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May we wish you a belated Happy New Year. We know things really have been tough and it doesn't seem to be getting better, but please make sure you look after yourselves and don't let things get on top of you. A massive help to your physical and mental health is exercise. Please do check out the amazing article from our Dr. Jo Watt on how this can be so beneficial to you.

We are here to help you, whether a business or simply looking for some information and pointing in the right direction. Please do get in touch if you have anything valuable to say to the people of Corby and we will be more than happy to spread the word.

Please do mention us if you ever use one of our clients, it really helps engage how their advertising is going and keeps us bringing you all the things great about Corby!

Editor & Founder

Craig Barber



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Exercise: Mind, Body and Spirit



We all know that being more active is good for us, and there are lots of benefits to being more active. Not everyone can run or swim, and even if you have limited mobility you may be able to increase the amount that you do to help you to feel better. The national guidance is that we should all be aiming to do 150 minutes of physical activity a week and to try to be active every day. However, any activity that results in you moving more, raises your heart rate, helps you with increasing strength or improves your stability is helpful. This includes exercising your lungs by singing, doing seated-exercises and swimming.

Mind:

Exercise is the fastest way to help you to feel better if you are struggling with vour mental wellbeing. A brisk walk or spending time dancing will help you with mood, sleep, energy and appetite. It can also help you to manage intrusive and racing thoughts by giving your busy brain something else to focus on. Exercise works well alongside other treatments for depression, stress and anxiety such as therapy or medication. Many people find that activities such as Yoga, Pilates and Tai chi help to improve strength and flexibility as well as helping with mental wellbeing. If you can exercise at least three times a week you will feel even better, although everything you do that increases your activity levels will help. You may wish to start slowly and be realistic about how much you can increase your activity levels, be kind to yourself if there are times when your plans to exercise do not happen and don't let it put you off getting back to exercising when things settle. Some people prefer to exercise on their own and others like to be part of a group, we are all different. Exercise can help you to improve your self-esteem and doing group activities can help you to meet new people who may have similar interests.

Social Prescribers work with our local GP surgeries and can put you in touch with health walks, where you can get to know and connect with other people and have a chat while increasing your activity levels. If your mood is so low that you are finding it difficult to think about being active or are struggling to connect with other people you may wish to contact the mental health hub on 0800 448 0828 and they will support you to feel better.

Body:

Exercise can help you to lose weight if you are overweight, may reduce your blood pressure if you have been diagnosed with hypertension and can reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes. People who have already had a heart attack will usually be referred to cardiac rehabilitation which is a fantastic way to increase fitness and improve heart health. If you have a stable heart condition, diabetes, a strong family history of heart problems or have high cholesterol you may wish to take the opportunity to gradually increase your levels of activity to help to prevent more serious complications. Exercise can also help you with the pain of inflammatory conditions such as arthritis and long term back pain. Exercise can also reduce the risk of bowel cancer, breast cancer and dementia. Many of the symptoms of menopause respond well to exercise. and it is a great way to help to restore sleep as well as improving your fitness. If you have a family history of osteoporosis or have had fractured bones in the past, then weight-bearing exercise is particularly helpful to increase bone strength and reduce the risk of future fractured bones. If you feel you are at risk of falling over there is a specific local exercise programme for you called "Get Up and Go" and you may wish to follow www.northamptonshiresport.org/ getupandgo for more information.

Spirit: It is much easier to be physically active

and that can be done at a time that works for you. You may want to try a few different options before you find the right one for you, and some people find that including music can help with motivation. It can take a few weeks before a new activity feels like it is part of your life, so you may want to ask family or friends to help to encourage you and keep you motivated when you start to do something new. Doing an activity with friends or family can also make it more enjoyable and help you with your motivation. We are fortunate in Corby to have some amazing leisure facilities, and our lovely open spaces. If you are over 16 and would like to get involved in a 12 week reduced-price exercise programme supported by the great team at Corby Leisure, please contact your GP surgery to ask about referral. You may not need to talk to the GP to arrange this and other staff within your GP surgery can talk to you about exercise plans and arrange for an Activity on Referral form to be completed if you are eligible.

if you can find an activity that you enjoy

For more information about eligibility please visit www.corbyleisure.co.uk/ activity-on-referral. Activities can be adapted to be suitable for people with disabilities, so this should not stop you from being able to be more active. People with respiratory conditions such as COPD can also be referred for Activity on referral. If you have been diagnosed with Cancer there are specific exercise classes for you to help you manage both the physical and mental impact of cancer treatment.

If you are not currently very active, try to start gently and then gradually increase your levels of activity. It is important to enjoy what you are doing as you work towards your targets and start to feel as happy and healthy as possible.





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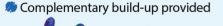


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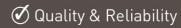
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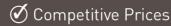
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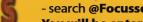
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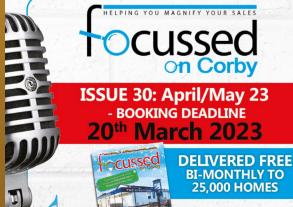
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