

SUPERB COMMUNITY PARTY IN THE PARK by SUNINGHILL & ASCOT PARISH COUNCIL

Eat your heart out Glastonbury! There was no need to travel further than Sunninghill's very own Party in the Park, at Victory Field, on Sunday 7 July to enjoy a festival atmosphere, with a local community flavour.



Pictured Above: Party in the Park at Victory Field Sunninghill, July 7th 2019

Early rain threatened to re-create Glasto but, right on cue, the sun came out and a huge crowd of Ascot & Sunninghill residents enjoyed a superb afternoon of family fun, organised by Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council. 'Groove Republic' played on the 'rectangular stage', and the Field was packed with picnickers, refreshments, and entertainments.



Pictured Above: Live Music by 'Groove Republic'

Councillor Robert Ellison welcomed the crowd, with a reminder that Victory Field was created 100 years ago by unemployed World War One soldiers. "The aim was to give Sunninghill a top quality recreational facility – and here it is - still being used exactly for its intended purpose." To mark the

Centenary, Reverend Stephen Johnson, Vicar at St. Michael and All Angels Church in Sunninghill, re-dedicated Victory Field during the afternoon.

Cllr Ellison explained that the Party in the Park was first held in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year, when a giant beacon was lit: "This was so successful, Party in the Park has been developed by the Parish Council as a direct result of that".



Pictured Above: 1st Sunningdale Scouts BBQ

And there really was something for everyone to enjoy on Sunday: There was a beer tent – provided by the Quince Players in conjunction with Windsor & Eton Brewery, burgers and sausages, expertly barbecued by 1st Sunningdale Scouts, cakes – very attractively provided by 1st South Ascot Guides. Meanwhile, younger visitors could try their hands at everything from giant football darts (by Berks County Football Club), a bouncy castle, a merry-go-round, sand art, hedgehog-making from old books (courtesy of Ascot Durning Library) and traditional stalls such as Hook the Duck and the Coconut Shy.



Pictured Above: Art & Craft Stall by Ascot Durning Library

The Party is also an opportunity for local community groups to promote themselves and recruit new members. The Victory Field Skate Park sported a competition (of which there will be a video on Instagram) and displayed local skate talent. The skate area is hugely popular with daily skaters, after work and school.

Christian Leigh, Sunningdale Explorers Scout Leader, said: "Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council was kind enough to help the Explorers, with a donation for equipment recently, so we are very pleased to support the Party. It is especially appropriate to be involved with this historically important recreation ground as we are also celebrating being over a hundred years old. We are one of the oldest, continuous Scout groups in the country. We formed in 1910. "

James Wood, also of 1st Sunningdale Scouts, said the Group gets so much from this event: "Helping out here is an opportunity to give back to the community, raise money for the Group, learn new skills and progress the Scouts' Awards. It is relevant to the Scouts' County and World Badges, for the Gold Chief Scouts Award (similar to Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award) so there are benefits all round". He is on the lookout for more adult leaders. "But we have no trouble recruiting scouts!" he said.

Trevor and Stuart, who were running the huge 'Darts Football Challenge', for Berks County Football Club (where footballers can play from age 2 to adult), agreed: "We have just celebrated our tenth anniversary, with a recent event involving 400 people and 30 teams. We're all volunteers and we want to give something back to the community."



Pictured Above: Berks County FC Football Darts Challenge

The Cordes Hall Committee was also present, promoting the forthcoming Open Air Cinema in Sunninghill (Bohemian Rhapsody on 13 July).

One local resident commented: “This is a really great afternoon. It’s free and so nice to see people turning out to a public events and genuinely enjoying themselves. The Parish Council does a good job of these things!”

Borough Councillor David Hilton was delighted with attendance, saying: “The numbers are incredible and many people here are young. Party in the Park really does compliment the Sunninghill Victorian Street Fayre (with which it alternates). Both work very well – bringing the community and young families together. There aren’t many such occasions!”



Pictured Above: Members of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council – Party Organisers

Parish Councillors ran a stall at which they asked parishioners what their service priorities were and for their input into the proposed refurbishment of Cheapside Play Park.

The next Sunninghill Victorian Street Fayre will be held in November 2020 and the next Party in the Park will be in July 2021.