

Picnic in the Park

From clearing reeds from the mill stream in Fen Street for the Duck Race to piano and guitar practice, choir rehearsals to lion-roaring sessions, plans were well in hand to make sure the Nayland's second PIP went with a swing.

Under the leadership of Iain Wright and other members of the Community Council, the PIP is a free family event and a chance to run about in Webb's Meadow - a bigger 'garden' than most of us have - while being entertained by local talent. The only thing no-one could plan was the weather and luckily, the day turned out to be gorgeous.

The famous Duck Race was hard fought with 74 hopeful owners cheering their ducks along a fairly fast flowing Mill Stream in Fen Street; the happy winners came away a little richer! Then onto the field where families and friends had set up their tables and chairs, rugs and hampers. Around 150 people enjoyed listening to music and watching live theatre that focussed around our children and young people.

Nayland Choir members opened the entertainment with the great Cole Porter, three young soloists sang songs about cuckoos, pirates, engine drivers and even a spiritual until we were tapping our toes to *American Pie*.

Members of the Village Players performed a dramatised version of *Albert and the Lion* to the amusement of young and old. Four young pianists played Vivaldi, 'Boogie Time', a graceful Arietta and *Restful Study* until children from the two Nayland School Choirs charmed everyone with songs from *Mary Poppins*. This was the point at which the picnic-goers joined in with *Doh a Deer* - and had to sing again to come up to standard!

Nayland School Drama Group brought the circus onto the field with magicians, a strongman and all sorts of tricks and surprises. We then listened to some stylish piano playing of music by CPE Bach followed by *Skyfall*, a beautifully sung number from *Matilda* and a terrific blues guitar medley from a very young guitarist indeed. The entertainment was rounded off with the Village Players enacting part two of 'Albert' with all its drollery and general daftness!

Thanks are due to everyone who planned the day, those who set up the stage and to Nick Moriarty for arranging the sound. Big thanks too to the Pimms and children's punch teams, the ladies of the WI who provided refreshing teas and the ice cream van (must have done very well!). More thanks to MC Christine Hawley who deftly steered the audience through the afternoon and everyone who worked with the children to produce such a splendid time.

The most enormous thank you though, goes to the children who stepped up and performed in front of a big public audience, many of them for the very first time. They did so well and we hope they'll want to come back and do it again.

Photos, clockwise from top: the Duck Race, James Collins, Nayland Choir, happy picnic-goers, fabulous picnic cake
We hope more photos will be included on the CC's website, www.naylandcommunitycouncil.org.uk

