

ESSENDON VILLAGE DAY AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY As temperatures reached record levels, the annual Essendon Village Day got underway on a scorching Bank Holiday Monday. The marquees and gazebos were put up to protect us from the sun, and the ice cream van did a roaring trade. The star of the show was a beautiful pig, brought along by Hatfield House. Everyone was invited to give her a little scratch and guess her weight, which was won by someone getting it correct within 2kgs!

The train rides ran all afternoon much to the children's delight, as did the tractor rides, ably driven by Mr Ford as usual. The ferret racing proved very entertaining, and looked great fun both for them, and the crowd watching them. The QuingLiu team's demonstration of their martial arts skills was inspiring, and the sumo wrestling suits went down a storm with the kids.

Refreshments provided by both the Pimms Tent and Bar did a grand job keeping everyone cool in the heat. The burgers, sausages and pulled pork were all delicious, as were the splendid cakes provided by the WI and other locals, we may even have some contenders for The Great British Bake Off!

Our new re-vamped stalls looked splendid and made it easier for everyone to see what items they could buy and games they could play, and the children were kept busy with lots of exciting activities in Kiddies Corner. The Dog Show in its new location on the field attracted our furry friends and their owners, and despite the hot weather many dogs were seen around the field sporting their well-earned rosettes.

The swing band played some lively tunes, adding to the atmosphere on the sunny afternoon. The classic cars display added both nostalgia and class with a mix of vehicles for enthusiasts to enjoy, from Morris Minors to Aston Martin. The Horticultural Show had a magnificent marquee this year, where vegetables of every shape and size and flowers were displayed and judged with many worthy winners.

A huge thank you to our generous sponsors for the day, and for the hard work of all the stall holders and helpers; many of whom enjoyed a relaxing "thank you gathering" the following Friday, joining the committee for a drink and BBQ in the cricket pavilion, to celebrate a good day, and get a pat on the back.

These events do not run themselves, and the committee worked hard to bring the whole event together. The money raised on the day will be distributed to local clubs and organisations in due course. Planning for next year has already begun, so finally a call to all the recipients of the money we raise, and to local residents in the village, if the efforts are shared by many and not just a few, it can make the event more enjoyable and rewarding for everyone. It's your day for your village. So why not give us a call and lend a hand next year and make 2020 even better, contact Ian Venables for details on 07764 777343. Ann Piggott Essendon Village Day Committee