



Sedgley's

Diamond 60

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sixty stories about village life
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2008

St George's Day Celebrations

by Councillor David Caunt

Saturday, 26th April, 2008 saw the sun come up over Sedgley to welcome the St George's Day Celebrations. Months of planning came to fruition, starting with the church bells ringing and the parade, led by St George on horseback and the Dragon produced by local children.

The streets were crowded, the bunting fluttered and the shops looked splendid as they entered the competition for the best decorated shop. After the parade we all assembled in the old graveyard for speeches and entertainment, ending with patriotic singing. Events continued for several hours with the Sedgley Morris Men performing at various locations, a Tea Dance at Dormston School, a Sedgley history display in the church and many other attractions. Everybody I spoke to said it was a memorable day.

But it nearly never happened! The Borough Safety Advisory Group had told us that it was not safe to hold the event. It would disrupt the bus services, making buses run late (so what's new!); it could disrupt the emergency services, and the police and highways staff were not convinced it could be held without considerable risk to safety. Only the Borough Fire Commander was positive and suggested that by stationing a fire engine at the Crown pub, he, and his crews, could cover all eventualities. In the end a political decision had to be taken and after that many of the perceived problems evaporated.

The police committed to 100% support throughout the day, buses were delayed for 10 minutes while the parade had the use of the roads, highways staff erected and dismantled road barriers, parade marshals volunteered and the idea of a sterile traffic free area from 6.00am throughout Sedgley was quietly forgotten. But letters and e-mails were still flying about right up until the last minute. It was a close run thing!

After the event of course everyone accepted the decision to carry on was right!



Images from the St George's Day celebrations in Sedgley, April 2008.