



Gunville House, Sedgemoor

Fete For Church Funds

Profitable Effort at Gunville House

Few are the public money-raising efforts that take place in the little parish of Sedgemoor, but when one is found necessary, the 120 odd parishioners are not in the least lacking in enthusiasm. The Vicar (the Rev. Beaumont Johnson) and the Parochial Church Council are in need of not less than £50 - or were, at all events, before Wednesday - to replace a worn-out heating apparatus by one more efficient and to overhaul the organ in the 14th century parish church. A subscription list might have met the need, but as the parish is not surfeited with entertainments, a fete was decided upon, and Lady Napier's beautiful level lawns at Gunville House were placed at the church-workers' disposal on Wednesday afternoon for the purpose. The parish hall had been decided upon as the scene of the effort in case of rain, and although towards midday this looked perilously likely, it slowly cleared off, and the afternoon and evening's programme passed off pleasantly and successfully.

Ingenious Competitions

Ingenuity characterised the many devices scattered about the lawns for tempting the steady stream of people entering the grounds. Colonel the Hon. George Herbert's famous mount "Knogle Star" - a real "shooting star" - was there. He did good business at East Knogle church fete recently, where he made his debut, and under the supervision of Mr. Victor Doggrell, maintained his reputation now - especially as a very difficult and uncertain mount. Mr. M. G. Procter was kept busy with his "Bunty Pulls the Strings" attraction, and hardly less so with his self-inspired "Turkish Delight" competition, which was even more productive of "net profits". Farther along, Mr. and Mrs. A. Everest shared the labour of keeping people lighting candles and throwing darts for prizes, given by Mrs. Ansdell. Mr. W. Marchant ran a cocoanut shy and Mr. W. J. Rowden controlled a bowling competition for a live pig, which he himself gave. An Aunt Sally was run by Mr. G. Candy. Mrs. A. J. Whitehead presented a cockerel for another bowling competition, under the direction of Mr. K.

Doggrell. The Rev. R. M. Rees was responsible for a clock and ladder golf competition. The fascinating ordeal of having one's future unfolded was possible by the presence of "Senorita Decarno", while all the commodities for the well-stocked larder were obtainable at a produce stall, managed by Mrs. Ansdell, Miss Esme Johnson, and Miss Farquharson, who also catered for the needs of the wardrobe at a jumble stall.

Other Attractions

Business thus proceeded merrily during the afternoon to the accompaniment of selections by the Mere Band. Tea was served under the trees by Mrs. Whitehead, Mrs. Doggrell, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Bastable, Miss Johnson, Mrs. Farquharson, Mrs. Ansdell, Miss Ansdell and others. Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead gave the tea for the band, and the expenses incurred by the presence of the band were paid by Mrs. Farquharson.

Later in the day a ladies' ankle competition provided a good deal of interest, and a wheelbarrow race, under Mr. W. Marchant and Mr. J. Gray, was a source of much amusement. In the evening, dancing took place on the lawn, the music provided by the Mere Band.

The arrangements were mainly in the hands of the Vicar and members of the Church Council, both ladies and gentlemen. Most of the prizes were generously given. Those contributing in this way were:- Mrs. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead, Mr. Rowden, Mrs. Farquharson, Mr. Tuck (East Knoyle), Messrs. Walton (Mere), Mrs. Ansdell, Mr. J. Gray, Mr. Bastable, Mr. W. Snook, Mrs. Doggrell, and Mr. Cutler. Money gifts have been received by the Vicar from Canon and Miss Oldfield, Mr. Alfred Snook and Mr. G. Elsegood.

Western Gazette, Friday, 10 September 1926