

Performances & Entertainment

The Town Crier formally declared the 2004 Festival open.

The party was begun by the Mo'jive team, with an impressive display of modern jive, followed by Caribbean Lites, the talented and popular youth steel band. Pukaar, the multicultural community music project, performed from our lorry stage, provided by Quay Warehousing Ltd (formerly Skillbeech Logistics) and played a range of musical styles, including their characteristic Bhangra with a western edge. Outdoor entertainment continued with a glamorous and glittering display of belly dancing from tutors and students learning the art in local classes. Festival regulars, Royale Rangerettes, the St Mary's based majorette team, gave us another of their colourful and energetic displays. Musical highlights inside the church included the Silk & Bamboo Ensemble, playing traditional Chinese stringed and bamboo-wind instruments, Messrs Mughal and Singh playing sitar and tabla, as well as a debut performance from local resident Daron Lee on flamenco guitar.

The Circus Tent was set aside for children of all ages, who were entertained with magic shows, story telling and clowning, co-ordinated by ringmaster and magician, Ian Marriot. Nearby, Sure Start Central

were at the heart of other activities for children, along with Miller's Ark Animals, Southampton Scrap Store, Fun with Ferrets, and the Book Bus from the Central Library. A bouncy castle, games and face painting were among the other activities on offer to the younger children. Hagstone Storyteller, Michael O'Leary, charmed listeners around the festival with his seafaring stories, artefacts and musical instruments. There were also activities for the "cool dudes" of teenage years, with DJ workshops from Safe in Sound and inflatable gladiator pole jousting supervised by Hampshire & IOW Youth Options. Saints in the Community ran a penalty shoot out activity and kept a number of would-be James Beattles happy for the afternoon! A fire engine and crew from St Mary's Fire Station were able to join us, and for the more creative, there was papier mache puppet making from The Puppet Workshop.

*"Lovely atmosphere
with lots of local things"*

Back on the main performance area was a display of traditional Okinawan Goju Ryu Karate Do performed by St Mary's Karate Club.