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29th November 2024

National Updates

Minister Heather Humphreys last official engagement



Minister Heather Humphreys was the key speaker at Monaghans Age Friendly Older People's Council AGM, pictured here with our Chief Officer, Catherine McGuigan, a fellow County Monaghan native .

We were honoured that her last official engagement as Minister was with Age Friendly. Thank you, Minister, for your support and dedication.

Introducing Gas Networks Ireland's Age-Friendly Customer Support Line



Gas Networks Ireland has launched a new customer care line specifically designed for older adults. This service, was approved alongside the Older People's Council and connects people aged 66 and older with specially trained representatives who understand their unique needs, creating a much more supportive and accessible experience.

To find out how this new helpline is helping make a difference for older people across Ireland, read the full story on our website below.

The Helpline Number: 1800 628 427.

[Find out more ›](#)

Preparing for the Future: Co-Creation with Age Friendly Ireland on how best to plan for Copper Switch Over



Message from open eir wholesale MD - Maeve O' Malley

On November 13th, we held our first meeting with Age Friendly Ireland and representatives from the Older People's Council. This collaboration is focused on ensuring that our communications and planning for Copper Switch Over are tailored to meet the needs and requirements of the older community. We're committed to listening and learning from your feedback as we move forward.

What does Copper Switch Over mean? Copper lines are the wires that support many traditional services in your home, like your landline, broadband connection (Internet), medical alarms and security alarms. open eir are deploying an alternative to Copper which is Fibre – the reason for this infrastructure change is to ensure our network is future proofed and ready to serve home and business users for many years to come. Fibre has lower faults, lower carbon emission and delivers a faster service for customers. Services that today may run on the copper network will migrate to the Fibre network in the future. Today, over 1.3million homes and businesses can migrate to our fibre.

While a complete transition from Copper to Fibre is still years away, we believe it's important to start planning now and keeping you informed every step of the way.

To help us plan effectively, we will be sending out a survey to Age Friendly Older People's Council members in the New Year. We strongly encourage you to complete and return it. Your insights will play a vital role in shaping our communications and ensuring we address any concerns you may have.

Our Key Message to you: There is No Need to Worry

We want to reassure everyone—you will get plenty of notice, no one will be cut off, and no copper will be removed from any home unless there is an alternative product available for you to use and you have been made aware well in advance. This process will be managed carefully, and we will keep you informed every step of the way.

Your participation and feedback are invaluable to us. We're here to ensure this transition is smooth, seamless, and supportive for everyone.



Delivering Sláintecare Healthy Communities Webinar

The HSE, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Local Authorities will host a webinar on Thursday 5 December, from 11:45am – 1pm. This webinar will be an opportunity to hear about the wide range of work which aims to improve the long-term health and wellbeing of people living within communities across Ireland, where health inequalities are most evident.



LockUp LightUp

As we see dark evenings closing, An Garda Síochána continue to work with communities to prevent and detect crimes. As home owners you can do certain things to reduce opportunities and increase the risk to offenders being caught.

Keeping the burglar out starts with keeping gates closed. An open gate is an invitation onto your property, but if a criminal has to climb over a gate or wall, they know that trespassing increases their chances of getting caught.



National Patient Representative Panel

The partnership landscape in the health service is changing as the HSE undergoes reform and transitions into the Health Regions. In this changing environment, the role of patient and service user partners and their input into planning, design, improvement and evaluation of health services is hugely important and we would like to invite you to join the National Patient and Service User Forum.





Celebrating Excellence in Nursing Home Care at the NHI Care Awards 2024

Nursing home staff from across Ireland were celebrated at the prestigious NHI Care Awards 2024, held on November 19th in the iconic Round Room at the Mansion House, Dublin. The event, in association with Homecare Medical, honoured the exceptional dedication and care provided by nursing home staff, who work tirelessly to enrich the lives of older people in their communities.

[MORE INFO >](#)



Participate in the Maynooth University Study: Old and Alone: Analysing Ireland's growing 'elder orphan' population.

Researchers at Maynooth University's Department of Geography are seeking to explore older adults' experiences of aging alone in Ireland and seeks to understand the importance of health and wellness in older age.

[MORE INFO >](#)



How men and women experience ageism differently revealed in new survey

Women over 50 are more likely to say they feel they have been patronised, dismissed or ignored because of their age while men are treated rudely or aggressively, a new survey from our Age Without Limits campaign reveals.

Read more below.

[Find out more >](#)

Local Updates



Age Friendly Weekly Round Up

Check out all the Age Friendly Events that took place this week

[Find out more >](#)





Annual General Meeting



Older People's Council Laois

When? 9th December @ 1pm to 3.30pm

Where? Portarlington Community Centre
R32 D797



Refreshments
Served

Information Stands include

- Laois Libraries
- Community Gardai
- LOETB
- Local Link

Dancing to
Billy Dillard

Crime Prevention Talk by Sergeant Graham Kavanagh

To book your place, contact Rose on 057 8664206- rdoolin@laoiscoco.ie




WELCOME

Meath Alzheimer Café

JOIN US → Wednesday 4th December 2024, from 7pm to 9pm
in the Pastoral Centre, Dunshaughlin

Café Christmas Party
With Music, Song and Dance
Festive Treats and Fun
All Welcome

For more information contact John at Meath Alzheimer Café on 087 188 8178

The cafe provides a warm welcoming place for people to meet others also living with dementia/cognitive impairment, their carers, and health & social care professionals.

For more info: www.alzheimer.ie

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, National Office,
Temple Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin Charity Number: CHY7868





Drogheda Memory Café
Second Tuesday of every month

Tuesday 10th December 2024 @11am in
Drogheda Library Stockwell lane.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Join us for
some festive fun.....
At The
Drogheda Library
With Maeve Montgomery

The café provides a
welcoming space for
people with dementia,
their family and friends
and social and health care
professionals to meet,
exchange ideas and
learning's.

For further details, please contact:
Helen Barron 0872229356
Helen.barron@alzheimer.ie

Maeve Montgomery 0877489258
Dementia Adviser For Co Louth
Maeve.montgomery@alzheimer.ie

Ann Shortt 0872893698
Head of Fundraising



Age Friendly Library Events and Services



Wexford Library Events

Bunclody Library Knitting Group – Every Thurs, 10.30am to 12.00pm

New members always welcome to join our knitting group which meets weekly.

Adult Book Club– Thur 5th Dec at 7.30pm

The Girl Who Died by Ragnar Jónasson will be discussed at this month's meeting. Book available to borrow in library, just ask at the desk. New members always welcome!

Home Energy Saving Kits

Home Energy Saving Kits are now available to borrow from Bunclody Library. The kits contains a range of tools/exercises to help householders make sense of the energy they consume on a daily basis and to identify possible problem areas. Please contact the library at 053 9375466 or email bunclodylib@wexfordcoco.ie for further details.

To book events, please telephone **053 9375466** or book online at **www.wexfordcoco.libcal.com**

**Westmeath Community Development, CAB 13- 1, SICAP Case study 2024**

Westmeath is an Age Friendly County and in the SICAP 2018-2022 programme Older People were identified as a key priority for SICAP and this has continued in the SICAP 2022-2028 programme.

[MORE INFO ›](#)**Roscommon's Public Participation Network Plenary Meeting & Community Expo Event**

Roscommon's Public Participation Network (PPN) held their Plenary Meeting & Community Expo Event in the Abbey Hotel Roscommon on Wednesday, 27th November 2024.

[MORE INFO ›](#)

International Updates



IFA Global Café | In Conversation with Dr. Sarah Meyer

IFA Global Café | In Conversation with Dr. Sarah Meyer on “Eliminating Violence Against Older Women.”

29 November 2024, 07:00 A.M. EST (US and Canada)

[Find out more >](#)

If you would like a PDF version of the newsletter, please click [HERE](#)

- This Newsletter is prepared and circulated by Age Friendly Ireland
- The Newsletter is published weekly, every Friday
- If you wish to provide information that may be included in the Newsletter please email it to: agefriendlyireland@meathcoco.ie no later than midday on the Thursday. Age Friendly Ireland retains full editorial responsibility for content of the Newsletter.

Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service, Meath County Council



Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service Office

Telephone: 046 9032170

Email: agefriendlyireland@meathcoco.ie

Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme (Referrals)

Telephone: 046 9248899

Email: healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie

HSE Advice Line: Call save 1850 24 1850

Call from 8am – 8pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 5pm

Saturday and Sunday



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