

West Lavington Fete report to Parish Council annual meeting May 2025

The 2024 Village Fete had a good year, despite very windy weather leading to some damage to tents and the cancellation of the Bouncy Castle.

We made a profit of **£3275** and **£2450** was paid out in grants to village groups.

We keep a reserve in the Fete bank account to cover cancellation (this is too expensive to insure against) and to buy any replacement equipment i.e. tents.

We were very grateful to the Parish Council for the purchase of two large marquees which provided community groups who did not have their own tent to be 'under cover'.

We still have two old marquees which may need replacing in the near future.

In 2024 we agreed that the fete was not sustainable in its current format without younger adult help. This was very obvious during the adverse weather, to the team of over 70s putting up tents in the high winds! We are glad to report that we have gained a younger team of 4-6 adults and the attendance and help of the Redhorn Explorer Scouts.

We are delighted that the 2025 fete will be opened by John Davies, Headmaster of Dauntsey's School who is keen to involve students in future fetes. We have discussed a date in term time for 2026 to enable this to happen.

For this year we have some new stalls, including Market Lavington Museum and Wiltshire Air Ambulance, as well as the regular popular attendees such as Amesbury Town Band (this year sponsored by Aster Homes), Devizes Morris and the Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Fire engine.

The popular Dog Show, Bouncy Castle and Prize Draw are joined by attendance from the Great Western and Oxford Chapter of Harley Davidson motorbikes, there will also be a Bake Off cake & Bread decorating competition on the theme of 'Summer Holidays' which will be displayed in the hall and judged by the public.

Teas will be provided by the WI as usual, but this is becoming more difficult due to the increasing age of their members. Any help for their team would be very much appreciated.

The support of the Parish Council is appreciated, especially the car parking arrangements and the grass cutting the week before the fete.

Many thanks
Sue Bastone
On behalf of the Fete Committee.