



IN STEP . . . the Black Pig Morris perform in the courtyard at the Furnace Museum

## Folk festival proves a huge success

THIS year's Moira Furnace Folk Festival has been branded a 'huge' success with organisers already looking ahead to next year's event.

More than 600 people visited the festival at the weekend, with many telling organisers they were planning to return in 2010.

Founder and treasurer Dave Johns said: "I've wanted to run a folk festival at the furnace for years and to see it happen was just great.

"The Moira Furnace staff were wonderful, the sun shone, there was great music and dance in a delightful setting. I can't wait until next year."

Next year's festival takes place from August 20 to 22 and organisers are promising it will be even bigger and better.

Mr Johns said: "The committee put in a lot of hard work and have done a wonderful job but it's fair to say that we learned a lot this year. For next year's festival we've already recruited more helpers and start-

ed work earlier, which makes a difference."

The Railway Inn, in Moira, hosted music sessions and Morris dancing as part of the festival and landlord Graham Hart and his wife, Dianne, also welcomed the festival, describing the event as "a fantastic traditional weekend in a traditional setting".

Mr Hart said: "The festival was just what the village needed — a lift."