

CROWD CHEERS ON ROTARY CLUB'S POOL EVENT



■ Caring bunch – the sponsored swimmers

Pictures: MAXINE CLARKE BA54542_01

Swimmers take a dip to help fund smaller charities

CROWDS turned out to cheer on 46 swimmers in a charity swimathon.

The Rotary Club of Basildon Concord staged the event, which saw teams battle it out for their chosen charities, including the Daisy Palmer Trust and the Karis May Darling Foundation. The swimathon took place at the Basildon Sporting Village, off Cranes Farm Road.

The proceeds from the event are still being counted up. Danny Lovey, president of the club, said: "We had nine teams turn out. It was our first ever

By MELISSA HILLS
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swimathon, and we were very pleased. "We achieved what we set out to do, because we wanted smaller charities to come forward and use the event to raise funds. "We are hoping to put on the event again next year, so it will be bigger and better. It was a great event that was lots of fun."



Six teams turned out to support the Daisy Palmer Trust.

Daisy, seven, who is a pupil at Great Berry Primary School Langdon Hills, was in the crowd to cheer on her family and friends.

Daisy has a life-threatening condition, which prevents her from eating. As a result, she is hooked up to a feeding machine 18 hours a day. Daisy's older sister Megan, 13, who swims for Basildon Swimming Club, also

had a team with some of her friends.

Daisy's dad, Damon, pictured left, 40, of Burr Close, Langdon Hills, also took part. He said: "The whole day went well. We were really well represented. Daisy was in the gallery and she loved it.

"It was a great event and we had a great time." The Karis May Darling Foundation was set up in the memory of Karis, from Corringham, who died in April last year at the age of 12 after contracting streptococcus A bug.



■ Daisy Palmer with Rotary's Danny Lovey BA54542_01



■ Tag team – Bethany Richardson takes over from Lillie Houlton BA54542_10



■ County champion swimmer Brooke Frost, 11 BA54542_15

Youngsters are in top gear



■ Engine studies – Andy Fells from Ford talking to pupils from Ryedene School BA54552_008



■ Instruction – Ford's William Hughs and Andrew Booth talk to pupils Picture: MAXINE CLARKE BA54552_012



■ Fun – Grace Jordan BA54552_005

By EMMA PALMER
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BRIGHT sparks proved they were revved up about engineering when they designed their own vehicles for a competition.

Children from 25 primary schools across Basildon spent time working with engineers from Ford Dunton, to build their own imaginative cars, trucks and emergency vehicles. Pupils from eight shortlisted schools then showed off their creations at the "Primer Engineer" final evening held at the James Hornsby High School, in Laindon.

The event was organised by Best – Basildon Education

Primary pupils create their own engines for competition

Services Trust – a charitable organisation set up to support schools in the borough.

Ford also helped organise the event, to get more five to 11 year olds to use and enhance their maths, science, physics and technology skills.

Patrick White, director of Best, said: "I wasn't just chuffed, I was absolutely amazed at the standard of entries designed by our young pupils.

"We had sports cars, fire trucks, ambulances, police cars – you name it – on show.

"I think the children could show car designers of today a thing or two about their jobs. "This was the first time we have held this competition together with Ford Dunton, but

You never know, some of these youngsters could be the Ford or Ferrari designers of the future

it certainly won't be the last. "We will be looking to make it an annual event. You never know, some of these youngsters could be the Ford and Ferrari designers of the future."

A team of budding engineers from Ryedene School in Vange triumphed with three awards, while Fairhouse, Ghyllgrove, Northlands, Phoenix and Greensted primary schools were among those who also wowed the judges with their engineering entries.

Patrick added: "We are really grateful to the large team of engineers from Ford Dunton who went into schools to spend time working with the children, and to the many parents who came along to the final evening to support the pupils."



■ Adviser – Andy Fells from Ford BA54552_010



■ Animal emergency – Shannon Ward and Katie Taylor BA54552_006



■ Party time – Jessica Lewis and her "Disco Limo" BA54552_004



■ Testing – Eira Evangelista and Willow Hunter BA54552_007