

# Adult Learners' Festival Learning Communities

Wednesday 22nd February 2012

## About

A key learning site for adults is the community. Adult learning takes place throughout the community - in the local library, community centre, active retirement group, VECs and much more! Wednesday also recognizes the role community education in particular plays in the development of communities as a whole and in the participation of citizens in that development.

## Event & Activity Ideas

### Learning/E-Learning at the Library

Libraries are a resource at the heart of every community. As part of the Adult Learners' Festival why not encourage those who don't usually visit the library to pop in! As a library you can hold an IT session, a guided tour of the library along with a recruitment drive or hold a book club. Book clubs and reading groups are growing in popularity across Ireland. They are a great way to get together as a group and talk about your shared passion for books and reading.

Or as a learner do you wish to enhance your employability, learn new skills or just learn how to use the internet. Well now you can do it all and for free with the Fás e-learning at the library project. Participants can learn how to use word processing, spreadsheets and the Internet and can also take courses in Health & Safety, Finance Fundamentals, and other work-related skills. Participants can also complete the ECDL through the programme. To find out where your local library or book club is or for more information on the Fás e-learning go to [www.library.ie](http://www.library.ie)

### Author Visit

Why not see if you can get an author to visit your local library, book club or organisation to give a reading or a questions and answer session or even some tips on writing your own novel!

### Click Start!

Why not open your doors to learners with little or no IT experience. The focus of this activity is to create small groups in communities within which learners can become engaged with technology.

Run a free session on e-mail. Learners can use their own e-mail to contact politicians about learning issues!

Run a social media session showing people how to use Facebook, Skype and Twitter

Open your library's doors to research your family tree on the internet?

Open your bank's door with free sessions on on-line banking?

### Ready, Steady, Cook!

We need to eat a range of different foods to keep our brains and bodies in tip top condition. A fun way of making sure we get the good bits we need in our diet is to be creative. Why not hold a creative cooking demonstration followed by a cooking class; you could even hold a leftover evening and see what you can create. Perhaps you could provide information about learning opportunities in your area while participants are tucking into their culinary delights! See [www.stopfoodwaste.ie](http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie) for some recipe ideas

The Adult Learners' Festival 2012 is kindly sponsored by:



## Cinema screening

Could your local cinema be persuaded to do a preview for your group or hold a special screening for them? A film screening is a great way to start discussion among a group.

## Knitting Circle

Lots of local libraries host knitting circles so why not join one, learn a new craft and meet new people. Or have a look at *Stitch n' Bitch* which has a list of local knitting groups and pointers on how to start your own. You could start your own group in your local community and host an exhibition/sale of your work for *Learning Communities Day*.

## Cultural Trail

Why not devise a cultural trail and visit the local museums and churches in your area. Have a look at [Discover Ireland](#) for a list of what is available to visit in your area. If you live in Dublin have a look at [dublinculturetrail.ie](#) for a ready made map of cultural trails. Also in Dublin you can get a free guided tour of St. Patricks Cathedral, The National Library, Dublinia and the National Museum of Ireland as part of the Festival. Have a look at our [events](#) section for more details.

## Quick Fixes

- **'Meet the Tutors' Set up an information stand in your local shopping centre or canteen to attract potential adult learners**
- **Organise a taster class or demonstration for potential learners**
- **Launch adult learning research, statistics, booklets or exhibits**
- **If you can't hold an event why not distribute the AONTAS FREE information booklet What Next?**

Contact us at [mail@aontas.com](mailto:mail@aontas.com) for some copies

## Useful Organisations

The Library Council ([www.librarycouncil.ie](http://www.librarycouncil.ie))

Public Libraries ([www.library.ie](http://www.library.ie))

Irish Countrywomen's Association ([www.ica.ie](http://www.ica.ie))

Volunteering Ireland ([www.volunteeringireland.ie](http://www.volunteeringireland.ie))

## AONTAS Can Help!

We understand that it's often difficult to find the time to hold an event or run an activity so AONTAS have put a number of resources in place to make it as easy as possible for your organisation to become involved in the Adult Learners' Festival 2012.

An Event in a Bag jampacked with everything you need to promote your event

A local contact in each area to share their knowledge and experience

Activity and Event ideas on [www.adultlearnersfestival.com](http://www.adultlearnersfestival.com)

Calendar of Events at [www.adultlearnersfestival.com](http://www.adultlearnersfestival.com)

AONTAS staff on hand for any guidance and assistance you might need

**Don't have the time to organise an event or activity from scratch? You can still be part of the Adult Learners' Festival by scheduling an existing event during the festival week.**

**Don't forget to keep AONTAS up to date on events or activities you have planned.  
Register your event to take part at [www.adultlearnersfestival.com](http://www.adultlearnersfestival.com)**

