

The Jubilee

Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee was marked by joint celebrations for both East and West Hendred.

On Sunday 3rd June, we had a grand Jubilee procession from Dancing Hill to the Sports Ground in Mill Lane, East Hendred. As the photographs show, this was a highly colourful affair, with magnificently decorated bicycles and pushchairs, tractors and trailers including Ed Denly's and the Eystons' charabanc with passengers in costumes of red, white and blue, and a motorised scooter, stylishly piloted by Stan Francis. Rain fell (to put it mildly) but even this added to the occasion as it brought out a brilliant array of umbrellas and put a shine on the High Street! The route of the procession was hung with bunting, including many outstanding designs - entries for the bunting competition.

At the Sports Ground there were various entertainments, including an enormous inflatable slide. Brave people who came roaring down the wet slide created huge splashes as they landed. The organisers had with great foresight provided a large marquee which housed tables and chairs for all to enjoy their picnic lunches and admire the entries to the Jubilee competitions, including model royal carriages and puppets of Her Majesty. Maggie Pill's knitted model of the Royal Barge drew a lot of admiration and many broad smiles, and everyone enjoyed eating the entries to the cake competition. In the afternoon tea was served by the WI and East Hendred children collected their Diamond Jubilee Mugs given by the Parish Council.

As well as hosting the event, the Sports Club provided bar facilities and made us all welcome, showing the (equally wet) celebration on the Thames in London on the TV. Later in the evening, a delicious pig roast provided fuel for the energetic dancers at the disco (and everyone else).

The Jubilee celebrations were very generously funded by East Hendred Entertains with additional grants from the Vale of White Horse District Council and East Hendred Parish Council. East Hendred Entertains organised all of the entertainment and the competitions. Special thanks are due to Val Prior, Sonia Roberts and Vanessa Prior, who head up this excellent organisation and who worked solidly for weeks to enable it all to go so smoothly. Thanks also to Ali Eyston for all her support.

Also without the following we would have none of the pictures of the event.

Sarah Blomfield, Julia Evans, Richard Evans, Jennie Lewis, Charles Pappenheim, Anne Pappenheim, John Sharp



Mugs

As a memento of the Diamond Jubilee everyone in the village who is less than 17 this year was presented with a commemorative china mug by East Hendred Parish Council. Here Mariella models the mugs, which are available to buy at East Hendred Stores while stocks last.



Jubilee Celebrations



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The Jubilee Beacon

The Hendreds' Jubilee beacon was one of a chain of more than 4200, stretching around the world on Monday 4th June 2012.

The procession started at Snells Hall, East Hendred and walked via West Hendred through Ginge, where 100 wax

torches were lit and the lead was taken in great style by piper John West, up the track to Knob Hill. Those who couldn't face the final steep climb were carried in trailers driven by Gordon Pill and Julian Gold. Others parked at Scutchamer's Knob and walked along the Ridgeway. About 400 people watched the beacon being lit at 10:15pm by the chairmen of East and West Hendred, and with huge flames leaping up and a full moon, it was a magnificent sight.

The beacon was organised by Richard Evans, who inspired the rest of the team with his enthusiasm, and delivered a safe, suc-

cessful event. Many thanks to Gordon Pill, who allowed the beacon to be built on his land – a wonderful location with a view over much of Oxfordshire – and also assisted with building the beacon. Also to Richard Tingley, whose fire lighting skills ensured the beacon flared into life despite the previous day's downpour. And thanks to everyone who offered wood for the fire; you were so generous that we couldn't take it all!

