



Longford Public Participation Network (PPN) E-bulletin **October 2015**

CONTENTS:

1. NEWS FROM LONGFORD PPN	Page 1
2. WHAT'S ON IN YOUR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT?	Page 2
3. LOCAL NEWS & SERVICES	Page 16
4. THE GATHERING IRELAND	Page 22
5. NATIONAL NEWS	Page 23
6. EU NEWS	Page 26
7. UPCOMING TRAINING/WORKSHOPS	Page 28
8. FUNDING	Page 32

1. NEWS FROM LONGFORD PPN

Public Participation Network update:

The PPN would like to welcome Barbara Heslin as the newly appointed Director of Services for Economic Development & Community, Corporate, Cultural & Recreational Services, HR including Longford Municipal District. We look forward to working with Barbara in the future.

We would also like to thank all the registered PPN groups who submitted an expression of interest for the community representative vacancies on the Board of Longford Citizens Information Service and Longford County Childcare Committee. Linkage group meetings will be arranged shortly and representatives elected.

Meetings held/ planned:

- The PPN resource worker attended and participated in an "Unemployment and Job Creation Focus Group" hosted by LCRL on Tuesday September 22nd 2015. The purpose of the focus group was to identify key issues affecting the unemployed in County Longford and to identify measures that will address the issues. The measures identified will then form the basis of the Job Creation Strategy in the new Rural Development Programme.
- The PPN resource worker attended "The Little Things" Campaign meeting hosted by the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention Tues October 6th 2015
- PPN Secretariat Meetings held in October 2015.
- The PPN resource worker will attend the Age Friendly Alliance meeting next Tues 20th October.



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 online or download 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 October:

Road Closure notice, Longford town: Longford County Council hereby gives notice that it has made an Order to close the Main Street, Longford Town, Richmond Street, Longford Town, from its junction with Main Street to entrance with Annaly Park on:

- Tuesday October 20th/Wednesday October 21st 2015 from 10:00pm to 08:00am.
- Wednesday October 21st/Thursday October 22nd 2015 from 10:00pm to 8:00am.


Alternative Routes:

- On Ballymahon Street: Divert via Dublin Street, St Mels Road and Great Water Street
- On Richmond Street: Divert via Annaly Park, Harbour Row, Market Square
- On Battery Road: Divert via Great Water Street, St Mel's Road, New Street

There will be no vehicular access. Pedestrian access will be guided by on-site workers

This Closure is to facilitate ESB works on Main Street/Richmond Street Longford

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 Flower Club: On Tuesday, October 13th - 8.00pm – St. Christopher's, Sylvia Dawson Hall, we will host a demonstration by the Club's own Pat McKenna. Admission € 6 (includes light refreshment) and raffle. 

Night at the Dogs Little Einstein Pre/Afterschool fundraiser: Children's fancy dress, Friday 30th October 2015 in Longford Greyhound Stadium. First race at 8pm: Tickets €10: Kids Free! : Tickets



available from Pre/Afterschool 043 3342621/42623

ACCORD: Getting Married! Planning to get married early in 2016: There are still some spaces available on the Longford ACCORD Pre-Marriage Course for 16th and 19th November 2015. There will be no marriage preparation courses until February 2016. For further information contact ACCORD Longford on 043 3347222 or book on-line www.accord.ie

Longford Volunteer Centre: Garda Vetting Information Session There are big changes coming to Garda Vetting – keep yourself up to speed! Longford Volunteer Centre is hosting an information session on the changes in Garda Vetting the EDI Centre Longford on Tuesday, the 20th of October from 7pm to 8.30pm, if you would be interested in attending please email info@volunteerlongford.ie by Monday the 12th of October

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

Backstage Theatre Group presents their annual series of One Act Plays on Friday 16th and Sat 17th October @ 8.30pm in Backstage Theatre.

This year we showcase a wealth of acting talent drawn from our increasing membership producing three amazing plays. The three plays are, Chip Van plays Dixie (Drama) a play which is set to go on One Act Festival Circuit. Drinking Companion (Comedy) and Ruby of Elsinore (Comedy). This will be a great night out for just €12/10 with something for everyone so go ahead and book early by ringing 0433347888 or online www.backstage.ie

Longford Historical Society : Public Lecture on one of Drumlish's' most famous sons, William O'Higgins who was born in Barraghbeg and who laid the foundation stone for that 'glorious undertaking' - St. Mel's Cathedral in the 1840s - The lecture will take place on the 15th October in Drumlish Community Centre and is part of the Longford Historical Society series of Autumn Lectures.

Longford Women's Link celebrates 20 years: Join us and celebrate 20 years of Longford Women's Link in the Longford Gold Club on Thursday 15th October 2015. Includes a Champagne reception and a fabulous 3 Course Meal in the Hilltop Restaurant. Music on the night Paschal, Liz and Davey! Great night's entertainment guaranteed! Tickets at €25 can be purchased at Farrell & Coy, Centenary Square, Longford Office Supplies, Hazelbrook Shopping Centre or from Reception at LWL 043 33 42511

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



Aisling Children's Arts Festival 2015, Sunday 18th to Saturday 24th October 2015:

Open Day - Sunday 18th October: In the grounds of St. Michael's Boys National School, Longford the week kicks off with the family Open Day - clowns, face-painting, workshops, carnival games and lots, lots more. And it is totally free!

Also at the open day - it's Dizzy O'Dare and his Giant Balloon Show. A fantastic show of clowning, audience participation and lots and lots of balloons!

Workshop Programme Saturday 24th October – Temperance Hall, Longford

A full day of workshops celebrating all kinds of creativity – painting, crafting, dance and drama. All workshops can be booked in advance for a small fee and are tailored for ages 4-7 and 8-12.

Art Competition: Open to all primary and secondary school children in Co. Longford. Entries submitted through the schools – closing date for entries is 28th Sept 2015.

Aisling 2015 Theatre Programme – Backstage Theatre, Longford

Tuesday 20th October 10am & 11.45am

Dramaiocht Branar present “**Blath**” for Children aged 5 and over. In a world that has decided colour and plants are no longer needed a boy discovers a packet of flower seeds in a junk shop and must learn how to bring the flower to life.

Wednesday 21st October 7pm- School's Showcase The children of Ardagh NS, Gaelscoil Longfoirt and Clondra NS take to the stage for a spectacularly entertaining evening's entertainment for friends and family.

Thursday 22nd October 7pm: Cahoots Theatre Co present “**Ssh We Have a Plan**” for Children aged 4 and over. Join a bunch of madcap characters as they plan to capture a beautiful bird perched high in a tree!

Friday 23rd October 7pm: “The Jack Wise Show” A Molotov cocktail of Comedy, Magic and Sword Swallowing for all the family

Lithuanian School :Classes will be 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

October Mudfest: Sean Connolly's GAA Club in Ballinallee are running a mud fest to raise funds for the club. The race is a 6km run across country and will include obstacles along the way. There is a prize for the fastest men's and women's team of €1000 each and a prize of €500 for the fastest individual male and individual female. It will take place on Saturday 31st October. Entry is €25 per person or €200 for a team of ten. Check out facebook and www.octobermudfest.com for updates and details. Please spread the word.

ICA Meeting: The next meeting of the Ardagh ICA Guild will take place in The Heritage Centre on tonight Tuesday, 13th October at 8pm. New members always 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 are holding their annual Ardagh School of Witchcraft and Wizardy, (now on yr 5!!) to include a whole week of Ardagh Fright Fest. This year we have our 'normal' family fun workshops along with a gothic teen art and writing workshop, a gothic adult literary workshop and a gothic photographic exhibition. See links below for more info or contact us on 0863027602 (Annette) and 0872326553 (Ann)

<http://ardaghfrightfest.blogspot.ie>

<http://www.creativeardagh.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/creativeardagh>

Open Evening and Enrolment - Ardscoil Phadraig: Granard Parents of sixth class students are invited to attend our Open Evening on Thursday 15 October 2015 from 7-9pm. Pupils and parents can view the excellent school facilities, meet students and staff and see the achievements, work and the success of our students first hand. Parents/guardians are invited to enroll their children in the school on the night.

Solemn Novena to Our Lady: The annual Novena commences on Wednesday 28 October at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Church Granard and continues for 9 Wednesday nights. Everyone is invited and encouraged to take part.

Granard Motte Enterprise Centre are having a Monster Bingo on Sunday 18 October at 3.00pm in the Community Centre Granard. Your support will be appreciated.

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.

St. Mary's Church Granard is the venue for An Garda Siochana **Male Choir** on Sunday 15 November at 5pm. Proceeds to St. Vincent de Paul Granard. More details later.

A supper dance will take place in the Park House Hotel, Edgeworthstown on Friday 6th November. Music by Vincie Carr and Anne McGrory. Proceeds in aid of St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Granard Restoration Fund. Tickets €15 each. Doors open at 9.30pm. Your support will be appreciated.

Adult Badminton, Granard takes place each Monday night from 8.00pm to 10.00pm in the Canon Kelly Community Sports Hall at the rear of Ard Scoil Phadraig. Four (4) playing courts. Shuttles supplied. Phone William for further information on 0868226523.

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 Granard Branch of St Christopher's Services is holding a **grand raffle** for two (2) tickets for the One Direction's concert in the 3 Arena in Dublin on Sunday 18 October. Raffle tickets cost €5.00 each and can be purchased from SuperValu, Granard or any committee member. The raffle will be drawn at a function at John V. Donohue's Lounge on Saturday the 19 September when there will also be other valuable prizes. Hope you will give this great event your support.

Monster Bingo, a date for your diary – Granard Motte Enterprise Centre are having a Monster Bingo on Sunday 18 October at 3.00pm in the Community Centre Granard. Your support will be appreciated.

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

Mullinalaghta/Mullahoran Gun Club will hold their annual draw on Sunday, 1st November. Tickets are on sale in local shops or from any club member. Details of prizes will be published next week. Support would be appreciated.

Social Dance Classes, Drumlish: Classes resume on Wednesday, October 14th at 8pm in Porter House under new tutelage. We welcome back our existing members and an extended warm welcome to new members. "Shine up those shoes" take on the slow waltz, fox trot etc.

Need the Astro turf or community centre, Drumlish?: Bookings are now being taken for the Astro turf and Community centre Winter season ,slots are filling up fast. Please contact 0879613312 for more details.

Dromard national school parents association are holding a table quiz in the Breffni Arms, Arvagh on Friday, 16th October at 9pm. Please support.

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

Kiltycreevagh N.S. will hold a weekend celebration next year on the 12th, 13th, and 14th August 2016. A book is been compiled to commemorate this occasion. We are seeking old Photos and stories that people wish to share and have published in this Book. Photos and stories can be scanned and emailed to Kittycreev@gmail.com. Alternatively these can be given to a Committee member. (email 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.

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 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.

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

Granard Credit Union is pleased to announce a Car Loan rate of 7.5%. Please call into the office for more details and the offer of free road tax with every 2015 car purchased with a loan from Granard Credit Union Ltd. Other services available are EFT Electronic fund transfer, Laser facility, Wedding / car loans, Communion/confirmation loans and 2nd level iPad loans. Office hours are Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am to 5.00pm.

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.

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.

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.

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 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

Springlawn Men's Group meet every Monday at 11am to 1pm in the front room of the Resource Centre at 26 Springlawn. The group was formed eighteen months ago and to date having enjoyed playing various card games during the winter months. The group have now taken on a wood work project making flower boxes for around the base of the trees. Light refreshments are provided and the group has an open door policy. The group is currently planning a range of activities and would welcome new members.

Springlawn Gardening Group meets every Tuesday morning at 10am- 1pm at the Resource Centre at 26 Springlawn. The group is made up of enthusiastic amateur gardeners. At the moment the group are planting summer bedding The group is in discussions with ETB regarding setting up a FETAC level 3 Horticulture course to start in January February of next year. Places are limited so they will be given on a first come first served basis.

The Wednesday Activity Group meets every week in the Resource Centre at 26 Springlawn. This group has been meeting for over five years. During each year a range of activities are planned and all materials are provided free of charge and light refreshments are also provided. We are currently on a summer break and will resume again in early September.

If you are interested in joining the group drop in any morning and let us know or call us on 0873749950 or by email at Springlawnrcdg26@hotmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.



FYI: Longford Westmeath Community Transport Ltd (formerly known as LCRL Rural Transport): is administered from Moate and Mr Noel McCormack is the co-ordinator. All services are running the same as always with the local providers. The contact details for Longford Westmeath Community Transport Ltd are as follows:

Noel McCormack, Manager, Tel: 087 798 7905
Magdalen Dunne, Administrator, Tel: 090 644 8670
Address:
Westmeath Rural Community Transport
IRL Complex, Moate Business Park, Clara Road, Moate, Co. Westmeath
Email: swrta@eircom.net
Fax: 090 6448670

Senior Helpline: 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

Tarmonbarry Community Cycle takes place each Monday evening at 7.30pm. It takes off from Centra shop. Why not join in and get involved for the Summer months.

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 0433324063.

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

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

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

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

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

Edgeworthstown District Development Association will be holding a night at the dogs fundraiser in Mullingar Greyhound Stadium on Saturday 12th September. Tickets available from any committee member or 043-6671801, edgelocdev@eircom.net, www.edgeworthstown.org. Buster draw winning ticket holder wins €1,000. A great night guaranteed.

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

Outreach work in Edgeworthstown: The Rural Resource Worker in Longford Community Resources Ltd will carry out on-going outreach work in Edgeworthstown to support people who are unemployed. If you would like more information please contact Mary Mulvey, Longford Community Resources Ltd at 043-3345555.

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

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

Ballymahon Church Choir: St. Matthews's Church choir has resumed usual practices at 8pm on Wednesday evenings in the Church. 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.



Ballymahon Men's Group: Longford Community Resources Ltd continues to support Ballymahon Men's Group. The men meet every Tuesday at 9am in Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, Dean Egan Hall, Ballymahon. Activities include gardening and computers. New members are always welcome. There is no admission charge. Refreshments are provided. If you would like more information please contact Mary Mulvey, Longford Community Resources Ltd at 043-3345555 or Rory Gallagher Bridgeways Family Resource Centre 090-6432691.

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

- Wedding outfits
- Party wear



- Day dresses
- Evening dresses
- Coats
- Jackets
- Suits
- Separates
- Shoes and boots
- Handbags
- Accessories
- Costume jewellery
- Fascinator's

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 Warmer Homes: To qualify for the Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme:

- You must own and live in your own home
- It must be built before 2006
- You must receive one of the following:
 - Fuel Allowance as part of the National Fuel Scheme, or
 - Job Seekers Allowance for over six months and have a child under seven years of age, or
 - Family Income Supplement

Please contact the Longford Warmer Homes office on 034 3393255 to obtain an application form.

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 (supported by LCRL): Longford Voices united every Monday night @ 8.30pm in Respond House (Across from EDI Centre). Everyone welcome. 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

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

For further information please contact Yvonne on 043 33 47944

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



Longford Toastmasters Club Meeting: Longford Arms Hotel First floor . COME AND JOIN US!!

Become a better Speaker - Become a Leader- Your potential is UNLIMITED
Safe Learning Environment - Great Feedback - Lots of suggestions for how to improve - Lots of Fun - You'll love the applause - Visitors always welcome.

Quote from Secretary Jude Portbury "

Great buzz at our meeting tonight 5 visitors, 4 of which spoke on a Topic .Two excellent stage 6 speeches.

Meetings first and third Thursdays of the month at 8.20pm

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

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

Walk for fun, Clondra: Meeting at the waterways house in Clondra every Thursday at 7pm. Weather permitting.

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 issue's such as housing, social welfare or on community issues is welcome to drop in.



3. LOCAL NEWS & SERVICES:



WOMEN AND THE 1916 RISING

“What did the women do anyway?”

Three workshops on what they really got up to!

WOMEN AND THE REVOLUTION: gender, politicisation and participation in the 1916 Rising

Speaker: Dr. Mary McAuliffe, Women’s Studies, UCD

When: Tuesday, 13 October at 10.30am – 12.30

Where: Longford Women’s Link

LONGFORD WOMEN AND THE RISING

Speakers: Martin Morris, Archivist, Longford County Council and Margot Gearty (niece of Kitty Kiernan)

When: Tuesday 3 November, 7pm – 9pm

Where: Ballymahon Library

THE SHEEHY-SKEFFINGTONS - a long line of trouble makers! Equality campaigns from 1916-2016

Speaker: Dr. Micheline Sheehy-Skeffington

When: Wednesday 18 November

Where: Longford County Library

These workshops are organised by Longford Women’s Manifesto Group & supported by Longford County Council.

FREE admission! EVERYONE VERY WELCOME!

For any further information email: manifesto@longfordwomenslink.org or ring Longford Women’s Link at 043 3341511



Little Things Campaign:

Little Things is a new mental health and wellbeing campaign from the HSE’s National Office for Suicide Prevention and created in partnership with over 20 partner organisations.

The campaign has three messages to share and aims to increase the number of people who believe and know that the following are true:



- That we all experience challenges and stresses in life, ups and downs are normal – the day to day difficulties that are an ordinary, everyday part of life, like stress, grief, feeling down, worried, being anxious.
- That there are evidence-based things that we can do for ourselves and others that will have a positive impact on how we feel and cope.
- That we can find out more about the [#littlethings](https://twitter.com/littlethings) and about mental wellbeing on www.yourmentalhealth.ie or call the Samaritans on 116 123 for a listening ear and for 24/7 emotional support.

So what can I do?

So, what are the [#littlethings](https://twitter.com/littlethings)? The [#littlethings](https://twitter.com/littlethings) are acts of self-care that are proven to help us feel better and get through tough times. This is about finding what works for you.

- Keeping Active
- Talking about your problems
- Doing things with others
- Eating healthily
- Staying in touch
- Drinking less alcohol
- Looking out for others
- Sleeping well



Where can I go?

For a listening ear and emotional support you can call the Samaritans on **116 123**

Or you can visit www.yourmentalhealth.ie which is a new online resource that contains the most comprehensive online database of mental health support services ever developed in Ireland. The site is a place to learn about mental health and how to support yourself and the people you love. You can find support services near you and learn about the [#littlethings](https://twitter.com/littlethings) that can make a big difference to how we feel. Services are searchable by both location and topic and this new interactive online resource is mobile, tablet and desktop friendly.

As this campaign is being led out by the National Office for Suicide Prevention, all the relevant HSE Suicide Resource Services are being asked to roll out the campaign at a local level. Within the HSE Midlands area, we have delivered on this over the past 6 months in Offaly and we now wish to commence implementing the campaign and disseminating the messages within Longford.

To assist the Project Team with this Josephine Rigney (Suicide Prevention Resource Officer) has brought together a small Committee which will help in identifying the best method to do this within Longford. The committee met for the first time Tues 6th October 2015. Committee members included Longford Sports Partnership, Longford Primary Healthcare Project, Longford



Siobhan Cronogue, Public Participation Network c/o Community & Enterprise, Longford County Council,

Community Resources Ltd, Longford County Council, Longford Library, Longford VEC, HSE and the Longford PPN.

The Traveller Primary Health Care Project in Longford are holding an Exhibition in the Library on 4th November of photos which will showcase the messages of the campaign and the aim is to launch the Longford Little Things campaign on that day also.

The Little Things Campaign committee invite all community groups and organisation to be part of and support the Little Things Campaign. More information re: the role out of the campaign will be circulated through the PPN at a later date.

Midlands Jobs Fair



The Department of Social Protection European Employment Services will host a Midlands Jobs Fair in The Radisson Blu Hotel Athlone Tuesday 3rd November 2015 10am- 4 pm

Participating:

- Irish and European Employers
- European EURES Advisors (Jobs in Europe)
- Welfare / Education Providers
- CV Workshop / Interview Skills

At the venue, we will provide you with:

- An exhibition stand with table, chairs and your company name
- Internet access
- Interview facilities
- Catering facilities
- We'll match all qualified clients from our national database & invite them to meet you on the day
- We'll promote your vacancies to qualified clients using mass media, including social media, Newspapers, etc.
- You will have the opportunity to meet representatives from other Member States who may be able to assist you with your hard-to-fill vacancies.



All you need to do is:

- Provide us with full details of your vacancies on our Registration Form (can be obtained through the PPN or by e-mail bernadetta.gaspari-mcguirk@welfare.ie)
- Ensure your stand is staffed throughout the event to meet with potential employees
- Return the attached Registration Form via email to: bernadetta.gaspari-mcguirk@welfare.ie

**COME ALONG TO OUR RECRUITMENT DAY AND MEET POTENTIAL
EMPLOYEES!
YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IF YOU EMPLOY
INDIVIDUALS FROM THE LIVE REGISTER**

All welcome - Admission Free

For more information:

Call: **EURES Ireland** on 01 6732739 or E-mail: eures@welfare.ie

The European Commission is providing co-funding to this scheme. The scheme is being backed jointly by the European Social fund (ESF) and the Department of Social Protection on an equal funding basis

**Longford Volunteer Centre (Supported by LCRL)
Volunteering Opportunities**

We currently have 30 organisations that are looking for volunteers – you can view all our current vacancies on our website www.volunteerlongford.ie or contact Terri 087 2915367 (Mon-Wed) for more information.

Longford Volunteer Centre,
6 Earl Street,
Longford
Mobile 087 7594770
www.volunteerlongford.ie

Follow us on:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/longfordvolunteercentre

Twitter: www.twitter.com/volunteerlvc



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



Siobhan Cronogue, Public Participation Network c/o Community & Enterprise, Longford County Council,

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

Longford Libraries Contact Details:

Web: www.longfordlibrary.ie

T: @Longfordlibrary

Fb: www.facebook.com/longfordlibraries

Branch	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday*
Longford Branch Library						
Tel: 043 3341124 E: library@longfordcoco.ie	10am - 8.30pm	10am - 5.30pm	10am - 8.30pm	10am - 5.30pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 2pm
fb: like 'Longford Branch Library'						
*Except on Bank Holiday Weekends						

Branch	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ballymahon Community Library						
Tel: 0906 432546 E: ballymahonlibrary@longfordcoco.ie	Closed	10am - 1pm, 1.30pm - 8pm	10am - 1pm, 2pm - 5.30pm	1pm - 6pm	10am - 2pm - 5pm	10am - 1pm
fb: like 'Ballymahon Library'						

Branch	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Edgeworthstown Library						
Tel: 043-6671927, E: edgeworthstownlibrary@longfordcoco.ie	Closed	11am - 1.30pm, 2pm - 8pm	Closed	11am - 5pm	Closed	10.30am - 1pm
fb: like 'Edgeworthstown Library'						

Branch	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Granard Library						
Tel: 043-6686164 E: granardlibrary@longfordcoco.ie	Closed Mon	10am - 1pm, 1.30pm - 7pm	10am - 1pm, 1.30pm - 7pm	1.30pm - 8pm	10am - 1pm, 1.30pm - 5pm	10am - 1pm
fb: like 'Granard Library'						

Branch	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Lanesboro Library						
Tel: 043-3321291						
E: lanesborolibrary@longfordcoco.ie	2pm - 8pm	2pm - 6pm	2pm - 8pm	Closed	10am - 1pm, 2pm - 5pm	10am - 1pm
fb: like 'Lanesboro Library'						



Branch	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Drumlish Library						
	10.30am - 1.30pm, 2pm - 6pm	Closed	11.30 - 4pm, 5pm - 8pm	Closed	Closed	10am - 1pm
Tel: 043-3324760						
E: drumlishlibrary@longfordcoco.ie						
fb: like 'Drumlish Library'						

4. [THE GATHERING IRELAND](#)

2013/2014 saw the successful delivery of many Gathering Events throughout Ireland. 2015 also has a lot to offer over sea visitors. Listed below are just some events being held nationwide in October:

Click on the events below for further details

Kerry Film Festival (KFF) is an internationally recognised short film festival which takes place across the County of Kerry each October.

Date: 21 October 2015 To 25 October 2015

Location: Tralee, Co. Kerry

Telephone: +353(0)667129934

more details [+ add to my list](#) ☰

Sligo Live 2015 Enjoy Sligo Live magical folk, roots and indie music on the Wild Atlantic Way with over 80 intimate performances by more than 300 top Irish and international performers in atmospheric venues throughout Sligo town.

Date: 21 October 2015 To 26 October 2015

Location: Sligo Town, Co. Sligo

Telephone: +353(0)719161518

more details [+ add to my list](#) ☰

Taste City Fusion Food Festival Taking place in one of the city's most enchanting landmarks; Christ Church Cathedral is the place to be this October when Taste City Fusion comes to Dublin.

Date: 22 October 2015 To 25 October 2015

Location: Dublin City, Co. Dublin

Telephone: +353(0)14972020

more details [+ add to my list](#) ☰

Lord Ghoulisley's Manor Arts Festivals: Lord Ghoulisley's Manor is an immersive & interactive Halloween experience for families. Meet the unusual occupants of the haunted Manor in this hilariously ghoulish experience.

Date: 17 October 2015 To 01 November 2015

Location: Cobh, Co. Cork



more details [+ add to my list](#) ☰

Spleodar 2015 Festival Arts Festivals: Spleodar is a family- focused Arts Festival taking place over the Halloween mid-term break period in Nenagh.

Date: 26 October 2015 To 31 October 2015

Location: Nenagh, Co. Tipperary

Telephone: +353(0)6734400

more details [+ add to my list](#) ☰

Baboró International Arts Festival for Children : Baboró is Ireland's flagship international arts festival for children and families featuring a week of Irish and international work for children and families in October.

Date: 12 October 2015 To 18 October 2015

Location: Galway City, Co. Galway

Telephone: +353(0)91562667

more details [+ add to my list](#) ☰

Kilkenny Zombie Festival: A two day festival taking place on the October Bank Holiday weekend in the medi-evil city of Kilkenny with a large programme of Zombie related events taking place. Dates to be confirmed

Date: 24 October 2015 to 25 October 2015

Location: Kilkenny City, Co. Kilkenny

more details

5. [National News](#)

Budget 2015 key points so far

- The Old Age Pension will increase by €3 per week.
- The Fuel Allowance will be increased by €2.50 per week.
- The Christmas bonus for social welfare recipients will be restored to 75 per cent of the recipient's weekly payment. It means a pensioner on the current rate of €230 will receive a bonus of €173 and a dole claimant receiving unemployment benefit of €188 will get a bonus of €141.
- Child benefit will increase by €5 per week.
- The [respite care grant for carer's](#) will be restored to its previous level of €1,700.
- The price of a pack of cigarettes is to increase by 50 cent
- Children between the age of three and five will be entitled to free pre-school education until they reach primary school.
- More teachers will be hired to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio from 28:1 to 27:1.



- Minister for Justice [Frances Fitzgerald](#) is expected to confirm the recruitment of up to 700 extra gardaí and to announce investment in specialist operations to stem the number of burglaries.
- Funding to tackle [homelessness](#) will increase by 20 per cent to €70 million.
- There will also be a €56 million increase in capital spending for housing.
- The new housing measures will include public private partnerships, funding for homeless services, increased mortgage to rent and increases in housing assistance levels for those facing homeless in Dublin.
- It will also include a significant housing announcement from the National Asset Management Agency. However the rent certainty proposals, the reduction in development levies and modular home initiatives have not been agreed.
- A tax credit for the self-employed, akin to the €1,650 PAYE tax credit, will be given to the self-employed and farmers. It will be rolled out over a number of years and will be worth around €500 next year.
- The inheritance tax threshold for children inheriting the family home will raise to €280,000, the start of a process that will see it increase to €500,000 over a three to five year period.
- Capital gains tax for the self employed and entrepreneurs will drop to 20 per cent from 33 per cent.
- The entry point to the USC will rise from €12,012 to €13,000. The threshold to the new 5.5 per cent rate will also rise from €17,756 and the threshold for the highest, 8 per cent USC rate will also increase from its current €70,044.
- Owners of commercial vehicles above a certain size will have their motor tax significantly reduced. It is understood owners will benefit €4,000 annually.
- Funding to extend the free GP care scheme to children under 12.

Nominate Your Philanthropist of the Year Now

The search is on for the 2016 Philanthropists of the Year. This will be the 8th annual awards showcasing and celebrating the impact of philanthropy both and home and overseas. There are three categories to choose from this year: Ireland, International and Corporate.

Community groups, charities and fundraisers are now invited to start thinking about the philanthropists they have engaged with and then to put them forward for nomination.

Previous winners include Brendan O'Carroll, BNY Mellon, Vodafone Foundation, Niall Mellon, Diageo, JP McManus and Keith Duffy.



Download the [Philanthropist of the Year Nomination Form 2016](#) and if you would like more information on the awards, contact Moira Horgan, Marketing Manager on 01 874 3812 or info@foundation.ie.

Nominations close 6 November 2015.

For more information about previous winners including videos from the awards, please visit: <http://www.foundation.ie/about-us/philanthropist-of-the-year/>

Environmental Pillar welcome the passing of Climate Bill but warn real work still ahead

The Environmental Pillar welcomes the passing of the Climate Bill 2015 in Dáil Éireann but warns that we need a solid emissions reduction plan in place now.

This is the culmination of many years of campaigning from Irish environmental groups.

The Environmental Pillar, an advocacy coalition of 28 Irish Environmental NGOs, is now calling on the government to put in place a solid plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions across Ireland's economy.

Ireland is not on track to meet our 2020 EU emissions target and we badly need a national action to develop the concrete steps that will make the vision of the Bill a reality.

More than ever we need a strong vision of Ireland's energy future as we move away from fossil fuels. We need policies that empower households and local communities to make the transition.

Theresa O'Donohoe, spokesperson for the Environmental Pillar, said:

"It's good to see progress in our commitment to action on climate change. More than ever we need to act. We need an action plan to reduce emissions that is immediate, meaningful and persistent. The lack of targets in the Bill is disappointing but it can be counter balanced by a strong mitigation plan which delivers the strong actions required to transition to a low emissions world. We must move towards a lifestyle that protects, supports and nurtures the environment that sustains us. "

"The passing of this bill is a watershed moment in Ireland's fight against climate change but we must now ask ourselves some hard questions. What future do we want our children and theirs? Do we want them to live in a world with escalating refugee crises? Do we want them to live with extreme weather as the norm? Are we happy that the government today is doing enough to consider our children and grandchildren? Long term thinking is something that needs to be incorporated in Irish politics, our temporary and permanent government. It's not enough to consider it someone else's problem."

National envelopes among Member States for 420 million EURO targeted aid measures (in EURO)			
Belgium	13 049 568	Lithuania	12 631 869
Bulgaria	6 004 009	Luxembourg	669 120
Czech Rep	11 155 561	Hungary	9 505 286
Denmark	11 103 077	Malta	119 570
Germany	69 233 789	Netherlands	29 937 209
Estonia	7 561 692	Austria	7 004 590
Ireland	13 734 230	Poland	28 946 973
Greece	2 258 253	Portugal	4 764 178
Spain	25 526 629	Romania	11 145 958
France	62 899 543	Slovenia	1 368 433
Croatia	1 812 383	Slovakia	2 464 247
Italy	25 017 897	Finland	8 985 522
Cyprus	354 997	Sweden	8 220 625
Latvia	8 452 333	UK	36 072 462
EU	420 000 000		

EU report on biodiversity shows more needs to be done to halt biodiversity loss.

A new EU opinion poll shows that almost one in two Irish people (46%) believe the disconnection from nature in urban areas and modern lifestyles is a very serious problem (EU average is 42%) while a majority (60%) believe the degradation and loss of natural habitats like forests, meadows and wetlands is very serious (EU average is 61%).



When asked if they personally made an effort to protect biodiversity and nature, a majority of Irish (68%) and EU (65%) respondents say that they did. The main ways people do this is by respecting nature protection rules, e.g. not leaving waste behind, (88% of Irish and 92% of EU respondents), by regularly buying eco-friendly or locally produced products (71% of Irish and 65% of EU respondents) or by making lifestyle choices that reduce possible negative impacts on nature and biodiversity (54% of Irish and 49% of EU respondents). Irish respondents (19%) were also the most likely to say they participated as a volunteer in projects and actions dedicated to biodiversity.

One third of Irish people now live in cities!

According to data published by Eurostat to mark World Habitats Day on 5 October, one-third (33.7%) of Irish people now live in cities. This is below the EU average of 40.2% but well above countries like Luxembourg (18.3%), Slovakia (19%) and Slovenia (19.1%).



43.5% of Irish people live in rural areas, 6th highest in the EU after Luxembourg (51.0%), Slovenia (49.8%), Lithuania (47.6%), Slovakia (45.6%), and Denmark (44.4%). On average 27.8% of people in the EU live in rural areas with lows of 7.6% in Malta and 13.4% in the UK.

Irish city dwellers rate their satisfaction with their cities' recreational and green areas at 7.6 out of 10, 6th highest in the EU after the Nordic countries (all scoring 8 or above), the Netherlands (7.0) and Slovenia (7.8). The EU average was 6.9 out of 10.

Ireland sees third highest rise in house prices

According to figures released this week by Eurostat, Ireland (+10.7%) had the 3rd highest rise in house prices in the EU in the second quarter of 2015 compared to the second quarter of 2014. This is a drop from the first quarter of 2015 when house prices in Ireland rose by 16.8% compared to the first quarter of 2014.

The average rise across the EU was 2.3% while prices rose by 1.1% in the euro area in the second quarter of 2015 compared with the same quarter of 2014. Sweden (+13.0%) and Hungary (+11.9%) saw the highest rises.

On a quarterly basis, house prices in Ireland were up 1.2% in the second quarter of 2015 compared to the first.

7. UPCOMING TRAINING/WORKSHOPS

EDI Centre



Autumn/Winter Programme

The EDI Centre is located in a purpose built building with 5 bright spacious training rooms, IT training suite, fully equipped training kitchen and 3 craft rooms for Upholstery, Woodwork and Tiling. The Centre is QQI accredited and can deliver training to small or large groups. It can also facilitate meetings, seminars etc. All conference rooms, training rooms, IT suite and catering suite are available to rent at competitive rates.

QQI Level 3

Floor and Wall Tiling
 Managing Personal Finances
 Health and Safety Awareness
 Office Procedures
 Digital Media

QQI Level 4

Workplace Safety
 Customer Service
 Home Repairs and Maintenance
 General Office Skills

QQI Level 5

Occupational First Aid
 Customer Service
 Bookkeeping Manual and Computerised
 Reception and Frontline Office Skills
 Payroll Manual and Computerised

Also available:

- Safe Pass
- Domestic Appliance Repair
- Mammal Handling
- Web Authoring
- FS AI Level 1 Food Safety and You
- Training Delivery and Evaluation Level 6
- Training Needs Identification and Design Level 6
- Bread, Pastry and Desserts
- Benefit 4 (Free basic computers)
- Christmas Cookery
- Silver Service Training

} Train the Trainer

The Centre also holds a **Free Job Seeking Programme** every Thursday between 10.00 am and 12.30 p.m.

Funding may be available to those receiving a Social Welfare Payment. For more information please contact the EDI Centre, Longford 043 3347515 or email edicentreservices@gmail.com



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.

Apprenticeship, Education or Training.

This is a 48 week LTI for long-term unemployed persons providing FETAC accredited training in areas such as:

- Application of Number

Catering/Life Skills Programme

This is a 26 week LTI for long-term unemployed persons providing FETAC accredited training in areas such as:

- Application of Number



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications • Career Preparation • Computer Literacy • Upholstery Woodwork Tiling Personal and Interpersonal Skills • Personal Effectiveness Work Experience • Word Processing • Internet Skills Health and Safety Awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications • Career Preparation • Computer Literacy • Personal and Interpersonal Skills • Personal Effectiveness • Work Experience • Culinary Operations • Restaurant Service • Bread, Pastry and Desserts
--	--

FREE JOB SEARCH SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

White Goods Training

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

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

Free Education Courses

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



Longford Women's Link



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

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

New Futures

Includes 2 level 4 QQI Awards:

- Career Planning - 4N1109 & Personal and Interpersonal Development - 4N1131

Supported by:

- Fortnightly group meetings to exchange information, have a cuppa and meet new people
- Childcare and Transport will be provided
- Delivery in mornings during school hours

Start date: Monday 2 November 2015
Class is every Monday morning

Time: 10am to 1pm

Coffee Group:

Start date: Wednesday 4 November 2015 - Group meets every 2nd week.

Time: 10.30am to 12.30pm

Venue: Longford Women's Link

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

Email: pamelalatimer@longfordwomenslink.org

Tel: 043 33 41511

Mobile: 087 205 8152



This project has been kindly supported by IPB Insurance



8. FUNDING

ESB ENERGY FOR GENERATIONS FUND OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

ESB, Ireland's foremost energy company, has announced funding of over €270,000 will be awarded to 47 community and voluntary organisations in 13 counties across Ireland, as part of the autumn 2015 round of its 'Energy for Generations' community fund.

The winter 2015 round of applications has also been launched.

The Energy for Generations Fund supports the work of not-for-profit organisations, charities and community and voluntary organisations whose work falls under the following areas: educational access and support; suicide prevention; and care of the homeless.

Each year, ESB awards funding to approximately 150 projects across Ireland. The autumn 2015 successful projects are wide ranging and include counselling services, educational activities for adults with intellectual disabilities, supporting childhood literacy and numeracy, and workshops on self-confidence and body image. Of the 47 autumn 2015 recipients, five national or all-island organisations were awarded funding:

- Irish Men's Sheds,
- Suas Educational Development,
- Early Childhood Ireland,
- Anam Cara, the bereavement support organisation, and
- SOAR Foundation, youth outreach movement.

Speaking recently about this funding announcement, Anne Cooney, Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator at ESB, said: "We are delighted to be able to support the fantastic work of local and national organisations across the island of Ireland as part of ESB's Corporate Social Responsibility programme. Every year, our Energy for Generations fund awards approximately €1 million to organisations over four rounds.

"Educational access, suicide prevention and homelessness are all critical national issues which our staff have helped to select as the focus of our programme. Through our Energy for Generations fund, ESB is able to ensure that grassroots organisations continue to provide consistent service to local communities where they are needed most. We look forward to receiving applications for our winter round of funding, which is now open."

More Details

The fund operates four rounds each year, and is awarded on merit. The winter round of the fund is currently open for applications. **The deadline for the winter round of funding is Friday, 13 November 2015.**

Regarding education, proposals are invited from the following: early years and early primary school projects focusing on literacy and numeracy; secondary level proposals promoting science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM); adult education return-to-education programmes aimed at those long-term out of work. Single school applications and school completion projects are not



eligible for funding. Proposals from charities and community organisations whose work focuses on suicide prevention and care for the homeless are also invited.

Funding is not awarded to / for: individuals and individual fundraisers; administrative or operating costs; salary expenses; third party fundraising (e.g. fundraising events); high risk ventures.

Organisations are encouraged to secure independent local funding as well as applying to the Energy for Generations fund to maximise the level of local contribution to projects, and should indicate the level of the organisation's own resources that are being invested into the project. Funding must be used exclusively for the purpose of implementing the project as stated in the application form.

Full details on applying to the Energy for Generations Fund, including eligibility criteria for projects, can be found here:

<https://www.esb.ie/main/community-sponsorship/energy-for-generations-fund.jsp>

MUSIC CAPITAL SCHEME 2015 (deadline reminder)

The Music Capital Scheme, supported by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and managed by Music Network, provides funding for the purchase of musical instruments to both non-professional performing groups/ensembles and professional musicians.

The deadline for the Music Capital Scheme is Thursday, **15th October 2015**. For further details, please contact Music Network's Programmes Administrator, Sarah Cunningham, at 01 475 0224.

The Arts Council

Writers in schools scheme

Maximum awarded	€200
Artform and practice(s)	Literature, YPCE
Applicant type	Individual Artist
External agency	Poetry Ireland
Telephone	01 6789022
Email	writersinschools@poetryireland.ie
Website	http://www.poetryireland.ie/education/writers-in-schools.html

Operated by Poetry Ireland

This scheme is co-funded by the Arts Council but administered by Poetry Ireland.

Description



Siobhan Cronogue, Public Participation Network c/o Community & Enterprise, Longford County Council,

The Writers in Schools Scheme part-funds visits by writers and storytellers to schools throughout the island of Ireland.

For more information, please refer to the education section of the Poetry Ireland website, www.poetryireland.ie.

Deadline

For information regarding criteria for eligibility to apply for inclusion on the Writers in Schools directory, please refer to: <http://www.poetryireland.ie/education/wis-criteria.htm>

The induction process for eligible applicants includes an interview, training, garda vetting, and participation in a mentoring programme.

Contact details

Writers in Schools Scheme
32 Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Ireland
Tel: +353 1 6789022
Fax: +353 1 6789782
Email: writersinschools@poetryireland.ie
Web: www.poetryireland.ie/education

Want to heighten the profile of your Community Group! 😊

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

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

Then why not promote it in this Ebulletin?

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

For inclusion in the November edition of the PPN EBulletin

Compiled by

Siobhan Cronogue

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

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

Sources: Longford PPN community groups, EU News, DOECLG, Fáilte Ireland, Longford Co. Council, Longford Leader and other sources with many thanks!



Happy Halloween from the Longford PPN

