

## Windle/Swythamley/Wildboardclough Community Get-together

For many of us the community get-together held at Butterlands Farm on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> August was the first opportunity we'd had to socialise with friends and family since Covid struck in March 2020.

We all kept our fingers crossed for good weather as there were no marquees or shelter if the weather had turned bad but we needn't have worried; a little bit of drizzle didn't dampen the spirits of people coming to picnic and the enthusiastic competitors at both the rounders and the tug of war.

The event was hosted by our new neighbours Kelvin & Liz Fletcher and filmed by the BBC for a documentary based on Kelvin & Liz's move to the country. In mid-June we set up a small committee to help organise the Get Together with the focus being on celebrating our community, reconnecting and having fun. Having spoken to a few of the 250 odd people that attended I think we achieved these objectives.



The rounders field had been beautifully prepared and there were some energetic rounders matches between the teams representing our local villages. A sprinkling of healthy competition didn't dent the sportsmanship and it was wonderful to see adults and children of all ages racing round the bases to cheers from their teammates! Swythamley won the trophy which was presented to Harry, the captain (Peter Collins' grandson), by Kelvin.



Paul Woodcock had eight of his springer spaniels demonstrating retrieve activities in a corner of the field .... It was marvellous to see the skill of Paul's training and the enthusiasm of the dogs as they searched the course that had been laid out.

The Bosley Tug of War team came on to demonstrate the expertise and art of Tug of War. There was no shortage of volunteers wanting to have a go, they were spurred on by the



chanting of the crowds supporting the activity. It was marvellous see our local vicar, John Harries, putting his back into it ... the opposite team claimed it was a little unfair to have 'the hand of God' on the other side!



Julie & Paul Bullman of Cliffe Farm brought three of their Valais Blacknose lambs for petting. They had been given a special wash and brush up for the occasion and looked beautiful (the lambs not Julie & Paul!).



Keeping it simple, we offered a few ways to enjoy the day and raise some money for our community. Most of the work was done beforehand, meaning everyone could relax and take part.



130 picnics of sandwiches, scones and cake, were pre-ordered for the event. Made by our wonderful WI, they were ready to pick up as people arrived, with tea and juice available as self-serve during the afternoon. Alison Coombes again excelled with her cake making and everyone commented on how delicious and well organised the picnics were.

Adam and Paula Prince (who have recently moved to Swythamley) manned the produce stall – selling jam, lemon curd, marmalade and honey as well as home grown produce eg fruit, vegetables, flowers, plants and cake stands.



The raffle was a huge success too, the 1<sup>st</sup> prize, of a wheelbarrow filled with bottles and tickets to Oulton Park to watch Kelvin racing, was won by Suzanne Henshall. Other prizes were a bottle of Forest Gin, a lamb for the freezer and a pack of Wincle beer. Thank you to everyone who donated a prize.

Wincle Brewery had an honesty stall with beer and prosecco on offer and I guess it wasn't surprising that most of the picnic tables were set up in close proximity.



A Granelli's ice-cream van proved popular with young and old and the Buxton Mountain Rescue Team were on hand for any medical emergencies.

There was plenty of parking for the 90 cars expertly managed by a crack team of volunteers who also ensured that people took their rubbish home so that the site was left tidy.

All proceeds from the event are going to Wincle Church/School and Buxton Mountain Rescue and, although we are still counting up the total, we expect to have raised over £1,500.

I would like to say a special thank you to the 'committee' (you know who you are!) for making this event possible and to Kelvin & Liz for hosting. The day was a great success and it will feature in the final episode of the 6 part series to be shown on BBC1 in the autumn.

Alison Weston