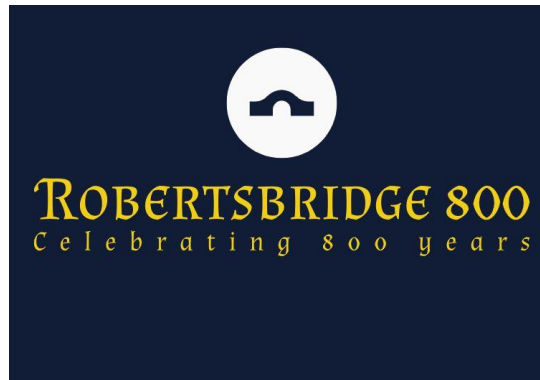




Summary of plans for Robertsbridge 800

The aim is to provide a memorable Parish Council summer event on 21 June 2025 to celebrate 800 years since the village received a Market Charter....and all things since. The event aims to be fully inclusive and open to all ages with no entry fee. The event will be held in the Recreation Ground from 12 noon until 11pm.

Objectives of Robertsbridge 800

I have identified the following objectives which must be considered when considering all activities at the event.

- Fun and entertainment for all ages
- The promotion of local businesses with the opportunity for them to make some money
- The promotion of local institutions, clubs and charities to advertise their activities, attract new members and raise funds
- To educate residents and visitors about Robertsbridge
- To attract visitors

Theme

We are celebrating 800 years so there will be a clear historical theme for all activities. Attendees and stall holders will be encouraged to have historical costumes and the pitches and activities will all reflect something in the 800-year period. Within that theme, there will be a sub theme of Transport through 800 years.

As it is a big event and we want to maximise TV and press coverage, I have contacted the local MP, a Deputy Lord Lieutenant and a County Councillor all of whom have responded with interest. A request for a royal visit has been made but they have said that this is unlikely. I am to contact a representative of RDC, probably the Chair.

Pitches and Arena

1. Pitches

The aim is to fill the field to capacity so there is plenty to see and do and avoid criticism levelled at other recent events. The stalls and their personnel, as noted above, will be historical and reflect something about Robertsbridge. In addition to the stall/pitches, there will be “self standing” information boards with “Did you know...” details about the village. One would be for famous people associated with village, another would be significant dates e.g building of old timber framed houses, the railway station, building of the bypass, flood history etc. This will help meet the educational objective as well as being of interest to residents and villagers alike. Another gap filler will be photo boards with spaces for a head/face cutout with cartoon drawing around the face e.g hop picking theme or cricket.

The ideas to date are noted below. Those in red have confirmed interest/involvement, those in green have been contacted and an answer is awaited and those in black are to be contacted.

- The George Inn to provide bar in style of 18th century coaching inn
- RBS to provide the BBQ possibly dressed in monk costumes
- Village Store to provide a stall as a Victorian Sweet shop with old style confectionery and possibly Victorian postman costume
- Womens Institute to provide Edwardian themed cream teas stall
- Toffee Apples stall from Judy Newington
- Royal British Legion stall with WW1 and WW2 theme including WW2 jeep and hopefully people in old military uniforms
- Robertsbridge Club to provide a cider making and cider serving stall to reflect local orchards
- Robertsbridge and District Archaeological Society to provide old photos and exhibits with staff in historical dress. They will also provide information for the audio timeline script. (See Arena)
- First Aid tent to be manned by Fran and Gary Spray
- Cookie/doughnut stall from the Darvell Community
- Scouts in old uniforms to have soft drink stall concession to promote membership and raise funds. Some old uniforms sourced
- RVR/Kent and East Sussex Railway to reflect importance of railway connection in 1851
- Darvell horse and cart rides around the event
- Ice cream van
- Network South East
- Patchwork Group
- Archery butts from North Weald Archery Club
- Punch and Judy stall
- Mods scooter and rockers display
- Traction engine
- Tethered hot air ballon

- Robertsbridge Aviation Society
- Home Guard re-enactment society
- Gray Nicolls
- Age Concern
- Culverwells
- Ripley's blacksmith forge to reflect iron and steel history locally
- Classic car display
- Classic Tractors display
- Football and cricket clubs dressed in old kits
- Darvell soft play area
- Age Concern
- Guides
- Church bellringers
- Stoolball club
- Robertsbridge Childrens Services
- Robertsbridge Community College
- Wooden stocks from Tates

2. Arena Events

Ian Clarke has agreed to be the compere, hopefully dressed as an old-style Town Crier.

There will be a dedicated fenced arena in the centre of the field. The intention is to have various events from 12 noon to 5pm with as many as possible sponsored by local businesses.

Several potential events have been identified including:

- Soapbox Parade with soapboxes reflecting modes of transport over 800 years e.g. trains, planes, boats, submarines, hot air balloons etc
- Audio timeline of the village history narrated by a local actor with moving tableaux provided by RAP
- Children races
- Childrens historical figure fancy dress parade with prizes
- Model airplane display in connection with Robertsbridge Aviation Society
- Mods scooters/rockers parade
- Morris dancers
- Tug of Civil War e.g cavaliers v. roundheads with best of three
- Sheep dog display
- Welly throwing
- Bell ringers
- Coconut shy

Musical entertainment

The aim is to cover the various musical styles over the 800-year period e.g choral, classical, opera, jazz, rock and roll, 1960s etc. Live Music where possible but with a limited budget, we will be relying on free offerings and sponsorship. The intention is to have music on a raised stage from 6pm to 11pm but also smaller groups to support specific pitches during the day e.g string quartet for WI stall, choir for RBL. There will also be recorded music played during the day's activities.

- Swing style/Franks Sinatra music for 6.30 to 8.30pm slot. Potentially sponsored by the George Inn
- Kangaroo Juice to provide music for 9 to 11pm slot. Cost of £600
- Ellie Gooch has confirmed a free 1980s slot to open the evening music
- Rococco Choir have been contacted but no response yet
- Julia Goodings choir for WW1 songs to support RBL or arena timeline
- Jazz band to be found
- Lindy hop band
- Classical quartet to be found to support WI Edwardian cream teas stall

Working Teams

In order to spread the load, several teams have been identified and it is hoped that each will have a Team Leader who will recruit the volunteers that they need and co-ordinate activities. Each Team Leader will liaise with the Event Co-Ordinator and meet as a group to discuss developments. Volunteers can be in as many teams as they wish and all are encouraged to offer ideas and support to other teams.

The teams identified are as follows:

- Sponsorship
- Advertising (Ness Graham, Linda Holden, Les Garrett)
- Pitches (Darren Rivers)
- Arena events
- Music
- Stage, sound and power
- Health and Safety
- Set design
- Communications within team and social media

The composition of the teams and leaders has yet to be decided but it is hoped that this will be finalised at the next Working Party meeting on 1 October at the Club at 7pm. This date has been posted on Robertsbridge Family Info and on posters in the village.

Budget

It is too early to give any realistic estimates, but it is clear we will need funds from sponsorship and donations in addition to any PC funding. A potential sponsor list has been drawn up with the aim of getting requests out asap. Some requests have already been sent and I am awaiting responses. I have contacted RDC to see if funds are available, but these seem limited to capital projects only, so I am not confident. Funding from the PC needs to be confirmed asap so we know what is available.

Potential Sponsors

Those listed below in green have confirmed some form of sponsorship, those in red have been approached and a response is awaited and those in black are still to be contacted.

- The George Inn
- Village Hall Association
- Robertsbridge Arts Partnership
- Village Store and Post office
- Culverwells
- Floral Boutique
- Gray Nicholls
- Aviamax
- B & A Builders
- Belle Flowers
- Feathers Wild Bird Care
- One Stop
- Judges Bakery
- Salehurst Halt
- Kennedy Chimney Sweeps
- R G Dale
- Heringtons Battle
- B Vidler Plastering
- B & A Builders
- Freeman Forman
- Parker & Son
- Ripley Forge and Fireplaces
- Paine & Sons
- The Moat Practice
- Robertsbridge Dental Practice
- Tremmel Dental Practice
- Busters Farm Kitchen
- Richard Webb Tree Surgeon
- Campbells Property

- Black Shed Gallery
- New Spice
- The Ostrich
- H & T
- Scissors
- Harveys Brewery
- Ashdene Garage
- Butchers Hook
- Blackbrooks Garden Centre
- Merriments Garden Centre
- Caravan Tech
- DWA
- Robertsbridge Container Storage

Equipment Shopping list

This will be an ever-changing list but we have identified that we will need:

- Lorry trailer for stage
- Generators
- Lighting, sound and PA systems – Darvell have noted possible assistance and Community College may also be of help
- Marquees (12x6 £845, 9x3 £345, 8x8 £610)
- Radios for staff for event timings and health and safety issues (£50 delivery plus £10.50 per set)
- 4/5 large MDF sheets for photo cut-out boards
- Prizes
- Material for tug of war teams

Miscellaneous

- We are looking at having flags with the event logo made up to decorate the High Street before and during the event. Patchwork Group and WI have indicated their interest in assisting
- Contact to be made with TVS and BBC for TV coverage of the event
- Contact to be made with local newspapers and Radio Sussex
- Programme to be printed with timetable, list of sponsors and adverts
- RAF Odiham contacted with a view to a Chinook fly past
- A stock of advertising posters is being created for a long running teaser campaign