

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, DONHEAD ST ANDREW
REPORT ON 2018 CHURCH FETE**

MONDAY 27TH AUGUST 2018
(by kind permission of the Jeffery Family)

The weather for the Bank Holiday Monday looked distinctly iffy in the week before the Fete. The Patronal Festival Service in one of the marquees on the Sunday took place in beating rain. Fortunately, the day of the Fete itself started grey and cloudy but with no rain other than a few spots in the morning; as the day wore on the sun came out.

By lunchtime everything was ready. Stoney Hills Field, with its wonderful views over to the Chase, looked very welcoming. By 12.30 pm a large crowd had built up at the Gate. At 1.00 pm the Fete opened to the music of the Bell Street Jazz Band. Sadly, because of the low cloud we could not have the usual fly-past of planes from Compton Abbas.

The next three and a half hours flew by, with a crowd of visitors of about 1,500 enjoying everything on offer. The stalls were loaded with good things baked, prepared and donated by the village community. Many of the stalls sold everything they had. The Food Mall had queues throughout the afternoon. The Dog Show attracted more entries than ever before. The Classic Car Show was amazing with over forty fascinating vehicles.

It was a very happy occasion with over three hundred villagers contributing in some way to putting on the Fete. The Committee's thanks to them all.

We would also like to thank the Jeffery Family for allowing us to use such a perfect space for the Fete, for their help with the set-up and the clear-up and for the four large loads of seasoned logs which sold very well in the Live Auction.

There are so many other individuals and businesses to thank for their sponsorship and support:

Natural Woodflooring for sponsoring the Raffle, HW White Estate Agents for providing all the signs on the Fete field and for being a sponsor, Sans Farm Kennels for sponsoring the Dog Show, Natural High Safaris for sponsoring the Bell Street Jazz Band, Wren Classics for sponsoring the Car Show and Hawes Arborists for sponsoring the Plant Stall.

and our other sponsors:

Ludwell Village Stores, Wessex Fire & Security, Farnfields Solicitors, Rob Beale Portaloos, AP Roberts Building Contractor, Richmond Bell Architects, Andrews and Palmer Chartered Accountants, Proctor Watts Cole Rutter Architects, The Grosvenor of Shaftesbury, Lady Lichfield, David and Jenny Hammersley, Michael Jodrell, Tim and Linda Reeve, Lorna Bourke, John and Sarah Reynolds, Michael and Vashti Noel-Clarke, Peter and Elizabeth Dawson and Michael and Elizabeth Hockney.

We should also like to thank Rural View Estate Agents for the advertising signs around the village, Ringwood Brewery for the beer, Donhead Apple for the cider - some generously donated and some at reduced prices - and Buttlings The Butcher of Ludwell for the burgers and sausages at reduced prices.

Many families and businesses provided the prizes in the Silent Auction and the Raffle:

Ringwood Brewery, Fitness By Design, Hall & Woodhouse Brewery, Shaftesbury Co-operative Funeral Care, Ted Martin Flowers of Tisbury, Pythouse Club, Hairdresser of Shaftesbury, Prime Cuts Traditional Butcher, Tesco, Big Bang Pizzas, Tim Gosling Designer, Lynda Appleby our local artist, Graham Waterton, Catherine Ronan, Gerald and Danuta Tagg, Alistair and Juliet Stoker, Marcus Shepherd and Michael and Elizabeth Hockney.

The Bell Street Jazz Band and Great Aunt Lucie's Ice Creams were very popular additions to the Fete.

At the well-attended post-Fete party in the New Remembrance Hall, the financial results were announced:

- total income was over £18,000. Up on 2017; itself a record year.
- sponsorship was up on 2017. Over £4,000.
- the cost of putting on the Fete rose a little to £3,500. This was primarily due to hiring more marquees as some of the church-owned tents were no longer useable.
- the surplus was over £14,000.
- the £1,500 from the proceeds of the Friends Silent Auction went to the Development Appeal.
- the Church gave 25% of the remaining proceeds of the Fete to Wiltshire Air Ambulance, Happy Gathering, Ludwell School's 'new loos' Appeal, Tisbus and the Development Appeal.
- the balance, around £10,000, went to the Church's general funds to help cover the running costs and the cost of the work and mission of the church.

A final thanks to everyone involved in so many ways. There were over 150 villagers running the Fete on the day, with about the same number again contributing in some way or other prior to the Fete. A lot of hard work went into this Fete but we also had a lot of fun, involved newcomers to the village and we will contribute significantly to worthy county and local charities and community activities.