



PRESS RELEASE

Stepping Out For A Dance

Tea Dances take off with Fingal Senior Citizen's Network

On Wednesday 24th March 2010, a pilot Tea Dance organised by the Fingal Senior Citizen's Network, in conjunction with Fingal County Council's Community Department, took place at the Carnegie Court Hotel in Swords. The afternoon event, from 2.30pm to 5pm, which was attended by Mayor of Fingal Ciaran Byrne, attracted over 200 guests, all anxious to try out their old-time waltzes, foxtrots, and for the more adventurous in the group, quicker dances such as the Charleston. There were plenty of spot prizes, door prizes, and light refreshments were also available.

This pilot Tea Dance is hopefully only the first of many, explains Eugene Moore, a Senior Community Officer with Fingal County Council, "Many older people are nostalgic about the tea dances and dancehalls of their youth, and the current popularity of TV shows such as Strictly Come Dancing only reminds people of how they used to socialise. The Fingal Senior Citizens Network, in conjunction with the Fingal LEADER Partnership, Fingal Homecare and supported by the Mayor of Fingal's office worked together to organise this pilot dance, and we hope that this will become a regular and sustainable community activity." He continues "As is the case with many local community projects and amenities, funding is becoming less and less available, and the difference with this event is that it is self-funding. Fingal County Council fully supports any activity which promotes community engagement and particularly an event such as this provides a platform for senior citizens groups to connect and is invaluable for older people who may be at risk of social exclusion."

"We would like to see other senior's Groups, particularly in Dublin 15 and the North County participate and assist in organising similar events. The Council are happy to link any organisation working with the elderly, Active retired organisations/associations, widow/widower associations for example, and to ultimately end up with a regular schedule of Tea Dances across the county. There's no lower age limit and no experience necessary" He concluded.

Thanks to the Carnegie Court Hotel in Swords for providing the venue for this Tea Dance, hopefully the first of many. It is hoped that there will be further Tea Dances held in Balbriggan in May and in Blanchardstown in the autumn.

Any person or organisation who would like to arrange a Tea Dance in their area, or would like further information on the Fingal Senior Citizen's Network should contact Fingal Senior Citizens Network, c/o Unit 3, Strand House, South Street, Skerries, Co. Dublin or email fingalseniorcitizens@gmail.com. Members of the network include Jim Collier (A.R.A.) Tel: 087 2865946; Dorothy Robinson (MARA) Tel: 01-845 1232; Chris Reilly (Fingal Home Care) Tel: 01-840 1886; Sheila Cullen (Baldoyle) Tel: 01-839 3868; Kay O Brien (Rush) Tel: 01-843 9064.

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Notes to Editors

- The Fingal Senior Citizens Network was established to represent the collective views of Senior Citizens and to inform policy and planning countywide. By acting as a voice for Senior Citizens it highlights issues affecting delivery of services for older people, and acts as a conduit for information and feedback to and from the Network in relation to specific policies and initiatives.
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