



Party organizers Trakinolas Festas put on wonderful display of balloons as well as the many other services they offer.



Kids had the chance to enter the Benfica Club training School at Portimão this stand in the sports and activities section.



John McDonald and Jo Blackman on the All Saints Anglican Church stand.



A visitor takes a break for a relaxing massage.

time exhibitors, who were so pleased with the turnout that they guaranteed “As long as you’re here next year, we’ll be here”.

Glowing feedback was also given from regular exhibitors.

John Cowen of artificial grass company Artigrass said, “As usual, the fair was very good for us; the cost of water has really changed people’s minds about artificial grass”.

Long-term participant Patrick Geradts, of pool cover specialists Aqua Pura, said: “We were, again, very pleased with the organisation, the weather was good and business as well”.

Doces Pecados were of a different opinion regarding business times, saying, “The times should be extended to the night period, taking in consideration the hot weather, of this period of the year”.

Health specialists Luzdoc commented: “It was nice to see so many of our clients in a more informal, relaxed and fun atmosphere that the organisers of the Fair managed to create.”

“As regular participants it was also good for us to talk with other businesses, that we have come to know through participating in the Fair, to find out what is happening, business wise, in other parts of the Algarve”.

Another satisfied customer and regular exhibitor was Alison Slater, of travelling clothes shop, Collections.

She reflected the general sentiment of stand holders, that this year’s event was one of ‘quality over quantity’, saying “I think that perhaps the attendance was lower than previously - certainly that was the view of some stallholders I spoke to; having said that, I had good, steady business for both days. In fact, I had my best two days at the Fair since 2007”.

Alison, who also organises the Fair’s popular fashion shows using Collections’ latest ranges, continued “I am just as sure that the Fair has developed more of a

reputation for providing ‘family fun’ and I had some very positive comments to that effect from visitors to it.

“Overall, as a regular, I think the mix is right, with the right levels of entertainment and food and drink to complement the sort of business I have. I know not everybody will be as happy, but frankly it can never be a miracle cure for a business in difficult times.

“I will pencil in the weekend of 4th/5th June 2011 - don’t change the date or anything else!” she added.

Testimony to having achieved ‘the right mix’ was an email sent into the organisation from visitor Pamela Francis, who wrote “I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for this weekend’s International Algarve Fair.

“Why? Because it was well organised, the exhibitors gave it their ‘all’, and because there was a great feeling of energy, co-operation and enjoyment in the air, colour, sound, you name it”.

She continued “I am taking time out to write to you because I have great memories of some of the participants: the dogs (of course!), the Owl, the impossibly tall and colourful person with the important message about the sun. And all the stall holders - particularly them.

“Again, I thank everyone taking part, especially the stall holders for all they had to offer us”.

The Arts & Crafts tent, with its rainbow of regional, handmade goods, attracted large crowds of curious visitors. Butterfly wings, handmade cards, hand-carved wood and metal items and handmade jewellery were some of the creations on display.

But the International Algarve Fair isn’t just about businesses and profit - it also lends its weight to helping a wide range of charities raise funds, as well as raising awareness about their causes, such as AIDS, abandoned animals, and donating blood.

Dozens of generous people donated their blood in what was



Dog Show - Winners of the Best Breed Pedigree Male are presented with their rosettes.



Ask The Vet was a popular feature of the Dog Show.



A general view of the Dog Show.



Keith Brown with Harry who went on to win Best in Show on Saturday.



One of the entrants tries the agility test on display at the Dog Show.