

On a summer bank holiday weekend, what could suit better?

Fine for ducks and for wellies



Welly wanging organiser David Cornwell at the Shirenewton Fete and right, Lilli Edwards, seven, helps with the Tintern Jubilee duck race. BM_138

By Ben Frampton

ON A summer's day, what could be more British than a village fête and welly-wanging?

On Saturday, Shirenewton had both – not just any old welly-wanging – the inaugural Welsh Welly Wanging competition.

The event was part of the Shirenewton fête, brought forward one week this year to co-incide with the Jubilee celebrations.

At the recreation ground on Saturday, around 800 people made their way to this corner of Monmouthshire to enjoy a day out in the (appearing and disappearing) sunshine.

And, to go with all those quintessential ingredients which make a fête – food, drink, cakes, book-stalls, music and dancing – there were also two alpacas on show for people to pet and the aforementioned competition.

David Cornwell, a member of the Shirenewton fundraising committee, said they wanted a show-piece to publicise the fête and, when welly-wanging came to mind, thought they should make a national competition of it.

He added: "It's been very good, people are finding it trickier than they thought it would be."

As well as the stalls, which also had skittles, guess the number of eggs laid by the bird and cakes galore, patrons were treated to a performance by the Severnside Silver Dragon marching band.

Simon Langdon, 41, from Shirenewton, who brought his daughter Anna, six, along to the event, said: "It's been going well and it's nice for the children to get involved."

Treasurer of Shirenewton Church, which organised the fête, Kevin Bounds, 59, said: "It's been going brilliantly."

"It's great to see everyone here enjoying themselves."

Meanwhile, at Tintern, 1,000 ducks raced across the river Wye on Saturday.

The ducks were tipped into the river from Brockweir Bridge, with the race ending opposite the Rose and Crown in Tintern.

There were 12 prize winners in total, including a first prize of £150.

Around £500 was raised which went towards village's big Jubilee celebration, held on Monday