



For Immediate Release

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Council considering options for programme of summer entertainment

With the ongoing uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is exploring options to safely deliver a programme of outdoor arts, music and performances this summer.

Basingstoke Festival is set to make a return to the borough this summer with 17 days of performances, music, dance and arts between Friday 25 June and Sunday 11 July 2021.

Due to the uncertainty of social distancing restrictions which may still be in place and to keep Basingstoke and Deane safe, the borough council is working with artists and local art organisations to explore how it can hold virtual and socially distanced events.

However, it is unlikely that crowds will be able to return for B LOVE Festival, which brings over 100 live music acts, family entertainment and art in unusual places to War Memorial Park and is the finale event of Basingstoke Festival.

While work continues to investigate how the festival can be safely delivered in line with government restrictions which may be in place in the summer, there is still plenty to look forward to.

From February, the council's Art in Unusual Times virtual programme, in partnership with local artists and organisations, will bring residents the best in arts and crafts, dance, theatre performances and public art.

Activities include arts and craft sessions using recycled materials with Basingstoke-based entertainer Junk Jodie, interactive Basing-folk storytelling sessions with local theatre company Pumpkin Pantos and the return of the successful Window Wanderland project which will return to communities across the borough, filling their windows with bright and colourful art.

Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Partnerships Cllr Simon Bound said: "We know the COVID-19 pandemic has been a difficult time for residents across the borough and we are keen to provide a fun-filled programme of entertainment this summer that everyone can look forward to.

"But ultimately, the safety of our residents must come first and we are continuing to monitor the latest government guidance and are working with art organisations and members of the arts and culture industry to understand how we may be able to safely deliver the annual Basingstoke Festival.

"We are very lucky to have talented artists, performers and arts organisations in our borough. I am pleased that we are able to bring residents an exciting selection of virtual arts and culture through our Art in Unusual Times programme which we hope will bring some much-needed entertainment to enjoy in the comfort of their own homes."

For lots more to see and do, visit www.basingstokefestival.co.uk
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