

Pooches enjoy the fun on a busy weekend

Mark Smith, South Wales Echo 4 July 2011

A WEEKEND of glorious sunshine saw revellers turning out at events around South Wales in their thousands.

A fair and dog show at Hailey Park, Llandaff North, was a great success, with dozens of dog lovers and their pets going along to the free event.

Meanwhile, Machen Show celebrated its 70th anniversary with visitors from around the UK. The four show rings were occupied by the horse classes, while Machen also hosted the Pygmy Goat Club National Breed Show. And there were also cider making demonstrations, anvil forge blacksmithing and a display by the Severn Area Rescue Association. In Bridgend, hundreds of walkers took part in the annual Mair's Walk in aid of Velindre's Stepping Stones Appeal, led this year by Maesteg-born weather presenter Sian Lloyd. The walk started at 11am from Bridgend Recreation Centre and ended at Ogmore Farm, via Merthyr Mawr, where an afternoon of fun and entertainment was had by all.

Back in Llandaff North, rosettes were awarded for most handsome dog, best junior handler and best trick. Other top attractions included a cinema tent, stalls and organised graffiti sessions on Wales' largest graffiti wall – just a minute's stroll from the play park and bowls centre.

On Saturday evening, entertainment was organised at the adjacent Boiler Room centre with live bands playing to a packed crowd.

Penny Bowers, Chairwoman of resident group Friends of Hailey Park, said: "We wanted to do something slightly different this year. We wanted to create this joint event to dispel the problems of Asbo children and irresponsible dog owners.

"We need to redress the balance and show people the good work of organisations in the area."

Llandaff grandfather John Ackins, along with his wife Angela, took their great dane Digby to the event and entered him in the Most Handsome Dog competition. The couple said the day was a fantastic outing for their six-year-old granddaughter.

Mr Ackins, a retired butcher, said: "It just shows how many people around here are dog owners.

"It's fantastic weather – we couldn't have asked for better."

Friends of Hailey Park is made up of volunteers who help to conserve the park along with Cardiff council.

They are looking to raise money to refurbish the park's pavilion.



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