

It started with a tree!

From the outset, Her Majesty the Queen let it be known that she would appreciate her Platinum Jubilee to be marked by creating or enhancing the green canopy.

The Jubilee working group of Moretonhampstead Parish Council having considered a number of options decided that the planting of seven oak trees would be appropriate and with the financial support of a local benefactor, seven oak trees were planted by Robbie's Gardening to whom we are most grateful.

Next up was the creation of a permanent easily distributable memorial to the event and it was decided that a book of local photos taken during the reign would be the most effective keepsake for this event.

Bill Hardiman volunteered to select content from the History Society's archives and with the help of Michael Edwards designing the layout and Darren at Moorprint producing it, a superb booklet was produced for distribution by Councillors within the town. This has been received by Moretonians enthusiastically and has given rise to many memory challenges as various issues conspired to prevent the production team naming all people shown in the final printed work.

Bill's work also featured in the banners and displays within the Parish Hall as backdrop to the Jubilee coffee morning on the Saturday 4th June.

Our next milestone was the creation of a Jubilee beacon. The Inter visibility with other beacons across the Southwest led to the site choice of Giant's Grave atop Mardon Down. (Surprisingly some of our well established residents were not familiar with this location, and must have conducted their courting elsewhere!)

The Mardon Commoners very kindly swaled the area to avoid any fire risk and thanks go to Mike Hilditch, Graham Wilson, the Reddaway family and their team for organising this work. Cllr Gordy Keep then undertook the construction of our beacon in an exemplary fashion, The Commoners erected a superb marquee for the provision of liquid libation on the night and Baskervilles supplemented this with their hot dog stall and other delicacies. Not being a local, our piper Ray found the 'short' walk up from the car park to the beacon site rather challenging, but having got his breath back performed very effectively (and received a lift back to the car park - thank you Jack!).

Harvey's Bus shuttle was very welcome and was kindly sponsored by B Thompson & Sons(Transport)Ltd, to whom we are most grateful (as well as the 150 people transported).

At exactly 9:45pm, Terry Reddaway risked life and limb to ignite our spectacular beacon. Soon there was a spectacular 360 degree panorama of beacons visible in the clear moonlit sky. Numbers of these 'estimated' sightings ranged from 20 to 45 (bearing a direct proportion to the quantity of Commoners hospitality imbibed!).

The safety of attendees was underwritten by the presence (voluntarily) of our Fire Brigade, who kindly gave of their time and stayed until the very steamy end of the beacon. The team included Mel Davis, Andy Cox, John Meek, Dave Mitchell and Liam Biddulph.

Thanks go also to the Beacon marshals including Dave Pike, Ryan Battershall, Riley Parkin, Bridget and Cllrs Mike Jeffery and Mike Warner. Thanks also go to the Youth Club for volunteering First Aid cover.



Next morning Liz Prince led a group of MAPS volunteers to litter pick the Beacon site and thanks to the generous donations of litter bins by Bradfords and the good behaviour of all those attending, very little litter was found.

Contemporaneously the Moreton Bake Off (MBO) team was up to their armpits in cake, sausage rolls, flapjacks and all items essential to a proper Jubilee celebration. Friday evening saw the Parish Hall decorated by Bill Hardiman and his team with photos of Old Moreton and Melinda Schwakhofer preparing her memory blanket and installation for the children. Anita Pike and Rebecca Jameson decorated the Hall with pictures created by the Primary School children. Outside, Cllrs Richard Short and Mike Warner led a team to install bunting in Fore Street. The team included David Gould, Matt Parkin, Dave Pike, Jack and Jess and once the installation was complete, all retired to consider the next phase of the plan in the courtyard of the Horse.

Saturday saw the MBO team delivering their exquisite products to the Parish Hall for consumption at the Jubilee coffee morning and for the afternoon Children's Tea Party. We are really grateful to all bakers and helpers including inter alia Jo Wymer, Linda Collier, Miranda Alheusen, Iris Westcott, Anne Short, Marilyn Chudley, Kathy Warner, Tamara Magris, Malene Christian, Brenda Jeffery, Rosie Pike, Sam Parkin, Penny Simpson, Margaret Spittles, Sylvie Gowers, Shirley Reddaway and Christine Walton. Chief Cake Coordinator Sam Parkin ensured that an adequate balance was maintained between morning and afternoon consumables and for the afternoon both the Horse and Berto's very kindly supplied pizzas which disappeared very quickly after serving.

The traditional long table layout was adopted for the afternoon tea and soon provisions were shuttling out of the Parish Hall kitchen and delivered to excited young residents who consumed them with relish. The afternoon tea team included Sarah Abraham, Rebecca Jameson, Anita Pike, Ruth Sims, Denise Thomas and Juliet Tajima. A special thank you to our youngest helpers Taylor and Mason Biddulph. There was some residual cake, which the Parkin family transported up to Coppelia, thus ensuring that absolutely nothing was wasted.



From midmorning, Tim Hills and the Carnival committee had kindly moved their Fun Day to coincide with the Jubilee celebrations and despite pretty inclement weather, beneath the gazebos people were signing up for the dog events and the other activities. Sincere thanks go to the whole Committee and their helpers and especially to Nicola for the dog show side. A substantial amount was raised and everybody went away wet and happy.

Frank and the Motor Museum team provided a car display at the top corner of the sentry featuring iconic British brands for which our thanks and especially to George McGregor, who very kindly volunteered to show his late father's beautiful Aston Martin (giving up time over his 21st birthday weekend!).

Julie Stansfield and the bell ringing team rang the church bells prior to the Jubilee service led by Reverend Sue at 3:00pm and at the conclusion of this, she led a small group to dedicate the



Jubilee Oaks which had been planted in the sentry by kind permission of Graham and Mary Wilson.

For the evening, Fore St was turned into a disco inferno with The Dockneys performing from the carnival trailer, supported by Panic Pete and the Roughbeats. The White Hart provided the bar and sold out all their beer, Papillon Gin had a well-supported stand and Simon's Kitchen provided an excellent food offer, whilst the Baskervilles team topped it all off to perfection.

At 10:30 pm the music came to an end, much to the chagrin of the audience, and everyone slowly returned to their homes or local hostelrys which had extended their licencing hours.

Thanks go to Barry Coath and Ian Goodwin for the lighting and sound system, John Hampton for stepping in to provide the power and Terry Reddaway for skillfully getting the trailer in situ and level. Thank you to Tim Sutcliffe for closing the road.

All in all the whole celebration was something which all Moretonians could be proud of, (despite historical links with the Parliamentarians and Old Ironsides!) and thanks go to all involved especially Sam, Matt, Riley and Evie Parkin who contributed a huge amount of time and effort to this very successful enterprise.

Councillor Mike Warner
Jubilee Working Party

