

# Mule derby proves a big attraction at Stock village's annual fundraising event

## Jockeys do donkey work for charity

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**YOUNG jockeys in Stock got under starter's orders at the village's ever-popular annual donkey derby.**

Around 800 enthusiastic villagers attended the event at Brocks Farm, on In-gatesone Road, which saw local children mount up their trusty steeds. As well as donkey races, strongmen from four village pubs competed in a tug of war and there were stalls, food stands and a licensed bar.

Organiser Martin Hardwick-Smith, events officer for local charity Brentwood Lions, said: "It was an excellent day and everyone really enjoyed themselves.

"It was a nice sunny day, but the wind really blew. The gazebos we put up were flattened by about 1.30pm, but it didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirits.

"The donkey rides were done by children aged 10 to 15, with the permission of their parents.

"The rides didn't produce any injuries, despite a few falls.

"Actually, it proved quite difficult to stay on and one race had only one finisher.

**By David Ainsworth**

off, and a few fell off. A few were thrown off when a donkey saw a nice patch of grass and decided to stop for a bite to eat.

"The Bear, the Baker's Arms, the Cock and the Stocks Bar all took part in a tug of war, and the Stocks won, for the third year in succession."

Other features included a

**"The wind really blew ... It proved quite difficult to stay on and one race had only one finisher"**

win-a-car competition, sponsored by Toomey Motors, which offered entrants the chance to win a car for a pound if they guessed the combination to a safe, plus a miniature train ride, a bouncy castle, a barbecue, a fully licensed bar and the chance to bet on the outcome of races at a tote stall.

The day raised around £2,500 for local cancer charities, including Farleigh Hospice, which looks after terminally ill patients in central Essex.

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