



Greetings from Mark and Martin in WPPN.

Spring has arrived since our last Newsletter and hopefully the winter storms and cold are behind us.

A big thank you to all the volunteer groups who offered their premises, their resources and their time to assisting those without power and water following the Storm - it's heartening to see this depth of community solidarity and spirit in the county.

For many of your groups Spring is also the time of year for filling out grant applications and starting on those plans for the year ahead.

We were delighted with the turnout at our Funding Evenings and Clinics in Athlone and Mullingar over the past two weeks. We hope these events have highlighted the public supports that are available to community and voluntary groups in the county.

For those of you who couldn't attend the events the presentations will be made available online shortly.

This year it will be possible to apply for many of the WCC Community grants online. Inside this newsletter you will find links to these applications and to our colleagues in the Community Section who are always available to assist.

In other news work has started on the WPPN website, which we hope will be launched later this Spring. This website will enable us to communicate with WPPN members and the public more efficiently. It is a key objective for 2025.

Mark Ahearn and Martin Fagan
Westmeath PPN

We are currently in the process of developing a dedicated website for WPPN. In the meantime you can find information on our work in the Community Development Section of Westmeath County Council's website at <https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/communitydevelopment/>
Contact Mark or Martin directly at ppn@westmeathcoco.ie

Funding/Grants Info Events 2025



Can you offer **mental health support** to others? Do you know what to say or do?

Whether at work or in your community, training in mental health peer-support will equip you with the skills and empathy to confidently support others looking for help.

Train in Mental Health Peer-Support with Cycle Against Suicide to:

- ♦ Gain a better understanding of peer-support and its role in good mental health.
- ♦ Learn how to use peer-support and the techniques of active listening, supportive conversation and positive coping to help support someone facing stress of distress.
- ♦ Run over 4 evenings or 2 days, training is free of charge, delivered LIVE online via Zoom and accredits 13.5 CPD points.



At work and at play, our aim is to bring peer-support to the forefront of the mental health conversation.

For dates and times of training, or to express interest email:
training@cycleagainstsuiticide.com

Or register directly online with this QR code or at:

www.cycleagainstsuiticide.com/mental-health-peer-support-training-communities/



"It's OK not to feel OK, and it's absolutely OK to ask for help."



SANCTUARY RUNNERS

Set the Pace - Lead the Change!

- **Solidarity**
- **Friendship**
- **Respect**

Everyone is welcome at Sanctuary Runners!

Come and join the friendliest running & walking group

WHO WE ARE:

- Bringing together your entire community, including asylum seekers, refugees, migrants & Irish residents
- Build friendships, networks & learn from each other
- Get fit, get outside and have some fun!

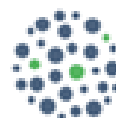
HOW IT WORKS:

- Come along and walk or run, all abilities welcome!
- Join us at events around the country!
- Be part of the blue wave in your Sanctuary Runner t-shirt!

- New group launching in Mullingar!
- Run Jog or walk together each Saturday morning
- Call or email to find out more

 083 4083621

 annemarie@sanctuaryrunners.ie



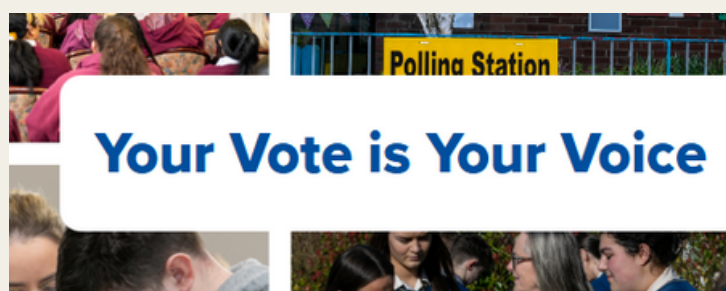
An Coimisiún Toghcháin/ The Electoral Commission is preparing an Education and Public Engagement Strategy to encourage democratic participation in Ireland.

As part of this process they are currently undertaking a comprehensive public consultation process. This process began on 10 February and will finish on 24 March.

If you would like to participate in this important process please visit www.electoralcommission.ie/consultation or scan the QR code below.



The Electoral Commission is a statutory, independent body, established under the Electoral Reform Act of 2022





Kinnegad Your Town Team Get Involved!

Westmeath County Council

is inviting members of the public, residents, property owners, businesses, sporting, community and voluntary groups and local schools to get involved in the programme for the establishment of a Kinnegad Town Team

Save the dates:

Wednesday 12 March 2025, 20:00 to 22:00

Kinnegad Town Team information night where community members can register their interest and sign up for the Town Team and sector groups

Location: Kinnegad GAA Club, N91 C998

Wednesday 26 March 2025, 20:00 to 22:00

Kinnegad Town Team sector groups information and formation night

Location: Kinnegad GAA Club. N91 C998

Refreshments will be available for both meetings.



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

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First


WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí



Kilbeggan Your Town Team Get Involved!

Westmeath County Council

is inviting members of the public, residents, property owners, businesses, sporting, community and voluntary groups and local schools to get involved in the programme for the establishment of a Kilbeggan Town Team

Save the dates:

Wednesday 05 March 2025, 20:00 to 22:00

Kilbeggan Town Team information night where community members can register their interest and sign up for the Town Team and sector groups.

Location: Kilbeggan Parish Hall, N91 PPK1.

Wednesday 19 March 2025, 20:00 to 22:00

Kilbeggan Town Team sector groups information and formation night.

Location: Kilbeggan Parish Hall, N91 PPK1.

Refreshments will be available for both meetings.



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

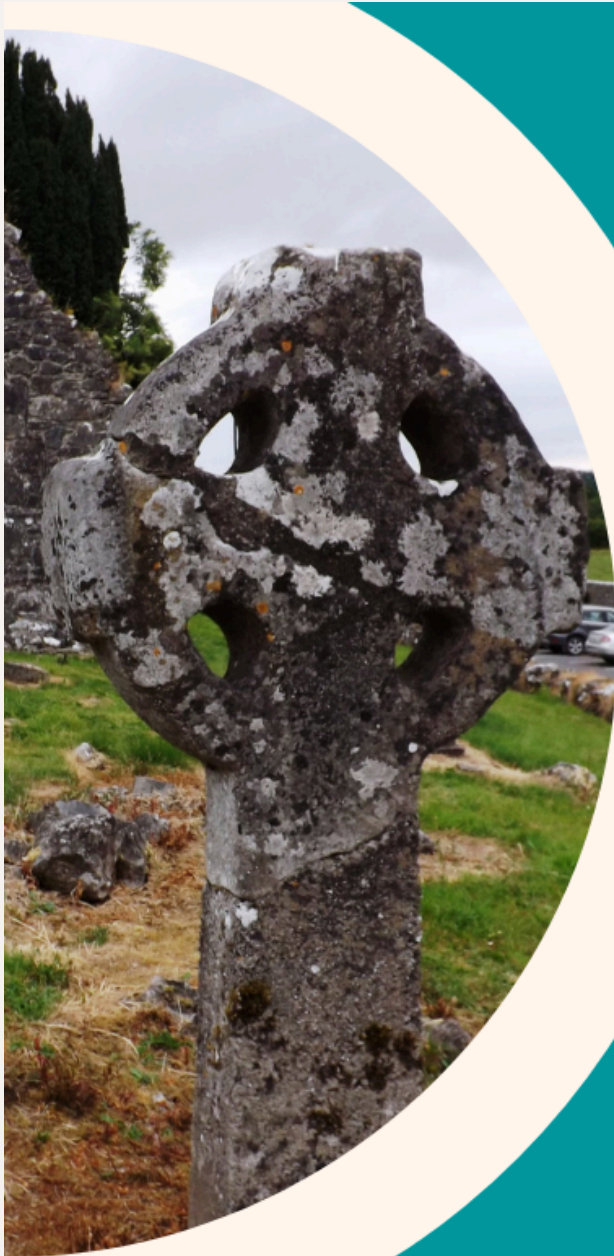
Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First



Environment Section WCC



Cemetery Maintenance Grant 2025

**Closing Date
7th March 2025**



Under Westmeath County Council's Cemetery Policy, Community Cemetery Maintenance Grants are been introduced.

Grants will assist local groups who incur expenses in carrying out maintenance/improvement works in their local cemetery.

Maximum grant of €750 available to successful applicants.

For further details

visit <https://www.westmeathcoco.ie>, call 044 9332166 or email environment-cemeteries@westmeathcoco.ie

DRINKAWARE

New events page on promoting alcohol-free events in Ireland.



From coffee meetups, creative workshops, sober speed-dating and raves, run clubs ... this page will make it easier to socialise in supportive, sober settings.

Visit DRINKAWARE website at

<https://www.drinkaware.ie/dry-vibe-hub-alcohol-free-events/>

Hosting an event??

contact info@drinkaware.ie

Westmeath Heritage Office



Irish Georgian Society Conservation Grant closing date 19th Feb 2025

The Irish Georgian Society Conservation Grant Programme

- Includes the Homan Potterton Conservation Grant available for Georgian buildings of architectural merit in Meath or Westmeath - deadline 19th Feb

Traditional Farm Buildings Grant

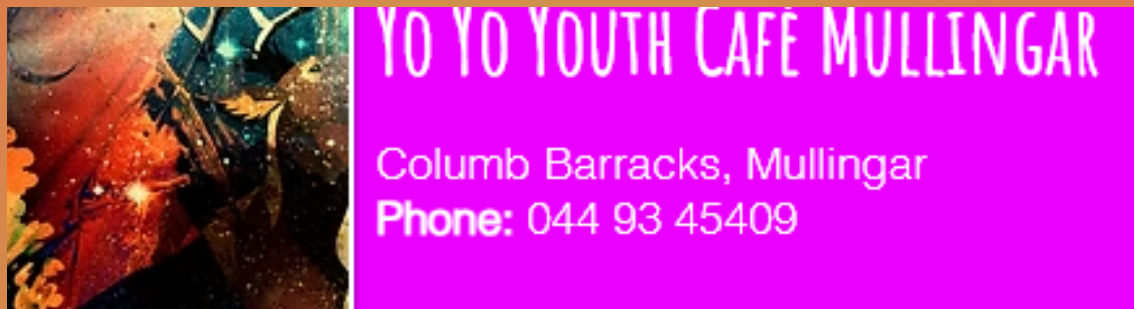
- Deadline 10th March 5pm
- As well as buildings, this year applications are invited for traditional farm features e.g. wrought iron gates

Contact the Westmeath Heritage Officer at heritage@westmeathcoco.ie or visit the Westmeath Culture webpage at <https://westmeathculture.ie/heritage/> for info

Youth Work Ireland Midlands

Working together with young people and their communities.

Aims to develop, coordinate and promote a comprehensive response to youth needs in Westmeath, Offaly & Roscommon



Events include Open Mic Sessions for young musicians/singer/DJs at YoYo Youth Cafe

For info on Youth Work Midlands visit www.youthworkmidlands.org and follow social media feeds

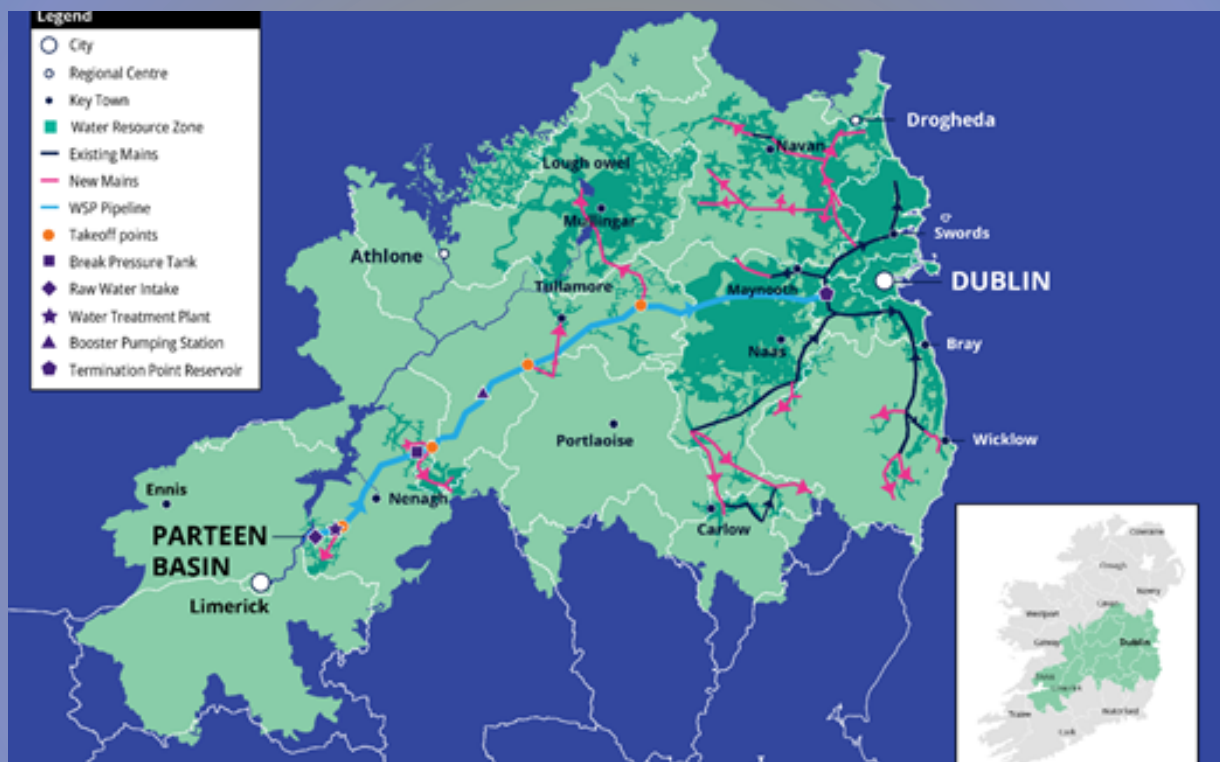
Music Generation

A national music education programme whose mission is to empower children and young people to realise their full potential through access to, and participation in, high quality performance music education.



For info on Music Generation in Westmeath visit <https://www.musicgeneration.ie/>

Public Consultation on the water supply project for the Eastern and Midlands region



This project looks at creating infrastructure and envisions that treated water will be brought from the Parteen Basin to Peaumont in Dublin, with the capacity for offtakes along the route in Tipperary, Offaly, and Westmeath.

The public consultation is ongoing.
Deadline for submissions of 4th March 2025.

More info at

www.water.ie/projects/national-projects

Overview of Community & Enterprise Supports available in Westmeath

Learn more about Supports available to Communities and Enterprise, including Capacity Building, Mentoring, Regenerative Tourism, Climate Action Measures and Training from Westmeath Local Enterprise Office, Westmeath Community Development, Tóchar, SEAI, Westmeath Climate Action Team and LWETB.

Date: Thursday 20 March 2025, 10am - 2pm

Tuar Árd Arts Centre, Church St., Moate, Co. Westmeath, N37 X8P6



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



Tionól Réigiúnach an
Oirthir agus Lár Tíre
Eastern and Midland
Regional Assembly



pobal
government supporting communities



REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN
MIDLANDS



Laois County Council
Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council



WCC Community Section



The poster features a festive background with colorful bunting and confetti. At the top, the Westmeath County Council logo is displayed, including the text 'WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL' and 'Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí'. Below this, the title 'FESTIVAL & EVENTS GRANT 2025' is prominently displayed in large, bold, purple and blue letters. A central paragraph describes the grant's purpose: 'Westmeath County Council are inviting applications for grant support for upcoming Festivals and Events. The events should generate increased economic activity for the local area, involve significant voluntary input and attract increased visitor numbers to Westmeath.' A yellow banner below the paragraph reads 'NOW OPEN FOR ONLINE APPLICATIONS'. The bottom section contains five circular images: a river festival, a community meeting, a yoga picnic, a cycling race, and a boat show. A closing date notice is also present.

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

FESTIVAL & EVENTS GRANT 2025

Westmeath County Council are inviting applications for grant support for upcoming Festivals and Events. The events should generate increased economic activity for the local area, involve significant voluntary input and attract increased visitor numbers to Westmeath.

NOW OPEN FOR ONLINE APPLICATIONS

Closing Date for Receipt of Round 1 Applications
7th March 2025

For more info and to apply online visit the Community Development Section of Westmeath County Council website - <https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/>

WCC Community Section

Applications now Open

COMMUNITY ACTION SCHEME GRANTS 2025

- Tidy Towns Grant
- Residents Association Grants
- Community Action Grant

CATHAOIRLEACH COMMUNITY AWARDS 2025

- Nominations for Cathaoirleach Award for Westmeath Person/Group of the Year
- Community project of the year Award
- Residents Association Project Award
- Age Friendly Recognition Award
- Pride of Place in the Community Competition
- STEM Grant (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)
- Schools Environmental Competition

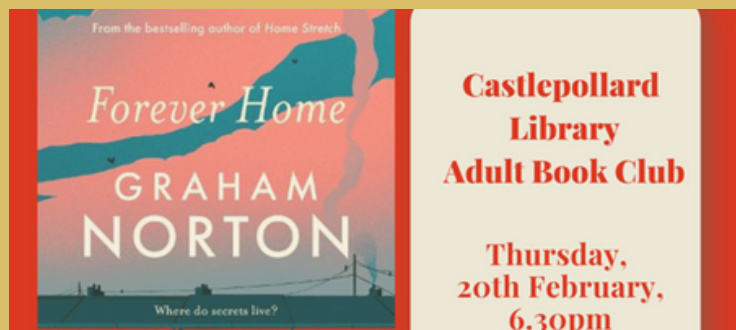
Deadline for all applications is Friday 7th March 2025



For more info and to apply online visit the Community Development Section of Westmeath County Council website - <https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/>

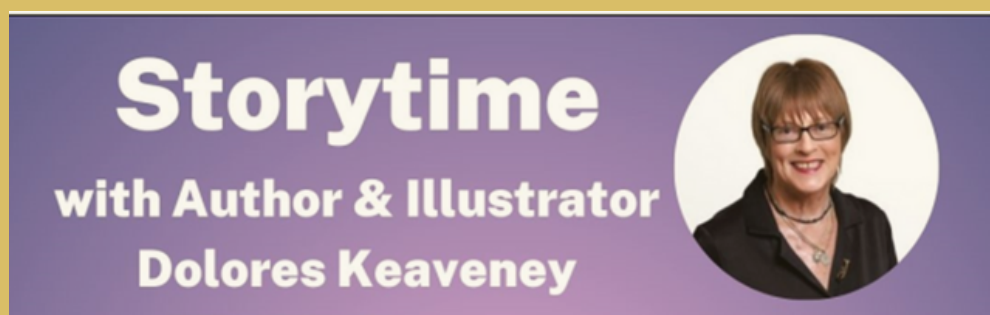
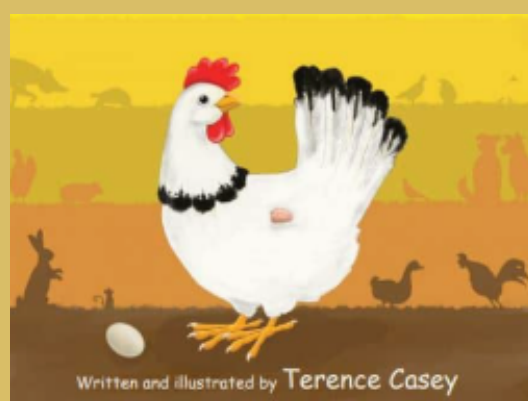
WCC Library Section

Upcoming events in Castlepollard branch



New members welcome.
Find out more by contacting
044 9332199

Terence Casey will read from his
new book in Athlone Library
22 Feb 2025 - 12noon- 1 PM
Info @ 090 6481888. All welcome.

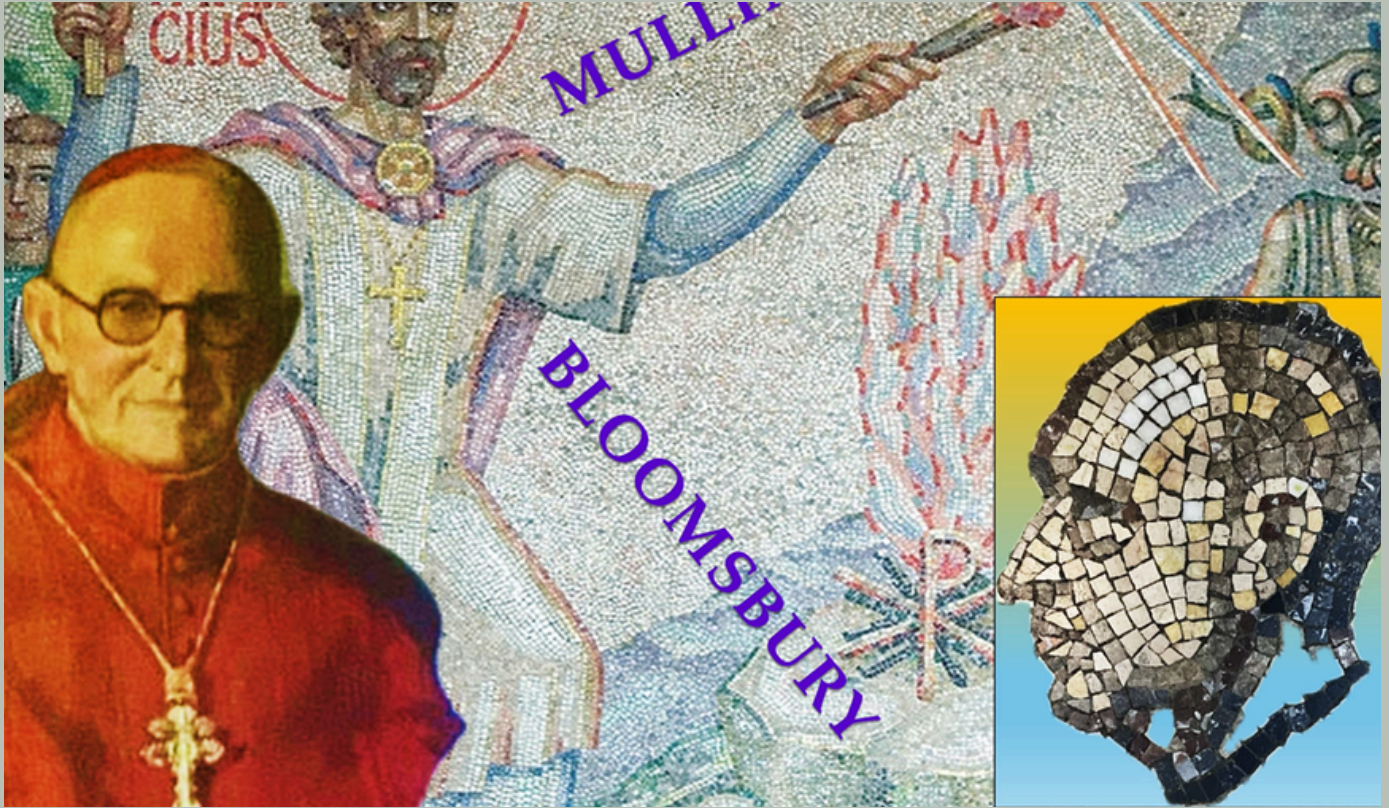


Free Storytime with Author and Illustrator Dolores Keaveney, author of popular children's books including Dee the Bee, Huwie the Apple Tree
Feb 22nd. Castlepollard Library 10am. Mullingar Library 12pm
Event suitable for under 8s. Booking at www.westmeathculture.ie

Keep up-to-date with WCC Library news at
<https://westmeathculture.ie/>



Westmeath Archaeological and Historical Society



The WAHS Lecture Schedule for 2025 continues with a talk by Prof Anne Byrne in the Greville Arms, Mullingar on 26th Feb. The lecture will centre on the mosaics in Mullingar Cathedral which were created by the famous Russian poet and artist Boris Anrep.

Visit the WAHS website
for information on upcoming
events/ lectures/ tours -
<http://whahs.ie/>

Munster Technological University

MSc. in Applied Community Led Development for Well-being

**Learn,
Lead,
Transform**

MSc
**COMMUNITY LED
DEVELOPMENT**
for **WELLBEING**



Building Stronger Communities
through EDUCATION.



We are excited to announce the launch of our innovative, new, sought after program, in APPLIED COMMUNITY LED DEVELOPMENT FOR WELL-BEING, designed to transform your career and connect you with like-minded professionals. This is your opportunity to gain a truly transformative learning experience and to enhance your career through connecting with a dynamic community of leaders in community development and well-being.

Contact us to secure your place.

MScdevelopmentforwellbeing@MTU.ie

Choose our 24 month/4 semesters blended Masters programme or fast track your goals with the 3 semester blended diploma programme -both designed to empower you with practical real world solutions.

Undertake work-based challenges as part of your learning journey, enhancing your professional growth while fostering collaboration across organisational settings.

This applied approach equips you with the skills and strategies to drive meaningful change and make a lasting impact on community well-being. Join us and start building the future today.

MSc
**COMMUNITY LED
DEVELOPMENT** **SEPT
2025**
for **WELLBEING**
Building Stronger Communities
through EDUCATION.

More information at

<https://www.mtu.ie/courses/tlshcwbm/>



Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais
National Disability Authority

The NDA is an independent statutory body that provides information and advice to Government on policy and practice relevant to the lives of persons with disabilities

Keep up to date on NDA events, publications and webinars by visiting their website, subscribing to their quarterly newsletter or visiting their Youtube channel.

<https://nda.ie>

The NDA also publishes guidance on making the built environment and public spaces accessible to all through their Centre for Excellence in Universal Design

<https://universaldesign.ie>

ReSHAPE

Regional Skills Horizon And Pathways to Employment

Delivering comprehensive education, training and skills development opportunities for the Just Transition of the Midlands Region

The ReSHAPE Project offers education/training courses.
Targeted at people who live/work in the Midlands
100% funded
Delivered by the TUS, MTU and UL universities



TUS

Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir



MTU

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Mumhan
Munster Technological University



**UNIVERSITY OF
LIMERICK**
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

**For more information
Visit <https://reshape.ie>
Contact info@reshape.ie**

ReSHAPE is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund Programme 2021-2027.

It's aim is to support workers and communities most negatively impacted by the transition to a low carbon economy by aiding the development of sustainable and resilient communities in the Midlands, primarily in Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhoibriú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



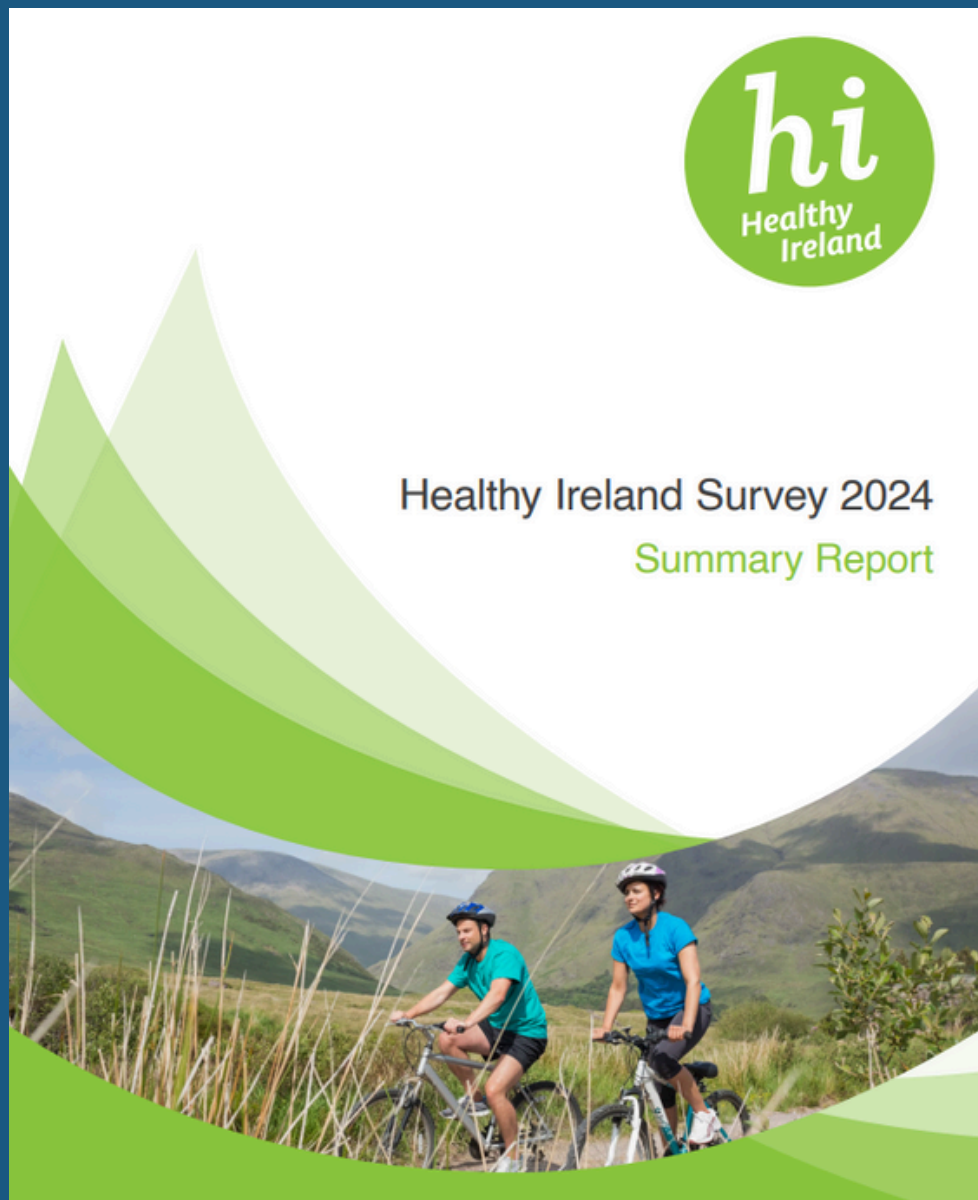
Tionól Réigiúnach an
Oirthir agus Lár Tíre
Eastern and Midland
Regional Assembly



pobal
government supporting communities

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland has released it's annual survey. It gives an up-to-date picture of the health of the nation, reporting on many health-related lifestyle behaviours.



To view visit

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/d1ab3-healthy-ireland-survey-2024/>

Africa Day. 25th May 2025

An annual celebration of culture and people.

Westmeath County Council is offering funding support to groups who would like to celebrate Africa Day.

Please contact WCC Community Development Section communitygrants@westmeath.coco.ie for an application form. Closing date for receipt of applications is 21st February 2025.





Crois Dhearg na hÉireann
Irish Red Cross
Humanitarian Awards

Nominations for Irish Red Cross Humanitarian Awards are open

Good Deeds Matter.
Recognise **inspiring
individuals** making a
difference in your
community

irchumanitarianawards.ie

Irish Refugee Integration Network (IRIN)

IRIN is a collective of Dublin City University academics, students and members of civil society.

It is committed to welcoming forcibly displaced persons and supporting them in accessing third level education through the awarding of scholarships.

Currently offering free English classes for International Protection Applicants and Refugees
(In person at DCU Campus ,Glasnevin, Dublin)



Dublin City University

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES

For International Protection Applicants

More info at www.dcu.ie/irin
Email: irin@dcu.ie

Public Participation Network Westmeath

The Public Participation Network
has received a query that a venue in
Mullingar is being sought for fortnightly
Eastern Orthodox Religious Services.



At present, members of this faith must travel
to Dublin and Athlone for religious services.

If there are any WPPN member groups
willing to offer/rent their premises
please contact us at

ppn@westmeathcoco.ie
and we will pass on your details.