Ballintubber extends hand of friendship to Syrian community

The Roscommon Women's Network county wide intercultural project keeps spreading its wings and recently had an afternoon of fun in the Old School House, Ballintubber.

After five weeks of Irish dancing workshops in the Emergency Reception and Orientation Centre in Ballaghaderreen, Irish dancing teacher Ethna Fahy of the Fahy School of Dancing invited the Syrian children to her class in Ballintubber.

The welcome by the community of Ballintubber was as warm as the beautiful sunny day. Eileen Kenny and Pat Garvey, members of the Ballintubber Tidy towns, donated two huge sacks of toys to the children and Ursula Cunnane donated books.

"The intercultural project continues to grow and integrate communities on its way," said Maria Harris, RWN development worker. "This is a clear example of where the project is working. Dancing holds no barriers and the community of Ballintubber came out in force with such welcome enabling true integration."

This project is led by Roscommon Women's Network and funded by Department of Integration and Roscommon County Council.

The community of Ballintubber makes a presentation to Syrian children in the Old School House in Ballintubber as part of an inter-cultural project afternoon. Pic. Liam Reynolds

Rachel McGann showing Ghassan Shamet some dance steps in the Old School House in Ballintubber as part of an inter-cultural project afternoon. Pic. Liam Reynolds

Saoirse Egan and Judy Brinjkji having fun in the Old School House in Ballintubber as part of an inter-cultural project afternoon. Pic. Liam Reynolds

Noor Dory and Braa Ziarbane at the Old School House in Ballintubber as part of an inter-cultural project afternoon. Pic. Liam Reynolds