

THOUSANDS of people got into the festive spirit at Plympton's Saltram House.

Hordes of visitors descended on the National Trust property to enjoy the annual Saltram House Yuletide craft and food fair, which was held on both Saturday and Sunday.

A host of festive arts, crafts and West Country seasonal fare were on offer to the public.

And there was also entry to the impressive garden next to the house - and the 'Turned Pressed Fired' exhibition in the Chapel gallery.

Shirley Margison, spokesman for the event, said: "We had probably more than 3,000 people over the two days."

by **MATT FLEMING**

Herald Reporter

"The stallholders were delighted and the visitors were delighted.

"It was a success, which is brilliant considering the weather."

A range of festive treats were on sale, including Christmas puddings, holy cheeses and Yuletide craft items.

Organisers said it was the "yummiest start to the festive season" and "the perfect place to find beautiful Christmas gifts away from the high street crowds".

Shirley Margison said: "It was a brilliant fair on both days."



were carried out in Devon, with 133 motorists blowing positiv

## Man to face robbery trial

A MAN who denies robbing another man of cash is to face trial at Plymouth Crown Court March 15 next year.

Paul Dymond, aged 24 and with no fixed address, was granted conditional bail by Judge Sandra Robertshaw.

The trial is expected to last 10 days.

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# High Court judge rejects city council's appeal bid

PLYMOUTH City Council has been criticised by a judge who told them their money would be better spent looking after vulnerable people than on pursuing an 'academic' Appeal Court fight.

The council had challenged a High Court ruling made in June which ordered the authority to prepare a realistic care plan for an autistic schoolboy whose violent outbursts have made his mother's life a misery, as well as to reassess the family's housing needs.

In June Mr Justice Holman, sitting in London's High Court, said the council's assessment of the pre-teen

by **HERALD REPORTER**

boy's needs, carried out in April last year, failed to identify exactly how his pressing need for respite care would be met. The boy's barrister, Ian Wise, had told the High Court that a council offer to pay the mother £56 per week to cover the cost of eight hours of respite care per week was totally inadequate. He added that, although the council recognised the family's urgent need to move to a three-bedroom home, the mother had spent seven years on the housing waiting list.

Upholding the boy's judicial review challenge, Mr Justice Holman said the council's care assessment

did not provide a 'realistic plan of action'.

He also ordered the council to pay a £50,000 bill for legal costs.

The council applied for permission to appeal against Mr Justice Holman's ruling, saying it wished to overturn the costs order and to clear its name.

The authority's barrister, David Carter, told Lord Justice Wall, sitting at London's Appeal Court, that 'adverse publicity locally' in regard to the case had portrayed the council as 'failing'.

"The council don't want to be seen to have failed and don't believe they failed and these are the reasons for pursuing this appeal," Mr Carter said, adding that the wish to avoid

the £50,000 bill was another strong impetus behind the action.

However, refusing the application for permission to appeal, Lord Justice Wall, who banned identification of the boy, said: "On the ground, the problems of respite care and accommodation have been solved," adding: "The appeal is essentially academic."

"It may be that, technically speaking, the council have an arguable point, but the money spent on this appeal would be far better spent on other matters, for example the care of (the boy)."

"I can find no fault with Mr Justice Holman's order and, for all the reasons, this application is refused," the judge concluded.