



WESTSIDE NEWSLETTER

Supported by Westside Resource Centre and Galway City Partnership - Westside Project

Spring Tidings

As 2021 advances and the situation with COVID-19 shows signs of improvement, many of us are looking forward to a bit more freedom of movement in the months ahead. Before too long we will hopefully be able to meet face-to-face with more of our friends, families and neighbours. At Westside Resource Centre the absence of our community groups and classes has been very keenly felt over the past year. In the community and voluntary sector the pandemic has presented some real complications. We know that keeping people apart is one of the solutions in curbing the spread of COVID-19... but we have not forgotten the great benefits in bringing people together. Because of this we are working towards the safe return of community events and activities later this year.

Some of the 'old craic' and banter may have ebbed away but we are encouraging all community groups to keep in touch and to keep going. Let's keep the flag flying and think about how and when we may safely return to normal activities. Initially, it may be that smaller gatherings will be the norm and extra hygiene precautions will continue to be important in keeping the corona virus at bay. The creative use of technology will also play a part. We may see 'mixed meetings' where some people attend in person whilst others take part online. In this way those who are awaiting vaccination, or simply not able to attend in person, will still be able to take part and keep in contact with their friends.

Let's play our part in beating this virus into the background...and make plans for better times ahead.

Irish Emergency Alliance }

The Irish Emergency Alliance is a group of charities who came together in 2020 to save & rebuild lives more quickly in the wake of humanitarian disasters. By pooling their resources, they aim to be more efficient in helping the world's poorest countries. Brian Casey, Executive Director of the Alliance, is based in Westside Resource Centre.

The overseas development agency Trócaire, recently joined the Alliance and Brian welcomed the new member saying, "Trócaire is not only a household name in Ireland but is an Irish aid agency with a world class reputation. With Trócaire on board, the Irish Emergency Alliance will be even better placed to respond to the world's worst disasters to make sure that we are able to reach more people in need and save lives."

The Irish Emergency Alliance is comprised of Action Aid, Christian Aid, Plan International, Self Help Africa (also based in Westside Resource Centre), Tearfund, Trócaire and World Vision Ireland. Between them, these organisations have programmes in 85 different countries, giving the Irish Emergency Alliance the global presence necessary to respond quickly to a crisis. For more information visit www.irishemergencyalliance.org



COVID-19 RESPONSE

Galway City Council
[Community Call Helpline](http://www.galwaycity.ie)

Freephone: 1800 400 150

Email: covidsupport@galwaycity.ie

A New Take on the Old Long Walk

Congratulations to our colleagues in the Westside Craft Group who recently made front page news in the Galway City Tribune. The group have unveiled their unique model of the Long Walk in wool at their base in Westside Resource Centre. The unveiling caused quite a stir and the model was featured on Nuacht TG4 along with an interview with some of the members "as Gaeilge". The Crafters have been regular participants in Westside Arts Festival over the years and we look forward to seeing their future creations.



The Local Employment Service (LES)

Do you want to return to work, education or take up that training course?

The Local Employment Service can give you the support and guidance you need. We are here to help you get back into employment through one-to-one career guidance, information and training, education options and employment opportunities that suit you.

Employment Guidance supports

- Exploring employment options
- One to one guidance support
- Career planning
- Job / training/ education supports
- Funding assistance for specific job-related training (based on meeting funding criteria)

Job Search Resources

- CV and cover letter preparation
- Interview skills & mock Interview coaching
- Access to IT facilities to pursue employment opportunities
- Job applications tips and techniques
- Job searching support

Information Service

- Local education & training opportunities
- Information and referral to Community Employment and Tús schemes
- Advice on Return to work, self employment, further education/training options and social welfare entitlements and incentives

Employer supports

We provide a service to employers, helping with recruitment, up-skilling, access to employer incentives and highly suitable applicants. Our services are tailored to the needs of the individual and employer and are available free of charge.

If you are ready to take the next step on the road to work, education or training, why not call into us today to register. The Service is free, confidential and community based.

Local Employment Service Offices:

108 Bohermore, Galway
Phone: 091-566617, email: ben@gcples.ie

Ballybane Resource Centre, Ballybane Rd.
Galway
Phone: 086-0677149, email: vikky@gcples.ie

Westside Community Resource Centre,
Seamus Quirke Rd., Galway.
Phone: 086-0677150, email: mcarr@gcples.ie



Community Employment Scheme

One to One Computer Classes

Printing / Photocopying

Internet Access

Le Cheile Westside Co Ltd

☎ 091 582146 ✉ info@lecheilewestside.ie

Le Cheile, Unit 1, Westside Enterprise Centre



CATHAIR NA GAILLIMHE

PLEAN FORBARTHA

GALWAY CITY

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Galway City Development Plan – Have Your Say

Galway City Council has commenced a review of the current Galway City Development Plan 2017-2023 and preparation of a new City Development Plan for the period 2023 to 2029.

There are various stages involved in the preparation of a development plan which is a two year process. This current stage is Stage 1 'Pre-Draft' and is the first phase of public consultation and runs until 5th March 2021. Members of the public will have other opportunities to give input to the Plan at various stages.

Further details available here:
<https://www.galwaycity.ie/development-plan-2023-2029>

A New Way to Support Your Local Resource Centre

Over the years, Westside Resource Centre has received occasional donations from various sources. We also sometimes have minor raffles and draws during annual events - such as our Christmas Market - and these provide a fun way for people to support the Centre and to help us in the work that we do.

The Resource Centre is very grateful for the supports that it receives from all across the community and we have now set up a donations page with iDonate.ie This allows people to make a donation to the Centre by going online and is particularly useful at the present time because of COVID-19. We hope that this facility will provide a handy way of supporting the Centre remotely... although we are looking forward to meeting all of our clients and colleagues face to face before 2021 is over.

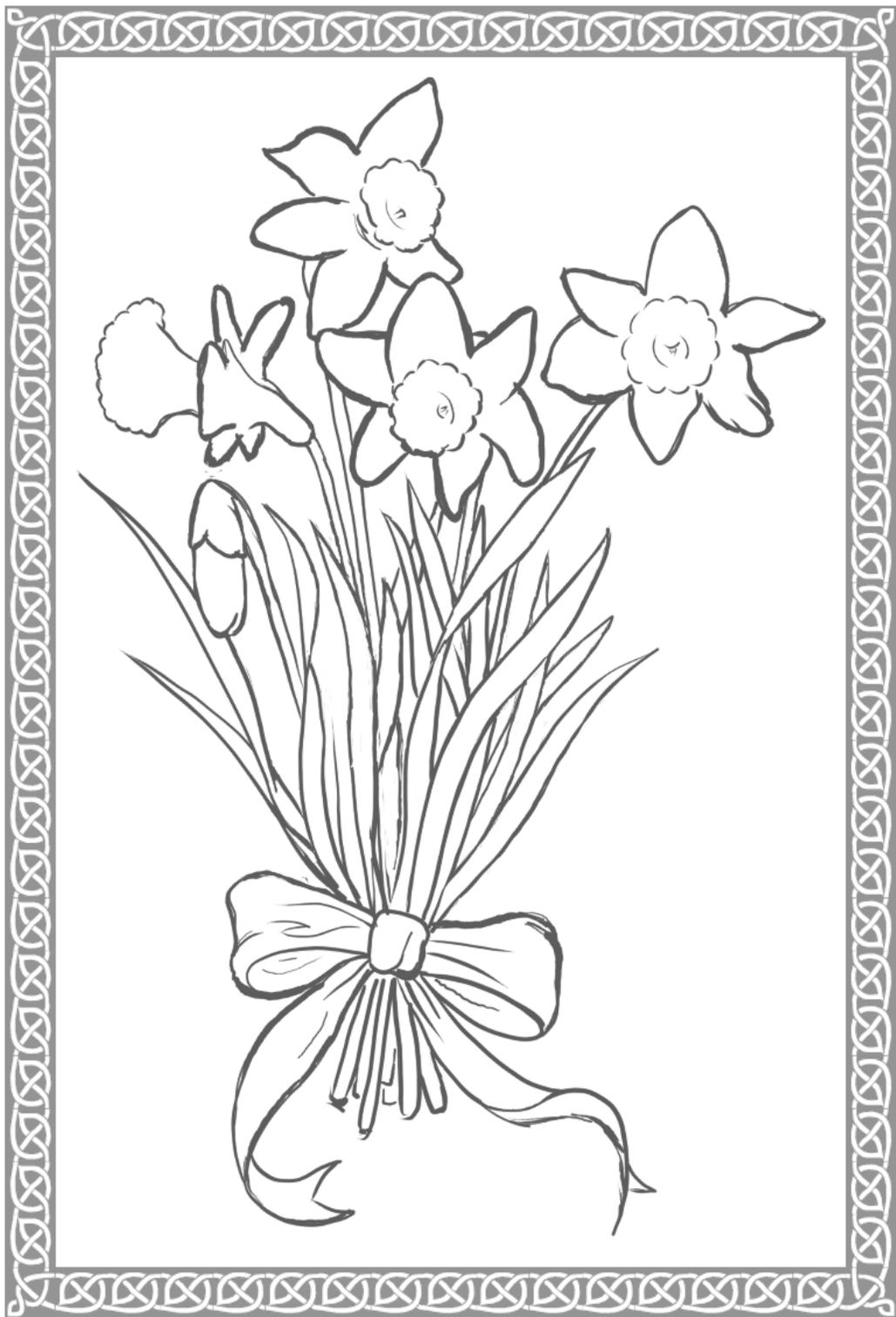
You can access our donation facility by clicking the "Donate" button on our website

<http://www.westsideresourcecentre.ie>

Westside Resource Centre is a charity registered with the Irish Charities Regulator. Registration Number **20034139**. CHY Number **11975**. Thank you for your support.

Westside Resource Centre
Seamus Quirke Road, Galway

091-528325 info@westsideresourcecentre.ie facebook.com/westsideresourcecentre



Mayor's Awards Now Open for Nominations

The annual awards will formally recognise the outstanding contributions that local volunteers, community groups and voluntary organisations have made in supporting the residents of Galway City during the past year. In these unprecedented times, it is even more important to acknowledge those who have volunteered on the front line during the COVID-19 crisis bringing vital supplies, support and comfort to the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Throughout 2020, many people across Galway City have given up their time to support their communities in a range of different ways. Many people have made extraordinary efforts to continue their voluntary commitments they were involved in prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic by making adjustments in a safe and responsible way. Galway City Council wants all who volunteer to know their contribution is appreciated and valued and that volunteering is celebrated for its vital contribution to our society, developing communities as vibrant, inclusive and sustainable places where people want to live.

Closing date for nominations is Friday, 16th April 2021 at 5pm.



People who have disabilities can often experience difficulties in asserting their views and/or securing their rights and entitlements and this can lead to their having limited choices and little control over their lives. The National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities provides an independent, confidential and free representative advocacy service that works exclusively for the person using the NAS service. NAS Advocates work with each person they support in a person centred and empowering way, to ensure that the person's voice, choices and preferences are heard and considered when their life decisions are being made, and that their rights are safeguarded.

An example of a case recently undertaken by one of our Advocates involved working on the issue of GP charges for routine blood tests. A person contacted NAS after being charged for routine blood tests despite the person having a medical card. The Advocate worked with the person to identify the issue and the possible solutions to addressing it. The person was supported to raise the issue with the HSE Primary Care Unit. The person was notified that they should not be charged for routine blood tests as it is part of their treatment. The person was offered the opportunity to seek reimbursement for fees paid to date.

If you think you, or someone you know would benefit from NAS independent advocacy, the service can be contacted through the national telephone number: 0761 073000 or by email: info@advocacy.ie

Springtime - Children's Colouring Competition

Colour in the image and send
a photo of the completed page to:
public@westsideresourcecentre.ie

Please include your first name, your age and a parent's or guardian's contact email address. Enter for a chance to win a prize sponsored Westside Public Library. The winning entry will be announced and featured on Westside Resource Centre's Facebook page

Closing date for entries: Friday 26 March 2021.

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author(s) of each individual piece and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Westside Resource Centre or Galway City Partnership.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF A GROUP/ORGANISATION OPERATING IN GALWAY CITY?

JOIN GALWAY CITY COMMUNITY NETWORK (GCCN)

GCCN is the Public Participation Network in Galway City, a network of **community, voluntary and environmental** organisations active in Galway City which:

- facilitates representation on decision-making structures
- develops policy & positions on issues of common concern
- acts as an information hub
- strengthens capacity of the community, voluntary and environmental sectors in the city.

For further details visit the Join Us page on www.galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie



Westside Library prepares for new services to the community

Staff in Westside Library are busy preparing for the introduction of new services to the community during the latter half of 2021.

Amongst the numerous initiatives the library will develop and establish a MakerSpace and Creator Studio offering access to 3D technology, robotics, coding and provide guided expert advice in several different Art mediums including pottery, felt making, millinery, textile works and of course art classes, charcoal drawing and painting. These will all be available free of charge.

We ask you to keep an eye on our Facebook page and Social Media accounts and we look forward to working with our community in 2021.



Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture has secured an extension to allow some events to move into April 2021. Level 5 government restrictions in January and February have impacted on cultural events across Ireland including the Galway 2020 programme which has many projects still in progress.

One of the projects, "Giant Steps" tells the story of nine pupils from Scoil Bhríde Primary School in Shantalla in Galway City. The film set out to capture the highs and lows of their final year in primary school; and what a strange and challenging year it turned out to be. For more information and to view the film on Vimeo, go to <https://galway2020.ie/en/event/giant-steps>



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employment, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.



The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) recently relaunched the "Supporting Children" campaign in light of intensified COVID-19

restrictions. The campaign was developed by DCEDIY to support vulnerable children, young people, and their families in challenging times. It was first launched on 19 June 2020 to highlight the range of services and supports in place to meet the needs of vulnerable groups across a range of service areas, from Child Protection and Welfare to Education Support, Parenting and Family Support and others.

The campaign is designed with two purposes: it encourages all of us to look out for vulnerable children whose lives and supports have been severely disrupted during the current pandemic and it also spotlights the "Supporting Children" website

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/42dcb-supporting-children>

The site points to a wide range of information detailing supports for children, young people and families and will be continuously updated throughout the campaign

Galway Dyspraxia Support Group



The monthly Galway Dyspraxia Support Group coffee meetups at Westside Resource Centre are on hold due to the current restrictions. However, we are still available by phone or email to offer support to families dealing with Dyspraxia/DCD. Please get in touch with us at daigalway@gmail.com and we can answer questions by email or by phone.

Westside Patchwork Group

Although we are unable to meet in person in these strange times, the members of the patchwork club are staying in touch on our WhatsApp group. We do miss our weekly get togethers and chats, but everyone has been keeping very busy. Lots of patchwork gifts were made in the runup to Christmas – sets of placemats, runners, Christmas-tree skirts, cushion covers, Christmas trees, and even some mug rugs! We would like to congratulate our sister club, the Craft Club, on the well-deserved success of their knitting project of the Long Walk – well done Bernie and all the knitters. We look forward to the day we can all meet again, and in the meantime stay safe and keep patching!

Creative Gifts

Westside Resource Centre has a range of creative gifts for sale. Our popular Greeting Card Collection features work by artists in the local community. The cards are ideal for any occasion. A pack of 12 cards costs €10 and they are available at Reception.

Copies of the Westside Writers' Group's recent anthologies are also available from the Resource Centre. Each anthology is a collection of short stories, poems, songs and other writings and the 2021 edition even contains a COVID-19 section which captures in story and verse the reality of the pandemic. The anthologies cost between €10 and €12.50.

We have received a number of original paintings from a very generous anonymous donor. These beautiful artworks comprise a variety of landscapes and seascapes on canvas and board and are priced between €3 and €25, depending on size.

All proceeds from the sale of these creative gifts go to support the work of the Resource Centre, which is a registered charity working to support the local community.

Westside Resource Centre – Many Services Under One Roof

Galway City Partnership - Westside Project coordinate and support community work and participation in the Westside area and engage with numerous individuals, agencies and service providers to ensure the needs of the community are being met and to empower local people for positive change.
(Contact Suzanne: 091-528325 or 086-0433376).

Big Brother Big Sister are 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 Kirsten on 087-7996268).

WorldWide Global Schools is Ireland's national Global Citizenship Education (GCE) programme for post-primary schools. The aim of the programme is to increase the number of post-primary schools engaging in quality global citizenship education by providing a comprehensive range of supports and training.

Galway City Community Network is a network of community, voluntary and environmental organisations active in Galway City. The GCCN is the main link through which the local authority connects with the community, voluntary and environmental sectors.
(Contact Ann on 087-9326467).

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

National Advocacy Service aims to provide independent advocates to people with disabilities who find it difficult to speak for themselves.
(Contact 076-1073000).

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).

AMACH! LGBT Galway aims to reflect equally the diversity within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community by encouraging positive participation from the community. We actively advocate to achieve a solid and safe support structure for the LGBT+ community in Galway.
(Contact info@amachlgbt.com).

MEAS Garda Youth Diversion Project 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 Anthony on 086-0479707 or 091-554421).

OBAIR – Local Employment Service Network
If you are out of work and looking for employment, training or educational opportunities, we can help. Our service is free, respectful and client- focussed. All meetings are held in private. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICE. Please Note: If you are in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance/Benefit, the Dept. of Employment Affairs & Social Protection will send you to us if deemed appropriate. (Contact Marguerite or Pádraig on 091-581955)

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 its implications. (Contact Edel on 091-587640).

EPIC – Empowering Young People in Care in Ireland is an independent association for young people in care and with care experience. We provide information, advice and support as well as an independent advocacy service for young people in care, aftercare or with care experience. (Contact Brenda on 091-395605 or 087-6249344).

RISE Service is the provider of choice of person-centred, health and social care services that facilitate people who are disadvantaged to participate in the life of their local community in ways that match their choices, aspirations and needs. (Contact Kim on 087-3811796 or kim.murphy@rehabcare.ie)

Galway City Council Community Call

We're here if you need practical support or someone to talk to.

We can help with:

- Delivery of food, medication, fuel or other household items
- Someone to talk to or keep in touch with
- Other practical supports
- Signposting and referral to reliable information and services



1800 400 150

covidsupport@galwaycity.ie

KEEP WELL

IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland