

COUNCIL: 20 JULY 2023

CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS STATEMENT

Cardiff Food & Drink Festival

I would like to thank all the officers, producers and partner agencies involved in supporting the return of the Cardiff Food & Drink Festival earlier this month. This is the first year post-Covid that the festival has really felt like it was back at full strength, with over 100 producers enjoying three days of strong trading. The festival included a range of new exhibitors alongside many old favourites, and the feedback received from both has been very favourable.

Welsh Proms 2023

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the official opening of St David's Hall, the National Concert Hall of Wales. I am delighted and immensely proud that, for one week a year, St David's Hall hosts the Welsh Proms, which present a variety of different music, ranging from some of the city's youngest and most talented musicians to international quality symphony orchestras, soloists and conductors. The Welsh Proms have been held this month at St David's Hall (8-14 July 2023) and, once again, have delivered a rich and diverse variety of music, including folk, jazz, organ and children's concerts, which complemented the evenings' classical concerts.

Summer Events Programme

The Cardiff Bay Family Fun Park will return to Roald Dahl Plass from 22 July to 29 August 2023. Operating daily from 11am to 8pm, the fun park will include outdoor funfair attractions, family game stalls and a selection of sweet and savoury takeaway food.

Music concerts continue to take place at Cardiff Castle during the summer, including Tom Jones (21 & 24 July; 5 August) and Ben Howard (23 July). Luna Cinema will also be returning to Cardiff Castle on consecutive evenings from 31 August to 2 September for outdoor screenings of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Pretty Woman and Top Gun: Maverick.

Over 40 life-sized dinosaurs will be moving and roaring in Bute Park once again from 17 August to 3 September as part of the 'Dinosaurs in the Park' attraction.

The FIM British Speedway Grand Prix will return to Cardiff's Principality Stadium on 2 September for its 21st year. The Council will also be working with the event organisers to, once again, host the Speedway Fanzone on City Hall Lawn between 10.00am and 3.00pm on race day.

Fans will be able to buy merchandise and see classic bikes on display at the Fanzone. There will also be autograph sessions with current Speedway riders, Q&A sessions with current and past riders, BMX trick displays and a Monster Truck. Food and drink concessions will also be available on site.

Further details of our exciting summer events programme can be found on the Visit Cardiff website at: www.visitcardiff.com/events

Trainee and Apprenticeship Schemes

The recruitment of a new cohort of trainees and apprentices has commenced this month, with new opportunities being made available as a consequence of the success of previous participants in securing permanent posts. A total of seven posts are being advertised – four horticulturally-based posts and one landscape-based post within the Parks Service; and two posts within Cardiff Harbour Authority in the disciplines of mechanical and electrical engineering. All schemes provide the opportunity of employment for up to four years with a tailored programme of practical experience, including the opportunity to gain experience in other public sector and third sector organisations. All scheme participants will benefit from courses of day release study in specialised subject areas that lead to industry recognised qualifications. The employment of apprentices and trainees in my portfolio area is integral to workforce planning and it is particularly pleasing that the opportunities being advertised are evidence of successful delivery of our succession plan. Members may recall that last year, Teaka Scriven, one of our Horticultural Trainees, was named by the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) as the UK Apprentice of the Year in the Parks and Horticultural Services category.

Green Flag Awards

The Green Flag award scheme is a benchmark standard used in the UK and throughout the world, which recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces. Integral to the awards are the contributions made by Friends of Groups and volunteers who add significant value to our management plans and local environmental improvements. Earlier in the summer, the Council's current 16 Green Flag parks and green spaces were subject to a regime of formal and mystery shopping assessment. As members may be aware, this is an annual exercise which ensures that sites holding the status continue to meet the required standards. Two new Green Flag award entries were also submitted for 2023 – Tredelerch Park in the Rumney ward and Western Cemetery in the Ely ward – and I have received positive feedback from officers regarding the assessments for these new sites, in addition to the assessments of those sites in the city that currently have Green Flag status. The outcomes from the award assessments are due to be revealed later this month.

Councillor Jennifer Burke
Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events
14 July 2023