

# Young Achievers at this year's Oulton Fete



• Cricketer Myles Coughland, Tai Kwan Do Champion Laura Horwell, County League Footballer Ellen Blanchard and Stone Tennis Ace Ed Straiton - Oulton's Young Achievers with Oulton Village Hall Chairman Barbara Palmer

Five young sporting achievers, one for each ring in the Olympic Games symbol, opened the annual Oulton Fete this year in the beautiful grounds of Oulton Abbey. The young achievers, who are all 18 or under, were Ed Straiton, county level tennis player, just returned from China where he was one of the Olympic torch bearers; Ellen Blanchard, Newcastle Town football player; Myles Coughland, Oulton First XI cricketer; Laura Horwell, Tae kwon do Northern Champion last year and Hannah Mellor champion gymnast.

The Stone Scout & Guide Band gave a rousing start to the afternoon which included entertainment by the acknowledged Unknown Group - Chris Smith, Matt Dawson, Jack Clegg and Aidan Willis, the singing duo - Alex Mellor and Melissa Potts, a fantastic acrobatic gymnastic display by Hannah Mellor and a tae kwon do display by the New Century Group.

Paul Molony's racing car attracted a great deal of interest - a 320bhp BMW M3 in which he achieved second in his class at both Brands Hatch and Silverstone earlier this summer - and some shining vintage cars were there for everyone to admire. At a slightly slower pace, David Hulse gave children rides on his model traction engine. Simon Blanchard was the referee in the penalty shoot out. A First Responders Team talked about their work.

There were games aplenty; a popular one was aiming wet sponges at the plucky Stone Army Training Corp cadets who took turns to be locked in the stocks. The Picture on a Plate competition had three joint winners, Isabel Dally, Verity Kingman and Holly Ward. A good assortment of stalls - produce, cakes, plants, good as new, cards, toys, plus raffle, secret auction, as well as teas & ice creams and a fortune teller kept people happy and entertained on one of the few sunny afternoons this July.

The Fete organised by Oulton Village Hall Chairman Barbara Palmer and the Committee raised £1,400 which, with the £400 raised the previous week at a Hog Roast and Jazz Concert at the Village Hall, will pay for recent repairs to the hall roof.

All pictures courtesy of Martin Robinson



• A dazzling display of Tai Kwan Do from the New Century Group



• The Unknown - Oulton's resident and ever evolving indie band.



Top:-  
• Dancers from Christchurch Middle School perform their routine



Left:-  
• Racing Driver Paul Maloney's Car gets the once over by by one of Oulton Abbey's would be "racing nuns"!



Right:-  
• The young gymnasts from South Staffordshire give a scintillating display