

Chairman's report for 2023 AGM

I would like to welcome everyone to this AGM of the Old Basing and Lychpit Village Show.

2022/3 has seen a near return to "normality" as far as organising events is concerned. You may remember that when I was standing here last year, I mentioned that we had experienced another uncertain year with the effects of the pandemic still prevalent in the early part of 2022, which had necessarily affected our thinking in planning. I am glad to say that this year we had no such restrictions and we therefore planned for a full return to normal.

The early part of the year in 2023 saw us being successful in getting a substantial grant of £402.79 from the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council which enabled us to purchase a brand new 3m x 3m gazebo, two tables for use by the domestic judges at the show and 3 x Sum Up machines. You may recall that the Committee wondered whether the takings at the show in 2022 were down on pre-pandemic levels because there had been a considerable movement away from people carrying cash. The new credit card machines were used at all our events this year and were quite successful.

By April we had finalised the schedule, with some new classes being introduced, and the advertisements were all agreed. Thanks to Sue for all the typesetting and Rick for cajoling local businesses to stump up.

The Old Basing Carnival returned in June for the first time since 2019 and we took part by having a very successful plant stall and also by taking part in the Carnival Procession, for the first time that I can remember. Grateful thanks should be recorded to Chris Beadle for the magnificent "greenhouse on wheels" that he constructed. He was "robbed" of first place in my opinion, but the winner was very good indeed I have to admit!! We took over £230 at the Carnival on a very hot day, which may be a record. Thank you to all the Committee and their families for helping out, especially as I had to leave early and couldn't help with the clearing up. We donated our unsold plants to St Mary's for their summer fete the following week, which we did not take part in this year as it was felt that it was too much to ask of the Committee to give up 2 weekends on the trot.

As Show date approached in September, the usual anxiety surfaced about whether we would have more entries than the disappointing number we had in 2022. We need not have worried quite so much as the number of entries was up, as were the takings on the door. The overall profit was up on 2021 and 2022, but not as high as the profit made in 2019. I had many comments about how enjoyable the event was on the day and I would like to again thank the Committee and their friends and families for helping to make this year's Show such a success. Without them, we couldn't put this event on.

The Committee have had a wash up meeting immediately after the show, while it was fresh in our minds, and we have noted some things to perhaps improve upon next year.

We applied to the Carnival Committee for funding to repair one of our trophies. Thanks to Michael Haynes for getting quotations etc for the work required. Unfortunately, we were not successful and therefore the Committee will have to discuss the way forward in this matter. I have approached the Carnival Committee for feedback as to how we could improve our application for next year, but have been told that they did not receive our application.

We will be taking part in the St Mary's Christmas tree festival this year, and a small sub-committee is meeting shortly to discuss what we will be doing on the theme of "The Holly and the Ivy".

Before coming to a close, I would like to thank all the committee for their on-going support this year. It is my last year as Chair of the Village Show and there will be a number of changes to the Committee. As usual we are always looking for new people to join our merry band of volunteers.

I look forward to 2024 when our Show will take place on 8th September. Thank you again for all your support over the past year.

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Linda Frawley

Chair of the Old Basing and Lychpit Village Show

31st October 2023