

Michael

Report on Bleasby Events for the Annual Parish Meeting

- Village events have proved to be an important catalyst for the maintenance of community spirit within the parish.
- The past year's events were particularly important in reigniting community spirit after two years of covid constraint when people became more isolated, more restrained and even more fearful of coming together with other residents.
- The Platinum Jubilee in June provided a renewed focus upon the importance of communal endeavour, support and cooperation.
- It drew together all groups and organisations, giving them a new, exciting focus for common effort and purpose.
- The Parish Council, St Mary's Church, Bleasby School, the Village Hall Committee, the WI, Bleasby Bikers, the Local History Society, the Grasshoppers and the Countryside and Footpaths Group were all able to jointly work towards a common and coordinated goal.
- Individuals and parishioners were able to participate through initiative and encouragement and by joining in the general atmosphere of national celebration.
- All parishioners were invited to decorate their homes and gardens with flags, bunting and floral displays on some royal theme, take part in the cake competition, enjoy Asian cuisine, listen to the National Anthem played on the tubular bells, attend the church service, marvel at the floral and local history displays there and toast the Queen with some 'bubbly' or soft drink.
- Particular groups were catered for through related arts and crafts sessions 'under canvas' and older parishioners were able to enjoy a Jubilee Tea either in the Village Hall or 'at home' with specially packaged delights for those unable to attend in person.
- Unfortunately, heavy and continuous rain for the greater part of the day stalled or prevented some planned activities such as the tug-of-war and fun games of rounders and quick-cricket but other activities such as traditional sack and egg and spoon races went ahead later in the afternoon.
- The Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, despite the awful weather, proved to be a great success because it was so inclusive and was widely supported in its planning and organisation.
- In July the Bleasby Bike Fest made, what has become its annual return, with all its usual appeal and success.
- This event has been initiated, planned and organised almost single-handedly by Bobbie Desbruslais, though she has been actively

supported by the Bleasby Bikers and British Cycling, as well as a number of invaluable volunteers and her own family.

- Unlike the Jubilee, the weather was hot and dry – very hot and dry! – but cooling drinks were made readily available, forced-breaks organised and ‘wetting stages’ organised around the cycling course.
- It was another great success, especially enjoyed by younger families in the parish.
- In December the Parish Council and St Mary’s Church organised the annual Lighting of the Christmas Tree.
- The Council had already bought and planted a fine Christmas Tree, destined to become the successor of the cut-trees that have been purchased annually for this event but, having been only planted in the spring, it was decided unwise to burden it prematurely.
- It proved to be a bitterly cold evening and the warmth of the church, the fine organ-playing and joyful singing made it a very happy and successful event, despite the weather.
- We now need to ensure that the King’s Coronation event will prove to be just as successful as the foregoing and your active help and support is being sought. Please sign up (if you’ve not already done so) at this meeting and help make this another very memorable Bleasby Event.