

Community Voice

Winter 2009

Now is the time to pull together, says new chairperson

IT gives me great pleasure to introduce this edition of our newsletter as Chairperson of Wexford Community Forum. It is with pride that I accept the role of first-ever female chair of the Forum and look forward to the challenges ahead. The Forum is nearing its tenth anniversary and we have very exciting plans to celebrate this event in 2010.

Over the years, the Forum has achieved successes in training and community development projects and provided support and knowledge to registered groups. We have also empowered community and voluntary groups, with a bottom-up approach to sourcing funding and supports to enable them to become recognised and sustainable. This involves participation by the communities and I firmly believe that the driving force behind any successful project or any community is the ability and willingness to participate.

Active participation

In 2010, Wexford Community Forum will encourage active participation in each of the four Area Fora. We need to change our mindset and start helping ourselves and our communities to become active and sustainable. The Forum will provide any help and encouragement that is required and we have a vibrant committee and support structure from the staff of the Community and Enterprise Department, Wexford County Council.

Our Strategic Plan for 2008-2011 ensures that all member groups will have the opportunity to become involved, encourage participation, recognise the importance of volunteerism and act as the collective voice for community and voluntary groups within County Wexford. I encourage everyone to read this Plan and include its underlying principles in your own communities and groups.

Thank you all for your support and commitment to your community and groups and I wish you every success with future projects and ideas. Thanks also to the staff of the Community and Enterprise Department for their support over the years.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.



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Great support for South West Wexford Community FUN-draising Day



A HUGE crowd turned out on Sunday, September 20, on a gloriously sunny afternoon to support South West Wexford Community Development Projects (SWWCDP) family FUN-draising day in Ramsgrange.

The event was organised and run by the staff of SWWCDP, its voluntary management board and numerous local volunteers to fundraise for the essential services and programmes that SWWCDP provides to its community.

Children played

Throughout the afternoon, to the sounds of New Ross band Signal Fires, children played on the bouncy castle and in the supervised outdoor play area of the Sugradh childcare centre.

Dads competed with kids in golf and also against each other in the Strongman challenge while all the family were treated to a BBQ and teas, coffees and a delicious selection of buns for sale, all home-baked by the many members of the various groups at SWWCDP.

There was great interest by the ladies in the

dress sale, jewellery, cards and home-knit stands in the main foyer of the Ramsgrange Centre. The local community also made significant personal donations to the project in recognition of the services provided.

“This day was very important for us in SWWCDP, as we are anxious to show that we, as a Community Resource, are working to sustain our project with our own efforts, especially given the government funding cutbacks to groups like ours,” said Sharon Kennedy, Manager SWWCDP.

SWWCDP works with a catchment area of 9,000 people and employs 40 at its centre in Ramsgrange. Most employees are from the immediate catchment area, and many have come to be employed in the project through training received at the centre or their experience on a FÁS CE scheme.

‘We support over 110 families with childcare, over 80 people have gained FETAC awards in the centre in 2008-2009 and, within the Rural Transport Programme, we made up to 40,000 passenger trips in the last year’

SWWCDP gratefully received donations for this event from many local business people, who also rely on their business with the project to survive.

“The knock-on effect of cutbacks to individuals, families, local businesses and the overall rural community remains to be seen after the 2009 budget.”

“However, SWWCDP is committed to survival and remaining as the only community development resource to a community of 9,000 people.”

We support over 110 families with childcare, over 80 people have gained FETAC awards in the centre in 2008-2009 and, within the Rural Transport Programme, we made up to 40,000 passenger trips in the last year’ said Sharon

Buí Bolg Youth Group goes from strength to strength

IN 2009, the Buí Bolg Youth Group notched up two significant awards. Eddie Milbourne, the Youth Group facilitator, received the People of the Year award for youth work in May. "I was absolutely flabbergasted and delighted," said Eddie, who is renowned for his larger-than-life personality. He was unanimously nominated by all the young people in the Buí Bolg Youth Group.

In the summer, the Youth Group itself was the overall winner of the Connecting Communities award from the Ombudsman for Children. A group of young people received the award in Dublin which was accepted by Jane O'Flaherty and Andrew Kavanagh. "Buí Bolg has opened up so many new avenues for me like stilt walking and giant puppetry that I never knew anyone could do in Wexford!" said Jane enthusiastically.

Buí Bolg would like to thank Wexford County Council, Wexford Borough Council and The Arts Council for their continued support of the Youth Group.



☐ Awards galore for the Buí Bolg Youth Group.



Running round the houses for charity and health in New Ross!

THE INAUGURAL Round the Houses Fun Run got off to a great start on September 27 in New Ross with over 150 participants in all three events.

People of all ages and abilities took part in the Fun Run which was organised by Sports Active Wexford, RAPID New Ross and the United Striders Athletic Club and partly funded by the Irish Sports Council's Women in Sport Programme.

Taking place throughout the day was the main 5km Fun Run and the schools' events which incorporated a 1km and 1mile Fun Run for primary and secondary school students. The main Fun Run was started by European Junior Swimming Champion Grainne Murphy from Ballinaboola. This initiative was designed



and abilities to come out and participate in physical activity but also to actively support the local charities.

The free field day which ran in conjunction with the event was a resounding success with hundreds turning out to try out all the activities. Bouncy castles, a climbing wall, face painting, the Dunbrody Archers, kick boxing, hurling, football and soccer were

just some activities available.

Sports Active Wexford launched their new dance-mat and there was also a chance to try out boules and horseshoes.

There were also displays from local community groups and state agencies, while groups and clubs active in New Ross highlighted the importance of physical activity in daily life.



Groups successful in 'Reaching Out' in Your Community Project

THE following groups applied for and were successful in the "Reaching Out" in Your Community Project.

Gorey Area

Gorey Carriage Driving Group

"Driving forward opportunities for adults with disabilities": Support towards purchase of a horse carriage with wheelchair access.

Gorey 3 Day Cycle

Restoration of old racing bikes so that young people can avail of them to encourage participation in cycling

New Ross Area

Bannow Youth Club

"Bannow Christmas Show": To put on a Christmas Show in the newly renovated Community Centre.

Clonroche Development Association

"Clonroche in Spring Bloom": Autumn/Winter flower, bulb, hedge planting in the village and approach roads for spring display. The work will be undertaken by the Clonroche Development Association and the local women's and men's Traveller groups.

South West Wexford CDP

"Never too old to learn" - Computer lessons for older people, see photo.

Wexford Area

Buí Bolg

"Puppetry reaches out a helpful hand for Social Inclusion": Making puppetry a part of the Level 3 FETAC Module, through the local street theatre company. The project takes



□ COMPUTERS for Over 55s at South West Wexford Community Development Project. Getting Started is a free programme for older people to help them gain confidence and basic skills in computers, internet and mobile phones.

place in Our Lady of Fatima Special School.

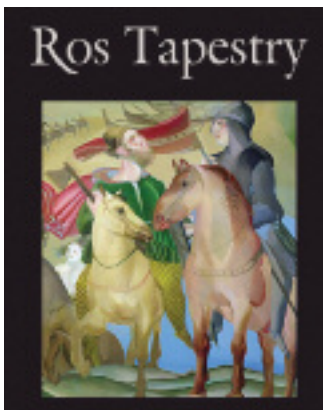
Southend Family Resource Centre

"Southend Together Community Outing": Inter-group outing comprising of the Monday Morning Older Ladies group, the English class participants and the Older Men's Breakfast Morning Group availing of Southend FRC services.

Taghmon Family Resource Centre

"Taghmon Youth Drop-In Service & Taghmon Women's Group Inclusion through Art Projects": Purchase of equipment and resources for the Youth Drop-in Service. The Women's Group is planning a trip to the Visual Centre for Contemporary Art in Carlow.

10th Ros Tapestry Panel completed and available for viewing



ROS Tapestry voluntary embroiderers have completed the 10th tapestry panel which was hung in place at the Ros Tapestry Exhibition Centre in October. The first stitch was embroidered on 'The Celts: in an Island Fastness' in April 2005. Thanks to the commitment of the voluntary embroiderers who met weekly in Johnstown Castle in Wexford, people can now enjoy this awe-inspiring panel as the first panel in the series. The Ros Tapestry Exhibition Centre is open to the public from 10am to 5pm during the winter months.

Ros Expo, Priory Court, The Quay, New Ross, Co. Wexford

T/fax: 051 445396. E: therostapestry@yahoo.ie or info@rosexpo.ie

Website: www.rostapestry.com or www.rosexpo.ie

Courses on offer from Sports Active Wexford in 2010



THE Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland is aimed at everyone involved in children's sport - children, parents/guardians and sports leaders, etc. By following the principles, policy and practice guidelines contained in the Code, adult sport leaders will provide an enjoyable and safe environment in which children can learn and thrive. In 2010, courses outlining the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport will be held in:

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, January 27, 2010	6pm – 10.30pm	Gorey (TBC)
Tuesday, February 23, 2010	6pm – 10.30pm	Wexford (TBC)
Wednesday, March 24, 2010	6pm – 10.30pm	Enniscorthy (TBC)
Thursday, April 8, 2010	6pm – 10.30pm	Bunclody (TBC)
Monday, May 10, 2010	6pm – 10.30pm	New Ross (TBC)
Thursday, June 10, 2010	6pm – 10.30pm	Gorey (TBC)

Children's Officer Course

THE Children's Officer Course is aimed at Club Children's Officers to help them to fulfil their role in the club. This information will support the Club Children's Officer in the implementation of best practice in their club. All participants must complete the Basic Awareness course which was offered to all adults involved in organised sport for young people before coming on the Club Children's Officer work shop. There must be a minimum of a three-to-six month gap between workshops.

Wednesday, February 27, 2010

10am-5pm Bellefield GAA Complex, Enniscorthy

For information or to book a place on any of these courses, contact 053 917 6550.

FAI Upcoming Courses 2010

Kick Start 1

Campile United, May 29; Wexford Albion, June 12
Bunclody, Monday of FAI AGM, Aug 16
Forth Celtic, Oct 30

Kick Start 2

Kilmore United, Jan 29 - 31
Bunclody, Aug 18 & 19 Week of FAI AGM

Youth Cert

Bunclody, Tues-Fri, of FAI AGM, Aug 17 - 20

Senior Intro

Bunclody, Aug 20 & 21* Week of FAI AGM

GK Intro

Bunclody, Tuesday of FAI AGM, Aug 17

UEFA B Licence

Bunclody, Tuesday, Jan 5-Sunday, Jan 10

For information or to book on any of the FAI courses, contact William Doyle, FAI Development Officer on 086 043 7696.

St. Louis Stitchers take part in FETAC Craft class

PICTURED are St. Louis Stitchers from South West Wexford Community Development Project taking part in their FETAC Craft Class. The group was able to apply for funding to Wexford Local Development for this course due to their membership of the County Wexford Community Forum.



Innovative Volunteer Bureau a boost to Wexford



THE Community Forum WLD Volunteer Support Initiative is coming soon. The Forum is working with WLD and Volunteer Centres Ireland (VCI) to develop an online resource for Community Groups which wish to recruit volunteers and for individuals who want to volunteer.

If you are a community group which wants to recruit volunteers, members must undertake training to help them to identify the type of volunteer needed, the exact work on offer and the types of policies required for proper recruitment. When training is complete, groups can post their volunteer 'positions' on the Wexford page of the VCI website. Interested volunteers will make direct contact with your group.

Training will take place in January 2010 and places must be booked before Friday, January 8, 2010. Training will take place over four sessions in Enniscorthy and may be run during daytime or evenings, depending on the preferences of those attending. Each group is asked to nominate one member on to the training programme who will then be

responsible for volunteer recruitment within their own community group.

Log onto www.volunteer.ie to see how the facility works, noting that Wexford won't actually have a physical volunteer centre.

For more information and to book your place, contact 053 917 6550.

"Ní Neart go Cur le Chéile"



□ Pictured at the launch of "Clonroche in Spring Bloom" were members of Clonroche Development Association and Women's Traveller Group and Community Development worker Valerie O'Flaherty, together with Men's Traveller Group members. This project will be run in conjunction with County Wexford Community Forum Social inclusion Project.

Environmental Pillar

IN July 2009, the Department of the Environment and Local Government called for the establishment of a national environmental pillar which will provide representation on the County Development Board, Strategic Policy Committees and on the Board of Wexford Local Development.

The nomination process was co-ordinated by Michael Ewing, Social Partnership Co-ordinator, Environmental Pillar and the Community & Enterprise Department advised member groups from the Environment and Heritage Cluster to propose nominees directly. Adrian Wisdom, Castlebridge, was nominated to the County Development Board and Susan Rickwood to the Economic & Social SPC.

Opportunities Fair proved a great success in towns

IN June and October, Wexford County Council and Wexford County Development Board organised two open information events in Gorey and Wexford respectively. The events were aimed at the unemployed and also people who may have difficulty accessing services.

At each event, a range of agencies hosted stands and gave out information in a user-friendly way while people did their shopping. Members of the Local Area Forum attended and spoke with people who wished to get involved in community and voluntary activity.

Westgate Computer Centre as busy as ever

WESTGATE Computer Centre is a registered charity which provides subsidised computer training courses to community and voluntary groups in County Wexford. In 2009, over 160 elderly/retired people benefited hugely from **Internet and Email** training. Complete beginners, they are now able to email family and friends via email, upload digital photos, and surf the internet.

Touch-type Read and Spell (ttrs) is an innovative computer-

based programme which was developed to help children and adults with **Dyslexia** or other reading, spelling or writing difficulties. It uses a multi-sensory approach of seeing, hearing and touch-typing. The programme assists children or adults with visual impairments or specific learning difficulties in several ways:

- Clarity of presentation and legibility of work
- Speed of input: child keeps up with teacher
- Spelling: tactile learning of spelling patterns
- Handwriting: typing reduces the physical

and mental pressure for a struggling writer

- Presentation: editing work is easier
- Empowerment: good keyboard skills promotes independence and confidence

Programmes are currently running in both Enniscorthy and Wexford and anybody interested can avail of a FREE introductory lesson.

Westgate Computer Centre provides subsidised computer training courses to community and voluntary groups in County Wexford

Proving hugely popular is the FETAC-accredited **Web Design** programme using

Dreamweaver, one of the world's leading web design programme. On completion, participants have created a website ready for publication on the web. A half-day **Search Engine Optimisation** programme shows website owners how to get their sites ranked on Google. Following recent renovation work, Westgate Computer Centre is now **fully accessible to people with disabilities**.

For more details, visit www.westgatecc.com, email info@westgatecc.com. T 053 9146291.

Training course to help communities take charge!

IN 2010, the Community Forum hopes to deliver training programmes through recognised adult education centres. The first course will be in run in Gorey Adult Education Centre in January. 'Communities Taking Charge' is an exciting eight-week programme that fosters skills to enable communities to address the many local issues and opportunities they face on a daily basis. This course is aimed at members of community and voluntary groups and people who want to start a group or join an existing group. It will assist groups and individuals to

- Develop a good understanding of local issues, needs and aspirations
- Know where they sit as a group in terms of responding to those issues
- Be well organised to deliver on that role and purpose
- Know at any one time how they're

performing and what they're achieving

The course will help groups to be more effective and increase the ability of volunteers to contribute to the development of their community. Course fee will include the field trip for participants with full attendance and who prepare a Reflective Journal.

Trainers

It is intended to run this programme in each of the four electoral areas and suitably qualified trainers **may** be required. Individuals will require a recognised qualification in community/development studies, solid experience in local community development and experience of delivering training programmes

For more information, please email community.enterprise@wexfordcoco.ie

NOTICES

Contact Your Community Forum Area Convener

New Ross Convener	Enniscorthy Convener	Gorey Convener	Wexford Convener
Diarmuid O'Sullivan <i>Clonroche Development Association</i>	Eddie Dunne <i>Bree Community Development Group</i>	Ivan Kelly <i>Gorey Special Olympics</i>	Maura Bell <i>Irish National Heritage Park</i>

County Development Board Strategy "Action for Change"

THE CDB strategy, "Action for Change 2009-2012", was launched on September 30 by An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Anna Fenlon. The strategy has a strong economic focus and prioritises nine actions which reflect the most up-to-date socio-economic information available for the County. It also incorporates the learning from the SWOT process and individual interviews conducted with Board members.

The Community Forum will work with WLD on Action 5.2 which is to develop an online Volunteer Resource Bureau for Co. Wexford.

NEW Community Forum Members?

DO you know of any community groups interested in becoming members of the County Wexford Community Forum?

If so, please contact the Community & Enterprise Section on 053 917 6550 for an application form. The Forum is open to any community group in Co. Wexford. It is free to join once the group is up and running for at least six months. Benefits include competitive insurance scheme, training, support and networking opportunities.

Table Quiz compère available

IF your club/association is planning to hold a table quiz, I would be happy to prepare the questions and act as compère for the night. For further information, contact Garry Lombard, The Avenue, Gorey on 087 672 2783.

Short Film on Community Activity

WOULD your group like to be featured in a short film on Community Activity in County Wexford?

If interested, contact 053 917 6550 before January 8, 2010.

We need your views on development of Gorey Showgrounds

WEXFORD County Council is going to redevelop Gorey Showgrounds and needs your help. The plan for the site will consider the recreational needs of the whole community. It will also consider the requirements of those who currently use the facility and those clubs who would like to use it in the future.

Please let us know your views and opinions by the following methods of communication:

Text 087 064 4920

Email goreyshowgrounds@wexfordcoco.ie

Post FREEPOST

Community & Enterprise
Wexford County Council
County Hall
Wexford

Community Services Award

This year the County Wexford Community Forum are sponsoring the Community Services Award for the Wexford County Council/REHAB County Wexford People of the Year Awards. The Forum urges you to pick up an application form to nominate an individual or group who have made an outstanding contribution to their community.

Application forms are available from Community & Enterprise, Wexford County Council on 053 9176550 or REHAB on 053 9147279

If you would like to highlight an activity or project in your community for inclusion in the Spring 2010 Newsletter, please contact Community & Enterprise, Wexford County Council, on 053 917 6550.