



Laois Public Participation Network August 2021 Newsletter



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Laois PPN Events - "Heritage Walk at Heywood Gardens"

On a bright Sunday afternoon, Laois PPN were delighted to hold a "Heritage Walk at Heywood Gardens" in partnership with Laois Heritage. Attendees got to explore and learn about one of the most beautiful heritage sites in Laois - Heywood Gardens.

Dan Bergin, Laois PPN Resource Worker said " Heywood Gardens is a unique and special place. It is part of the Laois Heritage Trail and the Laois Garden Trail. Heywood Gardens known locally as the Italian Gardens is a popular walking spot for locals, a photographers paradise and a tourist destination in Laois."

Heywood Gardens, near Ballinakill, County Laois, consists of 50 acres of woodland, lakes, formal gardens and some exciting architectural features. The park is set into a sweeping hillside where views to the south-east take in seven counties.

The renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens designed the formal gardens, which are the centrepiece of the property and the focus of the days "Heritage Walk". They were landscaped by eminent designer Gertrude Jekyll and are among the best surviving example of Lutyen's work in Ireland. The gardens were commissioned by Colonel William Hutchinson Poe.

Heritage Walk at Heywood Gardens

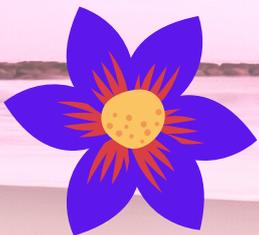
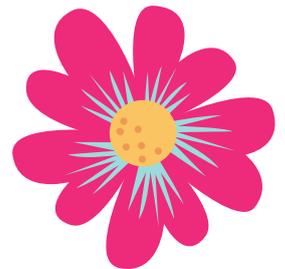
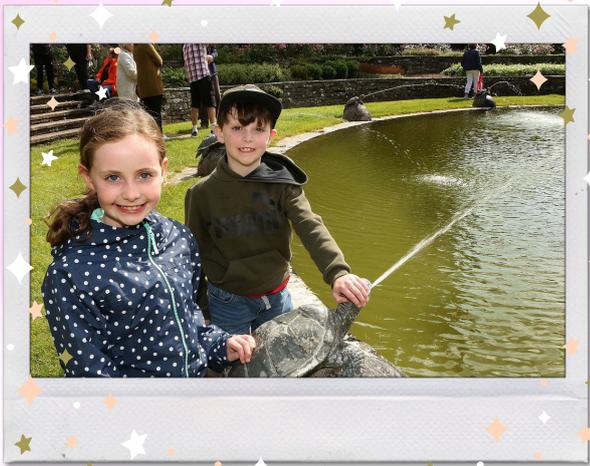
Dan Bergin said that attendees were delighted that the "Heritage Walk at Heywood Gardens" was led by a descendent of Sir Edwin Lutyens, his great, great niece, Amanda Pitcairn. Amanda is a Historian and Tour Guide. Amanda gave an insight into the life and work of Sir Edwin Lutyens who she referred to with affection as "Uncle Ned". Amanda started the tour in on the path above the lawn where she spoke about "Uncle Ned", his origins, life and influences and how he came to collaborate with Gertrude Jekyll and their shared philosophy. Amanda then spoke about Poe, his family and how the garden began.

Amanda Pitcairn said " A fabulous afternoon to show off Sir Edwin Lutyens' Italian Gardens at Heywood to PPN Member Groups followed by tea and cake at the Heywood Haven."

See below a selection of pictures from the Laois PPN Event - "Heritage Walk at Heywood Gardens" taken by photographer Michael Scully.



Heritage Walk at Heywood Gardens



Laois PPN Event - "Tour Round The Tower"

On a fresh Saturday Morning, Laois PPN were delighted to hold a "Tour Round the Tower" in partnership with Laois Heritage as part of Laois Heritage Week 2021.

Timahoe Round Tower rises majestically out of the surrounding landscape and is one of the finest examples of a Round Tower in Ireland. The tour of the early Christian site at Timahoe with its 12th Century Round Tower was led by local tour guide Roghan Headen. Roghan informed attendees from PPN Member Groups how Timahoe Round Tower was built in the 12th Century, on the site of a religious community founded by St. Mochua. Attendees learnt how Timahoe Round Tower made it easy for travellers to find the monastery through the years. Bells would ring to call the monks to prayer, and to signal when the monastery was under attack. When the alarm sounded, monks would grab all the treasures of the monastery and scramble into the tower. Once they had drawn up the outside ladder and bolted the door, the thick stone walls kept them safe.

The tour was followed by a talk with Sean Murray, Laois Archaeologist, on the project to digitally record the beautifully carved Hiberno Romanesque doorway - that the Tower is renowned for. Carvings of human heads, with flowing beards and moustaches, decorate the main entrance, almost five metres from the ground.

"Tour Round The Tower"

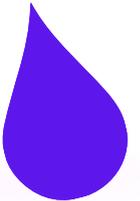
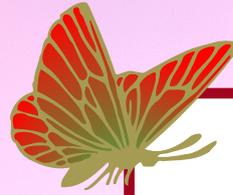
The day finished with tea and sweet treats for attendees at the Timahoe Heritage Centre.

Dan Bergin, Resource Worker with Laois PPN, said " We are delighted to host this fantastic event in partnership with Laois Heritage as part of Laois Heritage Week 2021. Timahoe Round Tower is one of the finest examples of a Round Tower in Ireland. The extraordinarily carved Hiberno Romanesque doorway makes Timahoe the most elegant Round Tower in Ireland. The Tower is a Laois Heritage Site and is part of Irelands Ancient East. Attendees loved finding out more about this heritage site from Roghan Headen and the amazing carvings from Sean Murray.

See below an array of photographs taken at the Laois PPN Event - Tour Round the Tower taken by local photographer Michael Scully.



"Tour Round The Tower"





Arts Council's Artist in the Community Scheme 2021 (Round 2)



We are delighted to announce that our **Artist in the Community Scheme 2021 (Round 2)** is now open for applications.

The Arts Council offers awards through the **Artist in the Community Scheme** to enable artists and communities of place and / or interest to work together on projects. **The Artist in the Community (AIC) Scheme** is managed by CREATE.

<https://www.create-ireland.ie>



The scheme is open to artists from any of the following artform disciplines: architecture, circus, street art and spectacle, dance, film, literature (Irish and English Language), music, opera, theatre, visual arts and traditional arts.

Visit **Artist in the Community Scheme section** for further details, including guidelines and online application forms.

For information on the scheme contact:

support@create-ireland.ie

or phone

01 473 6600



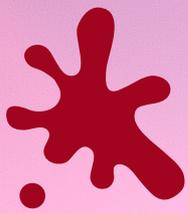
Artist in the Community Scheme 2021 (Round 2)

Deadline: 5.30pm, Monday 27th September 2021

Web: [https://www.create-](https://www.create-ireland.ie/projectsubpage/aic-awards/)

[ireland.ie/projectsubpage/aic-awards/](https://www.create-ireland.ie/projectsubpage/aic-awards/)





Free Painting Classes for BCPs (Broadband Connectivity Points)



Free Painting classes for beginners

Come along and learn how to paint with Wexford artist Oonagh Latchford.

Over 10 weeks, Oonagh will conduct online painting classes, during which you will explore with her all the basics of how to paint with acrylics. Each week, Oonagh will approach a different topic, and teach you the basics. This will include colour mixing, still life composition, portraits, landscape, and many more techniques.

Oonagh will also share her ongoing works during a virtual visit of her studio.

Adult classes (participants need to be 15+)
No previous painting experience is needed.

Classes will start on **Monday 6th September** at 7pm.

Followed by **Mondays 13th, 20th and 27th September, 4th and 11th October, 18th, 25th and 22nd November** from 7pm to 9pm.

Participants are asked to bring their own materials.

The following is suggested:

- Acrylic paints (Cadmium red, Cadmium yellow, Ultramarine blue, Titanium white, Burnt umber)
- A mix of brushes to include a flat 1"
- Small notebook or clipboard, selection of thick paper or cardstock
- Water container, kitchen paper or old cloth, an old white plate or palette, palette knife.

In order to take part, please register your interest by emailing: boxoffice@wexfordartscentre.ie indicating "Painting workshops with Oonagh Latchford" in the subject line and which BCP you will be attending the workshop from.

This free programme aims to provide people with the opportunity to take part in online artistic and cultural programmes through the free connectivity offered at their local Broadband Connection Point (BCP).

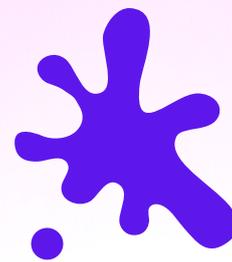
The sessions will be led virtually through Zoom. Participants should have access to a computer, smart phone, or tablet with a camera. Internet connectivity will be provided at your local Broadband Connection Point.

These free sessions are exclusive to participants attending from a BCP.

You can find the details of Broadband Connection Points near you at <https://myconnectcommunity.ie/>

In Bóthar Inbhealla
Trádaigh na hÉireann
Comhairle na hÉireann
Department of Arts and Cultural Heritage

wexfordartscentre
ARTS FOR ALL ARTS FOR LIFE



These Free Sessions are exclusive to participants attending from a BCP (Broadband Connection Point).

The Broadband Connection Points in Laois are located at the following venues:

- **Vicarstown Community Centre, Laois, R32 RX67**
- **Emo Community Centre, Laois, R32 KF74**
- **Donaghmore Workhouse and Famine Museum, Laois, R32 PC58**
- **Oisín House, Laois, R93 W825**



These sessions will be led virtually through ZOOM. Participants should have access to a computer, smart phone, or tablet with camera.

Internet Connectivity will be provided at your local Broadband Connection Point.



For more information, contact:
[**boxoffice@wexfordartscentre.ie**](mailto:boxoffice@wexfordartscentre.ie)



Midlands Louth Meath Recovery

Education



Midlands Louth Meath Recovery Education is pleased to share our upcoming Online Workshop Timetable for September 2021.

We hope that you can join us for one of the workshops. Everyone is welcome to attend and there is no pressure to engage should you chose to just sit and listen.

We aim to create all our workshops collaboratively with people with lived experience of mental health issues, their family members / carers / supporters, community partners and staff working in the mental health services, with everyone's contribution equally valued. This is called co-production.

These sessions are free and open to anyone (aged 18+) with an interest in mental health and well-being.

September Timetable

Free Mental Health and Wellbeing Online Workshops

Midlands Louth Meath CHO Recovery Education

Workshop Title	Date & Time
What is Recovery Education?	Wed 8th Sept, 2:30pm to 4 pm
Understanding 'Psychosis' & Personal Recovery (Session 1)	Thurs 9th Sept, 10am to 12pm
What Is Recovery Education?	Wed 15th Sept, 10:30am to 12pm
Living with 'Psychosis' (Session 2)	Thurs 16th Sept, 10am to 12pm
What is Co-Production?	Mon 20th Sept, 2pm to 3:30pm
Inspiring Hope & Recovery (Session 3)	Thurs 23rd Sept, 10am to 12pm
Exploring the Relationships between self and diagnosis (Session 4)	Thurs 30th Sept, 10am to 12pm

Book your place at one of our online modules:
<http://mlmrecoveryed.eventbrite.com>

or

Contact with any queries or to book a place:
Email: mary@mentalhealthireland.ie
Phone: 086 464 3562

Follow us online:

- It is free to attend our courses
- Our courses are open to anyone (aged 18 and over) with an interest in mental health and wellbeing
- Midlands Louth Meath CHO Recovery Education

Mental Health Ireland

Seirbhís Sláinte Níos Fearr & Forbairt | Building a Better Health Service

HSE Mental Health Services



Midlands Louth Meath Recovery Education

FREE

Mental Health & Family Caring: Supporting the Supporters

A five week online programme for family carers and supporters of people with mental health challenges.

Explore:

Self-care, Mental Health & Recovery Concepts, Boundaries, Communication Techniques, Supports & Services

CONTACT DETAILS:

Alice McDonnell
Coordinator
Phone: 087 354 5079
alice@mentalhealthireland.ie

Mary French
Peer Educator
Phone: 086 464 3562
mary@mentalhealthireland.ie

Tara Gibbons
Peer Educator Laois Offaly
Phone: 087 052 8058
tara@mentalhealthireland.ie

Morning or Evening Options

Morning: Mondays starting
6th September for 5 weeks,
10:am - 12:30pm

Evening: Mondays starting
6th September for 5 weeks,
7pm - 9.30pm



**Mental Health
Ireland**



Portlaoise Tidy Towns

Portlaoise Tidy Towns was established in 1968 and became a member of Laois PPN in 2018. The volunteers of Portlaoise Tidy Towns have been working extremely hard, in all kinds of weather to keep our town looking splendid.

Portlaoise Tidy Towns meet every Wednesday at 6pm and Saturday morning at 9am in Lyster Square and are always looking for new volunteers.

Thank you to everyone involved for their hard work and dedication.

See below a selection of photos of the work Portlaoise Tidy Towns have been doing.



Portlaoise Tidy Towns





We are delighted to announce that the registration for our annual walk Dawn to Dusk is now open.

We are inviting everyone, young or old, to join us walking 7km - one kilometer for each office we run, on Sunday the 12th of September 2021.

You can chose when to walk any time between 6.30am to 6.30pm

Whether you want to challenge yourself, take part in the event as a family, or have a few friends together, your support and participation in our Dawn to Dusk event will help us to keep delivering our life saving service to our community.

To register:

sosadireland.rallyup.com/dawntodusk/Campaign/Details

**SOSAD Ireland Laois Branch - General Manager
Carol West**

Email: carolwest@sosadireland.ie



Contact Us

In line with the current Government restrictions the Public Participation Network (PPN) Office is closed to the public. Dan and Ailish are continuing to work hard behind the scenes and are contactable during office hours.



Email: ppn@laoiscoco.ie

Phone: 086 035 2107 (Dan)



Postal Address: Public Participation Network



**JFL Avenue, Lyster Square,
Portlaoise, Co. Laois**

Follow us on Social Media:

