



▶ **TASTE OF GERMANY** German market trader Anja Manke on the Gluhwein stall in St Ann's Square

turn, Bernard Rostron and his business partner Dave Walters have just expanded their business, Priya Trading, to two stalls on Brazenose Street.

Bernard, of Shap, Cumbria, has no regrets about giving up a successful IT career to work for Priya, which sells Nepalese knitwear.

He told the M.E.N.: "We get lots of repeat trade and we have got such confidence in our stock that we have borrowed a little money to expand. This year has been as busy as ever, so far."

Based on last year's trade, stalls have extended their opening hours to Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday because weekends are expected to be so busy.

Meanwhile, food and drinks are so popular new stalls have been set up in Exchange Square and New Cathedral Street for the first time this year in an effort to ease the pressure on the other sites.

Markets manager Kendra Kennedy, who has organised the

traders since the beginning, told the M.E.N.: "Many of the craft traders were anxious this year, they had a whole summer of events being cancelled because of the rain and everything in the news has been about the credit crunch."

"We did our best to reassure them that the best thing they could do is get here, set up the stall and out their best foot forward, and thankfully, the first few days have gone really well."

"As an event, the markets have grown in the hearts and minds of people in Manchester."

"The best thing about the last 10 years is that it's allowed us to develop local traders, and now 55 per cent of them come from the area."

"What's on offer makes the difference because much of it is so unique. That's why we think they will do all right this Christmas."

"Traders say to me now they consider this one of the top markets in Europe."



▶ **SPLASH OF COLOUR** Market trader Bernard Rostron on the Priya Trading stall in Brazenose Street

**BRIEFING**

■ **TWO** subsidiaries of Manchester-based RDG, which specialises in route development advice and services to the aviation sector, have picked up gongs.

ASM won best small business in the UK Airport Operators Association's associate member awards while Routesonline, the official interactive website of RDG's flagship Routes event, won a business-to-business accolade at the third annual Fresh Digital Awards.

■ **ELDERCARE**, which installs alarm systems which can be activated in an emergency from a pendant, is expanding its headquarters in Rossendale. The company, founded more than 20 years ago, has taken additional office space at Kingfisher Business Centre, Rawtenstall.

■ **MEDIA 1 Productions**, an events management company based in Bollington, Cheshire, has been in the spotlight in London. The firm managed the set and stage design and sound and visual amenities for a major conference of venture capitalists at The Deck, the rooftop venue of the National Theatre.

■ **BOLTON**-based entrepreneur Imran Hakim, whose Teddy interactive toy is on sale in 45 countries, has picked up another national award. He scooped the science and technology accolade at the Mosaic Talent Awards for young emerging Muslim entrepreneurs who have done most to make a positive contribution to society.

■ **AXON-IT**, a Macclesfield technology business, has been appointed by Manchester-based SLG Marketing and travel and leisure sales promotion consultancy Stuart Lawrence Promotions to provide IT services.

■ **THE Breeze**, a serviced offices scheme in Warrington – the first to be developed by Claremont Group Interiors – is full after Front Marketing Communications took the last space. The Breeze, based at Birchwood Business Park, has wireless internet access and hospitality and meeting rooms. Claremont is now looking to roll out the format across the country.

■ **STEPHENSONS**, a solicitors' firm which has offices across Greater Manchester, has launched a guide to help SME owners through the employment law maze. Workplace Assist has been developed by its employment law specialists to advise on bosses' obligations, to help them avoid costly tribunals.

■ **THINK4**, a Heywood-based business, has been appointed by Manchester insurance company Reich to handle IT services. Think4 worked with Reich on its merger with WB Tidy and Company earlier this year.

■ **SIZZLE Media**, which develops websites and graphic design projects for SMEs under a 'pay monthly' system, has moved its headquarters to the Evans Business Centre, Dane Street, Rochdale.

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