

## **Events Group Report – 3 September 2024**

### **Community Picnic**

On Wednesday 21 August, Jayne Picket and the team put the bunting around the green but by Friday the weather forecast was for heavy rain all night Friday and till lunchtime on Saturday. Sadly, the cheerful bunting was not enough to cheer up the weather. It was decided that the marquee was not necessary, as the Saxophonists could easily decamp into St Mark's Hall or play in the open air. Also, it is a huge task to erect the marquee and also to take down and dry out thoroughly.

So, the only choice was to make it an indoor picnic, which took place between 12 and 4:30pm. The main room was set up with tables and chairs used by Re.vive Café. Tom Foster kindly set the small meeting room/church area up for the band. He also made the Bluetooth speakers easily available.

Over the course of the afternoon, 30+ people came, with their picnics, and enjoyed being entertained by the live music. Tea and coffee were offered to the attendees. One lady brought acrylic paints for people to paint large stones for decorating a small garden area outside St Mark's Hall.

It was a shame that the weather prevented the event from taking place outside as planned but those who attended enjoyed the afternoon. Hopefully next year we will have better weather!

Lots of credit goes to Jayne for stepping forward to organise this at short notice and delivering a very enjoyable and music filled time regardless of the weather. Also, thanks are due to Marianne Foster for allowing St Marks Hall and its facilities to be used FOC for this community event and to Tom Foster for clearing and preparing the small meeting room/church to make space for the band at short notice.

### **Scarecrow Drawing Competition**

Congratulations to Mia Chen (Oliver's Battery Primary School pupil) for her entry into the Scarecrow drawing competition (see September Newsletter for picture). Mia was presented a £10 book voucher, which was funded by the Council, by a member of the Events Group. This picture will be used on all the PR leading up to the Scarecrow week.

### **Scarecrow Competition - Autumn Half Term**

I expect that we are all hoping for the usual eclectic (and somewhat eccentric) mix of entries for the fifth Scarecrow Competition, which will run over the School Autumn Half Term Saturday 26 October to Sunday 3 November. Judging will be completed on Saturday 2nd November and the winners announced straight afterwards. Three categories and trophies: Junior (school year 6 and below), Senior (school years 7 and ALL ages above) and Group (organisations, groups of neighbours). All local residents and shop keepers/businesses are encouraged to enter.

### **Christmas Event**

Our sixth annual Oliver's Battery Christmas Tree will go up on Saturday 7 December. It will no doubt be followed with the usual Mulled Wine, Mince Pies & Carols. However, the Events Group are hoping to 'beef up' the Christmas Tree event this year. If this impacts on the budget allocation, it will be included as a proposal in a future progress report seeking approval.

### **What's On Publicity**

OB Community Films will run a 'What's on in Oliver's Battery up to Christmas' set of adverts at its showings in the autumn.

### **OB Community Films**

OB Community Films are now National Theatre Live Partners (as well as Moviola) and will be screening NTL Prima Facie in November. This is to increase the breadth of what OBCF can show to our local community. Recent showings have been very well supported.

### **Winchester Half Marathon**

The Winchester Half Marathon runs through Olivers Battery on Sunday 22 September around 0845-1145hrs. The OB WI and partners marshal the Olivers Battery Section and St Marks will be available as a 'loo stop'. They are looking for around 10 locals to form a drinks station team (location near the Dentist) and have asked if the Council can ask for volunteers using the Council's Contact List - replies will be to the Events Group email: [oliversbatteryevents@gmail.com](mailto:oliversbatteryevents@gmail.com).

### **Recommendations**

- Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Jayne Picket for organising the community picnic.
- Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Marianne Foster for allowing St Marks Hall and its facilities to be used FOC and to Tom Foster for clearing and preparing the small meeting room/church area for the band.
- Consider a Council entry to the Scarecrow Competition this year. Are there any volunteers?
- If agreed, Cllr Kirkby to use the Council's Contact List to ask for volunteers to be part of a drinks station team (location near the Dentist) for the Winchester Half Marathon (unless Cllrs wish to volunteer).