



County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

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PPN Newsletter October 2021 (Part 4)



Operation Blue Santa

Tickets are selling fast - don't miss out!

Longford PPN have teamed up with the Community Gardai in the Granard and Longford Municipal Districts to work on an event called "Operation Blue Santa". Operation Blue Santa will ensure six charities receive funds to support families in need this Christmas. The charities are:

- Longford Women's Link, Longford (043) 3341151
- Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, Ballymahon (090) 643 2691
- Lus na Greine Family Resource Centre, Granard (043) 6660977
- St. Christopher's Services, Longford (043) 3341769
- Longford Community Resources CLG, Longford (043) 3345555
- Little Blue Heros

*To help with this the Band of An Garda Síochána will perform a concert in St. Mel's Cathedral on **Sunday 31st October 2021 @3pm.***

Tickets are €10 each and are available for purchase from each of the above charity organisations, Longford Library, Ballymahon Library and at reception, Longford County Council, Great Water Street.

Please support this great cause - Thank You!

Funding News



Longford County Council Sports Bursary – The County Council have allocated the sum of €5,000 towards this bursary. The purpose of the award is to facilitate achievement by aspiring individual performers who have the ability and potential to bring recognition and success at National and International level.

More information and how to apply [here](#)

What's On



Women in The Water

Women's learn to swim programme in partnership with Longford Triathlon Club. If you have always wanted to learn to swim but never got round to it out Women in the Water – Learn to Swim programme is for you. Over 7 weeks you will be guided from a complete beginner to being able to swim. You will be in a position to carry on swimming yourself for exercise and physical activity and if you have the inclination join our try a tri beginners programme with Longford Triathlon Club in the new year.

Book through our Eventbrite link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/women-in-the-water-learn-to-swim-tickets-197319617287>

Men on the Move - Kenagh

Men on the Move (MOM) is a physical activity programme aimed at adult men who have been away from sport and physical activity for a prolonged period and want to get active again, have fun and improve their fitness levels.

The emphasis of the Men on the Move programme is to create an awareness and understanding of the importance of physical activity for your health and wellbeing.

Over the 12 week programme you will increase your fitness levels and see real improvements in your overall health and wellbeing.

Take some time to take care of your own health.

You will have lots of fun and exercise with information and support.

Beginning Tuesday 2nd of November 2021.

2 Sessions a week (Tuesday & Thursday at 7:00pm) at Kenagh Community Centre.

Book through our Eventbrite below

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/men-on-the-move-kenagh-tickets-194988906067>



New Intergenerational Community Archive project launching in County Longford is seeking volunteers to help facilitate the project in their area!

Press Release 21 October 2021

The Community Time Machine initiative is an age-friendly cross-generational community archive project designed to connect young people with their older neighbours through a series of facilitated interviews, art projects and photography. It is a simple and fun way to have a positive impact and strengthen your community connections.

Neighbourhood Network is delighted to be launching this initiative in County Longford this autumn in partnership with The Creative Ireland Programme, Age Friendly Ireland, Longford County Council and the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Community members across County Longford are now invited to come on board as organisers for this exciting project. The role of community organisers is to gather 5-6 young people, aged 12 – 18, to interview senior members of their community over the phone. The interviews give both participants a valuable opportunity to learn from each other and connect with their community.

Each group that takes part will be given €100 towards a charity/group of their choice and a time capsule to store their project in. A professional portrait photographer will visit each of the seniors involved in the project to take their portraits. The seniors will then receive their printed photos and all of the participants will have their work displayed on the national time machine gallery website.

The Community Time Machine is a great way to get to know more about your community and its history, create something unique and develop community connections. The result is an inspiring collection of insights into the hearts and souls that make up communities all over the county.

If this sounds like a project you would like to see come to life in your area, visit <https://timemachine.neighbourhoodnetwork.ie/> to get involved! We would also love to hear from any youth groups, schools or clubs who might be interested in taking part.

About Neighbourhood Network: visit

www.neighbourhoodnetwork.ie

For more information contact;

CEO of Neighbourhood Network Sam Bishop samuel@neighbourhoodnetwork.ie

Communications Coordinator of Neighbourhood Network, Áine Lawless aine@neighbourhoodnetwork.ie

Full press release [here](#)

Arts Project Invite Faoin Speir / In the Open arts project invite community groups in County Longford to participate in 'Light Brigade' - a public arts project this November. The project delivered by artist Tom Meskell, is based on the making and exhibition of lantern sculptures. Tom is delivering 10 x one day workshops in early November (9am to 4pm) with interested community groups. Groups of 10 participants. Each participant will be taught techniques and mentored to create an individual lantern art object. All the lanterns will be exhibited together in late February 2022. Workshops take place between Mon 1st Nov - Fri 12th Nov. Suitable for participants 10yrs+. Groups must supply space for workshop. Light Brigade is part of the Faoin Speir Longford arts program and is delivered by Longford Arts Office.

Please direct expressions of interest to Shane Crossan - [#republicofculture21@gmail.com.#](mailto:republicofculture21@gmail.com)



- Longford County Council leads on rural working hubs [here](#)
- Explore new skills with free Skillshare online courses at your nearest Digital Hub (BCP) information [here](#)
- Longford County Council Job Vacancies – Data Protection & Information Compliance Officer, Community Sports Development Officer, Sláintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officer, Community Warden – more information available at Latest News Vacancies Section on LCC website <https://www.longfordcoco.ie/>



Link to October **Events Guide** with a special Halloween Events Guide for this month:

[Events - Longford.ie](https://www.longfordcoco.ie/events)

[Week 1st November 2021 - Longford.ie](https://www.longfordcoco.ie/week-1st-november-2021)



Keep Well Campaign: Further details on Longford County Council's website www.longfordcoco.ie

WORKSHOPS/WEBINARS/TRAINING



We've added four new sessions!

The Storytelling Series is **FREE communications training with experts in the fields of journalism, social media, content production and PR.** Part of the upcoming We Act campaign, the programme of webinars aims to upskill staff and volunteers in telling the story of our organisations and communicating our value and impact.

See the programme below – more sessions will be added soon. To register for each session, visit the links below and sign up for FREE through Zoom webinar:

The Storytelling Series

****NEWLY ADDED**** Getting Confident on Social Media with Adam Monks (TU Dublin, Honey + Buzz) | Weds, 6 October, 11am - 12.30pm

Easy Graphic Design with Canva with Ronny Hermosa (Canva, Fair Trade Connection) | Weds, 13 October, 10.30am - 12noon

How to Be a Spokesperson for your Organisation with Eleanor Kelly (UCD Innovation Academy, Open Society Foundations) | Weds, 20 October, 11am – 12.30pm.

****NEWLY ADDED**** How to Take Great Photos on your Phone with Brendan O'Sé (award-winning photographer) | Weds, 10 November, 11am - 1pm

****NEWLY ADDED**** The Art of Contemporary Storytelling Panel, facilitated by Louise Bruton (Irish Times, Irish Independent) | Weds, 17 November, 11am – 12.30pm

****NEWLY ADDED**** Engagement Strategy for Facebook and Instagram with Jean O'Brien (Digital Charity Lab) | Weds, 24 November, 11am – 12.30pm

The Storytelling Series is a key strand of We Act, the upcoming national public awareness campaign for the charity and community sector. If we the campaign to have momentum and change attitudes about our sector, we need to elevate our stories and champion the valuable work we do.

The Storytelling Series is for anyone who works or volunteers in the sector who wants practical tips and tools for effective communications. The series is supported by Community Foundation Ireland and the RTÉ Comic Relief Fund.

*Warm regards,
The Wheel*

NATIONAL NEWS



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Our Rural Future Fora

The Department of Rural and Community Development is holding a series of Rural Ideas Fora in the coming weeks. The series of three online events will focus on specific themes within Our Rural Future, the national rural development policy published earlier this year, and will be an opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities that impact on rural communities and economies. Attendees will learn more about ongoing work relating to key objectives contained in the policy, and hear from a panel of key stakeholders.

Registration for these events is available via Eventbrite at the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/o/department-of-rural-and-community-development-20051109089>

The three events scheduled are as follows:

18 October – 11am-1pm: Remote Working - An Opportunity for Rural Ireland

27 October – 11am-1pm: Transitioning to Climate-Neutral Society

10 November – 11am-1pm: Revitalising Towns and Villages

Age Friendly Ireland Announces International Webinar Series



Age Friendly Ireland announces **International Webinar Series**

streaming Live from the **Solstice Arts Centre**

2 nd Nov 2021	Housing
14 th Dec 2021	Community Support and Health Services
11 th Jan 2022	Social Participation
8 th Feb 2022	Respect & Social Inclusion
8 th Mar 2022	Communication & Information
12 th Apr 2022	Transportation
10 th May 2022	Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
14 th June 2022	Civic Participation and Employment



New Website to Search all local Government Jobs



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

In conjunction with the Local Authority sector, the Local Government Management Agency have developed a new website to advertise and promote employment opportunities in the Local Government sector - www.localgovernmentjobs.ie. All local authority jobs, including national and sectoral vacancies, will be advertised on localgovernmentjobs.ie. Longford County Council will advertise external vacancies on this website going forward.