

In an English Country Garden St Faith's Summer Fair

'In an English Country Garden' seems to have been the theme of St Faith's summer with Mothers' Union visiting a beautiful garden on a glorious June evening, and then on Saturday 25th June we held our English Country Garden Summer Fair in the grounds of St Faith's. It was a day of fellowship, faith and fun in the true St Faith's style, raising £1,039.71, but also welcoming many visitors.

The day dawned fair after overnight rain; bright and early for a few people as we started to move tables outside to their designated positions, having brought tables, gazebos and boxes of goods from the loft the previous evening. Rob Gardner and Tim Goose began the task of putting up 6 gazebos; they were later joined by Ian McIntosh. Stall organisers arrived ready to begin decorating their tables in the colour of their chosen flower and arranging their goods and prizes. The chair trolleys were put to good use, transporting boxes of toys from the side rooms outside to near the War Memorial. It is always a race against time, but by 11.00am all was set up and ready for customers.



The English Country Garden theme, chosen at a planning meeting, was very successful. Penny Mitchell, although on holiday, had devised an ingenious bottle tombola involving cryptic clues, the language of flowers, and bottles hiding behind the correct flower. Hannah Goose had drawn and coloured a beautiful picture of an English Country Garden and many tried to guess 'Where the Gardener's Fork' was hidden. Biddy Ackroyd was the lucky winner of Champagne and Strawberries. Alexander "The Gardener" Goose, complete with wellies and gilet, (a type of sleeveless jacket) encouraged people to have a go "Hooking a Duck" and 'Throwing the Wellies'. Unfortunately the ducks were determined not to float in their paddling pool and kept tipping over, revealing their numbers!



There was a wide range of other stalls selling plants, cakes, toys, jewellery, sewing and knitting, books and bric-a-brac, plus the ordinary tombola and the raffle with over 30 prizes. Brenda Gardner and her kitchen team served delicious lunches, including Coronation Chicken and fruit flans. While these were being eaten Dave Page played his guitar, providing delightful musical entertainment. During the day Helen Garnett and Maureen Millard toured the Fair taking some excellent photographs. Some of

Helen's photos illustrate this article - others can be seen on the website.

Prizes were announced and the raffle drawn at 3.00pm and then it was all hands on deck to help clear away table, gazebos and boxes, and return items to the loft. The day had a lovely atmosphere of fellowship and friendship, commented on by several of our visitors, including one lady who stopped en route from Luton to Letchworth. She thought how welcoming everyone was, and hoped to come to future events.

All of this was achieved by a considerable amount of hard work and team effort, especially as so many regulars were away, including two members of the Fellowship Committee. Thanks are due to all who delivered fliers, put up and took down gazebos, organised and ran stalls and sideshows, went up and down the loft, and much more.

Our next Fellowship event is a Coffee Morning plus stalls at Church House on Saturday 16th July. Please come along and support us, or perhaps consider joining us on the Fellowship Committee.

Mary Goose - Chair, Fellowship Committee