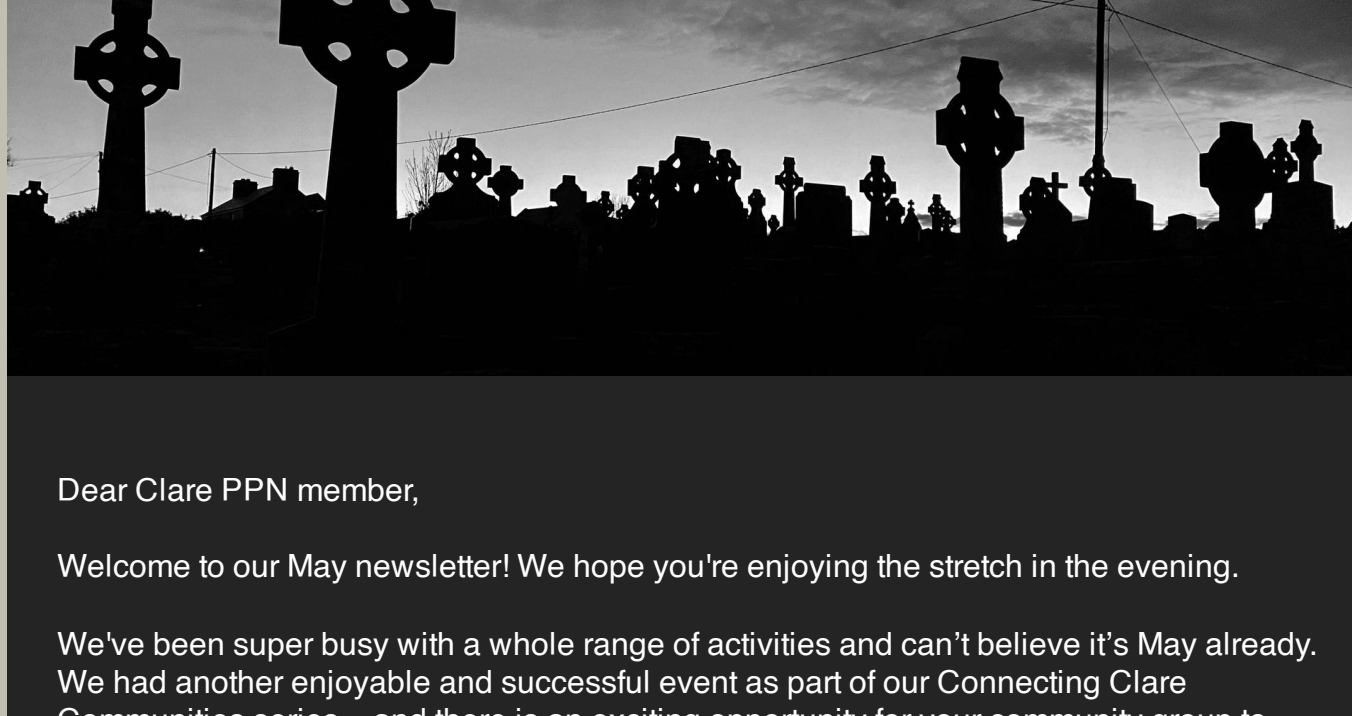


# NEWSLETTER MAY 2024



Dear Clare PPN member,

Welcome to our May newsletter! We hope you're enjoying the stretch in the evening.

We've been super busy with a whole range of activities and can't believe it's May already. We had another enjoyable and successful event as part of our Connecting Clare Communities series – and there is an exciting opportunity for your community group to take part in an Expo later in May.

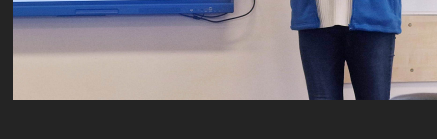
We've also been busy with a voter registration drive involving lots of volunteers reminding people to check the register, and raising awareness about who's entitled to vote in which elections. (Did you know that every adult living in Ireland can vote in local elections?) Scroll down to find out how to check if you're registered, as well as for news, funding opportunities, job vacancies and lots more.

By the way, Clare PPN has finally joined the Instagram world and we're doing our best to look like we always belonged. You can follow us @clareppn.

Finally, if you'd like to see something included in our newsletter, you can let us know by emailing newsletter@clareppn.ie

All the best,  
Sarah Clancy, Sarah Ferrigan & William Hederman

**Clare PPN**  
Clonroad Business Park  
Ennis, Co. Clare  
V85 N62T  
Mobile: 087 1617375



## CONNECTING CLARE COMMUNITIES

We had another great day of workshops and networking for community and voluntary groups last week with our latest Connecting Clare Communities event. Clare PPN was again delighted to team up with Clare Volunteer Centre and Clare Local Development Company. We had a great atmosphere, engaging discussions, productive work sessions and exciting plans for future projects. We had workshops led by Sharon Meaney of the Volunteer Centre and William Hederman from Clare PPN, with lots of participants sharing their valuable experience and skills. We're looking forward to our next collaboration, the Connecting Communities Expo, on Thursday 23rd May, at the Woodstock Hotel. Keep an eye on your email inbox and our social media channels for details of how to register.



## VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

We had a really successful day out on Tuesday of this week for Voter Registration Day, with stalls in Ennis and Shannon at which we spoke to thousands of people about registering to vote. Volunteers from a range of community groups joined Clare PPN staff and secretariat members to encourage people to register in advance of the local and European elections on 7th June. We were also delighted to be joined on the day by Páidí McKelton, Integration Officer with Clare Co Council, Padraic Hayes from Clare Leader Forum, Noimh Lynch from Clare Solidarity Network and Elaine D'Alton from Women's Collective Ireland - Clare.



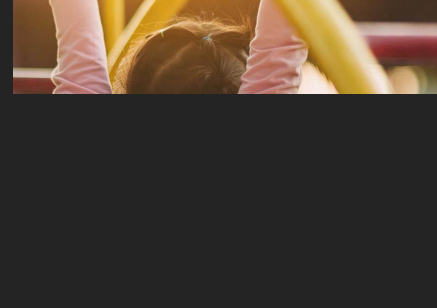
Voter Registration Day is a national event aimed at encouraging people from under-represented groups to join the voters' register. Throughout April we were also out and about in Clare, visiting accommodation and direct provision centres, raising awareness that everyone living in Ireland is entitled to vote in local elections – no matter what their citizenship status. Along with our colleagues in 12 other community organisations we'll be continuing this work right up until the closing date for registration on May 20th. You can still register yourself to vote, or check that you're on the register, by going to [checktheregister.ie](https://www.checktheregister.ie) – all you need is your PPS number, date of birth, Eircode and email address. The process was recently simplified, which means most people no longer need to go to a Garda station to register. <https://www.checktheregister.ie>

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



## COMMUNITIES INTEGRATION FUND

**Deadline 8th May:** The CIF enables community-based organisations across Ireland to build on their vital work in reaching out to, and helping to, integrate migrants into local communities. Successful organisations will receive grant funding of €1,000 – €5,000 to support local integration initiatives. In total €500,000 will be made available to local community-based projects nationwide to support the integration of migrants. For more information and to download the guidance document and application form please visit: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/e2550-minister-of-state-joe-obrien-announces-the-opening-of-applications-for-the-communities-integration-fund-2024/>



## COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2024

**Deadline 9th May:** The Community Recognition Fund 2024 is now open for Expressions of Interest and will close on Thursday 9th May. The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in communities that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protections Applications. The Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used into the future by all members of the community. The minimum level of funding for an individual project is €50,000 while the maximum level is €500,000.

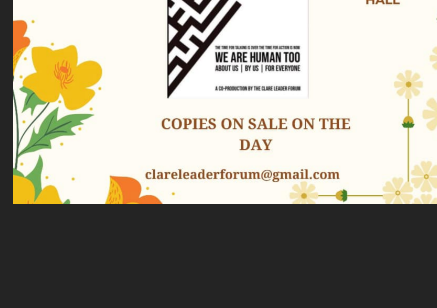
The locations eligible to apply at this point in time are: Ballyvaughan; Bellharbour; Bodyke; Bunratty; Clarecastle; Doolin; Ennis; Inch; Kilaloe; Kibaha; Killee; Kilmaley; Kilrush; Knockalishpen; Lahinch; Liscannor; Lisdoonvarna; Milown Malby; New Market-on-Fergus; Scariff; Shannon; Tulla. Specific queries can be directed to [crf@clarecoco.ie](mailto:crf@clarecoco.ie) and for more information please visit: <https://clarecoco.submitt.com/show/77>



## WHEEL GRANTS FOR TRAINING NETWORKS

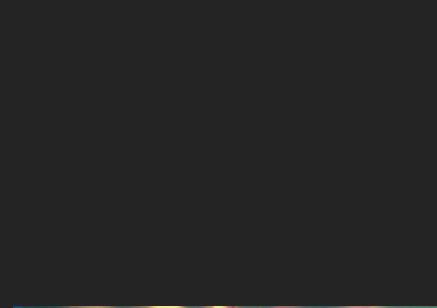
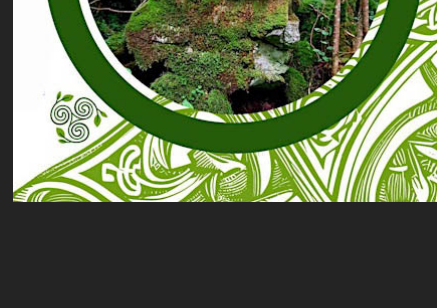
**Deadline 17th May:** Training Links, from the Wheel, funds community and voluntary organisations to form Training Networks – groups of organisations who come together to undertake training they may not have the opportunity to do individually. Training Networks must have a minimum of 10 members, and over the course of the programme, members will work together to address a specific workforce training goal. Members of your Training Network can be from the same region, sub-sector or community of interest, for example. Training Networks are invited to apply for grants ranging from €10,000 to €50,000. Email Lauren on [traininglinks2024@wheel.ie](mailto:traininglinks2024@wheel.ie) or visit the website for full details, and to download the application form: <https://www.wheel.ie/training/traininglinks>

# NEWS / EVENTS ...



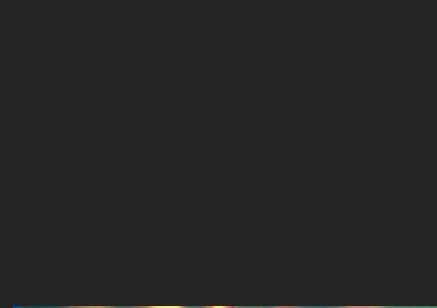
## 'WE ARE HUMAN TOO': READINGS & DISCUSSION

**6th May:** Clare Leader Forum is hosting a very special event in Corofin next Monday 6th May, which will include readings from, and a discussion about, their recently published book, 'We Are Human Too'. Michael Neylon, who was one of the key figures behind the co-op in Roscommon – where the Disabled People of Clara had its first HQ – will give context of the importance of the foundation. Also, poetry from Clare Leader Forum co-founder Martin Tobin, Local Brian Flanagan, comedian and actor will read from the book. There will be a chance for chats and questions. The event will take place from 1:30-2:30pm at Corofin Hall, after which folks will head to Lough Inchiquin for the annual Lark at the Lake Regatta. No need to book but you can contact them at [clareleaderforum@gmail.com](mailto:clareleaderforum@gmail.com)



## CONNECTING THROUGH OUR SHARED LANDSCAPE

**11th May:** Explore a unique hidden landscape that has shaped our history, myths, folklore and our connection to the land over thousands of years. Join the Irish Environmental Network for a guided tour of the karst landscape of South Roscommon, and discover the plants and animals that live here. Join the IEN and the UI Maine Kingdom Group this May 11th for this free event to discover this magical landscape, celebrate our connections to the land, and explore what actions we can take to protect this unique habitat for future generations. Meet others who work and share the interest in biodiversity and natural history. Keynote speaker is Dr Brendan Dunford, co-founder of Farming for Nature. They begin at 11am on Saturday May 11th. Lunch and refreshments included. Places are booking up fast, so register now: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/connecting-through-our-shared-landscape-tickets-876548840177>



## THE ALTERNATIVE EUROVISION

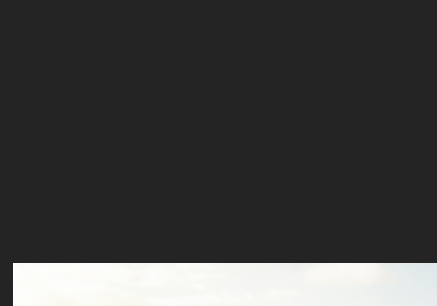
Several artists from Clare are taking part in this star-studded evening of music, comedy and poetry at Leisureland in Galway on Friday week. It takes place one day before the Eurovision, and some of the big names include Sharon Shannon, Mundy and John Spillane. Organised by Apartheid-Free Arts and Irish Artists for Palestine, the event aims to support the boycott of Eurovision due to Israel's participation and to show solidarity with Palestine.

All funds raised during the event through ticket sales and online donations will go to human rights, advocacy and aid organisations in Palestine: UNWRA, Psychosocial Counselling Centre for Women (PSCCW), Al Haq and Al Mezan and direct support to artists in Gaza. All performers and crew are volunteering their time. (You can't make it along the event will also be streamed live. Tickets are €35 or €30 for seniors, 3rd-level students or unwaged. You can buy tickets here: <https://theticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173654046>



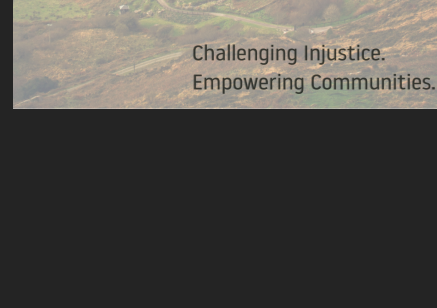
## HELLO, HOW ARE YOU?

The third national Hello, How Are You? day, is happening on 15th May this year. Hello, How Are You? is a campaign about connection and meaningful conversations surrounding mental health. Individuals, communities, workplaces, friends and families to join us in saying 'Hello' and asking 'How Are You?' in a genuine and meaningful way. Last year, the campaign resonated deeply, with over 270 events in 26 counties. If you'd like to have an event as part of this day, or if you just like to find out more about it, visit the website below: <https://hellowareyou.info>



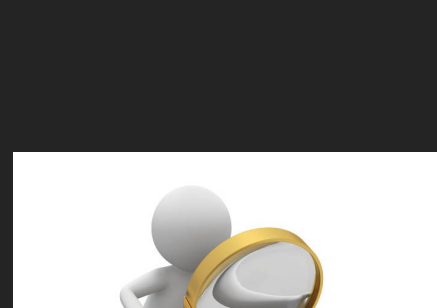
## TAKE PART IN CULTURE NIGHT

**Deadline 5th June:** Culture Night, an annual event that celebrates culture, creativity and the arts, takes place this year on Friday 20th September. Arts and cultural organisations across the country open their doors until late with hundreds of free events, tours, talks & performances. Venues stay open later and longer than usual to promote what's on offer from cultural organisations, artists, venues, artists' studios, performers, galleries, art collections, archives, interesting buildings, places and spaces, museums, arts centres, libraries etc. Clare Arts Office is now inviting artists of all disciplines, groups, schools and organisations to fold an event(s) and have it included in a national and county programme of events for Culture Night. Find out more here: <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/culture-night-2024>



## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ADVICE CLINICS

Community Law and Mediation's Centre for Environmental Justice welcome all queries to their advice clinics, which are held on a weekly basis and can be accessed by phone, Zoom or in person. No query is too small. They can assist with a variety of environmental issues, such as a lack of environmental enforcement in relation to dumping, noise pollution, water pollution and dereliction; intersectional health, housing and environmental problems due to poor housing conditions such as cold and damp, poor access to sanitation and clean water; poor air quality, energy poverty and greenspace accessing retrofit schemes; and lack of access to green space and amenities. To book into an environmental legal advice clinic, see link below. Alternatively, you can phone 01 847 7804. <https://communitylawandmediation.ie/centre-for-environmental-justice/book-an-environmental-clinic-or-talk/>



## JOB VACANCIES

**Clare County Childcare Committee** is seeking a Development Officer: <https://www.activeink.ie/vacancies/children-youth/107478-clare-county-childcare-committee-development-officer>

**Mid West Simon Community** is looking to hire a Night Support Worker in Clare: <https://www.activeink.ie/vacancies/community/107720-mid-west-simon-community-night-support-worker-clare>

**Clarecare** in Ennis has a vacancy for an Accounts Administrator: <https://www.activeink.ie/vacancies/community/107816-clarecare-accounts-administrator>



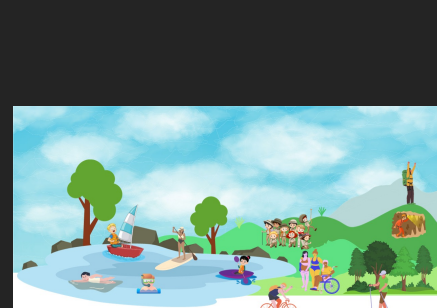
# CONSULTATIONS

## ENNIS POST OFFICE FIELD

**Deadline 9th May:** Clare County Council together with Ennis 2040 DAC has been running a public consultation in relation to its plans for Ennis Post Office Field. The proposed development will consist of an elevated boardwalk which the developers say is designed around river biodiversity, habitat and wildlife. However, there has also been a campaign of opposition to this proposal on environmental grounds. Clare PPN previously passed a plenary motion opposing honouring your version of the same proposal.



You can complete an online survey about these plans at the link below. You can also view the plans until this Friday, 3rd May, in the reception area of the Clare County Council building in Ennis. You can read more about the plans for the following page. There is also a link at the bottom of the page to the survey. Please note that you need to take a minute to create a temporary account in order to fill out the survey: <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/proposals-development-of-post-office-field>



## CLARE LOCAL SPORTS PLAN SURVEY

Clare County Council is leading, in collaboration with Clare Sports Partnership, the development of a Local Sports Plan for the County. You can take a few minutes to complete an anonymous survey that will help them to develop a plan that reflects your aspirations and requirements for sports and physical activity the survey is open to all people across the County, regardless of age, gender, ethnic background, ability or location. The plan will consider all forms of recognised physical activity from exercise and fitness, playing sports, walking, dancing and cycling to structured participation in schools and clubs. You can find the survey here: <https://surveymonkey.com/ClareSurveys>



## REVISED ENERGY POVERTY ACTION PLAN

**Deadline 8th May:** The Energy Poverty Action Plan, approved by Government in December 2022, set out a range of measures implemented, as well as key longer-term measures, to ensure that those least able to afford increased energy costs were supported and protected to adequately heat and power their homes over winter 2022/23. While progress has been made, the continued high cost of energy resulted in additional cost-of-living measures in February 2023 and in Budget 2024. As a result, the existing Action Plan is being reviewed and revised. A Steering Group has developed a set of questions at the following link which aim to capture information from stakeholders to assist with the development of a revised Action Plan: <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/c07d4-consultation-on-the-revised-energy-poverty-action-plan/>

