



Longford Public Participation Network (PPN) E-bulletin February 2015

CONTENTS:

1. NEWS FROM LONGFORD PPN	Page 1
2. WHAT'S ON IN YOUR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT?	Page 1
3. LOCAL NEWS & SERVICES	Page 10
4. THE GATHERING IRELAND	Page 16
5. NATIONAL NEWS	Page 18
6. EU NEWS	Page 22
7. UPCOMING TRAINING/WORKSHOPS	Page 24
8. FUNDING	Page 26

1. NEWS FROM LONGFORD PPN

First Public Participation Network Secretariat Meeting held.

The PPN Secretariat met for the first time Tuesday 10th February in the Council Chamber. All 9 members attended and were welcomed by Frank Sheridan, Director of Service Community & Enterprise. Ray Hogan was elected the Secretariat Facilitator. It was agreed to hold an information/planning session with the Secretariat members on February 25th so a work plan can be put in place, vacancies identified and a process agreed in relation to SPC's and other Boards/Bodies elections.

Other PPN updates:

Longford Public Participation Network now has its own link from the Longford County Council website. Please click [here](#) for further information. The website will be continuously updated. If there is any information you would like added please e-mail ppn@longfordcoco.ie

A new Facebook page will be created this week. Details to follow by community note.

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

2. WHAT'S ON IN YOUR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT?

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, Drumlish, County Longford – 8pm on Friday Nights.



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

Granard Bingo: continues each Wednesday night in the Community Centre Granard commencing at 8.45pm. Jackpot this week is €19,200 in 42 calls or less. Your continued support is appreciated. Proceeds from the session on 11 February go towards the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust.

Granard Buttermarket Committee: A meeting of Granard Buttermarket Committee will take place on Tuesday, 17 February at 7.00pm in the offices of Granard Area Action, Main Street, Granard. A full attendance is requested and new members always welcome.

Granard Country Market: Granard Country Market continues each Friday morning beside Granard Post Office commencing at 8.30am to 11.00am. The usual supplies of home baking; crafts; firewood and local honey are available.

Granard Credit Union is pleased to announce a Car Loan rate of 7.5%. Please call into the office for more details and the offer of free road tax with every 2015 car purchased with a loan from Granard Credit Union Ltd. Office hours are Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am to 5.00pm.

Cnoc Mhuire Granard: Enrolment forms for incoming First year students in September 2015 should be returned to the school as soon as possible. Assessment Date: Saturday 28 February 2015.

New 2 U: The SVP shop has relocated to their spacious premises at Lower Main Street Granard. 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 starting from 8th January 2015. The service is free to all.

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.

Lus Na Greine, First Aid: Due to impressive demand this three day course will go ahead over the following dates - 17th. February, 25th and 26th February from 9.30am – 4.30pm. Booking essential.

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.



Crafting Class, Lus Na Greine: Thursday mornings 10am – 12 noon. A variety of crafts will be taught over the next few months. Classes start 5th. February. Cool Girls Club: Back on 27th January. Boys Zone: Back on 29th. January at usual times. Foroige Club: Back on February 5th. Set Dancing: Back every Monday evening. Dance Classes: Every Tuesday 8pm-10pm.

Gardening Classes, Lus Na Greine: To get ready for Spring we hope to offer Gardening Classes starting in late February. We are currently taking bookings.

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

Occupational First Aid Course: A Certified Fetac Level 5 First Aid Course will commencing in late January/February in Lus na Greine Family Resource Centre, Granard. If you would like to find out more or to book a place please call to the centre or telephone 043 6660977.

Lus na Gréine: 'Busy bees Parent & Toddler' Group: Meet Wednesdays' 11-12.30. Structured workshops combining play, puppet making, 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.

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.

North Longford Men's Group: This Group meets weekly at the Dolmen Room Aughnacliffe 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 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

FYI: Longford Westmeath Community Transport Ltd (formerly known as LCRL Rural Transport): is administered from Moate and Mr Noel McCormack is the co-ordinator. All services are running



the same as always with the local providers. The contact details for Longford Westmeath Community Transport Ltd are as follows:

Noel McCormack, Manager, Tel: 087 798 7905

Magdalen Dunne, Administrator, Tel: 090 644 8670

Address:

Westmeath Rural Community Transport

IRL Complex, Moate Business Park, Clara Road, Moate, Co. Westmeath

Email: swrta@eircom.net

Fax: 090 6448670

Senior Helpline: Is 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

Drumlish Social Dancing: Classes continue at the Community Centre, Drumlish this 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.

Confirmation in Drumlish/Ballinamuck at 11.00am on 9th May 2015. First Holy Communion in Drumlish on May 23rd 2015 at 12 noon.

Ballinamuck Bingo continues in Ballinamuck on Tuesday nights at 8.30p.m. More local support would be appreciated.

GAA Gaeltacht Scholarship: The 2015 GAA Gaeltacht Scholarship forms are now available for anyone interested in attending the Gaeltacht this year. All applicants must be 13 years or older on 1st January 2015. If interested please contact 0864017301 for the form and any further information

St. Vincent's GAA: are currently seeking new coaches/trainers/mentors for all age groups from u6 right up to u18. All that's needed is enthusiasm and a desire to be part of a vibrant and dynamic club catering for large numbers of young people in the Drumlish/Ballinamuck area. Even if you have limited or no experience of Gaelic football you can still get involved as coaching courses will



be provided over the coming months. Anyone interested can contact Colin Crowe on 086 0761556 or any committee member

Ballinamuck Tidy Towns: are holding their annual table quiz on Friday, 20th of February in Dillion's bar. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Monster clean up: Drumlish Tidy Town's give advance notice of their upcoming clean up event scheduled for Saturday, 7th March next. The most littered approach road continues to be the 3km stretch from Killashee to the GAA Park at Monaduff. All parish organisations, residents, and business interests along the route are invited to lend a hand for a couple of hours.

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

Ballinamuck now on Facebook: Ballinamuck is now on Facebook our pages are as follows: 1. Ballinamuck Longford, 2. 1798 visitor centre, 3. Ballinamuck walks, 4. Ballinamuck Essert Twining, 5. Ballinamuck enhancement. So why not like our pages and keep up to date!

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

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

Edgeworthstown Website: The Development Association in conjunction with other local organisations are building a new website called Edgeworthstown.org with a view to launching a tourism product in Edgeworthstown. The website will include advertisements for local pubs and restaurants and accommodation providers. If you would like to be included please contact the development office at 6671801

Beginners Irish Classes: Beginners conversational classes for adults starting soon in The Green. 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.

Text Alert, Edgeworthstown: The Text Alert renewal of €5.00 is now due for 2015. Please renew by calling into the Old Schoolhouse, Ballymahon Road, or the Post Office.

Outreach work in Edgeworthstown: The Rural Resource Worker in Longford Community Resources Ltd will carry out on-going outreach work in Edgeworthstown to support people who



are unemployed. If you would like more information please contact Mary Mulvey, Longford Community Resources Ltd at 043-3345555.

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.

Ballymahon Church Choir: St. Matthews's Church choir has resumed usual practices at 8pm on Wednesday evenings in the Church. They are preparing Spring and Easter music. New members are always welcome. Contact Mary on 086-8715155.

A Pilgrimage to Medjugorje will take place from Knock on Sept 16th 2015 at a cost of €699 per person sharing. Contact group leader Marita Concannon on 098-64017 or 089-4146331.

Innyside Singers: Have resumed their weekly sessions in the usual venue, Skelly's Restaurant, on Thursday nights from 8p.m. to 9.30p.m. If you would like to join the group, who sing together for fun, why not go along. They are presently preparing for a Concert which is to be held in May 2015 so everyone's attendance each week is vital. Everyone welcome, men and women.

Flower Arranging Classes, Ballymahon: With Ann Murphy, Florist will commence on Tuesday, February 17th with six classes, from 7.30p.m. to 9.30p.m. in Betty Fox's. To book your place please contact Betty at 09064-32526 after 5.00p.m.

Ballymahon Defibrillator Group: Ballymahon Defibrillator Group are hoping to buy an AED/Defibrillator which will be placed at Innyside Service Station and this will cover both the Ballymahon and Tang area. This would cost €1500. To help raise these funds the group are holding a Charity Hack commencing at Deerpark Equestrian on March 28th next. It will cost €10 for each horse and pony that attends on the day. A huge Raffle will also be held on the same night in Murrays pub in Maghera, Raffle tickets will cost €5 each. Some great prizes have already been donated for the Draw, so make sure you get your ticket which will be on sale soon in the Tang, Forgney and Ballymahon areas. If you wish to take a book of tickets to sell, please contact Darren Mulleady at 086-1704394. Your support for this local invaluable service will be greatly appreciated.

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

Ballymahon Men's Group: Longford Community Resources Ltd continues to support Ballymahon Men's Group. The men meet every Tuesday at 9am in Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, Dean Egan Hall, Ballymahon. Activities include gardening and computers. 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 Rory Gallagher Bridgeways Family Resource Centre 090-6432691.

Creative Ardagh: Why not learn a new skill or refresh one you already have with Creative Ardagh this January?



Siobhan Cronogue, Public Participation Network c/o Community & Enterprise, Longford County Council,
Great Water St., Longford

Tuesdays: Loretto Cooney will be returning for a drawing and painting course starting on Tuesday 27th January 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. Starting on 14th January. 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 start on 14th January 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 16th January, 6.30pm to 8pm. €80 for six class block or €20 for each drop in session. New members always welcome.

Group Special For January: We are currently offering a Winter Woods workshop package to preschool, school or other groups. The package includes art and science in our DPSM Woodland Creations workshop and an extra drama workshop in the two hour session. Learn lots about the woods in winter - how to identify trees, where animals live, what they eat and if they hibernate then create an art piece with things you can find in the winter woods. Prices €4 per person for one hour, €6 per person for one and a half hours or €8 per person for two hours for groups over 10. (Supervising adults free). €5 per person for one hour, €7.50 per person for one and a half hours or €10 per person for two hours for groups over 10. Contact us on 086 3027602 or creativeardagh@gmail.com to arrange your visit.

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.

For more information contact Ann or Annette on creativeardagh@gmail.com or 086 3027602.

Clondra Community Association: Art sessions for children and adults continue at Waterways Ireland Building Clondra. Come along and paint and create or just chill and view in this scenic area. Enquiries or bookings - phone 087 615 8772. Children's classes Saturday. Adults Wednesday mornings. €10 per class. Siblings less. Basic materials supplied with one class free when booking block of 6



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.

Drumshanbo Enterprise Centre: There will be a one day Pediatric First Aid course in the center on Saturday 21st of February. The fee for the course is €50. A Traditional Basket Making course will start on Wednesday the 18th of February. The course is funded by Sligo Mayo Leitrim ETB and will run for 7 evenings. For more information or to book a place contact Michael on 0719641577, 087 6177071 or mbruen@drumshanboenterprise.ie

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

On March 5th Longford Community Mothers will be starting a Baby Café that will meet weekly. The 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 Federation ICA Table Quiz will be held in The Chestnut Tree, Killashee on Tuesday 17th February at 8.00pm. Tables of three cost €30 and is open to non ICA people. Winning ICA team will represent Longford Federation in the final at An Grianan in March.

Longford Voices United Community Gospel Choir (supported by LCRL) are currently looking for new members. They practice on Thursday's @ 6.15pm in Respond House across from EDI Centre in Longford. For further information contact Ann on 087 7141733. This is a great gathering for fun, singing and a friendly chat.

Co Longford Citizens Information Services : are holding 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



Longford Toastmasters: Do you find it difficult to speak up in public? Do you struggle to get your point across at committee meetings, dread the thoughts of giving presentations or do everything you can to avoid providing staff evaluations? Would you like to improve your communication skills, build your self-confidence and broaden your social life in the process? Join us at Longford Toastmasters, where, regardless of your current ability, you will get whatever help and support you need to gain the skills and confidence to speak up in public. Our meetings take place in a friendly, encouraging and fun environment on the first and third Thursday of every month, in The Longford Arms at 8.20pm. Anyone over 18 is welcome, so come along and see if Longford Toastmasters suits you. Interested but still not convinced? If you would like more information before attending, please contact Terrie on 085 1163565 or Mary on 086 1219281 and they'll answer any questions you have.

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

East Meets West Women's Group (supported by LCRL): are women from all nationalities, ages and backgrounds who meet every second Thursday from 11am – 12pm in the Library for a friendly chat and a cuppa. Here women can make new friends and find support while living in County Longford. This group are also a Mother/ Toddler group.
For further information please contact Yvonne on 043 33 47944

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.

Friendly Phone Call Service calling older people in Co. Longford(LCRL): Please contact Mary Mulvey at 043-3345555 if you are a group in County Longford who would like more information on the service.

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.

Parent & Toddler Group: in Harmony House, Community Centre, St. Michaels Road, Longford, every Tuesday and Thursday from 11am to 1pm. Tea/ Coffee available. Why not go along for a chat while the toddlers play... Also being held in Harmony House is their **Baby Café** every Wednesdays from 11am – 1pm. For more Information contact Ola on 043 3336686

Hanging With The Elephant, Backstage Theatre, 27th February: A chronicler of ordinary life in midland Ireland through his column in the Irish Times, no one was more surprised than he when he was struck down with a depression in the summer of 2012. His subsequent record of recovery, the multi-award winning book 'Staring at Lakes', brought him to a whole new level of engagement



with audiences throughout the country. To mark the publication of his latest book 'Hanging with the Elephant', Michael Harding takes to the stage for one night only. Hear him speak with openness, honesty and great wit on how he continues to attempt to tame the 'elephant' – an Asian metaphor for the unruly mind. Hilarious yet poignant, homespun yet profound, down-to-earth yet prone to amazing flights of fancy, there's nothing quite like an evening with Michael Harding. Michael has previously won the Bord Gais Energy Irish Book Awards 2013 Non-Fiction Book of the Year and the John Murray Show Listeners Choice Award Book of the Year for his novel Staring at Lakes.

"Often funny, occasionally disturbing and not without its moments of deep sadness, Harding has peeled back his soul and held it out on the palm of his hand for all to see." Christine Dwyer-Hickey

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

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:**

Music Appreciation Evenings, Longford Library Tuesday 10th February – Tuesday 24th March 2015

with music maestros: LUKE BAXTER and Fr. TOM MURRAY

The Operas of Giuseppe Verdi, Part 2 Tuesday 17th February – Luke Baxter

The mid 1800s saw Verdi at his very best – Rigoletto was first performed in 1851, followed by both Il Trovatore and La Traviata in 1853, in addition to several lesser known works. All demonstrate his enormous skill at creative melody in addition to his profound use of theatrical effects. As usual recordings from all these operas will mirror the history of the gramophone, from the early days of Caruso, McCormack and Galli Curci and then via Callas and Bjorling, and right up to the Pavarotti era.

Classical Music in Film – Tuesday 24th February - Fr. Tom Murray

Classical music has always had a starring role at the movies. One recent example was the use of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in 'The King's Speech'. You will hear this tonight, along with other classical pieces made famous on screen – from Barber's Adagio for Strings, introduced to millions for the first



Siobhan Cronogue, Public Participation Network c/o Community & Enterprise, Longford County Council,
Great Water St., Longford

time through its powerful use in the film Platoon, through to Mahler's Symphony No. 5, remembered forever by cinema-goers as the music heard in *Death in Venice*.

Your 100 Best Tunes, Part 2 Tuesday 3rd March – Luke Baxter

Tonight's recital will feature another selection from the repertoire of the well-known BBC radio programme which had a remarkable run of 47 years at the time. Expect the unexpected with recordings old and new, from Irish ballads to grand opera, topped up by favourites from the world of ballet and military music, sacred songs, grand choruses and light opera.

The Instruments of the Orchestra, Part 2 Tuesday 10th March - Fr. Tom Murray

'David and all the Israelites were celebrating with all their might before God, with songs and with harps lyres, timbrels, cymbals and trumpet' – Chronicles 13:8. Come to the Library prepared for a visual and aural extravaganza of classical music celebrating and exploring the varied instruments of the orchestra. You will experience the classical masterpieces in an exciting new way in this programme.

An evening of Viennese Operetta Tuesday 24th March – Luke Baxter

This recital will feature many of the glorious operettas associated with Vienna – recordings will vary from such well known works as Die Fledermaus, the Gypsy Baron and a Night in Vienna, all of Strauss family fame, to those of Franz Lehar's Merry Widow and the Land of Smiles with smaller contributions from both Carl Millocker and Carl Zeller.

*Registration for Musical Appreciation Evenings €20

Revamp 3R Furniture Store



Revamp 3R Furniture Store which is housed in the EDI Centre at Mastertech Business Park on the Athlone Road is 10 years in existence this year 2015.



Siobhan Cronogue, Public Participation Network c/o Community & Enterprise, Longford County Council,
Great Water St., Longford

Started in 2005, it grew out the Revamp Training which commenced two years earlier. In the early days trainees while learning their trade in furniture restoration, did the necessary work on furniture donated, before putting it up for sale at the then shop space at Little Water Street.

Today Revamp 3R Store offers a wide range of services which includes:

- Furniture reuse
- Furniture sales
- Furniture repair
- Furniture restoration
- Upholstery and refinishing
- French polishing
- Free collection and delivery service.

The shop has a 7,000 sq ft showroom along with restoration unit, now employs fourteen employees. Most of these working in the restoration learned their trade in the Revamp training unit and are now getting the opportunity to gain confidence and develop their skills.

If you have any furniture that you wish to donate that is fit for reuse, please call REVAMP 043 33 48876.

*Also please note EDI have now launched a new website, please visit <http://www.edilongford.ie/>

Longford Volunteer Centre (Supported by LCRL)

At the Volunteer Centre you can...

- Find out about volunteering opportunities without having to make a commitment
- Get information on hundreds of different volunteering opportunities
- Talk to someone on the how, why and where of volunteering
- Get on-going support and advice if you want it.

We also help organisations...

- If you need volunteers we will try and source them for you.
- We can visit you and help with any issues about taking on volunteers for the first time, or to review current procedures
- We provide Volunteer Management Training services for voluntary organisations on all aspects of volunteering
- We also provide a Garda Vetting service for organisations that don't have garda vetting services of their own.

New Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteers required for Monster Clean-up of Drumlish Village & approach roads Saturday 7th March 2015 meet: Main St. Opp. the Post Office 9 a.m. Gloves, hi-viz vests, bags and litter picks will be supplied

Order of Malta Longford Volunteers required to assist with transport for people with disabilities and transporting older people to hospitals, day care centres, church services and social



functions. Volunteers may also be asked to assist to provide first aid services at sporting events, concerts and festivals around the county. Volunteers will be trained by the Order of Malta in Occupational first aid and CFR. Successful volunteers will receive a PHECC (pre hospital care council) registered certificate in both on completion of the course. 2hrs per week required with a minimum of 1 year commitment

GROW Longford Volunteer Churchgate collectors required for 9th and 10th May at St. Mel's Cathedral Masses. The collections will be at the 7.30pm Mass on Saturday 9th and at the 10.00am, 11.30am and 1.00pm Masses on Sunday 10th May. Helpers meet at the Cathedral 30 minutes before each Mass.

Springlawn RCDG Volunteers required who would be suited to gardening/landscaping/general horticultural works to work on the development and planting of flower beds in the area. 2 hrs per week required with a minimum commitment of 6 months

Granard Community Childcare facility DIY Volunteer required to keep outdoor areas neat and tidy. Also required to do some DIY and maintenance work in the building. Someone with some carpentry experience would be a great help. 2 hrs. weekly required with a minimum commitment of 6 months

Meals on Wheels Delivery Assistant Volunteers required to assist with the delivery of meals to individuals in the local communities

For more information on these volunteering opportunities please contact angela@volunteerlongford.ie (087 75947700) or log on to <http://www.volunteerlongford.ie/index.php/volunteers/volunteer-vacancies>

Contact Details for Longford Volunteer Centre:

Terri on 087 2915367 (Mon-Wed) or Angela 087 7594770 (Wed- Fri)
Longford Volunteer Centre,

6 Earl Street,

Longford

Mobile 087 7594770

www.volunteerlongford.ie

Follow us on:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/longfordvolunteercentre

Twitter: www.twitter.com/volunteerlvc

Longford Tourism

The Explore Longford mobile App is available for Android and iPhone!

The ideal travel companion to explore County Longford. This app is packed with detailed audio points and useful directories full of all the information you'll ever need to discover the fascinating history and archaeology of Longford town and the wider county.

This download is entirely free and gives you unlimited access to the extensive travel guide, mapping function as well as 50 audio points of interest within County Longford. We strongly



recommend using a Wi-Fi connection for the large initial download, but once this download is complete, a Wi-Fi connection is no longer necessary. This means you don't have to worry about roaming, as the whole experience can be enjoyed in location, and all offline.

Local Knowledge at their Heart – skillfully and professionally written, with detailed insights from local experts, your audio points allow you to explore the architectural gems of Longford at your own pace. You will discover the true beauty of Longford's historic buildings and heritage sites, uncover the human stories behind many of these fascinating places, and learn facets of Longford's history that you simply will not find in other guides.

Travel Guide – Our fully interactive directory provides comprehensive listings in seven categories; Accommodation, Attractions, Eating Out, Events, Heritage Sites, Leisure and Shopping. You will find relevant contact details for each listing as well as your immediate proximity to it. All locations in the directory are viewable and geo-located on the interactive map.

Map Function – We plot all of our tours on an offline map platform, so all of your audio points will be geo-located and available without a web or data connection. There will also be a 'find me' feature which will highlight your exact location should you wander. You can also tailor your map to geo-locate all of the relevant locations in your proximity to match your itinerary.

Favourites Function – build an itinerary for your day - or for your whole holiday! This can be done for entire tours, or for individual points, as well as for each of the items in the Guide to Longford section. Once 'starred', all your favourites will appear on your map, plus information telling you how close you are to each of them!

Download the app now for the iPhone or Android devices.





Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Welcome to the Spring edition of LEO ezine.

LEO are delighted to welcome you to their new ezine where you will be kept updated on upcoming events, training programmes and informed of any new initiatives that may be available for your business.

Access to Finance

There are a number of funding options that may be available to start up and established businesses operating across the County. The LEO, Longford may be able to offer Feasibility Study Grants, Business Priming Grants and/or Business Development Grants. If you are investing in your business and creating employment, please contact our offices to discuss potential funding.

Microfinance Ireland

For businesses that may not be eligible for grant assistance, the Local Enterprise Offices and MFI have partnered to improve the package on offer to business.

By applying through the Local Enterprise Office you will get :

- 1% reduction on normal interest rate of 8.5% (8.8% APR)
- Assistance and feedback on application
- Business advice and support

Bookkeeping Using Excel Spread sheets

Taking place on Tuesday 24th February, this course will introduce participants to setting up a simple, straight-forward bookkeeping system within their business using Microsoft Excel. To teach participants how to keep proper books and records on their computer and demonstrate and practice setting up bookkeeping spread-sheets and using basic Excel formula for great efficiency

- Start up and file management
- Spread sheet set-up for bookkeeping
- Recording sales, purchases and bank transactions
- Excel formula
- Managing, formatting and linking sheets
- Page set up for reporting and printing
- Protecting sheet

[Book Now](#)

County Final of the Student Enterprise Awards

Taking place on Thursday 19th March in Longford Shopping Centre, secondary school students from across the County will be exhibiting / showcasing their mini businesses offering a wide and varied range of products and services. Entertainment on the day will be provided by the winners of the Longford LY Factor.



Upcoming Training Programmes

Check out the LEO website to see upcoming training. If you have any upcoming training requirements, we may be able to help. Contact ckane@leo.longfordcoco.ie for more information.

The Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT)

The Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT) aims to conserve wildlife and the habitats they depend on throughout Ireland, while encouraging a greater understanding and appreciation of the natural world and the need to protect it. The Irish Wildlife Trust was founded in 1979 as a non-governmental organisation and charity.

We provide the public with information about wildlife, run education and training programmes, carry out habitat and species surveys, campaign and lobby on biodiversity issues, restore natural habitats, consult with industry, agriculture and Local Authorities to maintain our natural heritage and contribute to national and international forums for the protection of biodiversity.

The Irish Wildlife Trust is governed by the 'Council', a board of directors that are elected and nominated by members at the Annual General Meeting. The Council are responsible for the overall strategic direction of the IWT. The IWT head office has a small staff unit that respond to the public requests for information and fulfill the IWT activities and commitments on a daily and annual basis. The IWT depends upon the generous voluntary efforts of its volunteers throughout Ireland who work tirelessly to conserve Ireland's wildlife and habitats and bring life to the organisation. The IWT is a nationwide organisation with a strong membership base, staff, volunteers and Board of Directors, with branches in Dublin, Laois/Offaly, Galway, Cork, Waterford, Kerry, **Longford**/Westmeath and Cavan.

We are active members of the European Environmental Bureau, Irish Environmental Network (IEN) and Sustainable Water Network (SWAN).

The Irish Wildlife Trust has conservation groups that have become affiliated with the organisation over the years as we share in our mission to conserve Ireland's wildlife and habitats. The groups are Groundwork (*International Volunteer Conservation Work Camps in National Parks*), Bat Conservation Ireland (*Umbrella Organisation for Bat Groups around Ireland*) and Badgerwatch Ireland (*Organisation involved in Badger Conservation, Welfare and Awareness*).

If you are interested in learning more please contact ppn@longfordcoco.ie

4. THE GATHERING IRELAND

2013/2014 saw the successful delivery of many Gathering Events throughout Ireland. 2015 also has a lot to offer over sea visitors. The PPN E-Bulletin will keep you up to date with what's on throughout the Country so you can share this information with relatives or friends who may be planning their next holiday here. Listed below are just some events being held nationwide for February/ March:

Donegal Gathering 2015:



Time: **February 18, 2015** at 6pm to **February 22, 2015** at 11pm

Location: **The Gleneagle Hotel & INEC Killarney**

Street: **Muckcross Road**

City/Town: **Killarney**

Website or Map: <http://www.thegathering.ie>

Phone: **353646671555**

Event Type: **festival, trad, music, traditional**

Organized By: **The Gathering Festival**

Ballyshannon Drama Festival 2015

14th – 22nd March 2015, Ballyshannon, Abbey Arts Centre

Website: ballyshannondrama.com

The 63rd Ballyshannon Drama Festival will run from March 14th to March 22nd 2015 in the Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal.

Sat 14th St. Dymphna Dromore “Same Old Moon”

Sun 15th Letterkenny Music & Drama Group “The 39 Steps

Mon 16th Lifford Players” Absence of Women”

Tues 17th Phoenix Players, Tubbercurry “Plat On”

Wed 18th Butt Drama Circle “ The Glass Menagerie

Thurs 19th Newtonstewart Theatre Company “Tea in a china cup”

Fri 20th Glenamaddy Players “Stolen Child”

Sat 21st Yellow Moon Theatre Company “Dancing at Lughnasa”

Sun 22nd Corn Mill Theatre Company “The Dead School”

Nightly at 8.15pm, 7.30pm on final night. Booking 087 3420301, www.ballyshannondrama.com



Ted Fest 2015

Thursday, February 26th, 2015 to Sunday, March 1st, 2015

This festival on Aran Mór Island will either *completely* baffle you or make you want to up sticks and head for ‘Craggy Island’ for a few days of completely off the wall madness!

The festival celebrates (if that is the right word!) the cult TV series Father Ted, and as anyone familiar with it will know that means madness, mayhem and total chaos are not just inevitable but desirable.

Alltech Craft Brews and Food Fair

Friday 27th February 2015 | Sunday 1st March 2015

The Alltech Craft Brews & Food Fair returns for a third time to the Convention Centre Dublin, February 27 - March 1, 2015. The Fair will feature a host of local and international craft beverages as well as local culinary delights.

Entertainment at the fair will include broadcast of three Six Nations rugby clashes on Dublin’s biggest screen and live music from The Jerry Fish Electric Sideshow, Booka Brass Band, Amazing Apples and Interskalactic. Before the Ireland vs. England game on Sunday, March 1, Hector Ó hEochagáin will once again host a Beer Grand Slam tasting event featuring a team of Irish and English fans to warm up the crowd before the big game

Ennis Book Club Festival

Friday 6th March 2015 | Sunday 8th March 2015

The Ennis Book Club Festival promotes the pleasure of reading and encourages readers to expand the scope of their reading. Literature is the primary art form and all genres are explored. There is also music, dance, food, theatre and wonderful conversations between authors and readers. It is a unique festival as it is the only one dedicated to book clubs.

Here you will find author readings from national and international writers; workshops on reading fiction and poetry; sessions on reading lists and revisiting classics; reading group development seminars; professional development seminars for librarians; public interviews with authors; panel discussions; food demos; exhibitions; walking tours; book club gatherings; literary table quizzes; music recitals; and a great festival club!

[View Website](#)

5. [National News](#)

Festivals to boost tourism activity and drive visitor growth all around the country in second half of the year

Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Paschal Donohoe TD, has announced that further funding of €320,000 has been approved by Fáilte Ireland under its National Festivals and Events



Programme for **11** key national festivals and events to take place later this year. This follows an announcement of almost €2 million last November for larger events (such as the St Patrick's Festival) and those festivals due to take part in the first six months of 2015.

Minister Donohoe explained the significance of today's funding saying: 'Festivals and events encourage greater visitor traffic and enhance the visitor's experience wherever they occur. Crucially, some of the events funded today will take place beyond the high season, during Autumn, and are key motivators for tourism later in the year'.

"I am confident that today's targeted festival funding – following the first phase of funding late last year - will have a significant impact all around the country. To complement this, another round of funding for smaller and regional festivals will be announced in the coming weeks."

The approved festivals being funded by Fáilte Ireland under the second phase of its National Programme for Festivals and Events includes:

- Dublin Theatre Festival – **€40,000**
- Laya City Spectacular – **€25,000**
- Dublin Fringe Festival – **€20,000**
- Waterford Spraoi – **€15,000**
- Guinness Cork Jazz Festival – **€30,000**
- Cork Film Festival – **€20,000**
- Earagail Arts Festival – **€40,000**
- Galway Film Fleadh – **€20,000**
- Rose of Tralee – **€30,000**
- Galway Oyster Festival – **€30,000**
- Yeats 2015 International Festival – **€50,000**

As well as attracting visitors, festivals are important in terms of generating employment and community engagement. Shaun Quinn, CEO of Fáilte Ireland explained why festivals are so important for Ireland and the tourism sector by emphasizing:

"Ultimately, Ireland succeeds as a tourism destination due to the very positive experiences which visitors enjoy. Part of this is due to our own native friendliness and the beauty of our countryside but tourism performance is also dependent on the variety of things to see, do and embrace which every traveller looks for. For Ireland, festivals are an important part of the mix which makes us an enjoyable place to visit and these events which we are announcing today will enhance the tourism calendar and add to our attractiveness and our ability to grow overseas visitors and revenue."

New Funding Opportunity: Eircode Community Outreach Programme

Ireland is introducing postcodes in 2015, to be known as 'Eircode'. The aim of Eircodes is to assist people who, because of their own particular circumstances, may have difficulties adopting and using Eircodes. The Eircode Community Outreach Programme will be implemented at a local level by the appointment of one local organisation per county/area to lead an outreach programme involving many organisations and events.

We invite community and voluntary organisations to apply for funding to engage an '**Outreach Champion**'



The Wheel and Irish Rural Link are now inviting community and voluntary organisations to apply for funding to engage an **'Outreach Champion'**.

To find out what funding is available and to download an application pack and form, please visit www.wheel.ie/eircode or www.irishrurallink.ie.

Closing date for applications is Wednesday, 25 February 2015 at 5.00 p.m.

What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls: Economic and Social Costs of Violence Programme

The project is being implemented by an international research team led by Dr. Nata Duvvury at the Centre for Global Women Studies, School of Political Science and Sociology in NUI Galway, in collaboration with Ipsos MORI, London, UK and the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), Washington DC, USA. The team won a competitive award of £1.5 million British Sterling funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), UK to undertake the project.

The project will explore the social and economic impacts of violence against women and girls in the Global South and will provide a framework for estimating the overall costs for national economies. The project is part of DFID's global development initiative, 'What Works: A Global Programme to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls'.

The linkages between violence against women and girls and economic outcomes are relatively clear at the theoretical level; however, there is a lack of comprehensive estimates of the economic and social impacts of VAWG that can capture direct tangible, direct intangible and indirect tangible costs at the household, business, community and national level. Further, there is a need for more standardized guidance to measuring economic and social costs particularly in low and middle income countries. Through this project, we aim to fill these gaps. The project takes a multi-disciplinary, mixed methods approach that integrates quantitative and qualitative research with innovative economic analysis to derive social and economic costs of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in three fragile, conflict affected and/or low-middle income states. By guiding public policy, empirical research and evidence on the economic and social costs of VAWG will strengthen the argument for resources to implement laws, provide health and social support services and to mobilize communities to shift the social norms that underpin VAWG.

The Community Foundation for Ireland invites you to the 2015 VitalSigns Report Launch Thursday February 26th at Buswells Hotel, Kildare Street, Dublin 2 From 10.15 a.m

We are delighted to invite you to the launch of VitalSigns 2015, the second in the series of Irish VitalSigns reports produced by The Community Foundation for Ireland.

The VitalSigns report is a scorecard on how a country is faring across key social areas. Throughout 2014, over 1200 people living in Ireland responded to our request to indicate their satisfaction and priorities in Irish society by participating in our Citizens' Survey. Respondents graded 12 key social areas and highlighted their top priorities within each of the areas, including Strong Communities, Housing, Health and Wellbeing and Learning.



The biennial VitalSigns report is an essential component to measure trends, progress and gaps in Irish society, with a view that using such measures can help governments focus on what matters most to people, as well as informing community and voluntary organisations, businesses and individuals.

We hope you can join us for what promises to be an insightful and thought provoking briefing session on Thursday February 26th from 10.30- 12.00 p.m. Registration will start from 10.15 a.m. **Please RSVP to Hazel Hill at hhill@foundation.ie or at 01 874 7654 by February 16th.**

Minister Kelly: ‘Local Authorities Need to Meet the Challenge in Delivering our Social Housing Strategy’

200 Plus Staff for Local Authorities

The Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, today (4 February, 2015) announced that his department in conjunction with the Department for Public Expenditure & Reform have approved 200 staff for local authorities.

“These staff will be required to implement the Social Housing Strategy which I announced last November. In order to deliver the ambitious targets in the strategy and the 35,000 new homes promised, local authorities need to ‘tool up’ and staff are key to this,” said Minister Kelly.

The Strategy commits to;

- supplying 35,000 additional social housing units at a cost of €3.8 billion over the next 6 years;
- providing an estimated 29,000 Jobs in construction and promotion of mixed-tenure developments;
- meeting the housing needs of some 75,000 households through local authority provision via the private rented sector - using Housing Assistance Payment and Rental Accommodation Scheme;
- reforming social housing delivery and management in Ireland,
- establishing the Dublin Social Housing Delivery Taskforce to respond to the current supply difficulties and focus on the delivery of social housing in the Dublin area, and
- sets out a road map to accommodate everyone on the Housing Waiting Lists by 2020 (90,000 households)

“For the last number of years we have seen LAs deliver little or no social housing due to a lack of resources, and staffing numbers have reduced by around 25%. This is the first major drive for local authority staff recruitment since the recession,” said Minister Kelly.

In order to deliver on the Government’s Social Housing Strategy approximately 200 posts have been approved or approved in principle and will be filled as the need arises. “The targets in the SHS are ambitious and I need to know that LAs can and will deliver on these targets. I have been meeting LAs for the last number of months to discuss the implementation of the strategy and



staffing needs. I will not accept any excuses from LAs at the end of the year or mid strategy that they cannot meet their targets,” added Minister Kelly.

“It should be noted that Posts will be filled through a combination of contract, redeployment and recruitment. The reduction of 400 staff from local authorities’ water services divisions through Irish Water has freed up staff resources to achieve this,” concluded Minister Kelly.

The type of posts covered are mostly Architects, Engineers, Planners, Surveyors, Housing Officers, Craftsmen and some additional clerical staff - all at varying grades of seniority ranging from Graduates to Directors of Services.

Number of housing posts approved or approved in principle. Dublin City Council 50, Fingal County Council 28, South Dublin County Council 17, Dunlaire-Rathdown County Council 16 Limerick City & County 17 & Donegal 10. Total 138.

Cavan 8, Clare 2, Cork Co 2, Galway City 1, Galway County 1, Kerry 1, Laois 2, Leitrim 1, Louth 4, Roscommon 3, Tipp 1, Waterford 2, Wexford 2, Wicklow 2. Total 32

*(Note - applications from Cork City & Kildare still being assessed) A further 80 applications are being assessed by the Department with approval expected for an additional 40 staff bringing the number to over 200 for 2015

6. [EU NEWS](#)

Cybercrime - Irish internet users targeted

Forty per cent of Irish internet users have received emails or phone calls trying to get access to their computer or personal details such as banking information.

So says the latest Eurobarometer poll, published today to mark Safer Internet Day. The poll focuses particularly on experience of cybercrime.

Nearly a third of Irish internet users have discovered malicious software on their device, but just 51% of them have installed anti-virus software. This compares with an EU average of 61% who have taken this precaution.

Sixteen per cent of Irish Internet users (3rd highest in the EU) say they have had experience of their social media or email account being hacked compared to an EU average of 12%.

Misuse of personal data (45%), security of online payments (53%) and online purchases (26%) top the concerns of Irish people when it comes to online risks.

While Irish people are more aware of cybercrime than the EU average, many users (50%) don't take basic precautions such as changing their passwords every 12 months.

Today's poll also shows how internet habits are changing, with increasing numbers of Irish people taking to smart phones and tablets to go online.



And while internet access in Ireland has never been higher at 80%, Ireland is behind Sweden (96%) the Netherlands (95%) and Denmark (94%). Lowest access was in Romania (54%), Portugal (55%), and Greece (58%).

Click [here](#) for more information about the survey.

Ireland among best for EU's 112 emergency number

Ireland's emergency services came in the top group in Europe for response time to calls to the EU's 112 Emergency Number. This is according to a European Commission report out this week to mark European 112 day (11 February).



90% of 112 calls in Ireland are answered within 10 seconds, which the European Commission holds up as best practice for other countries to follow. Callers in some other EU Member States, including France and Spain, are put through to a recorded message before they can speak to an operator. Ireland is also one of 18 EU countries to let disabled users contact the 112 number by text message.

While Ireland has done well, the findings are not so good for Europe overall. The report shows no improvement in more accurate caller location since last year, and points out excessive delays for Emergency Services to receive caller location. The report also showed that access to 112 for disabled callers did not improve much. 112 is the EU's free emergency phone number, available everywhere in Europe, with special operators who can answer calls in English, French and local languages. Mobile phones provide caller location through Cell ID, speeding up time for the emergency services.

EU Commission proposes €2.5 million for Irish ex-Lufthansa Technik workers

The European Commission has proposed giving Ireland €2.5 million to support the former workers in Lufthansa Technik Airmotive. The Lufthansa plant, which was based in Rathcoole, Co Dublin, closed in early 2014 with the loss of 424 jobs in all.

The money would help 250 former employees to find new jobs. The scheme would be co-financed by the Irish government giving a total of €4.1 million in the package.

Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development said: "Today's announcement demonstrates the practical assistance that the EU can provide to people who have had the unfortunate experience of losing their jobs. The Commission's Winter Economic Forecast, published just yesterday, indicates that the economies of all EU Member States will grow this year with positive impact for job creation. The €2.5 million of assistance being provided from the European Globalisation Fund will be of significant benefit to the 250 former workers of Lufthansa Technik Airmotive and another 200 young people currently not in employment, education or training in terms of providing training and reskilling to equip them for new job opportunities."

The money comes from the European Globalisation Fund, set up to support EU workers who lost their jobs due to globalisation and the economic crisis.



Smart seat and seatbelt to help sleepy drivers stay alert

EU-funded researchers have developed a driver's seat and seatbelt from smart textiles that measure heart and breathing rates. Detecting if drivers are showing signs of fatigue behind the wheel and somehow alerting them to the fact, the system could prevent thousands of fatalities every year.

Driver fatigue accounts for some 8.3% of all vehicle crashes and up to 35% of serious accidents in the EU each year, according to the eSafety Forum. That translates to more than 7,000 fatalities annually attributable to fatigue-related collisions.

The project consortium included several research institutions, small to medium-sized businesses (SMEs) in the car textile and component sector, and a biosensor manufacturer. Since it ended last May, former partners have continued developing HARKEN's results with the aim of getting closer to market: "We are nearly ready to hit the road. We've had tremendous interest from manufacturers in Scandinavia already. As soon as we have submitted our European patent application we will be able to show everything off," project coordinator Paulo Gameiro explained

7. UPCOMING TRAINING/WORKSHOPS

EDI Centre

Disability Activation Congress Training (DACT) course starting end of March. 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
--	--

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. Courses are free and basic education skills.

8. FUNDING

The Community Foundation for Ireland

The Community Foundation has introduced online grant applications! The new online application form will open for Round 3 of The Older Persons' Fund and Round 5 of Caring Communities. There are three steps to take you through completing the grant application form and applicants can save drafts of their form as they complete it. As grant payments will now take place by electronic transfer, please note that you now must submit a recent bank statement with your application also.

The deadline for completion of online application forms is **strictly 4:30pm on March 6th**. Please ensure you allow enough time to complete your application form and upload your bank statement.

We will not accept other application formats.

Full details on open rounds are outlined below and on our website [here](#)

Caring Communities Round 5

Caring Communities Round 5 is now open for applications. The category for this Round is **Emergency Home Respite for Family Carers**.

All applicants will now be required to apply online details of this process is clearly outlined on our website [here](#).

Please ensure you read the Criteria for the Round. Applications outside the Criteria will not be



considered.

The deadline for applications is **strictly 4:30pm, March 6th 2015**

Older Persons' Fund Round 3

The Older Persons' Fund Round 3 is now open for applications.

Grants of up to **€7,500** will be available to organisations working towards **supporting older people's voices at a local and national level**. In the second category grants of up to **€7,500** will be available to organisations working towards **inclusion of older people in active citizenship roles**.

In exceptional circumstances and where there is proven organisational capacity larger grants will be awarded within both categories of the Fund.

We would also encourage past successful grantees to apply again to progress work initiated in previous rounds where outcomes can be built upon and progressed further for greater impact in the chosen category.

Please ensure you read the Criteria for the Round. Applications outside the Criteria will not be considered

The Older Persons' Fund will close for applications on **6th March 2015 at 4:30pm**.

All applicants will now be required to apply online details of this process is clearly outlined on our website [here](#).

Grantee Profile - Grant of the Month!

Merchants Quay Ireland is a national voluntary organisation founded by the Franciscans in 1969, providing a range of care and treatment services for homeless men and women and for drug users.

The Christmas period is a busy one at The Foundation with many of our donors seeking to support good causes, particularly charities addressing the issue of homelessness. An approach from one donor family seeking to support a specific purpose on this issue rather than make a general donation, led to a great result for Merchant's Quay Ireland.

MQI already have a nurse on staff during daytime operating hours which serves clients who access the service between 09:00 – 17:00. However there haven't been funds to offer the same care to men and women who use **MQI's Extended Day Service (EDS)** from 17:30-20:15. These are often the most fragile clients of all – the newly homeless, people without medical cards, and those who have no bed for the night – so coming to the EDS is their only access to medical help.

The donor family immediately supported MQI's request for a challenge grant of half the funding. With this funding in place, a second donor family with The Foundation matched the challenge grant later the same day! A fantastic outcome for MQI and their vulnerable clients.



MQI's Extended Day Service nurse will be in place within the next number of weeks.

To find out more about MQI – the beneficiary of our grant of the month, please see [here](#)

Culture Ireland Grants – 2014-2015 Deadlines Community Arts Partnership (CAP) 2014/2015 Dates and Deadlines for Culture Ireland Grant Rounds

Please note Culture Ireland has set funding rounds and deadlines for 2015. There will be three funding rounds in 2015 and separate calls for showcasing opportunities and Edinburgh Festivals will be announced during the year.

Application Deadline | Timing of Project/Event | Decision Due

15 February 2015 | May 2015 onwards | Early April
15 June 2015 | September 2015 onwards | Early August
15 October 2015 | January 2016 onwards | Early December

For further information please visit <http://comartspartner.org>

[Explore over 800 funding schemes on Fundingpoint](#)

Want to heighten the profile of your Community Group! 😊

Then why not send us along a short piece for inclusion in next month's PPN Ebulletin!

**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 March edition of the PPN EBulletin

Compiled by

Siobhan Cronogue

c/o Community & Enterprise, Longford County Council, Great Water St., Longford.

Phone: 087 2615583; E-mail: ppn@longfordcoco.ie

[Sources: EU News, DOECLG, Failte Ireland, Longford Co. Council, Longford Leader and other sources with many thanks!](#)