

## Fermanagh & Omagh District Council Community Support News – May 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](mailto:alison.gilmore@fermanaghomagh.com)

**Please note the deadline for May's Newsletter is Tuesday 19 May**

### Council News & Events

#### New to the area?

You are welcome to join the Community Connect Hub

**Fermanagh House, Enniskillen 10am-12 noon**

**Thursdays 7 May, 2 July, 3 September, 5 November**

**Omagh Community House 10am-12 noon**

**Tuesdays 2 June, 4 August, 6 October, 1 December**

You can:

- Have a chat
- Meet other people
- Get help and information

People will be there to help with:

- Housing
- Jobs and benefits
- Health
- Community advice

**Just drop in. No booking needed.**

**Everyone is welcome.**

#### Calling all Community Groups

We'd love your help in making our FODC monthly Community Support Hubs even more welcoming for newcomers to the area. These sessions are a great opportunity for people who are new to FODC to connect, find support, and discover what's happening locally.

We're inviting all community groups to share a leaflet, flyer, or short piece of information about what you do. This will be displayed and shared at the hubs, helping new residents learn about the fantastic social, recreational, and support opportunities available—and hopefully encouraging them to get involved.

Whether you're a small informal group or a larger organisation, your contribution could make a real difference in helping someone feel part of the community.

If you'd like to take part, please send us your materials or get in touch with [debbie.convey@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:debbie.convey@fermanaghomagh.com) - we'd be delighted to include you!

Thanks so much for helping us build a more connected and welcoming community.

## Exhibition Openings in Strule Arts Centre, Omagh

**Opening: Friday 1 May, 7pm 'Pareidolia' by Rachael Johnson**  
**1- 30 May 2026 9.30am - 5pm Monday - Saturday. Admission is free.**

Rachael was born in Leeds in 1962 and educated in Enniskillen. She left home in 1980 to study Fine Arts and spent some years travelling and working abroad. When she returned to Ireland she worked as an illustrator and community artist in Dublin. Inspired by worldwide travels she began to develop and exhibit personal artwork. Rachael is currently living and working in Derry.

**Opening: Thursday 4 June, 7pm NI Photographic Association Annual Exhibition**  
**5 - 27 June 2026 9.30am - 5pm Monday - Saturday. Admission is free.**

This exhibition, consisting of approximately 100 prints, is selected from over 500 entries, from members of the 24 local camera clubs that form NIPA. Selection is made by three distinguished photographers. A diverse range of genre can be seen including landscape, portrait, sport, architecture and nature.

## Railways return to Strule Arts Centre

The railways return to the Strule Arts Centre in a new pop-up exhibition 'Railways That Shaped Tyrone'. Visitors will take in the wonder of rail and explore a remarkable collection of original artefacts that formed part of Tyrone's rich railway history.

This is largest collection of railway memorabilia in Tyrone, including uniforms, signalling instruments, signs, lamps, tableware, timetables, tickets and historic photographs, each telling its own story of a bygone era.

This special exhibition is presented in collaboration with Selwyn Johnston and the team at Headhunters Barber Shop & Railway Museum and has been developed with the support of railway enthusiast and author Tony McGartland. We gratefully acknowledge the support and contribution of both Tony and the Headhunters team in bringing this unique experience to life.

Audiences of all ages are encouraged to visit, reflect and immerse themselves in the stories of Tyrone's railway past, brought vividly to life in this captivating rooftop exhibition.

For more information visit <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/article/the-railways-return-to-the-strule-arts-centre/>

## Upcoming Heritage Events at Strule Arts Centre

- Linen Threads of Ulster an engaging talk & discussion with Dr Johnny Hamill. 14th May 7pm.
- Peatlands Awareness. Free drop-in session with Róisín Black, Peatland Engagement Officer. 12pm 12th June.
- From Patent to Plough. A talk and discussion celebrating 100 years of Ferguson innovation with Stevan Patterson. 23rd June 7pm.

For further information and booking any of the events detailed, visit [www.struleartscentre.co.uk](http://www.struleartscentre.co.uk) or contact box office on 028 8224 7831.

## Fermanagh Lakeland Forum Redevelopment

The next edition of the Construction Newsletter for the Fermanagh Lakeland Forum Redevelopment Project is now available.

To read the newsletter click [here](#) and then select 'Newsletter'.

This edition includes updates on project progress, details on education and employability initiatives and useful contact information.

### **FODC Expression of Interest Open**

**for the development and delivery of a Halloween event in Omagh for 2026.**

This opportunity aims to support the delivery of a high-quality seasonal event in Omagh and further strengthen the district's autumn events offering.

For more information and to apply, please visit <https://bit.ly/OmaghHalloween2026>

**The closing date for submissions is Tuesday 12 May 2026, 12 noon.**

### **Fermanagh and Omagh Tourism Conference 2026**

**Sustainable Landscapes: Enabling a Vibrant Visitor Economy**

**Thursday 7 May 2026**

**The Marquee at Glenpark Estate, Omagh**

**Hosted by Barra Best**

Join us for a day of insight, inspiration and collaboration as we explore how our landscapes can drive a thriving visitor economy.

Hear from a range of expert speakers including:

- Tourism leaders sharing insights from Ireland's Hidden Heartlands campaign
- Updates on the Sperrins AONB Action Plan and future outdoor recreation opportunities
- Industry voices on sustainable tourism and business growth
- Real-life success stories from the Geopark's Sustainable Tourism Programme

This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with industry professionals, gain valuable insights, and be part of shaping the future of tourism in the region.

More details and keynote speakers to be announced soon

### **Creative Cafes**

**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](mailto:info@daisychaininc.co)**

### **Strategic Capital Projects Grant Programme 2026/2027**

**£1million in funding is available**

**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](mailto:grants@fermanaghomagh.com)

### **Cost of Living Help**

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

### **Department of Health Survey**

Fermanagh and Omagh has faced significant changes to local health services. Our access to care, especially in our rural communities, remains a real concern.

We would like to make our residents aware of the “This Is Our Health” public engagement programme led by the Department of Health.

Our voices and experiences of our district must be heard, particularly around access, distance to services, and the unique challenges of rural living.

We encourage residents to tell the Department of Health and health care partners of their experiences in this survey: <https://bit.ly/4ubMbjw>

### **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>

### **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](mailto:info@oias.co.uk)

#### **Community Advice Fermanagh**

Phone No. 028 6632 4334 or Email [website@communityadvicefermanagh.com](mailto:website@communityadvicefermanagh.com)

## **Community Physical Activity Programmes**

### **Spring programme schedule April – June**

Visit <https://canva.link/pyk0o69md1lcvlt> for details of the Council's **free programme** of activities across the District - Boccia, Circuits, Couch to 5K, Pickleball, etc.

There is something for everyone! Book your space at the above link.

## **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/>

## **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/>

## **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/>

## **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/>

**How to join an older person's group, visit** <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/health-wellbeing/agefriendly/join-an-older-persons-group/>

**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](mailto: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://www.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	<a href="mailto:ruthanne.fawcett@fermanaghomagh.com">ruthanne.fawcett@fermanaghomagh.com</a>	Ext 21649
Erne East	Joanne Cunningham	<a href="mailto:joanne.cunningham@fermanaghomagh.com">joanne.cunningham@fermanaghomagh.com</a>	Ext 21405
Erne North	Leza Cleary	<a href="mailto:leza.cleary@fermanaghomagh.com">leza.cleary@fermanaghomagh.com</a>	Ext 21234
Erne West	Kellie Beacom	<a href="mailto:kellie.beacom@fermanaghomagh.com">kellie.beacom@fermanaghomagh.com</a>	Ext 21201
Mid Tyrone	Gary Mortland	<a href="mailto:gary.mortland@fermanaghomagh.com">gary.mortland@fermanaghomagh.com</a>	Ext 20225
Omagh	Josephine Treanor	<a href="mailto:josephine.treanor@fermanaghomagh.com">josephine.treanor@fermanaghomagh.com</a>	Ext 20222
West Tyrone	Billie-Jo Irwin	<a href="mailto:billie-jo.irwin@fermanaghomagh.com">billie-jo.irwin@fermanaghomagh.com</a>	Ext 20220

### 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](https://www.facebook.com/FermanaghandOmaghPCSP/?locale=en_GB)

## Community News

### Give Blood – Save Lives

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

### Omagh Lawn Tennis Club

#### Tyrone Junior Tour 200 U12 & U14 tournament

Friday 1 May – Sunday 3 May

Again, it's expected that this event will attract travelling players and their families from across Northern Ireland, the border counties and beyond.

U16 and U18 competitions are planned for June.

Spectators are welcome to come along to the Club to watch the great tennis that'll be on show. Keep an eye on the Omagh Lawn Tennis Club Facebook page for updates and future events.

<https://www.facebook.com/239989689445933/>

### Fermanagh & Omagh Women's Aid Consultation Events

Fermanagh and Omagh Women's Aid is delivering a 'Healthy Relationships' Programme as part of the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan. This programme will explore the interconnections between sectarianism, racism and misogyny, and how these belief systems contribute to gender-based violence, harmful community attitudes and division.

Fermanagh and Omagh Women's Aid invite participation from individuals/communities across the district to take part in the following structured consultation events to help shape/design this programme:

**Carrickmore Consultation** Tuesday 5 May, 2-4pm

The Patrician, Main Street, Carrickmore

Registration via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fermanagh-omagh-womens-aid-peaceplus-consultation-event-tickets-1984576527818?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

**Irvinestown Consultation** Wednesday 6 May, 10am-12pm

Arc Healthy Living Centre, 116 – 122 Sallys Wood, Irvinestown

Registration via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fermanagh-omagh-womens-aid-peaceplus-consultation-event-tickets-1984576711367?aff=erellivmlt>

The Consultation aims to cover the following themes/areas:

- Understanding the local context
- Identifying current gaps in prevention and awareness
- Exploring how misogyny intersects with sectarianism and racism
- Discussing risks and sensitivities
- Shaping the programme's delivery model
- Identifying meaningful outcomes and measures of success

If you have any questions in relation to this programme, please email [mairead@fowomensaid.org](mailto:mairead@fowomensaid.org)

Feedback is very important to ensure the development of a healthy relationship Programme that is effective for everyone.

**Please complete the survey at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/t/7P8JT1/>**

## Western Health and Social Care Trust

### Living Well With Dementia

Wednesdays 6, 13, 20 and 27 May

The Courthouse, Kesh 10am – 12pm

We warmly invite you to our information programme that will run over 4 consecutive weeks for people living with Dementia and their families/carers/friends.

The programme will include informative presentations from the Memory Team's occupational therapists, a visit from the neighbourhood policing team to talk about the Herbert protocol, and also information on local groups, supports and services. As well as this, it will enable families to meet each other and provide peer support.

### Booking Essential

- Complimentary refreshments served
- Accessible toilet facilities available

For more information or to register to attend please contact:  
Rachael Dorrian (Dementia Navigator) on 07585 998890 or  
Susan Knox (Occupational Therapist) on 07766 731273

## Volunteer Now

Thursday 7 May, 11am-1pm

Fermanagh House, Enniskillen

Call in to connect, share ideas, and celebrate the power of recognition and reward in volunteering - and pick up some free Volunteers' Week 2026 merchandise while you're there! A light lunch will be provided, so just let us know any dietary requirements.

**Spaces are limited.**

Register at [Volunteers' Week VOLT Session: Link, Lunch, Learn \(Enniskillen\) - Volunteer Now](#)

All other VOLTS across NI - [You're invited! - Volunteer Now](#)

[Volunteers' Week](#), held annually across the UK from the first Monday in June, is a national celebration recognising the incredible contribution volunteers make to our communities. This year's celebration will take place from the 1 –7 June 2026.

Since its launch in 1984, Volunteers' Week has provided organisations and communities with a dedicated moment to thank both current and past volunteers for their invaluable time, energy, and commitment. This year is especially significant as it is also **International Volunteer Year 2026**, a global, year-long campaign focusing on the UN's core themes of recognising, measuring, and integrating volunteerism into sustainability and development strategies.

Our latest training newsletter for April is available at <https://mailchi.mp/volunteernow/vtraining-april-2026>

## Omagh Volunteer Centre

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

### Free Level 3 Volunteer Management Training

Are you supporting or managing volunteers in a paid or unpaid role? This practical training will give you the skills and confidence to manage volunteers effectively and inclusively.

### Free Volunteer wellbeing workshop

As part of volunteers week we are hosting a Thai cooking demonstration to say thank you to our wonderful volunteers across Omagh. This is open to all volunteers. Booking is required and spaces are limited.

### **Adult First Aid workshop**

**Thursday 4 June, 6.30pm-8pm**

### **Omagh Community House**

Equips you with the skills required and gives you the confidence to help someone in an emergency. Course Costs £5. Delivered by British Red Cross

Book for the above – Telephone 028 8224 0772

Email [volunteer@omaghvolunteercentre.org](mailto:volunteer@omaghvolunteercentre.org)

### **Calling all Schools!**

It's time to get creative, take action, and show the world what your students can do! The Circular Schools Reuse & Repair Week Competition is officially open, and we are looking for the next generation of sustainability champions!

Think your school has what it takes? You could win up to £500 to boost your eco-projects!

We want to see your most impactful projects that keep items out of the bin and in use. Enter your school into one of our three exciting categories:

- Most Innovative Reuse & Repair Project - Show us that spark of genius! Transform old, forgotten items into something brand new, useful, or totally beautiful.
- Highest Number of Items Saved - There is power in numbers! Whether it's books, clothes, or tech, the more items your school saves from landfill, the better your chances.
- Greatest Reach - Get the whole community talking! Inspire pupils, parents, and the wider community to join the movement and go circular.

Read the full competition brief & enter here at <https://bit.ly/4d7KxbZ>

**Deadline: Friday 8 May 2026**

### **Just Us**

**Saturday 9 May** 6pm to late Lough Erne Resort

Annual Just Us Dinner Dance with The Lee Roy Brown Band & Disco

£40pp – one carer £20

### **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.**

### **Repair Cafe in Omagh Community House.**

**Workshop on Monday 11 May, 11am-1.30pm**

**in the FOCUS Offices, Omagh**

Staff from Repair Cafe NI will be in attendance to outline how to set up a Repair Cafe.

All volunteers are welcome to come along.

For further information contact:

Ryan Tracey, FOCUS (Forum in Omagh for Community Understanding and Support)

Tel: 028 8224 0991 / 07592 753491

Email: [coordinator@omaghfocused.org](mailto:coordinator@omaghfocused.org)

### **Trory Parish Church - Run the Runway**

#### **5K Fun Run/Walk**

**Friday 15 May, Enniskillen Airport**

Registrations from 6pm – Race commences at 7.30pm

£10 Adult (16+), £5 Youth (under 16) NB - Cash only

Please note there will be no chip timing as this is a community event.

Fruit, snacks and medals for all competitors.

### **Safefood - Free food safety workshop**

**Monday 18 May, 6.30pm-9.00pm**

**Westville Hotel, Tempo Road, Enniskillen**

Sign up for a **free** food safety information workshop for the community and voluntary sector.

For more information/to register please visit <https://www.safefood.net/professional/food-safety/events/free-food-safety-workshop-for-community-groups-in>

### **Safer Journeys to School Consultation**

#### **Have your Say!**

The Department for Infrastructure has launched this consultation focusing on improving safety when passengers, particularly children, are getting on or off buses.

Click on <https://infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/.../safer-journeys...> to get involved in shaping a safer future.

**Closes Thursday 21 May 2026, 5pm**

### **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](http://www.nowgroup.org/fandom)

Join us and be part of the most exciting Fandom Con yet!

### **Erne Paddlers**

Spring is here and we are back out on the water with our full outdoor programme!

Based at the Round O in Enniskillen, Erne Paddlers will be running skills based paddlesports courses for adults and children from now until the end of September. Booking is open now. There are evening sessions for beginners and more experienced paddlers, families and kids (7yrs+), inclusive paddling for anyone who needs extra support plus midweek multi-craft 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 until September. Look out for our fun kids summer camps too! Go to [www.ernepaddlers.org.uk/events](http://www.ernepaddlers.org.uk/events) for full details and to book tickets online.

### **Saturday 30 May - Firewalk Fundraiser and Family Fun Day**

**Enniskillen Rugby Club**

Everyone is welcome. Meet the team, learn about what we do. We'll have fun games and activities for all the family, a BBQ, cake sale, information stands and more. If you would like to get involved in the Firewalk itself, just get in touch. Anyone over 16yrs can join and you can raise money for the club or for another charity.

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](mailto:email@ernepaddlers.org.uk) or call/WhatsApp 07468 911398.

### **Erne District Chinese Families' and Friends' Association**

Dragon Boat Festival (Outdoor) - Saturday 20 June  
Regular Activities - Alternative Saturdays 2pm-4pm

### **100 Years On: New Statistical Report reveals how Northern Ireland has changed since 1926**

Published by NISRA statisticians, "Northern Ireland: A Century of Change in Statistics" marks the centenary of Northern Ireland's first census, conducted on 18 April 1926. The report presents a high-level comparison between Census 1926 and Census 2021, offering insight into how Northern Ireland's population and society have evolved over the past 100 years.

Access the report at [Northern Ireland: A Century of Change in Statistics – A Comparison of Census 1926 and Census 2021](#)

If you have any queries, please contact us at [census@nisra.gov.uk](mailto:census@nisra.gov.uk)

### **Food Vouchers for Community Get Togethers**

Bring your community together this June with a £20 food voucher from Eden Project and Co-op. Open to non-constituted groups, neighbours and organisations - perfect for The Big Lunch or The Big Help Out. [Read more...](#)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.cavanartsfestival.ie)

Express your interest: email [admin@cavanartsfestival.ie](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:nicola.crawford@niassembly.gov.uk) or telephone 028 9052 1029

## 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>

## 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](mailto:Info@oakhlc.com) or [admin@oakhlc.com](mailto:admin@oakhlc.com)

## Aisling Centre

37 Darling Street, Enniskillen BT74 7DP

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

### Groups & Programmes:

- **Aisling's Charity Shop** – Open Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-2pm. Please note we are currently not accepting donations of books or any items with safety requirements.
- **Charity Shop Volunteers Needed** – For information, contact Reception. At Aisling's you will be joining a great team of people and supporting mental health services.
- **Self Care Drop-In** – Monthly drop-in sessions, first Tuesday of every month at 10am. Next Meeting Tuesday 5 May. 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.
- **Forget Me Not** – Support group for those bereaved by suicide. First Monday of the month 7.30-9pm. Next meeting will be Monday 11 May due to the Bank Holiday.
- **The Ally Pally Experience** – Experience darts like never before as the Westville Hotel transforms into a full-scale darts arena on Friday 15 May in support of the Aisling Centre.
- **Mindfulness Meditation** – Monthly drop-in sessions, last Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Next meeting Wednesday 27 May. Suggested donation £3 per person.
- **Montgomery Finlay Charity Golf Day** – We are delighted to be one of five charities who will benefit from this fundraiser on Friday 26 June at Lough Erne Golf Resort. Tee times can be booked by contacting the Golf Shop on 028 6634 5766.

### 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](mailto: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.
- **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](mailto:fermanagh@thelittlesensory.co) Fridays at 10.30am.
- **Modern Country Moves Line Dancing** – Fridays 9.30am-10.30am. For further information please contact Tina on 07709 813468.

### 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

Telephone 028 6632 0210

- **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.

## Tara Centre

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

Tel: 028 8225 0024 Email: [info@taraomagh.com](mailto:info@taraomagh.com) Website: [www.taraomagh.com](http://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

## Training Opportunities

### Digital Skills Academy

Starts May 2026

Omagh Enterprise Centre

Part-time (3 days per week) - 8-week programme

Supportive learning environment

Thinking about improving your digital skills but not sure where to start?

Our **free** Digital Skills Academy is designed for beginners or anyone who feels a bit out of touch with technology.

No experience needed—just a willingness to learn!

Build confidence, learn practical skills, and take your first step into the digital world.

To register, email [fitni@fit.ie](mailto:fitni@fit.ie)

### 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

- **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/GuYgqhwvvaodmwPQA>

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](http://www.fermanaghtrust.org)

### Free First Aid Workshops

We deliver these to community groups throughout Northern Ireland. They are fully funded by the Red Cross (there is no cost to you) and take place at your location. All we need is a space to teach in and a group of people – we will bring/provide everything else.

#### What a Session Looks Like:

Our workshops are very relaxed, fun, and are tailored to the needs of the audience. We use a learner led approach that keeps the session quite informal, simple and interactive.

The session itself typically lasts 1.5 hours and can accommodate up to 15 people (this can be flexible)

The first aid workshop starts off by looking at what first aid means and we discuss different ways of helping (focusing heavily on keeping things as simple as possible).

We then cover a range of common first aid skills from the following list:

- \* Broken bone / bad fall
- \* Bleeding heavily / Bad cut
- \* Burns
- \* Head Injury
- \* Choking
- \* Heart Attack
- \* Stroke
- \* Seizure
- \* Unresponsive and breathing
- \* Unresponsive and not breathing
- \* Unresponsive and not breathing (AED)

These workshops are not the equivalent of a First Aid at Work course. However, participants do get a certificate of attendance.

If you are interested in booking, please visit booking link [Community Education Northwest NI](#)

### **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](http://www.fermanaghtrust.org)  
or email [sonya@fermanaghtrust.org](mailto: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](http://www.fermanaghtrust.org)

### **The King's Trust**

Free support to young people aged 16 to 30 who are not in education, employment or training  
Working with partners and volunteers, our courses are designed to boost confidence and build skills to get a job or start a business. If you work with young people in your community, please have a look at the [Quick Guide](#)

### **WHSCT 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](mailto: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](mailto:health.improvement@westerntrust.hscni.net)

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

## **Emotional Health & Wellbeing**

### **Tuesday 5 May, online**

The [Exploring the Contents of Thriving Mind, Resources for Wellbeing](#) workshop is for anyone who wants to nurture and develop their personal resilience. It brings together a range of tools and materials to support your wellbeing.

### **Tuesday 12 May, Omagh Fire Station**

Our [Introduction to Positive Intelligence](#) is for anybody who wants to improve their wellbeing. It will teach you simple yet effective techniques to tame your negative thoughts and how to activate your positive emotions for lasting changes.

### **Tuesday 12 May, online**

[Self-Compassion: Why the Way we Talk to Ourselves Matters](#) is open to anyone over the age of 18. Participants will be taught how to make the most of self-compassion and will learn how to integrate it into their everyday lives.

You can get more details or register by clicking on the course name above which will take you directly to Eventbrite.

Or, you can browse for one of our free courses on a similar topic area in our [HIEI Emotional Health and Wellbeing Training Brochure 2026/27 - HIEI Training Brochure April - September 2026](#)

### **Mental Health First Aid**

**Wednesday 13 & Friday 14 May, 9.30am**

**Fermanagh House, Enniskillen**

This 2 day course will teach you how to recognise and provide initial support for someone experiencing a mental health issue. Register at [Mental Health First Aid \(2 Day Course\) Tickets, Wednesday, May 13-Thursday, May 14 • 9:30 AM-4:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

### **Inspire Wellbeing**

#### **FREE Building Resilient Young People interactive training workshop**

The training workshop is part of the wider PEACE of Mind project but there is no obligation to take up the full programme.

Sessions are approx. 2 hours and focus on mental health & wellbeing –

**PEACE of Mind is a fully funded programme for young people aged 11–25**, offering practical wellbeing sessions led by trained Youth Facilitators. Our focus is simple:

- Create supportive environments
- Assist young people to make sense of what they're feeling
- Help young people develop tools they can use in everyday life.

Here's a quick overview of the main pathways we offer:

#### **PEACE of Mind Programme**

A six-week series of group sessions that help young people explore emotions, understand stress, and build resilience in a gentle, accessible way

#### **Peer Mentor Training**

For young people who want to build confidence and support others, this training helps them grow as leaders in a safe and supported environment

#### **Building Resilient Young People**

Training sessions that help you to notice when a young person you support might be struggling, understand how to respond safely, and also look after their own wellbeing at the same time

#### **Tailored Delivery for Your Group**

For groups with specific needs, we can adapt PEACE of Mind to fit your setting, timetable and the unique experiences of your young people

We'd love to offer this programme to young people in your organisation, especially if you're noticing increasing pressures on their wellbeing or if you're looking for additional wellbeing support that delivers meaningful and manageable change.

You can reply to [j.groves@inspirewellbeing.org](mailto:j.groves@inspirewellbeing.org) Telephone 07834 181303 or get in touch at [PEACE of Mind](#)

PEACE of Mind is a project supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

## Funding Opportunities

### 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**

### Community Foundation NI – Open Grants

- **The Noah Donohoe Youth Sports Fund** aims to support young people, aged 11-18, in developing their sporting abilities and opportunities. The Fund will support Equipment & kit costs, Coaching costs, Venue hire, and Travel costs. Grants up to £2,000.
- **The Openreach Community Fund** was established with capital from BT, management and unions. It exists to support local constituted grass roots community and voluntary groups with grants of £500 to £2,000.

For further information visit [Community Foundation NI open grants](#)

**Both schemes close Thursday 14 May 2026, 1pm.**

### Shared Island Civic Society Fund - Call for Applications

**Now open!**

This is the 6th round of applications since its establishment in 2023.

All applications must be submitted through our Grant Application Portal [here](#).

Please note that our Grant Application Portal will not accept late applications and all applications must be denominated in Euro. All technical questions relating to the online Grant Application Portal can be sent to [PortalAdmin@dfa.ie](mailto:PortalAdmin@dfa.ie)

For organisations interested in applying, full details of the Shared Island Civic Society Fund can be found on our website [gov - Shared Island Civic Society Fund \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie).

We have included a frequently asked questions document at the end of our [Who should apply and fund principles](#) section of our website which may be of assistance in drafting applications.

Any questions about the Fund that you cannot find in the FAQ may be directed to [sharedislandcsfund@dfa.ie](mailto:sharedislandcsfund@dfa.ie).

**We will be accepting applications until Tuesday 2 June 2026 (at 11:59pm).**

### Centre for Cross Border Cooperation, Universities Ireland and SCoTENS

#### North/South Postgraduate Scholarships

Universities Ireland is offering five scholarships, each worth €25,000, to students who have been accepted to undertake a recognised Master's Degree or are entering the first year of a PhD programme at a university on the island of Ireland that is not in the same jurisdiction as the university where they have previously studied.

Visit <https://universitiesireland.ie/northsouth-postgraduate-scholarships/> for further information.

**Applications close Thursday 14 May 2026, 4pm.**

## **Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)**

### **Randal Foundation Small Grant programme**

The grants support small, grassroots initiatives working to strengthen communities across Northern Ireland.

This opportunity may be particularly relevant to organisations engaged in prevention, community support, and work aligned with the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls strategy.

Full details, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, are available here:

<https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/the-randal-foundation-small-grant/>

You can sign up to EVAWG's mailing list for updates on future events and information by emailing [evawg@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:evawg@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)

**Ongoing – No Deadline**

## **Eden Project**

### **Apply for £20 food voucher to bring people together in June**

Organise something small or combine with other plans – we recognise it's difficult to make ends meet but it makes a massive difference when neighbours and communities get a chance to meet.

Apply for voucher at <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-do/co-op-vouchers-for-your-event>

### **Background**

The Big Lunch and The Big Help Out are teaming up on 5-8 June for a weekend of friendship, food, fun and action – and everyone's invited! It's one big do - a chance to meet, eat and lend a hand locally in the biggest celebration of community.

Big or small, what you do is up to you – a BBQ with the neighbours, a local litter pick or helping a good cause for the day - we can all do something!

It's easy, it's fun and it's for everyone - so what will you do?

You can get all the ideas and free resources at [www.thebigdo.com](http://www.thebigdo.com)

### **Voucher additional information**

You do not need to be a constituted group to apply – this allows neighbours, staff etc to access a little help too. Note if you register for news updates there will also be a discount food code in Late May to also help with your food purchases.

<https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-do/co-op-vouchers-for-your-event>

For further information visit:

[Eden Project Communities Scotland](#)

[The Big Lunch Northern Ireland](#)

Sign up to our [newsletter](#) and follow us on Facebook