



AND THEY'RE OFF: This young jockey looks hard to catch

IN THE SADDLE: Young jockeys from Little Brook Equestrian in Newchapel

LOOKALIKE: Pets were compared to their owners in the dog show
Photos by Ian Stratton
REIS20150719E

Racing to victory in Donkey Derby

Fun day attracts thousands of visitors

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THOUSANDS of people trotted along to King George's Field for its annual Donkey Derby.

Adults and children alike enjoyed a day of fun in the sun with activities including a dog show, a classic car display and a birds of prey demonstration.

But the highlight of the day for many were the donkeys, and the crowds were kept entertained as several young jockeys from Little Brook Equestrian, in Newchapel, raced their diminutive four-hoofed friends throughout the afternoon on Sunday.

Popular

The derby has become one of the town's most popular events since it was reintroduced by the East Grinstead and District Lions Club in 2013 following an absence of more than five decades.

A car boot sale was incorporated into the programme for the first time this year, while other points of interest included stalls, a beer tent, children's rides and a Punch and Judy show.

Lions members Richard Maynard said: "I thought it was a great success and we certainly seemed to have more visitors than in previous years."

"The dog show in particular was very popular and the kids

loved the Punch and Judy show. The classic car display was a great addition this year as well.

"People were having picnics out on the green and it was a good family affair with something for everyone. We made sure we promoted it heavily by covering the town with leaflets in the weeks leading up to the event, and I think that helped to bring a few more faces along. It was very

pleasing from my point of view."

Organiser Brian Richens, also a long-serving Lions Club member, thought around 3,000 people attended the event.

He added: "We'd like to thank everyone who sponsored the seven races and the 49 donkeys, the jockeys from the equestrian club, Portland Vets for sponsoring the dog show, all our volunteers and Friends Removals for providing vehicles and a driver. We couldn't have done it without them."

The event helped to raise approximately £3,700.

Proceeds from the event will go towards charities and good causes supported by the Lions Club throughout the year.



MAY QUEEN: Sophia Spurgeon, 8
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THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT: Keeping the kids entertained with Punch and Judy

ALL SMILES: A family enjoys some ice cream

In Bloom judges tour the town to inspect displays



BLOOMING LOVELY: Members of East Grinstead In Bloom welcomed the judges

GARDENING experts cast an eagle eye over East Grinstead's floral displays as part of the annual South and South East In Bloom competition.

Judges Ruth Growney and Barry Newman were taken on a day-long tour of the town by members of East Grinstead In Bloom on Tuesday last week.

They were tasked with judging entries for the "town", "churchyard" and "allotment" awards as they patrolled the parks and pavements from 10.30am to 5pm.

Members of the East Grinstead In Bloom committee said they were pleased with comments made by the judges, who paid particular attention to the High Street flowerbeds produced by the town council, a resident's garden in Brook Close, the McIndoe statue, Sackville College and the Queen Victoria Hospital gardens.

Group chairman Julie Mockford said: "Everyone involved with the entry should be proud of what we have achieved. The town is looking wonderful and I am proud to be able to show the judges what we can do."



CLOSE INSPECTION: Judges Ruth Growney and Barry Newman inspect the flowers in East Grinstead
Photo by Kevin Shaw

Results of the judging will be revealed at an awards ceremony at the Amex Stadium in Brighton in September.

Meanwhile, there is still time to enter the East Grinstead in Bloom front gardens contest.

Participants must simply enter the address of their garden by calling 01342 322322 or emailing info@eastgrinsteadinbloom.org.uk today (Wednesday).

In brief

Water works to delay traffic

HORSTED KEYNES: The installation of a new water meter could cause delays to traffic.

Two-way signals will be in place in The Green while the two-day project is carried out from next Wednesday.

For more information, contact South East Water on 0333 000 0002.

Floral meeting

EAST GRINSTEAD: East Grinstead In Bloom's committee meeting will take place from 6 to 7pm on Tuesday, August 4, in the Mayor's Chamber at East Court.

For more information contact Julie Mockford on 01342 325552.

Natural history

EAST GRINSTEAD: An East Grinstead Natural History Society illustrated lecture will take place from 7.45 to 9.30pm on Monday, September 21.

The venue for the lecture is St Barnabas Church Hall on Dunnings Road.

The cost for visitors is £4.50 but that price includes refreshments. The topic for the lecture is Life On Tristan da Cunha - an island in the south Atlantic Ocean.

For more information contact Terriss Bacon on 01342 315051.

Council cuts

SURREY: Public services face a significant challenge in coming years as the council looks to "efficiency savings" amounting to millions of pounds.

That is the warning from county council leader David Hodge, who said cuts were putting certain key services at risk.

Councillor Hodge told a full council meeting last week that the council could not be expected to keep cutting and warned some services risked developing huge deficits.

The warning comes as council figures show that departments like adult social care are tens of millions in debt because of increased use without an increase in funding.

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