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Limerick City and County Council hosted The 10th Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards Ceremony for 2026, sponsored by IPB insurance and MCed by RTÉs Mary Whelan, on the 8th of October in the beautiful Limerick Strand Hotel.



**The Winners Were**

**Active Living and Leisure Award** – Dublin City Sport and Wellbeing Partnership – Community Wellness Programme  
**Healthy Ageing Award** – The Great Care Co-Op – Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown  
**Intergenerational Award** – The Product System Service Co-Design Project – TU Dublin  
**Transport Award** – TFI Local Link – Laois/Offaly  
**Business Innovation Award** – Rock the Rails – The Family Store, Kilrush, Clare  
**Safety & Security Award** – Storm Ready Packs – Longford  
**Communication Award** – Cyber Safety – MTU  
**Environment Award** – Kilkenny Woodstock Gardens & Arboretum Initiative  
**Housing Award** – Greenhills Grange, Drogheda, Co. Louth  
**Community Innovation** – Connemara Memory Café for Brain Health  
**Judge's Special Recognition Award** – The GAA



## Best Age Friendly Programme 2026

Westmeath was named **Best Age Friendly Programme 2026**, an award sponsored by IPB Insurance, in recognition of its strong performance across community engagement, innovation and delivery. An early adopter of the Age Friendly process, Westmeath has consistently demonstrated leadership through an Older People's Council with more than 700 members, a strong pipeline of Age Friendly activity, flagship health and wellbeing initiatives, and a commitment to Age Friendly housing, including a 20% objective for Age Friendly and universal design housing within its Housing Delivery Action Plan.

The 2026 Awards also mark an important year for title sponsor IPB Insurance, which celebrates its centenary this year and has a long-standing partnership with Age Friendly Ireland.



## Thank you

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who submitted an application. This year, we received a high of 164 applications, with 36 projects across the country being shortlisted. This is a testament to the work going on in communities around Ireland to ensure our country is a great place to grow old.

Thank you to IPB Insurance, our main event sponsor, as well as each award sponsor. Thank you to everyone who attended on the night and congratulations to each of the winners.

We look forward to seeing what the 2027 Awards process brings!

## Awards 2026      Press Release

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## Nationwide Updates



## **Towards an Age Friendly Airport**

Shannon Airport and Ireland West Airport Knock  
Case Studies in Practice

Early Guidelines and Recommendations



**Shannon Age Friendly Airport Tops  
National Customer Experience Ranking**

Shannon Airport has once again been named Ireland's leading travel brand and has retained its position as the highest-ranked airport in the country in the newly published Ireland Customer Experience Insights (CXi) Report 2026.

The airport also maintained its position as the 4th highest-ranked organisation overall among 162 leading brands across Ireland, as voted for by customers.

The report highlights Shannon Airport's unwavering focus on making travel easy, enjoyable and stress-free for passengers. Customers recognised the airport's commitment to innovation, accessibility and continuous improvement, citing its customer-first approach, ongoing investment in service enhancements, and its willingness to actively seek and act on passenger feedback. The report notes that Shannon's pioneering initiatives, including Europe's first airport sensory room and its recognition as one of only two airports worldwide to receive Age Friendly status from the World Health Organisation, continue to set it apart. Congratulations to Shannon Airport!

(Extract from the Clare Herald, October 14, 2026)

## Read Here

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## **Cornamona Court**

We were delighted to recently join senior cross-departmental and statutory members of our National Advisory Group for a visit to Cornamona Court, an intergenerational housing development delivered by Dublin City Council in Ballyfermot!

It was a fantastic opportunity to view this impressive Age Friendly housing development firsthand and see how thoughtful design supports vibrant, inclusive community living.

A huge thank you to Dublin City Council for hosting us and facilitating such an insightful visit!



## **Meath Cares About Older People's Expo: A Resounding Success!**

On Wednesday, 7th October 2026, the City North Hotel in Gormanstown was buzzing with energy, connection, and warm conversation as the Age Friendly Programme in Meath County Council ran their Meath Cares About Older People's Expo.

The event was a massive success, bringing together members of our community, local service providers, and organizations dedicated to supporting our older population. Beyond the wealth of information, resources, and expert advice on display, the true highlight was the vibrant sense of togetherness throughout the room.

The theme "Meath Cares About Older People" was far more than just an event title - it was a powerful, living statement of Meath's shared community values. It served as a vital reminder that caring for our older residents isn't just a slogan; it's about actively building an inclusive, Age Friendly environment where our older generation feels valued, supported, and connected. Events like this highlight the strength of our community networks and reinforce how essential it is to ensure everyone has access to the practical advice, essential resources and opportunities to stay active, engaged and connected



# Wexford Older Persons Council invites you to our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



**Thursday  
22nd October**



**11:00 – 13:00  
(2 hours)**



**Riverside Park Hotel  
Enniscorthy  
Y21 T2F4**



**Guest Speaker**

**JOHN HAREN**  
Enterprise Security and  
Resilience AIB

Please confirm attendance  
by email to  
[Community@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:Community@wexfordcoco.ie)  
or contact Niamh  
on 053 919 6386

Learn how to spot scams,  
protect your personal information  
and stay safe online and offline.





## **55+ Start Your Own Business Pathway**

You've spent years building skills, knowledge and experience. What if they could become the foundation of your own business?

The 55+ Start Your Own Business Pathway is a practical, supportive programme created for people aged 55 and over who want to explore self-employment, a side business or a new career direction.

Through eight engaging workshops, you'll gain the confidence and tools to turn your ideas into action, learn from experienced speakers, connect with like-minded people and create a clear plan for your future.

 THRIVE Centre of Business Excellence (C15 E8KV)

 Begins 22 October 2026

 9.30am - 12.30pm

Because it's never too late to start something new.

# Book Here

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# Warmer Home EXPO

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October  
10am-3pm

- ✓ Independent Energy Experts
- ✓ Green Loans
- ✓ SEAI Grants
- ✓ Meet the contractors

Bring your Bill and  
receive your energy  
retrofit prescription



## Portlaoise Solar Meitheal Info Sessions 11am & 1pm

Solar Meitheal bring local householders together to make solar PV simpler and more affordable.

By pooling demand, homeowners can reduce installation costs and benefit from expert SEAI support.



Hosted by  
Portlaoise  
2040 SEC

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ENERGY AUTHORITY  
OF IRELAND



# INFORMATION SESSIONS

Citizens Information 



## PLAN YOUR FUTURE 2026

South Connacht Citizens Information Service in conjunction with Roscommon County Council, Roscommon LEADER Partnership and the Age Friendly Alliance are hosting a series of **FREE** information events for individuals, families and communities. At each event there will be a range of information stands from voluntary and statutory groups. Light refreshments will be available.

| DATE           | TOPIC                                   | TIME            | LOCATION                            |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wed. 28th Oct. | Wills and Inheritance                   | 6.30pm - 8.30pm | Kilbride Community Centre, F42 N277 |
| Wed. 11th Nov. | Nursing Home Support Scheme (Fair Deal) | 2pm - 4pm       | Kilbride Community Centre, F42 N277 |
| Wed. 25th Nov. | State Pensions and Other Entitlements   | 2pm - 4pm       | Kilbride Community Centre, F42 N277 |



For more information phone Fiona in Roscommon Citizens Information Centre on 0818 07 6360



email: [fiona.kilmartin@citinfo.ie](mailto:fiona.kilmartin@citinfo.ie)



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Áine Sheehan  
An tAontas Eorpach  
Co-funded by the  
European Union



government supporting communities



Social Inclusion &  
Community Activation  
Programme



Community Centre  
Bla na hEalaíoch  
Roscommon  
County Council



Local Development Committee

Roscommon LEADER Partnership Company is delivering the SICAP programme on behalf of Roscommon Local Development Committee, which is a committee of Roscommon County Council. This project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union.



## **Q & A with An Garda Síochána recruits**

Recently David Whelan from the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme and formally of the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation gave an excellent presentation to Garda trainees that are on the verge of finishing their training. It was an invaluable session with a healthy Q&A debate. This is an excellent programme that our new Garda members will bring knowledge of to their assigned stations and districts. It is hoped that this shared knowledge dynamic can continue to future Garda trainees and also be developed with the Garda Professional Development Unit. Huge thanks to David Whelan and Garda Joanne Myles for organising this groundbreaking initiative.

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# COOLEY MEN'S GROUP

A welcoming Men's Group at Cooley Kickhams GFC

Every Friday, 10am to 12pm

042 9324281    [agefriendly@louthcoco.ie](mailto:agefriendly@louthcoco.ie)

The Cooley Men's Group offers a friendly place to meet, connect and enjoy a varied programme of activities, including health talks, rights and entitlements, personal & home farm security, money matters, gardening, physical activities, entertainment, storytelling and lots more.

**Join the COOLEY MEN'S GROUP**

**Complimentary**  
Breakfast/Refreshments from Maggie's Kitchen

**Accessibility:**  
Cooley Kickhams GFC is an accessible building with a lift for those with mobility issues.

Everyone is welcome at the Cooley Men's Group.

**Louth Local Development**  
Support Communities, Families, Enterprise & the Environment

**Louth County Council**

**HE spark**  
Innovation Programme

**Age-Friendly LOUTH**  
**RCSI HOSPITALS**  
OSPIDEL RCSI

## Cooley Men's Group

The Cooley Men's Group is a new group for older men in Cooley and the surrounding area who meet every Friday from 10.00am-12.00pm in the Cooley Kickhams GFC.

The group offers a friendly place to meet, connect and enjoy the craic along with a varied

programme of activities including health talks, rights and entitlements, home and farm security, money matters , physical activities and lots more. New members are most welcome. No need to book/register Walk In's Welcome. More information at [agefriendly@louthcoco.ie](mailto:agefriendly@louthcoco.ie).

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## Local Libraries

### **Loughboy Library Weekly Online Clinic**

**Tuesday 20th October 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 21st October 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!

### **Age Action computer training in Mayfair Library**

**Wednesdays from September - December | 10.30 - 12.30**

Age Action offers free one-on-one computer training sessions at for people aged 55 and over. Classes cover essential digital skills and internet literacy over a 5-week programme, with classes running for 2 hours per week. Topics include searching the internet, email, online shopping, banking security, government websites, social media, booking holidays, WhatsApp, and Zoom.

Please register your interest with the library. Call 056 77 94174 or email [mayfair@kilkennylibrary.ie](mailto:mayfair@kilkennylibrary.ie)

### **Weekly Bridge Club in Mayfair Library**

Every Wednesday from 3.00 – 4.00pm. All levels are welcome.

### **Word Games in Ferrybank Library**

Every Friday from 2.30 - 3.30 pm

Are you a fan of Wordle, Scrabble, or crosswords? If so, we've got the perfect event for you. Our word wizards meet fortnightly for light hearted word games, friendly competition, and plenty of laughs.

So bring your competitive streak and join us for an enjoyable brain boosting session.

New players always welcome.

### **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. Please note, the Nattering Knitters will take a break on Thursday 6th August and will return on 13th August.

### **Weekly Knitting Group in Thomastown Library**

Every Wednesday from 10.30am – 12.30pm. New members are always welcome. Just pop in.

### **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.

### **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.

**Community Get-Together:** Come along to Graiguenamanagh library on the last Friday of each month at 10:30am for a relaxing community gathering. You can chat with neighbours, meet new people, read the newspaper, or enjoy puzzles like Sudoku and word searches over a warm cuppa. This cosy, welcoming space is open to everyone looking to unwind and connect.

### **Bunclody Library Knitting Group - every Thursday, 10.30am to 12.30pm in Bunclody Library**

Our knitting group meets weekly on Thursdays. All welcome, no booking required.

### **Adult Sensory Collection in Bunclody Library**

A collection of sensory and assistive resources designed specifically for adults providing practical support for older people and those living with a range of additional needs is now available to borrow from all library branches across County Wexford and can also be reserved through the library's online catalogue. This new initiative has been developed to support older adults, people with visual impairments, sensory needs, acquired brain injuries

and those living with dementia.

The collection features a wide range of resources aimed at promoting independence, wellbeing and engagement in everyday life. Items available to borrow include:

large-piece jigsaw puzzles,

one-button radios,

giant print playing cards,

radio-controlled talking watches,

activity cushions,

simple day clocks,

talking tiles and

a variety of other assistive devices and activities.

The resources have been carefully selected to encourage cognitive stimulation, improve fine motor skills, support sensory processing and boost confidence through meaningful, accessible activities. Contact Bunclody Library at 053 9375466 or email [bunclodylibrary@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:bunclodylibrary@wexfordcoco.ie) for more information.

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- 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](mailto: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](mailto:agefriendlyireland@meathcoco.ie)

Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme (Referrals)

Telephone: 046 9248899

Email: [healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie](mailto: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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