

# North West Learning City Region

## Committed to Lifelong Learning for all

### Lifelong Learning Festival Programme

#### 4 & 5 March 2026

Since Derry City and Strabane District Council joined UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) in July 2019 under the title "Derry City and Strabane Region", the aim has been to work towards extending this recognition to our wider North West partners in Donegal—strengthening our shared commitment to lifelong learning for all.

We are delighted to announce that this vision has now been realised. In partnership with the North West Tertiary Education Cluster, Derry City and Strabane District Council, and Donegal County Council, the UNESCO Learning City Initiative is being relaunched and expanded to form the North West Learning City Region.

To mark this milestone, the North West Learning City Region proudly presents an inspiring Lifelong Learning Festival, taking place across Derry~Londonderry, Strabane and Donegal on 4–5 March 2026. Featuring more than 40 free events, the festival celebrates the region's vibrant learning culture, with opportunities spanning arts and culture, digital skills, business innovation, health and wellbeing, heritage and language, sustainability, and family learning.

Explore the full programme inside and get involved in this celebration of learning across our region.



4 March 2026

**North West Learning City Region Relaunch: 6pm-8pm, Ulster University Derry~Londonderry Campus, Great Hall**

Join us to celebrate Lifelong Learning at the exciting relaunch of the North West Learning City Region!

Sign Up Link [HERE](#)

5 March 2026

Derry~Londonderry and Strabane

**Powering SME Growth: Breakfast Briefing with the Investment Fund for Northern Ireland**

**8:30am - 10:15am at Bishop's Gate Hotel**

Join us for a breakfast briefing at Bishop's Gate Hotel to explore how the £100m Investment Fund for Northern Ireland can help small businesses access funding, meet fund managers, and hear real success stories.

Sign up link [HERE](#)

**EMPOWER HER Exhibit**

**8.45am to 9pm at Ulster University**

**Derry~Londonderry Campus Library Level 1**

Be inspired by a portrait collection that celebrates women who have pushed through personal and professional glass ceilings. The exhibit captures a diverse representation of women from the youngest 19-year-old to the oldest 95-year-old.

**Drop in anytime between 8.45am to 9pm**

**The Power and Science of Hope Unlocking Potential: Hope Matters**

**9.30am to 12.30pm at Old Library Trust Healthy Living Centre, 2 Central Drive, BT 48 9QH**

This programme will help you apply hope-building tools at individual, community, and organisational levels by combining research insights, reflective activities, group discussion, and practical tools.

**To sign up email: [hopenatters@resilio-ni.org](mailto:hopenatters@resilio-ni.org) or call 078 509 501 88**

**Learning not lonely - U3A may be for you!**

**9.30am - 3pm at U3A Foyle, Pascal**

**McDonald House, Gransha Park,**

**Derry~Londonderry BT47 6TG**

An all day participatory session where retirees can try out a variety of courses and activities on offer.

**To sign up email: [info@u3afoyle.com](mailto:info@u3afoyle.com) or call U3A Foyle on 028 71860123**

**Pebble Demo**

**10am and 11:30am Online Event**

Join this live demo of Pebble — an innovative digital platform designed to formalise and streamline employer-engaged, project-based learning across Further and Higher Education.

**To sign up email: [James.McGarrigle@nwrc.ac.uk](mailto:James.McGarrigle@nwrc.ac.uk)**

**Little Readers Big Explorers with Rainbow Child and Family Centre**

**10am and 11:30am at Galliagh Community Centre, (1a Fairview Road)**

A World Book Day event for under-5s, where children can dress as their favourite story characters and enjoy interactive storytelling and hands-on tuff tray play that brings much-loved books to life in a fun, relaxed environment.

**Sign up link [HERE](#)**

### **DEPTH Programme - Empowering and supporting you to develop your Digital Skills**

**10am - 11am**

This 1-hour engaging workshop will be to inform attendees of what is the DEPTH programme. We will visually explore what participation on the course looks like, to include quick demos of what modules / topics are covered, share the accredited qualifications participants have the opportunity to work towards, Q&A sessions and how to register for this 'Free' programme.

**To find out more and sign-up email:**

**[Ami.Strawbridge@nwrc.ac.uk](mailto:Ami.Strawbridge@nwrc.ac.uk)**

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### **Walk and Talk with North West BAPS Strabane Walking Group**

**Meet at 11.15am, Strabane Library**

Meet at Strabane Library for a gentle stroll, opportunity for a chat, a cuppa and maybe some cake!

We offer signposting to local, telephone and online breastfeeding and perinatal support. Mothers and mums-to-be; grandmothers; wider family; Advocates and Supporters who want to see improved breastfeeding rates in our Council area are welcome to join.

**All Welcome, no need to book**

**For More info email - [nwbaps@gmail.com](mailto:nwbaps@gmail.com)**

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### **Classical and Bollywood Dance Workshop**

**12pm - 2 p.m at Ulster University**

**Derry~Londonderry Campus**

Join us for a special hands-on experience to discover the beautiful classical dance and Bollywood Dance from India

**Sign up link [HERE](#)**

**For more info email: [sarikashah100@gmail.com](mailto:sarikashah100@gmail.com)**

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### **Workable NI: Build a More Inclusive and Resilient Workforce**

**1pm – 2pm - Online event**

Join us for a virtual lunchtime session with Disability Action to learn, connect, and take action for disability inclusion in the workplace!

**Sign up link [HERE](#)**

### **Derry Girls Mean Business - Girls Just Wanna Have Funds**

**10.30am - 12.30pm at North West Regional College**

International Women's Day networking event for female business owners, aspiring entrepreneurs and students to connect and celebrate!

**Sign Up Link [HERE](#)**

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### **Connect through Indian Heritage Art**

**12pm - 2 p.m at Ulster University**

**Derry~Londonderry Campus**

Join us for a special hands-on experience to discover the beautiful traditional craft of Indian block printing.

**Sign up link [HERE](#)**

**For more info email: [sarikashah100@gmail.com](mailto:sarikashah100@gmail.com)**

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### **LGBTQIA+ Awareness Training**

**1pm to 4pm at The Rainbow Project, Waterloo House, Magazine Street, Derry~Londonderry, BT48 6HH**

Increase your awareness of LGBTQIA+ identities, issues and experiences with the aim of building stronger allyship in a personal and/or professional capacity.

**Sign up link [HERE](#)**

**For more info, contact [training@rainbow-project.org](mailto:training@rainbow-project.org)**

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### **Human Library**

**1.15pm – 3.15pm at MU125, Ulster University**

**Derry~Londonderry Campus**

A conversation at the Human Library is an interactive experience that engages people – a Human Book and Human Library Readers.

**To sign up email: [info@nwcni.org](mailto:info@nwcni.org)**

### **Spoon to bloom**

**2pm at Bishop Street Studios, 11 Bishop Street**

Come and have a go at making your own beautiful masterpiece whilst relaxing in Amandas Studio inside the Derry Walls. Create a bouquet of Tulips like no other in paint. This event calls on everyone with an interest in art and fancies having a go.

**To sign up email:** [Bubsbubbles1972@gmail.com](mailto:Bubsbubbles1972@gmail.com)

### **See it, Share it, Fix it**

**2pm -4pm at Repair & Share Foyle, Unit 9E/1, Rathmore Business Park, Derry~Londonderry, BT48 0LZ**

An interactive tour where you can learn about using the library of things, recycling paint, and repairing common household items.

**Sign up link** [HERE](#)

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### **Holistic Education and the link to Positive Mental Health**

**2.30pm - 4.30pm at 9 Queen Street, Derry~Londonderry, BT48 7EG**

An opportunity to discussion how holistic education is helping transform lives and deal with unresolved trauma with young people from the care system, care leavers, foster care, homeless and unaccompanied asylum seeking children who have all experienced high levels of adverse childhood experience. We will explore the significance of emotional and social intelligence in contributing to holistic human development and positive mental health.

Everyone is welcome to join.

**To sign up email:** [martin@unitytraining.net](mailto:martin@unitytraining.net)

### **Tour of Library and taster of the Special Collections**

**3.30pm at Ulster University, Derry~Londonderry Campus Library**

An opportunity to enjoy an enriching tour of the Derry-Londonderry Library space, to explore our diverse collections and discover the benefits of the Civic Access Scheme which provides the opportunity to borrow books from Ulster University libraries.

**To sign up email:** [r.doherty-allan@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:r.doherty-allan@ulster.ac.uk)

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### **What's The Story?**

**4pm - 5.30pm at Glenabbey Hub, 2a Glenabbey Close , Derry~Londonderry, BT488TE**

A fun parent and child celebration where families enjoy a live storyteller, share new books together, and relax over light refreshments.

**To sign up email:** [ethos@shantallow.net](mailto:ethos@shantallow.net)

### **Learn for life**

**4pm - 5pm at Read and Feed Hub, Ballymagroaty**

Sensory stories, healthy food through song and dance, and creative arts and crafts, an interactive World Book Day experience for all.

**To sign up call:** 02871271977

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### **Between Places: Writing from the Archive**

**5:30pm-8:30pm Ulster University Derry~Londonderry Campus Room M\_MI015**

A guided creative writing workshop inspired by archival clips from Northern Ireland Screen Digital Film Archive.

**Sign up link** [HERE](#)

### **Film For Fun**

**6:30pm - 8:30pm at North West Regional College, Tower Building Lecture Theatre**

An insight into local film production and how to become involved.

**To sign up email:** [jmacbnorth@googlemail.com](mailto:jmacbnorth@googlemail.com)

### **The Skill and Pleasure of Humerous Storytelling.**

**7.30pm at The Verbal Arts Centre, Bishop Street, Derry~Londonderry.** The skill and pleasure of humorous storytelling.

**To sign up email:** [georgemurphy34@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:georgemurphy34@hotmail.co.uk)

5 March 2026

Donegal

#### **Declan Doherty's Donegal**

**9.30am - 9.30pm at Donegal Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny**

The exhibition includes more than 400 photographs, presented both digitally and in print, capturing moments from 1980 to 2023 by acclaimed press photographer Declan Doherty. Many feature the people and everyday events that define the county's character and community. Curated by former RCC Director Shaun Hannigan, this exhibition positions Declan Doherty as one of the most important visual chroniclers of Donegal life over the past four decades

**Drop in anytime between 9.30am - 9.30pm**

#### **Portraits of Herstory by Áine Kelly Exhibition**

**9.30am - 9.30pm at Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny**

Portraits of Herstory is an exhibition celebrating influential women whose achievements were overlooked or erased from history. Inspired by discovering Frida Kahlo's underrepresented legacy, artist Áine Kelly created this project to honour these remarkable women and invite viewers to look deeper and keep their stories alive.

**Drop in anytime between 9.30am - 9.30pm**

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#### **Working Over By: Donegal Emigrant Working Lives in Scotland 1940-1990**

**10am-4.30pm at Donegal County Museum**

This exhibition highlights the occupations, working conditions and work experiences that Donegal men and women found in Scotland between 1940 and 1990.

**Drop in anytime between 10am - 4.30pm**

#### **An Garbhán - The Gruffalo story time**

**10am at Twin Towns Community Library**

Enjoy this Bilingual story time event which will feature a reading of An Garbhán which is the Irish for The Gruffalo.

**To sign up call: 074 9175384**

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#### **Explore Further Education: Open Day, Tours and Tasters**

**10.30am-12.30pm with information sessions at 11am at Further Education and Training Centre, Shore Rd, Buncrana, F93 ND23**

Explore Further Education at this welcoming open day. The event includes centre tours and information on a range of programmes.

**Drop in between 10.30am - 12.30pm**

#### **Healthy Habits Kickstart Morning**

**10:30 am- 12pm at Milford FET Centre, Kerrykeel Rd, Milford, Co. Donegal F92RTF3**

Start your day with a boost at our Healthy Habits Kickstart Morning! Explore simple, tasty ideas for healthy breakfasts and smart snack swaps, get a quick blood pressure check from our onsite nurse, and pick up practical tips to support your long term wellbeing. A small step with big learning benefits!

**Drop in between 10.30am - 12pm**



### **ATU lifelong learning pathways to Management and Leadership roles**

**11am at Atlantic Technological University, Letterkenny**

From Learning to Leading: How Education Shapes Future Managers. ATU Letterkenny's Department of Business Studies lifelong learning programmes can provide the skills, confidence, and expertise to launch or accelerate your career.

**To sign up email:** [wendy.mcgarvey@atu.ie](mailto:wendy.mcgarvey@atu.ie)

### **Ciorcal Comhrá - Irish Language conversation circle**

**11am at Donegal Town Branch Library**

**7pm at Community Library**

Irish Language conversation group

Practice your Irish in the warm and welcoming environment of your local Irish with other a group of like minded people.

All levels of Irish welcome.

**To sign up for:**

**Donegal Town Branch Library call: 074 9725329**

**Carndonagh Community Library call: 074 93 73701**

### **Growing the future of the North West**

**11:30am– 12:30pm at Letterkenny Youthreach**

**Centre for Further Education. Kilmacrennan Road Letterkenny Co. Donegal F92 XR22**

This event showcases a unique collaboration between traditional craftsmanship and modern technology. Students from Youthreach will present handcrafted wooden herb boxes, designed in Woodwork classes, which feature integrated digital moisture monitors developed in their DreamSpace (STEM) sessions.

**To sign up call: 074 9122585 or email:**

**[letterkennyouthreach@donegaletb.ie](mailto:letterkennyouthreach@donegaletb.ie)**

### **Little Gem Puppet presents Cochaillín Dearg/ Little Red Riding Hood**

**Shows starts at 12pm 1.30pm & 4pm at Central Library, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal**

A series of special bilingual performances of Cochaillín Dearg/ Little Red Riding Hood. Founded by master puppeteer Carmel Balfe, Little Gem Puppets is known for its charming characters, interactive storytelling, and beautifully crafted puppets.

**To sign up email:** [centrallibrary@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:centrallibrary@donegalcoco.ie)

**or call: 074 9124950**

### **Content Creation & AI**

**12:30pm to 2pm - Online Webinar**

The online webinar will focus on, camera settings including cleaning, content suggestions, banking content for future use and using AI to build on or building better prompts for your business.

**Sign up link [HERE](#)**

### **Plé Cócaireachta - Cookery Talk in Irish with food columnist Noel MacLiam**

**2 - 3pm at Milford Community Library**

**6 - 7pm at Central Library Letterkenny**

Demonstration and Discussion Irish Language food columnist Noel Mac Liam will talk about the history and politics behind food with an emphasis on the unique dishes of North Africa.

**To sign up for:**

**Milford Community Library call: 074 9153927**

**Central Library Letterkenny call: 074 9124950**

### **Street Law**

**2:30pm at Atlantic Technological University**

**Letterkenny**

Whose law is it anyway? Interactive workshop providing an introduction to the law, how it's made and whether it is effective. No legal knowledge or experience required!

**To sign up email:** [wendy.mcgarvey@atu.ie](mailto:wendy.mcgarvey@atu.ie)

## For Schools

4 March 2026

### **GEMX Interactive Roadshow: 9:30am-2:30pm at St Mary's College, Derry~Londonderry**

A showcase of NW Manufacturing & Engineering: enabling attendees to DO things, MEET industry representatives & HEAR about products.

To sign up email: [info@gemx.uk](mailto:info@gemx.uk)

5 March 2026

### **Literacy Through Media**

**9:30am at St Joseph's Boys' School, Derry~Londonderry**

Developing literacy skills in a fun imaginative way.

To sign up email: [cmccay459@c2ken.net](mailto:cmccay459@c2ken.net)

### **NI Mini Maths Fest 2026**

**10.30am - 11.30am, St Columbas PS, Newbuildings, Derry~Londonderry.**

Fun maths activities to spark curiosity and innovation.

For any other info- email: [foyle@kumoncentre.co.uk](mailto:foyle@kumoncentre.co.uk)

### **Stemwizz Workshop**

**10am at Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair**

STEM workshop through Irish

To sign up call: **074 9560862**

### **Robotics/Coding Workshop**

**St Joseph's Boys' School, Derry~Londonderry**

Children and young people using digital coding to build robots

To sign up email: [cdeane603@c2kni.net](mailto:cdeane603@c2kni.net)

### **World Book Day Read Alongs + Discussions and other events with County Donegal Education Support Centre on 4 and 5 March - Online Webinars**

Multiple World Book Day Read Alongs + Discussions with multiple children's book authors and literacy experts for Primary Schools in County Donegal to join

Further info on each event and sign up link [HERE](#)

### **ATU & RCC VEX Robotics**

**10:30am at Regional Cultural Centre Letterkenny**

VEX Robotics is an exciting, hands-on robotics competitions where students design, build, and program their own robots to complete specific challenges on a game field.

**Primary Schools invited**

# North West Learning City Region

[www.mynwtec.com](http://www.mynwtec.com)

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