

Stickney's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 2012

During the weeks before the bank holiday weekend a leaflet was posted through every door in Stickney and the surrounding back lanes notifying the residents of all the attractions that had been arranged for the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

On the Thursday morning at 11 am the Union Flag was raised on the Church and Jodie Mason courageously photographed Stickney and the surrounding area from the top of the tower. The flag was donated to the PCC by Miss Mary Simpson before her death in 2003. She lived by herself in a little bungalow that has since been demolished and replaced with a new house near to the old Station Bridge.



The original flag pole on St. Luke's was severely damaged by lightning some years ago and a replacement was given by Ray Picker, and fitted on the tower by Martin Gosling prior to the forthcoming Jubilee. Dave Ibbotson who is a professional photographer and lives in Stickney, kindly volunteered to ascend the tower on the Tuesday and took numerous photographs in the evening of the houses below and the whole village.

A Diamond Jubilee fund was set up and raised the money to pay for the Thursday Clubs tea, the expenses of the children's party and to buy the commemorative mugs for all the children that attended. A table top sale was held earlier in the year and generous donations from various clubs and organisations were also put towards it.

Thursday Club

Thursday afternoon a Jubilee party was arranged in the Youth Centre by Jean Green and her daughter Linda for the members of the Thursday club and their guest.

About sixty people arrived at two o'clock for coffee or tea and freshly made sandwiches, trifles and homemade cakes, which had been prepared during the morning by Sandra Boone and Sue Winslow. The entertainment afterwards was provided by The Rainbow Singers from Sibsey with Ann Stubley playing the guitar and Gloria Overton directing the other singers in the group. Ann Howman thanked the helpers and everyone for coming before the raffle was drawn with the money raised going towards the club funds. At five o'clock Kings Bus arrived as specially arranged to take the guests home.



Bingo

The Friday evening Cash Bingo started at seven o'clock, half hour early



than usual. It attracted seventy of the regular players and after the sixth game was called a complimentary buffet of sandwiches, trifles and homemade cakes was opened. Leslie Eade made the large Jubilee cake that was cut up

and a piece was given to everyone with a cup of wine. Mike Greavett made a toast to the Queen and this was followed by the singing of the national anthem. Unbeknown to the bingo caller Mike had been

discreetly asked before hand to perform something at a specific time. When the number sixty was called for the first time he stood up and sang a verse of God Save the Queen much to the surprise of Dave Webb and it received a slight applause from the room

Beetle Drive

On the Thursday evening a beetle drive which had been arranged by Sarah Gosling was held in the Youth Centre at 6pm and was attended by over thirty five players, many of them being junior school children and some from the Brownies.

The beetle game sheets and the advertising posters previously placed around the village had been purposely designed by Sarah to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. Katie Willerton is Brown Owl and also a primary school teacher, and together with Gill Haliday the Girl Guide leader, helped serve the refreshments after the sixth game had ended. The final winning couple were Jessie Arnold and her mother Leigh with over 400 points. A small raffle was then drawn and the entire evening raised seventy five pounds for the Girl Guide fund.

The Church Exhibition

On Friday morning from 10 o'clock the church was opened with a exhibition entitled "Refresh Your Memories" and included numerous objects that had featured prominently in everyday life over the last sixty years

One part of the exhibition was a collection of things for home entertainment before the digital age arrived, with items that included a reel to reel tape recorder and a music cassette player. There was a conventional box of 45 singles and 33 vinyl LPs, even a few 78 rpm

records from His Masters Voice label were present with a fully working Murphy record player plugged in and ready to play them.

A collection of various computers over the years included Acorn and iMac and also a word processor and a data recorder. There were many cameras and early calculators on display and an even a classic cine camera and film

Oldrids of Boston had kindly loaned the Church some mannequins, and a dozen wedding dresses of former brides of the village were displayed in the chancel, all of them dating from 1961 to 2000, and also included three going away outfits. One window sill was full of an assortment of wedding invitations and congratulation cards and a range of twenty first birthday cards



There were many dinky and matchbox toys, a full wooden train set and a dolls pram, with Kermit the frog, a Furby and a stuffed Womble (*not a real one*) nearby.

An original Binatone Tennis game was set up in a corner and was still working well on an old television set. The collection of telephones on display showed just how they had totally changed with technology over the last sixty years

Another window sill had an assortment of Paraffin lamps and irons plus several old hand tools from a craftsman's toolbox, while nearby in its original box was a Blue Peter jigsaw with several old books and daily news papers from the past sixty years. The various knitting patterns and the instruction books for lace making and crochet, fitted in well with the display of locally made hand-crafted items of quilting, tatting and some fine samples of embroidery.

Many of the primary school children took part in a colouring competition on the theme of The Diamond Jubilee and most of them were arranged on the display boards in the Church. The prizes for the two winners were announced at the Sunday special "Songs of Praise" service by The Reverend Joan Thornett who also judged the paintings

Stickney History had just recently obtained a DVD of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations that took place in the village in 1977 and this was viewed with much interest on a television set up in front of the organ. A copy of the 1953 royal coronation in London was also on hand and played quite regularly throughout the weekend. Also a slide projector was showing many coloured pictures taken at the old farm park on West Fen Lane that has since closed down.

The whole weekend was arranged by Angela Brady with much help from Peter and Pat Hood who also made pots of tea, served the homemade cakes and occasionally played the odd 45 from a treasured box of singles. The event was well attended over the four days and managed to raise a net total of three hundred and twenty pounds for the Church.

Flora Gill organized a unique competition in the Church, where bible readings numbered from 1 to 26 were discreetly positioned amongst the displays and certain missing words and numbers had to be found to complete the given sheet of quotations. This proved to be very popular with many of the visitors.

On the Saturday morning a group of Bell Ringers stopped by and treated the residents of the village to a unexpected session of ringing before leaving to attend a wedding ceremony at Sibsey

Family Dance

Saturday morning the Village hall was decorated inside with bunting and



balloons with the tables and chairs set out ready for a fancy dress family disco. About fifty people attended from 8pm onwards and thoroughly enjoyed a wide variety of music played throughout the evening by Phil Odlin

and the Rainbow Disco. Most families brought their own drinks and snacks and a small raffle was arranged which made a profit of thirty five pounds which helped towards the finances of the Ceilidh held the following Saturday night.

A short game of Play Your Cards Right with a prize of five pounds was won by Ellie Clark and raised ten pounds for the Air Ambulance. Julie Dawson won the fancy dress competition as a Hippie and her son Max was awarded the children's prize

A Photo booth was set up near the entrance by Jodie Mason who has been photographing most of the events organised over the Jubilee week with all the pictures being made available on her web site called Flashonastring

Children's Tea Party

On the Sunday afternoon a tea party was arranged by members of the village hall committee and for all children of preschool or junior school age. The party was financed by The Jubilee Fund and started at two o'clock in the Village Hall with a bouncy castle, face painting and many other games. A Children's entertainer was hired from Grantham and performed a magic show for an hour before everybody moved to the Youth centre for the refreshments.

It was first hoped that the children would eat outside in the play area as a miniature street party but because of the heavy rain that continued virtually all day the initial plan had to be changed. All of the children that attended that afternoon received a commemorative diamond jubilee mug as a lasting memento of the occasion and a prize out of the Lucky dip tub.

Songs of Praise

Sunday evening the church held a Songs of Praise service at 6pm conducted by Joan Thornett that was attended by thirty adults and six children. The eight hymns in the service were specially chosen beforehand by members of the congregation for being some of their favourites. The previous week Mrs Brady had organised a competition for any school children willing to write a jubilee prayer. Abigail Taylor's prayer was chosen to be the most appropriate and she was invited by the church warden to read it out during the evening service.

A colouring competition was also suggested by the church and the two winners from Stickney Primary School received a certificate and a prize. Alex Langford and Harry Bourne were later presented with a painting set and a clock with a white plaster face that could be painted to their own design.

Stickney Diamond Jubilee Fun Day

Monday 4th June turned out to be a warm sunny afternoon and a large family fun day was held at the former farm park down West Fen Lane.

Much planning by a committee of about sixteen members had been meeting regularly for the past eight months to arrange the many things necessary for an event such as this. The afternoon started with Steve Barclay the hired compare for the day entertaining the audience with a few well known gags and jokes before the impending ceremony took place

Sarah Gosling a sixteen year old girl born in Stickney was invited on stage and sat on the oak throne between the two younger girls. She was then dressed in her robe and sash and crowned as the Diamond Jubilee Queen



with the Tiara. Her two attendants received their sashes and a posy of statice with red and white carnations, followed by a tour of the village in a decorated trailer accompanied by a CD of appropriate music. Harry Dodds drove the towing vehicle with Grace Pursey and Mollyann Sabin seated either side of Sarah and the 1953 Stickney Coronation Queen, Mrs Hazel Collier who was honoured to perform the ceremony. The three jubilee girls each received an engraved cut glass paper weight donated by Linda Wooding, as a permanent memento of the day. The oak chair that was used for the Queen's Throne was originally donated to the Stickney Chapel in memory of James Sykes a Methodist lay preacher who died in 1920 and is now owned by Stickney History. The cloak and tiara were made and first used for the 1977 royal celebrations and are now in the care of the parish council. The Queen and one of her attendants from the Silver Jubilee were visiting Stickney on this bank holiday but were unavailable for a joint photograph

Many local people arrived and the car park was soon full, with scores of vehicles parked along the roadside by early afternoon. Jason Clark kindly volunteered to oversee the car parking with the help of the Boston Air Cadets

The vintage vehicle section was quite small with a Ford Dexter tractor and Peter Hood's pristine 1930s Singer car although they did have much competition from Carrington Rally on the day. George Littlewood from the village brought a fine collection of classic bicycles that included a rare Penny Farthing, and was thrilled to share his interest with any enthusiast present.

Over the last few weeks Brian Gray had set up a narrow gauge railway line on the site and was giving Steam Train rides to a maximum of seven passengers at a time for twenty five pence a ticket.



Linda Wooding was just one of the reprobates who was condemned to the Stocks for an unspecified offence and received a good soaking with cold wet sponges from her loyal customers. There were several side shows around the field that included hook a duck, a large Tombola and even the traditional Coconut Shy with many contented winners throughout the afternoon. The children's round-a-bout was popular as well as the selection of old fashioned wooden games such as hoopla, bean bag throwing, ball rolling and a Splat the Rat as it scurried out of the drain pipe. The public address caravan was hired from Harold Houldershaw at Stickford for the use of the compare and also played back ground music throughout the afternoon



A Bouncy Castle and an inflatable Bungee run for the children was popular but turned out to be quite expensive considering the fees charged by the owners. The noise from the generators running all afternoon

was also very irritating to anybody nearby and totally eliminated the music or any public announcements

The Bucking Bronco rodeo however provided much amusement and was thoroughly enjoyed by the young and the **very big** children alike.

A Lancaster bomber from The Battle of Britain flight, performed a fly past during the day as requested and later remarks suggested that this was much appreciated as an added bonus by many who had attended

Cherrydale Alpacas brought some of their fine creatures on the day and exhibited a wide range of the products that can be made out of their fleeces as it does produce a very soft and non itchy wool

The Fen Bank Greyhounds Sanctuary also had a stand at the farm park and brought several of the rescued dogs that they wish to re home and information about the objective of the charity that is based in Friskney

The main grass area was quite wet under foot due to the heavy rain the day before and many of the

vehicles had to be towed out of the field when it was eventually

cleared. At five o'clock most people made their way to the tea

room where the raffle was about to be drawn. There were

probably too many prizes to choose from and one genuine complaint



afterwards was concerning the prolonged time it took to complete the draw

During the afternoon the cafe was staffed by dedicated volunteers who were kept very busy preparing the cream teas and serving the refreshments

All of the homemade cakes and scones on sale were baked by members of the committee or their partners the day before. Several people filled in and signed the visitor's book and many others appreciated the opportunity to leave comments about the day on the feedback forms that are always beneficial to any considerate organisers.

A DVD of the 1977 Jubilee event in Stickney was playing in the cafe and a display of photographs and leaflets from Stickney History about the previous Coronations and Jubilees that had been celebrated in the village also attracted much interest.

The open barn at the farm park had been cleaned down and the floor levelled with limestone during the previous weeks by members of the committee. The tall wooden hoardings at the back of the barn were washed down and several talented students from the



William Lovell School accompanied by their art teacher, Miss Sophie Spencer, Craig Scott the history teacher and Miss Nicola Haresign, spent the whole day designing and painting a magnificent mural based on the theme of the Queen's Jubilee year. The finished pictures depicted scenes from London with paintings of Big Ben and the London Eye. There was Tower Bridge with the many boats that took part in the Queen's River Pageant on the Thames and a sketch, with reference to

the forth coming Olympics games in the capital, but probably the most amusing was the parachuting corgi dogs.

During the day frequent pictures were taken by Jodie as the mural progressed. When the Head Teacher arrived he presumed a position amongst the volunteers, a group photograph was taken with the new proprietors of the farm park and it appeared in the local newspaper.

The unique bunting that other pupils had made was hung along the top of the mural and around the edge of the stage. Several bales of straw were fetched in Harry Dodds trailer from Staples farm and a batch of wooden chairs that had been previously acquired and cleaned were placed around the barn for the seating. All the tables used on the day were kindly loaned by the village hall committee and returned the same night.

A licensed bar was approved from midday onwards and was provided by The Duke of Wellington from Midville until the music finished just after ten o'clock.

A low stage had been previously erected by members of the Cockburn family and was first used for the Diamond Jubilee Queen ceremony. The talent show was the next main feature to take place in the barn with a variety of acts appearing on stage with Adriana Finch winning the over twelve's section with her version of Pixie Lott's Mama Do. Four others entered the under twelve category with Amber Seville, being encouraged by her friends support as backing singers, and then Stephanie Ball bravely took the role of stand-up comedian, telling short jokes and received the third prize for her endeavour. The Primary School dance club had practiced their routine well beforehand and was awarded the first prize for their dance called Shrek. And finally, Abigail Taylor recited

a poem she had composed herself to become joint second place with Amber.

About six o'clock the sound equipment was set up on the stage ready for The Noisy Tuesdays. This was the first group of the evening to play in the barn, with some of their members also joining forces with the other bands. These were followed by Mike and Duncan who usually play acoustic guitars but on this night they were accompanied by other musicians

The Kakushigei Taiko Drummers were the next to perform with fifteen or more members of the band on stage, all dedicated enthusiasts under the expert ear of Mr Stebbings, an expressive



arts tutor. This was most certainly the high light of the evening for many and after a thirty minute performance; they received a well-deserved applause from the audience.

The Transonics appeared on stage at eight o'clock and played a wide variety of rock music from The Kinks and the Arctic Monkeys to classic numbers from Queen and Pink Floyd. The group is made up of four (former) students from the William Lovell School. Ash Napier, John Richards and Jake Scarbro all playing guitars and vocals with Luke Mason on the drums.

The last group of the evening was Dr Frankenfish and the Noise Monsters from Spilsby who played the final hour to finished off the night of music at ten o'clock

Hot food was available all afternoon and in the evening from a mobile Burger van sited near to the barn and another stall that was selling warm chicken wraps

As one of the main objectives of the organisers of the event was to make it free for everyone to attend and enjoy, a bucket for donations was circulated during the evening while the groups were playing for people to show their appreciation and contribute towards some of the expenses of the day.

Competition

The Village people competition was organised with the use of relatively up-to-date photographs of thirty three popular people who either live in Stickney or work here and have regular contact with the village. The object of the game was to match the face of the person with their known trade or profession that was listed at the side of the page. The choice of thirty six possible occupations ranged from Avon Lady to Strawberry grower or Priest with the church clock winder and even an OBE holder amongst the other choices. The Pole dancer, Drag Queen and the Opera Singer were actually red herrings, although not everyone realised that and some of the returned sheets were quite amusing. The competition ran for six weeks until the end of June and raised sixty five pounds for the Lincolnshire Air Ambulance. There were three totally correct papers returned and a draw was made during the Bingo on the following Friday night. The ten pound prize money was generously donated by Jean Featherstone and given to Julie Head who was the chosen winner.



Ceilidh



It had been hoped to arrange a Ceilidh for the Saturday night of the Jubilee weekend, but due to a suitable band being unavailable it had to be moved to the ninth day of June instead. During that day the Village hall was decorated and set out with tables and chairs. Stevens the Butchers of Freiston specially baked four extra large pork pies for the Ploughman's Supper while the rest of the food and the desserts were bought fresh in the morning and prepared by Bev and Sarah Gosling in the afternoon. The sixty numbered tickets that were sold were professionally printed and purposely designed on the theme of the Diamond Jubilee, with the intention of them being kept as a souvenir of the occasion. Miss Mason kindly took many photographs of the band and the dancers throughout the evening. The music was played by four musicians from Grimsby who made up The Little Band. The caller with them was Max Bradley who was exceptionally good at motivating the dancers and even encouraged the non participants to join in the song choruses. After the supper break the raffle was drawn and Bev thanked The Band and Mr Bradley for such an enjoyable evening and also



everyone for their support. The lucky ticket number was then chosen and a box of Thornton's Chocolates was awarded to Ada Borrell, before the music and the dancing continued until midnight.

Strawberry Supper

On Tuesday 19th June a strawberry supper was organised by the Stickney Ladies Club and was well attended by their members and many guests. The Village Hall was set out with tables and chairs for about sixty people who arrived for a seven thirty start. The entertainment for the



evening was provided by two local singers, Pat Campbell and Dave Logan who each sang their own solos and duets together with a wide variety of music from the late nineteen fifties up to the present day.

Just before nine o'clock there was a break for the buffet of assorted sandwiches, quiches and sausage rolls that had been prepared in the afternoon by the

club members. These were followed by strawberries and cream and a good selection of other desserts. The raffle was then drawn and the Duo continued with their schedule of music until just after ten o'clock.

A vote of thanks was given on behalf of the Thursday Club, The Keals Club and The Gardening Club, with a very pleasant evening closing at ten thirty.

Sixty Years of Hits

On Thursday July 5th the William Lovell School arranged a night of music at the school with all the tickets being sold at five pounds each. About 160 people were expected for a seven o'clock start, but as the tickets weren't inspected at the door, some late arrivals had difficulties obtaining seats; therefore the event was a slightly late starting.



The stage was well lit with a line of Chinese lanterns hanging across the back curtains as the first song of the evening was announced. *I Gotta a Feeling*, this was originally recorded by The Black Eyed Peas but was tonight performed by the entire cast on stage with Kyle Boulton singing the solo rap part.

Eight girls from year seven then sang their version of The S Club Seven hit *Reach*, and performed their own unique dance routine before the Woodwind Group of flutes and clarinets lead by Gill Walsh played *Chariots of fire* followed by The Beatles tune *Yesterday* with Joel Dowson playing the Saxophone

There were several female singers in the first part of the evening with Angharad Faulkner performing *Your Song* an Elton John classic from the charts of 1971 as well as solos from Ebony Joseph, Holli Elston and Chloe Giles singing you're *Beautiful*. Courtney Hunt ended the set with *On My Own* accompanied by the piano.

The Ploughman's supper was served about eight o'clock from a long table at the side of the hall. There were various sized portions of pork pie with pickle, cheese and tomato with French bread and pickle onions. Every meal being ready plated and covered for ease of serving, all of which were prepared earlier in the day by members of The Lovell Link. The raffle tickets were pre-drawn and the numbers placed on the prizes ready to be examined with anticipation during the intervals.

The second half continued promptly once the food was consumed and started with the Year Seven Choir singing *I Believe I Can Fly* followed by *Rule the World* which was very well performed on the Piano with a good periodic beat from the drum kit at the appropriate time.

The first duo of the night was Shona Roberts with Lauren Smith singing *Make You Feel My Love*. Some other singers and groups during this section included The Evans Angels, Imogen Lingard, Hannah Stout and Lucy Doyle-Thomas singing *Somewhere Over The Rainbow* accompanied with music only from an acoustic guitar. Kyle Boulton eventually did a brilliant rendition of a 1986 Classic, *Living on a Prayer*



after a frustrating delay with the Bon-Jovi backing track. The last group on stage before a short break for another drink and a slice of melon, was a four piece

band from year ten called The Plunge, with a female vocalist covering, The White Strips *Seven Nation Army* and *Mr Brightside*

Some of the twenty five songs of the night were played well by either live bands or musicians on stage. The others used pre recorded backing music which produced a brilliant sound but some delayed starts often left noticeable gaps in the smooth performance with the singers stood anxiously on stage waiting for the music to begin.

Part Three started with a song by Lyndsey Evans and Fiona Dowson the only two teachers there who were obviously influential in the arrangement of the event. *I Believe*, was probably the oldest song of the night that dates back to 1953 and was in the top ten during the Coronation and becoming number one a few weeks later.

The Stereophonics song *Maybe Tomorrow*, was sung by Rebecca Newton and followed by The Glee choirs performance of *Wherever You*

Will Go. This was accompanied by Mrs Coe on the piano with Jake Scarbro and Ashley Napier playing the bongos and acoustic guitar Bobby Morrow's version of the 1974 masterpiece *The Streets of London* was quite exceptional and mimicked the vocals of Mary Hopkins rather than Ralph McTell who is renowned for its fame

Lee Hextall is the Director of the Boston Youth Jazz Orchestra and did a professional job on the mixing desk balancing the stage volumes, and prevented anybody getting carried away with their ego. It also seemed a good idea to use three different pianists on the night rather than rely on just the one particular technique. Quite often organisers find it a great advantage to have a simple feedback system available to obtain a valid opinion from the audience

Joel Dowson was joint compare with Hannah Stout all evening when he took a temporary break to give a powerful rendition of *Mack the Knife* another number one chart hit from the Coronation decade.

The upbeat rhythm continued towards the end of the show with Amber Shucksmith singing *Valerie* before the Transonics took to the stage with their arrangement of *I Bet You Look Good on the Dance Floor*. The four members of band have already left the Lovell School but generously offered to play this Jubilee event for free although the absences of any nourishment for them didn't go unnoticed. They finished off the night at nine thirty with the all time classic *Another Brick in the Wall* which was made famous by Pink Floyd when it reached number one in the charts in 1979.

The Conclusion

Six hanging baskets were prepared and hung outside the village halls. A temporary wooden flower box was made and planted with Pansies, Verbena and Trailing Lobelia for the diamond jubilee weekend and was placed under the parish council notice board near the youth centre. It is hoped eventually to replaced it with a permanent stone flower trough bought with any residue from the Jubilee Fund.

The Union Flag on top of the Church Tower was finally lowered on the Thursday afternoon 21st June after the last of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations had finished

The Schools in former years have played a major part in all of the previous Jubilees and Coronation events but were unable to provide any more information about the Jubilee celebrations apart from what has already been mentioned. Most village clubs and organizations were enthusiastically involved in some way and made the Stickney Diamond jubilee celebrations a time that will be gladly remembered by many.

A memorial plaque and a silver birch tree is to be bought in the autumn and will be planted in the grounds of the Stickney Primary School by the Jubilee Queen and hopefully Miss Dodds who is the oldest person in the village being now one hundred in this Diamond Jubilee year.

Jodie Mason as mention earlier photographed most of the events organised over the Jubilee week and many of her pictures were displayed in the Church for several weeks after. They are also available on her web site called Flashonastring at a very reasonable price.

Diamond Jubilee the end

On Wednesday 5th December the Stickney Diamond Jubilee Queen planted a flowering cherry tree in the Peace Garden at the Primary School to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. It was a very cold but a bright sunny day as about fifteen people arrived at 2-15 to witness the occasion. Mr Dear had prepared the ground in the morning and the Chairman from the parish council read a short statement before Miss Sarah Gosling, assisted by Alfie Willerton the youngest pupil at the School performed the necessary duties. A news paper reporter from the Target and the Standard attended and took photographs of the event together with the members of the jubilee committee that were present. A small present was given to Alfie and a bouquet of flowers presented to Sarah.