

## **Botus Fleming and Hatt "Catt in the Hatt Big Lunch" Big Lunch**

Following the establishment of the Neighbourhood Development Plan committee, ideas were sought for increasing community engagement in the parish. The Big Lunch was mentioned as a national campaign initiated by the Eden Project over 8 years ago and it was thought this might be an event local families would enjoy.

### **Preparation and Planning:**

An enthusiastic and dedicated group of residents from Hatt and Botus Fleming gathered weekly over a period of approximately 3 months to plan a community event for our village on the Recreation Field. Nothing on the scale envisaged had previously taken place to anyone's recollection, so it was with hope and a fair wind that we made our plans for the Catt in the Hatt Big Lunch event on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

Much thought and hard work went into promoting the Big Lunch. A unique 'Catt in the Hatt' logo was designed and used on the flyers and promotional material, hand delivered to every property in the parish. Banners were made to promote the event nearer to time that would be easily seen by the community. A great deal of hard work went into the promotion on the "*Hatt Chat and Botus Banter*" Facebook page with lots of opportunity for people to engage with the event.

Setting up on the Saturday went pretty smoothly, and once the large marquee was built, it all started to come together quite swiftly. Even at that point, people (and fellow villagers) driving past had commented on how good it looked from the main road as you passed the playing field. On the day of the event itself, we all continued to pull together to complete the final details (hay bales, bunting, sports, live music etc...) – it looked spectacular!

### **The Event:**

There had been some concerns about numbers attending, despite regular posts and prompts on the "*Hatt Chat and Botus Banter*" Facebook page. It was really difficult to gauge how many people were likely to attend. However, our fears were unfounded and the day dawned hot and sunny, attracting approximately 350 guests and visitors, with most people living within the parish, and others coming from Saltash, Liskeard and Plymouth.

There was a great deal of support from local businesses either offering free/ discounted equipment or involvement on the day, including beautiful handmade ceramic medals; also generous donations of prizes for the raffle to raise money for Children's Hospice SW.

### **A small sample of feedback from Facebook:**

- "Fantastic! Thanks to everyone that organised it."
- "Thank you to you all for your hard work and organization. It was a fantastic day, and my family had a wonderful time!"
- "Thanks for all your hard work, we had such fun!"
- "I was reflecting on it this evening with my friend and we both agreed how privileged we felt to live in such a safe and friendly community. Thank you for a lovely day – we know these things don't just happen like that without all the behind the scenes time and effort."
- "I can't wait until next year, this is exactly what the community needs, and with children we all want them to have a network of friends and family in the village. I was amazed at all the detail, litter bins, flowers on tables, toilets, bouncy castles, beer tents..."

attention to detail was amazing! My whole family + Grandad and friends enjoyed it!  
Here's to many more. Thank you!"

Some other thoughts that have been mentioned on the Hatt Chat and Botus Banter Facebook page that may be future food for thought include:

- Keeping the space as a parish amenity
- Creating a dog walking park – maintained by the 'doggy people'
- Regular series of events for people of all ages – adults evening i.e. a band, buffet to raise money in order to buy more equipment for the children (and park facilities)
- Using the space more – football or rounders
- Wish to have more community events
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The day was absolutely superb, helped significantly by the brilliant weather with everyone going away expressing incredibly positive comments about what our community can achieve.

A huge thank you must go to the organizing committee and all those involved in so many different ways in creating such a wonderful day, that will live long in our memories.