

Dorset Council Safety Advisory Group – Event Notification

Please use this form to notify the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) of your event.

Ideally this form should be submitted at least four weeks before your event to allow for your event to be assessed and for a safety advisory group (SAG) meeting to take place if necessary.

To enable the SAG to ensure that event documentation including any risk assessments are of a suitable standard please email your event documents along with, this completed event notice to the email address below.

The safety advisory group (SAG) is an advisory body established for the purpose of ensuring, as far as possible, the safety of those persons attending, performing, and working at events held within the Dorset Council area, and always has public safety as its priority. Its membership includes council services and partner agencies including Public Health Dorset.

Once the SAG has considered your proposals and you have had the chance to respond to any comments or questions the SAG will be able to advise both you and the council as to whether it considers that your proposals would meet the requirements of all current regulations and guidance.

Any guidance issued by the SAG is advisory only

Contact details

Email: sag@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01929 557220

Address: Licensing Team, Westport House, Worgret Road, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4PP

Further Information: [Safety Advisory Group \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sag)

Privacy Statement

The Licensing Privacy Notice can be found within the council's webpages at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-council/about-your-council/data-protection/service-privacy-notices/licensing.aspx>

Important

The SAG will not undertake any role associated with the organisation or management of any event and submission of this form does not remove the need to obtain any relevant consents or licences, responsibility for which rests with the event organiser.

Notifying the SAG of an event in no way absolves the organiser from any health safety responsibility nor does it infer that Dorset Council has any responsibility for health and safety in relation to the event.

Name of Event	DON'T PANIC FESTIVAL		
Postal Address or location of venue	STALBRIDGE RECREATION GROUND PARK GROVE STALBRIDGE DT10		
Date(s) of the event	25/5/26		
Event start time	MIDDAY	Event finish time	6PM

Contact Name	DEANNE TREMLETT
Email	deanne@guggletonfarmarts.com
Telephone	07947361085

Please provide a brief description of event and type of activities
We've only just received a grant from the Dorset Council Culture and Community Fund. We had anticipated that this would be a much smaller affair, but with the backing of the Author's family, fan club and support of the town we now feel it could become much bigger than our usual TENs event applications would allow! Our festival will include: Fancy Dress Parade up Grove Lane and Park Grove to the Playing fields Blue Plaque unveiling on Grove Lane Music, art and performance Craft stalls Food and Drink Community activities Environmental Talks, info and activities The reason for the Festival is: In late 1976, in a small Dorset town, something improbably important happened. At Lydden Cottage, in Stalbridge, Douglas Adams began writing The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, in response to seeing an historic building being demolished behind his home, which was at the time called Linnets, with what seemed like little care for the environment of the town. The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy was a multimedia phenomenon, that made the universe laugh, while quietly asking some urgent questions about anxiety, about our destruction of the natural world, about whether we really are mostly harmless... or if we're capable of much more. On the weekend of 23rd to 25th of May 2026, Stalbridge will once again become The Centre Of The Galaxy. The inaugural DON'T PANIC Festival is a celebration of Douglas Adams' extraordinary Global contribution to literature, culture, technology, environmental thinking, of his life and of his legacy.

We're now in a world without Douglas, a world full of climate fear, a world where the problems are too big, and we are too small..... but Douglas never believed that. And neither do we.

Why “DON'T PANIC”?

We all know that Douglas Adams' genius lay in using comedy to make us think about life, the universe and everything. He did so with wit, warmth and prescience. He understood that fear paralyses, but imagination can set you free, allowing you to stay curious, with a sense of humour.

We will celebrate Douglas as a true pioneer. His work transcended an astounding array of media, encompassing science fiction, comedy, technology and environmental activism. He was prophetic,

“The Man Who Imagined Our Future” (Sky Arts documentary, directed by Todd Austin); his science fiction is increasingly science fact. His ideas continue to resonate, inspiring people as diverse as Stephen Fry, George Lucas, you and me. He showed us that creativity matters. That humour disarms fear. That people, working together, can make a real difference to this World.

We're once again harnessing the power of collective action to affect real change; social change, environmental change & creative, generational change.

Where is DON'T PANIC?

DON'T PANIC is rooted in Stalbridge, Dorset, and is the brainchild of *Guggleton Farm Arts. This festival is part of a broader strategy to engage local people in creative activity and to foster pride in a shared creative identity.

What is DON'T PANIC?: A Festival With Its Feet on the Ground

The Festival is designed to be as environmentally responsible as possible.

Ticketing will encourage walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing. Local residents will attend free of charge; those travelling from further afield will pay for a festival ticket, gently discouraging interstellar travel.

The festival will also be live streamed globally and interactively, to give the rest of The Galaxy an opportunity to participate in the festival. It will include the unveiling of a Commemorative Blue Plaque at Lydden Cottage, Douglas' former home, as well as music, performances, interviews, and moments of joyful unpredictability, including Marvin the Paranoid Android. There will be inspirational local arts and crafts, music and food.

Who's appearing at DON'T PANIC?

Mark Carwardine will join the festival*, reliving the year he spent with Douglas, bringing those stories of loss, humour & hope to new audiences. *Notwithstanding an environmental issue that may see him have to be elsewhere. Plus we will have a visitor From the Future, environmental activist and author, Rob Hopkins will appear as a time-travelling reporter from 2030 —bringing news from an Earth that we have collectively saved. His hopeful, imaginative approach offers an antidote to climate doom, particularly for young people.

Had he met Douglas Adams, they would almost certainly have got on like a planet on fire. Oooo and a certain paranoid android.....

The headline music act will be “Disaster Area”.

This will be a festival weekend building up to a **Towel Day of Celebration**

On the weekend of 23rd to 25th of May 2026, Stalbridge, Dorset will come alive. There will be events in the town, including a Vogon Poetry Jam, a Pan-Galactic cocktail competition and an evening open air cinema picnic, showing the Hitchhikers' Guide To The Galaxy film.

On towel Day itself, Monday 25th of May 2026, a Douglas Adams themed fancy-dress parade will wind its way to Lydden Cottage for the unveiling of a Blue Plaque, before celebrations continue at nearby Stalbridge Recreation Ground with music, performances, storytelling, crafty science, environmental action, playful invention, food and drink.

It will be a joyful, inclusive celebration of creativity, curiosity and collective possibility, ending at teatime, because a properly made cup of tea is as important as a Pan Galactic Gargleblaster.

What will DON'T PANIC achieve?

- It will get more people making, creating and storytelling
- More people, of all ages, will be recognising their own power to make a difference
- More people will be increasing their happiness through doing and achieving together

By celebrating the social themes within Douglas' work, and the real-world impact he had, we aim to show what a creative community can achieve together. Douglas' legacy shows that collaborative action can help to overcome the climate anxiety present in young people today.

Why DON'T PANIC Festival Matters Now

This is an unashamedly ambitious project. In an era of climate anxiety, uncertainty and fragmentation, DON'T PANIC offers a different response: imagination instead of despair, humour instead of fear, and collaboration instead of isolation. All inspired by Douglas. Change is possible when people come together with creativity and care. Douglas Adams showed us that one voice can ripple outward through The Universe in astonishing ways. This festival invites an entire town, and everyone watching from afar, to step into that possibility, to take part and to have fun. Remember that wherever you are in the galaxy, you can make a difference—especially if you do it together. Don't forget your towel and DON'T PANIC.

***Guggleton Farm Arts, aka The Gugg,** is a not-for-profit Community-Interest-Company that proactively seeks to provide many forms of art, to anyone in the local community, and beyond; in a supportive, non-judgemental and safe environment, to enhance the wellbeing and abilities of all involved. GUGGLETON FARM ARTS is a Certified Social Enterprise and accredited member of SOCIAL ENTERPRISE UK.

Approximate number of people attending	1500-2000	
Have you held this event within Dorset before?		No
If Yes - has the nature or scale of the event changed?		
If yes, please provide details of the changes		

Please indicate if you intend to have any of the following at your event and if so, please provide brief details	
Sale or supply of alcohol	Yes
Live and/or recorded music	Yes
Catering	Yes

Temporary structures (i.e., marquees, stages)	Yes
Fairground rides and/or inflatables	No
PA system	Yes
Procession	Yes
Road closures / traffic diversion	Yes
Animals	No
Motor vehicles	Yes
Drones	Yes
Bonfire / fireworks / pyrotechnics	No
Camping / Caravans	No

Please provide details or reference where details can be found within your event management documents about the following matters:
Fire risk assessment (including fire safety measures and exit calculations for structures / full site) Risk assessment attached Site plan attached All structures are to be open sided The stage will have its own risk management provision and is being supplied as a single unit by GSL events www.gslevents.co.uk
Medical Plan (including first aid provision and Covid-19 control measures) Supplied by St John's Ambulance
Noise Management Plan All music levels will be monitored and cease by 6pm, the stage is to be positioned at the furthest point from the town that is possible.
Protect Duty (counter terrorism training & preparedness) Full training for all volunteers will be provided, schedule attached
Toilet & sanitary facilities External contractor supplying and removing composting toilets
Temporary drinking water supplies Water cubes have been sourced plus drinking water is available from the Pavilion
Security & or Stewarding

A full complement of Volunteers will be trained and Events Crew will be overseeing security www.eventscrew.com
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Car parking provision & management

As above, parking will be on adjacent, private land and all traffic will be directed to it from outside the town boundary

Waste disposal

A full waste disposal and recycling plan is in effect and a festival ecologist has been appointed

Traffic Management Plan

Will be developed with the TTRO and enquiries have been made
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We ask that any completed risk assessments and event management documents supporting the above be sent along with this notification form.

A site plan showing, where relevant, the position of temporary structures, toilets, first aid points, access/egress routes for emergency vehicles and car parking should also be submitted.