

Fiesta of colour and culture

For anyone who attended the Filipino Fiesta on Friday evening, it was an evening to treasure. Not only because of the colourful occasion, but it was the

• Photos: **Trevor Armstrong**

last of a series of events organised by the Women of the World in the county with funding from the Community Relations

Council. All these events were held to raise awareness of the different cultures and were all about learning

and sharing, peace-building and tolerance.

"Through these we have got our message across to co-exist with each other and do things together," said a spokeswoman for the group.

The Filipino community in Fernanagh extends to about 50 people now, many of them nurses. Many of them arrived here to find work. The Philippines is in southeast Asia and comprises an archipelago of more than 7,000 islands.

During Friday evening's event held in the Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen, a special dance group from London, Lahing Kayumanggi performed a series of dances which represented the different cultures in various parts of the country, one representing the muslim community there, another the northern ethnic minority, a third the Spanish era when it was a Spanish colony and the fourth representing rural Filipinos.

A spokesman for Women of the World said that the local Filipinos worked hard to stage the event providing and preparing the food and entertainment and decorating the hall.

One of the guests was Fernanagh District Council Chairman, Mr. Alex Baird, who on arrival, was given the traditional Filipino greeting by having a garland of flowers placed around him. Foods on offer included noodles because of the Chinese influence on the country, spring rolls, rice in various forms and a roast pig.

Funding has now come to an end for the Women of the World's cultural diversity programme which was promoted through special events such as that on Friday.

Right:

Performing at the colourful Filipino Fiesta in the Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen, on Friday evening.

Below:

Cecile Heyrosa leading local ladies in the Polka Bat dance.



Lahing Kayumanggi Dance Company from London.

