

A day to remember

By **Sandra Walls**

Picture action from Ferniegair Gala Day



FAST LANE: two-year-old Noah Meikle takes to the wheel in his formula one racing car.

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FUNTIME: Morgan McLaughlan enjoys the gala.

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FERNIEGAI Gala Day was dubbed a great success by organisers and was officially opened by South Lanarkshire Council's Provost Russell Clearie.

Over 200 people turned up on the day and the children made a great effort to get dressed up, accompanied by many mums, dads, grans and relatives who all came to enjoy the village gala.

The parade of fancy floats, spectacular cars and people in fancy dress, led by Stonehouse Pipe Band, left from Clyde Avenue and passed through the village and reached the Ferniegair football fields.

After the provost's opening speech, the crowd was entertained by Larkhall Highland Dancers who put on a brilliant performance, impressing the Danish Folk Group dancers '12 Tur' who also put on a show second to none.

Stonehouse Pipe Band played and danced the Hokey Cokey for the crowd, which was also a first time for everyone at the gala.

Fun rides, bouncy castle and giant slide, gladiators' jousting stall, a rodeo bull and disco by Steven and Stephen of S & S Entertainment were included in the fun-packed event.



VIPS & GUESTS: front, Provost Russell Clearie, and right, chairman of the Ferniegair Gala George Cunningham welcome their special visitors '12 Tur' Folk Group, who gave a spectacular performance in their national dress.

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Larkhall and Hamilton army cadets brought the climbing frame and assault course that the kids enjoyed tackling.

Free tuck bags were relished by the children and there were plenty of stalls to keep everyone occupied.

George Cunningham, chairman of the Gala Day committee, said: "It was a first-class day.

"We had a brilliant turnout

this year, and obviously want to keep the momentum going.

"It was a pity that the gala dance had to be cancelled due to the lack of interest.

"Maybe that is something that we can all focus on for next year, so that we can make the summer gala day celebrations even more special."

Thanks goes to Millar Stoddart from the Lanimer's Day

committee, Lanark, for his support.

There was no charge for any of the rides and activities at the event, which was all provided thanks to the gala's four main sponsors.

Special thanks for their generosity to Janet and Gary Sands from Larkhall, Sammy Rodgers Jr from Hamilton, Alex Nimmo from Newarthill, originally from Ferniegair, and Bett Homes.

George added: "The culmination of these four sponsors provided the children with a totally free day and we, the committee, can't thank these people enough.

"Thanks to the Ferniegair Gala Committee for all their hard work which made the day the success it was - "I'm proud of everyone's achievements."

Here are some of the pictures captured on the day.



TOP ENTERTAINMENT: Stonehouse Pipe Band piped and also played and danced the Hokey Cokey to the delight of the crowds.

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DRUMMING UP SUPPORT: Stonehouse Pipe Band drummers keep the beat and they march through the village and parade.

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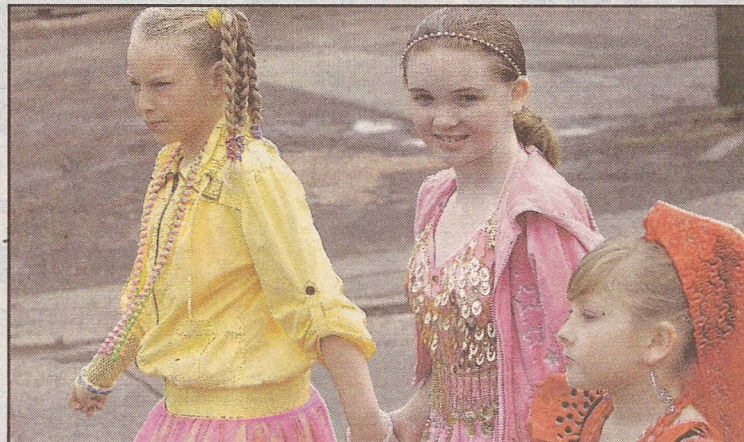
ON THE MARCH: Larkhall and Hamilton army cadets marching down the village. They provided brilliant fun and exercise with their climbing frame, abseiling and assault course.

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MAKE A WISH: the fairy princess is 18-month-old Chloe Good, great granddaughter of George Cunningham.

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DANCING QUEENS: from left, three girls dressed as a ballet dancer in a tutu, a belly dancer and a Spanish lady.

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DANISH STYLE: '12 Tur' Danish folk group dancers take their part in the parade before their brilliant performance.

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