

WESTSIDE NEWSLETTER



Supported by Westside Community Development Project and Westside Resource Centre

Volume 1, Issue 1
Winter 2011

Westside Community Christmas Bazaar

A wonderful selection of handmade Christmas gifts by people from Westside community supported by Westside CDP and Galway City Partnership. Everybody is welcome!



Venue: Westside Resource Centre

Times: 10:00am – 1:00pm
Thursday 15th December 2011
Friday 16th December 2011

For more information contact Vernice on 087-9403468 or 091-528325.

Westside Community Development Project

Westside Community Development Project coordinates and supports community work and participation in the Westside area. Westside CDP is actively engaged with numerous individuals, agencies and service providers in the area to ensure the needs of the community are being met and to empower local people for positive change. We organise accredited and non accredited courses for people living in Westside. We have some very exciting initiatives in the pipeline such as a new Community Garden for Westside, a new Community Music Project and lots of new classes and new community groups. If you would like to get involved or have any ideas that you would like to share with the CDP we would love to hear from you! **You can Contact Vernice or Sidikat – 091 528325 or 087-9403468.**

We wish everyone involved with the project a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a very prosperous and healthy 2012. Thank you for all of your support throughout the year.

Westside Community Christmas Carols & Coffee Morning

Westside CDP invite you to a Community Christmas Carols and Coffee Morning

There will be light refreshments and Christmas Carols by Westside Community Music Project at 11.00am.

Everybody welcome!



Venue: Westside Resource Centre

Date: Wednesday, 21st December 2011

Time: 11.00 am (Coffee and Mince Pies from 11.00am)

What's the "Westside Story"?

In spite of the current climate Westside Resource Centre is going from strength to strength. 2011 will be remembered as one of the busiest years in recent times. We now have 8 different projects operating from offices based here in the building. (Please see the full list and contact details on the back page of this news letter.) We also cater for a great many local groups who use our meeting and training rooms on an hourly or daily basis. On a number of occasions in recent weeks we have hosted 10 or 12 individual events or classes per day alongside our normal activities. Regardless, whether busy or quiet our aim is to deliver a professional service to all our clients and also to provide a warm and supportive community atmosphere for all those who use the Resource Centre

In all walks of life and in all organisations there are good days and bad days. However, in the end the good days always beat the bad ones and we are delighted that the Resource Centre is playing its part in the very many positive developments which are happening in the area. It is inspiring to see so many local people getting involved in positive projects which will in time enrich and enhance our community. This year saw the first steps being taken towards bringing a Community Garden to Westside and plans are also now in place for a Westside Youth Café. Working in a busy dynamic community building,



Staff of Westside Resource Centre and Westside CDP

one gets accustomed to people coming and going, projects expanding and contracting etc. During 2011 we gained many new friends as projects and initiatives got up and running. In particular we would like to offer a very warm welcome to Poul Walsh Olsen who moved in recently to work for LGBT Diversity. However, a few old friends moved on also and we will miss them. We would like to give a special mention to Paul Tannian, Ronan Scully and Helena Falvey who have all moved on to work elsewhere. Our very kind regards go also to our great colleague Kathleen Qualter, who worked for many years at the Sunflower Crèche & Pre-school, and who retired just last month. Our very best wishes to them all. What about 2012? There will no doubt be great challenges in the coming year. The impact of funding cuts will be felt across the

whole community and voluntary sector. However, there are people working very hard to minimise the potential negative consequences for our communities and they are fighting hard to maintain services as much as possible. Tough times have come before... but we're still here and we will deal with 2012 as it comes along. There is a great deal of courage, resilience, creativity and goodwill here in our own community and it is our privilege to be able to play a part in bringing all these positives to the fore.

To all in Westside....Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

James Coyne
Resource Centre Manager

Congratulations to Michael D. Higgins

The management and staff of Westside Resource Centre and Westside CDP are delighted to congratulate Michael D. Higgins on being elected President of Ireland. We wish him well in all his endeavours and we look forward to his term in office



Shining Stars

Shining Stars is a community group for Traveller women from the Westside community. In 2011, one of the activities the group participated in was a Health Morning, organised by Westside CDP and Galway Traveller Movement. The group will be meeting again in 2012. **Contact Sidikat or Vernice at 087-9303468 or 091-528325.**



Sunflower Creche

Sunflower Crèche and Pre-school are committed to providing support for families in the Westside Area through provision of quality childcare for children aged 1-6 years. We operate from a purposely built Childcare centre offering the children attending our service a safe and secure environment to learn, socialize and have a positive play experience. We provide places for 106 children per week. Sunflower Crèche & Pre-school is managed by a Voluntary Management Board which consists of parents and local people within our community.

Computer Classes

Westside Community Development Project organised a number of computer courses this year. The courses covered the very basics of using a computer and also intermediate topics. Our courses are accredited and non-accredited.

The small class sizes and relaxed atmosphere was appreciated by all of the participants. Everybody learned a lot from the courses and they are now more confident about using a computer.

Contact Sidikat or Vernice at 087 9303468 or 091-528325.

Corrib Rangers FC

UNDERAGE TRAINING TIMES

Boys Under 12, Mon-Wed, 6 to 7pm

Boys U13 and 14, Tues and Thurs, 6 to 7pm

Boys U8 - 9 - 10 and 11, Sat 10 to 11am

Girls U10 - 12 - 14 - 16,

Training will commence 07 January 2012.

All Training takes place on our new Astro Pitch behind the Westside Library.

All Welcome

Craft Recycling & Enterprise Course

Since the beginning of 2011 the Community Development Project in conjunction with Tina from Missy Bonkers has facilitated two Craft Recycling & Enterprise courses.

The courses covered a variety of craft techniques including bag and purse making, doll and soft toy making, accessories from brooches to neckpieces and soft furnishings from cushions to pin cushions. The courses also focused on recycling textile materials into useable items, and up-cycling/altering clothing, whilst also looking at pattern drafting and pattern cutting.

For further information on the course contact Sidikat or Vernice at 087-9303468 or 091-528325.

The Westside Youth Project

Youthwork Ireland Galway

We have a wide range of activities and programmes for young people between the ages of 10-21 years of age. The groups include Art, Grinds, Breakdance, Youth Café Initiative, Young Mums, One to One support and once off events. The project works to support the personal, social and educational development of young people in a positive and interactive manner. The staff are available to meet with young people and parents to discuss Young Peoples' needs and to provide support at any time.

For more information on any of the services run by Youth Work Ireland Galway Westside please **contact Janice on 087 2363021.**

For Us Now Women's Group

The FOR US NOW Women's Group was formed on 6 February 1995 as a support for women. We meet regularly, every Wednesday morning, during the school year in Westside Library, Seamus Quirke Road, Galway from 10:00am until midday.

There we have made new friends, discovered new interests, discussed matters of mutual concern and been a support to one another. Opportunities that have arisen to gain further knowledge, skills and abilities have been warmly welcomed by the group and a variety of courses have been undertaken. We are continually exploring new ideas and look forward to learning more during the next 11 years! All are welcome. For further information, see our blog at <http://forusnowwomensgroup.blogspot.com> or contact Antoinette at 087-6455315.

Westside Library

All members of the community are welcome to visit and use Westside Library. Westside Library provides a books and audio lending service for both children and adults; free internet, computer and photocopying facilities; free events for both children and adults including book clubs; free access to newspapers and magazines; and so much more. We are open Tuesday - Saturday; 11.00-8.00 Tuesday and Wednesday and 11.00-5.00 Thursday- Saturday. Membership for children and senior citizens is free; 2.00 euro per annum for students and unwaged; 5.00 euro pa for waged.

Our next event is our Polar Express Pyjama Story time (ages 4-10) on Thursday 22 of December at 5.30 pm, the event is free but places are limited. Call into Westside Library to book your polar express tickets. **Contact Westside Library, Seamus Quirke Road, Westside, Galway on 091-520616 or westside@galwaylibrary.ie**

Snapshots of events in 2011



Patchwork Quilting

Patchwork quilting is a very old craft that has become really popular again in recent years. It involves sewing together small pieces or patches of different materials to form a large pattern. It is one of the craft groups being supported by Westside CDP in the Westside Resource Centre. Those who have already completed courses are still practising the craft and, in the last months, have made a beautiful patchwork quilt. This quilt will be raffled at the Christmas morning in the Resource Centre on December 21st. Other items made include table-runners and centrepieces, cushion covers, table-mats, coasters and bookmarks. The courses have been very successful in teaching new skills, but have also been greatly enjoyed on a social level. Many new friendships have been formed. No prior knowledge of sewing is required and all are welcome to the patchwork quilting courses. **If you would like to register for new classes, just drop ask for Vernice or Sidikat or call 091-528325 or 0879303468.**

All Welcome



Celia Comber - tutor

**Courses are supported by
Westside Community
Development Project,
City of Galway V.E.C and
Galway City Partnership**

Rahoon Youth Project

The Rahoon Youth Project (Droim Chaoin) works with young people of secondary-school going age, in both groups and one-to-one. We have a full line-up of activities planned for January 2012, but are always open to hearing from young people or parents if they have ideas about activities! Coming up in 2012, the successful drama group will continue, as will the ever-popular cookery and grinds. Some hands-on earth-based activities will take place, such as gardening and making a clay oven.

The film club is looking for new members. A

new quit-smoking group will help support young people who want to give up the fags to do so, with organised sessions to help young people get off the tobacco, coupled with fun active sporty sessions of badminton, kayaking, breakdance, etc! A new knitting group is also setting up, where we can learn to knit and just hang out and chat and enjoy creating something with our hands! There is also the possibility of a DIY group and a girls' group at some point in the new year. A MindOut camp will run over the February mid-term, and a group of young people will also be preparing next year for a 9-day trip to Globalcamp in Kent, England, in July! So it's all go at the Rahoon Youth Project. **If any of the above interests you, please give Kerry E'lyn or Anne-Marie a ring or text on 087-9141522 or email droimchaoin@youthworkgalway.ie or look us up on Facebook!**



Westside Community Garden

Westside are in the planning stages of developing a community garden for all locals and community groups in the area. The garden, which will be located beside the Westside Resource Centre, will provide a space to learn about gardening, to meet new people and have some fun. A public meeting about the garden was held in March 2011 which was very well attended. Three successful gardening classes have taken place to date. Dolores Keegan has been facilitating the

classes. Four planning workshops have also taken place and there will be a crop planning workshop in early 2012. There is a working group which includes people from agencies and the local community. The new Westside Community garden received a boost in its work with the help of Coffey Construction who assisted with the excavation of the site. If you would like to keep up to date with the development of the garden and get involved with this exciting new initiative

Westside Men's Club

Meet every Monday from 7pm to 9pm in Westside Resource Centre (opposite the Library). It all began in 1995. The Westside Resource Centre Ltd, a Community Development Project in the Westside of Galway City began the group by talking to local men about what kind of projects they would be interested in getting involved in. The men told them that they wanted to use different ways of looking at the issues that affected their lives, their community, their family and friends. They agreed to form a Men's Group. The Group aimed to: Improve the quality of life of men living in the Westside; Enhance men's opportunities Explore men's roles as fathers brothers, sons, spouses now and in the future; Continue to develop services and Supports for men.



Projects over the years include

Art Classes, Computer Classes, Cooking Classes, First Aid, Photography Classes, Woodcarving, Woodwork, Irish Classes

Projects Completed To Date

Drama - 3 Plays

The Bowyer Boys
No Way Out
The Road to Nowhere

Videos

Westside Story
Spotlight Rahoon

Our Art work was on display for Westside Arts Festival and also for Social Inclusion Week in City Hall on 18 October 2011, where it was well received. We Now Have a blogspot. All courses are supported by the Westside Community Development Project, Galway City V.E.C, Galway City Partnership and the H.S.E

Email: menclubwrc@gmail.com

Site: westsidemensclub.blogspot.com

Wishing All a Happy & Safe Christmas

please contact Vernice, Westside CDP on 091-528325 or 087-9303468. This project is supported by Westside Community Development Project, Westside Resource Centre, Le Cheile Westside LTD, Galway City Council, Galway City Partnership, Galway City VEC, St Anthony's and Claddagh Credit Union in Westside, Westside Family Services and Health Promotion HSE West.

Contact Sidikat or Vernice at 087 9303468 or 091-528325.

Westside Social Club

Cope Galway, Westside CDP and Westside Age Inclusion are working together with local volunteers to establish a social club for older people at risk of isolation in the Westside area. The aim is to reduce isolation, increase social networks and develop links for older people with sustainable community resources.

Social club activities include: facilitating a regular social club, providing a space where older people can enjoy good food and company, music and activities/talks/gentle exercise. The social club is about supporting older people to share skills and develop new ones with in a safe environment.

We meet every second Wednesday: 1- 4pm

Contact Nichola Tierney on 091-589861 or

Vernice Murray on 091-528325

Sacred Heart Parish Christmas Arrangements 2011

Saturday 24th December 2011

9:00pm - Christmas Eve Mass
and Blessing of the Crib

Sunday 25th December 2011

Christmas Day Masses
9:30am, 11:00am and 12:15pm
No Evening Mass

Monday 26th to Friday 30th

December 2011 Daily Mass 10:00am

Sunday 1st January 2012 Feast of the

Holy Family 9:30am, 11:00am,
12:15pm and 6:30pm

Vigil Mass: 6:30pm on Sat
30th December 2011

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 17th December 2011

Confessions 5:30-6:30pm

Saturday 24th December 2011

Confessions 12:00-1:00pm
Confessions 3:00-4:00pm

This is our first edition. If you have an item that you wish to have included in the next newsletter, please contact Vernice at the Westside Resource Centre

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed in the contents of this newsletter are those of the author(s) of each piece and do not reflect the view of the Westside Resource Centre or the Westside Community Development Project.

Organisations based in Westside Resource Centre

Westside Community Development Project

Westside Community Development Project coordinates and supports community work and participation in the Westside area. Westside CDP is actively engaged with numerous individuals, agencies and service providers in the area to ensure the needs of the community are being met and to empower local people for positive change. (Contact Vernice or Sidikat – 091 528325)

Big Brother Big Sister

Big Brother Big Sister is an internationally renowned youth mentoring programme that forms friendships between a young person and an adult volunteer. This programme is operated in Ireland by Foroige, the national youth development organisation. The Galway regional office is based in the Westside Resource Centre. (Contact Ciara or Kate – 091 554420)

National Advocacy Service

The National Advocacy Service aims to provide independent advocates to people with disabilities who find it difficult to speak for themselves. (Contact Rebecca, Greg or Andrea – 091 528325)

Life Pregnancy Care Service

Life Pregnancy Care Service provides counselling and support to woman and men with crises pregnancies. (Contact Life Pregnancy Care Service – 091 587575)

Westside Crèche & Pre School

Westside Crèche & Pre School is a community based childcare service

which aims to support and assist families and children in the Westside area through the provision of accessible, affordable, high quality childcare. (Contact Pauline – 091 581707).

Millstone House

Millstone House provides support and counselling for the survivors of institutional abuse and their families. (Contact Tom – 091 528325 / EXT 136)

L.G.B.T. Diversity

The LGBT Diversity programme is a coordinated national response by 12 LGBT organisations, developed to build the capacity of the LGBT sector. (Contact Poul – 091 528325)

Westside Resource Centre also provides meeting and training space for numerous other local and national groups and educational organisation including – Westside Men's Group, Shining Stars Women's Group, MEAS Garda Youth Diversion Project, Galway Citizens' Information Centre, Westside Age Inclusion, Galway Technical Institute, Galway City Partnership, City of Galway VEC, DeafHear, Viatores Christi, COPE, Brainwave, Galway City & County Childcare Committee, Youth Work Ireland, Incredible Years Parenting Programme, Westside Adult Literacy Support Project, Galway City Council ... and many, many more.

Westside Resource Centre, Seamus Quirke Road, Galway. (091) 528325

A Year in the Kitchen

It is a little over 14 months since the first course started in the centre, and in that time, over 50 people from the Westside area passed through the centres doors and on into the kitchen downstairs. In that time also, the good word has spread, and the interest keeps growing and growing in the cookery courses.

2011 was a very successful year for cookery in Westside, where there have been five courses facilitated in the centre, with a great mix of participants from all walks of life.

This past year saw a Westside cookery group participate in the East meets West Cookery competition. The group members participated in a series of classes for 10 weeks, facilitated by Niall Diviney, which allowed them to explore new culinary avenues, to learn different dishes and skills from one another, and also to learn to work as a team.

The Westside Men's Group also deserves particular mention, as they have now successfully completed one, and are in the middle of their second cookery course, which takes place every Wednesday evening.

This year sees the first Westside Christmas Craft Bazaar take place, with many groups and

participants from a wide range of craft-based courses coming together to sell their wares. The current cookery group have been working tirelessly over the past few weeks to create some mouth-watering treats to sell at the bazaar... thank you all for all of your effort.

Looking forward to next year.

For further information on the course contact Sidikat or Vernice at 087-9303468 or 091-528325.

