



Stirring sounds, as the Reading Scottish Pipe Band join the parade.

All looking for fun and feeling groovy

› Fab 60s' theme for Winter Carnival parade

By JENNIE SLEVIN

THOUSANDS of cheery-faced families filled the town centre on Sunday for Wokingham's Winter Carnival.

People enjoyed the free festive activities including music, magic shows, a funfair and a swinging 60s-themed parade.

Children waited patiently for their turn to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at Wokingham Library while their parents scoffed mince pies and sipped mulled wine to warm up.

Berkshire Maestros performed carols throughout the day on the Market Place stage while fake snow fell from the sky, giving everyone a festive surprise.

Melanie Allen, of the Winter Carnival committee, said: "The

carnival has been manic, it's fantastic there were so many people around.

"There was such a huge turnout and everywhere you looked people seemed to be having a fantastic time."

Stalls were run by businesses, charities and community groups and ranged from mulled wine and mince pies to competitions, tombolas and crafts.

Gerry Mortimore, of the Rotary Club of Wokingham, was helping to raise money for the group with a tombola. He said: "It's been brilliant, we've got money bags absolutely weighted down with coins.

"The rain has stayed away and people have come out in throngs."

The festivities finished with hundreds of people lining the streets to watch the parade of 60s-inspired floats from groups including Jack's

Rainbow, Wokingham & Emmbrook Football Club, and Wokingham Youth Theatre.

The procession and parade of floats, ranging from The Beatles and Mary Poppins to Rock and Roll and football, ended with a sing-a-long around the Christmas tree in Market Place.

Children's float winner was Wokingham & Emmbrook Football Club, and Wokingham Theatre scooped adult winner.

Procession co-ordinator Laurene Dorgan said: "We were really pleased with the superb efforts that everyone put in to make the parade the success it was.

"We had a lot of positive comments from bystanders."

Members of the Ollie Young Foundation (OYF) received the gold award from the carnival committee in recognition of their excellent stall.

A spokeswoman for the foundation said: "We had a fabulous day among our wonderful supporters old and new and this was the cherry on the cake for us."

