

Elstow Village *May Festival* **2019**



Elstow May Festival 1965

Saturday 4th May 2019
12pm – 4pm

Official Opening
at 12 pm

Programme of Events

50p

Shakespeare in the Ruins

Elstow Abbey Parochial Church Council present...
In the ruins of Hillersden Mansion*, next to Elstow Abbey



The Three Inch Fools

Present their unique version of

Much Ado About Nothing

Friday 31st May 2019



Durham University

Castle Theatre Company

Love's Labours Lost

Monday 19th July 2019

For both events

Gates open at 6pm performance starts at 7pm

Tickets £16 (£10 if under 18) Under 10-free
Available from the Church at the May Festival
or please phone 01234 261477 to reserve.

Please bring chairs/rugs.
Barbecue and drinks available.

*if wet, in Elstow Abbey Church

Welcome to the 2019 May Festival!

Last Year's May festival on 5th May 2018 was the biggest and best ever. We have been planning for today since 6th May! – Over a year to try to further improve the day so that we can say once again that this year has the widest range of stall that we have ever had. We just hope that the weather will be kind to us!

The May celebrations are a wonderful time for the people from the village of Elstow and the surrounding community to come out and enjoy the variety of stalls, activities and events that have been arranged. We hope that it will be a fun afternoon for the whole family.

Each year the carriage used to transport the May Queen is decked out with flowers and ribbons. We are very grateful to those who keep the carriage for us throughout the year and helps us to bring it to the green. Maybe you have seen the video clip on our Facebook page of the 1936 procession or the 1939 celebrations? We believe it is the same carriage used today to bring our May Queen to the festivities. Of course things have moved on a bit and so we have children's rides and entertainment to bring the Festival up to date.

There is still a real sense of occasion as the parade comes on to the green and the May Queen is crowned.

We hope that you will take the chance to sit and listen to the bells or perhaps take a guided tour around our ancient Abbey Church and see the art exhibition; or maybe a visit to the Moot Hall museum is more your thing - whatever you want, we hope that the variety of this community event will bring a smile to your face.

The planning and organisation relies heavily on the generosity and goodwill of Elstow School. The Maypole Dancing by the pupils really makes the day and is one of the highlights that everyone loves to see.

It is great that in these modern times there is still a place for this traditional entertainment, which each year helps to preserve our heritage. It would be a shame if we were to lose the sense of history that we capture by staging this Elstow Village May Festival.

Please note that the Festival for 2020 is planned for Saturday 2nd May – put the date in your diary now!

Have a great day!

Elstow Abbey Children's Holiday Club

"Space Pilgrims"



All Children ages 5+ welcome

Monday 22nd July – Friday 26th July

10am -12 noon every day

Followed by games on the green

Holiday club celebration followed by Barbecue

Friday 26th July at 6pm

Elstow Abbey

Please like and follow our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/ElstowAbbey>

and our twitter feed

to get information and news from the Abbey

Programme of Events *

- 11.00am Bell Ringers to ring in the festival
- 11.30am Dog show entries open
- Noon Official opening of the festival.
- 12.15pm Dog Show starts
- 1.00pm Ian McGuinness, Country and western singer in the Arena
- 1.30pm Bedford Brass entertain in the Arena
- 2.00pm Traditional May Procession from the Old School to the Moot Hall green.
The May Queen will be drawn in her carriage from the site of the Old School by the local Army Cadet force
Welcome address and introduction by Mr Tony Hare - Vice Chair of Elstow Parish Council.
- 2.10pm The 2019 May Queen Miss Demi-Li Neal will be crowned by Miss Alliyah Connally-Cutts - May Queen 2018. Procession around the Green by the 2019 May Queen Accompanied by her Coachman – Lucas Gauntlet
- 2.15pm Elstow School – Maypole Dancing. Children will perform a variety of dances including Spiders Web (Maypole dance), Square dance and Long Dance (Country dances) followed by Single Plait and Double Plait (Maypole Dances)
- 2.40pm Bedford Brass will entertain in the arena
- 3.15pm Parade of the Dog show winners
- 3.40pm Drawing of the Grand Raffle and closing Thank you
- 4.00pm End of the May Festival

***ALL TIMINGS ARE APPROXIMATE!!!**

Events may be subject to change

St John's Ambulance are available by the Moot Hall if you should hurt yourself or need first aid or medical support.

The police are also in attendance if you have any concerns.

Attractions and Stalls:

- Grand Raffle prizes include
 - Dinner for 2 at St Helena's Restaurant
 - Family ticket to "Much Ado About Nothing" – Shakespeare in the Ruins
 - Family ticket to "Love's Labours Lost" – Shakespeare in the Ruins
 - £20 Sainsbury's voucher
 - Cream Tea for 2 in the Elstow Tea Gardens
 - A bottle of Southern Comfort
 - A framed picture of the Abbey
 - A gentleman's haircut
 - Plus many, many more including toiletries, wine, chocolates etc..
- Fun Dog Show.
- Canine Partners
- Fun fair rides – Trampolines, inflatable slide, teacups
- Moot Hall Museum
- Bespoke Cushions and soft furnishings
- Sweets and Candy Floss
- Hair braiding
- Jewellery including Make your Own bead jewellery!!
- Home made Candles
- Aloe Vera Forever living products
- Scouts
- Face painting
- Various stalls – incl. clothes, Dream catchers.
- books, plants, games, Bags, Toys, and many other charity stalls...

Whatever you do - don't miss the Refreshments!!!:

(in front of Vicarage)

Burgers

Hot Dogs

Treat Yourself!

Cakes and scones, cream teas

Tea, coffee and soft

drinks

Complimented by

Ice Cream Van

Candy Floss

Home made fudge

Poppy delights - Vegan Bakery

And Belgian waffles!!

A free Art Exhibition by local Bedfordshire Artists is taking place in the Abbey TODAY. We invite you to go across to the church.

Some of the work will be for sale.

Acknowledgements

The Church Wardens and PCC of Elstow Abbey would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported this May Festival :

1st Elstow Brownies
Elstow Scouts
Army Cadets
Bedford Brass
Elstow Abbey Tea Gardens
Bedford Borough Council
(Bjorn Hove and Katie Lewis)
Bedfordshire Fire and
Rescue service
Bedfordshire Police
Canine Partners
Christian Aid
Elstow Abbey Church
Elstow Bunyan Christian Fellowship
Elstow School
Elstow Parish Council
Red Lion Public House
Simmonds Nursery
St Helena Restaurant
St John's Ambulance

Special thanks to:

Mr and Mrs J Hinson
Mrs J McDonald
Mr A Freeman
Mr D Gould
Mr and Mrs W Willis;
Mr W Pugh and Mr D Hill,
Moot Hall
Mrs G Clark,
Mrs S Anderson,
The Head teacher and all the staff
of Elstow School,
Father Paul Messam and Family
The Bellringers,
the Elstow PCSOs and other
volunteers from Elstow Abbey
congregation

Special thanks must go to The
Mayor of Bedford for his personal
support of the festival

All those who have donated prizes
for the raffle.

*All those who have helped us to
make this year's festival bigger and
better than ever*

*Sincere Apologies to anyone we
have missed!*

Locations of toilet facilities:

Toilets can be found
behind **Elstow Abbey**

Moot Hall Museum
(incl disabled)

The Red Lion Public House
(incl disabled)

Former Elstow May Queens:

1925	Laura Caves	1962	Lynne Sharpe
1926	Mabel Crouch	1963	Lynda Pibworth
1927	Doris Bartram	1964	Elizabeth Lambert
1928	Olive Devonshire	1965	Vivien Lee
1929	Audrey Bire	1966	Wendy Mansfield
1930	Joyce Weeks	1967	Diane Wagstaff
1931	Connie Millard	1968-	<i>No festivals</i>
1932	Vera Baxter	1974	Beverly Sharpe
1933	Joan Hackett	1975	Susan Coggs
1934	Doris Curnow	1976	Vivien Collins
1935	Phyllis Izzard	1977	Louise Parsons
1936	Betty Crouch	1978	Nerissa Straiton
1937	Maisie Goodship	1980	Joanna Chance
1938	Kathleen Goode	1982	Nadine Johnston
1939	Ena Heathfield	1984	Dawn Usher
1940	Mary Trowbridge	1986	Alexandra Gay
1941	Irene Brown	1988	Katy Slade
1942	Joan Mobbs	1989	Heather Cullip
1943	Marion Nicholls	1990	Kimberley Bland
1944	Lilly Baker	1992	Gemma Hood
1945	Iris Vann	1994	Lucy Allsion
1946	June Thompson	1998	Sian Allen
1947	Rita Judd	1999	Sarah Millar
1948	Jean Webb	2000	Lauren Bain
1949	Mary Roach	2007	Chloe Spencer
1950	Diana Skelton	2008	Kelly Ayres
1951	Jacqueline Maycock	2009	Tyler Damon & Zara
1952	Greta Gilson	2010	Sophia Martucci
1953	Maureen Izzard	2011	Natasha Sumon
1954	Glenys Daniels	2012	Anya Markham
1955	Joyce Norman	2013	Imaani Beckford
1956	Christine Lowe	2014	Jasmin Rai
1957	Janet Cooper	2015	Priya Chand
1958	Jennifer Carding	2016	Mya Ritchie
1959	Janet Housden	2017	Tenai Carter
1960	Ann Hindson	2018	Alliyah Connally-Cutts
1961	Victoria Lambert	2019	Demi-Li Neal