

News

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Election spin

■ THE Anti-Austerity Alliance has described the Government's talk of recovery as hollow spin and pre-election propaganda "following confirmation that GDP – the total amount of wealth made in Ireland – actually declined in 2013. They also expressed concern that almost 4,000 work visas for Canada were snapped up in less than 10 minutes last Friday by Irish people seeking to emigrate". AAA spokesperson, Paul Keller commented, "Since the Troika left, we have been greeted to scenes of government backslapping, and tales of how we have turned the corner. Now, we see that the economy is not growing at all."

Dog doo

■ CLLR Joe Leddin (Labour) has submitted a notice of motion at City Hall to address "the growing problem of dog fouling on footpaths, streets, and public spaces throughout Limerick". He is calling for the introduction of a new bye-law which would request dog owners to have in their possession a disposable bag that can be used in the event of their dog fouling in a public place - or face a €200 fine.

Let's talk about sex

■ LISA Scott, director of the newly established Genders & Sexualities Research Group, at the Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) will give a public lecture as part of LIT's Social Sciences Connexions 'Spring Series' at 1pm on Monday March 24 in the LIT Boardroom. These informal lunchtime talks are designed to encourage dialogue about new directions, issues and opportunities for collaborations. Researchers, teaching professionals, students, practitioners and anyone interested in joining the conversation are encouraged to attend.

CITY OF CULTURE

Reliving the dancehall days

by Liam Togher
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LIMERICK'S dancehall days will be recalled as part of the City of Culture 'Are You Dancing?' project with a series of free ballroom and jive dance classes around the city throughout April.

The classes will be a celebration of the dancehall days in Limerick and will mark the beginning of a series of events to celebrate the dancehall and showband scene in the city.

Co-ordinator David Studer promises a hugely enjoyable setting for the classes, saying: "Anyone is welcome to join us, whether to learn a few dance moves or for a chat and trip down memory lane".

The classes will be led by Bridget Harte in the Best Western Pery's Hotel where she will teach a variety of dances from the dancehall days including the jive, fox trot, two-step and slow waltz.

Tom Prendergast, a local volunteer supporting 'Are You Dancing?' said: "We are delighted to get a good spread of venues around town for the dance classes.

"We are really excited about securing St John's Pavilion, a great venue for dancing in its day, and the Milk Market on a Sunday which will hopefully bring the great dancing scene that existed in Limerick to a new generation of local people".

Dance classes will take place in four venues across the city over four weeks in April and May, with a break for Easter holidays. Classes will start on the week of Monday March 31.



People enjoying a dancehall night in the Stella Ballroom in 1980

Local publican added