

Event:

Crowd of 27,000 at Harrogate 1940s day

By **ANDREW WRIGHT**
Reporter
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A stunning crowd of 27,324 people enjoyed the Friends of Valley Gardens 1940s Day.

A flypast by a spitfire and hurricane wowed crowds at the Valley Gardens event.

The day featured military vehicles, children's activities, stands of the past and present era, a beer tent run by Hale's Bar and food stalls.

The Yorkshire Building Society ran the Cake Stall and Harrogate Mumblers the Tombola.

The bandstand provided music and entertainment throughout the day.

Major Swing and his wife Kitty compered and provided vintage music.

The Echo42 Swing Band led by Paul Mayo returned after a highly successful performance at last year's event, vintage tribute singer Cherie Lawrence made her debut appearance, and the Harrogate Phoenix Players complemented the bandstand programme.

Friends of Valley Gardens Chairman Jane Blayney said: "A marching band led by Captain Mainwaring alias Tom Roberts followed the Mayor of Harrogate Coun Jim Clark, Mayoress Coun Shirley Fawcett and the child evacuees to the bandstand.

"Tilly Haslewood presented a pot plant to the Mayoress.

"Sweets were then distributed to the 'evacuee' children those in the audience.



The Mayor of Harrogate Coun Jim Clark tastes the water at The Old Magnesia Well Pump House with Jane Blayney, The Mayoress of Harrogate Shirley Fawcett, Martin Fish, Anne Grange and Robert Grange (14062291AM2).

"Following the opening the brilliant Phoenix Players entertained with songs and dances to a packed audience.

"Military, vintage and traction engines were on display and for the children two donkeys reminding some of us of our childhood.

"Molly Dancers performed at the Pump Room.

"The afternoon was filled with 40's renowned singer Cherie Lawrence and Echo Four Two Big Band of extensive repertoire, film and local fame performed as a 1940's Wing Dance Band.

"All had a good day and some of the picnickers 'upped' the standards by bringing their tables and candelabra!

"The day finished with dancing and the National Anthem."



Entertainer and comper Major Swing (14062291AM9).



Susan Cartwright-Smith with sons Harry, 7 and Arthur, 10. (14062291AM5)



The Harrison Party (14062291AM7).



Members of The Phoenix Players (14062291AM4).

PICTURES BY ADRIAN MURRAY



The Echo 42 Big Band (1406291AM12).



Louise McDonagh with her admirers Tom Gray, Peter McDonagh and John Gray (14062291AM6).



+ Pat Scott, Elaine Scott, David Bentley and Samantha Bentley(14062291AM7)



(14062291AM8).