

**Park life**

Dinton Pastures £500,000 play area opens **Page 10**

**Green oasis**

Howard Palmer Gardens gets a revamp **Page 21**

**Finger-picking good fun**

Guitar Fest returns to South Hill Park **Page 27**

# THE WOKINGHAM TIMES

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## 20th May Fayre is another hit

➤ More stalls line the streets

BY LAURA MILLER

THOUSANDS of people rounded off a sunny Bank Holiday weekend by heading into town for the 20th Wokingham May Fayre on Monday.

Market Place, Denmark Street, Erfstadt Court and Elms Field were packed as families enjoyed the day out organised by the Wokingham Lions Club, while helping to raise thousands of pounds for charity.

Stalls lined the streets offering tombolas, cakes and gifts while collecting donations for charities including the Poppy Appeal, Wokingham Foodbank, Ollie Young Foundation, Guide Dogs, and 1st Wokingham Scouts.

Paul Bailey, Wokingham Lion and fayre coordinator, said: "Every year it's getting bigger and bigger. Every year we are getting more stalls, more attractions and, gladly, more and more people.

"It's a lovely day and there is a wonderful atmosphere. It is a day for all Wokingham people."

He added: "Not only do the Lions collect quite a few thousand pounds, a lot of local charities also raised between £10,000 and £12,000 last year.

"The whole event raises a lot of money for charity."

Visitors were entertained with performances on the main stage in Market Place and in Erfstadt Court, while little ones were kept amused with Punch and Judy shows and a mini fairground on Elms Field.

The fayre now uses the second part of Elms Field across Elms Road where activities included a new flight simulator provided by the Air Training Cadets.

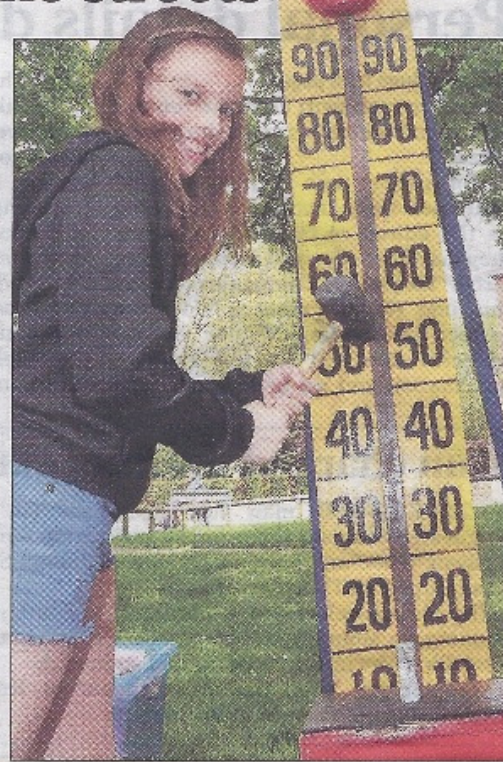
Vicky Hammond, of Wokingham, visited the fayre with her husband James and children Sophie, Katie and Joe.

She said: "It's buzzing. There are a lot of people around and lots of different types of stalls.

"It's a nice community event for everyone to get together and it has definitely grown over the last few years."

Brian Grimcs, who attends every year with his wife Eileen, added: "It's nice people have made the effort to put something on. If they make the effort, you have to support it."

The event is believed to be the biggest street party in the South East with around 20,000



Top, Alexandra Amaro, 12, tests her strength. Above, crowds enjoying the entertainment. BK201410692. Picture by Steve Smyth.

people turning up on the day.

Organ grinder Richard Kerridge has been entertaining visitors to the fayre for the last 15 years.

He said: "The people are so friendly, it's absolutely super. It is a wonderful atmosphere and I thoroughly enjoy it.

"People like it because there are a lot of stalls, different types of entertainment – it is a popular show and always has been."