



**Public
Participation
Network
Westmeath**

NEWSLETTER

Free copy

October 2026

Nuachtlitir Dheireadh Fómhair



Welcome to our October newsletter!

Get Connected, Stay Informed, Have Your Say

As autumn gets underway, we continue to support community participation, strengthen representation, and promote the voices of our member groups across Westmeath.

We are delighted to welcome Madeline Crowe and Rosaleen Smartt who have recently stepped forward to fill vacancies on the Secretariat. We wish them every success in their new roles and thank them for their willingness to represent the priorities of local groups.

We still have a number of vacancies for PPN Representatives on committees and working groups and we encourage people to get involved.

Want to know who is representing your community?

Take a look at the PPN Representatives and the committees and working groups they sit on.

This is a great way to see how community voices are helping to shape local decisions and to learn more about the role of PPN representation.

Details are included in this newsletter and are also available on the Westmeath PPN website.

Stay connected: Keep an eye on the Westmeath PPN website and Facebook page for upcoming events, training opportunities, consultations, and news from across the network.

Your voice matters.

*Edel & Lourdes
Westmeath PPN*

WELCOME
TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

1. Bunbrosna Community Services
2. Castletown Geoghegan Project Group
3. Woodville Grange Residents Association
4. Athlone RSC Water Polo Club
5. Ballymore Angling Club
6. Ballynacargy Junior Tidy Towns
7. Westmeath GAA Handball

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

Contact us by emailing ppn@westmeathcoco.ie

or call 044 933 8903 / 044 933 8939



SCAN ME

Westmeath PPN at the National Ploughing 2026



Westmeath PPN was delighted to attend the National Ploughing Championships 2026 in Scraggan, Co. Offaly, where Edel Ennis and Lourdes Neary hosted the PPN stand alongside PPN Secretariat members Vinny Bagnall and John Bawle.

It was a fantastic opportunity to promote the work of Westmeath PPN, connect with visitors and highlight the valuable contribution of community and voluntary groups across Westmeath.

We were also delighted to meet Minister of State Jerry Buttimer during the event.

A big thank you to our Secretariat members for joining us, and to everyone who stopped by our stand for a chat. It was wonderful to connect, share information and celebrate the strength of our communities.



PPN National Conference 2026

Westmeath PPN was delighted to join PPN staff and community stakeholders from across Ireland for the PPN National Conference 2026 in Co. Roscommon for a two days of connecting, collaborating, learning and sharing ideas.

With inspiring contributions from Minister Jerry Buttimer, Niall Croghan, Caitlin Conneely, Báirbre Nic Aongusa, Louise Weir, Michael Timothy, Séamus Boland and Fergal Guihen, there was plenty of information on how we can continue to strengthen and empower our communities.

A huge thank you to Roscommon Public Participation Network, Roscommon County Council, Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and to everyone involved in delivering such a fantastic event.



Photo by: Roscommon Public Participation Network





Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail **An Iarmhí**
Public Participation Network **Westmeath**

Westmeath PPN *Autumn Plenary*

*Building a Stronger Community Together, Inspired by
Community, Driven by Action*



25th November



6pm



Bloomfield Hotel, Mullingar



All PPN members are invited. Registration required

For queries please contact Westmeath PPN: Email: ppn@westmeathcoco.ie / Phone: 044 933 8903 or 8939

Westmeath PPN Autumn Plenary

25th November at 6pm

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Deadline of registration : 24th November at 5pm

“Building a Stronger Community Together, Inspired by Community, Driven by Action”

Members of the PPN will have the opportunity to:

- Share ideas and experiences
- Listen and learn from presenters
- Elect committee members
- Review the year's achievements
- Highlight issues important to your community
- Discuss future priorities

Everyone has a role to play in creating an inclusive and connected community.

Come along, have your say, connect with other groups and learn what's happening across Westmeath.

WPPN Representing the Voice of Communities

PPN Representatives sit on a range of committees, boards and decision-making structures helping to ensure that the voices of local communities are heard where decisions are being made. PPN Representatives and Secretariat members are nominated and approved by PPN members.

If you have an issue, concern or suggestion that you would like raised at any of the boards or committees listed below, please get in touch. Our PPN Representatives can bring your views forward on behalf of the community.

 Email: ppn@westmeathcoco.ie

[Website: Westmeath PPN/ Structure](#)



PPN Secretariat

The Secretariat are responsible for the day-to-day running of WPPN and delivery of the workplan with the supports of the two WPPN staff members.

- Cathryn Whelehan- Mullingar Municipal District
- Nick Linnane- Athlone Municipal District
- Dermot Hope- Social Inclusion Pillar
- Rosaleen Smartt- Social Inclusion Pillar
- Joe McEvoy- Environmental Pillar
- John Bawle- Environmental Pillar
- Madeline Crowe- Community & Voluntary Pillar
- Vincent Bagnall- Community & Voluntary Pillar

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)



Assist with the development and implementation of local and community development initiatives including the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and Rural Development Programme.

- Anne Drury- Social Inclusion Pillar
- Christine O' Mahony - Social Inclusion Pillar
- John Bawle- Community & Voluntary Pillar
- Vincent Bagnall- Community & Voluntary Pillar
- Vacancy

Westmeath Community Development

Westmeath Community Development is a partnership which empowers people and communities to overcome disadvantage and enhance the quality of their lives chiefly through the LEADER and SICAP programmes. There are 5 PPN Reps on the 15-person Board of Directors.

- Hugh Farrell- Community & Voluntary Pillar
- Paul Lynam- Community & Voluntary Pillar
- Paula O'Connor- Social Inclusion Pillar
- Vacancy- Environmental Pillar
- Vacancy- Social Inclusion Pillar

Housing, Community, Recreation & Culture Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

Advise and assist the Housing, Community Development, Arts and Recreation and Library sections of Westmeath County Council in the development of policy.

- Anne Drury- Social Inclusion Pillar
- Hugh Farrell- Social Inclusion Pillar
- Vacancy- Community and Voluntary

Environment Climate Action, Rural Water & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

Advise and assist Westmeath County Council on environmental protection measures such as waste management, river basin management plan, litter control, energy efficiency, climate change and major emergency planning.

- Jack O'Sullivan- Environmental Pillar
- Monica Dolan- Community & Voluntary Pillar
- PJ Fitzpatrick- Community & Voluntary Pillar



Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail An Iarmhí
Public Participation Network Westmeath



**Board of Longford Westmeath
Community Transport CLG**



Planning Regeneration & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

Advises and assists on the formulation, development and review of policies as they relate to the County Development Plan, Local Area Plans, Town/Settlement Plans, Heritage and roads and transportation policy.

- Alison Hough- Environmental Pillar
- Therese McCullagh-Melia- Community & Voluntary Pillar



Economic Development, Agriculture & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

Advises and assists on the formulation, development and review of policies relating to the Local Enterprise Office and maximizing investment, business, enterprise, promotion and tourism initiatives in the county.

- Michael Ward- Community & Voluntary Pillar



Westmeath Sports & Recreation Forum

Advises and assists with the promotion of recreation and sport in the county through its oversight role in the development and implementation of Westmeath Recreation Strategy and work of Westmeath Sports Partnership.

- Vincent Bagnall- Community & Voluntary Pillar



Road Safety



Working Together Group (RSWTG)

A local authority group which advises and assists the creation, publication and review of a multi-agency Road Safety Action policy and its implementation at a local level.

- John Corrigan- Community & Voluntary Pillar

LWCT is a not-for-profit organization managed by a voluntary board of directors with responsibility for managing TFI Local Link (Rural Transport) services in counties Longford, Westmeath and Roscommon.

- Kathleen Grennan- Community & Voluntary Pillar



Biodiversity Working Group



This working group is to provide guidance and expertise throughout the planning, implementation, monitoring and review phases of the Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan.

- Brian Browne- Community & Voluntary Pillar



Midland Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force

One of ten Regional Drugs Task Forces covering counties Longford, Westmeath, Laois and Offaly Role is to research, develop, implement and monitor a co-ordinated response to illicit drug use at regional level.

- Joe Whelan- Community & Voluntary Pillar



Westmeath Heritage Forum



Assist with the development and implementation of the Westmeath Heritage Plan and advise on relevant heritage issues in the county.

- Mary Fallon- Community & Voluntary Pillar
- Seamus McDermott-Community & Voluntary Pillar



Local Community Safety Partnership

Established under the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024, designed to bring together community representatives, public sector bodies and stakeholders to improve safety and wellbeing in our communities.

- Cara Guilfoyle- Community & Voluntary Pillar
- Cathryn Whelehan- Community & Voluntary Pillar
- Pat Grimes- Community & Voluntary Pillar
- Philip Woods- Community & Voluntary Pillar

Calling All Westmeath PPN Groups, Committee & Group Members!

Have there been any changes to your group's committee members or contact details?

Please let **Westmeath PPN** know by emailing so we can keep our records up to date.

 Simply email us at ppn@westmeathcoco.ie with the following details:

-  Name
-  Position/Role
-  Email Address
-  Mobile Number

 Stay connected with Westmeath PPN!

As not all group members are registered individually on our system, we encourage your members to follow our social media pages.

It's a great way to stay up to date with:

-  17 Upcoming events
-  Grants and funding opportunities
-  Workshops and training
-  Community news and opportunities
-  What's happening across Westmeath

Follow Westmeath PPN and stay connected with your local community! 

Facebook page account link:

[Westmeath Public Participation](#)

Instagram account link: [westmeathppn](#)

Website link: [westmeathppn.ie](#)



Community Groups: Have Your Say on Banking Barriers

Join us for a free online information session and Q&A with Susanne Rogers, Social Justice Ireland, on Tuesday, 14th October, 10.00am - 11.00am. Many small community groups need a bank account to access grants and funding but opening one can often be difficult.

This short session will explore a new survey seeking to understand the barriers groups face and why this issue matters.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions, share experiences, and learn how your group's voice can help inform future advocacy.

 17 14th October

 10.00am - 11.00am

 Online

[Join the online meeting here](#)

Microsoft Teams meeting

Meeting ID: 381 121 705 143 465 2

Passcode: sK6M5yU9

[Survey link](#)

OLDER PERSON'S COUNCIL (OPC) Annual General Meeting

Come along to hear about the work of the Older People's Council, Learn about activities and priorities for the year ahead.

Find out how you can get involved.

**REGISTRATION
IS ESSENTIAL**

**Places are limited and
must be booked in
advance.**

**To register, please
contact:**

 **044 9332051**

 **WESTMEATHAGEFRIENDLY@WESTMEATHCOCO.IE**



**OCT
15
2026**

**FULL DETAILS PROVIDED
FOLLOWING
REGISTRATION**

Citizens Information run weekly Age Friendly Clinics in Athlone and Mullingar, providing older people with access to information, advice and guidance on a wide range of issues.



The clinics operate on a drop-in basis, with no appointment necessary.

This is a valuable service for older people seeking information, advice or guidance. Please help us spread the word by sharing this information with older people in your community who may benefit from the service.

- **Athlone every Tuesday 10.30am – 12.30pm**
- **Mullingar every Thursday 2.30pm – 4.30pm**





Age Friendly Clinic

for over sixties

Every Tuesday 10.30am- 12.30pm

Drop in, no appointment necessary

**Athlone Citizens Information Centre,
Office 2 First Floor. Arcadia Retail Centre, Athlone.**

Phone: 0818 07 6610



We are an accredited Age Friendly Business

Funded and supported by the Citizens Information Board





Age Friendly Clinic

for over sixties

Every Thursday 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Drop in, no appointment necessary

Mullingar Citizens Information Centre,

Phone: 0818 07 6660



We are an accredited Age Friendly Business

Funded and supported by the Citizens Information Board



Connecting Generations Through Community.

Positive Ageing Week's theme of "Connecting Generations" is something that comes to life beautifully through the Community Linkage Project and its schools befriending initiative.

Through the project, participating nursing homes in Leitrim and Roscommon have been paired with local primary schools and Transition Year students, creating opportunities for younger and older generations to spend time together, share experiences and simply enjoy each other's company.

Throughout the year, primary school children have visited residents and taken part in art activities around celebrations such as St Patrick's Day, Easter and Christmas. In May, the connection extended into the wider community when the school held a Mass and invited local residents to come along and take part.

Transition Year students also visit residents every month. Their visits are simple but meaningful, with music, reading, conversation and, of course, a chat over a cup of tea. It is a lovely opportunity for the students and residents to get to know one another and enjoy time together.

The residents genuinely look forward to seeing the students and children and light up when they arrive. The younger visitors bring energy and enthusiasm, while the residents have their own stories, experiences and warmth to share in return.

This Positive Ageing Week, the Community Linkage Project is a lovely example of how bringing generations together can help build connections within our communities.

Energy Cloud Pilot – Sligo Age Friendly.



The Energy Cloud Pilot Programme is a collaborative initiative involving Sligo Age Friendly, Age Friendly Healthy Homes, Energy Cloud, and Sligo County Council's Environment Section.

The programme supports older people to live comfortably and independently in their own homes by using surplus renewable wind energy to provide free hot water to participating Age Friendly households across County Sligo. The initiative helps to reduce electricity costs for older people while also contributing to climate action and community wellbeing.

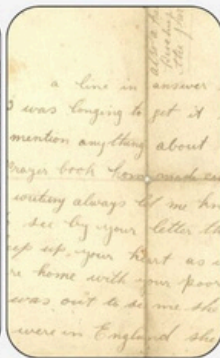
The pilot has progressed successfully, with 11 installations completed to date. Early feedback from participants has been very positive, with participants reporting noticeable savings and greater comfort in their homes.

Pictured here is Ann Donegan, one of the programme participants. Ann shared that she receives, on average, two free tanks of hot water each week through the system. She described the unit as neat and unobtrusive and said that having a supply of hot water provides great peace of mind.

The success of the pilot highlights how innovative partnerships can deliver practical benefits for older people while making better use of Ireland's renewable energy resources.

DRI Community Archive Scheme 2027

COMMUNITY dri ARCHIVE SCHEME



The Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI)'s **Community Archive Scheme** enables low- or no-funded organisations and individuals to gain Associate Membership to the DRI, including all related benefits.

Previous winners include:

- Long Kesh Style Archive
- Computers in Education Society of Ireland
- Folklore.ie
- Frank Donaldson 'Tidy Towns' Collection

Online Information Session

26 August 2026

From 11.00-12.00pm



For more information and to apply, please visit www.dri.ie

Eligibility Criteria

1. You are a low or no income organisation – for example, a community group, civil society organisation or charity/non profit operated by volunteers.
2. You commit to undertaking introductory DRI training.
3. You should be able to commit at least one volunteer/member to take on the task of preparing materials for ingest, and creating metadata.
4. The material from your collections should be suitable for Open Access publishing.

[Application form](#)

For more information, and for past winners, view our dedicated [Community Archive Scheme website section](#).

Staying Safe Online and in Your Home talk by Sgt Brian Stones

Talks on: 'Staying Safe Online and in Your Home'



Thursday, 1st October 2026
at 11am in Mullingar Library



Thursday, 8th October 2026
at 11am in Kinnegad Library

All Welcome, No booking Necessary

Westmeath Libraries

Staying Safe Online and in Your Home



Would you like to know more about steps you can take to **keep yourself and your property safe**?

Are you worried you might fall victim to an online scam?

Sgt. Brian Stones will visit Mullingar and Kinnegad Libraries for a talk on **staying safe in your community and online**. Sgt. Stones will be sharing advice on **simple ways** that we can **manage to keep safe** and **reduce the risk of crime**.

Thurs 1st Oct 2026 - 11 AM - Mullingar Library
Thurs 8th Oct 2026 - 11 AM - Kinnegad Library

**All welcome.
No booking necessary.**





Heritage and Biodiversity Newsletter

Welcome to the Heritage and Biodiversity Newsletter - your regular update on the latest news, upcoming activities relating to heritage and biodiversity and opportunities to get involved.

Image –following their meeting yesterday, some members of the Heritage Forum took the opportunity to see Moate Railway Pedestrian Bridge. The bridge was returned to site last week following essential conservation repair works funded under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) National Built Heritage Service, Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage with support from Westmeath County Council & [Transport Infrastructure Ireland](#).



New Season of In Your Nature Podcasts is out
Episode 65 "Butterflies with Jesmond Harding" In this episode Niall Hatch and Ricky Whelan visit the Bog of Allen Nature Reserve with butterfly specialist Jesmond Harding to explore one of Ireland's most important habitats for butterflies and learn what can be done to support them.

The episode highlights the importance of healthy peatlands and diverse habitats in sustaining our native wildlife and showcases some of the remarkable butterfly species that can be found in the Irish midlands.

- [Listen now on Spotify](#)

Episode 66 of In Your Nature, Ricky and Niall are diving into the world of bird nests. Whether the nest is on the ground, in a cavity, or reused from another species, nests are just as unique as the birds who use them. Long before a chick is hatched or an egg is laid, birds pick specific spots for their nests and to build their families. Learn how, when, and who is building nests across Ireland.

- [Listen now to Spotify](#).

In Your Nature podcast is supported by Offaly County Council, Westmeath County Council, [The Heritage Council](#) and The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.





Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann
Royal Irish Academy

The Royal Irish Academy Grants [Archaeology Research Excavation Grants](#), [Archaeological Archives Research Grants](#), [Archaeological Research for World Heritage properties](#), and [Archaeology Legacy](#) are open for applications. This year, the Royal Irish Academy, together with the National Monuments Service (NMS), and a broad group of interested groups across Ireland are collaborating with the Region of Normandy and other participating territories to mark 2027 as European Year of the Normans and to this end additional ring-fenced funding is available for projects under the Archaeology Research Excavation Grants scheme which fall under the theme of Norman Ireland and a bespoke grant scheme supporting research connected to the history of Norman Ireland has been created.

The [Year of the Normans Research scheme](#) will award up to six research grants, each worth €5,000. Eligible applicants are academic researchers employed by a higher education institution or research institute in Ireland, including Northern Ireland. Full detail on the [webpage](#). The closing date for applications to all of these schemes is **Wed 15th October**. Queries should be addressed to grants@ria.ie



APPLY NOW

BHIS Conservation **Grant Launch**



The Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2027 is now open for applications.

This grant scheme will provide grants of between €2,500 and €50,000 for the conservation of historic structures. To be eligible for the grant buildings must be on the Record of Protected Structures or be within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). Vernacular structures and Historic Shopfronts are also eligible for funding under this grant scheme.

BHIS Historic Thatch Buildings (HTB) fund 2027 is also open for applications. This grant scheme is for historic thatched roof buildings.

Applications for both of these grant schemes must be accompanied by a detailed method statement and the **deadline for applications is 30 October**.

For full details and application form can be found in the [WEBSITE](#):

This grant scheme is funded by [Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage](#) and administered by [@westmeathcoco](#)
[#fundingopportunities](#) [#BuiltHeritage](#) [#GrantScheme](#)
[#builtheritageconservation](#) [#Thatch](#)



Athlone Library Pottery Workshop

Join ceramicist Stephanie McGuinness in Aidan Heavey Library, Athlone on Thursday 8th October at 5.30pm for a 2-hour beginner pottery workshop, where you will learn 'pinch' and 'coil' techniques.

Enjoy reconnecting with your creative side and learn a practical new skill in a relaxed, welcoming environment. Each participant will create 2 finished pieces which will be glazed and returned for pick-up from the library in 4-5 weeks.



BYO Craft Nights – Mullingar Library

October 8th 15th and 22nd - 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM



LWETB Digital Badge

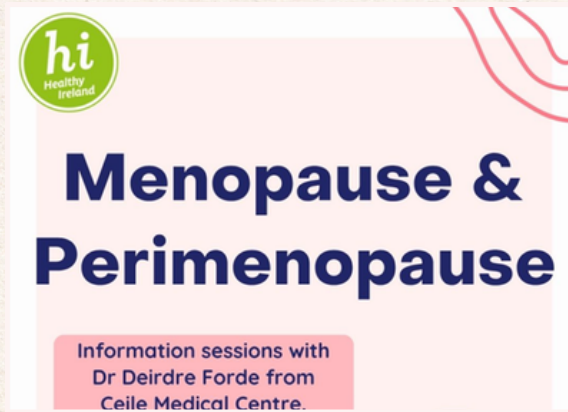
The Longford-Westmeath Education Training Board will be holding a series of digital badge three-hour workshops in Aidan Heavey Library, Athlone on the following dates:

- 29th of September - Become a Blood Donor Workshop
- 6th and 13th of October - What is AI - (2 afternoons)
- 20th of October - Theres an App for that
- 3rd of November - Jury Duty
- 10th of November to 24th November - My GovID/HSE Health App (3 afternoons)
- 1st of December to 15th of December - Switch and Save (3 afternoons)

Booking is essential and can be made by contacting Athlone library staff directly on 090 6442157 or via email athlib@westmeathcoco.ie. This is a Skills for Life initiative

Join Us for Craft Night. Looking for a fun, creative night out? Come hang with fellow makers at our BYO Craft Night! Whether you knit, sew, crochet, scrapbook, or dabble in drawing, this BYOC (Bring Your Own Craft) gathering is the perfect way to unwind, get inspired, and connect with a vibrant community of creators. Where: Our cozy, Creative Space room in Mullingar Library Bonus: Bring a snack or non-alcoholic beverage to share! It's the best craft night in town – relaxed, social, and full of creative energy. Don't miss it!

Booking required for each session at www.westmeathculture.ie



Menopause and Perimenopause - Mullingar Library

22 Oct 2026 - 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

In this Healthy Ireland At Your Library event, Dr Deirdre Forde from Ceile Medical Centre, Athlone, will be in Castlepollard, Mullingar and Kinnegad Library talking about menopause and perimenopause, and answering any questions you may have.

The event is free but registration is required at www.westmeathculture.ie

Another event named 'Monster Rocks' will be held on Fri 30th Oct 11-12pm in Moate Library –. It's a Dress up arts & crafts session.



Moate Library will be holding a Pottery Workshop

Sat Oct 3rd 11am-1pm. Join ceramicist Stephanie McGuinness in these 2-hour beginner pottery workshops, where you will learn 'pinch' and 'coil' techniques. Each participant will create 2 finished pieces which will be glazed and returned for pick-up from the library in 4-5 weeks.

Why not drop into Castlepollard Library on Friday 18th September at 4 O'Clock for an afternoon of Music, Song, Poetry & Dance courtesy of Clann Lir CCE & Friends.

All Welcome – No Booking required.

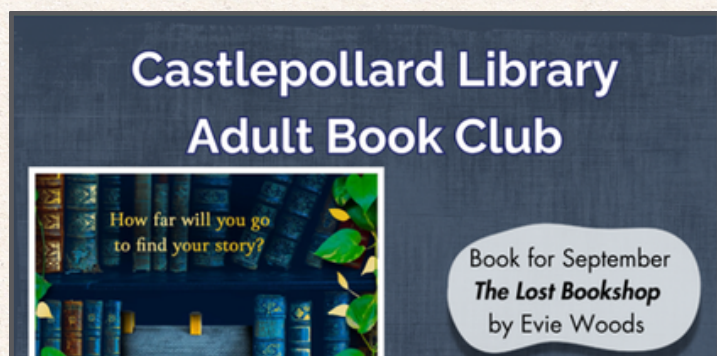




Pottery workshops in Kinnegad library

Wed 7th October 10:30am – 12pm

Join ceramicist Stephanie McGuinness in these 2-hour beginner pottery workshops, where you will learn 'pinch' and 'coil' techniques. Enjoy reconnecting with your creative side and learn a practical new skill in a relaxed, welcoming environment. Each participant will create 2 finished pieces which will be glazed and returned for pick-up from the library in 4-5 weeks. These events are part of our Uplugged programming funded by Creative Ireland, a digital detox with Westmeath Libraries.



Another date for your diary – On Thursday 24th September at 6.30 Castlepollard Library are hosting an **Adult Book Club**. The title of the Book this month is *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods.

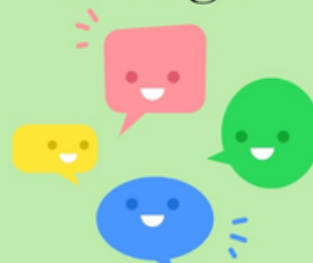
Grúpa Comhrá Gaeilge,

Thursday 1st October from 4pm to 5pm

Visit Kilbeggan Library on Thursday afternoons at 4pm agus bain triail as cúpla focal Gaeilge le cairde.

All welcome, no registration required.

Grúpa Comhrá Gaeilge



Pottery Workshop, Saturday 31st October at 10.30am, Kilbeggan

Join ceramicist Stephanie McGuinness in these 2-hour beginner pottery workshops, where you will learn 'pinch' and 'coil' techniques. Enjoy reconnecting with your creative side and learn a practical new skill in a relaxed, welcoming environment. Each participant will create 2 finished pieces which will be glazed and returned for pick-up from the library in 4-5 weeks.





Kinnegad Library will host **The Island of Imagination** on Thurs 15th October 7pm-8pm

Laureate for Irish Fiction Éilís Ní Dhuibhne delves into contemporary Irish fiction on a journey of exploration to highlight literature emanating from every county in Ireland.

The Laureate for Irish Fiction Éilís Ní Dhuibhne will be joined by Seán Farrell in a conversation about his debut novel 'Frogs for Watchdogs' (2025) as she visits Kinnegad Library, Co. Westmeath, as part of her Laureate series. This event is in association with the Westmeath Libraries. The Laureate for Irish Fiction is an initiative of the Arts Council.

Email:

info@westmeathculture.ie

Phone: 044 933 2000



Éilís Ní Dhuibhne is the author of more than thirty books including the novels *The Dancers Dancing*, *The Shelter of Neighbours*, *Fox*, *Swallow*, *Scarecrow*, *Dordán*, *Cailíní Beaga Ghleann na Blath* and seven collections of short stories. Her most recent books are *Twelve Thousand Days: A Memoir* (shortlisted for the Michel Déon Award 2020) and *Little Red and Other Stories* (2020), *Selected Stories* (2023), *Fáinne Geal and Lae* (2023). Her many literary awards include the Pen Award for Outstanding Contribution to Irish Literature, and a Hennessy Hall of Fame Award and many Oireachtas Awards for her writing in Irish. *The Dancers Dancing* was shortlisted for the Orange Prize 2000. She is a member of Aosdána, and President of the Folklore of Ireland Society. She is the fourth Laureate for Irish Fiction and holds the honour for 2025-2028.

Seán Farrell was born and brought up in the Midlands and lived in France for 15 years before moving to Sligo in 2022. As a freelance literary editor he has worked with a large number of contemporary Irish writers and he is the submissions editor for independent publisher The Lilliput Press.

His debut novel, *Frogs for Watchdogs*, was published in 2025 by New Island Books and was re-released earlier this year by John Murray Press. His second novel, *The Best Boy in the World*, is coming out in January 2027.



Shopfront Enhancement Grant Scheme for 2026: Application

Westmeath County Council has made funding available for business owners to improve the building facades of their properties. The aim of the scheme is to enhance the streetscape environment of towns and villages throughout County Westmeath by encouraging and supporting owners of local retail and commercial premises to improve their individual shopfronts.

An annual fund of €100,000 has been provided for 2025. Grants of up to €4,500 or 75% of the cost of the works (vat exclusive) will be available for qualifying solo applicants. For collaboration projects from three or more adjoining businesses, grants of up to €6,000 or 75% of the costs (vat exclusive) will be available for qualifying joint applicants, at least two out of three properties must be rated (66%). Where a business undertakes to improve accessibility for the elderly or people with disabilities, grants of up to €6,000 or 75% of the costs (vat exclusive), for that particular initiative, will be available for qualifying applicants.

It is intended that the scheme will result in a more attractive environment that residents, visitors, shoppers and businesses can enjoy. It is also envisaged that this scheme will assist in promoting our towns and villages as attractive places for social and business interaction, thereby increasing the vitality and viability of our settlements with positive benefits for all.

Eligible Towns and Villages under this scheme

This scheme is open for applications from all local indigenous businesses/retail premises within the development envelope of all towns and villages contained within County Westmeath's settlement hierarchy as follows:

Mullingar, Athlone, Castlepollard, Kilbeggan, Kinnegad, Moate, Ballinagore, Ballinalack,

Ballykeeran, Ballymore, Ballynacarrigy, Castletown-Geoghegan, Clonmellon, Collinstown, Coole, Delvin, Finnea, Glasson, Killucan/Rathwire, Milltownpass, Multyfarnham, Raharney, Rathowen, Rochfortbridge, Tyrrellspass.

Further Information and application form can be accessed through the link below

[Shopfront Enhancement Scheme](#)



Free YSI Programmes for Youth Services

A flexible, engaging and action-focused programme for young people in non-formal education. Young people work in teams to creatively address a social issue that matters to them and make a positive impact in their community.

Duration: 20 hours (Flexibility in the format - we'll meet you where you're at!)

Duration:

20 hours (Flexibility in the format - we'll meet you where you're at!)

About the Programme

Young Social Innovators (YSI) is proud to launch Ignite Community - a new programme designed to support young people in non formal education to make a real difference in their communities.

Delivered through youth services across Galway, Limerick, Clare and beyond, this innovative programme empowers participants to explore local issues they care about and take creative, collaborative action. Building on 25 years of experience in youth-led social innovation, YSI is now extending its impact to reach even more young changemakers beyond the school setting.

Why Do It

Through inclusive and empowering activities, young people are encouraged to explore their role in the community and recognise their ability to make a difference. By using their voices and working together, they gain the confidence and skills to take meaningful action on issues they care about.

[Submit Expression of Interest HERE](#)

Climate Action Week

[Climate Action Week](#) is Ireland's 10th Festival of Climate Action and will take place nationwide and online from the 12th to the 18th of October. There are so many ways for your county, local community and citizens to get involved and support each other (even if your local celebrations fall outside of our official dates)!

Host

Everyone is invited to take part in Climate Action Week. And we encourage you to host and add your events to the Climate Action Week Event Guide and encourage members of the public to do the same, to ensure your local community STANDS OUT on the Climate Action Week Map. There is no limit to the number of events you can add to our event guide. To add an event, simply click on the 'Add Your Event' tab on our website or follow this link:

www.climateactionweek.ie/add-your-event/. Check out our Social Media Toolkit in the resources section of our website for posters, logos and stickers.

A tip for adding your event is to make sure your graphic is not too large: we advise 960 x 480 pixels. Also make sure you are adding a full location address with an Eircode, as this helps when getting your pin on the Climate Action Week Map.

Attend

Encourage your community to visit our event guide to see what is happening in your area and book their spot. New events are being added to our event guide daily.

<http://www.climateactionweek.ie/events/>

Share

Snap, Tag, Share!

Tag us in your Climate Action Week posts, event promotions, news, and stories. We'd love to see your community enjoying Climate Action Week! Send us your pictures, posts and reels, and we'll repost as many as we can! Please tag

[@climateambassador](#) on Instagram to share

[#climateactionweek](#).



*Our Event Organisers Guide – a helpful source for those in your community or in schools who might be planning an event for the first time.

*The Social Media Toolkit tab includes a range of graphics including:

- A variety of Climate Action Week logos in different colours
- Climate Action Week Save the Date graphic
- What is Climate Action Week Carousel
- Graphics that encourage your community/county/town to get involved in Climate Action Week and add their events to the Climate Action Week map.
- Countdown to Climate Action Week graphics
- I'm/We're Taking Part in Climate Action Week (with and without dates)
- Social Media Stickers to add to stories (save to your phone and add to your stories)
- Irish versions of graphics.

If you have any questions, please contact us on caw@antaisce.org.

DRIVE Brief Advisor Training

Drug related intimidation and violence is a serious and insidious problem that affects individuals, families and communities throughout the country. Drug related intimidation occurs when a criminal or criminals allege that a sum of money is owed as a result of drug debt. Individuals or family members may be subjected to intimidation or the threat of intimidation. Drug related intimidation can take many forms, some forms include verbal threats, physical violence, damage to home or property or sexual violence.

DRIVE (Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement) is an interagency project with systems and structures to respond to drug related intimidation and associated violence in Ireland. The DRIVE project is funded by the Drugs Policy Refugee and Inclusion Health Unit in the Department of Health. Capacity building and shared commitment is a key Pillar of the DRIVE Framework. It recognises the importance of developing an increased understanding of drug related intimidation in communities and improving the capacity of frontline workers and other relevant organisations to respond effectively.

The Midland Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force (MRDATF) has now organised for the roll out of a number of DRIVE Brief Advisor Training sessions across the counties of Laois, Offaly, Longford & Westmeath. The table below sets out all the scheduled dates for these training sessions.

To register to attend and more training session options in Midlands area, please click the link below:

www.mrdatf.ie/education-and-training

Westmeath locations

ate	Sessions	Venue
Wednesday 9th of September	Morning session 9:30am – 12:30pm sharp Registration from 9:00am	Shamrock Lodge Country House Hotel, Clonown Road Athlone, N37CK73
	Afternoon session 1:30pm – 4:30pm sharp Registration from 1:00pm	Shamrock Lodge Country House Hotel, Clonown Road Athlone, N37CK73
Thursday 5th of November	Morning session 9:30am – 12:30pm sharp Registration from 9:00am	Mullingar Youth Project Youth Work Ireland Midlands Grange Meadows, N91HK00
	Afternoon session 1:30pm – 4:30pm sharp Registration from 1:00pm	Mullingar Youth Project Youth Work Ireland Midlands Grange Meadows, N91HK00

DRIVE Brief Advisor Training

This training is an in-person half day training programme for people in community settings who may come in contact with individuals who are impacted by drug related intimidation.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the training participants will:

- Recognise and describe the prevalence and impact of drug related intimidation & violence in Ireland
- Explain and summarise the DRIVE Project and its operation at the community level
- Identify and outline the key features of the Drug Related Intimidation & Reporting Programme
- Locate and summarise the range of confidential support services available for individuals impacted by drug related intimidation and violence in their locality
- Demonstrate and apply the ability to hold a brief, supportive conversation with someone impacted for drug related intimidation, and direct them to appropriate support services confidentially

Who should attend

People who perform a role in the community whereby they meet, engage with or interact with other members of the community in supportive, advisory or helping capacities. People who are likely to meet people experiencing drug related intimidation and may have the opportunity to signpost to supports or provide brief information.

Men's Shed



The recent visit from a South Korean delegation highlights how **Moate Men's Shed** has become a model of best practice internationally. Travelling from the Seoul Capital Area, the group came to Ireland to see how Mens Sheds supports older men in staying active and socially connected after retirement. Members guided them through the Shed's spaces, explaining routines, projects and the inclusive environment they have built.

The visitors were struck by the mix of spaces within the Shed: the woodworking area with its aroma of fresh timber, the Craft Shop showcasing handmade items, the Museum corner preserving local stories, and the social room where the kettle is never far from boiling. The visit placed Moate firmly on the international map and showcased the strength of community-led wellbeing initiatives.

The Shed meets twice weekly and provides a low-pressure environment where men can work side by side on practical projects — a setting that makes conversation easier and more natural than formal meetings. Woodwork, repairs, maintenance tasks and creative projects form the backbone of Shed activity, but the real heart of the place is the tea, chat and camaraderie that support wellbeing and reduce isolation.

Moate Men's Shed has grown into one of the town's most valued community spaces, offering older men a welcoming place to stay active, connected, and purposeful in retirement. What began as a modest local initiative has become a vibrant hub of creativity, heritage, skill-sharing and friendship. The Shed is part of a strong Westmeath network of Men's Sheds. New members are always welcome to drop in during a session to see how it works. The model is especially valuable for retirees, men living alone, or anyone who has lost a daily routine — offering purpose, company and a reason to leave the house.



UCD/IPCOR prostate cancer partner survey

UCD School of Medicine working with the Irish Prostate Cancer Outcomes Research (IPCOR) programme. Are currently recruiting current and former partners of people diagnosed with prostate cancer in Ireland or Northern Ireland for an anonymous research survey exploring partners' experiences, information needs and support needs.

The survey is open to adults aged 18 or over who are a current or former partner of someone diagnosed with prostate cancer in Ireland or Northern Ireland, including those whose partner is on active surveillance or watchful waiting as well as those who have received treatment. It is anonymous and takes approximately 10–15 minutes.

The study has UCD Human Research Ethics Committee approval (Ref: 168-LS-26-C-Kearns-Watson)

[For more information click here:](#)

[Survey link can be accessed here](#)

Training in Mental Health Peer-Support with Cycle Against Suicide

Our peer-support programme sets out to educate senior personnel and team leads on how stress and mental health problems can affect their employees. It is designed for companies to not only prevent mental ill health but to integrate mental health and wellbeing into all parts of the workplace. Participants are trained in the use of a structured interview schedule to ascertain whether individuals might be experiencing significant levels of distress and on how to practically managed distressed individuals. Furthermore, participants will be trained to mentor individuals to take positive resilience enhancing actions, such as positive coping. They will be trained on how to recognise more complex symptoms requiring professional interventions. They will develop skills based on the principal of motivational interviewing to encourage individuals to speak with a health care professional where necessary.

This training is delivered over two full days 9.30am to 5pm and accredits 13.5 CPD points. FREE of charge
We currently have 2-full day, 9.30am-5pm, live online training taking place on the following dates:

Mount Street, Mullingar
Mon 21 & Tues 22 September
Wed 21 & Thurs 22 October
Wed 18 & Thurs 19 November

Please follow this link to register and choose the date that suits best: [Mental Health Peer Support- Proigramme](#)

Westmeath Community Development Workshops



Are you a member of a local community group? Would you like to learn some new skills? If so then...
Westmeath Community Development are hosting a series of FREE Workshops during the month of November.
If you would like to book a place please contact WCD.

Email: sicapsupport@westcd.ie

Phone: 044 93 48571

Places are limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis. SICAP group reps receive priority for a place.

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 30th October 2026@ 1pm

Dates	Topic	Time	Venue
Tuesday 3 rd November	How to Apply for Funding	10.00am-2.00pm	Kinnegad Library N91 DP22
Thursday 5 th November	How to Apply for Funding (part 1)	7pm-9pm	SWEETS Kilbeggan N91 KN2V
Monday 9 th November	Committee skills part 1	7pm-9pm	Shamrock lodge hotel clonown rd Athlone N37 CK73
Wednesday 11 th November	Committee skills Part 1	7pm -9pm	Rathowen Ferricks Hotel N91 PTI8
Thursday 12 th November	How to Apply for Funding (Part 2)	7pm -9pm	SWEETS Kilbeggan N91 KN2V
Monday 16 th November	Committee skills part 2	7pm-9pm	Shamrock lodge hotel clonown rd Athlone N37 CK73
Wednesday 18 th November	Disability Awareness	9.30am-4.00pm	Shamrock Lodge Hotel Clonown rd Athlone N37 CK73
Wednesday 18 th November	Committee skills Part 2	7pm to 9pm	Rathowen Ferricks Hotel N91 DP22
Tuesday 24 th November	Media Skills	10.00am-1.30pm	ATK St Kierans community centre Tormey Villas Athlone N37 W7P3
Thursday 26 th November	Media Skills	1.00pm-4.30pm	Kinnegad Library Kinnegad Co Westmeath N91 DP 22

Workshop Topic details

	Name	Learning Outcomes	Delivered by
1	Committee skills	- Participants will understand the various roles in a committee in community settings - Participants will gain an insight on how to run effective committee meetings including an AGM	Westmeath Community Development Staff
2	Disability Awareness Training	- Better understanding of what is "Disability?" - Social model versus Medical model? - Better awareness of how society can negatively impact on a person's quality of life	Westmeath Community Development Staff and guest speakers
3	How to apply for funding	- Participants will have a better understanding of the dos and don'ts of applying for funding - Participants will be more knowledgeable on how to fill in applications and be successful	Westmeath Community Development Staff
4	Media skills	- How to Prepare a press release - How to Prepare for radio interview - Social media- set up and maintain Face book page for community organisation	Athlone Community Radio

Managing and keeping your money safe

Free community event



When: Wednesday 14 October 2026
10.30am – 12.30pm
Refreshments from 10.00am

Where: Longford Arms Hotel,
Longford

Do you want to learn how to manage your money and keep it safe?
Then come along to hear guest speakers at our free information event on Wednesday 14 October 2026.

We will talk about:

- Keeping your money safe from fraud
- Budgeting
- Preparing for financial emergencies
- The supports that are available locally

How do you register to attend?

- Call Gordon on 086 171 4729
- Register on the day at the event

There will be:

- A questions and answers session and
- Local organisations will have stands at the event



Logos: AIB, ALL Adult Literacy for Life, twetb, mabs, NALA

Managing & Keeping Your Money Safe

Date: Wed, 14th October 2026

Time: 10:30am to 12:30pm

Venue: Longford Arms, Hotel, Longford

What you'll learn:

Get practical tips on:

- Keeping your money safe from fraud / scams
- Budgeting
- Preparing for financial emergencies
- Supports locally

Intersections of Poverty: Experiences from Disabled and LGBTQ+ Communities

Heartlands Pride, Independent People with Disabilities and the Disability Participation News Hub are coming together this October to mark UN International Day of Eradication of Poverty.

Bringing together members from Disabled, LGBTQ+ communities and allies, our event aims to create a community space to share experiences on poverty and consider ways to make change happen.

This event features a panel discussion with Q&A, a free lunch for attendees, and a Zine workshop to explore these themes through art.

We will also have a community action board where we encourage attendees to share actions we, or decision makers can take, to change systems that impact and further marginalise our communities

Intersections of Poverty: Experiences from Disabled and LGBTQ+ Communities

17th October, TUS Athlone.
Register via Eventbrite



Date: 17th October

Times: Panel Discussion - 11:30am-1pm / Lunch – 1pm-2pm / Zine Workshop – 2pm-3:30pm

Venue: Technological University of the Shannon Athlone

Spaces limited, registration essential.

Register via Eventbrite: [CLICK HERE](#)

Mullingar Bridge and Amenity Center
Play • Learn • Make Friends

BRIDGE CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS
A great new hobby awaits!

- ♠ Learn
- ♥ Play
- ♣ Socialise
- ♦ Keep your mind active

New Players Welcome!

Commencing Thursday October 8th 2026
 at 8pm in Mullingar Bridge and Amenity Centre N91WD96.

**Course of 10 evenings
 Cost €70**

Contact (WhatsApp or text preferred)
 Seán 0874160724 or Joan 0871428183

All are welcome!

BRIDGE • FRIENDSHIP • FUN • FOR LIFE

Celebrating 100 YEARS OF Concertina Music
Comhaltas Ceol agus Gaoil

William J Mullally Tribute
 WITH **Micheál Ó Raghallaigh**

Milltown Rathconrath Community Centre N91 VA06
2pm Saturday 3rd October

All musicians welcome especially concertina people

Admission Free Refreshments on the day

Frank Gavigan Branch C.C.E
18th ANNUAL MEMORIAL CONCERT
Friday 2nd October
Milltown Community Centre,
Rathconrath Mullingar, N91 VA06

BRENDAN SHINE
Caomhán Mac Gabhann and Cormac Keegan
Colin Nea Rose Carey Nigel and Elaine Black
Bunbrosna Set Dancers
Mick Foster and The Rathconrath Ceili Band
Milltown Singers Moe Heduan

Doors open: 7pm
 Concert commences: 8pm
 Admission: €20

Compere: **Martin Donohoe**
 (Shannonside Radio)

Glenside Céili Band
Saturday 3rd October 2026 9pm
Milltown Community Centre,
Rathconrath, Mullingar,
N91 VA06.

Part of the **Frank Gavigan Memorial Weekend.**

12 euro, tea served.
All welcome.

Dementia Awareness workshops

DEMENTIA IS NOT SIMPLY A HEALTH ISSUE BUT A SOCIAL ISSUE THAT REQUIRES A COMMUNITY RESPONSE!



A Dementia Inclusive Community is one in which people living with dementia, their families and carers can live their lives well in an understanding and supportive society.

HOW CAN YOU (AS AN INDIVIDUAL), YOUR BUSINESS, SPORTING CLUB OR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION HELP CREATE A DEMENTIA INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY IN YOUR LOCAL AREA?

Participate in one of the Dementia Awareness Workshops that will be run locally. This will give you an insight into how your organisation can help to build a Dementia Inclusive Community in your area today!

Book your place for the Dementia Awareness Workshop today!
Wednesday November 4th 2026 at 10 am
Caraphort Family Resource Centre, Harbour Street,
Ballinacargy, Co Westmeath N91 RD21
 contact Westmeath Community Development reception
 044 93 48571 or email reception@westcd.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.

085 8566478 friendsofasi@alzheimer.ie www.alzheimer.ie
 RCN 20018238 | CHY7868

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Participate in one of the Dementia Awareness Workshops that will be run locally. This will give you an insight into how your organisation can help to build a Dementia Inclusive Community in your area today!

Book your place for the Dementia Awareness Workshop today!
Wednesday November 4th 2026 at 2pm
Rochfordbridge Community Centre Castlelost Rochfortbridge
Co. Westmeath, N91 V6VX, (aka St Joseph's Parish Hall)
 contact Westmeath Community Development reception
 044 93 48571 or email reception@westcd.ie

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Participate in one of the Dementia Awareness Workshops that will be run locally. This will give you an insight into how your organisation can help to build a Dementia Inclusive Community in your area today!

Book your place for the Dementia Awareness Workshop today!
Thursday November 5th 2026 at 2pm
ACT Business Development Centre, Ball alley Lane
Athlone, Co Westmeath N37 C8W6
 contact Westmeath Community Development reception
 044 93 48571 or email reception@westcd.ie

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Participate in one of the Dementia Awareness Workshops that will be run locally. This will give you an insight into how your organisation can help to build a Dementia Inclusive Community in your area today!

Book your place for the Dementia Awareness Workshop today!
Thursday November 5th 2026
at 10am - 12noon
Carmelite Centre, The Newtown, Moate Co Westmeath, N37 AW24
 contact Westmeath Community Development reception
 044 93 48571 or email reception@westcd.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.

085 8566478 friendsofasi@alzheimer.ie www.alzheimer.ie
 RCN 20018238 | CHY7868

Mental health workshops



Mental Health Ireland
Educating, Empowering,
& Connecting Communities



Mental Health Month

Mental Health & Wellbeing Training

Engage with Mental Health

An Introduction to Mental Health & Wellbeing & the Five Ways to Wellbeing Model

Workshop Objectives

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Define what mental health and wellbeing are
- Recognise influences on our mental health and wellbeing
- Understand the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' model and how to use it

Location: Rochfortbridge Community Centre, Castlelost Rochfortbridge, Co. Westmeath, N91 V6VX.

Facilitator: Karen Boylan, Development Officer, Mental Health Ireland

Register: Phone Westmeath Community Development: 044 93 48571

15, October 2026
10:30am-12:00pm








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.



Mental Health Ireland
Educating, Empowering,
& Connecting Communities



Mental Health Month

Mental Health & Wellbeing Training

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At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Define what mental health and wellbeing are
- Recognise influences on our mental health and wellbeing
- Understand the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' model and how to use it

Location: Carmelite Pastoral Centre, The Newtown, Moate, Co. Westmeath, N37 AW24

Facilitator: Karen Boylan, Development Officer, Mental Health Ireland

Register: Phone Westmeath Community Development: 044 93 48571

15, October 2026
2:30pm-4:00pm








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.



Mental Health Ireland
Educating, Empowering,
& Connecting Communities



Mental Health Month

Mental Health & Wellbeing Training

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An Introduction to Mental Health & Wellbeing & the Five Ways to Wellbeing Model

Workshop Objectives

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Define what mental health and wellbeing are
- Recognise influences on our mental health and wellbeing
- Understand the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' model and how to use it

Location: Kinnegad Library, Kinnegad, N91 DP22

Facilitator: Karen Boylan, Development Officer, Mental Health Ireland

Register: Phone Westmeath Community Development: 044 93 48571

20, October 2026
10:30am-12:00pm








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.



Mental Health Ireland
Educating, Empowering,
& Connecting Communities



Mental Health Month

Mental Health & Wellbeing Training

Engage with Mental Health

An Introduction to Mental Health & Wellbeing & the Five Ways to Wellbeing Model

Workshop Objectives

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Define what mental health and wellbeing are
- Recognise influences on our mental health and wellbeing
- Understand the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' model and how to use it

Location: Castle Varagh Hotel, Castlepollard, N91 KWP4

Facilitator: Karen Boylan, Development Officer, Mental Health Ireland

Register: Phone Westmeath Community Development: 044 93 48571

20, October 2026
2:30pm-4:00pm








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.

Through My Eyes: A Photovoice Study

Are you living with a life-limiting condition and receiving palliative care?

Are you willing to share what matters most to you, through photographs?

Irish Hospice Foundation is conducting a photovoice project inviting adults with a life-limiting condition or receiving palliative care to take photographs that show their experiences and what matters most to them.

Find out more:

- Phone: 1800 1800 18
Sara Leitão
- Email: research@hospicefoundation.ie
hospicefoundation.ie/photovoice
- Website:

Scan here to find out more



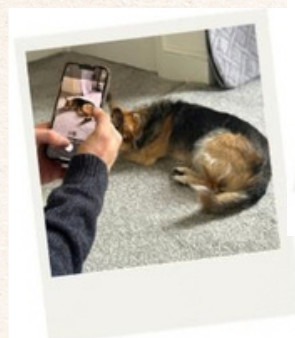
Who can take part:

To participate, you must be:

- Living with a life limiting condition or receiving palliative
- Over 18 years old

Get in touch to find out more

Help us understand what matters the most to you at this stage of life and to improve care now and into the future



Free Programme for Migrants in Athlone



October 3rd 10th and 17th



10am to 1pm



St Mary's Hall Community Centre, Northgate Street
Athlone, Co. Westmeath. N37 N1W3

[Register here](#)

NAVIGATE IRELAND

LIFE SKILLS & PARTICIPATION



A FREE programme for all migrants who are ready to grow, develop and move forward.

ARE YOU READY TO MOVE FORWARD?

A practical programme for migrants who want to build on their skills, regain confidence and create new opportunities for their life and career.

GROW. BELONG. THRIVE.

You already have skills, experience and potential. Navigate Ireland helps you put them to work in Ireland.



PRACTICAL ENGLISH & EXPERT-LED SESSIONS

Each topic starts with a free practical English class, followed by a session with a guest expert.

PRACTICAL SKILLS FOR REAL LIFE



1

DISCOVER YOUR
POTENTIAL

Recognise your strengths, skills and experience.



2

SHAPE YOUR
FUTURE

Explore options, opportunities and next steps.



3

COMMUNICATE
WITH CONFIDENCE

Work, services, everyday communication



4

MONEY
MATTERS

Manage money, budget and plan ahead.



5

BUILD YOUR
CAREER FOR LIFE

Build on your skills, explore pathways and take your next step.



6

WELLBEING
FOR LIFE

Look after your physical health and mind.



7

YOUR VOICE
MATTERS

Get involved, participate, and make a difference.



Adult
Literacy
for Life



gretb
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin
Galway and Roscommon
Education and Training Board



GALWAY - MONDAYS

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

WHATSAPP 085 813 3242

ATHLONE - SATURDAYS

2, 10, 17 OCTOBER 2026

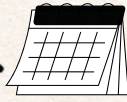
WHATSAPP 085 146 3545

SCAN TO REGISTER



Learn. Connect. Grow.

SPOOKY FAMILY WALK



31st October



Fore, Westmeath



JOIN US FOR A

SPOOKY FAMILY WALK

IN FORE, WESTMEATH

LOTS OF SPOOKY SURPRISES ALONG THE WAY!

HAPPENING ON
31ST
OCTOBER

KEEP AN EYE ON THE PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS!

TRICKS
TRAILS
TREATS
SURPRISES

FORE ABBEY

FAMILY FRIENDLY

SPOOKY SURPRISES

FORE WESTMEATH

A FUN DAY OUT FOR ALL

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON...
KEEP AN EYE ON OUR PAGE!

Supported by

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

#VisitWestmeath
@VisitWestmeath

Visit Westmeath
HIDDEN GEMS. LASTING MEMORIES.



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

Working Together



Killucan Community Centre CLG

Eyes Down! Tuesday Night Is Bingo Night! 🎯

Looking for a fun night out with fantastic prizes and great company? Join us every single Tuesday at Rathwire Hall! Whether you are a seasoned pro or a complete beginner, everyone is welcome to come along, share a laugh, and try their luck.

Bring your lucky charms, bring your friends, and get ready for a brilliant atmosphere. You have to be in it to win it!

Doors open 7.30pm—grab your books, claim your lucky seat, and let's play! See you this Tuesday!



Ph: 044 93 74725

Working Together



Killucan Community Centre CLG

Golden Years Lunch Club

Where: Rathwire Hall, Killucan

When: Every second Wednesday from 1pm

What: Golden Years Club lunch, live entertainment, and fantastic guest speakers.

We are more than a club—we are a community! Join us for local day outings, exciting getaways across Ireland. We love a good celebration! Come along to mark big birthday milestones, celebrate our annual Club Birthday, and festive cheer at our Christmas Party.

Need a lift? Our free collection bus runs every club day. We can't wait to welcome you!



Ph: 044 93 74725



Ministers Calleary and Buttimer announce over €1.6 million funding for St. Vincent de Paul and Protestant Aid

- Continued funding to support Saint Vincent de Paul and Protestant Aid to ensure continuation of the valuable supports they provide
- Supporting access to essential services and resources, including food, education, household necessities, and emergency hardship assistance for those most in need

Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD, and Minister of State, Jerry Buttimer TD, have today (Tuesday, 22 September 2026) announced over €1.6 million in funding to The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) and Protestant Aid.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is to receive funding of €1.41 million, while Protestant Aid will receive €250,000

Minister Calleary said:

“We're proud to support St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) in providing vital food, education, hardship, and household supports to those most in need. With more than 11,000 volunteers across Ireland, SVP reaches hundreds of thousands of people each year, offering practical help, dignity, and hope in communities nationwide.

We are proud to support Protestant Aid also, a charity that has been helping experiencing poverty and hardship in Ireland since 1836, for more than 190 years. This funding will help provide essential financial assistance, educational supports, and offer many other support individuals and families when they need it most.

“In providing this funding, the Government ensures that SVP and Protestant Aid can continue to provide vital essentials such as food support, household and education assistance, energy and fuel supports to those most in need.

“In my view, the longevity and growth of this funding arrangement is a testament to the outstanding work carried out by both SVP and Protestant Aid in supporting individuals and families experiencing poverty and hardship. The continued investment in these organisations reflects the Government's recognition of the critical role they play in delivering trusted, community-based services that respond to both immediate needs and longer-term challenges.”

Teresa Ryan, National President of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, said:

"This grant from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht highlights the value of partnership between Government and community organisations in supporting individuals and families experiencing hardship. Through SVP's core work of confidential home visitation, our volunteers meet people where they are, listen to their needs, and provide practical support and assistance, with dignity and respect. This funding will help us reach those most in need, while also building the friendship, trust and community connections that are at the heart of SVP's mission."



Public Participation Network Westmeath

Public Participation Network (PPN) are county-based networks that allow local authorities to connect with community groups around the country.

Westmeath Public Participation Network (WPPN) is a network of more than 1,000 community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations in Co Westmeath.

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



Westmeath Public Participation Network

c/o Community Development Section

Westmeath County Council

Áras an Chontae, Mullingar Co. Westmeath

Email: ppn@westmeathcoco.ie

Contact number: 044-933-8903 / 044-933-8939

Website: Westmeathppn.ie



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