

Local Youths in the Community



Local, Kelly McCarthy takes Dublin by Storm in Hip Hop Competition

There is a new Craze for Hip Hop amongst the young people in the community.

To meet this interest there will be classes for 5-9 year olds run Wednesdays in the Youth Building.

The classes will be run by Kelly McCarthy a resident of Ballinacurra Weston who recently came 6th in a Hip Hop competition in Dublin. Kelly who always had an interest in dance started training professionally 3 years ago.

She has since competed in many dance competitions all over Ireland with great success. She will be teaching a Hip Hop dance class for both girls and boys aged between 5 – 9 years in the local youth building (beside the Community Centre) on Wednesday evening from 3 – 4 pm.

Congratulations to Kelly on her success and we wish her the best in her future endeavours.

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Rosbrien AnSEO School Completion Programme

Pictured below are just a few of the sixteen young men who went to Ballymun on a field trip, to see how regeneration was affecting the Ballymun community. This was arranged by SCP and Regeneration while also being funded by both organisations.

Fifteen young women also attended the offices of the Ombudsman for Children's to collect their cert for the corridor art programme.

This programme was run in partnership with the SCP and Artist Angela Connolly. This trip was funded by the SCP and the office of Ombudsman for children.



Hatti Appeal- A Community Responds

A very successful coffee morning was run in Our Lady of Lourdes community centre to raise necessary funds for the people of Haiti. One thousand and forty Euros was collected and a cheque has been sent to Goal Aid Agency.

'Fairtrade organisations sponsored the tea and coffee and donated a beautiful hamper of Fairtrade goods for 1st prize in our raffle, our thanks to Sr. Delia O Connor.

Sincere thanks to all the people who contributed in any way, to the staff in OLL centre, to Noel Hogan chef for supplying freshly baked scones on the day, to those who donated spot prizes, to the Mercy Sisters Bishop St. for their generous contribution, to all the staff at the CDP in Clarina Park for their part in getting the news of the coffee morning to every house in the parish through the community newsletter. Most of all a big thank you for the use of the facilities of the new coffee shop in OLL Community Centre.



Local Youths In Paddy's Day Parade

Six members of the Tuesday Club represented OLOL Youth Centre in the St. Patrick's Day parade this year. Meeting at just before twelve o'clock the group of 10-12 year olds climbed aboard the speed boats of the Shannon Fisheries Board, who had kindly invited the group along. There was plenty of flag waving and dancing by the girls and a great time was had by all. The event was particularly exciting as the parade was reported to be the biggest in the country: no small feat! With over 90 floats from around the world, the girls were able to enjoy music from such places as Brazil and Africa, as well amazing costumes and characters created right here in Limerick. The Tuesday Club members enjoy drama and sport on Tuesday afternoons, so something like the parade was right up their street. In fact, the day was so successful there is already talk of the wider parish coming together to enter a float next year. This project will hopefully involve young people of all ages from the community. The staff of the Youth Centre would like to take this opportunity to thank the Shannon Fisheries Board for the opportunity to be part of such a great festival. We looking forward to working together again, particularly in the summer when we'll be able to fish with something more than plastic fishing rods!



Senior Citizens

Sunday Tea Dance

"Dance your worries away" - A Senior

Citizens Tea Dance will be held on Sunday 25th April between 3 -5 pm. Music by 'Two Little Boys'.

Admission €3 tea and refreshments provided. Spot prizes on offer, come along and enjoy a relaxing afternoon.

Community Service Group : Public Consultation

As part of developing the Strategic Plan, the

Community Services Group intends to hold a number of public consultations

during the year, the first of which is around the development of the

Childcare Services. They are interested in

gaining the view of parents / guardians of children aged 0-5years living in the parish that may or may not be currently using their services.

They will be hosting a facilitated meeting on May the 11th at 7pm.

Between 6-7pm prior to a meeting in the crèche

which will be opened for any of the parents who might be interested in viewing the facility or to chat with the staff.



The consultation will begin at 7pm in the main centre where tea/coffee & refreshments will be served in the Community Café free of charge.

The CSG hope as many parents of children aged 0-5 as possible can attend, they value your opinion and inputs into helping them develop Childcare Services for the future.

OLOL CSG Opens New Café at the Centre

A new community café opened this month with local resident Breda Phillips receiving the first cup of coffee. Located at Our lady of Lourdes Community Centre, the café will be officially named later in the year through a community vote.



An ideal meeting place, you can be guaranteed good value, friendly atmosphere and good service, all are welcome at the community cafe.

Serving coffee, latte, cappuccino, hot chocolate, tea, freshly-baked pastries, and scones, the café will be open Monday through Friday 9am to 12 pm.

Volunteer Training Program available

Tailored to suit your projects needs, for further details contact Our Lady of Lourdes CDP @ 061 318370



Health Morning

On March 24th a Healthy Morning was held in O.L.O.L Community Development Project. The day was organised by the CDP and Resin.

The idea of the day was to have a look at what we can do to live a healthier lifestyle. It was attended by 25 people, both residents and workers in the area and all really enjoyed the following activities, Bio Resin, Breast Check, Reflexology, Beautician, Fruit Smoothies and healthy option refreshments.

It is planned to have another Health morning in the coming months. All are welcome, to have a morning of rest and relaxation and even better its free of charge.

Our Lady of Lourdes-Stronger Together

Do you remember the Carol service last Christmas where people gathered by the Grotto and we decorated our own Christmas tree with the gifts we have to make this a better community, ourselves? I'm sure many of you saw the members of the Youth Committee working to clean up and paint the Grotto in preparation. You told us it was just like the good old days.

Well we wanted to tell you about what's been happening since that time. In February we had a very successful family fun day in the school hall, where as well as having fun and sharing stories of what we have to be proud of in the Parish, the community agreed on three projects that they wanted to bring forward. 1. Flower Boxes for the Older People 2. Start a community Bingo 3. Help with the Community Games.

The Weston Youth Committee have been working hard on the flower boxes and already five senior citizens received flower boxes with plants. As well as getting a flower box they are getting a chance to meet the young people in the area and become friends.

Great news! Community Bingo will be starting soon and will be open to the entire Parish. We'll keep you posted, so get ready for a summer of 'Legs 11' and all the rest... Susan and the Women's group are working hard on that.... Deborah and Billy are working away on the Community Games and will be in touch soon with five new volunteers who kindly have offered to help.

So what's next? Well you might have seen some of us going door to door having a chat? We are calling to people for a chat about what they would like to do to make the community stronger, and we have gotten a great response so far, so thanks to everyone, and we hope to be talking to you soon!

We will also be starting a mini grant scheme soon with small amounts of money for neighbours who want to do projects but need a few bob to get started. We'll have that up and running for before the summer. So please contact Cormac if you have any ideas, so far people have been talking about a community garden, painting nice murals on the boarded up houses, and creating a community play ground. What ideas do you have that you'd be prepared to work on?

Also we're setting up what's called a Timebank where people can share practical skills with each other and help each other out as neighbours, like calling on an Older person, collecting a prescription, and so on. There is a really successful one in Cork and we will be getting them to show us how they did it.

Our big message is that anything we do as a project will be done for the community, by the community, so to be a success we need to pull together, and we need your contribution. Together we can be stronger, and there is a lot we can do with people power. Already people are talking about visiting older people, setting up new projects and talking about the community's vision for the area.

We also wanted everyone in the Parish to know that we want this project to stretch across the entire Parish to include everyone! So let's pull together, because together we're better!

If you have any ideas for making the community stronger please call me: Cormac: (087) 9280998.

Woman Making Choices Making Changes Courses (WMCMC)

This is a course funded by the Downtown Centre, with contributions being made towards childcare and travel. The course will use participant's experiences to discuss broader woman's issues and guest speakers identified by participants will be invited to speak. There is no written work or assignments, on completion of the course, certificates of participation will be presented to all who take part. The course will be evaluated, and a small reception will be held on the day of the certificate presentation. The Woman Making Choices Making Changes course will commence in May and finish in June. The venue will be Regeneration Board Room, Moyross.

Places will be offered on a first come first served basis. The course will run each Tuesday from 10am-1pm on the following Dates: Tuesday 11th May, Tuesday 18th May, Tuesday 25th May, Tuesday 1st June, Tuesday 8th June, Tuesday 15th June

Regeneration Update



Social

The Regeneration Agency has over the last number of months sought to concentrate its efforts in the Ballinacurra Weston prospect area. We are happy to announce the establishment of the following:

- Regeneration Committee
- Newly established Social sub-Group

Given the challenging economic climate, it is intended that these groups will focus on community needs and seek to progress 'regeneration' for the community, by working closely with residents as well as statutory and community groups.

The Agency also supported the community with regard to president McAleese's Visit to the community, where she opened the newly refurbished Youth Building (previously known as the Scout Hall).

Sport

FAI Development Officer Michael McCarthy recently completed a 7 week course in Our Lady of Lourdes NS where classes from 1st to 6th availed

of fun games, coaching and 5 a side class tournaments.

During the 7 weeks, Michael was joined by trainees Eoin Hanrahan, Mike Lynch and Eddie O'Donovan from the Limerick FAI/FAS Course currently running in St Enda's Secondary school and Pike Rovers FC who worked with the children to develop their

balance, agility, co-ordination and skill. FAI Development Officer Michael McCarthy is also in the process of developing a 12 week back to work scheme. 'Goal to Work' is open to anybody over the age of 18 currently on the live register who may have an interest in sport and would like to explore the possibility of future employment in the area of soccer. Application forms are

available and must be returned by Friday, April 2nd. For further information contact Michael at 0867712336.

Enterprise

Our Lady of Lourdes Community Cafe

The Community Cafe opened it's doors in recent weeks offering Tea, Coffee and light snacks

during the morning period. It has been widely welcomed and is already becoming a meeting place for the area. Why not drop in for a Cuppa some morning?



Expansion Of Estate Management Services

Following on from the great clean-up work being done by our local workers and plans are well underway to expand the range of services in our area. With the continued support of Limerick City Council, Limerick Regeneration and our own Community Services Group, Our Lady of Lourdes, may soon have its own Recycling Bring Bank

(Glass, Cans, Clothes...) as well as expanded local Grass cutting and Maintenance services. More news later....

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