

'Cherry Day' at Park Farm Community Orchard

Saturday 18th July

BEST EVER!!!

That was the inevitable conclusion the 'Orchard Committee' came to when reviewing the 'Cherry Day' in July.

During their 10 year history, and as their reputation has grown, events have always been enjoyed and appreciated by visitors, but this year, nature delivered blue skies and trees laden with cherries, making for the best attended event to date.

Bruce Bell, who channeled his natural exuberance to do an excellent job as MC throughout the afternoon, started by introducing 'Rocking Badgers'. The band, led by Steve Finlay, performed a great set of songs and allowed 13 year old James Haffenden to join them, on guitar, encouraged by the friendly audience.

Oyster Morris dancers kept the happy atmosphere going with their usual energetic and interactive performances followed by local community group, 'Doddington Ukelele Movement', with their renditions of songs like, 'Urban Cowboy' and 'Make Me Smile'. Local teenager, Freya Webb joined them to give a beautiful performance of 'Valerie'

Many visitors took the opportunity to walk round the orchard and pick their own cherries whilst others settled beneath the trees to picnic.

Lynsted and Norton primary school made a welcome return to the event with a joyful dance around the Maypole, accompanied by 'Rocking Badgers'.

Sioux Peto, from Teynham's Polka Dot Art Gallery, helped children to make colourful wands, using cherry tree sticks whilst Jackie Norris worked tirelessly to paint faces. Younger visitors could also make their

own bracelets, paint and had huge fun playing with, and running under a huge parachute canopy.

Alistair and Anna Marie Lovell, of 'First Ascot', allowed people to taste their delicious jams, jellies and chutneys alongside Kay Wreford with her popular locally made honey.

Bob Whitehead displayed his beautifully crafted banjos that he makes from mahogany, tulipwood and stainless steel.

With record sales at the PYO stall, bar and BBQ and the WI selling out of their homemade cakes and with so many local people contributing to the event or simply attending it, Cherry Day really was the most successful event in the orchard ever!

Halloween in the Orchard is on Saturday 31st October, 4pm to 6pm.

Report by Ann Haffenden