

OXSHOTT COMMUNITY EVENTS

By: Carmen Robinson

The objective of Oxshott Community Events is to help create a strong community spirit in the village of Oxshott by organising events during the year. It is supported by FEDORA which provided 'seed' funding. The first event was the Christmas Evening in the High Street and St Andrews' Church last December. This was followed by our first Village Day at Oxshott Village Sports Club on the holiday weekend of May 5th. With glorious sunny weather, the event was a huge success.

The idea was to provide publicity for local societies, institutions and businesses. There was generous support from local High Street businesses and FEDORA who together provided the funds to help us pay for most of the expenses. In addition, advertising was supported by Danes Hill School, Royal Kent School, Parkside School, St. Andrew's Church, Sunrise Senior Living, and the Bear Public House.

Families had a great day out with a bouncy castle, large slide and fairground rides. The face-painting had a permanent queue of children waiting, and as a result there were lots of little painted 'tigers' and 'butterflies' running around. Richard the Magician, who was also the compere, did a fantastic job of putting on magic shows for the children.

There was a range of very popular food stalls with a hog-roast, wine and cheese, pizzas and beer. The providers were Fiona Pasche, McMillan & James, Leon Hicks, OVSC and we are hoping that more food stalls will join us next year. The sunny weather meant that families were picnicking on the grass and enjoying the food together with refreshments from OVSC bar.

Most of the local Institutions and Clubs participated, plus 20 local vendors were selling toys, games, home-baked goods, jewellery, books, pictures and ceramics. Graham Clarke put together a Car Exhibition displayed at the side of the cricket field.

Entertainment was provided by Richard the Clown & Magician, by Racket Abuse band and by AWS 'String of Pearls' singers. A Martial Arts performance interested a lot of young people. OVSC organised a tennis competition as well as a trial of Petanque.

A great thank you also goes to the helpers: Bob Gasston for helping with the organising, Delia Strathearn for organising the publicity; Leon Reed for taking care of the accounts; Rita Clarke, Nicky Orlebar and Julia McCance who worked so hard in organising the door rota and the sale of the raffle tickets. The money raised from the raffle tickets £850 - was donated to B@titude children's charity in Leatherhead.

Mark your calendars for the next Village Day which will take place on the Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May, 2009, at Oxshott Village Sports Club.

I am looking for volunteers with fresh ideas to help make this event even more successful, or just to help with the organising. My contact number is 01372 844792 or you can e-mail me: Carmen@CarmenRobinson.com.