

WHEATLEY CELEBRATES THE QUEEN'S 90th BIRTHDAY

The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations in Wheatley were attended by over 1500 people and were a huge royal success thanks to the involvement of so many in the village community and the generosity of the sponsors

Tim Davies, parish councillor and organiser of the event, says: "As a village we decided we wanted to all get together to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday with a full programme of events involving all sections of the community."

"The event started with a service of celebration at St Mary the Virgin Church, which was followed by a village parade with floats, Youth choirs, Scouts, Girl Guides, Fire Service & WWII vehicles. Cricks the butcher provided a hog roast, Cornfield Bakery the bread and ASDA refreshments along with the Wheatley Society.

A Happy Birthday Tea which included a Giant Birthday Cake (Made by Karen Betts) donated by Taylor Wimpey together with a 'Happy Birthday' message to the Queen for which the village received a gracious response. We then enjoyed quizzes relating to Her Majesty's lifetime, music and dance through the decades performed by local schoolchildren and choirs, lots of stalls and activities culminating in a an evening's entertainment opened by The Wheatley Park Soul Band followed by a village Ceilidh with the Mouse and Trousers' Band on the High Street.

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses Commemorative Mugs were given to all participating children, stall holders and the many that made the event possible. Major donors included Anderson Orr (Architects), Cornfield Bakery, Grant & Stone, Jordell Motors, Mates Hairdressers, RW Mobbs, Nail & Beauty Shop, Ochre Coffee Shop, Snobby Dogs, Taylor's Services, Wheatley Car Centre, Wheatley Estates and Wheatley Farm Shop. In addition free mugs were given to all children and teachers at the John Watson School thanks to Howe Trust, M40 Offices and People Value.

Tim emphasised the support of many in the village who made the event possible and gave up so much of their time and donated their services. Wheatley Park School, Wheatley Scout Group, Grundon's, Paul Edson Print Management, Sands Theatre Arts School were major contributors.

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For press enquiries, please contact:

Tim Davies, Parish Councillor M: 07503-995830, daviestl@hotmail.com

Order of Parade

1. **Fire Tender - Craig Baldwin**
2. **1930 Rolls Royce** - Roland Read (hopefully with Elizabeth Hess as the Queen)
3. **Scouts-walking**
4. **Flatbed** - Colin Ring with Wheatley Community Choir - Rachel Cave
 - a. Up to 15 children including adult on flat bed with the rest walking either side of the trailer
5. **Girl Guides** - walking
6. **R W Mobbs Bedford** flat bed coal lorry- Ronnie Mobbs
 - a. With WI on vehicle
7. **Farm Flatbed** - Colin Ring with Sands Theatre Arts School
 - a. Up to 15 children including adult on flat bed with the rest walking either side of the trailer
8. **Other Walking Groups**
9. **WW2 car Austin 8** - Ronnie Mobbs
10. **WWII Bedford artic tractor** - Ronnie Mobbs
11. **ASDA van** with walking party

The scouts will not be in church, but their walking party are assembling in the Merry Bells car park by 3.20, to be called forward when ready. There may be some Scouts in the church privately, who will want to come out - suggest ask Nigel to announce, or we will, but don't expect mass exodus.

I have asked Alison Morton to be at M40 offices by c 2.30 (we to have Size M hi-vis jacket for her) to help out with parade assembly 7 move off.

I have asked Angela & Mark Curnick to meet us at the church c 3.20, to help there, having collected hi-vis jackets from the coffee room on their way up.

I haven't heard from my other marshal, Darren, but will pick him up c 4.00 when parade gets down to High St.

Don't think we can allocate time marshals for the rest of the day, but we can ask people on an ad-hoc basis, won't be too difficult as we only need 2 per hour - there will be plenty of people we can collar on the day.