Healthy Clare Newsletter December 2024

www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/healthy-clare/



healthyclare@clarecoco.ie



@HealthyClareIRL



@healthy clare



@healthyclareireland



Follow us on Social Media

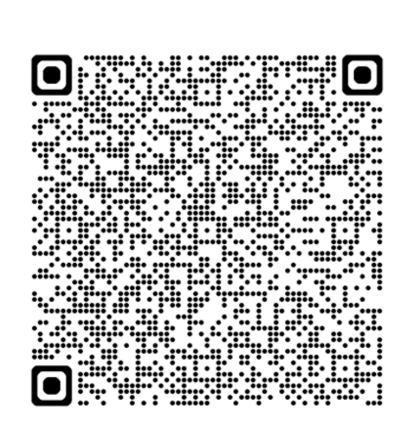
Clare County Council Free Period Products Campaign as part of the Dept. of Health Period Poverty Initiative.

We are delighted to continue rolling out Clare County Council's Free Period Products Campaign in Local Authority spaces, libraries and leisure facilities. We have seen many benefits of supporting these facilities to have a supply of period products that are freely available to members of the public. If your community would like to be involved in this programme we would love to hear from you. For more information about the campaign, please visit Clare County Council's Free Period Products Campaign | Clare County Council Community

Engagement (clarecoco.ie)

To give feedback on the campaign please scan the QR code or visit

https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/free-period-products/ surveys/clare-s-la-free-period-products-campaign-2





Dear Readers,

I hope that everyone is safe, well and warm during this cold spell. As we move into the busy Christmas period, Clare County Council's Fire & Rescue Service have provided some safety tips to support us over the Christmas period on page 10, and summarised below.

12 Tips for Christmas.

- 1.Check your Christmas lights conform to the European Standards.
- 2. Never place candles near your Christmas tree.
- 3. Make a fire escape plan.
- 4. Decorations can burn easily.
- 5. Never overload electrical sockets.
- 6. Celebrate Christmas safely.
- 7. Remember that most fires start in the kitchen.
- 8. Make sure cigarettes are completely extinguished.
- 9. Check your smoke alarm every week.
- 10. Keep lighters and matches out of reach of children.
- 11. Take the time to check

on elderly residents.

12. Have your chimney cleaned once per year.

I hope you all have a very safe and happy
Christmas.
Kind regards, Sam



Clare County Council
would like to wish you all
a safe happy Christmas
and peaceful 2026.

Physical Activity



Clare Walks Ltd.

MINDFULNESS WALK

Clare Walks Ltd are organising a guided mindfulness walk on Friday 13th December in Scariff Riverside Park @ 11am - 12pm.

Free and all are welcome.

For bookings, text/WhatsApp 086 358 6293.

Get Fit with Active Ennis this Christmas



- For further info or to book you place, call in or phone 0656821604.
- This class combines Strength, HIIT and Cardio Exercises into fun activities for a Full Body Workout

10 AM - 11AM

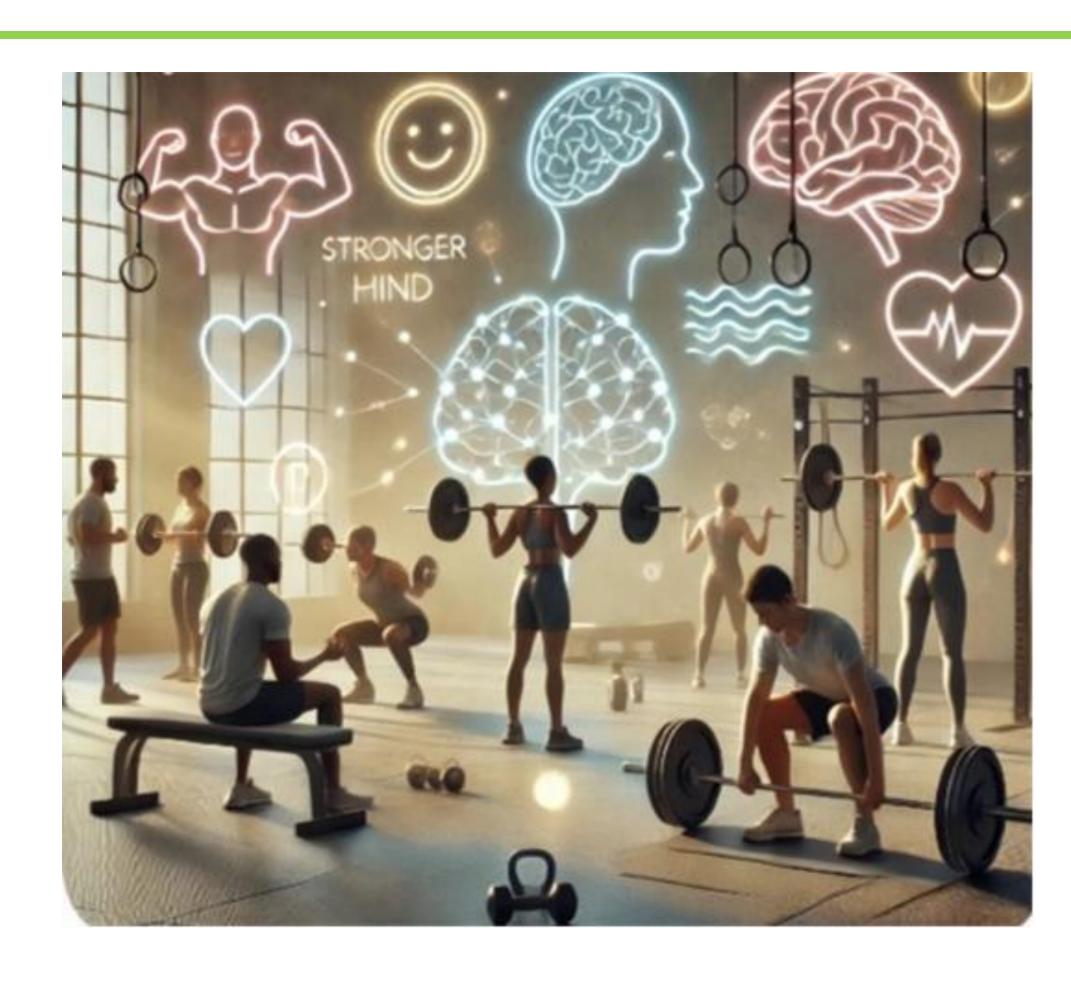
SATURDAY

9AM - 10AM

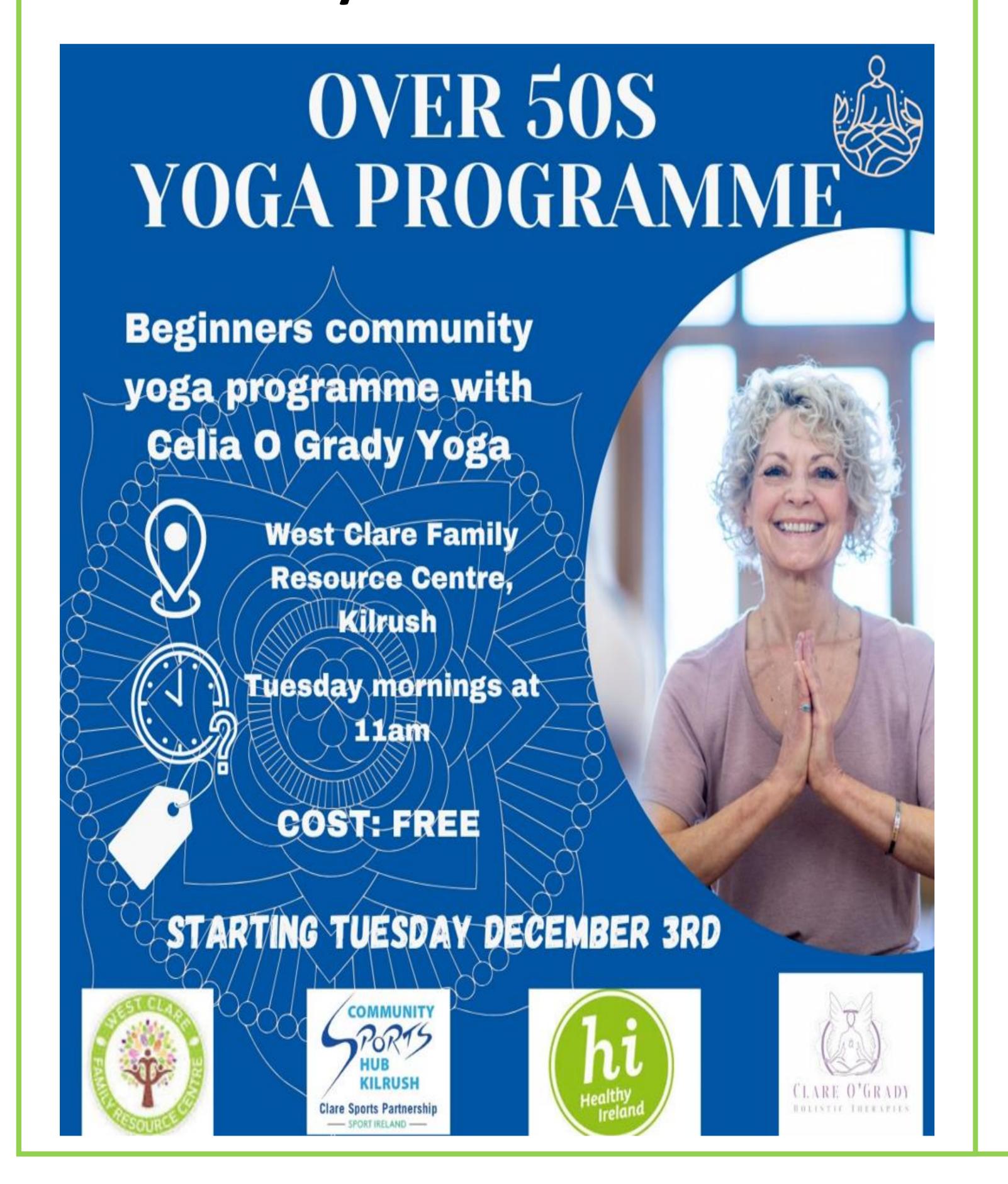
www.activeennis.com



Physical Activity



West Clare Family Resource Center



Keep Fit with Jamie from Active Ennis

Benefits of Strength Training for Mental Health

Strength training offers several benefits for mental health. Here are some ways it can positively impact mental wellbeing:

1. Reduces Symptoms of Depression and Anxiety

Strength training has been shown to lower levels of depression and anxiety, comparable to other forms of exercise.

It promotes the release of endorphins, which are natural mood elevators.

Engaging in resistance exercises provides a sense of accomplishment, which can boost self-esteem.

2. Improves Cognitive Function

Regular strength training enhances brain health by improving blood flow and stimulating the production of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), which supports neural growth and cognitive function.

It has been linked to better memory, focus, and reduced risk of neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's.

3. Enhances Self-Esteem and Body Image

As strength improves and body composition changes, many people experience a boost in self-confidence and a more positive body image.

Meeting strength goals can provide a sense of mastery and empowerment.

4. Reduces Stress

Strength training helps lower cortisol levels, a hormone associated with stress.

The focus required during lifting sessions can serve as a form of mindfulness, helping to shift attention away from stressors.

5. Promotes Better Sleep

Engaging in regular strength training has been linked to improved sleep quality, which is crucial for mental health. Better sleep helps regulate mood and reduces fatigue.

6. Provides a Sense of Community

Participating in group training sessions or working out with a gym buddy can foster social connections, which are vital for mental well-being.

This sense of belonging can combat loneliness and improve mood.

7. Helps with Resilience and Coping

Overcoming physical challenges in strength training can translate to greater psychological resilience.

It teaches discipline and perseverance, which can help in managing life's challenges.

8. Balances Mood with Hormonal Regulation

Strength training supports hormonal balance, increasing levels of testosterone and growth hormone, which contribute to energy levels and mood stabilization.

In summary, incorporating strength training into your routine can be a powerful tool for improving mental health, offering benefits that extend beyond physical fitness to enhance overall well-being.

Brought to you by Jamie Fitzgibbon (Active Ennis) Msc. Sports Nut)

Mental Health

Grow Mental Health Peer Support



GROW meetings are held in Ennis each week for anyone experiencing mental health issues.

Venue: Maria Assumpta Halll,

- Mondays from 8pm to 10pm.
- Tuesday 2pm Maria Assumpta Hall, Ennis

Contact Celia on 0861526966 for more information.





In our interactions with young people and families, we often hear of the challenges brought on by the psychological distress associated with anxiety and difficulties around mental and emotional wellbeing. While anxiety is a normal human response to danger or threat, it becomes an issue when it is more severe than it should be relative to the situation, lasts longer than it should, or influences the way we function in our daily lives.

Childline by ISPCC offers FREE online anxiety management programmes, created by SilverCloud, a leading digital mental health provider, that are based on the principles of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), incorporate mindfulness practices and are specifically designed to help manage anxiety. The programmes, one aimed at 15 – 18-year old young people and two aimed at parents/carers of 5 – 18-year-old children, include interactive tools, activities, mood monitors and journals to encourage users to apply CBT to their own lives and aim to empower participants to think and feel better. Throughout the duration of the early intervention, 12week programme, users will be guided by fully trained ISPCC volunteers who provide confidential support. For more details, email spacefromanxiety@ispcc.ie or check out our website: https://www.ispcc.ie/

Peer-Led Wellness Cafe

When: Monday between 10:30am-12pm (except closed public holidays).

Where: Glór

Purpose: Drop in and get yourself a cuppa and sit for a chat.



Drop in Café to promote and support positive mental wellbeing. Connect in a safe and supportive environment with friendly people who put the WE in Wellness.

> Mondays 10:30am - 12pm (except public holidays closed) Meet in glór café Causeway Link, Ennis V95 VHP0



Rosemary 087 6560854 MidWest Lead Mental Health Engagement











Eating Well

GET WILD THIS CHRISTMAS

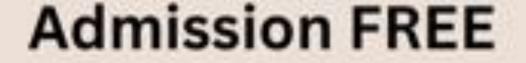


Come along and get some great ideas for creating "wild" and wonderful treats this Christmas, such as wild garlic & seaweed salt scones, herb and daisy butter and cranberry sauce with a twist.

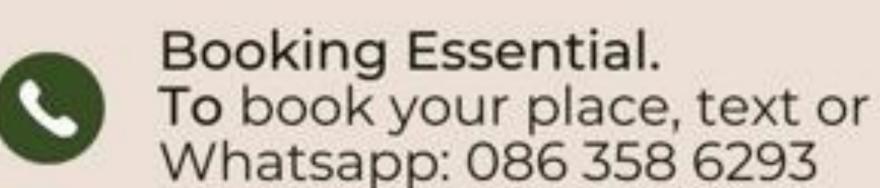




Thursday 5th December 11:30am - 1:30pm **Quin Community Centre**







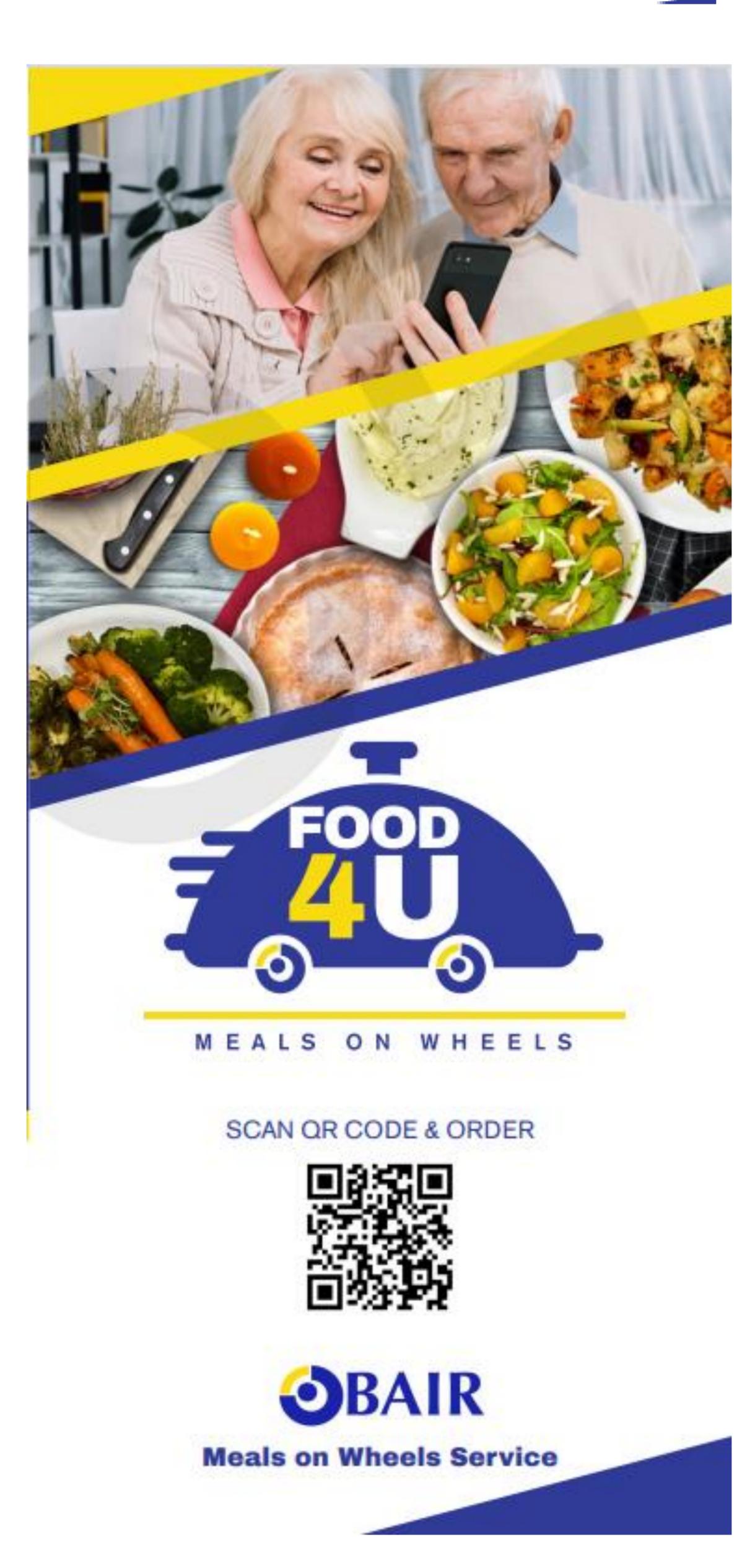








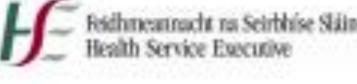




- Meals on wheels service is now in Kilrush, Inagh, Kilfenora and Tulla as well as all our original routes.
- Seeking volunteer drivers and co pilots for these new places
- Service is running everyday over christmas except Christmas day













Tobacco Free, Reducing Drugs & Alcohol Related Harm



Mid West Community Addiction Studies Course January 2025

The next Community Addiction Studies Course which will be starting in Ennis, Co Clare on 22nd January 2025.

The course is an evening course and is free of charge, and of interest to anyone who has a personal, professional, volunteering interest in this topic.

The Mid West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Forum is partnering with Limerick and Clare Eduction and Training Board on this course. For more details contact Rionach Power, MWRDAF at rpower@mwrdtf.ie or visit www.fetchcourses.ie for more information.







Episode 3 of the HSE Talking Health and Wellbeing Podcast: Tobacco Free Ireland

https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=HSE+Tallking+Health+adn+Wellbeing+Episode+3&mid=1AB9BC889F2DDEAD32911AB9BC889F2DDEAD3291&FORM=VIRE



The aim of the 'Not Around Us' Campaign is to work "Towards a Tobacco and Vape Free Clare".

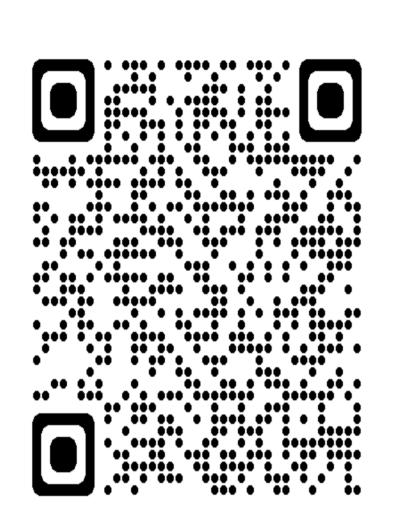
The purpose of the Not Around Us campaign is to:

- 1.Help **Protect** children and young people from secondhand smoke
- 2. Contribute to the **Denormalisation** of smoking for children and young people
- **3.Reduce Environmental Nuisance**, the cost of cleaning and damage that discarded tobacco products create
- 4.Signpost to the HSE Quit services
- **5.Raise Awareness** and **Support** amongst all stakeholders in Clare on tobacco/vape free Ireland and everyone playing a part in supporting it

If your organisation is interested in participating in the campaign, please link with Samantha McCarthy, Healthy Clare Coordinator via email at healthyclare@clarecoco.ie.

Sexual Health





Find out more at <u>www.sexualwellbeing.ie</u>

JOIN US FOR HIV INFORMATION DAY

DECEMBER 2, 2024



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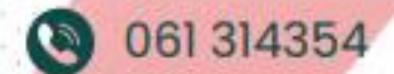


Redwood Place 18
Davis Street
Limerick

EVENT HIGHLIGHT

- Free, Confidential HIV Testing
- Educational Talks

MORE INFO:



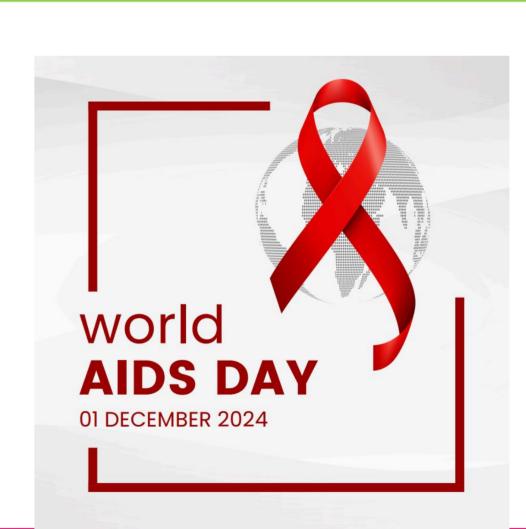








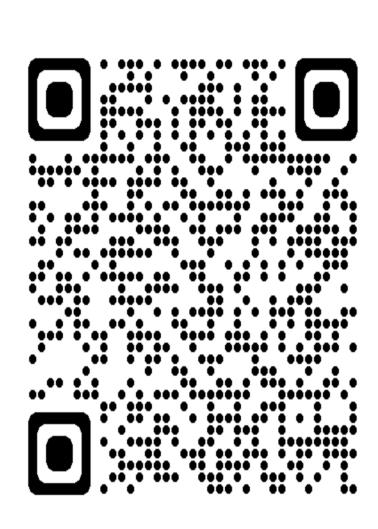






Sexual Health: Training





Find out more at <u>www.sexualwellbeing.ie</u>

Woking safely and effectively in sexual health promotion – Considerations for policy development. 10th December 024, Limerick



The aim of this training is to give professionals the knowledge and tools to ensure that they are working safely and effectively in sexual health promotion. Sexual health promotion encompasses a range of topics within the broad area of sexuality wellbeing, which is to do with the healthy understanding and expression of all aspects of a person as a sexual being. This includes but is not limited to relationships, sexual activity, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation.

By the end of the training, in relation sexual health promotion/sexuality wellbeing participants will have:

- Increased awareness of what needs to be considered to work safely and effectively,
- Increased awareness of the rationale and benefits for policy/guidelines development,
- Identified the proactive and reactive aspects of their work;
- An awareness of relevant legislation in relation to sexual health promotion,
- An understanding of the process required in planning to develop policy/guidelines.

Closing date for receipt of applications is next Tuesday December 3rd. Contact: MaireadA.Kelly@hse.ie

Foundation Programme in Sexual Health Promotion (FPSHP): 2025 Training



This revised comprehensive six-day foundation training programme is for health, education, youth and community service providers who wish to develop their confidence, skills and knowledge in the area of sexual health promotion. In the Mid-West it is delivered by HSE Health Promotion and Improvement, HSE Health and Wellbeing in partnership with GOSHH (Gender Orientation Sexual Health HIV).

The aim of the Foundation Programme in Sexual Health Promotion (FPSHP) is:

- To enhance participants' capacity to incorporate sexual health promotion into their work through the development of their comfort levels, confidence, knowledge and skills in relation to sexual health.

Application process:

As places are limited on each course there is a two-step application process.

- Step 1: Application Form (which requires a signature from your manager)
- Step 2: Telephone interview.

Certification

This course is certified by HSE Health and Wellbeing.

Course location:

The 6 day course is due to be delivered in Limerick City, venue to be confirmed.

Contact: MaireadA.Kelly@hse.ie







with Geraldine Lyon:

Making little
changes that lead to
big differences
Mon 16 th Dec
10.00am - 12.00pm

In Kilrush
Community Centre

West Clare Family Resource Centre for bookings and enquiries, please contact us on 065 905 2173

O'Gorman St., Kilrush Co.Clare

This event was made possible thanks to the support of the Clare County Council through the Healthy Clare Micro Fund

Healthy Eating Tips with Jamie Fitzgibbon

Tips for Maintaining a balanced diet

Maintaining a balanced diet is key to overall health and well-being.

Áiseanna Spóirt is Fóillíochta Sports and Leisure Facilities

1. Follow the Plate Method

Fill half your plate with vegetables and fruits. Reserve one-quarter for lean protein sources (chicken, fish, beans, tofu). Use the final quarter for carbohydrates (brown rice, quinoa, whole-grain bread).

2. Incorporate All Food Groups

Proteins: Choose lean meats, eggs, beans, and nuts. Carbohydrates: Opt for whole grains, fibrous carbs and limit refined carbs. Fats: Include healthy fats like olive oil, avocados, and nuts. Vitamins and Minerals: Ensure variety with colourful fruits and vegetables.

3. Portion Control

Use smaller plates to help with portion sizes. Avoid eating directly from large packages to prevent overeating.

4. Stay Hydrated

Drink plenty of water throughout the day. Limit sugary beverages and high-calorie drinks.

5. Limit Processed Foods

Reduce intake of high-sugar, high-salt, and high-fat processed foods. Opt for fresh, whole foods whenever possible.

6. Read Food Labels

Check for added sugars, unhealthy fats, and high sodium in packaged foods. Look for foods high in fibre and nutrients.

7. Plan Your Meals

Prepare meals at home to control ingredients and portion sizes. Batch-cook and meal-prep to avoid relying on fast food.

8. Practice Mindful Eating

Eat slowly to enjoy your meal and recognize when you're full. Avoid distractions like TV or phones during meals.

9. Snack Smart

Choose nutrient-dense snacks like nuts, yogurt, or fruit. Avoid junk food and sugary treats.

Bonus: Regularly Adjust!!!

Reassess your diet as your lifestyle and nutritional needs change. Consult a nutritionist or dietitian if you need personalized advice. Brought to you by Jamie Fitzgibbon (Active Ennis) Msc. Sports Nut)



Clare County Fire and Rescue Service "The 12 tips for Christmas"

The 1st tip for Christmas: Check your Christmas tree lights conform to the European Standards.

The 2nd tip for Christmas: Never place candles near your Christmas Tree, Cards, Decorations or Furnishings.

The 3rd tip for Christmas: Ensure guests staying for the festive period know what to do in an emergency. Make a fire escape plan.

The 4th tip for Christmas: Decorations can burn easily - don't attach them to lights, heaters, candles or place around a fireplace.

The 5th tip for Christmas: Never overload electrical sockets, switch Christmas lights off and unplug them before you go to bed.

The 6th tip for Christmas: Celebrate Christmas safely. The risk of accidents, especially in the kitchen, is greater after alcohol.

The 7th tip for Christmas: Most fires start in the kitchen - never leave a cooker unattended.

The 8th tip for Christmas: Make sure cigarettes are completely extinguished before going to bed.

The 9th tip for Christmas: Test your smoke alarm every week and use Christmas as a reminder to clean it and remove dust.

The 10th tip for Christmas: Keep, lighters and matches out of the reach of children. Never leave burning candles unattended.

The 11th tip for Christmas: Take the time to check on elderly relatives and neighbors this Christmas, make sure they are fire safe.

The 12th tip for Christmas: Have your chimney cleaned once a year.

Have a safe and relaxing festive season, full of joy and happiness.

Happy Christmas from all at Clare County Fire and Rescue Service



West Clare Mid-Winter Support Day

Kilballyowen Development Association in collaboration with Clare County Council and Clare Age Friendly are hosting a Mid Winter Support Day to showcase the supports and services available for older people living in West Clare.

Date: Monday, 9th December 2024

Location: Digital Hub, Cross, Kilrush, Co. Clare V15 TW83

Time: 11:00pm to 3:00pm

- * Property marking service available at this site provided by Clare County Council
- * Guest Speakers



List of stall holders:

- * Alzheimer Society of Ireland
- * West Clare Family Resource Centre
- * Task Community Care
- * Healthy Age Friendly Homes
- * Croí
- * Diabetes Ireland
- * Teagasc
- * Healthy Clare
- * Chime

Presentations from:

- * Healthy Age Friendly Homes
- * Revenue

Also attending on the day:

- An Garda Síochána
- Clare County Council—Property

 Marking Service











Clare Library Services

HOME ENERGY SAVING KIT



The aim of the Home Energy Saving Kit is to help householders to make sense of the energy they use every day.

These kits contain five practical energy-saving tools so that you can carry out a mini energy audit of your home and find the easiest and most important areas to save energy.

(7)

Fridge/ Freezer Thermometer

Measures the temperature of your fridge and freezer so that you can adjust if not at the right setting.



Thermal Leak Detector

Detects energy leaks in your home by showing you the temperature differences with a coloured LED light. This helps to spot thermal air leaks and identify areas for additional insulation and/or draught proofing.



Temperature & Humidity Meter

To identify both the temperature as well as the humidity levels in the home.



Plug-In Energy Monitor

To understand how much energy the applications in the home use and help calculate their running costs.



Radiator Key

To bleed radiators and release any trapped air so that your radiators run more efficiently.



MANUAL for the Home Energy Saving Kit

The MANUAL provides very simple and visual instructions on how to use each tool in the kit.



Scan the QR Code for more details.



Events — Clare Libraries

Visit:

to see a full list of events happening throughout the county.

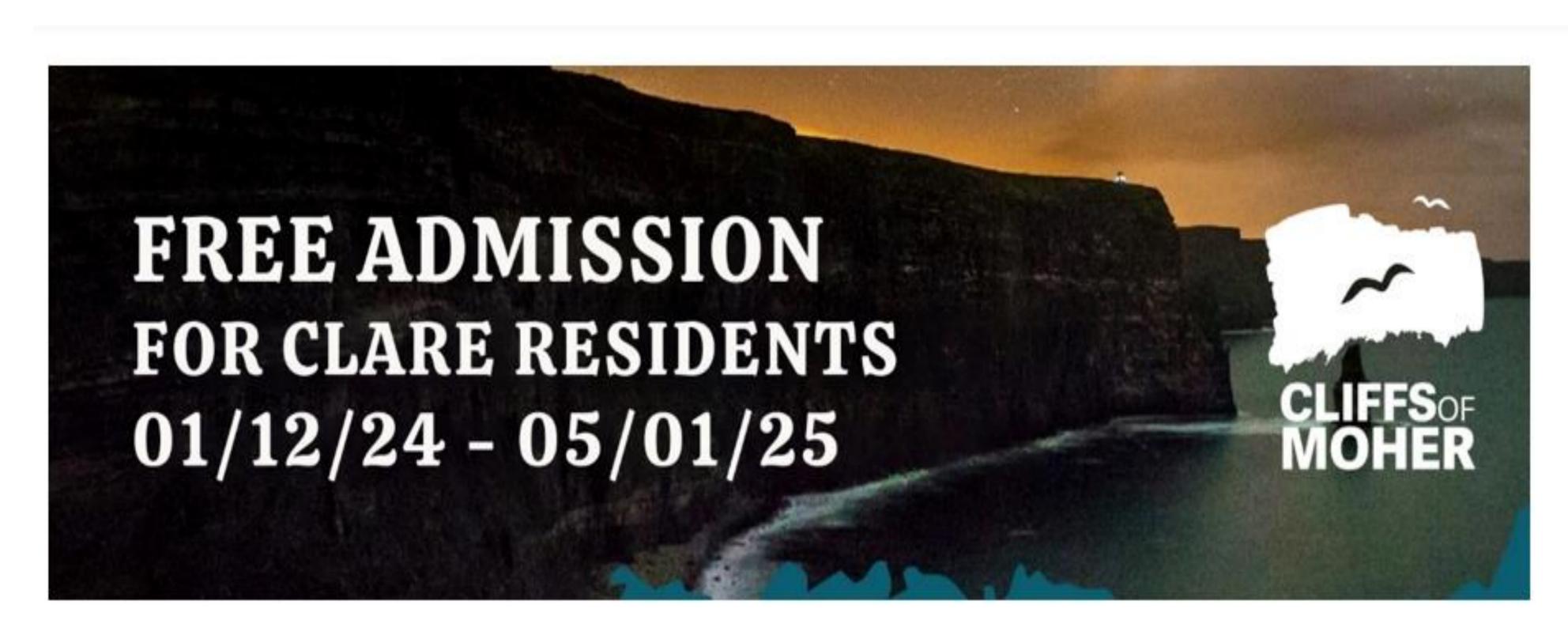












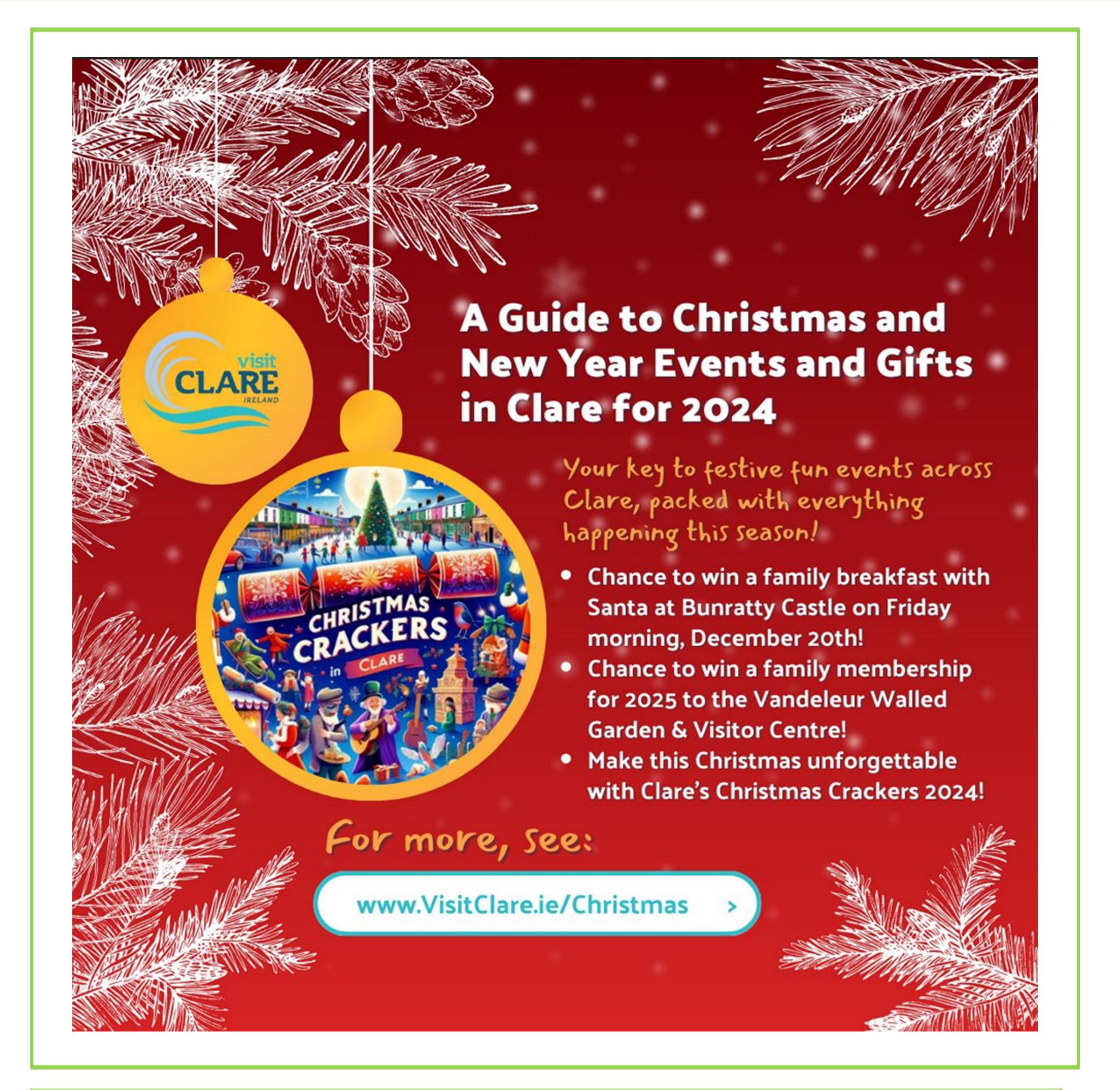
Free admission to County Clare Residents 01/12/24 - 05/01/25

All residents of County Clare are being offered complimentary admission to the Cliffs of Moher Experience as part of the world-famous attractions Christmas offering for the month of December. Our team will also be hosting fundraisers for community-based charities throughout the month. Keep an eye on the Cliffs of Moher Experience social media channels for more details!

If you are a County Clare resident and would like to avail of your free admission, book online using the promo code: 'CLARE24'

CTA: Book Now ----- Link: www.cliffsofmoher.ie





Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB), announced that the Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) fund will be opening in December 2025 and closing in January 2025. This funding stream aims to foster partnerships between organisations, prioritising initiatives for adults that enhance literacy, numeracy, digital, health, environmental and financial literacy across communities.

For those interested in learning more contact Tom and he will provide a brief overview of the fund and address questions.

087 056 4369

tom.kent@lcetb.ie

Adult Literacy for Life National Framework Strategy

Age-Friendly University



12.35 - 12.40

12.40 - 12.55

12.55 - 13.10

13.10 - 13.55

Event Schedule

Dr Marie Connolly

Inclusion, University of Limerick

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OPENING

Professor Shane Kilcommins

Provost and Acting President, University of Limerick

ONLINE GUEST SPEAKER

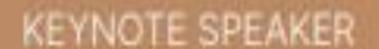
Mrs Alix McDonald

Head of the Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Strathclyde. Talk title: 'The Age-Friendly Iniversity: reflections and opportunities'.



Dr Christine O'Kelly

ge-Friendly University Coordinator, Dublin City niversity. Talk title: 'The Intersectionality of Ageriendly Universities: Advancing Equality, Diversity, nd Inclusion'.



Rose Anne Kenny

is Professor of Physic, Professor of Medical erontology Trinity College Dublin. Director of the Mercer's Institute for Successful Ageing (MISA) It James's Hospital Dublin, Talk title: 'Research Opportunities for Ageing Demographics.



CONFERENCE CLOSE

Professor Rose Galvin

Co-chair of the Age-Friendly University Committee, UL

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH









The School of Medicine Lecture Theatre

Friday 6th December 12 noon - 2pm

GEMS0-016 Main floor of SOM (front entrance)

From margins to leadership A future for disability justice

Clare Leader Forum cordially invites you to

Temple Gate Hotel Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 HOXK5

Join us as we chart a course towards justice equality and community

"Human rights are inscribed in the hearts of people they were long before lawmakers drafted their first proclamation" Mary Robinson

> THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2024 11AM TO 2PM

> > RSVP By 28th November 2024 to clareleaderforum@gmail.com

Our expert are: John Lonergan, retired governor Mount Joy. Dr. Rosaleen McDonough, award winning playwright and activist.

Derval McDonagh and Self-Advocate Inclusion Ireland. Alison Curtain, Project Leader Bedford Row Family Project

Ann Marie Flanagan, activist and editor of "we are Human Too"



















What's on in December 2024

Phone us: 065 707 1144

Parliament Street, Ennistymon, Co. Clare

Private Groups
Groups hosted by
NWCFRC
Closed to new entrants
Contact us to join
Feel free to walk-in and
meet us

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	ORGANISED BY	
Monday	10.15-12.15 4pm-6pm 7pm-8pm	Baby Massage Teen Club Irish Class	Jenny Anastasiia Kate	
Tuesday	10am-12pm 10.30 - 12.30 2.40-3.45 4pm-6pm 7pm-8pm	Kids Club (Lisdoonvarna) Drop-in Service (Parliament Street) Homework Club Teen Club (Master Chef) Yoga Class	Anastasiia Jenny Jane, Joeann Anastasiia, Jenny Kaye	
Wednesday	7am-8am 9am - 4pm 10am - 1pm 11am - 12pm 1pm-2.30 2.40-3.45 2pm - 5pm 4pm-6pm 7pm	Yoga Class Employability Textile Crew (Parliament Street) Food Cloud English Classes "Fáilte isteach" Homework Club Money Advice & Budgeting Service Traveller Teen Girls Group Men's Shed	Kaye Jennifer Jenny Joeann, Barbara Jenny, Anastasiia Jane Barbara Emma Jenny	
Thursday	9am - 2pm 10am-1pm 10.30 - 12.30 2.40-3.45 4pm-6pm 6pm-8pm 6pm - 7pm	Employability Sewing Course Kids Club (Lahinch Leisure Centre) Homework Club Youth Club Leaders Group Youth Club Ukrainian Language Classes	Jennifer Jenny Anastasiia Jane, Joeann Emma Emma Anastasiia	
Friday	9am - 5pm 9.30-12.30 10am - 12pm 11am - 1pm 1.20pm-3pm 3pm-4pm	Intreo: Employment and Income Supports Parent & Toddler Group Kids Club (The Pavilion, Lisdoonvarna) Breastfeeding Group (every 2nd week) Teen Drop-in Youth: Soccer	Tommy Jenny Anastasiia Jenny Emma Emma	



We also offer:

- Childcare (Little Deers)
- General Counselling & Play Therapy



December 5th is INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

Thank you to all our volunteers!

What's On



December 2024

Free Online Mental Health & Wellbeing Workshops

For anyone aged 18+ with an interest in mental health

TUES 3

Creativity For Wellbeing

In this workshop, we will discuss how we can each tap into our creativity to enhance our daily lives and improve our wellbeing. We will explore how creative activities can support mental health and how we can overcome barriers to creativity. Includes a Creativity Planner.



THURS (

My Mental Health - Finding Meaning

In this workshop, we will explore what meaning is in relation to mental health. We will discuss how we can find meaning in our own lives. We will identify some of the possible challenges in finding meaning and discuss how we can overcome these challenges.



Journaling For Wellbeing

In this workshop, we will explore how journaling can support our wellbeing and mental health. We will explore different ways to journal and learn tips and techniques to keep you motivated. Also we will get started with simple journaling prompts.



Let's Talk Resilience At Christmas



(L) 2pm - 4pm

In this workshop we will discuss our understanding of resilience and why it is important for our mental health and wellbeing. We will explore personal tools and strategies that can help to develop and support our resilience at Christmas and in to the New Year.





WEDS 8

(10am - 12pm

My Mental Health - Staying Connected

In this workshop, we will explore what connections means in relation to mental health. We will discuss how connection can support our mental health and wellbeing. We will identify the challenges to staying connected and discuss how we can overcome these challenges.



Hoved it all, the ideas from the groups, the co-production, the facilitators.









All of our workshops are free to attend.

Our workshops are for anyone (aged 18 and over) with an interest in mental health and wellbeing.

All of our workshops are co-produced.

This means that the topics are created by people with lived experience of mental health challenges, people using the services, family members and service providers.

All online workshops are 2 hours in duration.

BOOK NOW ON EVENTBRITE https://midwestaries.eventbrite.ie

For More Information Contact: Cillian Keane | Cillian.Keane@hse.ie







Special Days in December







