

# Fair auld lang syne... or how Dublin is vying for Edinburgh's crown

Arms in the air: A crowd of 10,000 at College Green



By **Sandra Murphy**

DUBLIN is on target to beat Edinburgh as the ultimate New Year's party destination after more than 30,000 filled the streets of the capital on Saturday.

Every year, tens of thousands flock to Scotland for the city's world-famous Hogmanay street party. But after more than 10,000 revellers welcomed in 2012 at College Green, organisers say the Fair City can offer some real competition to the acclaimed Scottish party.

More than twice the 5,000 expected turned out to ring in 2012 in College Green with Paul Brady, Bressie, Damien Dempsey, The Coronas and members of the Riverdance troupe.

NYE Dublin promoter Paul Davis said:

'We want to put Dublin on the map of cities like Sydney, New York and Edinburgh, that have people flocking to their shores to celebrate the New Year.

'Dublin City Council and Fáilte Ireland came up with the idea to try and bring

more business into Dublin over three days. This was the first year of NYE Dublin; it was a great success and we hope it will grow into a major annual showcase for the city and a boost to local business.'

Ciaran Flanagan, manager of the New Year Festival Party in Dublin, said last night that city centre businesses had been given a fantastic start to 2012. 'The

feedback today has been absolutely brilliant. Hotels told me they have had their busiest New Year in 16 years, pubs were full of punters in the city to watch the spectacle and everyone is spending.'

Mr Flanagan said that there was no reason that Ireland could not host the best New Year's party every year.

'There is certainly a feeling that we could get something moving in Dublin. Edinburgh's street party has only been around for 16 years - people don't know that it is that recent an event.'

Tourism Minister Leo Varadkar is also



keen to plan an even better event next year. 'I think for next year we're going to have a bigger party.'



*Let's party: Revellers enjoying the party in Dublin*

