



wwetb
 Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
 Phort Láirge agus Loch Garman
 Waterford and Wexford
 Education and Training Board

WWETB COMMUNITY EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

WWETB Community Education supports Waterford and Wexford community-based groups through grant funding and tutor hours. Community Education aims to promote and support community work as a means of addressing poverty, social exclusion and inequality and ultimately as a means of achieving social change that will contribute to the creation of a more just, sustainable and equal society.

I AM CHANGED

I am Changed is a short film showcasing and celebrating a WWETB Community Education Programme delivered in Bunclody Further Education and Training Centre, Bunclody Co. Wexford. A series of learner testimonials follow this overview piece which focuses on the positive impact the programme has had on everyone who took part.

The background to the I am Changed film is like all good community education it started as a conversation around a table. In 2019 WWETB had identified the Bunclody area for additional further education and training provision. Many new initiatives started including 3 modules of a specific purpose certificate in Community Education. And as often happens when people start, they got comfortable with the centre, they got comfortable with the group and the learning – there was a hunger for more. And the 3 modules became 12 modules and a commitment to the Higher Certificate in Community Education and Development.

These films will showcase the transformative change of community education on individuals/families and communities. From the first hesitant steps into the centre in Bunclody to the triumphant lightbulb moments of understanding new skills and knowledge.

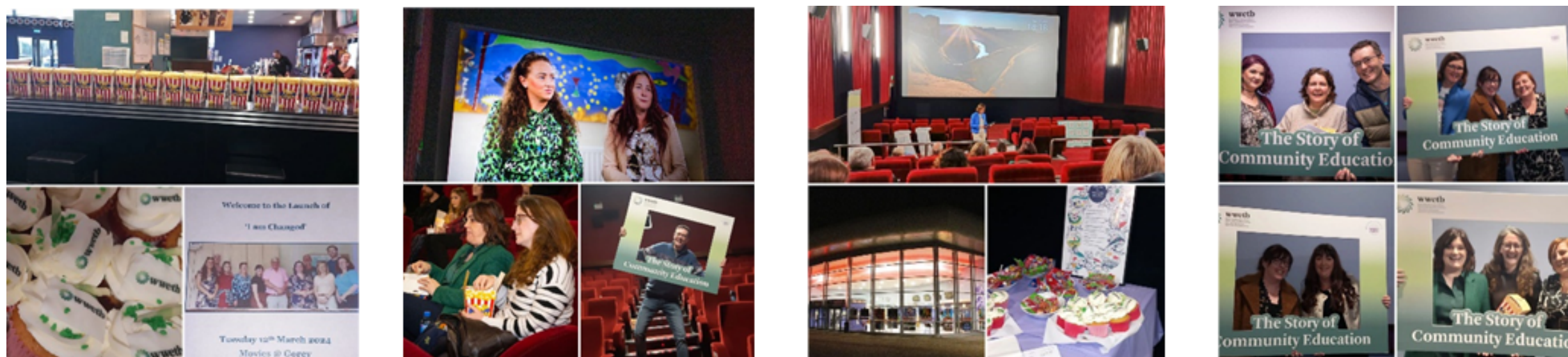
I am Changed is a testament to the power of community-based education, resilience, and shared experiences. The impact participation on this community education programme has had on our learners—their growth, their aspirations, and their unwavering commitment to learning.

The films will bring you on the learners’ journey and celebrates courage and commitment. We will see the diversity of learners all united by a desire for more knowledge. We will see that education does not stop with the individual, it radiates outward, touching families, neighbourhoods, and entire communities. These learners are agents of change in their communities.

They are Leaders, they are ambassadors, and they inspire on a daily basis.



Scan QR code to watch



Photos from Movies@Gorey at the launch of the 'I am Changed' videos.

Wexford College of FET Lights Up Our Learner Spaces

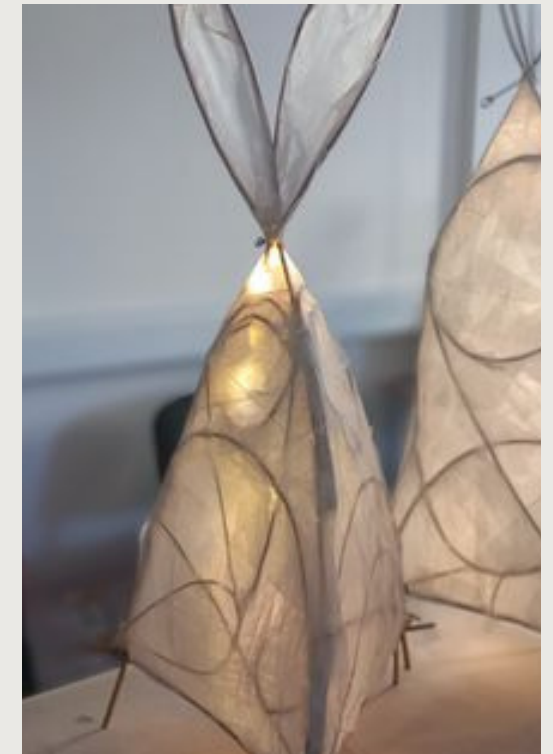
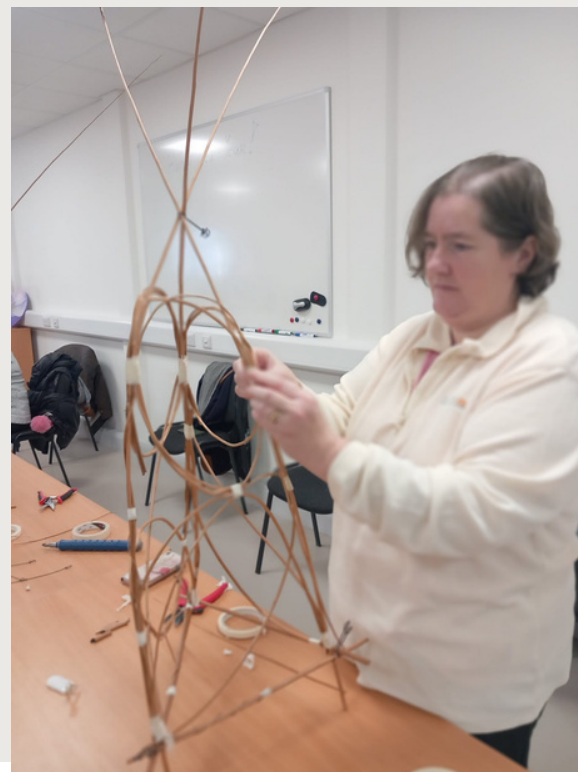
A 'Lightening up our Learning spaces' 7-week art workshop and exhibition took place in our new Wexford College of Further Education and Training in February and March as part of the AONTAS Adult Learner Festival.

Celebrating Everyday Learning Spaces was the theme of the AONTAS festival this year and our learners truly got to celebrate every week during their class.

Funded through Community Education with support by Women's Collective Ireland- Wexford, participants got to work with well known, fantastic artist and tutor Caoimhe Dunn to create pieces using sustainable willow and other materials. The lanterns were then displayed in the canteen in WXCFT for the week of the Adult Learner Festival for all learners and staff to enjoy and indeed became a great talking point in the centre.

'I looked forward to every class, meeting the others, learning something new, and wish we could do more'.

'It was something I wanted to do for a long time- learning to work with willow and create these beautiful lanterns within a group'



AMAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION WATERFORD GROUP

The new year brought a new group into Waterford City Community Education. The Amal Women's Association teamed up with the Waterford Muslim sisters to start a Crochet and Knitting programme in January.

This has been a very exciting opportunity for us in Community Ed. to connect with our Muslim community in Waterford. The women had the opportunity to learn a new skill and socialise with other women in their community.

We sometimes forget the importance of people coming together and the Amal group are an example of the power of women coming together can be. The crochet and knitting programme was a huge success, with learners having to be turned away because of capacity.

To visit the group is a pleasure and real treat, the positivity, joy and atmosphere of the group is electric. It was not only a place to meet and learn a new skill, but it was also a place to practice English language skills, a place to meet new people and make friends, a place to find out information on local places and provisions, a place to be supported, to laugh and have fun.

By funding this course we have unleashed endless possibilities for this group. They want more. Next on the list will be baking and desserts programme and then back for a term 2 of the crochet and knitting. They have a garden in the mosque and would hope in the future to do a gardening programme so that they can have a beautiful outdoor space that they have created themselves.

Just goes to show that a little funding can go a long way to change peoples lives and outlooks, and as for the AMAL Women's Association Waterford Women's group...watch this space.



The Minaun Community Theatre Group

The importance of local community halls in rural communities cannot be overlooked. An active hall brings a sense of belonging to communities and is a vital tool in addressing rural isolation while promoting cohesion. The Minaun Community Theatre Group produces original short performances that are written, adapted, performed, directed, produced and attended by the local community. The performances take place using the multi-purpose community building that was specifically designed and built in 2019 to facilitate small productions of theatre, concerts and other community events. The most recent and exceptional theatre production presented by the community group was “Medical Woman The Life & Times of Dr. Mary Strangman”, based on the life story of Waterford’s first female councillor, health activist and suffragette.

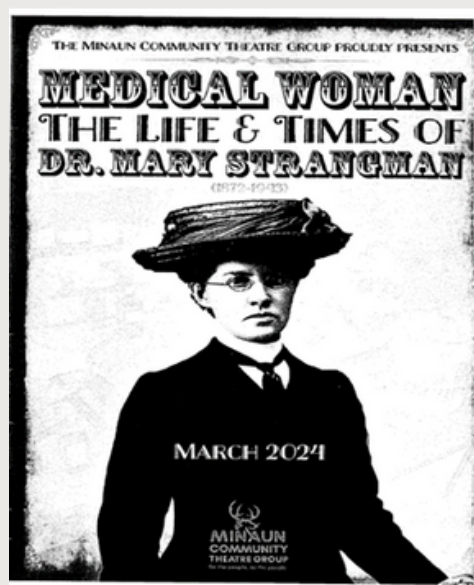


The Minaun Community Theatre Group

On International Women’s Day, Aine Whelan CEF and Nicola Kelleher Adult Educator Co.

Waterford were delighted to be invited to an exceptional performance by The Minaun Community Theatre Group!! The performance received a phenomenal response demonstrated by a full house and standing ovation at the end. The group were also invited to perform in City Hall paying homage to the remarkable life of Dr Strangman.

Proudly supported by the Community Education Programme.



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