

Bucklebury Community Events



Following on from last years AGM, we ran two events at the end of last year which were the very popular Christmas Tree decorating competition and the Lighting up Bucklebury. The Xmas Tree competition was well supported by local groups who decorated their trees on theme close to them. There were some innovative designs and the winner was Bucklebury Primary school. A constant stream of people came in to vote and were pleasantly surprised by the diversity of the entries. BCE provided the mulled wine and mince pies and a raffle was also held. Father Christmas very kindly popped over from his busy day visiting the Farm Park to provide a bit of extra festiveness.

Lighting up Bucklebury was held on the last Sunday before Xmas to coincide with the Sunday service at St Mary's. Parishioners were delighted to find the church yard lit up with candles when they left the service. Many parishioners also bought bags themselves and lit them outside their houses. Unfortunately a few sought to ruin the spectacle and smashed some of the jars on the main road. Therefore it has been decided to just light up the churchyard again, subject to agreement by the church. We raised more than £200 from the sales of the tea light packs which went to Crisis at Christmas.

Saturday 24th March saw Woody's cafe at the Farm Park hold an inaugural event of Wine Quaffing. The Farm Park were most generous in providing a fantastic two course buffet and Mark Wallace did an excellent job of entertaining us with his wine quiz. Thanks go to Alison Butcher, Meri Mower and John Lafferty for their bluffing talents!

Six months in the planning and another fantastic event evolved on 3rd June at Bucklebury Farm Park. Despite the atrocious weather 700 people gathered to eat, drink and be merry and celebrate the Queen reigning for 60 years. A three course meal was prepared by numerous Farm Park staff and before we opened, Woody's restaurant was filled with the sound of chopping and chatting as vast plastic trays were filled with delicious food. Graham Plank and his hog roast team cooked a good selection of meats accompanied by various salads, followed by a scrumptious pudding. The beer (and Pimms!) flowed and the music played. A magician, face painter, sweet shop and craft stall all entertained the children as well as all the usual Farm Park attractions. We just managed to squeeze in a village photo of everyone there before the heavens opened again. We held a grand raffle with some amazing prizes including a trip to a West End Theatre and dinner, a spa day, a case of wine and a huge hamper. A memento of the Jubilee celebrations was our exclusive pencil tins which were given free to all the children in the Parish 16 years old and under. We still have 220 left and still some names to track down for the free ones.

Those remaining after the deluge joined in with the proms to finish the day off. A big thanks to everyone, especially Daniel Nicholl who compared and Liz's friend who helped with the catering and everyone else who contributed to the day including Rupert, Liz & Oli and the Farm Park staff for making it a day to remember.

We also managed to make a donation to 'Help the Heroes' of £250 thanks to donations in the Beer tent.

Mugs

Please note all the Royal Wedding mugs have been sold now. We commissioned 2,500 mugs to be made and they have found their way all around the globe!

Future Activity

We are now involved in helping the Victory Room prepare for the forthcoming Beerfest on 6th October. Anyone here who feels they would be able to volunteer to help with serving beer or barbecuing or selling raffle tickets please let me know after the meeting.

Team member Liz Peplow has put together a calendar of Bucklebury scenes from photos people submitted. This will be on sale at the Bucklebury Beerfest (6th October) and then available through various other outlets in the run up to Christmas.

The Christmas Tree competition will be on the first Saturday in December in a slightly different format to last year which will be discussed in the meeting following this AGM.

Events for the new year include our popular Burns Night on 26th January in the Memorial Hall – look out for further details. A Quiz Night at Woody's cafe at the Farm Park on 9th March and a Jazz Festival at the Farm Park on 22nd June (all subject to organisation!).

If you'd like to come and join us or just volunteer to help with an event (many hands make light work), then please speak to one of the committee after the AGM. Alternatively my details can be found in The Oaks which should be delivered to households in the coming few weeks.