

# Liffey Services New Directions August 2024 Newsletter



Turn the page to see more fantastic pictures from the Multicultural Event celebrating Nigeria, which was hosted by Green Gables Day Service in their local Belgard Community Centre!



The latest Blind Date event was a HUGE success. Read on to find out if anybody found love on the night...

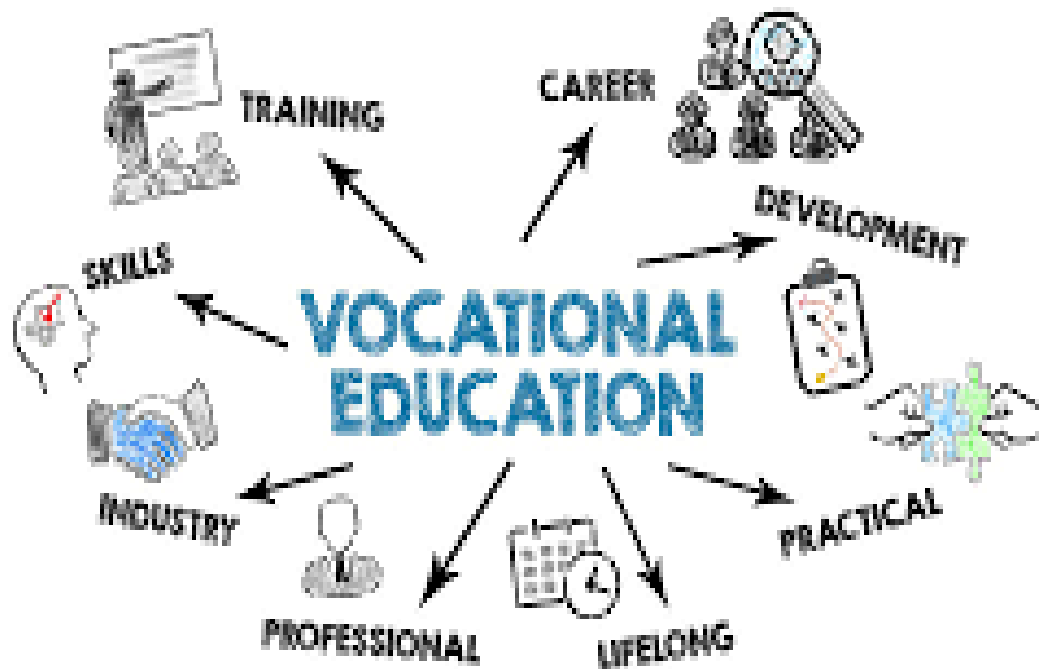


Ian and Doris continue to visit locations to deliver their Love is Love presentation! See inside to find out where they were recently.



The Men and Women in Mulberry Day Service also joined the fun at the recent Multicultural Day in Tallaght to celebrate Nigeria.

# This month the theme of the newsletter focuses on '**Support for Accessing Bridging Programmes to Vocational Training**' in line with New Directions.



## **What do we mean by bridging programmes?**

A bridging programme is a short-term, targeted preparation course that supports a person's success.

## **What do we mean by Vocational?**

Vocational means "related to a career." A vocation is a job or career, so something vocational is related to a specific kind of work. There are vocational schools that train people for jobs, which might be what you think of when you read the word vocational, though it could describe anything related to working.

# Meet the Staff Member

Hi everyone, my name is Claire McDermott and I am delighted to get the chance to share a bit about myself with you all. I began my career with SJOG in 2018 when I joined as an instructor, working full-time in what is now known as Ashtree Day Service. I worked in Ashtree for just over a year and have really fond memories of my time there.



In 2019 I began my role as Day Service Supervisor in Avila Day Service. Avila is located on the ground floor of the Cookstown building. I love my role here, each day is different and the men and women who attend are full of life and character. I think what I get most job satisfaction from is working with the highly dedicated staff team to support individuals to overcome obstacles that may have prevented them from doing or achieving something. In addition to my role here, I am also temporarily covering the post of Day Service Coordinator.

Aside from work, I live in Tallaght with my partner and two daughters. On weekends you will find me hanging around local playgrounds with my kids. I enjoy going into town to nice restaurants, live music and comedy gigs. Thanks for reading 😊

# Green Gables Day Service



This is Emily Behan from Green Gables Day Service. Emily works in the H&M clothing store at The Square Shopping Centre in Tallaght.

She recently won an Employee of the Month award for July 2024. A huge well done Emily, enjoy your flowers, balloon and gorgeous gifts! Keep up the brilliant work.



# Multicultural Day



The amazing Green Gables gang who organised a day to celebrate Nigeria in the local Community Centre, you all look fantastic. Thank you for the wonderful pictures!



# Mulberry Day Service

In having choice and control in her everyday life, Claire Middleton from Mulberry Day Service has completed her Travel Training and now takes the bus independently to Islandbridge and back.

Claire has developed skills to maximise her independence and enhance her opportunities to be autonomous. A big well done to Claire and all those involved in her Circle of Support for planning as well as encouraging this outcome to become a reality.

This is a wonderful example of a bridging programme (travel training) in order to access vocational training as travelling independently will open up so many other opportunities for Claire.



This good news story ties in so well with the theme for this month's newsletter. Keep up the amazing work Claire!





On the left is Jason Murphy watering the Strawberry Plant in Mulberry Day Service's vegetable Garden.

On the right is Kevin M, Martina, Claire, Kevin C and staff member Hayley from Mulberry, all enjoying a day out at the bowling alley in Leisureplex Tallaght.





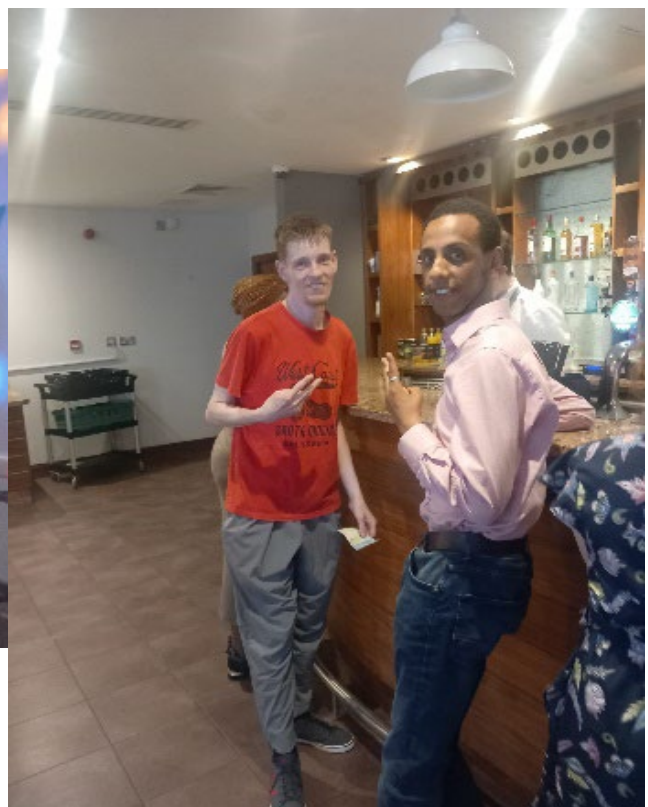
# Blind Date Event



On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July, love blossomed at a successful Blind Date event, organised by the Liffey RUA Committee, in the Maldron Hotel Tallaght from 7pm until 10pm.

There were over 40 men and women from our service who attended, and more than half took part in the blind date itself.

The format of the night was Disco, Blind Date sessions and Spot Prize giveaway which were alternated throughout the night.



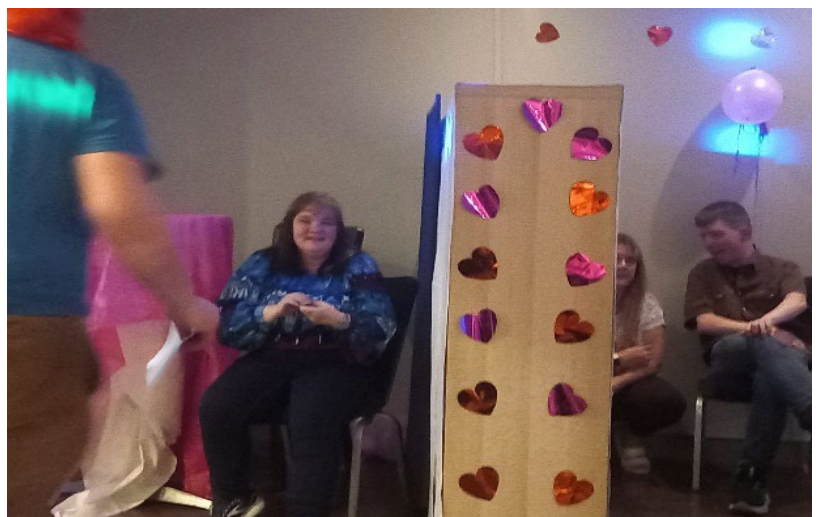


The Blind Date host was none other than our own Doris Delaney. She was fabulous and injected her bubbly personality into presenting which was great craic. She hosted 5 blind date sessions which resulted in 5 lucky couples receiving lunch vouchers to be used on their lunch date.

Keith and David from Menni DJs, supported by Paula B, played excellent music throughout the night. Their slow-set (encouraged with the promise of Spot Prizes) got unlikely couples up to dance.

From Doris hosting, Ken at the door checking ticket entry, Donna, Liz and Doris for getting loads of spot prizes, and Donna giving them out, to Paula W and Niamh recording the Blind Date Summaries, to Barry for getting the contestants to the Blind Date and Michelle, Nashat and Adi for helping set-up and Nataliya and the other residential staff for supporting and entertaining our men and women. A big shout out of thanks to all the staff who supported the event. It couldn't have happened without you!

Hopefully our Next Blind Date event, which will be in December, can have a same-sex blind date session as well as the regular sessions. This can only happen if we can encourage our men and women to express their sexuality.



Thank you to Ian Byrne for the wonderful write up! I was more than happy to be involved in this event, bring on the next one!



# Genil Training Centre

There was a very successful volunteering day in Genil Training Centre on July 26<sup>th</sup>. A total of 30 volunteers from Capcon Engineering Ltd came to do a huge clean-up at the Genil grounds in Maynooth. They even organised an Ice cream van for the day.

In return, the four Day Services on campus offered them teas and cakes to say a big THANK YOU. Massive shout out to DJ Ross Gaucher (from Leap Day Service) for music provided on the day which made the entire event all the better. He kindly agreed to volunteer his DJ services at the last minute.

The place looks amazing, and Mitos along with all staff teams on site are looking forward to having lots of parties there later in the year, I will be eagerly awaiting my invitation!

See some before pictures below and please turn the page to see the fantastic after pictures.... What a difference!









# Islandbridge Day Service

Recently Islandbridge Day Service hosted Doris Delaney and Ian Byrne who held a "Love Is Love - Sexuality Awareness" workshop for all staff working in the location.

The workshop covered topics about;

- Gender
- Sexuality
- LGBT+
- Sexual expression
- Abuse

The workshop finished with an interview with Doris herself. The staff feedback has been amazing, and they wish to send a big thanks to Ian and Doris for coming along. If you are interested in hosting a Love is Love presentation in your location then please get in touch for more information.





# Elvira Day Service



The men and women who attend Elvira Day Service recently took advantage of the good weather and went on a daytrip to Kilkenny. I received some wonderful pictures of the group visiting Kilkenny Castle and it looks like a wonderful day was had by all.





# SAID Project – DigiCoach



<https://saidproject.eu/>



We want to wish Niamh Fortune, a DigiCoach from Dublin, and Ian Coleman Horgan, a DigiCoach from Kerry Services, all the best as they travel to Helsinki at the end of August to share their experience of training to become a DigiCoach with support staff Klara and Sophie. They will collaborate with project partners from Graz, Austria, and Finland as part of the Erasmus+funded SAID project. Niamh is highly regarded as a DigiCoach, with people noting her deep knowledge and patience. She has successfully introduced digital education tools to both young people and staff, and everyone enjoyed her sessions.



Ian did a fantastic job working with the primary school children, introducing them to accessible educational digital tools. Though training his key worker, Phil, on new digital skills wasn't easy! 😊 Ian bounced into the classroom smiling, and the children loved learning from him.







"Our Place is a really exciting project, it is an opportunity to express ourselves, connect with others, explore art ideas through sound, and to enjoy the freedom to create"

**- Patrick Fitzgerald, 'Our Place' Artist**

"Our Place" celebrates happiness, rights, and self-expression. The artists from Liffey and Kerry Services have been very busy recording their sounds throughout the summer. This week, they began planning the installation at the Royal Hibernian Academy and the Kerry Museum



The Dublin artists collaborated with Sinead and Alan at the RHA on Monday, August 19th. Next Day, they went to Tallaght to work with Michael, a videographer from Kerry, at Liffey. He recorded interviews and videos showing what the group does in their daily lives and what matters most to them. This footage will be part of a documentary that will be launched at the Kerry County Museum on Culture Night.





"Our Place is a really exciting project, it is an opportunity to express ourselves, connect with others, explore art ideas through sound, and to enjoy the freedom to create"

- Patrick Fitzgerald, 'Our Place' Artist

**We invite everyone to come and check out **Our Place****

**Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin  
September 5th - September 27th, 2024.**

If you would like one of the co-artists to walk you through the exhibition, please book a session on the website [www.itsourplace.ie](http://www.itsourplace.ie)

The exhibition is free for everyone to come and enjoy.  
Email [Patrick.Fitzgerald@sjog.ie](mailto:Patrick.Fitzgerald@sjog.ie) for more information

**RETHINK  
IRELAND**



**st John  
of God** 

**RHA**  
ROYAL HIBERNIAN  
ACADEMY of ARTS

  
KERRY  
COUNTY  
museum





LiffeyVoices.ie



# Liffey Voices Meeting

**Thursday 29th August 2024**  
**11am – 12:00pm**



GreenRoom, St Raphaels,  
Celbridge or Balcony Room  
Cookstown, Tallaght or on Zoom

Please register:

<https://forms.office.com/e/B8Va65u2X>



**Update from the last meeting can be  
found on LiffeyVoices.ie**



Meeting ID 474389762  
Password 054429



Scan Here to join Zoom



The first Liffey Voice Men's group met on Wednesday, August 21st, and it was a great success, thanks to everyone who attended and supported the event. The day kicked off with a game of football, followed by a delicious healthy lunch provided by On The Platter, and concluded with a Men's Group discussion.



Patrick Fitzgerald invited the Kerry Service team to share their weekly experience of running their group for over 15 years. Special thanks to Donal, Ian, Arron, and Phil for making the long trip to Dublin today and for all the helpful tips and support in starting the Liffey Men's Group. The group will now continue to meet on the second-to-last Wednesday of each month.







**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**11am – 14:30pm**

**Please register:**

**Men's Group Activities**

Mens Group Registration



**11am - 12 -Sports -Meet at Tallaght Leisure Centre**

**12-1pm -Back to Tessa House for Lunch**

**1pm -2:30pm - Men's Talk**

**€10**

**€10 pays for Sports Hall  
and Healthy Lunch**

# Thank You for Reading...

Just a final friendly reminder that my 'What is New Directions?' Online Engage sessions will be happening on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024. I hope to see some of you at 10am or later at 1.30pm. We will be focusing on the New Directions support for Accessing Vocational Training and Work Opportunities.



Please continue to send all your good news stories to me, no achievement is too small, we love to celebrate all the successes happening across Liffey Region's Day Services.

## Get in touch

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**st John  
of God**   
**Intellectual  
Disability Services**

This easy read booklet about New Directions information was made by Donna Hughes.

