It's been a record year! - Leader Update 14

A record year doing what? It has been all over town, almost every month. It has brought fun and laughter and happy memories to thousands of Burgess Hill residents. It has been at the mercy of Mother Nature on some occasions. Enough clues? The answer is simple: EVENTS!

2024 has seen our Community Team deliver more than 50 events for residents to enjoy, ranging from Shakespeare to SEND activities, concerts to Wowzer Wednesday's, tea parties to fayres and children's theatres to Christmas lights. The list is long and has involved partnership working with many of our local organisations, who have provided invaluable support throughout the year.





During the year we also remembered those who have been victims of dreadful conflicts; Holocaust Remembrance Day in January and Remembrance Sunday in November. We commemorated the 80th anniversary of D-Day in June with great style, in a way that was sympathetic to the debt owed to the forces of that day, without glorifying war; we paraded, danced, sang and had moments of quiet before the lighting of a beacon.





The Council's Community Team is small, just three. They work tirelessly and with a spirit of dedication that would be a credit to any organisation. On the wall in their office is a large whiteboard, divided into 12 months. As I write this update, each month is already full of planned events for 2025, including the big one, VE80 day in May. This will be a joyous event, signifying the end of World War II and a return to the peace that has endured in our country for 80 years.

There is no doubt in my mind that Burgess Hill has a strong and vibrant community spirit, despite all the shortcomings in our infrastructure; I sense this spirit is growing too. The Council's events help to bind communities together, wherever you live and next year will see another round of traditional and completely new events to enjoy.

The year is nearly over and there is just one Council event left, at Cyprus Hall this Saturday, 14th December. That is when the Quantum Theatre Company returns to Burgess Hill to perform Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairy tale of 'The Snow Queen. Written in 1844, the story has been enthralling young and old alike and Saturday will be no exception. Performances will be held at 11am and 1.30pm.

