

## Reviewing the First Wilderness Festival

Festivals and mud go hand in hand but not at **The Wilderness Festival**, held for the first time at Cornbury Park. It was promoted as an alternative music and arts Festival; not just a musical line-up

but featuring discussions; *Intelligence Squared* would have made for lively debates on the Saturday.

The craft stalls ranged from jewellery-making to cane footstools, and we saw a large number being purchased.

In the words of the stilt-walkers who were magnificently dressed as bees; it was a “mellow festival”.

Swimming in the lakes, the Edwardian experience of a boat trip, plus hot tubs and Spa treatments gave a special feel to the weekend. The camping looked organised and they were blessed with fine weather.

Laura Malling sang under a cloudless sky, the sun shone and the Festival goers



enjoyed a real country-side experience with music.

It would have appealed on many levels. There were large family groups, from babies to older members; all enjoying the weekend, music being the link. The

folk tent enjoyed a varied day of singing. And there was a gospel group performing on a free stage and even a spare piano for anyone who wished to avail themselves, and they did.

Approaching the main arena, village cricket was played throughout the Festival; the resident players in whites invited a succession of challengers in limited - over games on a pitch not quite to the standard of Shipton!

Many varied food tents and the banquet held in the main, beautifully decorated tent looked enticing.

A happy festival with a wide age range, all enjoyed in the enchanting grounds of Cornbury Park.

**Sue Williamson**

## Cotswold Decorative and Fine Arts Society

On **October 12<sup>th</sup>** Catherine Parry-Wingfield will lecture on :

*Pleasant Sensations: French Rococo Paintings.*

Catherine specialises in British and European 18<sup>th</sup> century painting and sculpture.

On **November 9<sup>th</sup>** Clare Phillips will speak on:

*Decadence and Dreams - Jewellery from around 1900.*

Clare is a curator specialising in the history of jewellery and was jewellery adviser for the V & A. Exhibition *The Cult of Beauty*.

Lectures take place at **Bradwell Village Hall, Burford, OX18 4XF.**

They begin at **2:00pm** with coffee and tea available from 1:15pm.

Non-members are very welcome (suggested donation £8).

For further information please see our website: [www.cotswoldfas.org](http://www.cotswoldfas.org)