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Waterways Ireland 2017 Event Programme

REMINDER that the deadline for receipt of applications to the 2017 Waterways Ireland Events Programme is **Tuesday, the 17th of January**. The application form and guidance notes can be viewed, and completed online at <http://www.waterwaysireland.org/events>. Terms and conditions apply. Please note that if you have successfully submitted your application you will have received a **confirmation email**. If you **have not received this email** your application is still in **draft** format and you must log in again to complete and submit it. If you have any queries or you're having any difficulty submitting your application please don't hesitate to contact us by replying to this email or calling us on +353 (0)71 96 50787.

Waterways Ireland are now accepting applications for the **2017 'What's On Guide'** which features festivals and events taking place within an 8 mile corridor of the Waterways under our remit. If you would like to be considered for inclusion in the 2017 edition, please complete the **entry form** (attached) and return it to Waterways Ireland, Marketing & Communication, 2 Sligo Road, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh BT74 7JY or fax to +44 (0)28 6634 6257 no later than the **31st January 2017**. If you wish to respond via email please do so to brigid.sludden@waterwaysireland.org

All applications will be assessed after the deadline has passed and Waterways Ireland will be in touch with each applicant in due course.

The 11th AONTAS Adult Learners' Festival

Register your Adult Learning Event Today

The 2017 Adult Learners' Festival is taking place from the 6th - 10th March 2017. As 2017 is the [European Association for the Education of Adults](#) (EAEA) Year of Adult Education in Europe our Festival will adopt their theme of the Power and Joy of Learning.

Now is the time to register your event for the 11th AONTAS Adult Learners' Festival. There are lots of helpful resources on the dedicated Adult Learners' Festival website www.adultlearnersfestival.com to help you inspire adult learners.

The Festival is a great opportunity for your group or organisation to:

- Highlight your organisation's commitment to adult learning
- Highlight the importance of lifelong learning to public representatives
- Promote existing training opportunities in your area, or launch new initiatives
- Signpost adults in the community to further education and training opportunities
- Build new partnerships or strengthen existing ones
- Develop new areas of work
- Attract new learners to your organisation

The STAR Awards: Watch this Space!

The STAR Awards (Showcasing Teamwork, Awarding Recognition) are an awards initiative coordinated by AONTAS as part of the annual Adult Learners' Festival to acknowledge the fantastic work undertaken by adult learning initiatives throughout Ireland. The awards celebrate the positive contribution that these initiatives make to individual adult learners, local communities and wider society.

For 2017, nominations were invited under four new categories:

- Adult Learning Initiatives that Promote Wellbeing
- Adult Learning Initiatives that Promote Digital Inclusion
- Adult Learning Initiatives that Promote Social Inclusion
- Adult Learning Initiatives that Promote The Learner Voice

Some fantastic initiatives have been nominated this year and an independent panel of judges is now reviewing each of the nominated initiatives. The shortlist will be announced soon so watch this space.

Promote your Open Day, Information Evening or Registration Event

Did you know that if you are hosting an adult learning course open day, information evening or registration event during the Adult Learners' Festival, it can also be promoted on www.onestepup.ie. OneStepUp (www.onestepup.ie) promotes access to adult learning opportunities through the website and an online calendar of events. The website has had over 23,000 users to date.

[Register](#) your event now to promote it on the dedicated Adult Learners' Festival website and Onestepup.ie. This project is managed by AONTAS who have been assigned the role of National Coordinator for the implementation of the European Agenda for Adult Learning (EAAL). This Project is funded with the support of the Erasmus + programme of the European Union and co-financed by the Department of Education and Skills through SOLAS, the Further Education and Training Authority.

Connect with AONTAS on Social Media for all the latest updates

There are lots of ways to keep up to date with the latest Adult Learners' Festival news - visit our [Festival website](#), check out the [Facebook](#) page, follow us on [Twitter](#) #adultlearnersfest #PowerofLearning #JoyofLearning.

Family Carers Ireland

Family Carers Ireland are hosting a free day course on Nutrition at their premises in Market Square, Tullamore on Friday 10th February 2017. Course commencing at 9.30am and concluding at 4.30 pm. Please phone 057 9322920 to confirm attendance

Laois Offaly Families for Autism (LOFFA).

LOFFA invites you to attend our monthly meetings where you will meet other parents of children with Autism and meet the Committee Members. Please see table below for details:-

Scheduled LOFFA Meetings 2017

Tuesday	8:15pm 7th February 2017	Portlaoise Heritage Hotel
Tuesday	8:15pm 7th March 2017	Bridge House Hotel Tullamore
Tuesday	8:15pm 4th April 2017	Portlaoise Heritage Hotel
Tuesday	8:15pm 2nd May 2017	Bridge House Hotel Tullamore
Tuesday	8:15pm 6th June 2017	Portlaoise Heritage Hotel

For more info:

LOFFA website:

http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=j7_z2PvCxAovQjWpltPvdAZ_wofAiNMQxJXU_16p5A&s=378&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2eloffa%2eie

Facebook LOFFA Families +ACY- Members group

http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=j7_z2PvCxAovQjWpltPvdAZ_wofAiNMQxJfbp1j-5w&s=378&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2efacebook%2ecom%2fgroups%2f465298723593467%2f%3ffref%2bAD0-ts

Twitter:

http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=j7_z2PvCxAovQjWpltPvdAZ_wofAiNMQxMDZoFn54w&s=378&u=https%3a%2f%2ftwitter%2ecom%2f%2bACMAIQ-%2fLOFFA%2bAF8-Secretary

YouTube:

http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=j7_z2PvCxAovQjWpltPvdAZ_wofAiNMQxJCP9Fqq5Q&s=378&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2eyoutube%2ecom%2fuser%2fLOFFAautismsupport%3ffeature%2bAD0-mhee

LOFFA is a group member of Irish Autism Action Charity Number CHY 14565