

Countdown is on to Aquafest

BY JORDAN DAY

Email: editorial@elyweeklynews.co.uk

THE countdown is on to Ely Aquafest – one of the most important dates in the social calendar.

Thousands of people are expected to descend on the city's Riverside for the fun-filled extravaganza on Sunday, July 3.

Dozens of flamboyant rafts will take to the River Great Ouse for the annual raft race while families cheer them on from the riverbank.

There will also be the usual dancing, singing, craft stalls, children's games, charity stalls and history re-enactments on Lavender Green, Jubilee Gardens and the Maltings Green.

As ever, this year's Aquafest is being organised by the Rotary Clubs of Ely and will be raising thousands for local charities.

A spokesman for the Rotary Club of Ely said: "It's hard to believe it's that time of year again but it is and the Aquafest is almost upon us.

"There is no doubt that Aquafest is one of Ely's biggest community events and we're hoping we will get as much support from the public as we got last year and before that.



My motor: Ted Coney with his beloved Morris Minor

Picture: Keith Heppell 745144.

"Not only is it full of fun and summer cheer but it also raises money for charity, which is so important in this current climate. All we need is for the sun to shine and it should be a great day."

The event will be formally opened at 11am by the Mayor of Ely, Cllr John Yates, and will run until 5pm.

Mr Yates will be chauffeured to the event in a Morris Minor owned by Ely artist Ted Coney.

The beautiful car celebrates its

80th birthday this summer and after dropping Mr Yates off it will go on show.

Mr Coney will be inviting people to guess the female name of the car, which has been in his family for the past 40 years.

All funds raised through the competition will be donated to the Teenage Cancer Trust.

For more information about Aquafest, to have a stall on the day or to enter the raft race, visit www.cambridgerotary.org.uk or email jawhipp@aol.com.