

Kerry PPN Community Newsletter Friday 22nd August 2025

To all Kerry PPN members,

Please find the Kerry PPN community newsletter below. We'd appreciate if you could share it with members of your group who might like to receive it.

If a group member would like to subscribe directly to the newsletter please email your name and email address to ppn@kerryppn.ie

To have your community event included in our upcoming newsletter please email the details to ppn@kerryppn.ie

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,
Máiread and Kathy.

Tel: 087 4888360 / 0667 193672 Email: ppn@kerryppn.ie
Website: www.kerryppn.ie

Contents:

Kerry PPN Updates

- Kerry PPN Secretariat Nominations Closing Shortly for Killarney MD & Environment seats

Grants and Funding News

- Grant to Support Men's Sheds Running Costs
- MACE Community Grants is here!

Community and Voluntary News

- Can you walk the walk? HeartBeat Killarney Kerry
- Upcoming Events at Teach Siamsa Finuge
- Upcoming Events at St. John's Theatre & Arts Centre
- Brilliant Ballyunion Bean Festival
- Killarney Soccer Memories Cafe
- 7th Annual Listowel International Storytelling Festival - PROGRAMME NOW AVAILABLE

Environmental News

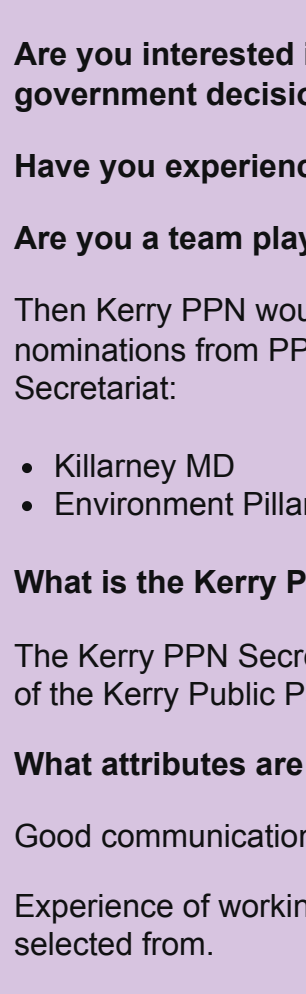
- "Our Coastal Bounty" - Exploring the Historical use of Seaweeds

Social Inclusion News

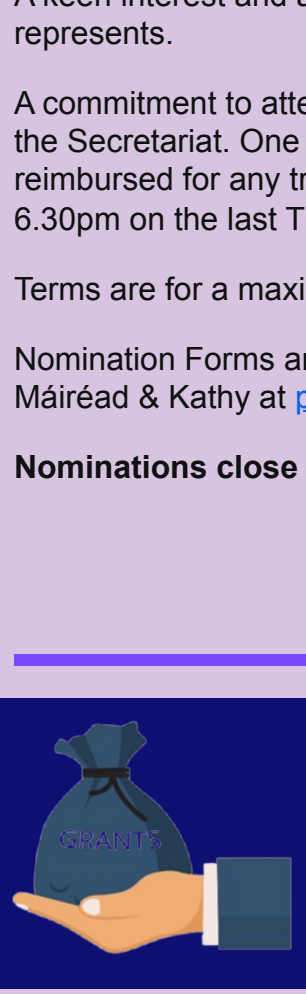
- Age Friendly Ireland Newsletter

Public Consultations

- Kerry County Council inviting applications for Built Heritage Investment Scheme



Kerry PPN Updates



Kerry PPN Secretariat Nominations Closing Shortly for Killarney MD & Environment seats

Are you interested in helping community groups have their say in local government decision making?
Have you experience of volunteering in community groups?
Are you a team player with good communication skills?

Then Kerry PPN would love to hear from you. We are currently seeking nominations from PPN Member groups to fill the following seats on the Kerry Secretariat:

- Killarney MD
- Environment Pillar

What is the Kerry PPN Secretariat?
The Kerry PPN Secretariat is the administrative body that oversee the operations of the Kerry Public Participation Network.

What attributes are needed for the position?
Good communication skills & team player.
Experience of working and/or volunteering in the member group the candidate is selected from.
A keen interest and awareness of general issues in the pillar the candidate represents.

A commitment to attend meetings and events and participate fully in the duties of the Secretariat. One Secretariat meeting is held each month (travel expenses are reimbursed) and an evening and Secretariat meetings/meetings are currently held at 6.30pm on the last Thursday of each month.

Terms a for a maximum of 5 years.

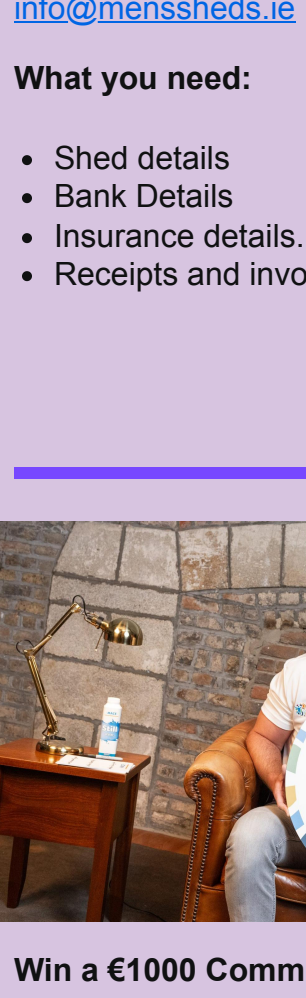
Nomination Forms and guidelines are available at the link below or by contacting Máiread & Kathy at ppn@kerryppn.ie 087 4888360/ 0667 193672

Nominations close 6pm, Tuesday 26th August, 2025.

[Nomination Form & Guidelines](#)



Grant to Support Men's Sheds Running Costs



Application Closing Date: 26th September 2025

For further information please contact [0818 900 800](tel:0818 900 800) or email info@menssheds.ie

What you need:

- Shed details
- Bank Details
- Insurance details.
- Receipts and invoices to go with your application.

[Further Information](#)



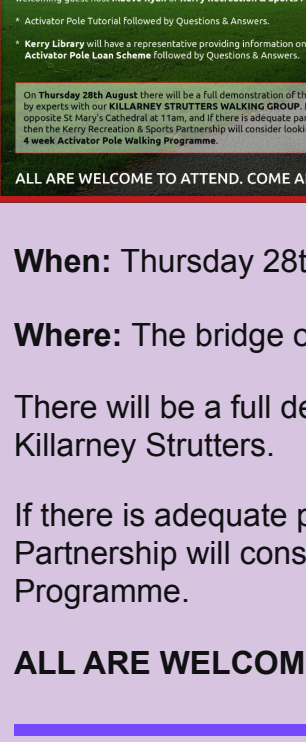
MACE Community Grants is here!

Win a €1000 Community Grant for your local group or club. There's 50 prizes to be won!

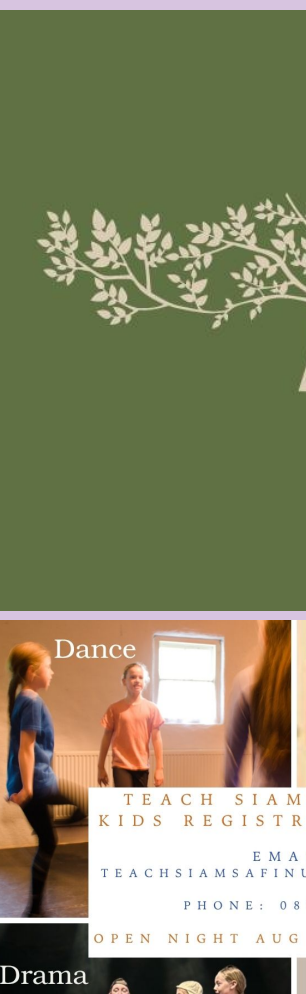
Ends midnight on 10th September 2025.

Find terms and conditions [here](#)

[Enter Here](#)



Community and Voluntary News



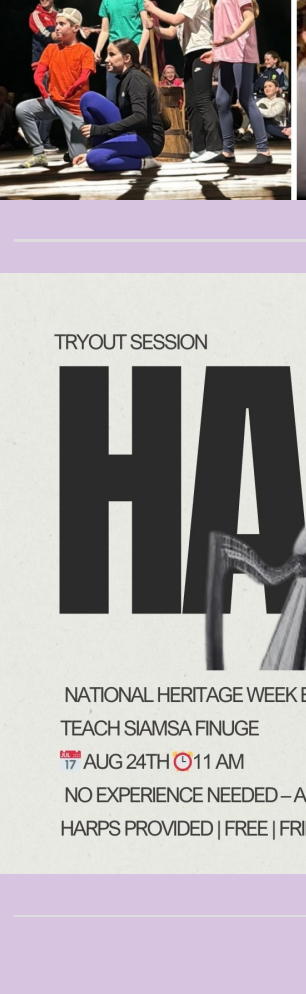
Can you walk the walk? HeartBeat Killarney Kerry

When: Thursday 28th August at 11am
Where: The bridge opposite St. Mary's Cathedral

There will be a full demonstration of the Activator Pole Walking by experts with the Killarney Strutters.

If there is adequate participation on the day then the Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership will consider looking at setting up a full 4 week Activator Pole Walking Programme.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND



Upcoming Events at Teach Siamsa Finuge

[Further information on all events](#)

Teach Siamsa Finuge Kids Registration Open

When: 26th of August from 6.30pm to 8pm
Where: Teach Siamsa Finuge

The classes of music, dance, drama, creative writing and the Irish language is open to all ages.



Harp Try Out Sessions

When: 24th of August at 11am
Where: Teach Siamsa Finuge

For the National Heritage Week Event 2025


No experience needed - All ages welcome!

Harps provided - FREE - Friendly atmosphere

[Looking for CE Workers](#)

If you are eligible for the CE Scheme and are seeking experience in administration or grounds maintenance

Contact now at teachsiamsa@gnail.com



Upcoming Events at St. John's Theatre & Arts Centre

[Further information on all events](#)

Tralee Art Group Presents - Reflections

When: Monday - Friday until August 29th
Where: St. John's Theatre

Free for all visitors

All are welcome to this exhibition



The Crow's Old Gold

When: 29th of August at 8pm
Where: St. John's Theatre

Cost: €18

Through humor, wit, and moments of haunting beauty, *The Crow's Old Gold* explores the enduring power of myth and the ways in which the past continues to shape the present

To book a ticket call [068 22566](tel:068 22566)



Brilliant Ballyunion Bean Festival

The Ballyunion Bean Festival was a huge success this weekend. The festival was hosted by Brilliant Ballyunion, a creative climate action project that focuses of supporting community collaborators to grow food, protect nature and be creative all at the same time.

The festival took place at the The Barna Way an organic farm and woodland just outside Ballyunion. As part of the commitment to reducing carbon, festival goers cycled or were bussed to and from the venue.

The festival celebrated the humble bean and all its wonderful qualities as a source of food, protein and nitrogen fixing for soil. In the context of the multi-crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and wars, the Ballyunion Bean Festival wanted to create a microcosm of what is possible when communities come together to create transformative change.

Grainne Toomey the project manager said, "One of the things I loved most about the festival was that it was co-created by the local community and we designed and created the festival together".

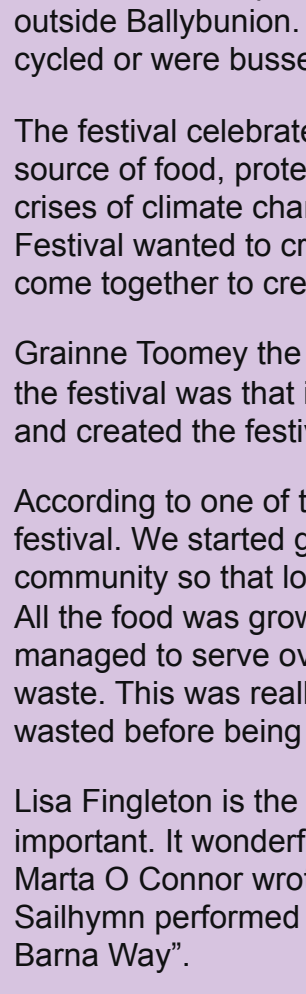
According to one of the organisers Rena Blake "Food was really important at the festival. We started growing beans last year and distributed them to the community so that local school children and adults could grow their own beans. All the food was grown and harvested as locally and organically as possible. We managed to serve over 160 meals on the day and only had one tiny bowl of food waste. This was really important in a world where 30% of the food produced is wasted before being consumed according to the UN".

Lisa Fingleton is the lead artist with the project. She says "Creativity is so important. It's wonderful to be able to share drawings and films during the day. Marta O Connor wrote a brilliant interactive play called The Bean Chronicles and Sallyhann performed songs that they had written during their residency at The Barna Way".

The festival was a great blend of the fun and the serious consideration of the future. It seemed appropriate to end the day in a climate event of heavy rain and fork lightning which couldn't dampen the magic and energy of the day.

Brilliant Ballyunion is Creative Climate Action project, supporting the local community to grow food, protect nature and be creative all at the same time.

[Check out more information](#)



Killarney Soccer Memories Cafe

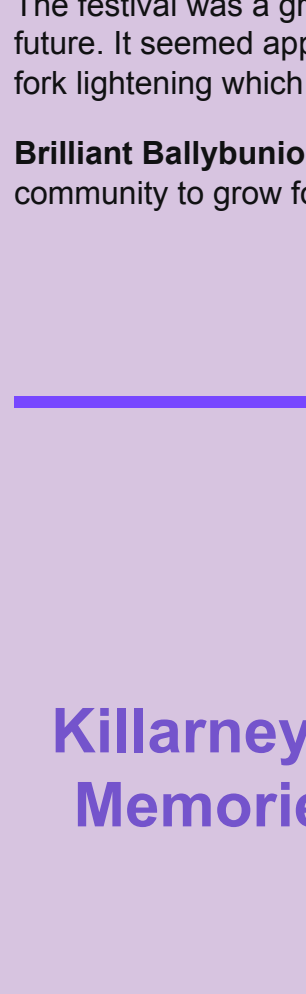
When: Saturday, 30th of August 2025 from 11am to 1pm
Where: Clann Housing, Coill na Darraich, Killarney, V93 VYX8

Sporting Memories uses the power of sport to bring together people, young & old, especially those living with dementia and their families.

Join for:

- A morning of great soccer memories
- Chat over a cuppa & biscuits
- Old soccer videos, photos & memorabilia
- Meeting up with old friends

For more info: soccermemoriescafe@gmail.com



7th Annual Listowel International Storytelling Festival - PROGRAMME NOW AVAILABLE

STORIES FROM KERRY TO THE WORLD - THE 7TH ANNUAL LISTOWEL INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL BRINGS GLOBAL VOICES TO IRELAND'S LITERARY CAPITAL

Thursday 18th - Sunday 21st September 2025 | Kerry Writers' Museum, Listowel

This September, the heritage town of Listowel will once again be alive with laughter, music, and the magic of the spoken word as **Kerry Writers' Museum** proudly presents the **7th Annual Listowel International Storytelling Festival** from **Thursday 18th to Sunday 21st September 2025**.

Inspired by the Irish Rámbling House tradition—where neighbours gathered to share stories, songs, and laughter—the festival blends local heritage with global voices, welcoming master storytellers, poets, musicians, and artists from Ireland, Spain, Morocco, the UK, and the USA.

This year's programme is packed with highlights, including:

- Opening Night Tribute to Sonny Egan** – honouring the beloved Kerry storyteller, musician, and cultural icon, featuring music, song, dance, and storytelling with Linnéa Combalas, Frances Kennedy, Daisy Kearney and more.
- International Storytelling Showcases** – tales from Morocco with Omar Belasraj, Spanish and Gaelic legends with Inés Álvarez-Villa, and voices from Ireland, Scotland, and beyond.
- Special Concert by P.J. Murrithy & Seamus Shannon** – with guest appearance by Mary Connolly of Radio Kerry.
- Heritage & Folklore Events** – exploring Ireland's history, language, and traditions through talks, performances, and the popular Storytellers' Trail.
- Workshops & Family Events** – including "Celtic Warriors & Legends" for children, "Beyond Words" body-language storytelling, and storytelling in local schools.
- Poetry, Art & Community Gatherings** – from open-mic nights and art exhibitions to the festival finale in Finuge.

Many events are free or low-cost, making the festival accessible to all. And for the first time this year, **Weekend Festival Tickets (€120)** offer exceptional value for those who want to enjoy the full festival experience over four days.

Cara Trant, Festival Director, says:

"The Listowel International Storytelling Festival is more than a series of performances – it's a living celebration of human connection. We honour Kerry's traditions while opening our stage to voices from around the world. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a long-time friend, you'll find stories here that will stay with you long after you leave."

Tickets & Programme: The full festival programme is now available in Kerry Writers' Museum and online at kerrywritersmuseum.com/storytelling-festival-2025. Tickets can be booked online, by calling [087 292 1919](tel:087 292 1919), or in person at **Kerry Writers' Museum**.



Environmental News



"Our Coastal Bounty" - Exploring the Historical use of Seaweeds

When: 23rd August from 1pm to 2pm
Where: Ballyunion, Ballyunion Beach, Co. Kerry

Our Coastal Bounty is a fascinating talk exploring the historical use and ecology of seaweeds. Join for an in-person event at the beautiful Ballyunion Beach to learn all about these incredible marine plants. Discover how seaweeds have been used throughout history and their importance in coastal ecosystems.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore the coastal seaweed heritage, citizen science identification and the future potential of seaweeds with our knowledgeable speakers from Ballyunion-North Kerry Environmental Forum.

Booking on Eventbrite required - **Limited Numbers**

Please wear suitable attire for this free outdoor coastal event.

For any queries, please contact - northkerryenviromentalforum@gmail.com

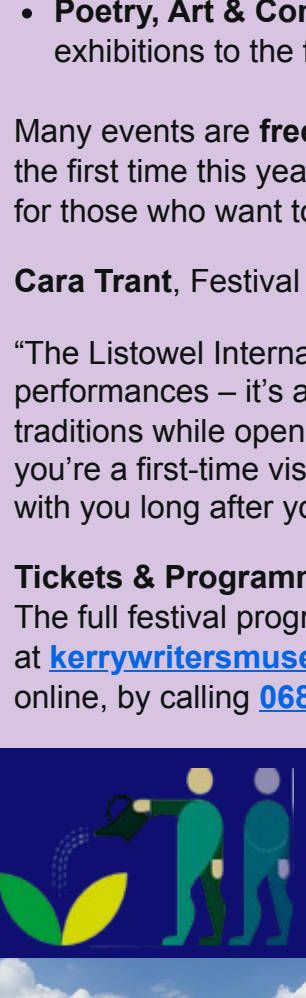
[Booking Link](#)



Age Friendly Ireland Newsletter

Download the latest edition of the Age Friendly Ireland Newsletter: 15th August Edition

[Download Newsletter Here](#)



Public Consultations



Kerry County Council inviting applications for Built Heritage Investment Scheme

Kerry County Council is inviting applications for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2026.

The scheme, funded by the National Built Heritage Service, offers the opportunity to secure funding for the preservation and conservation of important structures.

Eligible projects can receive between €2,500 and €50,000, covering up to 80% of the total costs.

Applications should be completed by September 26th.

Completed forms should be emailed to anchoson@kerryppn.ie or delivered to the Planning Department, Kerry County Council, County Buildings, Tralee no later than 4pm on 26th September 2025.

Details of the successful projects will be announced in early January 2026.

[Further Information](#)



The Kerry Public Participation Network (PPN) is a network of 1,000+ community & voluntary, social inclusion and environmental groups in Kerry.

We connect Kerry County Council with our member groups facilitating community participation in local government decision making. We work to make sure our member groups have a say on local issues that concern them.