

BUG TUCKER TRIAL AT CARLISLE RACES

Visitors to Carlisle Racecourse's Bank Holiday Carnival meeting will be able to take part in a Bug Tucker Trial in which they are challenged to eat a stomach-churning selection of creepy crawlies including locusts and worms.

Spectators at the six-race afternoon meeting on Monday (MAY 31) will also be invited to take up the Bug Bath challenge to sit as long as they can in a giant tub after having dozens of cockroaches, maggots and other insects poured over them.

The double dare is part of the I'm A Survivor – Get Me Out Of Here schedule of free fun animal events being presented throughout the family-orientated meeting by experts from the Derbyshire-based Petwise Zoo.

The mobile zoo will also be bringing a selection of reptiles and invertebrates, such as snakes, scorpions and spiders, including the notorious tarantulas, which visitors will be able to handle, along with death head cockroaches and lizards.

Owner Sarah Potter said: "Our I'm A Survivor itinerary is really popular, especially with kids and young adults, who love the hands-on element. Obviously, it's based on the I'm A Celebrity TV programme but we make ours a lot more light-hearted than that.

"All the insects we use in the Bug Tucker Trial are safe to eat and have been checked out. I must admit though I wouldn't fancy doing the Bug Bath with all those worms and what have you tipped all over you."

Among the other raceday family fun attractions will be fairground rides and stalls, live music and gymnastics and dance displays. There will also be children's entertainment including stilt walkers, space hoppers, climbing wall, crazy golf, bouncy castle and Jason the juggling jester.

John Baker, the racecourse's managing director, said: "It should be a great family day out with a carnival theme – plus six superb races. The emphasis is very much on families. We have a crèche and admission to the course is free for all accompanied under-16s."

Gates open at 12 noon and the first race is at 2.20pm, with the last at 5.15pm.

For further information, go to www.carlisle-races.co.uk or ring 01228 554700.