

# Claypole Festival 1980

On Saturday and Sunday September 13/14th in 1980 the village held a Festival , which attracted many visitors to the village.

The organising committee was led by Mrs Liz Balding and local companies provided sponsorship. Some of the companies were J.H.Hand Butcher Claypole, Lord and Lady Brownlow, Manchelle Claypole, Rumbelows, Pendred Hairdressing , Midland Bank and National Westminster Bank.

The objective was to raise several thousand pounds towards the cost of undertaking repairs and maintenance of St Peters Church.

## St Peters Church

It was Harvest Festival time and a flower display was themed around “All good gifts around us”. An art exhibition included paintings and sketches by local residents with most of them for sale. A local history section organised by Mr Ted Tinsley displayed the Church Registers from 1538, the Parish awards from 1770 and the Constables Accounts circa 1600. These items were normally kept in the Lincolnshire Archives.

There was a Victorian Kitchen displaying loaned items and a Schoolroom with desks and books from various periods. A handicraft exhibition reflected a wide range of villagers skills.

Music was played all weekend with organ recitals by Claypole organist John Shucksmith as well as the organists from St Giles Balderton and St Wulframs Grantham. Bell ringers from Navenby rang peals on both evenings and on Sunday evening the Bishop of Lincoln delivered the Harvest Festival Service.

## Coulallenby

This is the large house adjacent to St Peters built by Harry Coulby. In the grounds there were exhibitions of lace making, wood carving, rushing and caning and spinning. There was a Tombola, and a chance to buy home made cakes and jams and home grown fruit and vegetables.

## Methodist Chapel

The village blacksmith for seventeen years Mr Reginald Gowshall displayed some of the many items he had made since his retirement eight years previously. The Chapel was an appropriate setting as Mr & Mrs Gowshell were well known and highly respected Methodist preachers who had lived at Fen Farm on Main Street

## The Village Hall and grounds

Morning coffee and afternoon teas were provided. A local group Variety Ventures performed and Douglas Hogg the local MP drew winning raffle tickets. A children and teddy bears fancy dress competition were held. Young Farmers held a Blue Jeans disco on Saturday evening with tickets £1 or £1.25 on the door.



The Procession

The Queen was Edna Robshaw

These two photographs are from an earlier annual village fete. The year is unknown.



## New School Hall and Grounds.

There were displays of memorabilia from the Boer War and both World wars. Displays of present day model aircraft. Farm implements including tools for hedging and ditching, working model locomotives, vintage tractors and farm machinery were all on display. There was a photographic exhibition by Newark Photographic Society.

Many thanks to Daphne Streets of Fenton who kindly lent a copy of the Festival Programme used for this article.

**Is there any interest in Claypole Festival 2020? Village Hall, Church, School and Recreation area would all be great venues , perhaps add in a scarecrow competition and village trail.**

If you have any old photographs or documents about Claypole or our surrounding villages please get in touch. Robert Prabucki