

Harvest Festival '14 a 'runaway success'



A runaway pig takes flight during King Kong Company's set at the Waterford Harvest Festival. He was subsequently recovered and returned to his pen on The Mall.

Last weekend's Waterford Harvest Festival has been described by its organisers as a 'runaway success'.

The event, which attracted thousands into the city centre throughout the three sun-drenched days, featured dual trading areas on the Mall/ Cathedral Square and John Roberts Square this year.

Meanwhile, the People's Park, Wyse Park and New Street Gardens were utilised for family events while children also got to experience cow milking and sheep shearing on the Mall at the Dawn Meats animal farm.

Festival Committee Chairman Paul Nolan said it was especially heartening to see brisk business amongst local, community-based traders, with several selling out of produce on both the Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

"There was such a broad spectrum of traders, from community-based groups to large corporate companies and the feedback we are getting is that every one of them had a very busy weekend," he said.

"There was such an air of positivity amongst local people about the event and this has translated into a significant spend."

The Harvest Festival's Bríd Kirby said the entire city became animated with the "hustle and bustle of harvest" all weekend.

"We really brought things back to the traditional this year, with lots of community groups. The involvement of the GROW Project in Ferrybank, Waterford Civic Trust's St John's Priory Project and Waterford Traditional Crafts was especially great," she said.

"Two local traders at the Skillnet tent in John Roberts Square sold out on Saturday, as did some more in the Enterprise Village in Cathedral Square and the overall anecdotal evidence we're hearing is that all traders were smiling by the end of the weekend."

Meanwhile King Kong Company, who are no strangers to stage invaders and crazy dancers at the best of times, struggled to maintain their composure during their open air Harvest Festival gig at the Mall on Friday evening, when a pig from the nearby animal farm made a break for freedom in front of the stage.

The organisers declined to comment on whether King Kong Company's infectious beats were responsible for enticing the pig from his nearby pen.

A video uploaded by Eric Heaslip onto YouTube shows the animal charging in front of the stage, with Harvest Festival official Francie Duggan in hot pursuit, much to the delight of the crowd who had gathered for the concert.

The pig was eventually apprehended further down the Mall and returned to his pen from where, sources said, he rocked out to the remainder of the gig. See News 35 and 36 for further photos from the 'Love Irish Food' lunch.