



Longford Public Participation Network (PPN) E-bulletin

April 2016

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1. NEWS FROM LONGFORD PPN

Public Participation Network update:

Meetings held/ planned:

- PPN Secretariat meeting held Monday 04.04.16
- Economic Development & Enterprise SPC scheduled for Tuesday 19.04.16
- Planning and Development and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 20th April 2016
- PPN National Workers Meeting scheduled ,Tuesday 19.04.16 in DECLG, Dublin 1
- Regional PPN meetings for PPN representatives on Boards, Committees, Secretariat members and resource workers. Choice of dates / locations Sat 7th May Cavan, Sat 18th May Dublin, Sat 21st May Kilkenny, Sat 28th May Athlone
- An expression of interest is being sought from all PPN member groups to fill vacancies on the Co Longford Drugs and Alcohol Forum and also the Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force. Invitations seeking nominations will be sent out Monday 18th April
- The County Longford Plenary is currently being planned for the end of May 2016. All PPN registered groups will be notified of the confirmed date and venue shortly.

New membership:

The County Longford PPN would like to welcome four new member groups and look forward to working with them in the future:

- Granard Art Club
- Granard Garden Club
- Women's in Touch
- Granard Men's Shed



Two new registration forms received and membership will be processed by the PPN Secretariat at the next meeting.

Submissions:

The Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) called for submissions from SPC members regarding the Community Grant Support Scheme 2016. These will be reviewed and discussed at next meeting on Tuesday 19th April. If you are part of the Economic Development and Enterprise Linkage Group please contact Louise Lovett louiselovett@lwl.ie the elected Linkage Group Rep with any comments / issues you would like raised at the SPC Meeting or if you belong to the Environmental Interest college you can contact Ray Hogan at rayh@esatclear.ie . In all events you can contact Siobhan ppn@longfordcoco.ie or phone 087 261 5583

Please note any PPN member group can join any Linkage group at any time and be kept up to date with information, policies and plans being developed by Longford County Council. Joining the PPN Linkage Groups presents members with the opportunity to have their views and voices heard through the elected PPN Linkage Group Representative who attend the Council meetings on behalf of all Linkage Group member groups. Your opinion matters!!!!!!

General:

The PPN Facebook page is [Longford Public Participation Network](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Longford-Public-Participation-Network/1583548325216241?). Please copy and paste the following URL below if you cannot get direct access from link above:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Longford-Public-Participation-Network/1583548325216241?>

If your group has any information they would like posted please contact us on Facebook where we will share your information or if you are not on Facebook e-mail ppn@longfordcoco.ie and we will post it on your behalf. *Don't forget to "Like" our page!!*

If there are any community group's you know who are not yet registered with the Longford PPN they are invited to do so by downloading the form at www.longfordcoco.ie , e-mail ppn@longfordcoco.ie or contact Siobhán at 087 261 5583

2. WHAT'S ON IN YOUR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT?

New for the month of April:

Longford Sports Partnership: As part of the Bealtaine Festival 2016, Longford Sports Partnership are pleased to announce "Pitch & Putt" Commencing Thursday 5th May 2016 @ 3pm . Please register with Longford Sports Partnership on 043 3349402.

Longford Community Resources Ltd: LCRL invites unemployed people to attend a [Pre-Development Course](#) commencing on Tuesday 19th April 2016 in the EDI Centre, Mastertech Business Park, Athlone Road, Longford. The course will run 4 days per week from 9:30am to 1:30pm for 6 weeks. The course will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 19th April until Friday 27th May 2016 inclusive.



The course is free of charge to unemployed people in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance for more than 12 months or adult dependants under their partner's claim for Jobseekers Allowance. Light refreshments will be provided.

The course will include the following modules:-

- Crafts
- Woodwork
- Tiling
- Horticulture
- Container Gardening
- Jewellery making
- Rights and Entitlements
- Food and Nutrition
- Group Work/Personal Development
- Career Planning

For further information or to book a place please call Mary Mulvey at 043-3345555.

Variety Night in aid of Children of Chernobyl: will take place in The Stags Head, Sat April 16th @ 8.30pm. All local talent will provide the entertainment. Tickets are €5. Refreshments will be served on the night. Donations and spot prizes still be very welcome.

St. Mel's Musical Society: will perform a production of "The Adams Family" in the Backstage Theatre on Friday April 15th which will run for a total of 9 performances until Saturday April 23rd. You can book through the Theatre Office on 043 33 47888 and on line @ www.backstage.ie. Tickets are also available at Farrell Coy.

Circle of Friends: Meal in Longford Arms Hotel on Saturday April 16th @ 7.45pm. Next meeting Wednesday May 4th @ 8.30pm in John Browne's, Market Square, Longford @ 8.30pm. New comers always welcome. For further details contact Fran on 087 7753994

Granard Historical Society will host a discussion on local connections and the 1916 Rising on April 15th at the Greville Arms Hotel in the town. Proceedings are expected to kick off at 8pm and more details can be obtained on 043 33 41124

Gardening Class, Lus Na Greine: Visit Lus Na Greines Community Garden where professional advice is at hand on Thursday mornings from 10am – 12noon for the next 3 Tuesdays.

Pottery classes: coming shortly to Lus Na Greine. Register your interest at the Centre now!!

French Language for beginners, Lus na Greine: Every Friday evening @ 6pm. Booking necessary.

Social Dance Fundraiser, Abbeylara Defibrillators: Friday 22nd April 10pm – 12.30am in the Abbeylara Parish Centre. Tickets on sale €10. A great night of fun to be had.

Computers classes: commencing in Granard Library on Tuesday 19th April @ 10.30am for five weeks. Places limited. Contact 043 6686164 or e-mail rgaynor@longfordcoco.ie for further information



Drumlsh Spring Clean Event : takes place Sat morning 23rd April from 9am. Helpers needed for every street and road approach for about 2 to 3 hours at max. Children welcome with their parents. Light refreshments provided.

Table Quiz in aid of Kiltycreevagh NS 90 year School reunion, Ballinamuck, tonight 15th April @ 9pm. Light refreshments provided.

Guide to Walking: A reminder to all lover of drama that Pdraig Potts' Guide to Walking will be staged in the Parish Centre, Abbeylara on Friday 6th May. Written and performed by Seamus O' Rourke, proceeds are in aid of Abbeylara Parish funds. The show will commence at 8.30pm.

Irish Dancing, Ardagh: commences 18th April in Ardagh Community Centre @ 6.30pm for children of all ages. The special introduction to Irish dancing will continue for a period of 7 weeks. Parents are welcome to stay at classes if they wish. Fees for classes are €4.50 per child or €10 per family with further reductions for children who pay by month. Contact Maureen on 086 3702719 for further information.

Charity 10k Walk: takes place in Clondra Sunday 1st May @ 2.30pm. Meeting outside The Richmond Inn.

Active Retirement / Age Group: If you are interested in helping to start up / or joining an Active Retirement / Age Group in Clondra/ Killashee it would be appreciated if you would phone 087 7575315. Both male and female welcome.

Kenagh Social Club: meets every Tuesday night in the community centre from 8pm to 10pm. Come along and enjoy a cup of tea with a chat or play a game of bowls with locals.

Learn to Dance: Social dance, waltz, quick step, foxtrot, jiving and line dancing. 8pm to 11pm every Thursday in The Chestnut Tree, Killashee. Lessons given by Joe Lynch from Galway.

Ongoing

Traditional Music Sessions around the County:

*Tally Ho, New Street, Longford – 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

*Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule, County Longford – Wednesday Nights every week.

*The Bent Elbow, Drumlsh, County Longford – 8pm on Friday Nights.

For further information on Trad Sessions and Comhaltas Events please contact: Martin Murphy – 086 8119444

* The Camlin Bar and Lounge, Clondra every Wednesday @9.30pm. For further information please contact Rose @ 086 0722825

Adult Learning Centre: Did you leave school early? Do you need help with Reading; Writing; Spelling; Math's or Basic Computers? Does your child need help with their homework? If you do, please call into the Adult Learning Centre Main Street Granard or phone 0436686211. The centre is now taking names for new classes commencing this month. These courses are funded by Longford and Westmeath Education Training Board and the Department of Education and Skills.



Adult Badminton, Granard: Takes place each Monday night from 8.00pm to 10.00pm in Cannon Kelly Community Sports Hall Granard at the rear of Ardscoil Phadraig. Keep fit and have fun for only €3.00 - Rackets and Shuttles provided. 4 Playing Courts. Contact Willie on 086-8226523 for further information.

Slimming World group, Granard on every Thursday evening @ 7.30pm in the Sacred Heart National School, For further information please telephone Liz on 087 9534254.

New 2 U: The SVP shop ,Lower Main Street Granard have a wonderful new selection of stock with something for everyone. Come along and bag a bargain. Opening hours Fridays 10.00am to 5.00pm. Saturdays 11.00am to 5.00pm. and First Tuesday of each month from 10.00am to 5.00pm. For further information contact 085-1503985.

Citizens Information: An information officer from Co. Longford Citizens Information Service will attend Granard Area Action Group Information Office, Main Street, Granard each Thursday morning from 10.30am to 12.30pm. The service is free to all. No appointment necessary.

Granard Community Diary: A diary is available at the Information Office of Granard Area Action Group, Main Street, Granard where groups and organisations can log their events so as to avoid duplication. Phone 043-6686922 to log events where a member of staff will gladly assist.

Friday Club, Lus Na Greine: Every Friday morning at 11am. Great relaxation for mind and body. A range of holistic treatments for stress management and good health also available.

Granard Art Club, Lus Na Greine: Will be back in action every Wednesday from 10am – 12pm for an exciting year with a line-up of resident and creative visiting artists. New members welcome.

Adult & Children's Sign Language Classes, Lus Na Greine: Continues every Monday evening. We are considering running a class for children from 7 years and up. If you are interested, perhaps you would contact the Centre on 043 666 0977 or e-mail: lusnagreinefrc@gmail.com

Granard Men's Shed: Book first carpentry workshop this coming week. Join up with the guys @7.30pm at Lus Na Greine. For further information contact Mickey at 043 66 60977

Lus Na Greine, Art with Eva: Saturday Art classes for children aged 6 – 12 years old from 11am – 12.30pm. For further information call 043 666 0977

Lus na Gréine: 'Busy bees Parent & Toddler' Group: Meet Wednesdays' 11-12.30. Structured workshops combining play, puppet making, and musical rhythms and reading stories. Tips and support for parents, Grandparents and Carers.

Lus na Gréine Knitting Club: Knit & Chat, share Patterns and Tips. Every Tuesday from 12 pm – 1pm in the Centre.

Counselling & Bereavement Support, Lus Na Greine: Available on one to one basis. Confidential and professional support so you don't have to suffer alone. Appointment through the centre.



Lus Na Greine: Jiving & Social Dance Class. Every Friday with Diane in the Centre from 8 to 10pm. To book call 087 0623335.

Other Activities at Lus Na Greine: Social Dancing Classes: Tuesday's at 8 pm. Learn how to jive, waltz, fox trot and quickstep. Cost €10. Tai Chi: Thursday's 8pm Yoga Classes: Mondays 11 am Friday Club Seated Exercises: Fridays at 11 am. Men on the Move: Wednesdays 9.30 – 11am. Groups & Clubs continue as normal: WIT travel to Ballincarrigy Women's Group on Tuesday at 10 am all welcome.

Women in Touch - Meet every Tuesday 10 – 12 pm (Dress Design & Felting Class for next few weeks) Granard Art Club every Wednesday 10 – 12 pm. Crafters United – Thursday morning 10 am – 12 pm. Set Dancing – Monday evening 7.30 – 9.30 pm. For further information contact 043-6660977 or 087 6387827.

Credit Union, Granard: Opening hours Tuesday to Saturday 10am-5pm. Student Bursary forms now available at counter. Next members draw will be in December when there will be a lot of cash prizes on offer. To be in with a chance to enter in this draw members need to ensure accounts are up to date with a minimum of €50 in savings. Details on all of the above from any member of staff so call in and discuss.

Glee Club, Lus Na Greine, weekly singing, dancing and drama classes in Lus na Gréine [Family Resource](#) Centre, have resumed. Newcomers welcome. Children aged 4 - 12 can join. For more information on price or booking, call 087 7619605.

The Irish Cancer Society is currently seeking Volunteer Drivers to drive Cancer patients to treatments. Details from Gail Flinter, who is Transport Services Manager with the Irish Cancer Society and manages a programme called Care to Drive, which is a volunteer delivered transport service. gflinter@irishcancer.ie. or Rebecca on 01 2316642, transport@irishcancer.ie or National Cancer Helpline Free phone 1800 200 700

Rath Mhuire & Dolmen Resource Services : Rath Mhuire Resource Centre – Barrack St. Granard. Phone: 043 – 6686309. Email rathmhuirerc@eircom.net Moatsider's Active Retirement Group

Parent & Baby/Toddler group (Ballinalee) is on every Monday in Currycahill Hall. All are most welcome to join us for a cuppa and a chat from 10.30am. Cost per family is just €3.

Dolmen Centre, Aughnaclyffe: have a range of activities and social events happening in the coming months. New members are very welcome. For any information on any of the groups or activities – contact Jackie or Lucy @ 043-6686309. Transport is available.

North Longford Men's Group: This Group meets weekly at the Dolmen Room Aughnaclyffe Community Centre each Friday from 12-3 pm. As it's one of the most progressive groups nationally, it offers an extensive programme to suit all men. It's a socially dynamic group, where men gather and work on meaningful projects. Where they can realise their full potential and the passing on of their skills and talents is a key aspect of their work. It was established in 2004 and coordinated by EDI Centre Longford it has gone from strength to strength. It offers an open door policy. New members are most welcome. For further information contact Co ordinator Breda 043 3347515



Social dancing classes, Loch Gowna: take place every Thursday night in the Pikers Lodge from 8.30 – 10pm. Everyone welcome.

Computer training: The Longford VTOS programme is now recruiting. It offers full time business and computer training free of charge. To qualify you must be over 21 and in receipt of a social welfare payment. If you are interested contact Maeve Madden, VTOS Co-ordinator at 087 2050589.

Music Lessons: Anyone interested in learning the Guitar, banjo, tin whistle or piano, all levels and ages are catered for, please contact Enda McKenna at 087 9980615 for more information.

The Marian Kiernan Irish dancing classes takes place each Friday in Moyne Community Centre from 5.30 – 6.30pm.

Men's Sheds and Men's Groups in Co. Longford in 2016:

Ballymahon Men's Group

Longford Community Resources Ltd continues to support Ballymahon Men's Group. The men meet every Wednesday from 10am to 1pm in Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, Dean Egan Hall, Ballymahon. Activities include woodwork. The group is currently going strong with the men working on Woodwork Renovation Training Project with an ETB tutor. New members are always welcome. There is no admission charge. Refreshments are provided. If you would like more information please contact Mary Mulvey, Longford Community Resources Ltd at 043-3345555 or Bridgeways Family Resource Centre 090-6432691.

Granard Men's Shed first meeting in 2016

Granard Men's Shed held their first meeting of 2016 on February 3rd, at 7 pm in Lus na Greine Family Resource Centre FRC, Main Street Granard. Longford Community Resources Ltd continues to support the Granard Men's Shed. New members are always welcome. There is no admission charge. If you would like more information please contact William O'Connor or Eileen Finan, Lus na Greine Family Resource Centre 043-6660977 or check out the Lus na Greine FRC notes in the Longford Leader.

Irish Men's Shed Association supports new Men's Sheds

The Irish Men's Sheds Association has a team of Advocates who work hard to support Men's Sheds around the country. The advocates offer their time and experience to help with getting a shed up and running. They also assist with the successful day to day running of existing Men's Sheds.

Kevin Brady is the Irish Men's Shed Association Advocate for counties Longford, Westmeath, Cavan and Meath. Kevin can be contacted at 087- 137 5222 or by e-mail to kbrady1964@gmail.com and he is available to support Men's Sheds in Co. Longford.

North Longford Men's Group

The group meet on Fridays from 12noon to 3pm from September to December and February to June in the Dolmen Centre, Aughnaccliffe, Co. Longford. If you would like more information please contact Breda Murphy 043-3347515.



Ballyleague Lanesboro Men's Shed meet in Sorohan's at the Life Belt Bar, Ballyleague, Co Roscommon. The men are currently involved in a very exciting Upcycling Project and a Toy Train Display. For further information please contact Joe Cribbin at 086-3823780 or email ballyleaguemensshed@gmail.com. The shed is open daily from 10.00am to 8.00pm.

County Choir: Practice Wednesday's evening 7.30pm in the Sylvia Dawson Hall, St. Christopher's.

Springlawn Parent & Toddler Group: The Springlawn Parent & Toddler Group continues every Tuesday morning in 59 Springlawn (the After Schools Building) from 10am-11.30am. Everyone is welcome to this FREE group. For more information ring or text Felicia in LCRL on 087 9478650 or ring Breege on 043 3331888

East meets West: An informal multinational women's group who meet in the back of the Methodist Church for a chat and cup of tea. Don't let childcare be a barrier as there are plenty of toys for children to play with. Ring Felicia in LCRL on 087 9478650 for more information.

Lithuanian School: Classes are held from 10am to 1pm every Saturday in the Attic Youth Café, Temperance Hall, Longford Town. For further information please contact Renata by phone to 083-4708371 or by e-mail to address longfordmokyla@gmail.com or follow the link below to the Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Vaik%C5%B3-ir-Jaunimo-centras-SAVASlt/757148621068252?sk=info&tab=page_info&edited=mission

Revamp 3R Store

Mastertech Business Park
Athlone Road, Longford
043 33 48876

info@revamp3rstore.com

Visit our store at the EDI Centre on the Athlone Road, Longford.
Always looking for unwanted furniture which is fit for REUSE.



Longford Warmer Homes Ltd

11A3 Mastertech Business Park,
Athlone Road,
Longford,
Co. Longford

T: 043 3393255

E: info@lwh.ie W: www.lwh.ie

Check if you or somebody you know can apply!

*** FREE HOME INSULATION SCHEME AVAILABLE ***

Who can avail of the FREE Warmer Homes Scheme???

This FREE scheme is available to homes which meet the following criteria:

- Owner occupied, non-Local Authority homes
- The home must be constructed before 2006



- The owner of the home/relative living in the home is in receipt of just ONE of the following:
 - > Fuel Allowance as part of the National Fuel Scheme
 - > Job Seekers Allowance for over six months and with a child under seven years of age
 - > Family Income Supplement
 - > *One Parent Family Payment*

County Longford Ladies Golf Club have a package of Beginner Lessons for ladies in process - a great way to meet new people and take up a new sport - if you are interested or know of anyone interested - Enquiries to 086 3508920

Longford LGBT meets every Wednesday evening in Longford town at 8pm.

Our aim is to provide a safe, secure and friendly environment for the LGBT community, families and friends in and around Longford.

Anyone attending our meetings is assured of discretion and it is an environment where everyone respects everyone else's personal circumstances.

For information on this or any other aspect of our service please call us on 086 3022161 and a committee member will return your call. Alternatively we can be found on FB at Longford LGBT or our web page at www.longfordlgbt.ie

A Meals on Wheel Network has now been formed under the umbrella of Irish Rural Link to tackle the issues affecting the delivery of the service. Issues include cuts to funding, increasing bureaucracy, food labelling, employment schemes etc. Irish Rural Link are calling on Meals on Wheels organisations around the country to contact them if they are interested in becoming members of this network. Please contact James Claffey IRL on 090 6482744 or email james@irishrurallink.ie for more information

St Christopher's, Longford: Volunteers wanted for the 'Leisure Buddies Project', St. Christopher's. We are continuously recruiting for volunteers from around the county to give up their time once a month to befriend someone who attends St Christopher's and to meet up with them at a time that suits them both to attend a social activity of their choice. e.g. going to the cinema; to the pub; a concert or just for a cup of tea and a chat. New volunteers are inducted and fully supported by staff. If you are interested in becoming involved in the Leisure Buddies project in St. Christopher's please contact the Leisure Buddies co-ordinator on 086 4074988 for more information

Longford Community Bus: Is your group taking a trip soon? If so, are you aware that there is a community bus available to community and voluntary groups in the Longford area? The bus is subject to a driver being available and does not do runs on Sundays. If you would like more information on the bus, rates etc. contact Pozy Greene 085-1334595 for further details.

Longford Branch Alzheimer Society of Ireland invites you to host a Tea Day in your home or your workplace. Remember every single euro you raise will be spent on vital services in County Longford. Please contact Breda/Marie on 043-3348402 or visit www.teaday.ie

Longford Westmeath Community Transport Ltd : Call Magdalen/Chrissy on Tel: 044 93 40801 or the relevant Bus Operator to book your seat. [Click here](#) to see the contact details for all bus operators. Fares: Adults €5.00, Students €2.00, O.A.P.'s Free, Children under 3 Free.



Senior Helpline: Ireland's only confidential listening service for older people provided by older volunteers is open 365 days of the year. The helpline is open every day from 10am to 10pm. Don't be alone. Call Senior Helpline LoCall 1850 440 444. No call costs more than 30cent.

Family Learning: Are you an early school leaver? Are you a long time out of education? Would you like to learn a new skill? Meet new people? Have fun while learning? If so, the following programmes for 2015 for parents, grandparents and carers include Child Development, Family Learning, Growing your own Vegetables, Parenting, Food Nutrition, Communications, Family Budgeting, Family Digital Photography and Supported Learning on line. Programmes are at QQI Level 1, 2 and 3. Most of the courses are for six weeks, courses are free with basic education skills given. For further information please contact Grainne on 086 8883413, telephone 043 3345609, or e-mail longfordfamilylearning@gmail.com

Unwanted Mobile Phone (Ballinamuck): If you have an unwanted Mobile Phone lying about your house, St Patrick's NS, Ballinamuck would like them as they are collecting in aid of Autistic Ireland. Please donate any unwanted mobile phones to St. Patrick's National School, Ballinamuck. For more information contact 043 33 24063.

Drumlsh Social Dancing: Classes continue at the Community Centre, Drumlsh, Wednesday at 8.30pm. This class is for all ages (no age restriction!!) and all abilities, if you're looking to enhance that first dance on your wedding day, learn a few moves or shed a few ounces after the festive session. Come along join in the fun.

Drumlsh Art Classes: continue this Wednesday morning at 10.00am – 12 noon in the Centre with the use of water paints.

Ballinamuck Bingo continues in Ballinamuck on Tuesday nights at 8.30p.m.

The Ballinamuck Visitor Centre is run by Ballinamuck Enterprise group and is manned by volunteers and anyone can visit the centre by calling (087) 205 5462/0879613312 or by emailing 1798ballunamuvk@gmail.com, it is free to visit and all are welcome

Fitness at Monaduff Gym : If you are currently looking for a Fitness Class but don't know where to start, why don't you join us here in the Fitness Centre. We run group classes every Monday at 8pm & Wednesday & Friday at 7pm in Monaduff Gym beside the football pitch. Membership/Insurance costs €20 for the year (unbelievable value) and then the cost of the class is €6 per session or we do monthly prices too. We are looking for members with all fitness types. If you are looking to slim down, tone up or even maintain your physical appearance get in contact with Gabriel at the Following contacts. Phone: 087-2189517 Email: gabrielhiggins@yahoo.ie Facebook/fitnesscentre

Yoga classes, Drumlsh: continue every Thursday night in The Village Inn, Drumlsh at 7.30pm. Contact 087-2868254.

Badminton in the Community Centre, Drumlsh: every Thursday night at 9.00pm. New and previous members welcome.



Beginners Irish Classes: Beginners conversational classes for adults, The Green Edgeworthstown. No pressure, No books just a circle of friends having a chat together. Basic Irish to start with. If interested call Pauline on 086-1513152.

Parent and Toddler Group, Edgeworthstown: held every Tuesday from 11am-12:30pm in The Green. Very friendly group. Everyone welcome. Contact Caroline 087 681 8083.

Edgeworthstown Active Retirement Group: meet every Friday from 11.30am – 1.30pm in The Green. New members welcome.

Kiltycreevagh N.S. will hold a weekend celebration next year on the 12th, 13th, and 14th August 2016. A book is been compiled to commemorate this occasion. We are seeking old Photos and stories that people wish to share and have published in this Book. Photos and stories can be scanned and emailed to Kittycreev@gmail.com. Alternatively these can be given to a Committee member. (e-mail for details on Committee members). Please put your name on the back of photos, so they can be returned after they have been scanned.

Badminton Edgeworthstown continues every Wednesday night from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m., in the Community Centre, Edgeworthstown. €5 per night. Affiliation for the year is €28.

Ballymahon Church Choir: St. Matthews's Church choir practices at 8pm on Wednesday evenings in the Church. New members are always welcome. Contact Mary on 086-8715155.

Ballymahon Social Dancing takes place every Saturday night in Cooney's Hotel from 9p.m. to 11p.m. Everyone welcome.

Creative Ardagh: Why not learn a new skill or refresh one you already have with Creative Ardagh
Tuesdays: Drawing and painting course starting on Tuesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Contact Loretto on 0868478527 to book and for further details

Wednesdays: French Leaving Cert Grind Club 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Practice for your orals and prepare for your written exams with a qualified, experienced teacher/examiner in a group session. €80 for 6 classes €20 drop in. Susan Eades, M.A., H.Dip Ed, SEC oral examiner.

Adult Group French Conversation Sessions at 8pm.

French conversation on current affairs, Grammar catch-up, French for holidays.

€80 for 6 wks. or €20 p/w drop in.

Thursday: Toddler Creativity continues from 11am to 12 pm. €5 per child. Free tea/coffee for accompanying adult.

Elements of Art classes continue from 12.30pm to 1.30pm. €5 per person. Drop in and join in or follow us on creativeardaghelementsofart.blogspot.com.

Friday: Spanish Leaving Cert Grind Club recommences, 6.30pm to 8pm. €80 for six class block or €20 for each drop in session. New members always welcome.

And there's more...

Keep an eye out for Community Games Model making classes starting soon and don't forget you can book your own group session, school tour or birthday party with us!

Are you interested in German, Irish, Chinese, English Grind clubs or group sessions? Any subject not mentioned you would like us to organise a club for?

CREATIVE LONGFORD Craft Gallery at Ardagh Heritage and Creativity Centre is a lovely spot to browse local crafts at your leisure. Just give us a call to browse.



Clondra Community Association: Art Classes for children continues on Saturday mornings at Waterways Ireland House in Clondra. Adult classes on Wednesday evenings. Contact 087 615 8772 for details.

Ladies circuit training class will take place in St. Barry's Hall, Kenagh at 7.30pm on Tuesday's and 8.30pm on Thursday's. Suitable for all levels of fitness. Call 087-9292378.

Change of A Dress: Proceeds from this shop go directly to **Meals on Wheels**

Dublin Street, Longford Tel: 043.3346621

Designer Boutique & Local crafts

Outlet for pre-owned designer clothes and accessories. We sell quality gently used clothing, which is often well known designer brands. Clothing is in excellent condition and priced at a fraction of its original sale price. If you are looking for that special outfit at a giveaway price why not call to us and see the fabulous stock we carry.

Arthritis Longford Branch: are running the following courses which are adapted exercises suitable for people with arthritis or other limitations: Walking / strolling group - every Thursday at 11am, meet at the Mall Complex, Longford Town. Aquafit every Tuesday at 11:30am and Wednesday at 8pm in the Longford Arms Leisure Centre. Contact Mary at 087-1404200 or 043-667506 for further details

Longford Community Mothers continues to provide our home visiting services to families with children aged between 0-5 years. Community mothers use experienced mothers from the local area to visit parents in their own home to help with isolation and stress many parents experience with young children. The service free and you can ask your local Public Health Nurse for more information or contact the co-ordinator Catriona Corcoran who is based in Longford Childcare 043 3342505

Longford Community Mothers Baby Café : This group will meet on Thursdays between 11 and 12noon in the Family Centre behind St Mel's Cathedral. The group is an ideal opportunity for new mums to meet other parents and babies, make new friends, hear what activities are available locally and share experiences of being a new parent.

For more information contact Catriona Corcoran 086 0442354 or visit www.cmums.ie

Longford Voices United Community Gospel Choir Longford Voices united meet every Thursday evening in the Respond House (Across from EDI Centre). Everyone welcome. For further information please contact Ann on 087 7141733.

Co Longford Citizens Information Services: hold a **Pensions Clinic** every Tuesday morning from 10 - 1 p.m. This service will assist clients with queries on State Contributory; Non-Contributory and Transition Pensions and will include PRSI records, calculating mixed insurance pensions and claiming a pension from another EU state or country with bi-lateral agreements. For all enquiries and to book an appointment for the pension clinic contact **Tel: 076107 5890**

Other services provided by CIC

- * Pensions - State Pensions (Contributory and Non-Contributory) - **NEW SERVICE**
- * Fair Deal - Nursing Home Support Scheme - **NEW SERVICE**
- * IRIS - Irish Remote Interpreting Service - **NEW SERVICE**



*Immigration - Interpreters (Polish, Latvian, Russian, Lithuanian, Slovakia) **Every Tuesday - No Appointment Required**

* FLAC - Free Legal Advice Clinic

* CAVA - Chartered Accountants Voluntary Advice **By Appointment Only**

Tel: 07610 75890 Fax: 043 3342485, Email: longford@citinfo.ie

The Peelo School of Dance Longford is running a number of summer dance camps for Twinkle Toes & Tiny Boppers right up to 16 years+. All dance styles including Classical Ballet, Tap, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, Contemporary, Zumba and much more. For further information ring 01 6275570 or info@peelodance.ie

Longford Women's Manifesto Group: The Longford Women's Manifesto Group meet on the third Wednesday of every month at the Longford Women's Link training room. If you have an interest in your local government and issues in your community this group might be of interest to you. Email: manifesto@longfordwomenslink.org or phone Longford Women's Link at 043-41511.

Longford Toastmasters Club Meeting: STUCK FOR WORDS? - Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Learn how to improve your communication skills, develop your leadership skills, sharpen your thinking and listening skills and build your self-confidence. Visit Longford Toastmasters Facebook Page for more information.

Friendly Phone Call Service calling older people in Co. Longford (LCRL): The Friendly Phone Call Service is a free confidential service which provides information on local activities and services available to older people as well as an opportunity for a friendly chat. If you are feeling lonely or isolated and you would like someone to talk to, this is the service for you. The Friendly Phone Call Service can be reached at 043-3349678 from Monday–Thursday from 10:00am – 4:00pm. If you are a group in County Longford who would like more information on the service then please contact Peter, LCRL resource worker at 043-3345555.

GROW Meetings: GROW Community Mental Health Movement meets in the Community Mental Health Centre, Dublin Road on Mondays at 11am. If you are anxious, isolated or depressed why not join this group and learn a practical psychology of mental health. For further info contact John on 086 8033126

Clondra Community Association

- Art classes continue in Waterways Ireland House, Clondra on Saturday mornings for children and Wednesday evening for adults.
- Visit Mary Holmes tranquil garden by arrangement. Phone 086 230 7963
- Feed the donkeys. Contact Maureen at 043 33 26310
- Traditional music in the Camlin Bar on Tuesday evenings.

Newtownforbes Pilates: Classes at the Giving Tree (Wendy Louise Hat Design), Cloontagh, Newtownforbes, Monday 8pm to 9pm - Tuesday 8pm to 9pm (men only). To book a place contact Brendan on 087 7681730.



Tarmonybarry Parent and Toddler Group takes place every Tuesday morning from 10.30am to 12noon in Buttercups Playschool.

Mohill Badminton every Wednesday, Mohill sports complex starting at 8pm. Newcomers are always welcome.

Outreach Clinic: Mohill Family Support Centre has an outreach clinic in the Trathnona Centre on Wednesdays from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Anyone needing advice on social issues such as housing, social welfare or on community issues is welcome to drop in.

3. LOCAL NEWS & SERVICES:

Longford Blueway Festival/ Canoeing Ireland Club Championships 16th & 17th April

Don't miss out on the fun. Why not head to Clondra this weekend for an action packed weekend. The Longford Blueway Festival will take place on Saturday the 16th of April 2016, while the Canoeing Ireland Club Championships takes place from Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th of April 2016.

This event is perfect for a family day out, food stalls and entertainment will be provided for all in the Richmond Inn.

The Longford Blueway Festival are hosting a busking competition on the Saturday with a chance of winning €450.00, a beautiful Blueway family walk or cycle around the Shannon Blueway Camlin River Loop and finally the opportunity to take part in taster canoeing session offered by Canoeing Ireland, there is no need to bring any gear just show up and all will be provided.

You can sign up for the taster sessions in advance on www.canoe.ie/clubchampionships/tasters or contact learntocanoe@canoe.ie for more information

Event Prices:

Busking Competition FREE

Shannon Blueway Family Walk FREE

Shannon Blueway Family Cycle €5.00

Taster Canoeing Sessions on the Shannon Blueway, Camlin River Loop €5.00



**BLUEWAY...
DO IT YOUR WAY**



LONGFORD BLUEWAY FESTIVAL

16TH APRIL 2016 • CLOONDARA, CO. LONGFORD • 10.00AM

www.bluewaysireland.org



Granard Motte Community Enterprise Ltd making headway with their Tourism Plan for Granard

Upon registering with Longford Public Participation it was obvious that Granard Motte Community Enterprise Ltd were clear on their main objective which was to create a community owned, self supporting, visitor attraction on a 15 acre site in Granard town. Paul Flood, Secretary of the committee registered the group stating that the purpose of this project was to create a regionally important centre in order to provide people with a “reason to visit” Granard and the surrounding areas. The visitor centre will bring together and market the history and heritage of the area as well as providing family fun and adventure. The goal of the Granard Motte Community Enterprise Ltd is to create employment, act as a catalyst for further growth and enterprise in the area and to create a sense of pride in the locality.

Plans aimed at changing the use of a building previously a pharmacy in Granard to a café/restaurant was formally received by Longford County Council on March 22nd. Plans for the outside grounds of



the site are close to completion. The PPN would like to wish all involved the best of luck with this inspirational project.

Longford Womens Link Founders honoured for their work

The PPN would like to congratulate Tess Murphy (PPN Secretariat member and elected PPN Granard Municipal District representative) and Elsie Moxham on receiving one of the People of the Year Awards at the Longford Association in Dublin recently. Along with the late Mary O'Hara, they founded Longford Women's Link 21 years ago. It is one of the leading charities of its type in the entire country, supporting women on many different levels - by providing education and training, encouraging civic participation and offering crucial support to domestic violence victims.

To find out more about the services Longford Women's Link provide please click on the links below:

- [Childcare](#)
- [Community Employment](#)
- [Counselling](#)
- [Domestic Violence](#)
- [Education & Training](#)
- [Mobile Childcare](#)
- [Women's Groups](#)
- [Women in Business](#)
- [Women in Decision-Making](#)

Or visit www.lwl.ie

Longford Volunteer Centre (LCRL):

National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 to 2016

This Act will finally **commence on 29th April 2016** and will mean changes for groups. If you want to know how these changes will impact on your group, Longford Volunteer Centre are running a Garda Vetting information session on **20th April** in the EDI Centre from 7-9pm. If you would like to book a place, e-mail Terri at terri@volunteerlongford.ie or call on 087 2915367.

Volunteer Opportunities

[Homework Club Assistants](#) Bridgeways Family Resource Centre Teaching/Tutoring/Supporting learning : Volunteers required to assist national school children with their homework after school three evenings a week for 2 hours per evening. The Homework Club operates Tues, Wed and Thurs from 2.30-4.30pm for National School Students in 4th, 5th and 6th Class.



[Fundraising/ Event Management Volunteer](#) Bridgeways Family Resource Centre: Volunteer Fundraising/ Event Management Volunteer required to help raise funds for the Family Resource Centre in Ballymahon.

[Research Admin Volunteer](#) Bridgeways Family Resource Centre: Volunteer Research Admin Assistant required to research different funding possibilities for the Family Resource Centre.

The Volunteer could work from home or use the computers on the premises to conduct their research.

[DIY Volunteer](#) Bridgeways Family Resource Centre: DIY Volunteer required to help with the maintenance of the Dean Egan Library in Ballymahon. Experience in DIY, carpentry, maintenance and painting is necessary.

[Environmental Volunteers for Spring Clean in Drumlish](#) Drumlish Tidy Towns Environment and Conservation Conservation/Gardening: Drumlish Tidy Towns have organised a Spring Clean on April 23rd for Drumlish Village and surrounds. We invite volunteers to join us for an hour or two... gloves /pickers will be provided and some light refreshments afterwards at the Community Centre.

[Foreige Youth Leaders](#) Bridgeways Family Resource Centre: Youth Leaders needed to plan, organise and co-ordinate activities with young people. To work with other Youth leaders to develop programs for young people. Youth Club meets every Friday evening at 7-8.30pm starting September 2016

Please contact Angela on 087 7594770 if you are interested in applying for any of these Volunteer Roles

Library Programme of Events

On-going Library activities:

Branch	Day	Event	Time	Contact No.
Longford	Each Friday	Knitting Group	11-1pm	043 3340727
Longford	Every second Mon	Longford Writers Group	7-8.30pm	043 3340727
Longford	Mondays & Wednesdays	Library Visit St. Christophers	11-12pm	043 3340727
Longford	Wed./Thu/Fri	Library Visit Local Schools	Mornings	043 3340727
Longford	Wednesdays	Triple P-Positive Parenting	10-12pm	043 3340727



Lanesboro	Each Monday	Knitting & Crochet	2-4pm	043 3321291
Lanesboro	Each Tuesday	ESOL Class	7-9pm	043 3321291
Lanesboro	2 nd Mon of the Month	Lasrai Writers Group	7-9pm	043 3321291
Lanesboro	Last Fri of the Month	Book Club	11-12pm	043 3321291
Lanesboro	Each Tuesday	Active Age	3-4pm	043 3321291
Granard	Last Wed. of every month	Book Club	11-1pm	043 6686164
Granard	Every 2nd Saturday	Storytelling for Children	11-12pm	043 6686164
Drumlish	Each Wednesday	Arts and Crafts	2-4pm	043 3324760
Drumlish	Each Monday Each Wednesday	Local Schools Class Visit	10.30-11.30am 11.30-12.30pm	043 3324760
Drumlish	Each Wednesday	Keyboard Skills for Children	12.30-1.30pm	043 3324760
Edgeworthstown	Tuesdays & Thursdays	Local Schools Class Visit	11.30-12.30pm 12.30-1.30pm	043 6671927
Ballymahon	Tuesdays & Wednesdays	Local School Class Visit	11am-12pm 2-3pm	090 6432546

4. THE GATHERING IRELAND

April/ May 2016

Longford 1916 Commemorative Weekend

Be part of a special Commemorative weekend to honour the brave Longford men and women of 1916, and to celebrate the great community spirit in County Longford from Friday 22nd- Sunday 24th April. . The weekend begins on Friday evening with an art exhibition and launch of a 1916 map of County Longford sites associated with 1916. The special guest on the evening will be Historian and Archivist Catriona Crowe.



Saturday will see the official opening of a Remembrance Garden followed by a Civic Reception for the relatives of the Longford men and women of 1916. On Sunday 24th April starting from St. Mel's Cathedral and ending in Connolly Barracks we have invited every individual, school, sporting organization and community group to be part of a huge Commemorative parade and family day to remember our heroes from the past, to reflect on the progress we have made over the past 100 years and to re-imagine a better future for everyone.

[Longford 2016 Centenary Programme of Events](#)

To find out more call Longford library 0433341124 or check out

<https://www.facebook.com/LongfordIreland2016>.

Theatre

Guys and Dolls

The highly-acclaimed and sell-out production of Guys and Dolls comes to the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre from 26th to 30th April 2016, following its 13-week run in the West End.

For further details contact:

+353 1 6777999

justask@bgetheatre.ie

www.bordgaisenergytheatre.ie

Comedy

When Tom Stade is around, you should probably cover your kids' ears. Luckily, there won't be any kids to mind at his gig at Whelan's.

Date: 23 April 2016

Location: Dublin City, Co. Dublin

Telephone: +353(0)18964091

Flower and Garden

Clare Garden Festival

Garden festival featuring an impressive line-up of expert garden speakers and an extensive Garden & Food Fair with over 60 stalls from all over Ireland.

Date: 24 April 2016

Location: Ennis, Co. Clare

Telephone: +353(0)876117538

Vintage and Agricultural

Middleton Agricultural Show

Agricultural Show offering a variety of events including arts and crafts, cooking, a dog show, horses and ponies, cattle, sheep and trade stands, the Best Dressed Competition and kids' fun.

Date: 29 May 2016

Location: Middleton, Co. Cork

Vintage and Agricultural

Classic Car Show 2016 at Wells House and Gardens



Hugely popular Classic Car Show where motoring enthusiasts display their collection from modern day sports to vintage cars! Family entertainment, BBQ and live music add to this great event.

Date: 29 May 2016

Location: Gorey, Co. Wexford

Telephone: +353(0)539186737

Cycling

Emerald Enduro - Enduro World Series Mountain Bike Event

The Enduro World Series will return to the Wicklow Hills for another action packed weekend of mountain biking. Watch the best riders in the world as they race down several extremely steep and fast timed stages.

Date: 13 May 2016 To 15 May 2016

Location: Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow

Endurance Events

Wings for Life World Run 2016

As runners in thirty countries around the world take to their starting line at the same time as you, enjoy all that Wings for Life World Run 2016 has to offer this summer.

Date: 08 May 2016

Location: Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

Telephone: +353(0)1631600

Endurance Events

Forest Mini Marathon

A 5km run, 10km and half Marathon in the most beautiful forest in Ireland.

Date: 07 May 2016

Location: Portumna, Co. Galway

Telephone: +353(0)906665411

Walking

Loop Head Walking & Heritage Festival

Walk the beautiful coastal paths and roads of Kilkee, Kilcredaun and Loop Head. Enjoy stunning Wild Atlantic scenery with experienced guides! Not to be missed.

Date: 29 April 2016 To 01 May 2016

Location: Loop Head, Co. Clare

Endurance Events - Family

Lough Cutra Castle Triathlon

A true festival of triathlon at a fairytale castle with 8 distances for children and adults plus music, food, stands and free kids' entertainment. Fun to watch, fun to take part. Triathlon Ireland sanctioned.

Date: 29 May 2016

Location: Gort, Co. Galway

5. [National News](#)



Local Community Development Programme publishes final report

A new report produced by Pobal has outlined the significant achievements and reviewed the overall performance of the Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) during the programme's five year remit.

Initiated in 2010 and concluding in 2015, the aim of the LCDP was to tackle poverty and social exclusion through partnership and engagement between Government, its agencies and people in disadvantaged communities.

Since 2010, Pobal has managed the programme in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG). The programme was delivered through 53 Local Development Companies across the country.

This report contains the key conclusions and outlines the programme's major successes across its four goals.

Among the report's findings are;

- over the programme's lifetime, 187,864 individuals were registered on the LCDP caseload.
- on average, 11,043 individuals participated in training courses.
- during the programme, 7,171 individuals were supported into employment.
- in total, 27,295 people were assisted in setting up their own businesses.
- each year, an average of 2,112 businesses were supported.
- the majority of beneficiaries (66%) were unemployed.

CEO of Pobal, Denis Leamy said;

"The findings contained in this report show the real achievements which the LCDP has had during its five years of existence. Some of the results and outcomes are extremely impressive. Thousands of individuals from the most disadvantaged communities have been supported into training and employment while businesses have been assisted to grow and prosper.

The programme has given people real life chances enabling them to fulfill their potential and make the best of new opportunities.

What makes these accomplishments all the more important is that the period of the programme coincided with a time of a significant increase in unemployment across Ireland. What's clear is that the initiatives of the LCDP made a real impact when they were most needed."

The LCDP has been succeeded by the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme which runs until the end of 2017.

For a full copy of the LCDP report click [here](#)

Census 2016 to inform updated Pobal Deprivation Index

Census 2016 has been launched by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD. In the coming weeks, over 5,000 staff will work with the Central Statistics Office delivering census forms to every household in the State **for completion on Sunday, April 24th**.



The census accounts for everybody in the country no matter where they are. The results provide invaluable information on not only population size for the country as a whole, but also about the make-up of the population of towns, villages, and other small areas across the country.

Pobal looks forward to the release of the census results as they will form the basis for the update of Pobal HP Deprivation Index. This index is a unique resource which provides unparalleled detail relating to disadvantaged areas throughout the county. It is an invaluable tool for identifying specific areas which need to be targeted for funding and for pinpointing deficits in services in geographical regions.

Pobal CEO, Denis Leamy said;

“The outcome of the 2016 census will form the basis for Pobal’s updated Deprivation Index. Using the data collated, we will be able to measure relative affluence and disadvantage of a particular area. This will form the most comprehensive social indicators index of its kind. In simple terms, the Pobal HP Deprivation Index is a method of measuring the comparative prosperity or privation by analysing data from each census. Precise data is also collated under headings such as; lone parent ratio, educational attainment and proportion living in local authority housing.

The index has been a hugely practical tool for researchers, planners, and social scientists. It enables informed decisions to be made when deciding social policy and pinpoints which areas require resources.”

The Pobal HP Deprivation index can be viewed at [Pobal Maps](#) where you will also find additional information which outlines how the index is constructed and further statistical features. (source: www.pobal.ie)

6. [EU NEWS](#)

Data protection reform - political support for new rules fit for the digital era

New EU data protection rules which aim to give citizens back control of their personal data and create a high, uniform level of data protection across the EU fit for the digital era were approved by the European Parliament this week. The reform also sets minimum standards on use of data for policing and judicial purposes.

The new rules include provisions on:

- a right to be forgotten,
- "clear and affirmative consent" to the processing of private data by the person concerned,
- a right to transfer your data to another service provider,
- the right to know when your data has been hacked,
- ensuring that privacy policies are explained in clear and understandable language, and
- stronger enforcement and fines up to 4% of firms' total worldwide annual turnover, as a deterrent to breaking the rules.



Member States will have two years to apply the Data Protection Regulation and to transpose and implement the "Police" Directive. Due to the UK and Ireland's special status regarding justice and home affairs legislation, the directive's provisions will only apply in these countries to a limited extent.

EU Funds for Food Dudes

Ireland is to receive €1,309,313 in the latest funding round from the EU's school Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. In Ireland, this money goes to support the very successful Food Dudes scheme which is rolled out across Irish primary schools and aims to get young children to try new fruits and vegetables.



The Scheme is an EU-wide initiative to encourage healthier eating habits in school children at a young age. Improved nutrition plays an important role in combating health problems related to poor nutrition, such as child obesity.


The Scheme is an EU-wide initiative to encourage healthier eating habits in school children at a young age. Improved nutrition plays an important role in combating health problems related to poor nutrition, such as child obesity.

In all, € 150 million of EU aid has been set aside under the School Fruit and Vegetables Scheme for the 2016/2017 school year. This is put together with nearly € 40 million of national or private co-funding in the 25 Member States that participate. Ireland can top up its allocation at a co-funding rate of 25%.

This will be the eighth year of the Scheme's application since its launch in 2009, but it will also be the last year of implementation of the Scheme in its current form. A new School Scheme, merging this with the School Milk Scheme, is likely to be finalised in the coming weeks and will enter into force from 1 August 2017.

In the 2014/2015 school year, more than 10.2 million children in participating Member States benefited from the Scheme, by receiving portions of fruit and vegetables in their school. This is an increase of 4% compared to the previous school year 2013/2014.

Here is a link to the Irish authorities' most recent report on the implementation of this scheme which gives further detail.

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sfs/documents/strategies-2014-2015/ie_national_strategy2014_2015_en.pdf 

EU Justice Scoreboard: Ireland in top 5 for perceived independence of the judiciary



According to the EU Justice Scoreboard, published this week, Ireland comes in fifth in the EU for the perceived independence of judges and courts among the general public. Denmark came in first followed by Finland, Sweden and Austria.

The Scoreboard also shows that per capita public spending on legal aid was third highest in Ireland (2014 figures) at €17.3. The Netherlands was highest at €25.4.

The 2016 EU Justice Scoreboard gives a comparative overview of the efficiency, quality and independence of justice systems in the EU Member States. The aim of the Scoreboard is to assist national authorities in their efforts to improve their justice systems, by providing this comparative data.

Ireland records strongest increase in labour productivity

The Spring Quarterly Review of Employment and Social Situation in the EU shows that Ireland (6.8%) had by far the strongest increase in labour productivity in the EU in the last quarter of 2015. The EU average was 2%.

Ireland also saw the strongest decrease (9.4%) in real unit labour cost. On average prices fell across the EU by 0.6%.

The review also shows that the employment rate in the EU has returned to its pre-crisis level but with a much wider gap between countries, from 55% in Greece to 80% in Estonia, Germany and Sweden. The employment rate for Ireland in the third quarter of 2015 was 69%, same as the Euro Area average but below the EU average of 71%. While the employment rate for Ireland was up almost 2% on the same quarter of 2014, it was down almost 3% compared to 2008 figures.

Download data and charts:

- [Statistical Annex](#)
- [Recurrent analysis - latest update \(Excel\)](#)

See also: [Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2015](#)

(source: EU news you can use)



7. UPCOMING TRAINING/WORKSHOPS

EDI Centre

3 day City and Guilds Tourism Course for 18-24 years old

Cost €120

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

On completion of the training programme learners will be able to:-

Demonstrate a positive self-concept and accept responsibilities for setting and achieving both personal and course related goals.

Plan and achieve realistic work goals. Access information on Training and Employment opportunities available online and gain basic knowledge in computer skills.

Use a word processor to create, edit and check common types of documents. Learners will develop an understanding of the basics of the word processing application and the operating system in everyday usage and will gain the ability to work in a supervised role following clear instructions in a competent manner.

Identify tourism opportunities locally and how they may be developed.

Explore the concept of self -employment in the tourism industry.

Complete CV and upload to EURES website.

Disability Activation Congress Training (DACT) course. Call the EDI Centre @ 043 33 47515 to book or for more information.

Free Training Opportunities:

Would you be interested in an introduction to digital photography, sending/receiving emails, using social media, using apps, buying tickets and on-line banking? Longford EDI Centre is running an 8 hour basic computer course which can be delivered mornings, afternoons or evenings. To avail of this great opportunity contact Bernie or Amanda at 043 3347515 or email infocentre@ericom.net

IT – 4 –today (Trade Unions supporting Learning)

Free 1 day computer basics course:

8 hrs of IT training

Eligible to attend if you are:

- Aged 55 OR OVER
- Unemployed
- Experiencing disadvantage
- Without any recognised formal education or
- Have none or some computer experience

To apply, contact **Bernie** or **Mary** in the **EDI Centre on 043 33 47515**



During this one day session, you will learn how to use a computer including: send/receive email, use social media, use of Apps, introduction to digital photography, perform simple online transactions; such as book a ticket, pay a bill, online banking and introduction to safety & security online.

Career Planning Programme

This six week programme five mornings per week- from 9.30 – 1.30, offers assistance to unemployed and other target groups to re-enter the work force through training & employment supports. Programme consists of - Skill sampling, personal development, career guidance, IT training, one to one support, Limited place available, Confined to people in receipt of a payment from Department of Social Protection (Unemployment or Disability payment) To register for this programme Contact the Centre.

The EDI Centre currently runs two FAS Local Training Initiative projects (LTI's).

REVAMP Training Project

Pilot Youth Project by Dept of Social & Family Affairs identified youth at risk of long-term unemployment from welfare dependent homes, with little motivation, early school leavers, some with literacy problems. Mainstream education or training not relevant to their needs. Lack of suitable local training initiatives.

Pre-Employment identified Furniture Restoration as viable carrot to attract trainees to broader training. FAS Community Training Initiative was established in Dec 2002. First two programmes were 26 weeks long, now they are 48 weeks with continuous enrolment. In the first 5 years 70% of trainees progressed into full time work.

<p><i>Apprenticeship, Education or Training.</i> This is a 48 week LTI for long-term unemployed persons providing FETAC accredited training in areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of Number • Communications • Career Preparation • Computer Literacy • Upholstery Woodwork Tiling Personal and Interpersonal Skills • Personal Effectiveness Work Experience • Word Processing • Internet Skills Health and Safety Awareness 	<p><i>Catering/Life Skills Programme</i> This is a 26 week LTI for long-term unemployed persons providing FETAC accredited training in areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of Number • Communications • Career Preparation • Computer Literacy • Personal and Interpersonal Skills • Personal Effectiveness • Work Experience • Culinary Operations • Restaurant Service • Bread, Pastry and Desserts
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FREE JOB SEARCH SERVICE

Every Thursday from 10am to 1pm..The EDI Centre can help you with:

- CV's
- Job Applications
- Interview Skills
- Training Opportunities



- Career Advice

The EDI Centre provides a range of services to support unemployed people including information on employment rights, entitlements, training and education with access to computer facilities.

For further information, Contact the EDI Centre on 043 33 47515

E-mail: infocentre@eircom.net / Website: www.Edilongford.ie

White Goods Training

‘Appliance Repair and Recycling Project’ is the latest training programme undertaken by the EDI Centre. A 12 week training programme for 10 jobseekers has been designed and is being delivered by a qualified local Electro Mechanical Engineer who is also an experienced tutor. The programme is approved and funded by Skillnet. Washing machines, dishwashers, dryers, cookers, heaters, microwaves and small electrical etc are all part of the items which are worked on in the programme.

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

Free Education Courses

Would you like to learn more about Gardening, Woodwork, Working with Childcare, Cookery Food and Nutrition, Turning on the computer, using the computer for learning on line? If the answer is yes and you are a parent, grandparent, child carer, early school leaver or a long time out of education, call or text Grainne 086 8883413, also email [Longford familylearning@gmail.com](mailto:Longfordfamilylearning@gmail.com). Courses are free and basic education skills.

Longford Women’s Link



Are you a woman parenting alone and seeking to establish your career or update your skills?

This new Programme from *Longford Women’s Link* is what you need:

New Futures

Our Women Parenting Alone group started their course and group activity this week. The group meet every Monday to complete their QQI (FETAC) Level 4 modules and meet every second Wednesday for a coffee and a chat. If you would like to join, it's still not too late - phone Pamela



on 043 3341511 or message us here on Facebook and we will get back to you. Even if you would just like to attend the coffee morning every fortnight, we'd be delighted to see you. Childcare and Transport provided.

Care Provision and Practice **5N2705 - QQI - Level 5**

The purpose of this award is to equip the learner with the knowledge, skill and competence to understand the roles and responsibilities of care workers, the needs of groups requiring care and the interpersonal qualities needed to work in a range of care environments.

Class dates: Wednesday evenings:
May: 11, 18, 25
June: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
July: 6, 13

Time: 7pm to 10pm

Venue: Longford Women's Link

Cost: €295

A €100 euro non-refundable deposit is required to secure a place on this course. Full fees to be paid prior to the start of the course.

You may qualify for funding, please contact 043 3341511 for further information.

Tea/Coffee provided.

If you have any further queries or require a booking form, please contact -
Pamela Latimer – Education and Training - Business Development Manager

Email: pamelalatimer@lwl.ie

Tel: 043 33 415 11

Mobile: 087 205 8152

8. FUNDING

IPB Community Engagement Fund Now Open

IPB is committed to ensuring that this funding is accessible to grassroot organisations aiming to bring real enhancements to local communities. A further €1 million has been allocated for 2016.

The purpose of [this year's fund](#) is once again to support projects rooted in the local area, led by local people and to improve the quality of life for those living in their community. It is aimed at empowering local people, enabling them to create lasting change in their communities, and will support activities that contribute to local community priorities.



Outcomes

To be considered, the project should be action orientated and create, make, change, or otherwise be intended for the greater good of the community. The project must improve the quality of life and general wellbeing of the community and must meet at least one of the following outcomes:

- Healthier and more active communities – improve the health and wellbeing for all and promote an active lifestyle in the community.
- New ways of working with young and older people – engage younger people in positive activities within the community; create a sense of belonging through community-led projects that aid older people in becoming independent and engaged members of the local community.
- Improved frontline services and facilities in the community – increase and/or develop the use of community assets and services to bring about an increase in the promotion of stronger, cohesive and balanced communities and in the enjoyment, living standards, appearance and general wellbeing of local communities for the social and economic benefit of the community.

Funding Levels

You may apply for one of the following three funding amounts only:

- 5,000 euro
- 10,000 euro
- 20,000 euro.

Please consider the following prior to making an application:

- Applications must be submitted online by 5pm (GMT) on 25 April 2016.
- Only one application per organisation operating at a local level may be submitted.
- Organisations applying must have been established prior to January 2014.
- Organisations may apply for one of the following three funding amounts only: €5,000, €10,000 or €20,000.
- Organisations must meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in our Funding Guidelines and Governance Guidelines above.
- The application must be submitted by an authorised person on behalf of the organisation, who must be aged 18 years or over.

Applications open on 4 April. Before applying, please ensure that you read and understand the eligibility criteria.

[Click here to visit the IPB website now.](#)



Attention Environmental Interest Groups – Patagonia Grants

Grant Guidelines

Patagonia funds only environmental work. We are most interested in making grants to organizations that identify and work on the root causes of problems and that approach issues with a commitment to long-term change. Because we believe that the most direct path to real change is through building grassroots momentum, our funding focuses on organizations that create a strong base of citizen support.

We support small, grassroots, activist organizations with provocative direct-action agendas, working on multi-pronged campaigns to preserve and protect our environment. We help local groups working to protect local habitat, and think the individual battles to protect a specific stand of forest, stretch of river or indigenous wild species are the most effective in raising more complicated issues—particularly those of biodiversity and ecosystem protection—in the public mind. We look for innovative groups that produce measurable results, and we like to support efforts that force the government to abide by its own—our own—laws. Your efforts should be quantifiable, with specific goals, objectives and action plans, and should include measures for evaluating success.

Because we're a privately held company, we have the freedom to fund groups off the beaten track, and that's where we believe our small grants are most effective. We support the use of creative methods to engage communities to take action, including film, photography and books. However, media projects will only be successful in our proposal process if they are tightly linked to a direct-action campaign on the issue, with specific goals that go beyond education and awareness.

We fund work that:

- is action-oriented
- builds public involvement and support
- is strategic
- focuses on root causes
- accomplishes specific goals and objectives
- is happening in these countries only: United States, Canada, Japan, Chile, Argentina, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Norway, Luxembourg, Italy, Ireland, Germany, France, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, Australia and the Czech Republic.

We do not fund:

- organizations without 501(c)(3) status or a comparable fiscal sponsor
- general environmental education efforts



- land acquisition, land trusts or conservation easements
- research, unless it is in direct support of a developed plan for specific action to alleviate an environmental problem
- environmental conferences
- endowment funds
- political campaigns
- green building projects

Application Procedure

We accept one proposal per group, per fiscal year (May 1st - April 30th). Grants up to \$12,000 may be requested.

- If your work is located near one of our retail stores, your proposal will be reviewed by store employees. Our stores accept proposals on a rolling basis, throughout the year.
- If your work is not located near one of our retail stores, your proposal will be reviewed by an employee Grants Council at our company headquarters.
- There are two annual deadlines for this process:
April 30 (all applications received in April will receive a response by the end of August)
August 31 (all applications received in August will receive a response by the end of January)

The Community Foundation for Ireland Families at Risk of Homelessness

NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

The Community Foundation for Ireland has been a committed supporter of families at risk for many years initially as a category in our Grassroots Grants. This year though our #Belonging16 Grants Scheme we have a dedicated category for Families At Risk Of Homelessness.

Criteria Summary

Within our #Belonging16 Families at Risk of Homelessness category, grants of up to €7,500 are available for projects working towards the engagement of families at risk of homelessness. Grants will support community based activities that will increase the engagement of families at risk of homelessness and promote meaningful measures that address the risk of homelessness amongst this group. The ultimate aim of this grants scheme is prevention of homelessness.

Full Criteria

It is strongly recommended that you read the full criteria document to familiarise yourself with the details of this grant round and the grant making priorities.

Download the Full Criteria document [here](#).



Application Form

Click [here](#) to access the online Application Form.

Closing Date

All applications must be submitted online by **4:30pm on the 22nd April 2016**. Any applications submitted after this time cannot be accepted by The Community Foundation for Ireland.

How to use the online application form

A 'User Guide' is available to assist you with completing the online application form Click [here](#) for the User Guide.

Step 1: Click on the link for the Online Application Form below. This will take you to a welcome page. Please carefully read the information available here and confirm your acceptance and supply your correct email address.

Step 2: You will receive an email with a link to an online application form. If you do not receive a link to the application form within 24 hours of submitting your email address, please contact info@foundation.ie.

Step 3: Complete the application form, upload the required documentation and submit.

Please note you will be able to save drafts of your application form until you are happy that it is complete and ready for final submission. You should retain the application form link until you are happy that the application is ready for submission.

Step 4: We will send you confirmation that your application has been received and you will be able to save and/or print a PDF copy of your completed application.

Contact Us

If you are unsure about any of the above, or have any other queries, please contact the grants team on (0)1 874 7354 or e-mail info@foundation.ie

Downloads and Links:

[Criteria](#)

[Online Application Form](#)

[Online Application User Guide](#)

The Community Foundation for Ireland - Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The Community Foundation for Ireland has been a committed supporter of minority communities and migrants for many years. This year, through our **#Belonging16** Grants Scheme we have a dedicated category for **refugees**.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers



As we have seen low numbers of refugees arriving in Ireland to date, with our **#Belonging16: Refugees** Grants Scheme we are not solely looking at those affected by the current humanitarian crisis but we are rather taking a wider look at all refugees and asylum seekers currently in Ireland and preparing for those that are due to arrive.

Criteria Summary

Within our **#Belonging16 – Refugees** category, grants of up to **€7,500** are available for projects working to promote integration and a greater sense of belonging for those affected by the recent humanitarian crisis as well as for those currently in the Direct Provision system.

Grants will support community based activities that tackle barriers to **integration** and/or contribute to building a sense of **belonging** through:

1. Projects which deliver training, information and education which foster empowerment, self-esteem, confidence, and capacity.
2. Projects which involve refugees and asylum seekers in the local community
3. Projects which address education, awareness and public opinion around the recent humanitarian crisis, in particular highlighting the causes of this crisis and the challenges faced by those affected.

Full Criteria

It is strongly recommended that you read the full criteria document to familiarise yourself with the details of this grant round and the grant making priorities.

Download the Full Criteria document [here](#).

Application Form

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Closing Date

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Downloads and Links:

[Criteria](#)

[Online Application Form](#)

[Online Application User Guide](#)

The Community Foundation of Ireland: Transgender Identities and Experiences

NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS



The Community Foundation for Ireland has been a committed supporter of LGBT issues since its inception fifteen years ago. In 2016 we would like to place a stronger focus on the issues affecting transgender identities and experiences in order to foster a greater sense of Belonging among the trans community in Ireland.

Over the past number of years there has been increased positive representation of trans experiences and heightened visibility of trans lives. There is no doubt that Irish society is changing but trans people still face violence, discrimination and a lack of knowledge and understanding within the communities in which they live.

Criteria Summary

Within our #Belonging16 Transgender Identities and Experiences category, grants of up to €7,500 are available for projects working to create a greater sense of belonging for trans people, using one or more of the following approaches:

1. Tackling discrimination and violence towards trans people
2. Capacity-building within the Trans community, including projects that focus on empowerment, self-esteem and confidence building.
3. Provision of support mechanisms and educational resources for families of trans people with a view to creating a safe, supportive, nurturing and inclusive family/ home environment.
4. Working with service providers to ensure their services and policies are trans inclusive e.g. schools, health, youth groups, employers.



Full Criteria

It is strongly recommended that you read the full criteria document to familiarise yourself with the details of this grant round and the grant making priorities.

Download the Full Criteria document [here](#).

Application Form

Click [here](#) to access the online Application Form.

Closing Date

All applications must be submitted online by 4:30pm on the 22nd April 2016.

Any applications submitted after this time cannot be accepted by The Community Foundation for Ireland.

How to use the online application form

A 'User Guide' is available to assist you with completing the online application form User Guide.

Step 1: Click on the link for the Online Application Form below. This will take you to a welcome page. Please carefully read the information available here and confirm your acceptance and supply your correct email address.

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Downloads and Links:

[Criteria](#)

[Online Application Form](#)

[Online Application User Guide](#)

National Lottery Grant Scheme – Reminder closing date 6th May

Under the National Lottery Act (1986), the Department of Health operates a National Lottery Discretionary fund under which we can provide once-off grants to organisations for the provision of health related services. The fund is aimed at community groups and voluntary organisations operating in Ireland providing health services to specific client groups (like people with an intellectual and/or physical disability), providing information and support for various disabilities and illnesses or groups with a specific interest (like providing equipment for hospitals, for example).



Click [here](#) to read more about this fund. **The closing date for receipt of application forms is 12 noon on the 6th May 2016.**

Click [here](#) to download an application form.

If you have any queries relating to National Lottery funding, please contact the Finance Unit on 01-6354281 or 01-6354019.

Your organisation must have a valid tax clearance certificate or be a registered charity to be eligible for a grant. Click [here](#) for more information on getting a tax clearance certificate.

NOTE:

This funding is for ONCE-OFF INITIATIVES, NOT for ongoing running costs or staff. Projects may like to apply for once-off programmes or capital projects (including equipment or minibuses) for initiatives addressing obesity/mental health/disability/health promotion/drug & alcohol prevention.

Is your group holding an event or has your group news you would like to share with the wider Longford Community?

Then why not promote it in this Ebulletin?

Just email, post or call to us (contact info above)

For inclusion in the May 2016 edition of the PPN EBulletin

Compiled by

Siobhan Cronogue

Public Participation Network, Longford Community & Enterprise Centre, Business & Technology Park, Ballinalee Road, Longford

Sources: Longford PPN community groups, EU News, DOECLG, Failte Ireland, Longford Co. Council, Longford Leader, Environmental Pillar, Social Justice Ireland, Pobal and other sources with many thanks!