

## **Recent Age-friendly Belfast events and activities**

In the current Age-friendly Belfast plan 2014-2017 the vision is that Belfast will be a city where older people live life to the full.

The plan has 3 Key themes;

- **Age-friendly Image** - creating a positive view of ageing
- **Age-friendly Lives** – reducing life inequalities and isolation
- **Age-friendly Neighbourhoods** - creating friendly places to live in

For each theme commitment has been secured, from key stakeholders, to deliver specific projects to improve the age-friendliness of Belfast.

It includes a wide range of projects the Council is delivering targeted at older people to reduce isolation and encourage healthy, active ageing, examples include, Winter Warmth Clinics (now Be Prepared Events), Older Peoples Arts Festival, positive Ageing Month, tea dances in the Ulster Hall, Age-friendly Belfast Convention in City Hall and a range of active aging events in Community Centres, Leisure centres and Parks across the City.

### **Positive Ageing Month 2016**

Approx. 10,000 older people visits across around 200 events, there were more than 60 community, cultural and arts organisations engaged with.

This will have had a significant impact on health and well-being, and loneliness and isolation issues and new partnerships created for Age- friendly Belfast, (eg QFT, Lyric, and other venues)

### **Tea Dances**

We hosted over 650 older people at two tea dances on St Patricks Day in the Ulster Hall Fourteen really successful Tea Dances happened across the City between Christmas and St Valentines and additional ones where held at Belfast Castle on 7<sup>th</sup> March, Belvoir Activity Centre on 24<sup>th</sup> March and Malone House on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Also there was an Age-friendly disco at the Clayton Hotel on 21<sup>st</sup> March in the evening.

### **Belfast Age-friendly Business Category in the Belfast Business Awards 2017**

This is the first year that there has been a Best Age-Friendly Business Category and closing date is 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017. This category seeks to find and recognise those businesses that provide good customer care for older people, communicate clearly, anticipate and respond flexibly to the needs of older people and value an age diverse work force.

Members will be aware Belfast launched its Age-friendly Belfast Charter in 2015 asking Belfast organisations and businesses to sign up to help make it easier for older people to use services across the city. The charter outlines straightforward principles and actions to improve the accessibility and design of our city. A good mix of older and younger employees often makes the highest performing teams and learning from older staff is often the best way to develop younger employees.

We are pleased to sponsor the age-friendly business award as part of the 2017 Belfast Business Awards. This award will highlight businesses that are doing well in their customer care for older people and in valuing an age diverse workforce.