**West Lavington Village Fete**

The village fete has been run by a committee of volunteers since 2022 when we restarted after Covid to celebrate the late Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. It no longer comes under the auspices of All Saints’ Church (though they are a beneficiary) but is run for and by the village, welcoming all groups and individuals to take part.

Given that there is no longer a backup organisation, it was felt wise to ensure the viability and continuity of the fete by having a small ‘slush’ fund to cover incidental expenses. This would only be necessary in the case of cancellation when some funds would have been spent, i.e. insurance, licences, printing etc. We have not, so far, had to cancel though in 2022 it was perilously close due to high winds! Our insurance is public liability and does not cover insurance. If cancellation was within 24 hours there would also be costs such as food and drink ordered to be covered. The fete now has its own bank account and email address and these arrangements will ensure continuity in the future whoever is in charge of the organisation.

We are pleased to report that the fete made a profit of just over £3000 in 2022 and slightly less in 2023. Apart from the above-mentioned small slush fund (around £300) all proceeds have been distributed amongst village groups. Our intention is that every group who takes part receives part of the proceeds, thus encouraging community involvement.

We are very grateful to Ann Janes who stores a number of items in her capacious shed: boxes of donated books which are refreshed each year; bric-a-brac as it arrives; the tombola drum and a number of tents/marquees. These last take up a great deal of room and arrangements have now been made with the Parish Council for their storage in the future. We are also very grateful to the Parish Council for their generous grant enabling the fete to buy two new marquees to replace some very old ones. These will be the property of the Parish Council and the village.

We have been delighted with the participation of village groups and local businesses and of course, our army of volunteers, without whom it would be impossible. We always need more volunteers for helping to set up, clear up and help with teas. Many hands make light work!

We are also fortunate to have the support of Dauntsey’s School who supply our tables and sound systems, delivering and collecting them on the day.

This year’s fete is to be held on Saturday 6th July and we are hoping for good weather of course. However, whatever the weather I am sure it will be a fantastic occasion and we look forward to welcoming everyone to the village hall and playing fields. It will be opened at 2pm by Julia Ford in recognition of her years of service to the community.

Sue Bastone

Fete Chair

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13th May 2024