



All the fun of the Fair

Hello to you all.

We hope you enjoyed our first newsletter about VE Day. This one is about the Village Fair. Sadly, owing to the Coronavirus, this year the Village Fair has had to be cancelled.

Always a very popular event, held on the Recreation Ground in Braunton, the Fair is a place of fun, food, music and lots of stalls. We hope this newsletter brings you a bit of the fun of the Fair!

Remember if you would like to contact us, please ring Stan on 01271 816340. He can put you in touch with any member of the team.

Below are pictures of the Team ready to deliver the bags of goodies to you all.



In his book 'Victorian Days in a Devon Village,' A.H.Slee mentions the following:

“Every year the Oddfellows held a club walk and Fete. This was known all over North Devon as Braunton Revel. It was undoubtedly the liveliest day of the year, and crowds gathered from all parts of the neighbourhood. The afternoon was given up to sports in a field which was crowded with men, women and children who enjoyed the pleasures of a village fair. One part of the field was roped off for sports. There were open as well as local events and the champions of North Devon were often competitors. Climbing a greasy pole for a leg of mutton, tied on the top, was an attractive event.”

In Picture Postcard Braunton by Bob Davis there are pictures of the Carnival in 1911 taken at Cross Tree under the boughs of the tree which gave the centre crossroads its name. The one shown below shows a crowd in their best attire and Edwardian style hats, most looking up at the photographer rather than the gaily decorated handcart to the left. Another shows the handcart with a Pierrot and the family business of A. Dennis Butcher and G. Tossell's Emporium.



What do toads drink on a hot summer's day?
Ice cold croak-a-cola!



What do you do if you get rejected from a job at a sun cream factory?
Re-apply!



Why did the person put extra salt on their food in the summer?
They wanted to do summer salts!

What did the pig say at the beach on a hot summer's day?
I'm bacon!

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The Village Fair is held on Whitsun Holiday. Over the years it has changed and sadly no longer has a Carnival or a May Queen. Once that used to go from Wrafton Road, winding through Braunton to Saunton Rd Estate. In 1975 there were 23 floats, all lead by the May Queen and her attendants. Prizes were given for the best in several categories; in Trades, Adults, Children's and even Equestrian. Many took part, including Harveys Dairy's and the Round Table in Trades, whilst schools and Girl Guides and Scouts participated in the children's class. Floats were imaginative and names varied from 'Winter Wonder' to 'Day trip to Mars!'



Above photos:

1980 Carnival Queen, Dawn Christmas.

1963 Bathing Bells Float

1982 World Cup Float, Braunton Community Playgroup.




Inner Wheel Ladies Cake Stand



Braunton Caen Rotary Barbecue Tent



Jennie introducing a singer on Music Stand

Today's Village Fair is as popular as ever. Run by both Braunton Caen Rotary and Braunton Rotary clubs since 1977, it raises monies towards nominated charities. This years ones were the Children's Hospice Southwest and the Calvert Trust. (They will remain the nominated ones for next year's Fair). Today the Dog Show remains a firm favourite as well as the musical entertainment. One of our team, Jennie, is in charge of arranging the wide range of bands and singers. There are many stalls to browse and shop at, including trades, arts and crafts, plants, charity and churches stalls. There are Bouncy Castles and slides for children, and last year face painting proved popular too amongst the children. Ice creams by Hockings are consumed and cakes can be purchased from the ladies of Inner Wheel. Braunton Caen Rotary Club run a barbecue tent (as shown above) and are kept busy keeping a hungry crowd fed! We shall now look forward to the Village Fair 2021.



- How many licks does it take to get through a scoop of ice-cream?
 - Which country eats the most ice-creams per year per head of population?
 - What's the world's most popular ice-cream topping?
 - Where do historians think the earliest form of ice-cream was probably made?
- (Answers: A. 50 /B. New Zealand /C. Chocolate syrup/D. China)