

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

Dear Clare PPN member,

Happy new year and welcome to our first newsletter of 2024.

If you're looking to start the year afresh with an opportunity to meet like-minded people in the community sector, to hear inspirational speakers and to discuss goal-setting for the year ahead, then look no further than a free event we are co-hosting in Ennis on Friday week, 26th January. That's our first item below, and beyond that you have news of some other activities for anyone seeking the outdoors, positive mental and physical health and well-being.

By the way, the dog walker and hardy swimmers shown above were photographed on a sunny Lahinch Strand yesterday (Sunday).

Our member group in the spotlight this month is the East Clare Community Co-op, which has been a hub for community activities in the Scariff area for almost 37 years.

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

All the best,

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CONNECTING CLARE' COMMUNITIES' IS BACK

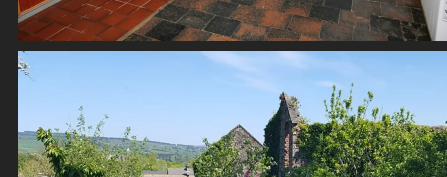
Friday 26th January: We're delighted to join with Clare Local Development Company and Clare Volunteer Centre for the next outing in our series, 'Connecting Clare Communities', on Friday 26th January, from 1pm to 4:30pm. It's happening at Clare Education Centre on the Kilrush Road in Ennis, and our theme for this event will focus on 'Moving from aspiration to activation – goal setting for your group/organisation in 2024'. Start the year afresh with inspiring speakers, breakout workshop sessions, meeting other like-minded people in the community, and a delicious lunch to boot. This event promises to be nourishing and supportive for anyone who is a part of, or leading, community change. You can book your place now for this free event at this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RRCBN7>



MEMBER GROUP IN THE SPOTLIGHT: EAST CLARE COMMUNITY CO-OP

Founded way back in 1987, the East Clare Community Co-op offers educational, social, cultural and wellbeing activities from a lovely premises on Scariff's Main Street. They provide family support services, holistic therapies, a community garden, an Enterprise Kitchen, a second-hand shop and a low-cost vegetarian cafe. The Garden Café provides healthy vegetarian cuisine, tea and coffee, and treats. It's open from 9am to 3:30pm, Monday to Friday, all year round, serving nutritious and affordable food.

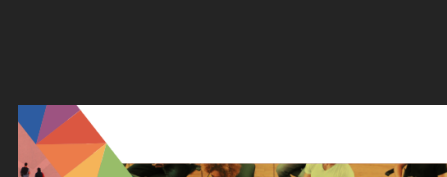


The second-hand shop doubles as an information point for activities within the Co-op. They operate under the principle of a circular economy, which involves sharing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible. The Community Garden grows fresh salad and pesticide-free vegetables which they use in cooking. The Café also has a pizza oven available for events.



The East Clare Community Co-op is a busy place providing a welcome space for people to eat in and delivering food services to the East Clare community and region. They aim to offer a friendly environment in which to meet people, share good food and relax. The Co-op is a social enterprise co-operative with a number of interdependent activities from support provision to training and cultural events, to facilitating new enterprise creation. The organisation is a non-profit co-operative and its activities and services support each other, in turn supporting the development and needs of the community. Find out more at:

<https://www.eastclarecoop.com>



PPNS ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The Annual Report 2022 for all of Ireland's 31 Public Participation Networks has just been published. By the end of 2022, over 18,053 community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations were members of a PPN. In the foreword to the report, Minister Joe O'Brien writes: "PPNs worked tirelessly within communities to put invaluable supports in place to meet a wide variety of community needs including embracing our new communities from Ukraine and other countries... In what has been another challenging year, PPNs have shown great commitment and agility in delivering on their agenda and bringing the voice of community to the decision making table." You can read or download the report here:

<https://www.socialjustice.ie/articles/public-participation-networks-launch-2022-annual-report>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



CLARE LOCAL AREA GRANT SCHEME 2024

Deadline 2nd February: This scheme, led by Clare County Council, includes funding to support local community projects. For 2024, applications are being invited under 11 categories: Public Realm Initiatives and Amenity Projects, Maintenance of Open Spaces in Private Housing Developments, Community Playgrounds, Burial Ground Maintenance and Provision, Christmas Lighting, Best Kept Local Authority Estate, the Arts, the Irish Language, Tourism Marketing & Promotion, Sustainable Tourism and Community Project Development. The closing date for online applications is 5pm on Friday, 2nd February. Enquiries can be made by emailing clags@clarecoco.ie. The Online Application system and scheme guidelines can be accessed at:

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/grants/clarelocalaregrantscheme/>



COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

Deadline 28th 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.submit.com>

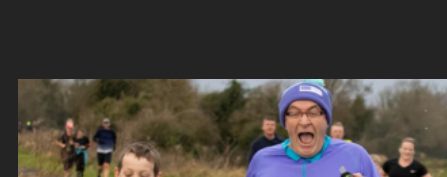
NEWS/ EVENTS ...



REFERENDUMS – ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

This March, for the first time in almost five years, people in Ireland will have the opportunity to vote in a referendum. In fact, there will be two referendums on the same day: Friday 8th March – one on whether to remove the Constitutional reference to the role of women in the home; the other on expanding the concept of the family within the Irish Constitution. And then in June, local and European elections will be held. You can check that you're registered to vote and that your details are up to date by going to checktheregister.ie, where you can confirm or update your details, by providing your PPS number, Eircode and date of birth. Neither PPS numbers nor dates of birth will ever appear on the electoral register.

You can also provide information about other necessary changes – for example, family members who are deceased but are still on the register. A paper form will remain available for those who wish to use it, either with a PPS number or with an in-person identity check at a local Garda station, similar to the previous process. You can check the register at: <https://checktheregister.ie>



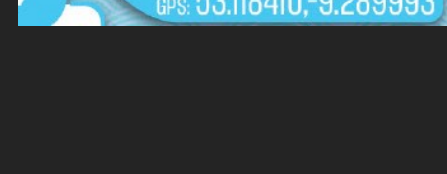
PARKRUN IN CLARE

Parkrun is a free, community event in which you can take part by walking, jogging, running, volunteering or spectating. Parkrun is 5K and takes place every Saturday morning, while the Junior Parkrun is 2K, dedicated to 4-14 year olds and their families, every Sunday morning. There are four locations in the Banner County – at Lees Road in Ennis, Vandeleur Gardens in Kilrush, Clarisford Park in Killaloe and Ilaunmanagh in Shannon. Parkrun is positive, welcoming and inclusive, there is no time limit and no one finishes last. Everyone is welcome to come along. You only need to register once, whether walking, jogging, running, volunteering or a combination. At the link below you'll find more information and an interactive map showing the nearby 150 locations across Ireland where are you can take part. <https://www.parkrun.ie/>



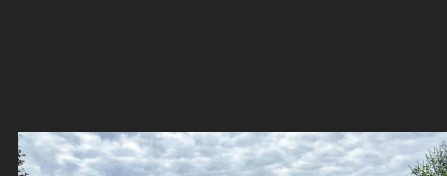
CLARE'S BLUE HEALTH & WELLBEING PASSPORT

The Health and Wellbeing Passport focuses on the Blue and Green Flag beaches in County Clare, highlighting them on an interactive map along with nearby free or low-cost healthy activities and spaces in each of the county's municipal districts. Explorers can rate the blue and green flag spaces they've visited. There is also a municipal district section on the reverse page where playgrounds, pleasant walks and wellbeing hubs can be ticked off the list. For further information and to have a physical copy posted out to your place email healthyclare@clarecoco.ie or call 065 684 6276. The passport is supported by Healthy Ireland and Creative Ireland and is available through Clare Libraries and Clare County Council offices.



WEBINAR: THINK BRAIN HEALTH

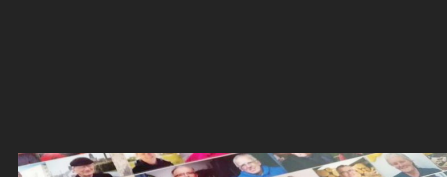
24th January: This webinar which runs from 11am – 12pm on Wednesday, 24th January, will help you discover how healthy behaviours support your incredible brain and help prevent certain types of dementia. Sarah McCormack of the HSE and Dr Sean O'Dowd of Tallaght University Hospital and National Dementia Services are joined by a fantastic panel to talk about our brain and the things we can do to look after it. You can register for the conference here: <https://hse720.webex.com/webex/register/r94bdaeb2f7b365d3d93af493d41836e>



WORLD WETLANDS DAY

1st/2nd February: Wetland Wetlands Day, held each year on 2nd February, is a global event celebrating the importance of wetlands. This year's theme is 'Wetlands and Human Wellbeing'. In advance of this day, the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) will host a special networking event at 7pm on 1st February at the Temple Gate Hotel in Ennis. This will explore the importance of wetlands in Clare and how they sustain biodiversity, help address climate change, connect us to nature and support human wellbeing. This will include presentations followed by an open discussion. It will focus on wetland resources, biodiversity, how wetlands help address climate change and support human wellbeing. Register for this free event here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/#!/e/clare/wetlands-world-wetlands-day-in-county-clare-tickets-79596271581197>



MILTOWN MALBAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

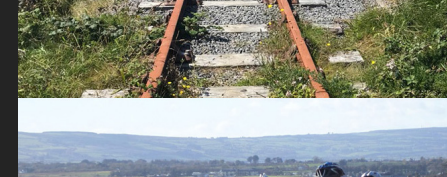
We're always impressed with the range of events going on at Miltown Malbay Community Centre – and with their monthly newsletter that brings news of such goings-on. The latest issue tells of a new series of monthly set dancing céilidhe at the centre starting in February, with live music from a different act each month (contact Bill on 087-9393357). There's also social dancing classes every Monday evening (contact Eva on 085-8210633); early morning yoga (contact Sue 086-8102770) and some interesting art projects. You can find them on [Facebook](https://www.miltownmalbaycommunitycentre.com) or their website: <https://www.miltownmalbaycommunitycentre.com>



DEPOSIT RETURN FOR BOTTLES & CANS

Ireland will soon be introducing a Deposit Return Scheme. In February 2024, when you buy a drink in a plastic bottle, aluminium or steel can that features the Re-turn logo, you pay a small deposit in addition to the price of the drink. When you return your empty, undamaged container to any retail outlet, you get your deposit back in full. Anywhere that sells drinks with the Re-turn logo, must accept your empty, undamaged containers and refund your deposit in cash or against other purchases. Find out more: <https://re-turn.ie>

CONSULTATIONS



WEST CLARE RAILWAY GREENWAY

Deadline 2nd February: The wonderful West Clare Railway will be open once again – as a greenway – and Clare County Council is interested to hear your views. A Public Consultation has just begun for Section 3 - Ennistymon, Lahinch & Miltown Malbay; and Section 4 - Miltown Malbay, Quilty, Doonbeg & Moyasta. From Friday 12th January until Friday 2nd February the consultation information will be on display at Doonbeg Community Hall and Miltown Malbay Public Library. Submissions can be made by return to the above locations or via post to: West Clare Railway Greenway S3/4 PC1, PMO, Clare County Council, Buttermarket Building, Drumbiggle Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DX2, or via email to: WCRSections3&4@rod.ie. More information at: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/greenways/>



SURVEY ON NATIONAL DISABILITY STRATEGY

Deadline 11th February: Are you interested in informing how the new National Disability Strategy could include to improve the lives of disabled people in Ireland? If so, you are invited to complete this short questionnaire that will take 10 to 15 minutes. The survey is being conducted by the National Disability Authority (NDA) and will remain open until 11th February at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NDS24>

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) is developing a new National Disability Strategy and has asked the NDA to conduct some elements of the consultation on their behalf. The overall focus of the consultation is to inform a set of strategic actions that will address common barriers to inclusion and participation for people with disabilities across key areas of society. <https://www.gov.ie/en/following/c293d-upcoming-consultation-have-your-say/>



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@drod.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/93861-national-social-enterprise-policy-for-ireland-closing-phase-public-consultation/>