

BRANCEPETH AND NEPTUNE

A fete was held Brancepeth Castle on Saturday July 11th 1983 in aid of the Neptune restoration fund. The occasion was organised by the City of Durham Trust with much appreciated help from Beautiful Britain, particularly Mrs. Ainsley, from the Ladies Luncheon Club and Business and Professional Women, especially Mrs. Hayter and Mrs. Gascoigne, from the Mayor and City Council and the City Planning Office, particularly Mr. Scott and Mr. Roberts. The setting was perfect, the weather idyllic. The morris dancers and the Aycliffe band added greatly to the enjoyment of the day. Two 'first' performances made the day a memorable one. In the morning a song for Neptune composed by Gerry Caley was sung by him at the opening ceremony performed by the Mayoress. During the afternoon the young members of Gilesgate Junior School History Club under the leadership of Miss C. Martin gave the first public performance of their play for Neptune. The enthusiasm and dedication of these charming young people was a credit to their parents and teachers. The parents earned a special word of praise in the provision of morning coffees and afternoon teas.

The Armoury Hall and Entrance Hall were full of stalls offering a wide variety of crafts - glass engraving, bonsai, knitting, weaving, herbs, ironwork, embroidery, traditional quilting, pottery and third world crafts were all represented. Fairground roundabouts and side shows added a bright splash of colour as well as catering for the younger visitors.

The fete required a considerable amount of background support and a special word of thanks must be given to the police who so courteously and efficiently directed traffic, and to the St. John's Ambulance who, like the police, were on duty all day. The Trustees would also like to thank all members and friends for their help both before and during the day of the fete. It would be pleasant to list the names of those who helped but one hesitates to do so for fear of omitting one who should be included, but the help we received was most appreciated and we thank each and every one of you.

After deducting expenses, the profit given to the Neptune appeal was some £1100. It was hard work but worth it to see so many people enjoying a pleasant day out in such a splendid setting.

J.H.C.