

Britain | Slowly does it

What the World Snail Racing Championships says about rural England

Summer fetes show there is still hope for the English village

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ARRIVING AT THE “Big Summer Bash” in Congham, in East Anglia, one cannot help but notice the peculiar containers carried by many visitors: oddly shaped tupperwares and terrariums, stuffed with foliage. Inside are small, slimy athletes. For this is the World Snail Racing Championships. And trainers from as far afield as South Korea, America and France have come to test their molluscs’ mettle.