



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

14th July 2014

Events

The season of summer events is now in full flow and the town is coming alive as the public come to enjoy all the great things Northampton has to offer.

From 29th to 31st May the Borough Council ran the ever popular Delapre Beer Festival for the second year after saving it from cancellation. The event featured over 200 beers, 90 ciders, country wines, gin and locally sourced food as well as live music, and attracted over 6000 visitors. After receiving feedback from customers, this year's event included additional seating areas, a traditional band stand and improved entry systems.

The Borough Council held the town's first outdoor film festival, Films on the Waterfront, at Becket's Park on 11th and 12th July. Families were able to enjoy a picnic in the park whilst watching a free line-up of films, including Mamma Mia, Despicable Me 2 and Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2.

On the evening of the 11th July everyone will be able to sing-along to ABBA classics as Mamma Mia is shown from 7pm on the Becket's Park mound, and on 12th July there will be a whole host of films and activities for children to enjoy including three animated favourites on the big screen plus rides, face-painting and amusements.

Formula 1 fans came along to enjoy the activities taking place in Abington Street and the Market Square on 29th June, including pit stop challenges, racing driving simulators, photo opportunities with F1 cars and activities for children. There was plenty more to look at, with stands from the Mercedes Formula 1 team, Silverstone Race Track and the Richard Sanders Group. Trainee race mechanics from the National College for Motorsport, which is the first college in the UK to have achieved the Motorsport Academy Employer Recognition Scheme Charter Mark, were also there with their display car and information on how to pursue a career in motorsport.

The Endeavour Rally, a charitable event that encourages disabled participation in motorsport, set off from the Market Square at 12pm to drive to Silverstone Circuit and return to the traditional shaken bottle of bubbly at the Market Square.

The Borough Council run event was part of a week-long celebration, Northamptonshire Grand Prix Week, marking 50 years of the Grand Prix at Silverstone and this county's many links with the motorsport industry.

Culture & Heritage

Visitors have been able to enjoy two very different continuing exhibitions: 'John Clare and the Shepherd's Calendar', and 'Corsets & Cami-Knickers'. Linked to the John Clare exhibition over 70 people attended an evening of talks, debate and discussion on 1st May, and two writing workshops were held at the Northampton Museum & Art Gallery and the Central Library, Abington Street at the end of the month.

Three new exhibitions have opened at the Central Museum; 'Batteries Not Included' our summer family exhibition exploring the history of toys, an exhibition by final year fashion and footwear students from the University of Northampton and a specialist shoe exhibition - 'Kobi'. This exhibition showcases the innovative and intriguing work of the international shoe designer Kobi Levi and is his first major exhibition in the UK.

During May and June the 53rd annual 'Art in the Park' exhibition ran at Abington Museum proving to be popular with visitors and an attractive sales outlet for many local artists. During the same period renovation work has continued at Abington Museum with repairs to windows throughout the building, refurbishment of the floor in the Great Hall and restoration of the bell tower.

Northampton Leisure Trust

The Sport & Play Development Team achieved an 'excellent' rating in a tough two day in an assessment by Quest, Sport England's leading national quality scheme. The teams overall score placed them second out of over 30 other teams from across the country. Quest is the best known improvement programme within the leisure industry and its rigorous assessments challenge even the very best sports development teams in the UK.

Councillor Brandon Eldred

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement