

Dancers make right moves for children's charity

# Toe-tapping talent from across ages

**Community Chronicle**  
News from down your way

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YOUNG and old joined forces for some toe tapping twirls in aid of a children's charity.

Members of The Romero School of Dance put on a spectacular show for crowds at the annual event at Springwell Village Community Venue, in Gateshead.

And all the proceeds from ticket sales and raffles were handed over to children's charity Smile For Life, which is dedicated to enhancing the lives of disabled and disadvantaged youngsters living across the region.

Lisa Romero, who runs the dance school, said: "It's a really good charity and it's not one of the bigger ones, so they rely heavily on donations.

"It appealed to me because there's a lot of kids in the school and I wanted to go for a local charity, so I did a search on the internet and it came up and I got in touch with them."

The dancers, who range from three years old to some who are in their 70s, took to the floor to perform some of their speciality dances including ballroom, Latin and salsa before transporting back to the 1920s and breaking into a Bugsy Malone bonanza.

Lisa, 29, of Gateshead, said: "Some of the children had to act in the Bugsy Malone part and I was surprised by how good some of them were. They have all done really well and look great as we had all the costumes from that era."

Months of training and dedication by Lisa and all the dancers paid off as they surpassed their target and raised £330 for Smile For Life.

And Lisa, who also works as an administrator at Newcastle University, said it was worth all the effort. She added: "It's been months of organisation and I work full-time so it's a lot of hard work.

"But I really enjoy teaching dance and when we did the rehearsal and all the kids had their costumes on they looked brilliant. You get a lot from working with children and some of the stuff they come out with is really funny."

Paula Gascoigne, chief executive of Smile for Life, said: "Our work helps disadvantaged and disabled children in the North East and the support of the local community in events that they put on is crucial in awarding grants to these children and we just want to say thanks to the dance school."

Anyone who would like to find out more about The Romero School of Dance can visit [www.romeroschoolofdance.co.uk](http://www.romeroschoolofdance.co.uk) and for more information on Smile For Life log on to [www.smileforlife.org.uk](http://www.smileforlife.org.uk)



**TWINKLING TOES** Some of the members of The Romero School of Dance



**SHOWTIME** From left, Rebecca and Cally, Jazmine and Leah strut their stuff on stage



**BACK TO THE 20S** Some of the youngsters taking part in the Bugsy Malone sketch

## In brief

### Hospice cash

A TREE of remembrance has helped raise money for a Tyne-side hospice.

Employees from Burnopfield's Quantum Pharmaceutical in County Durham, were asked to leave messages and donations on a 'Tree of Remembrance,' with all proceeds going to Durham-based Willow Burn Hospice.

Catherine Walters, chairperson of Quantum's Corporate Social Responsibility team, said: "We chose Willow Burn as it's a local charity which is very close to our hearts.

"Sadly, many of us have experienced first-hand their great work in caring for the terminally ill. We just hope the money that we raise has a positive impact on those who really need it."

Over the past year, Quantum staff have raised and donated over £30,000 for charity through a number of fundraising initiatives, including a sponsored bike ride from Lands End to John O'Groats, and more recently a zip wire jump from the Tyne Bridge.

### Help homeless

A TYNESIDE homeless project has celebrated a major milestone.

Nightstop North East, a project run by youth homelessness charity Depaul UK, celebrated providing 1,000 nights of accommodation at an event on December 20 in Whitley Bay. At the celebration Nightstop volunteer hosts, drivers and young peoples' advisers came together with staff and some of the young people previously supported by the project during 2010 to say a big thank you.

To find out more information about Depaul UK or Nightstop go to [www.depauluk.org](http://www.depauluk.org).

### Charity ball

TICKETS have gone on sale for a ball in aid of cancer charities.

The Willy Wonka Charity Ball will be held on March 12 at the Marriott Hotel in Gateshead. Proceeds will go towards Breast Cancer and Macmillan Cancer Care.

Tickets for the event will cost £55 each and will include a sit-down meal, auction, raffle and entertainment. The event is being organised by Michelle Kenny.

Anyone interested in buying a ticket should contact Michelle on 07855 553920 or email her on [michelle\\_kenny@hotmail.com](mailto:michelle_kenny@hotmail.com)

### Wedding show

FUTURE brides are being invited to a free wedding show.

The Durham Wedding Show will take place on January 16 at the Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground on Riverside in Chester-le-Street, County Durham.

The show runs from noon to 4pm and aims to be the biggest free wedding event in Durham.

For information, call 0844 351 1201, or visit [www.durhamweddingshow.co.uk](http://www.durhamweddingshow.co.uk)