

# Festival carries on regardless of rain

MISERABLE weather kept the crowds away from the Nayland Festival on Saturday but the programme went ahead as planned with villagers making the best of the wet afternoon.

The festival is expected to raise just over £1,000 for Nayland Community Council funds. Co-organiser Mr. Alan Cropper said despite the weather the festival had achieved one of its major objectives in that local people had enjoyed themselves and turned out to support the event.

Several hundred villagers attended a successful barn dance in the village hall on Friday and Saturday's non-stop programme was opened by Mr Gerry Battye, chairman of the parish council, with interruptions from Scragtag, the BBC TV cat, and his 'minder' Marcus Kimber of Bures.

The opening was accompanied by a quarter-peal from St. James's Church bells.

Five It's a Knockout teams carried on with their races regardless of the downpour and the eventual winners were Nayland Rangers, with the Jane Walker Hospital team second and Leavenheath Lion third. The trophy for the event was donated by Susan and Terry Atkins of Hattens Stores.

Pledge auction items included a visit to Prime Minister's question time in the House of Commons, given by South Suffolk MP Tim Yeo.

A Victorian carousel complete with prancing horses, music and lights proved popular with children and there were also puppet shows and races.

The festival ended with a sell-out music hall variety show, Those Good Old Nayland Days, staged by the Village Players, who also laid on supper.

Winner of the top draw prize, a microwave oven, was Mrs Ibbly Brunson of Stradbroke.



Soaking wet but still cheerful, Julie Harris and Garry Thorogood helped Leavenheath Lion team to third place in the It's a Knockout races.



Nayland Handbell Ringers gave two demonstrations in St. James Church.