

## **It's Tea Time to Make a Difference**



**August 7, 2012**

*Age Action and Bluebird Care Team Up to Host Nationwide Tea Party Campaign*

Age Action and Bluebird Care are set to put the “Tea” in teamwork with a nationwide series of afternoon Tea Parties, organised by Age Action, to help celebrate active ageing in Ireland.

In celebration of their 20th Anniversary Age Action, will host a series of Tea Parties across the country inviting people from Positive Ageing Week Towns, Active Retirement groups and local nursing home residents to come together for an afternoon of great music, food, to meet old neighbours and to make some new friends.

Fundraising Manager with Age Action Ireland, Rhona O'Connor says, *“We are delighted to team up with Bluebird Care to celebrate 20 successful years and to bring afternoon tea to the nation with all funds raised at each Age Action tea party event going to help fund our Care and Repair Programme.”*

*“Today we need to be very creative in how we raise money so we can continue to provide our services free to the older people we support. The Afternoon Tea Parties will be a celebration of older people who live a good life and add value to our society but who may find that they need a little support and assistance around the house doing odd jobs to make their home more comfortable and secure.”*

In 2011, 13,000 people asked Age Action for help. The importance of Age Action's *Care and Repair Programme* is reflected in John's story. An 87 year-old man who was left sitting in the dark because he could not replace his light bulb. He said *“when the bulb blew I had no means of putting it back up and I'm waiting to see somebody and I mightn't know them at all. Having to ask, I feel very humiliated, it is an awful problem.”*

John rang the Age Action helpline and one of the programme volunteers called to him, replaced his bulb and completed a few other tasks around the house, including arranging to have a volunteer call to cut his grass. It was these little changes that made a real difference to John's life.

Each afternoon Tea Party will be hosted in a venue which is accessible and wheelchair friendly. Tickets are €20 per person, or €15 each for a party of five or more. This will include traditional Afternoon Tea followed by entertainment by RTE's 2007 You're A Star winner David O'Connor from Wexford. The former racing jockey won the nations vote with a stunning rendition of 'On Borrowed Wings', written by Bryan Adams and Elliot Kennedy, in the final sing-off in Dublin's Helix in 2007 and will be taking to the stage throughout the country at the upcoming Age Action Tea Parties. Students from local schools will also be on hand to assist guests if required.

Upcoming Tea Parties to mark on the calendar are as follows:

26th August – Sligo Park Hotel

11th September – Maryborough Hotel, Cork

18<sup>th</sup> September – Ardboyne Hotel, Navan, Co. Meath

22<sup>nd</sup> September – St. Mary’s Church, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford

24<sup>th</sup> September – Burlington Hotel, Dublin

The Annual Age Action Christmas Lunch on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December in the Burlington Hotel where the National Bluebird Carer of the Year will be announced.

To book your tickets for any upcoming tea parties today phone 01 4756989 or email [fundraising@ageaction.ie](mailto:fundraising@ageaction.ie).

For more information on Bluebird Care log onto: [www.bluebirdcare.ie](http://www.bluebirdcare.ie)

**-ENDS-**

**Captions:**

Jpg.1: Pictured at Age Action’s afternoon tea dance at the Burlington Hotel on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012, sponsored by Bluebird Care, Tesco and Superquinn, are singer Sonny Knowles with Age Action volunteer Betty Finn, of Hartstown, D15. (Photo by Conor O’Meara Photography).