

SPEENFETE

by Helen Davies and Clare Morris - Co-Chair, Speen Fete Committee

Speen Playing Fields were bustling with activity on the 13 July, on fortunately one of the few rain-free Saturdays of the summer. With a Paris Olympic theme, the fete began with an opening procession led by local children carrying aloft flags representing countries from across the world. This was followed by special guest, Chris Rattenbury, who officially opened the Fete. Chris is a retired international powerlifter and ambassador of our chosen charity of the year, Wheelpower, the national charity for wheelchair sports. Chris brought along the paralympic torches from both London 2012 and the Tokyo games and presented medals to the winners of the children's competitions.



Looming large on the day was Speen's very own Eiffel Tower designed and constructed by Peter Symonds who was also showcasing the amazing and intricate bug house he has created for Ridgeley's Field. Fleur Ridley designed and painted a humorous head-in-hole board too, complete with baguette, frog and Mona Lisa. The French theme continued with the 'Crepe of Good Hope', a stall selling delicious fresh Crepes, generously sponsored by Binders Yard. The W.I tea-tent was styled as a French café, with a range of bakes whilst the Church's BBQ successfully sold out.

New sporting challenges were amongst the traditional side-shows the village is known for. So, alongside the golf game, skittles and coconut shy we had shoot the hoop, sumo wrestling and a very competitive rowing challenge.

Helping Hospices ran a beautiful stall with hand-tied bouquets and handmade produce as well as the usual selection of plants.

Kiddie corner was bustling with the ever-popular selection of tombola's, face painting and hook a duck, whilst entertainment was provided by Cheeky Dog.

Music for the day was supplied by Martin Hart's jazz band and of course the main arena event of the afternoon was Speen schoolchildren's country dancing display. More talented children, from All Access Music & Drama, performed poems, songs and dance in the arena too.

Initial indications are that we have made a profit of over £5000, with an increase both in sales and attendees. A key part of its financial success is the income generated from advertising in the program. Please support these local small businesses, and mention the fete, particularly if you are using them because of the advert you have seen.

GRAND DRAW

The Grand Draw had numerous prizes generously donated by local businesses and our village organisations. A list of prize winners is below:

- £250 cash – Katie Binder
- £75 M & S voucher – Ranjan, Speen Stores
- Meal for 2, Hampden Arms – Mark Wilkinson
- Family Golden Ticket, Roald Dahl Museum – Amanda Dobbs
- Meat Voucher, Darvills Hill Farm – Reg Horne
- Family Membership, Speen Tennis Club – Mark Wengler
- Barrow of Booze – Ros, Studridge Lane
- Basket of Fruit – J. Broadbent, Bryants Bottom
- £25 M & S voucher – Georgina Rogerson
- Nature-themed Gift Box – Alison, Hampden Road
- Toy Hamper – J. King
- Plant – Jo
- Lantern – Antonia Winson
- Chocolates – Catherine McPherson
- Leaves of Time book – Sara Hamilton

Finally, we can't end this article without saying a huge thanks to all those involved in helping to make the fete happen. Not just the committee members and village organisations, but the many individuals who sell advertising, deliver leaflets, collect tables, run stalls, count tokens and the other jobs beside. Next year's fete will be the last that Helen and I will Chair. We would love to welcome some new committee members who are keen to take this village tradition forward, so if you would like to be involved, please get in touch.

fete@speenbucks.org.uk



SPEEN FI

