



Longford Public Participation Network (PPN) E-bulletin March 2016

The PPN would like to take this opportunity to wish all its members a very

Happy Saint Patrick's Day!!! 

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1. NEWS FROM LONGFORD PPN

Public Participation Network update:

Interviews were held Friday 11th March and Monday 14th March for the position of full time PPN Development Officer. Longford County Council and the PPN Secretariat are pleased to announce Siobhán Cronogue has been the successful candidate. Siobhán can be contacted on 087 261 5583 / ppn@longfordcoco.ie .

Meetings held/ planned:

- The PPN Secretariat will meet over the coming weeks to discuss the upcoming County Plenary meeting, the PPN's workplan and the remaining community representative vacancies.

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 March:

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 0879478650 or ring Breege on 043 3331888. Please note this group will not meet over the Easter Break (22nd and 29th of March).

East meets West: This informal women's group will meet next on the **7th of April** in the back of the Methodist Church. Women from all nationalities are welcome 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.

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.

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

Easter Camp, Lus Na Greine: Including Easter egg mystery hunt ages 6 -12, Monday 21st – 24th. Call centre for details

Leebeen Park: A table quiz in aid of Leebeen Park will take place in Murtagh's pub in Aughnacliffe on Friday 18th March @ 9pm.

Whist: Charity whist in Granard Community Centre on St. Patricks Night @ 8.30pm. Proceeds go to the Guide Dogs Association.

Edgeworthstown Easter Camp: Mon 21st March – Thurs 24th March @ 9.30am – 1.30pm. Age 4+. Cost €35. Further details telephone 043 6672534 or visit website www.stmaryschildcarecampus.ie

Defibrillator Group fundraiser: fundraising dance St Patrcik night, The Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule. Music by Jimmy Lennon and friends. Music starts 10pm – 12am. All welcome. Adm €10



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, Drumlish, 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



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.

Sign Language Classes, Lus na Greine: are currently ongoing every Tuesday evening at 7pm in the centre. There are places available. This is a great opportunity to learn a valuable language in a local setting. Please book by calling 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.

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, Aughnacliffe: 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 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'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 the ETB tutor. They are also restoring a donkey cart for use in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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.

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, Aughnaclyffe, 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 Gardening Group: The Springlawn gardening group meet every Tuesday morning from 10am- 1pm at the Resource Centre at 26 Springlawn (weather permitting). The group is made up of enthusiastic amateur volunteer gardeners that help maintain the Springlawn area. If anyone is interested in joining us please contact Mary in 26 Springlawn on 087 3749950 or call into the centre Monday-Friday, 9.30am until 1pm.

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.



One Parent Family Payment Now Qualify!!!!:



*** FREE HOME INSULATION SCHEME AVAILABLE ***

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!

Read the info below and get in contact with us in the office on 043 3393255

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

The 82nd County Longford Ploughing Championships and Field Day : will take place on Sunday April 10th. Those wishing to book lifestyle and entertainment stand can contact Tom Bannon on 087 9691176 while the farming trade stand supervisor is Barry White on 087 9490024

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.



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

Drumlish Cookery Classes on Tuesday at 7.30pm in Drumlish Community Centre, Tiles cover over the next three weeks are Importance of Fish in your Diet, Stress & physical activity. Please text Breda 087 9181787 to confirm your place.

Drumlish 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. More local support would be appreciated.

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, 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.

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 Kiltycreev@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.

Horticulture Class (Propagation of Plants) starting in Edgeworthstown. To book a place, contact 043- 6671801. Classes are free to those who meet the criteria.

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.

Ardagh Dancing Lessons: Irish dancing classes recently recommenced and continue in the Community Centre every Monday night at 6.30pm. Fees for the class are €4.50 per child per lesson with an overall family rate of €10 per family per week with further reductions for children who pay by the month. No wigs fake tans or make up for dancers. Children can dance for competition or enjoyment. Contact Maureen 086 3702719 Children all ages 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.

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.

St. Christopher's Services: Volunteers wanted for the 'Leisure Buddies Project' in 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 befriending anyone in St. Christopher's please contact the Leisure Buddies co-ordinator Michelle on 086 4074988.

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:

**Midlands Simon Community
LONGFORD**

**SLEEP OUT
FOR SIMON**

shannonside
Longford, Roscommon & South Leitrim

Midlands
Simon
Community

in Connolly Barracks Longford

Good Friday Night 25th March 2016

**TO SIGN UP
CALL NOEL ON: 087 9615766**



If you would like to donate towards the event you can do so on our website

<http://gateway.midlandssimon.com/donate.php>

Programme of Events: Welcome address @ 10pm, Refreshments served, Sing along Music
11.30pm – 1.00am.

Requirements for the night: Sleeping Bag and Cardboard, Pillow, Warm Clothes, Hot Water Bottle
Sponsorship Cards and monies must be handed in on the night. Only people with Sponsorship
cards will be admitted.

Longford County Council / Joint Policing Committee

In accordance with the Garda Síochána Act 2005, and associated Joint Policing Committee (JPC) Guidelines, Longford County JPC has commenced the preparation of a Six-Year Strategic Plan.

The purpose of the plan is to identify high-level strategic objectives and actions which link with other plans and strategies and which will guide the future operation of the JPC.

Submissions in relation to the plan are invited from members of the public, community organisations, business groups etc. It is recommended that submissions should focus on objectives and actions to support enhanced policing and crime prevention in County Longford.

Submissions may cover topics such as

- Prevention of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour
- Community policing
- Public safety and security
- Misuse of drugs, alcohol and related crime
- Victim support

Submissions may be made to the Longford County Joint Policing Committee, Community and Enterprise Department, Longford County Council, Aras an Chontae, Great Water St., Longford or by email to policing@longfordcoco.ie until 4pm on the 8th April 2016.

Longford Senior Footballers:

Rosanna Davison joins county GAA stars for Devils in Prada Fashion Show



One of the big social nights of the year will take place in the Longford Arms Hotel on Saturday night, March 19th, when the county GAA stars take to the stage for the Devils in Prada Fashion Show.

All proceeds from the event will go to the county team's training fund and tickets for the night are being snapped up right across the county. The status of the event got a real lift last week when it was confirmed that the former Miss World, Rosanna Davison, had agreed to come on board as a compere for the event. She will be joining forces on the night with our own Mr Universe, Benny O'Brien.

Rosanna Davison is one of the most recognised women in Ireland and this week she told us that she was delighted to get involved with the Longford project. She said: "It is great to see the players coming together like this to give something back, and from talking with the organisers I know that they have put together a real fun show."

It has also been confirmed that the popular local singing group, 'Celtic Chique' will also perform on the night. The six teenagers have enjoyed rave reviews since first coming together as an act in 2012. They specialise in Irish, contemporary and Celtic songs but with amazing voices and a huge range, they can sing any type of song. Their first album, One Step Closer, was released last year. The group includes Devyn O'Neill, Aisling Cahill, Laura Ward, Jordi O'Rourke, Aoife Mulhern and Marie Egan.

It promises to be a really exciting event and night and the tone will be set from early on with champagne on arrival. On the night members of the county team will be modelling the latest ranges from Matt O'Brien's, Spirit, Louis Copeland and EJ Menswear.

Stars of the ladies game and a number of leading models will also take to the stage to model the latest outfits from Aine's, Lure and Dolls. Meanwhile the night will also showcase the exciting new season collection of shoes from the wonderful Fabiani.

Tickets are now on sale at the following outlets:

Matt O'Brien's, Dolls, Clara Ellen, Longford Arms Hotel and Pearse Park (all Longford town); Kearney's and Macken's, Granard; Casserly's, Lanesboro; Corrigan's, Legga and Centra, Drumlish.



Celtic Chique.. Devyn O'Neill, Aisling Cahill, Laura Ward, Jordi O'Rourke, Aoife Mulhern & Marie Egan are all modelling outfits from Aine's Boutique.

Champagne reception on arrival sponsored by Patrick Hanlon of Hanlon's AppleGreen & Gala, Dublin Rd, Longford.



Join us for the Event of the Year
Longford Senior Football Players

present

The Devils in Prada Fashion Show

on Saturday 19th March 2016
 in the Longford Arms Hotel

From 7pm you will be greeted with Champagne served by some very familiar faces!



• Longford Arms Hotel • Pearse Park • Casserly's, Lanesboro
 • Kearneys Filling Station, Granard • Macken's Filling Station, Granard
 • Corrigan's Petrol Station, Legga • Centra, Drumlish



Longford Volunteer Centre (LCRL):

Volunteer Opportunities

[Marketing Volunteer](#) - Volunteer required to create and promote awareness of the Maria Edgeworth guided walks in Edgeworthtown, organised by **Edgeworthtown District Development Association** which will start in May 2016.

[St. Patrick's Day Parade Stewards](#) required for **March 17th** 11am-2pm to assist with the smooth operation of the parade in Longford Town

[Volunteer Tree Planters](#) - required in Farnaght Woodland for **Native Woodland Trust** Tree Planting Day. Farnaght Woodland is on the Longford/ Leitrim Border on **March 19th** 12-1.30pm

[Volunteer Co-ordinators](#) and [Volunteer Collectors](#) required for **Special Olympics Connaught** National Collection Day in Longford Town on **April 22nd**

[Happy Heart Weekend Volunteer](#) - required to sell Happy Heart Pins on either the **6th, 7th or 8th May** to raise funds for the **Irish Heart Foundation**.

[Animal Rescue Volunteers](#) required for **Hungry Horseoutside** in Newtownforbes to look after Rescued Horses. Experience in working with horses is necessary

[Volunteer Irish Teacher](#) required for **Granard Library** to teach conversational Irish.

[Sleep Out Volunteers](#) and [Hospitality Volunteers](#) required for **Midlands Simon Community** fundraiser on **March 25th**.

[Volunteer Churchgate Collectors](#) required for **GROW** fundraiser on **7th and 8th May**

[IT Volunteer](#) required to deliver IT classes in St. Christopher's

Please click on the link or 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](#)

Listed below are just some events being held nationwide in March/ April:

Longford 2016 Commemoration Programme

The centenary of the 1916 Rising is an opportunity to remember a decisive moment in our history and those who were involved in it, and to reflect on its background and the ideals that inspired it. It is also a time to reflect on and celebrate how Ireland has changed and progressed in the intervening century. In addition, the commemoration will prompt us to look forward.

A central part of the Longford programme is the commemoration of the people from here who participated in the Easter Rising—those born in the county and those who lived here.

Full details are available in the files below:

[1916 Centenary Programme](#)

[1916 Events Guide](#)

[Longford 2016 Facebook Page.](#)

April

Offset

April 8th-10th

This annual festival for the design and creative industries is one of our highlights of the year. A weekend spent here usually provides enough inspiration to keep our ideas bubbling through the rest of the year. iloveoffset.com

One City One Book

All month

Lia Mills’s novel *Fallen*, which looks at the role of Irish soldiers in the first World War as well as the events of 1916 in Ireland, is the reading choice for 2016. And for the first time it’s “Two Cities One Book”, as Dublin teams up with Belfast for a month of readings, films, gigs and events designed to bring the book to life.

dublinonecityonebook.ie



Cork Tango Festival

April 7th-10th

Whether you're a beginner or a devotee, immerse yourself in tango at the Metropole Hotel in Cork. With workshops, seminars, yoga classes and a tango cafe.

corktangofestival.com

MusicTown

April 8th-17th

Dublin City Council's showcase of the capital's musical talent, celebrating everything from classical to pop, trad to rock, and electronic to opera – and giving some love to the city's music venues, both established or unorthodox, into the bargain.

musictown.ie

Cuirt

April 19th-25th

Poetry, fiction and plenty more at Galway's annual festival of literature.

cuirt.ie

Drogheda Arts Festival

April 25th-May 2nd

Comedy, contemporary music, theatre: you name it, you can see it in the Co Louth town come early spring.

droghedaartsfestival.ie

5. [National News](#)

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) opens to new groups

www.pobal.ie

Low income workers and people from low income households have been added as a new target group to SICAP. Low income households are at particular risk of poverty, with many in poor quality, unsustainable jobs and at risk of becoming unemployed.

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is a national programme designed to tackle poverty, social exclusion and long-term unemployment through local engagement and partnership, funded by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

This is a positive step for the programme and for potential SICAP clients as it gives them the opportunity to access local training courses, be engaged in community development work, or get job searching assistance. They can be assisted in upskilling and in time moving into a better quality, better paid job.



Someone who previously may have been falling through the gaps because they did not fit any of the other target groups, such as being unemployed or from a disadvantaged area, can now benefit from SICAP. This could include, for example, someone working part-time or full-time, a smallholder in receipt of Farm Assist, or someone on a state employment scheme such as CE or Gateway.

Programme Implementers will now be able to design specific actions targeted at low income workers in conjunction with their LCDC, and roll these out over 2016.

All programme documents have been updated to reflect this programme change and can be found [here](#).

Minister Reilly announces 8,000 extra places under Community Childcare Subvention

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr James Reilly, today announced the release of €16m extra funding from Budget 2016 so that the Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) scheme, which subsidises childcare for certain low income parents, will be made more accessible by being available through Private Childcare Service Providers. The extension to the scheme will apply from Monday 7th March 2016 and is expected to fund around 8,000 additional childcare places.

In July 2015, Minister Reilly published a report which found that many parents eligible for this subvention, which can amount to as much as €95 per week per child, could not access it. This was because, until now, the scheme could only be provided through Community Childcare / Not for Profit services, which did not serve every area of the country. The Report recommended that the CCS should be made available to private childcare providers as well as community / not for profit services to improve accessibility and options for parents and children.

The extra 8,000 places will be in addition to the funding that the Minister provided in late 2015 which enabled community services to increase their existing numbers of children under the CCS scheme.

The Minister said today “I am delighted to be able to extend the provision of CCS funding to private childcare providers, allowing many previously excluded, parents and children to access this funding. The extra resources will make a significant difference to eligible parents on low incomes.”

The Minister made this announcement after considering data which showed that parents eligible for the scheme could not always be catered for by existing community services. Those eligible were not necessarily clustered in particular areas but distributed right across the country, many in areas where no community service existed, or, in some cases where that service was full.

There are approximately 4,700 services delivering early childhood care and education services in Ireland. Up to now, only 1,000 of these were able to access the CCS scheme. It is expected that as many as 1,000 services may apply to be part of the scheme from March.

Minister Reilly added "The extension of CCS, firstly across the community sector and now to private childcare providers is another step in assisting families with the expense of childcare. It will also provide additional income for providers and assist them in providing high quality services."

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Pobal have issued a call for Private Childcare Providers to submit expressions of interest to enter into contract to deliver CCS.

6. [EU NEWS](#)

Commission Representation in Ireland hosts 2016 Country Report for Ireland



The Representation hosted a briefing for key stakeholder groups on Ireland's Country Report 2016 (see last week's [newsletter Spotlight](#)) on 10 March. Barbara Nolan, Head of Representation, opened the event and a technical expert from Brussels gave an outline of the findings. There was a lively exchange of views with Commission staff on policy issues such as the housing situation in Ireland and developments in the healthcare sector. This year's Country Report for Ireland provides evidence based starting point for debate on key policy areas such as financial sector reform, the housing market, healthcare policy and infrastructure.

"My hope is that this Country Report will be a useful tool for stakeholders," Ms Nolan said, "to guide them in the process of engagement in the European Semester."

You can find out more about where this report fits into the annual process and look at previous reports [here](#).

More kids, more likely to be part-time - unless you're a man

37% of Irish working mothers of two children are on part-time contracts, compared to 9% of Irish dads of two.

The link between having more children and working part-time is found in almost every EU country. That is, unless you're a man – in which case you're less likely to work part-time as your family grows, not more likely.

The figures from Eurostat put Ireland in the mid-range of EU countries, as regards the link between numbers of children and part-time contracts.

Ireland's nearest neighbour, the UK, shows higher rates of part-time working amongst employed women with children, with 58% of working mothers of two children going part-time (6% for the dads).

The highest part-time rates for working mothers of two are in the Germanic countries: the Netherlands (86%), Germany (75%), and Austria (73%). In Scandinavian countries on the other

hand, working mums are much more likely to be full-time (e.g. just 22% of Danish working mothers of two are part-time).

The link between part-time work and numbers of children is very strong for women, but in inverse proportions for men and this phenomenon is repeated across almost every EU country.

All data 2014. The full text with tables is available [here](#).

NB: Today's figures show part-time employment as a proportion of those in employment, aged 25 to 49. Those who are not in the labour force do not figure in this study.

Commissioner Hogan launches MilkFlex loan scheme



EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development addressed the launch of Glanbia's Milkflex loan scheme in Dublin earlier this week. The €100 million fund will offer farmers loans of up to €300,000 with flexible repayment terms indexed on milk prices.

The Commissioner praised the initiative describing it as a "a ground-breaking product to combat milk market volatility".

He said that: "The bottom line is simple: **financial instruments, if they are to work, need to be tailored to farmers' needs.** This means they will take into account the business model, cash flow fluctuations, and potential market price volatility issues of individual operations."

Full details click [here](#)

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>Apprenticeship, Education or Training. 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>Catering/Life Skills Programme 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 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.

Early Care and Education Practice - QQI - 5N1770

The purpose of this programme module award is to equip the learner with the knowledge, skill and competence in Early Childhood Care and Education Practice to enable the learner to work under direction with children, their families and colleagues within early childhood care and education settings (ECCE).

Start date: Tuesday 5 April 2016 – 7pm to 10pm for 10 weeks approx. Some Saturdays may apply.

Venue: Longford Women's Link

Cost: This programme is funded under BTEI and is available at a cost of €10 if you are an early school leaver, in receipt of a social welfare payment or hold a medical card.

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

Word Processing - QQI – 3N0588
Internet Skills – QQI – 3N0931

This course will include the practical skills of updating cover letters, CV's and online job searching skills.

Word Processing – QQI – 3N0588: The purpose of this award is to equip the learner with the knowledge, skill and competence to use a word processing application to create a limited range of appropriately structured and accurate documents in a supervised environment.

Internet Skills – 3N0931: The purpose of this award is to equip the learner with the knowledge, skill and competence to use internet applications to locate access and communicate information in a supervised environment.

Start date: Monday 4 April 2016
Class every Monday and Wednesday – 10am to 1pm for 10 weeks.

Venue: Longford Women's Link

Cost: This programme is funded under BTEI and is available at a cost of €10 if you are an early school leaver, in receipt of a social welfare payment or hold a medical card.

Tea/Coffee provided.

8. FUNDING

Mini Grant Scheme

Youth Work Ireland's Mini Grant Scheme for 2016 is now open....

This year, as part of Wellbeing 2016, mini grants will be awarded to activities, initiatives and events that promote the 5-a-day approach to mental wellbeing - Connect - Be Active - Take Notice - Keel Learning - Give.

This scheme is open to any youth club associated to Youth Work Ireland and its Member Youth Services who are full paid up members of the Youth Work Ireland Youth Club Insurance Scheme. Each grant will be €250

Download the Application Form below.





National Lottery Grant Scheme

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.

THE IRELAND FUNDS ANNOUNCES 2016 GRANT ROUND SCHEDULE

The Ireland Funds has announced the dates for its two funding grant rounds for 2016. The guidelines for each of the rounds will be available shortly.

Small Grants Round

The Small Grants Round will be open from 1 March – **4 April 5pm** GMT 2016

About The Ireland Funds

Founded in 1976, The Worldwide Ireland Funds currently operate in 12 countries and have raised over \$500 million for over 3,000 outstanding organizations. We are proud to be one of the largest private funding sources for innovative work across the island of Ireland.

To find out more visit www.theirelandfunds.org

MINISTER FOR DIASPORA AFFAIRS LAUNCHES LOCAL DIASPORA STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT FUND AND LOCAL DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT FUND

The Minister for Diaspora Affairs Mr. Jimmy Deenihan T.D. , invited applications from local and community groups for a new round of funding under the **LOCAL DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT FUND** and announced the creation of a **LOCAL DIASPORA STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT FUND** that will be available to Local Authorities in 2016.



These two funds combined will make a **total of €660,000 available for local diaspora engagement in 2016.**

These two initiatives are designed to promote diaspora engagement at a county, local and community level in 2016, recognising that Irish people around the world have a keen sense of attachment to their place of origin.

The two funds will further develop the potential identified in GLOBAL IRISH – IRELAND'S DIASPORA POLICY for local communities and counties in Ireland to reach out their own diasporas and build new relationships. They will also be able to draw on the LOCAL DIASPORA TOOLKIT which was commissioned and published by the Minister in 2015 and provides a practical guide for Local Authorities and local and community groups to assist in the development of strategies for local diaspora engagement.

Full details and the application form can be accessed [here](#)

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 April 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 and other sources with many thanks!