

## Notes from Events Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Present: Cllr Gethin Jones, Esther Weller, Lucie Parkin, Pete Farthing, Aaron (flowers), Annie Rainsbury, Vic Mills, Jo Webb,

Apols: Lucy Hywel, Mark Sexton, Robert Parker, Peggy Romer, Rhys Watkins.

Cllr Jones thanked everyone for their time and asked for updates on what is planned so far this year for Abergavenny.

Sight Loss Awareness Training – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Community Room, Abergavenny Town Hall: Open to everyone, in need of gaining reps from organisations to enable Abergavenny to become the first Sight Loss Friendly Town in Wales. Esther Weller can offer bespoke training for companies and organisations – please drop her a line at [Esther.Weller@sightcymru.org.uk](mailto:Esther.Weller@sightcymru.org.uk)

Writing Festival – 21st and 22nd April 2023: FRIDAY: Professional hints and tips throughout the day at the Kings Arms, then an Open Mic session at the Melville Centre for the Arts both online and in person. SATURDAY: Sarah Kilbride is hosting a children's writing workshop all day in the Melville Centre for the Arts, with Meet the Writers sessions, and full family engagement activities. There will be writing for mental health and wellbeing, and for fun. Presentations for the children's competition will be made by the Mayor Cllr Konieczny that day. On Saturday night, there will be music, comedy and partners from Mind Monmouthshire, Andy Man Club, etc will be offering introductions to what they hope will become monthly sessions. For any more information or to get involved, please contact Lucie Parkin on [lucie.parkin@gmail.com](mailto:lucie.parkin@gmail.com)

AMFest – 30th April 2023 at Abergavenny Castle: Abergavenny Music Festival (AM Fest) is a fantastic day out for all the family with two stages of live music all day, street food, drinks, stalls, children's entertainment, and a children's funfair! There's an amazing line-up of bands and artists and all proceeds will go to charities and good causes in the local area. Adults: £12.00, Kids: £6.00, Gates open at 12:00 pm. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/monmouthshire/abergavenny-castle/abergavenny-music-festival-am-fest-2023/e-zaedrk>

Toy and Train Collectors Fair – Monday 1st May 2023 Market Hall and Town Centre

King Charles III Coronation Street Party (TBC) – Sunday 7th May 2023

Mons Day – 5pm, 8th May 2023 Monday at the War Memorial, Frogmore Street, Abergavenny.

Steam Rally: 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – in need of volunteers and stewards for the event in Bailey Park.

Abergavenny Arts Festival – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023: Smaller scale event this year due to changes on their board, but hope to come back with larger event in 2024.

Sanctuary Project – 19th – 24th June 2023 inc. performances in the Borough Theatre 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Vic Mills from Contemorancient Theatre is working with the Plas Gunter Mansion on a project called Sanctuary, holding workshops, and community/school performances. There is a Welsh/Syrian Score for the show that is due to be performed at the Borough Theatre 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June. Worked with refugees in Newport and Cardiff, in conjunction with the Abergavenny Town Of Sanctuary. Need 10 adults to help with the spoken word element of the play, if anyone has any links please contact the Town Clerk at Abergavenny Town Council and details can be forwarded on from there.

Abergavenny Pride – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023: Aaron and Jo explained there are plans for a parade to walk through town between 10am – 12pm, to lead into the Family Fun Day at the Priory until 5pm.

The evening will see an 18+ event for up to 500 in the Prince of Wales Courtyard. Looking to see if MCC would be willing to allow the zebra crossing to be decorated in rainbow colours for the event. Town Clerk to make contact with MCC Highways and Car Parks to see if there is any possibility of this. There is scope to link in to Think Space Talks – Queer History Art & Culture to continue through the year.

Armed Forces Day – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023: Peter Farthing from the Abergavenny Branch Royal British Legion and Veterans Hub explained this year's event is being held in Newport, but there is talk of Abergavenny applying to hold this in 2025.

Abergavenny In Bloom judging for Wales In Bloom – Mid-July 2023: Abergavenny is representing Wales in Britain In Bloom this year, with the first round of judging in July. This year's Theme is 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the NHS, so something to mark this on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 will be planned. Businesses and organisations will be asked to join in by decorating their windows and public areas in rainbow colours, so it may be an idea to do this for Pride on 24<sup>th</sup> June, then tweak the displays for the NHS celebrations on 5<sup>th</sup> July, leaving them in place until the judging has taken place mid-July. Britain In Bloom judging will then take place first 10 days of August, so the display windows in the High Street will be utilised to showcase the 'celebrations' held.

Outdoor Theatre Events – 4<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023, Abergavenny Castle

Remembrance Parade – Sunday 12th November 2023: ATC and RBL are already organising this year's parade due to the high number of participants. We need more trained marshals to assist with safely stewarding the route of the parade, so ATC will ask MCC if they intend to run their Marshalling Course again in the next few months.

Christmas Light Switch On – Saturday 18th November 2023: ATC are proposing to run a similar event to the 2022 switch on across town at several locations. The date has been pencilled in, as we need to be better prepared due to the high numbers of people that attended. Again, more marshals are needed to be able to safely steward the route. The light-up reindeer is not returning, but alternative ideas are being looked at to encourage community engagement – something like a lantern parade with workshops leading up to the date, or tree decorations with nominated 'trees' for people to decorate.

Next online Events Meeting to be held early March – date and time to be confirmed.