



# WESTSIDE NEWSLETTER

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



Galway City Partnership  
Comhpháirtíocht Chathair na Gaillimhe

a tide for change  
an taoide ag casadh

Volume 5, Issue 2

Summer 2015

## Westside Arts Festival – 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Westside Arts Festival is celebrating its 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and promises to be bigger and better than ever. This year's festival theme is "Hope through the Arts" and the focus will be on how involvement in art and creativity can help people to feel included and be part of the community.

The festival will run from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July and activities will take place in Westside Resource Centre, Westside Community Centre, Westside Library, Westside Community Organic Garden, Westside Family Services and on the "Festival Plaza".

The ever-popular "Open Mic" event is on the evening of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> in Westside Library at 6:30pm, and Westside Resource Centre will host the Community Art and Craft Exhibition on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of July is "Film Day". There will be two popular movies shown: "Frozen" singalong for younger children at 2pm and "Fast & Furious 7" for the over-12s at 4pm. Places are limited to 100 at each screening and entrance is on a "first come, first served" basis. The finals of the "Westside's Got Talent" competition will also take place on Friday evening at 5:30pm.

Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> July is a day of full of fun and frolics – there will be live performances throughout the afternoon, with music and singing, puppets and pageantry galore! A huge range of artistic and creative workshops will take place at various festival venues and all are welcome to attend. Activities such as face-painting and circus skills will be on-going throughout the afternoon.

Westside Arts Festival invites everyone in the area to take part in this year's events and help make it a memorable occasion. Full programme of events available at:  
[www.facebook.com/westsideartsfestival](http://www.facebook.com/westsideartsfestival)

### Westside Arts Festival - Car Park Arrangements

For the safety and convenience of all those attending the Westside Arts Festival, part of Westside car park will be cordoned off and pedestrianised from approximately 9pm on Thursday 16th of July until 6pm on Saturday 18th of July 2015. During this time, there will be no vehicular access to the rear of the car park, to the astro pitches or to the area behind the library and resource centre. However, pedestrian access to all areas will remain open as normal.



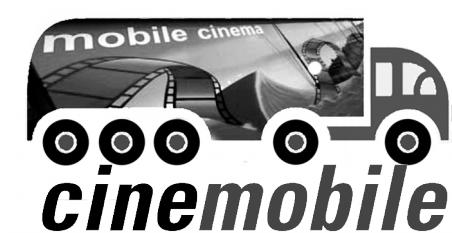
Images from last year's Westside Arts Festival

### The Cinemobile is coming to Westside!

The ever-popular Cinemobile is back this year for Westside Arts Festival. Two films will be shown on Friday 17th July: one for younger children at 2pm and one that is more suited to over-12s at 4pm.

The children's film is the sing-along version of Disney's animated film 'Frozen'. The second feature is the action-packed 'Fast & Furious' starring Vin Diesel and other well-known actors.

Attendance at the films is on a "first come, first serve" basis and places are limited to 100 for each feature, so make sure to come along in good time to avoid disappointment.



**mobile cinema**  
**cinemobile**

**mobile cinema**  
**cinemobile**

## EPIC

### Empowering Young People in Care in Ireland

EPIC is an independent association that works with and for children and young people who are currently living in care or who have had care experience. We work with young people throughout the Republic of Ireland with offices in Dublin, Cork and now Galway, with our new office based in Westside Resource Centre since May 2015.

We work with young people in residential care, foster care, hostel, high support & special care. EPIC also works with young people preparing to leave care, in aftercare or who have left care



EPIC has been set up to:

- Provide independent advocacy support to young people in care or with care experience
- Give a voice to what young people with care experience are saying
- Explain the rights of young people in care
- Give information, advice and support to young people with care experience
- Help people who work with young people in care to involve them more when decisions are being made about them.

We do this by:

- Working directly with young people who are in Care or have Care experience
- Working with organisations that work with young people in care

If you are a young person in care at the moment in the West of Ireland, are leaving care or have experience of living in care, or work with young people in care and have any questions, please feel free to contact Brenda directly on 091 395605. You can also get more information on our EPIC website [www.epiconline.ie](http://www.epiconline.ie)

## Galway City Partnership - Westside Project

SICAP is the new Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme which aims to tackle long-term unemployment and promote social inclusion. Galway City Partnership will be responsible for the implementation of the new SICAP programme for Galway City until 2017. This is an exciting time of change and new innovation for Galway City Partnership.

Galway City Partnership - Westside Project has lots of new and exciting initiatives planned for Autumn 2015. There will be a variety of gardening workshops taking place in our community garden and a number of unaccredited courses in Westside Resource Centre in September 2015, supported by Galway City Partnership, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board and Westside Family Services.

Courses will include Healthy Eating & Cookery, Beginners & Intermediate Patchwork & Quilting, Beginners & Intermediate Clothes Upcycling, Advanced Gardening, Beginners Photography,



Galway City Partnership  
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Cookery for Men, Computers for Men and Health & Beauty.

Galway City Partnership - Westside Project will also be organising a return to learning taster programme in conjunction with Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board starting in October 2015. The aim of this programme is to provide an introductory course to people who have not previously engaged in Adult Education and Training programmes. There will be a community music project in the autumn called Westside Voices.

Galway City Partnership are organising training in Health Care Fetac Level 5, Care of the Elderly and Care Skills. This programme will be taking place in the eastside of the city in October 2015. If you are interested in this course please contact Seamus Morrissey on 091 773466.

On top of all this Galway City Partnership will still be providing support to existing and new community groups.

If you are interested in taking part in any of the unaccredited courses, setting up a new group or getting involved in an existing one, please contact Vernice Murray on 091 528325 or 087 9303468 or call in to her office in the Westside Resource Centre.

## Early Years - Health & Wellbeing

Galway City Partnership is leading the development of a plan and initiatives to support early years health and wellbeing in Galway City. This will involve linking in with the local community, parents and organisations and services to see how we can best support the health and wellbeing of children age 0-6 in Galway City. This project is supported by the Galway Healthy Cities project and HSE Health Promotion. Further information from Galway City Partnership on: [www.gcp.ie](http://www.gcp.ie).

## Westside Community Organic Garden

Westside Community Organic Garden is going from strength to strength. After a slow start due to unfavourable weather conditions, the growing season is in full swing and the volunteers are hard at work planting, weeding and keeping everything trim.

The garden will host interactive workshops during Westside Arts Festival on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm and 3pm.

The garden is completely volunteer-run and new members are always welcome. Those who join are asked to attend one of the beginners gardening courses that are run throughout the year. For more information contact 091-528325

## Creative Gifts Available from Westside Resource Centre

Westside Resource Centre recently received a number of paintings from a very generous anonymous donor. They are now for sale to the general public in order to raise funds for the running of Westside Resource Centre. These unique pieces are priced at a very reasonable level and everyone is encouraged to visit Westside Resource Centre to view the paintings on display in the reception area.

Westside Resource Centre has also produced a collection of twelve greeting cards celebrating the work of local artists and crafts people, many of whom have displayed pieces in Westside Resource Centre over the years. A pack of 12 cards costs €10 and the collection is available from Westside Resource Centre Reception and from Westside Library. All proceeds from sale of the cards go towards supporting the services provided by Westside Resource Centre.

## Call For Volunteers: Foróige's Big Brother Big Sister Programme Galway



In the photo - Galway BBBS staff, volunteers, Mayor Donal Lyons and Michael Lynskey, National Chairperson of Foróige.

## WorldWise Global Schools

WorldWise Global Schools (WWGS), is the Irish Government's national Development Education programme for post-primary schools. They work with over 300 post-primary schools across Ireland.

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 over 350 students and teachers from across the country convened at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin for a schools conference, "The World We Want", which provided them with a platform to spell out their hopes and dreams for a better world.

Student delegates representing 45 schools across the country attended the WorldWise Global Schools conference, exhibited their projects, took part in interactive workshops and debates on topics as diverse as climate change, human rights, poverty, food & hunger, global conflict & gender equality.

Speaking at the event, Minister Sean Sherlock said, "I am proud that Ireland will play an important role in agreeing the Sustainable Development Goals later this year at the United Nations General Assembly but, to achieve these Goals, all countries have to work together as partners. For this universal agenda to be agreed, each country needs to be clear on their objectives and engage with their citizens – including the students who are at today's conference."

For more information contact Aishling: [aishling.mcgrath@worldwiseschools.ie](mailto:aishling.mcgrath@worldwiseschools.ie) or call 091-454983. Visit our website on <http://worldwiseschools.ie>



## Calling all Residents' Associations & Local Groups

Do you need a place to meet?



Westside Resource Centre has meeting rooms available for use by local community groups.

Please contact us on 091-528325 or call in to the resource centre to view our facilities.

Foróige's Big Brother Big Sister mentoring programme is currently looking for male volunteers who would have an hour or so to spare each week with a young person aged between 10-18yrs.

The young person, the Little, benefits from developing a friendship with a caring adult outside of their family. It's an opportunity to share common interests, try new things and you'll do things you haven't done in years! For more information contact BBBS Galway, 091 554420 or visit [www.foroige.ie/bbbs](http://www.foroige.ie/bbbs)

On the left is a photo of the Foróige Recognition Event held in the Salthill Hotel to celebrate the commitment and enthusiasm of all the Galway volunteers within the organisation. It was a super evening enjoyed by everyone!

## Le Cheile Westside Serving the community

Le Cheile Westside Ltd has been in operation in the local area since 1982. Over the years it has provided support and advice for the local community.

Le Cheile has been the sponsor of a very successful Community Employment Scheme in the area for the past 22 years. The CE scheme has provided invaluable support for local community and voluntary organisations. Our progression rates are very high with many of our past participants going on to full time employment. At present we have 24 people on our scheme based in the Westside and surrounding areas.

The Le Cheile Office is located in the Westside Enterprise Centre and offers a range of services to the public. For further information please contact Le Cheile at 091-582146.

## Youthwork Galway Westside

JIVE Youth Café is on Wednesday and Thursday evenings during June and July in the Family Services Building, for ages 14-18 years.

There will be summer camps, sports, crafts and trips during June and July for ages 10-16 years. Call Sinéad on 087-2066190 for more information.

Westside Family Services are having a Drop-In Coffee Morning for Parents in the community. Call in for advice and information between 10.30am and 12 noon. Starting Tuesday 14th July. Call 091-527568 for more information.

Westside Family Services Drop In Tuesdays for children aged 8 - 12 years. We will be doing art, games, cooking and pool. Open day Tuesday 7th July from 2pm - 4pm. The drop in will have limited places on a first come first served basis. If you are interested please call in anytime with a Parent/Guardian to complete a permission and consent form. Call 091 527568 for more information.

**The Open Door  
Community Social Gathering**  
First Tuesday of Every Month @ 10:30am  
Westside Resource Centre

# Organisations based at Westside Resource Centre

## Galway City Partnership - Westside Project

Galway City Partnership - Westside Project coordinates and supports community work and participation in the Westside area. The project is actively engaging with numerous individuals, agencies and service providers in the area to ensure the needs of the community are being met and to empower local people for positive change. Activities are supported by Galway & Roscommon ETB, HSE West and Galway City Council. (Contact Vernice on 091-528325 or 087-9303468).

## Community Workers' Cooperative (CWC)

We are the leading national membership organisation that promotes and supports community work to address poverty, social exclusion and inequality. Our work includes developing and influencing policy as it affects communities living in poverty, research, campaigning on issues that affect communities experiencing poverty and inequality and supporting our members in their work for social justice at grassroots and national level. Email info@cwc.ie www.cwc.ie Phone: 091-528325 / 087-2998619 / 087-9326467

## National Advocacy Service

The National Advocacy Service aims to provide independent advocates to people with disabilities who find it difficult to speak for themselves. (Contact Rebecca or Andrea on 091-528325).

## OBAIR – Local Employment Service

### Network

The Local Employment Service Network (LESN) provides a free and confidential service to people who are unemployed and in receipt of a Social Welfare payment. If you are unemployed and in receipt of a Social Welfare payment the LESN staff can assist you with information and guidance to explore your options for work, education or training. We can also provide assistance with CV preparation, application forms and interview preparation. (Contact Mary or Padraig on 091-581955)

## MEAS Garda Youth Diversion Project

The GYDP 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 Ruairí or Anthony on 086-7741623 or 091-554421).

## Westside Crèche & Pre School

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).

## EPIC – Empowering Young People in Care in Ireland

EPIC 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 0876249344.

## Gorta Self Help Africa

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

## Big Brother Big Sister

Big Brother Big Sister is 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 Andrea or Kate on 091-554420).

## Westside Library – Events and Activities in Summer 2015

### **Summer Reading Buzz 2015 – (Jul & Aug)**

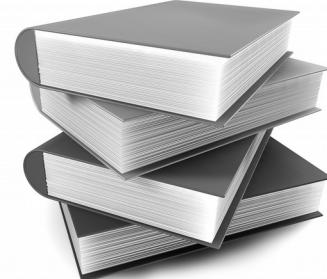
Westside Library launched the Summer Reading Buzz on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of June with Galway City Mayor Frank Fahy and Patricia Forde, Galway author. The Summer Buzz is a free reading programme open to all children aged 4-12. Register in Westside Library from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July and read 10 books over the holidays to receive a certificate of completion in September.

**Weekly Story time for little ones** takes place every Friday at 3.30 pm. The event is free and all are welcome.

**Arts and crafts workshops** on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July. Events free, all welcome. Children must be accompanied by a parent.

**Puppet-making workshops** on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Event free and all welcome. Children must be accompanied by a parent.

We are running two **reading aloud groups** where quality literature is shared with people who are not reading themselves. Contact Cora in Westside Library.



**Derek Mulveen**, Galway-based children's author, will visit on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 3.00 pm. Event free and all welcome.

There are two **reading groups** that meet on the first and fourth Wednesday of the month at 12pm. A third group meets at 6.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month. Contact Westside Library for further information.

The **Russian Book Club** meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm. Contact Westside Library for further information.

The **Westside Library Knitting Group** meets every Wednesday from 2.00-4.00pm. Drop in for a cup of tea and a knit.

## Grateful thanks to our volunteers and distributors

Westside Newsletter is hand delivered by a group of local volunteers. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the volunteers for their assistance. A special mention also to our colleagues at St. Joseph's Community Centre for their help in distributing the newsletter throughout the Shantalla area.