



'Mr Alexander' of 'Mr Alexander's Travelling Show' entertains the crowd



Paul Fearon, sporting the horns, dances with The Wild Hunt Bedlam Morris

# Friendly festival hits its tenth anniversary

By Damian Fantato

WHAT started as an idea in a pub ten years ago now attracts people from all over the country.

Wallingford's Bunkfest celebrated its tenth anniversary this weekend by letting visitors into all events for free. The festival, which takes place on the Kincroft, features music, dance, beer and steam.

Bob Wyatt, 59, who founded the festival with his friend Colin Dolton while they were in the Cross Keys pub together one evening, said: "We are doing it for the people of Wallingford and giving something back to the place we were born in.

"It is such a friendly festival and there is such a community spirit. About eight pubs are joining in.

"This weekend has been massive. There were more people this year than last year. I think it has been the biggest one so far."

Mr Dolton, who is Mayor of Wallingford, said: "We are both very passionate to keep it free. While people come here and spend their money we will keep it that way."

Last year's festival attracted around 20,000 visitors to the town over the three days.

Headline acts at this year's



Jamie Jordan joins in the dancing while watching Basingclog Morris as dad David gets some family snaps  
Picture: ANDREW WALMSLEY

Bunkfest, which ran from Friday until yesterday, included Transglobal Underground, Demon Barber Roadshow and Peatbog Faeries.

Ten years on, the festival has taken over the whole town, with 12 venues including the town's market place, Wallingford Sports

Park and the George Hotel.

It had a craft fair featuring more than 50 stalls of goods from around the world, music and dance workshops, a storytelling fringe and a singing train where performers provide entertainment along the Cholesey and Wallingford Railway.

There were also ceilidhs in the evenings at Wallingford Sports Park and musical boat trips down the River Thames.

Paul Fearon, who came down from Croydon for the weekend with The Wild Hunt morris dance troop said: "We have been to Bunkfest several times. It is a great festival.

"It has been a shame about the rain but it has turned out lovely."

Milo Brooks, from Didecot, said: "I come here every year. It is a family friendly festival. There is lots of variety and you can bring your children."

Morris dance spectator Jarek Dobosz, who visited for the day from Maidenhead, said: "I have been coming for seven years.

"It has an atmosphere that you don't see in most festivals.

"This feels like a town relishing its heritage and keeping a tradition alive."



Event organisers Colin Dolton and Bob Wyatt



Squire Tim De'Ath leads off Basingclog Morris

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