



explore/engage/enjoy

National Museums Northern Ireland Live & Learn Project



Funded by the Big Lottery in association with Age NI



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About Us

Live and Learn is a five year outreach project run by National Museums Northern Ireland funded by Big Lottery. The project is delivered in association with Age NI.

Live and Learn, which was launched in October 2009, uses the collections, resources and sites of National Museums to develop and deliver creative programmes specifically for the over-50 age group across Northern Ireland.

Using memories and experiences, Live and Learn programmes include a range of activities from traditional crafts, drama, movement to oral history and art projects.

These programmes may involve working with groups in the community or at one of our museum sites. There is an opportunity to take part in intergenerational workshops and even for the over 50s to train as volunteers with the project.



Programmes cater to the interests of participants and to the levels of commitment they can give but arise from active engagement with the collections and resources of National Museums.

Above all, Live and Learn programmes are to be enjoyed and aim to promote the health and well being of everyone involved.



The Live and Learn Team work across the Ulster Museum, Ulster Folk and Transport Museum and the Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh. All our programmes are free of charge and transport assistance can be arranged for museum-based workshops and visits for those with greatest need.

Project Summary: Mission and Objectives

The Live and Learn Project works with the over-50s. We work with a broad range of groups; from the newly retired through to those in day care centres and residential care.

There is a particular focus on working with those who do not have access to Museums, who lack opportunities for engagement in cultural activity and are living in isolated or deprived areas throughout the province.

Live and Learn can only work with groups who fulfil the criteria outlined above.



Project outcomes, aims and objectives include:

- Increasing opportunities for engagement with museums
- Break down barriers to using museums
- Establishing a lasting relationship between communities and National Museums
- Inspiring a desire for continued learning and creativity
- Promoting mental and physical health and well being
- Helping individuals to reach their full potential

Programmes



Live and Learn programmes are a mixture of hands-on activity, discussion and reminiscence, creativity and learning. The programmes below are examples, and by no means an exhaustive list, of what we can offer or develop.

All programmes can be adapted to suit various requirements, needs, abilities and areas of interest.

Textiles Heritage and History

Explore the rural and industrial textile industries of Northern Ireland, experiment with creative textile crafts and techniques both traditional and contemporary. Get a behind the scenes glimpse at our vast textiles collections and delve into the history of textiles from spinning and patchwork to linen and fashion. If you or your group have a background in the textiles industry this an opportunity to share your experiences and tell your own story.

Seasonal Customs and Traditions

Pick a season and explore the customs and traditions that would have been practiced at different times of the year. This programme draws upon folklore, history and customs using the archives of National Museums Northern Ireland. This programme is designed to explore the ways of life preserved at the Ulster American Folk Park and the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. Choose from; Spring and Easter Customs, Summer Customs, Harvest and Christmas.

Old Traditions, New Skills

Harvest Knots, thatching, metal work, soda bread baking, spinning, natural dyeing, reed work, willow weaving and much more besides! Explore the traditional skills practiced by rural and urban communities in 1900s Northern Ireland. Touching on social history and drawing upon various areas of National Museums' collections and archives, this programme brings to life the Folk Museums at both Cultra and Omagh. Content will vary according to time of year.

Exploring Art

Delve into the Fine Art Collections and Art Exhibitions of the Ulster Museum. This programme touches on art history and combines this with practical, hands-on arts/crafts activities designed to familiarise participants with techniques, genres and materials and to inspire confidence in their own individual creativity. Work towards creating an individual or collective artwork.

Rites of Passage

Explore how museums and individuals alike represent important moments through objects; for example birth, courtship, working life. Explore the rites of passage represented in the local and world collections of National Museums. Participants are encouraged to bring in objects that represent their own rites of passage and consider which objects they would choose for a 'museum' of their own experiences.

Hey Days and Holidays

Remember the day trips to the seaside, the train journeys, the souvenirs, the music and fashion of the time, the beaches and amusements! With collected artefacts, photographs and footage from museum archives, participants create their own learning process and outcome. For some this may be a fun drama piece, for others a visual artwork like a montage of memories, for those more musically inclined it might lead to an evening of song and dance!

Don't see something you like? Why not browse through the collections on our websites and suggest an area of interest?

Live and Learn also offer programmes inspired by National Museums' temporary exhibitions across all our Museums sites. Keep checking the website or call one of the Live and Learn Outreach Officers for more information (see contacts page).

Events

Summer Events- some dates for you calendar

Take part in one of Live and Learn's FREE Summertime Walking Events at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum or the Ulster American Folk Park.

Please note these events are specifically for the over 50s. Places are limited and booking is required. Contact the Live and Learn Team to reserve a place. See below for contact details.



Linenopolis, 19th August, Ulster Museum, 1pm

Join Dr Vivien Pollock, Curator of History, for a fascinating look at Belfast's Linen Industry illustrated with photographs from the Museums' archives to bring to life the glory days of the linen mills. This talk is free of charge.

Age Awareness Week

Age Awareness Week 2010 takes place from the 27th September – 2nd October.

Live and Learn will be hosting FREE event days for the over 50s across our Museum sites on the following dates:

- 29th September: Ulster Museum.
- 30th September: Ulster Folk and Transport Museum
- 2nd October: Ulster American Folk Park

For further information on activities available at each site contact the Live and Learn Team. See below for contact details.

Contact us

If you are a member of an older people's group or work with older people as a group co-ordinator, carer, etc. and would like to find out more, contact one of the Live and Learn Outreach Officers closest to your local area:

Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh

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