

Fair's fairies... it's a world record!



■ It's a sea of fairies as the Cornhill goes all aflutter for the successful world record attempt which raised money for the Woolverstone Wish appeal. Photos: PHIL MORLEY

Some say the collective name for a group of fairies is a frolick. Others that it is a flutter.

Either way the hundreds of people of all ages gathered in Ipswich town centre were certainly doing both – frolicking and fluttering, and having plenty of fun for a good cause, and breaking a world record.

The aim of the event, held to raise money for the Woolverstone Wish appeal, was to break the current *Guinness Book* record for the number of fairies gathered together in one

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place at one time. The record was 786 – and Ipswich beat it handsomely, with just over 820 people taking part.

The Cornhill was awash with fairies, elves, nymphs, imps and sprites enjoying a magical time together with some costumes traditional, embracing folklore and mythology, and others inventive and modern.

Lace, tutus and wings were the

order of the day, but it wasn't just little girls taking part, with mums and grans, boys, men and even bikers dressing up and dancing along to the music.

Cheryl Thayer, chairman of the Woolverstone Wish appeal committee, was thrilled with the success of the event.

She said: "It has been absolutely amazing. I just cannot believe the people of Ipswich would come together in this way and manage to break a world record – it's wonderful.

I don't think it is a record which will be broken very quickly – at least I hope not!

"But the day is not just about the world record or raising money, it's about raising awareness of the Woolverstone Wish and what we are trying to do.

"There has been some fantastic fundraising taking place and we are now more than half way towards our target."

The appeal is aiming to raise £800,000 to refurbish the chemother-

■ The fairies came in many guises, including this fearsome looking one whose body language appears to say: Don't mess with my tutu

apy outpatient clinics and day-unit in the Woolverstone Wing of Ipswich Hospital and currently has £460,000.

The aim is to increase the available space, improve privacy for patients and provide a more comfortable treatment area.

Investigation into quayside ferry crash

Investigators are trying to work out why a passenger ferry carrying almost 500 people crashed into the quayside at Harwich.

All 489 passengers on the DFDS Sirena Seaways were left stranded on board for several hours after the ship ran into a hydraulic boarding ramp at Parkeston Quay at around noon on Saturday.

The impact left a hole beneath the waterline on the 23,000-tonne vessel, which had just arrived from Esbjerg in Denmark, and

resulted in the massive ship taking on water and initially listing five to 10 degrees.

Passengers reported hearing a "bang" and some "metallic noises", and feeling the ship "judder" as it hit the quayside.

Crew members on board the ferry have been praised for quickly following safety procedures to plug the gap and seal the compartment in the hull with watertight doors. The actions led to the ferry righting itself in the water.



■ The listing ship. Photo: JEAN SMART

Woman is jailed for attack

A woman found guilty of hitting a paramedic with a claw hammer has been jailed for five years and 10 months.

Patricia Gosling, 55, dialled 999 complaining of chest pains but then attacked 37-year-old Emma Cornford after the paramedic examined her at her sheltered housing flat in Roundwood Road, Ipswich, Ipswich Crown Court heard.

Miss Cornford advised

Gosling, who has a history of mental health problems, to see her GP but Gosling had become upset.

She reached for a claw hammer which she used to try to hit Miss Cornford on the head – the claws of the hammer went into the palm of Miss Cornford's hand as she tried to shield her head and she was struck again on the back.