

# IN THE ARCHIVES...

## on the feast of st. barnabas

June fayres were taking place in Wellington at least as far back as 1244, when the town's Market Charter sanctioned a fayre to take place on the Vigil, Feast and Morrow of St Barnabas (10th-12th June). An important commercial event for the town, it is likely that street entertainers would have been there to make the most of the large crowds and long hours of daylight - just as they are at our 21st century revival!

## 'at this famed jubilee'

Fast forward from the 13th century to the 18th century, and the town's most colourful event seems to have been the annual 'Wellington Jubilee'. Staged slightly earlier in the year at Whitsun, it was advertised in the newly established Shrewsbury Chronicle newspaper throughout the 1770s.

This 'ancient festival', as it was described, included 'a breakfast of tea, coffee and chocolate' on the Bowling Green (just north of the parish church), followed by a costumed procession through town and, at night, a 'Ball and Assembly'. You'll see echoes of all these in today's fayre, including 'breakfast' on the lawns, dancing in Market Square, and the costumed procession at one o'clock.

# THE GRAND PROCESSION

This will include many of the same costumed characters who appeared in the Wellington Jubilee procession of 1773, including King George III & Queen Charlotte, Harlequin & Columbine, Venus, Cupid & Bacchus. Also look out for local personalities of the period Dr Withering & the 'wise woman', the artistic Plimer Brothers, and high-living rake Sir George Downing. To see it pass by, make sure you're in Church St, Market Square, Crown St, Duke St or Market Hall around 1pm.

# GOING OUT WITH A BANGER!

The fun doesn't end at three o'clock - tonight it's our SAUSAGE & ALE CEILIDH at Wrockwardine Village Hall, 8pm until midnight. It's always great fun, whether you're a beginner or seasoned dancer.

Tickets to this evening's ceilidh are £10 (£5 for under 15s), which includes a Shropshire-sourced barbecue. There's also a Wellington real ale bar to enjoy. Tickets are available at Ken Francis Butchers, Market St, Wellington.

# THANKS FOR HELPING

The Fayre is organised by local heritage and arts group Wellington H2A, but it can only take place thanks to the time, energy and resources offered by a host of local groups and individuals.

Thanks to Wellington Market Company and Wellington Town Council for their financial support; to All Saints Church for hosting the event and helping us run the day; and to Wellington Civic Society, the small businesses and residents of the town who have made donations for this and our other Summer events. A special thank you this year to the Belfrey Theatre Company for loaning us some wonderful Tudor costumes.

Finally, our thanks to all those people - including several of the performers - who have given their time and talents free of charge.

# AND IF YOU LOVE WELLINGTON...

...take a look at Wellington Soup: [www.wellingtonsoup.org](http://www.wellingtonsoup.org). This is the website where we're talking about all the things that make Wellington great and what could make it even greater. It's an exciting time for the town, with the new library, new businesses and more cultural events year on year - but we need your help to do even more. So, log on and get stuck in!



# WELLINGTON MIDSUMMER FAYRE



## SATURDAY 9th JUNE 2012 OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

# WELCOME TO WELLINGTON

Inspired by Wellington's ancient June festivities, the Midsummer Fayre is a celebration of the music, food and crafts traditionally made here around The Wrekin. You'll find the church lawns packed with scores of local food and craft stalls featuring everything from a Shropshire hog roast and homemade fudge to hand-woven baskets, soaps and jewellery.

Inside the parish church, tea, cakes and other refreshments will be available, and visitors can enjoy a puppet show, along with displays about the history of All Saints from medieval times to today.



## Long Live Elizabeth!

In this Diamond Jubilee month, we celebrate the reign of the second Queen Elizabeth with a special appearance from the first, as Good Queen Bess herself processes into the parish church at 10.45am. She'll be greeted by Hadley Orpheus Male Voice Choir, singing the chorus 'Long Live Elizabeth' from the comic opera *Merrie England*, written by Shropshire composer Edward German in 1901 - the same year the choir was formed.

And Elizabeth I is not the only monarch you'll see in town today - we've got kings and queens aplenty! Look out for Henry III, who awarded Wellington's market charter in 1244, gluttonous Henry VIII, boyish Edward VI, jovial George III and haughty Queen Victoria.

## A ROUGH GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON WHEN

	All Saints Churchyard	All Saints Church	Market Square
<b>10am</b>	<i>TOWN CRIER OPENS THE FAYRE</i>		
<i>All day...</i>	<i>Hog roast; local food &amp; crafts; games; circus workshop; mobile belfry; Wynndebagge the minstrel</i>	<i>Cakes &amp; refreshments; displays about All Saints Church past and present</i>	<i>Wandering street entertainers</i>
<b>10.00</b>		10:00 Wrekin Recorder Consort	
<b>10.30</b>	10:15 Wellington Brass Band		
<b>11.00</b>		10:45 Entrance of Queen Elizabeth & Hadley Orpheus Male Voice Choir	11:00 Shrewsbury Morris Dancers
<b>11.30</b>	11.15: Wellington Brass Band		
<b>12.00</b>		11.45: 'Above My Head' Puppet Show	12:00 Jack the Jester's Fire Show
<b>12.30</b>	12:00 Odd Socks Folk Band	12:30 Wrekin Recorder Consort	12:40 Shrewsbury Morris Dancers
<b>13.00</b>	<i>GRAND COSTUMED PROCESSION: Churchyard / Church St / Crown St / Market St</i>		
<b>13.30</b>			13.15: Shrewsbury Morris Dancers
<b>14.00</b>	13:30 Bridgnorth Ukulele Band		
<b>14.30</b>	<i>THE FAYRE DRAWS TO A CLOSE</i>		

## THINGS TO SEE AND DO...

Don't miss the Shrewsbury Morris Dancers and the Jester's Fire Show down in Market Square. Up at the church, listen out for music from the Wrekin Recorder Consort, Wellington Brass Band, Odd Socks folk band and, in their first Fayre appearance, Bridgnorth Ukulele Band.

Ask Wynndebagge about his weird & wonderful instruments, learn to juggle at the circus tent, make an old-fashioned floral head-dress with the Dawley Bank gardeners and try bell-ringing at the mobile belfry!