

Wokingham News

Thursday, May 9, 2013

60p

Part of the Bracknell News Series

bracknellnews.co.uk

[facebook.com/bracknellnews](https://www.facebook.com/bracknellnews)

Twitter @bracknellnews

email news@bracknellnews.co.uk



Ferret fun: Charlotte Kirkham, six, from Wokingham, with Purdey, a ferret from Hants and Berks Ferret Club at Wokingham May Fayre on Monday. 132394



Crowds: Visitors flocked to Wokingham town centre for Wokingham May Fayre on Monday. Denmark Street was shut to traffic. 132394

Sun shines on May Fair fun



Making memories: The stall of the Ollie Young Foundation, set up to raise funds for research into brain tumours in memory of six-year-old Wooshill lad Ollie. Pictured are Helen House nurse Andrew Jackson, and Barbara Young, Ollie's grandmother, with, front, Joanne Thornton and Sarah Hales. 132394

WOKINGHAM was alive with vibrant colour and excitement on Monday as thousands flocked to its annual May Fair.

About 25,000 residents filled the streets of the town throughout the day, taking part in face painting, ferret racing, wall climbing and shopping beneath the scorching summer sun.

Matthew and Katy Forde, of Reading Road, took three-year-old daughter Isabella along to see the 51 ferrets from the Hants and Berks Ferret Club.

"This is our first May Fair and there's just so much stuff to do," said Mr Forde. "I got roped into going on the tea cup ride, which was fun."

The stalls and activities were spread throughout Denmark Street – which was closed to traffic – and into Elms Field.

Wokingham town centre resident, Sue Gook, said the event had a great mix of stalls. The grandmother-of-two added: "Thank you to the people who organised the May Fair. There was

■ words **Alexandra Gregg**
■ pictures **Chris Forsey**
news@bracknellnews.co.uk

something for everybody." Simon Light, club secretary for the Crowthorne Musical Players (CMP), said promotion for the group's upcoming show – Fiddler On The Roof – had been well received and a raffle to pay for production costs raised about £300.

"Awareness of the play has been really good," he said. "And the big difference is at the May Fair last year we were using our marquee as a shelter from the rain, rather than the sun!"

With stalls from CMP, Circus Scene and Festival Faces proving hugely popular, 10-deep crowds also formed to watch a bevy of entertainment outside the town hall – from the Italia Conti Academy to Razzamataz Theatre School, among others.

Organiser Paul Baily, of Wokingham Lions, said: "It went brilliantly, we're really pleased." He added that



Stilts stop: Keith Thomas and his daughter Annabelle, five, from Finchampstead, meet stiltwalker Jack Stanford, from Circus Scene, at Wokingham May Fayre. 132394

they were hoping to raise between £10,000-12,000 for the charities WADE, the Ollie Young Foundation and Wokingham and District Citizens Advice Bureau.