



**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITIES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025**

**Officer:** Ian Thorpe. Commercial, Markets and Events Manager

**EVENTS IN THE QUARRY**

**Purpose of Report**

To update the Committee with the events held and scheduled to be held within the Quarry.

Provisional List of Events for 2026

| Event                                   | Provisional Date/s                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>March</b>                            |                                                                            |
| FUN FAIR - STOKES                       | Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> to April 11 <sup>th</sup> – Operating dates tbc |
| <b>April</b>                            |                                                                            |
| WREKIN ORIENTEERING                     | Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>                                                     |
| HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY               | Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>                                                     |
| <b>May</b>                              |                                                                            |
| LOOPFEST 2026                           | Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> to Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>                           |
| RUN THE DISTANCE - 10K POINT TO POINT   | Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>                                                     |
| MECHANICAL ORGAN FESTIVAL               | Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>                         |
| SHREWSBURY REGATTA                      | Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>                        |
| RACE FOR LIFE 2026 – CANCER RESEARCH UK | Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>                                                    |
| <b>June</b>                             |                                                                            |
| ZIPPOS CIRCUS                           | Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> to Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> – Operating dates tbc     |
| BELLE VUE ARTS FESTIVAL                 | TBC                                                                        |
| SHREWSBURY FOOD FESTIVAL                | Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>                       |
| <b>July</b>                             |                                                                            |
| SHREWSBURY 10K – ULTIMATE FITNESS       | Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>                                                     |
| SEVERN HOSPICE DRAGON BOAT RACING       | Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>                       |
| RUM & REGGAE FESTIVAL                   | Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>                                                  |

| <b>August</b>                         |                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                       |                                                                          |
| <b>September</b>                      |                                                                          |
| SEVERN BRIDGES 10K                    | Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>                                                   |
| MACMILLAN CORACLE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS | Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>                                                  |
| MAYORS CHARITY EVENT                  | Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>                                                  |
| FUN FAIR - JENNINGS                   | Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> to Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> – Operating dates tbc |
| HILLS FORD STAGES RALLY               | Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>                     |
| SHREWSBURY HALF MARATHON              | Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>                                                  |
| <b>October</b>                        |                                                                          |
| OKTOBERFEST                           | Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>                       |

With the calendar for 2025 now more or less complete, attention has already turned to planning for next year with the table above showing the provisional dates submitted for a number of the larger events.

At this point in time there is no official return planned for the Flower Show in 2026, although the Town Council remains in dialogue with Shropshire Horticultural Society with regard to the show itself and continues to offer any help and support it can in relation to the future direction of the society.

It is also increasingly unlikely that Let's Rock will be held in 2026 given concerns over the quality of the offer last year and lack of any meaningful communication from the organisers at this point. However, there are already a several new additions to the calendar for 2026, primarily from local organisations, with negotiations continuing with several national promoters about potential events they would like to bring to Shrewsbury.

One of our key objectives for this year was to increase the frequency of events being held in the stunning grade two listed bandstand in The Quarry for park visitors to enjoy. With that in mind we launched our inaugural "Summer of Music" programme to provide a focussed approach and a consistent thread to help with promotion. Happily the programme proved to be extremely successful with a significant volume of positive publicity being generated throughout the year and plenty of encouraging feedback from audiences.

There is now a clear intention to build on this success in 2026 by widening the musical variation on offer and increasing the number of performances which are held. We are completely open minded as to when the bandstand can be used, however it would seem that the weekend will continue to be the most popular and appropriate time for this type of event. Therefore, our focus will initially fall on looking to grow our Sunday roster and complement that with more events being held on a Saturday when public transport is more prevalent.

We will continue to encourage visitors to bring chairs, picnics etc to enhance their experience and look to champion local artists and organisations whenever possible. We have already been in contact with the Performing Arts and Musical Theatre groups, whose children performed at our recent Christmas Light switch on event, and they are extremely keen to hold something in 2026.

The aim is ultimately to provide something for everyone to enjoy and make music in the Quarry bandstand a regular free event for locals and visitors alike. All of the bands and performers from 2025 have expressed a desire to return next year and this will be reflected in the events list on the next report.

There has already been some remedial work undertaken across both the main arena and fairground sites primarily to address the grass coverage with further work planned at appropriate times to help improve the surface water drainage process in the same key areas.

There are two significant projects being considered by external organisations which could have considerable consequences on the park itself and obviously any events which take place. The first is maintenance work being planned by Shropshire Council on Greyfriars bridge which will have obvious implications for pedestrian flow into the town centre from that popular route. The second is initial investigative work being carried out by Severn Trent in relation to improving long term sewerage infrastructure and thereby reducing sewage overflow into the river. We will continue to pay close attention to both of these projects and assess the likely impact.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.