

# First Slovenia flight saluted



**NEW ROUTE: The Adria Airways crew on the inaugural flight from Maribor are welcomed by Southend Airport chief commercial officer Roger Clements, right**

A WATER arch salute from the London Southend Airport Fire Brigade marked the first flight touching down from Maribor in Slovenia on Monday.

There will be three Adria Airways flights a week from Southend to Maribor, renowned for its Lent international summer festival.

The festival, one of the top events in Europe, takes place in the last two weeks at the end of June. It attracts professionals

from the world of jazz, theatre, opera, and ballet from all over the world, as well as thousands of international visitors.

Historic Maribor, founded in 1254, is situated on the River Drava with vineyards to the north and the Pohorje Mountains to the southwest.

Maribor has balmy summers, colourful autumns and sub-zero winters for skiing on Pohorje Mountain - a 10-minute drive from the city cen-

tre. Maribor, which was named European Capital of Culture in 2012, is also home to one of the biggest and oldest classic wine cellars in Europe.

At more than 20,000 square meters, the wine cellar sits right underneath the city.

Monday's passengers enjoyed a cake and champagne to celebrate the new arrival at Southend, the Best Airport in Britain (Which? Magazine, 2013 and 2014).