

2021 Report from Sweffling Fete Organisation

This is the first time I have been asked to report on the Sweffling Fete, so I will give an up-date of events since I took over the co-ordination in 2018.

Traditionally the Fete has been held annually, originally as a street fair, but more recently on the Townland Meadow. When I took over, this was the venue successfully being used for stalls, games, grand draw, barbecue, with a beer tent and the pavilion used for teas. Usually the central arena had a main attraction and recently this was a fun event for dogs.

In 2018 a dog show was planned as the main event and with a very successful team organising, this was repeated in 2019. The wider advertising campaign needed for this event increased the support from outside the village but gave a few headaches with the planning of the site to accommodate all the extra cars. The increased attendance was reflected in the takings which were £3509 for 2018 but slightly down at £3372 for 2019, because of the challenging weather conditions.

Thanks to a great deal of hard work from village families, each of whom organised and manned their own stall, games and rides or refreshment outlet, a very good afternoon of fun and entertainment was had by all. This would not have been possible without a very strong and dedicated team of folk behind the scenes who worked on advertising, mending gazebos, moving heavy kit, erecting tents and making everything safe (especially in winds of 50mph in 2019 - no gazebos allowed that year!)

With a change in the officers, the new treasurer needed to up-date the banking arrangements and found that the bank required a constitution to be agreed. This was duly done at a Special General Meeting in April 2019. The aims of the SFO are to bring together people in the village of Sweffling for mutual enjoyment and working together as a community to raise funds to provide financial support for the Church, village organisations and a grant for a special village project to be decided by ballot each year.

The first special project was a Habitat Home Building Day for 20 village participants. This was held on 1st March 2020 at the Sinfield Nature Reserve and several family groups made hedgehog boxes, bat boxes and various bird boxes - a very enjoyable day, thanks to the Reserve staff.

Unfortunately this was the last SFO event as lockdowns in 2020 and 2021 have prevented any further planning. So there was no Sweffling Fete in 2020 and face to face discussions for an event in 2021 are only just now possible. It is hoped that something can be arranged for this summer and a date has already been publicised. This is Saturday 14th August 2021.

Jill Abbott Chairman of SFO and
Fete Co-ordinator
18 May 2021