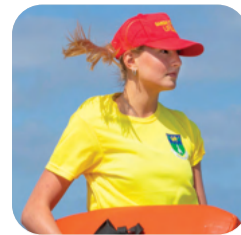


# LOCAL Wicklow Times

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**BLUE FLAGS RAISED**  
Page 4



**WICKLOW PRIDE**  
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## A WORLD CLASS DESTINATION

An Tánaiste Micheál Martin was guest of honour at the official opening of Coillte's newly refurbished Avondale House last Friday, which is now offering guided tours for visitors which will take them on a historic journey through the home of Samuel Hayes, its first owner, the Parnell family who inhabited the house in the 1800s, and the forestry school which was subsequently set up in the house once it was acquired by the State in 1904.

The newly refurbished Avondale House is an added attraction for visitors to Avondale Forest Park, who can now experience the house tour alongside the Beyond the Trees Avondale Treetop Walk and Viewing Tower which has already seen over 300,000 people visit Avondale Forest Park since it opened last July.

Beyond the Trees Avondale is a collaboration between Coillte, Fáilte Ireland and EAK Ireland. This €9m project at Avondale is part of Coillte's strategy to create more 'world-class' visitor destinations and increase recreation spaces nationally, and aims to encourage international and domestic visitors to stay longer and spend more in Wicklow

and the wider Ireland's Ancient East region, driving economic and employment opportunities for local communities.

Close to €1m was invested in the restoration works of Avondale House including structural works and the interiors. Over 60 new full and part-time jobs were created to staff the site, the majority of whom are from the locality.



An Tánaiste Micheál Martin cuts the ribbon to officially open the newly refurbished Avondale House, with Tom McArdle, Minister Simon Harris, Imelda Hurley (Chief Executive, Coillte), Bernie Gray, Senator Pat Casey, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Emer O'Gorman, Minister Stephen Donnelly, and Orla Carroll (Director of Product Development at Fáilte Ireland). Pic: Michael Kelly.

Speaking at the official opening, An Tánaiste Micheál Martin said: "Avondale House is one of Ireland's most historically important and beautiful locations. The contribution made by Avondale House's most famous occupant on this nation's path to self-determination was enormous, and I applaud the restoration work carried out by Coillte and Fáilte Ireland."

Imelda Hurley, Chief Executive, Coillte, said: "Today we mark the reopening of the true heart of Avondale, the house where it all began under the stewardship in the 1770s of the visionary Samuel Hayes, a man who occupies a special place in Irish forestry; and later was home to the Parnell family whose achievements and contribution to Irish political life in the 1800s were immense; before coming into state ownership in 1904 and deepening its importance to forestry in

Ireland by housing the state's forestry school while the Great Tree Experiment was conducted throughout the surrounding estate. We took the greatest of care with the restoration of this wonderful house, ensuring an experience for visitors that is evocative and true to the period."

Orla Carroll, Director of Product Development at Fáilte Ireland added: "The opening of the newly redeveloped Avondale House adds another point of interest for visitors to Wicklow, and further enhances the visitor experience at the hugely popular Beyond the Trees."

The Avondale House tour takes in the Main Hall, Morning Room, Dining Room, Living Room, Parnell's Library, and the Forestry School Classroom. Coillte consulted with experts in period furniture and design refurbishment. A number of the key pieces of furni-

ture and artefacts on display are fully authentic and original to the house.

These include an original Bossi fireplace, paintings and sculptures, Parnell's

Wootton desk, numerous documents and books, and much more.



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Shylah Lynn and Eabha Booth at the Brittas Bay National School Garden Day

## Acting For Film workshop

An acting for film workshop for 14-17 year olds will be held on Wednesday 21st June from 11am to 2pm in Wicklow Town Library. The workshop, with award-winning filmmaker Emmet Kelly of Burning House Productions, will focus on acting techniques for camera, how to write your own script, and improvisation and character development. There are limited spaces available. Sign up now - ask at the desk of Wicklow Library, call 0404 67025, or email [wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie).

## Redford mass

The Annual Mass at Redford Cemetery, Greystones, takes place on Friday 30th June at 8pm. All are welcome.

## Free Support Groups for Leaving Certificate students and parents

Turn2Me is a national mental health charity conducting free online support groups until the end of June. These support groups will be a space where young people and parents can share their struggles anonymously and receive tips on how to deal with stress, panic attacks and other issues. The support group for Leaving Certificate students runs on Wednesdays at 6pm. The Support group for Leaving Certificate parents runs on Thursdays at 6pm.

## Glendalough community excavations

Glendalough Community Excavations will return 8th-18th August. If you have an interest in archaeology and Glendalough it is a fantastic experience. Unfortunately places cannot be offered to those under 18 this year but organizers hope to welcome younger participants again next year. Adult places (subject to availability) are available from fixed blocks of two or three days. No prior knowledge of excavation is required and we endeavour to accommodate people of all abilities.

For information and details of application please email [glendaloughheritageforum@gmail.com](mailto:glendaloughheritageforum@gmail.com).

## Wicklow Pioneers Mass

On 16th June, mass at 9am in St. Kevin's Church, Laragh will be for living & deceased members of Wicklow Pioneers. All are welcome.

## Summer Stars reading adventure

The Summer Stars Reading Adventure is back and running in all County Wicklow public libraries from Monday, June 12th until Thursday, 31st August 2023. Every child in Wicklow is invited to call into their local library and sign-up. Last year, over 3,200 children took part and Wicklow County Council are expecting another bumper year in 2023.

Summer Stars is completely free and non-competitive. All children who participate will be given a reading card (to track their reading progress), bookmark, pencil, sticker and medal at the end of the Summer. An exciting addition to the programme for 2023, will see children in with a great chance of winning tickets for some of the best family experiences Wicklow has to offer. Contact your local library for more details or keep an eye on the library services social media pages.

The new BorrowBox Summer Stars ebook and audiobook collections will be available through the app or online. Books read on Borrowbox will count on reading cards too!

At the same time, Wicklow County Council Library Service will be celebrating the FIFA Women's World Cup and the amazing Republic of Ireland team who qualified for their first major senior tournament. Children aged nine and over are all set to receive an activity book so they can engage with the game and show their support for the girls in green.

# Finding Wicklow in the virtual treasury of Ireland

Wicklow County Archives will host the Virtual Treasury Roadshow - a chance to see the history of Wicklow and its people through the lens of this exciting new online resource. The event will take place on Thursday, 15th June in the Wicklow Town Library, from 6:30pm-8pm.

A range of speakers will include:

- Ciaran Wallace, Deputy Director, Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland: Ireland's public records: destruction and recovery
- Brian Gurrin, Virtual Record Treasury Research Fellow and Wicklow records in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland
- Catherine Wright, Archivist, Wicklow County Council: Local history resources at Wicklow County Archives

In June 1922 the Public Record Office of Ireland was destroyed in the battle of the Four Courts, the opening engagement of the Civil War. In a single afternoon seven centuries of Irish history went up in flames.

The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland is an all-island and international research programme working to digitally reconstruct, as far as possible, these lost archives. By tracking down copies and trans-

cripts in libraries and archives around Ireland and overseas, tens of thousands of documents relating to every corner of Ireland have been recovered, making them available online free of charge.

Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, said: "I look forward to welcoming The Virtual Record Treasury Roadshow to Wicklow, which is the first stop on its national tour. We are very proud that Wicklow County Archives is a participating partner in this important project which has virtually reassembled the Irish archives lost in the fire of the Public Records Office in 1922. Our County Archives has contributed digital versions of the Wicklow Grand Jury records to the Virtual Record Treasury and I look forward to learning about the other Wicklow treasures restored and made available by the Virtual Record Treasury

in Wicklow Library on the 15th of June."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, stated: "The Virtual Record Treasury Roadshow highlights the value of archives to everyone, having reassembled 700 years of Irish archives lost during the Civil War. Indeed, archival sources and especially local authority archives have featured strongly in Decade of Centenaries programmes, which have brought local stories and experiences to life. We are very proud of the collections in our own Wicklow County Archives and look forward to a continuing collaboration between Wicklow and the Virtual Record Treasury project."

Attendance is free and all are welcome. Booking is required by contacting: Wicklow County Archives - email [archives@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:archives@wicklowcoco.ie); Tel 0404-67025

# 2023 Community Awards Scheme

Over 270 local groups and organisations have been awarded grants by Wicklow County Council as part of the Community Awards Scheme 2023. This is an increase of almost 21 per cent on the number of grants awarded last year.

Wicklow County Council operates this scheme as part of its commitment to supporting local community development and is available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area.

The maximum grant amount is €500 per organisation to assist with small projects and group running costs.

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, welcomed the announcement stating: "This scheme recognises the strong and active community spirit here in Wicklow. The recipients of these grants are volunteers who give their own time for the benefit of their communities. This is our way of thanking them for their efforts."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman, added her own thanks and stated: "Wicklow County Council is proud to support groups and organisations engaging in local community activities and services. Almost €80,000 has been allocated this year, and the support of the members in providing a budget for these grants every year is welcomed."

Director of Services for Community, Cultural and Social Development, Michael Nicholson said that the funding was vital for the groups working hard at grassroots level to develop community activities and foster community spirit.



Geraldine Gammell, Paige Waters and Jennifer Waters at the re-enactment of the Battle of Newtownmountkenedy for its 225th anniversary.

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# Firefighters begin industrial action

Firefighters in Wicklow have begun a period of industrial action seeking improvements relating to work/life balance and pay, which could become an all-out strike on 20th June if the dispute is not resolved.

From this Tuesday, 13th June, half of the retained fire service will begin rolling work stoppages.

A notification sent to Wicklow County Council from Fire Service personnel warned that the community could soon be 'at risk'.

Retained firefighters are seeking improvements in pay, conditions and a decent work/life balance with agreed time off.

The letter stated that "All we are asking for is a fair salary for a very difficult job and one which will enable us to apply for a car loan or

a mortgage etc whilst continuing our commitment to our local community. The role of the Whole-time Retained Fire-fighter must no longer be seen as a 'hobby' but a professional role within the Local Authority that deserves decent pay and a decent work/life balance.

"Negotiations with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) have broken down as the LGMA have confirmed that their hands are tied by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) as regards pay. The Whole-

time Retained Fire Service are willing to re-engage with the LGMA at any stage once a meaningful offer regards payment and a decent Work/Life is placed on the table. It must be noted that as a result of the failure of the LGMA to offer anything of substance during the negotiations Notice for Strike action has been served on the relevant parties. Once strike action begins the community will no longer be safe and so Your local Community is now at risk unless action is taken immediately."

## Busy weekend for fire service

The June Bank Holiday weekend was a busy one for fire service crews from around Co. Wicklow as they battled 10 fires over the three days.



Firefighters attending a blaze on Military Road

These included a large fire on the Military Road on Sunday afternoon, which was attended by crews from Greystones and Rathdrum, as well as National Parks and Wildlife staff, and took five hours to extinguish, and another fire at a Greystones residence later the same day, caused by a gas barbecue.

The Fire Service was reportedly stretched to the limit over the weekend. A similar large fire in Ashford took five hours to get under control with the help of Coillte staff. They also responded to fires in Glendalough, Shillelagh, Annagolan, Ballinalea and Tiglin.

Wicklow Fire Service said many of the fires were the result of carelessness with disposable barbecues, camp fires, etc.



Charlie and Ronan Keddy at the re-enactment of the 1798 Battle of Newtownmountkennedy for its 225th anniversary.



### Mid-East Event, Naas, Friday, 23 June 2023

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment is holding a free business event in the Mid-East which will focus on the opportunities and challenges presented by the green economy and digital transformation



Remarks from Minister Simon Coveney and Minister Neale Richmond



Panel discussions with experts and businesses on the opportunities and challenges presented by digital transformation and the transition to a low carbon economy



Experts on hand to talk you through the range of supports available from Government



Connect with other businesses who have taken steps on their digital and green journeys

#### What people are saying about previous events

"The panel discussions are very informative"

"A really great opportunity to network with like-minded business people"

"A one-stop-shop for networking and understanding Government support agencies"



Come along for the morning or drop in and build a better business

Register for the event on Eventbrite - or go to [enterprise.gov.ie/BBB](https://enterprise.gov.ie/BBB) for more information

Osprey Hotel, Naas, Co Kildare  
Friday, 23 June, 9 am to 1:30 pm



Rialtas na hÉireann  
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# Blue Flags raised at Brittas Bay and Greystones

Blue Flags were raised on Brittas Bay North and South and Greystones South on Thursday 1st June, the start of the bathing season which runs from 1st June to 15th September.



Brittas Bay lifeguard Lily Sheehy

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, noted that "The efforts that go into achieving a Blue Flag are significant and Wicklow County Council works across departments and with local partners and coast care groups to maintain and manage them to the highest standard and the awards of the flags provide recognition for the efforts of our staff in this regard."

Lifeguards commenced their duties at beaches at Bray South Promenade, Greystones South, Wicklow Harbour, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Arklow.

Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, in welcoming the start of the bathing season urged the public to heed the advice of Wicklow County Council and Water Safety Ireland stating that "Lifeguards will be on these beaches from 11am to 7pm daily, until 31st August, and on Saturday and Sundays until 15th September."

The Blue Flag is an international award for beach excellence and means that a beach has achieved "excellent" water quality to stan-



Robert Kelly, Tawnia Kearns, Ciara Kavanagh, John O'Gorman, Cllr Gerry Walsh, Michael McNamara, Jackie Carroll and Lua Spurling raise the Blue Flag in Greystones

dards set by European and National Regulations, and a very high grade across a wide range of other criteria.

For the 2023 season, 84 beaches and 10 marinas around Ireland received a Blue Flag. In Co. Wicklow, while Blue Flags were awarded to Brittas Bay North and South and Greystones, Bray again missed out on the award.

The Blue Flag Programme has been in operation in Ireland since 1988, when 19 flags were handed out.



Lifeguards Lily Sheehy and Emma Kristensen on duty at Brittas Bay

## Awareness campaign encourages respect for outdoor places

Leave No Trace Ireland (LNT) - Ireland's only outdoor ethics programme, which promotes the responsible use of the outdoors - has launched its fourth National Awareness Campaign urging the public to enjoy our outdoor spaces (including parks, open countryside, and beaches) with care and respect to protect wildlife and fragile natural ecosystems.

Members of the public will be urged to make a Promise to 'Love This Place', confirming their love of the outdoors with simple, positive actions to protect and respect outdoor spaces. This year's

campaign will culminate in a day of environmental action on National Love This Place Day on Friday, July 28th, which coincides with World Nature Conservation Day.

The campaign will run

through June, July, and August and will focus on promoting five key collective goals and simple actions for people to enjoy the outdoors responsibly. These are:

- Protect Our Wildlife
- Stick to the path to protect our land and coast.
- Be responsible with our dogs.
- \* Embrace our island and cultural heritage.

The Love This Place 2023 campaign is a joint initiative with Leave No Trace Ireland's core partners including Fáilte Ireland, Sport Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Department of Rural and Community Development, Dublin City Council, the Office of Public Works, Coillte, and Waterways Ireland.

The campaign is also supported for the first time this year by Wicklow County Council, as well as Clare County Council, Fingal County Council, Galway County Council, Kilkenny County Council, Mayo County Council, and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Catherine Martin TD said: "The beauty of the Irish landscape is a unique part of our

health benefits of being outdoors and getting exercise are widely known so whether we are walking in national parks, kayaking on rivers, or enjoying our beautiful beaches there is no excuse for not cleaning up after ourselves. We pride ourselves on the beauty of our country and it is important that everyone who enjoys our fabulous outdoor amenities embrace the Leave No Trace ethos by minimising our impact and

protecting our wildlife, habitats and heritage."

Leave No Trace Ireland Chief Executive, Maura Kiely, said: "Research in 2022 conducted for Leave No Trace Ireland by Behaviour and Attitudes Ireland (Ireland's largest independent research & insight consultancy) clearly showed that while there is a strong appreciation of the importance of the outdoors many people (especially young people), are unsure of what appro-

priate behaviour is or how to change behaviour to benefit nature.

"The lowest awareness of the impact of irresponsible behaviour was shown to be among those below 35 years of age and the 2023 Love This Place Campaign is focused on this demographic to increase education around the simple actions people can take to protect and enhance our experience of the outdoors countryside, and recreational spaces."



Launching the awareness campaign, with Killiney Bay in the background, are Maura Kiely, CEO of Leave No Trace Ireland, and Catherine Martin TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

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# Details confirmed for Bray Dart Station upgrade

Details have been confirmed of the coming upgrade works planned for Bray Dart station.

Speaking last week, Minister Simon Harris said "I am delighted to be able to confirm that Wicklow County Council are currently assessing the tenders on offer for this project and envisage a contractor to be appointed by the end of this month. Once a tender has been selected, a start date for the upgrade works will be confirmed and I have been told that this should happen later this year."

"It is fantastic to see progress being made on this project, as Bray Dart station is one of the town's vital public transport links, serving hundreds of people every day. Upgrading the

station will ensure that Bray Dart station can continue to facilitate an ever-increasing number of passengers coming in and out of Dublin. I will keep working to maintain this momentum with my colleagues in Government and local stakeholders up until this upgrade has been completed and our community benefits from the upgrades," Minister Harris concluded.

Speaking about the upgrade works, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said "The forecourt area at Bray Railway Station is an ugly, uninviting, hostile and confusing location for pedestrian, cyclists and bus

and train users. The plan to improve the area was passed and funding secured from the NTA when I was a Bray councillor but was delayed due to the development of the new apartment complex at Station Road. I have worked closely with the Roads Department in Wicklow County Council and with CIE / Irish Rail to ensure legal agreements and enabling works were completed to allow the project commence. It's well overdue and I'm delighted it will commence shortly, take about 10 months to complete and create a fine public space to welcome residents and visitors to Bray."



Bray Dart Station



6th class pupils with organic gardener Wendy Nairn at the Britas Bay National School's Garden Day

## 'Plan needed to tackle massive increase in financial fraud'

**Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called for a plan to tackle fraud and scams, following a massive increase in the crime.**

Figures released to Sinn Féin spokesperson on Finance Pearse Doherty by the Department of Justice show the major increase. Sinn Féin are calling for the Government to bring forward a multi-annual plan to tackle these crimes as citizens feel increasingly vulnerable to the criminal actions of fraudsters.

Deputy Brady said: "Figures released to Sinn Féin's Finance spokesperson Pearse Doherty by the Department of Justice show an alarming and massive increase in financial fraud and scams across the State.

"Since 2019, instances of investment fraud have risen by 258 percent. Account Takeover Fraud has increased by a staggering 560 percent. Romance fraud has risen by 83 percent while scams through phishing, smishing and vishing have increased by 417 percent. Citizens are being robbed of millions of euros each year by fraudsters. This will include countless people in Wicklow.

"In 2020, the Hamilton Report recommended the development of a multi-annual strategy to combat economic crime - two and half years later, the Government is yet to publish a multi-annual plan to tackle economic crime and fraud. This is not acceptable.

"Banks and An Garda Síochána still do not have a Shared Fraud Database to tackle fraud

and protect consumers - despite banks repeatedly calling for it to be established. Government inaction is leaving citizens exposed, here in Wicklow and beyond.

"Online platforms and social media companies are not doing enough to tackle fraudulent content or the targeting of victims through their channels. It is time to consider whether these online platforms should compensate victims when they are targeted through their channels. We also know that payment systems providers are not required to compensate victims of these types of fraud and scams - something that will soon be required in the North.

"Consumers in Wicklow must be protected so that they can have confidence that they won't be left vulnerable to these crimes."

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# 'Census shows need for more community facilities'

## County Wicklow's population up 9%

Following the publication of the Census 2022, Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called for countywide investment in community resources in order to meet the increase demand. Also reacting to the Census, Sinn Féin TD John Brady said the figures reveal a "growing demand for State investment in Wicklow".

Deputy Whitmore said: "The census results show that we have had a 9% increase in population across Wicklow. It is always welcome to see our community grow, but we know that increased population means an increased demand placed on services such as public transport, schools and healthcare.

"On transport we need more regular DART and Bus services both within the county and to Dublin City Centre. In addition I have repeatedly called for large scale expansion of local link services both around and between our towns and villages. While there have been some improvements, we are not seeing the large scale system improvements that are necessary to keep pace with the growth in our populations.

"Schools are under immense pressure to meet the demand for places and since being elected I have been working with principals all across Wicklow to help them secure accommodation to meet the

needs of their students. We need longer term planning from the Government on educational resources so that the schools in Wicklow can be certain of their capacities in future years and not waiting year on year to know what funding they will get or when new builds will be delivered.

"Also according to the latest CSO figures, there has been an increase in our older population here in Wicklow. At the moment we have lots of people struggling to access services they need like a local GP or step down housing/residential care in the county.

"We also need to see a greater investment of public funds into amenities such as public parks, playgrounds and community centres, where we can come together as a community. The census is a great opportunity to take stock of where our community resources need additional funding, and where we can be working to improve the quality of living for people across Wicklow. The census data must inform the provision of infrastructure and the allocation of financial

resources so that our communities needs are met in a timely fashion."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady reiterated his call for state investment in Wicklow following the release of the census figures.

In June last year following release of the preliminary findings of the census Brady called for a commitment from the Government to provide investment in critical infrastructure such as schools, emergency services, houses, health services, public transport, community, and recreation facilities.

He again reiterated his call last week. Deputy Brady said: "The confirmation from the CSO that the population of Wicklow has increased by 9.4%, rising by just under 13,500 to 155,851 comes at a time when the people of Wicklow, ordinary families and workers are coming under ever increasing financial and social strain.

"In June last year I called upon the Government to give a commitment to provide funding for the development and expansion of key infrastructure, community resources, and services in

the county. The fact that the population of Wicklow has risen by just under 9.5% will place even greater demands on already strained services. Health, transport, and educational services, which are already taxed will face even greater strain.

"Emergency services are currently under stress. There are 14% less Gardaí in Wicklow in 2023 than there was in 2019. 14 of the 17 stations in the county have witnessed staff losses. The Retained Fire Service is severely impacted by a recruitment and retention crisis. With staff shortages representing a risk to both Retained Fire Fighters and members of the public. Increased population numbers will lead to an even greater crisis.

"The N11/ M11, along with the N81 remain in need of upgrade. Plans to extend the LUAS into the north of the county need to be accelerated. Currently residents of Wicklow have huge difficulties accessing GP and Dental services across the county. A growing and ageing population will place even further pressures on these services.

"There is a continuing pressure on the education

system in the county through a lack of forward planning by the government. Which has led to some students in Greystones being unable to secure secondary school places. Newtownmountkennedy, the fastest growing village in the state needs to see plans be put in place for a secondary school in the area to deal with future demands.

"We also need a commitment for investment to attract inward investment for start-up businesses in Wicklow through the IDA and Enterprise Ireland. A growing population in the county will need more sporting and leisure facilities, such as a swimming pool for West Wicklow.

"Wicklow needs a planned, and strategic, funding injection to address the needs of what is a growing, and ageing population. The government has failed to deliver for the needs of the people of our county. The CSO announcement of the Census figures needs to provide the basis for a review of future requirements for Wicklow, which deliver for the needs of communities and individuals."

## Gamma maps out Census data to show property patterns across Ireland

Location intelligence technology company Gamma has mapped out the 2022 Census data which shows an increase in the number of households - this has gone up by almost 140,000 - and reveals a shift regarding the number of homes being owned outright.

Rented properties are slowly increasing their share of the overall property market in every county in Ireland, with the exception of Kildare and Wicklow. This is particularly evident in Dublin City, where 9 of every 10 additional households in the area are rentals.

In terms of the biggest increase in the number of households at a county level, Meath saw the largest percentage increase (13.6%). The other counties which saw increases of over 10% are all in and around Dublin, with Kildare showing a 12.5% increase, followed by Fingal at 11.4% and Wicklow with 10.3% more households in 2022 compared to 2016.

The number of homes owned outright now stands at 37% - which equates to 679,718 in total and is 112,949 properties more than in 2011. In comparison, in 2011, there were more households that were

owned with a mortgage than owned outright. This has been reversed over the last decade with the number of households being owned with a mortgage falling by 51,941.

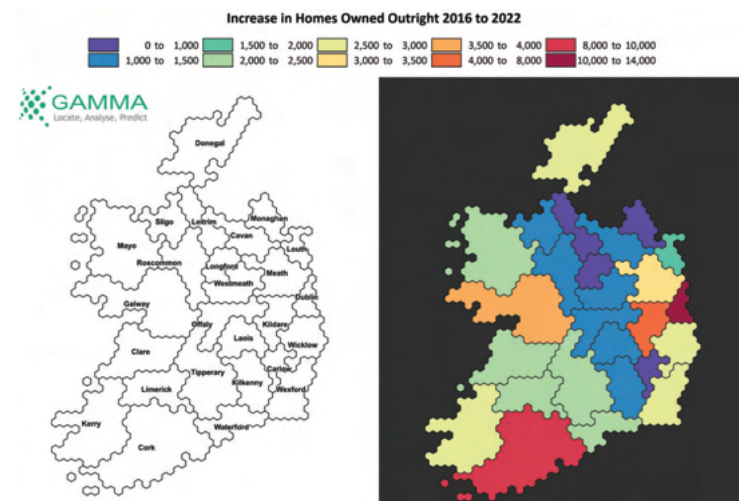
Looking at the rental sector, there are an additional 48,457 households recorded as rentals in the 2022 Census compared to 2016. Meanwhile, there are

an additional 63,373 households which are owner occupied.

The number of households who rented their accommodation from a private landlord rose by 7%, or 20,904 properties, to 330,632 between 2016 and 2022. There were an additional 10,014 households renting from a Local Authority, which is fewer

than the 13,115 additional households renting from a voluntary body.

In almost every county, detached houses are the most common property type. The exceptions are Galway City and most of Dublin where semi-detached houses dominate, as well as Dublin City and Cork City where terraces are most common.



Lila Mae Martin and Ailbhe O'Meara taking part in the re-enactment of the 1798 Battle of Newtownmountkennedy for its 225th anniversary.

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# Completion of Bray Central marked with plaque

An event hosted by Bray Municipal District to celebrate the completion of Bray Central was held on Friday June 2nd.

The development comprising 23,423 square metres has introduced a new urban street access from Main Street into the development creating a central plaza with pedestrian access from Quinsborough Road. The main plaza incorporates an events space, seating, landscaping and kiosks.

When fully open Bray Central will be home to two anchor stores a five-screen cinema and a number of other well-known retail outlets. Open and welcoming customers are Wow Burger, Elephant and Castle and Butlers Chocolate Cafe.

Much needed car parking space has also been provided underground comprising 256 spaces, including disabled parking and electrical vehicle charging spaces.

Speaking at the event, Cllr Erika Doyle, Cathaoirleach, Bray Municipal District, welcomed the completion saying "We have already seen signs of the potential of this space with the monthly market. The good weather has brought outdoor seating to Butlers Chocolate Cafe, Wow Burger and Elephant and Castle. Sally's Ice Cream will be open any day now. We are all excited to see the anchor units progress and the cinema is eagerly

awaited by the whole town, young and old alike.

"There is something deeply affecting about viewing the town you grew up in and know every inch of, from a different perspective. So often large-scale developments in towns take more than they give. Shopping centres hide communities under a roof, or in the town outskirts, having no interaction with the built environment. What Bray Central has done is created a new area for not just shops, but for people. A reimagining of what a retail development can offer. A shopping district instead of a shopping centre. While we hope the current and planned tenants will be here for a long time, we know that over time businesses turn over. But this new part of Bray Main Street, the refurbished Victorian buildings, the new perspective on the main street, will remain."

The Cathaoirleach paid tribute to all involved in the project since inception to final completion, elected members and staff saying, "without their commitment and dedication to the project we wouldn't be standing here today."

Representatives from Navybrook Ltd (Oakmount) who worked closely with Wicklow County Council's project team



At the unveiling of the plaque to mark the completion of Bray Central were Liam Bourke, Pat Vance, Lisa Rocca, Deputy Steven Matthews, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Erika Doyle, Linda Healy, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cllr Derek Mitchell, President of Bray Chamber Sarah Finnegan, Bray Town Manager Lorraine Gallagher, and Superintendent Pat Connell.

were present at the unveiling of the plaque to mark the occasion and took the opportunity to update those present on new tenants.

Lisa Rocca, CEO of Oakmount, said: "Following the recent opening of the latest tenant to join Bray Central - Butlers Chocolate Cafe -

we can also confirm that landlord works are currently underway for both anchor tenants, Penneys and Sports Direct. Sally's Hand Rolled Ice Cream have almost completed their fitout and are expected to open in the coming weeks, just in time for summer.

Furthermore, landlord

works have completed in Unit 3 for Holland & Barrett who will be commencing their fitout shortly and are expected to open in early Autumn. The Stella Cinema fitout works have commenced, and an opening date will be announced in due course.

"There are numerous exciting new tenants final-

ising their legal processes who will be announced soon. We Love Markets will be continuing to bring 30+ eclectic stalls to the pedestrian plaza for the next number of weeks which has been very successful since its commencement in April. Needless to say, we have been very busy but are

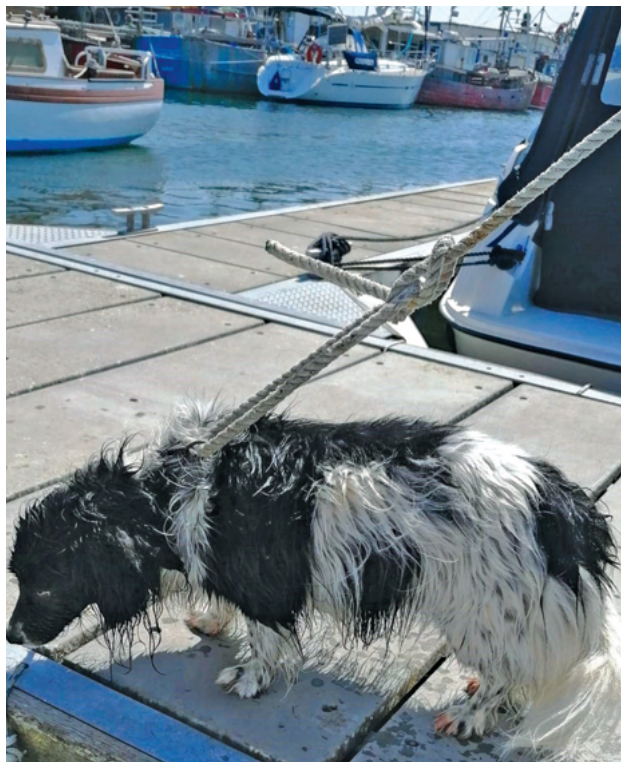
very excited to see what the next few months will bring to the town of Bray."

Bray Town Manager, Lorraine Gallagher, stated: "Wicklow County Council is delighted to see the first phase opening of Bray Central which is greatly welcomed by the elected members, business community and the residents of

Bray. I would like to pay tribute to all involved in the project, past and present. Its location on the Main Street will contribute greatly to the retail, hospitality and recreational businesses of the town of Bray and we look forward to welcoming new operators as we move closer to the next phase opening."

## The dog days are here for Arklow RNLI volunteers

As people were relaxing enjoying the Bank Holiday, Arklow RNLI volunteers were called to action for three rescues, two of which involved the same dog.



Penny the dog pictured after her rescue. Photo courtesy of Arklow RNLI.

In a statement, Arklow RNLI said, "Our first rescue was a dog which was found swimming across the harbour, some of our volunteer crew were relaxing at their own boats when the dog was noted in the water and headed towards the river and on to sea, a crewmember and his son launched his own boat and recovered the dog.

"A while later another animal was spotted in the harbour, another of our crew and his friend launched his own boat to see if they could assist the animal- it later transpired it was the same dog, the dog was brought ashore and reunited with its owner.

"The third rescue of the day followed a Pager Alert at 4.09pm to reports of a vessel in difficulty and adrift near Clogga bay. Within minutes the volunteer crew had launched Arklow Lifeboat Ger Tighelearr.

"Our volunteers made their way to the reported position and located the casualty vessel, a dismasted 35 foot yacht with 4 persons aboard, 3 miles South of Arklow.

Upon arrival at the vessel, Coxswain Ned Dillon approached the vessel to assess the situation and it was decided to put a lifeboat crewman aboard to assist the vessel crew in clearing and securing the mast and to set up a towline. In a North Easterly wind with approximately 1 metre wave height, the vessel was towed slowly back to Arklow due to the trailing mast and prevailing conditions.

"Once back at Arklow Harbour the vessel was placed alongside with the assistance our Arklow RNLI's shore crew. The crew for this callout were, Coxswain Ned Dillon, Brendan Dillon, Eddie McElheron, James Russell, Daniel Downey, Geoff Kearnes & Dave Molloy."

Following the callout, Mark Corcoran Volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer said: "A busy day around the harbour, thanks to all of our volunteers who are always rescue ready, thankfully they lads were present and seen Penny the Dog on her adventures in the harbour, a positive end to what could have been a much worse day".



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### SECTION 75 - ROADS ACT, 1993

#### PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROAD

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice that it proposes the temporary closure of the following public roads.

##### Road to be closed

Portland Road, Hawkins Lane and Quarry Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

##### Period of closure

18th and 19th July 2023  
From 07:00am to 09:00pm on both days.

##### Alternative Routes

##### Residents of Portland Road, Hawkins Lane & Quarry Road:

Access by vehicle and on foot at all times except when filming sequences which will just be a few minutes at a time.

##### Residents of Burnaby Road, Somerby Road, St. Vincent Road, Portland Road North, Kinlen Road, Old Mill Road, Erskine Road, Portland Place, South Place

Access at all times throughout the two days by vehicle and on foot by entering their relevant streets from the opposite ends of Portland Row, Hawkins Lane and Quarry Road.

All residents will be fully informed in advance about the best direction from which to access their homes and streets so as to avoid the key filming area and to avoid delays.

##### Reason for Closure

To facilitate filming.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed road closure must lodge their objection in writing to Transportation and Roads, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow or via email at [roadtrans@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:roadtrans@wicklowcoco.ie) not later than 12.00 noon on Tuesday 22nd June 2023.

# Spotted an otter lately? NPWS wants to know

If you have seen an otter recently, or signs of their presence, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) want to know about it.



Photo by Ronald Surgenor

The NPWS is launching a new National Otter Survey and has teamed up with researchers in Queen's University Belfast and the National Biodiversity Data Centre to collect and collate otter records from right across the country. The new survey will map otters and compare results to the

last survey, carried out in 2010-11. NPWS teams will be looking for characteristic signs of otters at over 900 sites throughout the country, including rivers, lakes and the coast. Members of the public are asked to keep their eyes peeled for otters and to get involved in this national survey by adding their sightings to the survey results.

Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform Malcolm Noonan TD said: "While NPWS teams will be out conducting fieldwork research, people can play their part in giving us a complete picture of otter numbers in the country so we want as much public participation as possible on this. The public plays an important role in research such as this that ultimately helps us to develop the evidence to inform policy. Otters can be hard to find and mainly forage at night so keep your eyes peeled if you're visiting a coastal, river or lake environment in the evening or night time and make sure to let us know if you've seen one."

Dr Ferdia Marnell, Mammal Specialist

with the NPWS, emphasised: "The otter is one of Ireland's most elusive animals so getting as many people involved in the survey as possible will be important if we are to get good coverage. Otters are rarely seen, so instead, over the coming months, NPWS staff will be searching for otter tracks and signs."

He added: "Otters have large, webbed feet and leave distinctive footprints, but these can be hard to find. Fortunately, otters mark their territory using droppings known as 'spraints'. Otters deposit spraints conspicuously on boulders along riverbanks, logs on lake shores or the rocky high tide line. Spraints can be up to 10 cm or 3 inches long, black through to white but commonly brown, tarry to powdery in consistency and straight or curved making them tricky to identify. Luckily, they commonly contain fish bones and crayfish shells which are the otters favoured diet making them easy to tell apart from the droppings of birds and other mammals."

Otters are mostly active at night and most typically seen at dawn or dusk. They may be spotted from bridges swimming in rivers or along the rocky seashore. Otters are brown, about 80 cm (30 inches) long and can be seen gliding along the water surface before diving to show their distinctive long pointed tail which is almost as long again as

their body.

The otter and its habitat are protected under the EU Habitats Directive which requires that Ireland reports on the status of the species every six years. The next report is due in 2025.

The otter suffered significant declines across the UK and much of continental Europe during the 1970s, 80s and 90s but remained widespread in Ireland. The most recent Irish survey (2010-2011) found signs of otter from all counties of Ireland and from sea-shore to mountain streams.

The otter hunts in water, but spends much of its time on land, and as a result is vulnerable to river corridor management such as culverting, dredging and the clearance of bankside vegetation, as well as pollution, pesticides, oil spillages, coastal developments and road traffic.

Members of the public can learn more about otters and submit recordings of otter sightings at the National Biodiversity Data Centre's dedicated web page: <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/national-otter-survey/>.

Combining the national survey data with as many records from the public as possible will help fill in any gaps in the map allowing the otters range to be fully assessed. The final report on how the otter is faring will be published in 2025.

## Forest owners outraged by rejection of 'proper compensation'

**Forest owners with plantations destroyed by ash dieback are outraged by the rejection of proper compensation by Minister Charlie McConalogue. So says Nicholas Sweetman, chairperson of Irish Forest Owners (IFO).**

The IFO is calling on the government to allow all forest owners with ash plantations to avail of the full afforestation premiums upon replanting. In addition, they're seeking a 'just compensation package'.

Ash dieback was first identified in the country in 2012 following the importation in 2009 of Department-certified infected plants from the continent where ash dieback was widespread. Since then, the disease has spread to every part of the country, obliterating almost all of the 24,000 Ha of ash trees planted under the Government's afforestation scheme, as well as a high proportion of pre-existing ash plantations and hedgerow ash trees.

In his written response to Dáil Éireann questions on Tuesday 23 May 2023, the Minister claims that State aid guidelines prevent him from compensating

forest owners for loss of income, while conveniently ignoring other State aid guidelines under "Risk and crisis management", which specifically provide for "aid to compensate for damage to agricultural production".

"The Minister has been consistent in not recognising that the forestry industry is in crisis. The appalling treatment of farmers who are affected by ash dieback has been one of the most critical causes of the current lack of interest in planting among farmers. If this country is to meet its climate change commitments, the Minister should be searching for ways to restore confidence in the sector rather than pulling the rug from under farmers who have seen their investment in forestry wiped out through no fault of their own", says Nicholas Sweetman.

Derek McCabe, Forest Owner and Chairperson of the North East Forestry Group, said "replacing trees with saplings is not restoration". "I'm now back to day one. My trees have been growing for more than 20 years and it'll be another 20 years before my forest is restored to where it was before the disease struck. Until then, I cannot make an income from that land."

## Enhancing biodiversity at Devil's Glen forest

**To celebrate national biodiversity week, a walk was held at Coillte's Devil's Glen forest on Friday 19th May. The Devil's Glen is a popular forest walking destination that dates back to the last Ice Age, when melt waters from the ice sheets created a valley and formed a gorge.**

Declan Little, Ecological lead at Coillte Nature led a group along the Waterfall Loop Walk, highlighting the cultural and silvicultural significance of this unique woodland. Part of the Devil's Glen forest is characterised as native woodland and includes habitats of Old Sessile Oak woods with tree species such as oak, birch and holly. Regeneration of these native species how-

ever is under threat from invasive, non-native shrubs such as cherry laurel, pheasant berry, rhododendron and dogwood, as well as extensive grazing from the local deer population.

As part of its management of forests for nature and biodiversity, Coillte is planning works to help support the long-term survival of native woodland species in the area.

One hundred and thirty-five hectares at the Devil's Glen has been identified as a priority area for these works. They will help improve the overall condi-

tions of the native woodland, including extending its cover and increasing the proportion of native species throughout. This will also involve managing invasive species and reducing the impact of deer grazing.

The result is expected to enhance the overall biodiversity of the Devil's Glen forest to promote wildlife and nature conservation and to create a more vibrant woodland area to be enjoyed by visitors.

"The restoration of Devil's Glen is an exciting and challenging project and we expect to restore

and expand the old and ancient oak-dominated woodland present especially along the Vartry river," said Declan Little, Ecological Lead at Coillte Nature. "We are also working closely with Inland Fisheries Ireland to enhance the river which supports important and unique East coast sea trout populations."

The works will begin in summer of this year and will run up until 2028. Visitors are asked to follow any safety signage on site or instructions from staff while the works are ongoing.



Glenda Powell gave a masterclass on the art of Fly casting at Vartry Anglin Club's Open Day in Wicklow Town. Pictured are Mairead Lafferty, Aine Smyth, Sharon Clark, Glenda Powell, Anna O'Brien and Zara Lambe. Photo by Shane Phelan.



Declan Little leads the Biodiversity Week walk at Devils Glen

# Reach the Peak for peatland restoration

**ReWild Wicklow will host the second instalment of their annual fundraising event, Reach the Peak, on Saturday 17th June.**

This will be a sponsored, guided hike to the peak of Tonelagee in the Wicklow Mountains, led by qualified hiking leaders Maria O'Loughlin and Zef Klinkenbergh. This year all funds raised will support the group's peatland restoration work with the NPWS rangers in the Wicklow Mountains. The group are appealing for support from the public for this very worthy cause and donations can be made on their website at [www.rewildwicklow.ie/reachthepeak](http://www.rewildwicklow.ie/reachthepeak). "There are an estimated 343 hectares of extremely de-vegetated peatland in the Wicklow Mountains. Without vegetation the bare peat simply blows or washes away, causing downstream pollution or carbon loss," said chairperson Danny Alvey. "This summer,

we are continuing and expanding this work on the Barnacullian Ridge restoration site, which we will get to see from this route. By donating to support this fundraiser you will be helping to restore the very mountains on which we will walk!" There are also a small number of places left in the hiking group. At 817 metres high, Tonelagee is the third highest peak in the Wicklow Mountains and a steep climb with abundant bog close to the summit. The route is approximately 12 km and expected to take 4-6 hours to complete. All participants must be fit, experienced hill-walkers, aged over 18 and willing to raise a minimum of €100. Contact the group on their website to take part [www.rewildwicklow.ie](http://www.rewildwicklow.ie)



Volunteers at a peatland restoration volunteer day in May

## Irish Cuckoo Tracking Project hopes to solve migration mysteries

**One of Ireland's most intriguing natural mysteries may soon be solved thanks to a cross-channel Cuckoo tracking project that aims to find out where Irish cuckoos spend their winter months.**

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) hopes that the project will also answer the question of whether Irish cuckoos undertake a different migration strategy to their British counterparts across the Irish Sea.

The Cuckoo Tracking Project is being undertaken by the NPWS and the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

Minister of State for Heritage Malcolm Noonan says he is looking forward to tracking the birds' movements and ushering in a new era for bird monitoring in Ireland: "Cuckoos are fascinating creatures and the Irish population's migration patterns are something of a mystery, so it will be very exciting to see the results of this innovative project over time. We've already seen one of the birds fly from Killarney National Park to Tipperary over the

Bank Holiday weekend and another has shot across to the east Cork coast before double-backing to Limerick. It will be fantastic to get a full picture of the movements of these birds at home, during their migration and when they hopefully return to our shores," he said.

The Cuckoo, along with the Swallow and the Corncrake, has a long history in Ireland as a harbinger of summer. It typically arrives in the last days of April, which have often been referred to as 'the time of the cuckoo'.

Cuckoos, or Cuach as gaelige, are a summer migrant to Ireland. Adult birds are resident here from April to early July, having spent the winter on the African continent. They are a unique bird in Ireland as they lay their eggs in other birds' nests and have no involvement in raising their young.

Across Ireland, the Cuckoo has seen a 27% reduction in breeding distribution between the first national census, Bird Atlas (1968-1972), and the most recent Bird Atlas (2007-2011). In the UK the decline is 40%.

Population trends show large declines across England and Wales, with increases in Scotland and relative stability in Ireland. In Ireland, the Cuckoo has displayed a population shift northwards and westwards, similar to a number of other migrants that winter in Africa's humid regions. However, there is little known about the potential causes and drivers of these declines.

While the Cuckoo has been well-studied during the breeding season, very little is known about the routes they take once they head off on migration or where in Africa they spend the winter

months. If these areas of importance could be identified, then scientists would be able to better understand

habitat pressures that affect losses of the Cuckoo population.

In 2011, British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) embarked on a new project to study Cuckoo migration patterns. As of the end of 2022, over 100 adult Cuckoos have been tagged across Britain and a lot has been learned about the routes taken, and some of the pressures they face whilst on migration. But the big question for birdwatchers in Ireland is do Irish Cuckoos face the same issues or do they undertake a different migration strategy, and therefore experience different challenges?

In May 2023, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) at the Department of Housing, Local

Government and Heritage linked up with the BTO Cuckoo team to satellite track four Irish Cuckoos: Three from Killarney National Park, Co. Kerry and one from Burren National Park, Co. Clare. The birds were given names and fitted with satellite tags and their movements can be followed on the links below and also at a new Cuckoo page on the Killarney National Park website.

Minister Noonan added: "I'd like to congratulate the staff of the NPWS, in particular Sam Bayley, Mary Sheehan, Jamie Durrant, Emma Granville, Michael Killeen, Dan Flanagan and others, for their leadership and dedication to this project. It's great to see our national nature agency collaborating with the

BTO on such important, multi-jurisdictional research."

Dr Chris Hewson, BTO research ecologist and lead scientist on the project, said: "It's fantastic to see more cuckoos heading off with satellite tags newly fitted. These birds will help us to better understand the pressures they face, the reasons for the population declines they are undergoing and how we can help them to successfully complete their arduous migrations in the rapidly changing world we share. It's especially exciting to see birds from Ireland tagged for the first time - we're looking forward to learning for the first time about the migrations of these cuckoos from the western extremity of the species' breeding range."



A Cuckoo

## Energy Awareness Day in Wicklow Town

**Wicklow Tidy Towns and Greystones & Delgany Sustainable Energy Communities are hosting our second Energy Awareness Day on Saturday 24th June in the Pastoral Centre Wicklow from 11am to 4pm. This is a free event aiming to deliver all the information Wicklow residents need to become more energy efficient and sustainable in their homes, businesses and travel.**

Available on the day will be:

- 30 Electric Vehicles on show
- Installers of Solar Panels and Heat Pumps
- Home Insulation products
- Energy Efficient Windows
- Technical advice from a Wicklow based One-Stop Shop on appropriate measures that can be taken to reduce energy costs in your home.
- Stepping Stones to Energy Efficiency - Energy Workshops full of home energy tips and tricks, retrofitting advice and why working together as an energy community has come of age.
- A range of electric bicycles
- Launch of Wicklow Town's Solar PV Community Meitheal - to include Schools PV Project
- Advice on behalf of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) on available grants
- Fun and informational activities for kids and adults alike with the Watt Bike and more.

- Face painting and energy awareness activities for children
- Entry is free!

Simon Whelan, the Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) mentor for Wicklow says that; "this is set to be an incredible event! The Wicklow Energy Awareness Day brings free, quality information to Wicklow residents who want to reduce their energy spend and make their homes and businesses more sustainable. It's the place to go if you are looking at your bills and wondering what you can do to bring those costs down. These high energy and heating costs coupled with the growing challenge of dealing with Climate Change requires concerted action at national and local levels and Wicklow communities are acting."

"The event is organised by volunteers in the Wicklow SECs with the focus on providing the information that an average household will need to take on energy upgrades. People will be able to talk to other Wicklow resi-

dents that have already installed energy upgrades like Solar Panels, Heat Pumps and drive Electric Vehicles. They can also talk directly to the installation companies and One Stop Shops to see what grants are available and what they need to do to get these upgrades installed in their own homes. All under the one roof."

"We will also be launching our Solar Community Meitheal project which aims to bring the community together to facilitate easy and cost effective installation of Solar Panels throughout the community, including homes, businesses and a specific focus on our Schools."

"Wicklow SEC hosted a similar event last year which was really successful and seeks to build on that success this year. Wicklow SECs have gained huge support from the people and businesses of Wicklow and also Wicklow County Council in recent years and the organisation is here to help those who wish to take action."



Emma Phelan and Aine Delahunt at the Brittas Bay National School Garden Day

# WICKLOW PRIDE FESTIVAL

*Get your club, colleagues and community together as history is made at Wicklow's first Pride Parade*

Saturday 1st July, 2pm, Wicklow Town



Market goer supporting Pride Month, at Greystones Plaza.

Wicklow Pride Festival Committee, a community group which formed in September of last year have committed to bringing Wicklow's very first county wide Pride Parade to Wicklow Town and it's happening on Saturday, 1st July at 2pm, starting from O'Shea's Corner near the Grand Hotel.

"This will be a community event and all are welcome," the committee said. "We are inviting groups to register via our portal at [wicklowpridefestival.com/join-our-parade](http://wicklowpridefestival.com/join-our-parade). So get your club, your colleagues and your community together as we make history at Wicklow's first Pride Parade!"

RTE Presenter, author and activist, Emer O'Neill stepped out with Pride

over the June Bank Holiday in Greystones, where the Plaza Market at Greystones Marina returned after almost a four-year hiatus.

With almost 40 stalls,



the market was buzzing with colour, creativity and picture postcard June Bank Holiday weather. At

the centre of the activity, Wicklow Pride Festival crew brought sunshine and rainbows by the buck-

et load and there were certainly enough for everyone!

Emer O'Neill joined the team on the day to wear her rainbow proudly in support of the upcoming Parade.

Emer, a proud Wicklow woman was eager to support the event in her home county and jumped straight in to help. The

atmosphere was electric on the plaza and the excitement is growing for the momentous occasion.

The Plaza market runs every Sunday until the end of August 11am - 5.30pm and Wicklow Pride will be back again, located at the Community hub at the Plaza Market on Sunday, 25th June.

**Cllr. Lourda SCOTT**

**SUPPORTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

...looking forward to Wicklow's first Pride Parade on July 1st

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Author and activist, Emer O'Neill pictured at the Greystones Plaza Market over the June Bank Holiday Weekend, supporting Pride Month in Wicklow. Photo by Liam O'Leary.

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Best wishes to Wicklow Pride Festival

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Good for Business and Community

**WICKLOW PRIDE FESTIVAL**

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[WWW.WICKLOWCHAMBER.IE](http://WWW.WICKLOWCHAMBER.IE)

**Cllr. Mark BARRY**  
Greystones Municipal District

BEST WISHES TO WICKLOW PRIDE FESTIVAL

**Social Democrats**  
Supporting Inclusion and Diversity

[mbarry@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:mbarry@wicklowcoco.ie)

**Cllr. Erika DOYLE**  
Cathaoirleach Bray Municipal District

Supporting Pride Month

**green party**  
comhaontas glas

For constituency queries contact:  
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Email: [erika.doyle@greenparty.ie](mailto:erika.doyle@greenparty.ie)

**Cllr. Stephen STOKES**  
Greystones Municipal District  
INDEPENDENT

Supporting Inclusion

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[@StephenStokes1](https://twitter.com/StephenStokes1)  
[Stephenstokes101@gmail.com](mailto:Stephenstokes101@gmail.com)

# WICKLOW PRIDE FESTIVAL



Dave Thomas

Wicklow County Council in support of the LGBTQI+ community is flying the Pride flag for the month of June at many of its Council buildings and all their libraries across the county to mark Pride Month.

**Pride Month in Wicklow's libraries involves the following activities:**

- **Ally and Rainbow Flags:** In the spirit of inclusivity, libraries will be displaying or flying a rainbow or Ally flag in all 13 of Wicklow's libraries.
  - **Family Friendly Story Times** will take place in the larger libraries. Stories that promote acceptance, love and understanding will feature.
  - **LGBTQI+ Book Clubs** - Book clubs at some libraries will read a title to foster insightful discussion and encourage a more in-depth understanding of diversity.
  - **Young Children's colouring pages** in some libraries will feature Elmer the Elephant who represents individuality and the celebration of difference.
  - **Engaging Book Displays** highlighting LGBTQI+ literature and the importance of representation and empathy will be a feature in the larger libraries.
  - **Pride Merchandise** is available in all libraries.
- In a statement, the Council said "Wicklow County Council continues to support social inclusion in our community and by raising awareness through the flying or displaying of the Ally and Rainbow flags throughout the month of June."



McMullans in Arklow supporting Pride Month

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman, said: "Wicklow County Council recognises the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and protect human rights across all our functions, we are working towards this through the implementation of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty."

Councillor Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, added: "Wicklow County Council is keen to support Pride Month by visibly displaying our support, by flying the flags to promote positive inclusion of all while working to create a better understanding and acceptance of the diversity in our community."

## Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien

REPRESENTING  
ALL  
IN BRAY &  
CO. WICKLOW

dermotobriensf@gmail.com

@CllrDaisy

**Sinn Féin**



## Stephen Donnelly TD

Minister for Health & TD for Wicklow

Everyone has a  
right to Equality

**Contact:**  
Tel: (01) 201 7300  
Email: Stephen.Donnelly@oireachtas.ie

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**EVERYBODY HAS A RIGHT TO EQUALITY**

**Benville Robinson  
LLP**



**Rory P. Benville B.C.L.**  
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State Solicitor  
**Eilish Bradshaw B.A., L.L.B., L.L.M.**  
**Clare-Ann Temple L.L.B.**

\*In contentious business, a solicitor may not calculate fees or other charges as a percentage or proportion of any award or settlement



Molly Waldron, Hanna Colaluca, Emma Rice, James Doyle, Amber Shannon and Tina Flynn at the Wicklow Golf Club's Play in Pink Day in aid of Breast Cancer Research Ireland.

## Little Terns nesting at Curracloe

Little Terns, which are among Europe's rarest seabirds, have been identified nesting at the south east corner of the beach at Curracloe, covering an area just over 1 hectare in size.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has erected a number of signs requesting that visitors to Curracloe beach and the Raven stay well back from the signposted area, so the birds have a chance to hatch their eggs and rear the chicks without disturbance.

Unfortunately as the eggs and chicks are so well camouflaged amongst the shells on the beach, they can be easily walked on. Visitors could also potentially flush sitting birds from the nest, it exposes the eggs and chicks to predation by foxes, gulls and crows. They are also at risk from dogs who may not only disturb the adults,

but also pick up eggs or chicks. It is therefore vital that dogs are kept on leads and under control in this area.

In the past Little Terns have made their nests on

the offshore sand banks and it is thought that they may have been over washed by waves at these locations, so in the last few years they have decided to try new sites.



Little Tern Eggs

## Wicklow Chamber partners with Network Ireland

Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce President, Stephen Delaney is delighted to announce the strategic partnership with Network Ireland Wicklow for 2023.



Joanne Costello, President of Network Ireland Wicklow, and Stephen Delaney, President of Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce

"This new partnership will help the chamber to support their members and the local community in a modern and dynamic way," he said.

"Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce works to create a strong economy in Wicklow Town & District by providing unique opportunities and support for its members to grow their businesses. We look forward to working together and with this newfound partnership launching joint projects over the coming months."

Joanne Costello, 2023 President of Network Ireland Wicklow, said "This collaboration presents a unique opportunity to enhance the networks of both organizations and provide valuable benefits to their respective members. With great anticipation, we eagerly embrace the future years of fruitful cooperation"

Wicklow Chamber would like to offer all Network Ireland members a 20% discount for joining the Chamber. Contact [Susana@wicklowchamber.ie](mailto:Susana@wicklowchamber.ie) for more information.

## Wicklow Youth Service takes home Rainbow Award for LGBTQ+ inclusive service

Minister of State with responsibility for Mental Health, Mary Butler, met with staff and young people from East Wicklow Youth Service and awarded them at a ceremony in Dublin City Centre on May 9th. The event recognised and celebrated the efforts of six youth services in creating safe and supportive spaces for LGBTQ+ youth.

Upon receiving the Rainbow Award, Angeline Pluck, youth worker with East Wicklow Youth Service, Crosscare said: "As always, Belong To are a fantastic organisation to work with, and going through the process of the Rainbow Award affiliation has shown us how Belong To are constantly striving for excellence in the work they do

with young people and youth services all over the country. They have been a constant support to our Youth Workers over many years and this process has made us reflect and demonstrates to us that we are providing a level of care and support to our young people that is worthy of Belong To's Rainbow Award. We will continue to work along-

side Belong To and the National Network of Youth Workers to provide the best possible safe and supportive service to our young people."

Speaking at the event, Moninne Griffith, CEO, Belong To stated: "We are proud to award these six services with the Rainbow Award! Today marks the beginning of an exciting journey towards LGBTQ+ inclusion as we officially launch this programme across the country."

With over 20 years of experience supporting LGBTQ+ youth in Ireland, we at Belong To are here to empower local commu-

nities to develop a culture of LGBTQ+ inclusion and support young people to thrive."

The Rainbow Award is an in-depth, action-focused accreditation programme supporting a whole

organisational approach to becoming a safe, supportive and inclusive service for LGBTQ+ young people. To meet the award criteria, youth services must meet high standards in six key areas. Applications are now open for youth services and organisation who would like to work towards the Rainbow Award in 2023.



Minister Mary Butler TD (centre), with Moninne Griffith, CEO of Belong To (left), and members of East Coast Youth Service: Crosscare, represented by (L-R); Tara Garvey, Linda Lambert, Conor Hickey, CEO of Crosscare, Angeline Pluck, Paul Murphy, Liz O'Sullivan, Mary Millet of Wicklow Partnership and Fiona Creedon of ETB.

# New digital media building for IADT

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD has recently marked the commencement of the construction works of a new Digital Media Building at IADT in Dún Laoghaire.

The Digital Media Building will accommodate 920 students across a wide range of disciplines such as design, animation, visual effects, enterprise and technology. It adds capacity for close to 600 additional students to attend IADT.

The building will contain 19 state-of-the-art digital design studios, advanced computer laboratories and classrooms with five seminar rooms.

Speaking today, Minister Harris said: "The project will develop and transform IADT's existing facilities in the digital media building. This state-of-the-art development will improve the educational experience for current and future generations of students."

"This building will have a strong focus on supporting practice-based learning, including laboratories, workshops and studios. They will also have significant flexibility to adapt to changing teaching and learning needs, and to support hybrid and remote learning."

Construction commenced on site in January 2023 and the expected completion date is March 2025.

David Smith, IADT President, said: "We are delighted to welcome Minister Harris and his colleagues from the HEA and NDFA to campus to note and mark the significant progress made on the construction of the Institute's new Digital Media Building (DMB)."

"The DMB's cutting-edge digital facilities will allow the Institute to significantly expand our offer in high-demand programmes such as Design,

VFX and 3D Animation. With additional capacity for 600 new learners, the building will also enable the Institute to grow our existing provision across our distinct portfolio of Applied Arts, Technology, Business, Humanities and Psychology programmes."

The Higher Education Authority, acting as the Sponsoring Agency, worked with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science as Approving Authority.

The National Development Finance Agency (NDFA), part of the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA), was responsible for the procurement of this PPP project on behalf of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. The NDFA will continue to be involved during subsequent phases of the project.

Mr. Andrew O'Flanagan, Director National Development Finance Agency and New ERA, said: "Working in collaboration with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Higher Education Authority, the NDFA is delighted to be playing a part in the delivery of this digital media building at the IADT campus."

This project is being delivered under Project Ireland 2040 which recognises that investment in education is central to achieving a strong, future-proofed economy, balanced across the regions, and a just society in which all citizens are enabled to fulfill their potential.



Minister Simon Harris recently marked the commencement of the construction of a new Digital Media Building at the Institute of Art, Design + Technology, Dun Laoghaire. The Digital Media Building will accommodate 920 students across a wide range of disciplines such as design, animation, visual effects, enterprise and technology. It adds capacity for close to 600 additional students to attend IADT. The building will contain 19 state-of-the-art digital design studios, advanced computer laboratories and classrooms with five seminar rooms. Pictured is Minister Simon Harris meeting students from Co. Wicklow (L to R): David Smith, President, IADT; Isabella Redmond (Bray); Emma Nolan (Bray); Emily Lannin (Delgany); Lochlann Magennety (Bray) and Minister Simon Harris

## Wicklow awardees granted project funding under new N-TUTORR programme

Awardees from Wicklow are members of teams granted project funding under the new 'N-TUTORR' Transforming Learning' initiative for Ireland's Technological Universities sector.



Ruth Quinn from Kilcoole, assistant lecturer of Civil, Environmental and Water Engineering at Atlantic Technological University, and whose 'LEtGO of Stress' project has received N-TUTORR funding.

Ruth Quinn, who is from Kilcoole, is an assistant lecturer of Civil, Environmental and Water Engineering at Atlantic Technological University Sligo. She is part of a team awarded funding for a project titled 'LEtGO of Stress'. As part of the project, a fully accessible Lego construction activity will run across the campus to relieve stress, loneliness and anxiety, supported by engineering students.

India Heath, who is from Bray, is part of a student-staff team at the Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT), Dun Laoghaire awarded funding for a project that will run focus groups with student researchers. They will cover N-TUTORR themes, including sustainability, employability, digital transformation and universal design for learning.

The N-TUTORR 'Students as Partners in Innovation and Change' funding grants have been awarded to 131 projects across the seven institutions that make up Ireland's Technological Universities sector. A total of more than €650,000 is being awarded under the programme, with each project receiving up to €5,000 in funding.

The announcement of the funded projects took place at an event in the Spencer Hotel, Dublin, on 23rd May. Funded by the European Union NextGenerationEU, N-TUTORR is coordinated through the Technological Higher Education Association (THEA), with support from the Higher Education Authority (HEA).



Bernadette Meagher, N-TUTORR lead at IADT, Shauna McCarthy Reid, Knocklyon, Co Dublin, Louise Glynn, Dublin and India Heath, Bray, from the Faculty of Film, Art and Creative Technologies at IADT, Dun Laoghaire.

## Parents should be 'supportive and quietly kind' during Leaving Cert

Turn2Me, a national mental health charity, has stated that parents should be 'supportive and quietly kind' during the Leaving Certificate period. The charity has seen an increase in parents whose teenagers are sitting the Leaving Certificate sign up for its services.

"Many parents feel lost," Fiona O'Malley, CEO of Turn2Me said, "They're not sure what to say or how to get the balance between being supportive and not putting too much pressure on their teenagers. You don't need to give a long Ted Talk every time you see your teenager but giving them words of encouragement can be really powerful. Popping into their room every hour when they have a study break with a cup of tea, a glass of water, healthy snacks and being quietly kind can make a hugely positive difference."

Turn2Me is running support groups for both students and parents until the end of the Leaving Cert, for anyone who needs free professional mental health support.

The Turn2Me Leaving Cert Students support group will run on Wednesdays at 6pm, and the Turn2Me Leaving Cert Parents support group will run on Thursdays at 6pm. To sign up, go to Turn2Me.ie



ICS Mortgages provided a number of Irish schools with sets of the finance textbook, Money Matters - Transition Year Finance. This book will further enhance the students' understanding of finance. With the endorsement of CFA Society Ireland, Money Matters offers a comprehensive guide to personal finance, investing, and entrepreneurship life skills. ICS Mortgages Chief Commercial Officer Ray McMahon is pictured presenting the books to students and their teacher, Jenny Larkin, from Temple Carrig School in Greystones.

# Certificates presented at Wicklow Further Education and Training Centre

The stage was set in Coláiste Chill Mhantain and the sun was shining on Wednesday evening 24th May when Wicklow Further Education and Training Centre welcomed KWETB Chief Executive, Dr Deirdre Keyes, and Wicklow Adult Education Officer Caitríona Cullen to present certificates to their students who completed a range of courses at the Centre.



Bray's Serendipity Chrus perform at the Wicklow FETC graduation ceremony.

Students and staff were joined with family and friends to celebrate the wonderful achievements of the past year. Students were presented with awards from the various services in the Further Education and Training Centre which include courses from at NFQ levels 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Christine Wray, Coordinator of the Adult Learning service, Maria Lally, Coordinator of the VTOS and BTEI service and Lisa Harvey, Coordinator of the Youthreach service congratulated their students and acknowledged the commitment it takes to return to education and to continue the learning journey. Students, Neda, Delia and Moses expressed their experience in Wicklow Further Education and Training Centre and how participating in an education programme has impacted



Moses Sebalu and Randi Chachava at the graduation ceremony at Wicklow FETC

their lives as a result.

Based on the Murrough, the Wicklow Further Education and Training Centre is home to a range of full time and part time education and training opportunities

where learning for life and learning for work is at the heart of what's on offer. The centre's facilities include modern and spacious classrooms, multiple IT rooms, art studio, sports room,

lunch rooms, woodwork room and a study room. There is also a free Youth Advocate - Career Guidance & Counselling for Early School Leavers and a free Adult Guidance Service avail-

able in the centre for those interested in doing a course or changing career and need advice and guidance on progression paths, Interview preparation, college and grant application support.

## Wicklow students graduate as mental health ambassadors

Two Wicklow students joined 122 Transition Year students across Ireland to graduate as Walk in My Shoes mental health ambassadors during a special online ceremony held to celebrate the class of 2022/2023.



Grace Costello, Temple Carrig School

The Wicklow students that took part this year were: Grace Costello, Temple Carrig School, Greystones, and Dara Kelly, East Glendalough School, Wicklow Town.

For over 12 years, Walk in My Shoes, the flagship education and awareness-raising campaign of St Patrick's Mental Health Services, has run a Transition Year Programme, with over 100 students from across Ireland taking part annually. The week-long programme runs five times during the academic year between October and March, with 20 to 25 students per programme.

This year, the programme took place in a hybrid format, with students beginning their week with a day spent onsite at St Patrick's University Hospital campus, and the remainder of the week's sessions attended virtually.

Students receive first-hand insight into how a mental healthcare service operates and the experiences of those with mental health difficulties.

They meet mental health experts and clinicians; hear from people who have gone through mental health difficulties and their experiences of mental health recovery; and discuss mental health stigma and ways to tackle it.

The programme is hosted by the adolescent mental health team and staff at St Patrick's Mental Health Services, who deliver approximately 20 sessions to students across the week. This year's participants undertook a range of activities which included viewing a mock multidisciplinary team meeting with psychiatrists, psychologists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, nurses and social workers; taking part in sessions with the medical director and the CEO; and participating in group presentations. Students were also given the opportunity to contribute to design concepts for a large-scale mental health promotion project that is being progressed by St Patrick's at present.

To celebrate their com-



Dara Kelly, East Glendalough School

pletion of the programme, students were joined in an online graduation ceremony by CEO of St Patrick's Mental Health Services, Paul Gilligan, who said: "Congratulations to the 122 students who completed the Transition Year Programme this year and returned to their schools and communities as ambassadors for mental health. Transition Year can offer wonderful

learning experiences for young people, but it can often also be a challenging time for students as they prepare to start into their final years at school and consider future career choices. Through our TY Programme we offer students the opportunity to get a real sense of what it's like to work in mental healthcare, to learn about career pathways and the various opportunities for a career

in this sector, while also building mental health awareness and skills. It is fantastic to see so many young people benefit from this programme by exploring a future career in mental healthcare and embracing mental health awareness."

To date, over 1,100 students have completed the Transition Year programme. The 2023/2024 programme is now open for applications.

# Majority want multi-denominational education, research finds

Delegates at the first in-person conference of Community National School (CNS) Principals in Ireland held recently heard new research which shows that most Irish adults (61%) show a preference for multi-denominational education, with only 9% showing a preference for a religious body to provide education.

The research, carried out with a representative sample of 1,011 adults in the Rep. of Ireland by Opinions, also shows that the CNS model, provided by Ireland's Education & Training Boards (ETBs), including Kildare & Wicklow ETB, is associated with key aspects that influence parents of primary school going children when deciding where to send them to school. These include being co-educational, multi-denominational, having an inclusive ethos in admissions and providing for children with special needs.

Ken Scully, Director of Schools in Kildare and Wicklow ETB, said that "We in KWETB are delighted to meet with Community National School principals from our own and other ETBs at this conference. This professional learning opportunity is just one example of the many supports ETBs offer schools under their patronage. In KWETB we currently have 3 Community National Schools. We are proud to have supported 1 of these schools through a transfer of patronage process. We look forward to seeing this number increase through the Schools Reconfiguration

for Diversity Process over the coming years."

Delegates heard from Principals that a multi-denominational, equality-based ethos as well as a multi-belief and values curriculum, instead of a faith formation curriculum in one religion, were key in attracting new and existing primary schools to become Community National Schools.

ETBI Director of Schools Dr Seamus Conboy added: "The research by Opinions clearly shows the attractiveness of the Community National School offering to both a general sample of Irish adults and to those specifically with children of primary school going age. Indeed, my own research suggests that the CNS ethos enables teachers and school leaders to respond appropriately to diversity within the school community."

Conference delegates also heard from academics and education specialists including keynote speaker, Professor Patricia Mannix-McNamara, Head of the School of Education at the University of Limerick over the two-day conference which ran in Athlone in late May.



Deirdre Keyes, Chief Executive of Kildare and Wicklow ETB, with Paul Ennis (Principal, Naas CNS, KWETB), and Sarah Fitzpatrick, (Principal, Brannoxtown CNS, KWETB), at the ETB Community National School Principals' Conference.

# Frustration over delays in temporary classroom provision

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has expressed his frustration at the lack of clarity around the provision of temporary classroom accommodation for students and staff at both Blessington Community College and Temple Carrig Secondary School in Greystones.

In addition to this following a meeting with the Blessington Community College staff and parents in February, which was attended by other TDs from the County, Brady subsequently attempted to get clarity from Minister Norma Foley, the Department of Education, and the Kildare Wicklow Educational Training Board (KWETB) around the provision of the six additional classrooms which were going to be required to accommodate new students

in September 2023. A request went in from the five TDs to the Minister for Education looking for a meeting, but no meeting has been forthcoming since.

Deputy Brady said: "The failure of the government to deliver the much-needed temporary classroom accommodation for either Blessington or Temple Carrig in Greystones is indicative of the neglect of the educational needs of County Wicklow.

"The reality is that these

two schools need extension built to accommodate the increased student numbers in the respective areas. That the government is stalling plans to move forward with the extensions, is compounded by the failure of the government to provide urgently needed temporary classroom accommodation before the new school year commences in September.

"The current situation is simply unacceptable. These schools need to be provided with a clear timeframe as to when they can expect to



John Brady TD

have the temporary accommodation in place in order to allow them to plan for the new school year. Blessington Secondary School, which is a 1,000-pupil school urgently needs the addition of six temporary classrooms to address

its needs by September. For which the Department continues to avoid issuing a timeline.

"I had received assurances from the Minister that temporary accommodation for Temple Carrig Secondary School had been approved in November, yet the Department continues to dither, and avoid giving a commitment for the delivery of the temporary classrooms.

"This despite Temple Carrig agreeing to expand what is a 750-pupil school to accommodate an additional 250 students in 2020 to ensure that the local demand for school places could be met. The school

has plans for a permanent extension to accommodate the extra numbers, but despite running two public procurement competitions for temporary accommodation in 2022, the Department of Education refused to allow the school to award the contracts.

Instead stating that the Department would provide reconditioned prefabs from another school site in North Dublin. At present, as this school year comes to a close, there is considerable overcrowding in the school. In some instances, teachers are being forced to teach classes in the school corridors.

"Such is the crisis that

the school faces, they may be forced to put students on a four-day week in an attempt to stagger attendances and reintroduce remote teaching. This is unacceptable, it is a disgrace, and represents a further indictment of a government which offers daily evidence of how out of touch it is with ordinary people across this state.

"In the week that witnessed the release by the CSO of the latest census figures for Wicklow, which indicated a population increase of close to 10%, we are already witnessing the consequences of the failure of this gov-

ernment to plan to meet the challenges that the population will pose for services across the board.

"We need to see tangible progress made with the planned extension project for the school, which is currently stuck within the Department. This project needs to go to planning as soon as possible.

"The schools need clarity as to when the temporary classroom accommodation will be in place. Schools cannot be left in a situation where they cannot plan for the start of the new school year in September and all the challenges that this will bring."

# St. Mary's student presents housing crisis solution to Minister O'Brien



St Mary's student Eva Duffy with Deputy Whitmore and Housing Minister Darragh O'Brien

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore recently welcomed St. Mary's Arklow student Eva Duffy and her parents to Leinster House to join her at a meeting with Housing Minister, Darragh O'Brien. The purpose of the meeting was for Eva to present her BT Young Scientist's Housing proposal project, 'The Creation of Retirement Villages and how this could impact the Housing Crisis in Ireland'.

"I was delighted to first meet Eva and some of her fellow students from St. Mary's college Arklow at the BT Young Scientists exhibition in January," said Deputy Whitmore. "She had presented her proactive project in an informative an engaging way and made some wonderful observations of the housing crisis. Following the national event in the RDS, Eva was then invited along with all the other Wicklow Students who had participated in the BT Young Scientists, to showcase their projects locally at the Wicklow Young Scientist Exhibition in February, an event that I co-host in Greystones.

"As a TD, I always welcome to chance to engage with young people and have built a

wonderful relationship with schools and their principals all across County Wicklow. In particular this year, I have been involved very closely with the students of St. Mary's College in Arklow. At various different events

and engagements with the school, I have always stressed the importance of young people becoming engaged in society. That was why, it was my pleasure to support Eva in progressing her project and arranging the meeting with the Housing Minister for her to present her proposal to him.

"The Minister for Housing was very impressed with Eva's extensive work on the topic, and her determination to see this idea developed for those who want the option of retirement village step-down hous-

ing. He has committed to reviewing her proposals in full and to following up in the weeks to come with Eva and my office on this matter.

"It's very important that students and young people understand how politics can and should work for them. Young people are a very important part of all discussions around issues facing our communities in Wicklow, with the housing crisis front and centre for them. Having a young Arklow Student meet with a Government Minister is an opportunity for young people to understand that their voices are important and should be heard. It was quite rewarding to be able to support and facilitate that, especially for the students of County Wicklow," concluded Deputy Whitmore.



Evie, a 22 year old singer/songwriter from Dublin, will perform in the Whale Theatre on Friday 23rd June at 8pm. In October of last year, she released 'Since the Fire,' her debut EP, earning nods from Hotpress, Nialler9 and 2FM. Following the release, Evie took 'Since the Fire' to the venues of Dublin, including two headline shows, ensemble performances and a landmark 'Ruby Sessions' debut. Doors open 7pm. Tickets €12. Support from Jack Joyce.

# Luke Carrig album launch in Greystones

Saturday 24th June, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €20 and available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book



On the back of a busy year for Luke Carrig, with sold out shows and a debut EP, comes the release of Luke's first full length album, 'til the light blooms.

Recorded at Big Red Studios with producer Elliot Crampton and involving some of Wicklow's finest musicians; 'til the light blooms explores themes of light and darkness and the enduring power of friendship.

Blending together his familiar singer-songwriter pop, with a hint of Americana, Luke has created an energetic and captivating collection of tracks which are sure to shine in a live set.

Luke is delighted to launch 'til the light blooms from his favourite hometown venue, the Whale Theatre on June 24th, accompanied by an array of local musical talent.

## Touching Earth - A Music Together Community Concert

Sunday 25th June, 2pm (doors 1.30pm).

Free Admission but it's recommend you book your tickets at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

Music Together return to the Whale Theatre with an integrated 9-piece band including appearances by special guests. Bold new music fusing pop, latin, traditional and electronica with personal and cultural experiences and a fondness for fresh sounds.

Music Together is a voluntary group aiming to provide learner musicians who have a disability with an opportunity to perform in the wider community.

### Touching Earth



A Music Together Community Concert



## Baby Loves Music

Presented by Eamon Sweeney  
Courthouse Arts Centre

Wednesday 28th June. 10.30am, 12pm, & 2.30pm. €15 (baby & 2 adults)

For babies 12 months & under

BabyLovesMusic is an informal concert for babies featuring 4 musicians - Tim Doyle, Kate Hearne, Anna Newell and Eamon Sweeney - with musical arrangements by The Irish Chamber Orchestra's Malachy Robinson.

An eclectic musical journey with a distinctly Irish fee, BabyLovesMusic features a rich variety of instruments including renaissance guitar, cello, accordion, fiddle, uilleann pipes, treble recorder, and lots more. Each session runs an hour long.



## A third of an inch per second

A magical outdoor 'ecotheatre' piece created and performed by The Elders, a group of older adult theatre makers directed by Andrea Scott, will take place in

Killruddery Gardens.

Ecotheatre takes a holistic approach to theatre-making that centers climate and environmental justice in content, process, and

production.

"A theatrical response to our most essential and declining interconnection with trees, forests, nature and each other, this piece is a must see spectacle. Experimenting with the interconnectedness of the forest through the underground mycelium as a compelling metaphor for our own human connection, care and community - the performance takes place alongside a special community of trees in the stunning surrounds of The Wilderness in Killruddery Gardens, Bray. This is an immersive experience for the audience, the Elders, creative teams and environmentalists connecting everyone reflecting how the forest trees also connect."

June 14th, 15th, 16th  
2023 at 6.30pm. €15.  
Booking essential:  
[www.killruddery.com](http://www.killruddery.com)



Bronwyn Crummy with Suin and Eireann Byrne at the 2023 Wicklow County Fleadh in Avoca.

# Five medals for Wicklow at Bloom in Phoenix Park

From Wicklow, five medals were awarded to garden designers, community groups, and floral artists at this year's Bloom in Phoenix Park.

The judging panels for Bord Bia Bloom included 14 Irish and international horticultural experts judging Show Gardens, Postcard gardens, nursery displays, and botanical and floral art.

## Show Gardens

Kilmacanogue local Robert Moore has received a Gold Medal for the 'Marie Keating Catching Cancer Early Garden' for the Marie Keating Foundation. This garden focuses on the importance of early detection and the positive outcomes and higher survivorship rates when cancer is diagnosed early. The garden places the individual at the centre of a journey, empowering them to look at their role in early detection.

Kilcoole-based designer Tünde Perry, received a Silver-Gilt medal for the 'GOAL Global Garden'. GOAL's Global Garden celebrates the diverse yet interconnected nature of our world by taking inspiration from the ecosystems, plants, and crops from the various regions that GOAL works in, including Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Ukraine. Tünde Perry has always been passionate about



Kilmacanogue garden designer Robert Moore received a Gold Medal.

nature. This is her ninth show garden at Bord Bia Bloom.

## Floral Art

In the AOIFA Floral Art competition, two local artists received awards: Lynn Stringer, from Kilcoole, received a Silver-Gilt Medal for 'Tetracentron sinense from Birr Castle demesne' in the Botanical category, and a Bronze

Medal for 'Red Oak Quercus rubra' in the Botanical category.

## Postcard Gardens

These small, but perfectly formed gardening showcases feature exhibits telling the stories of charities and community groups. Community Garden Edible Bray in collaboration with Klinkerdin Arts Salon from Bray were

Highly Commended for their amateur Postcard Garden display, called Plants in Concert by Common Ground. Together they have created a horticultural sound art installation where enthusiastic gardeners talk to their plants. Technology allows attendees to hear the plant's response through a webcast accessed by a QR code. This multi-sensory experience enables one to see and smell the plants and hear their voices as they grow and respond to their environment. A second QR code links to an audio description of the garden's layout which is available to visitors who are visually impaired.

Jim O'Toole, Bord Bia Chief Executive, congratulated the awards winners: "The medals awarded this morning is testament to the skill and craftsmanship of the Irish horticulture community and we are incredibly proud to showcase this talent. As we prepare to open the doors to Bloom 2023, I'd like to thank and acknowledge all those involved whose sheer dedication has helped Bord Bia to deliver what we believe will be a unique and truly uplifting experience for this year's visitors."



Pictured is Wicklow maker Anouk O'Connell of Olanmore exhibited at the Design & Crafts Council Ireland Irish Craft Village at Bord Bia Bloom. 33 of Ireland's most creative craft brands were showcased at Design & Crafts Council Ireland (DCCI) Irish Craft Village at Bord Bia Bloom. Visitors to the DCCI Irish Craft Village had the opportunity to see the work of 33 exhibitors from across the country over the five days, many of which are part of the Made Local, Made to Last campaign which highlights the originality, quality and value of Irish designed and craft-made products. Exhibitors were chosen across a range of counties and disciplines. Over 90 small businesses responded to the Design & Crafts Council's call out for exhibitors earlier this year.

# Bray artist's painting of derelict cottage on show at Royal Academy Summer Show in London

Bray artist Tony Gunning was in London on Friday 2nd June for the annual artists' Varnishing Day at the Royal Academy in London.



Tony Gunning with his painting

In addition to works by Royal Academicians, artists from all over the world compete to be included in this prestigious show, with 16,500 applications each year for approx. 1,200 places. Tony's painting, a derelict cottage in Co Leitrim, was selected by the judging panel to hang in this year's exhibition.

Varnishing Day is an opportunity for the artists to see the 'hang' before the show opens to the public. An Academician is given the honour of co-ordinating the entire exhibition each year. This year, the honour went to David Remfry RA. Others exhibiting at the show include Tracey Emin CBE RA, Anthony Gormley RA and Sir Michael Craig-Martin CBE RA.

Speaking of his inspiration for this painting, Tony said: "This was one of a series of dereliction paintings continuing my preoccupation with themes of transition.



Tony Gunning (Centre) with Michael Rooney and David Remfry.

Beyond the aesthetics there is a deeper resonance. Echoes of peoples lives remain in these places. They are monuments to impermanence and the never-ending cycle of death and re-birth."

Tony Gunning is an established Irish artist who has exhibited widely. To date he has had fifteen solo

shows. His work has been included in numerous group shows, including the Royal Academy London, Royal Hibernian Academy Dublin and the Royal Ulster Academy Belfast. His paintings are also included in many corporate and private collections worldwide. He has exhibited solo at the European Parliament,

Brussels, and was part of the Irish representation at the Florence Biennale in 2005. He won the

Curator's Award and the Bank of Ireland Emerging Artist Award at EV+A in 2007.

This year's summer show opens to the public on 13th June and runs until 20th August.



Tony Gunning with Rebeca Salter, Royal Academy President



Ross Keddy and Margaret Synott taking part in the re-enactment of the 1798 Battle of Newtownmounbkennedy.

# Visionary five-year tourism strategy launched for Ireland's Ancient East

**Faillte Ireland has launched a new Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027 for Ireland's Ancient East which will provide a framework for sustainable tourism development across the region.**

The new Ireland's Ancient East Regional Tourism Development Strategy is one of four new strategies that outline a vision for tourism and contain a five-year strategic framework for sustainable tourism development across each of Failte Ireland's four regional brands - The Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Dublin.

By capitalising on the uniqueness of each brand they set a clear path ahead for the development of new and enhanced visitor experiences, building greater capacity and capability into the industry, and will provide a clear strategy for attracting visitors that will stay longer and spend more.

For Ireland's Ancient East, this means growing tourism revenue at a faster rate relative to the established tourism hotspots nationally while staying within existing infrastructural and environmental capacities.

Commenting on the launch of the strategies, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Catherine Martin TD said, "I welcome the publication of Failte Ireland's Regional Tourism Strategies, which will improve visitors' experiences in destinations in

every county in Ireland, supporting tourism and enabling regional economies to thrive. With the support of Government and my department, the cooperation of Local Authorities, the tourism industry and local communities, these strategies will play a key role in improving the social, cultural and economic contribution of tourism across Ireland's regions.

"Tourism is a significant economic sector in Ireland, and these strategies will support the development of tourism across all 4 of Failte Ireland's regional brands, bringing new attractions and experiences for visitors and creating new opportunities for communities and businesses across the country."

Justine Carey, Manager of Ireland's Ancient East at Failte Ireland added, "Since its launch in 2015, the Ireland's Ancient East brand has had significant impact across the region, with visitor numbers and revenue continuing to grow at a strong rate. There is still plenty of

opportunity for further economic growth which is why the Ireland's Ancient East Regional Tourism Development Strategy has been devised. We must continue to look for new ways to innovate, improve and enhance our tourism offering for our domestic and international visitors. This strategy sets out to unlock the commercial potential of Ireland's Ancient East while ensuring development is sustainable, so the socio-economic benefits of tourism are seen and felt in communities and businesses across the region."

The Regional Tourism Development Strategies

will be activated across every region through a series of local area action plans, referred to as Destination and Experience Development Plans (DEDPs). Over the course of this strategy, in addition to three DEDPs that already exist in Ireland's Ancient East, Failte Ireland will prepare a further 8 DEDPs for destinations within the region.



## WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Rev. Luke Carrig on behalf of the Church of the Nazarene, Greystones seeks [a] Retention Permission for 2 no. prefabricated buildings (40 sqm) at south end of church and [b] Permission for alterations and single storey extension to south, east and west of church for use as a community hub with pre-school, meeting rooms, hospitality area, kitchens, staff offices, toilets and stores; also, new doors on north elevation, new first floor windows on south elevation, solar panels and glazing on south, east and west roof elevations and associated site works including altered entrance gates / walls, altered ground levels, extended car park, hard and soft landscaping, fencing along southern boundary and drainage works at Church of the Nazarene, Burnaby Avenue, Killincarrig, Greystones, Co Wicklow, A63 YD27. Including additional first and second floor accommodation within the volume of the existing church the 458 sqm existing gross floor area will increase by 581sqm to 1,039 sqm. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

## WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Michael & Evelyn Burns seeks Retention Planning for boundary fence at 232, Redford Park, Greystones. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

## WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning permission is sought by Packaging Laundry Ltd for removal of existing single-storey joinery workshop building and adjacent yard, and for construction in its place of new nine meter high single-storey storage/processing building, on site at former home of Wicklow Timber and Joinery Ltd, Wurtzburg Avenue, Boghall Road, Bray, Co Wicklow (Eircode A98WD37). This site is immediately adjacent and adjoining the existing home of the applicant company, Packaging Laundry Ltd, at Unit C, Oldcourt Business Park, Wurtzburg Avenue, Boghall Road, Bray, Co Wicklow, (Eircode A98P6N3), and the application includes retention of an external cylindrical water storage tank, and minor items of external plant. It also includes for retention of an existing lean-to building which houses a chipping machine, and retention of an existing wall-mounted wash-area canopy. Other minor associated works will include the provision of markings for car parking, markings for a turning circle, and markings for loading areas, and gates to the external storage areas. Signage, too, is included as illustrated. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, during its public opening hours, and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

## Nine clean-ups take place in Wicklow for World Ocean Day

**Irish environmental programme Clean Coasts is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. In honour of this milestone, over 300 groups in Ireland, including 9 in County Wicklow registered to carry out a clean-up during the week around World Ocean Day which took place on June 8th..**

Clean-ups happened in groups of all sizes, from individuals, friends and families to community groups, tidy towns groups, schools, sports groups etc., and took place in different locations throughout the county, including Brittas Bay, Greystones North Beach, Bray, Blessington Lakes and Arklow South Beach and more.

Clean Coasts said they are thrilled to see so many groups and individuals stepping up across Ireland to help protect our ocean.

World Ocean Day is celebrated annually on June 8th to highlight the important role the ocean has for our life and the planet. For 2023, the focus of World Ocean Day was the 30x30 campaign meaning that for us to create a healthy ocean with abundant wildlife and to stabilize our climate.

Marine litter has become a global problem for humans and marine life alike. However, communities around Ireland have demonstrated their desire to be part of the solution by taking part in several beach cleaning calls to action. Making sure litter is collected and disposed of properly at the source is vital for a cleaner ocean and a greener world for all of us to enjoy

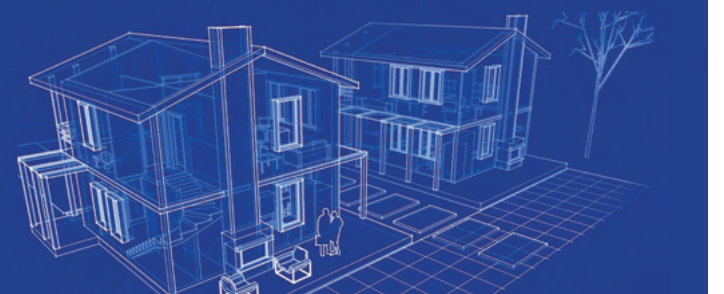


Sure Partners Limited (SPL), a subsidiary of SSE Renewables, are developing Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 which is a proposed offshore wind farm located off the Wicklow and North Wexford coast. SPL will soon commence survey activities involving offshore ground investigations to facilitate the design development of the wind farm. The proposed site investigation activities include boreholes and associated testing, with all activities undertaken in accordance with the conditions outlined in the associated foreshore licence (ref FS007339). Weather depending, the initial phase of the survey work is anticipated to start before the end of June, and is planned to be completed by September 2023. The location of the surveys will be off the Wicklow coastline within the area identified in the foreshore licence. The survey activities planned this year will include nearshore boreholes and offshore Cone Penetration Tests at discrete locations within the license area from a jack-up and Offshore vessel. A Marine Notice for the site investigation activities has been published by the Department of Transport and is available on the Department's website <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/01258-marine-notices-2023/>



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# Wicklow man elected President of the Irish motor industry

Wicklow man Paddy Magee was recently elected President of the Society of Irish Motor Industry for 2023, but he also found time to do his 'day job' and steer Renault Ireland to impressive sales results, particularly last month.

By Martin McCarthy



Paddy Magee was recently elected President of the Society of Irish Motor Industry for 2023

The SIMI is an excellent organization which represents car importers distributors and related businesses - of which there is a huge number.

It provides the weekly and monthly statistics that motor journalists and others use to understand trends - particularly on the current road to electrification.

Paddy, whose family are immersed in Blessington and Wicklow GAA, has enjoyed 25 years working within the Motor Industry, 20 years with Renault Ireland remarking that "I have yet to see one year which has been normal and without challenges, but I would also say that these challenges have always brought opportunities. It is exciting times, as we are seeing many changes within our industry, the continued journey towards electrification is now joined by changes in distribution along with many daily challenges."

Renault Group finished on the podium last month and maintained

third position in the overall car and van market year to date with 9.3% market share. The Renault brand is now at 5.1% market share year to date with Dacia at 4.6% year to date.

In May Megane E-Tech 100% electric had a strong month and was the bestselling electric hatchback and number four bestselling car in the competitive C-Segment.

While the EV market has grown by 56%, sales of electric cars across the Renault range are up 128% Year to date. There is good supply of Megane E-Tech 100% electric and Zoe E-Tech 100% electric in dealerships for this month and next and private customers looking to avail of the full SEAI grant of €5,000 will need to order their EV before the 30th of June.

Megane E-Tech 100% electric is available to order through Mobilize Financial Services (MFS) at 4.9% APR /from €240 per month from Renault's 31 car dealerships and the current retail prices will be guaranteed on orders taken by 30th June and registered by 31st July. 4.9% APR is also applicable on Zoe E-Tech 100% electric from €269 per month.



Doreen McGettigan, Mary Stapleton, Christine Ryan, Liz Doyle, Pat Stapleton, Therse Porter and Rosemary Kavanagh at the Wicklow Golf Club's Play in Pink Day in aid of Breast Cancer Research Ireland.



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