

Village turns out in force for East Meon Country Fair



EAST Meon's seventh annual country fair proved a fantastic success and a very popular event on Bank Holiday Monday.

The fair opened with the May King and Queen's procession.

Held in aid of the privately-owned village hall, the event managed to raise a substantial £5,300 that will go straight back into running it.

Two hundred villagers volunteered their services to the fair, which is around one fifth of the village's population.

"I think it is quite unique that so many people get involved," said chairman and treasurer of the hall

and fair, Pam Thorne.

More than 3,000 people were drawn to the event at South Farm, East Meon, to enjoy a dazzling array of attractions including 'Syrill the Squirrel and his Dancing Terriers,' a fun dog show, a falconry display, a horse and cart procession, music from the TS Tenacity Cadet Band, sheep shearing and a sheepdog display.

In the beer tent a jazz band played all day, there was also a skittle alley, while 29 stalls including bric-a-brac, toys and plants did a great trade selling donated items.



Above: The young entrants in the fancy dress competition. (Picture No. PD19-079-02)

Left: The TS Tenacity Cadet Band led the parade. (Picture No. PD19-076-02)

Right: Elsie Butler, Doris Plummer and Margery Lambert, collectively known as the human fruit machine. (Picture No. PD19-078-02)

Above right: The bouncy castle was a runaway success. (Picture No. PD19-051-02)

Far right, top: Face painting remained popular throughout the day. (Picture No. PD19-080-02)

Far right, bottom: The TS Tenacity Band played to entertain visitors. (Picture No. PD19-077-02)



**Pictures
by
Helen
Yates**

East Meon gets set for traditional country fair

EAST MEON

THE countdown is on for the East Meon Country Fair.

Sheep are being mustered, dogs are having a final grooming, vintage tractors are getting a last polish and cakes are in the oven.

For the third year running this very popular country event in the picturesque village of East Meon will be held on the first of the bank holiday Mondays, May 3, at Fair Field, South Farm, from 1pm to 5pm.

The country fair offers a range of arena events, country crafts, traditional sideshows, children's games, produce stands, a fun dog show and a variety of animals.

Anella Parker-Martin, one of the organisers, says that the continuing popularity of the East Meon Country Fair is due to the fact that it has retained its traditional character and has not become commercialised.

"The East Meon Country Fair has been held for many years now and we know that the ever-increasing number of visitors love the rural character of the fair and its appeal to the whole family," she said.

"Last year we transferred to

the idyllic setting of Fair Field at South Farm courtesy of the Atkinson family. This move proved such a success that we have decided to stick with the new venue for this year's country fair."

A continuous programme of arena events includes a sheepdog display, tug of war, Peterkin the Fool, the TS Tenacity Cadet Band, and - back by popular demand - Cyril the Squirrel and his Racing Terriers.

For children, there are lots of competitive games, face paint-

ing, clowns and a bouncy castle.

Wellie throwing, splat the rat, the human fruit machine, guessing the weight of the piglet and the crockery shy are just some of the sideshows that will appeal to all ages.

The inner man (or woman) has not been forgotten either with a beer tent and jazz band, a lamb, pork and hot dog barbecue, a tea tent and the opportunity to buy lots of home made cakes and produce.

Those with a gambling spirit will find plenty to boost the

adrenalin with the bottle stall, tombola, whisky raffle and the ever-popular main raffle.

Any dog owner will find a class to suit them at the Fun Dog Show, including the dog with the waggiest tail and the dog which most resembles its owner.

The East Meon Country Fair will be officially opened at 1pm. Tickets cost £2 for adults, which includes a programme and car parking, £1 for children over five, senior citizens and disabled people. Entry is free for children under five.



TWO of the organisers of this year's East Meon Country Fair, Anella Parker-Martin (left) and Sasha Brooks, getting into the country fair mood with their canine and farmyard friends. The women decided to get into the swing of things and set up their office on site at South Farm to finalise those last-minute arrangements.

Tradition is secret of village fair success, says organiser

TRADITION over commercialism is the key to the success of the East Meon Fair, according to one of the organisers.

Anella Parker-Martin believes it is attracting more visitors on the May Day Bank Holiday thanks to its rural character.

She added: "Last year we transferred to the idyllic setting

of Fair Field at South Farm, courtesy of the Atkinson family.

"This proved such a success that we have decided to stick with the new venue for this year's country fair."

The fair offers something for the whole family, including a wide variety of country crafts, traditional sideshows, children's

games, produce stand, a dog show and a range of animals.

There will also be welly throwing, splat the rat, the human fruit machine, guess the weight of the piglet and a crockery shy.

Arena events will be continuously running and include a sheepdog display, tug of war, Peterkin the Fool, the TS Tenacity

Cadet Band, and Cyril the Squirrel and his Racing Terriers.

The fair will be opened by the May Queen at 1pm on Monday and will be open until 5pm. Tickets cost £2 adults and £1 children over five, senior citizens and the disabled.

Contact Pam Thorne on 01730 823995 or 07711 969467.

Trade stalls shunned as village's fair revives traditions



A keen youngster tries to splat a rat at the fair.

A VILLAGE plumped for tradition over trade at its country fair.

Organisers in East Meon wanted to create a true country fair, with all the customary events and activities that have stood the test of time.

Visitors enjoyed chucking a welly, trying to splat the rat, and guessing the weight of the pig.

Anella Parker-Martin, one of the organisers, said the fair spurned trade stalls in favour of time-honoured traditions.

"People don't want trade stalls," she said, "they want cake stalls, bric-a-brac and books," she said.

"Even though the weather was disgusting, it still went extremely well.

"It was amazing how many

by Will Parsons

people came and they all had a fantastic time.

"The TS Tenacity Cadet Band played in the pouring rain and Cyril the Squirrel and his racing terriers, a band of performing Jack Russells, proved a real hit," she added.

All profits from the event, held on Fair Field, South Farm, went to the village hall.



Race track fun for these youngsters (above). The tug of war in full swing (left).



Appalling weather fails to deter country fair visitors



Emma Bailey with Snoopy the dog (PD19-46-04)



Matthew and Lucy Asbridge took cover from the weather under a colourful umbrella. (PD19-45-04)

EAST MEON

THE dreadful weather on Monday had little effect on visitors to East Meon's Country Fair and when the sun came out at 2-30 pm it was all systems go.

The car parks were full even though the May Queen spent quite a lot of time under an umbrella.

All the arena acts performed and were much enjoyed.

The hot dog stand did rather better than the beer tent and the outdoor games, particularly throwing the welly, were very well patronised.

In spite of a drop in the number of people coming through the gate the event still managed to raise £3,000 towards the running costs of the village hall. Right: Members of the Goldwing Club were at the fair. (PD19-44-04)



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Huxley in costume for the event



THE crowds came out with the sun for the East Meon Country Fair on Monday.

Visitors enjoyed arena displays, craft stalls, games and refreshments - and the chance to

meet some new friends. Ethan and Callum Trimby are pictured above with 35-year-old donkey Sullil.

For a full report and more pictures see page 7. (PD18-21-05)

New venue for country fair



A VILLAGE fair has a new venue - because 20 houses are being built on its old site.

East Meon country fair, which runs from 1pm-5pm, will be held at Fairfield at South Farm on Monday, May 5 - away from the usual Workman's Lane site.

Animals, displays, competitions, food, drink and a fun dog show will all be on offer. And there will be an exhibition of chainsaw craft by the Mighty Smith for the first time.

Entry is £2, with concessions, and proceeds will go towards village hall running costs.

For more details, contact Anella Parker-Martin on 01730 823007 or 07801 266 225.

East Meon's May princess Elisha Nash (centre) is pictured with her attendants, Adam Cross and Tia Reed.

P. POST April 30 03



Isabel and Izaak Mueller meet Biscuit. (PD18-16-05)



Visitors even learnt how to shear a sheep. (PD18-17-05)



Jake Waters tries out a glider for size. (PD18-19-05)

Lovely weather draws crowds to East Meon's country fair

LOVELY weather brought the crowds out for East Meon's Country Fair on Bank Holiday Monday, with more than 4,000 visitors enjoying the village event.

The fair was held on the village green and was opened by the East Hampshire district councillor for East Meon, Marjorie Day.

As usual there were a number of animals to make it a special day for the children. There were donkeys from the donkey sanctuary and lambs that were very happy to be stroked.

Visitors were invited to guess the name of a beautiful Jersey calf - it was Biscuit. They were also asked to guess the weight of a highly active piglet called Trotsky. Martin Richards was the winner, with 42.25 lbs. He was presented with a beautiful cake decorated with piglets specially made by 10-year-old

Daisy Atkinson.

The stalls were doing a roaring trade, particularly the human fruit machine - a unique form of having a flutter in which visitors might actually get three real bananas.

In the arena the Solent Dog Display Team drew appreciative applause, while a lot of other dogs and their owners were having a ball at the Fun Dog Show. Judge Isabel Lea from West Meon had her work cut out selecting the winners from a host of classes including the waggiest tail (a cocker spaniel), the prettiest bitch, the most handsome dog, best veteran, most like its owner, and best condition. The overall winner was Mrs A Biggs' lurcher.

The fair made more than £8,000 profit, which goes to support the village hall, a registered charity which provides a venue for the many clubs and activities of the village.



Above: Queen Elizabeth Country Park spinners Sue Jones and Joyce Harris. (PD18-18-05)
Below: Four of the Hot Five, who provided the music. (PD18-22-05)



Left: Kodi the wonder dog from the Solent dog display team (PD18-20-05)



News



The Human Fruit Machine (left to right): Maggie Alder, Elsie Butler and Pam Brown. 051317-1

East Meon Fair keeps cosy feel at new home



Henry Jones enjoys his ice cream. 051317-8

More than 200 volunteers made it and more than 4,000 people enjoyed it but East Meon's annual Country Fair still retained its community feel.

Held on Bank Holiday Monday, the traditional fair tried out its new surroundings on the village green.

Having previously been held on farmland outside the village, the new green, although a smaller site, provided a more cosy venue for the event, according to satisfied organisers.

Anella Parker-Martin, one of the organising committee, said: "It went extremely well. More than 4,000 people came, everything was full and everything sold out. It went wonderfully.

"It was a lovely atmosphere. There was a nice intimate village feel to it."

The fair, opened by East Hampshire district councillor Marjorie Day featured arena events, games, stalls and lots of things for families to see and do.

By Will Parsons
will.parsons@thepost.co.uk

The Solent Dog Team proved a howling success while everone put their backs into winning the tug-of-war competition. There was also a barn-load of farm animals for children to meet and pet.

A measure of the fair's suc-

cess, organised largely by Pam Thorne, Sasha Brookes and Tony Fry, is the £8,000 plus raised in aid of the maintenance of the village hall.

Mrs Parker-Martin said: "We had to replace the central heating and recently we bought a new sound system for it.

"We try and keep the rents deliberately low so we can help all the various groups who use the hall."



Terry Tidd helps Doreen Sheeley to play her cards right on the Petersfield Lions Clubs stall. 051317-9



Oliver and Laura Lewis, with mum Angela, meet Chloe the cow. 051317-6



Jean Leheup and Margaret Williams dance to the sounds of The Hot Five Plus One. 051317-4

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East Meon to hold its traditional country fair

EAST Meon's traditional country fair on Monday, May 2 is back in the heart of the village, on the village green off Workhouse Lane.

The whole village is getting ready to welcome visitors of all ages for the great day. Cakes are being baked, crafts prepared, farm animals mustered, including Trotsky the piglet - visitors can guess his weight - whisky and other prizes collected for the many games and attractions.

This year the continuous arena events will feature a falconry display, sheep dog trials and a tug of war, as well as the TS *Tenacity* cadet Band and a jazz band.

The organisers promise something for all ages. Among the attractions are face painting

and competitive games for the children; and for all ages skittles, throw the egg, chuck the wellie, a crockery shy and the ever-popular human fruit machine as well as the raffle, tombola and bottle stall, plus a display of vintage tractors.

There will be craft stalls, produce stalls, the cake stall and plenty to eat and drink in the tea tent, beer tent and the barbecue.

Even the family pet is welcome at the Fun Dog Show - there are several classes including waggiest tail and the dog most like his or her owner.

All proceeds from the fair go to support the village hall, a registered charity, which provides a venue for the many clubs and activities which take place in the village.

The fun starts at 1pm, and finishes at 5pm.

Herald 2005

East Meon May Fair fun for hall

FUN and frolics are in store at the May Day village fair in East Meon.

Now in its ninth year, the show hopes to attract thousands of visitors on Monday, May 1.

Event chairman Pam Thorne said: "There are only 1,000 people in the village but last year we had 5,000 visitors so you can see it's very popular."

The money raised from the event goes towards the running costs of the local hall.

The privately owned building

has to sustain itself rather than rely on council grants.

Pam said: "Last year the show cost almost £6,000 but raised a profit of £8,500."

Treats in store include a hog roast BBQ, live jazz band, craft stalls, a large beer tent and sheep shearing.

Almost everything on sale is home grown by local villagers.

Organisers are praying for fine weather but plans have already been made if the worst happens.

Pam said: "We did have rain

three years ago. We had to bring everything into the hall and carry on best we could. But we still made a healthy profit."

Over £5,000 is hoped for on the day which has already been earmarked.

Pam explains: "We are trying to change our heating system in the village hall which is our main project at the moment."

The fair is open to everyone between 1-5pm.

For more information ring Pam Thorne on 01730 823995



'Amazing Amanda' drags along two men and a chariot with her teeth. 061202-4

Fair draws the crowds

By **Oliver Harry**
oliver.harry@thepost.co.uk

The tenth anniversary of East Meon country fair was the most popular yet with a record attendance and bumper profits.

More than 3,000 visitors enjoyed the array of activities on the village green on Bank Holiday Monday and organiser Pam Thorne was delighted.

"People really enjoyed it and we made a profit of £9,000 - the biggest in ten years," said Mrs Thorne.

Lamb feeding, the tug of war and a barbecue were some of the most popular highlights of the day but it was the Solent dog display



Harry Snelgrove practises sumo wrestling. 061202-1

show which attracted some of the biggest crowds

"I would say we have about 180 village residents who helped out in some capacity with the fair - and for a village with a population of 1,000 that's not bad," said Mrs Thorne.

All proceeds will go to support the village hall, a registered charity which provides a venue for clubs and activities in the village.

"We are looking into getting a new heater to replace our old one so this money is a huge boost," added Mrs Thorne.

Other activities during the day included skittles, egg throwing, a bouncy castle, a tea and beer tent and live music.



The crowds watch some sheep sheering. 061202-8



Performance by Solent Dog Display Team. 061202-9

y on the local issues



Farmer Matt Atkinson from South Farm will have some animals on show.

Early taste of summer at fair

THE village of East Meon will welcome summer early this year by assembling a wealth of country crafts, traditional amusements and animals at its annual country fair.

Because of the Queen's golden jubilee celebrations at the beginning of June, the East Meon fair is on May 6 at Kews Meadow, by the village hall.

Clowns, music, Morris dancing, craft fair and trade stalls, skittles, coconut shy, sheep shearing, tug of war bouts and pony rides will feature. For the mechanically minded, a collection of

vintage tractors and traditional motor cycles will be on hand and for the younger generation a display from the Hants Bike Trial Club.

A fun dog show is being run for the first time.

The fair opens at 1pm with a parade led by East Meon's own May Queen and village children in fancy dress.

Tickets cost £2, including programme, £1 for children over five, OAPs and the disabled. Children under-five go free.

For more details, contact Anella Parker-Martin on 01730 823007.



East Meon Country Fair: ABOVE: Murphy waits his turn in the show ring, with Francis Rees, and her mum Rose Mitchell. p071120-1 RIGHT: The East Meon ladies' bric-a-brac stall. p071120-4



All the fun of the fair – despite rain

By **Oliver Harry**
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East Meon Country Fair braced the wind and rain for a successful Bank Holiday Monday.

Despite a burst of torrential rain, organisers were pleased with the number of visitors to the fair which was raising money for the village hall.

"Numbers were slightly down on last year," said publicity officer Anella Parker-Martin.

"But considering the weather, the people still came."

Only the tug of war was cancelled out

of the massive array of events and attractions because of the weather. "The falconry was again very popular" said Mrs Parker-Martin.

Other popular events included the ferret racing, gun dog display and Labrador rescue's show.

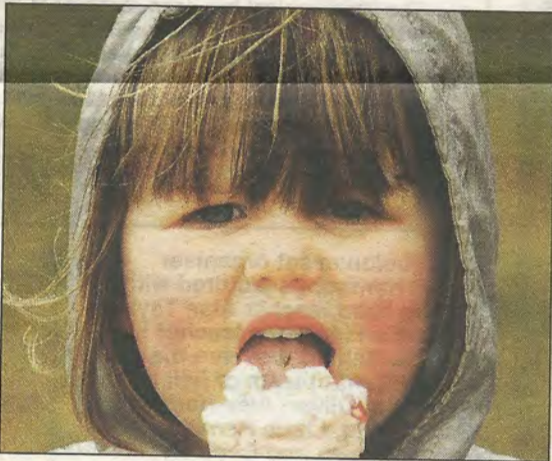
Activities such as skittles, egg throwing, raffles, a bouncy castle and assault course also kept people busy.

The proceeds of the fair – organised by Pam Thorne and Sasha Brookes – are still being counted.

"I would like to thank the organisers and the huge support we got from the village," said Mrs Parker-Martin.

"Every year the whole village turns up."

Agnes tries to lick her ice cream before it gets washed away by the rain. Sales no: p071120-3



POST, Wednesday, May 2, 2007 21

All proceeds will go towards the village hall, a registered charity that provides a venue for many clubs and activities in the village. Admission is £3 for adults and £1 for children over five. Parking is free. For more information phone Anella Parker-Martin on 01730 823007.



ing, ferret racing, a falconry display, gun dog display and the Labrador Rescue Team's amazing show.

The competitive amongst you can try your hand at skittles, egg throwing, coconut shies, a raffle and a tombola – as well as the fair's famous human fruit machine!

For the children there will be special games, a bouncy castle, face painting and an assault course.

An array of craft and produce stalls will also line the green.

Refreshments on offer include teas in the village hall, a beer tent, a barbecue and ice creams.

Music and entertainment will be provided by The TS Alacrity Band and the Jazz Band.

visitors the chance to meet Trotsky the pig, stroke the lambs, llama, and miniature Shetland ponies. Other attractions during the day include sheep shear-



COUNTRY FAIR: East Meon's traditional Country Fair returns to the village on Bank Holiday Monday. Just off the A272, the fair, on the village green, will give



Oscar, the bell-ringing llama. p071120-2