



## **Longford Public Participation Network (PPN) E-bulletin** **January 2015**

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### **1. NEWS FROM LONGFORD PPN**

#### **Welcome to the first Longford Public Participation Network E-bulletin.**

The Public Participation Network is the new structure established by Government to facilitate and support input by the community sector into decision making by local authorities and other local policy making structures.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to send us any information for inclusion in the E-bulletin on local news and events, National and EU news, funding opportunities, upcoming training and workshops or policies of relevance to the Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion or Environmental sectors. Just email Siobhan at [ppn@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:ppn@longfordcoco.ie). The PPN E-bulletin will be circulated monthly.

#### **Longford PPN update:**

90 community groups registered with the Longford PPN in October 2014. All groups were required to self-select their Electoral College i.e. Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion or Environment and also the Municipal District (MD) they belong to i.e. Longford, Granard or Ballymahon MD.

All groups were then contacted to seek nominations for a 9 member working group called the PPN Secretariat. The deadline for nominations was the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The requirements for the setup of the Secretariat were to elect a minimum of 2 Community & Voluntary, 2 Social Inclusion, 2 Environment and 1 area representative from each Municipal District. Consideration also had to be given to gender balance and geographical spread.

Once nominations were received and validated, ballot sheets for the PPN Secretariat election were sent to all registered groups. The process to select the Secretariat was by secret ballot postal vote. The deadline for return was December 17<sup>th</sup> 2014. 61 registered community groups returned valid votes. The election was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and was overseen by Longford County Council. The new elected Secretariat for the PPN is as follows:



Siobhan Cronogue, Public Participation Network c/o Community & Enterprise, Longford County Council,  
Great Water St., Longford

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**Elected Environmental Representatives:**

- Ray Hogan
- Tilla Shulte Ostermann

**Elected Social Inclusion Representatives:**

- Breda Murphy
- Seamus Orr

**Elected Community & Voluntary Representatives:**

- Joe Murphy
- Ruth Mc Garry Quinn

**Area Representative for the Ballymahon Municipal District:**

- Brendan Quigley

**Area Representative for the Granard Municipal District:**

- Tess Murphy

**Area Representative for the Longford Municipal District:**

- Connie Geraty

The purpose of the Secretariat is to administer the day to day running of the PPN, facilitate decisions and coordinate activities of the PPN.

The next elections will be for vacancies on the Local Community Development Committee and the various Strategic Policy Committees and Boards.

**If there are any *community group's* you know who are not yet registered with the Longford PPN they are invited to do so online or download at [www.longfordcoco.ie](http://www.longfordcoco.ie) , e-mail [ppn@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:ppn@longfordcoco.ie) or contact Siobhan Cronogue at 087 261 5583**

## **2. WHAT'S ON IN YOUR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT?**

### **Traditional Music Sessions around the County:**

- \*Tally Ho, New Street, Longford – 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.
- \*Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule, County Longford – Wednesday Nights every week.
- \*The Bent Elbow, Drumlish, County Longford – 8pm on Friday Nights.
- \*The 98 Bar, Ballinamuck, County Longford – Wednesday Nights.

For further information on Trad Sessions and Comhaltas Events please contact: Martin Murphy – 086 8119444

### **Granard Country Market:**

The market will reopen on Friday 16th January 2015.

**New 2 U: The SVP shop** has relocated to their spacious premises at Lower Main Street Granard. Wonderful new selection of stock with something for everyone. Come along and bag a bargain. Opening hours Fridays 10.00am to 5.00pm. Saturdays 11.00am to 5.00pm. and First Tuesday of each month from 10.00am to 5.00pm. For further information contact 085-1503985.



**Citizens Information:** An information officer from Co. Longford Citizens Information Service will attend Granard Area Action Group Information Office, Main Street, Granard each Thursday morning from 10.30am to 12.30pm starting from 8th January 2015. The service is free to all.

**Occupational First Aid Course:** A Certified Fetac Level 5 First Aid Course will commencing in late January/February in Lus na Greine Family Resource Centre, Granard. If you would like to find out more or to book a place please call to the centre or telephone 043 6660977.

**Sign Language Course:** Learn the basic skills in sign language starting on the week of the 19th January 2015 in Lus na Greine. If interested please contact the Centre on 043 6660977.

**Lus na Gréine: 'Busy bees Parent & Toddler' Group:** Meet Wednesdays' 11-12.30. Structured workshops combining play, puppet making, musical rhythms and reading stories. Tips and support for parents, Grandparents and Carers.

**Lus na Gréine Knitting Club:** Knit & Chat, share Patterns and Tips. Every Tuesday from 12 pm – 1pm in the Centre.

**Counselling & Bereavement Support, Lus Na Greine:** Available on one to one basis. Confidential and professional support so you don't have to suffer alone. Appointment through the centre.

**Other Activities at Lus Na Greine:** Social Dancing Classes: Tuesday's at 8 pm. Learn how to jive, waltz, fox trot and quickstep. Cost €10. Tai Chi: Thursday's 8pm Yoga Classes: Mondays 11 am Friday Club Seated Exercises: Fridays at 11 am. Men on the Move: Wednesdays 9.30 – 11am. Groups & Clubs continue as normal: WIT travel to Ballincarrigy Women's Group on Tuesday at 10 am all welcome. Art Club: Wednesday's 10 am – 12 pm.

**Women in Touch** - Meet every Tuesday 10 – 12 pm (Dress Design & Felting Class for next few weeks) Granard Art Club every Wednesday 10 – 12 pm. Crafters United – Thursday morning 10 am – 12 pm. Set Dancing – Monday evening 7.30 – 9.30 pm. For further information contact 043-6660977 or 087 6387827.

**North Longford Men's Group:** This Group meets weekly at the Dolmen Room Aughnaccliffe Community Centre each Friday from 12-3 pm. As it's one of the most progressive groups nationally, it offers an extensive programme to suit all men. It a socially dynamic group, where men gather and work on meaningful projects. Where they can realise their full potential and the passing on of their skills and talents is a key aspect of their work. It was established in 2004 and coordinated by EDI Centre Longford it has gone from strength to strength. It offers an open door policy. New members are most welcome. For further information contact Co ordinator Breda 043 3347515

**LCRL Rural Transport:** County Longford Rural Transport "door to door" services have spaces available for any passengers who wish to travel to their local town or village. For the local region of Granard/Abbeylara, there are 2 Friday services into Granard = via Robinstown – Abbeylara – Creevy/Cloughernal and in the afternoon = via Derragh – Killasonna – Lisryan to Granard. Our stop and departure point is from the Granard Area Action Group Office on Main Street. All enquiries to Seamus at 043-3345555 or provider John at 087-6213526.



**Senior Helpline:** Is Ireland's only confidential listening service for older people provided by older volunteers is open 365 days of the year. The helpline is open every day from 10am to 10pm. Don't be alone. Call Senior Helpline LoCall 1850 440 444. No call costs more than 30cent.

**Family Learning:** Are you an early school leaver? Are you a long time out of education? Would you like to learn a new skill? Meet new people? Have fun while learning? If so, the following programmes for 2015 start in January for parents, grandparents and carers. Courses include Child Development, Family Learning, Growing your own Vegetables, Parenting, Food Nutrition, Communications, Family Budgeting, Family Digital Photography and Supported Learning on line. Programmes are at QQI Level 1, 2 and 3. Most of the courses are for six weeks, courses are free with basic education skills given. For further information please contact Grainne on 086 8883413, telephone 043 3345609, or e-mail [longfordfamilylearning@gmail.com](mailto:longfordfamilylearning@gmail.com)

**The Ballinamuck Visitor Centre** is run by Ballinamuck Enterprise group and is manned by volunteers and anyone can visit the centre by calling (087) 205 5462/0879613312 or by emailing [1798ballunamuvk@gmail.com](mailto:1798ballunamuvk@gmail.com), it is free to visit and all are welcome

**Ballinamuck now on Facebook:** Ballinamuck is now on Facebook our pages are as follows: 1. Ballinamuck Longford, 2. 1798 visitor centre, 3. Ballinamuck walks, 4. Ballinamuck Essert Twining, 5. Ballinamuck enhancement. So why not like our pages and keep up to date!

**Fitness at Monaduff Gym** : If you are currently looking for a Fitness Class but don't know where to start, why don't you join us here in the Fitness Centre. We run group classes every Monday at 8pm & Wednesday & Friday at 7pm in Monaduff Gym beside the football pitch. Membership/Insurance costs €20 for the year (unbelievable value) and then the cost of the class is €6 per session or we do monthly prices too. We are looking for members with all fitness types. If you are looking to slim down, tone up or even maintain your physical appearance get in contact with Gabriel at the Following contacts. Phone: 087-2189517 Email: [gabrielhiggins@yahoo.ie](mailto:gabrielhiggins@yahoo.ie) Facebook/fitnesscentre

**Yoga classes, Drumlish:** continue every Thursday night in The Village Inn, Drumlish at 7.30pm. Contact 087-2868254.

**Badminton in the Community Centre, Drumlish:** every Thursday night at 9.00pm. New and previous members welcome.

**Ballinamuck Bingo:** continues every Tuesday at 8.30pm. Fun for all ages.

**Outreach work in Edgeworthstown:** The Rural Resource Worker in Longford Community Resources Ltd will carry out on-going outreach work in Edgeworthstown to support people who are unemployed. If you would like more information please contact Mary Mulvey, Longford Community Resources Ltd at 043-3345555.

**Parent and Toddler Group, Edgeworthstown:** held every Tuesday from 11am-12:30pm in The Green. Very friendly group. Everyone welcome. Contact Caroline 087 681 8083.

**Edgeworthstown Active Retirement Group:** meet every Friday from 11.30am – 1.30pm in The Green. New members welcome.



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**Ballymahon Defibrillator Group:** Provides training free of charge to Ballymahon, Forgney and Tang people and other people who have enquired to the training. They are a totally voluntary group who rely on people's good will to help them with fundraising. Their main aim for 2015 is to try and get a new AED at Innyside Filling Station and have enough funds to be able to keep their training equipment up to a high standard. Darren Mulleady, the main trainer is calling everyone to join him and do the women's mini-marathon. Men will have to dress up as women to compete. So in 2015, think local and think of Ballymahon Defibrillator Group. If you would like to join them at the Marathon please contact Darren on 086-1704394.

**Ballymahon Social Dancing** takes place every Saturday night in Cooney's Hotel from 9p.m. to 11p.m. Everyone welcome.

**Ballymahon Men's Group:** Longford Community Resources Ltd continues to support Ballymahon Men's Group. The men meet every Tuesday at 9am in Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, Dean Egan Hall, Ballymahon. Activities include gardening and computers. New members are always welcome. There is no admission charge. Refreshments are provided. If you would like more information please contact Mary Mulvey, Longford Community Resources Ltd at 043-3345555 or Rory Gallagher Bridgeways Family Resource Centre 090-6432691.

**Creative Ardagh:** Why not learn a new skill or refresh one you already have with Creative Ardagh this January?

**Tuesdays:** Loretto Cooney will be returning for a drawing and painting course starting on Tuesday 27th January from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Contact Loretto on 0868478527 to book and for further details

**Wednesdays:** French Leaving Cert Grind Club 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Starting on 14th January. Practice for your orals and prepare for your written exams with a qualified, experienced teacher/examiner in a group session. €80 for 6 classes €20 drop in. Susan Eades, M.A., H.Dip Ed, SEC oral examiner.

Adult Group French Conversation Sessions start on 14th January at 8pm.  
French conversation on current affairs, Grammar catch-up, French for holidays.  
€80 for 6 wks. or €20 p/w drop in.

**Thursday:** Toddler Creativity continues from 11am to 12 pm. €5 per child. Free tea/coffee for accompanying adult.

Elements of Art classes continue from 12.30pm to 1.30pm. €5 per person. Drop in and join in or follow us on [creativeardaghelementsofart.blogspot.com](http://creativeardaghelementsofart.blogspot.com).

**Friday:** Spanish Leaving Cert Grind Club recommences 16th January, 6.30pm to 8pm. €80 for six class block or €20 for each drop in session. New members always welcome.

**Group Special For January:** We are currently offering a Winter Woods workshop package to preschool, school or other groups. The package includes art and science in our DPSM Woodland Creations workshop and an extra drama workshop in the two hour session. Learn lots about the woods in winter - how to identify trees, where animals live, what they eat and if they hibernate then create an art piece with things you can find in the winter woods. Prices €4 per person for one



hour, €6 per person for one and a half hours or €8 per person for two hours for groups over 10. (Supervising adults free). €5 per person for one hour, €7.50 per person for one and a half hours or €10 per person for two hours for groups over 10. Contact us on 086 3027602 or [creativeardagh@gmail.com](mailto:creativeardagh@gmail.com) to arrange your visit.

And there's more...

Keep an eye out for Community Games Model making classes starting soon and don't forget you can book your own group session, school tour or birthday party with us!

Are you interested in German, Irish, Chinese, English Grind clubs or group sessions? Any subject not mentioned you would like us to organise a club for?

CREATIVE LONGFORD Craft Gallery at Ardagh Heritage and Creativity Centre is a lovely spot to browse local crafts at your leisure. Just give us a call to browse.

For more information contact Ann or Annette on [creativeardagh@gmail.com](mailto:creativeardagh@gmail.com) or 086 3027602.

**Clondra Community Association:** Art sessions for children and adults to commence at Waterways Ireland Building Clondra this New Year. Come along and paint and create or just chill and view in this scenic area. Enquiries or bookings - phone 087 615 8772. Children's' classes Saturday. Adults Wednesday mornings. €10 per class. Siblings less. Basic materials supplied with one class free when booking block of 6.

**Longford ICA:** Always looking for new members, if you would like to join or find out more about the largest Women's Group in the Country please contact the President of the Longford branch May Campbell on 086 375 1242 or visit Longford ICA [website](#) .

**\*PPN Community note:** Congratulations to all the women of Longford's ICA who recently celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Longford Voices United Community Gospel Choir (supported by LCRL)** are currently looking for new members. They will be resuming practice on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January @6.15pm in Respond House across from EDI Centre in Longford. For further information contact Ann on 087 7141733 . This is a great gathering for fun, singing and a friendly chat.

**Co Longford Citizens Information Service:** are holding a **Pensions Clinic** every Tuesday morning from 10 - 1 p.m. This service will assist clients with queries on State Contributory; Non-Contributory and Transition Pensions and will include PRSI records, calculating mixed insurance pensions and claiming a pension from another EU state or country with bi-lateral agreements. For all enquiries and to book an appointment for the pension clinic contact **Tel: 076107 5890**

**Longford Toastmasters:** Do you find it difficult to speak up in public? Do you struggle to get your point across at committee meetings, dread the thoughts of giving presentations or do everything you can to avoid providing staff evaluations? Would you like to improve your communication skills, build your self-confidence and broaden your social life in the process? Join us at Longford Toastmasters, where, regardless of your current ability, you will get whatever help and support you need to gain the skills and confidence to speak up in public. Our meetings take place in a friendly, encouraging and fun environment on the first and third Thursday of every month, in The Longford Arms at 8.20pm. Anyone over 18 is welcome, so come along and see if Longford Toastmasters suits you. Interested but still not convinced? If you would like more information



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before attending, please contact Terrie on 085 1163565 or Mary on 086 1219281 and they'll answer any questions you have. (Please note that due to how Thursdays fall in January, meetings take place on the second and fourth Thursdays for January only)

**The Peelo School of Dance Longford** is running a number of summer dance camps for Twinkle Toes & Tiny Boppers right up to 16 years+. All dance styles including Classical Ballet, Tap, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, Contemporary, Zumba and much more. For further information ring 01 6275570 or [info@peelodance.ie](mailto:info@peelodance.ie)

**East Meets West Women's Group (supported by LCRL):** are women from all nationalities, ages and backgrounds who meet every second Thursday from 11am – 12pm in the Library for a friendly chat and a cuppa. Here women can make new friends and find support while living in County Longford. This group are also a Mother/ Toddler group.

For further information please contact Yvonne on 043 33 47944

**Longford Women's Manifesto Group: Women and politics seminar 30 January at LWL**  
Longford Women's Manifesto Group and the 5050 Group are organising a seminar, 'Voices & views from the local elections 2014' which will take place at Longford Women's Link on Friday 30 January from 10am – 2pm. The seminar will focus on the experiences of women candidates in the local elections and explore what needs to change in order to get a better gender balance in the next Dáil as parties gear up for the general election. While the local elections did result in an increase in women on councils, 80% of councillors are still men. Speakers include Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher (Independent) and Cllr. Maura Hopkins (Fine Gael), Roscommon County Council, Nora Fahy (Fianna Fáil) former election candidate, Tuam, Dr. Adrian Kavanagh, Maynooth University Dept. of Geography, Claire McGing, 5050 Group and local Political Analyst, Johnny Fallon. The event is free; to register a place email: [manifesto@longfordwomenslink.org](mailto:manifesto@longfordwomenslink.org) or phone Longford Women's Link at 043-41511.

The Longford Women's Manifesto Group meet on the third Wednesday of every month at the Longford Women's Link training room. If you have an interest in your local government and issues in your community this group might be of interest to you.

**Friendly Phone Call Service calling older people in Co. Longford**

**(LCRL):** Mary Mulvey, Rural Resource Worker will be promoting the Friendly Phone Call Service to older people in County Longford. Please contact Mary at 043-3345555 if you are a group in County Longford who would like more information on the service.

The Friendly Phone Call Service is a free confidential service which provides information on local activities and services available to older people as well as an opportunity for a friendly chat. If you are feeling lonely or isolated and you would like someone to talk to, this is the service for you. The Friendly Phone Call Service can be reached at 043-3349678 from Monday–Thursday from 10:00am – 4:00pm.

**Parent & Toddler Group:** in Harmony House, Community Centre, St. Michaels Road, Longford, every Tuesday and Thursday from 11am to 1pm. Tea/ Coffee available. Why not go along for a chat while the toddlers play... Also being held in Harmony House is their **Baby Café** every Wednesdays from 11am – 1pm. For more Information contact Ola on 043 3336686



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**Line Dancing:** The Breffni Kickers Line Dancing Classes continue each Thursday night in the Breffni Arms Hotel, Arva with beginners at 8.30 pm followed by the more advanced at 9.30 pm. Come along and enjoy a night of dancing and exercise in a friendly environment

**Tarmonybarry Parent and Toddler Group** takes place every Tuesday morning from 10.30am to 12noon in Buttercups Playschool.

**GROW Meetings:** GROW Community Mental Health Movement meets in the Community Mental Health Centre, Dublin Road on Mondays at 11am. If you are anxious, isolated or depressed why not join this group and learn a practical psychology of mental health. For further info contact John on 086 8033126

**Outreach Clinic:** Mohill Family Support Centre has an outreach clinic in the Trathnona Centre on Wednesdays from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Anyone needing advice on social issues such as housing, social welfare or on community issues is welcome to drop in.

### **3. LOCAL NEWS & SERVICES:**

#### **Warmer Homes Scheme**

A reminder to check the Longford Warmer Homes Ltd website and facebook page to see if you are eligible for FREE Attic & Cavity insulation. Call 043 3393255 or visit [www.lwh.ie](http://www.lwh.ie) Longford Warmer Homes provides free attic insulation, cavity wall insulation and energy advice to elderly and disadvantaged home owners throughout the county that meet certain criteria. Longford Warmer Homes also carries out work for the elderly as part of the Care & Repair Scheme. We are trying to make people throughout Co. Longford aware that the below free service is available.

- Attic insulation;
- Draught proofing;
- Lagging jackets;
- Low energy light bulbs;
- Cavity wall insulation;
- Energy advice.

#### **Who can avail of the Scheme?**

This scheme is available to homes which meet the following criteria:

- Owner occupied, non-Local Authority homes
- Constructed before 2002
- The owner is in receipt of one of the following:
  - o Fuel Allowance as part of the National Fuel Scheme
  - o Job Seekers Allowance for over six months and with a child under seven years of age
  - o Family Income Supplement

**[Click link to download an application form:](#)**





## **Longford Volunteer Centre (Supported by LCRL)**

### **New Volunteering Opportunities**

#### **Volunteer Home Visitor – ISPCA – Longford**

We need of volunteers to help us do home checks on applicants wishing to adopt an ISPCA animal.

#### **Volunteer Support for Sporting Activities – NCBI (National Council for the Blind Ireland)**

A Male volunteer is required as a Tandem Cycling Pilot, Swimming Buddy, Partner for Canoeing and Gym buddy for someone experiencing sight loss.

2 hour commitment per week.

**Longford Sports Partnership** require volunteers for **Parkrun Longford** 5km walk/run every Saturday.

Roles include Run Director, Marshall, Timekeeper, and Scanner.

#### **One to One Volunteers** required for **St. Christopher's Day Care and Activity Centre**

Volunteers required to bring service users for a walk, or to a social event so they can participate in everyday activities.

**Ladybird, Brownie, and Girl Guide Leaders** required for **Irish Girl Guides**, in Clondra, Ardagh and Longford Town

Volunteers required for 2 hours a week to lead a program of activities for young girls. Full training and material provided.

**Adult Leaders** required for **Foroige** in Augnaccliffe, Legan, Ballmahon and Mullinalaghta

To co-ordinate activities with teenagers on a Friday evening during school term. The club starts at 7pm.

For more information on these volunteering opportunities please contact

[angela@volunteerlongford.ie](mailto:angela@volunteerlongford.ie) (087 75947700) or log on to

<http://www.volunteerlongford.ie/index.php/volunteers/volunteer-vacancies>

### **Garda Vetting**

Garda Vetting is changing in 2015.....

You may be aware of the new Garda Vetting bill - [National Vetting Bureau \(Children and Vulnerable Persons\) Act 2012](#) which was due to commence in November 2014. Unfortunately the date of commencement has been pushed out to Spring 2015, due to a number of amendments which need approval and finalisation by the Oireachtas.

To ensure you are fully trained and to answer all of your questions and concerns - Longford Volunteer Centre plans to run full Garda Vetting training workshops to cover all aspects of the new legislation and E-vetting system as soon as is practical following the launch of e-vetting and commencement of the legislation. For queries on Garda Vetting, Please contact Terri on 087 2915367

Or email [Terri@volunteerlongford.ie](mailto:Terri@volunteerlongford.ie)

### **Volunteer Managers Forum**



Siobhan Cronogue, Public Participation Network c/o Community & Enterprise, Longford County Council,  
Great Water St., Longford

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The next Volunteer Managers Forum will take place on Wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am in AbbeyCarton FC, Abbeycarton, Longford

This forum is a support to Volunteer Managers who may be experiencing challenges in their work. It is also a good networking and idea sharing opportunity for Volunteer Managers.

To book your place please contact Angela [angela@volunteerlongford.ie](mailto:angela@volunteerlongford.ie) (087 75947700)

Contact Details for Longford Volunteer Centre:

Terri on 087 2915367 (Mon-Wed) or Angela 087 7594770 (Wed- Fri)

Longford Volunteer Centre,

6 Earl Street,

Longford

Mobile 087 7594770

[www.volunteerlongford.ie](http://www.volunteerlongford.ie)

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Twitter: [www.twitter.com/volunteerlvc](http://www.twitter.com/volunteerlvc)

#### **4. THE GATHERING IRELAND**

2013/2014 saw the successful delivery of many Gathering Events throughout Ireland. 2015 also has a lot to offer over sea visitors. The PPN E-Bulletin will keep you up to date with what's on throughout the Country so you can share this information with relatives or friends who may be planning their next holiday here. Listed below are just some events being held nationwide for January/ February:

##### **Donegal Gathering 2015:**

**[LETTERKENNY TRAD WEEK 2015](#)**

**10th – 17th January 2015, Letterkenny**

**[TRANSATLANTIC CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE](#)**

**15th – 18th January 2015, Bundoran**

**[THE ANNUAL BURNS SUPPER AT HARVEY'S POINT](#)**

**23rd – 24th January 2015, Harvey's Point Hotel**

##### **Dublin 2015:**

**[Temple Bar TradFest 2015](#)**

**28 Jan - 1 Feb 2015 in Temple Bar, Co. Dublin**

2015 will mark the 10th year of TradFest - a festival based in Dublin's Temple Bar, showcasing the full spectrum of traditional & folk music in some of Dublin's most unique venues.

2015 will mark the 10th year of TradFest - a festival based in Dublin's Temple Bar, showcasing the full spectrum of traditional & folk music in some of Dublin's most unique venues.

The Festival presents both established and up and coming artists, giving new voices a chance to be heard as part of this internationally renowned musical celebration, as well as offering a full programme of events suitable for families.

The festival's line up is shaping up to be one of its strongest ever, with a roll-call of trad legends and new artists who are reinventing their genres.



Acts include Sweeney's Men, Liam O' Flynn, Paddy Glackin & Neil Martin, Levellers, Hot House Flowers, The Undertones, Beoga & Big Band, Daná, Matt Molloy, John Carty & Arty McGlynn, Mick Flannery, Irish Concertina Ensemble, Cara Dillon & Band, DeBarra, Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman, Karine Polwart, Marc O'Reilly & The Hard Ground and many more.

Read more about [Temple Bar TradFest 2015](#)

### **Merrion Square Open Air Art Exhibition**

The fence around Merrion Square doubles as a display railing on summer weekends in an outdoor display of local art similar to New York's Greenwich Village or Paris's Montmartre. Permits are given only to local artists to sell their own work, so this is a chance to "meet-an-artist" as well as to browse or buy.

*Location:* Merrion Square. West, Dublin 2.

*Opening Hours:* Saturday-Sunday 10:30am-6pm

*Admission:* Free.

More Information: <http://www.merrionart.com/>

### **Music for Galway Midwinter Festival**



**16th - 18th January 2015**

Music for Galway's Midwinter Festival returns to the Town Hall Theatre in January to celebrate classical music with a three day midwinter festival.

more info: [www.musicforgalway.ie](http://www.musicforgalway.ie)

### **Galway Astronomy Festival**



**21st February 2015**

Oscar Wilde reminds us that although we are all in the gutter, some of us are looking at the stars. The Galway Astronomy Festival now in its 11th year, has become one of the most popular events in Ireland of the Irish astronomical calendar, where amateurs and professionals meet, essential for exchanging information, successful stargazing and mutual progress. We look forward to seeing you, hopefully under clear skies.

more info: <http://galwayastronomyclub.ie>



## Five suggested options along the Wild Atlantic Way.

Perched on the edge of Europe, the Wild Atlantic Way offers hundreds of stunning circular and linear treks - for both beginner and those looking for a little more challenge! Outstanding scenic treks with views of epic cliffs and thundering surf on deserted beaches await you or looped hikes on isolated islands offering ocean views - the choice is yours. Get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life, fill your lungs with fresh air and then stop off in a village pub for the creamiest of pints and liveliest of traditional music. Warning! The only difficulty is deciding which spectacular hike to choose from.

**Alapechian Trail** is a linear trail in the most north western corner of Ireland covering over one hundred kilometres. Rocky, boggy and remote, enjoy the 360 panoramic views of lush green landscapes, jagged coastlines, barren cliffs and empty beaches. On this wild, rugged and remote trail you will be surrounded by imposing mountains, costal scenery and tranquil lakes. There is space to breathe and really get away from it all.

**Diamond Hill**, located in the spectacular Connemara National Park. Choose from the Upper or Lower Diamond Hill trail - both of these way-marked trails wind through heather, bog and grasslands. They invite you to amazing panoramic views of distant harbours, hidden bays, secret inlets, and clusters of desolate islands dotted in the Atlantic Ocean. Easily navigable, the trails offer a tranquil few hours amongst birdlife, coastal scenery and some of the best seascapes of Connemara.

**Doolin Cliff Walk** is a 20 kilometre coastal cliff path that leads you over the magnificent coastal Cliffs of Moher. Rising to 214 metres, relish the breath-taking ocean views of the Aran Islands and Galway Bay. Listen to the crashing waves and thundering surf below. But keep your eye on the track because this challenging and seaward demanding trail is not for the faint hearted! The sea cliff walk will lead you to the intimate village of Doolin, world famous for its traditional Irish music, craic and fun.

**Beara Way** is a 196 km circuit of the south western Beara Peninsula. Dotted with archaeological and historical sites, the peninsula is shrouded in mystical legends. Stop off at stone circles and ring forts, then pause to overlook spectacular off shore islands. Along the route, pass empty beaches and traditional fishing harbours. Wind your way down narrow roads that will lead you to the door of some of the country's finest eateries.

**Sheep's Head** is tucked into the southern western corner of Ireland. Sheep's Head is one of the remotest hiking spots on the Wild Atlantic Way, covering a total circuit of 88kms. This isolated ridge juts out 21 kilometres into the fierce Atlantic coast. Both short and long loops offer wild scenery, picturesque loughs and wild coastal views and trails pass through deserted famine settlements, lush farmland and heather filled fields.

For further information on exhilarating hikes and gentle strolls available click [here](#):

## 5. [National News](#)

### RTÉ'S The Today Show is looking for local heroes

RTÉ'S The Today Show wants to celebrate the Local Hero in your community. This could be anyone from the life saving doctor to the jersey washer of the local GAA Club. Is there a member of your community that goes that extra mile?



RTÉ wants to reach out to community groups and local newspapers and find the local hero in parishes throughout Ireland and celebrate them on the Today show.

Nominate your local hero by [emailing the show](#) telling them who you wish to nominate, why you are nominating them and your contact details.

RTÉ will be celebrating your Local Heroes on the **Today Show from January 2015**

**To nominate someone please email us at: [louise.hynes@rte.ie](mailto:louise.hynes@rte.ie) or [today@rte.ie](mailto:today@rte.ie)**

## **Green-Schools in Ireland**

Green-Schools in Ireland is operated and coordinated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce (FEE member for Ireland), in partnership with Local Authorities throughout the country, is supported by the [Department of Environment, Community and Local Government](#), the [Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport](#) and is sponsored by the [Wrigley Company Ltd.](#)

Over 3,800 primary, secondary and special schools in Ireland (>93% of all Irish schools) are currently participating part in the programme and 2991 schools have been awarded the Green Flag. The Irish Green-Schools programme is one of the most successful within the international network. One of the main factors in the success of the Irish Green-Schools programme is the partnership between the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce and Local Authorities i.e. the financial and time contribution of the Local Authorities to the programme. Most of the Local Authorities (City & County Councils) have an Environmental Education Officer (EEO). These officers provide the invaluable on the ground support to schools undertaking the programme.

Green-Schools is a themed and seven-step programme.

- [Find out more about the Green-Schools Themes](#)
- [Find out more about the Seven Steps](#)
- [Find out how to get involved](#)

## **Irish Tourism 2015 – The Year Ahead**

Expectations within the tourism sector for 2015 are very positive. After two years of strong growth, the industry enters this year with a belief that this trend will be sustained.

Almost all (99%) accommodation providers expect the same or increased tourist volumes next year with four out of five of these businesses citing the maintenance of the 9% VAT rate as a positive factor affecting anticipated performance.

Hotels are the most optimistic with more than eight out of ten expecting to increase their volume of business in 2015. Within this calculation, there are high expectations for both the domestic and overseas markets, especially the North American market, where many (57%) hoteliers expect to see increased tourists in 2015 on top of two years of rising numbers. Maintenance of the 9% VAT is



particularly seen as significant to competitiveness in the hotel sector where the vast majority (86%) of operators point to this as a likely positive factor for their performance in 2014.

With almost two thirds (63%) expecting increased volumes and one third (35%) anticipating similar levels of business, guesthouses are also expecting a good out-turn in 2015 - particularly from North America.

Even the B&B sector, which was particularly affected by the downturn, is now much more upbeat with two thirds (66%) of operators expecting increased business in 2015 – continuing the turnaround in sentiment seen last year. This brighter outlook is underpinned by performance in overseas markets in 2014, especially Europe and US, where the authentic Irish offering of a B&B still holds a strong appeal.

Restaurants based in traditional tourism regions experienced a significant increase in overseas customers during 2014 following a number of difficult years. Now, four out of five restaurants are expecting growth in volumes during 2015. Not surprisingly, the retention of the 9% VAT rate is also cited as crucial by the restaurant sector as it helps restaurants to offer better value at a time when many customers have lower disposable income. Eight out of ten (81%) restaurateurs say that the VAT rate will be a positive factor for 2015.

Tourism developments are also colouring the outlook for 2015. Two in five businesses nationally are very optimistic about the anticipated benefits that the Wild Atlantic Way will bring as it is further developed and promoted at home and abroad. It is no surprise to find that this is particularly true in western regions, where this proportion rises to over 60%.

Looking at the bottom line, 82% of those businesses who regularly work with Fáilte Ireland expect to increase their earnings from overseas tourists next year. Plus, some 78% expect to see improved profitability.

However, some concerns still linger and it should be noted that low cost competition and fuel and energy costs are the biggest worries for tourism businesses facing into 2015 – mentioned respectively by 57% and 53% of accommodation providers.

For further information please visit [www.failteireland.ie](http://www.failteireland.ie)

## 6. [EU NEWS](#)

### **Commissioner Hogan vows to tackle supply chain profit-taking**

Speaking in Dublin today (6 January 2015) at an event to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the IFA, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan, said that he is determined to tackle the problems in the food supply chain which mean that consumers pay too much for groceries and farmers pay too much for inputs such as fertiliser, even at a time of falling oil and gas prices.

"How is it that even though crude oil prices have fallen by 45% since last June, and gas is doing the same, I see that fertiliser prices are going up by 7% in 2015? All players in the food chain must realise that producers must get a decent return for raw material". Commissioner Hogan plans to meet with the EU's Competition Commission, Margrethe Vestager, who will investigate any breaches of competition law. He went on to say that he thought that the current scope of the EU



Supply Chain Initiative was at present too narrow to deal with all suppliers who extract unjustified high profit margins.

The Commissioner also pointed out that agriculture, fisheries and forestry are responsible for almost a third of the new jobs created, or 27,000 jobs in 2013: "The agri-food sector, one of our few real indigenous industries, has contributed more than any other to the recovery. In 2013 alone, 61,000 new jobs were created in Ireland – agriculture, forestry and fisheries contributed 30% or almost 27,000 jobs."

### **Better protection for victims of domestic violence anywhere in the EU**

As of this Sunday, victims of violence - notably those who have suffered domestic violence or stalking – will be able to guarantee themselves better protection in any EU Member State. The new rules mean that restraining, protection and barring orders issued in one Member State are now quickly and easily recognisable across the EU through simple certification.

"Rights of the victims of violence will now be guaranteed outside their own country too, wherever they are in Europe", said Věra Jourová, the EU's Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. "In the EU, an estimated one in five women face violence at some point in their life and unfortunately most often this physical violence comes from someone close to the person, such as their partner."

A citizen who has suffered domestic abuse will now be able to feel safe to travel outside their home country – by simply transferring the order that protects them from the offender. Previously, victims would have to go through complex procedures to get their protection recognised in other EU Member States – and enter a different procedure for certification in each country. Now, such protection orders will be easily recognised in any EU Member State, meaning a citizen who has suffered violence can travel without having to go through burdensome procedures.

"The new procedure will mean that women or men who suffer violence can have the protection they deserve and go on with their lives. They will be able to choose to live in another EU Member State or to travel on holiday without fearing for their safety," Věra Jourová added.

The new mechanism consists of two separate instruments: the Regulation on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters and the Directive on the European Protection Order. Together, the two instruments will ensure that all victims of violence have the possibility to get their protection orders recognised in any EU Member State. The mechanisms reflect the differences in the Member States' national protection measures, which can be of civil, criminal or administrative nature. The rules together will ensure free circulation of the most common types of protection measures within the EU.

### **More support needed for victims**

The need for support and protection of victims is backed up by a report published today by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), which concludes that more targeted victim support services are needed in the EU. Despite improvements, challenges remain for victim support services in many Member States. Specific suggestions for improvement include ensuring victims have access to targeted support services - including trauma support and counselling, removing bureaucratic



hurdles for victims to legal aid, and ensuring people have information about their rights and the services available.

The European Commission is committed to improving the rights of the 75 million people that become victims of crime each year. In 2012, an EU directive setting minimum standards for the rights, support and protection of victims across the EU became law (IP/12/1066) and will become binding on Member States by 16 November 2015. With measures such as the EU-wide protection orders that apply as of Sunday, and the minimum rights for victims, the European Commission is working to strengthen the rights of persons who fall victims to crime wherever they are from, and wherever in the EU they should fall victim to crime.

### **Innovative Irish SMEs awarded share of €117 million in Commission SME grants**

Four Irish Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) have been awarded European Commission funding of €8.5 million (up to €2.5 million each) for innovation and development of their business plans.

**Biosensia Limited** (Dublin, Nova UCD), **INNOPHARMA** (Dublin), **Radisens Diagnostics Limited** (Cork), and **SIGMOID** (Dublin, The Invent Centre DCU) are among 78 SMEs from 18 countries selected by the European Commission in this funding round (Phase 2) worth €108 million. Grantees are also entitled to benefit from up to 12 days of business coaching.

A further five Irish SMEs: **CLIMOTE Ltd** (Dundalk), **Esave Corporation Ltd** (Dublin), **Schwungrad Energie Ltd** (Dublin), **SSIM** (Limerick), and **Vitalograph(Ireland) Ltd** (Limerick) have been successful in securing €50,000 to finance feasibility studies (Phase 1) in a separate stage of funding worth €9 million. They can also request up to three days of business coaching. These companies follow [10 Irish companies](#) that were successful in the first round of feasibility study funding, announced in November last year.

These are the latest results of calls under the new €3 billion SME Instrument, launched under Horizon 2020 to help innovative small firms get ideas from the lab to the market and help generate growth and jobs for Europe. This new funding brings the total amount from the SME Instrument so far destined for innovative companies to €125 million.

Over 275 innovative SMEs are on track to receive a total of €117 million in new grants from Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation funding programme. The Commission received 580 project proposals involving 785 SMEs by the first cut-off date of Horizon 2020's SME Instrument programme Phase 2 (9 October 2014). Evaluation by independent experts showed that 132 of the proposals met the evaluation standard. 59% have been selected for funding.

Since the launch of the programme on 1st January 2014, 333 projects involving 361 SMEs have been selected for EU grants under Phase 1 of the SME Instrument, totalling €16.7 million. Together with Phase 2 funding, this amounts to almost €125 million so far from the SME Instrument on track to support innovative companies.

### **Background**







With a budget of nearly €80 billion over seven years, Horizon 2020 is the biggest ever EU research and innovation programme and envisages record funding for SMEs. At least 20%, or nearly €9 billion from Horizon 2020's 'leadership in industrial technologies' and 'societal challenge' pillars, is expected to benefit SMEs directly in the form of grants, including via the SME Instrument.

Through the SME Instrument, the European Union wants to finance the most innovative small companies with a high growth potential. The Instrument is worth around €3 billion over seven years and offers fast and simple grants for business innovation feasibility studies (Phase 1) and demonstration projects (Phase 2). Investment-mature concepts can, in addition, benefit from business development advice and other support services (Phase 3).

The application process is easy but only the very best projects can expect to receive funding. Eligible topics are set out in the Horizon 2020 Work Programme on 'Innovation in SMEs'. SMEs from EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon 2020 can apply. In 2014 and 2015 more than 1,300 projects will be supported under the SME Instrument.

### For more information

Participant Portal – lists of beneficiaries in [Phase 1](#)  and [Phase 2](#)   
[Map](#) of SME Instrument beneficiaries  
[SME Instrument](#)

## 7. UPCOMING TRAINING/WORKSHOPS

### Understanding And Taking Charge Of Your Mental Health



SOS in partnership with  
**Longford Mental Health Association,**  
is hosting a **Wellness Workshop**  
on **Monday, 2nd February** in  
**The Longford Arms Hotel, Main Street,**  
Longford Town from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Suicide or Survive is committed to running Wellness Workshops in every community in Ireland. These workshops aim to help you understand and take responsibility for your own mental health.

The workshop can be of benefit to anyone who is interested in looking after their mental health and wellness.

The workshop is informal and relaxed. It is facilitated by people with both lived-life experience of mental health difficulties and experience of working in the mental health area. They combine personal testimony with practical tools



and tips that you can use in your everyday life to improve your own wellbeing.

Throughout the day the workshop will look at topics such as relaxation, mindfulness, stress management, our thinking process and how to develop a wellness toolkit and daily wellness plan. A full comprehensive workbook to support you in maintaining your daily wellness can be purchased at the Workshop at a cost of €10 (€5 unwaged).

[Early booking is advisable. Contact Jacqui or Lisa Tel: Lo Call 1890 577 577](#)

[www.suicideorsurvive.ie](http://www.suicideorsurvive.ie)

Evaluated by Trinity College Dublin. In partnership with the National Office of Suicide Prevention, the Iris O'Brien Foundation and Fundraisers.

## EDI Centre

### Free Training Opportunities:

Would you be interested in an introduction to digital photography, sending/receiving emails, using social media, using apps, buying tickets and on-line banking? Longford EDI Centre is running an 8 hour basic computer course which can be delivered mornings, afternoons or evenings. To avail of this great opportunity contact Bernie or Amanda at 043 3347515 or email [infocentre@ericom.net](mailto:infocentre@ericom.net)

### IT – 4 –today (Trade Unions supporting Learning)

#### Free 1 day computer basics course:

8 hrs of IT training

Eligible to attend if you are:

- Aged 55 OR OVER
- Unemployed
- Experiencing disadvantage
- Without any recognised formal education or
- Have none or some computer experience

To apply, contact **Bernie** or **Mary** in the **EDI Centre on 043 33 47515**

During this one day session, you will learn how to use a computer including: send/receive email, use social media, use of Apps, introduction to digital photography, perform simple online transactions; such as book a ticket, pay a bill, online banking and introduction to safety & security online.

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### Career Planning Programme

This six week programme five mornings per week- from 9.30 – 1.30, offers assistance to unemployed and other target groups to re-enter the work force through training & employment supports. Programme consists of - Skill sampling, personal development, career guidance, IT training, one to one support, Limited place available, Confined to people in receipt of a payment from Department of Social Protection (Unemployment or Disability payment) To register for this programme Contact the Centre.

**The EDI Centre currently runs two FAS Local Training Initiative projects (LTI's).**



Siobhan Cronogue, Public Participation Network c/o Community & Enterprise, Longford County Council,  
 Great Water St., Longford

**REVAMP Training Project**

Pilot Youth Project by Dept of Social & Family Affairs identified youth at risk of long-term unemployment from welfare dependent homes, with little motivation, early school leavers, some with literacy problems. Mainstream education or training not relevant to their needs. Lack of suitable local training initiatives.

Pre-Employment identified Furniture Restoration as viable carrot to attract trainees to broader training. FAS Community Training Initiative was established in Dec 2002. First two programmes were 26 weeks long, now they are 48 weeks with continuous enrolment. In the first 5 years 70% of trainees progressed into full time work.

<p><b>Apprenticeship, Education or Training.</b>          This is a 48 week LTI for long-term unemployed persons providing FETAC accredited training in areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application of Number</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Career Preparation</li> <li>• Computer Literacy</li> <li>• Upholstery</li> <li>• Woodwork</li> <li>• Tiling</li> <li>• Personal and Interpersonal Skills</li> <li>• Personal Effectiveness</li> <li>• Work Experience</li> <li>• Word Processing</li> <li>• Internet Skills</li> <li>• Health and Safety Awareness</li> </ul>	<p><b>Catering/Life Skills Programme</b>          This is a 26 week LTI for long-term unemployed persons providing FETAC accredited training in areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application of Number</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Career Preparation</li> <li>• Computer Literacy</li> <li>• Personal and Interpersonal Skills</li> <li>• Personal Effectiveness</li> <li>• Work Experience</li> <li>• Culinary Operations</li> <li>• Restaurant Service</li> <li>• Bread, Pastry and Desserts</li> </ul>
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**FREE JOB SEARCH SERVICE**

Every Thursday from 10am to 1pm..The EDI Centre can help you with:

- CV's
- Job Applications
- Interview Skills
- Training Opportunities
- Career Advice

The EDI Centre provides a range of services to support unemployed people including information on employment rights, entitlements, training and education with access to computer facilities.

For further information, Contact the EDI Centre on 043 33 47515

E-mail: [infocentre@eircom.net](mailto:infocentre@eircom.net) / Website: [www.Edilongford.ie](http://www.Edilongford.ie)

**White Goods Training**

'Appliance Repair and Recycling Project' is the latest training programme undertaken by the EDI Centre. A 12 week training programme for 10 jobseekers has been designed and is being delivered by a qualified local Electro Mechanical Engineer who is also an experienced tutor. The programme is approved and funded by Skillnet. Washing machines, dishwashers, dryers, cookers, heaters, microwaves and small electrical etc are all part of the items which are worked on in the programme.



## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

### Free Education Courses

Would you like to learn more about Gardening, Woodwork, Working with Childcare, Cookery Food and Nutrition, Turning on the computer, using the computer for learning on line? If the answer is yes and you are a parent, grandparent, child carer, early school leaver or a long time out of education, call or text Grainne 086 8883413, also email [Longfordfamilylearning@gmail.com](mailto:Longfordfamilylearning@gmail.com). Courses are free and basic education skills.

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### Longford Women's Link

#### FETAC Level 5 – Occupational First Aid

Date: Tuesday: 3, 10, 17 February 2015

Time: 9.00am to 5.00pm

Venue: Longford Women's Link

It is essential to attend all 3 dates.

Cost: 210 euro.

Class is limited to 10 participants – Tea/Coffee provided

A 50 euro non-refundable deposit is required to secure a place on this course. Full course fees should be paid prior to the start of course.

If you have any further queries or require a booking form, please contact -  
Pamela Latimer – Education and Training - Business Development Manager

Email: [pamelalatimer@longfordwomenslink.org](mailto:pamelalatimer@longfordwomenslink.org)

Tel: 043 33 41511

Mobile: 087 205 8152

## 8. FUNDING

### GIY Get Ireland Growing Fund in partnership with AIB, 2015



Developed by GIY in partnership with AIB, to encourage food growing projects community groups, schools and not-for-profit initiatives seeking financial assistance to develop their food growing project. Over 100 community food growing projects were funded with grants of between €500 and €2,500 in 2014.



The GIY Get Ireland Growing fund is open to community groups, schools, Allotments with Communal space, Community gardens and not-for-profits looking to develop or enhance an existing community food-growing initiative. Schools can apply for training services or equipment that will allow students to grow their own fruit or vegetables.

### **Criteria**

The Get Ireland Growing Fund is aimed at supporting community food growing initiatives from the following organisation types:

- 1) Community and voluntary groups
- 2) NGOs and not-for-profits
- 3) Community gardens and allotment projects
- 4) Schools

The Get Ireland Growing Fund is aimed at promoting food growing in the community. The projects should have a significant promotional and community outreach element (that is, encouraging more people to grow their own food). The projects should be new or a significant enhancement of an existing project (i.e. funding will not be provided to retrospectively fund work already carried out). We are particularly interested in projects that will use community food growing to:

- Improves the quality of life for participants
- Provides a catalyst for neighbourhood and community development
- Stimulates Social Interaction
- Encourages Self-Reliance
- Beautifies Neighbourhoods
- Produces Nutritious Food
- Reduces Family Food Budgets
- Conserves Resources
- Creates opportunity for recreation, exercise, therapy, and education
- Preserves Green Space
- Creates income opportunities and economic development
- Provides opportunities for intergenerational and cross-cultural connections

### **How to apply**

The application form is available [here](#)

Closing date for all applications is **Friday January 23rd 2015 at 5pm**

Late applications will not be considered.

Any queries please email [info@giyinternational.org](mailto:info@giyinternational.org)

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## **Irish Research Council**

### **Postgraduate Funding**



## About

- The Employment Based Postgraduate Programme provides funding for companies to employ high-calibre Researchers to work onsite with them on product, service or process innovations.
- The Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme supports suitably qualified Research Masters and Doctoral candidates pursuing or intending to pursue full-time research in any discipline.
- The Enterprise Partnership Scheme offers researchers the opportunity to gain additional beneficial experience and insight into the commercial arena while completing their research.

## Links

[Employment Based Postgraduate Programme 2015](#)

[Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship 2015](#)

[Enterprise Partnership Scheme](#)

### Registering as an Applicant for the first time:

- Add the [ircapps@research.ie](mailto:ircapps@research.ie) email address to your contacts/address book **BEFORE** you attempt the registration process.
- Click on the following link to take you to the '[Applicant registration page](#)'

Applicants who have previously applied to IRCSET schemes **do not need** to register with the Online Application System (OLS) before proceeding as their original profile will be used. Applicants who have previously applied to IRCHSS but not to IRC schemes **need** to register with the Online Application System (OLS) before proceeding.

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## Literature bursary award

Closing date	<b>17:30, Thursday 22 January 2015</b>
Maximum awarded	€15,000
Artform and practice(s)	Literature
Applicant type	Individual Artist
Telephone	01 61 80 200



Email [awards@artscouncil.ie](mailto:awards@artscouncil.ie)

### **Purpose of the award**

The purpose of the award is to support professional artists to develop their art practice. It provides artists with the time and resources to think, research, reflect and critically engage with their art.

**Please note:** individuals who were awarded a Literature Bursary in 2014 or individuals awarded a two-year or three-year bursary in 2013 or 2012 respectively will not be eligible to apply. An applicant who submits to this funding round will not be eligible to apply again for a Literature Bursary Award in the subsequent round in 2016.

### **Information clinic**

The Arts Council will hold an information clinic in the **Irish Writers' Centre** to offer advice and information on the application process.

The clinic will be held on **Wednesday 14 January at 7pm** in the Irish Writers' Centre, 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

The clinic will cover the following topics:

- The purpose of the Literature Bursary Award
- Who and what is eligible
- The application process - online services
- The application form
- Essential supporting material
- Budgets
- The assessment process
- Terms and conditions
- Common mistakes to avoid
- Questions and answers

### **To book a place at the clinic**

Places on the clinic are free but participants must confirm their attendance to [jennifer.lawless@artscouncil.ie](mailto:jennifer.lawless@artscouncil.ie) before Friday 9 January 2015.

All applications must be made through the [online services website](#). You will be able to upload a wide range of support materials in electronic format along with your application form



You must be registered with the online services website to make an application. If you are not already registered, we recommend you [register for online services](#) as far in advance of the deadline as possible, as it may take five days for your online services registration to be processed.

## **Culture Ireland Grants – 2014-2015 Deadlines Community Arts Partnership (CAP)** **2014/2015 Dates and Deadlines for Culture Ireland Grant Rounds**

Please note Culture Ireland has set funding rounds and deadlines for 2015. There will be three funding rounds in 2015 and separate calls for showcasing opportunities and Edinburgh Festivals will be announced during the year.

Application Deadline | Timing of Project/Event | Decision Due

15 October 2014 | January 2015 onwards | Early December

15 February 2015 | May 2015 onwards | Early April

15 June 2015 | September 2015 onwards | Early August

15 October 2015 | January 2016 onwards | Early December

For further information please visit <http://comartspartner.org>

**[Explore over 800 funding schemes on Fundingpoint](#)**

**Want to heighten the profile of your Community Group! 😊**

**Then why not send us along a short piece for inclusion in next month's PPN Ebulletin!**

**Is your group holding an event or has your group news you would like to share with the wider Longford Community?**

***Then why not promote it in this Ebulletin?***

Just email, post or call to us (contact info above)

**For inclusion in the February edition of the PPN EBulletin**

**Compiled by**

**Siobhan Cronogue**

**c/o Community & Enterprise, Longford County Council, Great Water St., Longford.**

**Phone: 087 2615583; E-mail: [ppn@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:ppn@longfordcoco.ie)**

*Sources: EU News, DOECLG, Fáilte Ireland, Longford Co. Council, Longford Leader and other sources with many thanks!*