



Mister Winkie who took second prize for the best groomed dog.



Up close and personal with Owls courtesy of Graham.



Art Critic Michael Tannock (centre), the Vice President of Lagoa Town Hall, Rui Correia (left) and Urbino Santos Miguel from Optimus (right) judge the entries to the art competition from local schools. They all agreed that the standards from all the schools were very high.

the Fair's first blood drive – one of just two to be held at a 'Fair' in the Algarve. The second drive takes place at the yearly FATACIL event, the Algarve's largest arts and crafts exhibition.

At least 20 abandoned animals were found new homes during the Fair, while the 'Lesotho Wheel' raised around €200 in donations for AIDS orphans in Lesotho.

And visitors' generosity was rewarded as over the weekend a huge selection of prizes was given away by the International Algarve Fair organisers in a mega Prize Draw. Featured in the draw were magnificent prizes including flights, weekends in hotels, a hot-air balloon ride, make-overs and a Mediterranean Cruise (see page 18 for a full list of the International Algarve Fair Grand Draw winners).

Organisers of the International Algarve Fair would like to extend their congratulations to all winners, as well as to stand holders for also offering some fantastic giveaways. Amongst other companies giving away such prizes was Ideal Travel, who raffled a holiday to Cape Verde, and Ashbourne Villiers, whose star prize was a top-of-the-range 32 inch LCD TV.

"We are pleased to announce the names of our competition winners", a spokesperson for Ashbourne Villiers said.

"First Prize a 32-inch LGLCD TV goes to winner Mr. Alan Heys of Lagos. Second Prize, 12 bottles of Quinta dos Vales wine, goes to winner Doreen Murrin of Boliqueime.

"And Third Prize, six bottles of Quinta dos Vales wine, goes to Mr. and Mrs. Fallen of Portimão".

New introductions to the Fair, such as the 'Wine Exhibition' and the 'Business + Zone', proved big hits.

Seven regional wine producers and distributors, including international award-winners and biological wines, were sampled by hundreds of enthusiasts.

In spite of the baking sun, the area of the Wine Exhibition was beautifully dappled with shade and was a comfortable area to relax in and sample new wines. It was made even more appealing by a huge range of beautiful fibreglass, mock-wicker furniture that was kindly supplied by 'The Wicker Garden'.

Finishing off the area were fascinating sculptures supplied by Quinta dos Vales founder Karl Heinz Stock, and potted decorative trees on loan from gardening

and landscaping company Pina, making the 'Wine Exhibition' a really appealing area of interest.

Both the wine producers and 'The Wicker Garden' gushed about the fantastic response to their products and guaranteed their return next year as browsers and samplers lingered in the shade.

Daily demos proved to be a bit of a see-saw of interest; some attracting moderate crowds and others attracting less but dedicated enthusiasts. Either way, it was agreed that they were informative and helpful, and interesting in the mix.

Inside the pavilion, where the Children's Art Competition was ongoing, the Business + Zone, Champagne Bar and the News Café were constantly packed with happy visitors, catching up on the local gossip or brokering a deal.

The winners of the Children's Art Competition, which comprised works of art by schoolchildren from across the region, following the theme 'Me and My Phone' were:

1st Category – Leonardo Brothers (International School of the Algarve); 2nd Category – Luke Stapleton (International School of the Algarve); 3rd Category – Gemma Mountain (São Lourenço International School); and finally, 4th Category – Charlie Reid-Montgomery (Vale Verde International School).

All four children won mobile phones courtesy of Optimus.

In the main Arena the food and beverages went down a treat, with so many different varieties to choose from.

The South African restaurant ran out of stock by the end of the weekend, with many other eateries also boasting healthy business.

As always, the unusual Swedish delicacies caused something of a stir, as did the Indian menus. The ever popular hog roast and slush puppy stalls now enjoy a dedicated following, with the Mr. Whippy mobile Ice Cream unit being a refreshing novelty.

Entertainment was at its prime at this year's Fair; Saturday night's main entertainer, Kat Blu, has been widely acknowledged as "one of the best acts to date", creating a bit of a stir amongst those who were still enjoying themselves at the Fair late Saturday night.

By the end of her two-hour performance, the majority of the public, including a full squad of off-duty firemen and women who were at the Fair on an unofficial visit from Madeira, accompanying their Lagoa counterparts.

The Lagoa fire-brigade team was, as ever, brilliant. Children and adults were given the thrill of their lives as they were invited to sit behind the wheel of a real fire-engine, use a hose-pipe, and abseil off the top of a scaffolding tower that had been built on the stage.

The entire entertainment lineup, from the children's dance troupes to the owl displays, fashion shows, live bands, children's entertainers and – last but not least – the kaleidoscope that is the Parade – put on enthusiastic, energetic performances that were the cherry on top of the delicious cake that was the International Algarve Fair 2010.



Never try to beat a turtle, they are so big! This young visitor tries during the parade.



The theme of this year's parade was "Alice in Wonderland" with some wonderful costumes as these photos show.