

Band on the Rec

6pm on Friday 9th July. The Rec was empty except for the Six Bells Bar that Livvie and Luke had put up that morning. Would it actually happen? The last village event was the VE Commemoration Tea in May last year (in deepest lockdown but also an event for the whole village), and so many other events had been planned and then cancelled. This event was planned to be in Step 4, but could it take place whilst we were still in Step 3? After more discussions (and the obligatory Risk Assessments) it was decided to go ahead.

But would the weather be kind? The open air concert has always been dependant on good weather, and in recent weeks sharp showers have been a constant threat. Would anyone come, or would they be put off by the thought of a large crowd?

First to arrive was Kev with his van bringing the PTFA BBQ; then came the chairs from the Victory Hall. At about 7pm the Beenham Wind Orchestra players began to arrive, and they kept on coming! The parking area was soon full and an overflow had to be hastily arranged. Then the audience started to come in, some very organised with tables and chairs and some with a rug. By 7.30 there was a large crowd, but just enough so that everyone could spread out.

At 7.30 the Dam Busters theme started, and it was just like previous Band on Rec's: some people listening closely to the music, some chatting to their friends, some making trips to the bar and BBQ, and the kids making imaginative use of the play equipment! By the time a glorious sunset took over from a rather grey but dry evening the band (I still think of them as a band) had played their hearts out, the BBQ was sold out, the Bar had sold out of some (but not all) beer, and we were all happy that Band of the Rec had finally happened and Beenham could come out to play. Within a very short time the chairs and BBQ had been taken away in Kev's van, the rubbish was cleared away, and the roof of the seating area was no longer a climbing frame. All was quiet, except for a gaggle of people around the bar who did not want to go home.

Many thanks to Beenham Wind Orchestra – with their conductors Robert Roscoe and Victoria Benjamin, and sax soloist Mike Smethurst-Evans. We are so lucky to have such a brilliant band based in Beenham. Thanks also to Claudia Komzak (and her crew) for organising the BBQ to raise funds for the PTFA. It was good to welcome Livvie and her team from the Six Bells to their first village event – the first of many.

