

Agenda item

Ware Town Council Events 2020/21

Cinema

Cinema had been very well attended. Unfortunately we had to cancel the April film show & have not been able to put anything in place since. Some guests from the April film chose to carry over their booking until such a time as Cinema is running again, others chose to have a refund.

In normal times we would be planning a restart for September. However, we need to consider several things before we make a decision on this; in order to maintain social distancing, we would need to cut numbers to just under 50 to have tables of 6 around 8ft tables. (this formula has not yet been checked but I think it could work). We also have to consider carefully the profile of our audience, many of whom are either very elderly or vulnerable with considerable health issues.

Restarting in September would also necessitate presence in the office in order for tickets be sold, which would be a further risk, unless guests were able to reserve their tickets and collect on the door.

We would also need to consider the provision of tea/coffee/biscuits.

Guided Tours of Ware

The programme of Guided Tours, due to end in September, have been cancelled. Again, we have to consider social distancing and the profile of our Tour Guides. Recommend recommence in 2021.

Food Festival

Our Annual Food Festival due to take place on 17th May was cancelled. There has been some discussion with Ware's The Music about hosting this later on, alongside Ware's The Music, however, with the current ban on live performances this won't be feasible. Recommend a come back in 2021.

Summer Concerts

Once again, the entire programme of concerts has been cancelled up until the end of July. Some bands have expressed that they doubt they will be able to play at all in 2020 even when rules change since they haven't been able to practice. It should be noted that live performances are currently banned. The band booked for August has not yet been cancelled.

Ware Brass is one of the groups who have said they may not be able to play again this year – but I will make contact with them again with regard to the traditional Christmas Concert.

VE75

The planned programme of events were cancelled. Members of the public were invited to share their memories/photos of VE day but this didn't gain much traction. The Mayor recorded a toast which became part of a district wide broadcast of all Mayors paying tribute to the heroes of WW2.

VJ Day – 15th August

It is highly unlikely we will be able to put together a programme of events. We could however do similar to what we did for VE75 although I feel VJ Day will have less 'oomph' than VE Day.

Heritage Weekend

This is due to take place over a choice of 2 weekends; 11th-20th September. We usually have a programme consisting of a Town Tour, Concert, a tour of the Priory Grounds. It is unlikely we will be in a position to go ahead with these events. The other groups which open in the town are Ware Museum, Leaside Church and St. Mary's Church.

I feel members should take comfort from the fact that whilst we have lost so much in terms of community events in Ware this year, the Covid 19 Grant Fund has helped groups who keep in touch/provide online events for the community and that we should continue to help publicise groups that are able to provide some online events.