

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
MARCH **2018**  
ISSUE 11

**CHILDREN'S  
GROUP  
LINK**

**WEXFORD**



Support funding provided by:



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We would like to thank **Joe Evans** and all the individuals that provided photographs for this publication.

# MISSION STATEMENT



CHILDREN'S GROUP LINK will endeavour to assist in the development of children, teenagers and adults.

We will strive to create a positive environment for those in our care and help them to express themselves in an open and secure way.

The group will strive to achieve these goals through clearly defined methods and objectives.



# PREMIER PARTNERS



MOUNT JULIET  
ESTATE



ST. ANNE'S  
WATERFORD TENNIS CLUB



Established 1859



SmartPly



# SPONSORS

**We would like to thank the following companies, businesses and individuals for their support of Children's Group Link.**

Airpower  
Altitude  
Ann Johnson  
Ardkeen Quality Food Store  
Barry Walsh Financial Services  
BCK Wealth Management  
Beat 102-103  
Billy Burke Fish & Poultry  
Blueberry Cafe  
Cahills Newsagents, Tramore  
CE Scheme supported by St. Brigid's Family and Community Centre  
Charlotte Pilates & BarreConcept Waterford  
CKM Procurement Consultants  
Colourtrend  
D.P.L. Waterford  
David M Breen & Co. Chartered Accountants  
Deevy's Motor and Marine Accessories  
Denny Sinnott  
Department of Social Protection  
Derry O' Carroll Solicitors  
DPL Group Ltd., Waterford  
Ed Power  
Fr. Michael Enright  
Frescold Services Ltd., Waterford  
Gary Coker Crash Repairs  
Gavin McLawrence  
Gavin Phelan  
Granville Hotel  
Greenstar  
Griffin Motors  
Hartley People Recruitment & Training  
Heroes  
HMPC Business Solutions  
Holy Cross Bar and Restaurant  
Homebase  
HSE Community Resilience Fund  
Iarnrod Eireann & Employees  
Jack Molloy & Son, Waterford  
Java Republic (Fintan Stanley)  
JE Warren Consulting  
John Halligan TD  
John Somers Dental Laboratories  
Kervick Fruit & Veg  
Kilroys Solicitors  
Kim Long & Company Solicitors  
Landbridge Property Investments  
Leo Jacques  
Leopardstown Golf Centre  
M.W. Murphy & Son  
MM Halley & Son Solicitors  
Morris's DIY  
Musgrave MarketPlace, Waterford  
Nicky Cosgrave  
O'Hara's Dental Practice  
PGM Financial Services  
ProfitPal  
Powers Pharmacy, Waterford  
Qualitile Bathroom & Tiles  
Radius Technologies  
Renoir Consulting  
Robert Thompson Funeral Directors  
Shane Rochford  
Shell & Topaz Aviation Ireland Limited  
Sheridan Waterford  
Shoot'n & Fish'n  
St. Brigid's Family and Community Centre  
Style Parlor Salon Supplies  
Swan Plastics Limited  
Swiss Financial Services  
Tara Blinds Limited  
The Book Centre  
The Keogh Practice  
The Majestic Hotel  
The Parnell Clinic  
The Spinnaker Bar & Restaurant  
The Surgery Mayor's Walk  
Tim Guerin  
Tom Finnegan Architects  
Tony Walsh  
Tony Whelan (WIT)  
Tower Hotel & Leisure Centre  
Travelodge Waterford  
TÚS Community Work Placement  
University Hospital Waterford  
Utopia flowers  
Walsh's Bakehouse  
Waterford & Tramore Racecourse  
Waterford and St. Dominic Credit Union  
Waterford Credit Union  
Waterford Foot Clinic  
Waterford Health Park  
Waterford Health Park Pharmacy  
Waterford Institute of Technology - CALMAST  
Waterford Plating Ltd  
Waterford Youth Committee  
Wigs Medical  
Wil Fahy  
William Quinlan Auctioneers  
Windows Direct  
WLR FM  
Woodpecker Floors & Tiles

# CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME



As Chairman of the Board of Children's Group Link, I want to acknowledge the contribution our organisation makes to the social, educational and personal development of our members and the young people in the community in which we have served for the last 38 years.

Children's Group Link offers a safe environment in which our members can express themselves, develop their talents and acquire inter-personal skills that will help them as they journey through life. We are very proud of the variety of programmes and services we deliver for children and young people between the ages of 5 – 24 years.

Children's Group Link has always operated to the highest standards of governance, transparency and accountability. I am delighted that we are one of the first SPY Projects (Special Projects for Youth) in the southeast to fully comply with the Governance Code, being a voluntary code of practice for good governance of community, voluntary and charitable organisations. We believe this will further increase the level of confidence within our funders, stakeholders, sponsors, our members and the wider public.

The success of any organisation lies in the leadership skills, competencies of its people as well as the strength of its infrastructure. The Board and I are cognisant of the need to ensure that the organisation is fully equipped with the necessary resources and skills to meet its objectives.

We look forward to the future with great hope and excitement and to build on our many successes and achievements to date.

Thank you.

**Mark Fenton,  
Chairperson**



# CEO'S WELCOME



It gives me great pleasure to present to you a review of our programmes, services and activities for 2017. This is a highlight of our year when we reflect on what has been happening in our organisation over the last twelve months.

An important aspect of our work is listening to our members. Based on their feedback and suggestions, we continually improve and add to the range of activities we provide, both indoors and outdoors. Our members are the heartbeat of our organisation and are the very reason that we exist.

The Newsletter contains information and photos from many of the events staged in 2017. This pictorial review reminds us of the depth and scope of what we do and the impact that we have in the community. The events provide a variety of benefits to our members and serve as opportunities to develop their individual and unique talents.

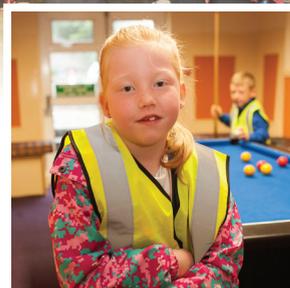
2017 was a challenging year on many fronts. There is a continual need to fundraise and I am very grateful to our staff and volunteers for their continuing support. The public and the corporate community in Waterford City and County have always supported us and believe in what we do. You can see from within the Newsletter the very broad base of support we have, for which we are truly grateful.

I want to acknowledge the support we receive from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board and the Department of Social Protection. Their collective support provides the basis for the programmes, supports and services we offer to our members. I want to thank you all for your continued support of Children's Group Link. We look forward to an exciting year in 2018 and to developing new and innovative programmes and opportunities for our members.

**Brendan Halligan,  
CEO**



# THE 100<sup>TH</sup> DAY CHALLENGE



The 100<sup>th</sup> Day Challenge took place on Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>. This is a community-based initiative which we introduced over 10 years ago.

The original idea was to conduct a clean-up in specific communities which would support the work of local residents associations and Waterford City and County Council. The idea quickly developed to where we began to build relationships between our members and the community leading to an increase in civic pride and community awareness and delivering benefits to a wide variety of communities and businesses in Waterford City.

Our most recent event, featuring over 70 volunteers and staff, had two elements; a Dog Fouling Awareness programme conducted on the Greenway, Ballybricken Green and the People's Park. Dog Walkers were encouraged to sign up to the Green Dog Walker Campaign which promotes a safer cleaner environment for all. The second element was where we conducted a general clean-up in the commercial area of Ballybricken.

# PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

Delivering programmes is at the heart of what we do at Children's Group Link since 1979. We aim to deliver a variety of programmes that are stimulating and engaging and that support our young people as they transition to adult life.

Our programmes are designed to:

- Develop inter-personal skills and boost self-confidence and self-esteem
- Introduce the concepts of Independent Living, Basic DIY, First Aid, Cooking and Healthy Eating
- Learn how to work as part of a team
- Outline simple problem-solving techniques
- Help young people to take care of their Health & Well-being
- Identify "go-to" people with whom they can discuss issues and challenges
- Open their eyes to different career opportunities through job sampling initiatives

Our clubs cover a broad range of activities including sporting events, parties, arts, reading, jewellery & costume design. The clubs last for a specific time and happen on the same day and time each week. The clubs often involve external tutors who give freely of their time and resources. More often than not, the members choose the activities based on their changing interests and what is "cool" at the time.

Our camps are supervised programmes for young people conducted during holiday periods, primarily February mid-term, Easter, Summer and October break. Our camps are a mix of traditional activities such as arts, music, computers, mixed with outdoor activities such as hiking, canoeing, swimming and a wide variety of sports and specialised activities. We are continually adding activities to our camps based on the feedback and suggestions we receive from our young people. The primary purpose of our camps is educational, being physically active and the development of inter-personal skills, cultural development delivered within a safe and nurturing environment.

Our Tuesday Evening group is for our younger members aged 7-10 years and is on each Tuesday evening from 6-7.30pm. Every week our younger members enjoy many fun activities which include: crazy games, cooking, computers, sports, arts and crafts and more. The activities are organised and supervised by Group Link staff and volunteers. Approximately 30 members attend regularly. Our Friday Evening group is for our older members aged 11 years and over and is on every Thursday evening from 6-7.30pm. This group enjoys many fun activities like games, yoga, golf, dodge ball, spike ball and many issue based programmes. Approximately 25 members attend regularly.



The primary purpose of our camps is educational. In addition, our participants are physically active, developing inter-personal skills and all within a multi-cultural, safe and nurturing environment

# SPECIALISED PROGRAMMES

Throughout the year we host many Specialised Programmes. We also support other community groups and organisations on a once-off basis. Examples include supporting the development of community gardens, community clean-ups and working with the elderly.

## The Crime Awareness Project

This programme explores the concept of crime and looks at the question of what crime is. It helps young people to understand the effects and consequences of crime on others and on society. It explores individual values (Right and Wrong) and young people share responses and discuss situations which may have a negative consequence for others. It also raises awareness of individual uniqueness and identity and the group share positive traits about each other.

## The Poverty Workshop

This workshop is comprised of discussions, creation of a dance piece, video production and photographic collages, all aimed at reducing poverty and spreading the message of the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

## Trip to Mount Melleray

A group of up to 20 members embark on a hill walk accompanied by our volunteers. The members engage in a series of physical and social activities.

## Wheatfield Prison

A group from Children's Group Link has been visiting Wheatfield Prison in Dublin for the past 10 years. The visit allows for interaction with some of the prison population and exposes young people to the impact of crime and heightens crime awareness.



# HISTORY

**Children's Group Link is a Company Limited by Guarantee and a registered charity based in Waterford City. Our Charities Registration Number is 20023782 and our CHY No is 9496.**

Children's Group Link was founded in 1979 under the name St. Mary's Junior Centre and had twelve children as its first members. It officially opened on May 17th, 1980. The first grant aid was received in July 1980 – sixty pounds was allocated by Waterford Corporation towards the provision of a holiday for the children, to Tramore, County Waterford.

A decision was made in 1982 – to change the name of the organisation to Children's Group Link. It was felt that this title better underlined the type of work being carried out – that the volunteers could be a link with the children; the children would link with each other and the whole group a link with the community.

During the years 1982 – 1998 membership of the organisation increased to about sixty children. Other volunteers also became involved. In March 1989 Children's Group Link was forced to vacate the premises at Lady Lane because the structures of the building became unsafe. A temporary home was found at the Manor School, Waterford City, which was owned by the Mount Sion Christian Brothers.

At this point, a number of professional, business and legal people from Waterford, got together as Directors and set about raising funds to purchase and renovate new premises for the organisation. A company, limited by guarantee, was formed in November 1989 under the title of Children's Group Link Limited. The organisation also received charitable status around this time.

A suitable premises, "Oak Villa", was located at Military Road, Waterford. It was purchased on June 7th 1991 at a cost of ninety thousand pounds. Necessary alterations, repairs, renovations and extensions have been carried out at a further cost of eight hundred thousand euro. Bank loans were secured in order to facilitate these works. Most of this finance has been raised through donations, appeals, fundraising and Corporate Sponsorship.

"Oak Villa" was officially opened by the Minister for Education, Mr. Noel Davern, T.D. on February 3rd 1992, by which time more than eighty-five children were availing of the facilities therein.



# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

## Key objectives of Children's Group Link are:

- To provide recreational, educational, sporting, artistic and counselling facilities and services
- To involve the members in beneficial communal activities
- To establish and develop members' talent

## Children's Group Link Helps Young People:

- With learning difficulties
- With behaviour problems
- With a disability
- That are at risk or vulnerable to neglect, abuse, isolation or bullying
- From high unemployment areas and / or marginalised areas of society
- Suffering from social and economic disadvantage
- Associated family difficulties including alcoholic, abusive or negligent parents, guardians or carers with medical difficulties including substance or alcohol abuse

Children's Group Link is a safe place for children, teenagers and at-risk young people to relax, enjoy, develop and express themselves. We have a wealth of experience and knowledge in addition to highly trained staff and volunteers.



# KIERAN SCANLON PROFILE

## Kieran Scanlon, Director of Children's Group Link

Kieran Scanlon has been actively involved in Children's Group Link for over 20 years. Like so many other volunteers and Directors Kieran's involvement started with a curious visit to our premises. In Kieran's own words...."I wasn't long working in Waterford as a Garda when one day I was walking along Military road and noticed Children's Group Link - I went in and introduced myself. I met with some of the staff members, volunteers and some of the young course participants. It was from that day my interest in the organisation grew and developed".

Kieran is now a central figure on the Board of Directors and is also deeply involved in numerous projects and fundraising activities. In particular, Kieran enjoys the 100th Day Challenge because of its positive community connection. Kieran is also at the centre of the House of Horrors event which has become one of Group Link's signature programmes. Kieran has served as a Director and Board member for over 16 years and has played a pivotal role in helping to shape and develop Children's Group Link as an organisation. His experience and calming influence is very reassuring to staff, volunteers and Board members. Kieran is currently a member of our Governance and compliance sub-committee.

In addition to Kieran's involvement with Children's Group Link, he has a keen interest in all sports but especially Rugby, Hurling and Golf.

We thank Kieran for his many years of dedicated service to Children's Group Link...and long may it continue.



# BUZY BEES COMMUNITY GARDEN



The Buzy Bees Community Garden in Waterford City provides young people with access to horticultural programmes and hands-on gardening experience through the provision and maintenance of a community youth garden, operated by volunteers, that is accessible to all and located in a safe healthy social space within which young people can grow and flourish.

A group of our young members volunteered to help in the garden during which they were introduced to basic skills required to grow vegetables and flowers; introduced to the benefits of having fresh vegetables in their diet; took part in healthy outdoor activities that improve mental well-being and saw first-hand, examples of how gardening benefits the environment. The activities helped to build a knowledge base and an appreciation for nature and highlighted a fun healthy outdoor activity the family can do together.



# GOVERNANCE

**Children's Group Link officially adopted the Governance Code, being a voluntary Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable organisations in Ireland, on July 12th, 2016.**

The Governance Code is a series of principles that formalise the various elements required to manage and operate an organisation like Children's Group Link in an accountable, responsible and transparent manner. Children's Group Link has and continues to operate in an open and fully transparent manner.

We are also conscious of, and preparing for, emerging legislation and new governance and compliance procedures and policies that are specific to charitable organisations in receipt of public funds.

On our website [www.childrensgrouplink.ie](http://www.childrensgrouplink.ie) you will find further information regarding our governance and compliance including annual accounts, insurance details, tax clearance and much more. The organisation is supported in this very important work by John Warren, JE Warren Consulting.

## IN TOUCH PROJECT

**This project encourages and facilitates community awareness and involvement amongst young people. Members and non-members are challenged to consider and respond to the needs of those in the local and wider community. Participants are encouraged to develop ideas, which promote the welfare of those in need and the most vulnerable in our local community and other parts of the world.**

### Objectives

- To encourage young people to develop their own community programmes
- To help young people develop life skills, responsibilities, team work and community awareness
- To create a concise awareness in young people and adults of the physical and environmental issues which affect and concern them
- To liaise and co-operate with other agencies / groups that work in this area

### Activities / Programmes

- Senior Citizens parties and bingo nights
- Fundraising for 'The Developing World'
- Organising and implementing environmental awareness programmes
- Community clean-up initiatives
- Training and information programmes about community groups, statutory and voluntary bodies
- Visitation and support to Senior Citizens and Special Needs Groups within the local community
- Participation in community, religious and social events

# CHILD PROTECTION



**“The term “Children First” was originally used in relation to Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, first published in 1999 and reviewed and updated on a number of occasions since then, most recently in 2017.**

Since the enactment of the Children First Act 2015 the term is now a generic term used to encompass the guidance, the legislation and the implementation of both. Children First related to the recognition of child abuse and neglect, the reporting of same to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, and the best practice which organisations should adhere to, to keep children safe while availing of their services. Non-statutory obligations for all persons coming into contact with children are set out in the Children First Guidance, and the Children First Act 2015 sets out additional statutory obligations for defined categories of persons, and for organisations providing relevant services to children”. (Source: Department of Children and Youth Affairs [www.dcyh.gov.ie](http://www.dcyh.gov.ie))

Children’s Group Link is acutely aware of its responsibilities to the children, teenagers, young adults and “at-risk” youth that form part of the core membership of our charity. We have a robust Child Protection Policy and all our board, staff and key volunteers are Garda Vetted.

It is our policy to maintain and remain current with all legislation pertaining to the rights of young people and their protection. On 22/6/2017, our core staff undertook a Child Protection Training programme to refresh and update their skills and knowledge in working with children and young people. This training was organised with the support of the National Youth Council of Ireland.

In line with the legal requirements as stipulated in the Children First Act 2015, Children’s Group Link has carried out a Risk Assessment of the potential for harm to our members while availing of our programmes and services. The Risk Assessment helped us to determine the control measures that we can implement to minimise the risks identified and ensure that they are reflected in our policies and procedures and our Child Safeguarding Statement. This Risk Assessment is now encapsulated in a Risk Register; is available on request and will be reviewed on an annual basis or as early as possible after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Risk Assessment refers.

# CRISPS

The CRISPS Programme was a Youth Employment Initiative funded by the Department of Children & Youth Affairs through the Dormant Funds Account. Additional support was provided by Waterford Area Partnership, IPB Community Engagement Fund, HSE Resilience Fund and Bausch & Lomb. Some 14 young people aged between 15 - 24 years old took part with nine completing the entire programme.

The purpose of the CRISPS Programme was to engage marginalised, unattached youth 'at risk' in a range of specialised programmes, activities and initiatives which support them in their journey / transition from formal education (or lack thereof) to gainful employment. The CRISPS Programme core values were aligned with the five National Outcomes of Better Outcomes Brighter Futures being the government's National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020, namely:

- Be active and healthy; physical and mental well-being
- Achieve full potential in all areas of learning and development
- Be safe and protected from harm
- Achieve economic security and opportunity
- Be connected, respected and contribute to their world

In addition, the programme committed to:

- Providing a safe, positive environment both physically and mentally
- Providing knowledge and supports to help make informed decisions
- Supporting freedom of expression and the right to be heard
- Placing an emphasis on young-person input and participation

For the main part, CRISPS consisted of a range of soft skills programmes that included topics such as Mental Health, Goal Setting & Resilience Skills, Team Building, CV Preparation, Interview Skills, Starting a New Job, Cooking Skills, Food Preparation & Storage, Household DIY, Music Writing and Lyric Composition, Photography and a Community Project. There was a Young Persons Liaison Officer appointed to support the group throughout the programme. Access also provided to a counselling service if required as some sessions were very challenging and emotive.

The programme consisted of 142 hours comprising of 58 individual sessions delivered over five months, November 2016 - March 2017.



# FACILITIES

## Looking for a Venue?

Our premises has many rooms and ancillary facilities which are ideal for use for meetings, training, conference, group activity sessions, birthdays, parties and special occasions. Groups ranging from six to sixty are easily catered for. A modest cost is placed on the hire of each room.

## Training Room

The Training Room is perfect for meetings, training and your conference needs. The room is fully equipped with conference table, chairs, DVD, T.V. unit, easels, dry-wipe board, overhead projector and screen. This room is warm and friendly with lots of natural light. Suitable for groups of up to twenty-five. We also have a separate area comprising of a number of computer stations set up and suitable for group tuition.

## The Assembly Hall

This hall is suitable for a variety of uses and is equipped with audio visual facilities and a modern state-of-the-art kitchen. The hall can be divided into two separate areas and each section, or the full hall, can cater for a variety of indoor activities, play activities, team-building, seminars, conferences, parties and meetings.

## Outdoor Facilities

Modern 'field turf' five - a - side sports pitch suitable for soccer, hurling, unihoc and general games. The entire pitch is surrounded and enclosed with kickboards, fencing and netting and is fully floodlit throughout. Changing rooms with multiple showers compliment the entire facility. Hire costs are very reasonable with special day time rates for schools, youth projects and other community groups.

## Special Occasions

We cater for parties for all occasions such as birthdays, communions, confirmations, and general celebratory events.

## Catering

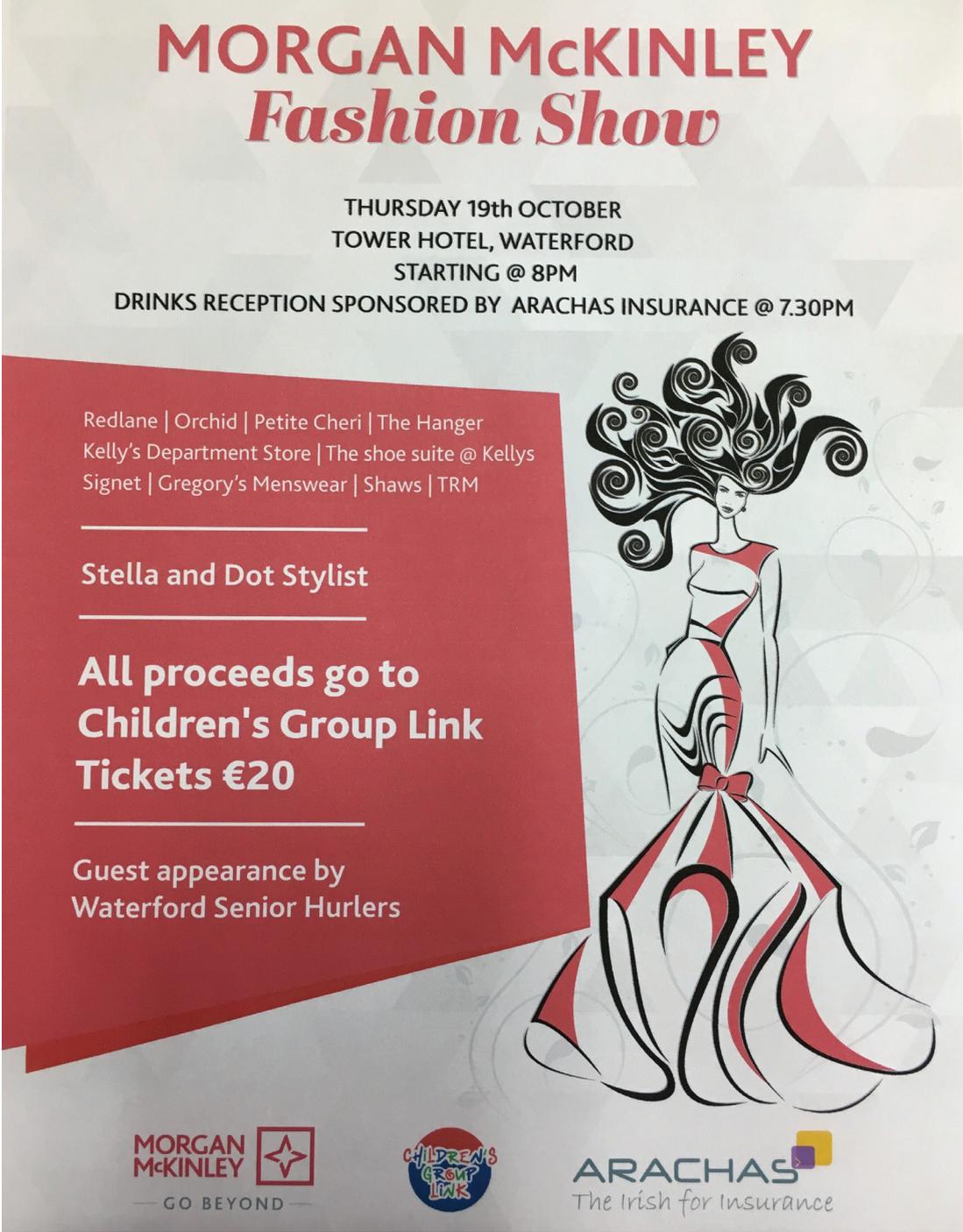
We provide a variety of catering needs including tea, coffee, biscuits and sandwiches. We have a fully equipped modern kitchen to prepare your hot food requirements.



# FASHION SHOW

Morgan McKinley, a global professional services recruitment consultancy, staged a fashion show in the Tower Hotel with the proceeds benefiting Children's Group Link.

The event included some household names from the clothing and fashion industry in the southeast with models showcasing the wide variety of fashion on offer. Amongst the models, were some past and present Waterford Senior Hurlers! The event was a great success and an enjoyable social occasion, and we would like to thank Morgan McKinley, with support from Arachas Insurance, for organising the event. Approximately **€2,000** was raised on the night.



## MORGAN MCKINLEY *Fashion Show*

THURSDAY 19th OCTOBER  
TOWER HOTEL, WATERFORD  
STARTING @ 8PM  
DRINKS RECEPTION SPONSORED BY ARACHAS INSURANCE @ 7.30PM

Redlane | Orchid | Petite Cheri | The Hanger  
Kelly's Department Store | The shoe suite @ Kellys  
Signet | Gregory's Menswear | Shaws | TRM

Stella and Dot Stylist

**All proceeds go to  
Children's Group Link  
Tickets €20**

Guest appearance by  
Waterford Senior Hurlers

MORGAN MCKINLEY   
— GO BEYOND —

 CHILDREN'S  
GROUP  
LINK

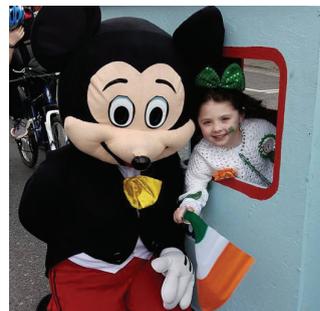
ARACHAS   
The Irish for Insurance

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Children's Group Link has participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade for 38 years and our presence is an important part of our commitment to giving back to the community in which we live, work, and support.

Our theme for 2017, "Celebrating the Greenway", was designed to showcase and support the magnificent Waterford Greenway which is a world-class 45km off-road track, for walkers and cyclists, running along an old railway line that linked Waterford City to Dungarvan and comprising of beautiful coastline, viaducts, a tunnel, a spectacular gorge and beautiful scenery.

We would like to thank our sponsor Caulfield's SuperValu and to acknowledge the support received from Waterford City and County Council.



# EASTER WEEK

Easter Week has been celebrated by Children's Group Link since its very formation and a variety of celebrations and activities are organised.

Twenty members and four senior leaders took part in the Stations of the Cross in the Dominican Church which is part of a long-standing relationship with the church. The Re-enactment of the Passion is a major event during Easter Week. Some twelve young members and five adult leaders plus volunteers associated with our organisation, all in period costume, took part in the re-enactment of the Passion of Christ which was conducted through the streets of Waterford. Over 100 people followed the Passion Procession as it made its way from the Friary Church to Christ Church Cathedral, culminating at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity.



# LOAVES AND FISHES

Loaves and Fishes Waterford, a social enterprise for Children's Group Link. We up-cycle furniture, create new pieces from pallet wood and make rustic decorations. We now have a range of seasonal products which are ideal for the garden, the home, the office, as gifts and as prizes for your corporate events.

In 2017, we launched an updated Christmas range which was a real success during the Waterford Winterval celebrations with the products on offer through a dedicated retail cabin.

## The objectives of the enterprise include:

- Providing valued work opportunities to adults on government sponsored work schemes such as CE Scheme and TÚS
- To create sustainable employment
- To introduce young people to different skills and to help them explore different career paths
- Introducing young people to the concepts of retail management, product design, manufacturing, marketing and merchandising
- Supporting the development of a "Training, Education & Events Centre"

The enterprise is supported and underpinned by a dedicated core group of volunteers that give freely of their time in a variety of different (operational) areas.



**WATERFORD**  
**WINTERVAL**

**17 TO 23**  
NOV DEC  
**2017**



**LOAVES and FISHES**  
A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

**Guaranteed Non Shed Trees**  
**Seasonal Signs**  
**Christmas decorations**  
**planters & more!**

Located in Palace Square, in the Viking Triangle.



All proceeds  
go to..

a registered  
Waterford Charity



  
**LOAVES and FISHES**  
... A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

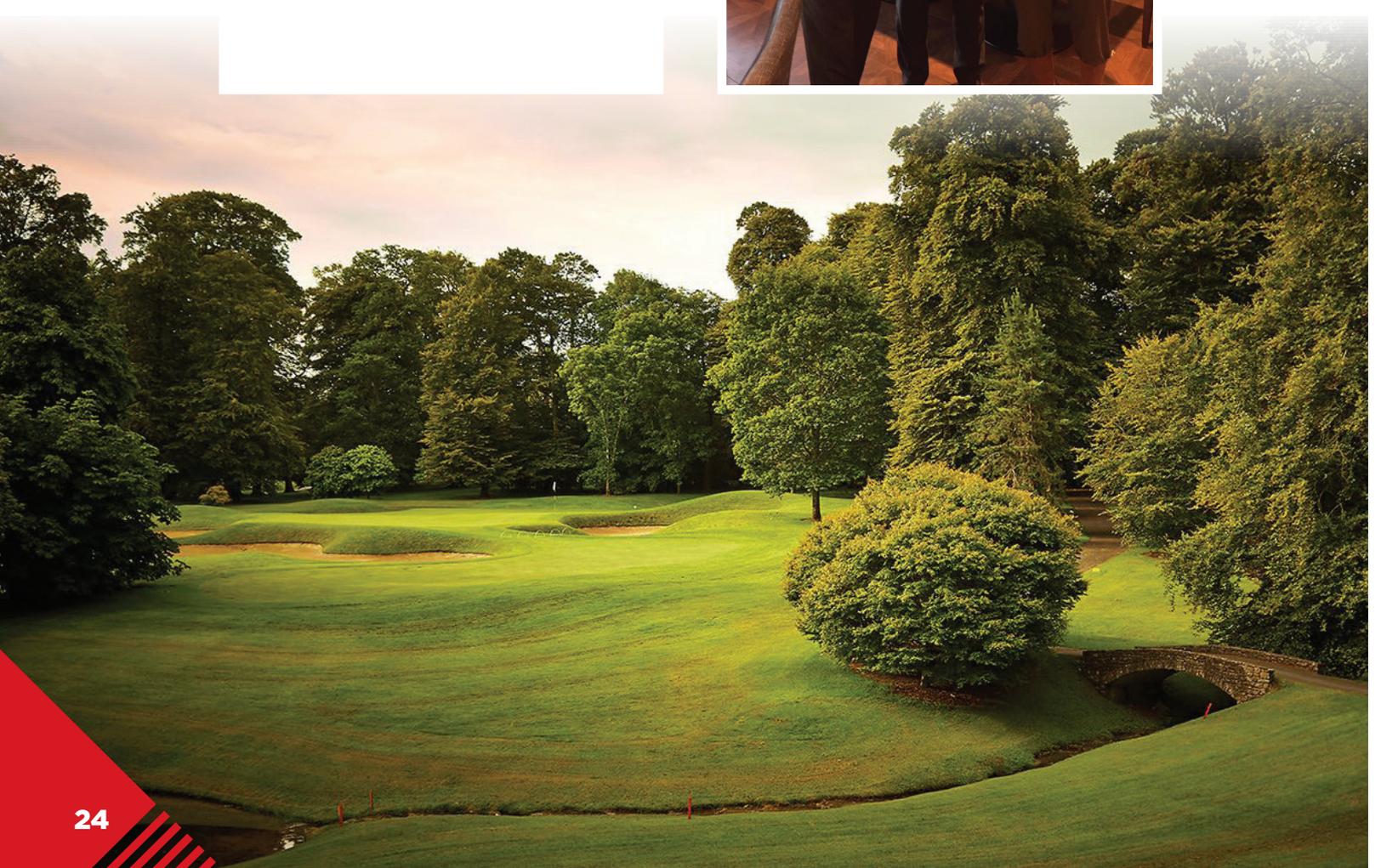


# MOUNT JULIET

For the second year, Mount Juliet was the venue for hosting a corporate golf event that raised funds for our organisation. Teams from Dublin and Waterford competed in magnificent surroundings on a beautiful golf course.

Designed by Jack Nicklaus, Mount Juliet golf course first opened in 1991. Since then, the course has established itself as a premier venue for top professional and leisure golfers from around the world. Set in the rolling pastures and woodland of Ireland's sunny South East, the course is both captivating and memorable. With some slight extensions and new features since opening, Mount Juliet Golf Course has improved on an already outstanding layout, in its ongoing pursuit of golfing excellence.

We extend our thanks to Mount Juliet and to the companies, sponsors and individuals that supported the event, which was organised by John Warren, JE Warren Consulting.



# NEW FRONTIERS

This project commenced in 1998. It is a developmental project for young people aged 16+ years. The project is geared towards providing young people who have disabilities / special needs with facilities and programmes, which will support and equip them with necessary life skills. The group attend special programmes in addition to our regular activities, all of which are based at our premises.

## Beneficiaries

Young People aged 16+ years with physical, sensory and learning disabilities. They are referred to us from:

- Children's Group Link Board of Directors
- Area Youth Organisations
- Learning Networks
- HSE
- Families of members and non-members
- Schools

## Objectives

- Build self-esteem and encourage self-development through the exploration and cultivation of individual talents and interests
- Discuss relevant social issues and help them assess and address these issues
- Involve them in the wider community to facilitate their transition from adolescence to adulthood
- Develop their social skills
- Increase awareness of their community and environment
- Support them in areas such as good hygiene, physical fitness and good personal habits



## Programme Content

- Self-development
- Drama & Creativity, Arts & Crafts
- Life Skill Acquisition
- Educational Supports
- Physical Fitness, Sport & Recreation and Outdoor Pursuits
- Community Awareness

These programmes are also linked to other programmes offered to our general membership.

## Family / Community Involvement

Family members are encouraged to visit periodically in order to speak informally with the group leaders / facilitators. For more information, contact **Ms. Mary Halligan Phone: 051-855036.**

# POBAL PROJECT

This is a developmental project aimed towards young people between the ages of 15 - 18 years old inclusive. The project is geared towards providing young people with a sound basis for their transition from adolescence to adulthood. It focuses on developing and teaching necessary life skills through informal methods. A key element of the programmes is to create a concise awareness in young people, of the broader community. Now in its 20th year with over 350 young people having completed the course.

## Primary Objectives

- The personal development and enhancement of the client group. This includes exploring and developing individual talents, interests, and educating young people in job skills and interview techniques
- To explore issues young people are concerned with and support them in assessing and dealing with those issues
- To develop community awareness within young people through informative and practical methods

The programme included modules covering Life Skills, Team Building, Food & Nutrition, Community Awareness, Prison Visit, Social Enterprise, Video Production, Sports & Personal Development.

The course ran over approximately seven months covering some 20 sessions delivered every Wednesday evening from 6.30pm-8.30pm. Some 33 young people (5 male and 28 female) completed the course and received their certificates in September.

We are also very grateful for the continued support of our sponsors Bausch & Lomb and Caulfield's SuperValu who help to make this an outstanding, rewarding and successful programme for our participants. If you would like any information on the course, please contact **Ms. Denise Kenneally, at 051-855036.**



# TENANT PROFILE

The Waterford Traveller Community Development Project (WTCDP) launched their new Community Development and Leadership Training program in March 2017 in Children's Group Link which will be the venue for the programme for the foreseeable future. The course is accredited at QQI Level 5 on the national framework of qualifications and is funded by the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training board.

The WTCDP identified a need for accredited training as unemployment among Travellers is at 83% with only 8% of Travellers completing their leaving certificate. Many Travellers find that they are at a considerable distance from the labour market, this is due to the fact that they did not have the opportunity to avail of schooling or second chance traditional education & training supports in the past.

The overall vision for this Initiative is to establish a strong team of leaders/role models within the Travelling Community in Waterford and to build on the skills base of individual Travellers. WTCDP would like to thank Children's Group Link for accommodating the LTI staff and Trainees and for the use of its facilities.



## Waterford Traveller

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



# SPECIAL PROJECT FOR YOUTH



## SPECIAL PROJECT FOR YOUTH

**AGE APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMMES**  
**7-11 YRS | 12-14 YRS | 15-24 YRS**

### OUR SERVICE PROVISION...WHAT WE OFFER

- WATER ACTIVITIES AND OUTDOOR PURSUITS
- RECREATIONAL & SPORTING ACTIVITIES
- EDUCATIONAL & CAREER SUPPORTS
- COMMUNITY ACTIVISM & PARTICIPATION
- SOFT SKILLS TRAINING
- COLLABORATION WITH SCHOOLS, COLLEGES & AGENCIES
- SOCIAL ENTERPRISE INITIATIVES
- SPECIALISED PROGRAMMES
- PERSONAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES
- ARTISTIC & CREATIVE PROGRAMMES & EVENTS
- ACTIVITIES FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ONE OF OUR TEAM AT**  
 'OAK VILLA' MILITARY ROAD, WATERFORD CITY  
 TEL: 051-855036 | MOBILE: 087-2510333  
 E-MAIL: [INFO@CHILDRENSGROUPLINK.IE](mailto:INFO@CHILDRENSGROUPLINK.IE)  
 VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.CHILDRENSGROUPLINK.IE](http://WWW.CHILDRENSGROUPLINK.IE)

### MISSION STATEMENT

CHILDREN'S GROUP LINK WILL ENDEAVOUR TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN, TEENAGERS AND ADULTS. WE WILL STRIVE TO CREATE A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR THOSE IN OUR CARE AND HELP THEM TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN AN OPEN AND SECURE WAY. THE GROUP WILL STRIVE TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS THROUGH CLEARLY DEFINED METHODS AND OBJECTIVES.



### STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- GAMES & ACTIVITY ROOMS
- INDOOR HALL
- LY FACILITY
- CAFE & CATERING KITCHEN
- ALL WEATHER SPORTS PITCH & FACILITIES
- TRAINING & MEETING ROOMS
- MATURE GARDEN

WE PROVIDE A SAFE, CARING ENVIRONMENT WHERE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FRONT & CENTRE

### TRAINING, EDUCATION & EVENTS CENTRE

- EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & CAREER SUPPORTS
- SOFT SKILLS TRAINING
- SOCIAL ENTERPRISE INITIATIVES
- SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDING:
  - HOUSE OF HORRORS
  - SCALE MODEL & HOBBY SHOWS
  - THEMED EVENTS AT CHRISTMAS & EASTER
  - TEAM CHALLENGE EVENTS
- FILM PRODUCTION, PHOTOGRAPHY, SPECIAL EFFECTS, GIFTS & GADGETS
- HEALTH & FITNESS PROGRAMMES /TRAINING



CHILDREN'S GROUP LINK COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE  
 REGISTERED ADDRESS: OAK VILLA, MILITARY ROAD, WATERFORD CITY  
 CHARITIES REGISTRATION NO: 20023787  
 CHY NO: 8496  
 COMPANY REGISTRATION NO: 2535884

WE COMPLY WITH THE GOVERNANCE CODE FOR COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS IN IRELAND

SUPPORT FUNDING PROVIDED BY:   

# STUDENT WORK PLACEMENTS

Children's Group Link has a history of providing quality student work placement opportunities in partnership with organisations such as Waterford Institute of Technology, Waterford College of Further Education and many of the secondary schools located in Waterford City.

The work placement introduces the students to the principles of working within the youth sector and the many job opportunities therein. They work on the management and delivery of a variety of programmes for our members which include the Garda Vetting processes and adherence to our Child Protection Policy, all of which is supervised and supported by our senior staff.

# GROUP ACTIVITIES



# ST. ANNE'S TENNIS LEAGUE

The 6th Annual Sunday Tennis League took place at St. Anne's Tennis Club, which is organised by a dedicated group of volunteers from the club, and which has become a major fundraising event for Children's Group Link in recent years.

The goodwill and support shown to our organisation by the committee, staff and everyone connected to St. Anne's Tennis Club is deeply appreciated in addition to the ongoing generosity of the members and sponsors. Some **€7,200** was raised this year for which we are extremely grateful.

There was also an additional event staged at St. Anne's Tennis Club during the Wimbledon fortnight which proved to be fun and engaging for all concerned. An amount of **€920** was raised on the day.





# TEAM CHALLENGE

The Team Challenge is now in its 5th year and is staged with the support of Waterford Health Park and Waterford Health Park Pharmacy.

The event took place on Sunday July 2nd using the Mercy Convent Secondary School gym and sports facilities. 16 teams of 4 took part with the overall winners being The Mighty Morphin Flower Arrangers.

The event involves teams of adults and young people competing against each other with the top three teams advancing to a sudden-death playoff. The tasks the teams face include mind games, dexterity tests, puzzles, games, sporting challenges and physical fitness. The event is open to businesses, social & sports clubs, community groups, societies and residents associations. However, if you and three friends want to enter a team, you are more than welcome.





# TRAMORE SUMMER HOLIDAY

The Tramore Summer Holiday is running now for some 36 years and is a major highlight in the programmes we provide for our young members with some 60 taking part.

This is a major undertaking spread over 3 ½ days and located on the Tramore Racecourse which requires our full compliment of staff in addition to some 15 volunteers. An off-site event such as this requires significant planning to ensure that all Health & Safety and Child Protection policies and procedures are in place.

The holiday includes a wide range of social events, team building activities, adventure trips, a visit to the beautiful Tramore Beach and of course, a visit to the Tramore Amusement Park. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are also provided each day.

This event could not take place without the generous support of the staff and volunteers who give of their time, both night and day, to make this a memorable summer highlight for the young people involved.





# THE PROMENADE CHALLENGE

We staged a new fundraising and awareness event on The Prom in Tramore, Co. Waterford over the weekend of July 7th- 9th. The event was an opportunity to connect with the public to launch a campaign aimed at securing a dedicated premises to offer additional training, educational opportunities and employment supports to our members.

Throughout the weekend, there was music, photo booths, giant sandwich boards, comic fortune teller, Disney & super hero characters in costume and an information stand. A feature of the event was a specially constructed robot called Glink and a pre-trained flash mob performing at various times each day. Over 40 volunteers were involved.

We were very pleased to have Dooly's Fish & Chips and the Majestic Hotel as sponsors of the event and we look forward to returning this summer!



# HOMework CLUB

The Homework Club started in 2007 and was set up as an after-school initiative in association with the Waterford School Completion Programme and the Mercy Convent Primary School.

The club is aimed at girls between the ages of 8 – 12 years old and operates Mon – Thurs during the school term from 2.30pm – 4.30pm.

While the primary aim of the club is to support the girls in the completion of their homework, the club also provides additional benefits such as the opportunity to socialise and engage in a variety of different games and recreational activities. The games and activities are structured in a manner that supports the girls in the development of their communication skills; boosts their self-confidence, encourages team work, and introduces them to a range of physical and sporting activities.



# HOUSE OF HORRORS

The House of Horrors now in its 10th year, has become a major Halloween attraction in Ireland and has set the standards for others to follow. From 180 visitors in 2009, the event has grown to such an extent that over 18,000 visitors have enjoyed the House of Horrors experience. The House of Horrors has developed a reputation as a professionally run, value for money Halloween attraction suitable for all ages with young people as the driving force.

The House of Horrors has featured on R.T.E. Six One News, Nationwide and Ireland AM (TV3). Radio stations including WLR FM, BEAT FM, KCLR and Southeast Radio continue to promote the event through radio promotions, adverts & news items. Local print media plus others in Wexford & Kilkenny promote through photographs, press releases & adverts. Other forms of advertising include full colour flyers (10,000), road & event signage, posters and a massive sharing through social media.

The 2017 event took place at Unit 43 Waterford Business Park, Cork Road from Thursday 26th – Tuesday 31st October. The event featured exciting new editions such as the horror express train, the maze and of course, the thriller dancers returned. The tour area from the public was almost twice the size as last year. The House of Horrors is mainly volunteer driven. This year, a total of 126 individuals volunteered as cast & crew members, 86 of whom were young people aged 14–24 years old. Work commenced in late August with volunteers giving time during the day, evenings and at weekends.

## Tasks included:

- Set design, construction
- Painting & decorating
- Creating / making props & mechanical devices
- Creating special effects
- Designing & distributing promotional material (10,000 flyers distributed to homes in Waterford City)

A group of young people and volunteers travelled to Dungarvan, Kilkenny, New Ross & Wexford Shopping Centres and main thoroughfares to distribute flyers.



The event featured “No scare” afternoons and interactive tours suitable for children (aged 3yrs or older) and families. Visitors were accompanied on a guided tour through a range of Halloween themed rooms, corridors & tunnels. Tour guides and ‘super heroes’ accompanied guests on a fun & interactive adventure. Tours began each day at 11.30am and ran until 2.30pm approximately.

The scary “fright filled” evening walkthroughs, suitable for those aged 12 years and over (accompanied by an adult) or 15 years and over unaccompanied, were a huge success. Visitors made their way (unaccompanied by a guide) through a dark maze of tunnels, rooms, scenes, effects & sounds. Tours began at 6.45pm and were scheduled to run until 9.30pm each evening, but such was the demand, tours ran right up to midnight!

There is a growing need to engage with young people who have low self-esteem, poor educational attainment and are bored – all of this leads to possible exploitation and increased anti-social behaviour & criminality. Many of these young people feel unattached, are vulnerable and socially excluded. The House of Horrors addresses these needs by providing supports, training, skills development and opportunities to young people in a safe environment.

Through their involvement, the young people not only learn new skills but also make new friends. Prior to commencing work on the event, they undergo training in the areas they have volunteered for, such as:

- Meet & Greet and Interpersonal Skills
- Safe use of tools & machinery
- Developing special effects lighting and managing sound

- Stage make-up & special effects (face, body etc)
- Costume design & creation
- Film / production, editing & photography
- Design & constructing sets, rooms & props
- Acting & Dance

Each day volunteers undertook a range of roles and duties which included;

- Actors, Dancers & Scare Roles
- Staff & Visitor Catering Assistants
- Welcome and Reception
- Make-up Artists
- Special Effects and Mechanical Props Operators
- Security Officers
- Sound & Lighting Technicians
- Tour Guides

The House of Horrors provides an enormous high-quality opportunity for unattached, marginalised youth to engage in a major production. Some of the outcomes from their involvement include, but are not limited to:

- Being at the heart of the organising and roll-out of the production
- Developing new skills, build on their self-confidence and improving their self-esteem
- Experiencing "ownership" of a major event which builds commitment, loyalty and trust
- Being involved in the decision making i.e. themed room ideas, decorations etc. helps them to experience and understand group dynamics, personality traits and how to work as a team
- Live hands-on experience of project management and working to deadlines
- Having their say through individual and group reviews and evaluations
- Benefits of networking with peers and building lasting friendships through positive peer support.

A total of **4,436 visitors** attended the House of Horrors in 2017. Thank you to everyone for your support

The image contains two promotional posters for the House of Horrors Waterford attraction.

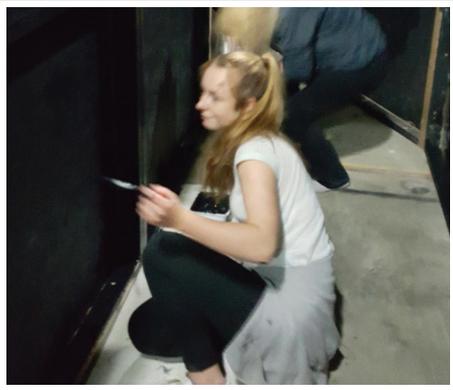
**Left Poster: Family Friendly House of Horrors No Scare Tours**

- Title:** The all NEW Family Friendly HOUSE OF HORRORS No Scare Tours
- Location:** UNIT 43 WATERFORD BUSINESS PARK - COOK ROAD, DIRECTLY OPPOSITE FORD SHERIDAN'S GARAGE
- NEW FOR 2017:** SPOOKY GHOST TRAIN, MAZE, BOUNCY CASTLE & SLIDE, PHOTO BOOTHS & A NOT SO WICKED WITCH'S CAULDRON!
- OPEN FROM:** FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER - TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER
- AFTERNOON TOUR TIMES:** 12<sup>NOON</sup>, 12.30<sup>PM</sup>, 1.00<sup>PM</sup>, 1.30<sup>PM</sup>, 2.00<sup>PM</sup>, OR 2.30<sup>PM</sup> (Not suitable for children under age of 3)
- ADMISSION:** €7 Per Child, €5 Each Accompanying Adult
- BOOKING DETAILS:** Book Online Now @ [WWW.GARTERLANE.IE](http://WWW.GARTERLANE.IE) | O'CONNELL STREET WATERFORD. For General Enquiries Contact 089-4382838

**Right Poster: Ireland's Premier Halloween Attraction**

- Title:** HOUSE OF HORRORS WATERFORD
- Location:** NEW VENUE UNIT 43 WATERFORD BUSINESS PARK COOK ROAD
- Features:** NOW EVEN DARKER, SCARIER & BIGGER THAN EVER... 10,000 SQM OF CORRIDORS, TUNNELS, THEMED ROOMS & SCARES. NEW FOR 2017: HORROR EXPRESS TRAIN MAZE, SLIDE & MORGUE.
- Opening:** OPENING FROM THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> - TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER
- Warning:** CAUTION THIS IS NOT FOR THE FAINTHEARTED - IT'S WAY BEYOND BELIEF! CAUTION
- Admission:** €10 PER PERSON (No under 12s in evening tours, under 16s must be accompanied by an adult - parental discretion advised) (NO REFUNDS)
- Evening Tour Times:** 6.45<sup>PM</sup>, 7.15<sup>PM</sup>, 7.45<sup>PM</sup>, 8.30<sup>PM</sup>, 9.00<sup>PM</sup>, 9.30<sup>PM</sup>
- Check out previous years promo videos visit:** [YOUTUBE: HOUSE OF HORRORS WATERFORD 2014/2015/2016](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=houseofhorrorswaterford)
- Book Online Now @:** [WWW.GARTERLANE.IE](http://WWW.GARTERLANE.IE) | O'CONNELL STREET WATERFORD. FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES CONTACT 089-4382838





# CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Christmas is a special time in Children's Group Link with many events staged for our members. These include Christmas Mass, Christmas Party & Disco and the presentation of prizes to our Annual Award Winners.

The award winners for 2017 were as follows: Overall - Catherine Goulding, Older Boy - Tadhg Mitchell, Older Girl - Sophie Taheny, Younger Boy - Bradley Morrissey, Younger Girl - Chloe Brennan and New Frontiers Member - Darren McGuire. Congratulations to all of you!



LtoR Mark Fenton, Chairperson of Children's Group Link making a special presentation to Gemma Collins, Walter Brennan and Veronica D'ambra for years of dedicated service and volunteering in Children's Group Link

# WINTERVAL

This is our third year involved with the Winterval Christmas Festival through the support of Waterford City and County Council.

Some 42 young people between the ages of 14 – 20 years old volunteered their time over a period of seven days, supported by adult volunteers and staff, performing a wide variety of roles including leaflet distribution, admissions, guides, costume design, acting and interacting with some 1,900 (children & adults) that visited our "Magical Fantasy at Christmas".

**WATERFORD WINTERVAL**

**17 TO 23  
NOV DEC  
2017**

**CHILDREN'S GROUP LINK**

PRESENTS  
A *Magical Fantasy* at  
**CHRISTMAS**

MEET YOUR FAVOURITE **ANIMATED CARTOON CHARACTERS** IN A *Christmas Setting*

**ADMISSION:** €3 PER PERSON (Children & Adults)  
FAMILY OF 4 €10

We are located at **29 Parnell Street** (enter either through the **Apple Market** or from **Parnell Street**)

All proceeds to **Children's Group Link** local Registered Charity.  
This Project is sponsored by **MumNMe** and supported by

# TEAMWORK







Working in the Community. for the Community



# WHY NOT GET INVOLVED?

**AN HOUR MAKES A DIFFERENCE...**



# VOLUNTEER

**IN A PROJECT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE  
TO YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIVES!**

TALK TO ONE OF OUR STAFF OR CALL US ON

**051-855036 / 087-2510333**

E-MAIL: [info@childrensgrouplink.ie](mailto:info@childrensgrouplink.ie)



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**Newsletter sponsored by**



*"We comply with the Governance Code for community, voluntary and charitable organisations in Ireland"*

Directors: Mark Fenton (Chairperson), Seamus Conway, Michael Goulding, Maria Lindell,  
Catherine Power, Seamus Power, Kieran Scanlon  
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Registered address: Oak Villa, Military Road, Waterford City