

Dear all,

The sixty tickets for last Saturday's Village Picnic were sold out within hours of going on sale – none were allocated in advance - and several people had to be disappointed. It was a shame that the attendance could not be larger, but the Mission Hall can only cater for a maximum of 60 people. When I arrived at 10am a great deal of the preparation had already



been completed, as you can see from the pictures. Even young Bessie, Hilary's granddaughter, had been roped in to napkin wrap every one of the cutlery sets by herself – and she didn't even have a ticket. Rain had been falling and the clouds still looked threatening but I reassured everyone that coming from Wales gave me a unique ability to forecast rain and my



prediction was that the day would be dry. After wrapping the lunches in cling film, which has a mind of its own, we moved on to the desserts then laid the tables under the gazebos outside. By noon everything was ready as the first diners started arriving and by 12.30 everyone was in place for a short welcome by Hilary then



the unwrapping of the clingfilm to reveal on every plate a cornucopia of cheese, ham and quiche plus a roll, butter and salad in abundance. It was so nice to see everyone engaged in conversation. For instance Dave Caddy, who has organised many such events himself in the past, gossiping, sorry discussing weighty matters for gentlemen do not gossip, with friends old and new as the sound of good humour and companionable conversation filled the air. Desserts were a choice of cheesecake, black forest gateau or raspberry sponge. The rain held off and even the sun came out, as predicted earlier by a wise sage. It was a marvellous event and thanks are due to the organisers for all their hard work, both in the days before and on the actual day. Their efforts and the camaraderie of those who attended made it such a cheerful and friendly occasion. It

was lovely to be together again.

Best regards

Chris