



STAR AWARDS – AONTAS

The STAR awards is about showcasing teamwork and awarding recognition – it is about acknowledging the fantastic work being done by adult learning projects throughout the country! Most of all, it is about celebrating the positive contribution that these projects make to our society, our economy and our local communities.

It couldn't be easier to nominate a project for a STAR award....

Download or fill in an application form go online to www.adultlearnersfestival.com

Contact AONTAS to receive a hard copy of the nomination form call 01 4068220

The closing date for receipt of nominations is Friday, 14th November 2008 at 5pm.

So if you know a group or are a member of a group and you think they fulfil the requirements then please nominate them and lets hope we have a Galway winner this year!

COMMUNITY EDUCATION GRANTS 2008/2009

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Community Education Grants scheme is to promote and/or develop community education initiatives in local community settings. The community education grant scheme seeks to create opportunities for people to identify their learning needs, learn in their own communities and to support progression routes from this important base in the community. Thus engaging communities in a process of empowerment and change.

TARGET GROUPS:

- Community based women's Groups
- Community based men's Groups
- Travellers
- People with disabilities
- Community Arts Groups
- Older people
- Homeless people
- Refugees/Asylum seekers
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities
- Priority will be given to Community Groups designated under RAPID (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development) These areas are Ballybane, Ballinfole, Bohermore, New Mervue and Westside.

FUNDING: A maximum grant of € 3,500 per group is available. Incomplete application forms cannot be accepted. An evaluation system is in place.

The closing date for the Community Education Grants is Wednesday 1st October 2008.

Please contact Mary Cunningham 091 549400 for an application form!

Other Funding Opportunities:

The Community Foundation for Ireland Small Grants Scheme
The Community Foundation makes grants to not-for-profit and voluntary groups working in communities throughout the Republic of Ireland.

Closing Date for Grants: 31st October 2008
www.communityfoundation.ie/grants/

Contact: Helen Beatty, Grants Officer at hbeatty@foundation.ie
The Community Foundation for Ireland
32 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin 1
Ph. 01 874 73 54

Pobal Community and Voluntary Supports & Grants

Pobal on behalf of The Department Of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is now inviting applications from Community and Voluntary organisations for funding:

- Scheme of Refurbishment Grants
- Scheme of Equipment Grants
- Scheme of Training Grants

There is no closing date for receipt of completed applications, however, as funding is limited, organisations are advised to submit their applications as soon as possible. Applications will be accepted on the official forms only, which can be downloaded from the links below. Hardcopies will be available in the near future from:

**Pobal, Telephone (01) 4484888.
www.pobal.ie**



City of Galway VEC
Island House
Cathedral Square
Galway

Phone:
091 549400

Fax:
091 562358

E-Mail:
Info@cgvec.ie

Coiste Gairmoideachais
Chathair na Gaillimhe

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.cgvec.ie



Community Education News

Coiste Gairmoideachais Chathair na Gaillimhe

Newsletter: Date 1st September 2008 Volume 1 Issue 5

City of Galway VEC Tel: 091 549400 Fax: 091 562358 Email: info@cgvec.ie Web: www.cgvec.ie

WELCOME TO COMMUNITY EDUCATION NEWS

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Community Education News. The City of Galway VEC provides a wide range of Adult Education Opportunities including VTOS, Sandy Road Training Centre, Youthreach, Back to Education Initiative, Adult Basic Education and Adult Learner Guidance. Please feel free to contact us if you are interested in participating in any of these programmes. This edition details a number of the developments in Community Education including the

Community Education Network, a course in Facilitation Skills and lots more.

Best Wishes for a great year of Community Education Activity in 2008/2009.

Fiona O'Loughlin Adult Education Officer

Special Interest Articles:

- Community Education 2008/09
- Groups News and Views

Individual Highlights:

- Groups news and views 2
- Diploma in CD (Community Education) 2
- Network/ Advisory Group 3
- Facilitation Skills for Community Education and Development 3
- Career Guidance for Adults 3
- Community Education Network Computer Classes 3
- Star Awards 4
- Community Education Grants 4

COMMUNITY EDUCATION 2007/2008

Last year in Galway City over 1200 people took part in Community Education Activity. The range and number of courses varied greatly from community to community but all were thoroughly enjoyed by the participants.

The activities included the active retired mastering computer skills, Cookery for Homeless men, Drama classes in Ballybane, Music classes for the elderly in Westside, Traveller and Settled women completing courses in Personal Development and alternative therapies, women's groups doing computers, arts and crafts and drama and men's groups doing first aid and art. Community Groups undertook art, gardening, Irish, music and DIY courses. The Community Education Fund has supported the now famous Soundscape group, the further development of the Ballybane Organic Garden, traditional music for beginners, and a lot more initiatives. The above is just a sample of the activity undertaken. Two community education groups are focused on in more detail below. We are always looking for new ideas and courses to run so please let us know your ideas.

Community Education is an opportunity for people to take part in education courses in their own areas. The courses are funded and supported by the VEC but are organised and run by local community groups. It is a chance to get to know other people in your community, while learning a new skill or hobby in a safe and fun way.

Galway City has a vast array of community groups and organisations that work tirelessly to create opportunities for the members of their communities. We are currently seeking applications for Community Education Grants and look forward to another successful year of Community Education in Galway City

For more information and an application form please contact Dónal Walsh 091 549400



GROUPS NEWS AND VIEWS

This section is for Community Education Groups to give a profile of their group or just provide information on upcoming events or share information on issues relevant to Community Education.

Ballybane Organic Garden Project

As part of the Healthy Cities project an organic garden was developed in Ballybane. The project is a joint initiative between Galway City Council, HSE West, City of Galway VEC, NUI Galway and Ballybane/Mervue CDP.

The land is provided by City Council and a gardener provides training, advice and information at each stage from preparing the land right through to harvesting. Foods grown include potatoes, cabbage, corn, lettuce, tomatoes, scallions, herbs and runner beans. Flowers are also grown.

Now in its 3rd year the project has become well established and has recently been extended. The garden has two open sessions every week where local participants carry out the work involved in developing and maintaining the garden.

To see the results for yourself come along to the Harvest Day at Ballybane Organic Garden on Thursday September 11th from 1pm – 4pm.

For more information contact Ballybane/Mervue CDP at 091 768305

Dusty Banjos

Dusty Banjos was started in September 2002 by the Community Music Crew as a music session for students of Irish traditional music. It's membership includes Irish people taking up (or returning to) Irish music, those learning a second instrument, non-Irish musicians wanting to learn Irish music, visitors and students who want to learn a few tunes as part of a cultural exchange, and many more.

Dusty Banjos is also a social occasion and is all about having fun, meeting people, making friends and building confidence in your music playing. The pace is slow, mistakes are allowed and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Dustys is a trad based session, but is open to any instruments, types of music and nationalities. So whatever your age or level of experience you'll be made to feel welcome, and hopefully enjoy the session and even learn a few tunes!

For more information contact Mary on 087 7733804 or email dustymail@dustybanjos.com



DIPLOMA IN CD (COMMUNITY EDUCATION)

City of Galway VEC and Galway City Partnership in conjunction with NUI Galway developed and delivered a new Diploma course for people currently involved in Community Education in the City between October 2007 and June 2008. The course took place every Tuesday morning in Island House Cathedral Square. 19 participants will graduate at NUI Galway on Friday the 17th of October. The participants were drawn from Community Education Groups around the City. These groups included Galway Traveller Movement, Bohermore Community Activities, COPE, Galway Refugee Support Group, Brothers of Charity Services, Ballinfolle Mór RAPID, Galway Adult Basic Education Service, Shining Stars Women's Group, Community Music Crew, Le Cheile Westside, Fathers for Justice and Equality, Young Mothers in Education and Women with Disabilities in the West.

The course focused primarily on developing tutoring and training skills for delivery of classes and

courses to community groups. The various skill or interest areas of the group included arts and crafts, independent living skills for homeless men, music performance, special needs education awareness, Traveller issues in education, disability awareness, anti-racism training, start your own business, computer classes, DIY, personal effectiveness, flower arranging, committee skills and fathers and families awareness training.

The accreditation of the course from NUI Galway was a vital component and the course gave the participants 30 credits in the European Credit Transfer System. It is hoped to run the course again in September 2009. Congratulations and best wishes to all the participants on successfully achieving their Diplomas.

For more information please contact Dónal Walsh 091 549400



FACILITATION SKILLS FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

An exciting new 15 week course in Facilitation Skills will commence in Galway City in late October. The course aims to train community volunteers in Facilitation Skills. Facilitation Skills are vital in ensuring successful Community Education and Community Development Activity. No facilitation experience is necessary but participants should be in a Community Group. The course will take place once a week for 3 hours over the course of 15 weeks.

The time has not been finalised but the venue will be in Galway City.

So what is facilitation? It's a way of working with people, it enables and empowers people to carry out a task or action. The facilitator does not perform the task but uses their skills in a process to ensure people achieve their goals or learn a skill.

Where/When could I use it?

Use it at committee or community meetings, teaching a community education course, to overcome difficulties in a group or establish the needs in your community.

For more information please contact Dónal Walsh @ 091 549400



NETWORK/ADVISORY GROUP

The Network/Advisory group plans to meet on:

Wednesday 17th September at 7pm
in the Westside Community Resource Centre.

Thursday 18th September at 10am
in the Ballybane Community Resource Centre

The two meetings will have the same agenda so come along to the time or the venue, which best suits you. The meeting will discuss the community education grants scheme, provide more information on the Facilitation Skills course and discuss National Adult Learning Festival, which is happening from the 2nd – 6th of February 2009 and of course to meet other people involved in Community Education in the City.

Looking forward to seeing you there. All groups are welcome but we can only accommodate a maximum of 2 members from each group at the meeting!

For more information please contact Dónal Walsh 091 549400

COMMUNITY EDUCATION NETWORK COMPUTER CLASSES

The ever popular Community Education Computer Classes will return this Autumn following a successful year with over 60 people completing the Computers for the Terrified Classes, 20 people completing powerpoint and 10 people completing creating a website.

Two six-week courses will commence on the 25th September:

Thursday mornings 10.00 – 12.30 Publisher for Community Groups, this course will help groups develop their own newsletters, flyers and posters.

Thursday evenings from 7.00 – 9.30 Computers for the Terrified will be back focusing on using computers for everyday life including email, Internet and some basic keyboard skills.

For more information and an application form please contact Dónal Walsh 091 549400

CAREER GUIDANCE FOR ADULTS

Would you like to find out how you could do a course - either to improve your job prospects, or even just for fun?

Have you often thought you would like a career, but don't know where to start?

Do you need help in matching your skills with opportunities available?

Would you like to know more about the CAO system and how to apply for college?

Would you like to know how to design a CV or do a good interview?

Would your community group like to take part in a workshop on topics such as: Steps to Further Education; Planning your Career; Job-search Skills; CV Design; Interview Skills?

Then why not get in touch with the Galway City Adult Learner Guidance Service, for help with the above and much more?

Run by Galway City VEC to provide guidance, information and advice on educational and career opportunities, the Service works with people either individually or on a group basis. It is free, confidential and available to anyone who is over twenty-one and unemployed.

To contact us, phone 091-768596, e-mail Jill.Farrell@cgvec.ie, or text 085-7896212

BTEI COURSES

The City of Galway VEC is offering FETAC accredited courses through the Back to Education Initiative. All courses are part-time and take place at various times throughout the week.

Who can take part?

Anyone who has left full-time education can take part. Priority will be given to people with less than upper second level education.

Who is eligible for free tuition?

Courses are free to medical cardholders, people in receipt of social welfare payments and people with less than upper second level education.

If you require further information on types of courses available please contact: Grainne O'Byrne at City of Galway VEC, Island House 091/549 400 or email: grainne.obyrne@cgvec.ie

Coming soon
'Get Mobile'
a workshop on how
to use your mobile
phone! More details
available shortly!