



Girl Guides look forward to Centenary Year



Girl Guides Tree Planting in the Mall Complex

Irish Girl Guides will celebrate their Centenary year in 2011, 100 years of Guiding in Ireland. In 2010 we began the celebrations by planting a tree in each county in Ireland, this represents growth in our organization. In Longford we planted our Manilla Tree in the grounds of the Mall Complex.

Longford Girl Guides currently have the largest attendance ever recorded. We meet weekly in the Temperance Hall. Annually we attend the Cheerios Panto in Dublin and participate in our local St. Patrick's Day Parade. This

year our Brownies packed up and headed to Co. Roscommon for a two night stay in the Guide Cottage, enjoying a range of indoor and outdoor activities including a midnight hike and cook-out. Our Guides on the other hand enjoyed a weekend camping trip. Wellingtons were at the ready as our Irish weather played up on us again, all girls still managed returned home with smiles form ear to ear.

Irish Girl Guides ranges in age from 5 - 18 then we have the leaders. Ladybird Guides are aged 5 - 7 years and are

encouraged to share, help others, learn about teamwork, enjoy nature and discover the world around them. Brownie Guides are aged 6½ - 11 years. They have fun while learning to help others, enjoying the outdoors and playing games, doing crafts and working on awards and badges. Guides are aged 10 ½ to 15 years and not only enjoy active weekly meetings but also have the challenge of surviving in the outdoors. Senior Branch are aged 14 ½ to 18 and consists of Rangers and Young Guiders. Senior Branch offers them the

opportunity to experience adventure, enjoy international events, develop self-confidence and grow in independence. In 2010 the image of Irish Girl Guides changed by updating our Logo and Uniforms. In 2011 we take part in a number of celebrations with the main event taking place in Semple Stadium on May 7th. It is promised to be a great year and we look forward to celebrating 100 years of Guiding in Ireland.

A vision that has become a reality!



When the Temperance Hall re-opened its door in 2004 its new logo "the heart of the community.... the centre of the town" was its vision for the future. Since then this vision has become a reality and no more so than during this past year. Like the

rest of the community we were devastated in December of 2009 that fire had destroyed St. Mel's Cathedral. In the shadow of the Cathedral parishioners joined together for Christmas Day Mass as they tried to comprehend the events of the early

morning fire. During the weeks that followed The Temperance Hall open its doors to the local community as Parish Masses were held there for January and February. We were proud that our building could easily become part of Parish life in a new way. At

this time the hall committee joined forces with the Parish Finance committee and the Pastoral Council and worked tirelessly in helping the parish move to its temporary home in St. Mel's College.

This busy start was to continue over the remainder of the year. Each week many community groups meet in the hall. It's a great joy to go into the Hall on any given evening to see the life and vibrancy that these groups bring to our landmark building...girl guides, Bridge, Karate and Yoga to name a few. Full details of all events that take place in the Hall can be seen on our website: www.temperancehallongford.ie. We thank all those who use the Temperance Hall and welcome enquires from new groups.

The Temperance Hall employs 5 staff and recently secured an Pobal funding for the next three years. We are conscious that many community groups are experiencing financial difficulties at the moment and we at the Temperance Hall offer very competitive community rates where the main hall, civic suite and other ancillary rooms can be rented on an hourly of daily rate.

When the Hall reopened in 2004 the committee had the vision of a dedicated youth space. Since then the Attic management team joined forces with Foroige. This collaboration of Foroige and the dedicated local volunteers has made the Attic what it is today. It is a testament to the adult volunteers involved; their time,

dedication and passion for a much-needed youth facility has added greatly to the town and indeed all of County Longford. The Attic adds to the life and colour of the Temperance Hall with band nights, LY factor and many more exciting and educational programmes on offer.

The Temperance Hall plays an important roll in the local community and this would not be possible were it not for the commitment, hard work and dedication of the voluntary management committee and its hard working staff; Donal, Michele, Jason, James and Kathleen. We are in the centre of the town and are pleased to serve our local community...*"the heart of the community....the centre of the town"*.

Longford Town ICA Guild

Longford town ICA Guild hold monthly meetings from September to June in the Family Centre at the back of the Cathedral. These meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 8p.m. All women are welcome. Our current committee is President May Campbell, Secretary Patricia Guihen and Treasurer Kathleen Kelly. Our Liaison officer is Jane Johnston. Her role is to make contact and befriend any women who express an interest to join. Her contact number is 043 33 41887. Contact Jane if you wish to join or you can come to 2 meetings "free gratis" and then make up your mind if it is for you or not. ICA has become more of a social outlet for women nowadays.

Our annual plan for our Guild is based on the requests of our members. Over the last year we have done 3D Decoupage classes in January, Aqua Aerobics and Bowling in March.

We invite a varied and eclectic mix of guest speakers to our meet-

ings to talk and/or demonstrate on their area of expertise. More recently these included talks on photography, History, gardening, crafts and a demonstration on finger knitting as well as an image Consultancy.

Every year we fundraise for some Charity chosen by the members or some Charity who have approached us on occasion.

We also make an annual donation to a local charity at Christmas in 2009 St Vincent de Paul were the beneficiaries. In approx 2001 we joined the program "Adopt a Friend" in St Josephs Care Centre. We have a list of Senior Citizens whom we visit on their birthdays and at Christmas.

The Guild went to the Christmas Party night in the Red Room in P.V.'s for our 2009 party and it proved to be a great night. For our annual summer outing we went to Ballina Salmon Festival Heritage Day. A brilliant day out was had by all.

2010 is the Centenary year of

ICA. Our Guild, together with the Federation, put together a Flower Festival and Craft Display to celebrate our 100 years. It was held on the 25th to 27th August and it was a huge success. There was a beautiful display of flowers in St Johns Church, Battery Rd.

Each month, at our Guild meetings, members take it in turn in providing the hospitality for the evening and spoil us with delectable treats.

This gives our members the opportunity to catch up with each other over a nice relaxing cup of tea before heading home for the night. Looking for something to do during the upcoming winter months? Now is the ideal time to join us. If you are new to the area or indeed an existing member of the community and would like to make new friends and share or develop a new hobby or indeed meet our guest speakers, feel free to drop by on the night.

On joining, you'll always be sure of a warm welcome - a Cead Mile Fáilte on arrival!



Lighting the first candle on the Advent Wreath at the International Mass.

Weather Lore

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
Winter will have another flight
But if Candlemas Day be clouds and rain
Winter is gone and will not come again!*

*If there's ice in November
That will bear a duck,
There'll be nothing after
But sludge and muck.*



A group of happy Altar Servers heading into the Vigil Mass at the Cathedral Centre on November 27th last.

Altar Servers

We are always pleased to welcome on board our young parishioners to participate in a special way in parish life by volunteering as an Altar Server. We hope that for the young boys and girls, being an altar server helps them to enter into the prayer of the Mass in a special way and is also an opportunity for them to come to know the priests of the parish at a personal level.

We are very grateful to the parents of our servers who make themselves available in ensuring that we meet the highest standards of our Child Protection Policy.