

Cromhall Flower Show & Village Fayre

October 16

2016

This report provides a summary of the 2016 show, financial performance and the Committee's future plans.

**Chairman's
Annual Report**
Peter Banks

Foreword

As the Committee all take a well-earned rest for 2016, we can all look back on a very successful 70th Cromhall Flower Show and Village Fayre (despite the weather)! I have provided in this Report a brief overview of this year's event, our financial position and our future plans.

Introduction

2016 will go down in Cromhall Flower Show history as the wettest year that we can remember and when you consider the Show celebrated its 70th anniversary, someone up there hadn't read the script. The rain started around 10am during set-up and continued throughout the entire day, with the wind making an untimely appearance just before we were due to start the show, giving us and our stall holders a real battering. However after some frantic action from our Committee, we had it all under control and opened the Show with the wonderful sounds of our Samba Band, Jama de Samba who certainly let the village (and surrounding area) know that the show was going ahead.

We as a Committee were genuinely amazed at the incredible turn out from the village as the show ground began to fill up. The beer tent was bustling with the added attraction of the Exotic Animals that we hastily moved due to the weather and the tea tent was bursting at the seams as people enjoyed a cuppa and cake or two listening to the samba band (who had to be stationed there due to the downpours). All but one of our external stalls managed to survive the conditions and offered lots of diverse local products with people visiting them clad in raincoats, hats or clasping their umbrellas.

Due to the conditions, the 70th Anniversary display that Sue Bryant had spent so much time on, had to be moved to the main Show Tent, which in the end was the rightful place for it, set amongst the incredible array of entries across so many different categories and the display was a real talking point throughout the afternoon. We also had to host the Punch & Judy Show in the main show tent, which again, although not ideal due to the lack of space, was a terrific solution.

It was encouraging to see that the overall number of show entries had increased from last year, a trend we are keen to see continue and we will be reviewing the judging, rules and categories for 2017 after feedback we received this year to improve further. The spirit of the Show must be one of fairness, honesty and reward those who take the effort to enter and be judged on excellence across all categories. We plan some changes to the Schedule next year to ensure all of the rules are clearly communicated and will be ensuring constructive feedback is provided by the judges wherever possible to those entries that aren't successful.

As it was our 70th Anniversary, we had increased the spend on the entertainment, so rather ironic that the weather hit us so badly and although we had a fantastic number of people attend, the gate was down by over £200.00 and we suffered a knock on effect across our stalls. However some successes on the day were the beer tent that had a record year as people looked to keep their exteriors dry and their inners wet and the PTFA reporting excellent takings from the tea tent, so certainly not all doom and gloom.

One major issue due to the weather, was that we were only able to partly take down the site on the evening, leaving up many of the gazebos and marquees to dry. On returning to the site on Sunday morning we were greeted to a scene of carnage as many of our tents had been severely damaged (a storm pushed through later that evening), with several of the marquees & tents being beyond repair. We had borrowed a large marquee from Woodend Scouts which was also badly damaged, but we are hopeful this can be repaired or this will need replacing.

Overall it will come as no surprise that due to the weather, we have suffered a financial loss this year, but we do have a contingency fund in place for such occurrences. For 2017 we will be increasing the level of insurance cover to protect our equipment, plus we will be replacing our

damaged marquees as we want to ensure that we have as many covered areas as possible, ensuring we are as prepared as we can be for the worst the weather can throw at us. As you can imagine, after the Committee has spent the best part of a year planning and preparing for the Show, the last thing we want to do is cancel and I personally think the site looks fabulous when filled with marquees, the more the merrier. We also plan to purchase more of the lighter tables & chairs which will ensure we are truly self-sufficient and will simplify the set up and take down of the site.

So to sum up . . . the horrendous weather conditions didn't dampen our spirits and judging by the amount entries and the number of people who came along on the day, we truly have wonderful support from the village and surrounding areas, long may it continue and here's to the next 70 years, but can I just book the sunshine now for 2nd of September 2017!

Peter Banks, Chairman