

## NEWS in brief

### Ring a bell?

EAST Meon All Saints church opens its doors to all this weekend, on Saturday, 10.30am-4pm and on Sunday, 11.30am-4pm.

The bellringers are hoping to raise awareness of bell ringing in the village.

There will be a small exhibition and refreshments in the south transept and visitors will be able to go into the ringing chamber to watch the bellringers in action.

### Green Fair

THE HAMPSHIRE Green Fair is taking place at The Sustainability Centre in East Meon, this Sunday. Events start at 10am and include strawbale building, live music and local crafts. Entry is £3 adults and £1.50p children.



ABOVE: Pepper the labrador and Mary negotiate the obstacle course together. p08335-2

LEFT: Pepper and Mary catch their breath afterwards. p08335-3

RIGHT: A boy and his dog negotiate the obstacle course. p08335-1



# All the fun of the fair

By **Mary Bishop**  
mary.bishop@thepost.co.uk

The warm spring sunshine came out along with the crowds, who enjoyed yet another highly successful country fair in East Meon on Bank Holiday Monday.

Along with traditional country crafts and games, visitors enjoyed a highly charged display by Adam's Axemen, three muscle-bound lumberjacks, who showed just what they could do with heavy axes and giant saws.

The Solent Eagles Motorcycle Display Team gave everyone a thrill with their amazing stunts, backed

up by Canadian folk group Crowfeet, who performed songs from around the world.

Local farmers demonstrated their sheep-shearing skills and showed people how to make hurdle fences. Those proud of their family dog were encouraged to enter the fun dog show, to test their powers of command and their dog's obedience on the obstacle course.

Classes included the Scruffiest Mongrel, the Dog with the Waggiest Tail, the Best Rescue Dog and the Dog that looks most like its Owner - followed by the Dog the Judge would most like to take Home.

The traditional tug-of-war contest was cheered on, following the procession of the May Queen and the colourful maypole dancing by local children.

Wrestling in child and adult sumo suits proved hilarious to spectators, who then enjoyed listening to a jazz band while making a visit to the beer tent and sampling the delights of a mouth-watering hog roast.

All proceeds will go to support the East Meon Village Hall, a registered charity that provides a venue for the many clubs and activities in the area.



ABOVE: The beer tent jazz band. p08335-4



LEFT: The Solent Eagles motor cycle display team in action.. p08335-7



A llama in a hat. p08335-5

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**B**

Your weekly guide to what's on in and around East Hampshire



East Meon Country Fair will be held on Bank Holiday Monday, 1-5pm. The fair will have traditional country crafts and games; Adams Axemen - lumberjacks showing what they can do with giant saws and axes; Solent Eagles Motorcycle Display Team; a rural life display with sheep shearing and hurdle making; a dog show; tug of war; face painting and bouncy castle; giant sumo suits; May Queen procession and Maypole dancing; beer tent and hog roast; jazz band; refreshments; and stalls with a variety of home-made goods and craft items for sale.



Admission costs £3 adults, £1 for OAPs and children. Under fives are admitted free. There will be plenty of free parking. All proceeds will go towards the village hall. East Meon is signposted from the A3, A32 and A272.



The tables will be groaning at the Weald and Downland Museum on May 4 and 5, when it hosts the Sussex Food and Farming Fair.

Around 50 producers from throughout the South East will be selling speciality food and drink including award-winning beers and wines, sausages and bacon, succulent meat and game, delicious ice cream, aromatic bread and much more.

Producers will be based in and around the Museum's buildings, bringing a unique atmosphere to the occasion. The authentic working Tudor kitchen 'Winkhurst' will be at the heart of the taste celebrations during the fair.

This event is organized by A Taste of Sussex which promotes local food producers throughout the region.

To reflect the national 'Year of Food and Farming', this year the event will also include a celebration of downland farming.

Admission includes entry to the Museum and the Food Fair. See the museum's website: [www.wealddown.co.uk](http://www.wealddown.co.uk) for more information.

# Bank on a bit of holiday tradition



[ents@thepost.co.uk](mailto:ents@thepost.co.uk)



May Day is traditionally the first day of summer.

Traditionally, the day starts early, and people would rise at dawn to wash in the dew to promote youthfulness, returning home with arms full of May blossom (hawthorn) to decorate the houses.

Young girls would dance around the Maypole with ribbons and bonfires would be lit to echo the light and the warmth of spring. The livestock were driven between the fires to ritually cleanse them and promote fertility for the coming year.

For the people it was a time to spend on relationships, the unmarried to find partners and spend the day in noisy dancing.

Throughout the day horns were blown and much merriment and drinking was undertaken. The prettiest girl was chosen as May Queen and the King was dressed in 'the green of the forest'.

The remains of this ancient festival can still be seen today. The dancers are remembered still in the Morris-Men, and the Maypole is revived by school children. May Queens are still crowned and although the King is often forgotten, he lives on in the legends of Robin Hood and the green man.

For a chance to partipate in some of these ancient May Day rituals, take a trip to Butser Ancient Farm this Bank Holiday weekend to watch the burning of the wicker man (pictured right) and listen to the Druids explaining the ancient rites; or visit East Meon or Oakhanger May Fayre on Sunday (pictured left)

complete with Maypole dancing and the procession of the May Queen.

If a slice of tradition isn't your thing, there are plenty of outdoor and family activities available locally to entertain and educate this May holiday.



The May bank holiday weekend sees a plethora of railway locomotives descending on the Rural Life Centre, Tilford's museum of country life. The engines, diesel, electric and steam, will be coming from all over the south of England.

This event is the Old Kiln Light Railway's fifth annual Model Railway Exhibition and sees a wide variety of layouts representing full-sized originals from many periods in history.

From the Isle of Wight comes the Bembridge 00 scale model showing part of the

island's pre-war system. Travelling from further overseas is a Belgian tramway layout while from nearer to home, Folly Hill, Farnham, in fact, comes the smallest scale layout called Pennington which is at 2mm to the foot. The largest models will be running on a three and a half inch gauge tramway layout.

Representing a small private country estate system in miniature is the St Reatham Hall layout whilst outside the exhibition buildings a similar full-sized system will be operating. This is the Old Kiln Light Railway itself, and

the venerable 1920s steam locomotive, Elouise, will be hauling passenger trains all day on the newly extended two foot gauge line. The track, which has been increased in length by almost a half during the past year, now runs through a deep woodland cutting to Millwood Station and circles three quarters of the museum's site.

The OKLR Model Railway Exhibition takes place on Saturday, May 3 and is open from 10am to 5pm at the Rural Life Centre. For further information telephone 01252 795571.





## Big country fair returns

THIS weekend's bank holiday sees the return of the annual East Meon Country Fair.

Held on the village green on Monday, May 3, from 1pm to 5pm, the event offers an "opportunity to experience Hampshire's

country heritage", according to organisers.

Among the attractions will be the May Queen procession, a dog obstacle course, mountain bike stunt show, a raffle draw, and tug of war.

There will also be stalls,

country crafts, farm animals, sheep shearing, a hog roast, a jazz band, and Appalachian dancers.

Tickets cost £3 for adults, including parking, £1 for children over the age of five, and free to under-fives and seniors.

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## Quacking fun on green

DON'T go "quackers" sitting at home this May Bank Holiday, go out instead to the beautiful Meon Valley and meet the sheep dogs that herd ducks; see heavy horses at work and a lot more at the East Meon Country Fair.

The fair is on Bank Holiday Monday, May 4, from 1pm to 5pm on East Meon village green and with everyone watching their pennies at the moment, this year the annual event is offering even better value for money.

Alongside a whole host of tra-

ditional games and entertainment to keep the whole family happy, there is the chance to see real country skills in a lovely rural setting.

Meirion Owen, a familiar face from TV's *One Man and his Dog*, will be bringing his "quack pack" to the fair.

His sheepdogs will get to show just how clever they are by herding their duck friends around an obstacle course.

Meon Valley's shearers will be on hand to demonstrate their

skills, and lambs and piglets will also be on display for children to meet.

There will also be a fun dog show for any type of dog, and raffles, teas, cakes, a jazz band, children's activities and country craft stalls will all add flavour to the traditional event.

Parking is free and entry is £3 for adults and £1 for the over fives and OAPs. For more information contact Anella Parker-martin on 01730 823 007 or email [Anellap-m@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Anellap-m@tiscali.co.uk)

## NEWS in brief

### East Meon country fair

EAST MEON'S annual country fair will be taking place next Bank Holiday Monday, May 5, on the village green.

There will be all sorts of good old-fashioned fun and games on offer, including traditional crafts and the annual tug-of-war competition.

The Solent Eagles Motorcycle Team will be a special feature, there is the chance to try your skill at making hurdle fences, and there will be a demonstration of sheep shearing.

There is also the traditional May Queen procession and maypole dancing – and Canadian music group Crowfeet will be performing folk songs from around the world.

All proceeds from the event will go to support the village hall.

Admission costs £3 for adults and £1 for children over five years old, pensioners and people with disabilities.

For more information about the event, contact Anella Parker-Martin on 01730 823007 or 00781 266225.

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# Come along to a country fair

Summer is coming and to welcome it, the village of East Meon is holding its traditional country fair.

The East Meon Country Fair will run on Bank Holiday Monday from 1-5pm on the village green.

Lambs, a pig, ponies and sheep will be on show, and there will be crafts, home baking and produce stalls ready to serve.

Games on offer include darts, skittles, egg throwing and the famous human fruit machine.

There will even be a whisky wheel for the mums and dads.

Children will be catered for with face painting, a clown, and a bouncy castle to jump around on.

The crowds can also look forward to being entertained by a Solent Dog Display Team and a strength display by Amanda and Tony Brutus.

By **David Jones**

david.jones@thepost.co.uk

Visitors can also enter the Tug of War.

There will be a tea tent, beer tent, a barbecue and squash and biscuits specially for kids.

Live jazz will be played and there will be a performance by TS Tenacity Cadet Band.

Visitors can take their dogs along for the fun dog show.

All proceeds go to support the Village Hall, a registered charity which provides a venue for the many clubs and activities of the village.

Admission is £3 for adults including free parking, and £1 for children over five years, OAPs and the disabled.

Children under five are free.

For more information contact Anella Parker-Martin on 01730 823007.







East Meon Country Fair. The May Queen and attendant  
09269-1

109

# East Meon is full for fair

The weather wasn't exactly hot and sunny – but that didn't prevent around 5,000 people from joining in the fun at the East Meon Country Fair on Bank Holiday Monday.

This traditional event, which heralds the beginning of summer, has been becoming increasingly popular over the past 10 years – and Monday's event didn't disappoint anyone.

Visitors went "quackers" over a sheepdog display with Indian Runner ducks, herded by Meirion Owen, from the famous TV show, *One Man and His Dog*. And the fun dog show, which

By **Mary Bishop**

mary.bishop@thepost.co.uk

much interest and laughter and a display of logging by Clydesdale horses brought admiration from the crowds.

Maypole dancing by children from East Meon Primary School was watched proudly by parents and friends, along with the May Queen procession when this year's May Queen, Jennifer Forrest, entered the arena along with her main attendant Shannon Morse.

The Meon Valley shearers were also at the fair, demonstrating their skills and helping to relieve the local sheep of their heavy winter coats. Lambs and piglets were on display for children to meet – but some of the adults were more keen on sampling the local lamb and pig roast, with the accompanying beer tent!

Raffles, teas, cakes, a jazz band, children's activities and country craft stalls all added to the traditional mixture of fun and games.

One of the organisers, Anella Parker-Martin, said yesterday: "We had a wonderful day. There were thousands of people there and although it was a bit chilly,



Roger Keys and Casper, in the best rescue class in the dog show. 09269-5

the rain held off."

She added: "I would like to thank the volunteers and helpers for doing such a sterling job making the fair the success it was. It was very much appreciated."

It is estimated that the fair has raised around £9,000, which will help maintain the village hall and keep the cost of repairs down.



Jazz band in the beer tent.  
09269-6

included classes such as the scruffiest mongrel, the dog with the waggiest tail and the dog that looks most like its owner, caused

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Madeleine and Paul Rogers have fun with wet sponges! Picture order no: PD19-129-09.



The May Queen's young attendants. Picture order no: PD19-136-09.



Marian and Mel Barfoot with their country crafts. Picture order no: PD19-102-09.



Petersfield Lions with their charity buckets. Picture order no: PD19-103-09.



Emily and Rebecca have an ice cream. Picture order no: PD19-131-09.



Ely Barnes tries his hand at Splat the Rat. Picture order no: PD19-107-09.



Jazz was the order of the day at the country fair. Picture order no: PD19-135-09.

# All the fun of the country fair

Pictures by Katie Hill

By Sue Carter  
petersfield.herald@tindlenews.co.uk

A RECORD-breaking East Meon Country Fair has raised a magnificent £9,000 for its village hall – and there's more to come.

Held on Bank Holiday Monday, around 4,600 people turned out to support the traditional annual event on the village green.

The Quack Pack proved to be a crowd pleaser with several sheepdogs herding Indian runner ducks, as did Clydesdale heavy horses which demonstrated their logging skills.

Sheep shearing, crafts, lambs, a veteran car and a hog roast all helped to swell the funds.

Organised to ensure the village hall is kept in good repair and to keep down costs to community users, thanks have gone to the many volunteers who helped make the event so successful.

Publicity officer Anella Parker-Martin paid special tribute to Sasha Brooks and Tony Swayne and the 100 or so volunteers, among them many young people from the village who turned out to help set up the fair.

"It was nice to see so many young teenager volunteers," said Anella.



Joshua puts Max through his paces – or is it the other way round? Picture order no: PD19-113-09.



Alexandra and Oliver with Hamble the labrador. Picture order no: PD19-128-09.

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Regal poses at the East Meon country fair. Picture order no: PD19-137-09.



Sandra Barnes at work. Picture order no: PD19-100-09.



Brian and Moira Biggs with Emily Brown at the fair. Picture order no: PD19-112-09.



Claire Bartlett, the Lord High Sheriff of Hampshire, opens the fair. Picture order no: PD19-133-09.

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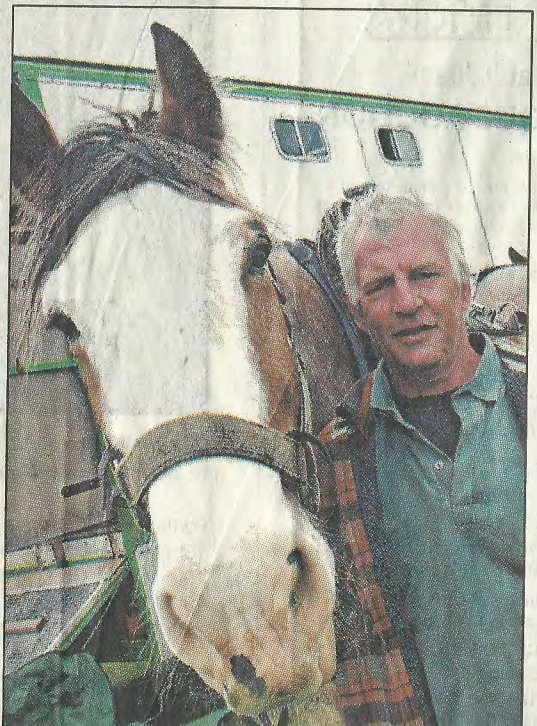
Callum and Hollie Sykes-Jones grab a bite to eat. Picture order no: PD19-134-09.



Alex, Indiana and Julie Alden enjoy the country fair. Picture order no: PD19-110-09.



Jane Sims of I Love Your Stuff. Picture order no: PD19-101-09.





# Village causes benefit from fun in the sun



Music maestro please! Picture order no: PD19-84-10 (www.petersfieldherald.com)



The human fruit machine is always popular. Picture order no: PD19-87-10 (www.petersfieldherald.com)



Jasmine Howarth and Blue the ferret at East Meon country fair. Picture order no: PD19-83-10 (www.petersfieldherald.com)



David Theobald and his dog Tess at East Meon. Picture order no: PD19-85-10 (www.petersfieldherald.com)



Tony Beardsmore and his Red Dorking cockerel. Picture order no: PD19-82-10 (www.petersfieldherald.com)

A BRIGHT Bank Holiday Monday brought out the crowds on the village green at East Meon to sample Hampshire's country heritage and raise money for worthy causes in the village.

Some 4,500 people attended East Meon Country Fair and helped to raise at least as much as last year's bumper £8,000 - which goes to support East Meon Village Hall and the village

cricket club, which is in the throes of building a new pavilion.

Attracted by a wealth of country crafts, traditional amusements and a variety of animals' arena events, the young people of the village also turned out in their droves to help set up and clear up after the event.

One of the most popular competitions was a children's tug of war with sup-

porters for both sides packing into the arena for an event which saw the under-11 girls beat the boys, and the over-11 boys triumph over the girls.

Other events included a fun dog show which attracted 135 entries with owners' four-legged friends winning everything from best child handler to best rescue dog, as well as competing in a dog obstacle course.



Another dog is put through its paces at the fair. Picture order no: PD19-92-10 (www.petersfieldherald.com)



Mazie the dog with Page and Kirstie at the East Meon fair. Picture order no: PD19-90-10 (www.petersfieldherald.com)



Rhys Ellis takes aim at the skittles. Picture order no: PD19-88-10 (www.petersfieldherald.com)



Natalie, Branden Abbie and Sophie enjoy an ice cream at the fair. Picture order no: PD19-89-10 (www.petersfieldherald.com)





East Meon Country Fair. ABOVE: Jumpin' Jez jumps a car in the arena. Sales no: 10299-1 ABOVE RIGHT: The East Meon human fruit machine (left-right): Velia Peacock, Dee Sloan, and Pam Brown. 10299-4



# High praise for fair

ALL eyes were on the skies above East Meon village green on Bank Holiday Monday (May 3), when famous stunt rider Jez Avery thrilled the crowds at the annual country fair.

Jez has broken countless world records on mountain bikes and is now performing his stunts on a motorcycle as well. He jumped over volunteers from the crowd, and soared high into the air on a series of ever steeper ramps.

by Mary Bishop  
mary.bishop@thepost.co.uk

There was also a wealth of country crafts for visitors to experience, a huge range of traditional games to play and a great selection of animals from local farms to make acquaintance with.

The ever popular dog show – a fun event that doesn't take itself too seriously – wowed visitors.

Sheep shearing, a wide variety of stalls, jazz and Appalachian dancers entertained more than 4,000 people who came to the fair, regarded as one of the South Downs' best traditional spring events.

The children's tug-of-war created quite a stir - with the under 11 girls winning their class and the over 11 boys winning theirs.

Organisers gave a particular thank you to all the teenagers who came out to help on the day.



ABOVE LEFT: Sheep shearing. 10299-3 ABOVE RIGHT: Benjamin splats a rat. 10299-2



BELOW LEFT: The dog show. 10299-5 BELOW RIGHT: Things get a little embarrassing for this young owner in the canine assault course in the arena. Sales no: 10299-6



Petersfield Post & Bordon Post reader offer

## TRAVEL TO LONDON FOR THE CUP FINAL FROM JUST £6

Pompey are in the FA Cup final and to celebrate, we've teamed up with Greyhound to bring you a great offer of half-price coach tickets to and from London between May 13 and 16.

They'll cost you from just £6 return. All you need to do is log on to [greyhounduk.com](http://greyhounduk.com), register your details, select when you wish to travel and enter the promotion code 'News' to claim your discount. Remember to cut out the coupon and show it to the driver when you travel.

Greyhound is laying on extra services and the journey time is just under two hours from Southsea (Clarence Pier), The Hard Interchange, Edinburgh Road and Rudmore Roundabout to London Victoria. You can also enjoy a complimentary newspaper, magazine, wi-fi, plug-sockets and plenty of legroom.

Greyhound is also offering £3 off each booking on coaches going direct to Wembley for the big match on May 15. There are special fares of £22 for adults and £15 for senior citizens/Under 16s. To book, call 0844 209 0190 (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm) and quote 'News'. You must also show this coupon to the driver when you travel.





## West of Petersfield News



Our pictures show there was plenty of entertainment to be had at the East Meon Country Fair on Bank Holiday Monday. The event was held on the village green. All pictures by Innes Marlow.



## Big crowd at fair

THOUSANDS of people came out to see the wonderful stalls and attractions at the East Meon Country Fair.

Bank Holiday Monday saw hoards of people ascending on the Village Green in East Meon to experience a taste of traditional country heritage.

The fair delighted the crowds with an assortment

of events, including a fun dog show, an eagle and vulture demonstration and the always popular May Queen procession.

Traditionally the May Queen title goes to the eldest girl at East Meon Primary School and this year Francesca Rogers got the crown.

Other winners of the day

were Monty, who won the fun dog show's Best in Show category and Best Child Handler went to his proud owner Ben Burton.

Anella Harker, who helped organise the event said: "The dog show was incredibly tough this year, we have never had so many entries and so many fantastic looking dogs."

The jazz band filled the arena with music and added to the fun-filled atmosphere.

All proceeds are being put back into the popular village hall to ensure all the clubs and societies of East Meon have improved facilities to use.

The estimated amount raised is around £12,000, a fantastic result said organisers.

## May Day fun continues at East Meon

East Meon is preparing for its annual country fair, which will take place on bank holiday Monday, April 2.

The traditional country fair is being held to raise money for the village hall.

Anella Parker-Martin, one of committee members said: "We're feeling really optimistic, it's always a very good day for children and grown ups.

"The whole village gets involved - it's really nice."

A May Queen procession will start the day off, followed by a performance of the Maypole dance by the children of East Meon Primary



School.

Traditional games and amusements will be played all day including a tug of war and a bouncy castle.

Music will be provided by a jazz band, and Appalachian dancers will be performing throughout the day.

New to the fair this year is Chris O'Donnell's 'Eagle and Vulture', which he will perform twice during the afternoon.

Audience members will have the chance to get up close with some of the big birds of prey in the show.

Even the pets can get involved as there will be a dog obstacle course and a fun dog show.

There are eight categories including dog with the waggiest tail, best child handler and dog most like its owner.

Anella said: "Some of the dogs are very good but others just don't do anything they are meant to and just run around."

"It really is quite hysterical."

A collection of farm animals will be at the fair and a local farmer will be giving sheep shearing demonstrations.

Plenty of refreshments will be available including homemade cakes and a hog roast.

The fair will be on the village green between 1pm and 5pm.

Organisers have frozen prices this year as they are aware of the rush of public holidays during the Easter period.

Admission to the fair is £3 for adults, £1 for children over five, and OAPs, the disabled and children under five go free.





## All dressed up ... to make the best of a British Bank Holiday

**T**he lack of Bank Holiday sunshine was not enough to deter Ellie May Swinburn, 2, from visiting the seaside yesterday — or from tucking into an ice cream.

Her rain suit and Wellington boots offered the perfect protection as she took to the beach in Bournemouth, which was the warmest place in the country yesterday, with temperatures of 15C (59F).

The blustery winds and



persistent rain ruined the breaks of many others, however, as village fêtes were abandoned and hotels suffered from cancelled bookings.

In East Meon, Hampshire, the annual village country fair, which usually attracts 4,000 visitors, was cancelled due to flooding.

The organiser, Anella Parker-Martin, said: "If we'd gone ahead, we'd have been pulling cars out (of the fields) until Christmas ... I wouldn't go to an outdoor event in this weather."

Today will bring some brief respite with dry and sunnier weather across most of the country, forecasters said. However, rain will return tomorrow and



Ellie May Swinburn, 2, buys an ice cream at the beach in Bournemouth, above; friends brave the damp at Brighton, left; the pickings are slim for

a worker looking for litter on the deserted promenade in Southsea, Hampshire, far left; and tourists try to stay dry in a punt on the River Cam

Thursday. Wet weather warnings have been issued for parts of southern England, where some places will have up to 50mm (2in) of rain — nearly the average for the whole of May, the Met Office said.

There is no sign of a prolonged dry period in the next two to three weeks, a spokesman added.





Indoor market at Froxfield village hall.

# Village fair is cancelled

Post  
May 2  
2012

by Jon Walker  
jon.walker@jpress.co.uk

**EAST Meon country fair has been declared a wash-out as the rain keeps coming down.**

The annual bank holiday Monday event attracts up to 4,000 visitors and just days before this year's fair, the threat of more bad weather has forced its cancellation.

Event spokesman Anella Parker-Martin said: "I think the committee knew when we met early in the week it wouldn't go ahead, and I would stress it hasn't just been postponed, it has been cancelled completely for this year. A bigger, better event will go ahead next year.

"The reason is the amount of rain recently - the village green where the fair is held is waterlogged, the parking fields are waterlogged and there's more rain due on fair

day. Trying to get hundreds of bogged down cars towed out of a field would have been a chaotic nightmare, and a wet, miserable, muddy fair wouldn't have been fun.

"It is very sad for everyone - visitors, stallholders and those providing entertainment."

Each year the fair raises around £10,000 to subsidise the village hall. East Meon Primary School also raises money by organising children's games.

Mrs Parker-Martin said: "Funds from the fair mean we can keep hire charges affordable so the hall is used.

"This is a real financial hit and we will have to organise other fundraisers at short notice.

"I imagine it will be a setback for the school as well."

Stallholders will be refunded and for more information contact organisers on 01730 823007, 07801266225, or e-mail anellap-m@tiscali.co.uk

# Country fair shelved for first time in its history

A COUNTRY fair near Petersfield has been cancelled for the first time in its history because of heavy rain.

Torrential rain and mud has forced the organisers of the East Meon Country Fair to

pull the plug on this weekend's show. Hundreds of people were due to attend the annual event on the village green this Bank Holiday Monday (May 7).

But Anella Parker-Martin said organisers

couldn't take the risk as the recent poor weather had turned the parking field into a quagmire.

She said: "The fields where we park the cars are totally waterlogged. We may get them in but there's no way we could get them out."

"We are really upset about it but we just can't risk it. It's the first time in our history that we've had to cancel the May Fair but safety comes first and we don't want people slipping and cars getting stuck."

The event would have included car stunts, dog show, animal displays, food and drink and live music.

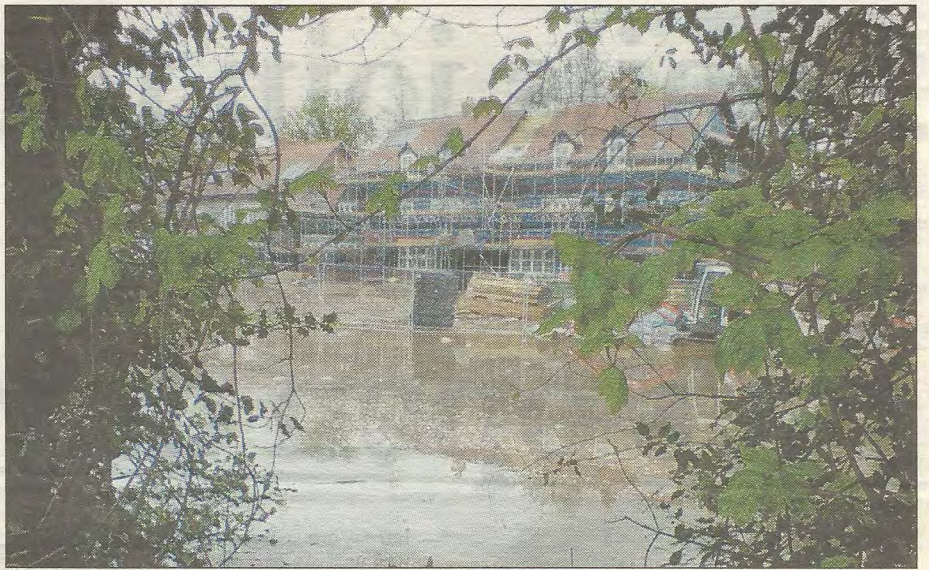
Mrs Parker-Martin claimed the cancellation is also bad news for the village hall, which benefits from the gate money.

"All the money we make goes to the village hall so it's really going to affect them."

"We could re-arrange but there's too much to do so we'll have just to wait till next May."







**LEFT:** The ford at Mill Chase Lane in Headley where the river Wey is very deep now due to recent heavy rainfall. Police are warning motorists to be careful after a man died at Headley near Newbury after trying to drive through a ford like this.

**TOP:** New development in Station Road, Petersfield flooded as Tilmore Brook burst its banks.

**RIGHT:** Alleyway off High Street, Petersfield, under several inches of water, as drains fail to cope with the downpour. Local businesses and residents say they are unhappy with having to wade through water to get to shops and entrances to flats.



# Counting the cost: more rain set for bank holiday

by Jon Walker  
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**EXTREME weather and downpours have caused chaos, disappointment, misery and anger in East Hampshire.**

And the spell of wind and rain shows no sign of letting up as forecasters predict unsettled weather across the bank holiday weekend and on into early May.

In Petersfield, debate over a new retirement homes built on fields known historically as water meadows has resurfaced after flash floods saw the estate's opening postponed.

Madeline Road overlooks the site and a resident said: "Extreme weather like this is exactly what government scientists are predicting for the future."

And the torrents have highlighted local flooding spots in town, such as the junction of High Street and Dragon Street, under the rail bridge near Amey industrial estate, The Avenue playing fields and scores of other places.

On Petersfield Heath, worries the lake had shrunk more than ever before have been eased by the rain, but concerns remain. Bailiff for the Heath Pond Association, Adrian Tipper, said: "The level was exceptionally low, and although it has risen this month by about five inches it is still lower than it should be, but it's looking better than it was and the fish haven't suffered."

In East Meon the deluges have forced



organisers of the annual village fete on the green to cancel it. The fete raises much needed funds for local causes and the money will have to be found elsewhere this year.

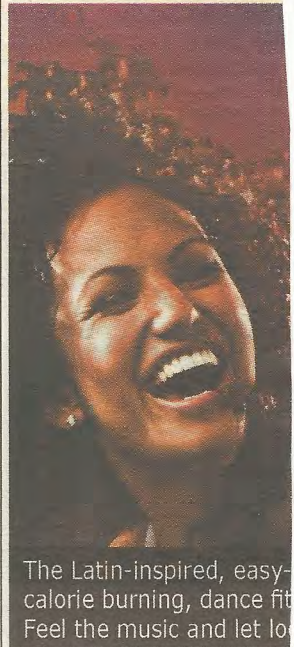
Fete spokesman Anella Parker-Martin said: "There is standing water everywhere in surrounding fields; we are being very emphatically reminded we live in a valley."

One business taking a bath is Justchaps equine clothing supplier of South Harting, who recently brought in around £10,000 of stock to sell at Badminton

Horse Trials. Four days before the five-day event was due to start it was cancelled for only the second time in its 63-year history, the first time due to the foot-and-mouth outbreak of 2001.

A spokesman for Justchaps said: "Owner, Helen Salmon, has been left reeling and her house is now overflowing with items she had specially made for the event."

Hampshire Police has issued warnings for residents to stay away from fast running rivers, and is advising drivers take extra care on wet roads.



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**Monday**  
6.30-7.30pm Grayshott

**Tuesday**  
6.00-6.45pm Memorial H  
7.30-8.15pm The Petersfi

**Wednesday**  
10.15-11.00am Forest Com  
7.45-8.30pm Village Hall, V