

Laois Public Participation Network



July 2021 Newsletter



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Laois PPN Events

Social Media Training



Laois Public Participation Network (Laois PPN) recently ran a free online Social Media Training Workshop for our member groups.



Dan Bergin, Laois PPN Resource Worker said " With the ever growing power of social media and the part it can play in assisting community groups in growing their numbers and getting their message out into the public domain, Laois PPN provided a FREE online two hour workshop to PPN members."

The online workshop took place via ZOOM and was presented by Karen Twomey of the Communications Hub.



Communications Hub is run by digital marketing specialist Karen Twomey, delivering digital marketing training, social media training and online marketing strategies that help your community group to get ahead online. The workshop covered setting up and building profiles online including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and creating content for online use that can contribute to raising your community group profile in Laois and growing member numbers for your community group.

There was a large amount of interest in the workshop with 25 PPN member groups across the county taking part. Participants found the workshop beneficial and look forward to using what they learned in growing their social media presence and promoting their community group.





LivingWorks START

As Laois starts to emerge from the dark days of COVID-19 and transition into the light back to normality, it is important to remember there are members of our communities experiencing dark times. Laois PPN in partnership with the HSE are offering LivingWorks START - online suicide prevention programme to help and support our communities in Laois.

LivingWorks START is an online suicide prevention programme targeted at anyone over the age of 18 years who wants to develop the skills to help someone who may be at risk of suicide. The 1.5hrs programme provides the opportunity for participants to:

- **Become more comfortable talking about suicide**
- **Feel more confident in keeping a person safe in times of distress**
- **Be able to support members of the community, friends and co-workers**
- **Build personal and professional skills**
- **Have peace of mind knowing the readiness to help is obtained**
- **Gain awareness of the supports and services that are available**



The programme outlines a four-step model to keep someone safe from suicide and included impactful and interactive simulations.



Community Safety Talk on Phishing



Scams



Laois PPN in partnership with Offaly PPN recently organised an online Community Safety Talk on Phishing Scams.

Dan Bergin, Laois PPN Resource Worker said "The Community Safety Talk on Phishing Scams was given to PPN member groups following the recent rise in phishing scams. The aim of the talk was to support our PPN member groups and advise them of the most common scams currently in circulation. Laois PPN worked with Offaly PPN and An Garda Síochána to help raise awareness across the two counties."

Garda Sergeant Graham Kavanagh, Crime Prevention Officer for Laois and Offaly gave a detailed presentation on the night covering:

Current Scams

- **Phone**
- **Email**
- **Text**

- **What they do**
- **What they seek**
- **What we can do to prevent them**

Crime Prevention Officers encourage, promote and advise on Crime Prevention.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)



Laois PPN Representatives Update

Laois PPN has five seats on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). Three Laois PPN representative positions on the LCDC conclude on Saturday 24th July 2021, after serving two consecutive three year terms. Laois PPN wish to extend their gratitude to the outgoing Laois PPN Representatives:



Mr Robbie Quinn - Community & Voluntary Representative

Mr P.J. Campbell - Community & Voluntary Representative



Ms Mary White - Social Inclusion Representative



Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)



Laois PPN Representatives Update

Laois PPN sought nominations from groups in the Social Inclusion Pillar for a Social Inclusion Rep to the LCDC and from groups in the Community & Voluntary Pillar for two Community & Voluntary Reps to the LCDC. The nomination and election process took place online. The following nominees were elected and went forward to the July council meeting where they were successfully ratified:



Mr John Oxley - Community & Voluntary Representative

Ms Nina Horan - Community & Voluntary Representative



Ms Joan Bolger - Social Inclusion Representative



Laois PPN would like to extend a warm welcome to John, Nina and Joan and wish them all the best in their new roles.



Laois Africa Day



Africa Day takes place annually on May 25th. Laois Africa Day took place virtually from 14th - 19th June. The Laois African Support Group looked for people to send their videos / images of music, storytelling, cooking and drumming from their culture to them for this event. Laois PPN promoted Laois Africa Day celebrations on our Social Media.





Laois County Council

Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

Free online "Know Your Locality" Course



A new online course running over 5 evenings in September is now open for booking.

The course is for anyone who would like to learn more about the history, heritage, geography, place names, etc.. of their own local area.

It's targeted at Laois people and will be delivered by the Irish Heritage School starting Tuesday 14th September.

Booking is required and places will be allocated on a first come -first served basis.

Booking details and more information available at:

<https://laois.ie/know-your-locality/>



**Drop into your local library over the summer
and join the Summer Reading Adventure**

**All you have to do is read 8 library books before 31st August.
Register at your local library from 12th June.
It's for children up to 12 years and ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

When you register for Summer Stars you get a reading card, Laois Library Service activities booklet and a Summer Stars drawstring bag.

When you read 4 books you earn a bookmark. Everyone who completes all 8 books gets a Summer Stars pencil and certificate. All who finish Summer Stars will also go into a draw at their local library for a Summer Stars Backpack.

(If you think you can read more than 8 books check out the Super Star Reading Challenge)
See inside for FREE events and activities that libraries are offering this summer.

Remember, Reading is a gift for life!



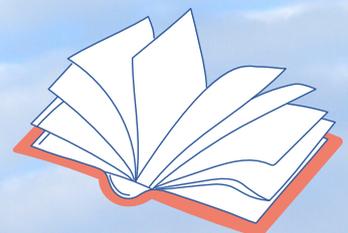
Laois County
Library Service 

The Library – a Space for All

Library Headquarters: 057 85 94982

Email: library@laoiscoco.ie

Web: www.laoislibraries.ie



Laois Library Services

August 2021 Timetable



LAOIS LIBRARIES AUGUST 2021 EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Event/Activity	What's Happening	When	Where	Ages	Booking
Keeping it Cool Craft	Make and decorate a paper ice-lolly. Collect materials from your local library.	From 2nd - 7th August	Laois Libraries	3-7	None
Clayotic Clay Workshop	Learn how to make David Walliams characters Fing and Gertrude the Gorilla	Friday, 6th August, 11.00am	Zoom and YouTube Live	3-6	E: portlaoise.library@laois.coco.ie T: 057 8622333
This little pig went to the market house	Join Jo and Little Pig for a story and tour of the beautiful Abbeyleix Library	Saturday, 7th August	Zoom and YouTube	4-8	None
Space Activity Craft Set	Make an astronaut, planets and other activities. Collect materials from your local library.	From 9th - 14th August	All branches	3-6	None
Finn's First Song	Join author Gerry Daly to read about Finn the whale's first adventure	Saturday, 14th August	Facebook and YouTube	4-8	None
Teddy Bear's Picnic in the Park	If you go down to the park today, you're in for a big surprise. Join us in The Peoples Park, Portlaoise for a furry good time with our teddy bear pals at our Teddy Bears Picnic.	Wednesday, 18th August, 3.00pm	People's Park, Portlaoise	0-5	E: portlaoise.library@laois.coco.ie T: 057 8622333

Becoming a member of the library

The good news is that it is **ABSOLUTELY FREE** for anyone to join the library. What you need is the following 1) A parent or guardian to come with you 2) Your parent/guardian's library card or your parent/guardian's photo ID and proof of address (For parent/guardian) for example a household bill.

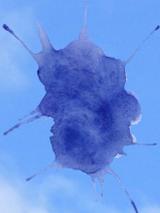
Ebooks and Online resources

You will find books, audio-books, magazines, Cds, DVDs and more for children in the library. You can also access e-books, e-audio-books, e-magazines, newspapers and even classes online or through an app on your phone, tablet or e-reader. See the library website: www.laois.ie/departments/libraries/online-resources/

Library Opening Hours

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Abbeyleix 057 8730020	-	9.30am-1.30pm 2.30pm-5.00pm	-	9.30am-1.30pm 2.30pm-7.30pm	9.30am-1.30pm 2.30pm-5.00pm	-
Durrow 057 8736090	-	11.00am-1.30pm 2.00pm-7.30pm	10.00am-1.30pm 2.00pm-5.30pm	-	-	-
Mountmellick 057 8644572	-	10.00am-1.00pm 2.00pm-7.30pm	10.00am-1.00pm 2.00pm-5.30pm	10.00am-1.00pm 2.00pm-5.30pm	2.30pm-5.00pm	10.00am-2.00pm
Mountrath 057 8756378	-	9.30am-12.30pm 2.00pm-5.00pm	9.30am-12.30pm 2.00pm-5.00pm	9.30am-12.30pm 2.00pm-6.30pm	9.30am-12.30pm 2.00pm-5.00pm	-
Portarlinton 057 8643751	-	10.00am-1.30pm 2.30pm-5.30pm	10.00am-1.30pm 2.30pm-5.30pm	2.30pm-5.30pm	10.00am-1.30pm 2.30pm-5.00pm	10.00am-1.00pm
Portlaoise 057 8622333	-	10.00am-1.00pm 2.00pm-5.00pm	10.00am-1.00pm 2.00pm-7.30pm	10.00am-1.00pm 2.00pm-7.30pm	10.00am-1.00pm 2.00pm-5.00pm	10.00am-1.00pm 2.00pm-4.00pm
Rathdowney 0505 46852	2.30pm-5.00pm 7.00pm-9.00pm	-	12.00pm-1.30pm 2.30pm-5.00pm	-	2.30pm-5.00pm 7.00pm-9.00pm	-
Stradbally 057 8641673	-	1.00pm-5.00pm 5.30pm-8.00pm	10.00am-1.00pm 1.30pm-5.00pm	1.00pm-5.00pm 5.30pm-8.00pm	-	-

These times may be changed according to public health guidelines see www.laois.ie for changes



Artist in the Community Scheme Bursary 2021



Create is delighted to offer two Artist in the Community Scheme Bursaries in 2021.



The first, themed on Collaborative Arts and Cultural Diversity, is offered in partnership with the Immigrant Council of Ireland, and is designed to support individual professional artists whose practice centres on collaboration with individuals or groups (non-arts professionals).



The AIC Bursary Award 2021: Collaborative Arts and Cultural Diversity specifically aims to support an individual professional artist working in collaborative socially engaged arts practice who has first-hand experience of displacement and / or is shaped by histories of intergenerational migration. For this bursary, candidates may or may not self-identify as refugee, migrant or otherwise through lived experience and / or second generational memories.



The purpose of the award is to support and nurture professional arts practice; it is aimed at an artist with a track record of working collaboratively with communities of place or interest. The bursary of €10,000 provides the selected artist with time and resources to carry out research and to engage with and reflect on their practice.

More particularly, it allows the artist to consider key questions associated with their practice using collaborative methodologies.

The closing date for applications is 5pm, Monday the 16th August 2021.



Laois Film Bursary Award 2021



create national development
agency for collaborative arts



Laois County Council

Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

The inaugural Laois Short Film Bursary aims to foster talent and activity in filmmaking in County Laois and is funded by Creative Ireland in partnership with Laois County Council. The Bursary is for short drama or documentary film of 10 to 12 minutes duration to be shot in the county.

This year both short documentary (10-12 mins) and drama (10-12 mins) are being accepted.

A Core Member of each team applying for the Bursary, i.e. Writer / Director / Producer, must be from or living in Laois.

Competitive Applications

This Bursary is highly competitive and we are asking for the widest range of stories possible. We are interested in screenplays that reflect aspects of Irish experience across different generations / gender / ethnicities, class and landscapes. It is important that Laois features on screen and so we would like to hear about locations you are thinking of using. The successful team are encouraged to hire local crew to work on the shoot.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 4pm on Friday, August 6th, 2021.

All details at

<https://laois.ie/creative-ireland-film-bursary-2021>

Midlands Louth Meath Recovery Education

We are seeking interested people to get involved in Recovery Education.

We hope that you can join us for these workshops. We want to produce and deliver recovery education modules that are relevant to you.

Aim

The aim of these co-production workshops is to produce recovery education workshops and materials for delivery in Midlands Louth Meath CHO. 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.

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

Book your place at one of our online workshops through Eventbrite:

<https://mlmrecovered.eventbrite.com>

or

Contact Derek Walsh directly to book a place:

Email: derek@mentalhealthireland.ie

Phone: 087 284 0901

See our August Timetable below for details of workshops

Midlands Louth Meath Recovery Education

August Co-Production Workshops

You are invited to take part in any or all of our Midlands Louth Meath CHO Recovery Education Co-Production workshops
The aim of these co-production sessions is to produce recovery education workshops and material.



Midlands Louth Meath CHO
Recovery Education

Workshop Title	Date 	Time 
Introduction to Mental Health Rights	Thur 5th August	10am to 12pm
Let's Talk Stigma	Tue 10th August	2pm to 4pm
Let's talk Anxiety	Thur 19th August	10am to 12pm
Care Planning	Thur 26th August	10am to 12pm
Let's talk about Domestic Abuse	Fri 27th August	10am to 12pm

Here is some information to help you prepare:

- You will be invited to attend a Zoom session.
- The Zoom workshop will last for approx. 2 hours
- There will be a mix of people with lived experience, professionals, and family members/carers.
- In co-production, everyone is an expert in their own experience. In this way, everyone is equal. There are *"No labels at the table"*.
- Your Facilitators will be asking some general questions and making suggestions to help the discussion, and will take notes. You can say as much or as little as you like.
- We strive for confidentiality: Your privacy is important and we ask that you please ensure the privacy of others in the same way.

For Further Information or any queries contact:

Derek Walsh

 Email: derek@mentalhealthireland.ie

 Phone: 087 284 0901



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service



Mental Health
Ireland



Social Enterprise Start Up Fund 2021 -

**RETHINK
IRELAND**

Deadline Extended



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Rethink Ireland announced on the 15th July, the opening of The Social Enterprise Start-Up Fund. The €800,000 Fund will be delivered over two years; 2021 - 2022 and has been created by Rethink Ireland in partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development via the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The fund seeks to support social enterprises at the start-up / early stage of their life cycle and will provide critical support to the most innovative and impactful start-up social enterprises across Ireland.

Full details at:

https://rethinkireland.ie/current_fund/social-enterprise-start-up-fund/

A social enterprise is a business that works primarily to improve the lives of people. Social enterprises are at the heart of facing the greatest social challenges in Ireland. The money they make from their work is used to grow what they do so that they can reach all the people in society who need their help. We believe there is a need to foster and invest in these social enterprises to allow them to grow and spread their solutions throughout the country.

Social Enterprise Start Up Fund 2021 -

**RETHINK
IRELAND**

Deadline Extended



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

What does the fund offer?

In 2021, the fund offers (up to) 25 Awardees:

- 1. Cash Grants**
- 2. A place on the Accelerator Programme**
- 3. Business Supports**

Who can apply?

We invite applications from social enterprises that are at an early stage of their development and are looking to fully establish themselves in the market.

All queries related to the fund should be sent to :

socialenterprise@rethinkireland.ie

**Deadline Extended to Monday 9th August
2021 at 1pm.**

Phone Scams - Alleging To Be From An Garda Síochána



THIS MESSAGE IS TO ALERT YOU TO A PHONE SCAM INVOLVING FRAUDSTERS CLAIMING TO BE MEMBERS OF AN GARDA SIOCHANA.

PLEASE BE VIGILANT AND ALERT YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES AND OTHERS IN YOUR NETWORKS AND COMMUNITIES TO HELP TO PROTECT EVERYONE FROM THIS TYPE OF CRIME.

As I'm sure you are aware, in recent days Gardai have received reports of people receiving phone calls from fraudsters claiming to be members of An Garda Síochána. The number calling appears to be the phone number of a genuine Garda Station.

There are several stages to these scam calls -

- **The person receiving the call is subjected to a pre-recorded or automated message that prompts them to select an option.**
- **The person is then put through to a person alleging to be a member of An Garda Síochána.**
- **The scammer either looks for personal information or informs the person that their details have been involved or linked to a crime.**
- **After giving over personal details the victim receives a follow up call from another scammer seeking more details on behalf of An Garda Síochána (This call appears to be coming from a genuine Garda Station Number).**

**AN GARDA SIOCHANA WILL NEVER MAKE CONTACT WITH MEMBERS
OF THE PUBLIC IN THIS FASHION.**

Most members of the public realise these type of calls are not legitimate and do not engage with the scammers.

However, we at An Garda Siochana appreciates that a section of society may have very little to no previous interaction with An Garda Siochana and may be more susceptible to this type of fraud.

With this in mind the Garda National Diversity and Integration Unit have decided to reach out through our various networks to highlight this scam to all.

On receipt of these communications, the advice of An Garda Siochana is as follows:

- **Do Not Engage With The Caller.**
- **Do Not Return The Call.**
- **Do Not Follow The Automated Instructions - Do Not Press 1, Etc.**
- **Never Transfer Money.**
- **Never Disclose Personal Or Financial Information.**
- **Hang Up And End The Call.**

Whilst scammers may change their stories and methods, their goal is always the same - they want to access your sensitive information and get their hands on your money. Gardai are urging the public to spread the word of fraud prevention as people continue to fall victim to scams on a daily basis. In many cases the subsequent call from the fraudsters appear to provide reassurance to the victim that this is a legitimate call, **WHICH IT IS NOT.**

If you believe you may have fallen victim to this scam, contact your financial institution and report the matter to your local Garda station.

ALONE

Supporting older people
to age at home

Would you like to avail of training
to set-up and coordinate a
befriending service?

Would you like to upskill your existing and new
volunteers to provide telephone and visitation
training?

ALONE has a suite of training options for services
looking to set-up and coordinate a befriending
service in Ireland.

**This is an initiative of ALONE and Local
Community Development Committees
supported by Sláintecare.**

Training is completely free of charge.

If you are interested in availing of training, please
contact via email **community@alone.ie**



Sláintecare.





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: Laois PPN Office

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



Follow us on:

