

As I start to write this I am sitting in the splendid surroundings of Boston Manor Park, Brentford and realise it is remarkably close to the end of the month and only weeks away from the Brentford Festival. Today the park is relatively quiet with so many people having started their holidays already. A little later today though, when 22 children arrive for a birthday party it will not be so tranquil. I am taking advantage of this and the sun is shining (yes I know, very rare) and with wireless technology thought it time to bring you up to date.

Before anything on the festival though it is worth mentioning that the park was recently awarded another Green Flag (a sign of excellence). If you take a walk in the park now you will see why it got such good recognition. Thanks must go to the contractors Continental Landscapes and also to all the voluntary helpers from the local community including those that didn't volunteer but ended up there any way (Community Payback and the Young Offenders) who have undertaken practical tasks to keep up the excellent standard.

As a reminder, the **Brentford Festival is held the first Sunday in September in Boston Manor Park, Boston Manor Road** which is on the Brentford/Hanwell/Ealing borders. This year the Sunday falls on 4th September and will start at 12 noon through to 5.30 p.m. It is not to be confused with the London Mela which happens to be in a nearby park on the same day. As the latter goes on through the evening maybe your choice will be to come to both!

The 35 hectare site will have many attractions to appeal to all and is a perfect way to end the holiday as children get ready to go back to school.

From the two music stages there will be live music taken from a selection of the 41 bands that applied to play. We will publish the programme in this paper in a few weeks time when you will see that we have selected an excellent variety of genre. Our thanks must go to the many people who applied that did not get through. Unfortunately this year we were unable to offer a fringe circuit as an alternative but I hope that everyone took rejection in good spirit and come along and enjoy the day any way.

In the main field, amongst the many attractions and stalls, there will be a food court – our biggest yet - where a variety of international foods will be on offer. A new contributor this year is the Fire station (based in Brentford High Street) who along with offering Persian stew and rice are inventing a Cuban cocktail for the festival. Yum yum.

Again, to be fair and to offer variety, we have not been able to invite all the catering applicants from previous years to attend to allow for new people to be given a chance.

Positioned throughout the event will be over 100 stalls and many fairground attractions. Free sporting activities will include kayaking, paddle boarding (on the canal), football and rugby. A change of clothing might be the order of the day!

The festival is somewhere to come with your friends and family. A place to soak up the good vibes and hopefully the sunshine - long may it continue. Check out the website for details of contributors. www.brentfordfestival.org.uk

Linda Massey
Event Manager 07913 791923