



## Longford Public Participation Network (PPN) E-bulletin May 2016

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### 1. NEWS FROM LONGFORD PPN

#### **Public Participation Network update:**

#### **Meetings held/ planned:**

- Economic Development & Enterprise SPC held Tuesday 19.04.16
- PPN National Workers Meeting held Tuesday 19.04.16 in DECLG, Dublin 1
- Planning and Development and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held 20.04.16
- Regional PPN meeting held Sat 07.05.16 in Cavan. Attended by 3 Secretariat members and Development worker
- PPN Secretariat meeting held Monday 07.05.16
- Housing SPC Meeting held 09.05.16
- 1<sup>st</sup> PPN Advisory Group Meeting held Friday 13.05.16. Tess Murphy (Secretariat member) was invited by the Dept to attend.
- PPN Secretariat meeting scheduled for 18.05.16. to review the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Age Friendly Alliance will hold Information day and launch of the Age Friendly Council on the 18.05.16. PPN will be supporting and participating.
- Nominations have been received for the vacancies on the CLDAF and the MRDATF. Elections will take place shortly.
- **The County Longford Plenary will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2016. Invitations have been sent out and documents for review circulated.**

#### **New membership:**

The County Longford PPN would like to welcome Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, Ballymahon as our newest member and look forward to working with them in the future.



### 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](mailto: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](http://www.longfordcoco.ie), e-mail [ppn@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:ppn@longfordcoco.ie) or contact Siobhán at 087 261 5583**

## **2. WHAT'S ON IN YOUR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT?**

### **New for the month of May:**

**"At Your Service"**: Great business opportunity! Are you based in Longford? Are you launching new businesses? Or improving an existing one and would like the help of John and Francis Brennan? Then RTE's 'At Your Service' wants to hear from you! Email [mairead@waddellmedia.com](mailto:mairead@waddellmedia.com) for more information.

**Horticulture Course Springlawn**: The Horticulture level QQI course continues every Tuesday morning in Springlawn Recourse Centre. The course has been extended to the end of June. The participants have enjoyed all aspects of the course planting and growing. The group also enjoyed a field trip to Clonbrusk Primary Centre Community garden in Athlone as part of the course.

Some of the participant's have volunteered to come in on a Thursday morning to help maintain the flower beds in the estate.

If anyone wishes to volunteer to do some gardening contact Mary on 087/3749950

**Longford Vintage Club**: will hold their annual Vintage Show Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> in Connolly Barracks. This year will be the 11<sup>th</sup> annual vintage show for the club and it promises to be one of the highlights of the year for vintage fans!!

**Longford Rose 2016 Gala Selection**: 28<sup>th</sup> May Longford Arms Hotel. Are you the next Longford Rose? Now is the time to apply. Visit [www.roseoftralee.ie](http://www.roseoftralee.ie)

**Circle of Friends upcoming events: Sunday** 22<sup>nd</sup> May Walk in Edenmore Bog followed by a meal in Dillon's, Ballinamuck. Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> Pitch and Putt followed by a meal in The Lodge, Gowna. Friday July 22<sup>nd</sup> Trip to Horse Show. New comers always welcome. For further information contact Fran on 087 7753994

**Backstage Theatre**: '2016 - A Coming of Age' will be performed at the Backstage Theatre on Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21 at 8pm.



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Tickets, costing just €12/€8 are now available from the theatre Box Office on 043 33 47888 or online at [www.backstage.ie](http://www.backstage.ie).

**Lus Na Greine, Friday Seated Exercise Class:** supports gentle exercise with a mindfulness approach. Low cost and very beneficial to health and well-being. Come along or book in advance.

**Upcoming events, Abbeylara:** 8<sup>TH</sup> July 2016 , Parish Hall Country singer Derek Ryan will perform. Annual Field day will be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June

**Family Cycle:** will take place in memory of the Fiadh Hannon Murphy family Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. Money raised will go to SCBU Portiuncula and Paediatric unit Crumlin. Refreshments in Caltra Community hall afterwards.

**Tusla:** are recruiting foster families to care for children of all ages from birth to 18. Contact the Child and Family Agency at [www.fostering.ie](http://www.fostering.ie) or tel: 043 33 50771

**Newtownforbes Longford CCE:** are taking expressions of interest for beginner and improver traditional music classes. Any adults or children interested should contact: 087 8507726 or email [newtownforbeslongfordcce@eircom.net](mailto:newtownforbeslongfordcce@eircom.net)

**Rathowen Community Centre:** Children's karate classes Wed 6.30 – 8pm. Contact Natasha on 086 2644085. Children's Irish dancing classes Friday 6.15 – 7.15pm contact Ciara on 085 1117373. Children's dance and drama classes Sat 3.30pm – 6pm contact Sarah- Anne on 085 2742 306

**Rural Transport, Killoe area:** A motion is in play to establish if persons are interested in re-engaging in the rural transport service for the Killoe area. This service is envisaged to be on a Friday weekly service basis. For further information please contact Michael Carrigy on 087 2915072.

**Pre-natal Yoga:** Classes in the Giving Tree, Newtownforbes every Sat 11.30am. To book contact Denise on 086 8846024 or e-mail [yogaeire@gmail.com](mailto:yogaeire@gmail.com)

**Community Alert, Edgeworthstown:** Public meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May @ 8pm downstairs in the Old Schoolhouse, Ballymahon Road. Paul Mc Dermott, Crime Prevention Officer will be in attendance.

**5k Crawl/ Walk/ Run:** Ballymahon Friends of Our Ladies Children's Hospital will take place on Sat 11<sup>th</sup> June. Registration from 11am at Nallys Spar Service Station. There will be no entry fee but donations are welcome. For further information contact Paul Kelly on 086 349 0704.

**Innside Singers:** hold weekly rehearsals every Wed in Skellys from 9pm to 10pm. New comers are always welcome.

**ISPCA:** will hold their annual Volunteer Recognition event during National Volunteering Week on May 20<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm in Cooney's Hotel Ballymahon to acknowledge the great work that their volunteers do. Anybody interested in volunteering for the ISPCA are welcome to come along on the night.

**Longford Toastmasters:** The next and final meeting of the season is on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May in the Longford Arms Hotel (first floor) at 8.20pm. We will have 2 prepared speeches on the night plus



we will be holding our AGM with the election of officers for the Sept 2016/2017 season. Please plan to be in attendance to cast your vote. Officers are elected for one year to hold leadership roles and positions which help the club to achieve goals. The outgoing club officers are as follows:

President: Thomas Thornton  
Vice President Education: Daniel Coyle  
Vice President Membership: Jude Portbury  
Vice President Public Relations: Anita Hanley  
Secretary: Mary Morrissey  
Treasurer: Bernie Quaine  
Sergeant- At- Arm (SAA): Raymond Lyons

### 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

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

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

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

**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 places 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.



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**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](mailto:lusnagreinefrc@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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**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](mailto:gflinter@irishcancer.ie). or Rebecca on 01 2316642, [transport@irishcancer.ie](mailto: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](mailto: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, Aughnaccliffe:** 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 Aughnaccliffe Community Centre each Friday from 12-3 pm. As it's one of the most progressive groups nationally, it offers an extensive programme to suit all men. It's a socially dynamic group, where men gather and work on meaningful projects. Where they can realise their full potential and the passing on of their skills and talents is a key aspect of their work. It was established in 2004 and coordinated by EDI Centre Longford it has gone from strength to strength. It offers an open door policy. New members are most welcome. For further information contact Co ordinator Breda 043 3347515

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



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

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

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

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

#### **Ballymahon Men's Group**

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

#### **Granard Men's Shed first meeting in 2016**

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

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

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

Kevin Brady is the Irish Men's Shed Association Advocate for counties Longford, Westmeath, Cavan and Meath. Kevin can be contacted at 087- 137 5222 or by e-mail to [kbrady1964@gmail.com](mailto: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, Aughnacliffe, 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](mailto:ballyleaguemensshed@gmail.com). The shed is open daily from 10.00am to 8.00pm.

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

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

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

**Lithuanian School:** Classes are held from 10am to 1pm every Saturday in the Attic Youth Café, Temperance Hall, Longford Town. For further information please contact Renata by phone to 083-4708371 or by e-mail to address [longfordmokyla@gmail.com](mailto: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](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](mailto:info@revamp3rstore.com)

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



### **Longford Warmer Homes Ltd**

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

T: 043 3393255

E: [info@lwh.ie](mailto:info@lwh.ie) W: [www.lwh.ie](http://www.lwh.ie)

Check if you or somebody you know can apply!

\*\*\* FREE HOME INSULATION SCHEME AVAILABLE \*\*\*

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

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

- Owner occupied, non-Local Authority homes
- The home must be constructed before 2006
- The owner of the home/relative living in the home is in receipt of just ONE of the following:
  - > Fuel Allowance as part of the National Fuel Scheme





- > Job Seekers Allowance for over six months and with a child under seven years of age
- > Family Income Supplement
- > *One Parent Family Payment*

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

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

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

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

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



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**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](mailto:longfordfamilylearning@gmail.com)

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

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

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

**The Ballinamuck Visitor Centre** is run by Ballinamuck Enterprise group and is manned by volunteers and anyone can visit the centre by calling (087) 205 5462/0879613312 or by emailing [1798ballunamuvk@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:gabrielhiggins@yahoo.ie) Facebook/fitnesscentre

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

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

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

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



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**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 being compiled to commemorate this occasion. We are seeking old Photos and stories that people wish to share and have published in this Book. Photos and stories can be scanned and emailed to [Kittycreev@gmail.com](mailto:Kittycreev@gmail.com). Alternatively these can be given to a Committee member. (e-mail for details on Committee members). Please put your name on the back of photos, so they can be returned after they have been scanned.

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

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

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

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

**Tuesdays:** Drawing and painting course starting on Tuesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Contact Loretto on 0868478527 to book and for further details

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

Adult Group French Conversation Sessions at 8pm.

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

€80 for 6 wks. or €20 p/w drop in.

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

Elements of Art classes continue from 12.30pm to 1.30pm. €5 per person. Drop in and join in or follow us on [creativeardaghelementsofart.blogspot.com](http://creativeardaghelementsofart.blogspot.com).

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

**And there's more...**

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

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

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

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

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



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

Dublin Street, Longford Tel: 043.3346621

Designer Boutique & Local crafts

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

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

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

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

For more information contact Catriona Corcoran 086 0442354 or visit [www.cmums.ie](http://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](mailto:longford@citinfo.ie)

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:manifesto@longfordwomenslink.org) or phone Longford Women's Link at 043-41511.

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

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

#### **Clondra Community Association**

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

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

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

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

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



**3. LOCAL NEWS & SERVICES:**

**LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**INVITE**

**ALL REGISTERED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK  
COMMUNITY GROUPS TO THE FIRST COUNTY LONGFORD  
PLENARY MEETING.**

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**Time: 7pm – 9pm**

**Venue: Town Council Chamber, Longford Town Council, Market Square,  
Longford Town**

*LEARN ABOUT  
AVAILABLE  
SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY  
GRANTS & much  
more!!*

*MEMBER OF PPN SECRETARIAT  
& LCDC (LOCAL COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE)  
REP PRESENTS YOU WITH AN  
UPDATE ON LONGFORD'S  
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY  
PLAN*

**FREE RAFFLE for  
all who attend.  
Amazing prizes on  
the night!!**

**THIS MEETING IS BEING HOSTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE  
COUNTY LONGFORD PPN SECRETARIAT**

**County Longford Public Participation Network connecting the Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental interest groups with Longford County Council and other relevant Structures. This is your opportunity to have a say in how your County is shaped!!!**



RVSP: by phone 087 261 5583, by e-mail [ppn@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:ppn@longfordcoco.ie), by post : Siobhán Cronogue, Longford Public Participation Network, Longford Community Enterprise Centre, Business & Technology Park, Ballinalee Road, Longford

### Notice to PPN registered member groups:

### Age Friendly Information Day

Longford Age Friendly Alliance is hosting an **Age Friendly Information Day** and launching the establishment of a **Longford Older Peoples Council** on **Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup> in the Longford Arms Hotel from 11am-3pm.**

If you or any of your members would like to attend but have a problem with transport please contact Mary Reynolds @ [library@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:library@longfordcoco.ie) or by telephone to 0433341124.

Key service providers such as HSE, Gardai, Longford Westmeath ETB, Longford Community Resource Ltd, the County Longford PPN to name but a few will showcase available services and be there to answer any queries you have.

Please confirm attendance by using the contact details above.

### Midland Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force Public Consultation Meetings

The Midland Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force and its sub-structures bring together members, representing the community, voluntary and statutory sectors, public representatives and key interest groups to develop and co-ordinate a collective and integrated response to drug and alcohol problems in the midland region which covers the catchment area of Longford, Westmeath, Laois and Offaly.

In 2017, a new prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation, and family support service comes on stream. The aim is to ensure that everyone who has (or is at risk of) a drug or drink problem, has access to the supports they need, when they need them across the midland region.

As the Task Force looks ahead to 2020, we want to hear your views on what else we, and the agencies we bring together, should do. Ideally, we might try the kinds of things that reflect the combined citizens first / quality management approach taken in Canada. There, the emphasis is on identifying service needs, priorities and expectations from the client, family and community point of view, and then meeting or even exceeding these by ensuring services of perceptible quality.

The 'Empower 2020' strategy, which we want you to help shape, will highlight what the partner groups on the Task Force could do to maximise the collective impact of the range of services and supports provided. A consultant, Mr Kealan Flynn, has been engaged to assist in the work and the Task Force has organised four public meetings for you to give your view:

- **Longford Arms Hotel, Longford - Wednesday 18th May 2016, 10.30am – 12.00pm**
- The Prince of Wales Hotel, Athlone – Wednesday 18th May 2016, 2.30pm – 4.00pm



- Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore - Thursday 19th May 2016, 10.30am – 12.00pm
- Portlaoise Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise Town – Thursday 19th May 2016, 2.30am – 4.00pm

You can also email your views directly to the Consultant, Mr Kealan Flynn at email: [Midland2020@ici.ie](mailto:Midland2020@ici.ie) before 20th May 2016.

## Setting up a Parent and Toddler Group (County Longford Childcare Committee)

Parent and Toddler Groups provide informal support to parents, grandparents and childminders, as well as to young children. The groups are an important source of social contact especially for new parents and families new to an area.

*Are you interested in setting up a group in your locality?* Then please contact the Longford County Childcare Committee for help, advice and support in doing so.

Longford County Childcare Committee, have a guide "Setting up a Parent and Toddler Group in County Longford" available which may be of assistance.

If you require a copy or any help please contact Longford County Childcare Committee on 043-3342505 or via email on [enquiries@longfordchildcare.ie](mailto:enquiries@longfordchildcare.ie)

## Sizzling line up for Summer Festival

The good news is that summer is on the way and it will surely have reached Longford when the annual Summer Festival opens in Connolly Barracks on Thursday, June 23 with a massive foam party in conjunction with the Attic Youth Project.

The festival was revived last year after a 15 year absence and brought close on 15,000 people into Connolly Barracks on a mainly sunny July weekend. The event has moved to an earlier date this year to avoid a repeat of last year's regrettable clash with the Co Longford Show.

The team behind the festival unveiled some of their plans at the launch in the Tally-Ho Bar recently where the guys from Herterich's were also on hand with a sizzling BBQ.

Outlining details for this year's event, committee member, Joe Flaherty commended the many local groups involved in staging events in the town: "All these events feed into a more positive picture for Longford. We need to recreate that image of Longford and the best way to do that is with a series of major events that bring people into the town and project a positive image."

Of course the big success last year was the daytime programme of events and according to Joe: "if something worked well you don't tinker with it. We have a great, packed programme of events for Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26 that are heavily family-oriented. There will be an array of attractions for the children and also magicians, street performers, a petting farm and much more.

"In addition we will also have the tented village with more than 100 exhibitors showcasing the best of local and national food, crafts and artisan producers."

Furthermore, attendees can look forward to cookery demonstrations from local favourite, Gary O'Hanlon, who will be joined this year by Louie Oubihi from the Black Olive. Other welcome additions are Lanesboro chef Kieran Glennon from Patrick Guilband in Dublin and the very popular Fiona Egan from the Cloughan Farm & Cookery School, Abbeyshrule.





Proceeds from the Festival will again go to charity and the organisers are working again with the Attic Youth Project and St Christopher's.

Keen to try and do something really different however, Friday, June 24 will see the organisers turn the old barracks into Ibiza with one of the country's largest beach parties this summer. Entertainment will feature the popular MC, Pat Flynn and the Maze DJs from Galway.

Then Saturday, June 25 promises to be another big night when the brilliant Brave Giant, young local favourite Tomas Skelly and national treasure Mundy, will top the bill.

Pressed about Sunday night, the organisers are remaining tight-lipped, but insist that they are working on something really special.

Looking ahead to the bumper weekend and hoping for good weather, Joe acknowledged that the event couldn't go ahead without the goodwill and support of the people of Longford.

He paid tribute to Longford County Council and also Longford Westmeath Education and Training Board for providing the site, the local Fire Officer and also Longford Gardai, who have been supportive from the outset.

## Rents increase by 12% in Longford

Rents in County Longford increased by 12.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period last year, according to the latest property report issued by Daft.ie.

The average advertised rent in the county is now €496, which represents a rise of 23 percent when compared to figures from 2013.

On a nationwide level, there was a year-on-year rise of 2 per cent in rental prices. And as of the beginning of this month, supply on the market is at its lowest point on record, with fewer than 3,100 properties available to rent across the country.

Commenting on the report, Ronan Lyons, economist at TCD and author of the Daft Report, said: "The severe shortage of rental accommodation has worsened in the last three months, a phenomenon reflected in rapidly rising rents in all parts of the country. With the formation of a new government, a top priority must be to address the lack of housing of all kinds, including homes to rent. This involves understanding the costs of construction, which are out of line with average incomes."

*(Sources: County Longford PPN, Midlands Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force, County Longford Childcare Committee, Longford Leader)*

## Longford Volunteer Centre (LCRL):

### Volunteer Opportunities

Please click on the link provided to see all volunteering opportunities:

<http://volunteering.force.com/OpportunitySearch?loc=longford>

If you click on **View** beside the Volunteering Opportunity, you can see more information – and if you want to apply to volunteer you can do so by clicking on the **"apply now"** button – once you are registered with the Volunteer Centre.



For any other information please contact Angela on 087 7594770

## 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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

##### **The Cat Laughs Festival, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016, Kilkenny**

Established in 1995, the Cat Laughs Comedy Festival, referred to in the international comedy world simply and affectionately as Kilkenny, has in the past hosted such international comedy luminaries as Bill Murray, Zach Galafianakis, Louis CK, Peter Kay, Ross Noble, Bill Bailey, Jo Brand and Laura Kightlinger and helped launch the international careers of Irish comedians such as Dylan Moran, Dara Ó Briain, Graham Norton and many others.

For further info:

 +353 86 2761256  
[info@thecatlaughs.com](mailto:info@thecatlaughs.com)  
[thecatlaughs.com](http://thecatlaughs.com)


##### **The Innishannon Steam and Vintage Rally, 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016, Innishannon, Co. Cork**

The Innishannon Steam and Vintage Rally is the largest steam and vintage rally in Ireland and is held in aid of the Irish Cancer Society.

Over 1,000 exhibits will be on show including steam engines, tractors, military vehicles, oil engines, fire engines, motor cycles, lorries, vintage farm machinery, fairground organs, trade stands, amusements, a pets' corner, sheep dog demonstrations, live music, set dancing, rural crafts, book stalls, Sheep Dog Trials and more.

The rally, which is held over two days, is a unique experience where visitors get to see machinery, traditions, demonstrations and items from the past. During a stroll around the event field you will come across many great treasures and learn a thing or two!

For further info:

 +353 21 4775808  
[info@isvrally.com](mailto:info@isvrally.com)

##### **VHI Women's Mini Marathon, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016, Baggot Street, Dublin**

The Dublin Women's Mini Marathon has grown from 9,000 to an immense 40,000 participants since it first began over thirty years ago. Taking place each year over the June Bank Holiday weekend, women from across Ireland and Europe compete in this world-class sporting event.




Whether you want to walk the event for fun, achieve your fitness goal or if you want to compete at the highest level, the Vhi Women's Mini Marathon will provide you with an experience you won't forget.

With over 1,000 volunteers and stewards assisting you as embark on this city centre race, watch the city cheer you on as bands, DJs and many more Dubliners line the streets in support of the Vhi Women's Mini Marathon.

Tickets: €20, [info@womensminimarathon.ie](mailto:info@womensminimarathon.ie) , [vhiwomensminimarathon.ie](http://vhiwomensminimarathon.ie)

### **Sea Sessions Surf & Music Festival, 24 June 2016 To 26 June 2016, Bundoran, Co. Donegal**

Ireland's beach party weekend of the year, Sea Sessions has played host to international acts such as Paul Weller, Bastille, Seasick Steve, The Coronas and many more. Plus surfing, beach sports and loads more. For further details :  +353 87 2998322 , [info@seasessions.com](mailto:info@seasessions.com)

### **Bloomsday Festival, June 16<sup>th</sup> , Dublin**

Bloomsday is the very day in 1904 on which all the action of James Joyce's renowned novel Ulysses takes place. A lively celebration of all things Joyce, join avid Joyceans from all over the world as they descend on Dublin on June 16th.

In Dublin, where the novel is set, the Bloomsday celebrations take place across the week, with most of the fun and frivolous activities taking place on the day itself.

Whether dropping into iconic Sweny's Pharmacy for some lemon soap, popping out to Martello Tower, or partaking in protagonist Leopold Bloom's lunch habits with a gorgonzola sandwich, Bloomsday is always a great day to roam Joyce's capital.

The novel follows the life and thoughts of Leopold Bloom and a host of other characters – real and fictional – from 8am on 16th June 1904, right through to the early hours of the following morning.

Tickets: From €8,  +353 1 8788547 , [info@jamesjoyce.ie](mailto:info@jamesjoyce.ie) , [bloomsdayfestival.ie/](http://bloomsdayfestival.ie/)

### **An Tóstal Festival, 26<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2016, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim**

An Tóstal Festival will feature a parade, street entertainment and a live band. Throughout the week there will be art classes for both adults and children in oil painting, sculpture, jewellery making, pastels, and clay sculpture.

Other events include an art exhibition, hill walking, Cinema on the Lake, Céilí Mór, a 1916 night, a five-a-side soccer competition, a Mothers and Others Gaelic football tournament, and fishing workshops in coarse and fly fishing. The Day at the Lake, will feature raft building, kayaking, paddle boarding, bouncy castles and much more - all for free.

The closing night dance, taking place in the Mayflower, will see the one and only Nathan Carter take to the stage at 11.30pm for a dance. Tickets are €20 and can be purchased at the door. Tel : +353 87 2367592 [info@antostalfestival.ie](mailto:info@antostalfestival.ie), [antostalfestival.ie](http://antostalfestival.ie)



## 5. [National News](#)

### **Irish firms may be forced to reveal pay gaps between male and female employees**

IRISH COMPANIES ARE being urged to embrace new rules that could potentially see them having to publish gender pay gaps in their wage structure.

The [new programme for government](#) published this week features a commitment to “promote wage transparency by requiring companies of 50 or more to complete a wage survey”.

It’s part of a number of measures that seek to reduce a pay gap that exists between men and women [in managerial positions of an average of 14.4%](#).

A similar system of wage transparency was introduced in the UK earlier this year with the aim of achieving the same goal. That plan covers companies of 250 people or more and requires them to submit the salaries and bonuses of their male and female staff.

Around 8,000 employers will have to publish their average pay and bonus gap between genders, the results of which will be posted in a league table to be first published in 2018.

“It’s just one step towards wage the equality we campaign for,” says the National Women’s Council’s Louise Glennon.

One of the most significant issues for us would be the undervaluing of women’s work within the sectors in which they dominate.

The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation has yet to give further details of what form the Irish initiative could take, but Glennon says the NWCI is welcoming of the proposals and hopes companies will view them in a similarly positive light.

“It’s positive even as a regular reminder from government that there needs to be wage transparency, and we would encourage companies not to fear this and to embrace it.”

The two-year lead-in time for the UK proposals is designed to give companies a chance to address pay imbalances before the league table is published. Glennon says that the NWCI would be pushing for league tables to be published in Ireland to allow for “maximum impact”, but that the lead-in time would be something that would require greater scrutiny: I understand the potential need for lead-in period, and if that’s what it takes for companies to get on board then it may be helpful. But as I said, we would be encouraging them to see it as a positive. Rather than something that’s there penalising, it’s about opening eyes to transparency.

(source: The Journal)

### **Event Registration is now open for National Heritage Week 2016.**

This year the Heritage Council has chosen the theme 100 Years of Heritage for National Heritage Week. We will be focusing on how people make places and what that has meant for Ireland’s built, natural and cultural heritage over the last 100 years. For National Heritage Week 2016 we invite you



to plan a Heritage Week event that explores the last one hundred years of heritage in Ireland. Here are [100 Event Ideas](#) to get you started.

Registration for the printed guide will close on 10 June. The printed guide is distributed across Ireland to OPW sites, museums, libraries, local authorities and tourist offices. Registration for the website listings will stay open until 19 August.

### [REGISTER YOUR EVENT](#)

- See more at: <http://www.heritageweek.ie/news/register-your-event#sthash.tkBDv44M.dpuf>  
(source: Heritage Council)

### **Deadline for submissions to this year's Tidy Towns competition May 20<sup>th</sup>**

With the deadline for the competition so close here is what one of the most seasoned judges, Padraic Fogarty Judges had to say to Fionnula Fallon (Fionnula Fallon Gardening, Irish Times).

“The competition has changed enormously over the past decade, to the point where it’s now much more of an environmental award,” says Fogarty. Its aim is to encourage communities to appreciate, nurture and protect the intrinsic beauty and distinctive character of their local landscape.

Cheerily, the judges like to see wildlife-friendly areas of uncut grass along verges, while the use of weedkillers and other environmentally harmful chemicals is actively discouraged. “Where we see it being used, we’d make a point of suggesting that it’s not beneficial. It’s about encouraging people to revisit their ideas about what is or isn’t a weed and instead see these plants as important parts of a range of wild habitats.”

What about the colourful tubs, pots and hanging baskets that have been such a distinctive feature of those towns taking part in Tidy Towns in the past? “It’s nice to see colourful displays, but again, we’d emphasise the importance of their sustainability. So we’d much prefer to see a mix of trees, shrubs and hard-working perennials rather than short-lived annuals which require a lot of watering and labour to maintain.”

Homemade compost and mulches, and plant pots and containers made from recycled materials, are also encouraged.

The conservation of native flora and fauna also comes high on the Tidy Towns agenda. “There are many sites around the country earmarked as special areas of conservation, so we’d always emphasise the importance of volunteers consulting their local county council’s heritage officer before carrying out any work. These sites could be home to a variety of habitats and different species, some of them rare. For the same reason, we encourage volunteers to make a special note of any areas of wildlife interest in their initial survey of their local area before beginning any kind of work on an overgrown or neglected site.”

Which bring us to the question of how and where Tidy Town’s hundreds of volunteers – the people who give so many, many hours of hard work for the betterment of their local communities – can find advice and information on everything from identifying species of wildflowers to more complex issues



such as, for example, the recording, mapping and conservation of mature trees significant to their local landscape.

### **Wild Websites:**

Top of Padraic Fogarty's list is the website of the National Parks & Wildlife Service ([npws.ie](http://npws.ie)), an amazing online resource that lists all of the country's protected sites, nature reserves and special areas of conservation (as well as the publications relevant to them) by county as well as by feature of interest.

It also contains a map viewer, searchable by townland – very useful when it comes to filling out the application form, and marking out areas of special interest in the local landscape. So, for example, if you're part of a Tidy Towns group that wants to know more about the other living creatures and plants that share your local landscape, click on the grid and it will give you information relating to the species of flora and fauna to be found there, whether that's rare orchids or hen harriers.

Fogarty also highly recommends the website of the [Heritage Council of Ireland](http://heritagecouncil.ie) ([heritagecouncil.ie](http://heritagecouncil.ie)), where you'll find information on everything from the various grants available to Tidy Towns groups to a myriad of fantastic environmental initiatives such as the newly-launched National Woodland Scheme or the Pilgrim Paths Project. Others that I'd add to the list are the websites of Irish author and wildflower expert Zoe Devlin ([wildflowersofireland.net](http://wildflowersofireland.net)), The Tree Council of Ireland ([treecouncil.ie](http://treecouncil.ie)), BirdWatch Ireland ([birdwatch.ie](http://birdwatch.ie)), Notice Nature ([noticenature.ie](http://noticenature.ie)), Enfo ([enfo.ie](http://enfo.ie)) and of course the Tidy Towns website itself ([tidytowns.ie](http://tidytowns.ie)), which contains a PDF of the Tidy Towns handbook. A detailed 65-page document, the booklet's firm emphasis on environmentalism is proof that this competition is very much a creature of the 21st century.

### **Friday 27 May deadline for Green Cert applications**

The closing date for applications to QQI-accredited Level 5 courses at Teagasc agricultural and horticultural colleges is Friday 27 May.

Six colleges offer Level 5 and 6 programmes in agriculture. These include the three Teagasc colleges, Ballyhaise, Clonakilty and Kildalton, and the three Teagasc-linked private agricultural colleges, Gurteen, Mountbellew and the Salesian Agricultural College, Pallaskenry. All of the agricultural colleges are also involved in higher-education delivery with partner higher education institutions.

Two colleges, Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture at the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin, and Kildalton College in Co Kilkenny, offer level 5 and 6 horticultural programmes. Both colleges provide high-quality, hands-on education and training in horticulture. They also deliver higher-education programmes in partnership with Waterford Institute of Technology.

Kildalton College is also a nationally recognised centre for equine education and training and offers QQI-accredited programmes in horsemanship and stud management.

For those seeking work in the forestry sector, Ballyhaise College is a very well recognised provider of skills based education and training at Level 5 and 6.

To get the Green Cert, you must complete a QQI-accredited Level 5 course first before moving on to Level 6.

### Education is key

Highlighting the deadline for applications, Teagasc head of education Tony Pettit acknowledged that agricultural education is a key investment for the agri-food sector. Commenting on the high demand for courses he said: “Research has confirmed that Teagasc education provides a high economic return, both at individual farm level, and to the country at large. The Green Cert is now a prerequisite for a wide range of young farmer incentive schemes.

“Most adults are not in a position to attend full-time agricultural college courses. However, for some adults, the agricultural college option has proven to be a very suitable option and should not be discounted. Teagasc colleges and private college can advise individuals on the best options,” he said.

**Application forms can be downloaded from the Teagasc website [here](#). Alternatively, application forms can be obtained directly from the agricultural and horticultural colleges**

## 6. [EU NEWS](#)

### [EAPN’s annual policy conference 2016!](#)

June 16 @ 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm



From the Delors White Paper (1993) to the EU Pillar of Social Rights (2016), what future for the fight against poverty

EAPN’s response – building on 25 years combating poverty, inequality and exclusion

EAPN will hold its conference on **Thursday 16 June 2016** to provide a **concrete and timely input to the key European Commission consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights**. EAPN will provide its experience and insights into how such a Pillar could complement or build on the existing strategies such as: Europe 2020 and the European Semester and the Social OMC.





The **potential of the Pillar** of Social Rights will be reflected upon, and **links to the future role of the EU in the fight against poverty** and social exclusion will be explored.

## Context

On March 8 2016, the European Commission launched a public consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights. This was announced by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in September 2015, and is part of a greater initiative to strengthen the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), and, implicitly, its social dimension, by ensuring upward social convergence between Member States.

The initiative is targeted at the Eurozone, aimed at strengthening the Economic and Monetary Union, but other Member States can join if they want to. The reasoning is the strong economic interdependence in the Euro area. The legal nature of the Pillar is to be defined, as it will involve a number of different tools of a diverse nature, according to the content, subsidiarity principle, and overall legal EU framework.

Commitments in the consultation on the Pillar of Social Rights, come under three headings:

- equal opportunities and access to the labour market: skills, active labour market policies, improving employability, supporting transitions;
- fair working conditions: achieving balance between flexibility and security, facilitate job creation, promote social dialogue;
- adequate and sustainable social protection and access to high-quality essential services: childcare, healthcare, long-term care, to ensure dignified living and enable professional and social participation

**Participants:** Around 70 EAPN members will participate from the national level, including people with direct experience of poverty, plus some European Organisation members of EAPN, and around 80 Brussels-based stakeholders.

## Provisional Programme

The programme can be accessed [here \(PDF\)](#).

## Key speakers

### **Allan Larsson, Special Adviser for the European Pillar of Social Rights**

And speakers from the European Parliament, and other civil society actors and people with direct experience of poverty.

## How to register

Register for the conference via [this link](#) by 10 June



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## Galway shortlisted for European Green Leaf award 2017



Galway is one of three European cities short-listed for the European Green Leaf award 2017. The other two cities are Cornellà de Llobregat in Spain, and Mikkeli in Finland.

The European Green Leaf is a new competition aimed at cities and towns with between 20,000 and 100,000 inhabitants. It recognises commitment to better environmental outcomes, especially for efforts that generate green growth and new jobs.

The winning city will be announced on 22 June 2016 in Ljubljana, Slovenia

## Number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in the EU in 2015 up almost four-fold

Over 88,000 unaccompanied minors applied for asylum in the EU in 2015, up from 23,000 in 2014. Of these, 91% were males, 51% were from Afghanistan and 57% were aged 16 to 17 years.

Over 35,000 of them applied for asylum in Sweden while 14,400 applied in Germany while large numbers also applied in Hungary and Austria (over 8,000 each).

**Only 35 unaccompanied minors applied for asylum in Ireland with Afghanistan and Albania being the principle countries of origin**

## Fighting climate change with riverbank plants

Teagasc is lead coordinator in an EU-funded project that looks at how perennial grasses can be used for biomass production. The researchers looked in particular at myscanthus, a non-native grass.

John Finnan, a crop researcher at Teagasc Oak Park explained: “Not only does it produce high biomass yields but it has mechanisms which mean that it is quite thrifty in the way it uses both nutrients and water. So it produces a high yield of biomass or energy from a low input from energy.

There were two other Irish partners in the Grass Margins project which counted partners from 7 other countries: Trinity College Dublin and the Circa Group Europe Ltd.

(Sources: EAPN and EU news you can use)



## 7. UPCOMING TRAINING/WORKSHOPS

### EDI Centre

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

Cost €120

#### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

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

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

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

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

Identify tourism opportunities locally and how they may be developed.

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

Complete CV and upload to EURES website.

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

#### **Free Training Opportunities:**

Would you be interested in an introduction to digital photography, sending/receiving emails, using social media, using apps, buying tickets and on-line banking? Longford EDI Centre is running an 8 hour basic computer course which can be delivered mornings, afternoons or evenings. To avail of this great opportunity contact Bernie or Amanda at 043 3347515 or email [infocentre@ericom.net](mailto: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><b><i>Apprenticeship, Education or Training.</i></b>          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"> <li>• Application of Number</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Career Preparation</li> <li>• Computer Literacy</li> <li>• Upholstery</li> <li>• Woodwork</li> <li>• Tiling</li> <li>• Personal and Interpersonal Skills</li> <li>• Personal Effectiveness</li> <li>• Work Experience</li> <li>• Word Processing</li> <li>• Internet Skills</li> <li>• Health and Safety Awareness</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Catering/Life Skills Programme</i></b>          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"> <li>• Application of Number</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Career Preparation</li> <li>• Computer Literacy</li> <li>• Personal and Interpersonal Skills</li> <li>• Personal Effectiveness</li> <li>• Work Experience</li> <li>• Culinary Operations</li> <li>• Restaurant Service</li> <li>• Bread, Pastry and Desserts</li> </ul>
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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.



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For further information, Contact the EDI Centre on 043 33 47515  
E-mail: [infocentre@eircom.net](mailto:infocentre@eircom.net) / Website: [www.Edilongford.ie](http://www.Edilongford.ie)

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### 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.

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## 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](mailto:Longfordfamilylearning@gmail.com). Courses are free and basic education skills.

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## 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.



## Longford VTOS

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

## 8. FUNDING

### 2016 Childminder Development Grant (CMDG)

Longford County Childcare Committee invite Childminders to apply for Childminder Development Grant 2016.

The Grant is designed to help Childminders with the cost of toys, equipment or minor household adaptations in relation to their Childminding business. 90% of the total cost up to a total of €1,000 may be applied for.

**The closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016.** For further information please call LCCC office at 043 3342504 or [maudie@longfordchildcare.ie](mailto:maudie@longfordchildcare.ie)

### Parent & Toddler Group Initiative Grants 2016

Parents and Toddler Groups in Co. Longford are invited to apply for Grant Initiative 2016. Grants will normally range from €100 to €1,000 for new start up groups. Existing groups may apply for a maximum grant of €800. Applications for funding under this scheme should only be made by Parent and Toddler Groups that are organised on a not for profit basis and involve the participation of parents in the community.

If you're a new or existing Parent and Toddler Group and would like more information, please contact Longford County Childcare Committee at 043 3342505 or by email to: [maudie@longfordchildcare.ie](mailto:maudie@longfordchildcare.ie).

**Closing date for applications is 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016.**

**The Arts Council Ireland: Arts organisations, artists, and groups working with the arts can apply for funding. Discover what funding is available then register for online services to submit an application.**

<p>Application deadline  <b>09 June 2016</b>  <b>17:30</b></p>	<p><u><a href="#">Deis</a></u>  Deis is a scheme established under the Arts Councils Traditional Arts Initiative, 2005-2008. Deis is aimed at encouraging and facilitating the traditional arts community to</p>	<p>Maximum award  <b>€20,000</b>  <b>Accepting applications</b></p>
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	seek funding from the Arts Council for a range of projects.	
Application deadline <b>09 June 2016</b> <b>17:30</b>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Engaging with architecture scheme</a></u></b></p> <p>The purpose of the scheme is to support ambitious, innovative and creative, high quality initiatives that specifically aim to enhance and extend the public’s experience of architecture. The Engaging with Architecture Scheme also seeks to build an expert network of architects, curators, arts programmers, festivals and arts centres working in this area.</p>	<p>Maximum award <b>€20,000</b> <b>Accepting applications</b></p>
Application deadline <b>27 June 2016</b> <b>17:00</b>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Artist in the community scheme</a></u></b></p> <p>The aim of the Scheme is to encourage meaningful collaboration between communities of place and/or interest and artists. It is essential that consultation take place between the artist and the community group, so that both parties are involved in deciding on the nature of the project realisation. Group ownership of the art should be maintained at every stage. The Project Realisation may result in a variety of outcomes.</p>	<p>Maximum award <b>€10,000</b> <b>Accepting applications</b></p>
Application deadline <b>Ongoing</b>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Travel and Training award</a></u></b></p> <p>Please note maximum amount awarded differs between artforms. There are three strands to this award: Travel and Training Outbound; Travel and Training Inbound; Creative Europe (Culture sub-programme) Travel Award.</p>	<p>Maximum award <b>€3,000</b> <b>Accepting applications</b></p>
Application deadline <b>Ongoing</b>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Visual artists in prisons scheme</a></u></b></p> <p>The scheme allows artists to work with prisoners in prison/ detention centres for a period of 10 days and complements an existing arts and education programme in the Education Units within the prison system.</p>	<p>Maximum award <b>€2,400</b> <b>Accepting applications</b></p>



<p>Application deadline <b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Writers in prisons scheme</a></u></b>          The scheme offers writers the opportunity to work with prisoners in prison/detention centres and complements an existing arts and education programme in the Education Units within the prison system.</p>	<p>Maximum award <b>€1,000</b>  <b>Accepting applications</b></p>
<p>Application deadline <b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Writers in schools scheme</a></u></b>          The Writers in Schools Scheme part-funds visits by writers and storytellers to schools throughout the island of Ireland.</p>	<p>Maximum award <b>€200</b>  <b>Accepting applications</b></p>
<p>Application deadline <b>30 June 2016 17:30</b>          Next round opens 31 May 2016</p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">An Invitation to Collaboration scheme</a></u></b>          An Invitation to Collaboration Scheme supports initiatives in the field of local-authority-led arts development. The scheme is rooted in the policies set out in the Arts Council’s ten-year strategy (2016–2025), Making Great Art Work: Leading the Development of the Arts in Ireland and in A Framework for Collaboration: An Agreement Between the Arts Council and the County and City Management Association. The emphasis is placed on supporting partnerships that focus on developing projects, resources or services that are ambitious and are testing new ground.</p>	<p>Maximum award <b>€75,000</b>  <b>Opens 31 May 2016</b></p>

**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 June 2016 edition of the PPN EBulletin**

**Compiled by**

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