

THE WHEATLEY FESTIVAL 1976

Wheatley once had a feast held every year in early October. It lasted a week and included a procession led by the Morris Men, a Fair at the back of the Crown Inn, and bull-baiting in the Pits. The bull was paraded round the village with a garland of flowers round its neck. The bullbaiting was stopped in 1837, but badger-baiting continued into 1850.

Last year the Wheatley Society revived some aspects of the Wheatley Feast, but unfortunately the outdoor events were rained off.

This year it was held earlier, and thanks to all those who took part, it was a great success. Throughout the week teams from various village pubs, clubs, and streets, pulled in Tug o' Wars, battled with a large ball, threw darts, and played Aunt Sally.

The children were not forgotten: they had a disco, fancy-dress parade, and sports day. The Primary School put on a fine display of Country Dancing.

The grand-finale was a procession led by the Wheatley Morris Men through the village to the Pits, where a variety of races and games were held. The less energetic could see demonstrations of crafts such as wood-carving, silversmith, doll-making, etc. or simply watch with tea and cakes from the tea-tent.

The festivities ended with a Tramps Ball in the Merry Bells.

The Wheatley Society would like to thank all those who helped in making the Festival such as success, particularly the following:

The Scouts and guides for many useful jobs, and especially for providing and putting up tents.

The Women's Institute for making cakes and selling teas, and for presenting the proceeds towards Festival expenses.

The Wheatley Morris Men's support, as always.

Mrs Blake, Mrs Freeman, and Mr Drake for the hard job of judging the Children's Fancy Dress.

Mrs Audley-Miller for presenting the prizes.

The Festival Committee, and Lyn Shew its hard-working and energetic Chairwoman.

All the Wheatley Society Members who helped to run the many events.

All those children who helped to clear rubbish up afterwards.

The Parish Council for permission to use the Recreation Ground.

Members of the public who gave us their support.