

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council Community Support News – April 2026

The Community Support Newsletter is published monthly. Regular updates are also issued by email. If you wish to receive these or place an article in the Newsletter, please contact Alison Gilmore on 0300 303 1777 ext 21217 / email alison.gilmore@fermanaghomagh.com

Please note the deadline for May's Newsletter is Tuesday 28 April

Council News & Events

Young Achievers 2025/26 Nominations

The Young Achievers Awards is an annual event hosted by the Chair and Vice Chair of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, to recognise outstanding young people from the District.

We are asking the residents of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council to nominate young people (aged 18 and under) for this year's awards by completing the nomination form in the link below - <https://form.jotform.com/260492381283055>

We are reaching out to encourage as many people as possible to nominate. Over the years achievements have been recognised in Art, Debating, Drama, Education, Music, Reading, Charity/Community work, Public Service, Heroism, Volunteering, Dancing, Dog Handling, Equestrian, Farming and Sport.

Further details and information are on the nomination form but please note:

- the achievement must have been attained between 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026
- an individual nominated must live in the Fermanagh and Omagh District, or any team nominated must be located in the Fermanagh and Omagh District.
- there will be a shortlisting process.

The nomination form will close for entries at **5pm on Friday, 17 April 2026.**

Youth Engagement - Celebrating 10 Years of Community Planning in Fermanagh and Omagh

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is celebrating 10 years of Community Planning during 2025/26, marking a decade of partnership, collaboration and progress across the district. As part of this milestone, we are inviting Community Group Members and the young people you represent to contribute to a special initiative called "Shaping Our Future Together."

This project will form part of a Time Capsule and Tree of Hope initiative, with trees being planted in The Grange Park, Omagh and Forthill Park, Enniskillen. Alongside the trees, a time capsule will capture the hopes, ideas and aspirations of young people, to be opened in 2036.

What's involved?

Youth groups are invited to create a short video (maximum 3 minutes) responding to two questions:

- What makes Fermanagh and Omagh a great place to live?
- What do we hope our community will look like in 2036?

Videos can explore themes such as:

- Community, health and wellbeing
- Environmental sustainability
- Career pathways and skills development
- Culture, arts and heritage

This is a great opportunity for young people to share their ideas, celebrate their community and help shape the future of the district.

Competition Element

There will also be a district-wide competition, with entries assessed on:

- Creativity and originality (40%)
- Relevance to the theme and future vision (30%)
- Clarity of message and presentation (20%)
- Positive representation of the community (10%)

The winning and runner-up groups will be invited to attend the Tree of Hope event, receive a goodie bag, and have their contribution placed in the Time Capsule.

Important Information

Closing date: Thursday 16 April 2026

Submission locations:

- The Grange, Omagh, BT79 7BL
- Townhall, 2 Townhall Street, Enniskillen, BT74 7BL

Groups must ensure appropriate parental/guardian permissions are in place before submitting videos, as entries may be shared by the Council on social media, their website, and at future engagement events.

For further information, please email julie.matthews@fermanaghomaggh.com

Tel: 0300 303 1777 Ext 20512

Updated Pay & Display machines in Off Street Council operated car parks

Using our new Pay & Display machines is flexible and convenient:

- Enter your vehicle registration number
- Confirm with the green button
- Pay with coins or select your required parking time using + / - for card payments
- Tap or insert your card (no PIN needed!)
- You do not need to display a ticket — but you can print a receipt if you'd like
- Need to cancel? Just hit the red button anytime.

More ways to pay:

We have increased the number of ways you can pay for your parking. You can still pay by cash and via RingGo and can now also pay using contactless card payment at the machine.

Better for the environment:

- No more non-recyclable parking tickets
- Solar powered
- Reduced carbon emissions

To find out more please visit our Frequently Asked Questions available on the Council website at <https://bit.ly/3UNF4y5>

Digital Skills Academy in Omagh

Free 9-week programme - Part-time (3 days/week)

Ready to build your digital skills?

Gain hands-on experience in Microsoft Office, AI awareness, and digital skills—plus:

- 1:1 mentoring & coaching
- CV building & job application support
- Interview skills development
- Confidence & communication training

Take the next step in your career with the skills and support you need!

Apply now via the following link fitni@fit.ie

Your Community, Your Geopark – Local Community Drop-In Sessions

Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark is shaped by its people — and now we need your voice to help guide its future.

As we create a brand-new Community Plan for Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, we want to ensure that local communities are at the heart of it. This is your chance to share what matters most to you — from local heritage and the environment, to tourism, signage, community wellbeing, and future projects.

We will be hosting a series of community drop-in sessions across the Geopark, and we would greatly appreciate your help in spreading the word.

Community Drop-In Sessions

These sessions are informal, friendly opportunities to:

- Meet the Geopark Community Team
- Ask questions about the Geopark or future plans
- Explore opportunities for collaboration or partnership
- Share ideas and priorities for your area
- Feed directly into the new Community Plan

Remaining Locations & Dates

We have intentionally spread the drop-ins across the Geopark to ensure as many communities as possible can take part and be represented.

Belleek Hub	Wednesday 1 April	11am-1pm
Lisnaskea Library	Thursday 9 April	10.30am-12.30pm
Derrygonnelly Community Centre	Friday 10 April	10am-12pm
MacNean Resource Centre, Blacklion	Friday 10 April	7pm-8.30pm

Drop in at a time and location that suits you — no booking required.

Help Us Spread the Word in Your Community

If you wish to receive any posters for display in community centres, shops, noticeboards, and gathering spaces or if you would like to request a Social media tile of one or more of the consultations please contact ashley.robinson@fermanaghomagh.com

Online Geopark Community Survey

Alongside the drop-ins, or if you are unable to attend, we invite you to complete our online survey: [Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark 'Shaping the Future of the Geopark Community' Survey](#)

Strategic Capital Projects Grant Programme 2026/2027

£1million in funding is available

Opens on Monday 13 April 2026 and closes on Friday 15 May 2026 at 5pm

This funding supports local community and voluntary organisations working on projects to enhance existing facilities or meet unmet local needs in both rural and urban areas.

Please select the link below to view the Programme Guidance Notes for 2026/2027

[Strategic Capital Projects Grant Programme 2026/27 – Guidance Notes](#)

For further information on the programme please email: grants@fermanaghomagh.com

Creative Cafes

Thursday 16 April, 7pm Drumquin

Thursday 14 May, 7pm Tempo

Calling all creatives in Fermanagh and Omagh...

Over the coming months, Daisy Chain Inc. will be hosting 6 Creative Cafés in relaxed, local spaces.

These cafés are about:

- Meeting other creative people
- Sharing skills, ideas & experiences
- Connecting people who create in different ways

The cafes are designed for creative people, by creative people to provide a welcoming space to meet, talk, listen, and connect.

To register your place, please email info@daisychaininc.co

Community Youth Programme

The Community Youth Programme is being delivered as part of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's PEACPLUS Local Action Plan.

Delivery Partners - Todds Leap, AB Coaching and Insight Solutions - are delighted to announce an exciting opportunity for young people (11-16 Years) to take part in a **FREE Multi Sports/Activity Camp at the Bawnacre Centre, Irvinestown, from Wednesday 8 April to Friday 10 April.**

If you want more information or wish to register for this programme, please do not hesitate to contact Fergal O'Donnell on 07713 623264 or email fergal@insight-solutions.org .

Please note, this is the first camp of many that will be delivered throughout the district over the next 12-16 months.

Upcoming Heritage Event at Strule Arts Centre

Omagh Railway Station: A Journey Through Time – Part Two

Thursday 23 April, 7pm

Local collector and author Tony McGarland continues this popular series, delving deeper into the story of Omagh's railway and its role in shaping the town. The talk will be accompanied by a special pop-up exhibition on Level 3, featuring photographs and artefacts celebrating Omagh's railway heritage.

For further information and to book any of the events detailed, visit www.struleartscentre.co.uk or contact box office on 028 8224 7831.

Smart Rural Innovation Driven Empowerment (STRIDE)

This initiative is a €3.5 Million project supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). We support communities in Tyrone, Fermanagh, Leitrim and Sligo to create digital solutions for local challenges and foster cross-border collaboration.

Introducing the Empowering Communities Portal

We're delighted to announce the launch of our brand-new Empowering Communities Portal – a dedicated online space designed to support, connect and strengthen communities.

Through the portal, you can:

- Access programme information and resources
- See how rural communities use technology to solve real-world challenges
- Stay up to date with key announcements
- Submit Expressions of Interest.

This new platform makes it easier than ever to engage with the STRIDE Programme and explore opportunities to make a difference in your community.

Visit the portal today: <https://bit.ly/4qVON37>

Together, we can empower stronger, more connected communities

Have Your Say on Our Environment Priorities!

What should we prioritise in our Environment Theme?

Our Performance Improvement Plan 2026–2027 outlines key actions to help protect our environment, with a clear objective:

- Progressing towards Net Zero

To achieve this, we propose to:

- Assess the Energy Performance Rating of our estate to improve efficiency
- Increase the amount of household waste reused, recycled, or composted
- Reduce fleet emissions through sustainable biofuels and more zero-emission vehicles

But we want to make sure we're focusing on what matters most to you.

Have we got it right?

Your voice matters—get involved and help shape a greener future for our district.

Access the draft and survey here: <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/.../performance-and.../>

or contact us via

Email: strategicplanning@fermanaghomagh.com

Phone: 0300 303 1777

Consultation closes: Wednesday 15 April 2026

Performance Improvement Plan 2026-2027

Have Your Say!

FODC is consulting on the Performance Improvement Plan 2026-2027 for the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area, and want to hear from you!

Improvement is about focusing on what matters most to our communities — helping to enhance wellbeing, strengthen our local economy, support environmental sustainability, and deliver high-quality services.

This is your chance to help shape the future of local services and improvements.

Complete the survey online: <https://bit.ly/4tIYaWb>

Alternatively, questionnaires can be downloaded and returned via Council Connect Centres.

Email strategicplanning@fermanaghomagh.com or telephone 0300 303 1777

Your voice matters. Have your say.

Consultation closes: Wednesday 15 April 2026

Do you have a dog?

If so, you must make sure it is microchipped and you have a valid dog licence.

Every dog must have a microchip implanted before a licence can be issued.

Apply to your local council for a dog licence.

More info: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/.../dog-licensing-and...>

Community Physical Activity Programmes

Community Wellbeing at Fermanagh and Omagh District Council deliver a wide range of programmes and activities across the district.

Keep up to date by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityWellbeingFODC>

Financial Wellbeing Project

Are you struggling with your personal finances?

Would your staff like a Debt Awareness Session?

Would your group users benefit from a Financial Well Being Clinic?

Omagh Independent Advice Service and Community Advice Fermanagh are delighted to offer One to One Advice, Financial Well Being Clinics and Information Sessions to the general public and to all interested local voluntary and statutory groups.

Our project will provide advice and representation on the following:

- Benefit Entitlement Checks
- Better off Calculations
- Budgeting Advice
- Free, confidential Debt Advice

If you would like to avail of our services or help us arrange a Financial Well Being Clinic in your area please contact us on:

Omagh Independent Advice Services

Phone No. 028 8224 3252 or Email info@oias.co.uk

Community Advice Fermanagh

Phone No. 028 6632 4334 or Email website@communityadvicefermanagh.com

Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Programme

For a copy of our latest Newsletter please visit [Spring 2026 PEACEPLUS Newsletter](#) which provides an update on the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan.

Please feel free to contact a member of the team if you would like to find out more information on a specific programme and how to get involved.

Also additional information can be view on the Council's website by clicking on link below:

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/the-peaceplus-programme/>

All Ireland Confined Amateur Drama Finals Set for Carrickmore in April 2026

The Finals will bring the very best of Irish amateur theatre to the Patrician Hall, Carrickmore, for a week of outstanding performances and community celebration.

For further information visit <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/article/all-ireland-confined-amateur-drama-finals-set-for-carrickmore-in-april-2026/>

Events in Fermanagh and Omagh

Visit the following websites for details of what's on in the district:

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/events-and-festivals/>

<https://www.fermanaghlakelands.com/whats-on>

<https://exploreomaghsperrins.com/whats-on/>

Cost of Living Help

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/community-help-support/cost-of-living-help/>

Consultations

Consultations provide you with an opportunity to have your say. They also help us to find out what you think and to understand your priorities and concerns about our district. Further information is available at

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/your-council/consultations/>

FODC Physical Activity Referral Scheme (PARS)

Delivered in partnership with the Public Health Agency (PHA), PARS is a **free 12-week exercise** referral programme facilitated by fully qualified staff for individuals with specific health conditions who have no absolute contraindications to exercise.

PARS includes online delivery with sessions also facilitated at Council leisure centres.

For further information visit [Physical Activity Referral Scheme](#)

FODC Move More Programme

A physical activity initiative delivered in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support available to anyone who has had a cancer diagnosis, at any stage of their life.

Move More supports the lives of people with cancer through physical activity. Physical activity before, during and after cancer treatment can help prevent and manage the effects of treatment, such as fatigue, depression and risks to heart health.

Sessions are facilitated at Council leisure centres.

For further information visit [Macmillan Move More](#).

Age Friendly at Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is committed to providing an Age Friendly District and seeks to ensure that older people lead more independent, engaged and socially connected lives.

For further information visit <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/health-wellbeing/agefriendly/>

For details of how to join an older person's group, visit

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/health-wellbeing/agefriendly/join-an-older-persons-group/>

For details of upcoming events for older people please visit

<https://www.facebook.com/swapnetwork/>

Charity Support

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council may provide support to charities in a number of ways including the provision of grant aid; the attendance of the Council Chair or Vice Chair at photo opportunities; use of Council facilities and the illumination of Council buildings to mark specific days of significance to a chosen charity which is associated with a particular colour.

For further information visit <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/>

Please note, applications for the use of Council facilities or the illuminating of Enniskillen Castle and Strule Arts Centre in a particular colour, should be submitted to the Council **at least 6 weeks** before the date requested, to allow sufficient time for the application to be considered.

To make an illumination request please complete <https://form.jotform.com/222782646405055> or for any enquiries regarding Council support to charities, email communitysupport@fermanaghomagh.com

Community Support

The Community Services Department offers support to individuals and organisations within the community and voluntary sector promoting community action.

Officers within the Community Services Team are available to assist community groups and voluntary organisations make as big a difference as possible to local lives and issues.

For further information, please visit [Community – Fermanagh & Omagh District Council \(fermanaghomagh.com\)](http://Community – Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (fermanaghomagh.com))

Please contact your local Community Support Officer for any assistance you or your organisation may require:

Area	Officer	Email	Telephone 0300 303 1777
Enniskillen	Ruthanne Fawcett	ruthanne.fawcett@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 21649
Erne East	Joanne Cunningham	joanne.cunningham@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 21405
Erne North	Leza Cleary	leza.cleary@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 21234
Erne West	Kellie Beacom	kellie.beacom@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 21201
Mid Tyrone	Gary Mortland	gary.mortland@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 20225
Omagh	Josephine Treanor	josephine.treanor@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 20222
West Tyrone	Billie-Jo Irwin	billie-jo.irwin@fermanaghomagh.com	Ext 20220

Community Centres

Our community centres are available to hire for children's activities/parties, community events, health and sporting activities, special occasions and corporate events.

For further details or to make a booking visit

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/community-centres/>

Irish Language Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

For up to date information and details of activities across the district

visit <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/irish-language/>

Fermanagh and Omagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)

A partnership between the Council, statutory providers and the community. The partnership is made up of elected and independent members and representatives from the statutory sector.

Follow us on Facebook via the link below

https://www.facebook.com/FermanaghandOmaghPCSP/?locale=en_GB

Community News

Give Blood – Save Lives

Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen

Wednesday 1 April 12.30pm-7.30pm

Book an appointment at <https://nibts.hscni.net/online-booking-for-blood-donation-appointments/>

Fermanagh Fun Farm

'Hop into Easter at Fermanagh Fun Farm'

Friday 3 – Monday 6 April

- Meet the Easter Bunny
- Cuddle chicks and bunnies
- Easter Trail and Egg Hunt
- Pony Easter Parade
- Animal Feeding

Book tickets on line at <https://shop.beyonk.com/on1m3aje/experiences>

Now open every weekend!

Fermanagh Fun Farm is a social enterprise, not for profit making organisation. The farm is run by a committee of volunteers known as "Friends of the Farm". The farm rescues / adopts animals, giving them a home for life. All profits from the farm go towards the care and welfare of the animals, maintenance on the farm and investing in new projects for the farm

Erne District Chinese Families' and Friends' Association

AGM & Qing Ming Festival - Saturday 4 April

Dragon Boat Festival (Outdoor) - Saturday 20 June

Regular Activities - Alternative Saturdays 2pm-4pm

Fermanagh Gardening Society

Daffodil and Spring Show

Friday 10 April from 12 noon

Killyhevlin Hotel

We are celebrating our Diamond 60th anniversary this year along with The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group who celebrate their 50 years.

A very exciting and busy day is planned. Just to name a few of the stands -

- Rare Plants Ireland
- Esker Farm Daffodils
- Michele Brady Glass
- Manor Garden Centre
- Leaf and Petal from Co Wicklow
- Shady Plants Fern Nursery, Co Wicklow
- Camolin Potting Shed
- Irish Garden magazine, and much more.

Schedules for the classes, including adults and children are available by sending an email

to fermanaghgarden@outlook.com

Calling all schools

Fermanagh Fleadh Fundraiser like no other!

Saturday 11 April (all day)

The Old Oak Bar, Enniskillen

Newtownbutler CCE branch are looking forward to hosting the Fermanagh Fleadh for the third consecutive year (31st May – 7th June). To help with the ever increasing costs of running the 55th County Fleadh, this marathon trad session starts at 11am with Newtownbutler CCE musicians. The majority of the seven CCE branches in Fermanagh will be there to play their tunes plus many more well known and loved trad musicians from the county – Aishling Mc Philips, Chris Maguire, Dinie Leonard, Gary Curley to name but a few.

On the hour every hour, will be a new group of musicians - the last slot at 10pm is with Aisling Mc Phillips and her husband Donal. This event is free of charge, but its success depends on voluntary donations on the day from the general public. Raffle tickets will be on sale via Comhaltas branches in Fermanagh and throughout the day.

All are invited to pop in and stay for an hour or the whole day; whether you are a musician, singer or listener– what better way to spend a Saturday!

For further details check out the Fermanagh Fleadh Facebook page or contact Fleadh Chairperson Sinead Mc Cabe on 07796 297143

Omagh Volunteer Centre

For a copy of our Spring 2026 Newsletter visit <https://omaghvolunteercentre.org/opportunities>

IA Northern Ireland – Ileostomy & Internal Pouch Association

Wednesday 15 April, 11am-12 noon

Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen

Like to meet up with other ostomates in your area? Why not join us for a cuppa and a chat?

For more information, please visit [IA Northern Ireland - Ileostomy & Internal Pouch Association](http://www.iasupport.org)

or contact anne.demick@iasupport.org

We are looking forward to seeing you!

The Fermanagh Trust

Fantastic environmental programme opportunity for young people (ages 15–16)

Do you have young people in your life aged 15–16 who would love a fantastic opportunity to gain hands-on environmental conservation skills?

We're delighted to offer a fully certified programme that includes the John Muir Award and Leave No Trace Certificate, facilitated by home-grown talent Tony Smith of Oakwood Bushcraft. The programme offers equal measures of fun, skill-building, and meaningful connection with nature and peers.

Across 8 sessions, participants will explore a range of idyllic locations across Fermanagh and Cavan, taking part in team-building activities, making lasting friendships, and developing practical conservation skills. Highlights include:

- Learning about and observing local wildlife, including bats in their natural habitat at Crom Estate
- Exploring native woodlands
- Conducting habitat surveys and practical water testing on our shared waterway system at Castle Saunderson
- Taking local conservation action in Cladagh Glen

The programme will culminate in a celebratory finale at Cavan Adventure Centre, where participants will showcase their efforts and achievements, and make a splash while doing so! It is also worth noting, transportation to each venue is included in the programme. If you know a young person who would thrive in this kind of outdoor, skills-based, and confidence-building experience, we'd love to hear from you.

[Click here for info & registration](#)

Deadline to apply: Wednesday 15 April 2026

Cruse Bereavement Support

Volunteers Needed!

Could you help to support bereaved children and young people in the Western Trust area? Our Volunteers provide support to children and young people affected by the death of someone close to them. We provide group and 1-1 support to children aged 7 – 17.

If you have the skills listed below, want to make a difference to bereaved children and young people and meet new people, we want to hear from you.

What we're looking for:

- Passionate about supporting children and young people
- Kind and inclusive
- Great communication skills with children, young people and families
- Able to work in a team
- Able to use a computer/IT skills
- Willing to take part in training and learn new skills
- Volunteer for 6-8 hours per month for at least 2 years

There is an online training course running later this year –

Saturday, 18 April 2026 Saturday, 25 April 2026 Saturday, 2 May 2026

Saturday, 9 May 2026 Saturday, 16 May 2026 Saturday, 23 May 2026

Applicants must be able to attend all training sessions.

If you would like to apply for a place on this course, please fill in the following application form

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/volunteer-application-form/>

For further information about this volunteering role, please contact eleonor.ellerslie@cruse.org.uk

Disclaimer: Cruse is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people.

Volunteers must apply for a relevant disclosure check and attend regular Cruse safeguarding training.

Enniskillen Sarcoidosis Support Group

Patient Day

Friday 24 April, 9.30am-3pm

Fermanagh House, Broadmeadow, Enniskillen

Come along to hear Guest Speakers and Patients' Lived Experiences

For further information visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/285056227186287/>

Email enniskillensarcgroup@yahoo.com

Telephone Wendy Watson 07811 537563 (available 6pm-9pm)

Erne Paddlers

'Come and Try It' Paddlesports Taster Week at the Round O in Enniskillen Starting on Tuesday 21 April

There will be sessions every evening, offering people the opportunity to give different paddlesports a try. With extra sessions planned for the morning of Saturday 25th, we're hoping as many people as possible will be able to come and join us. All paddling and safety equipment will be provided and sessions will be led by qualified instructors. Tickets cost £5 available at link below.

Our next skills courses begin in April. Booking is open now with discounts available for anyone booking early. We will run evening sessions for beginners and more experienced paddlers, families and kids (7yrs+), inclusive paddling for anyone who needs extra support plus midweek multicraft sessions. Tickets are also available for our Wednesday morning Lough Erne paddles and our weekend Love to Paddle Trips, which take place on various dates and from various locations up to September.

Saturday 30 May - Firewalk Fundraiser and Family Fun Day

Erne Paddlers is a not-for-profit registered charity and an inclusive club and we want as many people as possible to experience the health and wellbeing benefits that paddlesports can bring. We have a flexible pricing structure with a range of discounts available including assistance rates. Check us out on Facebook, Instagram and X for regular updates too. If anyone would like to find out more, please get in touch via social media, email@ernepaddlers.org.uk or call/WhatsApp 07468 911398.

Go to www.ernepaddlers.org.uk/events for full details and to book tickets online.

Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

Network Meeting

Wednesday 29 April, 7pm

Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh

One of the presentations will be on the Strule Campus and there will be an opportunity to visit the site at 6pm. The viewing platform there is limited in capacity so we will be taking bookings for it nearer the time. Booking for the visit is essential for Health and Safety reasons.

A full programme of speakers will be announced later but the meeting is an excellent opportunity for learning new things, and just as importantly, to network with other local community groups. So we look forward to seeing you there.

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/omaghforumforruralassociations/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

European Heritage Open Days

12–13 September 2026

This year's theme, "Heritage at Risk – Revive, Resist, Reimagine", invites organisers to open sites, share stories, and showcase local architecture and culture.

For further information click [here](#)

Get Involved - Applications close Sunday 10 May at 11.59pm.

NOW Group

Fandom Con

Saturday 23 May

ICC Belfast (right beside the Waterfront)

Expect an unforgettable day packed with gaming, cosplay, workshops, special guests, and loads more surprises. Whether you're into anime, comics, gaming, movies, or just love the buzz of a fan-filled festival, Fandom Con has something for absolutely everyone — all ages, all interests, all welcome. Our event sells out every single year, so don't wait - Tickets are now on sale for just £5. Learn more and buy your tickets at www.nowgroup.org/fandom
Join us and be part of the most exciting Fandom Con yet!

High Sheriff of Co Fermanagh 2026

Alison Annan has been appointed as High Sheriff of Co Fermanagh for 2026. This is an honorary role with a tenure of one year.

She has worked within the Co Fermanagh Community and also volunteered with a number of organisations but particularly the Aisling Centre for the past 25+ years.

Alison would be keen to meet new people and find out more about what is going on in the community. She would welcome any invites to meet community groups and explain the history and current role of the High Sheriff.

Alison can be contacted via email at alisonannan@hotmail.co.uk

NIPSO Survey

The Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO) is inviting voluntary and community sector organisations to take part in a short, anonymous survey about their awareness and experience of NIPSO's work. The survey takes 5–7 minutes to complete. [Take the survey here](#)

Mapping Dance: New Database Resources for Rural Border Region

Two new databases, a [Venues Database](#) and a [Dance Artists and Facilitators Database](#) offer tools to support and engage with the diversity of dance happening across the rural border regions of Cavan, Monaghan and Fermanagh–Omagh, as part of [Dance Connects in Rural Border Regions](#) research project funded by Creative Ireland, Shared Island, Shared Communities.

Any questions to Victoria.durrer@ucd.ie

Lifelong Learning Carnival School at Cavan Arts Festival 2026

Drum it, dance it, make it, move it!

Step into the Carnival spirit with Cavan Arts Festival's **free Carnival School workshops**.

Taking place across April and May, Cavan Arts Festival Carnival School offers a unique opportunity to get involved in a series of creative, hands-on workshops led by experienced artists. Choose from samba drumming, live music, movement, circus skills and creative making, and try something new in a fun and welcoming environment.

Participants will also have the opportunity to join the Cavan Arts Festival community parade this May, bringing colour, rhythm and energy to the streets of Cavan.

Workshops are free of charge, designed for adult participation, and places are limited.

Full details: www.cavanartsfestival.ie

Express your interest: email admin@cavanartsfestival.ie

Lifelong Learning Carnival School is supported by Cavan County Council PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Free Mobility Support Available in Enniskillen and Omagh

Two local charities are helping people with limited mobility remain active and independent by providing free access to mobility equipment in town centres.

Shopmobility Enniskillen

Provides mobility equipment including manual wheelchairs, rollators and mobility scooters to assist people visiting Enniskillen and nearby areas.

Membership and daily use are completely free of charge, and the service also offers longer-term hire options where required.

To ensure the equipment you need is available, users are encouraged to book in advance, although walk-ins may be accommodated when possible.

The office is located at the Translink (Ulsterbus) depot in Enniskillen.

Telephone Shopmobility Enniskillen on 028 6632 9965 or email enniskillensm@live.co.uk

Shopmobility Omagh

Provides a free daily service for people who need support getting around town. The service is available to individuals with:

- Temporary injuries
- Recovery from surgery or hospital treatment
- Permanent disabilities
- Age-related mobility difficulties
- Difficult pregnancies

There is a nominal fee for long-term hire.

Mobility Omagh doesn't have rollators.

Equipment can be borrowed for the day to make shopping, attending appointments or visiting the town centre easier and more enjoyable.

The office is located in Omagh Community House.

Telephone Shopmobility Omagh on 07517 953536 or email mobilityomagh2026@outlook.com

By providing access to mobility aids, both charities help people remain active, independent and connected to their local community. If you or someone you support could benefit from this service, please contact the relevant Shopmobility service directly for more information.

Northern Ireland Assembly

Engagement with Ethnic Minority Organisations & Community Groups

We plan to develop and build relationships with ethnic minority groups and offer each group a free tailored workshop entitled “**Understanding Your Assembly**”, which can be delivered either online or in person (typically lasts 1-2 hours).

Sessions will:

- Be delivered in plain English, with optional multilingual support and accessible materials.
- Include modules on the role of the Northern Ireland Assembly, who your MLAs are, what MLAs do, how committees work, and the various ways to get involved.
- Provide practical examples and case studies demonstrating how communities can influence decision-making.
- Offer interactive guidance on navigating the Assembly website.
- Facilitate discussion around barriers to participation, cultural accessibility, inclusivity, and ways to encourage greater engagement.
- Provide participants with a certificate of attendance.

For further information email nicola.crawford@niassembly.gov.uk or telephone 028 9052 1029

Awareness to action - an Understanding Sight Loss Session FOC

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)'s Social Action Team offers a FOC 'Awareness to Action – an Understanding Sight Loss session' for staff and volunteers of organisations who have blind or partially people as part of their clientele or have the potential to do so, we also target friends and family of someone blind or partially sighted.

Delivery: This relaxed but structured session has been designed by and is delivered by blind or partially sighted people (at least one of the 2 facilitators will have sight loss)

The session can be delivered online and is no longer than 90 mins long – max 25 people – it can also be delivered face to face, which can be up to, but no longer than 2 hours – max 20 people

Objectives:

- It will help individuals and teams understand what it is like to live life with vision loss
- To recognise someone who is blind or partially sighted
- To understand the different levels of sight loss
- It will give tools to communicate and assist blind and partially sighted people
- Ask you to actively consider how you might modify your own practise in one small way to make life easier for people with vision loss
- And give 5 top tips to keep good eye health

Participants: we like between 7 and 20 participants for face to face and we will take up to 25 online

If you would be interested in availing of one of these sessions, please email Una.Mulgrew@rnib.org.uk Mobile: 07702 140761

NI Chest Heart and Stroke

Work Well Live Well

Our Work Well Live Well programme helps workplaces support the health and wellbeing of their staff — and it's **completely free**.

Funded by the Public Health Agency, the programme offers practical support to help organisations build healthier workplaces

We are now recruiting workplaces for 2026/27 -

- Free workplace health and wellbeing support
- Open to all industries
- Suitable for organisations with 2–250 employees

If your workplace wants to improve staff wellbeing, now is the perfect time to get involved.

Register your interest [here](#)

Western Health and Social Care Trust

For a copy of our latest service directory, visit <https://drugsandalcoholni.info/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/PHA-Directories-Poster-A3-Web-Western.pdf>

Aisling Centre

37 Darling Street, Enniskillen BT74 7DP

For further information on any programmes, please email Aisling Centre on info@theaislingcentre.com or telephone 028 6632 5811 (unless stated otherwise).

Groups & Programmes:

- **Aisling's Shop** – Open Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-2pm. Drop in and bag a bargain with a fantastic array of new, preloved and vintage items to be picked up at very competitive prices. We are also accepting donations of clothes, Bric a Brac, etc. All proceeds from the shop will be used to support the local community through the work of Aisling Centre.
- **Self Care Drop-In** – Monthly drop-in sessions, first Tuesday of every month at 10am. Next Meeting Tuesday 7 April. Suggested donation £3 per person.
- **Forget Me Not** – Support group for those bereaved by suicide. First Monday of the month 7.30-9pm. Next meeting will be Monday 13 April due to Easter Bank Holiday.
- **Mindfulness Meditation** – Monthly drop-in sessions, last Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Next meeting Wednesday 29 April. Suggested donation £3 per person.
- **Charity Yoga Sessions** – Donate what you can upon entry to help support the Aisling Centre. Wednesdays in May at Aisling Centre, 8-9pm.

Other Groups & Events:

- **Alcoholics Anonymous** – 3 meetings per week at Aisling Centre.
- **Aware** – Mental Health Support Group. Meets every Tuesday at 7pm. For further information, please contact info@aware-ni.org
- **Baby Zen Massage** – Promoting bonding and relaxation for parents and babies. To book, please contact Emma on 07407 063266. Thursdays at 10am.
- **Cherish Sure Start** – Creche facility from Monday-Friday as well as various programmes for both children and parents. For further information call 028 6862 1970.
- **Eclipse Fitness** – Styku 3D body scanning, last Friday of the month 4.30-6pm. For further information please contact Niall on 028 6634 0475.
- **Escapists** – Support Group for Carers. Meets Wednesdays 10.30am-1pm.
- **Island Artists** – Open to new members. Meets Wednesdays from 1-4pm. For more information, please contact Maura on 07968 225704.
- **Little Mess** – Let your little ones explore their curiosity and learn through messy play. To book contact Colette at fermanagh@thelittlesensory.co Fridays at 10.30am.
- **ZEST: Healing the Hurt** – Counselling for people who self-harm. Contact 028 7126 6999.

Yoga Timetable (please contact individual facilitators to book):

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| • Christine | Mondays at 6pm | 07722 550040 |
| • Alasdair | Wednesdays at 6.30pm | 07776 290903 |
| • Genny | Thursdays at 12pm | 028 8754 1994 |
| • Theresa | Thursdays at 6pm (men only) | 07923 694523 |
| | 7pm and 8pm (both mixed) | 07923 694523 |

Fermanagh House

Broadmeadow, Enniskillen BT74 7HR

For further information on any programmes, please telephone 028 6632 0210 (unless stated otherwise).

- **ASCERT** - 'Voices of Experience' on Thursday 2 April, 10.30am - 2pm. Whether you have your own lived or living experience of substance use, or substance use has touched your family, or someone close to you - your voice matters. Come along to connect with others who truly understand, share what matters to you and help shape the support that Fermanagh needs. No judgment. No pressure. Just real people, real conversations and a genuine welcome. Free lunch included. Limited places - register now.
- **RNID** - Supporting those who are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus. Drop in first Thursday of every month, 10am – 11.30am. They can provide hearing aid batteries and tubing by post. Information on how to look after and clean your hearing aids, what to try if you are having a problem with your hearing aids, hearing loss and assistive devices and technology, what other local services and organisations can help.
- **Youthlife** - counselling support for children and young people aged 5-25 years who have been affected by bereavement, separation, divorce or loss of a significant person. Referrals can be made by contacting Caroline Temple on 028 7137 7227 – families can also make self-referrals. More info can be found on <https://youthlife.org/>
- **Enniskillen Breastfeeding Group** - Thursdays 10.30am-12pm. A great way to meet and socialise with other Mums. New members welcome.
- **Inspire Wellbeing Addiction Support Group** – Every Wednesday 11am – 1pm. This drop-in support service is for adults who are affected themselves or by someone else's alcohol or drugs use.
- **Narcotics Anonymous** - Every Monday and Thursday, 7pm-8pm.
- **Dunlewey Addiction Services** - Free and confidential advice, information and counselling for adults over 18 who are directly or indirectly affected by problem gambling issues. To book a session contact 028 9039 2547
- **Erne U3A** - Monthly meetings and different activity groups - Current activities include singing, walking, book club, drama, storytelling, scrabble, lunches, iPad training, heritage and trips. Members receive regular newsletters via email and post. All Erne U3a work is voluntary. For more info or to join the group, pop into Fermanagh House for an application form.
- **South West Age Partnership Chair Yoga** – Mondays 11am-12 noon.
- **Enniskillen Sands group** - Second Monday of the month at 7.30pm. A relaxed, safe and friendly place to meet other bereaved parents and share each other's stories of loss and grief.
- **Nexus** - Over 40 years' experience offering a specialised professional counselling service to people impacted by sexual abuse and abusive relationships. For further information about the services visit <https://nexusni.org/>
- **Alzheimer's Society** - Carers Information Support Programme. For further information and to book, please contact Dementia Adviser Fermanagh, Rita O'Loughlin – Mobile: 07889148927.
- **Enniskillen Sarcoidosis Support Group** - First Monday of the month. Everyone Welcome.

Oak Healthy Living Centre, Lisnaskea

For a copy of our latest programme of activities

Visit <https://www.oakhealthylivingcentre.com/events/>

Tel: 028 6772 3843

Email: Info@oakhlc.com or admin@oakhlc.com

Tara Centre

11 Holmview Terrace, Omagh, Co Tyrone, BT79 0AH

Tel: 028 8225 0024 Email: info@taraomagh.com Website: www.taraomagh.com

Ongoing Counselling, Psychotherapy, Art Therapy, Complementary Therapies

Booking via reception essential for all events! Please check our website for further updates!

Meditating Together - Mary Daly & Maura Twohig

Tuesdays 11am - 12.30pm

Step into a space of stillness and presence.

PATHS Meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month 8.00pm-9.30pm

Omagh Men's Support Group Mondays, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Grants available for some of the costs associated with the provision of counselling/psychotherapy, complementary therapies and some workshops/seminars

America250 Experience Development Programme

A fully funded training and mentoring programme to develop experiences.

The focus of the programme will be to create/enhance **experiences linked to the Declaration of Independence (1776), and life in America during the period immediately before and after it**, recognising the central figures and the cultural influence of those with Northern Ireland heritage.

The programme should encourage the development of tourism experiences that are community-led and culturally rooted and reflect diverse cultural narratives, including Ulster-Scots, Scotch-Irish, and Irish contributions to American history during the late 18th Century.

Visit <https://www.tourismni.com/america250-experience-development-programme/>

for further information.

Volunteer Now

For a list of our scheduled training courses visit <https://bit.ly/VNCoursesScheduled> and for our on demand courses visit <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/on-demand-courses/>

Latest Volunteering Opportunities

Fermanagh <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering-opportunities/>

Omagh <https://omaghvolunteercentre.org/opportunities>

SEFF Charity Shop

Volunteers Needed!

Help out in our Charity Shop at 24 Shore Road, Enniskillen (beside Maud's).

3-hour shifts.

Benefits of Volunteering –

- Meet new friends
- Learn new skills
- Support the work of SEFF within the community

Contact Emma on 028 6772 3884 or email info@seff.org.uk

Care for Cancer, Omagh

Volunteer Opportunity

Have you a few spare hours to help as a Volunteer Driver?

- Help your community
- Join our friendly team
- Mileage reimbursed

Contact us on 028 8224 6599 or email info@careforcancer.co.uk

Training Opportunities

Halls & Venues, How to Manage your Building and Maximise its use Do you help run a community hall or venue?

Develop your knowledge of how to manage & promote your space effectively -
Increase usage and turn your building into a thriving community hub

- **Drumquin, Community Youth Centre** **Wednesday 22 April, 10am - 1pm**
- **Garrison, Melvin Recreation
& Resource Centre** **Wednesday 6 May, 6pm - 9pm**
- **Enniskillen, Fermanagh House** **Wednesday 13 May, 10am-1pm**
- **Online** **Wednesday 13 May, 10am -1pm**
- **Omagh, Tara Centre** **Monday 15 June, 6pm-9pm**

Particularly useful to any organisations that may be interested in finding out about free tools that are available to help them manage their Health & Safety requirements and to look at how they could generate more income from their building.

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/GuYgghwyyvaodmwPQA>

Health, Safety & Wellbeing Courses including Food Hygiene are accessible through the online learning platform.

Gain useful tips and find out about free tools and practical resources that will help you in your role.

If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch with Sonya Johnston, The Fermanagh Trust
Tel 028 6632 0210 www.fermanaghtrust.org

Fermanagh Trust

Expand Your Skills – 250+ free Online Courses Available Now!

We can offer access to over 250 **free** online courses through our new PEACEPLUS Funding.
You can register and start learning immediately!

Our courses cover a wide range of topics to support both personal development and professional training needs. From GDPR, Cyber security, Dementia awareness, Neurodiversity awareness to Food Hygiene and manual handling, to Microsoft Excel and Setting Goals there is something to suit everyone!

- **Accredited qualifications**
- **Personal development programmes**
- **Available anytime, anywhere, on any device**
- **Offered in 40+ languages**
- **Save time and money for you and your organisation**

The 'Investing in Community Volunteers' Programme is one of 13 programmes as detailed in the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan, a project supported by PEACEPLUS and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

For further information/to register visit www.fermanaghtrust.org
or email sonya@fermanaghtrust.org Tel 028 6632 0210

**Sign Up for Free, Fully Funded Workshops
for individuals volunteering or working in the Community/voluntary/charity sector!
Coming to a town or village near you across Omagh & Fermanagh!**

Our first series of workshops, includes:

1. **Committees: Roles, Functions and Responsibilities**
2. **Fundraising: Generating Income for your group /organisation**
3. **Safeguarding - 3 Hour Certified Course**
4. **Safeguarding, Designated Officer, Full Day Course**
5. **Halls & Venues, How to Manage your Building and Maximise its use**
6. **Introduction to Social Media, AI Tools & Canva**
7. **Volunteers: How to get them & how to keep them**
8. **Inclusion: Delivering Activities and Events that are Welcoming to Everyone**

This initiative offers **free training and development opportunities** for volunteers, committee members, and staff working in the community and voluntary sector.

We're delighted to share this programme of activities for the new Investing in Community Volunteers (ICV) Programme, part of the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan, supported by PEACEPLUS and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Each workshop will be delivered in seven locations across Fermanagh and Omagh up to June 2026, morning, evening and online sessions available too ensuring accessibility for all.

View the full programme and register here: <https://www.fermanaghtrust.org/investing-in-community-volunteers-programme/>

Please share this information with anyone who might be interested.

If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch with Sonya Johnston, The Fermanagh Trust
Tel 028 6632 0210 www.fermanaghtrust.org

WHSCCT Recovery College

Free courses on mental health and emotional wellbeing that run in Derry/Londonderry, Enniskillen, Limavady, Omagh and Strabane.

[Autumn/Winter 2025/26 prospectus](#)

Our workshops are **free** and open to absolutely everyone – carers and supporters, people with or without a mental health diagnosis, staff, students – anyone who wants to improve or maintain their mental health and emotional wellbeing. We keep things informal and relaxed, and all workshops have been written and are delivered by people who have lived experience alongside mental health professionals so students get the lived and learned experience of the topics.

For further information or if you would like hard copies of the prospectus

T: 028 8225 2079 or E: recoverycollege@westerntrust.hscni.net

Health Improvement, Equality and Involvement (HIEI) Department Training Brochure April to September 2026

The HIEI works in partnership with other statutory, community and voluntary organisations to address health inequalities and help improve the health and wellbeing of people who live and work in the Western Health & Social Care Trust (WHSCT) area.

We aim to build on the skills and capacity of people to deliver quality, effective health improvement programmes, co-ordinate and facilitate health improvement activities and provide health and wellbeing information and advice.

We are committed to a co-production approach and value service user and carer involvement. Please get in touch if you would like to help shape our training provision and the development of new programmes so that our service becomes more responsive to your needs.

The training courses are found under the headings of Children & Families, Emotional Health & Wellbeing, Nutrition, Physical Activity, Sexual Health and Personal & Public Involvement.

<https://westerntrust.pagetiger.com/HIEITB2026/hiei-training-brochure-april-september-2026>

The Department is delighted to announce that the Emotional Health & Wellbeing and Nutrition courses are now each categorised into a tiered learning and skills framework. These frameworks will help to inform you which courses are suited to your Personal and Professional Development. Emotional Health & Wellbeing is divided into Tiers 1 to 4 and aligns to the PHA Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention Training Framework. Nutrition is divided into Levels 1 and 2.

We are offering three new courses in this edition; ' Exploring the contents of Thriving Mind', 'Introduction to Personal and Public Involvement' and 'Baby Massage'.

Three courses are returning; 'Boccia Leaders Award', 'Disability Inclusion Training' and 'Solihull 2 Day Foundation Training'.

Courses will be delivered face to face in a range of locations across the WHSCT or via Zoom.

To register: on each course there is a 'click here to register icon' that directs you a Microsoft form where you can register for the course and date. Please be aware that you are registering your interest, by completing the Microsoft form it does not mean you are guaranteed a place.

If you have any issues applying for courses or accessing our training online, please contact us on Phone: 028 7186 5127 Email: health.improvement@westerntrust.hscni.net

Please complete <https://forms.office.com/e/KWvz3hzVfL> if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

Funding Opportunities

Department of Foreign Affairs

Reconciliation Fund's Annual Funding Round now open for applications

The 2026 Reconciliation Fund's Annual Funding Round (for 12-month funding) is now open for applications. The link to the online application portal is now live at [DFAT Grant Application Portal](#). Due to the high volume of traffic on the online application portal, it may take some time to receive the email to register as a new user, or to reset your password, so please allow for this when planning the submission of your application.

Please read through our short guide to registering as a first time applicant and a [user guide to assist with our online application system](#). Please read this before beginning the application process. This guide includes details of the questions which applicants are required to complete during the registration and application stages of the process.

For full information click [here](#)

If you cannot find answers in our webpage information, please feel free to contact us at reconciliation@dfa.ie.

Applications will be accepted through the online application portal until Thursday 16 April 2026 at midnight. No late applications will be accepted.

Music for All: Awards for Schools and Community Groups

Round 2 is offering instrumental awards in the following categories:

Electro acoustic guitars (to suit varying abilities/levels), Pbuzz instruments, Ukuleles, Drum kits, and Orange crush mini amps.

Schools and community groups that are not-for-profit and based in the UK, including educational establishments, community organisations and similar not-for-profit groups that are bringing music-making activities to their communities, are eligible to apply.

For further information visit <https://www.musicforall.org.uk/awards-overview/>

Deadline: Thursday 7 May 2026, 12 noon