

NEWS

ARE YOU DANCING?: A CELEBRATION OF LIMERICK'S DANCEHALL DAYS EXHIBITION LAUNCHED

City dances remembered at exhibition

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ARE YOU DANCING? A celebration of Limerick's Dancehall Days was launched last Saturday.

The two week exhibition at the Stella Ballroom on Shannon Street features photographs and other memorabilia from Limerick's dancehall days spanning from the end of the orchestra era in the late 1950s right up to the showband era in the early 1970s.

Many locals who frequented the "dances" have contributed personal photographs taken at various city locations such as Todsies, The Stella, Jetland and

Cruises Hotel along with a host of others that will be on display for the duration of the exhibition.

Speaking at the exhibition organiser David Studer thanked everyone for their contribution and acknowledged the aid from Limerick City of Culture. Creative Communities chair Karen O'Donnell O'Connor outlined how the project came about as a collaboration of many community groups in the city.

Limerick's own Showband star Tommy Drennan reminisced on the city's dancehall days and recounted tales of playing at the Stella during the early days of the Monarchs. He spoke of when the Jetland opened first and paid tribute to an immense wealth of talent that existed

in Limerick at the time, most especially the great musicians that emerged from the smaller local support bands to tour nationally. While Paddy Brennan delved into the history of the showbands in Limerick.

The highlight of the two weeks will be a recreation of the "dances" on Saturday June 22, from 2.30pm to 5.30pm at a specially constructed marquee complete with dance floor at St John's Square. This free family orientated event will feature music from The Kadillacs with Bryan Meehan of the Monarchs headlining who will be joined by Tommy Drennan, Denis Allen, Shaun O'Dowd, Margaret Ring and Michael Shortt.

The exhibition runs until Saturday June 28.



Are You Dancing? Exhibition contributors Treaty Cafe's Richard Coughlan and Historian Tony Browne



Limerick Rock'n'Roll Club's Paddy Brennan



Major Limerick Showband figure Tommy Drennan

Limerick people urged to declutter and help Oxfam

LIMERICK'S Declutter Therapist, Breda Stack, has teamed up with Oxfam Ireland to encourage us to lighten our physical and mental load while simultaneously helping Oxfam with their mission to reduce poverty.

Breda is encouraging the people of Limerick to clear their dusty shelves, empty their wardrobes of ill-fitting clothes and donate unwanted items to Oxfam Limerick at 57 William Street.

Breda's research has shown that the existence of clutter in homes is a drain on the physical, mental and emotional health of people and her mission as the Declutter Thera-

pist is to raise awareness of the complete range of benefits garnered with the "clearing out old stuff" and she said: "By letting go of anything that doesn't enhance our life, decluttering helps us to make room for better things. It reduces stress and makes us feel happier and in control."

Breda has shared some simple steps to declutter: "Be aware of what doesn't make you feel good. Plan in advance and work to a simple step-by-step system. Be patient, decluttering requires time. Let go of guilt and follow your gut when making decisions, if in doubt donate it out and remain focused on the benefits.



Breda Stack advises decluttering homes can benefit Oxfam's work

Oxfam Limerick are based at 57 William Street and they will happily take donations of decluttered material such as clothes, books and homewares of good quality.

Donating to Oxfam supports life-changing work from emergency responses to long term development projects. www.thedeccluttertrapist.ie

Digital youth arts festival SWIPE seeks submissions

Limerick's first ever digital youth arts festival SWIPE is now open for submissions.

Some 250 people have already signed up to the festival which will offer young people a chance to showcase their talent across a broad range of digital mediums and will culminate in a physical and online exhibition and a two day festival of digital media on October 15 and 16 this year in Georges Quay in conjunction with LIT.

Funded by City of Culture, LIT and led by Learning Hub Limerick, SWIPE offers an exhibition and online competition to both primary and secondary school students in categories including visual communications, digital storytelling, filmmaking,

animation and app and coding development.

Online submissions are open until September 14 and taken from our website, which also hosts information and tutorial guides for any novice but interested parties.

The festival is also hosting four weeks of summer camps starting from the June 25 until July 17.

These workshops will include graphic design, photography, animation and film, digital story telling and app and coding. The summer camps have a limited amount places so booking in advance is advised.

For more information visit www.swipefestival.com, facebook or call 061453099.

16th Concl Games Con Limerick th weekend

THOMOND PARK will host the 16th Annual Con Games Con Limerick th weekend Saturday and Sunday.

Competitions for National and European gaming titles will be over the weekend some of the world's best games manufacturers as Mantic games and will feature in the tournament section.

The Conventio also feature a modelling competition, historical and sci-fi/fantasy games, war-games, collectible card games and role playing games. For more information on the Con Games Con Limerick Facebook page Con Gaming Conventio