



**Public
Participation
Network
Westmeath**

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

Nuachtlitir MAY

Westmeath PPN's Spring Plenary was a highly successful and inspiring event, including insightful presentations from PPN member groups. It was a lovely occasion, filled with motivating contributions and meaningful discussion.

The day offered a valuable opportunity for learning and connection, with presentations from Ballinahown Community Development, Milltownpass Tidy Towns, Westmeath County Council's Biodiversity Officer and Mental Health Ireland's Coordinator .

Attendees benefited from valuable information on grants, funding opportunities, and a broad range of community supports.

We would like to extend thanks to the agencies who had information stands at the event:

- PPN
- An Taisce
- Mullingar Mental Health Association
- SICAP & Westmeath Traveller Project
- STEM
- Biodiversity
- Midland Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (MRDATF)
- Rural Support Schemes

A sincere thank you to all our attendees, information village participants, and presenters for making the day so productive. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the WCC Community Section staff and the PPN Secretariat members—Angela Locke Reilly, Cathy Whelan, Joe McEvoy, Larry Quainn, Merin Rebecca Thomas, Nick Linnane and Vinnie Bagnall for their continued help and support.

*Edel & Lourdes
Westmeath PPN*

WELCOME
TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

1. Ring Community Development Group
2. Garrycastle GAA
3. Drumraney Bowls Club
4. Mullingar Arch Club
5. Tyrellspass Ladies



SCAN ME

Visit the WPPN Website at <https://westmeathppn.ie>

Contact us by emailing ppn@westmeathcoco.ie

or call 044 9332157 / 8939





CASTLEPOLLARD LIBRARY CHILDREN'S BOOK CLUB

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, 21ST MAY,

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

FOR AGES 8 - 12

Castlepollard Library Children's Book Club:

Drop in to Castlepollard Library to find out about our new Children's Book Club! The club is open to anyone aged 8 – 12. Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, 21st May at 4:00 pm when we'll be discussing "The Brilliant World of Tom Gates" by Liz Pichon. We hope to see you there! Please note that all children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Castlepollard Library Art Exhibition:

In celebration of Bealtaine, Castlepollard Library is delighted to announce that it will be hosting an art exhibition for the wonderful Castlepollard Art Group.

The exhibition will run from 1st to 31st May. Please feel free to drop in and enjoy the beautiful works by our local artists.



Poetry Day Ireland



Poetry sharing session to celebrate Poetry day Ireland in Kilbeggan Library on May 28th from 11am-1pm

Come along to visit our lovely librarian in her poetry corner and celebrate a love of poetry by sharing your favourite poem or listening to others
Drop in whenever suits and stay for as long as you like. This year's theme is 'Home'
No Booking required, all welcome!

Breastfeeding meet-up

Fortnightly meetings - Mullingar Library

Mullingar Library Breastfeeding Support group
Meets every second Friday at 11am. Next on is on May 1st, 15th and 29th 11am-12pm No booking required. The group is facilitated by local PHN's, if you want more information please call 0449353818.



Adult Board Game Night on Thursday 14th May at 6.30pm

Join us in The Snug in Kilbeggan Library for a board games night. Are you a chess champion? A monopoly master? A cluedo Columbo? or a Jenga genius? Uno there's nothing trivial about the pursuit of fun in Kilbeggan library so you can expect an hour or so of fun, laughter and a bit of friendly competition. We have the games, just bring yourselves. No booking required, all welcome!

As part of Age & Opportunity's Bealtaine Festival – Ireland's national festival celebrating the arts and ageing, come enjoy our Adult Wellness corner at Kinnegad Library for the month of May. This space is designed to support your wellbeing

Adult Wellness Corner

Kinnegad Library
May 1st - May 30th
10 - 5pm

Pop in anytime to unwind & relax

Bealtaine Festival
An Age & Opportunity arts initiative

Festival Fringe

Amy Abdullah Barry
is delighted to host
POETRY READING

Why not head to Athlone Library on Tuesday 5th May, 2026 at 5pm for a **Poetry Reading**. Its part of the All Ireland Drama Fringe Festival. Booking is essential. Visit westmeathculture.ie



Poetry Reading in Athlone Library on
Thursday May 28th at 6pm
with Tadhg Carey and Jackie Gorman.
Booking is essential.



**Library Basics -
Getting to know your local Library**
Learn how to make the most of Westmeath's newest Library and join Kinnegad Library staff for a general introduction to our resources and services.

Learn how to make the most of Westmeath's newest Library and join library staff for a general introduction to our resources and services. We're offering three one-hour sessions, each covering the same information about your membership, available services, and a short Q&A at the end.

Booking is required, but you only need to reserve a place for one session, as all sessions will deliver the same information. Its being held on Thursday 7th, 21st and 28th May from 3pm – 4pm

Westmeath Arts Plan (2026-2030)



Westmeath County Council Arts Office is creating a new Arts Plan for the years 2026 to 2030. This plan will set out the priorities for the arts in the county and will guide arts activity and support over the next five years.

We want to hear from you.

Arts Audiences Survey.

This survey is for people living in County Westmeath. You may go to arts events, take part in activities, or you may not be involved at all. Please share your views by completing the [Arts Audience Survey](#). It takes about 6 minutes to complete. We want to hear from as many people as possible, whether you take part in arts and culture or not. Your views will help us plan future arts activities, funding and opportunities, and shape how the arts develop in the county over the next five years.

Arts Sector Survey.

This survey is open for artists, creative practitioners, arts workers, and volunteers with community arts groups. We want to hear your experiences and perspectives. Please complete the [Arts Sector Survey](#).

Both surveys are live until Wednesday 6 May 2026.

Research Interviews towards the Arts Plan

We are also inviting people to take part in a 30-minute one-to-one interview to share your perspectives. If you are interested, please contact us at arts@westmeathcoco.ie

How to Get in Touch

If you have questions, please email arts@westmeathcoco.ie or call 044 9332016

Accessibility and Support

If you need any support to take part in the survey, interviews, or workshops, we are happy to help. This may include information in another format. Please contact Ger Barden, Assistant Staff Officer on 044 9332016 or email arts@westmeathcoco.ie for assistance.

Creative Ireland



Research and evaluation

We are delighted to announce a new research partnership between Creative Ireland in the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, the Department of Education and Youth, the Department of Children, Disability and Equality, and the ESRI. The focus is Children and Young People's Engagement in Creative and Cultural Activities, including the impact of Creative Youth initiatives. This is a 3-year research programme that commenced at the end of 2025, with a stakeholder meeting held in March.

More info [here](#)

Welcome to the latest Creative Youth Ezine.

[Teacher Artist Partnership \(TAP\)](#) open until 19th June. There will be a focus on Irish speaking teachers and creative practitioners.

Recently closed grants included Creative Ireland's Nurture Fund, the Department of Children's capital grant for Play, Recreation and Arts, and the Arts Council's Early Learning and Childcare Scheme and Young Ensembles schemes. Recipients will be announced by the summer.

Upcoming Dates

6th of June

[Cruinniú na nÓg](#), Ireland's national day celebrating the creativity of children and young people will take place all over Ireland, with over 1000 free events happening all over.

[The Creative Youth Nurture Fund](#) pilot concluded in 2025, culminating in a celebratory showcase event in the National Concert Hall featuring all nine participating projects. These diverse projects engaged young people from the Travelling Community, from the refugee community and those seeking protection, young people with disabilities, in youth detention, in or transitioning from the care system, and those attending youth mental health services. [Evaluation of the pilot](#) demonstrated strong positive outcomes, including increased self-confidence and self-expression, the development of transferable skills, enhanced social connection and belonging, and positive shifts in attitudes and perceptions

[I am Creative](#) An online consultation with schools and school leaders was held in January which provided a great opportunity for peer learning.

The Local Creative Youth Partnerships based in Education and Training Boards (ETBs) go from strength to strength.

Their work focuses on the most disadvantaged seldom heard children. Learn more through [one of the projects from Cork](#).

Heritage and Biodiversity News and Events



The National Built Heritage Scheme - Conservation Advice Scheme for Traditional Houses 2026 -


NOW OPEN for applications.

We have expanded the scheme in response to homeowner's requirements. The conservation report can now stand towards the application for the Traditional Homes Pilot from the SEAI.

We are also encouraging owners to use the funding towards a fire consultant for those considering the 'Above the Shop' under the [Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant](#). This is a competitive application process.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday, 8th May at 5pm.

Any queries should be directed to
conservationadvicegrants@housing.gov.ie

 The Heritage Council are running two training events for anyone planning events for National Heritage Week.

The dates are:

- Tuesday 5th May at 11am
- Wednesday 13th May at 7pm
-

Both events are online this year. Both sessions will feature talks on exploring the theme, using the website, how to promote events, practical info and lots more.

The event registration page is [here](#).

Cuimhneamh an Chláir

Cuimhneamh an Chláir will deliver the 4th edition of its free Nationwide Oral History Mentoring Programme for Community and Heritage Groups in April - June 2026.

Learn interview skills and how to record, edit and present your community's oral histories. Free recording equipment provided which your group can keep.

You get out in the field harvesting the stories that are important to your community and presenting them at a public showcase at the Oral History Network of Ireland annual conference in Tralee in June.

There are 3 in-person days of training: 28 April, 21 May (Ennis) and 18 June (Tralee). To apply simply e mail info@clarememories.ie by 14 April, with details about your group, why you want this training, and what oral history project you want to work on in your community.

Full details here: <https://tinyurl.com/yv4wzfxj>

Course content here: <https://tinyurl.com/3hktkwb8>

Please note this mentoring programme is for Groups only. It is not for individuals. Your group must be willing to send 2 members for in-person training.

This mentoring programme is aimed at groups outside of Co. Clare. Cuimhneamh an Chláir is supported by [The Heritage Council](#) and is the only collective, county-wide, community-based oral history gathering initiative in Ireland.

Through this mentoring programme we aim to use our 17 years' experience to encourage collective, community-based safeguarding of oral heritage across many more counties.

💰 2026 Traditional Farm Buildings grant scheme – Now Open for Applications

An annual grants scheme funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for the conservation and repair of traditional farm buildings and related structures.

All information is available here: [THE HERITAGE COUNCIL](#)

Deadline for receipt of applications to Monday 18th May 2026 at 5pm

🌐 Information webinar for interested applicants on Friday 17th April at 12pm.

Details on how to register in advance can be found at the link above.

🗨️ Public Consultation on the Draft Heritage Ireland 2030 Mid-Term Review (2026)

Have your say on the Mid-term review of Heritage Ireland 2030. Deadline: 5pm on Friday, 15 May 2026
The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have launched a Public Consultation on the Draft Heritage Ireland 2030 Mid-Term Review (2026).

Heritage Ireland 2030 is Ireland's national heritage plan, and the Department is carrying out a mid-term review of Heritage Ireland 2030, as promised in the strategy.

Submissions from all interested parties are welcome. Learn more on how to get involved [HERE](#):

🎉 Events 🎉

Lecture: The Medieval Diocese of Clonmacnoise and its Bishops; 1111-1550 Hosted by Moate Museum & Historical Society

📅 Monday, April 27th 2026

📍 The Carmelite Pastoral Centre Moate

🕒 8:00pm

👤 Dr. Rory Masterson

IHTA seminar 2026: Water, Towns and Topography II

📅 Wednesday 20th of May 2026

🕒 09:15am

📍 Royal Irish Academy, Dawson Street, Dublin

Full details (includes speaker bios) here: [IHTA Seminar 2026](#)

Booking link [HERE](#):

🐦 Dawn Chorus – At Belvedere House and Gardens

The dawn chorus is the symphony of song performed by birds looking for love, and to defend their patch. In spring, as the days lengthen, wildlife starts to think about the need to breed.

There will be a walk through the grounds including stops along the way to identify and listen to the various species of birds that can be heard singing and calling.

📅 Saturday May 23rd of 2026

🕒 Gates open at 5.30am – Café Open from 7am.

📍 Belvedere House and Gardens


Ardnaculla Summer School

Hometree is thrilled to invite you all to join us for the highly anticipated fifth edition of the Ardnaculla Summer School

Ardnaculla Summer School is a community and ecology festival promoting learning, connection, and regeneration.

Summer school events are ticketed individually to ensure that the capacity is right for the space and nature of each specific event and to make attendance as affordable as possible.

There will also be numerous happenings on the Hometree site over the weekend that are unticketed. Some events are family friendly, and all are welcome. Please remember that Hometree is a charity that is entirely dependent on donations and grant funding.



 Friday 15th to Sunday 17th of May 2026

 Hometree HQ, Ardnaculla South Ennistymon, Co. Clare

 Tickets and Further Information on programme available at link: [Ardnaculla Summer School](#)

Farming for Nature Festival to Bring Farmers Together for a Day of Practical Learning

The inaugural Farming for Nature Festival (FFN) is taking place at Ballykilcavan Farm & Brewery, Stradbally, Co. Laois. The event is a farmer-led celebration of practical, nature-friendly farming.

 Ballykilcavan Farm & Brewery, Stradbally, Co. Laois
 22nd and 23rd June 2026

Lydia Lishman, event organizer with FFN, says “this farmer-led gathering aims to provide a space for farmers to learn, connect, share knowledge, and explore practical, nature-based approaches to farming. The focus will be on real stories from farmers - the successes and the challenges and show how good food begins with good farming. By involving a wide network of partners, we want to inspire change and grow the movement of farmers and producers working with nature.”

Further event details, including ticket information and accommodation, are all available on the website www.farmingfornaturefestival.ie

National Built Heritage Service Traditional Skills Training March-May 2026

NBHS has assembled a team of conservation practitioners and experts for a series of one- and two-day traditional skills training events aimed at owners of traditional buildings and contractors and professionals wishing to upskill.

Attendance will benefit owners and those advising and working on traditionally constructed buildings and will particularly benefit owners of vacant traditional buildings who are considering undertaking the repair, reuse and retrofit of the traditional building or who simply wish to get accurate and impartial best conservation advice on its day-to-day maintenance. To join our mailing list to hear about traditional skills courses as they are announced email vernacular@housing.gov.ie

For more information on the events, including information on how to book a place, please click : [HERE](#)



Invitation to the launch of the Westmeath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025–2031

Cathaoirleach Cllr Aoife Davitt warmly invites you to nominate one person from your respected group to attend the launch, which will take place at Belvedere House & Gardens on Thursday, 15th May at 6:00 pm.

We would be delighted if you could join us for this important milestone in supporting biodiversity action across County Westmeath.

Kindly RSVP by Friday, 8th May to: biodiversity@westmeathcoco.ie

INVITATION

You are formally invited
to attend the launch of

**Westmeath
Biodiversity
Action Plan 2025-2031**

By
Cathaoirleach of Westmeath County Council
Cllr. Aoife Davitt

The launch will be held at
**Belvedere House, Gardens & Park,
Mullingar, Co. Westmeath,
Rep. of Ireland, N91 EF80**

on
Friday 15th, May 6pm

RSVP: biodiversity@westmeathcoco.ie

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
COMhairle Contae na Sliaibh

Ceangal
Clár Idir-Chomhaltaí Odlíochta
A Heritage Council programme



Mid-Shannon & Midlands Destination Experience Development Plan - Community Consultation

Fáilte Ireland invites you to take part in the Westmeath community engagement for the Mid-Shannon & Midlands Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP) - a strategic plan that will guide the sustainable development of tourism across this part of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.

Workshops were held around the county recently to encourage communities to share their views. If you were unable to attend any of the workshops, you still have an opportunity to input by completing the survey linked below:

[Mid-Shannon & Midlands Community & Business Survey](#)

If you have an interest in the future of their community and its relationship with tourism, your input is very welcome.

Calling all Volunteers in Tourism Become an Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Champion

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



Fáilte Ireland is inviting everyone who currently volunteers in tourism or hospitality to join our free Ireland's Hidden Heartland's Champions Programme workshop. This would include volunteering at attractions, events, festivals, gardens etc. It is a fantastic opportunity to gain new skills, develop confidence, and connect with others volunteering in tourism. This in turn will help to create exceptional visitor experiences and contribute to the warm welcome visitors receive in your area.

This workshop will build local product knowledge and enhances customer service skills by bringing together both Know Your Destination and Inclusive Customer Service training.

Tuesday May 5th from 10.30am – 1pm (Registration begins at 10am)

Venue: Strokestown Park House, Gardens & National Famine Museum Strokestown, Co. Roscommon, F42 H282

Register by emailing champions@failteireland.ie with your name and where you have previously volunteered or are currently volunteering within the tourism sector

Spaces are limited and filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

We'd love to see you at the workshop.



YOU'RE INVITED!

**Monday, 4th
May at 12noon**



**JOIN US FOR THE OFFICIAL
LAUNCH OF THE BOG BOTHY
IN MILLTOWNPASS**



Monday 4th May

Milltownpass Bog NHA,
Co. Westmeath

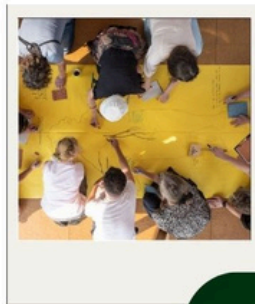


12 NOON

Until approx 4:00pm
(Drop-in welcome)

Milltownpass is delighted to be hosting the Bog Bothy – a small, off-grid space on the bog where people can come together to learn, talk, listen, reflect and create.

On the day we'll have Bothy tours, workshops for adults & children and a guided walk – drop in and stay as long as you like.



**ALL WELCOME.
Tea, Chat and curiosity encouraged**

Hosted by Milltownpass TidyTowns, the Bog Bothy is a partnership project between the Irish Architecture Foundation and 12th Field, co-created with local communities. The Bog Bothy 2026 tour is funded by Tóchar.



Well Westmeath Expo



Saturday 6th June 2026



11am to 4pm



Belvedere House Gardens &
Park, Mullingar N91 EF80

& Wellbeing Activities, Information Village, Music & Dance
a go sports events, Nature Walk, Tai Chi, Yoga, Face Painting

This is a Free Event

Westmeath Healthy Communities email: healthycommunities@westmeathcoco.ie
Healthy Westmeath email: healthywestmeath@westmeathcoco.ie





Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

CLÁR PROGRAMME 2026

INFORMATION EVENTS

HOSTED BY
WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

FREE EVENT - ALL WELCOME
Registration Required

CLÁR Programme 2026 -
Westmeath County Council
Information Events



12TH MAY 2026
BLOOMFIELD HOUSE
HOTEL MULLINGAR
@ 6:30PM

13TH MAY 2026
ONLINE (MS TEAMS)
@ 12NOON



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
* Community & voluntary Groups
* Schools
* Local Development Companies

Online Registration

CLICK HERE

For more information, call: 044 93 32196



Applications for the 2026 Community Safety Fund now open

4.75 million available for community safety improvement projects nationwide

Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O’Callaghan, has today opened this year’s nationwide funding call for applications to the 2026 Community Safety Fund (CSF).

First opened in 2022, this annual fund allows for the proceeds of crime, seized by the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) and An Garda Síochána, to be redirected into local projects that support and enhance community safety.

This year’s fund totalling €4.75 million is a significant increase since the initial allocation of €2 million in 2022.

Minister O’Callaghan said:

“I am extremely pleased to open the funding call for the Community Safety Fund 2026. The Fund redirects the criminal assets seized by CAB and the Gardaí back into the communities that these criminals seek to profit from. By funding projects through the CSF, we can improve safety in communities across the country.

It is also important to recognise that community safety is not just about policing, it is a wider effort that involves the whole community. The fund supports innovative projects that can reduce the fear of crime, improve community safety and decrease reoffending.”

Applications will be open from 13 April until 5pm on 18 May 2026. Grants between €20,000 - €150,000

The Community Safety Fund is managed by the National Office of Community Safety, an office of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

Minister O’Callaghan added:

“This year’s increased funding is a recognition of the ongoing excellent work of An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau in disrupting criminality and seizing criminal assets.

The Fund is a critical element in supporting an approach to community safety that is broader than policing and recognises the importance of community participation and knowledge in identifying solutions to issues in their area. I encourage eligible groups who have a proposal to support and enhance safety in their area to apply.”

The Community Safety Fund:

Allows proceeds of crime to be directed into projects to support and enhance community safety

Ensures that the most appropriate proposals to improve community safety will access the funding they need

Allows best practice on community safety and youth justice to be shared with other partnerships and communities nationally as new proposals are developed

Benefits from the success of An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau in seizing the proceeds of criminal activity

Projects that previously benefited from the fund included initiatives that:

Reduce the fear of crime, improve community safety and feelings of safety

Support the creation of safe and resilient communities

Reduce reoffending

Divert vulnerable individuals away from engagement in criminal behaviour.

Since the Fund launched in 2022, a total of 127 projects have received funding nationally.

For information on how to apply, visit www.gov.ie/communitysafety.

END



Trading for Impact: Minister Buttimer Announces €4m ‘Sustaining Social Enterprise Scheme 2026/27’

- Innovative scheme designed to support social enterprise development and growth by funding the recruitment of key staff members.
- Social Enterprises will deliver projects that will increase their traded income and their financial sustainability over a 23-month funding period.

Minister for Community Development and Charities, Jerry Buttimer, TD, today (17 April 2026) announced the launch of the €4m Dormant Accounts Funded ‘Sustaining Social Enterprise Scheme’.

Many social enterprises that are trading on an ongoing basis often face constraints in increasing their traded income due to limited staffing capacity and competing operational priorities. This Fund is designed to address those constraints by enabling organisations to invest strategically in the people and structures required to embed income generation as a core and sustainable part of their business model.

Growing, strengthening and increasing the impact of social enterprises within communities is a key goal of the Government’s Social Enterprise Policy – ‘Trading for Impact’.

Making the announcement today, Minister Buttimer said:

“The ‘Dormant Accounts Funded Sustaining Social Enterprises Scheme’ will provide much-needed support to social enterprises nationwide and enable them to grow their traded income in a sustainable way and strengthen their impact on the communities they serve.

“Projects may include the employment of a staff member to increase traded income or by employing a person in a role, for example in Admin or HR, that will free-up time for an existing member of staff to focus on increasing their traded income generation. The scheme is open to individual social enterprises or across several social enterprises as part of a shared services model.”

The Minister added:

“It is envisaged that up to 35 projects will benefit from this funding, which will undoubtedly have a huge impact on the social enterprises themselves, the communities they operate in, and on their customers and service users.

“I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the work that so many social enterprises are performing in communities across Ireland. Social enterprises play a key role in creating jobs, providing goods and services, and delivering real benefits in communities.”

The Scheme will be administered on behalf of the department by Pobal.

Speaking about the announcement, Anna Shakespeare, CEO of Pobal said:

“Pobal are pleased to support the DAF Sustaining Social Enterprise Scheme, which will help organisations strengthen their income streams and build long-term sustainability. By investing in capacity and shared services, this initiative will enable social enterprises to focus on growth and continue delivering meaningful impact in communities across Ireland.”

Applicants must first, through an open call, satisfy that they are eligible to avail of the scheme, before being invited to submit a full application.

Details of the scheme, and how to apply, can be found on Pobal’s website:

www.pobal.ie/programmes/dormant-accounts-fund-daf/

ENDS



Trading for Impact: Minister Buttimer Launches ‘The 2026 Social Enterprise Census’

- Every social enterprise is called to complete the survey
- Important opportunity for social enterprises to influence future policy decisions, funding priorities, and support programme development

Minister for Community Development and Charities, Jerry Buttimer TD, today (Thursday, 30 April 2026) announced the opening of the 2026 Social Enterprise Census. This will build on the information gathered during the [Baseline Data Collection Exercise](#) that took place in 2023.

Following a competitive, socially responsible tender process, Amárach Research, in partnership with Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland (SERI), were awarded the contract to deliver this project on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

Growing, strengthening and realising the impact of social enterprises within communities are key goals of the Government’s Social Enterprise Policy ‘Trading for Impact’, and this data is key to the continued targeted delivery of this policy, and how the sector will be supported into the future.

Making the announcement today, Minister Buttimer said:

“Social enterprises play a vital role in communities across the country. They deliver services for those who need them most, help with the green transition and increase our quality of life in Ireland and abroad. In order to continue to properly support them, we need to know more about the landscape in which they operate.

“This Census will help us understand where they are growing and where they need additional support to ensure decisions made about the sector are informed by the voices and experiences of those delivering real impact on the ground.

“For the first time, we will be able to conduct a comparative analysis between the data from 2023 and 2026, which will provide a strong evidence base to Government, along with those stakeholders we work in partnership with, to target our work to support the sector. I expect to have a report published before the end of 2026.”

The Minister concluded:

“I encourage every social enterprise regardless of size or sector to participate and ensure their voice is heard. There is strength in numbers, and the more responses we receive the better our understanding of the sector will be.”

Michael McLoughlin of Amárach Research, speaking on behalf of both consortium members, said:

“We are delighted to carry out the 2026 National Social Enterprise Census on behalf of DRCDG. Robust data is essential to understanding the needs of social enterprises and unlocking their full potential.

“Through this collaboration of consortium partners, Amárach Research, and SERI, we will provide the insights needed to inform decision-making, strengthen supports and ensure social enterprises can continue to deliver meaningful impact in communities nationwide.”

The census will be open until Sunday, 28 June, and can be accessed at <https://panel.amarachsveys.ie/S2/159/SEDRCDG/>

ENDS

Minister Dara Calleary Launches 2026 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition celebrating 68 years of environmental and community effort

The Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD, alongside the Managing Director of SuperValu, Mr. Luke Hanlon, have today, March 23rd, launched the 2026 SuperValu TidyTowns competition.

In place since 1958, the competition, administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and sponsored by SuperValu, continues to be one of the most recognised sustainable, environmental and community initiatives in the country.

Speaking at the launch of the competition, Minister Calleary said:

“I am delighted to be here in Carrick-on-Shannon, Ireland’s Tidiest Town for 2025, as we launch the 2026 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. This year we celebrate 68 years of this wonderful competition, which continues to thrive year on year - its success benefits us all.”

There are almost 1,000 active TidyTowns groups, and last year saw a record 929 entries to the SuperValu TidyTowns competition. This saw over 30,000 volunteers giving up over 1 million hours of their time, all year round, to come together to make our communities cleaner, brighter and more vibrant places.

Minister Calleary continued:

“TidyTowns groups have been instrumental in supporting and enhancing the government’s objective to ensure towns are sustainable, resilient and thriving hubs of commercial and social activity.

“I would encourage everyone to reach out to their local group and volunteer, you will be surprised at the benefits that can accrue to you and to your wider community.

“I would like to say a special thank you to our national sponsor, SuperValu, now in their 36th year of sponsoring the competition. SuperValu have been wonderful partners on this journey and I look forward to continuing this partnership in the coming years.”

Speaking at the launch today, Luke Hanlon, Managing Director of SuperValu, said:

“The launch of SuperValu TidyTowns competition is always an exciting time for committees and volunteers nationwide. The longevity and diversity of the programme is remarkable, with 70% of committees active for more than a decade, and a quarter of all volunteers are under 45. It’s fantastic to see volunteers of all ages and backgrounds come together with the aim of enhancing their communities, and we can’t wait to see their hard work pay off throughout the year.

“SuperValu’s role in communities goes far beyond retail. We are proud to provide local employment, champion local suppliers and invest in initiatives that help strengthen the quality of life in the areas we serve. SuperValu TidyTowns initiative aligns naturally with our long-standing commitment to building cleaner, greener and more sustainable communities. Sustainability continues to be a central pillar of the programme, and through SuperValu TidyTowns we aim to create a lasting positive impact on the environment, while supporting communities to take pride in the places they live and work.

“As a community retailer, we take great pride being involved with SuperValu TidyTowns for another year and we thank our independent retailers for their unwavering support and commitment.”

Minister Calleary concluded by thanking the TidyTowns volunteers throughout the country and wishing them well in the 2026 competition. Duirt an tAire:

“Ba mhaith liom gach rath a ghui oraibh go léir i gcomórtas 2026. Táim ag súil le hiontrálacha álainn na mbailte agus na sráidbhailte a fheiceáil agus bualadh leat ag an searmanas bronnta níos déanaí sa bhliain.”

The closing date for receipt of entries for this year’s competition is **Monday May 11th, 2026**. Entry forms and further information about the SuperValu TidyTowns competition are available at www.tidytowns.ie.

ENDS

Irish Midlands Youth Orchestra: 20th Anniversary Concert



Sunday 3rd May, 6pm

With special guests Vltava String Quartet, soprano Erin Dollard, Mullingar Harp School & Tullamore Stage School Choir with Musical Director Regina McCarthy.

The Irish Midlands Youth Orchestra are excited to be celebrating 20 years with a gala concert at Esker Arts . Conducted by Matt Rafter, the concert will feature a varied programme from classical gems to movie soundtrack favourites.

The Irish Midlands Youth Orchestra was founded by Vincent Hunt in 2006, after recognising the need for a high-quality youth orchestra in the region. The orchestra began as a collaborative project involving several smaller orchestras for a performance in Ireland's National Concert Hall, with the first official IMYO course later that year. It is now a well-established and successful group of young musicians aged 12-20, coming primarily from the midland counties of Ireland. The orchestra meets once per month for rehearsals, with 2/3 performances a year. The orchestra has toured internationally to Germany, Dubai, Spain, and most recently to Vienna in July 2025.

IMYO is supported by Offaly County Council, Westmeath County Council, Offaly PPN & Westmeath PPN.

Tickets: €15/€10 (+booking fee) [BOOK TICKETS HERE](#)

Save the date!

Hello
HOW ARE YOU?

Mental Health Ireland

Say Hello
on May 15th

Say Hello and ask: How are you?



Save the date for this year's 'Hello, How are you?' campaign. Put it in your diary now and start planning your event. More details to come.

Mental Health Ireland



www.mentalhealthireland.ie/campaign/hello-how-are-you
e: info@HelloHowAreYou.info #HelloHowAreYou



Hello, How Are You? is a campaign on **May 15th** about connecting with those around us and engaging in open conversations about mental health. It's about asking the question, 'How Are You?' with meaning, and really listening to the response.

- This campaign is built on a simple but powerful idea: that a genuine "Hello, How Are You?" can be the start of meaningful connection, understanding, and support.
- Whether you're chatting with a friend, a colleague, a neighbour, or even a stranger, asking "how are you?" – and truly listening to the answer – can help reduce stigma around mental health and remind us all that we're not alone. Sometimes the smallest gestures make the biggest difference.
- You don't need to be an expert to have a meaningful conversation. By using the HELLO Steps you can feel supported in asking the question. Let's make saying Hello and asking How Are You? an everyday question that keeps us connected.

Plan and register your event on our website [HERE](#) your event can be showcased on our website for increased visibility. Every registered event will get a free starter merchandise pack.

We provide free resources including downloadable event posters and toolkits to support your event planning process. We also offer free training sessions. We may also be able to organise an in-person training and information session for your community. We will also have branded merchandise that you can use to promote your event.

Contact your local me, your local MHI Development Officer, on the details below or Claire and Alessia of the Mental Health Promotion Team by email mhp@mentalhealthireland.ie

Say Hello
on May 14th

Hello
HOW ARE YOU?

Mental Health Ireland

Connect Café

Enjoy free tea or coffee while engaging in friendly conversation about asking the question, 'How Are You?' with meaning, and really listening to the response.

May 14th at 11am-12.30pm

Annebrook Hotel, Mullingar

Say Hello and ask: How are you?



Mental Health Ireland

MULLINGAR
Mental Health Association

www.HelloHowAreYou.info



Say Hello on 14th May
Annebrook Hotel,
Mullingar
11am- 12:30pm



Disability / Older Persons

Services & Information Open Day

Everyone is welcome to this **FREE** event

MONDAY 18th May 2026

Bloomfield House Hotel, Belvedere, Mullingar
Doors Open at 10.00am to view information stands

Guest speakers start at 11am. Event closes at 1.30pm

We look forward to welcoming you at the Event

All members of the PUBLIC please telephone 044 93 48571 or 087 250 0161 to book your place
Light Refreshments Tea/Coffee available

The Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Health Unit will be on site to provide FREE health Checks on the day 9.30am -2.15pm

This event is funded by Westmeath Community Development through (SICAP) Westmeath County Council and Independent People with Disabilities



Státas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Acta chomhoibrithe ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-fundáil ag an
Eagraíocht Eorpach



pobal
Community Development

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2024 - 2027

Registering a def AED on national register

Community groups across are being encouraged to register their Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to help ensure they can be located quickly in an emergency.


An AED can save a life during a cardiac arrest, but its impact depends on people knowing where it is. By registering AEDs on the national database, emergency services and bystanders can be directed to the nearest device when every second counts.

PPN is calling on all community organisations, sports clubs, and local groups to take a few minutes to register their AEDs and help make their communities more emergency-ready.


Registration is simple, quick, and could make a life-saving difference.



Call to Action: "Register your AED today at [AED REGISTRATION FORM](#)



Irish Heart Foundation
The National Stroke & Heart Charity




2 in 3

adults over 50 have **high blood pressure**, but half don't know it.
Get checked, before damage is done...

FREE Blood Pressure and Pulse Checks

**Location: Bloomfield House Hotel,
Mullingar, Co Westmeath, N91 HP8E**

**Date: Monday 18th May
Time: 9:30am - 2:15pm**



FREE Blood Pressure and Pulse Check Here
Irish Heart Foundation
Sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb Pfizer
www.irishheart.ie

What to Expect:
During a heart health check our expert nurses will check your blood pressure and pulse, and provide heart health information and advice to help reduce your risk of heart disease and stroke.

Find out more on irishheart.ie

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021-2027.



COFFEE MORNING

****When:** May 7th @11AM**

****Where:** Castlepollard Library**

Enjoy buns and cakes while chatting and connecting with others.

****Cost:** Free event**

Come and join us for a delightful gathering!



Join us for a lovely Coffee Morning
May 7th at 11AM in Castlepollard Library.

Enjoy delicious buns and cakes while chatting, connecting, and meeting new people.

Event is FREE, and everyone is welcome!
Drop in, enjoy a chat, and share a relaxed, friendly morning with others in the community!



COLLEGE OF FURTHER
EDUCATION & TRAINING

LWETB FET Guidance Team presents

Pathways

A series of FREE ONLINE webinars to support your next steps

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE
PUBLIC SERVICE

THURSDAY 7TH MAY 2026
1PM - 2PM



poistphoiblí
publicjobs



SCAN THE QR CODE OR
CONTACT [NPENROSE@LWETB.IE](mailto:npenrose@lwetb.ie) FOR REGISTRATION LINK



ATHLONE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Presents:

**The People of
Athlone Exhibition Vol. 2**
Portraits of the People Who Shape
Athlone
30th April to 12th May
Athlone Town Centre
(Ground Floor)

Launch: Thursday 30th April, 6:30pm

Nominate Someone: Know a local character, hero or someone with a story?

Email: hello@athlonephotographyclub.com

Sponsored by





These barriers can prevent people from moving safely around their communities and can lead to isolation. As one disability campaigner explained, encountering repeated obstacles can make people feel they have no option but to turn back or stay at home. Sometimes obstacles can even put people in danger as they may have to leave the footpath to go around them.

The message of Make Way Day is simple:

“Hey, this blocks my way!”

By highlighting these issues, the campaign encourages greater awareness of everyday actions that can make public spaces more accessible for everyone.

Each year on 29 May, people with disabilities and their supporters take part in a national day of action, placing easy to ‘peel-off’ stickers on obstacles they encounter. Photos are shared on social media using #MakeWayDay. It is not the policy of the campaign to highlight car registration numbers or identifiable information. When sharing photographs these should be blanked out.

The campaign continues to grow, with strong support from local authorities, national and local media coverage, and backing from An Garda Síochána, who also launch their own campaign, Operation Enable on the same day.

Make Way Day brings together the disability community and the wider public for one clear, coordinated day of action to create awareness leading to more accessible communities.

We hope you can get involved on 29 May.

If you require stickers or other items please contact irenachuchuligin@disability-federation.ie by 15 May.

Make Way Day is a DFI public awareness campaign, highlighting everyday obstacles that block the way of people with disabilities across Ireland. Make Way Day is not about pointing the finger at local authorities, ESB or other agencies, but about raising awareness of barriers that are within the public’s power to change.

Common obstacles include:

- Cars parked on footpaths
- Wheelie bins, kegs, and sandwich boards on footpaths
- Overgrown hedges
- Bikes tied to lampposts or railings



MULLINGAR

RESPONDING TO CHILD-TO-PARENT VIOLENCE

A Time to Connect, Reflect, and Renew



Are you walking on eggshells around your child?

Midlands Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) programme for Parents where there is child to parent violence in the home

WITH QUALIFIED FACILITATORS FOR SUPPORT

Email Lindam.mccann@tusla.ie or sinead.halligan@barnardos.ie

The Parent support group will take place in Mullingar Primary Care Centre, starting April 23rd 10am -12 noon for 5 weeks every Thursday for each date please turn over the page



Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) Programme: Longford and Westmeath Tusla Network Area

Information for Parents & Referral Agents:

Are you experiencing conflict, aggression or violence from your child or teenager?

Many parents are telling us that their home life is very stressful with constant rows, damaged property or even physical injury - and that this aggression comes from their child. We understand that it can be difficult for parents to talk about these experiences of child to parent violence and aggression.

If you are experiencing this in your family, we can help.

Around the counties there are services working successfully with many parents, using the Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) programme. This programme is designed to bring the violence and aggression to an end and to build a better and stronger relationship between you and your child.

YOUR PARAGRAPH TEXT

The NVR Programme can be delivered either to groups of parents or to individual parents; it runs for 5 weeks and is free of charge.

See dates below - times 10:00am-12pm each day

Thursday 23rd April 2026

Thursday 30th April 2026

Thursday 7th May 2026

Thursday 14th May 2026

Thursday 21st May 2026

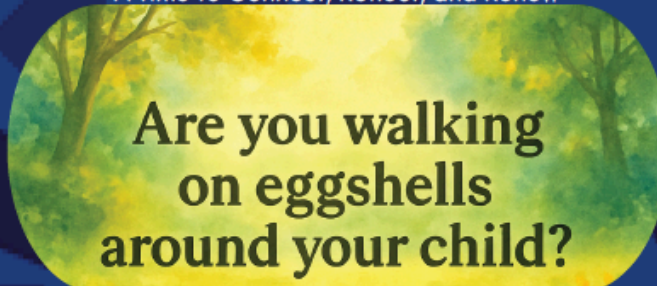
Further information on this programme can also be found on the following websites

<https://cpvireland.ie/>
<http://www.rcpv.eu/>

ATHLONE

RESPONDING TO CHILD-TO-PARENT VIOLENCE

A Time to Connect, Reflect, and Renew



Are you walking on eggshells around your child?

Midlands Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) programme for Parents where there is child to parent violence in the home

WITH QUALIFIED FACILITATORS FOR SUPPORT

To enquire or book a place email anita.deare@barnardos.ie or jamie.grennan@tusla.ie

The Parent support group will take place in Clonbrusk Resource Centre, Athlone, N37 CK2 starting WED April 15th 10am -12 noon for 5 weeks every Wednesday for each date please turn over the page



Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) Programme: Longford and Westmeath Tusla Network Area

Information for Parents & Referral Agents:

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The NVR Programme can be delivered either to groups of parents or to individual parents; it runs for 5 weeks and is free of charge.

See dates below - times 10:00am-12pm each day

Wednesday 15th April 2026

Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Wednesday 29th April 2026

Wednesday 6th May 2026

Wednesday 13th May 2026

Further information on this programme can also be found on the following websites

<https://cpvireland.ie/>
<http://www.rcpv.eu/>

Invitation: Zero Tolerance Online Workshop

Open to Communities Across Ireland



YOU'RE INVITED!

On behalf of Éist – Saying No to Silence to invite you to attend and support an upcoming Zero Tolerance Pledge Online Workshop, open to individuals, businesses, and organisations nationwide.

This free 90-minute session is designed as an accessible starting point for those who want to better understand what a Zero Tolerance approach to sexual and gender-based violence looks like in practice, and how it can be reflected within communities, workplaces, and organisations.

Participants will:

- Gain a clear understanding of Zero Tolerance in real, everyday settings
- Build confidence in contributing to safer, more respectful environments
- Receive a Zero Tolerance Pledge Certificate and digital banner to display publicly

While this workshop provides foundational learning, it also opens the door to more in-depth training and engagement for those who wish to take further steps.

We would be delighted if you could:

- Attend the session yourself, if your schedule allows
- Share this opportunity with local businesses, community groups, and organisations who may benefit from taking part

As you know, meaningful cultural change happens through collective action, and local leadership plays a vital role in setting that tone.

If you would like further information or please feel free to contact us at info@notosilence.ie. Attendees must sign-up via our [Eventbrite](#) page. We would appreciate it if you could share this within your organisations and local communities.

Thank you for your continued support in creating safer, more inclusive communities.

Sustainable Paint Giveaway for Community Groups

Enter
to Win

C O L O U R

T O

C O M M U N I T I E S



The Paint Reuse Network is excited to bring back the Colour to Communities Giveaway, offering communities across Ireland the chance to win up to 50 litres of high-quality, reused paint to brighten their local spaces.

The competition is open to schools, charities, social enterprises, and community groups with creative ideas to give their areas a fresh, vibrant look while promoting sustainability. Three winners – two from each of Ireland's National Waste Regions – will receive up to 50 litres of free water-based paint to bring their projects to life.

Previous winners have transformed their community spaces with biodiversity murals, refreshed school walls, and collaborative paint projects.

How to Enter

Submit a short description of your proposed community painting project by 15 May 2026. Winners will be announced by the end of May!

Apply here: [Sustainable Paint Giveaway for Community Groups](#)

The network is funded by the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices and delivered in partnership with the Rediscovery Centre, Ireland's National Centre for the Circular Economy

Heartlands Pride Athlone

Summer Pride

30th May - 7th June 2026

30th May - 9pm PRIDEMANIA - Heartlands Pride Athlone's Fundraiser Brazen Monkey Athlone	3rd June - 6pm Flower Crown Workshop with Ciara Lawless Monksland Community Centre
31st May - 3pm Make Up Workshop with Sheena Bermingham Venue 4 Athlone	4th June - 5:30 - 7:30pm Free Pop up HIV & Syphilis testing with Sexual Health West St Kieran's Community Centre
31st May - 7pm - late 7pm: Gayli with August Kirwan 9pm: Deach agus Caint Venue 4 Athlone & The Snug Bar	4th June - 7pm Candle Making Workshop with Blackthorn Candles Dead Centre Mezzanine
1st June - 1pm Pride & Prose in collaboration with Creatives Roscommon Collective Monksland Community Park	5th June - 8pm Kwen's Pride Bash featuring Bonnie Ann Clyde The Piano Bar
1st June - 7pm Trivia Night hosted by Carolina Isabel Gertie Brownes	6th June - 10am - late 10am - Free Pride Breakfast - Gertie Brownes 12pm - Pride Parade meet @ Dooley's Flowers 2pm - Outdoor Festival/Family Fun Day - Burgess Park 8pm - Bród - a Queer Club Night - The Dark Horse
2nd June - 5:30pm HIV Panel Discussion in collaboration with Athlone Community Radio Abbey Road Studio	7th June - 12pm - 7pm 12pm - Spoken Word Open Mic - Athlone Book Store 5pm - Pride Cruise with Viking Mike

Scan

The Heartlands Pride Athlone Committee have been working hard over the last couple of months to deliver the 1st Summer Pride and Pride Parade in Athlone, which has received support from all over the town and the Athlone Diaspora.

While widely advertised as being from the 3rd to the 7th of June, a few added dates have been added including a fundraiser on the 30th of May in The Brazen Monkey. The festival will now take place from the 30th of May to the 7th of June. There will also be events in Monksland, Co Roscommon - with the event being supported by both Westmeath County Council and Roscommon County Council.

Heartlands Pride Athlone are looking for groups to sign up to march in the very 1st Pride Parade on the 6th of June at 1pm marching from Connaught Street to Burgess Park. The group is also looking for stewards. This march is in memory of the Late Michael Woods, a trailblazer who attempted to organise the 1st Pride Parade in Athlone in 2021, however Covid19 put a halt to those plans. Michael Woods unfortunately passed away in 2023, a couple months before Heartlands Pride Athlone was officially set up as a volunteer organisation.

Sign up form [HERE](#)

The group are also working hard with Community based Artist Aoife Doolan to create a Síle na Gig float to be displayed during the Pride Parade, supported by Creative Ireland (Creative Westmeath).

Vendors can sign up to be part of the outdoor festival, however they must have their own insurance and marquees, vendors can email: heartlandspride.athlone@gmail.com

On the 5th of June - Heartlands Pride Athlone in collaboration with The Haus of Kwen, will welcome special guest Bonnie Ann Clyde from Ru Paul Drag Race UK Season 7 - tickets available here: [Kwen's Pride Bash](#)

Heartlands Pride Athlone's main sponsors include: The Department of Children, Disability and Equality (as part of the LGBTIQ+ Community Services Fund 2025), Irish Rail, Westmeath County Council, The Outing Festival, Euro Pride 2028 and Creative Ireland (Creative Westmeath & Creative Roscommon).

Heartlands Pride Athlone is also delighted to have been nominated for the Westmeath County Council Cathaoirleach Awards 2026 taking place on the 5th of June

If people would like to donate, the group has a [Crowdfunder](#)



St. Mary's Hall
Tuesdays 8-9.30pm
Begins 20th January

'Best Foot Forward'

Free 8 week Motivational
Programme for Men

Physical activities & guest speakers to
kickstart your motivation

For more information & to book your place

0906472174

reception@acsc.ie

www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com

ATHLONE COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNCIL

HEALTHY AGEING LIFESTYLE PROGRAMME



EMBRACE HEALTH, WELLNESS AND COMMUNITY

Structured Exercise Classes - Nutrition Workshops -
Meditation and Wellness - Social Activities

Takes place in St Mary's Hall, Northgate St, Athlone
Every Wednesday @ 3:45pm

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!

Starting September 2025

090 6472174 or 085 2198180

reception@acsc.ie

www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com

ATHLONE COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNCIL

DIGITAL SKILLS WORKSHOP

Build confidence using your smartphone

Join us for friendly, supportive learning sessions

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!



STARTING SEPTEMBER 2025

090 6472174

reception@acsc.ie

www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com



ATHLONE COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNCIL



JOIN US FOR JOYFUL SINGING!



SING ALONG SESSIONS

COMMUNITY SINGING GROUP

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!

Starting September 2025

090 6472174

reception@acsc.ie

www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com

DRINKAWARE



Here's to more energy, better sleep, positivity, and health.
Here's to a mindful drinking movement. Here's to Change.

This week, we're joined by
alcohol-free coach and mentor,

Olivia Farrelly!



Olivia Farrelly

"I had an inner click ... I knew I couldn't binge drink anymore.

I had to look at who I was without alcohol."

In this episode of Here's to Change, Olivia Farrelly explores what it means to be a "grey area drinker": someone whose drinking may not appear problematic on the surface, but could still be impacting their wellbeing.

Olivia shares the moment that inspired her to make a change. A panic attack at a wedding abroad forced Olivia to reflect on her relationship with alcohol, connecting the dots between alcohol, anxiety, disrupted sleep, prolonged hangovers and emotional deregulation.

Now working as an alcohol-free coach, Olivia offers reassurance that slipping, as she did, can be part of the process. Sharing practical tools for building confidence, connection, and balance, Olivia's advice can help you live a life that's optimal for you wherever you're at.

[View in browser](#)



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Registered Charity Number: 20204601

You are receiving this mail because you have opted in at our website or at an event.

Workplace Peer-Supporter
BY
CYCLE AGAINST SUICIDE

More information here:
or ↓
cycleagainstsucide.com/workplace/

A square QR code located in the bottom right corner of the banner.

Cycle Against Suicide

is offering free training in Mental Health Peer Support on:

- March 2026: Thurs 12th & Fri 13th
- April 2026: Wed 22nd & Thurs 23rd
- **May 2026: Tues 12th & Wed 13th**
- **June 2026: Tues 9th & Wed 10th**

Time: 9.30am-5pm on both days

Delivery: LIVE online via Zoom

Cost: currently delivered free of charge

CPD: 13.5 points

For more information and to register, please visit:

<https://www.cycleagainstsucide.com/workplace-wellbeing-peer-support-programme/>

The Athlone River Festival returns bigger and better than ever from July 31st to August 2nd, 2026, in the scenic town of Athlone, set along the peaceful shores of Lough Ree and the flowing River Shannon.

With its historic bridges, charming canals, and vibrant riverside atmosphere, Athlone provides the perfect backdrop for a weekend that celebrates heritage, community, and adventure. Last year was a major success and we would like to thank each and every person, business and sponsor who backed us.

This year's festival promises even greater excitement, with longboat racing and kayak battles returning to the Shannon, delivered by Bay Sports. These thrilling events will see teams from across the town—representing local businesses, community groups, and volunteers—take to the water and battle it out in a spectacular display of teamwork, determination, and fun, creating an electric atmosphere along the riverbanks.

On land and water alike, there's something for everyone. MADCAPS will host their two-day national coarse angling competition at Big Meadow, drawing competitors from far and wide. Meanwhile, Athlone Triathlon Club will bring their national event back to Athlone on Sunday, August 2nd, adding to a packed schedule of activity on the river and through the town.

Beyond the sporting action, Athlone will come alive with a vibrant programme of family-friendly entertainment. Markets, street performances, and cultural experiences will create a welcoming and lively atmosphere for all ages, while the town's renowned hospitality and diverse food offering will turn the weekend into a true celebration of community and culture—where a genuine Céad Míle Fáilte awaits at every corner.

The festival is proudly led by Viking Tours Ireland as main sponsor, supported by Specturm Signs. The committee also looks forward to welcoming back the Boyle Valley Vikings, bringing the Viking spirit to life, and we are delighted to once again collaborate with Féile na Sionainne, whose programme of music and entertainment will add even more energy across the weekend as they hold their festival here in Athlone. Everyone at the River Festival wishes them the very best with planning.

Importantly, a percentage of funds raised for this year's River Festival will go to St. Hilda's Special School & Esker House—two outstanding local organisations making a real difference in the community.

With the town open for business and ready to welcome visitors from across Ireland and the four corners of the globe, this year's festival promises an unforgettable experience for all. With more events and programs to announce in the coming months it's sure to be a weekend not to be missed.

If you would like to be part of this exciting adventure please do reach out to us, we are seeking support from local businesses, volunteers and our great community here in Athlone. Email us at riverfestivalathlone@gmail.com



Westmeath Public Participation Network

c/o Community Development Section

Westmeath County Council

Áras an Chontae, Mullingar Co. Westmeath

Email: ppn@westmeathcoco.ie

Contact number: 044-933-8939 / 044-933-2157

Website: Westmeathppn.ie

to join PPN please [CLICK HERE](#) or scan the QR code



Public Participation
Network Westmeath



★ We've launched a NEW Facebook page! ★
Follow us for all the latest news, events,
workshops, and grant opportunities.
Don't miss out—join us today! 🙌

