

Organisers work until 3am to achieve...

# Better than fair start at Fordhall

A town farm which was on the brink of closure a year ago is now officially back on the map and celebrating its first family day event.

In just six weeks, Charlotte and Ben Hollins organised and hosted a Bank Holiday Family Fun Day at Fordhall Farm near Muller.

Hundreds of sun-seekers flocked to the 140-acre farm to see animals, try their luck in competitions, take part in a tug of war and wander along their new nature trail.

## Impressive

And the hard work has earned the Friends of the Farm an impressive £3,000 to help turn the farm into a tourist attraction.

Charlotte said: "We were astonished at the turnout.

"We'd been up until 3am and 4am trying to get everything sorted.

"We made lists and lists, and then lists about making lists!

"It was very hectic but to our surprise we had very little clearing up to do afterwards because lots of people stayed behind and helped us."

Visitors from as far away as London, Lancashire and North Wales descended on the farm, along with Draytonians, who showed there was life after the twice-cancelled carnival.



Charlotte said she was hoping to hold another event next year, but admitted they would use the extra time at their disposal to ensure it would be planned better.

She added: "We thought perhaps of holding a very low key mini-agricultural

event with a gymkhana."

"Everyone said they'd had a great time and we have got so much space here, it's ideal.

"Thank you to everyone who helped, particularly Sophie Hopkins, the Lions and the scouts.

"We couldn't have carried it off without their support and that of small local businesses."

● Anyone wanting to become a Friend of Fordhall Farm can contact Charlotte on 07989 820942.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Roddy Swain owner of the 1904 Marshall steam engine lifts up Callan Hyde to get a better view of the proceedings at Fordhall Farm.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Jeffrey Pollard wins first prize for the healthy eating poster competition. Mayor Dave Erwin presents him with his prize.

**BELOW:** Lions president Roy Cole and John Gunn pose with the teddy being raffled on the day. AVHB

## Motoring classics set sail at the Wharf

Classic car enthusiasts are gearing up for the return of an favourite in the vehicle calendar Thursday.

Organisers of the Triumph Classic Car Show at the Goldstone Wharf, just outside Market Drayton, say more than 100 vintage models will be on display at the event.

## Park offenders face £500 fines

The long awaited £100,000 Market Drayton

Opening

who stumped up a £50,000 grant through the Market