



STONE THE CHOWS: A scarecrow station master waits at the station while this smart



couple wait for a lift to the races. Guides from the 8th and 11th King's Lynn companies got a new recruit, and the favourite in the Wollerton steeplechase was doing well ...

Strictly not hosts right

By RETH MANNING

Worsled Gumsdridge may have been the first scarecrow to achieve celebrity status. But in a picturesque corner of the Norfolk countryside this weekend, dozens more were soaking up life in the limelight.

The Wollerton Scarecrow Festival saw them dressed up in every possible guise.

There were scarecrows up ladders, climbing windows and riding tractors.

Scarecrows saving their ingredients, digging holes and having a drink.

One poor fellow had sent a sorry and after a squabble with his lawn mower.

Another's leg protruded from a hedge after "another good night at Wollerton Social Club".

Hundreds of visitors descended upon the Royal Norfolk estate at Wollerton over the weekend to witness the spectacle.

It was the culmination of months of hard work by villagers to raise much needed funds to repair their church roof and breathe life into their ailing social club.

Marjory Jones, a member of the scarecrow festival committee, said plans for the weekend had been hatched last year and involved almost every household in the village.

"We are only a small village, we only have about 50 houses here, and it has been a real village affair," she said.

"It has meant the village has pulled together and we've all got to know one another."

Earlier in the year, villagers were given the opportunity to attend a special scarecrow competition held by farmer Keith Larrington.

There they learned essential scarecrow-making techniques and the confidence to come up with their own unique creation.



Scary Potter waits for the Hogwart's Express.

The result is more than 30 scarecrows, scattered in gardens and houses along a mile-long trail through the village.

The walk ends at the village green, where visitors can enjoy refreshments, traditional village games and pony rides.

A gone to guess the scarecrow's birthday has already attracted more than 50 contracts with visitors in line to receive a top scarecrow knitted by parishioner Betty Woodhouse.

Mr Jones said 2000 was raised on the first day alone and many more visitors were expected today.

The money raised will be split equally between Wollerton Social Club, the Air Ambulance and St Peter's Church, a popular venue for members of the Royal Family during their visits to Sandringham.

"It is an exciting for all of us and obviously none of us know what the others would come up with," said Mrs Jones.

"But the pleasure people seem to derive from this is one of the best things about it."

The scarecrow walked in open between 10am and 5pm. Entrance to the trail is £1.50 for adults and 50p for children.

LAZY DAYS: A scare here takes a break from his duties.



for the birds as village royal scarecrow festival



COUCH: A young visitor investigates a rather sorry looking accident that has befallen one of the scarecrows at the event.