

Singletons under starter's orders to find a partner in three minutes flat

THEY say you can't hurry love but time is very much of the essence when it comes to finding a partner in West Cumbria as the speed-dating craze hits Whitehaven.

Restaurant boss Kerry McPhee hopes to bring love into the lives of local singletons by hosting the town's first speed-dating event on Tuesday.

She has joined forces with speed-dating supremo Kevin Bennett to host the night at

BY ANDREA THOMPSON

her Lime Lounge restaurant in Malborough Street - and with so many people signing up to take part, it looks set to become a weekly event.

"I've already got bookings from over 60 people who want to take part so we'll be doing another one next Tuesday," she said.

"Speed-dating is a really good idea, it's massive in the cities.

"There are lots of people

out there who work long hours and just don't have the opportunity to meet people.

"There is a wide range of people coming, aged from 18-61, but we do need a few more men.

"Hopefully we'll be hosting engagement parties for those who do find love. We also do weddings and christenings!" she joked.

Kevin, who has been a speed-dating coordinator in Canada where he used to live, set up Cumbrian Speed Dat-

ing two months ago. He has already hosted a night at the King's Arms in Egremont but wants weekly events in Whitehaven, where he is hopeful Cupid will work his magic.

He said: "Speed-dating is very popular. In five years there will be 11-12 million single people in the UK.

"This is the opportunity for people to come together."

Under the speed-dating system, people pre-book and pay a £5 fee. They get to spend

three minutes with each prospective partner.

A score-sheet is then filled in and those who are best matched can exchange telephone numbers at the end of the night - and take it from there.

For more information, contact Kevin on 01946 810469 or 07940414962, or call the Lime Lounge on 01946 220011.

Tuesday's event is fully booked and places are filling up fast for the October 25 night.



Cupid: Kerry McPhee