

JANUARY 2026

FINGAL PPN NEWSLETTER



Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail **Fhine Gall**
Public Participation Network **Fingal**



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www.fingalppn.ie

The staff of Fingal PPN attended the annual in-person staff meeting in Portlaoise with all 31 national PPNs on 16th December. At this meeting, we review the progress of PPNs over the year and each forum and sub-committee reports to the attendees.

SAVE THE DATE

Linkage Meeting

26th February 2026

Clayton Hotel Dublin Airport Central

Formerly the Radisson Blu Hotel Dublin Airport

Further information and registration link to follow



Lónra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail Fhine Gall
Public Participation Network Fingal

Funding

International Women's Day 2026 Bursary



LE TACAÍOCHT Ó
Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Fingal County Council is pleased to announce the launch of the International Women's Day Bursary 2026.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day is "Give to Gain", recognising the positive impact that supporting, empowering, and uplifting women has on our communities as a whole.

Through this bursary, the Community Development & Inclusion Office is allocating up to €300 towards small-scale, community-led events or activities that:

- **Celebrate women**
- **Support education or skills development**
- **Encourage social engagement**
- **Promote community development and/or women's empowerment**

Eligibility Criteria :

To apply, groups must:

- **Be registered with the Fingal Community County Register (PPN)**
- **Operate within the Fingal County Administrative Area**
- **Ensure their bursary-supported event takes place between Monday 2nd and Sunday 8th March 2026**
- **Submit only eligible costs for consideration (non-eligible costs cannot be funded)**

Funding

A full list of eligible and non-eligible costs is available here : [Community Activities Funding Eligible Costs.pdf](#)

Groups must complete the IWD Funding Bursary section of the application form by 5pm on 30th January 2026. Applicants will need to provide the final details of their event, including:

- Event name
- Date and time
- Location
- Registration link (if applicable)
- A breakdown of eligible costs

The application form is available at:

 <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/content/international-womens-day-2026-register-your-event-bursary-application>

The form can also be accessed directly from the International Women's Day 2026 Web page on the Fingal County Council website, link here : [Fingal International Women's Day 2026 | Fingal County Council](#)

All eligible groups are encouraged to consider taking part in this year's celebrations and to help shine a light on the women who contribute so much to our communities.

For any queries, please contact Angela Buckley, Community Officer (Angela.Buckley@fingal.ie 087 2958451)

Community Activities Funding Scheme

Closing Date for Applications: 30th June 2026

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
& INCLUSION**
Making a Difference

There is a small budget to support Activities Funding. The types of activity that may be eligible are:

- Community, Culture and development
- Community, Culture and events
- Environmental enhancement
- Office equipment
- Arts & Crafts materials
- Publications

For an online application form for Community Activities funding, please click [here](#)

General Criteria for Groups Applying for the Community Activities Funding Scheme

Activity Funding Eligible & Non Eligible Items

For more information please contact the Community Development Office

018905080 or email community@fingal.ie

Training

The Leadership Academy & Boardmatch Ireland: Future Board Leaders Programme

The Leadership Academy and Boardmatch Ireland are delighted to announce that they are now taking expressions of interest (EOI) for the 2026 Future Board Leaders (FBL) programme.



Now in its fourth year, it has supported placements of almost 50 new and diverse voices onto Irish charity and nonprofit boards, and is currently looking for the next class of candidates.

FBL identifies people from all walks of Irish life who have limited or no charity board experience, it provides free director training and matches charity boards with candidates based on their interests. Charities who are interested in diversifying their board are also currently being recruited to match with a diverse candidate.

If you are interested in learning more simply pop your details into this short Expression of Interest (EOI) form and you will be sent details to attend the live webinars in January/February 2026. The course will run over March/April 2026.

Fingal's Age Friendly Strategy 2026-2030 is Launched Emphasising Participation and Accessibility

The Strategy, launched by Mayor of Fingal Cllr Tom O'Leary on 16 January 2026, sets out a clear and actionable roadmap to ensure Fingal continues to evolve as an age friendly county.



Fingal County Council was delighted to launch the third Fingal Age Friendly Strategy (2026-2030). The Strategy, launched by Mayor of Fingal Cllr Tom O'Leary on 16 January 2026, sets out a clear and actionable roadmap to ensure Fingal continues to evolve as an age friendly county, where older people are not only supported but actively included and empowered to thrive. The audience at the launch were addressed by Mayor O'Leary; Chair of the Chair of Fingal's Age Friendly Alliance, Senan Turnbull; Fingal's Age Friendly Ambassador, Terry Prone; and Chief Executive of Fingal County Council AnnMarie Farrelly and entertained by the Fingal Staff Choir.

Fingal is renowned for its youthful vibrancy, yet the county is experiencing a profound demographic shift. Today, 21% of the population is aged 55 and over and this cohort continues to grow. The Age Friendly Strategy reflects Fingal's commitment to building a county that values every stage of life, fosters meaningful connections, and ensures readiness to meet the evolving needs of an ageing population.

Developed by the Age Friendly Alliance, the Strategy is the culmination of extensive engagement with older people, stakeholders, and sectoral partners. Fingal's Age Friendly Ambassador, Terry Prone commended the work of the Alliance in developing the Strategy: "The mark of an unsuccessful strategy of any kind is where the people most affected go 'Why didn't you ask us?' That's what should make anybody living in Fingal feel hopeful about how this strategy will play out: We, the demographic, were asked. Consulted. Way to go..."



The Strategy is anchored in four thematic pillars that reflect the voice of older people:

- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Mobility and Accessibility**
- **Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods**
- **Information and Participation**

Delivery of the commitments will be driven by the Alliance through a comprehensive action plan and annual progress reports, ensuring accountability and impact.

Speaking at the launch Mayor of Fingal, Cllr. Tom O’Leary, said: “This Strategy is not simply a policy framework; it is a commitment. A commitment to our older residents that they will continue to be recognised, valued, and supported. A commitment to future generations that ageing in Fingal will be marked by dignity, opportunity, and belonging. It ensures that Fingal remains a place where ageing is embraced rather than feared, and where every citizen, regardless of age, can live with purpose, pride, and possibility.”

Grounded in rigorous research and shaped by meaningful consultation, the Fingal Age Friendly Strategy identifies the real challenges facing older people today and responds with a coordinated, multi-agency Action Plan. It reinforces Fingal’s leadership in advancing age friendly innovation through collaboration and genuine partnership with older residents.

Link to the Strategy: <https://www.fingal.ie/fingal-age-friendly-strategy>

State of Caring 2026: Calling all Family Carers!

You experiences matter

Family Carers Ireland wants to hear your story

Why Participate?

- 🔍 **Insightful Impact:** Your input directly influences media narratives, government submissions & policy decisions
- 🤝 **Community Strength:** Join a collective effort to advocate for the needs of family carers across Ireland
- 💡 **Empower Change:** Contribute to a stronger more inclusive representation of the caregiving community

How to Participate:

- 🌐 **Online:** find the link through our website/social media or visit: www.surveymonkey.com/r/StateOfCaring2026
- 📝 **Paper Form:** If you require a paper copy or would like some help with the survey, contact our Research Officer, Joanne Murphy: jmurphy@familycarers.ie 086 0326187

This survey includes questions about:

- www.surveymonkey.com/r/StateOfCaring2026

www.familycarers.ie

Freephone Careline 1800 24 07 24

SCAN ME!

Search 'Carers Ireland'



MnáFest at Ardgillan Castle to Celebrate St. Brigid's Day

Mná Fest

CELEBRATING FEMALE CREATIVITY

St. Brigid's Weekend

30 Jan
- 02 Feb
2026

Ardgillan Castle
& Gardens
Balbriggan
Co. Dublin

FEMALE LED
WORKSHOPS
DEMONSTRATIONS
INSTALLATIONS &
PERFORMANCES

Facilitators TBA

Scan below for
full programme:



ARDGILLAN
CASTLE AND GARDENS

www.ardgillancastle.ie

MÁFEST

A CELEBRATION OF FEMALE CREATIVITY

Friday 30th January

| Time | Event | Facilitator | Price | Booking |
|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------|--------|---------|
| 11.00 - 13.00 | Garden Tour with Dominica | Dominica McEvitt | €5 | Online |
| 11.00 - 16.00 | Sounds of Wellness Reiki & Yoga | Kiara Murphy | €13.85 | Email |
| 11.00 - 13.00 | Drawing & Watercolours | Nunce McAuley | €30 | Email |
| 13.00 - 15.00 | Herbs Brigid / Imbolg Talk | Denise Dunne | €25 | Email |

Saturday 31st January

| Time | Event | Facilitator | Price | Booking |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|---------|
| 10.30 - 13.00 | Story of St. Brigid Drama Workshop | Eileen | FREE | |
| 11.00 - 12.00 | St. Brigid's Cross Making | Caitlin & Sarah | €2 | Online |
| 11.00 - 16.00 | Weaving Demonstration | Petra | FREE | |
| 13.30 - 16.00 | Portrait Drawing Workshop | Marie le Men | €40 | Email |
| 13.30 - 15.30 | Bag Making | Sarah Daly | | Online |

* Please note that the schedule is subject to changes. Please check online before.



www.ardgillancastle.ie

máfest

A CELEBRATION OF FEMALE CREATIVITY

Sunday 1st February

| Time | Event | Facilitator | Price | Booking |
|---------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------|---------|
| 11.00 - 13.00 | Mythological Art Workshop | From A To Art | €30 | Email |
| 11.30 - 13.00 | Imbolc Chanting Circle | Patricia Langton | €20 | Email |
| 12.00 - 12.30 | St. Brigid Goddess Performance | E. Anne Smiddy | FREE | |
| 13.30 - 15.30 | Bag Making Workshop | Sarah Daly | | Online |
| 14.00 - 15.00 | Intro to Bellydance Workshop | Jasmina | €10 | Email |
| 15.00 - 16.00 | Bellydance Performance | Jasmina | FREE | |
| 14.00 - 16.00 | Collage Workshop | Studio Maluda | €35 | Online |

Monday 2nd February

| Time | Event | Facilitator | Price | Booking |
|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------|---------|
| 10.00 - 12.00 | Artsy Mindful Classes | Clemence Prosen | €35 | Online |
| 10.00 - 12.00 | Block Printing | Studio Maluda | €40 | Online |
| 10.30 - 12.00 | Paint a Mug / Tile | Stories By Ola | | Online |
| 13.00 - 14.30 | Laser Cut Jewellery Making | Genevieve Howard | €50 | Online |
| 13.30 - 15.00 | Mosaic Workshop | Anastasia | €30 | Email |

* Please note that the schedule is subject to changes. Please check online before.



www.ardgillancastle.ie



A Celebration of Irish Spirit!

Get ready to experience the magic of St. Patrick's Day like never before as Fingal comes alive with seven vibrant parades on March 17th! From the lively streets of Blanchardstown to the charming coastal town of Skerries, each parade offers a unique celebration of Irish culture, music, and community spirit. Whether you're joining the festivities in Swords at 11am, soaking in the energy of Blanchardstown at 12pm, or enjoying the local charm of Balbriggan, Malahide, Rush, Lusk and Skerries, there's something for everyone.

Parade Locations;

Fingal proudly presents St Patrick's Day Parades in the following locations;

Blanchardstown 12pm: Join the festivities in Blanchardstown, where the streets come alive with the infectious energy of St Patrick's Day. The route runs from the junction of Church Avenue, Mill Road & Mary Street, Main Street, past Clonsilla Road Junction and finishes at Blanchardstown Garda Station.

Swords 11am: Swords is all set to host a spectacular parade that captures the heart of Irish tradition and heritage. The route runs from Colaiste Choilm, Dublin Road along Main Street, turning right at Bridge Street junction, along North Street and finishing at Swords Castle Town Park.

Balbriggan 12pm: Balbriggan's parade promises a delightful blend of community enthusiasm and Irish flair. The route runs from Bremore Castle car park, Drogheda Street, Dublin Street to St Peter's and Paul Catholic Church.

Malahide 2pm: Experience the charm of Malahide as it transforms into a hub of St Patrick's Day excitement. The route runs from The Cricket Club, Malahide Road R106 from the junction of Yellow Walls Road, Main Street, The Mall, Coast Road and finishes at the Beach Car Park.

Rush 1pm: Community ran parade, see: Rush Community Council. The route runs from Lower Main Street, Bawn Road, Kilbush Lane to Chapel Green.

Lusk 1:30pm: Community ran parade, see: Lusk Community Council. The route runs from the R127 Ring Road to Station Road, Main Street, Post Office Road to The Green.

Skerries 3pm: Community ran parade, see: Skerries Chamber of Commerce. The route runs from South Strand Street to Strand Street.

To Register:

This year, a prize is being introduced for the best dressed group in each parade (prize fund tbc), so make sure your group really pops with colour and creativity.

**Register for free by filling out the online form at
www.fingalparades.com**