

Disley's First Well Dressing Festival

Although this ancient custom for the blessing of water is almost unique to Derbyshire villages, Disley will be launching its inaugural well dressing in June. The event has been led by a group of volunteers working with PRIDE (People Restoring and Improving Disley's Environment) and the idea began when an area of land near St. Mary's Church was cleared to make a Woodland Garden. During this work an ancient spring was restored which used to supply drinking water to the Fountain in the village centre and then a well dressing on this site was suggested. As a result, the art of decorating springs and wells with pictures made from natural materials is being expressed in Disley on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday 18th and 19th June. The exciting programme begins about 10 o'clock in the centre of Disley village and is supported by local societies and groups.

A 32 page village trail and historical guide has been produced by Disley History Society and will be available free of charge on the Ram Green.

Funding for this project has been received from Cheshire East Council, Disley Parish Council, Askam Ltd., the Cooperative Community Fund and PRIDE. We are also hugely indebted to the award winning photographers 'Maia Photography' and the staff and management of Lyme Park for their invaluable contributions.

Saturday
18th June
&
Sunday
19th June

Saturday 18th June

Ram Green events:

- 10 a.m. Imagine FM commence broadcasting
- 10 a.m. Village blacksmith working in Rams Head car park
- 10.30 a.m. Morris Dancing
- 11 a.m. New Mills Band
- 11 a.m till 1 p.m. Registration of Scarecrow Competition (Tots to Teens)
- 11.30 a.m. Morris Dancing
- 1 p.m. Peel of bells by St. Mary's Guild of Bellringers
- 1 p.m. Well dressing Queen and Rosebud leave from Newtown
- 1.30 p.m. Queen and Rosebud arrive in pony and trap to be welcomed by the Mayor and Lord Newton.
- 1.45 p.m. Maypole dancing by children from Disley Primary School
- 2.30 p.m. Morris Dancing
- 3.00 p.m. Grand parade of Scarecrows followed by prize giving for this and for "History of well dressing" competition
- 4.00 p.m. Close by Imagine FM



Back row, Rose Queen Nia Hampson & Rosebud Jessica Jones. Front row, flower girls Sofia Hewitt, Madelyn Harris and Amelia Herbert

St. Mary's Schoolrooms and car park:

- * 10 a.m. Scouts commence barbecue with bacon butties, tea & coffee provided by St. Mary's Church team.
- * Produce stall by village groups. Contributions will be appreciated and these can be given from 10 a.m. Proceeds to local charities.
- * All groups and societies are welcome to have a stand in the schoolrooms to give information about their activities. (Setting up can be done from 6 p.m. on Friday evening).
- * Requests can be made to visit the bell tower at St. Mary's Church.
- * The Schoolrooms and car park will be closed at 3 p.m.



Other events:

- * The well dressing picture by the well at St. Mary's Church will be on view all day. Cream teas will be served in the Church from 11.30 a.m. onwards
- * A recital of hand-bell ringing in St. Mary's Church at 2 p.m.
- * Tug O'War at Arnold Rhodes playing field organised by White Lion commencing 5 p.m.
- * BBQ at the Rams Head from 7.30 p.m. with music by William Allen from 8pm – 10pm.



Disley Well

Sunday 19th June

- * Refreshments will be served after morning service at St. Mary's Church with organ, harp and clarinet playing. The blessing of the well will be by Vicar of St. Mary's, Revd. Margaret Owens at about 2 p.m. The ceremony will be attended by David Rutley M.P., the Mayor of Cheshire East, Richard Milkins, Cheshire East Tourism and Lord Newton whose ancestors built St. Mary's Church.
- * Immediately following the well blessing there will be a peel of the St. Mary's bells.
- * The Church will be open to serve refreshments for the rest of the day and during the following week until either the picture or the helpers collapse!

