

## Celebration of HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations - June 2,3,4,&5, 2022

Before Christmas 2021 initial discussions were taking place as to how the Queen's Jubilee should be celebrated in our villages. After Easter, with the formal announcement of a 4 day national holiday, the Parish Council formed a planning team headed by Tony Pulham with Gordon Leggett, Val Lane & Geoff Tancred in support.

An initial request of Shane and Anne of the White Horse pub to quote for the cost of an evening meal led, after some consultation, to an offer to organise a complete programme of events over the first two days. It was a most generous and public spirited suggestion, which included playing areas with bouncy castle for children, afternoon tea, a burger bar, live music and a beer festival bar set up in out buildings. We were delighted to accept this offer, especially as it included a drink, something from the BBQ, and the afternoon tea, all of which would be free to our villagers.

For the remaining two days, it was decided to hold a fete on the village green, with stalls in a marquee, a summer punch and cider bar, a BBQ, a grab and smash crockery stall and a shooting gallery with Putin & Boris targets on the Saturday, and a fancy dress and dog dress up competitions, and a raffle. A children's street party was planned for the Sunday, with an entertainer, sweets, ice cream & drinks. This meant getting a drinks licence for the bar, and permission to close The Street alongside the Stoke Ash village hall and green.

A programme of events was produced which was delivered to each house in the villages and outlying areas, together with vouchers for each family for the White Horse goodies. The opportunity was taken to find out how many children would be likely to attend the street party, as well as checking for allergies and preferences which needed to be considered. As it turned out, it quickly became obvious that too few children would be coming to the street party, so a quick rethink led to an invite to everyone to join in a picnic party on the village green, in the Village Hall or the marquee. The entertainer had already been booked, and all the street party paraphernalia bought, with children's drinks, cakes, ice cream, sweets and other goodies which would still be available.

The 'long weekend' turned out to be highly successful in all its phases. The White Horse partying was enjoyed not only by the villagers but was also open to the public (at a cost). With copious sandwiches, cakes and goodies of the 'Afternoon Teas', the bouncy castle, the live music, outside TV available and the BBQ and Jubilee ales and excellent live band, the atmosphere was absolutely buzzing with happy enjoyment. The pub staff were friendly, efficient and helpful, and a credit to their employers.



Our fete was extremely successful, and covered its costs, as well as those of the picnic on the following day. The clotted cream scones served up in the Hall were absolutely outstanding and much in demand, as were the variety of cakes, ice cream and drinks. Each of the stands did a roaring trade, perhaps partly because costs were relatively minimal. Music outside was supplied by 'Lolly' Turner, - an excellent and appropriate choice, at a restrained but adequate volume. The table sales in the marquee went well, with raffle table doing a great job, and the church sales and Posh nearly new sales doing particularly well. Activities in the field were much patronised, and the Dog dress up competition, judged by our Police Commissioner for Suffolk was great fun. Opportunity was taken to give Lionel and Shiela Coe an inscribed platter thanking them for all the years of their hard work and dedication to our village life. The arrival of a WWII american army truck and jeep created an atmospheric interest to the proceedings and a commemorative china mug was presented for each family in the villages.



With the Village Street closed, and the Children's Street party converted to an all welcome picnic, the proceedings were brought to life by Eddie Portsmouth, AKA Ali Shazam who entertained for well over the time he was hired for. He did an excellent job, keeping both children and adults amused and fascinated by his patter, magic tricks, and balloon bending for the children. The Maisey family did a sterling job dispensing drinks, ice creams, cakes and jubilee noise makers. By 4.30 pm, the party moved into the marquee where white bubbly wine was dispensed to all adults for a loyal toast to HM the Queen, followed by a loud rendering of the National Anthem and three cheers for Her Majesty.



The dismantling of the marquee and other tents, and general tidying up was to be completed over the next few days. Without the assistance of many helpers, putting the marquee up, and later dismantling it would have been a very difficult task. Thank you to all who came and helped throughout the weekend, be it in manning stalls, taking part in competitions and activities, dispensing food and alcohol, laughing with the entertainer, and above all, supporting our village activities. It was a good time, and will be long remembered.....

