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**Press Release**

Post Polio Support Group Clare members visit Coole Park

**For Immediate Release – 12 September 2016**

**Pictured are Post Polio Support Group Clare members at a summer outing to Coole Park during Heritage Week, from left to right Edwin Bailey, Mary Fitzgerald, Peggy Walsh, Peter Fitzgerald, Beryl Gallagher, Dolores Pierce, Patrick Gallagher and seated centre Harry Pierce.**

The Group enjoyed a very pleasant outing, with a meal in the Café, before viewing the Audio Visual of the life of Lady Gregory, followed by a look at the museum and a stroll out to the walled garden where the famous autograph tree is situated.

“A good afternoon,” says Edwin Bailey, Convenor of the Clare Social Support Group, who meet regularly, giving Polio Survivors the opportunity to learn from each other in an understanding environment.

Social isolation is a problem for certain Polio Survivors because of their aging profile, depopulation in certain rural areas and stresses on the community fabric generally.

Social Support Groups provide a friendly environment and a structure within which Polio Survivors can meet and take part in activities to help manage their conditions.

There are thought to be 7,000 Polio Survivors in Ireland, with many still living with disabilities brought on by the disease. There 46 members of the Post Polio Support Group in Clare, with an active Social Support Group providing peer support through their outings and social functions. The Post Polio Support Group can be contacted for help on 01 889 89 20.

**About the Post Polio Support Group**

The Post Polio Support Group works to raise awareness of the continuing difficulties faced by those who survived the original virus in Ireland during the polio epidemics. Many Polio Survivors suffer from the late effects of Polio, also known as Post Polio Syndrome, significantly increasing their disability and causing pain and fatigue later in life.

The Post Polio Support Group was established for Polio Survivors by Polio Survivors in 1993. We are the only organisation in Ireland providing practical support (and sometimes more importantly a listening ear) to those unfortunate enough to have contracted Polio when babies or young children. We work to maintain the independence of Polio Survivors, supporting them at work, in the home and otherwise.

We provide stair lifts, callipers, bespoke footwear, electric scooters and wheelchairs. We also help Survivors access Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Respite Breaks, as well as other supports.

**For further press information contact:**

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