

WOLVERCOTE AND WYTHAM MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL 2010

REPORT FOR AGM

Each year our midsummer festival has been a wonderful celebration of the community spirit that exists in this village and our 2010 festival was no exception. But this year we were also joined by Wytham village, extending our community spirit across the fields and in doing so, gaining two very valuable new members to the committee. I have to say, that for me, this festival had many moments of absolute magic; the Tug of War; the Music night; opening with a bang from the drumming group and then wowing us with new talents; the Silent Movies with everyone throwing themselves fully into the spirit of booing and cheering and the cricket match in Wytham, with its midsummer setting sun – very relaxing and much needed for all the organisers; Wytham Church providing a beautiful backdrop for the new craft exhibition and Celtic Harp evening and the captivating talk on Edwardian Village Life. We were also delighted to discover that our local baker of Lovely loaves, Sol Ray, had another great talent entertaining children with his magic show. That was just a few of my highlights - I'm sure you will all have your own special moments of magic.

As last year, the festival extended over two weekends leading into St Peter's Patronal festival, but this time we moved the Children's parade to the second weekend. I know that there are some people that think it takes the frenetic punch out of the first Saturday, but for those involved in the organising, this actually worked quite well - the congestion of activities on that first Saturday always forces many of us on the committee to be frantically running around, trying to keep up without time to eat or breathe. Moving to the Baptist Church also created a nice link between Upper and Lower Wolvercote with their two churches and finishing in the Vicarage garden provided a wonderful start to St Peter's Church Fete.

The other thing that gives me a warm glow is that as this festival has grown so too has the wonderful and very generous team of helpers throughout the village. The parts they play, however large or small, are essential in bringing all the different pieces of the festival together. From my database of contacts I worked out that we now have over 70 volunteers involved in giving their time and skills and without them we would not have such a successful and well flowing festival. So I know I speak for the whole committee in thanking every single one of them and we hope that they will have enjoyed playing their part in the festival so much that they will join our team again next year. And since I am mentioning the committee I cannot move on without emphasising the incredible amount of work that each and every member puts into this festival. I do feel I am part of something

very special and unique - so I thank you all for your commitment, hard work and wonderful sense of fun.

On the downside, if there is one at all, we had to make a few extra expenses this time which inevitably come with an expanding event and as our ethos has always been to keep costs to the villagers down to a minimum we did not have as much proceeds as we have done in other years. That said, we did have enough back from last year to donate small amounts again to several local groups. We are always looking to see where we can improve when planning next year's festival – we already have quite a list but we would also welcome any points or feedback you would like to make – feedback forms can be found on the website.

And finally, looking forward to next year, you have probably gathered from our notices the theme is FLIGHT. The festival committee's first planning meeting will be at the end of this month so we would welcome any thoughts and ideas between now and then. Hopefully we will discuss some ideas at this AGM but if any more pop into your head in the next few weeks please contact Robin, Sheila, Nick or myself, or indeed any of the other committee members.

Jo Malden

2nd November 2010