

Stratton Audley Village Picnic Review

Sunday 8th September saw the first Village Picnic organised by Villagers for the Village. The aim of the day was to bring the community together to meet each other in a relaxed, fun way and introduce the concept of a Community Led Plan (CLP). We are very happy to say it was a GREAT SUCCESS!!

The rain had passed by 2pm, just in time. The music started, families arrived with picnics and we were ready for a day of fun!

Plenty of straw bales, (kindly provided by John O'Neill) were set out as seats and tables in the Marquee (kindly supplied by Frank O'Neill and put up by Richard Walsh and helpers)

As the clouds passed and the sun shone, we were treated to the most fantastic display of Aerobatics, by Roland Rawicz-Szczerbo from the Old Rectory. Roland performed an array of death-defying manoeuvres for us, finishing with a wave of the wings to say goodbye. This was an amazing treat and we thank Roland immensely for taking his Extra 300 aerobatic plane up in the air to entertain us all and start the afternoon with jaws dropped.

Tony Jones kicked off the day as inimitable MC and got everybody involved in the first few games. The competitive spirit came out during musical statues, egg and spoon, skipping and 3-legged racing. Some adults had to be disqualified as their determination to win knew no bounds!

Whilst parents relaxed, enjoying Pimms and picnics, the children were happily off playing Splat-the-Rat, Horse Shoe Pitching, Balls in a Bucket and the amazing Parachute Game – with sweets for prizes and participation.

A short introduction to the CLP was made by John Honsinger, inviting everyone to leave their comments on how the village can work for them. An information board was set up with feedback and surveys from the meeting held in the Church, 30th April 2013. Comments included desire for more organised activities like the picnic, speed limits, improvements to; Broadband, Cycle Paths, play area etc.

A huge Thank you to Richard and Sarah Howsen for the last minute loan of their Marquee to keep the Information area and PA system protected. And to Mrs Gosling for the use of her field.

Many people have questioned what the difference is between the CLP and Parish Council” and why there is a need for one. An excellent explanation was provided by John Honsinger which was distributed and can be viewed on the notice board and on the website www.strattonaudley.org

The day concluded with a Super 11's Tug O'War. In a Best of 3, Jenks' team beat Richard Howsen's team 2-1 although there was some question as to numbers being added on one side for the last challenge. We look forward to the re-match!

Joint Chairman, Amanda Reynolds closed the day, with Thank-You's to the team that organised the day and for everyone who came and enjoyed themselves.

We hope that more events will be organised in the future, but they can only be successful, if people are willing to help. If you would like to get involved with the CLP, events, or just to stay involved with what is happening, please email strattonclp@gmail.com stating what involvement/updates you would like to receive.