

Family fun at the heart of gala day

Thousands raised for Each Help at Home Appeal



Lisa Thompson from the Ely friends of Each. Above, a face painter in action

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Hundreds of families enjoyed all the fun of the fair at Milton Gala Day on Saturday.

The event at Milton Hall, supported by Cambridge Round Table, is estimated to have brought in between £5,500 and £6,000 for East Anglia's Children's Hospices (Each).

Among those providing a carnival atmosphere were the Arco Iris samba band and Cambridge Cobras Cheerleading Academy.

There was a range of stalls and activities, with animals from the College of West Anglia, street science from Cambridge Science Centre and archery from the Rambling Weasels.

Refreshments came in the form of a barbecue and bar, plus cream teas from Milton Women's Institute in the church hall.

Karen Newton, Each's fundraising manager for Cambridgeshire, said: "We were lucky with the weather and there was a steady stream of guests

throughout the day. It was very pleasing to see so many smiles on so many faces.

"A big thank you to everyone who came along, our fantastic array of stalls and entertainers and all those who volunteered."

The *Cambridge Independent* is running an appeal with Each to raise £87,500 to establish the charity's Help at Home service, which will provide support to Cambridgeshire families. Money raised at Milton Gala Day will be put towards the appeal.

It has recently received a significant boost courtesy of Thriplow Daffodil Weekend organisers.

The popular event was staged for a 49th time in March and attracted more than 11,500 visitors. Their contributions totalled £9,400 and Each was presented with a cheque by organiser Paul Earnshaw.

Karen said: "This is a major help towards the £87,500 that will match caring individuals with our families to provide practical support such as cooking, driving, cleaning and gardening. We hope more individuals and organisations will join the Thriplow Daffodil Weekend organisers in getting us to our goal."



Main picture, Polly West, community fundraiser at Each, runs a competition to guess the name of the bear. Top, Honey Baldwin has a go at the archery. Middle, Clare Essex from Cambridge Science Centre

Pictures: Keith Heppell



A summer night's dream: The Bard in the garden

The 30th anniversary programme for this year's Cambridge Shakespeare Festival features 163 performances of eight plays in seven weeks. **Gemma Gardner** talks to artistic director Dr David Crilly.

Running for seven weeks, the annual Cambridge Shakespeare Festival – which this year gets under way on Monday (July 10) – continues to be a hit with fans looking to discover the best of the Bard's plays.

This year's 30th anniversary programme includes such classics as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet* and *Romeo and Juliet* performed in the idyllic settings of the gardens of the colleges of the University of Cambridge.

Imperceptibly, time passes from a glorious summer evening to dusk and then to night. The moon rises to provide additional lighting in a way that no theatre could match.

During the festival, there will be 163 performances of eight plays between July 10 and August 26.

Artistic director Dr David Crilly told *Cambridge Independent*: "It's a perfect way to spend a summer's evening. The gardens that we perform in – for example, King's College and Trinity College gardens – these places aren't open to the public at any other time and so they're very special places.

"The idea of spending an evening in one of these beautiful spaces, watching an open-air production, bringing a bottle of wine and a picnic blanket... it's perfect.

"People have asked if we're doing anything special this year but actually we're doing eight fully-staged productions – we do something special every year," he said. "I couldn't think of a way we could make it any bigger to celebrate the 30th year. It will be as spectacular as ever."

Dr Crilly explained: "In 30 years, we've never had any sponsorship or funding, the festival stands entirely independently of everything else and it pays for itself. There are very few theatre companies in the country that can exist in the way that we do."

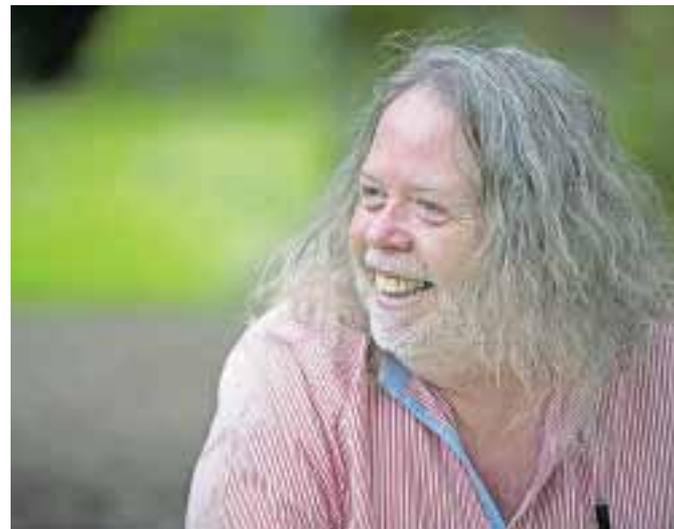
Dr Crilly, who will direct *Much Ado About Nothing*, established the Festival Company in Oxford in 1988 while still a member of Magdalen College, where he undertook doctoral research in musicology.

He is a composer and has performed on many occasions as an orchestral conductor in Cambridge. He has published on semiotics, music analysis and aesthetics, and on the music of Britten, Debussy and Charlie Parker. For 18 years he was director-in-residence for Anglia



Rehearsals in King's College Fellows Garden of *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by artistic director David Crilly, right

Pictures: Keith Heppell



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Dr David Crilly,
artistic director,
Cambridge Shakespeare
Festival

Opera. He is also an independent researcher in music and drama and recently returned from lecture tours of India, Oman, Jordan, Namibia and South Africa.

How hard is it to programme the festival, which delights audiences with vivid and spectacular performances that are performed in full period costume with live Elizabethan music?

"There are three strands: personal choice, getting a balance between the comedies and the tragedies, the history and Roman plays, and the other is business.

"We need a balance between those kinds of plays which aren't performed very often and are not crowd pullers which we won't neglect, and those that are likely to pay for themselves, so we do a mixed bag.

"It's a complex equation which

brings together all these strands and interests into one thing. We want to make sure it works artistically, financially and that there is a breadth of choice to suit everybody."

And Dr Crilly's pick of the programme: "My favourite this summer is *Much Ado About Nothing* because that's the one I'm working on but if I was working on one of the others, that would be my favourite. It's the one I'm immersed in at the moment."

The festival will again raise money for East Anglia's Children's Hospices in Milton. To date, it has raised £83,500 and organisers expect to exceed £90,000 with this year's event.

Cambridge Shakespeare Festival is the perfect answer to a summer's evening in the city.

