



A typical stall at a village fete

## A Successful Fete

We had a delightful fete here last Saturday, the outcome of real hard work. Mrs. Fred Little opened the proceedings with a graceful little speech. She had an enthusiastic reception. Mr. F. Little was for 27 years warden here, and served under three bishops, three archdeacons and three rural deans. It was like old times seeing the family here again. Well before we say another word we must record, with gratitude, the open-handed generosity and unfailing energy of all concerned, from the family at the Manor Farm, the sewing party, and the attendants, who, one and all, worked so hard at the side show; their energy was amazing. Mrs. C. Bartlett and the Misses A. and V. Gillard took charge of the new and fancy work, Mr. Bartlett was a host in himself at the darts the Misses Ketchley had the pound stall to which no fewer than 64 friends contributed gifts. Wonderful! Refreshments were organised by Mrs. Axford and Mrs. Harry Tuck, an extremely busy and tiring task, yet all so happily and cheerfully carried out with the assistance of Mrs. Bean, Mrs. Gillard, and Mrs. Woodman. Mrs. B. Tuck, Mrs. Shute, and Mrs. Jones presided over the rummage sale, and there were some fine bargains! A sweets and ice cream stall was a keen rival next door, and had a remarkably busy time, as may be imagined; Miss Davies and Mademoiselle Peguy presided, and as to Mr. and Mrs. Amblin, they worked like slaves all the time, and were here, there, and everywhere. Mr. Shute and Mr. W. Woodman had a merry time managing the skittles, for which Mr. Jones generously gave a pig or thirty shillings, and Mrs. Shute gave two grand cockerels. The pig was won by Mr. W. Gillard and the cockerels by Mrs. T. Little. Perhaps the finest tug-of-war seen for years was eventually won by Ford village team. Mr. Buckle and Mr. Slade came all the way from Chippenham to superintend these sports and were loud in praise of the contests. Aunty Sally had a splendid showman in Mr. Reg Tuck, arrayed as he was in dress coat and top hat. He really was fine, and poor Aunt Sally had nearly a gross of clay pipes knocked out of her mouth. Nobody could refuse "Mr. Reg" - he was irresistible. His father, too, Mr. Bert Tuck, managed to somehow fill the lucky spot Mr. Orchard was good enough to lend us, with pegs from his customers, and was indefatigable. The prize was kindly given by Mrs. David Jones and was won by Mr. W. Woodman. Queenie Tuck and Vera Swinden worked hard and successfully with the cake and other competitions. Miss Hill did remarkably well with her mystery parcel. Joey Swinden was splendid with his stop watch, Mr. Coles, of Colerne winning easily; nobody else was within twenty minutes of the exact time. Mary Axford managed her flower pots charmingly. A beautiful doll had been given by Miss Shute; this was really exquisitely dressed by Jean Axford and was won by Mrs. Tuck, Jnr. A bran tub was all too speedily cleared, and alas! We had no more toys to replenish it. However, Eddie Jones, who kept it, was delighted with its success, and no wonder. He also lent his pony for rides, and it proved a tremendous boon, Mr. Cox and Mr. W. Cullimore acting as grooms. A whist drive followed, Mr. Axford being untiring in the arrangements, as also for the dance which concluded the fete, held, by permission of Messrs. Dowding, in the canteen. Mr. Brain of Alderton supplied the music. As so much hard work was done by the sewing party, we are bound to

acknowledge our gratitude to Mrs. Shute (our secretary and treasurer), Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. C. Bartlett, Mrs. Swinden, Mrs. Gillard, Misses A. and V. Gillard, Miss Davies, and Miss Amblin. Their beautiful work was a joy to behold. Mr. Ponting gave a load of logs, which was won by Mr. Axford; Mr. B. Gillard was simply wonderful with his cocoa-nuts. Nor must we forget the little kiddies who were so winsome with the lucky tickets, viz., Audrey and Cecil Gillard and Leslie Cox. Gwen Hazel had a water tank with floating corks; B. Holder actually secured 48 with a hat pin! Gwen was much in request, we can assure you. It was very exciting. Mr. Ray, too, was grand and Mr. Marsh gave 100 bananas for a prize! "Well done!" say we all, and they say "What's worth doing is worth doing well." The proceeds amount to £40.

H. E. K.

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