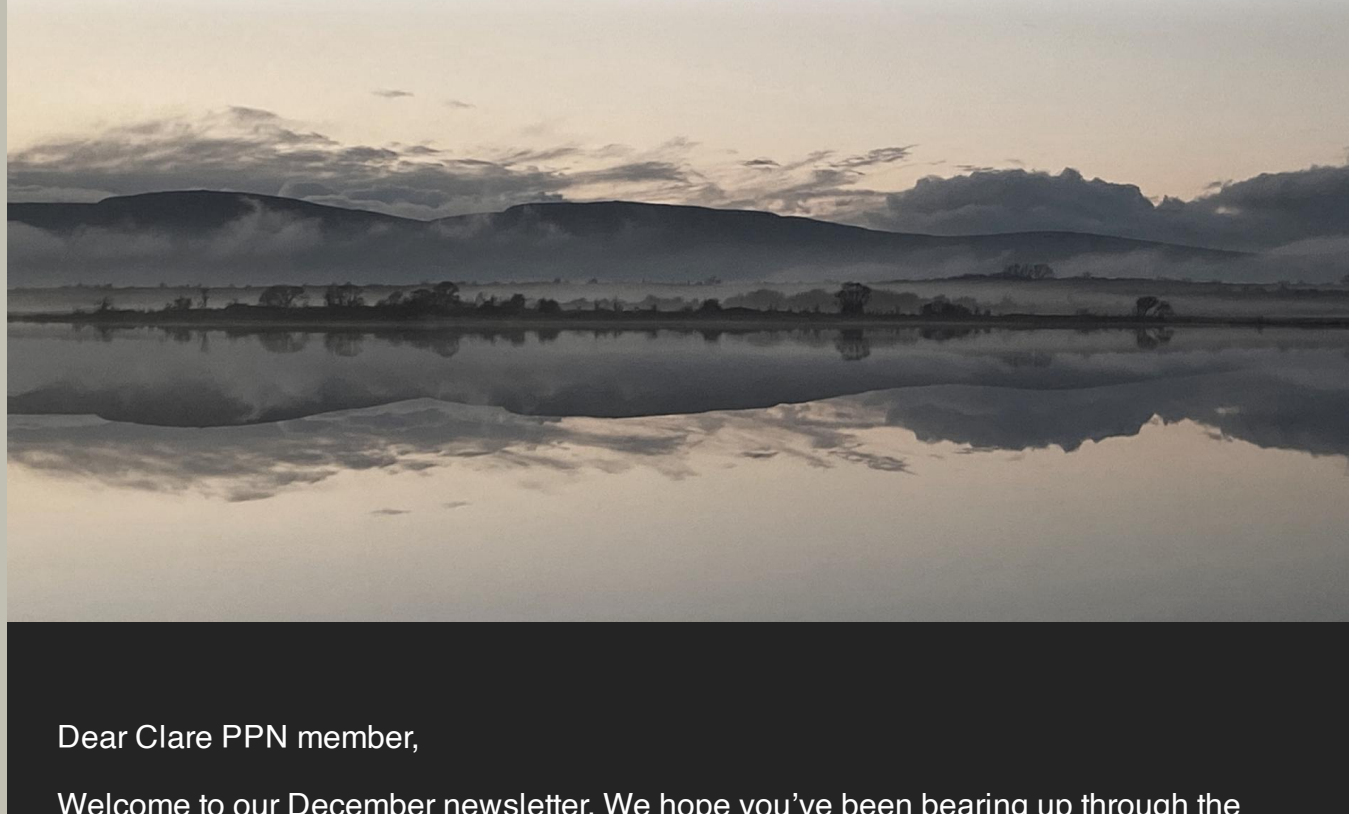


NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023



Dear Clare PPN member,

Welcome to our December newsletter. We hope you've been bearing up through the wintry weather.

Christmas is a time of year that can be lonely for many in our community, for example those living in direct provision. Scroll down to find out how you can donate Christmas gifts that will be delivered to people in direct provision and emergency accommodation centres around Clare in Christmas week.

We also have links to some handy resources, including a Healthy Clare newsletter packed with ideas for seasonal activities; advice on how to have a more "circular" and sustainable Christmas; and a guide for more inclusive community engagement in local decision making.

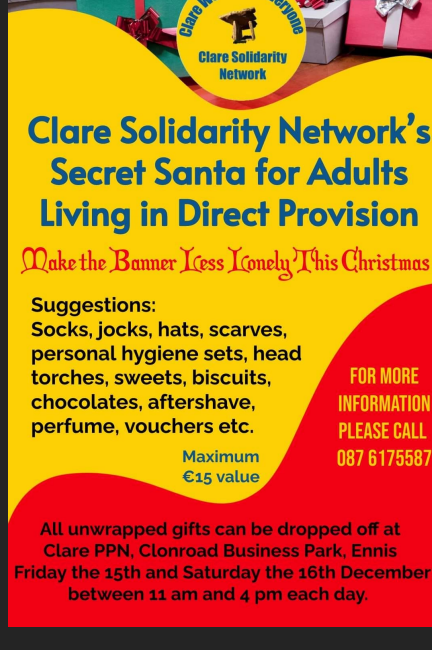
It just remains to wish you have a peaceful holiday season, some well-earned rest and all the best for 2024.

If you'd like to see something included in a future newsletter, please email newsletter@clareppn.ie.

All the best,

Sarah Clancy, Sarah Ferrigan & William Hederman

Clare PPN
Clonroad Business Park
Ennis, Co. Clare
V95 N62T
Mobile: 087 1617375



SECRET SANTA FOR ADULTS IN DIRECT PROVISION

15th & 16th December: You can help make the Banner County a little less lonely this Christmas for people living in direct provision. Clare Solidarity Network (CSN) is calling for support for their Christmas Present Collection for Adults living in Direct Provision in Co Clare. The network is asking members of the public who can spare a few euro to buy gifts suitable for adults, both women and men, with a maximum value of €15 each. (Santa has been already been working closely with his elves to make sure all children in these centres receive their own presents.)

Clare PPN is delighted to support this initiative, and gifts can be dropped off at our offices in Clonroad Business Park, Ennis this Friday 15th and Saturday 16th December from 11am - 4pm each day. All gifts should be donated unwrapped. The gifts will be delivered by CSN volunteers to direct provision and emergency accommodation centres around Clare in Christmas week. More information about this gift appeal – including suggestions on what to buy – and about Clare Solidarity Network, is at this page on our website:

<https://clareppn.ie/making-the-banner-less-lonely-this-christmas-gifts-for-people-in-direct-provision/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

Deadline 28th of February: The Community Climate Action Programme Strand 1 & 1a is open for Expression of Interest until 28th February 2024. This will be administered by Clare County Council's Climate Action Team, and the overall objective of the programme is to support and empower communities, in partnership with the Council, to shape and build low-carbon, sustainable communities to contribute to national climate and energy targets. The Programme aims to support small and large, rural and urban communities to take positive climate action, with grants up to €100,000. There are five themes: Community and Energy; Travel; Shopping and Recycling; Food and Waste; Local Climate and Environment. Information sessions will be held online and in person during January, dates and times to be advised in early January. Find out more here:

<https://clarecoco.submii.com>



COMMUNITY MONUMENTS FUND 2024

Deadline 28th January: The Community Monuments Fund was first established in 2020 to provide investment in Ireland's archaeological heritage. Funding is prioritised for local authorities, private owners and custodians and community groups for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments. The Fund invests in archaeological heritage and helps owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public. The core aims of this Fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection and presentation of archaeological monuments. Find out more here:

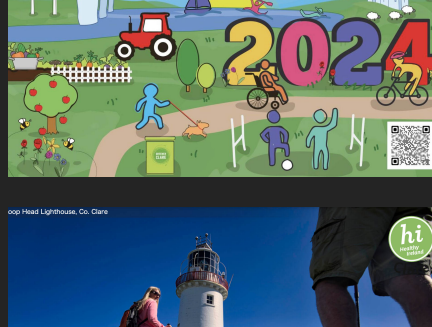
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/362a1-community-monuments-fund-2024-call-for-projects/>

NEWS / EVENTS ...



BEYOND BORDERS BOOK CLUB

13th December @ 6.30pm: This week sees the final outing for this year of the Beyond Borders Book Club in Ennis. This book club is a celebration of great literature from countries beyond Ireland, recommended by guests who have connections to the places discussed in these writings. Its aim is to introduce the great diversity of writing and literature in the world to audiences in Ireland, and the books are available to borrow from Clare Libraries. Come to the Temple Gate Hotel at 6.30pm this evening (Wednesday) to hear Nandi Jola (pictured here) from South Africa discuss 'We Need New Names' by NoViolet Bulawayo, chaired by poet Sarah Clancy. This event is free and no booking is required. All presenters will come together for a panel discussion at the Ennis Book Club Festival on 2nd March 2024.



HEALTHY CLARE NEWSLETTER

The Healthy Clare Newsletter really is a fabulous resource, packed with so much news of activities around the Banner for all ages and abilities, information and advice relating to physical and mental health and wellbeing, eating well, addiction, sexual health, support services and much more. The December issue of the newsletter brought our attention to a lovely Healthy Clare calendar for 2024, pictured here. You can get a hard copy of the calendar for free by emailing healthyclare@clarecoco.ie. You'll find the Healthy Clare Newsletter via this page on Clare County Council's website: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/healthy-clare/newsletters/>



HAVE A 'CIRCULAR' CHRISTMAS

Christmas comes with a lot of pressure to buy stuff. We're delighted to see that Clare County Council is urging people in the Banner to think "circular" this year – supporting a sustainable Christmas by reducing waste, reusing the things we have and choosing gifts that don't contribute to environmental destruction. Ideas include buying experiences rather than physical gifts; buying from charity and second-hand shops; and buying locally produced food, among many other suggestions. (The photo here shows decorations made from recycled materials). You can see the full list of ideas and suggestions on the Council's website:

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/our-council/news/people-in-clare-are-being-urged-to-think-circular-this-christmas.html>



GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL DECISION MAKING

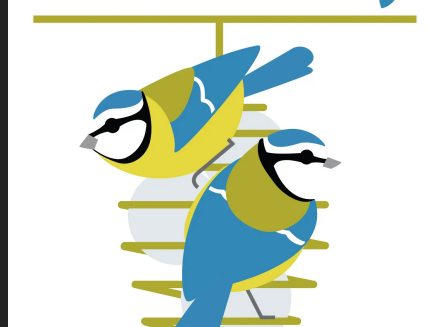
It was the beautiful illustrations in this publication that caught our attention. It's a resource guide from Pobal – now in its second edition – which is aimed at ensuring that marginalised and disadvantaged communities have opportunities to engage and participate in local planning and decision-making. The guide also aims to enable more sustainable development at a local level. Community groups, local authorities, public sector bodies or any organisation committed to inclusive local decision-making can use this plain English resource. You can download a copy of 'A Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making' here:

https://www.pobal.ie/en/uploads/2022/10/Guide-to-Inclusive-Community-Engagement_2nd-Edition_Oct23_Final.pdf



QUARE CLARE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

16th December: You are cordially invited you to the Quare Clare Christmas Social at the Monks Society in Ennis this Saturday 16th December, at 5pm. The Quare Clare elves are hard at work planning a spectacular event this year. Bring a gift costing no more than €5 for the gift exchange – it can be something you made, or something you have, or something you bought especially for this occasion. Quare Clare started in 2020 as a social group whose aim is to build a welcoming network of LGBTQIA+ people in Clare from all backgrounds. Read more about the event and get your free ticket: <https://quareclare.ie/event/quareclare-christmas-social/>



IRISH GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

Between December and February each year, BirdWatch Ireland asks members of the public to keep note of the highest number of each bird species visiting their garden every week. They also ask for information on the size of the garden being surveyed, the kinds of food, if any, being offered to the birds, and so on. Taking part is fun, easy and a great way to get to know your garden birds better; it also makes for an ideal school project. As the Irish countryside changes, gardens are becoming increasingly important havens for many species, and it is vital ecologists to know how their populations are faring. Find out how to take part at this page:

<https://birdwatchireland.ie/our-work/surveys-research/research-ireland-irish-garden-bird-survey/>



YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS 2024

ECO-UNESCO has extended the deadline for submitting an action project to its Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) on Wednesday, 20th December. The YEA is an all-Ireland awards programme that recognises and rewards young people who raise environmental awareness and improve the environment. More than 50,000 young people have taken part in the YEA since it began in 1999, bringing lasting change to the environment and reaching many people with campaigns in schools and communities. It's a fun and exciting way to empower young people to become better citizens, to build awareness of environmental issues in the community and promote local actions and lifestyle changes to the environment. Find out more and register for the awards:

<https://ecounesco.ie/young-environmentalist-awards/>

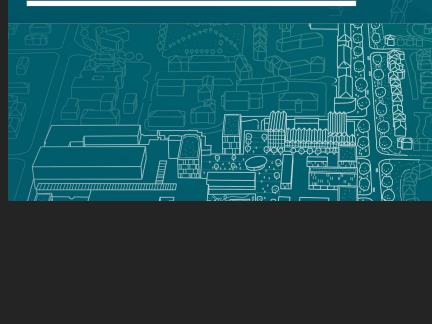


BEREAVEMENT WORKSHOPS 2024

Irish Hospice Foundation will host a series of introductory workshops online from January to June 2024 on a range of topics covering loss and bereavement. The workshops are targeted at professionals and volunteers who may wish to learn more about loss and bereavement and for those working with people who have experienced a major loss. See a list of workshop topics and find out how to book here:

<https://hospicefoundation.ie/our-support-services/education-training/bereavement-workshops/>

CONSULTATIONS



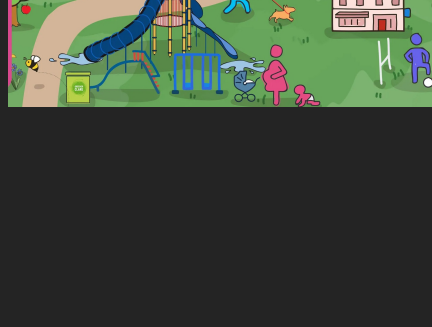
ONE SHANNON HUB: SURVEY

Deadline 21st December: Clare County Council published the Shannon Town Centre Masterplan in 2022, with the aim of guiding the development of Shannon Town Centre and making Shannon a more attractive destination in which to live, work and do business. The One Shannon Hub – the key transformational project to emerge from the Masterplan – looks to create a new social heart for Shannon town centre. An online survey will give the project team feedback from as many people as possible. Your contribution will help shape the vision for the future of this important civic and cultural hub for Shannon. Read more and take the survey here: <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/oneshannonhub>



NATIONAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE POLICY

Deadline 31st January: The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD has launched a public consultation to further inform the development of Ireland's new National Social Enterprise Policy. A process of consultation has already been completed which gathered the views of social enterprises, their representative bodies, funders, as well as other public bodies and stakeholders. They now wish to hear from you, the public, as well as any other interested parties. You are encouraged to review a Public Consultation Document (see link below) and submit feedback on actions you think could be taken to address the issues identified. Please email your submission to: seconsultation@drof.gov.ie with "Social Enterprise Policy 2023/2024" in the title. You can read the Public Consultation Document here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/93961-national-social-enterprise-policy-for-ireland-closing-phase-public-consultation/>



REMINDER – LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN FOR CLARE

Deadline 22nd December: Just to remind you that Clare's Draft Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029 is open for submissions and input until Friday, 22nd December. Clare PPN made several submissions at the pre-draft stages and we are happy to see some of our input reflected in this draft. We will be making one final submission to better reflect the input gathered in our consultations around the county and we are happy to take on board any new input from our members for that submission. If there is anything you'd like us to include in our final submission please send us a few lines on it before this coming Friday 15th December and we'll do our best to include it. And all the details you need to make your own submission are at this link: <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/local-economic-and-community-plan-23-29>



DEADLINE EXTENDED – GREEN PAPER ON DISABILITY REFORM

Deadline 15th March: There has been lots of interest in and discussion around this Green Paper on Disability Reform, and now the deadline has been extended until 15th March. The Green Paper includes proposals on reforming the following income supports: Disability Allowance; Invalidity Pension; Blind Pension; Partial Capacity Benefit; Domestic Care Allowance. Find out more and make a submission here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/36001-green-paper-on-disability-reform-a-public-consultation-to-reform-disability-payments-in-ireland/>

There was a public consultation event in Dublin Castle in November, with presentations on disability supports in other countries, the Cost of Disability report and the Green Paper proposals. You can view these presentations here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyzkToOllcQ>



About Us

County Clare's Public Participation Network – bringing our diverse voices into policy making for the county now and in the future.

Contact Us

Clonroad Business Park, Ennis, Co Clare V95 N62T Tel: 087 1617375 Email: sarah@clareppn.ie

www.clareppn.ie