

Report of the Jubilee event 2022

The Community picnic to celebrate the Queens Jubilee took place on the Mileham playing field on May 2nd 2022.

Preparations for the event took place over several months prior and included advertising through postcards delivered through letterboxes and by banners erected through the village. Nearer the day laminated posters were placed along the roadside both on the B1145 and along Back lane and by word of mouth in the village shop.

The organising committee included one representative from the Parish Council, 2 from the WI and Mrs Bergan (ex councillor) and Mrs Secker (ex clerk to the council).

Parents were asked to let the committee know how many village children would be attending so that a souvenir could be purchased for them as a keepsake of the day. Children received either a jubilee teddy bear or a jubilee drinks bottle. Medals were purchased, Bear hunt organised, villagers encouraged to bake, yards of bunting sewn, live entertainment booked, prizes organised, portable toilet booked.

On the 1st May a level area was prepared for the races with the area closely mown and lanes marked with specialist grass paint, ensuring equal distances between competitors. I must include here a huge thank you to Mark Butler Stoney who organised the cutting of the overgrowth around the gate and entrance to the field, for providing extra rubbish bins on the day and organising and delivering new sacks for the sack race.

On the morning of the 2nd May members of the committee started early to erect 3 gazebos, 2 for the Yukele orchestra and one for the cake stall. Hang bunting around the picnic area and generally make the field look festive with balloons etc.

The event was formally opened at 12pm by our village jubilee Queen who, throughout the pandemic kept us fed and watered and is the heart of our lovely village.

The Yukele orchestra performed in 2 x 45 minute sets, singing a range of songs and generally creating a wonderful atmosphere to the proceedings. They were given the entire proceeds from the cake stall and paint your own Tiara as a thank you. Whilst the orchestra performed families enjoyed their picnics, meeting with other members of the community with several families inviting their wider family members to join them. A much needed social interaction for many after limited get togethers during the pandemic.

The 'races' were held in the gap between the 2 Orchestra sets and generated much enthusiasm from the children who participated. Families demonstrated a wonderful community spirit, encouraging and cheering on the athletes. The medal ceremony was held at the close of the day and many children left wearing their medals with pride, a lovely memento which I hope they would treasure.

Other prizes were awarded for the best Art work, all 3 prizes were given for painted rocks.

Obviously we cannot name children but prizes were also awarded for best dressed child, best house etc.

The day ended shortly after 2 pm. We were so grateful to the whole village for taking home or binning their litter, the field was left in a wonderfully clear state. Thank you. Clearing up was fairly painless with a couple of people in the community staying behind to help.

I was however sad that members of the Parish council, other than the designated representative, did not feel able to support the community they represent at this event.

Sadly the portable toilet was delivered just as the day was drawing to a close so we declined to have it and we were therefore not invoiced.

I would also like to thank the village hall committee who provided vouchers as prizes.