

## Special Feature

# Grandpa in the Wilderness

Who would have thought that someone my age (nearer 80 than 70) would go to a summer Festival? Well, in Cornbury Park for its third year, the Wilderness Festival proved the exception - not only did I go once, but I also went for three of its four days and I loved it! I am not a fan of pop music, but it was there for those who wanted it and so much else going on for families and the likes of me.



climax of a sword battle between the two generals, resulting, to the cheers of the crowd, in Napoleon's demise. The 'dead body' was hauled off by a hoard of excited children. So entertaining!

### Suspending Disbelief

There was so much else going on; swimming and boating in the lakes, hot tubs, many craft stalls, fancy clothes for sale, numerous bars and eating venues, and each evening a spectacular display - the first night a marvellous bell-like structure hung 35 metres high from a gigantic crane, where musicians were suspended playing drums and bells, and where trapeze artists performed daringly over 100 feet above the vast audience.

Amazing!

There was 'glamping' in luxurious tents, the loos were plentiful and litter was collected continuously. I never saw any drunkenness, and there was no need for policemen - I never saw one. Everyone had a smile and the clothes they wore were outrageously delightful. The lady selling tails sold out on the third day. The kids' area (including a crèche) was very popular and, apart from the front of the main stage, there was more than ample room for everyone. My estimate is that there were 20,000 people there each day and tickets were sold out! A great time for all ages. I can't wait for next year's Wilderness Festival!

**Hamish Harvey**

### Sheer Delight

In one large tent there was a fascinating daily production of *The Tempest* by a Franco/Indian company, followed immediately by a 30 minute performance of ballet dancers. There were little bandstands scattered around the vast site where jazz, swing, and solo instrumentalists played - lovely to listen to - my sort of music! In several large tents gourmet chefs produced superb dining every day and another large tent, marked 'The Village Hall' had a yoga class one morning and, in the afternoon, a barn dance. A highlight for me was a cricket match, where two teams of mixed young and old, played serious competitive cricket with an Ozzy commentator, who was as entertaining as the cricket, the whole event watched by an estimated 2,000 delighted people. This was followed immediately by a re-enactment of a battle between Napoleon and Wellington, with puffs of blue smoke from muskets and field guns before the