



Laois Public Participation Network

January 2023 Newsletter

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**HAPPY
Valentines
DAY**

OPERATION TRANSFORMATION



Operation Transformation's Karl Henry at Vicarstown

Operation Transformation fever has been spreading through Laois! Karl Henry has been busy visiting multiple locations all around the County for the Operation Transformation Ad Break Challenge.

So far on his tour of Laois, Karl has visited Vicarstown, Stradbally, Portlaoise, Kilcavan, Ratheniska, and Portarlinton, with the next stop being Timahoe Round Tower.

The turnouts for each of the Ad Break Challenges has been nothing short of outstanding and has really showed the spirit of Laois.

Karl Henry said of his visits to Laois, "Laois has had the best turnouts for any of the Ad Break Challenges over the years."



Karl Henry

Kathleen Sheridan of SVT Activity & Wellness Hub said "We are all so thrilled to be welcoming Operation Transformation.

We in the SVT (Stradbally, Vicarstown, Timahoe Activity and Wellness Hub) along with Ann Marie Maher and her colleagues in Laois County Council, have been working really hard over the last few months to "sell " Stradbally as the perfect location for this years seriesand thankfully all of our efforts have paid off. We welcomed the opportunity of showcasing the wonderful communities of Stradbally, Vicarstown and Timahoe, along with their fantastic Clubs, Teams, Organisations and people.



Kathleen Sheridan

Dan Bergin, Laois PPN Resource Worker said, ""On behalf of Laois PPN, a special thanks to all our Member Groups who turned out in large numbers to support the Operation Transformation Ad Break Challenge at each location.

The large turnout representing local Clubs and Groups for each Ad Break Challenge showcased the fantastic Community Spirit in Laois."



Dan Bergin



Operation Transformation's Karl Henry at Portlaoise Plaza



Dr Eddie Murphy

Dr Eddie Murphy said "As the Clinical Psychologist on Operation Transformation I am overjoyed that Laois, my home county is our home for 2023 - the blue zone in the heart of Ireland"



Kathryn Thomas

The host of Operation Transformation said "We are delighted our new Operation Transformation home for 2023 is Stradbally, Co Laois. Community is key for OT and we enjoyed meeting people from across the towns and villages of the county as we all support each other and embrace the start of a healthy and happy new year."



Photo Credit Denis Byrne.

PPN Resource Worker Dan Bergin, right, with John Kelly, left and John Scully, centre at Operation Transformation's visit to Ratheniska. Picture by Denis Byrne

Dr Sumi Dunne said of having Operation Transformation here that "It's fantastic to have OT in Laois. Over the years the people of Laois have followed and supported OT in so many ways, it is lovely for me to now represent Laois in Laois"



Dr Sumi Dunne

You can watch Operation Transformation and the progress of everyone in Laois every Wednesday on Rte 1 at 21:35





101 HISTORIC CURIOSITIES OF COUNTY LAOIS

BOOK LAUNCH



Dan Bergin, Laois PPN Resource Worker and Seán Murray at the launch of the book

On Thursday 9th of February there was a large gathering in the Dunamaise Arts Centre to celebrate the launch of 101 Historic Curiosities of County Laois.

The book has been a passion project of Laois PPN Representative Seán Murray. Seán, an archaeologist, has been a long-term member of Laois Heritage Society.

Seán Murray said of the night, "The Laois Heritage Society are delighted to bring you "101 Historic Curiosities of County Laois". A book which takes the reader on a historic journey from the centre of Ireland where they will behold the boyhood deeds of Fionn mac Cumhaill, seek knowledge from the Christian monks, wisdom from the warrior kings, visit sites of ancient pilgrimage and explore the tales of conquest, plantation, new settlements, and migrations of Laoisians, who travelled to the far-flung corners of the world. There is a story for everyone inside with a focus on some of the lesser-known places and personalities which form our shared County history. We wish to extend our gratitude to the contributors and the support given by Creative Ireland Laois, Laois County Council, and the Laois Heritage Office.



Seán Murray

The Book is available in all good bookshops for €20.

PPN REBRANDING



Laois PPN have been taking part in the PPN National Branding and Communications Campaign in association with Alice PR.

Laois PPN Support Worker, Stephen Ring has designed the new logo for Laois PPN going forward.

Laois PPN Resource Worker said, "Well done to Stephen Ring, Laois PPN Support Worker, for redesigning the Laois PPN logo which will be used locally and nationally going forward as part of the National Branding and Communications Campaign."



*Laois PPN Resource Worker
Dan Bergin*



Laois PPN Support Worker Stephen Ring

PRIDE OF PLACE



The town of Ballinakill represented Laois at the recent Pride of Place Awards. It was entered into the category for a Population of 300 to 1,000.

On the 16th September Ballinakill showcased its community champions superbly, greeting the judges in the IPB All island Pride of Place Competition.

Its natural beauty is a backdrop for a number of outdoor activities- heritage walks, cycle routes & fishing or a simple stroll through the woods to enjoy the peace & tranquillity it offers. It is a vibrant, growing community whose members are committed to maximising its beauty, history, facilities and the talents of its people for the benefit of all.

Community participation and innovation is at the forefront of everything they do in Ballinakill and it is these qualities, which will ensure that the needs of the community will be met in the years ahead.



In its 20th year, the Pride of Place awards is an annual competition, organised by peacebuilding charity Co-operation Ireland and is sponsored by IPB Insurance.

Established to promote and celebrate the best in community development, the awards recognise the selfless efforts of people in making their local neighbourhoods better places to live, work and socialise.

The aim of the Pride of Place competition is to recognise initiatives taken by local communities to create pride in their area and to celebrate the vital contribution that community groups make to society and focuses on people coming together to shape, enhance and enjoy all that is good about their area.

Liz Kennedy of Ballinakill Development Committee said, "We were delighted to have been chosen by Laois County Council to take part in 'Pride of Place'. The experience gave the people of Ballinakill the opportunity to come together and experience a shared appreciation of where we live. It was wonderful to have everybody working together to facilitate a true 'community day' in Ballinakill. Even the sun came out to support us!



Liz Kennedy

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Community Grant Heritage Scheme 2023



Abbeylix Heritage House

The Heritage Council is now accepting applications from community groups and not for profit non-governmental organisations around the country for its Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2023.

A total of €1.5m is available for this year's scheme. Applications are sought for projects aimed at improving access and inclusion to heritage sites, and that apply good heritage practice to the management of places, collections, or objects (including buildings), with the maximum grant amount increased to €25,000 this year.

Funding is also available for groups who want to improve access to heritage for people with disabilities, as well as for projects which explore the heritage of minorities, including newly arrived immigrants, and the Traveller community.

The scheme also supports training events for traditional building skills, biodiversity, and archaeology, as well as the purchase of specialised equipment.

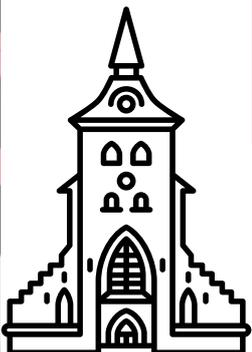


Timahoe Round Tower

Applications must be made via the Heritage Council's online grants management system
Here

The closing date for applications for this round of the scheme is Monday, 20th of February 2023 at 5pm.

Full Details Available
Here



Community & Voluntary Energy Support Scheme



Donal O'Shea (Laois PPN Secretariat), Ann Fleming (Laois PPN Secretariat), Vincent Booth (Laois PPN Secretariat), Diane Seale (former Laois PPN Support Worker), Nina Horan (Laois PPN Secretariat), Minister Joe O'Brien, Donal Brennan (Director of Services, Laois County Council), Paddy Buggy (Laois PPN Secretariat), Dan Bergin (Laois PPN Resource Worker), Bolaji Adeyanju (Laois PPN Secretariat)

Laois PPN were delighted to hear that Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State, Joe O'Brien TD, have announced the second tranche of successful applicants under the €10 million Community and Voluntary Energy Support Scheme (CVES).

Under the initiative, some 238 organisations from across the community and voluntary sector will receive a one-off contribution towards their increased energy bills for 2022. So far 7 groups in Laois have benefitted from the Scheme with five in Tranche 1 and two in Tranche 2

Payments will begin to issue to organisations immediately.

[Full Details Available Here](#)

Laois Arts Grants & Opportunities



The Arts Department have a number of annual awards and opportunities available to arts organisations, schools and individuals in 2023

1: Arts Act Grants 2023

Provision has been made by Laois County Council for the payment of grants to Laois arts organisations and individuals who meet the artistic and financial criteria set down by Laois County Council and who provide adequate information on their proposed activities. Maximum amount payable will not exceed €1000.

2: Tyrone Guthrie Residency Bursary Awards 2023

A bursary is available to enable two Laois artists to spend one week working at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in County Monaghan. The bursary is open to artists in all fields and is selected based on previous achievements and projects in hand.



3: Artists in Schools Scheme 2023

Grants are available for artists' residencies in schools, to include all art forms. This scheme gives primary and post primary schools the opportunity to select and work with professional artists and explore new arts media.

4: Culture Night 2023

Expressions of interest are invited from arts and culture groups and individuals interested in organising events to be included in the funding application process for culture night taking place on Friday 22nd September 2023.

5: Art Studios and Residential Studios at Laois Arthouse, Stradbally

Expressions of interest are invited for Laois Arthouse Studios and Residential Studios in Stradbally. Studios at €250 and residential studios at €250 per month, including utilities and waste disposal. Facilities include an exhibition space, kiln, garden, public library and WIFI.

Closing date for receipt of these completed applications is Friday 17th February 2023

[Click Here for More Information](#)



LAOIS JOBS FAIR



On Monday 20th February, the 2023 Laois Jobs Fair will be taking place in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise.

The 2023 Laois Jobs Fair will showcase the hundreds of roles on offer across the county, whether you are a Graduate or seeking a new role. There will also be the opportunity to learn about third-level, reskilling, upskilling and apprenticeship opportunities.

It will take place in the Midlands Park Hotel Portlaoise, on Monday 20th February 2023, 12 – 7 pm.

[To View the Schedule](#)
[Click Here](#)

There will also be a number of talks taking place throughout today, including CV workshops, third-level opportunities, apprenticeships and traineeships with the LOETB, and EU careers..

[To Register Your Free Place](#)
[Click Here](#)

LOVE IS IN THE AIR DINNER & DISCO

Love Is In The Air

DINNER & DISCO

18
FEB
2023

DJ
Sbu

6PM
TIL
LATE

TICKETS €40
3 COURSE MEAL
MR & MRS VALENTINE
BEST DRESSED COUPLE
LOVE STORIES FROM IRELAND,
UKRAINE, ARAB, AFRICA & LOTS
OF FUN ACTIVITIES

THE KILLESBIN HOTEL
DUBLIN ROAD
PORTLAOISE

BUY OR DONATE TICKETS
VIA EVENTBRITE
RSVP
dignitypartners@gmail.com
0892546155



To Buy Tickets
Click Here



ICE CARDS



ICE Card launch

Following the success of the initial batch of ICE (In Case of Emergency) Cards, there are now 5000 more available for individual or groups of older people.

These cards are a useful aid to first responders or medical professionals, especially in cases where someone may be non responsive. They display useful information on the person including Name, Eircode, Who to contact in case of emergencies, Blood Type and Pharmacist. They also have a number of useful emergency contact numbers printed on the card such as Emergency Services, ESB and Gas Networks

To receive these cards call Tom Curran in Age Friendly Laois on 05786 64150 or 086 0363426 or email agefriendly@laoiscoco.ie. They are also available at your Local Library



Name: _____
Eircode: _____
In case of emergency:
Contact Name _____
Contact No: _____
Allergies: _____
Blood Type: _____
Pharmacy: _____



Public Participation Network Laois

CONTACT US

The Laois Public Participation Network (PPN) Office is open Monday to Friday by appointment only.

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