gov.uk 07878 018997	 Councillor Claudine Russell Lead Member for Leisure and Arts ClaudineRussell@Maidstone.gov.uk	 Councillor Paul Cooper Lead Member for Planning and Infrastructure PaulCooper@Maidstone.gov.uk 01622 244070	

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters listed below may do so by contacting the relevant officer listed against each decision, within the time period indicated.

Under the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution, a Key Decision or a Part II decision may not be taken, unless it has been published on the forward plan for 28 days or it is classified as urgent:

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key and part II decisions to be made, even though they have not been included in the Forward Plan.

Copies of the Council's constitution, forward plan, reports and decisions may be inspected at the Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ or accessed from the Council's website: www.maidstone.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Executive which are normally held at the Town Hall, High St, Maidstone, ME14 1SY. The dates and times of the meetings are published on www.maidstone.gov.uk or you may contact the Democratic Services Team on telephone number 01622 602899 for further details.

David Burton
Leader of the Council

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Lead Member	Expected Date of Decision	Key	Exempt	Proposed Consultees / Method of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated
Town Centre Strategy Update	Executive	Leader of the Council	18 Apr 2023	Yes	No Open	Economic Regeneration and Leisure Policy Advisory Committee 4 Apr 2023	Town Centre Strategy Update	Alison Broom alisonbroom@maidstone.gov.uk
Mote Park kiosk A report on the development of the Mote Park kiosk	Executive	Lead Member for Leisure and Arts	18 Apr 2023	Yes	No Open	Economic Regeneration and Leisure Policy Advisory Committee 4 Apr 2023	Mote Park kiosk	Mike Evans mikeevans@maidstone.gov.uk
ROUND 2 BID To vote for agreement for the BID round 2 ballot	Executive	Leader of the Council	18 Apr 2023	Yes	No Open	Economic Regeneration and Leisure Policy Advisory Committee 4 Apr 2023	ROUND 2 BID	Chris Inwood chrisinwood@maidstone.gov.uk

Agenda Item 13

Economic Regeneration and Leisure Policy Advisory Committee

7th March 2023

Maidstone Museum Archaeology Gallery Update

Final Decision-Maker	Not applicable
Lead Head of Service	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement
Lead Officer and Report Author	Museums Director
Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

Executive Summary

The report gives members an update of progress made towards the creation of a new Archaeology Gallery at Maidstone Museum.

Purpose of Report

Noting

This report makes the following recommendation to this Committee:

1. That the content of the report be noted.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Economic Regeneration and Leisure Policy Advisory Committee	7 th March 2023

Maidstone Museum Archaeology Gallery Update

1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	<p>The four Strategic Plan objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embracing Growth and Enabling Infrastructure • Safe, Clean and Green • Homes and Communities • A Thriving Place • We do not expect the recommendations will by themselves materially affect achievement of corporate priorities. However, they will support the Council’s overall achievement of its aims. 	Museums Director
Cross Cutting Objectives	<p>The four cross-cutting objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage is Respected • Health Inequalities are Addressed and Reduced • Deprivation and Social Mobility is Improved • Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability is respected <p>The report supports the achievement the Heritage is Respected cross cutting objective by improving the telling of the story of Maidstone earliest beginnings.</p>	Museums Director
Risk Management	Not Applicable	Museums Director
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposals set out in the recommendation are all within already approved budgetary headings and so need no new 	Section 151 Officer & Finance Team

	funding for implementation.	
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will deliver the recommendations with our current staffing. 	Museums Director
Legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No implications, the report is just for noting. 	Interim Team Leader (Contentious and Corporate Governance)
Privacy and Data Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepting the recommendations will increase the volume of data held by the Council. We will hold that data in line with our retention schedules. 	Policy and Information Team
Equalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recommendations do not propose a change in service therefore will not require an equalities impact assessment 	Equalities & Communities Officer
Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We recognise that the recommendations will not negatively impact on population health or that of individuals. 	Museums Director
Crime and Disorder	None.	Museums Director
Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement for the gallery is being carried out in accordance with the Council's financial procedure rules. 	Museums Director
Biodiversity and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implications of this report on biodiversity and climate change have been considered and there are no direct implications on biodiversity and climate change. 	Biodiversity and Climate Change Officer

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Archaeology Gallery forms part of the Museum's Forward Plan, which was approved by the Lead Member for Leisure and Arts on 19 July 2022. The Forward Plan aims to improve the quality of the Museum's displays and storytelling and to provide better access to the Museum's collections, thus contributing to the overall strategic priority of bringing people into Maidstone and making it a thriving place.
- 2.2 Since July 2022 work has begun in earnest to ensure that the project will be completed to time and budget by May 2024.
- 2.3 The archaeology of Maidstone was chosen as the subject for a new gallery for two main reasons:
- the existing display of archaeological material in the upstairs Withdrawing Room is one of the museum's oldest displays and very out of date in terms of presentation style and interpretation; and
 - the opportunity to move this part of the overall story of Maidstone downstairs to the former café area allows for the overarching structure of the museum's Transformation Plan (that we use the two different floors to tell the two stories of Maidstone's history and the impact of Maidstone and its people on the wider world) to be implemented stage by stage.
- 2.4 Although our focus is Maidstone and its borough, it is impossible to discuss life at this time without taking a wider view of the area, the county and the South East as a whole. The concept of Kent, let alone Maidstone, took many centuries to develop. The archaeological story of the borough is one of inhabitation since before the development of modern humans when 'Heidelberg Man' and Neanderthals lived here hunting and foraging. Later through the thousands of years of the Stone Age people continued to spread across Kent farming, making tools and raising families. Later metal tools in copper then iron gave residents even greater opportunities in building homes, artistic and personal expression.
- 2.5 When the Roman Empire brought newer residents from Europe and beyond, Kent was already well used to its culture and so the invasion by the Roman Army did not have the calamitous effect on local society seen in other parts of Britain. When the Roman Army formally withdrew from Britain in the early 400s AD, people moved in from Germany and Scandinavia eventually replacing Roman culture and structures. Known as Anglo-Saxons, these latest arrivals brought their own distinctive styles of pottery, jewellery and religion. Christianity spread across Kent and more widely at this period.
- 2.6 The town of Maidstone as we know it now was really developed after the invasion by Norman troops in 1066. At the time of the Domesday Book in 1086, the village of Maidstone was owned by the Archbishop of Canterbury and possibly had 250 residents, making it one of the larger ones in the area. Over the next 200 years it grew into a town with people working nearby in farming, transporting goods by river and running the market where a large part of Kent bought its food and other supplies. Later in the

middle ages, the Archbishop of Canterbury had a residence built in town and people running industries associated with water such as breweries and thread making works flourished.

- 2.7 The gallery will show visitors how the borough and its surroundings grew, developed and provided a home for people across this period. It will introduce them to individuals representing different eras and different facets of life in our early history. It will do this through use of the artefacts in the collections of the museum and of Kent Archaeological Society, improving the way they are displayed and interpreted with printed text as well as video footage, digital presentations and sound to create an environment which takes visitors to heart of the story.

Project Management

- 2.8 A Project Board has been established to have oversight of the project and its progress. This is especially important as the project is being co-funded by external organisations who have a stake in its success. The Project Board does not interfere with MBC's responsibility for the project but adds a partnership approach to the making of key decisions and recommendations in the areas of finance, scheduling and project planning. Ultimate responsibility for decisions lies with the Project Sponsor, the Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement, who acts as the conduit between the Board and elected members.
- 2.9 The other Board Members are:
- Councillor Claudine Russell, Lead Member for Leisure and Arts
 - Mrs Fran Wilson representing Maidstone Museums Foundation
 - Mr Paul Oldham representing the William and Edith Oldham Charitable Trust
 - Mr Clive Drew representing Kent Archaeological Society
 - Ms Nike Azeez, a resident of Maidstone
 - Mr David Taiwo, a resident of Maidstone.
- 2.10 Members of the board are tracking progress on the project with monthly meetings and a work schedule against which individual officers can report progress or advise of concerns. So far, no impediments to scheduled progress have been encountered. However, the project timescale is very tight and so careful scheduling is vital.
- 2.11 A specialist museum design company will be employed on a design and build basis to take the story from paper and the research provided by museum staff and convert it into a three dimensional experience in the gallery through the latest design of built sets, use of lighting, arrangement of display cases and the creation of a graphic template to give the gallery its 'feel'. The appointment of an exhibition design company is under way with the assistance of MBC's Procurement Team. An Invitation to Tender was issued on 2nd February 2023. Site visits took place on 15th and 16th February and the closing date for applications was 28th February. Interviews with the top scoring three tenderers will take place on 15th March.

Research

- 2.12 Five main themes were identified by museum staff as a framework around which research could be shaped. These were chosen as broad topics which were applicable to life across the very long period from the Old Stone Age to the end of the Tudor period. These themes may be adjusted if research suggests it is advisable.

Landscape, environment and climate

How our region's landscape affected the kind of lives people lived here and the impact the lives and industry of people had on the environment.

Movement of peoples and ideas

How Kent became the first part of the UK to be populated and its importance through migration and trade with Europe as well as movement within the UK.

Subsistence and technology

How people made a living, their trades and local industries.

Belief and ideology

How beliefs and religion affected life and death and what we learn from burials.

Style and expression

How art and design developed and the purpose it served in different periods.

- 2.13 Experts in individual historical periods have been appointed to review the museum's collections and to draw out important objects, information and the latest archaeological theories which will inform the stories we tell and the objects we highlight.
- 2.14 The specialists have been drawn from universities and those working in the fields of practical and theoretical archaeology covering the following periods:
- The Early Stone Age
 - The Middle Stone Age
 - The Late Stone Age
 - The Bronze Age
 - The Iron Age
 - Roman Britain
 - Anglo-Saxon (Early Mediaeval) Britain
 - Mediaeval Britain
- 2.15 In addition, an Osteoarchaeologist has been appointed to review skeletal remains in the collection and identify those suitable for scientific analysis which may tell us what the individual looked like, where they came from and their general health in life.

Collections

- 2.16 Since the beginning of the project, 9,128 records of archaeological objects have been updated. This includes adding photographs, updating locations, adding new information and creating new records where none existed before. This represents a significant increase in our knowledge about the objects which will form the basis of the gallery.
- 2.17 This work is critical in providing the information we need to use our collections as evidence for the stories we are going to tell. So far, significant items identified include implements created by 'Heidelberg Man', a common ancestor of both modern Humans and Neanderthals, skeletons of Roman people discovered where Fremlin Walk now stands and possible evidence of grape-growing locally in the Roman period. We expect many more as the specialists work with our staff to review the material we hold.

An Accessible Gallery

- 2.18 The main audience for the gallery will be families. This is a very broad term but in essence means that we want a gallery where children and adults (parents, carers, grandparents or friends) can learn together and share experiences as part of making memories. Whilst the gallery will be used by schools for formal learning visits, the content will not be laid out purely to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum. Designers have been tasked to create a specific area to seat a class of 30 but this area should also be capable of working for the general visitor to take a break or sit and discuss what they've seen. It will also provide another of the museum's Quiet Zones which allow neurodiverse or other visitors who may become over-stimulated to rest and regroup.
- 2.19 In order to make the gallery as relaxed and as fun as possible, we will focus on using simple, non-jargon terms and imagery to explain often quite complex ideas. For example, the Stone Age lasted nearly 3.5 million years while the period of Roman occupation was only 400 years. The easiest way to make this clear to visitors is to use a timeline or other visual representation to show the relative lengths of time.
- 2.20 Over the last five years, Maidstone Museum has established itself as a leading service in museums for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The new gallery will continue this work in ensuring that no child is unable to enjoy what the museum has to offer. Physical access to display cases and other elements will be provided at different heights and in different ways to allow independent exploration. Activities and interactive elements will be provided in different formats, whether it be digital, use of reproduction or handling objects or games and opportunities to play or dress up. This will allow for different activities to cater for different needs. Handling objects are important for sharing weight and texture and for visitors with a range of sight impairments whereas an attractive and interesting visual presentation may help a child to understand something if they don't read or have high language skills. The range of formats and activities makes all the difference in finding something that everyone can enjoy.

- 2.21 Where we use film in the gallery, we will ensure that the sound is clear, that subtitles are added and a British Sign Language Interpretation is included.
- 2.22 Our already popular backpacks, designed for families with members who are neurodiverse, will also be updated to include the new gallery on the Visitor Planning Boards. This allows families to decide what they are going to visit while at the museum by attaching individual icons on their plan.

Fundraising

- 2.23 £389,000 was committed for the project by MBC and the Maidstone Museums' Foundation (MMF) undertook to raise £100,000 to match an offer from the William and Edith Oldham Charitable Trust. Kent Archaeology Society have offered £50,000 towards the project and will lend their collections for display.
- 2.24 £100,000 has now been raised by MMF; being a combination of individual donations from MMF members, KCC Member Grant from Councillor Dan Daley, £5000 from MMF reserves, £40,000 Cobtree Charitable Trust and £50,000 from the Gallagher Family.

Access to the gallery

- 2.25 During initial discussions, it has become clear that the location of the gallery at the bottom of a short flight of steps is likely to be a barrier to visitors with mobility issues and so the staircase will be replaced with a platform lift. This work is not covered in the original scope of the project and therefore not budgeted for but MMF have generously agreed to attempt to raise an additional £30,000 to allow for the purchase, installation and required permissions for this item which will be a benefit to the gallery and the museum more widely. Discussions with the Council's Conservation Officer have taken place and he will be involved with any proposed works both to the stairs and the fabric of the new gallery.

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 That members note the report.

4. RISK

This report is presented for information only and has no risk management implications.

5. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 5.1 The project will continue to the design stage and members will be appraised of progress throughout.
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6. REPORT APPENDICES

- 6.1 None.
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7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

**ECONOMIC REGENERATION &
LEISURE POLICY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

7 March 2023

2023/24 Events Plan

Timetable	
Meeting	Date
Economic Regeneration & Leisure Policy Advisory Committee	7 March 2023

Will this be a Key Decision?	No
Urgency	Not Applicable
Final Decision-Maker	Not Applicable – report for noting by the Economic Regeneration & Leisure Policy Advisory Committee
Lead Head of Service	Mark Green, Director of Finance, Resources & Business Improvement
Lead Officer and Report Author	Ann-Marie Langley, Arts & Culture Officer
Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the 2023/24 Events Plan.

This report makes the following recommendation to the Economic Regeneration & Leisure Policy Advisory Committee:

1. That the report be noted.

2023/24 Events Plan

1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	The Events Plan will materially improve the Council's ability to achieve 'A Thriving Place' through delivering a variety of high quality arts and cultural events.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement
Cross Cutting Objectives	<p>The report recommendation supports the achievement of the 'Heritage is Respected' cross-cutting objective by raising awareness of the town's history and heritage through specific events.</p> <p>The report recommendation supports the achievement of the 'Health Inequalities are Addressed and Reduced' cross-cutting objective by helping to reduce social isolation and delivering improvements in physical and mental health for target groups through participation in arts events and activities.</p>	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement
Risk Management	Risks associated with individual events will be addressed as part of Council procedures.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement
Financial	The Plan can be delivered within existing budgets.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement
Staffing	No specific implications.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement
Legal	No specific implications.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement

Information Governance	No specific implications.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement
Equalities	No specific implications.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement
Public Health	Participating in events is generally likely to have a generally positive implication for population health.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement
Crime and Disorder	No specific implications.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement
Procurement	No specific implications.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement
Biodiversity and Climate Change	It has been noted that action should be taken to ensure events are plastic free and minimise single use products, utilise sustainable vendors, consider public transportation options to access events, and encourage recycling and reuse.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As part of the Council's strategic priority to make Maidstone a thriving place, an annual events programme has been developed, comprising both events run by the Council itself and those where the Council partners with other organisations.
- 2.2 A programme of events has been planned for the 2023-24 financial year, as outlined in the appendices to this report. There are two categories of event, those being fully funded by MBC and those being funded through other sources but where MBC officers are providing support.

Enc.1 lists only events being planned or supported by MBC

Enc.2 lists all known events being planned in the borough, including those being delivered by third parties/commercial

The following paragraphs provide more detail about some of the main events.

2.3 Medieval Fayre, 8th April, Brenchley Gardens

This will include a variety of re-enactors demonstrating traditional crafts and skills, alongside knight and princess training, puppet shows, medieval music and crime and punishment. A mechanical dragon will roam around the High Street to promote the event on the day.

2.4 Arts Carnival, 15th July, Lockmeadow – Brenchley Gardens

Emergency Exit Arts have been appointed to deliver the project and are working with a steering group of local artists and creatives/stakeholders to produce and direct the event. The title is '*Wild About Maidstone*' to celebrate our local wildlife and habitats. Local schools and community groups are being invited to take part in the parade and there will be entertainment at the start and end locations. The parade will travel from Lockmeadow via Week Street and finish in Brenchley Gardens.

2.5 River Festival, 29th July

Following a successful resumption of the annual River Festival in 2022, the event will be community and family focussed, with various zoned areas including a charity area, children's activities and a music stage at Lockmeadow. MBC is supporting the event with a creative community grant, £3,000 contribution from the Lockmeadow marketing budget and the use of the town square, market hall and the undercroft. The carriage museum will be open on the day as it was last year.

2.6 Brenchley Concerts, 8 July – 10 September

There will be 9 concerts this year, 3 on Saturday afternoons and the rest on Sundays. All bands for the Sunday performances are now confirmed:

Jon Hamilton Big Band

Invicta Jazz Orchestra

BAE Systems Brass Band

Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Band

Pete's Korner Band, Netherlands

East Peckham Silver Band

2.7 Outdoor Theatre, 12 – 20 August

The Hazlitt Theatre will be delivering an outdoor production of 'Treasure Island' with more venues added to the tour this year: Amphitheatre, Cobtree Manor Park, Little Fant Farm, Bearsted Green, Marden*, Lenham* and Staplehurst* (*exact locations to be confirmed).

2.8 At this relatively early stage, events continue to be developed, so further events are likely to be added to the programme shown in the appendices.

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

3.1 That Members note the report.

4. RISK

- 4.1 Risks associated with individual events will be addressed as part of Council procedures.

5. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 5.1 The events will be publicised widely via social media, broadcasting and print channels etc.

6. REPORT APPENDICES

Enc.1 Events being planned or supported by MBC

Enc.2 All known events being planned in the borough, including those being delivered by third parties/commercial

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2023/24

Date	Event	Location(s)	Delivered by
8 Apr	Medieval Fayre	Brenchley Gardens	Pelican in her Piety; Happening History; Heathcliff Heroics, etc
5 May	Coronation Street Party	Lockmeadow	MBC (Comms team)
27 May	Proms in the Park	Whatman Park	MBC; Parkwood Theatres
17 Jun (TBC)	Street Festival*	Town Centre	Cohesion Plus
15 Jul	Arts Carnival & parade: 'Wild About Maidstone'	Lockmeadow, Town Centre, Brenchley Gardens	Emergency Exit Arts; Steering Group made up of local creatives
8, 16, 30 Jul; 5, 13, 20, 27 Aug; 2, 10 Sep	9 x Bandstand concerts	Brenchley Gardens	Make Some Noise; MAAP
28 Jul; 4, 11, 18, 25 Aug; 1 Sep	Art in the Park	Brenchley Gardens	This Art of Mine; Art Moves; Maidstone Art Centre
Aug	Youth drama workshops with finale performance	Amphitheatre	Parkwood Theatres
Aug/Sep	Outdoor theatre	Amphitheatre; Cobtree Manor Park; Little Fant Farm; Bearsted Green; Marden & Staplehurst	Parkwood Theatres
8 – 10 Sep	Hidden Histories fieldwork project	Mote Park	KCC Archaeology Team; Maidstone Area Archaeological Group
9 Sep	Heritage Open Days event (TBC)	Amphitheatre	MBC
10 Sep	Maidstone Community Mela	Mote Park	Cohesion Plus; Maidstone Cultural Group
2 - 8 Oct	Literary Festival	Locations throughout town centre	Jodi Eeles, Inky Frog, local authors

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2023/24

Date	Event	Location(s)	Delivered by
21 - 28 Oct	Scarecrow Festival	Town Centre	MBC, One Maidstone, local businesses
23 Oct - 3 Nov	Mote Park Art Competition Exhibition	Mote Park Visitor Centre	MBC
Jan-24	Lunar New Year	Town Centre, Jubilee Square	Cohesion Plus, Maidstone Cultural Group
2 Feb (TBC)	Light Up Maidstone**	Town Centre	One Maidstone; Cohesion Plus
22 - 30 Mar	Heart of Kent Walking Festival	Various	MBC led; MVCP, Explore Kent, Kent Downs AONB, SUSTRans, Community Rail Partnership, plus more..

*We are not organising a Fusion Festival this year as the Arts Carnival will be our headline event for summer. However Cohesion Plus have indicated they may look to organise another Fusion event themselves if we can provide a contribution towards costs. This event is still to be confirmed.

**Subject to successful re-ballot by One Maidstone and successful bid to Arts Council England

FULL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2023/24

Date	Event	Location(s)	Delivered by
8 Feb – 17 Jun	Animal Guising & the Hooden Horse	Maidstone Museum	Maidstone Museum
8 Feb – 17 Jun	Secret Stash – Discovering a Bronze Age hoard	Maidstone Museum	Maidstone Museum
4 – 6 Apr	Easter themed craft activities	Maidstone Museum	Maidstone Museum
8 Apr	Medieval Fayre	Brenchley Gardens	Pelican in her Piety; Happening History; Heathcliff Heroics, etc
11 – 13 Apr	Treasure themed craft activities	Maidstone Museum	Maidstone Museum
22 Apr	Wild Escape (Earth Day)	Maidstone Museum	Maidstone Museum
24 Apr – 1 May	Funfair	Mote Park	Forrest Amusements
26 Apr – 1 May	Fringe Festival	Town centre (various)	Make Some Noise
27 Apr – 14 May	MaidFest	Town centre (various)	One Maidstone
29 Apr – 1 May	May Day Celebrations	Kent Life	Kent Life
1 – 14 May	Cocktail Week	Town centre (various)	
5 May	Coronation Street Party	Lockmeadow	MBC (Comms team)
14 May	Charity Run	Mote Park	Heart of Kent Hospice
20 May	MSO Concert	Mote Hall	Maidstone Symphony Orchestra
22 – 26 May	Vegetarian Week	Lockmeadow	Love Food businesses

FULL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2023/24

Date	Event	Location(s)	Delivered by
25 - 29 May	Small World Festival	Headcorn	
26 - 29 May	Glitterbomb; Summer Love; Raver Tots	Mote Park	Lucus Live
27 May	Hooden Horse Fun Day	Maidstone Museum	James Frost
27 May	Proms in the Park	Whatman Park	MBC; Parkwood Theatres
27 - 29 May	The Queen's Joust	Leeds Castle	Leeds Castle
30 May - 1 Jun	Half Term craft activities	Maidstone Museum	Maidstone Museum
2 - 4 Jun	We Love 80s - Ibiza Classical	Mote Park	Lucus Live
10 Jun	Climb the Observatory	Maidstone Museum	Maidstone Museum
11 Jun	Bubble Rush	Mote Park	Demelza Children's Hospice
17 June (TBC)	Street Festival*	Town Centre	Cohesion Plus
24 Jun	Bronze casting & sword making	Maidstone Museum	Maidstone Museum
24 Jun	Armed Forces Day	Headcorn Aerodrome	
30 Jun - 2 Jul	Open Air Cinema	Whatman Park	Adventure Cinema
30 Jun - 2 Jul	Battle of Britain Air Show	Headcorn Aerodrome	
1 Jul - 14 Oct	NHS 75 Exhibition	Maidstone Museum	Maidstone Museum
1 - 2 Jul	Pretty Muddy/Race for Life	Mote Park	Cancer Research UK
7 - 9 Jul	Kent County Show	Detling Showground	Kent County Agricultural Society

FULL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2023/24

Date	Event	Location(s)	Delivered by
8 Jul	Classical Concert	Leeds Castle	Leeds Castle
8 Jul	Bandstand concert	Brenchley Gardens	Make Some Noise
14 – 15 Jul	Revival Weekender	Mote Park	Lucus Live
15 Jul	Arts Carnival & parade: 'Wild About Maidstone'	Lockmeadow, Town Centre, Brenchley Gardens	Emergency Exit Arts; Steering Group made up of local creatives
15 Jul	Festival of Archaeology	Maidstone Museum	Maidstone Museum
16 Jul	Bandstand concert	Brenchley Gardens	MAAP
21 – 22 Jul	Blue Reef Festival	Loddington Farm, Linton	Blue Reef Festival
21 – 23 Jul	Maid of Stone Festival	Mote Park	Lucus Live
27 – 30 Jul	Chickenstock Festival	Stockbury	Chickenstock Festival
28 Jul	Art in the Park	Brenchley Gardens	Art Moves
29 Jul	Maidstone River Festival	Riverside, Lockmeadow	Maidstone River Festival Committee
29 Jul	Steampunk Fair	Maidstone Museum	Maidstone Museum
29 Jul	Abode (music)	Mote Park	Lucus Live
30 Jul	Bandstand concert	Brenchley Gardens	MAAP
Aug (TBC)	Youth drama workshops with finale performance	Amphitheatre	Parkwood Theatres
4 Aug	Art in the Park	Brenchley Gardens	Art Moves

FULL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2023/24

Date	Event	Location(s)	Delivered by
4 – 5 Aug	Children’s Theatre (Wizard of Oz)	Leeds Castle	Leeds Castle
4 – 6 Aug	Rock the Mote Weekender	Mote Park	Lucus Live
5 Aug	Bandstand concert	Brenchley Gardens	Make Some Noise
11 Aug	Art in the Park	Brenchley Gardens	This Art of Mine
12 – 13 Aug	Military Vehicle Show	Headcorn Aerodrome	
13 Aug	Bandstand concert	Brenchley Gardens	MAAP
14 – 18 Aug	Science Fair	Kent Life	Kent Life
18 Aug	Art in the Park	Brenchley Gardens	This Art of Mine
20 Aug	Bandstand concert	Brenchley Gardens	MAAP
24 – 28 Aug (TBC)	Small World Festival	Headcorn	Small World Solar Stage
25 Aug	Art in the Park	Brenchley Gardens	Maidstone Art Centre
27 Aug	Bandstand concert	Brenchley Gardens	MAAP
Aug/Sep	Outdoor theatre	Amphitheatre; Cobtree Manor Park; Little Fant Farm; Bearsted Green; Marden & Staplehurst	Parkwood Theatres
1 – 30 Sep	Design Month & Sculptures	Leeds Castle	Leeds Castle
1 Sep	Art in the Park	Brenchley Gardens	Maidstone Art Centre

FULL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2023/24

Date	Event	Location(s)	Delivered by
2 Sep	Bandstand concert	Brenchley Gardens	Make Some Noise
2 -3 Sep	Southern Model Air Show	Headcorn Aerodrome	
8 – 10 Sep	Hidden Histories fieldwork project	Mote Park	KCC Archaeology Team; Maidstone Area Archaeological Group
9 Sep	Heritage Open Days event (TBC)	Amphitheatre	MBC
9 Sep	Memory Walk	Mote Park	Alzheimer’s Society
9 – 10 Sep	Hops n Harvest Festival	Kent Life	Kent Life
10 Sep	Bandstand concert	Brenchley Gardens	MAAP
10 Sep	Maidstone Community Mela	Mote Park	Cohesion Plus; Maidstone Cultural Group
16 – 17 Sep	Café Mambo – Big Raver Tots	Mote Park	Lucus Live
16 – 17 Sep	Paws in the Park	Detling Showground	MDS Shows Ltd
23 Sep	Soultasia	Mote Park	Lucus Live
30 Sep	Oktoberfest	Mote Park	Lucus Live
Oct	Black History Month activities	Lockmeadow	Lockmeadow
2 - 8 Oct	Literary Festival	Locations throughout town centre	Jodi Eeles, Inky Frog, local authors
6 – 8 Oct	Fun Palaces Weekend	Town centre (various)	MAAP; KAAW

FULL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2023/24

Date	Event	Location(s)	Delivered by
21 - 28 Oct	Scarecrow Festival	Town Centre	MBC, One Maidstone, local businesses
21 Oct - 16 Dec	The Moon Exhibition	Maidstone Museum	Maidstone Museum
23 Oct - 3 Nov	Mote Park Art Competition Exhibition	Mote Park Visitor Centre	MBC
4 - 5 Nov	Fireworks Spectacular	Kent Life	Kent Life
4 - 5 Nov	Fireworks Spectacular	Leeds Castle	Leeds Castle
16 Nov	Christmas Lights Switch On	Town Centre	One Maidstone
25 Nov - 24 Dec	Christmas at Kent Life	Kent Life	Kent Life
25 Nov - 31 Dec	Christmas Pantomime	Hazlitt Theatre	Parkwood Theatres
25 Nov - 2 Jan	Christmas & Lights	Leeds Castle	Leeds Castle
2 - 16 Dec	Father Christmas' Fireplace	Maidstone Museum	Maidstone Museum
2 Feb (TBC)	Light Up Maidstone**	Town Centre	One Maidstone; Cohesion Plus
10 Feb (TBC)	Lunar New Year	Town Centre, Jubilee Square	Cohesion Plus, Maidstone Cultural Group
22 - 30 Mar	Heart of Kent Walking Festival	Various	MBC led; MVCP, Explore Kent, Kent Downs AONB, SUSTRans, Community Rail Partnership, etc.

*We are not organising a Fusion Festival this year as the Arts Carnival will be our headline event for summer. However Cohesion Plus have indicated they may look to organise another Fusion event themselves, if we can provide a contribution towards costs

FULL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2023/24

**Subject to successful re-ballot by One Maidstone and successful bid to Arts Council England