

Greetings from Mark and Martin in WPPN.

Many of you have been busy this past month putting together plans for 2025 and submitting grant applications. The deadline for many of the Community Section Grants has passed - however in this newsletter you'll find notices about other funding schemes that are currently open.

WPPN Secretariat members, Mick Kenny, Anne Drury and Dave Raftis, at our Grants Info Evening in February. Last month your reps attended the WPPN submissions meetings for Athlone/Moate and Mullingar/Kinnegad Municipal Districts. At these meetings, which were also attended by county councilors,, submissions from PPN member groups were put to council officials and as a result some suggestions made by your groups have been included on the schedule of works for 2025.

This month we've also had our first WPPN Reps Network meeting and later this month we will have the first of our Linkage Group Meetings. As announced in last months newsletter, our new website is currently being created. In the future we will have the means to share more updates from the WPPN Reps to the membership. We are still on course for a launch date of the website in late Spring.

Happy St Patrick's Day to all our members - and we hope that the sun shines on all of you who are participating in the local parades on the 17th.

Mark Ahern and Martin Fagan Westweath PPM

We are currently in the process of developing a dedicated website for WPPN.

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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

### **RURAL SUPPORT SCHEMES**

#### **Expression of Interests 2025**

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are being sought for the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) and the CLÁR Programme for 2025. This is an opportunity for community groups to express an interest in projects that they feel would benefit their communities.

EOIs will be assessed against relevant criteria when schemes are announced by the Department of Rural & Community Development. The EOI's will enter a competitive process to be considered to go forward for full funding applications.

Detailed scheme information and the online EOI application are available on the **Westmeath Rural Support Schemes** page in the Community Development section of our website.

For assistance, contact the Community Development Section at 044 9338969, 044 9332196, or by emailing: rss@westmeathcoco.ie.

### The closing date for EOI's is Wednesday 30th April 2025 at 4pm.

#### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure. It also provides support for the necessary repair, maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas across Ireland.

The scheme invests in the physical infrastructure that underpins sporting and recreational activities based on the use of the resources of the countryside; these contribute to healthy active lifestyles while building on the economic and tourism potential of the area and so are to the benefit of both local communities and tourist visitors alike. The scheme may also provide some limited funding for the marketing and promotion of such infrastructure, typically as part of a wider project involving capital supports.

The Scheme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development.



Measures funded previously under the ORIS are:

**Measure 1**: Small Scale Repair/ Development/ Promotion and Marketing

Measure 2: Medium Scale Repair/ Upgrade and De New Trail/ Amenity Development

Measure 3: Strategic Large Scale Repair:
Upgrade and New Strategic Trail/ Amenity
Project Development Measure: Development
Costs for Strategic Large Scale Projects

#### Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais (CLÁR)

The CLÁR programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) provides funding for small-scale infrastructural projects in rural areas. Reopened in 2016, CLÁR aims to support sustainable development in identified areas by attracting people to live and work there. The funding works in conjunction with local funding and on the basis of locally identified priorities.

#### Measures funded previously under the CLÁR Programme are:

**Measure 1**: Developing Community

Facilities & Amenities

**Measure 2**: Mobility, Cancer Care, Community First Responder and Meals on

Wheels Transport

Measure 3: 'Our Islands'





#### Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS)

The Department of Rural and Community
Development, through the Our Rural Future,
Town Centre First and Our Living Islands
policies, recognises the importance of
creating and maintaining vibrant rural towns
and villages, and we will continue to achieve
this by delivering a wide range of strategic
interventions and investments throughout
the country.

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is designed to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland through a renewed focus on town centre economic and social vibrancy and regeneration in line with the Town Centre First policy.

#### This will be achieved through:

- Town Regeneration projects
- Enhancing our streetscapes
- Green spaces / recreational amenities in town or village centres
- Refurbishment of existing community centres
- A new option to allow local authorities to acquire plots of land to enable development of town
- regeneration, such as town parks, plazas, etc.
- Bringing vacant and derelict buildings/ back into use as multi-purpose or community spaces
- Projects to support town or village centre markets, e.g. farmers markets or artisan markets
- Town/village centre plaza development











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



Tionscadal Éireann Project Ireland 2040 **Ár dTodhchaí Tuaithe** Our Rural Future







# The Mary Molesworth Festival Rochfortbridge - 6th April 2025

### Events include:

Portrait Competition.

Talk on the life of Mary Molesworth/Lady Belvedere Tour of Castlelost Church & Graveyard Talk at Gaulstown Graveyard.

Blacksmithing demonstration at Boyhan's Forge.
Podcasts by former Bord na Móna workers
Art Projects from the local primary school
Display of the Castlelost Church Bell.

Event Start Time	*Bus Departure Time (free)	Event	Location
09:30 - 10:30	09:20	History talk on The Rochfort family at Gaulstown Estate with Denis O'Neill	Gaulstown Graveyard, Gaulstown.
11:00 - 11:30		Viewing of the Robert Rochfort Church Bell facilitated by The O'Connor Family	The Protestant Church, Main Street, Rochfortbridge.
11:00 – 14:30	Hot food, tea, coffee & snacks on sale in St Joseph's canteen		
12:30 – 14:00	12:15	Tour at the Castlelost Heritage Project with John Gavin	Castlelost Church & Graveyard Castlelost.
14:30	14:15	Blacksmith demonstration & wrought iron gate display in association with Westmeath Heritage	Boyhan's Forge, Farthingstown
10:00 – 17:30	All day exhibitions taking place in The Convent include the following:		
	<ul> <li>Art &amp; History projects from the local primary schools</li> <li>Podcast recordings with retired works from Bord Na Mona &amp; other local interest stories</li> <li>Display of the entries for the Mary Molesworth Portrait Competition</li> </ul>		
17:30 – 18:00	The inaugural Mary Molesworth Lecture & Award Ceremony - with historian Ruth Illingworth on 'The life of Mary Molesworth'.		
	Lecture Location: Convent chapel, followed by the award ceremony for the Mary Molesworth Portrait Festival.		

For more info contact Rahanine Trail Blazers Follow on instagram @ mary\_molesworth\_festival Email - mmolesworthfestival@gmail.com

### WPPN Reps: Updates



### The Heritage Forum

### Plans/Highlights for 2025

Seek Heritage Council Funding for digitizing Co Archives Support establishment of a Co Archivist position Field Names Project - https://meitheal.logainm.ie/westmeath Oral History project.

Research Argentinean connections to Fore area Networking/Training event Creative Ireland Film project on Lough Ree Traditional Farm Buildings Survey

### **Upcoming Events**

**26th Mar** - Greville Arms, Mullingar 8.00pm Westmeath Historical Society Lecture on Westmeath Archaeology

**6th Apr** - Rochfortbridge The Mary Molesworth Art and Heritage Festival

**12th Apr** Greville Arms - 9.30am to 3.00pm The Big Houses in Westmeath.

**12th Apr** - Greville Arms - 8.00pm Westmeath Historical Society - Annual Conference

16th-24th Aug

Heritage and Bio-diversity Week

### Contact

Seamus McDermott, WPPN Rep to the Heritage Forum 087-3477345 | seamusmcd11@yahoo.com

### WPPN Reps: Updates



Alison Hough, Climate Campaigner and WPPN Rep voiced concerns that large scale storms, like Storm Éowyn this Spring, will become a regular feature of our weather pattern.



She was speaking at the recent Westmeath County Council's Planning, Regeneration & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

### Link to Westmeath Examiner article

https://www.westmeathindependent.ie/2025/02/21/westmeath-climate-campaigner-warns-storms-will-become-a-regular-feature/

### KILBEGGA

### YOUR TOWN TEAM GET INVOLVED!

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





### 5th March 2025

Open Public session

#### KILBEGGAN TOWN TEAM INFORMATION NIGHT

Presentation & Information session

Time: 8pm-10pm

Location: Kilbeggan Parish Hall, N91 PPK1

### 19th March 2025

Open Public session

#### KILBEGGAN TOWN TEAM SECTOR GROUPS

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

Time: 8pm- 10pm

Location: Kilbeggan Parish Hall, N91 PPK1









## KINNEGAD

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





#### 12th March 2025

Open Public session

#### KINNEGAD TOWN TEAM INFORMATION NIGHT

Presentation & Information session

Time: 8pm-10pm Location: Kinnegad GAA Club, N91 C998

Refreshments will be available for both meetings

### 26th March 2025

Open Public session

#### KINNEGAD TOWN TEAM SECTOR GROUPS

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

> Time: 8pm- 10pm Location: Kinnegad GAA Club. N91 C998









### Athlone Community Services Council





## INTERGENERATIONAL

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Wednesday 12th March 2025

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7pm-9pm

The Bounty Bar, Athlone

Entry Fee: €5 per person

€20 PER TABLE

Are you an older adult interested in taking part in a fun quiz?

> Have you a family or friend group of mixed ages?

Are you a younger person interested in taking part in a fun quiz?



For more information contact:

Athlone Community Services Council, Dr Dobbs Memorial Home, Northgate Street, Athlone.

Call: 0906472174 or 0871149449

Email: reception@acsc.ie

www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com

This will be a unique opportunity for people of all generations to enjoy working together to have fun and achieve something together. The more mix of ages on your team, the better chance you have of winning the quiz!



Team up with others to answer the questions and win prizes!!



### Retrofitting Drop-in-Clinic Mullingar 25th-27th March









The Rig will be parked in the carpark of Westmeath County Council Offices in Mullingar, Co Westmeath N91 FH 4N

Tuesday 25th March to Thursday 27th March 2025

Older people are invited to visit the Rig during a dedicated Drop-in Clinic on:

> Tuesday 12.00 to 2pm Thursday 4pm to 6pm

- · Learn more about energy saving
- The benefits of retrofitting
- · See firsthand a heat pump in action
- Discuss different types of solar panels & insulation options

Tutors will also be on hand to discuss what grants and supports are available for such projects.

Please contact 044 933 2051/044 933 2215 or email:

westmeathagefriendly@westmeathcoco.ie if you would like to attend.







### **Brain Awareness Week**

Learn more about the risk factors of developing dementia.



#BrainAwarenessWeek2025

National Brain Awareness Week takes place from March 10th to 16th 2025.

This year's theme is 'Focus on the Brain' reminds us of just how amazing our brains are and how important it is to look after them.

Visit https://www.understandtogether.ie/ for more info









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#BrainAwarenessWeek2025

### Visit https://www.understandtogether.ie/ for more info

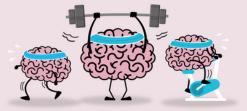




Get your hearing and vision checked if you notice a change.

#BrainAwarenessWeek2025

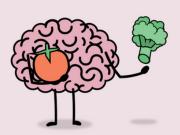




Aim for 150 minutes of physical activity each week.

#BrainAwarenessWeek2025





Eat a balanced, healthy diet.

#BrainAwarenessWeek2025

dementia





Aim to drink less alcohol.







Stay socially connected with people.





If you stop smoking for 28 days you're 5 times more likely to quit for good.

Free support is available.

#BrainAwarenessWeek2025

#BrainAwarenessWeek2025

#BrainAwarenessWeek2025



# 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 I3.5 CPD points.



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

Or register directly online with this QR code or at:



www.cycleagainstsuicide.com/mental-healthpeer-support-training-communities/

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

### Westmeath Club Grants 2025

Up to €500 per club available

Apply online at www.westmeathsports.ie

Closing date March 28















- The scheme is designed to encourage new members to join sports clubs and enhance ongoing participation. Eligible initiatives include
- Encouraging new members to join sports clubs
- Enhancing ongoing participation
- Purchasing sports equipment
- Supporting new clubs with essential costs
- Covering coaching or referee course fees accredited by Coaching Ireland or a National Governing Body of Sport

# WCC Heritage Officer & Biodiversity Officer Notices

### Heritage Council Community Grant Scheme Funding Deadline: 11:30pm 14 March

https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/community-heritage-grant-scheme-2

#### Online webinars

Fri 7 Mar. Inspiring people about the biodiversity w/ Calvin Jones Fri 14 Mar. Irish butterflies on farmland w/Jesmond Harding, Butterfly Conservation Ireland https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_fvmL1CiSQOSy6WZNCoAfMw#/registration

### Tree Planting

Sat 15th Mar. 10:30 am. Ardan Wood Nature Reserve with Native Woodlands Trust Email: aaron.gallagher@nativewoodlandtrust.ie

### Lime Mortar Workshop

Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd Mar.

Strokestown Park House. Roscommon

Supported by National Built Heritage Service https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/

Price: €120/€140 . Contact: dominic@mementomoristone.ie for booking

### Dry Stone Wall Workshops

Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd Mar. Mount Dalton, Westmeath

Supported by the National Built Heritage Service https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/
Price: €108.23 . https://www.eventbrite.com/e/introduction-to-dry-stone-wall-constructionweekend-tickets-870825170527The

Keep up-to-date with Heritage/Biodiversity news at https://westmeathculture.ie/
Contact <u>builtheritage@westmeathcoco.ie</u>





# Department of Rural and Community Development



Public Consultation Survey - New Rural Development Policy

- Online survey giving the public an opportunity to have their say on the next phase of Ireland's rural development policy, Our Rural Future
- Visit https://panel.amarachsurveys.ie/S2/159/DRCD2025/

### Community Recognition Fund 2025 - Phase 2

- Department providing €14 for 163 community projects including sports clubs, community centres, parks, walking trails and play spaces.
- · Westmeath grants administered by Westmeath Co Co
- Westmeath facilities benefitting under Phase 2 include -

Mullingar Swimming Pool
Coole Playground
Brawney MUGA
Dalton Park MUGA
Clonbrusk MUGA
St. Mary's Community Hall Athlone

### Support for Agricultural Shows 2025

- Department working with the Irish Shows Association (ISA) to provide €1 million to support 123 Agricultural Shows for 2025.
- Total allocation of €36,755 to Westmeath Shows -

Athlone Agricultural Show, Sun 15th Jun Midlands Connemara Show, Sun 27th Jul Moate Agricultural Show, Sun 24th Aug Westmeath Show Society (Mullingar), Sun 13th Jul



Minister Dara Calleary, Minister of State Jerry Buttimer, Minister Paschal Donohoe and Evanne Kilmurray of ICE. Inner City Enterprise at the announcement of Phase 2 of the Community Recognition Fund in February 2025



### **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



o 083 4083621



annemarie@sanctuaryrunners.ie

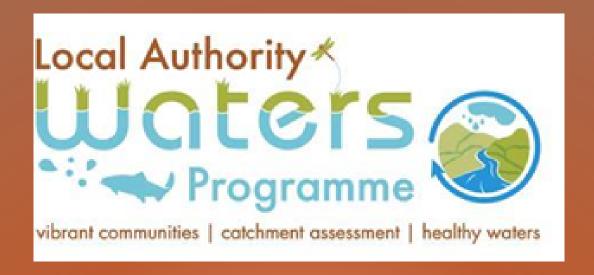










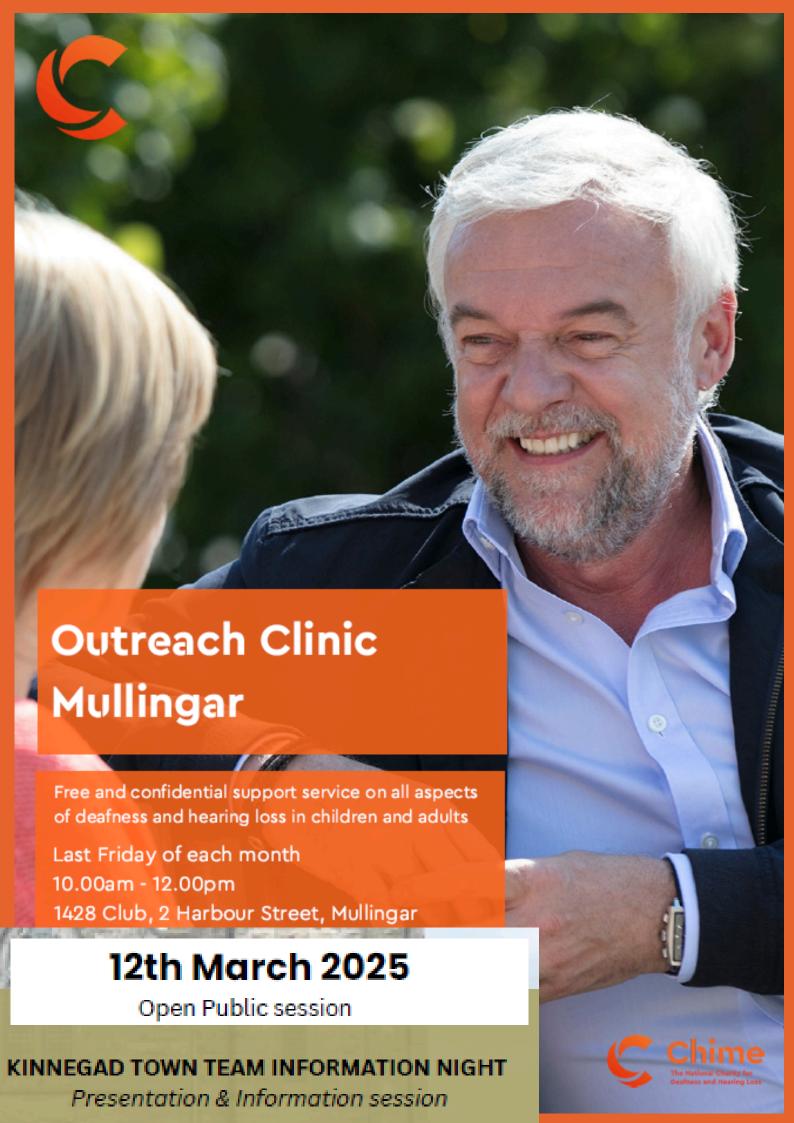


The Community Water Officer would like to remind groups that the Community Heritage Grant is closing this Fri, Mar 14th at 23:30pm

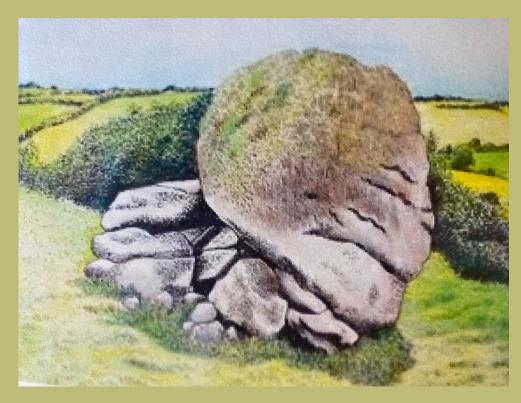


Groups who have been unsuccessful in securing Community Water Development Fund grants could potentially be considered for this grant.

Contact Cathal Flood, Community Water Officer for Meath, Westmeath, Offaly & Longford for more info and advice 085-8541258 cflood@lawaters.ie



### Westmeath Archaeological and Historical Society



The WAHS Lecture Schedule for 2025 continues with a talk by Caimin O Brien, Archaeologist

Greville Arms, Mullingar on 26th Mar at 8pm.

Caimin is an archaeologist with the Dept. of Housing and Heritage and his lecture will centre on the archaeology of Westmeath

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



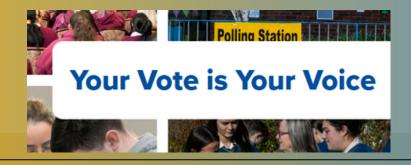
An Coimisiún Toghcháin/ The Electoral Commission is preparing an Education and Public Engagement Strategy to encourage democratic participation in Ireland.

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 <a href="https://www.electoralcommission.ie/consultation">www.electoralcommission.ie/consultation</a> or scan the QR code below.



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





For more info contact heartlandspride.athlone@gmail.com

# STOPFoodWaste.ie

Stop Food Waste is the national campaign to give you information and tips on how to make the most of your food and avoid food waste.

Reducing food waste is an easy action you can take to save money time and lessen your impact on the environment.











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.



### 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/

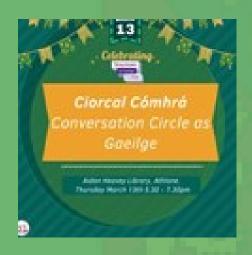
Hosting an event?? contact info@drinkaware.ie

### WCC Library Events

For the full programme of events in your local libraries visit https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/library/

Mullingar Library- Thur March 13th at 3:30pm - St. Patrick's Day arts and crafts! Suitable for age 5 - 9 years. Booking required and all children must be accompanied by an adult





Beidh an ciorcal Gaeilge ó Café Nero ag teacht le chéile i leabharlann Bhaile Átha Luain do Sheachtain na Gaeilge. Deárdaoin, 13ú Mhárta, ó 17:30 go 19:30. Beidh tae, comhrá agus craic ann. Fáilte mhór roimh chách.

Castlepollard Library will host Irish Chair Yoga for Seachtain na Gaeilge Fri, Mar 14th at 10-11am. Suitable for all movement levels and language abilities. All equipment provided. Booking Essential.



### Keep up-to-date with WCC Library news at

https://westmeathculture.ie

https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/library/





### 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





### YO YO YOUTH CAFÉ MULLINGAR

Columb Barracks, Mullingar Phone: 044 93 45409

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/



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 Westmeath Community Development, Tóchar, Westmeath Climate Action Team and LWETB.

Date: Thursday 20 March 2025, 10am - 2pm Tuar Árd Arts Centre, Church St., Moate, Co. Westmeath, N37 X8P6











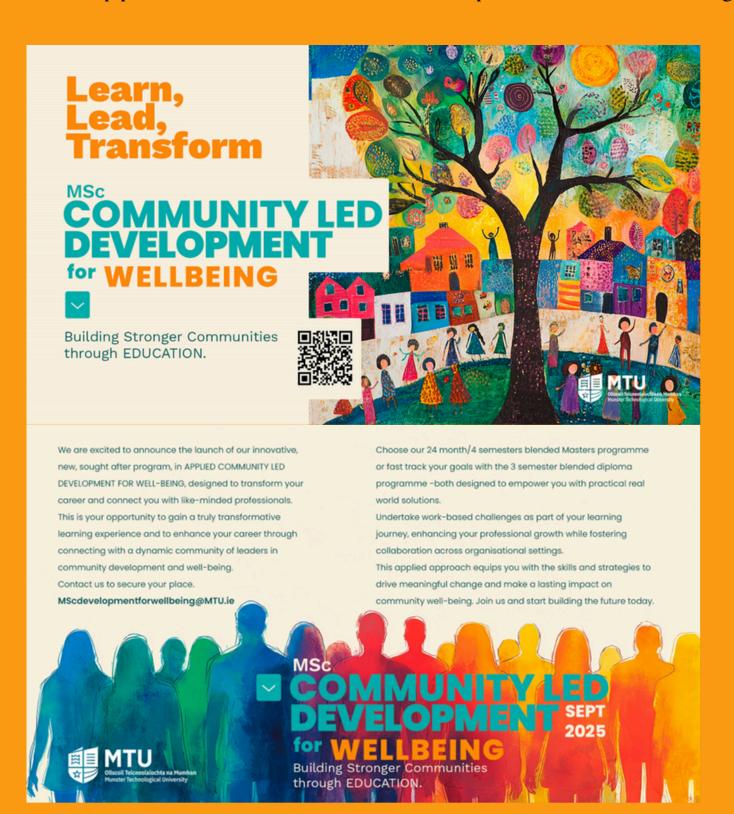






### Munster Technological University

MSc. in Applied Community Led Development for Well-being



More information at <a href="https://www.mtu.ie/courses/tlshcwbm/">https://www.mtu.ie/courses/tlshcwbm/</a>

### DA 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



# GNNEGT

Join us for a chat & complimentary tea / coffee in the comfort of the Old House Sitting Room!



### Monday 10 March 2025

The Old House, Annebrook Hotel, Mullingar 10.30am - 12pm







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







### 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.









### 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)

**DCU Dublin City University** 

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES

**For International Protection Applicants** 

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

