

Fun day with a little magic

by Annette McIntyre

Sunshine and a little Harry Potter magic helped bring out the crowds to a combined Rawdon Fun Day and Walk of Smiles.

Visitors enjoyed clear blue skies at the events which were raising money for Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Tommy's and Bethany's Smile.

And actor Matthew Lewis, who played Neville Longbottom in the blockbuster movies, turned up to support the event in his role as patron of Bethany's Smile, which raises money for the care of children with terminal and chronic illnesses.

The Walk of Smiles was the fourth organised by 13-year-old Bethany Hare, who began fundraising with a Charlie Chaplin style video at the age of ten. Since then she has raised more than £38,000 to help sick children.

Bethany's mum Yvonne said: "Everyone who took part had a wonderful time and the Rawdon Fun Day was a huge success. It was the busiest event they have had so far."

She added: "Matthew Lewis was the perfect Patron as usual. Although he was extremely busy with a rehearsal, he came out to send the walkers off and also made a wonderful speech afterwards at Rawdon Fun Day about Bethany's Smile. He then stayed around signing DVDs and autographs and having photographs taken with people."

MP Stuart Andrew also made a speech at the event and Bethany and her charity group B Cubed performed.

The Yorkshire Air Ambulance turned out to the event and entertainment went on into the evening with bands including girl group Voxe and Roadsight Light.

With an impressive turn out at the fun day the beer ran dry just before the end of the evening and volunteers had to go out several times during the day to get more champagne.

Yvonne said: "The Rawdon Fun Day team definitely deserve some kind of award for all the hard work they put in to organising this event, with the committee taking a week holiday, minimum, from the annual leave at work, to get everything ready, and some of them even sleeping at the field for days to make sure that all the equipment and tents are kept safe."



Youngsters in fancy dress ready to set off on the Walk of Smiles from Redbeck Field in Rawdon



Enjoying the sun and events on offer at Rawdon Fun Day



MP Stuart Andrew with Bethany Hare

