



Laois Public Participation Network

SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



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Make Way Day 2021

Launch



At the recent launch of Make Way Day 2021 at County Hall were back row, left to right: Pamela Tynan (Community & Enterprise) Laois County Council, Dan Bergin (Resource Worker) Laois PPN, Donal Brennan (Director of Services) Laois County Council, Carmel McNicholl (SEO, Community & Enterprise) Laois County Council, Councillor Conor Bergin (Cathaoirleach) Laois County Council, Margaret Conlon Laochra Laoise Special Olympics Club. Front Row: Paralympic Bronze medalist Gary O'Reilly and Paralympic Silver Medalist Nicole Turner.



Irish Paralympic medalists Nicole Turner and Gary O'Reilly fully supported Make Way Day 2021 and were delighted to be involved in promoting this campaign at local level.





Make Way Day 2021 in Portlaoise



Make Way Day 2021 took place on Friday 24th September 2021.

Make Way Day is a National Public Awareness Campaign that highlights the issues people with disabilities face getting around their local communities.

This year, Laois PPN, Laois Sports Partnership and Laois County Council organised a walk starting at the Parish Centre in Portlaoise on Friday 24th Septmeber at 11.00am. Using an app from DFI (Disability Federation of Ireland), people were invited to undertake a survey of their area or 5K, using this online easy to use tool, giving a rating from one to five stars depending on the obstacles they came across.

Below are photographs from the Make Way Day 2021 Event taken by local photographer Denis Byrne.





Make Way Day 2021 in Portlaoise



Make Way Day 2021 in Borris In Ossory



Open Grant Round at The Community Foundation for Ireland

The Community Foundation for Ireland's Covid-19 fund is open for applications. The aim of this fund is to ensure Ireland recovers better than the pre-pandemic status quo. Isolation and the impact on health and wellbeing is affecting people of all ages, so through the Overcoming Isolation grant round The Community Foundation will support social prescribing initiatives in outdoor spaces and online. This will encourage peer support, a sense of community and improved mental wellbeing.

Grants of up to **€3,000** will be available for community development organisations for projects that encourage communities to overcome the isolation of the last 18 months through programmes, and developing online platforms and outdoor spaces.

The deadline for applications is 4:30pm on Thursday 7th October, 2021.

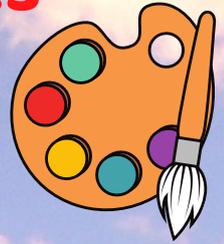
Please see:

https://www.communityfoundation.ie/images/uploads/pdfs/Overcoming_Isolation_Criteria.pdf

for the full criteria and online application form. Applications sent in via email will not be accepted.

FAQs and more information can be found on our website **<https://www.communityfoundation.ie/grants/types-of-grants/covid-19-response-fund>**

AIC Bursary 2021: Collaborative Arts and Community Development



Artist in the Community Scheme Bursary 2021: Collaborative Arts and Community Development

This bursary is offered in partnership with **Irish Local Development Network**, themed on **Collaborative Arts and Community Development**. The **AIC Bursary Award 2021: Collaborative Arts and Community Development** specifically aims to support an individual professional artist working in collaborative socially engaged arts practice. The purpose of the award is to support and nurture professional arts practice.

The closing date for applications is 5pm, Monday the 18th October.

Full details of the award, as well as the application procedure, are available at

<https://www.create-ireland.ie/projectsubpage/aic-bursary-collaborative-arts-and-community-development/>

- The bursary is funded through the Arts Council of Ireland's Artist in the Community Scheme, which is managed by Create.



create national development
agency for collaborative arts



The Community Foundation of Ireland - Older Person's Fund



There is a Funding Opportunity with the Community Foundation of Ireland. The Older Person's Fund is a fund which promotes the civic engagement of older people, as a means of working towards making a difference in their communities.

This year there are 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 and national level - Grants of up to €7,500 will be available to organisations working towards supporting older peoples' engagement in advocacy.**



Find our more at
<http://bit.ly/3Cj6Mrn>



**Closing date for applications will be strictly 4:30pm on
Wednesday 27th October, 2021.**



Birds Connect Project



Birds Connect is a new social inclusion / environment project from Birdwatch Ireland.

Birdwatch Ireland received grant funding from the Community Foundation of Ireland for Birds Connect. The project's focus is connecting people and birds through citizen science, outreach and training. They are particularly interested in exploring innovative ways to improve access and participation in bird projects for people with disabilities, new communities and minority groups.



As part of this project they have produced a laminated bird identification guide to be distributed to Direct Provision Centres and Nursing Homes. The guide has 50 of our most common Irish birds with illustrations and the names translated into Irish, Arabic and French. This is now printed and it folds up to a quarter of the size. They will supply physical copies of this guide to Direct Provision Centres and Nursing Homes.



Birdwatch Ireland are looking at building connections with the residents of these institutions through a bird nest box project. They are hoping to work with local Men's Sheds and community groups to build and install nest boxes in Direct Provision Centres and Nursing Homes. The majority of the boxes will be tit or robin-style, as these offer the best take-up rates - but there might be scope for other designs if the right location presents itself. They can provide diagrams of suitable nest boxes.

If your group / organisation would be interested in getting involved, contact Andrew Lynch, Birds Connect Project Officer at

alynch@birdwatchireland.ie



Dormant Account Social Enterprise

Capital Grant Scheme 2021



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



Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development has approved funding of €1m to be allocated nationally to the Dormant Account Fund Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021. The scheme is to be rolled out through the network of Local Community Development Committees (LCDC).

The Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021 is one initiative being taken by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland. This scheme aims to support social enterprises and is complementary to other supports provided by the Department.

The Fund will provide social enterprises with small capital grants and is one of a number of schemes being funded from the Social Enterprise Measure of the Dormant Accounts Fund in 2021.

[What is a social enterprise?](#)

Social Enterprises are businesses that work primarily to improve the lives of people. Their core objective is to achieve a social, societal, or environmental impact. Like other businesses, Social Enterprises pursue their objectives by trading in goods and services on an ongoing basis. However, surpluses generated by social enterprises are re-invested into achieving their core social objective. They frequently work to support disadvantaged groups such as long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, the Traveller community, etc., or to address issues such as food poverty, social housing, or environmental matters. Applicants will be required to confirm that their organisation meets the definition of a social enterprise as set out in the National Policy - National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland - 2019-2022

What kind of projects will the Scheme fund?

Under this Social Enterprise Small Capital Grants Scheme 2021, grants will be provided to social enterprises towards small scale capital projects. Capital costs incurred by social enterprises for the purchase of equipment are eligible. Repairs and refurbishment of existing facilities can also be funded.

It should also be noted that expenditure incurred before the date of grant approval will not be eligible for funding.

What kind of expenditure will NOT be funded under the scheme?

The scheme does not provide funding for operating costs (e.g. the employment of staff, electricity costs, heating costs, etc.) or administrative costs.

Application

<https://laois.ie/up-content/uploads/Social-Enterprise-Capital-Grants-Scheme-2021-Application.pdf>

Opening Date: Thursday 16th September 2021

Closing Date: Friday 8th October 2021 @ 4.00pm

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 8th October 2021 at 4.00pm. Please ensure that all documentation required to complete the application is included, otherwise this may render your application invalid.

The application process is administered by Laois Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

**As part of Healthy Ireland at your library,
Laois Libraries are hosting an insomnia talk
with Breege Leddy of the Insomnia Clinic on
Tuesday 5th October at 6:30pm**



**How to sleep well with
Breege Leddy,
Sleep Therapist**

Has your sleep routine been disrupted?
Are you looking for tips on how to sleep well and for reasons
why you may not be sleeping?

Join us on Tuesday October 5th @6.30pm via zoom

Email mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie to register your
interest



**Breege founded the first-ever dedicated
insomnia clinic in Ireland in 2013.**

**If the past 18 months or so has thrown your
sleep pattern out of sync, this may be worth
tuning into.**

**If you are interested in this event, please
email:**

mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie



Social Enterprise Legal Form

Research Launch



**RETHINK
IRELAND**



The Social Enterprise Team at Rethink Ireland is delighted to invite you to the virtual launch of the recently completed research project on social enterprise legal form in Ireland on Wednesday, October 6th from 10am - 11am. The research project was carried out in accordance with the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019 - 2022 measures.

The research team of Tanya Lalor (Method Consultants) and Gerard Doyle (TUD) will present an overview of the research carried out and follow on recommendations. This will be followed by a short discussion on how the research recommendations can create continued positive momentum for the social enterprise sector in Ireland.

To register your interest for this FREE event, go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/social-enterprise-legal-form-research-launch-tickets-169446492019>



Suspected Crayfish Plague Outbreak



The Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO) have confirmed a Crayfish Plague outbreak by the Marine Institute in the Clodiagh (Tullamore) river, near Clonaslee, Co.Laois



The information below is being circulated to all water users to ensure they are implementing the biosecurity measures outlined here. The Crayfish plague disease can be carried on wet equipment, so all water users (recreational users, anglers, scientific assessment / sampling, engineering works, etc..) in this catchment area need to put biosecurity measures in place to prevent spread of this disease and other invasive species between rivers.

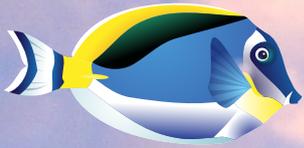


All agencies involved in managing and protecting the rivers in Ireland should encourage and ensure users of the river to CHECK, CLEAN and DRY their equipment before using it again when leaving a river.

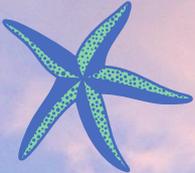
CHECK - all equipment and remove any dirt, plant or animal matter before leaving the site and again before entering a new site.



CLEAN - Disinfect equipment with an approved disinfectant, see advice from the National Biodiversity Data Centre



DRY - Ensure equipment is allowed to dry before entering a new site and any residual water is drained from boats, etc.. before leaving a site.



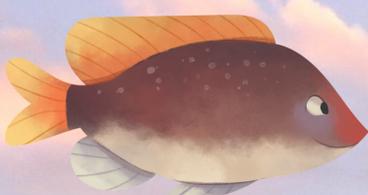
The Crayfish plague disease decimates our native crayfish populations causing 100% mortality. The White-Clawed Crayfish is native to Ireland and is commonly found in many lakes, rivers and streams. They are an important part of the river ecosystem as a grazer of plants and they are food for the otters.

The White-Clawed Crayfish is a protected species ([White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](#)).

However crayfish plague is an Invasive Species and is a huge threat to this native population due to its devastating impact.

For more information see advice from National Biodiversity Data Centre here:

<https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/invasive-species/crayfish-plague/>





Laois & Offaly Library Services Parenting Support Programme

Laois and Offaly Library Services have jointly organised an online series of Parenting Talks with support from the Dormant Accounts Fund and the Department of Rural and Community Development. The Programme is open to everyone including parents, caregivers, teachers and all those working with children and young people.

Attendance is FREE and all talks will take place over ZOOM.



Details of each talk and how to book a place can be found online at:

<https://midd.me/OKFV>

This FREE series of talks is beginning on Wednesday 22nd September focusing on the many challenges facing parents in the 21st Century.

Please visit our Eventbrite Page to view all our events and to book your place.

www.bit.ly/3nER1XE

Please see the October Timetable of Events below:

Focus On:
Parents

Thursday,
7th October

Time:
7.30pm



Taking Care of Mum: What you need to know after giving birth

Eimear Fox, Physiotherapist



In this webinar, Eimear will provide information on changes that can happen to your body postnatally and what steps can be taken to treat them. The discussion will include Tummy Gap & Pelvic Floor Dysfunction: when is this a worry and how to self-check, how to move safely in the first few weeks after baby, how to know when a return to exercise is suitable and how to know when you might need to refer to a Women's Health Physiotherapist for postnatal support.

Eimear is the owner of Kilbeggan Physio & Pilates and for the last 12 years she has been helping clients fall in love with Pilates, both on the Mat and more recently on reformers. Eimear graduated as a Physiotherapist in 2009 and has also trained extensively in Women & Men's health and is the Mummy MOT practitioner in the Midlands for all postnatal concerns. Details of her service can be found at <https://www.eimearfox.physio/>

Focus On:
0-4 Years

Wednesday,
13th October

Time:
7.30pm

Promoting Language Development through Reading with your Child



Talking Buddies programme is all about training and supporting people in the community, such as parents/preschool staff and other community groups, on how to promote language development for children age 0-5. Many children in this age range are referred to speech and language therapists as they present with delayed language skills. Talking Buddies will demonstrate how reading aloud to children will help to promote their language development.

Developed by Speech & Language Therapists, Katie Walsh & Maria Brennan, Talking Buddies is a project that is government funded under Slaintecare. Both Katie & Maria have a passion for promoting language development through reading and sharing books.

Focus On:
Parents

Thursday,
14th October

Time:
7.30pm

Balancing Work and Family Life when Parenting Alone or Post-Separation



In this interactive workshop, parents will have the opportunity to engage with One Family and identify how best to balance their needs with those of their children.

This workshop will explore what the key ingredients are in a strong family unit. Parents will start to identify the needs of each family member and connect behaviours with unmet needs.

This understanding around needs will support parents in looking at how they can balance the resources they have to meet their own needs as parents along with the needs of their children.

From this, One Family will explore how work and family life can overspill into each other affecting relationships and often increasing stress within the family and for the parent.

The workshop will be interactive, with parents asked to engage, ask questions, and join in the conversation in order to get the most from the session.

One Family are a registered charity, working to ensure a positive and equal future for all one-parent families in Ireland. In addition to striving for structural changes, One Family support individual one-parent families as they parent through times of family, work and life change, and those experiencing a crisis pregnancy.

Further information and support is available at <https://onefamily.ie/>



Focus On:
0-4 Years

Wednesday,
20th October

Time:
7.30pm

Sarah Sproule

Embrace the Awkward:

How to talk to your kid(s) about
sensitive stuff like sex



Learn to comfortably teach your children about healthy sexuality.

Sarah's presentation aims to begin equip parents and other caring adults to raise young adults to have healthy, supportive and consensual relationships.

Attendees will learn why conversations about sex and sexuality are difficult, but why they are still important for families to discuss. Participants will come away with simple first steps to get moving comfortably with this part of parenting.

Sarah Sproule is a sexuality educator and the creator of The Evolve School. She supports parents and other caring adults to build deeper connection with their kid(s) by having conversations about sensitive stuff like sex.

As a mother of three teens, Sarah has combined her decades of experience as an occupational therapist with her masters in sexuality to create a unique approach that supports families of all types.

No child should feel alone and too afraid to ask for help with their body, their boundaries or their knowledge about babies and sex.

Helping adults learn the skills to give kids a place to speak freely about their fears and worries is what Sarah's work is all about. More details about Sarah and her workshops is available at <https://sarahsproule.com/>





Focus On:
Teens

Thursday,
21st October

Time:
7.30pm



Supporting your LGBTQ+ Teenager

Bella Fitzpatrick, Shout Out

In this session, ShoutOut will offer information and solutions to assist parents and guardians in supporting their LGBTQ+ Teenager. Specifically for those who have young people in their lives, this session draws directly on their work with young people in schools. Participants will learn how small steps can make their home more inclusive, and will leave feeling fluent in the language young people use to capture their identity in 2021. They will discuss why it can still be difficult for young people to come out in a more accepting Ireland, and together find practical solutions to support anyone who may be struggling.

ShoutOut is a registered charity committed to improving life for LGBTQ+ people by sharing personal stories and educating school students, parents & guardians, teachers, youth workers and workplaces on LGBTQ+ issues. Since 2012 they have been delivering workshops in secondary schools across Ireland which tackle LGBTQ+ bullying and this experience informs all their training modules and educational workshops. If you would like to learn more, further information can be found at <https://www.shoutout.ie/>

Focus On:
0-4 Years

Wednesday,
27th October

Time:
7.30pm

Navigating Sleep from Birth to 4 Years including Handling the Autumn Clock Change

Erica Hargaden of Babogue



Trying to get a baby into a sleeping routine is challenging for all new parents, whether it's the first time or the fourth time. In this workshop, Erica will offer advice and guidance giving you the foundations and tools to create healthy sleep habits for your child. She will look at Why Sleep is So Important, What Happens when we Sleep, Child Sleep Challenges - What they are & Why they Happen, How to Lay Sleep Foundations, What to Expect from Birth to 4 Years, 7 Steps to Better Sleep and How to Handle the Autumn Clock Change.

Erica Hargaden is a certified Child Sleep Consultant and member of the International Association of Child Sleep Consultants. When Erica found a sleep routine that worked for her own three children, she found friends coming to her for advice. This led her to train as a Paediatric Sleep Consultant and set up her own practice, Babogue. Testimonials and more information is available at <https://babogue.com/>

Focus On:
Teens

Thursday,
28th October

Time:
7.30pm



Supporting Someone with an Eating Disorder

Harriet Parsons, Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist

Eating Disorders are a growing problem encountered by people of all ages and all genders today. This session will try to address some of these issues and will inform those watching and what they can do to support someone with an eating disorder. Questions which will be addressed include: What is an eating disorder? Is it all about food? How do I know if someone has an eating disorder? What are some dos and don'ts when trying to have a conversation and support? Where do I go for help and treatment?

Harriet Parsons holds an MSc. in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy from St. Vincent's Hospital School of Psychotherapy / UCD, an MA in Addiction Studies from DBS, and a BA (psychology) from DBS. Harriet joined BODYWHYS in 2005 and as Training and Development Manager, she works to provide the support component by Bodywhys to the HSE National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders. Further information and supports on Eating Disorders can be found at <https://www.bodywhys.ie/>

Focus On:
0-4 Years

Wednesday,
3rd November

Time
7.30pm

The Benefits of Music Therapy

Ciana McGarrigle, Music Therapist



People often think of music as a creative hobby or pass time, but what if we thought of music as a useful therapeutic intervention. In this webinar Ciana will explain what Music Therapy is, its uses and benefits, answer any questions anyone may have in relation to her work and give a practical demonstration of music therapy in action.

Ciana McGarrigle is a Music Therapist living and working in the midlands. She works across the life span from young children to adults using a variety of therapeutic music based methods and techniques that work towards the achievement of specific goals and objectives for her clients. Working across a variety of fields has afforded Ciana the opportunity to develop her craft and create and explore new and exciting ways of working with her clients.



Laois CONNECTS Launch

Laois CONNECTS Mental Health week is a community led initiative developed to promote positive mental health and wellbeing across Laois. This annual event takes place every October to help celebrate World Mental Health Day. The overall aim of Laois CONNECTS is to encourage people to talk about mental health, to reduce the stigma associated with mental health challenges and to encourage people to seek help if they experience any difficulties and feel they would benefit from support.



Above: David Murphy, Laois Connects Co-ordinator, Julie Scully, Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator Laois, Finola Colgan, Mental Health Ireland, Ann Marie Maher, Sport and Leisure LCC, Dan Bergin, Laois PPN, Ann Marie Kirrane, Community Section, Bernie Foran, Laois Library. Seated front: Cllr Conor Bergin, Laois County Council Cathaoirleach.



Laois PPN will be holding two events in October for Laois CONNECTS Week. The first event on Thursday 14th October is an online event, 'Introduction to Self-Harm'. This workshop will be facilitated by the HSE and is suitable for those who seek to develop their awareness, knowledge and understanding of self-harm behaviour. The second event will take place in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel on Wednesday 27th October. This in-person event to promote good mental health will be hosted by guest speaker Rory O'Connor of Rory's Stories. Rory is a comedian, author and a major mental health advocate.

More information on these events will be available soon.

World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD),

10th September, 2021



World Suicide Prevention Day is a global health day, focused on raising awareness and understanding about suicide prevention.

The Theme for 2021 is "Creating Hope Through Action", which aligns with the focus on collective and individual efforts, that are reflected in the National Strategy to reduce suicide, 'Connecting for Life'.

World Suicide Prevention Day is a time, when each and every one of us, can demonstrate to others in our lives and communities, that there is hope. Even though suicide is a very complex issue, we can and should always, signal to people who are vulnerable or experiencing suicidal thoughts, that we care and want to support them. This helps to create a more compassionate society, where those who need to, feel more comfortable in coming forward to seek help.

Creating Hope Through Action

Here are six simple actions, that we can all take, that can help create hope with others.

- 1. Reach in** - Reach in to someone you know might be struggling or to someone who you know has struggled before.
- 2. Reach out** - If you are feeling particularly low or hopeless, always remember that sharing things with someone else will help.
- 3. Reconnect** - Find ways to re-establish meaningful connections for people, wherever they have been lost or damaged. A good sense of belonging, is important for people's mental health.

4. Learn More - Learn more about suicide prevention and how to recognise and identify people, who might be at risk of suicide and connect them with resources that can help.

5. Show your support - Connect with a support or community organisation - volunteer, help spread their message and become involved in activities, that help promote positive mental health and wellbeing or suicide prevention, in your community.

6. Know Where to turn - Get to know what mental health services and supports are available and tell more people about them.



[Where you can find support now](#)

[GP Out of Hours Services](#)

If it's late in the evening, night time or the weekend, you can contact a GP out of hours service.

MI Doc (Laois, Offaly, Longford & Westmeath) 1850 302 702

NE Doc (Louth, Meath) 1850 777 911

[Hospital Emergency Services](#)

Hospitals are listed on the HSE.ie online service finder. You can also contact the emergency services by calling **999** or **112** if you or someone else has harmed themselves or taken an overdose.

[HSE Mental Health Services](#)

If you have been (or are currently) supported by a mental health team, go to the Emergency Department or contact the service you are attending and ask for an appointment as soon as possible.

[Listening Service](#)

For confidential, non-judgemental support, the Samaritans are free to call, anytime day or night on 116 123 in the Republic of Ireland.





volunteer centre

Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Laois

LAOIS

Laois Volunteer Centre is a new service in County Laois. Previously, a Volunteer Information Service was in operation but since April 2021, a full-time Volunteer Service has been established.

Laois Volunteer Centre is a registered charitable organisation (CHY 20206150). It is the first time Laois has had a full-time dedicated volunteering service. The aim of which is to link people with non-profit / not for profit organisations for the purpose of volunteering.

We are funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and our ultimate objective is to improve people's lives by enabling them to connect with their communities, provide opportunities where people can 'give back', gain greater self-esteem and skills and utilise their talents. In addition, Laois Volunteer Centre also provides organisations with support and advice about volunteer recruitment, engagement and management.

From October 4th, **Laois Volunteer Centre** will be providing an outreach service (Monday - Wednesday) around the county starting in Portlaoise but also circulating to Mountrath, Portarlinton, Abbeyleix, Mountmellick and Rathdowney.

VOLUNTEER



For appointments outside Monday - Wednesday, please feel free to

phone us on 087 24 99 659

or

[email: info@volunteerlaois.ie](mailto:info@volunteerlaois.ie)

Please follow us on social media to find out where we will be and how we can help your organisation.



The poster is titled 'LAOIS VOLUNTEER CENTRE' and 'October Outreach Schedule'. It specifies 'By Appointment only'. The schedule is as follows:

MONDAYS 9:30am-4pm	PORTLAOISE Vision 85, Clonminum Industrial Estate
TUESDAYS 9:30am -4pm	MOUNTRATH Bloom HQ
WEDNESDAYS 9:30am -4pm	PORTARLINGTON Portarlington Enterprise Centre

Contact us for further information or to book an appointment
Email: info@volunteerlaois.ie
Phone/Text: 0872499659

If you would like Laois Volunteer Centre to contact you, please copy the following link into your web browser and fill in your information.

<https://scanner.topsec.com/?>

[https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2Fr%2F9FYcn5Xh0P&r=show&t=a033252a14acdedfb8f5464cb34a386d297c392b&d=](https://forms.office.com/r/F9FYcn5Xh0P&rs=show&t=a033252a14acdedfb8f5464cb34a386d297c392b&d=)

1358

Interested in becoming a volunteer?

Download the I-Vol app on your smartphone or type www.I-Vol.ie into your web browser and follow the simple steps to register.



Talking Art Online



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

IMMA
ÁRÁS NUA-EALÁINE
MA NÉIREANN
IRISH MUSEUM OF
MODERN ART

You are invited to

Talking Art Online

The Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), in collaboration with the Department of Rural and Community Development, wishes to connect with groups or individuals in rural areas to participate in the free Programme of 'Talking Art Online' for adults.

This free programme aims to provide people with poor or no internet connection with the opportunity to take part in online artistic and cultural programmes through the free connectivity offered at their local Broadband Connection Point (BCP).

People from all over Ireland are invited to join us for this free online art experience via their local Broadband Connection Point.

The programme will take a closer look at selected artworks from the IMMA Collection and discuss IMMA exhibitions with our Visitor Engagement Team online. The programme is very conversation based and no previous experience is required. Selected Art works will be shown on screen and the group will be prompted to take a closer look and respond to the themes discussed in the art works. The programme offers an easy entry point to a variety of other free online programmes available at IMMA.



This free programme will take place on:

- Wednesday **October 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th** from **11am-12pm**

Each session is unique.

Participants wishing to take part must attend the session from a BCP.

The session 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.

Booking is essential and places are offered on a first come first served basis.

To book your place please contact Catherine_abbott@imma.ie indicating your preferred session and the BCP you will be attending from. For more information about other IMMA programmes, please visit <https://imma.ie/>

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



Your local BCP (Broadband Connection Points) are as follows:

- **Vicarstown Community Centre, Laois R32 RX67**
- **Emo Community Centre, Laois R32 KF74**
- **Oisin House, Laois R93 W825**



Contact Us

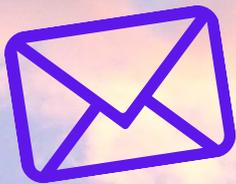
**The Laois Public Participation Network (PPN) Office
has reopened, Monday to Friday, 9.30am - 1pm, by
appointment only.**

We are also contactable by email and phone.



Email: ppn@laoiscoco.ie

**Phone: 057 86 65661 (Office)
086 035 2107 (Dan)**



**Postal Address: Laois Public Participation Network
JFL Avenue, Lyster Square
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