



I would like to get involved in the local community in some way, what are my options?

A good idea is to go to your local community centre and ask what clubs and associations use the centre. Your local library is also a good source of information about community centres, local activities, clubs and associations that you may be interested in. Libraries also run their own courses and events: www.library.ie

Your local VEC (Vocational Educational Committee) is likely to hold a variety of formal educational courses and general interest courses.

Ireland has a rich variety of community and voluntary organisations that you can get involved in. Your local community centre or library is a good place to start.

Integrating Ireland is a network of community and voluntary groups working toward a just diverse and inclusive Irish society that ensures the full participation and rights of migrants, immigrants, refugees and people seeking asylum:

www.integratingireland.ie

18 Dame Street, Dublin 2

Telephone: 01 6453070

To find migrant led organisations in your area check out

the Immigrant Council of Ireland's Directory of Migrant Led Organisations: www.immigrantcouncil.ie

I would like to start my own community or voluntary organisation where can I get help?

The Wheel is a support and representative body connecting Community and Voluntary organisations across Ireland. For more information go to www.wheel.ie. The Carmichael Centre is also a good source of information and support www.carmichaelcentre.ie

Sports

Sports clubs are widespread across Ireland. The following are the websites of some national organisations that have a large network of clubs and branches all over Ireland:

- www.fai.ie
- www.gaa.ie
- www.irishrugby.ie

You can also go to the 'Membership' link of www.irishsports.ie for a more comprehensive list of organisations.

The Gaelic Athletic Association

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) is the largest amateur sports association in Ireland. The main aim of the organisation is to promote the Gaelic games of hurling, camogie, Gaelic football, handball and rounders. The most popular of these games are Gaelic football, hurling and camogie. There are approximately 2,500 GAA clubs in Ireland. For more information on the history of Gaelic games, the GAA, the rules of games go to www.gaa.ie

GAA

Croke Park Stadium, Dublin 3

Telephone: 01 8363222

Email: queries@gaa.ie

Sport Against Racism Ireland (SARI) supports and promotes cultural integration and social inclusion through sport:

www.sari.ie

Telephone: 01 6688869

Email: info@sari.ie

Show Racism the Red Card uses sport to educate against racism and supports programmes that encourage integration and sport: www.theredcard.ie

Telephone: 01 828 0018

Email: info@theredcard.ie

Other Sports

- Climbing
www.climbing.ie
www.mountaineering.ie
- Golf is a very popular sport and pastime in Ireland. There are many golf courses and clubs throughout the country.
- Hiking trails/walking groups
Walk Ireland provide information and advice on walking trails throughout the country: www.walkireland.ie
Slí na Sláinte is a simple and innovative scheme developed by the Irish Heart Foundation to encourage people of all ages and abilities to walk for leisure and good health: www.irishheart.ie
- Cycling: www.cyclingireland.ie
- Sailing: The Irish Sailing Association lists clubs throughout the country: www.sailing.ie
- Canoeing: www.canoe.ie
- Surfing is a popular sport especially on the west coast. The Irish Surfing Association provides information on clubs nationwide: www.isasurf.ie

Volunteering

Another good way of getting to know people from different backgrounds is to volunteer in your local community. There are many different volunteering opportunities.

According to Volunteering Ireland, the National Volunteer Development Agency, there are many benefits to volunteering:

- Work experience, that may be added to your CV
- Exploring a career path
- Developing and learning new skills
- Making a difference/positive contribution
- Training
- The opportunity to do something you love
- Meeting new people
- Learning about Irish culture

For more information you can contact Volunteering Ireland,

18 Eustace Street,

Temple Bar, Dublin 2

Telephone: 01 6369446

Email: info@volunteeringireland.ie

For more information in different languages go to:

www.volunteeringireland.ie

If you would like to find out if there is a local volunteer centre in your area you can check the Volunteer Centres of Ireland website on www.volunteer.ie

Religious communities

There is a growing variety of religious communities in Ireland. Catholicism is by far the largest religion in Ireland. There are also other Christian denominations:

- Anglican: www.ireland.anglican.org
- Presbyterian: www.presbyterianireland.org
- Methodist: www.irishmethodist.org
- Pentecostal and Orthodox Churches: The Irish Council of Churches has a Directory of Migrant Led Churches: www.irishchurches.org

Other religious communities in Ireland include:

- Buddhism: www.dublinbuddhistcentre.org, www.meditateinireland.com and www.buddhism.ie
- Hinduism: www.hindu.ie and www.ivt.ie
- Judaism: www.jewishireland.org

- Sikhism: www.irishsikhcouncil.com
- Lutheran: www.lutheran-ireland.org
- Bahá'í Faith: www.bahai.ie
- Islam: www.islamireland.com and www.islaminireland.com
(to find your local mosque or prayer hall)

Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert

Another way of getting involved in the local community is to participate in the Neighbourhood Watch or Community Alert programmes.

Neighbourhood Watch is a crime prevention and community safety programme for urban areas. It operates as a partnership between An Garda Síochána and the public.

Community Alert is a community safety programme for rural areas with an emphasis on older and vulnerable people.

To set up or get involved in a local Neighbourhood Watch or Community Alert programme contact your local Garda station or go to www.garda.ie.

Parties and gatherings

Children's parties

Many children attending childcare and school invite their classmates to their birthday party. Sometimes the party is held in the child's home or their parents bring them and their friends to the cinema or children's play centre. Children who are invited to the party are expected to bring a present for the child whose birthday it is. Generally food is provided and there is a birthday cake.

Parties

People have parties for various celebrations, for example, wedding, christening, birthday and other holidays. It is common for people to have dinner parties at any time during the year. If you are invited to a dinner party, it is a good idea to bring a small present along, for example, a bottle of wine, a bouquet of flowers or chocolates.

Online communities

There are many online communities where you can find out more about your local area and also meet people:

- www.gumtree.ie lists community classifieds for Dublin and Cork

- www.meetup.com lists different meet up groups throughout the country
- www.boards.ie is a general chat forum in Ireland
- www.virtualireland.ru is a Russian language forum
- www.0086.ie is a Chinese language forum

Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/LivinginIreland>

Arts and Entertainment

There are many different arts and entertainment options in Ireland which are a good way to meet people and find out more about Ireland.

Museums

- The National Museum of Ireland, Dublin: www.museum.ie
- National Wax Museum – Foster Place, College Green, Dublin 2
- Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin: www.modernart.ie
- Dublin Writers' Museum: www.writersmuseum.com
- National Transport Museum:
www.nationaltransportmuseum.org

Galleries and Libraries

- The National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin:
www.nationalgallery.ie
- Chester Beatty Library, Dublin: www.cbl.ie
- Science Gallery, Dublin: www.sciencegallery.com
- Gallery of Photography, Dublin:
www.galleryofphotography.ie
- The National Library of Ireland: www.nli.ie

Festivals

- Culture
 - Africa Day is celebrated on 25th May each year:
www.africaday.irishaid.org
 - Festival of World Cultures takes place in Dun Laoghaire every year: www.festivalofworldcultures.com
 - Chinese New Year Festival takes place in Dublin each year: www.dublincity.ie
 - Latin American Week is organised by the Latin American Solidarity Centre: www.lasc.ie
- Arts
 - Cork Midsummer Festival of the Senses:
www.corkmidsummer.com

- Galway Arts Festival: www.galwayartsfestival.com
- Dublin Fringe Festival: www.fringefest.com
- Film
 - Dublin International Film Festival: www.dubliniff.com
 - Cork Film Festival: www.corkfilmfest.org
 - Galway Film Fleadh: www.galwayfilmfleadh.com
- Music
 - Fleadh Cheoil are festivals of Irish music, dance, song and language. They take place throughout the country. For more information go to: www.comhaltas.ie
 - Oxegen is regarded as one of the world's top music festivals. It takes place in Punchestown Racecourse in Co. Kildare every July: www.oxegen.ie
 - Electric Picnic is an art and music festival which takes place in Co. Laois: www.electricpicnic.ie
 - Cork Jazz Festival: www.corkjazzfestival.com
 - Castle Palooza Music and Arts Festival takes place in Tullamore, Co. Offaly: www.castlepalooza.com
 - Slane is a concert which has been held at Slane Castle for most years since 1981: www.slanecastle.ie
- Literature and Theatre
 - Bloomsday Festival celebrates the life and work of James Joyce and takes place in June each year: www.jamesjoyce.ie

- Writers' Week in Listowel: www.writersweek.ie
- Comedy
 - Cat Laughs Comedy Festival: www.carlsbergcatlaughs.com
- Dance
 - Dublin Dance Festival: www.dublindancefestival.ie
 - Cork International Folk Dance Festival: www.damhsafest.ie

Live Music

- Concert venues
 - The O2: www.theo2.ie
 - National Concert Hall: www.nch.ie
- Live music venues
 - Gig Ireland lists all live music venues in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland: www.gigireland.com
- Join a gospel choir, for example: www.dublingospelchoir.com

Comedy

- International Bar, Dublin: www.international-bar.com
- Laughter Lounge, Dublin: www.laughterlounge.ie
- Roisin Dubh, Galway: www.roisindubh.net

For Children

- Imaginosity – Dublin Children’s Museum:
www.imaginosity.ie
- The Ark – A Cultural Centre for Children: www.ark.ie
- www.fundays.ie provides information for parents on where to ‘have fun’ in Ireland.

www.mykidstime.ie

To find more arts and entertainment options go to:

www.dayout.ie

www.entertainment.ie

www.ticketmaster.ie

The Office of the Minister for Integration (OMI) was set up in June 2007 following the appointment by the Government of a Minister of State with responsibility for the development of integration policy: www.integration.ie

Office of the Minister for Integration

Dún Aimhirgin, 43 - 49 Mespil Road, Dublin 4

Telephone: 01 6473236

Email: info@integration.ie