

## A £10,000 boost from showbiz multi-millionaire



**NG SUCCESS:** Young lads at an audition to join the DAZL Diamonds in Middleton. There are now 14 groups across Leeds

**PICTURE:** TONY JOHNSON

# A dazzling dash of cash for dance

**PETER LAZENBY**

**MOST** 200 youngsters from some of Leeds's poorest areas are learning the joy of dance.

Thanks to a grant of £10,000 from multi-millionaire showbiz magnate David King, the charity is embracing youngsters who might not otherwise have access to dance classes – and helping them enter prestigious competitions.

DAZL Diamonds is an offshoot of Leeds charity Dance Zone Leeds.

DAZL was established 12 years ago and one of the first to discover the magic through the charity in Rodley.

There were 17 at the time. 12 years ago he launched DAZL Diamonds – a competitive dancing team – provides classes in street dance,

cheer dancing and more.

There are now 14 DAZL Diamonds dance groups across the city involving 170 young people and little ones, with ages ranging from three to 25.

Ian, now 29, said: "I started off working with 17 young people six years ago.

"Now we have got 170 people on the programme and there are waiting lists to get on to the programme."

He stages regular weekday classes at William Gascoigne Centre in Middleton – he hails from neighbouring Belle Isle.

Other communities where classes are also held include Harehills, Beeston, Gipton and Richmond Hill, all areas of the city with high levels of deprivation.

"It came out of a need from the local community wanting to do something," said Ian.

Fundraising is part of the groups' activities, and not just to raise cash for the project, but also for other good causes.

"We do bag-packing in supermarkets, all the galas, fundraising days," he said.

"We support benefit nights, at least four or five of them a year. Parents are always coming up with ways to do fundraising with sponsored activities, a family walk."

The recent donation from David King will be put to good use.

"It is being used for young people who can't afford to pay for sessions," said Ian.

"Classes are £1 or £2 but some people cannot afford to come and there is money to support them and for young people to enter competitions."

For more information, or for details on how to sign up for a class, go to [www.dazl.org.uk](http://www.dazl.org.uk).

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**I started off with 17 young people. Now we've got 170**

– Ian Rodley