

CIRCUS

CLUB
CLOUGHJORDAN

WINTER

NEWSLETTER

2024

CJCC



SUMMER CAMP 2024

Our Summer Camp took place from 15-19th July introducing children to circus arts and offering a week long experience packed with lots of fun, games and circus skills: juggling, hat manipulation, pyramid building, unicycle, tightwire walking, hula hoops and lots more! We were fully booked for the week very quickly, so if this is on your radar for 2025 be sure to book early.

PETER MORAN JOINS CJC TEAM

We are excited to have long-term collaborator Pete Moran join our team as Lead Circus Tutor. Pete has been practicing circus for 17 years and hopes that one day he'll get the hang of it. Pete has a natural talent for making simple things complicated and easy tasks difficult in interesting ways, fortunately, he found the circus where that's actually a positive quality. A street performer, teacher and all-round circus fanatic, Pete can't wait to share his enthusiasm for the art of circus with the young people of Cloughjordan. Get ready for some amazing tricks and lots of fun!



CREATIVE PLACES TIPPERARY

On 18th May our majestic 8-foot-high puppet elephant Lightfoot joined the Creative Places Tipperary event along with our youth members, tutor Molly O'Brien and Artistic Director Joanna Williams. An amazing day out packed with arts, activities, and performances. This event was a part of Creative Places Tipperary in collaboration with Tipperary County Council, Tipperary Arts Office and Promenade Ireland.

CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG #CIRCUSEXPLORED

We were excited to be a part of this year's Cruinniú Na nÓg #CircusExplored programme, a national initiative to highlight the youth circus. As part of the Cruinniú na nÓg programme on Saturday, 15th June we invited everyone to join our free circus workshops and activities: building a fabulous family human pyramid, funambulism or wire walking and family-friendly, fun circus show - a one-man pop-up tea emporium 'Cafe aux Naut'.





OUTREACH PROJECT WITH MEITHEAL21

Following a taster workshop in July, we went on to organise an 8-week programme of activities with this Down Syndrome Ireland-Tipperary group of young people. Taking place in Thurles, we got to put in to practice some of our recently purchased equipment, including Stiklings wire-walker trainers and juggle-boards. All this was complemented with our usual roster of games and activities. The programme was a great success and we look forward to working with them again in the future.

PORTUMNA TY PROJECT

Portumna Community College were approached by the town's St. Patrick's Day committee to see about them having a presentation in their parade in 2025. They in turn have reached out to us about using our circus skills to work on their teamwork, self-confidence, and willingness to try new experiences, with a view to participating in the parade itself. Workshops are now under way to see how this group of TYs can gel together.....



WEEKLY CIRCUS CLASSES

Our first term of the year draws to a close. With the Annual Performance incorporated to the Christmas Market and Lights Switch-On, there isn't a separate end-of-term performance this year. While a number of our older members finished school and moved away, we were delighted to welcome back so many of our friends from before, and to completely fill our beginners' group for this year. There'll be lots more circus to come in Cloughjordan for the foreseeable future!

FUNAMBULISM TRIP TO BELGIUM

In July, our tutor team went to visit the Centre Européen de Funambulism, in Brussels. Here they spent a week and met with world-class facilitators to learn how to better perform outdoor wirewalking with a more artistic viewpoint, and picked up even more tips and tricks on teaching the skill to all age groups and ability levels. If ever you've been mildly curious about the antics on the Green, next year would be a great year to try out something weird and wonderful that so few would have the opportunity to. Carpe Diem!





PUPPET MAKING WORKSHOP

Our summer puppet-making workshop in Cloughjordan was a huge success! Participants had a busy week creating a giant puppet model and learning how to make it move realistically with our talented tutor and artist Caoimhe Dunne, and assisted by Joanna, Molly and Eileen. A week of great teamwork, creativity and learning together! This Outreach Project was supported by the Tipperary County Council, Creative Ireland and Arts Council Ireland.

BIRR VINTAGE WEEK FESTIVAL

One of the highlights this summer was our participation in the Birr Vintage Week Festival at the beginning of August. Our puppet-making team, accompanied by our tutors Molly, Lucy, and Eileen, proudly paraded the newly crafted giant puppet through the streets of Birr during the Vintage Parade. It was an amazing experience for all.



IRISH YOUTH CIRCUS GATHERING 2024

The Irish Youth Circus Gathering took off on a different tack this year, with the participants from across Ireland creating, rehearsing and presenting the amazing Café Chaos show, all over a single weekend. It took place 18-20th October, and it was our 7th gathering event! They had one Zoom call ahead of the event to decide a theme, and let some ideas stew, percolate,, and otherwise bubble up to the surface of their creativity.

We were excited to welcome young participants, youth circus facilitators, and guest performers from Circusful (Belfast), In Your Space Circus (Derry), and Galway Community Circus who joined our own Cloughjordan Circus Club members.

This event was supported and funded by Tipperary County Council, Tipperary Arts Office, Arts Council Ireland, Creative Ireland and the ISACS.



LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOP

On 9th November we invited everyone to join our Lantern Making Workshops at St. Kieran's Hall. Lanterns were made for the Christmas Lantern Parade, leading to a circus performance, Christmas Lights switch-on, market and community celebration. The workshop and parade were part of the club's Annual Performance, funded by the Arts Council Ireland, Tipperary County Council, Tipperary Arts Office and Creative Ireland.



TEMPLEMORE LIBRARY LAUNCH CEREMONY

On 3rd December our circus team visited Templemore to celebrate the opening of the new local library branch. Some of our senior Weekly Youth Circus Club participants provided some colour and fun to the event, and we got to trial-run some of our new windsocks and costumes too, ahead of their scheduled big outing at the Solas Spectacular performance.

SOLAS SPECTACULAR LANTERN PARADE & SHOW

Our 'Solas Spectacular', a magical journey and a spectacle of circus and light, was one of highlights of the year not only for the club but the whole local community. An enchanting lantern procession of over 150 lanterns made by our local community, was followed by breathtaking spectacle of circus and light, evoking a visual and sensory transition from autumn's warmth to winter's chill.

Celebrations included Christmas market, story telling, choir performance, a samba band and dancing giant puppet, hula hoopers and jugglers, wire walkers, Christmas tractors, Santa, lights switch-on and music.



STAY IN TOUCH!

Cloughjordan Circus Club

St Kieran's Hall, Main St., Townfields
Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary, E53 EW80

E-mail: bookings@cloughjordancircusclub.ie

Phone: 0863735232

Website: <https://cloughjordancircusclub.ie/>



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