

# A view of the Parish Show – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021

An Exceptional Parish Show happened last weekend.

It warrants being recorded. This review is from just one angle.

View over The Park at around 12.20 pm Sunday, before the Show really got going.



## Background:

In June, because of the COVID restrictions, it was still doubtful whether the Show could proceed on 12th September.

- The Council's commitment to it left barely 3 months for preparations, half the usual time.

After that, very little was heard about it at any Council meeting until just before the event, when a call for participation was received by Councillors.

- Prior to that, Katie and the team – primarily Dan, Reg and Jon Dalton - had planned it all.

As was clear on the day, a wide variety of participants - food and charity stall holders, fair rides, medieval battle (and dance!) folk, the band, singers, an ambulance and more - had to be lined up.

(Just finding and maintaining contact with all of these folk must be challenging.)

- In another key background contribution, the Parish Champion Rights-of-Way walker, Jane, mounted Show posters in 100 places around the Parish.

## Weekend of the Event: the setting-up and taking-down:

- **Friday 10th Sept. afternoon:** Jon and Dan could be seen white-lining the places for all participants, also marking out the pitches for the (unrelated) Saturday morning football event. [Apparently, the "Dalton pace" is the unit of measure, none of your fancy tape measure stuff!]

- **Saturday 11th Sept. afternoon and early evening:** the primary structures, including tents for the Band and Parish Council, were erected, plus marking out the arena, dog show space and the car park with its entry and exit routes, mainly by the Dan, Reg and Jon team.
  - **Overnight Watchman:** Dan stayed in his multi-purpose van, to fend off any unwanted intrusions. [None reported.] [Not a lot of sleep either, apparently!]
- **Sunday morning:** all stall holders, fair rides, medievals and other participants arrived and set up ready for the opening at 12.00. The loudspeaker system around the grounds and the commentator's "box" were installed.
- Almost unnoticed in the background, but vital during Saturday and Sunday, were our groundsmen, Roland and Shane with their trucks, delivering the Council's tent and equipment on Saturday afternoon and taking it - plus a truck-load of rubbish - away on Sunday evening. [Incidentally, if there were a straw bale hefting competition, you would bet on Shane.]

### The Event: a report from the Parish tent.

The purpose of the tent was to show-case Parish Council (PC) activities on behalf of residents and to give them the opportunity to exchange views with Councillors. It had a wide frontage, as can be seen behind the dancers in the photo below provided by Reg.

The Parish tent in the background and medieval dance teachers active in the foreground.  
[The term "medieval" does not apply to any Councillors in the photo.]



The PC shared its tent with the 3 new Bucks. Councillors, whose header board can be seen at the right-hand end of the tent, and also with the Bucks. Community Board, visible with its blue information board in the centre.

Our PC had the left-hand half, shared by Miriam's "Dog Show" reception desk [at times there seemed to be one human for every 2 dogs!] and PC information boards with space for Councillors to talk to residents.

- Sadly, we had omitted to install a bold headboard stating "**Your Parish Council - serving you**", so it was not clear to those passing that we were there... and the aroma of Reg's family's samosas, curry and chocolate chip cookies a few yards further on [and a paella stand even closer] did not encourage them to stop.

Despite this, a number of people came to view the boards and discuss various topics [when the loudspeaker system was not at full blast]. Among their comments and concerns were...

- Dangerous speeding on Boundary Road. [The PC's Survey about *Parking in Boundary Road* - being distributed by Sue during the afternoon - does not address that issue.]
- Parking difficulties in Mayfield Road. [What can be done about that? However, the couple discussing the issue, in very rational tones, were primarily concerned about people from other roads grabbing their very few spaces.]
- People from Bridgestone Drive concerned about the possibility that it might be considered a main route for Hollands Farm residents, when it is too narrow and already congested.
- A retired civil engineer stating that Hollands Farm cannot be developed as planned because of insurmountable SuDS issues which are so far effectively being ignored.
- A new resident in the Wooburn Town area looking for information about the Parish... for which the NDP is part of the solution and the Parish website with its "Parish Guide" is another.
- A couple from Beaconsfield looking to see what our Parish does, to "get ideas".

No doubt Tim's and Sue's contacts with other residents could add to the list.

Seen from the tent, the atmosphere of the Show was wholly positive; busy, multi-cultural, families chatting and cheerful, quite a lot of munching-on-foot.

And surprisingly, with dogs everywhere, no need to tread carefully in the walkways.

Also, no litter which, as other Councillors have noted, can largely be attributed to...

- Nigel continuously putting out rubbish bins and bags, which were filling rapidly and then whisked away by Mike Appleyard working like he was on "time-and-half" (although not).

## The Event: a personal conclusion:

Although past Parish Shows are now not precisely remembered, this year's must be a contender for the best.

It emerged from almost nowhere to shine brightly on the day. A remarkable achievement by a highly mobile "Show Manager" Katie (on her new maroon re-chargeable charger) and the team.

- Four generations of our family, three of them slavishly attending on the fourth for whom it was all about dogs, roundabouts, ice-creams and ducks, had a happy afternoon out.
- A disappointment was not to have seen Dan and Ian in waders\* retrieving the ducks from the water after the Duck Race, no doubt worried that, if they did not return every single one to Katie, there would be an uncomfortable reckoning. [\*Photos are reported to exist!]
- A much greater personal pleasure over the weekend was to have been involved in it.

Let's hope that next year the weather is as kind to the Show as it was this year.

Mike

13<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2021