



NEWS RELEASE

Strathfoyle samba band tunes up for St Patrick's Day

For immediate release

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Strathfoyle Youth Development Project will samba their way into the St Patrick's Day parade again this year, thanks to sponsorship from Londonderry Port. Their samba band led the parade last year but lack of funding threatened to prevent them from even taking part this time around.

“The band was formed just over a year ago, and depends entirely on sponsorship and funding for support,” says co-ordinator Ann Montgomery, who's delighted she can now get on with buying costumes and other essentials for St Patrick's Day.

The 25 members of the Strathfoyle Samba Band go from just 6 years of age, right up to 18 year olds, are from all sections of the community, and include children with disabilities, says Ms Montgomery. “It is good to bring the community together in a mixed area like this, and it's great of the port to fund us, because we have been struggling to get the money for a long time.”

She said the band gives the children an interest and something to look forward to “and participating in events such as the parade is a real boost to their confidence. It also gives children with disabilities a chance to participate in local activities, and a chance to develop their skills and confidence too.”



The port's financial controller, Stephen Gillespie, paid tribute to the children in the band for their hard work in preparing for the parade. He also praised the leadership, hard work and dedication of Ann Montgomery in co-ordinating a project which made such a valuable contribution to the Strathfoyle community.

Meanwhile the children are getting in some last minute practice on the exotic sounding Brazilian percussion instruments..... such as surdos, agogo bells, répiniques, reco-recos and tambouriams..... that's Samba!

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For details please call Trish Hegarty, Inis Communications on +353 86 1740057.