



East Grinstead & District Lions Club
(International Association of Lions Clubs)
District 105 SE England

WE SERVE

News Release

[Contact PRO](#)

3 May 2004

Weatherwise fairgoers rush in before the heavens open.

RAIN may have washed away an afternoon's fun at the May Fair but it didn't dampen the fundraising efforts of the East Grinstead and District Lions.

For the first time in the annual event's 26-year history, the Lions and fundraising supporters were forced to pack up their stalls at about 1.30 pm on Monday due to the torrential rain.

Lion Jim Miller said he thought fairgoers may have checked the weather forecasts and turned out early as crowds flocked to the town centre to enjoy the attractions in the morning.

Those who came before the lunchtime deluge were treated to the music of the Schwaz band, face painting, morris dancing and steam train rides.

But despite the wash out the Lions still managed to raise £4,500 for local causes - their usual total for the day is £5,000-£6,000.

Jim said: "I think they must have checked the forecast and said, 'We must go in the morning'. My wife was on the cake stall and that had sold out by the time the rains came.

Mr Miller thanked Crawley Down Garage for sponsoring the programme, which meant more funds raised could go towards helping local causes.

This year's beneficiaries include the Blond McIndoe Centre's Tissue Bank clean room appeal - the centre conducts research into plastic and reconstructive surgery for burns - and the West Sussex branch of 4Sight, a charity that helps the visually impaired.

The Full Gospel Mission Church, which ran the pancake stall, is hoping to reunite a lost teddy with its owner. The bear, which snores when squeezed, is at the church's office. If you know who it belongs to, call 01342 321132 (answerphone).

With acknowledgement to 'The Observer'.