

THE SUMMER PICNIC BALL
Saturday 16 July 2022

Oh what a night. Denied by Covid for a couple of years the Parish came out to celebrate in style.

The beautiful backdrop of Dinton Cricket Club, with a first eleven match at a critical point, greeted the immaculately dressed guests as they arrived for a night of music, dance and much merriment.

The community Marquee, permanently based at the cricket field, looked fabulous laid out with tables surrounding the dance floor and a raised stage for the band. With the sides of the marquee rolled up guests had front row viewing as the tense match reached its climax with Dinton 1st X1 hanging on for a nail-biting draw with local rivals Aston Rowant.

Some guests settled into tables in front of the marquee enjoying the sunshine as they quaffed a glass of complimentary Champagne (may have been Prosecco) as the sound of leather on willow echoed around proceedings.

As we took our places for dinner gasps and cheering erupted as Blaise Brogan made his own spectacular 'Bondesque' entrance power gliding through the blue skies and landing on the cricket field.

The 90 or so guests then attacked the food with gusto while much popping of corks and clinking of glasses filled the evening air.

Meanwhile, limbering up with Burgers and Chips, the spectacle for the evening, our world-renowned band, SLEDGEHAMMER, were about to enter the arena. Their recent performance at the school concert in June had already established their reputation throughout our parish and now, thanks to Patrick and Mel, they were about to explode into a spectacular extravaganza of 80's mayhem. The psychedelic colours of their hair, guitars, drums, and boots battled strongly with an amazing light show performance as lasers streamed out of the marquee, across the cricket field and up into the night sky. Perfectly normal, hard-working citizens they may be by day but at night they transform on stage into something akin to Madness on steroids. The dance floor was crowded all night and overflowed onto the cricket field. For three hours these immortals entertained a crowd crazy for more and refusing to let them go. One of our more 'genteel' members of the community, Nicky Bancroft, stole the show, never missing a dance and joining SLEDGEHAMMER on stage for their grand finale. Nicky is now on tour with the band (thank goodness!)

Oh, what a night – many believe this was the best night for many a year and we have already booked SLEDGEHAMMER' for next year's event on Saturday 24 June 2023.

Thanks to the COMMUNITY EVENTS TEAM for pulling the event together and all of you for attending and making it such a great evening. A very special thanks to Dinton Cricket Club for the great work they did helping host the event and providing use of all their facilities and running the bar – Shirley and Malcolm you are stars. Roll on next year

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