

PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS, SHIPLEY 2022

CHURCH FETE JUNE 2022

The Parish Fete and summer fair took place on Saturday 4th June in the centre of Shipley village around the churchyard, the green and Church Close. The church has held a fundraising fete every year (except 2020 and 2021 when COVID restrictions applied), usually held on the last weekend of May being the Whitsun weekend, but this year it was on 4th June because of the change in bank holidays due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The weather was good - dry and sunny. The bell ringers started the day off with some good ringing from 1100 and then the tower could be opened for visitors to climb the spiral staircase to view the ringing chamber, the bells and out on the top of the tower to view the countryside. There was a steady stream of people for most of the day, and the ringers set up a "Teddy Abseil" zip line which was very popular with the smaller children. There was also face painting in the churchyard, and many books including childrens books and videos for sale in the church, laid out along the pews. Peter Sanderson played the organ with a mixed selection of popular music which also drew people into the church.

Along the church path Nick and Ginny DeZoete collected bids for a Silent Auction which they had been running through the preceding weeks - this raised the magnificent sum of £14,000 for repairs to the church roof.

Outside the iron gates was a popular stall selling plants and seedlings of all kinds, a barbecue and New Forest ice cream in many different flavours. There was also Bar and raffle on the green, a marquee for musicians to play (Gary Holder with his double bass and accompanying players), tombola, handmade lavender bags and jewellery stalls.



In the Andrew Hall the teas and refreshments were being served, art works were displayed on the walls and greetings cards for sale. Erica Smale set up her spinning wheel and had handmade woven items on display and for sale.



Along Church Close on the grass several marquees were set up for Shipley School, children's games, Knepp Estate, Jams & Preserves, a

Chocolate Tombola and a Bottle Tombola, Meadow Hall Vets offering advice for all kinds of animals, a bric-a-brac stall and craft stall. The 1st Shipley Scouts ran children's games, the Tuck Shop and Topsy Wheelbarrow.



There was also a display of veteran cars, tractor rides around Knepp Estate and a digger challenge. Billingshurst Community Minibus was there, Shipley School were represented and Knepp Produce selling free range meats from the Estate.



An arena was set up for the Dog Show - this proved very popular with many dogs entering the various classes. Rosettes were handed out for 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes and small doggy gifts and edible treats were presented to the runners-up.

The field on the corner of Red Lane was used for car parking, and many volunteers were pulled in to help with parking duties, selling raffle tickets and handing out programmes. There certainly was something for everyone, and the day was exceptionally well attended with families and older people in great numbers.

Funds raised (£5,000 plus £14,00 from the Silent Auction) went towards the essential roof repairs - re-laying many of the Horsham stone slabs on the main part of the roof and replacing the guttering all around the church. The renovation works were thus able to commence in early September, making the church watertight once again for the winter months.



SUNDAY 5 JUNE 2022

The residents of Church Close and some of the other lanes, eg Countryman Lane (photo below), held street parties - tables were set up along the close and everyone brought their picnic food and drinks to enjoy together.



Text by Claire Searle, Shipley History Society. June 2022

Photographs by Malcolm Green www.countrymanphotography.com