

Blossom Day 2014

Lynsted's Park Farm Blossom Day

Lynsted's Park Farm Community Cherry Orchard Group held their annual Blossom Day event on Saturday 19th April, which this year, coincided with the Easter holiday. Fortunately nature was also in alignment, with the cherry trees holding on to their early display of blossom.

Although the day started overcast and with a distinct chill in the air, the event was well attended by local people and their extended families, some of whom truly appreciated the fresh air and rural setting away from their usual town environment and possibly made even more welcome by 'Sittingbourne Wind Ensemble's' rendition of 'Consider Yourself at Home' and other Sounds of the Musicals.

The sun managed to break through in time for the launch of the free Easter Egg Hunt. Children enjoyed the expanse of the Cherry orchard whilst they hunted for golf balls that had previously been hidden near all the trees. They were then able to exchange these for real chocolate eggs at the trading post manned by Tiffany and James Haffenden. It proved a very effective way of getting all age children involved in a simple yet fun activity.

Sioux and Colin Peto from Teynham's Polka Dot Art Gallery organised the decorating of flowers, butterflies and rabbits which the children could then place in a small, colourful, crafty garden as an ever growing display whilst Clare Stewart provided nature quizzes and Easter puzzles encouraging the children to observe their surroundings more closely.

As the band played on, the Teynham WI ladies served hot drinks and a selection of cakes including Simnel cake, mini Bakewells, Ginger cake and Lemon Drizzle with their new 'boxed cakes' proving to be a great success.

Both the BBQ, stocked with Doughty's Butcher's burgers, and the bar, run by Emlyn and Linda Morgan and serving the usual quality wine and beers, enjoyed steady trade.

By 3pm, although breezy, it was sunny, with barely a cloud in the sky allowing some families to settle down to picnic in the true spirit of the event

Lynsted's Blossom Day, with a larger turnout than last year, proved to be an enjoyable afternoon out for all ages.

Cherry Day in Lynsted's Park Farm Orchard will be on Saturday 19th July.
For more information visit www.lynsted-orchard-.org.uk

Report by Ann Haffenden

Cherry Day 2014

Cherry Day at Lynsted's Park Farm Orchard

On Saturday morning, the orchard team was suitably relieved to find that the large marquees had withstood the dramatic thunderstorm of the previous night and so set about making the final arrangements for the day ahead.

Fortunately, the humid and sweaty atmosphere with the threat of more rain did not deter the visitors from showing up to this annual village event, set in Park Farm's traditional Cherry Orchard. Although, the trees had mostly yielded their fruit a little earlier this year, people were able to buy punnets of beautifully ripe cherries from James English, aged 11, and his grandfather, Tom.

The afternoon was set off to a lively start by the newly formed band, 'Rocking Badgers' with Steven Finlay and guest vocalist Anna Sydney who were followed up by the happy sounds of 'DUM' - Doddington Ukelele movement, inviting local teenager Freya Webb to sing 'Valerie' - who gave a confident, controlled and pleasant rendition.

Kent Based poets; Maria McCarthy, Mark Holihan, Melanie Benn and Fiona Sinclair recited their own work with Bob Carling and Sienna-Janae Holihan adding their acoustic songs to the mix.

The 'Oyster Morris' dancers, who love to appear in this idyllic, rural setting have become popular regulars to 'Cherry Day' and gave wonderfully animated, joyous performances.

Stalls offered local craft wares such as pretty crocheted hair accessories and cherry themed bracelets and earrings - made and sold by Ann Attwood, Nina Attwood and Skye Park - both aged 13. Tiffany and James Haffenden invited 'young and old' alike to come and create their own loom band designs that proved extremely popular and Jacqui Morris did sterling work facepainting the smaller children. Also available was Kay Wreford's Lynsted honey, Ann Rumble's handmade greetings cards, Dorothy Ashurts's decorative butterflies and Paula Trowhurst's mugs, t-shirts and cards depicting the antics of her greyhound, 'Bobby' with a percentage of her sales going to the 'Greyhound Trust'.

Norman Addy, from Faversham, demonstrated hurdle making and ornamental gates from green wood whilst John Hobbs displayed his wonderful collection of wooden spire clocks.

Business was brisk for both the bar, run by Linda and Emlyn Morgan and the BBQ, with sausages and burgers from local butcher 'Doughty's', and slaved over by Anne Dawes and husband. Also, despite an earlier technical hitch with the tea urn, the WI's delicious cream teas were gratefully received.

Bob Baxter conducted a very successful heritage tour of the orchard with followers offering comments and posing question and Pippa Palmer manned the 'Kent Orchards for Everyone' stall giving information about the project that seeks to link people, land and nature through the community orchards.

Despite the earlier 'twitch' of doubt due to the weather, the event was well attended by families, picnicking and generally enjoying the entertainment and ambience of the cherry orchard.

Thanks must be extended to Pip and Sue Neaves who kindly allow these events to take place on their land.

'Halloween in the Orchard' will be on Saturday 25th October.

See www.lynsted-orchard.org.uk or e-mail info@lynsted-orchard.org.uk

Hallowe'en 2014

Halloween Magic

Record numbers of people attended as the orchard was overrun with vampires, ghouls, witches, skeletons and zombies making their annual appearance for Lynsted's 2014 Halloween festivities.

With fantastic live music from local band 'Drop In'; games for the children; BBQ, cooking quality produce from Doughty's of Doddington; beer tent, selling fine wines and beers; along with a pumpkin competition, cakes and homemade soup, well organised bonfire and scary tales told by June Wells in the story tent. This was a wonderful event for the families and children of Lynsted and surrounding areas.

There was hot competition for best fancy dress and best carved pumpkin, judged by Sioux Peto, of Polka Dot Arts Centre. Fancy dress prizes were awarded to Sam White, Sid & Nancy Morris-Blayney & Darcy Carter. Amelia Kitt, Evelyn White and Rosa Mae Linch were the winners of the carved pumpkin competition.

As ever, the organisers would like to thank Pip and Sue Neaves for allowing us to use their beautiful traditional orchard, the perfect backdrop for a spooky Halloween.



Top; pumpkin carving competition

Centre; Sid Morris-Blayney, 10 with sister Nancy, 11 with their Dad Stuart.

Bottom; fancy dress competition

