

Celebrating the past

□ An Advertiser reporter follows the fun

ABOUT 2,000 revellers partied at a street gala in Southampton.

Residents from the inner city area of St Mary's joined to celebrate their third annual festival, called Generations Together.

The event brought together different groups from the community to showcase the area's history.

Live music, from samba and salsa to baroque and brass, entertained street crowds throughout the afternoon.

There was a whole host of attractions on Saturday, including juggling, plate-spinning, storytelling and side stalls.

Street theatre and dance displays kept audiences enthralled while an exhibition on the future of the area gave householders an insight into the forthcoming £12.5 million upgrade of St Mary Street, where the festival was held, and the development of the new Saints football stadium which should open for the 2001/2002 season.

The Rev Ian Johnson, team rector of Southampton city centre parish, said: "The event has gone absolutely superbly. There were about 2,000 people who attended throughout the day."

The festival was set up two years ago as a way to remember the past following announcement of the regeneration of the area.

St Mary's is important in Southampton's history as the site of the Saxon settlement of Hamic.

COMMUNITY JOY: Scenes from St Mary's festival pictured clockwise from top right - children parade to the salsa band, gritted teeth in the tug of war, and good old-fashioned storytelling.

