

Charlton on Otmoor School Association Duck Race 2019

The rain stopped and the sun shone on Sunday 9th June for Charlton on Otmoor School Association's Duck Race of 2019, held at the Nut Tree in Murcott. Thank you to Imogen and Mike for very generously allowing us to take over their field, selling ducks, gathering sponsors and setting up and running a bar in the field. Also thank you to all their staff and wonderful customers who bought ducks, sponsored races and joined us in the afternoon.

At 3.15pm everyone gathered around the purpose-built stream, the ducks were released, and Tony Launchbury gave a running commentary on the ducks' progress as they swam down the stream – did your duck cross the line first? Congratulations if you did, or did it get caught in the plants. Thank you to Richard Pike for his expertise building the "stream" and ensuring all ran smoothly on the day. The Fire brigade based at Arncott filled the stream for us, thank you for doing this.

We'd also like to thank Andrew Haynes for providing the posts and bales and Darren Franklin for delivering them to site, Sidalls Bicester for donating the plastic and JJ Plant hire for loaning the generator and pump.

We held 25 races in total with 4 extra races added to try to meet demand for ducks on the day, sorry to all those who wanted to purchase a duck but weren't able, next time there will be more races and more ducks. The final race was the exciting auction race, people bid for one of the ten ducks in this race as opposed to 50 in the other races. The names of all winners and our wonderful sponsors can be seen on the school website as well as pictures of the event www.charltononotmoor.co.uk

The children of the school ran stalls – Splat the Rat, Lucky Dip and The Great Duck Trail. Thank you to The Charlton on Otmoor Football Club for taking charge of the BBQ – sterling effort cooking and serving 170 burgers and sausages in the space of 2 hours! The Otmoor WI sold their ever-popular homemade jams and marmalades, we had a raffle with some fantastic prizes including a baseball cap signed by Lewis Hamilton, Barcelona Football shirt and Bear Grylls adventure tickets, there was a stall selling items of craft work made by talented parents and children of the school and of course cakes.

It was a successful afternoon and wonderful to see so many school families and community members coming down and supporting the event. In terms of money over £2,000 was raised for Charlton on Otmoor Primary School which will be put towards enhancing current and future pupils' education, as we all know school budgets are tight having been cut back so much, so every penny counts.

So, a massive thank you to everyone for supporting this event whether it was by attending, purchasing a duck, donating a raffle prize, buying a burger. The Charlton School Association are a charity and put on events through out the year to raise money for the school if you feel you would like to donate to this please contact the school office.

