

Community Event Team (CET) – Mr Steve Merry

Community Events Team (CET) – Report of activities April 2023 – April 2024 and future events:

Our team of more than 20 volunteers, established pre-pandemic, meets on a regular basis at The Seven Stars. Year-on-year we define a calendar of events for the enjoyment and participation of our parishioners. The Calendar is published in the Big Issue newsletter together with a list of contact numbers.

Our events are largely self-funding through small event charges, and during 2023/24 we have had generous donations from Haddenham Beer Festival (Fireworks in November) and several parishioners who wish to remain anonymous. Additionally, many of our team have selflessly absorbed costs themselves such as:

event materials, poster printing and laminations, other advertising, Christmas Tree decorations, quiz prizes, and use of vehicles for transporting event props etc and other event materials.

Specifically, to help fund the Firework Display we sold raffle tickets over a period of several months for a single prize special edition bottle of GIN donated by Will Hughes (EX Marine Commando and Falkland War veteran) commemorating the Commando Regiment and its historical achievements in the defence of the nation. This raised £750 approx. We are doing the same this year (special edition Whisky) to offset some of the anticipated £2500 costs.

To further minimise costs, we strive to use facilities within the Parish to stage events including the Marquee erected at Dinton Cricket Club, DCC club house, Dinton Village Hall, The Seven Stars pub and the church. The availability of the Cricket Club Bar and other facilities (toilets etc) has significantly helped to avoid large expenditures we might otherwise have incurred. We sincerely thank the Cricket Club for their continued contribution in making our events so successful and much easier to organise.

We also have many items accumulated over the years from the times of the Village Fete which we store in 2 sheds located behind Dinton Village Hall and use to help stage events. However much of this stuff is now beyond usefulness and will be scrapped.

The much publicised limitations of Dinton Village Hall do restrict the type of event we hold there and numbers attending, but with the help of the Cricket Club and the Seven Stars we are able to host a variety of events across multiple locations that we believe appeal to most of our diverse Parish population.

The Seven Stars and the cooperation from Steph and her team is a significant factor in the success of events with the provisioning of BBQ's, use of the pub for the Quizzes, CET meetings and sponsoring the Parish Cribbage Team and of course the end of year Christmas Spectacular in the pub garden. Steph knows we all love her.

Since April 2023 and 2024 year-to-date the CET have organised and run the following events:

1. 6 Monthly Quizzes and although we are seeking an alternate venue to The Seven Stars (probably DCC) our 'Bumper' Christmas Quiz in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice, will continue to be run at The Seven Stars. Contributions to our flagship charity over the years now exceeds £10,000.
2. In May we celebrated the coronation of King Charles III and to mark the occasion the CET ran a hugely successful Coronation Treasure Hunt exploring historical landmarks across the parish dating from the time of King Charles I to current times. More than 100 parishioners, including many children, took part on a glorious late spring day. The Treasure Hunt finished in The Seven Stars Garden where a magnificent BBQ and drinks for all awaited. The feedback was fantastic prompting us to think about other similar events for the future.
3. On Saturday 24th June we ran the Summer Ball in the Marquee on a splendid summer's evening. The sensational live band Sledgehammer provided a stunning performance as the parish danced into the early hours. Sledgehammer have been booked for a repeat at the 2024 Summer Ball. This Black Tie, Ball Gown event, is a guaranteed sell-out.
4. July and August are typically holiday months and activity of CET low key as we focus towards the big end of year events. At the request of the Parish Council the CET was asked to perform an event in aid of Village Hall support costs. On September 21st, following the presentations on the future of Dinton Village Hall and the 100 Club Draw, we ran a BINGO night together with a Meat Draw and raised £500 for the village hall.
5. The annual Conkers Night took place at the Cricket Club in October with an accompanying BBQ attracting families from across the Parish and once again demonstrated that this timeless seasonal pastime is as popular as ever.
6. In November we again staged the Firework Display on the parish field and used the cricket club facilities for food and drinks. Again, a sell-out, the event was acclaimed as the best display in memory and returns in 2024 by popular request. We have been requested to open the event to higher numbers but that is unlikely given the H & S concerns, parking restrictions and the penalizing costs of insurance for the event.
7. Our final significant event of the year, and very popular with everyone across the Parish, was the Christmas Tree 'Lights On' celebration at the beginning of December in the Seven Stars Garden. For the first time in many years, we

had to purchase a tree using CET funds as our previous donator, Paul Roads, is no longer permitted to fell trees on his land. Hartwell nurseries supplied the tree, and we are working with them for a preferential deal going forward. The Tree Lighting ceremony was performed by Viv Robinson in recognition of the TRIFFIC work her husband Chris had put in over many years delivering similar events for the parish. We celebrated with Carol Singing around the tree, mulled wine, roast chestnuts, mince pies and other Christmas goodies. The event was followed later that evening with the Bumper Christmas Quiz in the pub with takings donated to Florence Nightingale

8. On Christmas Eve the CET led a march of Carol Singers around the parish, again raising funds for Florence Nightingale and culminating in much celebration at The Seven Stars.
9. In October we began our second season representing The Seven Stars in the Chinnor and District Royal British Legion Cribbage League. We have 10 people from across the Parish registered to play and always on the look-out for new members. The season ended in March 2024 with the Seven Stars Peggars again being awarded a Trophy for being the most welcoming and sporting team in the league and definitely the best food as supplied once again by Steph. We also collected 4 other trophies as a result of our successes in the league and cup competitions. The season starts again next October.
10. In late 2023 we concluded the merger of the old Marquee Team into the CET. As a result, a single bank account under the control of the CET has been set up and transfers from the Marquee Accounts made. The marquee itself is now under the control/ownership of Dinton Cricket Club who are responsible for the maintenance, security, storing etc. The marquee remains available for use by the CET for any events we may wish to stage within. To commemorate the fantastic work and events staged by the Marquee Team over a quarter of a century, the CET are holding a ceremony in the Seven Stars Garden late pm Saturday 13th April when a stone and plaque will be placed over the spot where the annual Christmas Tree stands as a lasting tribute to the Marquee Team. Later that same evening the CET is holding a Wine and Cheese event in the village hall again to raise funds for the hall. We expect 80+ attendees.
11. The full calendar of events for 2024 has been published in the Bigg Issue and is as follows:

CET CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024

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|------------|---|
| 13th April | Cheese & Wine Evening in Dinton Village Hall |
| 5th May | The PIVOT Games - Parish Inter Village Olympic Tournament at Dinton Cricket Club & Parish Field |
| 29th June | Midsummer Ball in the Marquee, Dinton Cricket Club
Black Tie & Ball Gowns featuring the return of the psychedelic maelstrom that is SLEDGEHAMMER |
| 7th July | Parish Cricket Match at Dinton Cricket Club — teams to be arranged |
| TBC Aug | Mad Hatters Tea Party / Treasure Hunt at the Seven Stars Pub |
| TBA Sept | CEILIDH at Dinton Village Hall |
| 12th Oct | Annual Conker Championships at Dinton Cricket Club |
| 26th Oct | BINGO at Dinton Village Hall |
| 2nd Nov | Firework Display in the Parish Field & Dinton Cricket Club |
| 1st Dec | 'Lights On' as we celebrate and sing carols around the Christmas tree in the Seven Stars Pub Garden with local celebrity to 'Switch On' |
| 1st Dec | Christmas Quiz at the Seven Stars Bar in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice |
| 24th Dec | Christmas Carols around the streets of the parish followed by mince pies and mulled wine at the Seven Stars Pub |

- **Dinton Beer Festival – Mr Dennis Dunn**

This is an annual event held in August in the grounds of the Seven Stars. Planning for the event starts weeks in advance by a small group led by Dick O'Driscoll and myself. The group solicit sponsors for the beer, cider, Pimms tent, souvenir glasses, entertainment, printing, etc.

As well as sponsoring a barrel, Steph at the Stars puts on a barbeque and the Stars remains open to sell alternative drinks or food. Her team help with setting up and taking down the small gazebos and moving garden furniture. The car park is blocked off to extend the garden and create safe space for families and children. The ticket sales, beer tent and Pimms tent are manned by volunteers from the community who give their time generously to make the day go smoothly.

Money raised by the Dinton Beer Festival has been distributed to various projects to benefit the community, either as complete funding or contribution towards costs. Every year the Dinton Beer Festival accounts are prepared and made available to Sponsors, Volunteers and to the Parish Council.

Main benefactors have been:

Dinton Village Hall	£2820
Dinton Church	£2682
Parish Field Playground	£4430
Access and Footpath Gates	£1692
Florence Nightingale Hospice	£300
Village Defibrillator at Seven Stars	£700

Smaller donations have been made to:

Bishopstone Beer Festival, Ford Marquee Insurance, Christmas Tree Lights, Dinton Golf Society, contribution to glasses at Jubilee Party etc

We are always looking for sponsors and help on the day. We would welcome any ideas for projects and good causes in the Parish to consider for funding. The next Dinton Beer Festival is planned for 17th August 2024. There will be a good variety of beers to satisfy the connoisseurs, and entertainment for all. Everyone is welcome.

A huge thank you to all those sponsors who have donated a barrel over the years or have made other types of donations to make this festival possible.

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**For further information on all of our events, please contact Steve Merry
stephentmerry@yahoo.co.uk**

Community Events Team - Events for the Whole Parish



COMMUNITY EVENTS TEAM (CET) LATEST NEWS AND CALENDAR FOR 2024

St Swithin's Day has come very early this year. Normally it falls on 15th July and dependent on the weather that day, according to this 9th Century Michael Fish, we can expect the same for the next 40 days.

Not sure about the rest of the parishioners but I am nearly finished building my Ark and it is a matter of days before I set sail across the flood plains of the River Thame to a land far far away. Rain, Rain, Rain and more to come..... what a horrid wet winter and early spring we are going through!!

Anyway, to cheer you all up and give you events to look forward to, the CET has defined a Calendar of Events for 2024 of such extraordinary extravaganzas, it makes P T Barnum's efforts look positively humdrum.

Please note our final Events of 2023, The Christmas Tree 'Lights On', Christmas Quiz and Carol singing raised another £500 for our Flagship Charity The Florence Nightingale Hospice. Thank you for your contributions.

The CET's philosophy is to organise and run events that appeal to the whole parish and open to all ages. We attempt to recover our costs by making reasonable charges for some events and making sure we always have a sufficient funds in our accounts to sustain an annual Events Calendar. Some events, such as The Firework Display and Midsummer Ball, do incur significant upfront costs but through our careful management of funds and through generous donations received, we are able to confirm these events once again for this year.

Many of our Parish have previously appreciated the events run by The Marquee Team since the mid 1990's. The Marquee Team recently disbanded and passed the baton on to the CET to continue the good work.

In recognition of the great endeavours made by the Marquee Team we will be placing a commemorative stone in the Seven Stars garden on the afternoon of 13th April prior to the Cheese & Wine evening in the village hall.

All of our 2024 events will be advertised around the parish closer to the date of each event including finer details and contact numbers for more information.

Thanks once again for all the support parishioners give to the CET helping us to make these events 'fun for all' and in the spirit of community togetherness.

Steve Merry—Chairperson, Community Events Team

2023 SEVEN STARS CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH ON



On Sunday, 3rd December at 4.30 pm the Xmas tree lights were switched on in the garden of the Seven Stars Dinton. The tree and decorations were funded as a result of the many projects run by the Community Events Team (CET) throughout the year. Local 'celebrity' Viv Robinson, magically commanded the Lights to burst into colour to the great applause of the crowd of parishioners attending.

Steve Merry, chairperson CET, explained that, recently, the old Marquee Team has formally merged with the CET and will continue to deliver a Calendar of events for the Parish to enjoy. Many of our parishioners know that today's CET is the result of the vision and inspirational drive of Chris Robinson who purchased the original marquee back in the 1990's, as a facility to enable events that we could all enjoy and have fun.

In remembrance of the outstanding work the Marquee team has done and Chris's wonderful 'can do' leadership, this annual 'Tree Lighting Event' is henceforth dedicated to Chris and the Marquee Team and a plaque in remembrance will be placed in the Seven Stars garden over the spot where the tree will be placed each year.

To help the evening along Steph provided mince pies and mulled wine and seasonal music filled the air. Donations were made in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice. Efforts to raise money for the hospice continued into the evening when a Christmas Quiz was held at the Stars, run by Steve. The end result was that a wonderful £450 was raised for the hospice.

Next event is the Carol Singing around the parish on the evening of 24th December starting off from The Seven Stars at 6pm and arriving back an hour or so later to enjoy Mince Pies and Mulled Wine.

Steve Merry



IT WENT WITH A BANG PARISH FIREWORK DISPLAY 4th NOVEMBER

Once again, the Parish turned out on mass to enjoy the spectacular Firework display on Saturday 4th November at the parish field. Following last year's overwhelming success resurrecting the event after several years of dormancy, much was expected by those requesting tickets this year.

The Community Events Team (CET) once more teamed up with Dinton Cricket Club to organize and stage the event but with inflation soaring and money tight, firework displays are a very costly undertaking and the CET had to search for help to fund the event. This came in several ways:

The Haddenham Beer Festival Team is recognised regionally for the outstanding work it does raising money for local community projects and worthy causes. The CET applied to the HBFT for a grant to help with the costs of our event and, after establishing we qualified with the strict criteria, we were granted a very generous amount of £800 towards our costs. We thank you Haddenham from the bottom of our hearts and many of the CET will be supporting you at your upcoming Winter Fest.

Over a few pints in the Seven Stars, our very own Falklands veteran Will Hughes, mastermind of the display, suggested he could acquire a 'special edition' bottle of Marine Commando Regimental Gin that we could raffle around the parish. Duly acquired this very limited edition was restricted to 150 tickets at a fiver a pop and we sold them all adding another £750 to our firework fund.

We had a couple of other donations from 'wannabee pyromaniacs' living in the parish, and we relied on reasonably priced tickets to make up the balance with members of the CET underwriting possible losses.

Using the Dinton Cricket Club facilities saves us significant costs such as portable toilets, bar costs, BBQ arrangements and cover in the event of rain. Thank you DCC and in particular Shirley, Malcolm, Eliot, Fraser, and your excellent team.

So, what could possibly go wrong? Well, it rained consistently in the days before and on the morning of the event the skies were foreboding. Nevertheless, our execution plan went fearlessly ahead as Will, Graham and Martin placed the fireworks on the field as per the map they had spent weeks discussing in the Seven Stars.

Ticket sales had hit the maximum permitted as per H&S and Insurance conditions and by early afternoon Guido Fawkes confirmed he had chatted up the weather gods and arranged a calm, starry night for us. He also expressed his thanks for not having a bonfire!

And then they rolled in, mums, -dads, grannies and grandads and of course the kids, young and old. Free glow sticks for the kids, free mulled wine for adults and heart-warming log burners made for an inviting atmosphere as families flocked around the BBQ and bar at the cricket club.

Resident DJ Andy McCrea, added to the atmosphere with his 'Firework Crescendo' of music booming out across the night sky.

The draw for the Commando Gin was made with Nigel McGregor of Dinton Lodge the 'special' winner, and then the countdown began.....

As the crowd hit 3...2...1 a spectacular rocket launched the event as the sky lit up in all the colours of the rainbow and much more. 15 minutes of thrilling entertainment followed as the crowd roared and showed their appreciation.

And then..... it was over, months of planning, fund raising, weather forecasting and contingency plans all up in smoke as the smell of cordite hung in the air.

For those of you concerned, we did work closely with animal owners nearby so they could prepare appropriately to be with them during the event and there have been discussions since to make the event even more animal aware for next year.

Thanks to all the parish for supporting another great community event and making these things possible. Thanks to the CET members who work tirelessly on behalf of our community to bring you a calendar of events that so add to making this tiny spot on the planet such a splendid place to live, also thanks to the Parish Council for supporting the event.

Cheers

Steve - chairperson CET



In recent weeks the CET has organized and run several events, including the hugely popular BINGO Night which raised more than £500 towards our Village Hall costs (this event will be returning by popular demand in the Spring) and the Firework Display.

On 3rd December we will be holding our Christmas Tree 'Lights On' ceremony in the garden of the Seven Stars from 4pm as we raise the Christmas Tree and celebrate in style followed by our Christmas Quiz, in aid of the Florence Nightingale Hospice, that evening in the Seven Stars, the Hub of our Community (we love you Steph!)



THE SUMMER PICNIC BALL

Saturday 16 July 2022

Oh what a night. Denied by Covid for a couple of years the Parish came out to celebrate in style.

The beautiful backdrop of Dinton Cricket Club, with a first eleven match at a critical point, greeted the immaculately dressed guests as they arrived for a night of music, dance and much merriment.

The community Marquee, permanently based at the cricket field, looked fabulous laid out with tables surrounding the dance floor and a raised stage for the band. With the sides of the marquee rolled up guests had front row viewing as the tense match reached its climax with Dinton 1st X1 hanging on for a nail-biting draw with local rivals Aston Clinton.

Some guests settled into tables in front of the marquee enjoying the sunshine as they quaffed a glass of complimentary Champagne (may have been Prosecco) as the sound of leather on willow echoed around proceedings.

As we took our places for dinner gasps and cheering erupted as Blaise Brogan made his own spectacular 'Bondesque' entrance power gliding through the blue skies and landing on the cricket field. The 90 or so guests then attacked the food with gusto while much popping of corks and clinking of glasses filled the evening air.

Meanwhile, limbering up with Burgers and Chips, the spectacle for the evening, our world-renowned band, SLEDGEHAMMER, were about to enter the arena. Their recent performance at the school concert in June had already established their reputation throughout our parish and now, thanks to Patrick and Mel, they were about to explode into a spectacular extravaganza of 80's mayhem. The psychedelic colours of their hair, guitars, drums, and boots battled strongly with an amazing light show performance as lasers streamed out of the marquee, across the cricket field and up into the night sky. Perfectly normal, hard-working citizens they may be by day but at night they transform on stage into something akin to Madness on steroids.

The dance floor was crowded all night and overflowed onto the cricket field. For three hours these immortals entertained a crowd crazy for more and refusing to let them go. One of our more 'genteel' members of the community, Nicky Bancroft, stole the show, never missing a dance and joining SLEDGEHAMMER on stage for their grand finale. Nicky is now on tour with the band (thank goodness!) Oh, what a night – many believe this was the best night for many a year and we have already booked SLEDGEHAMMER' for next year's event on Saturday 24 June 2023.

Thanks to the COMMUNITY EVENTS TEAM for pulling the event together and all of you for attending and making it such a great evening. A very special thanks to Dinton Cricket Club for the great work they did helping host the event and providing use of all their facilities and running the bar – Shirley and Malcolm you are stars. Roll on next year!

Steve Merry
Chairman Community Events Team
07850 049587 stephentmerry@yahoo.co.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/communityeventsteam/>



DINTON BEER FESTIVAL



A good weather forecast encouraged a record number of people to attend the seventh Annual Beer Festival, held in the gardens of the Seven Stars pub in Dinton on Saturday 20th August.

Once again, we were visited by walkers from Haddenham, Upton, Ford, Gibraltar and Westlington and cyclists and bus travellers from further afield.

During the afternoon, the cheerful family-based crowd basked in the fine weather and was entertained by some live music, while enjoying the selection of real ales and ciders on offer.

A touch of glamour was added by the Dinton Book Club ladies running the Pimm's Tent and Steph laid on a barbecue selling her delicious premium hamburgers and sausages. Dinton Wines once again set up their stall selling the award winning locally produced Dinton Folly English quality sparkling wine. All in all, an excellent day out for all who attended.

The final figures are not available yet but on the day the takings were approaching £4000, a real improvement on last year. This means we will be able to continue to donate a reasonable amount of money to local projects. During the last year we have donated £2000 towards the extension to the children's playground, £550 to the Parish Council for the Platinum Jubilee bench at the church, £500 to the rRIPPLE Ramblers for a kissing gate in Ford and £200 to the Community Events Team towards the glasses for the Jubilee Party. This brings the total donated by the Beer Festival to over £10,000 since we began.

A huge thank you must go to all the volunteers from Dinton, Ford, Upton, Westlington and even farther away, who helped beforehand with setting up the event, then manned the bars on the day and dismantled everything and cleared away afterwards. Steph and her staff were as hard-working as ever and really put in the effort to make the day a success.

If it were not for the generosity of the sponsors who sponsored the real ales, the Pimm's and ciders, the music and the Festival glasses, this event would not take place. So, a heartfelt thank you to all the sponsors who make the event possible.

This generosity of spirit, shown by the sponsors and volunteers working together, is what makes the Dinton Beer Festival such a really successful and enjoyable community and family occasion.





The Community Events Team (CET) is a group of 20 volunteers who organise community events, courses & fundraisers on a voluntary basis. Anyone from Dinton, Upton, Ford, Gibraltar & Westlington is very welcome to join our team.

We also have a Community WhatsApp group and another one for the Quiz. Should you wish to join the CET or wish to be added to one or both WhatsApp groups please email communityeventsteam@icloud.com or text 07765 830092

Next event organised by The Community Events Team

**Community Quiz
Seven Stars on Sunday 11 September at 7pm.**

Please contact Steph on 01296 749000 or email steph@sevenstarsdinton.com

More information regarding events organised by the CET can be found on the following Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/communityeventsteam/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022

SEPTEMBER

Thu 8th at 7pm - Defibrillator Refresher Course Dinton Village Hall **Postponed until further notice**
Sun 11th at 7pm Community Quiz Seven Stars

OCTOBER

Sun 9th at 7pm - Community Quiz Seven Stars
Sat 15th at 5.30pm Conkers Championship 2022 Dinton Cricket Club

NOVEMBER

Sun 13th at 7pm - Community Quiz Seven Stars
Sat 26th at 7.30pm Cheese & Wine Evening Dinton Village Hall

DECEMBER

Sun 4th at 4.30pm - The Xmas Lights Switch On Seven Stars Pub Garden
Sun 4th at 7pm - The Big Xmas Quiz Seven Stars



The Community Events Team proudly announces:

The MIDSUMMER BALL
Saturday 24 June
6.30 pm - midnight
In the Marquee at Dinton Cricket Club

Black Tie & Cocktail Dresses

Bring your own food but NOT drinks

Live Band Sledgehammer playing a 3 hour set Licensed bar

Auction for Wheelbarrow of Mixed Drinks

'Heads and Tails' Knock-out – bring a £1 coin

Tickets are £25 per person

Early Bird £20 if paid before 3rd June

Seats can be reserved in advance on full payment
for the seats required

Tables are maximum 10 seats and a full table can be
reserved on payment of the full 10 seat price.
Price includes 2 bottles of Prosecco per table

To make a reservation contact

Mel Kidner melaniekidner@hotmail.com or

Steve Merry stephentmerry@yahoo.co.uk 07850 049587

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
AT THE MIDSUMMER BALL



DINTON BEER FESTIVAL SAVE THE DATE

The eighth annual Dinton Beer Festival will be held this year on Saturday 19th August, in the garden of the Seven Stars pub, from noon to 6pm.

There will be a selection of real ales, ciders and Pimm's, with live music through the afternoon and a barbecue hosted by Steph and her team.

COME & JOIN US, YOU WILL LOVE IT!

All proceeds will go towards parish projects and we are delighted to report that to date, the Beer Festival has distributed over £12,000 with donations from last year's festival covering the installation of super-fast fibre broadband in the Village Hall and refurbishment of the village stocks on the green down from the church (see photo).

So, please put the date in your diary and come along to the Seven Stars to enjoy a family day out.

We are always looking for sponsors and if you would like to sponsor a barrel or some cider or Pimm's or contribute to the cost of the glasses, please contact:

Dick O'Driscoll on 07711 731740 or email
odriscoll110@btinternet.com or

Den Dunn at dennis.dunn@btconnect.com

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
AT THIS FANTASTIC COMMUNITY EVENT**



CORONATION TREASURE HUNT – Held Sunday 7th May



I was having a quiet beer with Chas (III) in the Seven Stars snug during the week, he was travelling incognito of course, not wearing his crown and with his sceptre well hidden. He had heard about our Historical Treasure Hunt and rumours of a Hermit being sighted in the vicinity of Biggs Lane. As he fingered his neck somewhat nervously, he enquired if it was true that Cromwell's sword was still being kept sharp within Dinton Hall. I quipped back 'yes, but just in case we needed it for those involved with HS2'. At that, he knocked back his pint of IPA, aptly supplied by Rebellion Brewery, made an excuse about the Queen wanting to catch up on Coronation Street and he was gone quicker than you can say "off with his head"!

More than 100 parishioners took part in our Historical Treasure Hunt the day after the Coronation and what a beautiful day greeted all who gathered at Dinton Village Hall and took brief instruction on the Routes to follow. Twenty-Nine clues led 23 teams of families and friends, including many children, around the parish exploring points and artifacts of historical interest dating from the ill-fated Charles I through to the crowning of Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Commemorative Pencils, Bookmarks and Badges were handed out at the start where it was made clear that the 'Treasure' is in fact the wonderful history of our Parish told through the clues and prepared information sheets on display throughout the routes. Each clue led to the discovery of a letter of the alphabet hidden near an historical point of interest, collect the letters and solve the topical anagram to complete the Treasure Hunt.

Thanks to Rosemary and David Jackson we were able visit the church of St Peter and St Paul which became the centerpiece of the route with 4 letters secreted amongst the artifacts and memorials and a wordsearch puzzle for the kids to complete referencing items within the church.

The magnificent hand crafted Appliqué needlework depicting scenes of the parish was much admired as were the memorials to the Regicides Simon Mayne and Richard Ingoldsby but none more so than the splendour of the stained glass window in memory of St Paul and St Peter.

Depicted within the window, and of more bloodcurdling interest to the kids, is the Dinton Hermit himself, John Bigg, suspected executioner of Charles I, dressed in his patchwork leather clothes and boots which are now on display in the Ashmolean Museum.

Free ice cream was available in Dinton High Street as the trail wended towards Westlington and back past the 'Alpaca's' eventually to Moat Cottage site of the cave John Bigg fled to after the King's execution and where, if you had an 'eagle' eye, could be spotted the Hermit himself. The trail came to its conclusion in the garden of The Seven Stars where the masses gathered to feast on a BBQ supplied by Steph and her team and there was much toasting to our new monarch, King Charles III, and his Queen Camilla. The Treasure Hunt Trail anagram was solved by most of the teams and the winners announced as: "The HARRIKINGS" a combo of the Harrison's and Hawking's families who gratefully received a beautiful standard rose tree they could plant and to bloom in forever celebration of the momentous occasion. The Dinton Lodgers and The Union Jacks also received commemorative shrubs for their gardens. The feedback from those who took part has been magnificent and the organizers thank you all for turning out and making the day so memorable. The scenes in the garden of the pub were a brilliant example of the community coming together in celebration and friendship and one we can all be proud of.

Perhaps we will not have to wait so long for the next coronation? and if Charles III steps out of line, then perhaps The Dinton Hermit will rise once more and sharpen his AXE!!

Steve Merry (Community Events Team)



Midsummer Ball Held in the Marquee at Dinton Cricket Club 24th June 2023

The Solstice worshippers of the Parish came out in force on the sun kissed, sweltering evening of Saturday 24th June, gathering in their hordes and attired in ritual clothing, to worship at the feet of their God SLEDGEHAMMER.

Oh, what a night! A mixed assembly of 120 (sell out) pagans, made up of village ancients, aspiring youth and those shaking off their mid-life crisis, trekked to the shrine erected at Dinton Cricket Club ready to shake of the shackles of inhibition and writhe in rhythmic wailing.

While Dinton 1st XI succumbed to the might of Didcot, perhaps unnerved by SLEDGEHAMMER warming up in the background, the baying worshippers drank the ritual nectars and feasted on the finest fayre the planet can offer, mainly supplied by Raj Bhuj, the recently renovated Indian Restaurant in Stone, open 7 days a week and 10% discount on orders over £20!!

With the sun lowering in the sky, the sated mob started twitching as the Gods of SLEDGEHAMMER mounted the altar, psychedelic guitars, boots, and hair, casting a mesmerising spell over proceedings.

As they roared out, “SLEDGEHAMMER, SLEDGEHAMMER, SLEDGEHAMMER”, the strobe lighting flashed across the worshippers through the open marquee and out across the cricket field, whipping the mob up into a frenzy of anticipation. The ghosts of past mystics rose over the stage as SLEDGEHAMMER summoned up Freddy Mercury, Tina Turner, and David Bowie together with other living legends including our own Tony Hadley.

As the BOUVET Crémant de Loire Brut (included in ticket price and on offer at Majestic Wines at a very reasonable £9.99 minimum order 6), had its inevitable effect on the crowd, attention focussed on the ‘Wheelbarrow of Booze’ a magnificent shimmering IDOL constructed of excellent wines, spirits and beers being raffled at ‘a tenner’ a strip. The winning number, **242**, drawn by High Priestess Shirley, was claimed by Fraser Stewart of Moat Cottage Dinton, where the legendary Dinton Hermit had become a recluse after lopping off Charles I head in 1649. Word quickly spread of a late night’s drink party at Fraser’s later!

As the night slipped away and the full moon clashed with the new dawn, so proceedings came to an end with SLEDGEHAMMER proclaiming the worshippers as ‘SIMPLY THE BEST’ and thanking us all for being such excellent hosts. The wailing ceased, the worshippers lay slumped around the altar and a lone voice could be heard gasping ‘where is my ‘Alka Seltzer’! Many thanks to all those who attended and as always to the organisers who strive to bring fun and entertainment to you all.

Stop Press News: **SLEDGEHAMMER** is returning to complete the Hat Trick on 29th June 2024 – BOOK EARLY to avoid disappointment!

Further Events planned for later this year

- September, October, November – Quiz Seven Stars
- October – Conkers Championship – Marquee Dinton Cricket Club
- October – BINGO – Dinton Village Hall in aid of hall support costs
- November 4th – Spectacular Fireworks Display – Dinton Parish Field (Ticketed event)
- December – ‘LIGHTS ON’ Christmas Tree Celebration with Carols and Merriment around the tree.
- December—Bumper Quiz Seven Stars in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice.

Steve Merry
Community Events Chairperson

DINTON BEER FESTIVAL



Reverend Nigel asked his congregation on Saturday to pray that the weather would be kind for Amelia's christening and for the Dinton Beer Festival.

The good congregation's prayers were answered, setting up the day for a record attendance at the eighth Annual Beer Festival, once again

held in the lovely gardens of the Seven Stars pub in Dinton on Saturday 19th August and visited by a host of walkers from Haddenham, all corners of our Parish and others from further away. Throughout the afternoon, the cheerful family-based crowd enjoyed the fine weather and the live music by two acts, while enjoying the selection of real ales, ciders and the Pimm's tent, which was run as usual by the Dinton Book Club ladies. Steph laid on a barbecue selling her delicious premium hamburgers and sausages and the Seven Stars kitchen provided a special Beer Festival menu for the day. Dinton Wines had their usual stall selling award winning locally produced Dinton Folly English quality sparkling wine.

The event provided great fun and enjoyment for all who attended. On the day the beer and Pimm's tent took in just over £5000, a healthy increase on last year. Whilst we haven't got the final figures yet, we know that we will have in the region of £5000 to distribute to local projects. When added to the donations already made by the Dinton Beer Festival, this means we will have given out nearly £18,000 since we started the Festival in 2015.

A huge and heartfelt thank you goes to all the volunteers from the villages in the Parish and those from farther away, who helped with setting up the event, manning the bars on the day and dismantling everything and clearing away afterwards. As usual, Steph and her staff were on hand to help and again put in every effort to make the day a success.

The generosity of the sponsors who sponsored the real ales, the Pimm's and ciders, the music and the Festival glasses, enable this event to take place. So, a sincere thank you to all the sponsors who make the event possible. As we have said before it is this generosity of spirit, as evidenced by the sponsors and volunteers working together, which makes the Dinton Beer Festival such a successful and enjoyable community and family occasion.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED
THIS GREAT EVENT**