

There was a rare glimpse of the sun just after noon on Saturday 18th June as the small and colourful opening parade made its way across the A8 to be greeted by the Mayor of Newtownabbey, Alderman Billy Webb, at the start of the Village Fair. The theme for the parade was based on the Cadbury's 'Spots v Stripes' community games' initiative and, while the 'Stripes' had the best dressed male in the parade, the 'Spots' certainly had the better banner!



The whole village came alive as hundreds of people gathered to take part in the long list of activities that had been planned for the day. The smell of sausages, burgers and onions on the barbecues was everywhere and there was no shortage of other food, coffee and scones, crepes,



fresh sandwiches and ice cream for the participants as they made their way among the myriad of stalls that were placed in the field, the Main Street and the car parks of the churches, the Ballad Inn and Jackson's the butchers. There was something for everyone: pony and trap rides, plants, bric-a-brac, tombola, cakes, local produce, cup cakes, strawberries and cream and chocolate fountains. Children were having their faces painted, their hairs coloured or arms tattooed and Dick Diamond, on his stilts, kept a watchful eye on everything from a great height!



Competitions

Those that wanted a chance to win a prize could visit the coconut shy, Treasure Island, hoopla, 'pop and pic', fishing for ducks and the bucket game while others who were simply interested in gaining points for their team queued up to take part in the free 'Spots v Stripes' challenges at their stall. Children from Ballynure, Ballyboley and Straid Primary schools also took part in a Spots v Stripes painting competition. On the day, the 'Stripes' (ie those living on the Village side of the A8) won the cup by 2328 points to 1981. The final outcome would have been much closer had there not been a 'stripey' hula hoop expert who gained over 300 points for his team on one go!



Thirty eight 'well dressed teddies' took part in the competition judged by Mrs Karen Rogers, Councillor Jim Bingham and MLA Danny Kinahan and the prize for the 'Most Original Teddy' went to Isaac Ferris for 'Jackson's Bob', complete with his butcher's outfit! The Ballygally Castle Duck Derby was more popular than ever and by the time the race started at 4pm, almost 800 ducks



were released into the river. William Stewart of Ballynure won the Primary School race, while the star prize of an overnight in the Europa Hotel went to Julie Wilson. The winners of the accompanying story, 'Where has my teddy been?' were Oliver Creighton, Sarah McMullan and Karen Currie.



The Ballyclare Colts U11 B team had a narrow victory in a penalty shoot out over Toberdowney Valley in The Soccer Shed's Five a side football competition. The pairs' indoor bowling competition, organised by the local clubs, was won by Wilma Park and Leslie Foster, who defeated David McAuley and Bertie Coulter in the final at the Methodist Hall.



Variety Stalls and Exhibitions

The Awlsortz Dog Agility display proved very popular and attracted a large crowd of dogs and spectators while the highlight for many was the Model Aircraft Display as the small planes rose into the air. Many others took the chance of seeing a bit of the history of Ballynure in the Orange Hall, the very popular slide show presented by Stephen Bell and Hubert Greer of the Historical Society as well as the display of vintage tractors, motorbikes and cars in various locations. The children were entertained by Carnival Promotions at a number of magic and cartoon shows and, of course, they enjoyed the inflatable rides in the car park and field as well as the rodeo bull in the Ballad Inn car park. Some were intrigued by the Police Car, the Motorbikes and the Fire Brigade. Members of the public got a free 10 minute health check from nurses representing the NI Chest, Heart and Stroke Organisation. Andrea, the local barber, went over and above the call of duty as she was dunked five times to raise money for charity at the Ballad Inn.



Entertainment

Entertainment was provided all afternoon in the Methodist Car Park and outside the front of the Presbyterian Church and many gathered to enjoy the musical variety provided by the Magheramourne Silver Band as well as Ballynure Primary School Choir, Gary Hanley and Derek McCrea, Raymond Anderson, Gerry McCarry, Amanda Robinson, Emma McCullen all of whom gave their services freely. There was a Ballynure LOL Lambeg Drumming display at the Orange Hall.



Photos by Philip Wallace

Charity

Many charity events took place in the Ballad Inn and Amara Aid had a stall outside the Co-op. Donations amounting to £650 from the car parking, inflatable rides and children's shows will be split evenly between the nominated charities, NI Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) and St Vincent de Paul

Tug of War

On Saturday evening, Ballynure & District Community Association, hosted their Annual Ballynure Open and Local Tug-of-War competitions in the Ballynure Church of Ireland Rectory field as the climax to the Village Fair activities on the Saturday. Despite the wet and cold evening, a sizeable crowd of spectators came to watch the competition. This year, the competition was extended to include a ladies' challenge and a children's competition with four teams. Five men's teams competed in the local competition.



The defending champions, Jackson's, were joined by teams from the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church, Castle Manor Heroes and another new team, Castleton Clydesdales. However, it was the reigning champions, Jackson's, who emerged victorious again, with the team from the Methodist Church ending the competition as runners-up for the second year in a row. The Ladies' competition was won by the Manor Babes, who defeated the Rascals.



The inaugural mixed children's competition was won by the Magic Monkeys, who beat the Thunderbirds in the final. A combined Milebush/Oldstone YFC team took on a local select team in the Open competition. However, the Milebush/Oldstone team were a man short and it told against them with the village select team winning both pulls. Once again, Ballynure & District Community Association would like to thank Newtownabbey Borough Council for their support, the Church of Ireland for their continued use of their Rectory Field, and, once again, the event referee, Willie Knox.

Praise 'n Picnic in the Park

The final event of the Fair was to be the Praise 'n Picnic in the Park but the heavy rain at 3.30pm on the Sunday meant that the event was transferred to the Methodist Church Hall where a reasonable number of people gather for worship with the local clergy, Rev Mark McConnell, Fr Eugene O'Hagan, Rev James Rogers and Rev Tommy Stevenson. The music was provided by AJM and a picnic and chat were enjoyed by all.

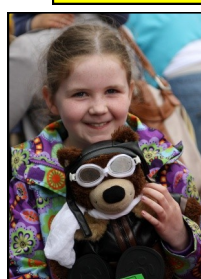
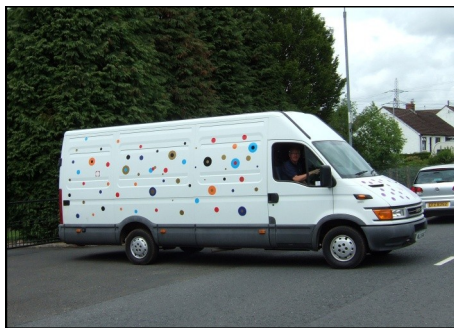
Financial Supporters

The organisers were indebted to Newtownabbey Borough Council for its financial and other support and the nineteen local businesses in Ballynure who sponsored the event.

A good time was had by all!

Ken Armstrong, Fair Organiser, receives the cup on behalf of the 'Stripes' from Peter Watson, Chairman of the Community Association





Ballynure Village Fair



Supported by



Newtownabbey Borough Council

Sponsored by

Ballygally Castle Hotel

The Ballad Inn

Ballynure Barbers

Ballynure Co-op Foodstore

Ballynure Blacksmith

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The Soccer Shed

Valentino's, Ballyclare

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Organised by

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Ballygowan Parish

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Ballynure Presbyterian Church

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Assisted by

Ballynure Historical Group

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Ballynure LOL 610

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