

From: Suzanne O'Connor [soconnor@laoiscoco.ie]
Sent: 20 March 2019 09:47
To: O'Connor Suzanne
Subject: BeeFree Template Test



March 2019 Newsletter.



Meet a Member Organisation



Midlands ISL Learners

Midlands ISL Learners is a voluntary community organisation that seeks to bridge the gap between the Deaf and Hearing communities. We aim to make our community a more inclusive and Deaf Friendly place to live.

Our goal is to create awareness, promote ISL and to ensure that Deaf/Hard of Hearing children and adults can work, live and play side by side with their Hearing peers without communication difficulties, whether that be in school, attending their GP or Hairdresser or ordering their food in a restaurant

Our courses and classes are focused more on the enjoyment of learning a unique and wonderfully vibrant language and the fun that is had within our groups, where the history of the Deaf Community and Deaf Culture are acknowledged, discussed and illustrated. This not only helps families of those who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing communicate with each other, and others in their community, but it also creates stronger, lasting and deep rooted bonds between the members, which in turn spills out to our community and the outside world.

Midlands ISL Learners opened its doors in March 2017 with 5 members, and as of January 2019, there are approximately 120 members of Midlands ISL Learners, participating in our classes every week, and two primary schools. We currently have a long waiting list of people hoping to get involved with our organisation.

The impact of Midlands ISL Learners is already visible in our community. Gardai can communicate in ISL with Deaf community members, Cafe Staff can take orders from their Deaf Customers in ISL, and even some of our politicians can now approach their constituents in ISL. Transition Year students are using their learning with us as part of their efforts to achieve a Gaisce Award and children who are attending our classes have started ISL clubs in their schools which creates an inclusive and welcoming environment for other children who may have hearing difficulties.

Midlands ISL Learners will have an impact on, help and support an entire community, no matter what age, race, background, religion, social status or ability.

Upcoming Events



Funding & Resources Workshop for Community Groups **2019**

LAOIS PPN INVITES YOU

To our Funding & Resources
Workshop for all Community
Groups in Laois.

Time: 5pm - 9pm

Date: Monday 25th March
Venue: Midlands Park Hotel,
Portlaoise.

Light Food and Refreshments will be served

Contact Suzanne on

057-8665661

ppn@laoiscoco.ie

PosterMyWall.com

Come see what you can avail of:

- * GRANTS
- * TRAINING
- * RECOURCES ETC

& meet like minded groups

Be part of your local forum



Find out more: [Laois Local Forum Dates Below](#)

Laois Local Forum:

Venue: Triogue Centre, Bridge Street, Portlaoise

Time: 6.00 p.m. – 7.45 p.m. *(No booking required)*

Dates: **Thursday 28th March 2019**
Thursday 25th April 2019
Thursday 23rd May 2019

Contact: 0873761552 mhengage.mlm@hse.ie

Website: www.hse.ie/mentalhealthengagement

**Open Meetings held monthly - New members always welcome
For People using Mental Health Services, Family Members, Carers**



Easter Art Camps

Looking for some creative fun for children over the Easter break..... Explore Pop up Art and craft workshops with artist Cathy Whelan for ages 7-10 years at Laois Arthouse, Stradbally. From Tuesday 23rd to Thursday 25th April from 11am-1pm. 'Enjoy creative crafts over three fun filled Easter workshops. On day one and day two children will learn to work with clay using hand building and sculpting techniques. Day three will explore fabric and fibre including felting techniques.' Organised by the Arts Office, Laois County Council. Fee €15 per child. Booking essential as spaces are limited T: 057 8664033/13 or email artsoff@laoiscoco.ie

Over the month of July the Laois Summer Arts Programme will run a series of workshops for children and young people over 3 days in venues around county Laois. Register your interest and we will send you the brochure E: artsoff@laoiscoco.ie or call 057 866 4033/13.

Easter Art and Craft workshops with artist Cathy Whelan at Laois Arthouse, Stradbally



- Day 1 & 2 work with clay using hand building & sculpting
- Day 3 Explore fabric and fibre to include felting techniques

Tues 23rd to Thur 25th April

Workshops: From 11am-1pm

Age 7 to 10 years

Fee €15

Limited numbers



For more information or to book your place please contact:

Arts Office, Laois County Council

057 8664033/13

Email: artsoff@laoiscoco.ie



VOMI CULTURAL FUSION FESTIVAL



Child-friendly before 9pm



Dance to Music by DJ Cole
10pm - 1am
Cash Bar



Experience Other Cultures at

VOMI C. F

Singing; Dancing
Zambian, Irish,
Lithuanian,
Zimbabwean, Nigerian
traditional dance;
African Drumming
Zambian Traditional
food exhibition.

20 APRIL 2019

7PM – 1AM

Venue: The Killeslin
Hotel, Dublin Rd,
Portlaoise, Co. Laois

Céad Mile Fáilte!

Tickets @ €10

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/o/voice-of-migrants-ireland-17551461185>
OR buy a ticket for someone in need.



E: voiceofmigrants2018@gmail.com

M: 089 254 6155





LAOIS SPORTS PARTNERSHIP
COMHAR SPÓIRT NA LAOISE

— SPORT IRELAND —

Safeguarding Training for Child Protection in Sport

Schedule 2019 (Jan - June)

Safeguarding 1:

- 28th of Feb
- 28th of March
- 30th of May

Safeguarding 2:

- 2nd of May

Safeguarding 3:

- 27th of June



Venue: Portlaoise Parish Centre

Time: 6.30 - 9.30pm

Course Fee: €18 per person

Certification: Sport Ireland

(participant details will be registered on national database)

**** please note that course dates are subject to change,
pre-booking required through EVENTBRITE****

For more info call 057 8671248.

See www.laoissports.ie and our facebook page for Eventbrite
booking links



SPORT IRELAND
LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS



European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland
in association with the European Commission
Representation in Ireland invite you to a
Citizen's Dialogue workshop



Have your say!

“What is the role of the EU in supporting a more equal society?”

Almost 113 million people, or over 22% of the EU population, are at risk poverty and social exclusion. In Ireland approximately 750,000 people are at-risk of poverty. In a year when the European Parliament elections take place in Europe which faces many challenges, including Brexit, migration and climate change, these citizen's dialogue workshops will ask how can we strengthen social solidarity and ensure that no-one is left behind.

These workshops are open to everyone and will provide a good opportunity for discussion on the issues. The workshops are free and all are welcome.

Event details

19 th March	Cork	Imperial Hotel, South Mall, Cork City	Registration at 9:30am Workshop 10am-1pm
26 th March	Galway	Harbour Hotel, New Dock Road, Galway City	Registration at 9:30am Workshop 10am-1pm
28 th March	Dublin	F2 Centre, 3 Reuben Plaza, Rialto, Dublin 8	Registration at 9:30am Workshop 10am-1pm

* A light lunch will be provided at the end

Speakers:

- **Hugh Frazer**, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University. Hugh is the former coordinator of the European Social Policy Network which advises the European Commission on social policy and former Director of the Combat Poverty Agency.
- **Paul Ginnell**, Director of European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland
- **Panel members:** Representatives from the European Commission and from community and voluntary organisations.

Registration

If you would like to attend any of the workshops you can register [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/83JNHWR).

To register for the above event click on the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/83JNHWR>

Check It Fits

This April the RSA's Check it Fits service in partnership with Toyota will be visiting County Laois. Did you know it's the law that all children under 150cms or 36kgs must use a child car seat appropriate to their weight and height. In Ireland as many as 4 out of 5 child car seats are incorrectly fitted which can lead to serious injury or even death in a collision.

Since October 2013, the RSA's 'Check it Fits' Service has checked over 35,000 child car seats and restraints in Ireland. Worryingly, 79% of seats required a major adjustment, of which 3% were deemed not fit for purpose and condemned, meaning they could have caused injury or even death in the event of a collision.

The Check it Fits service is quick, it's easy, it's free. On the day our experts will advise on how to fix any problem, demonstrate how to fit the restraint correctly and answer any queries participants might have. Our experts aim to put parent's, grandparent's and guardian's minds at ease that their child's car seat is safely and securely fitted in their car.

We will be visiting the following locations in Laois:

Des Hughes Toyota
Dublin Rd, Beladd
Portlaoise
11 April 2019, 10.00am – 5.30pm

McLoughlin's SuperValu Portarlington
The Arlington Centre, Link Rd, Droughill
Portarlington
12 April 2019
10.00am – 5.30pm

If you can't make the 'Check it Fits' Service in Laois, check out our social media channels below to find out where we'll be going next.

Best wishes,
The Check it Fits Team

Click here to view our calendar of locations <http://www.checkitfits.ie>
Click here to like our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/RSAIRELAND>

EPA National Conference on Climate Change

Ireland as a Leader in Climate Action - Rising to the Challenge

Hold the Date: 15th May 2019

WHY

This conference will explore the scale and complexity of transformational changes needed across society and the economy to respond to climate change. We will hear from international speakers on climate action in other countries and discuss the implementation challenges and opportunities here in Ireland. We will explore how to move from aspiration to concrete, measurable and achievable actions to radically reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and create a climate resilient, flourishing and engaged society and economy. This conference, which is to be repeated annually, will become an important part of the knowledge landscape for national climate change transition.

WHAT

In addition to prestigious keynote speakers, this event will include four sequential panel sessions dealing with Agriculture, Transport, Energy, and Adaptation.

WHO

The event will be relevant to policy makers, Local and Regional Governments, Agencies, NGOs, Academics, and professionals dealing with Climate Change mitigation and adaptation challenges.

- **WHEN**: May 15th 2019, 9:00am until 4:30pm
- **WHERE**: Aviva Stadium, Dublin

WHAT NEXT

Formal invitations, booking details and a conference Agenda will issue in the coming weeks. Be sure to book your place as space will be limited. For now, just block the date in your diary.

Follow up: Sonja Smith, Event Coordinator, s.smith@epa.ie



Laois Active Parks Programme



Páirc an bPobail, Timahoe Rd, Portlaoise
30-40 minutes of **FREE**, Fun physical activities
Lunch Time: 1–1:40 pm



*In the event of wet weather, an indoor venue will be used

	Activity
Week 1 (20/03)	Metafit
Week 2 (27/03)	Metafit
Week 3 (03/04)	Activator Poles
Week 4 (10/04)	Activator Poles
Week 5 (17/04)	Tai chi
Week 6 (24/04)	Tai Chi
Week 7 (01/05)	Stronger, Healthier, Happier
Week 8 (08/05)	Stronger, Healthier, Happier

Metafit: An exciting and unique workout uniting pilates, boxing and dance. This workout will help you see improvements in flexibility, strength and cardio, while also acting as a fun stress-reliever!

Activator Poles: A fun workout combining walking with low-moderate intensity strength exercises. Great for improving stability, posture and reducing risk of injury.

Tai Chi: A workout embracing the mind, body and spirit. Great for balance, flexibility and illness recovery.

Stronger, Healthier, Happier: A low-impact, full-body strength circuit. Ideal for breaking up your day with a quick lunch-time workout to leave you feeling re-vitalised for the rest of the day.

Feel Fitter, Healthier and Happier!

*Delivered
by Local
Qualified
Fitness*

To Book:
Contact the Sport & Leisure Office
sports@laoiscoco.ie or call ext **0578664058**



Funding / Grant Opportunities

Small Scale Summer Festivals and Summer Schools

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has opened its annual funding scheme for small local festivals and summer schools and small local arts, culture and film events.

It's only relevant to small local events, as the total fund for the scheme is only €75,000 and individual grants are for only relatively small amounts.

The scheme is not designed to fund the following: capital projects (e.g. equipment, musical instruments, plaques, statues, etc.), sporting events, festivals, profit-making events or tidy town events. It is also not open to events already in receipt of other Government monies or large scale events funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the Arts Council of Ireland and the Arts Council.

More information is available at

<https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=8byG3EJB19CohJLJSIpOezPhlIkq6bqCoyRJwdewjQ&s=379&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2echadwick.ie%2fand-funding%2fsmall-scale-local-festivals-summer-schools%2f>

or by contacting F&SS@chg.gov.ie or calling 064-6627314.

The closing date for applications is Friday 19th April 2019.Sent from my iPhone



Minister Ring urges people to say THE BIG HELLO! to their neighbours this May Bank Holiday Event aims to strengthen community ties and tackle social isolation Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development, is today (Wednesday) urging people to reach out to their neighbours as part of The Big Hello!, the first National Community Weekend which takes place this May Bank Holiday Weekend (4-6 May).

“The Big Hello” supports communities to host events in their local area in order to strengthen community ties and help tackle the problem of social isolation. Minister Ring said: “I am challenging everyone to reach out and say The Big Hello! to their neighbours by organising an event, or attending one in their local community. Events could range from a communal cup of tea or a picnic to a sports day or a local history event. The community decides!

“In order to support these events I have allocated €10,000 to each of the 31 Local Authorities and asked them to allocate funding to The Big Hello! events in their areas. The target is for at least 1,000 local events to be held throughout Ireland.”

Minister Ring continued: “In a world where people are spending less time in their communities and more time at work, it is important to find new ways to connect people and focus on the importance of neighbours. In our busy lives we rarely make time for each other outside of our network of family, friends and social media contacts. “Sadly, many people living among us are experiencing social isolation and loneliness. I firmly believe that this initiative can help people to connect or re-connect with their neighbours and communities.”

The event is being organised by the Minister’s Department in partnership with

representatives of Public Participation Networks, Local Community Development Companies, Volunteer Ireland, Young Social Innovators, Macra na Feirme, Street Feast, An tOireachtas and Change X.

Minister Ring said: "I'm delighted to have the active support of a working group from across the community and voluntary sector whose input has been crucial to the design of the event. Their support and extensive community networks will be extremely valuable in promoting The Big Hello! throughout Ireland."

It is intended to have at least one Irish language event in each Local Authority area.

Human Rights and Equality Grant Scheme 2019

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission is now accepting applications for the Human Rights and Equality Grant Scheme 2019.

The deadline for applications is 17.00 on Monday 15 April 2019.

The Commission is running a number of regional information sessions across Ireland to provide information to those organisations who are interested in applying.

For further information visit

<https://www.ihrec.ie/our-work/human-rights-and-equality-grants-scheme/>

The Community Foundation for Ireland: The Older Persons' Fund

The Community Foundation for Ireland, grants available from The Older Persons' Fund
The Older Persons' Fund is a long-term philanthropic fund which promotes the civic engagement of older people, as a means of working towards making a difference in their communities.

The Fund builds on our long-standing engagement and commitment to supporting older people in their communities. They have invested over €1m in this area to date.

This year they have the following two categories that you may apply for a grant under:

Inclusion of older people in active citizenship roles – Grants of up to €7,500 will be available to organisations working towards inclusion of older people in active citizenship roles

Supporting older peoples' voices at local & national level – Grants of up to €7,500 will be available to organisations working towards supporting older peoples' engagement in advocacy.

The deadline for applications will be strictly 4.30 p.m on Thursday 14th March 2019.

Full details here <https://www.communityfoundation.ie/grants/types-of-grants/the-older-persons-fund>

Free CoderDojo Training

CoderDojo is a volunteer-led organisation aiming to give access to coding to young people in a fun and social environment. This year, they are offering FREE training and support to youth workers, youth service providers and library staff all over the country to gain confidence in integrating coding skills into the work that they already do.

This training is one-day, free and includes lunch. You don't need to already have any programming experience - they provide lots of resources and hands-on experience to demystify it and make it simple for everyone! At the end of the training, you will have become familiar with an easy-to-use block building coding programme, built your own

website and programmed a micro:bit. Most importantly you will have gained the confidence to support young people to use technology and have fun while they're doing it.

To get more information or to book a training session close to you check out <https://coderdojo.com/youthworktraining/>

If you would like to host a training in your area, email me at tara@coderdojo.org

Check out our video:

https://youtu.be/JrLYXTy4sy0?list=PLQBFqko3_sHVBRYkUXymXZLteFy-CSy0i

Portlaoise AFC: Communications Manager

Portlaoise AFC is looking for a Communications Manager to design and implement a club communication strategy. As part of the role, this Manager will co-ordinate all club communications both internally and externally. This is a crucial role to aid the continued development of our club. **This is a voluntary position.**

Interested persons to email Sylvia at pafcsecretary@gmail.com.

We are a soccer club of over 700 members in Portlaoise catering for men, women, boys and girls of all ages and abilities from 5-senior. Our Facebook page is PortlaoiseA.F.C.

Other Information

Poster Free for the upcoming elections in May,

DDF/Tidy Towns are joining with other Laois Towns and Villages in being Poster Free for the upcoming elections in May,

The following Towns and Villages are poster free in Laois and the list is growing:- Durrow, Abbeyleix, Ballinakill, Ballacolla, Killasmeestia, Portarlinton, Portlaoise, Ballyroan, Clonaslee, Castletown, Mountrath.

Contact Us

Laois Public Participation Network,
Lyster Square,
Portlaoise,
Co. Laois.

Contact Suzanne O'Connor, Laois PPN Resource Worker on
057-8665661 or 086-7782551
E-mail: ppn@laoiscoco.ie
www.laoisppn.ie

