

Burgess Hill Summer Fayre 2022

The Summer Fayre was held on Sunday 19th June 2022, from 11am to 3pm at St John's Park. In terms of the weather, the day began cloudy, with a 20-minute rain shower in the first hour of the event. Gradually it became a lot warmer, as the day progressed. It was a successful event with around 1,500 people attending overall.

The event was organised by Burgess Hill Town Council as a stand-alone event following the Jubilee Fest.

Aim:

The event aimed to:

- Bring the community of Burgess Hill together, as the first Summer Fayre back following the pandemic.
- Provide families with a low-cost, fun day out.
- Provide local community groups with the opportunity to showcase themselves, and encourage new members.
- Provide community groups with the opportunity to raise funds for their group and/or charity.

The event:

The theme for the Summer Fayre was, as in previous years, 'Celebrating Our Community'. There were 28 groups due to attend the Summer Fayre, with two last minute cancellations (Summerhaven and Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle).

There were a range of activities available; these were provided by Burgess Hill Town Council, alongside the community groups in attendance at the event.

Activities:

Activities included the following:

- Free inflatables – Brighton Bouncy Castles provided an inflatable assault course and an inflatable 'kick n' stick' dart board.
- Free climbing wall – Altitude Events provided a 20ft mobile rock-climbing wall.
- Miniature Railway – Mid Sussex Model Engineering Club provided miniature railway rides for 50p.

- Crockery Smash – The Burgess Hill 8th Scouts provided a crockery smash as part of their fundraising.
- Viking Chess – The Burgess Hill District Lions provided a Viking Chess Tournament. Each team entering paid a £10 pitch fee which was put into a pot and given to a charity of the winning team's choice. The winning team was Burgess Hill Marching Youth. There was also an opportunity for members of the public to have a go at the game.
- Winter's Fair provided a range of fairground games, including Hook a Duck and Milk Churns. They also provided a small carousel for toddlers.
- Once Upon a Boutique provided glitter tattoos, face glitter and hair accessories for a low cost.

The activities were successful. The Mid Sussex Model Engineering Club estimated that they had given 300 rides. The inflatables were incredibly popular with the provider informing us that they had queues for the entire duration of the event.

The majority of community groups opted to do a tombola; but there was still a relatively good range of activities and stalls available. The 8th Scouts ran a crockery smash and a 'whack a rat', which both proved to be very popular activities. The Viking Chess Tournament, run by Burgess Hill District Lions was popular with spectators and was a good addition to the Summer Fayre – there is definitely possibility to further expand this aspect of the event.

Entertainment:

Mid Sussex Radio provided an OBU, with the arena for performances situated directly in front. There were several performers at the event, with the full programme attached at the end of the report.

Between performances, Mid Sussex Radio did a brilliant job talking to community groups and highlighting areas to visit around the site. This included one member of staff going around the event site and speaking with community groups, at their stalls.

The performances themselves were incredibly popular, with many people stopping to watch the dance and gymnastics performances. The footfall around the arena was considerable.

The rain at the beginning of the event was during the gymnastics performance by the Triangle Leisure Centre, but it did not stop a fantastic performance with members of the public still watching the event during the rain shower.

Food:

Burgess Hill Bonfire Society provided a BBQ and Hog Roast for the Summer Fayre, as well as serving some cold drinks.

The Cricket Pavilion was open, with the bar open for both alcoholic drinks, as well as teas and coffees.

Brighton Bouncy Castles provided the event with an ice cream van. This was particularly popular – as well as being a considerable asset from a financial point of view. Brighton Bouncy Castles will provide a discount on inflatable hire, when using their ice cream provider.

Several community groups and charities provided food, such as Christmas Wishes who sold a range of sweets and cakes to raise money for their charity.

Finance:

Funding was obtained from the following sources:

- Burgess Hill Town Council
- Burgess Hill District Lions - £350
- Pitch fees from stall holders - £270
- Donations to climbing wall and inflatables - £133.51
- Miniature Railway - £150 (to be confirmed)
- Winter's Funfair - £100 (to be confirmed)

The total cost of the Summer Fayre was £2955.

Spend:

Item	Price
Ambulance	£275
Marquee	£350
Mid Sussex Radio OBU	£250
Miniature Railway	£225
Climbing Wall	£700
Inflatables	£700
Portable radios	£81
Banners	£74

Outcomes:

The event was very successful, with around 1500 members of the public in attendance. It gave many groups the opportunity to fundraise and to promote their community group or charity. Many community groups found it good to be out in the community, speaking to people face to face – especially as the Summer Fayre had not been on for two years, due to the pandemic.

Many groups raised much-needed funds, St Peter and St James Hospice said: ***'You must be congratulated on arranging a first-class Summer Fayre, our St. Peter & St. James Hospice stand was very well attended and our Tombola raised an amazing £233 which will ALL go to help keep the hospice serving our local community in their darkest hour of need. May I take this opportunity of thanking you for inviting us along, we all enjoyed ourselves whilst at the same time raising much needed funds for the hospice.'***

Other amounts raised included: £120 for Friends of Woodlands Meed, £349 for 8th Scouts, £120 for Sussex Community Transport, £180.79 for the Poppy Appeal, £52 for Walkhouse School of Dance and £153 for The Escape Youth Club.

In terms of delivering a low-cost event to the public, the Summer Fayre was very successful. The inflatables and climbing wall were free to use, with donations welcome for those who wished to contribute. The other activities were all affordable, providing a much-needed low-cost day out for families, during a time in which the cost of living is increasing.

Feedback:

After the event, we received a wide range of feedback from attendees.

The general consensus was that the event was very successful, with attendees finding it to be well organised and well attended. Many attendees were pleased with the ease of getting to their pitch – which was helped tremendously by Burgess Hill Bonfire Society marshals. U3A said ***'Your team and the Bonfire Society parkers were tremendous!'***. The Salvation Army said: ***'Please pass on our thanks to your team of stewards who all did an excellent job'***.

One comment made by multiple attendees was that the event being on Father's Day may have reduced the number of people attending. Other suggestions for improvement included bins and speakers across the park. The biggest comment raised was regarding the weather – which unfortunately is always out of our control! However, all attendees said that it was a good day regardless!

Other comments from Community Groups included:

It was great to be able to talk to people in person and show them that BHIB is alive and kicking and still having events. The public seemed so pleased to be

able to speak to us personally and be told all that we do through the year. – Burgess Hill In Bloom

We had a brilliant time thank you. From our point of view it ran really smoothly, it was very easy getting on and off the park and we knew exactly where our pitch was and the time we had to be there. We would love to attend it again next year and any others you plan throughout the year. – Friends of Woodlands Meed

Our children enjoyed themselves very much – Thank you for inviting us to perform. – Livewire School of Dance

Thank you, Molly, for organising the event and inviting us. Thanks also to Jennifer and the Fayre team for their hard work and enthusiasm. These are such difficult times and you should be applauded for trying to bring a little life and colour back into this impoverished town. – Burgess Hill Horticultural Society

We were very pleased to get a pitch at this event, and it was great that we were allowed to bring the Bluebird Bus which is the main reason for attending, to promote our services to the local community. Mid Sussex is our key area for assisted transport and the more we can get the message out about how anyone can access it is great so thanks for that. – Sussex Community Transport

**Molly Devine
Events and Administration Officer
June 2022**





Performance Times

- 11.05 - Walkhouse School of Dance
- 11.30 - The Triangle Leisure Centre
- 12.00 - Sussex Supremes Baton Twirlers
- 12.30 - Livewire School of Dance
- 1.35 - Walkhouse School of Dance
- 2.00 - Burgess Hill Rugby Club
- 2.30 - Viking Chess Tournament Final

St John's Park