



## The Open Door

### Community Social Gathering

First Tuesday of Every Month @ 10:30am

Westside Resource Centre

☆ All Welcome ☆

## Resource Centre Open Day 2014

Westside Resource Centre Ltd. is 20 years old this year and plans to mark its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Local Community Open Day.

The event will provide local people with a great opportunity to meet with the various community and voluntary groups who work in the centre. Staff from each of the organisations will be on hand to answer questions and provide information about their services.

Community groups and not-for-profit organisations will also have a chance on the day to explore the facilities available at Westside Resource Centre and the options open to agencies wishing to provide training or establish a base in the centre.

The event is planned to take place during National Social Inclusion Week in October 2014. Refreshments will be provided on the day. Further details will soon be available from Westside Resource Centre Seamus Quirke Road, Galway, or on 091-528325

## Westside Arts Festival 2014 - Another Great Success

This year's Westside Arts Festival was a great success and hundreds of people attended the many events that took place from the 9th to the 12th of July. The Open Mic event drew lots of local talent and the Arts and Crafts Exhibition showcased the work of a large number of local artists and crafters.

On Saturday the 12th of July, despite the inclement weather, there was a great turnout. With over 40 hours of workshops and activities and special events throughout the afternoon, there was something for everyone on the day.



Photos from Westside Arts Festival 2014

## Historic merger of local charity with Gorta

Two of Ireland's longest established overseas development charities - Self Help Africa and Gorta - have completed an historic merger. The merger creates one of Europe's largest agricultural development charities working in Africa. Self Help Africa has a local base in Westside Resource Centre.

Announcing details of the merger, CEO Ray Jordan said that by working together, Gorta and Self Help Africa would save costs on administration, and help more people in rural Africa in the years ahead.

"We do the same thing, in many of the same countries. When we sat down and started looking at this together it made complete sense that we should team up, ultimately for the benefit of the people in Africa that we serve," he said.

In the coming year the newly merged charity estimates that it will support more than three million people in 12 African countries. The focus of work will be on supporting farming communities to grow more and earn more from their land.

Both charities have a long history of working in agricultural development in Africa, and have deep roots within farming in Ireland. Self Help Africa has been the long-standing charity of choice of the Irish Farmers Association, while Gorta was founded almost half a century ago arising from an initiative to combat global hunger that was spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture.

23 November 2014



01-6778880  
info@selfhelpafrica.org



Art, Craft and Educational Classes

Meetings, Seminars & Social Gatherings



Your local Resource Centre hosts a wide variety of events and courses.

**Westside Resource Centre**

091-528325

## Want to have fun and support young people?

Foróige's Big Brother Big Sister (or BBBS) is an internationally recognised youth mentoring programme that forms supportive friendships for young people, inspiring them to brighter futures. You could make a Big difference to the life of a young person by supporting them in being the positive role model they might need.

Jessica (13) said, "BBBS has helped me in many ways. Each week I am learning new skills with my Big Sister, like jewellery making and baking cookies. It has also helped to build my confidence. I'd like to be a Big Sister when I am older so that I can help out someone else."



A Big and Little on the decks

A parent of a little brother said, "It has been a great success. My son gets on great with his Big Brother, who is a brilliant male role model. Before the programme he didn't have any male influence in his life. Now he has someone to play football with, go fishing, listen to music and all those kinds of things."

If you would like to make a difference to a young person's life, contact Andrea on 087-7996268 or 091-554420.

## Westside Garden Harvest Day



2014 is proving to be another very successful year for Westside Community Organic Garden. To celebrate the hard work of the volunteers, an Open Day was held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August.

The volunteers decked the garden with bunting and many brought delicious dishes created using produce from the garden. There was a great attendance on the day and everybody admired the way the garden looked and the variety of plants growing there. Even the rain held off until the event was over!

Westside Community Garden is located beside Westside Resource Centre, on Seamus Quirke Road and is open every Wednesday morning from 10 until 12. Volunteers are welcome and gardening courses are run throughout the year.

### Westside Greeting Cards A Picture of Success

Sales of Westside Resource Centre's Greeting Card Collection have gone from strength to strength. The first print run has sold out and sales of the second print run are under way.

The collection celebrates the work of local artists and crafts people, many of whom have displayed pieces in Westside Resource Centre over the years. The collection consists of twelve individual and original images with subject matter ranging from the maritime landscapes of the west coast, to floral themes, to bold and modern interpretations of local landmarks.

A pack of 12 cards costs €10 and the collection is available from Westside Resource Centre Reception and from Westside Library. All proceeds from sale of the cards go towards supporting the services provided by Westside Resource Centre.

Westside Resource Centre provides photo-copying, faxing and laminating services to members of the public.

Westside Resource Centre  
Seamus Quirke Road, Galway  
091-528325

info@westsideresourcecentre.ie  
www.westsideresourcecentre.ie

## Galway Adult Basic Education Service

Are you interested in improving your reading, writing and maths skills? If so, we are running classes here in the Westside Resource Centre for anyone who has a difficulty with reading, writing, spelling, basic maths or computers. The class is always open to new students. All you have to do is ask at reception in the resource centre or call Alison on 091 567660. The group is small, relaxed and friendly and meets twice a week on a Monday and a Friday morning.

We can also arrange one to one classes as desired. Our one to one classes are tailor made to suit and we can work on many things such as reading, spellings, filling in forms, report writing, maths for parents or basic computers. If anyone has any specific needs for work or needs to improve their writing skills for a particular course, we are happy to help with those things as well. Call Alison on 091-567660 for further information, or visit our website: [www.gabes.ie](http://www.gabes.ie).

### Nathan Forde Memorial 6-a-sides

The Memorial 6s was set up by friends of the late Nathan Forde, a teenager from Corrach Buí in Westside who died last March. David Creaven, who is involved with Corrib Rangers, gave them the use of the pitch. A sum of money was donated by each of the 16 teams that entered, which helped raise over €700 for charity. Nathan Forde's mother, Deirdre, is choosing the charity herself. The photo below was taken at Corrib Rangers astro pitch on Saturday 17th May.



### Culture Night in Westside



Culture Night takes place on Friday 19 September this year and Westside Resource Centre is hosting another great event to mark the day. Last year's movie - *The Guard* - was a great success and the backdrop to this year's film is also Galway city.

Based on one of the 'Jack Taylor' novels by Galway-born author Ken Bruen; *The Guards* gives a glimpse of the dark underbelly of a fictional City of the Tribes. The film stars Iain Glen and Galway-born actor Nora-Jane Noone.

The performance starts at 7pm sharp. Advance booking is essential, as seat numbers are limited. Contact Westside Resource Centre on 091-528325.



**Did you know that you could be entitled to have your home insulated for free?**

First Class Insulation is a community based organisation and is funded by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland to provide home insulation free of charge to people who own their own home and are in receipt of certain social welfare payments. The payment types that are eligible include

1. Winter fuel allowance OR
2. Family Income Supplement OR
3. Job seekers allowance for over 6 months and children under 7.

To check if you are eligible call us at 091 760877.



*Members of Westside Men's Group took part in a Photography course this summer.*

## 20 Years A-Growing

Westside Resource Centre Ltd celebrates 20 years in operation in 2014. Established in 1994, Westside Community Development Resource Centre - as it was known at the time - arose to help meet the needs of the people in the Westside area.

There was an obvious need for a centre where people could come for services, classes, group meetings and social gatherings. Isolation and disadvantage, in many different forms, were pressing issues in the Westside area and the establishment of a resource centre was seen as a positive step in combating these problems.

Westside Resource Centre was originally housed in one of the commercial buildings on the former premises of Lydon House bakery. On 6<sup>th</sup> June 2001 President Mary McAleese officially opened the present purpose-built Westside Resource Centre.

Apart from the nine local and national organisations that have longterm leases on offices in the building (see page 4 for more information) the resource centre hosts many community, not-for-profit and educational groups throughout the year.

Community groups such as Westside Men's Group, Westside Community Patchers, Westside Craft Group and Westside Community Garden use the resource centre on a weekly basis.

The existence of Westside Resource Centre has brought about improvements in the lives of many people in the area over the years. Access to important services in the heart of the community has been a very helpful addition. The skills and friendships that developed through the various classes and courses have also made an important contribution in reducing isolation and helping to empower people to make a positive contribution to their own community

## Art for Sale



Proceeds to Westside Resource Centre

Westside Resource Centre, Seamus Quirke Road, Galway. Tel: 091-528325.

Westside Resource Centre recently received a number of paintings from a very generous anonymous donor. These beautiful artworks comprise a variety of landscapes and seascapes on canvas and board.

These beautiful paintings are now for sale to the general public in order to raise funds for the running of Westside Resource Centre. These unique pieces are priced at a very reasonable level and everyone is encouraged to visit Westside Resource Centre to view the paintings on display in the reception area.

## WorldWide Global Schools

Are you a school, a school network or an (eligible) NGO that wishes to increase student engagement with global development? If yes, then you may be interested in applying to WorldWide Global Schools for funding or support.

WorldWide Global Schools is an Irish Aid programme for development education in post-primary schools. We aim to contribute to increased knowledge and understanding of global justice issues and increased engagement and action by students as active global citizens.

Successful grant applicants will be supported to integrate a global justice and development dimension through curricular and extracurricular activities. Examples of the type of projects that may be funded include: teacher capacity building; student activities (such as debates, seminars, exhibitions, research etc); curriculum development; networking activities and partnership activities between the global north and south.

Please contact Aishling McGrath of the WorldWide Global Schools team based in Galway for more information on the Grant and to find out how we can support your work.

Email: [aishling.mcgrath@worldwiseschools.ie](mailto:aishling.mcgrath@worldwiseschools.ie) Tel: 01 5547449 [www.worldwiseschools.ie](http://www.worldwiseschools.ie)

## Galway City Partnership - Westside Project Classes

Galway City Partnership Westside Project in partnership with Westside Resource Centre, Galway Roscommon ETB, Westside Family Services and St Vincent de Paul, are organising a variety of exciting and interesting courses for people in Westside in October 2014. Contact Vernice Murray on 091 528325 or 087 9303468 or email [vernice@gcp.ie](mailto:vernice@gcp.ie)

# Organisations based at Westside Resource Centre

## Galway City Partnership - Westside Project

Galway City Partnership - Westside Project coordinates and supports community work and participation in the Westside area. The project is actively engaging 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. Activities are supported by Galway & Roscommon ETB, HSE West and Galway City Council. (Contact Vernice on 091-528325 or 087-9303468).

## Epilepsy Ireland

Epilepsy Ireland provides a professional information service to support and empower people with epilepsy and their families, who have problems coming to terms with the condition and it's implications. (Contact 091-587640).

## Galway Simon Community

Galway Simon Community's vision is one of a society where everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness is enabled and empowered to have a home appropriate to their needs. (Contact Galway Simon Head Office, Tuam Road on 091-381828).

## OBAIR – Local Employment Service Network

The Local Employment Service Network (LESN) provides a free and confidential service to people who are unemployed and in receipt of a Social Welfare payment. If you are unemployed and in receipt of a social welfare payment the LESN staff can assist you with information and guidance to explore your options for work, education or training. We can also provide assistance with CV preparation, application forms and interview preparation. (Contact Mary or Pdraig on 091 581955)

## Westside Resource Centre



## MEAS Garda Youth Diversion Project

The GYDP is a community based and supported youth development project which seeks to divert young people from becoming involved (or further involved) in anti-social or criminal behaviour. These projects facilitate personal development and promote civic responsibility. (Contact Ruairi or Anthony on 086-7741623 or 091-554421).

## 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 Foróige, the national youth development organisation. The Galway regional office is based in the Westside Resource Centre. (Contact Andrea or Kate on 091-554420).

## 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 on 091-581707).

## 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 Ciara on 091-528325).

## Gorta Self Help Africa

Gorta Self Help Africa works with rural communities to help them improve their farms and their livelihoods. (Contact Ronan on 087-6189094).

## Westside Library News

The Mythical Maze Summer Reading Challenge continues in Westside Library. We have had a record number of children sign up for the reading challenge where they read six books over the summer holidays. The mythical maze app is also a big favourite as the children discover Medusa and the Minotaur move on the posters!

### Westside Library Up-coming Events

Westside Library was opened on 23 January 2004 and is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. A range of events has been organised to mark this important occasion.

Event Details	Month
<b>Westside Knitting &amp; Crochet Group</b> Workshops	September 2014
<b>For Us Now Exhibition</b> Display of their crafts and projects	October 2014
<b>Children's Book Festival</b> Storyteller visits, class workshops	October 2014
<b>National Museum of Ireland</b> Viking Workshops (School groups only)	November 2014

## Bright & Spacious Office Available To Rent

Our office is fully decorated and carpeted and would be suitable for one, two or possibly three workers & workstations. Full details are available on request.

**Westside Resource Centre** provides high quality serviced offices to community, voluntary, not-for-profit, educational and charitable organisations.

Our offices provide finished 'ready to go' accommodation in modern purpose-built surroundings.



**Contact**  
**(091)528325**

★ Short term flexible leases available. ★

## Grateful thanks to our volunteers and distributors

Westside Newsletter is hand delivered by a group of local volunteers. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the volunteers for their assistance. A special mention also to our colleagues at St. Joseph's Community Centre for their help in distributing the newsletter throughout the Shantalla area.

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 Galway City Partnership - Westside Project.