

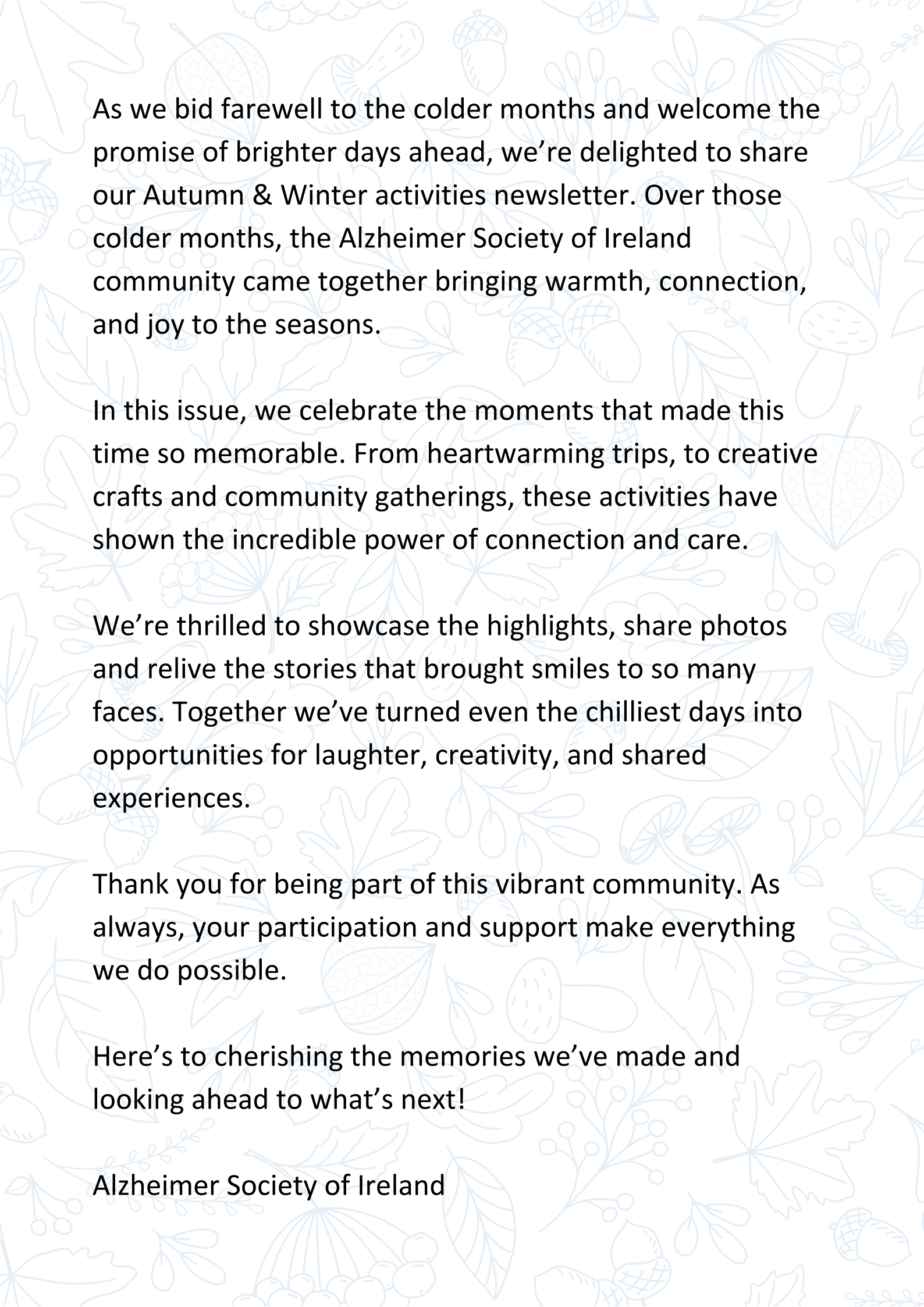


THE **Alzheimer**
SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Autumn & Winter

2024 Activities Newsletter



The background of the entire page is a light blue pattern of various autumn-themed illustrations, including leaves, acorns, and berries.

As we bid farewell to the colder months and welcome the promise of brighter days ahead, we're delighted to share our Autumn & Winter activities newsletter. Over those colder months, the Alzheimer Society of Ireland community came together bringing warmth, connection, and joy to the seasons.

In this issue, we celebrate the moments that made this time so memorable. From heartwarming trips, to creative crafts and community gatherings, these activities have shown the incredible power of connection and care.

We're thrilled to showcase the highlights, share photos and relive the stories that brought smiles to so many faces. Together we've turned even the chilliest days into opportunities for laughter, creativity, and shared experiences.

Thank you for being part of this vibrant community. As always, your participation and support make everything we do possible.

Here's to cherishing the memories we've made and looking ahead to what's next!

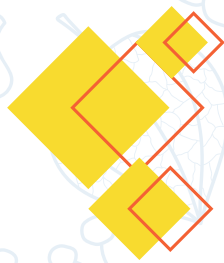
Alzheimer Society of Ireland

Enniscorthy Activity Lodge



Exciting news! We have officially opened our brand-new Activity Lodge in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford—a vibrant, welcoming space designed to support people living with Young Onset and early-stage dementia. This inspiring new lodge at Castle Gardens Retirement Village offers enriching activities like art, music, cognitive exercises, and gardening, fostering joy, creativity, and connection. It also provides a much-needed support network for carers. Developed in partnership with the HSE and Wexford Dementia Alliance, this milestone is a testament to the power of community and innovation in dementia care. A huge step forward in making a real difference!





Autumn Creativity

In Birr and Glenties Day Centres, they were all for the autumn activities. From seasonal colouring and getting the wool and needles out, to repurposing pumpkins as flower pots. What fantastic colours and creativity.



Carndonagh Social Club



In Carndonagh Social Club they really got crafty, creating floral bookmarks, cards and paintings. Working with pine cones and flowers to create fantastic pictures of Irish flora & fauna. Attendees also engaged in some wonderful play - hitting a few rounds on the 'putting green', catching the fish and playing connect four. Theres nothing like gathering with friends and engaging in art and play. We all need a little more fun!



Bessboro Day Centre & Social Club

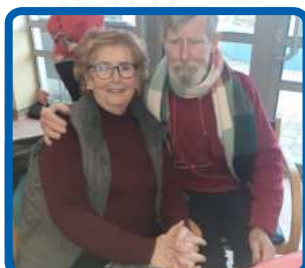
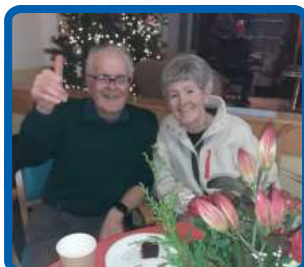
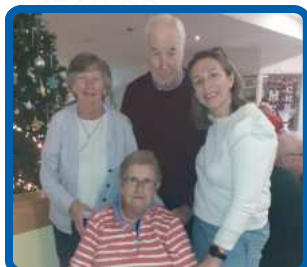
Our service users, their friends and family had a cracking time celebrating the Christmas cheer! They started off by getting crafty and creating fantastic Christmas elves and flower displays.



As the holidays drew closer the Bessboro gang began to celebrate and even welcomed friends from St Michael's National School. Their 3rd & 4th class choir called round to sing for our clients and have a chat.



However, it was the Bessboro Social Club that really got the party started with a fantastic gathering of service users, staff, friends and family. There was even some special guests. The Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Dan Boyle was only delighted to meet the main man himself Mr. Claus.



Elsewhere in Cork

In Mitchelstown and Mallow they kicked off the season with some fab food, celebrations and of course music! It was fantastic to have local groups come in and provide music and carols for all of our service users. While in Ballyvourney they got festive in Christmas Jumpers and created seasonal floral displays. They were even lucky enough to have Mrs. Claus over for dinner.



Adare Day Centre - To the Manor Bourne

It truly was the most wonderful time of the year for our Adare Day Centre attendees this holiday season. Josie, one of our wonderful service users shared that visiting Adare Manor was on her bucket list. Our incredible staff there made it happen! From a magical horse and carriage ride to enjoying hot chocolate at Harry Lowe's Chocolate Shop, Josie's dream became a reality and she got to share it with everyone from Adare Day Centre. Thank you to our Adare team for making this happen. This would definitely be one for the scrap book!



But that's not the only fun that our Adare Day centre group had during the holiday season. As part of their celebrations our service users enjoyed some homemade mulled wine. And Josie, who used to work in a flower shop created a beautiful floral centre piece.



It's a Long Way to Tipperary...

Our Cashel Social Club attendees were delighted when students from the local primary and secondary school stopped in for a visit. The students mingled with the social club and sang some songs and carols. It was truly a wonderful afternoon.



Meanwhile in Borrisokane they had been cooking up a feast! The day centre service users had a wonderful time celebrating the season together over an early Christmas Dinner. There were presents, pudding and laughter in abundance.



Off to the village... Kildare Village



A trip to Kildare Village has become a Christmas time staple for our service users in Kildare.

The Village always throws a fantastic party. There was laughter, dancing, music and all shared with wonderful friends. Thank you to Kildare Village for hosting us.

Back to Birr

Our pumpkin decorators got creative again over the holiday season. Beginning with a Christmas culinary delight by baking a pudding. Everyone got involved and got to stir the mix to make their Christmas wish.



They soon moved on to decorating the centre and most importantly the Christmas tree! A beautiful centrepiece was also created really topping off the Christmas spirit.



Once all the baking and decorating was over it was time to get the party started! It was fantastic to have the local secondary school visit to play some festive music. There was a special four legged guest as well which went down a treat! Christmas dinner was great craic with hats and funny glasses for everyone.



Moving up the Country...



In Cavan our day centre attendees headed over to The Cavan Crystal Hotel for a wonderful Christmas lunch and family celebration. It's such a great time of year to get everyone together!



Further north again in Clonmany Day centre in Donegal our service users got the paints and the glitter out to make Christmas cards for their loved ones. We think you will agree they did a beautiful job!





THE Alzheimer

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What wonderful activities and adventures have been had in these colder months. Congratulations to all. We can't wait to see what that 'grand stretch' brings!

To be featured in our next issue "Spring" please send photos & stories to alison.mccarthy@alzheimer.ie
Please include all activities, from outings, to DC visitors, and of course seasonal fun. **Deadline Friday May 09th.**