



Hi Everyone

We here at Westmeath Volunteer Centre have been busy these last few months. Here are some of the activities we got involved in. It was fantastic to meet up with our Volunteers and Volunteer Involving Organisations.

We were delighted to attend the **Age Friendly Health and Well Being** event hosted by active age Ireland and Westmeath County Council.

In August we linked **Ashdale/Woodlands Residents Assoc** and **Moate Mens Shed** and attended an information meeting involving both organisations. **John Brennan** gave us a tour of the mens shed and we were astounded by the work the men do there and also the support that the members receive. We are super excited about the **proposed Mens Shed** that is to be **erected on lands adjacent to Ashdale/Woodlands Estate**. We would like to acknowledge the Trojan work that is being carried out by the Residents Association to bring this much needed facility to fruition. Keep an eye on our face book page for further developments or if you would like more information on the Mens Shed do please contact us.

As part of a Volunteer Ireland Initiative we attended the **Ploughing Championships**. What a fantastic day, We met loads of people interested in volunteering and we got to meet the minister.



We ran the second of our **Mangers Forums** in **Mullingar** and **Athlone**. It was a great opportunity for our registered organisations to network and share information. We would like to thank **Caroline Lawlor** who kindly volunteered to do goal setting with our groups and we even got to avail of some meditation. Excellent stuff Caroline. Thank you.



We attended the **retirement party of Joe Potter CEO of Westmeath Community**

**Development (WCD)** for the last 25 yrs.

We would like to thank Joe for all his hard work throughout the years and in particular the support and interest he always gave to Westmeath Volunteer Centre.



We would also Like to welcome **Mr Frank Murtagh** , the **new CEO** for Westmeath Community Development. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with Frank in his capacity as Asst. CEO and we look forward to continuing to work with Frank in his new role as CEO. Well done Frank sincere **congratulations** on your new Role.



In November **WCD** rolled out a number of **Training events** in Athlone and Mullingar. WHVC Facilitated the Garda Vetting Training and Retaining our volunteers training. The Training events proved to be hugely successful and beneficial to all that attended. WCD hope to repeat these trainings in 2019. Keep an eye on our FB page we will let you know when the Training is due to take place. We would also welcome your idea's for training.

**Irish Rural Link** invited us to attend their **Networking event** which was held in the Sheraton Hotel. This was very informative and a great chance for community groups to Network. Thank you **Maria Petit IRL** for the invite.

In December we attended the **Disability and Older Persons event** in the park hotel hosted by **WCD** and **Westmeath County Council**.



What a Fantastic event well done to **Linda JO Quinn (WCD)** and her team for organising such an enjoyable event. We even got to see **Minister 'Boxer' Moran** exercising to 'Simple Simon Says'!! A moment not to be forgotten!! Check it out on our Facebook Page.

We had the opportunity to present at the **PPN Plenary Session** There was a fantastic turn out at this informative event. Well done to all.



Would you like support in **exploring and creating new volunteer roles** in your organisation? Would you like **support in accessing new volunteers and supporting your existing ones**? Have you thought about how you can **build your organisation**

We have **volunteers** with the Following **Skills and Experience:**

- ◆ Web Building and Design
- ◆ Book Keeping/Accounts
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Crafts
- ◆ Committee/Boards of Management
- ◆ DIY
- ◆ Retail
- ◆ Psychology
- ◆ Engineering
- ◆ Administration
- ◆ Social Care



To help you maintain and manage your Volunteers we offer the following Training

**Volunteer Management Training:** includes Modules such as:

- *Planning For Volunteer Involvement*
- *Volunteer Recruitment and Selection*
- *Day to Day Management of Volunteers*

We also run **workshops on Retaining Volunteers**

We can provide you with Resources such as a **Resource Manual** that contains templates of policies, volunteer agreements application forms etc. and a **Skills Audit Template** that helps you identify the skills of your volunteers and the best way to utilize those skills. We also facilitate our **Organisations Networking events**. These are held every 3-4 months. These Forums give our organisations the opportunity to share and access information. Come and join us , we would love to see you!

**Have Your Say, Fill in The Survey!!!!**



The Government is developing the first ever National Volunteering Strategy and Volunteer Ireland want to make sure your voice is heard!

This is your chance to influence how volunteering develops and is supported in the future. The results of the survey will help to inform our local and national response to the development of a national volunteering strategy.

We look forward to starting this exciting journey towards a National Volunteering Strategy together.

The **National Volunteering Strategy will have an impact on organisations that work with volunteers**, Please take a few moments to fill it in. Thank You

Just click on the link. [Click Here](#)

*As always we would like to thank you for all your work and dedication that you give to your communities, that benefits us all. We love to hear any feedback or suggestions from our members, you can contact us at:*

 **Westmeath Volunteer Centre**



**044 9348571**

 **info@volunteerwestmeath.ie**



**www.volunteerwestmeath.ie**