

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST ANDREW
Donhead St Andrew
in
The Benefice of St Bartholomew

THE 2023 CHURCH FETE
Bank Holiday Monday 28th August 2023

REPORT FROM THE CHURCH FETE COMMITTEE
for the 2024 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

After the 2022 Fete, which had been a huge success with a record attendance and a record sum raised, the Fete Committee and the PCC spent some time considering the content and organisation of future Fetes. Essentially, the Fete itself would look pretty similar to previous years but with some changes that would reduce the workload on the days immediately before the Fete and on the day itself. In particular, we decided to hire some young people to help with the heavy lifting and the collection and return of the equipment we own, borrow or hire for the Fete. That turned out to work really well and made a big difference.

On the Sunday of the Fete weekend, we had a large congregation in church to celebrate St Andrew's Patronal Festival, followed by fizz and a celebration cake.

With the uncertainty of the weather during a British summer, one never quite knows what is going to happen. On the Bank Holiday Monday the weather was luckily fine, after variable weather from the Thursday to the Sunday. It's always good to know we have the 'fall back position' of much of the Fete being under cover.

On the day, the villagers arrived to see the familiar but always wonderful views of the Chase from the Fete field, surely one of the loveliest locations imaginable for a Fete. By twelve o'clock everything was ready; by then the queue of visitors had started to form.

At 1.00 pm the Fete was formally opened by Mrs Zillah Gillespie, a longstanding member of the village and church community. She encouraged the waiting crowd to be generous in their support for the charities benefitting from the 2023 Fete. Then our new band struck up - the Sunset Cafe Stompers, a worthy successor to the Bell Street Jazz Band, the members of whom had decided to retire.

The next three and a half hours flew by, with a visitor attendance not far short of the record 1,750 visitors who were clicked through the entrance gate in 2022.

The stalls were loaded with good things baked, prepared and donated by the village community. Many of the stalls sold everything they had. The Food & Drinks tents had queues throughout the afternoon and they too sold out.

We welcomed back Welig Willow and Chris Harwood's display on trees and the environment. New to the Fete this year were a group of Ivan and Jill Hayward's alpacas, a display of Bonsai by the Blackmore Vale Bonsai Group, displays by two of the charities we supported - Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Salisbury Hospice - and two outstanding performances of William Vaughan's Punch and Judy Show.

The Dog Show arena was packed and, as always, a source of hilarity. The Classic Car Show was stunning with over fifty fascinating vehicles. The Live Auction of seasoned logs did really well.

At 4.30 pm it was all over and the take-down began. With our team of younger helpers hard at work we finished clearing the site just as it became dark.

The 2023 Fete was a very happy occasion with over three hundred villagers contributing in some way to putting on the Fete. The Committee's thanks to them all. We would also like to thank the Jeffery Family for allowing us to use such a perfect site for the Fete, for their help with the set-up and the clear-up and for the three large loads of seasoned logs.

There are so many other individuals and local businesses to thank for their sponsorship and support and for the prizes in the impressive Bottle Tombola.

Our thanks to the many sponsors from the village and church community:
Peter & Elizabeth Dawson, David & Jenny Hammersley, Lorna Bourke,
Michael & Elizabeth Hockney, Michael Jodrell, Geoffrey & Jennifer Malone,
Tim & Annie Morris, Michael & Vashti Noel-Clarke, Tim & Linda Reeve,
John & Sarah Reynolds, Alistair & Juliet Stoker, Hugh & Olivia MacDougald,
Gerald & Danuta Tagg, Marcus & Jo Shepherd, Paul & Sue Chaplain, Clive Piggott,
Dame Natalie Massenet.

And our thanks to the sponsors from the local business community:
Joseph Peacock painter & decorator, Wessex Internet, Ludwell Village Stores,
Carol Buttlings physiotherapy, Hawes arborists, Sans Farm kennels,
Compton Smith interiors, Natural High travel, Farnfields solicitors, The Forester pub,
PF Parsons builder, Merefield & Henstridge funeral directors, Whites estate agents,
Andrews & Palmer accountants, Middle England Estates gardeners.

At the very well-attended post-Fete Party in St Andrew's Church two weeks later, the financial results were announced. These are the headlines:

- **total income was £21,500**, made up of takings on the day and generous sponsorship by villagers and local businesses
- **the cost of putting on the Fete was £4,600**, including the cost of the marquees, generator and the paid helpers
- **the surplus on the 2022 Fete was £16,900.**

- **the Church gave £6,000 from the proceeds of the Fete to county and local charities:** Wiltshire Air Ambulance (£2,250), Dorset Air Ambulance (£2,250), Salisbury Hospice (£1,000), the Happy Gathering Club (£250) and Tisbus (£250).
- **the balance of £10,500 went to cover the cost of the clergy's salaries and pensions and the church's Mission.**

A final thanks to everyone involved. A great deal of hard work went into this Fete but we also had a lot of fun, we involved newcomers to the village and we have contributed significantly to worthy county and local charities and community activities.

To see the full financial report on the Fete and to watch the video and photographs of the day, please visit St Andrew's Church's website: www.sacda.uk

Michael Hockney.

Chairman, St Andrew's Church Fete Committee