

To view this email in your browser, please [click here](#).



**Age Friendly Ireland and IPB Insurance
Celebrate Long-Standing Partnership
Supporting Age Friendly Communities
Across Ireland**

Age Friendly Ireland, the national body supporting Ireland's 31 Local Authorities to deliver the Government's vision of an Age Friendly Ireland, and IPB Insurance, Ireland's only indigenous mutual insurance company founded by and for local authorities and public bodies, have today marked their long-standing partnership, celebrating a shared commitment to supporting local authorities, older people and more Age Friendly communities across Ireland.

The partnership reflects a natural alignment between Age Friendly Ireland's local government-led model and IPB Insurance's role as Ireland's local government mutual insurer. IPB Insurance has backed Age Friendly Ireland nationwide for a number of years and has been a significant supporter of the flagship National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards, which celebrate the individuals, organisations, local authorities and community initiatives working to improve the lives of older people across the country.

The partnership is being marked in 2026 as IPB Insurance celebrates its centenary year and the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards mark a 10-year milestone.

Ireland first began its Age Friendly journey in 2009, and the programme was strengthened significantly in 2017 when Age Friendly Ireland became an official local government Shared Service hosted by Meath County Council. This has enabled the national programme to support and guide all 31 local authority-led Age Friendly Programmes across Ireland.

The Meath Age Friendly County Initiative, launched in 2011, played an important role in this development, helping to demonstrate how local authority leadership, partnership with older people and multi-agency collaboration could improve the way communities plan for ageing. Since then, the Age Friendly model has grown into a national programme, supporting practical change across housing, transport, public spaces, services, community participation and wellbeing.

Kieran Kehoe, Chief Executive, Meath County Council, said: "This year marks the 10th anniversary of the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards, and the calibre of Age Friendly projects remains exceptional. Year on year, I am highly impressed by the creativity, innovation and collaboration demonstrated across Ireland. In addition, this year we also celebrate our partnership with IPB as the principal sponsor to our Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards. 2026 is the centenary anniversary of IPB Insurance so this is a milestone celebratory event for both our organisations. This partnership and the awards ceremony are a testament to the long-standing collaboration that Age Friendly Ireland continues to have with IPB Insurance where we recognise the work of everyone, from our local government colleagues, community & voluntary organisations, older people, statutory organisations, the business community and others, across Ireland who work tirelessly to support older people in their communities. The awards showcase the amazing initiatives that are producing demonstrable outcomes for us all as we age and underpins our designation as the 1st Age Friendly Country in the world by the World Health Organisation"

John Kearns, CEO of IPB Insurance, said: "As Ireland's local government mutual insurer, our partnership with Age Friendly Ireland reflects a shared purpose, supporting initiatives that strengthen communities and deliver meaningful impact for people across the country."

"Local authorities are at the heart of creating safe, inclusive and connected communities, and the Age Friendly Ireland model shows what can be achieved when local leadership,

national coordination and the voice of older people come together.”

“In IPB Insurance’s centenary year, it is fitting to celebrate a partnership that reflects our mutual ethos and our commitment to supporting local authorities as they plan for Ireland’s changing demographic future.”

The local-to-national approach that shaped the development of Age Friendly Ireland can be seen throughout the organisation’s programmes, particularly in Healthy Age Friendly Homes, which supports older people to live safely and independently in their own homes for longer. Following a pilot phase delivered through local authorities, the programme is now delivered nationwide, with dedicated Local Support Coordinators working across all 31 local authorities.

Through its support of Age Friendly Ireland and the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards, IPB Insurance is helping to champion practical projects and community-led solutions that support positive ageing, independence and participation.

Age Friendly Ireland is the national body supporting Ireland’s 31 Local Authorities to deliver the Government’s vision of an Age Friendly Ireland. Each local authority leads a dedicated Age Friendly Programme, in partnership with older people, service providers and community stakeholders.

Those wishing to learn more about ageing well in Ireland should contact their local Age Friendly Programme via their local council or visit agefriendlyireland.ie



Louth Community Safety Event and Launch of Strategy

The Louth Age Friendly Programme in conjunction with Louth Local Community Safety Partnership, hosted a highly successful Community Safety Event in the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth. It was a fantastic day packed with valuable information and great community engagement. Attendees had the opportunity to explore a wide range of information stands, followed by highly practical presentations from the RSA & Louth Fire and Rescue Service.

Mary Fitzsimons – Regional Programme Manager for the East delivered a speech to the audience, focusing on how community safety initiatives are crucial to supporting, protecting, and empowering older members of the community. Mary also addressed the significance of the Louth Age Friendly Strategy in ensuring older members of the community feel safe, valued, and respected. By driving this strategy forward Louth is proudly positioning itself as a leader in the age friendly space setting a benchmark for what it truly means to be a genuinely age friendly county.

Our Chief Officer, Catherine McGuigan was delighted to be in attendance and was extremely grateful to have received the invitation to such a such a superb event.

IRELAND IS GETTING OLDER. IRELAND IS GROWING. OUR SYSTEM IS UNDER PRESSURE. THE HOMESHARE IS THE SOLUTION.



THE HomeShare
Together Helping Eachother

A better way to live. A better way to care.

THE CHALLENGES IRELAND FACES



AGEING POPULATION

By 2046, 1 in 4 people in Ireland will be over 65. (CSO, 2023)



GROWING POPULATION

Ireland's population is projected to reach 5.8 million by 2046 – putting further pressure on essential services. (ESRI, 2023)



PRESSURE ON HOSPITALS & HEALTH SERVICES

Overcrowded hospitals, long waiting lists and delayed discharges are costing lives and money. (HQA, 2024)



NURSING HOME SHORTAGE

By 2031, Ireland could face a shortfall of up to 10,000 nursing home beds. (The RAJ, 2023)



THE HOMESHARE SIMPLE IDEA. POWERFUL IMPACT.

Two people.
One home.
A better life for both.

THE HOMESHARE SOLUTION



AFFORDABLE SUPPORT

Cost-effective alternative to residential care and institutional settings. ✓



REDUCES LONELINESS

Meaningful companionship and connection improve wellbeing and mental health. ✓



SUPPORTS HOSPITAL DISCHARGE

Practical support at home helps people leave hospital sooner and stay well. ✓



AGEING IN PLACE

Enables older people to stay in their own community for longer, with dignity and independence. ✓

THE HOMESHARE BENEFITS

WE CAN'T SOLVE
AN AGEING CRISIS
WITH MORE OF
THE SAME.



Cost-effective for the State and families



Improved health & wellbeing



Relieves pressure on hospitals & nursing homes



Supports sustainable, community-based care



STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Builds connections across generations and creates more caring, sustainable communities. ✓

THE HOMESHARE IS
A SMARTER, KINDER,
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION.
MAKING HOMES WORK
HARDER FOR IRELAND.



BETTER CARE.
LOWER COSTS.
STRONGER COMMUNITIES.



CHANGING LIVES TODAY.
BUILDING A BETTER IRELAND
FOR TOMORROW.



TOGETHER, WE CAN
BUILD A COUNTRY
WHERE EVERYONE
HAS A PLACE TO BELONG.

GET INVOLVED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



www.thehomeshare.ie



info@thehomeshare.ie



THE HomeShare



THE HomeShare



@the_homeshare

“ THE HOMESHARE helps people live independently, connected and home while reducing pressure on our hospitals and care services.” ”



Faith Amond, our Age Friendly Ambassador for Co. Carlow, spoke to RTÉ recently about the power of dressing well!

Read Here

Local Updates 



HSE Safeguarding Conference

Galway City Healthy Age Friendly Homes were delighted to attend the Inaugural HSE Safeguarding Conference, held on Monday, 15th June at The Connacht Hotel, Galway, marking World Elder Abuse Day.

The conference featured a diverse and engaging programme of speakers, offering valuable insights into safeguarding practices and supports for older people. Attendees also had the opportunity to visit a range of informative stands and engage with key stakeholders, making it a highly beneficial networking event.

Pictured are Carmel Manfredi Galway City Local Coordinator, Louise McLaughlin Head of Senior Support Services at Cope Galway and David Weldon National Administrator Healthy Age Friendly Homes.



Moving Dance Troupe

A group of women who came together through our love for dance. Based in Bray, Co. Wicklow.

They perform locally & nationally and are truly a representation of Ireland today. Their movements are inspired by folkloric dances of India, Middle East, Asia, Indonesia & more. The group are influenced equally by ancient and contemporary world music and are always open to experimentation. They incorporate fans, fanveils, baskets, canes, and veils into their dances.

Check out their [Facebook](#) page for more info.



STEPPING OUT

Join our **FREE** age friendly weekly walking group!

Enjoy the fresh air, get active and get connected.

EVERY THURSDAY

11am - 12 noon.

The Watershed, Kilkenny.



Rams in Rhythm



RAMS in Rhythm

The RAMS in Rhythm, and active men's social singing group from Newcastle, Co. Dublin, were so pleased to receive an invitation from the Rathoath Manor Nursing home, Silver Streamcare, to perform and sing at their premises on Tuesday 30th June. The team of eight members entertained the residence, and staff for over one hour with renditions of songs, back in time songs, and songs that brought back memories to lots of the residence. That's Amora was a favourite to sing along with, with many residences thoroughly enjoying themselves. It was wonderful to see the residence singing along to Rock me mama, Baby Face, and "You are my Sunshine". It was also wonderful to see so many residences singing along, clapping their hands to the rhythm of the golden oldies numbers, and being in such fine tune.

The RAMS in Rhythm provide singing and entertainment in local hospitals, Tallaght Hospital/ James Hospital/ Peamount Hospital/ local Nursing homes/ St Patrick's day parade, Community events/ fund raisers for Irish Heart foundation/ Age Action/ Multiple Sclerosis/ local school/ Daffodil day/Sunflower day/ Local charities/SVP/Capuchin Day Centre Bow Street, as well as many other charities, senior citizens parties. Social inclusion and Well being mornings. Singing for local National school. Supporting the local Tidy Towns group, fundraised for equipment for the local 4 District defibrillators, supported the local Community Council. The membership of 14 men, in the singing group are keep very busy with our engagement of four times a week.



Age Friendly AI Training
TULLAMORE LIBRARY

Age-Friendly AI

Thursday, 9th July, 10.30
Booking Required
tullamorelibrary@offalycoco.ie
(057) 934 6834

Leabharlanna Libraries
Skills For Life
offaly

As part of our Skills for Life Programme, Tullamore Library is delighted to host a free Age Friendly AI workshop on **Thursday, 9th July** at 10.30.

The workshop will cover;

- **What is AI?**
Together, we will demystify AI and explain how it works.
- **Where is AI being used?**
With interactive activities, we will explore where you are already using AI.
- **Benefits & risks of AI:**
You will learn about how AI can support your daily life and what to look out for when using it.
- **Practical experience:**
You will get the opportunity to try out AI technology on the day!

Library News

Loughboy Library Weekly Online Clinic

Tuesday 7th July from 2.30 - 3.30 pm

Would you like to learn more about the wealth of online resources available from Kilkenny Libraries?

Pop in to see us at our weekly online clinic and we can demonstrate to you how to use such fabulous online resources as Borrowbox, Universal Class and more!

No booking required. Just drop in!

Ciorcal Comhrá Gaeilge / Irish Conversation Group in Loughboy Library

Wednesday 8th July from 11.00 – 11.30am

This is an enthusiastic gathering, seeking to use their cúpla focail. It is open to all levels of fluency, beginners, improvers and advanced.

Just come along any Wednesday agus beidh fáilte romhat!

Word Games in Ferrybank Library

Every Friday from 2.30 - 3.30 pm

Are you a fan of wordle, crosswords and scrabble? Indulge your passion by dropping in to our Friday afternoon word game group.

A good exercise for the brain cells but lots of laughter guaranteed.

Knitting and Crafting Group in Ferrybank Library

Every Tuesday from 10.00 am – 12.30pm

Do you enjoy getting creative with crafts Meet fellow craft lovers at our weekly get together, where you can share tips, swap inspiration, and work on your own projects in great company.

All are welcome - no booking required.

Nattering Knitters in Castlecomer Library

Every Thursday from 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Join this talented bunch of knitters for a knit and a cuppa every Thursday morning 10am to 12pm. No need to book, everyone welcome.

New Poetry Group in Castlecomer Library

Thursday 2nd of July from 2.00 – 3.00pm

Join Lori for a brand-new monthly Poetry Group, where we'll read, write, chat and enjoy poetry together in a relaxed, friendly space. All levels are welcome - whether you're a complete beginner, a curious dabbler, or someone who already loves putting words on a page.

Each session will include gentle writing prompts, shared reading, and time to explore your own voice. Bring a notebook, bring a friend, or just bring yourself.

Tea and coffee provided.

Everyone is welcome - no booking required

Changing Gears Course in Mayfair Library

Starting Thursday 16th July, 11.00am – 1.30pm

This is a 5 week course and participants are asked only to book a place if they can commit to all sessions.

Changing Gears is a course provided by Age & Opportunity which is designed to boost wellbeing and resilience for those aged 50+ years. It supports people to manage transitions/change in mid to later life.

The change may be to do with: retirement, having more free time, bereavement, job-loss, ill health, becoming a carer or relationship breakdown.

Changing Gears runs over 5 weeks with weekly sessions of 2 ½ hours.

To book your place please contact Fiona on

engage@ageandopportunity.ie or call on 01 9133922. You can also book with the Mayfair Library by phoning 056 7794174 or emailing mayfair@kilkennylibrary.ie

Adult Book Club in Graiguenamanagh Library

meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.00 pm. New members are always welcome.

Ciorcal Comhrá Gaeilge / Irish Conversation Group in Graiguenamanagh Library

Every Wednesday, 11.00am – 12.00pm If you're looking to use your cúpla focal, this is a great group to meet up with. It's open to all levels of fluency — beginners, improvers, and advanced speakers are all welcome. Just drop in any Wednesday agus beidh fáilte romhat!

Crafty Crew in Graiguenamanagh Library

Every Wednesday from 10.00am – 12.00pm Enjoy meeting up with like minded crafters?

Drop into the library any Wednesday morning to share tips, have a chat, and enjoy a cuppa while you work on your projects. All are welcome — no booking required.

Word Searches & Sudoku in Graiguenamanagh Library

Every Friday from 11.30am–12.30pm Drop into the library for an hour of quiet time and enjoy our weekly word searches and sudoku. A lovely way to unwind at the end of the week.

Film & Book Club in Graiguenamanagh Library

meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 6.00 pm.

Age Friendly resources available at Graiguenamanagh Library

include hearing loops, magnifiers, C Pens, and a book trolley for use within the library.

Reading glasses If you forget your glasses, fear not — we have a selection of reading glasses available to use in the library.

Bunclody Library Movie Karaoke Night for Adults, Thursday 16th July at 7-8pm

Join us here in Bunclody Library for a fun evening of karaoke with songs from some of the biggest movies of all time. The librarians are working on the set list as we speak, so warm up the vocal cords and come in for a fun event.

Skills for Life: Tech SOS Clinic, Thursday 23rd July, 7-8pm

Need help with your digital device (tablet, phone, or laptop)? Want to find out more about how to access the free library eResources like BorrowBox, Transparent Languages, Kanopy, Freegal and much more? Learn about the range of online resources accessible through Bunclody Library and become more confident using your device. This event is for adults only and it is also an Age Friendly event. Booking required:

<https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4564294>

ADULT EVENTS...

WEEKLY | Clorcal Comhrá Gaelige/Irish Conversation Group | Wednesdays | 11am to 12pm
 Builleann an Clorcal gach maidin Dé Céadaoin, ar a haon déag a chlog. Bíonn comhrá, ceol agus craic acu. Open to all levels of fluency: beginners, improvers and advanced.
 Come along any Wednesday, beidh fáilte romhatal
No Booking Required.

MONTHLY | Irish Creative Writing Group | Last Friday of Each Month | 11am to 12pm
 The Irish Creative Writing Group meet on the last Friday morning of each month in Loughboy Library.
No Booking Required

WEEKLY | Loughboy Library Weekly Online Clinic | Tuesdays | 2:30pm to 3:30pm
 Would you like to learn more about the wealth of online resources available from Kilkenny Libraries such as Borrowbox & Universal Class?
No Booking Required.

Creative Writing Group | Tuesday 28th of July | 11am to 12:30pm
Booking Required.

Dyslexia Friendly Books
 Loughboy Library is delighted to have added a section of Dyslexia-Friendly books to our collection. This collection includes many bestselling titles such as *Sail Away* by Cella Imrie, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini and *Circe* by Madeline Miller. These editions use sans-serif font, cream-coloured paper and blue text to increase page/text contrast.

Loughboy Library

Why not become a member of Loughboy Library?
 Help us to reach our Library Membership Target for 2025!
 Loughboy Library is hoping to reach its library membership target for this year and we need your help! Did you know that a library membership only lasts for a year? So, if you or your family haven't visited Loughboy Library recently, please do pop in or give us a call and we can let help you to renew your membership for another year. Or to join as a new member, if you're not already with us. If you wish, you can also receive our monthly newsletter with details of upcoming events and our latest news! Please help us, so we can continue to help you.

Eduroam is now available in all Kilkenny Library Branches
 Eduroam is a Wi-fi service which enables students, researchers and staff to securely access the internet at their college/university whilst visiting the library.
 When a student from a participant library college or university visits the library, they can access the eduroam wi-fi service via the eduroam set identifier that is broadcast on our Wi-fi networks.
 Staff will be available to assist with accessing eduroam, if requested.

Loughboy Library

Summer Stars
 Right to Read

Summer Stars Toddler Storytime with Magic Table
WEEKLY | Toddler Storytime and Magic Table | Fridays | 10am to 10:30am
 Join us for storytime and interactive magic table - no need to book, just come along and enjoy. All are welcome.
No Booking Required.

Interactive Magic Table
 The Magic Table is ideal for children, young people and adults living with dementia, autism, neurodivergence, social or learning differences. Groups of up to 8 can comfortably sit or stand around the table. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The table is not available from 3:30pm during school terms.
Booking is recommended

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



This email was sent to {personalemail}.

[Change your subscription preferences](#)

powered by [sensorpro.app](https://www.sensorpro.app)