

Lynsted Orchard's Cherry Day

Saturday 16th July 2016

With the understanding that every year is different and so much relies on nature playing its part, as was frustratingly proven by our cancelled Blossom Day, it was a huge relief to see that the cherries had ripened and the weather delivered one of the few beautiful days of Summer.

The orchard was soon buzzing with families settling in the shade of the trees and enjoying picnics or strolling together picking cherries.

The bar serving Pimms, proseccos, beers and lagers, the bbq providing locally made burgers and sausages and the WI stall with their delicious sponges and scones, were as busy as ever.

A wonderful medley of music was provided by the, 'Rocking Badgers', Doddington Ukulele Movement and Anna Sydney's beautiful vocals accompanied by guitarist, Jonathon Bower.

Headcorn Morris stepped into the breach this year with their gentler, more relaxed style of dancing that was no less enjoyable. Jackie Gayner who also dances for Oyster Morris said that, she just didn't want to miss being at the event!

A huge mention has to be given to Lynsted and Norton school's pupils who, under Hannah Matson's enthusiastic lead, gave an amazing display round the Maypole. Adults were then encouraged to join in to disassemble the ribbons, which rapidly disintegrated into a happy, chaotic tangled mess! Proving, just how difficult it really is!

Sioux Peto, from Polka Dot art Gallery in Teynham, used her resourceful and creative talents to help children make wonderful headdresses featuring two little birds at the front.

Emma Delaney and James Kent's stall proved very popular with their chocolate fountain, and massive strawberry and marshmallow kebabs. I hope their takings will be a helpful contribution to their school trip to Cuba next year, in coordination with Operation Wallacea.

Julie Lemon was promoting forthcoming Church events which include a weekend of, 'Exploring Community Life, past, present and future, on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th September.

Other attractions included, Kay Wreford's local honey, First Ascot's Jams, jellies and Preserves, both of which, I can personally recommend, a card and fine art stall, wood whittling demonstration and an antique clock display.

There was so much going on and yet what really struck me, as I looked around, was how much everyone was simply enjoying this natural environment whether it was by strolling round, picking cherries, sitting in the dappled light under the trees

or on fallen tree trunks or children throwing or rolling in the dried grass cuttings and that is what ultimately makes this event a success.

So thank you so much to Pip and Sue Neaves for allowing us to use their orchard and to all the helpers and Volunteers, including Lizzie Spilman who heads the Orchard Group, for making this day possible.

I will leave you by quoting Sioux Peto, who said, " I love this event - So relaxing, lovely music, dancers, food and drink plus beautiful people, set in the gorgeous Cherry Orchard. Thank you!"

Please, join our 'Park Farm Community Cherry Orchard Group' Facebook page and find out about our future events, including Halloween, on Saturday 29th October.