



Luton Irish Forum



Multicultural Dance Exhibition

PRESS RELEASE

Luton Irish Forum (LIF) invites you to our Multicultural Dance Exhibition on Saturday 30th January 2010, from 11am to 1pm at Hindu Mandir (Temple)- The first Fairtrade temple in the UK, Hereford Road, Lewsey Farm, Luton, LU4 0PS.

Funded by the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation, the project aimed to bring multicultural dance into schools. Schools were offered the opportunity of running workshops as an after school or lunchtime activity for children to learn the traditional dance of one of the many cultures in Luton.

The final exhibition is celebratory event is for families, dignitaries and members of the community to showcase what has been learned in just a short period of time, and hopeful engage pupils in a long-term hobby. Pupils from St Margaret of Scotland, St Martin de Porres Primary Schools and Someries Junior School will demonstrate Circle, Polish and Irish dance routines, whilst Sacred Heart pupils will perform African drumming.

Nicola Molloy, Cultural and Educational Officer said 'Anyone can dance and enjoy dancing. Dance has a long history of successfully working with hard to reach groups and building a sense of social cohesion within communities whilst improving health and well-being'.

This is Luton Irish Forum's third multicultural project in recent years to encourage learning about each others cultures, with the overall aim of improving community cohesion. The event is also supported by Luton Council of Faiths and its partner Grassroots programme.

Luton's school children move to the beat of harmony.

50 Children from some of Luton's schools gathered at the Hindu Mandir Temple in Lewsey Farm to put on a show of dance from different cultures.

The event, which took place on 30 January, was attended by around 100 people, including Luton North MP Kelvin Hopkins, Prospective Labour candidate Gavin Shuker and Cllr Mohammed Riaz, Mayor of Luton.

Each school performed dances from a different culture, with St Margaret of Scotland primary performing circle dancing Sacred Heart primary moving to Afro Caribbean music, St Martin de Porres dancing a traditional Polish dance and Someries Junior school jiving a traditional Irish dance.

Nicola Molloy, Cultural and Educational Officer said, "Dancing is a great way to express and enjoy the many different cultures Luton has on offer. As well as being a great way to teach children about other peoples faiths and ways of life it is also highly enjoyable and fun."

Noelette Hanley, Chief Officer, added, "Luton in Harmony really reinforces the message we want to get across and teaching children what Luton in Harmony stands for is a great opportunity to improve cohesion."

After the event, all the children signed the Luton in Harmony pledge, promising to continue to meet and make friends with people from different cultures, encourage peace within Luton and tell others about the Luton in Harmony message.

The event was organised by the Luton Irish Forum and is their third multicultural event in recent years and was funded by the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation.

