Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in Oxton – 4th June 2012

The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Day in Oxton

I think it is true to say that no one alive today in Britain has witnessed a Royal Diamond Jubilee until June 2012. The last one was to celebrate 60 years of the reign of Queen Victoria in 1897. It is also probably true that nobody alive today will witness another Diamond Jubilee and for that reason we in Oxton wished to celebrate this major event in style remembering the reign of Her Majesty the Queen. We hope you enjoy this memento of the celebrations in our village.

Mike Hulme
Acting Chair of the Oxton Social Committee

Watching the Pageant on the Thames on Sunday 3rd June, showing people enjoying themselves but drenched in rain, seemed to set the pattern for our own Oxton celebrations on Monday 4th. We woke up on Monday morning to a bright sky that got better and better as the day went on. The afternoon, was beautiful and sunny and the people of Oxton came out in droves to take part and a great time was had by all.

PONY RIDES
It was great to see children enjoying to pony rides on the field kindly organised by Jackie Butler and her team of helpers who spent a couple of hour taking children on the two small ponies.

VINTAGE CARS
On display on the Village Hall car park was a magnificent array of vintage and historic cars brought for the day by their proud owners who had a chance to show off their prized vehicles.

The village hall inside and out was bedecked in Union flag bunting and around 200 people came to look at the scarecrows, the Jubilee cake competition, films, enjoy cream teas, drinks from the bar, pony rides, vintage cars, play games, beacon lighting and fireworks plus other events to enjoy on what was a brilliant day.

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CHILDREN'S GAMES
Thanks to Stuart for organising the Quick Cricket, to Nick for making up an indoor game of Queen (Beetle) Drive in case of bad weather......and for days before photo copying a picture of the Queen and then painstakingly cutting off her arms and legs and finally her head, a new meaning to "off with her head" and I do hope he is not destined for the Tower! Fortunately the weather was kind so others were not likely to be caught as accomplices!

SCARECROWS
"Coronation Scarecrows" came in all sorts of shapes and sizes this year.
The coronation theme was stretched to its limit with the Dumble Cottage “Nicholas Cage” creation seated comfortably "on the throne".
- His illuminating eyes made him quite a scary figure late at night.
First prize went to the fabulous family affair by Ann Cooper and family at No.34 Elmcroft.
This was a big effort to create a very realistic "Afternoon Tea" cleverly housed under a regal canopy designed to shade the Royal couple but equally good at keeping off the torrential rain.

Third prize went to a big effort by Ye Olde Bridge Inn and for Jane in particular.
Bill and Kate were full size scarecrow landmarks for those entering the village. They were well dressed and they withstood the wind and the rain to great effect.

A very close second prize went to Charmilla by the Todd family of Honeyknab Lane. This was a remarkably good montage with half the character of Charles and the other half of Camilla - a very clever entry and very well designed and also very scarecrow-like.

Thanks to all the friends and families who took part and created a lot of interest for visitors and passers by.
The remaining, intact scarecrows are travelling to Phil & Judy Meats or the Village Hall as royal sketching subjects for the June Art weekend on 30th June - Don't miss it.
Sponsors, Care Consultants Ltd provided book voucher prizes presented by Nick & Caroline's Granddaughter, Abigail.

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It was good and comforting to be part of such a national celebration - to know that in villages throughout the land everyone was doing much the same. The village hall and car park looked so pretty with all the flags and bunting fluttering in the breeze. We started the celebrations at 3pm in a right royal way with a toast to Her Majesty and the singing of the national anthem.

CAKE COMPETITION
Afterwards the results of the Cake competition were announced. There were 6 cakes entered - a huge thank you to those who made the effort - they were all amazing! They were judged by retired chef Matthew Sidwell.

1st Prize went to Diane Allen, 2nd prize to Oliver Daniels.

Joint third went to Joan Arnold and Marion Reed. The competitors were invited to donate their cakes for consumption on the day and by doing this raised £35.00 (and was definitely reflective of the unashamed drooling by most folk that went on at the sight of such delectables). Donations to be given to the Social Committee towards the next event whatever it might be!

Thanks to Ethel and the WI for the wonderful scones and tea and so pleased that their effort raised over £100.00 for the WI.

Many thanks go to Caroline and Nick Borrett and their team of helpers for their work in all the preparations for the afternoon events and to Ian Buchan and the film club team for the early evening film club event. Later in the evening Barrie and Robert Stocks did a sterling job with the beacon preparations.

Thanks must also go to many other people who helped make the day a success and the funding provided by Oxton Parish Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council.

HIDDEN OXTON
The Projection House Film club, using their new screen, showed the film “Hidden Oxton”, first made in 2002 for the Golden Jubilee by Adrian Todd and Margaret Cooper, to an enraptured audience of over 100 people who packed the village hall. Most of the attendees completed a quiz, based on the film. The joint winners of the quiz were the Birks and Shrine families, very well done to both.

During the afternoon a constant stream of visitors viewed the continuous video loop of Oxton home movies, kindly provided by Phil and Judy Meats and edited by Adrian Todd, which was shown on a monitor in the Bar Room.

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BEACON LIGHTING
In the evening many Oxton residents walked up Windmill Hill to the mound often referred to as Robin Hood Hill one mile north of the village. The hill is adjacent and part of the Iron Age fort that is Oxton’s historic monument and of great significance in the area. We were also joined by friends from other villages who didn’t have a beacon in their own area. The beacon was scheduled to be lit at 10.15pm as part of a 4000 official chain of beacons across the country.
From around 9.15pm people began to gather, some with picnics and suitable beverages, to enjoy a beautiful clear evening with views of many surrounding towns and villages. It was interesting to see beacons and fireworks going off up to 15 miles away.
It was estimated that over 100 people made the journey to the top of the hill and lifts were offered to those who could not walk but instead took the “4 x 4” route to the foot of the hill.
Thanks go to Barry Stocks and his son Robert who transported the Beacon up and down the hill and prepared the wood for the blaze. The beacon was lit by Mrs Andrea O’Donnell who is the daughter of Mrs Mortensen who lit the last beacon in Oxton for the Golden Jubilee in 2002.
The night was rounded off by a spectacular red, white and blue firework display organised by Dave Horner and Adrian Todd. Many thanks go to them for all their work.

JUBILEE THEMED FILM
The film “The Kings Speech” was shown in the early evening to an audience of over 30 people who thoroughly enjoyed the film. Interestingly there is an Oxton connection to the film. A relative of Lionel Logue, the speech therapist in the film, lived in Oxton.
The Projection House crew also ran a bar during the day, provided the 50’s music playing outside and also organised the vintage car display, which showcased some wonderful vehicles owned by, amongst others, Adrian Todd, Ian Buchan and Michael Ward. Our grateful thanks go to these owners for providing these fantastic mementoes of the past.

As ever thanks are due to all who supported us by coming along and above all thanks to all the hard working volunteers who helped set up, organise and run all these events.

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Andrea O’Donnell assisted by Barrie Stocks lighting the Oxton Beacon – 4 June 2012