



Visitors enjoyed the first Spirit of Tenterden festival which was held on the rec last year

Spirit of Tenterden event to be held on rec

Festival to return as organisers put out call for help

by Rachael Woods
rwoods@thekmggroup.co.uk

The Spirit of Tenterden Festival is returning for a second year and organisers want residents to become a part of it.

A community interest company (CIC) has been set up and people can join to show their support for the summer spectacular, which last year featured craft ales, wines, gins, street food, live music, antiques, collectables and a dog show.

It will be staged at the recreation ground over the weekend of August 21-23 and organisers are looking for people to join them.

Spirit of Tenterden chairman Justin Nelson said of the CIC: "This is a way of helping to build an event for the whole community, now and for the future, by forming a legal body in charge of organisation and funding.

"It will also help ensure that people have a real say in how the event develops in years to come."

Becoming a member costs just £1, only payable if at some time



Tentertainment drew big crowds, as seen here in 2017

in the future if it is decided to wind the company up.

"It's a small gesture, but an important one in showing people's support for the event and the town," he said.

"Even if you don't want to become a member, your help as a volunteer at the event would be hugely appreciated."

Ray Pratt and Sarah Cleaton, the owners of This Ancient Boro, are also behind The Spirit of Tenterden festival, where last year there were 40-plus different real ales and beers on sale.

The music offering featured

performances from Paisley Park, Men Without Hens and Loose Ends, while food vendors included Khao's Thai/Lao food, Morettos Italian barbecue and the Topsy Texan Smoke Truck, serving pulled pork, ribs and brisket.

Fans of Tentertainment, the festival that ran for 11 years on the recreation ground, have been left disappointed after it was announced at the start of the month that it would permanently close.

The decision came after the six-strong committee behind it was hit by a number of bereavements and health issues.

One of the organisers, Jo Gadsby, said she hoped The Spirit of Tenterden would grow to fill the space left by Tentertainment, that had attracted 10,000 strong crowds into the town.

■ People interested in getting involved with the Spirit of Tenterden and who would like to become a member of the CIC or volunteer should email admin@spiritoftenterden.co.uk