



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

*WE SERVE*

# *News Release*

Contact PRO

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## **May Fair - 1 May 2006**

AN OVERCAST start to East Grinstead's 28th May Fair couldn't dampen the spirits of visitors to the annual event.

With rain clouds gathering over the town centre, it looked like being a quiet day for the charities and organisations that lined the High Street.

But the sun soon began to break out and St Swithun's Church bells rang as visitors started to pack the closed road.

Opening the fair and performing one of his last civic duties as town mayor, Cllr Bernard Gillbard said: "Today is such an important day for the Lions Club and for other organisations in the town. It is crucial people turn out and support it as well as they can."

A disappointing turnout saw only two youngsters vying for the May Queen position, but because they were only five years old, judges felt they were too young to take on the duties, so both Molly Cavanagh, and Milli McQuade, were given the title of May Princesses.

By lunchtime the town was packed and charities and organisations were, benefiting from the popular event.

Sackville College opened its doors to the public offering them a look round the historic building with the added attraction of an art and photographic exhibition.

Money raised from the day will go towards the repair and maintenance of the grade one listed building.

Raising awareness of the dangers of the sun was Harry Townsend who set up the Myfanwy Townsend Melanoma Research Fund after his wife's death. Sweet pea seeds, wristbands and ribbon badges raised some money towards the £250,000 total needed to set up a three year research project.

East Grinstead Football Club was also pulling the crowds in with an offer of a photograph with a replica world cup.

Crowds at the successful event enjoyed entertainment throughout the day with performances by Ashdown Forest Morris Men, teen group Menagerie, Choirpower and the East Grinstead Concert Band.

The town's Lions' President Roger Mead said: "We were fortunate. The weather changed just at the right moment."

The Lions' Club alone raised between £5000 and £6000 on the day.

With acknowledgements to East Grinstead Courier