

Bookham 'On Safari' for Village Day 2023

The High Street was alive with wild animals - even a safari vehicle to view them from - for the Parade on Village Day in June. Our local Pre-schools and Schools surpassed themselves with costumes and accessories to make a really colourful and joyful procession down to the Old Barn Hall field where Mole Valley Silver Band was playing to welcome them into the arena.

Everyone enjoyed terrific displays from Eastwick, Great Bookham, Polesden Lacey Schools and Action Theatre Club before non-stop music from There's a Fire and Primary Covers through till 4pm. There was a great range of food and drink, both in the hall and on the field and many stalls, sideshows and children's entertainments. There were many activities for children with the Churches Together Last Man Standing, Elios&DiCarlo's Bucking Bronco, Curchod's Coconut Shy, Rawlings Opticians' Punch & Judy & Magic Show, Bungee Trampolines and the Tea Cup Ride.

As always, the day depended on 50 different organisations who were involved in the stalls and displays plus the refreshments by Bookham Guiders and Bookham Butterflies WI. We are very grateful for all the work put in by their members and all our stewards and helpers, as well as everyone who came along to support us. Many thanks to our main sponsor The Vineries Garden Centre.

"We were so lucky with the weather with so many people coming along as well as those working hard to make it happen" said chairman Keith Slark. "There were lots of happy smiling faces. With the bar having a record year and most refreshment areas selling out and the stalls doing good business we will have made a substantial amount of money to help with the running of the Old Barn Hall for the village."

Ian Swinney judged the Parade and Gold awards went to the Rainbow Preschool and Great Bookham School with Silver to Bus Stop Preschool and Eastwick Infant School and Bronze to Peter Pan Playschool, Polesden Lacey Playschool and Polesden Lacey School.

The Best dressed stall on the field was won by Great Bookham Belles WI with Patrick Gardner runners-up with a Special Mention for Bookham Bees WI. In the halls Mole Valley Quilters took the trophy this year closely followed by Bookham Flower Club.

Village Day is organised by the Bookham Community Association as a free to enter community event for all ages but it also raises vital funds to maintain and improve the Old Barn Hall complex for the village. This year, thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised a record £14,000. There were other events during Village Week with Bookham Afternoon Bridge Club and Mole Valley Silver Band's concert on Monday, the Quiz on Tuesday and Open Gardens on the following Sunday bringing the total to over £20,000. Thank you all!

The full financial breakdown, this report and more photographs can be seen on our website bookhamcommunityassociation.org

Next year's Village Day will be on Saturday 15th June 2024. If you would like to help please contact Keith on keithslark@tiscali.co.uk or 457375.