

Fete accompli!

Pixham's first fete for 2 years was a resounding success. Held on Saturday 26th June, the sun shone and hundreds attended to listen to music from Coldharbour Band, watch cricket, enjoy tasty refreshments (including magnificent cream teas) and generally enjoy all the fun of a traditional English summer fair, centred on the community hub Old Pixham School. Pixham showed up in force and people came from miles around.

It wasn't without its problems though. Fete organiser Pat Smith said: "We had to take into account Covid restrictions with sign-ins at the gate, hand sanitiser and table service only for the bar and barbeque which were held outside. Our helpers grew wings for the afternoon! And weather forecasts were dire: we only decided to go ahead on the Thursday evening."

"It was particularly difficult as the Covid precautions used up loads of our helpers and table service meant things took far longer than we wanted, but people were generally understanding. "

One of the highlights was Football Skills, run by Matt Frost of Leslie Rd. He decorated a huge area with flags and challenges for all footballers: winners walked away with beautiful trophies to treasure. "I get huge enjoyment doing something for kids in the area – it's so important that they self-achieve, especially now with all the Covid restrictions."

Welly-whanging was another popular attraction. Sarah Slade, who ran the event, said: "There were some amazing throws, some from tiny people. We now have a record of 19 metres, ready to be broken next year."

"We'd like to start an Events supergroup," said Jess Neumann of the PRA Committee. "If you have a good idea or would like to meet lively people who want to get things done in the community, either contact me via this website or through the Facebook Pixham page."

"It's great to live in such a community and the fete has really brought people together," said Kate Howe of Downs View, a director of Old Pixham School. "But the school's future is threatened. We're holding a big meeting at the school on Wednesday July 21st, 7.30 and urge Pixham people to come along to find out more. No-one wants the hub to close but unless Pixham people step forward, that might be the only answer."