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CHATTING BENCHES page 6



PADDY & JOHNNY page 16

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Friday 30th April 2021 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

SHOCKING YOUTH VIOLENCE

A shocking video of youth-on-youth violence was circulating last week, depicting teenagers fighting each other with hurling sticks and tasers.

The brawl took place in Charlesland, Greystones. The video shows a number of teenagers fist-fighting, while others hit each other with hurling sticks and another brandishes a taser. The chaotic free-for-all was filmed by other young people that were standing around watching.

Gardai told *Wicklow Times*: "Gardai at Greystones have been made aware of a number of social media posts circulating in respect of what appears to be a large group of youths

engaging in anti-social behaviour including violence towards each other.

"No formal complaint has been made in respect of this matter and no reports have been received of any injuries. The date of the incident has yet to be established. Gardai would encourage anyone with information in respect of this incident to contact Greystones Garda Station, including any person who may have been injured as a result of the incident. Garda enquires are ongoing in

respect of the matter."

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called out strongly for an increase in the number of community police in towns and villages across Wicklow in response to rising trends of youth-on-youth violence.

"Since the pandemic, there has been a notable increase of incidences involving young people engaging in violent acts against each other. Often times these acts are recorded and spread across social media. Recently, a particular



Grace O'Reilly checking out the tulips at the Meetings of the Water, Avoca.

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incident involved a group of young adults with weapons which was recorded where many other young people not involved, were then exposed to the violence.

"The scenes witnessed over the last week were absolutely abhorrent and unacceptable. We are lucky that no one was seriously injured or killed in that incident and this kind of behaviour needs to be stopped in its tracks. I have been in constant contact with local community police particularly on the recent incident and it clear that greater emphasis must now be on the need for more community gardai policing across towns and villages in Wicklow.

"I recently questioned the Minister for Justice on this and was given figures which reveal a continuing decline in the number of community police across Wicklow.

"Numbers of community policing have steadily

dropped since 2010 when 23 were available across Wicklow which dropped to 14 in 2016 and which is now down to 10 as of February of this year. This trend equates to an astonishing 56% decrease in the number of community police in Wicklow despite the increase in population and increase in violence among young people.

"In response to incidents involving young people across our communities, I have called on the Minister and Garda Commissioner to increase the number of community police in our local towns and villages.

"Whilst not excusing the most recent violent attacks, I believe that we need to understand how decisions made by Government in response to the pandemic has left our young people feeling disconnected from society and vulnerable. As we emerge out of lock-

down, we need to have serious conversations about providing safe

spaces for young people and involving them more in local decision-making

so they are active and positive members of our communities."



Bray Osteopathic Clinic has relocated to Greystones

Patrick D'Arcy D.O. M.G.O. M.G.O.N.
D.Phys. Osteopath has relocated his clinic to

**The Watson & Johnson Centre,
Mill Road, Greystones,
Co. Wicklow, A63 WV59**

Take exit 11 from the M11, the Clinic is situated a few steps from Greystones Dart Station/Greystones Library, there is ample on-street parking.

By appointment phone: 086 866 8474
or patdosteo@eircom.net



First EV charging points installed in Greystones!

Greystones has finally got its first Electric Vehicle charging points. Cllr Derek Mitchell, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District said "An objective of my year as Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District was to get some Electric Vehicle charging points in the area. It was unusual as there were none. I am pleased that a pair of them have now been installed in Tesco car park and at the harbour. The Council has agreed to install some in Shoreline's car park as well. More are needed but at least it's a start."

Alternative routes to the Bray-Greystones cliff walk

There are alternative routes to explore while the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk remains partially closed, Bray Municipal District has said. It is perfectly safe to walk from Bray along the Cliff Walk as far as Windgates steps. From there people can take the alternative route which can be challenging for the walker who can return on the Cliff Walk back to Bray.

The Greystones side is extremely dangerous and is closed in certain spots.

Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Anne Ferris, said: "I would encourage everyone to abide by the safety signage on the Cliff Walk and their route in advance. I would recommend people walk a portion of the Cliff Walk and return to Bray to enjoy what the seafront in Bray has to offer."



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SEK international School,

a day and boarding Secondary School in Greystones, invites you to

BECOME A HOST FAMILY THIS SEPTEMBER

With an option to host for 1 Term or the full academic year. All school transport is provided. If you meet the following criteria, this is a wonderful opportunity to *forge international friendships and earn additional tax-free income.*

- If you have at least one child (aged 9 - 17);
- If you live in the Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole, Bray (Southern Cross) area; and
- If you can offer a comfortable room, with adequate storage and study space, for single occupancy

...we would like to hear from you!

Please contact caroline.leonard@sek.ie for more information and to register your interest.

Sign up for Darkness Into Light in Wicklow

This year's Darkness Into Light for Pieta House will take place on May 8th. One year on from when the country went into lockdown, Pieta's services are in demand more than ever and they need the public's support.

Even though it's called Sunrise Challenge as the world is very different this year people can walk run or take on any challenge they wish at any time of the day during Saturday May 8th ensuring Government guidelines are adhered to at all times.

Despite the impact of Covid 19, Pieta helped 105 Wicklow people in 2020 and provided 1,638 hours of counselling through its phone/text helpline in 2020 and 2019.

Calls and texts to Pieta's helpline directly relating to suicide, self-harm and suicide bereavement rose by 25% in December 2020 vs. December 2019, and Pieta is expecting the pandemic burden to have far reaching implications throughout 2021.

By taking part in Darkness Into Light, participants will unite in every corner of Ireland to help shine a light on suicide and self-harm while raising vital funds for Pieta's lifesaving services.

Last year when it wasn't possible to all walk together for Darkness into Light, Pieta faced a funding crisis, but Ireland came together as one community and got behind the event, with hundreds of thousands rising at dawn and sharing sunrise moments from across the country.

The support that shone through was nothing short of amazing with over €4 million raised following a tremendous public fundraising effort to ensure Pieta could continue to deliver their services through 2020.



Geraldine Mooney with CEO of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran and Cathaoirleach Pat Kennedy at the launch of the Wicklow 'Darkness Into Light' walk

In 2021, Covid-19 continues to impact not only the nations physical health but its mental health too; it has impacted everything from people's financial stability to their social habits. People are struggling with loneliness; a fact that is worsened with physical distance measures in place. Pieta relies on the generous support of those who participate in Darkness Into Light each year to provide this important national mental health service free of charge, 24/7. While Covid-19 has been difficult Darkness Into Light is a chance for communities to look towards brighter days to come while sharing One Sunrise Together on May 8th.

Speaking about this year's

Darkness into Light, Elaine Austin, Pieta CEO, said "We have all been faced with some incredible and daunting challenges over the last year. Pieta is here to support all of those in suicidal crisis and our free counselling has continued, uninterrupted throughout the Covid lockdowns. Our clinical team provide services over the phone, via text and in-person in twenty centres nationwide and, since last year, we now provide free counselling over video.

"Darkness Into Light is crucial in delivering the funds needed to support this level of service. We have a great partnership with Electric Ireland and the company have been unwavering in their support over the

years. We are grateful too for our Darkness into Light committees who galvanise support for the event across the country year after year. It's important for all of us to hold on to hope and Darkness Into Light gives us the opportunity to come together under this one common purpose, to remember our loved ones and to help those struggling at this time, and I do hope you will all join us on May 8th."

The local Wicklow Town members of the DIL committee have been very busy lately promoting this life saving event and have received a wonderful reception from all the business's in the town who kindly accepted posters and T-Shirts for the promotion of the event. Banners can also be seen at the various entrances to the town.

Members of the committee comprise of active members of Wicklow & District Lions Club along with staff and students of Colaiste Chill Mhantain school.

At the official launch and promotion at South Quay in Wicklow the CEO of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran was in attendance along with Cathaoirleach Pat Kennedy.

Members of the local Fire Service and the RNLI Lifeboat crew also came along. Both of these organisations have been directly involved in DIL for many years. There is tremendous support from all clubs in the area.

It is still possible to register for this year's event at darkness-intolight.ie, also on DIL Wicklow and Lions Facebook pages. Please take part in your own particular way on May 8th, and give hope to those impacted by suicide.



Wicklow & District Lions Club members Sophie Richardson, Geraldine Mooney, Joe Kirwin, Ann Chambers and Sean Olohan at the launch of Darkness Into Light in Wicklow Town

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SSE to submit planning application to connect offshore project to grid

A significant milestone on the road to kick-starting delivery of Ireland's offshore wind targets has been reached as notice has been given of the intention to submit the first-ever planning application for the onshore grid infrastructure needed to connect an offshore wind farm to Ireland's national transmission grid.

The application will be made in the coming weeks by renewable energy developer SSE Renewables to An Bord Pleanála seeking planning permission to develop the onshore grid infrastructure necessary to connect the 520MW Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind Park to Ireland's electricity transmission grid.

The proposed development includes a 220kV substation at Avoca River Business Park in Arklow, with an associated transmission compound, connection compound and connection from the new substation to the existing national transmission network.

The plans also include an underground cable route connecting the proposed substation to the landfall point at Johnstown North, where it will meet the planned subsea offshore cables connecting to the wind farm.

SSE Renewables is actively developing Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind

Park which will be located in a lease area situated six to 13km off the County Wicklow coastline, to the east of Arklow. The Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 development, which builds on the existing GE-owned seven turbines that comprise the operational first phase of the wind park, is poised to become the country's first offshore wind farm of scale as it aims to be generating power by 2025. The offshore wind farm has the potential to reduce Ireland's annual carbon emissions by around 1%, offsetting over half a million tonnes of harmful CO₂.

This application represents a significant milestone for the offshore wind industry as it is the first time in Ireland's history that a developer will seek consent for such infrastructure. The application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála by SSE Renewables through its wholly-owned subsidiary Sure Partners Limited.

James O'Hara, Arklow Bank Project Manager at SSE Renewables, said: "We're very proud that we have reached this important milestone. This imminent submission is the culmination of almost two years of work by members of our project team and is the first-ever application for onshore transmission grid infrastructure for an offshore wind farm in Ireland, marking yet another significant step forward in the delivery of the country's first offshore wind farm of scale."

"We're ready to be generating new offshore wind power at Arklow Bank by 2025. This will not only kickstart delivery of Ireland's offshore wind targets, helping hit our national 7 per cent annual carbon reduction targets and bringing us a step closer to meeting our ambitious climate action targets, it will also drive local investment and create local jobs."

Members of the public are being invited to participate in a statutory consultation process which is being run by An Bord Pleanála.

As part of the application process, a full Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Assessment have been prepared and will be available to the public throughout the statutory consultation process. This process will commence from 5 May 2021 and close on 24 June 2021.

SSE Renewables, through its subsidiary Sure Partners, has also applied to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a Foreshore Licence to facilitate site investigation works required to inform the engineering and design of the offshore infrastructure for Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2. A statutory consultation phase is being run by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage from 22nd April to 21st May 2021.



Pictured is Sam O'Neill proposing to Lara Emanuelle Simoes Braga. The couple are living in Rathdrum. Sam works at Grenke in Sandymount while Lara works at Casey's Centra in Rathdrum and is studying for her degree in business at Independent College in Dublin. Lara is from Anchieta, Espírito Santo in Brazil and she hasn't seen her family for the last 3 years so they had been planning to visit next December. Sam surprised Lara last week by saying their wedding is now going to be in Brazil so her family can be part of her big day. Lara's birthday was on 17th April so Sam brought her to Memorial Park for a photo session to take some pics for her family in Brazil. He then surprised Lara with his proposal and with social distancing his family were able to watch from the side-lines and witness this special event.

Covid outbreak in St. Gerard's

A number of teachers and students at St. Gerard's Secondary School, Bray, have tested positive for Covid-19, it was reported on Wednesday.

The school was at the centre of a vaccination controversy in March when 20 Covid vaccinations were given to teachers at the school from the Beacon Hospital.

It's been reported by the Irish Times this week that a number of teachers have now tested positive for the virus while a few others have been asked to self-isolate due to being close contacts. Other teachers got precautionary tests last weekend which came back negative.

It's understood that some positive cases among the student body at the school were also recently identified by the HSE.

St. Gerard's student body numbers 800 students between the junior and senior schools, and the school employs over 100 staff.

FOR WORLD LEADING EXCELLENCE AND LOCAL INVESTMENT WE'RE READY

We're ready to deliver the next phase of Arklow Bank Wind Park. This will help hit Ireland's annual carbon reduction commitments while creating local jobs.

sserenewables.com





Alan Doyle and Samantha Flynn enjoying the recent sunshine in Avoca

Additional accomodation for Wicklow schools in the autumn

The Department of Education has confirmed that substantial additional modular accomodation will be provided for four Wicklow secondary schools this autumn.

The additional accommodation will be provided for Colaiste Chroabh Abhann in Kilcoole, Woodbrook College in Bray, Blessington Community College and St Kevin's Community College in Dunlavin.

Blessington Community College will get two classes for Special Educational Needs on the ground floor; and four classrooms on the first floor; Colaiste Chroabh Abhann will get a Specialist Room and toilets on the ground floor, two classrooms and toilets on first floor, a large specialist room and prep area on the ground floor, and two classrooms, toilets and store on the first floor. St Kevin's Community College will get a specialist room and toilets on the ground floor, two classrooms and toilets on the first floor, a large specialist room and prep area on the ground floor and two classrooms, toilets and store on the first floor. Woodbrook College will get four classrooms (two classroom and toilets on each floor), two classes for Special Educational Needs on the ground floor, and four classrooms on the first floor.

Welcoming the announcement, Minister Simon Harris said "I welcome the announcement by the Department of Education that confirms additional modular classrooms and facilities are to be provided. These new classrooms and facilities were procured centrally by the Department of Education from a number of modular accommodation providers.

"The knowledge that this accommodation will be delivered in autumn 2021 will provide much needed relief to students, staff and the wider school community and allow for many additional places for first year students."



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'More ambition needed in Climate Action Bill'

The implications for Co. Wicklow if the Government does not match our climate action ambitions with actions on the ground would be huge, Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said last week.

Speaking on the new Climate Action Bill which reached second stage in the Dáil recently, Deputy Whitmore said that the Government is talking out of both sides of its mouth when it comes to its commitments on climate change.

"There are major shortcomings in the legislation, which is being debated by the Dáil. The myth propagated by the Minister, that this Bill will be the most ambitious in the world in terms of cutting carbon emissions, must be dispelled. Denmark has set a 70pc target of emissions reductions by 2030 in legislation while the UK has committed to putting in

place a 78pc target by 2035.

"We are no longer ambitious. In fact, we are behind the curb on this. A target of net zero emissions by 2050 is simply too late, out of step with the scientific advice and far short of our fair share of the global effort needed to deliver on the Paris Agreement. This must be the floor, not the ceiling of our ambition.

"Arklow, recently designated to be Wicklow's first decarbonisation zone, will require huge amounts of financial support and resources to transition. Government must immediately ensure this funding is available to Wicklow County Council so that

the decarbonisation process can be rolled out across Wicklow as quickly as possible to meet our 2030 targets.

"This will be crucial in establishing a just transition model that can be applied to rural parts of Wicklow and disadvantaged areas.

"We also need to see resources at county level to engage in large-scale afforestation initiatives, funding to protect our local biodiversity particularly in our national parks and in our marine waters, and we also need resources to design and implement a local authority Climate Action Plan which will be required as a result of this legislation



Jennifer Whitmore TD

being passed. However, the Minister has not indicated where this funding will come from and when it will be made available.

"Huge amounts of funding will be required to put in place a more integrated public transport network to reduce car

dependency and increase rail links between our towns south of Greystones. I have been pushing for greater Local Links with the NTA and believe this will be fundamental to a just transition as all areas are serviced with transport links and improved train services to Wicklow Town and Arklow.

"The covid crisis has taught us the havoc that can be wreaked when a natural disaster overwhelms the State. We have a final opportunity now to insulate ourselves from the worst impacts of the climate crisis, but we need to act now. Time is running out," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

Carphone Warehouse in Greystones shut as part of countrywide closure of outlets

Carphone Warehouse announced that they have shut their stores throughout the country with immediate effect. One of those stores is located in the Meridian Centre in Greystones.

A statement released by UK parent company Dixon's Carphone said that the closures are as a result of changing consumer trends and decreased footfall.

The company stated, "As part of Dixon's Carphone's broader transformation, of one joined up and profitable business, it has made the difficult but necessary decision to close Carphone Warehouse in Ireland, in line with its decision to close all standalone Carphone Warehouse stores in the UK in 2020.

"Customers are changing the way they buy mobile devices and connectivity, replacing their handsets less often and buying them separately or as part of more flexible bundles. Although these changes in behaviour were anticipated, they were expected to occur over a longer period of time. However,

the change in shopping behaviours has been accelerated by the pandemic.

"Carphone Warehouse Ireland colleagues have worked hard to make Carphone Warehouse Ireland a success and have been the driving force behind its well-earned reputation for excellent customer service and support. This difficult decision is no reflection on their commitment, dedication, and professionalism.

"We'll continue to offer our Irish customers a market leading range of top branded mobile handsets and accessories through our Currys PC World stores and on Currys.ie.

"Footfall in our Carphone Warehouse stores is down significantly, and we don't expect many customers to sign new contracts with us during this time; our stores will therefore close immediately. We'll continue to help our customers via our central customer support team

and will also ask some colleagues to provide operational support over the coming days."

Greystones People Before Profit representative Jacqui Johnston said: "This is shocking news for the staff at the Greystones store who have worked throughout the pandemic as phones were considered essential items. Is this the beginning of a mass withdrawal of UK companies from Ireland as witnessed in the cases of Debenhams, Top Shop and others? I fully expect Dixon's Carphone to honour their commitment that they will ensure that workers are well looked after. We must ensure employees facing redundancy are treated justly with the Duffy Cahill report recommendations to be implemented immediately.

"In the meantime, I am happy to meet the staff from the Greystones store to hear what they have to say and to support them to secure what they are entitled to, especially during a global pandemic when they were also putting their own health on the line while the shop remained open."

Matthews discusses impact of pandemic with Wicklow business owners

Green Party TD, Steven Matthews recently organised a public meeting with small business owners from across Wicklow to get their perspective of existing government supports and what more can be done to assist them in advance of reopening.

Discussing the meeting, Deputy Matthews said: "It was a fantastic opportunity to get an on the ground perspective of the impact that the current Covid measures are having on small local businesses and to learn what more can be done to assist them. From my perspective, I debate and support various grant measures and other policies to support SMEs in the Dáil but without speaking to people who

these plans are aimed at, you don't have a full understanding of their impact.

"It has been an incredibly difficult 12 months or more for small businesses across Wicklow. One of those on the meeting clarified that she had been open for 6 weeks out of the last 6 months which put things into perspective. I have been hugely supportive of the existing Government policies



Steven Matthews TD

both in terms of subsidising wages, offering grants for implementing Covid measures and other supports but in terms of reopening, as soon as it is safe to do so, the clear message was that SMEs need

clear timelines and sufficient notice in order to be in a position to reopen their doors.

"After what these business owners have been through since the start of the pandemic, the very least they deserve is reasonable notice as to when they will be allowed to reopen trading. Rumours and leaks from Government are not good enough at this stage. I accept and it was widely understood at the meeting that we are dealing with an unpredictable virus, but this needs to be balanced with the realities of doing business. After several months closed, it is not

possible to reopen overnight. Reopening, particularly after such a long time requires a lot of planning in terms of ordering stock, arranging staff and ensuring that the workplace is as safe as possible for everyone there.

"I have written to the Tánaiste and the Minister for Health to emphasise the importance of engaging with the SME sector before any decision is made with regards to reopening in order to give small businesses the best possible chance of successfully reopening once it is deemed safe to do so," concluded Deputy Matthews.

COVID-19: Resilience and Recovery

The Path Ahead



Coronavirus
COVID-19
National
Programme

We are now in the early stages of recovery from the pandemic. Restrictions will be eased carefully with a focus on finding the right balance between what is safe, what has the greatest social impact and what supports our economic recovery. The National Vaccination Programme is well advanced and is already having an impact. While we enjoy new activities, sticking with safe behaviours at an individual level is more important than ever.

Plan Your Outdoor Summer

May

Continue to work from home

From 4th May only:

- Full reopening of construction

From 10th May:

- Phased re-opening of retail (Outdoor retail, Click and Collect/In Store by Appointment only from 10th, full re-opening from 17th)

- Outdoor gatherings of up to 15

- Outdoor training for adults, in pods of up to 15

- Reopening of personal services

- Reopening of galleries, museums, libraries and other cultural attractions

- Recommencement of religious services

- Funeral services—50 mourners permitted

- Wedding services (religious & civil)—50 guests permitted

- Wedding celebrations/receptions—6 indoor/ 15 outdoor

- No restrictions on domestic travel

- Public transport capacity increased to 50%

- You can meet outdoors incl. private gardens with either:

- A group of 3 households
- A group of 6 people from any number of households

June

Continue to work from home

The following will be considered for June, subject to maintaining progress on the virus:

From 2nd June only:

- Hotels, B&Bs, guesthouses, self-catering accommodation and hostels can reopen. Indoor dining and bar services for residents only

From 7th June:

- Outdoor matches (no spectators)
- Gyms, Swimming Pools, Leisure Centres for individual training only

- Outdoor dining—groups of up to 6 people

- Wedding celebrations/receptions—up to 25

- Indoor visits in private homes from one other household

Following public health guidance and sticking to all of the safe behaviours — inside or outside — is now more important than ever. If we all stick to the guidance it will help us progress through our recovery plan and control the spread of the virus.

Vaccination Bonus

From May 10th, fully vaccinated people can meet indoors with other fully vaccinated people as long as there are no more than three households present.

Provided they are not at risk of severe illness, unvaccinated people from one household can meet with vaccinated people from one or two other households.

National Vaccination Programme — Key Milestones

May

Over 70s

vaccinations well advanced

Over 60s & Very high Risk

First dose vaccinations well advanced



June

High Risk

first dose vaccinations well advanced.

First dose vaccinations underway for 50—59 year olds

First dose vaccinations underway for 35—49 year olds



July

25—34 year olds

first dose vaccinations underway



All 38 Vaccination Centres are open in May, June & July



Business Supports

No cliff edge in financial supports for business

Economic recovery measures to help businesses and get people back to work

Businesses availing of CRSS who can now reopen will be able to avail of a double restart payment for two weeks up to a maximum of €5,000 per week.

For full details, please go to gov.ie/covid19



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Garda Theresa Kelly trying out the Chatting Bench in Arklow

Garda chatting benches for Arklow and Wicklow Town

New 'chatting benches' where the public can have a chat with a member of the Gardai have been introduced in Wicklow Town and Arklow.

County Wicklow Gardaí, in conjunction with the Wicklow and Arklow Municipal Districts, are delighted to announce the expansion of the "Chatting Bench" initiative already in operation on the promenade in Bray.

The bench in Wicklow is located at the Black Castle while Arklow's is in St Mary's Park near the bandstand.

For at least one hour every week, with the time being announced beforehand on the Garda Síochána Wicklow Facebook page, a member of the Gardaí will be present at the benches, available to have a (socially distanced) chat with anyone interested.

The topics of conversation do not have to be Garda related but in circumstances where someone is uncomfortable, for whatever reason, going to a Garda Station, this might be an opportunity to speak with a Garda in confidence.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow Municipal District, Cllr John Snell,

and Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District, Cllr Sylvester Bourke, welcomed the initiative being extended to their towns saying that by just having a little bit

of interaction can address loneliness and isolation in our communities.

Superintendent Declan McCarthy said: "A Garda will be present to have a chat, give advice or just

say Hi and the 'Chatting Bench' provides the perfect opportunity for people to interact more with the Gardaí in a neutral venue other than at a Garda Station".



Garda Eanna Whelan on the Chatting Bench in Wicklow Town

Facelift planned for Enniskerry Square and Fair Green

Wicklow County Council plans to carry out works in the Square and Fair Green in Enniskerry.

The works include: losing south side of the Town Clock to vehicle traffic except for emergency access controlled by demountable bollards; Provide a new enhanced pedestrianised paved area on the south side of the Town Clock, new footpath around the Town Clock and wider paths around the square; Raised level access courtesy pedestrian crossing points; Additional street furniture including benches, planters and bicycle stands and amendments to existing street signs; Create a bus bay west bound at the Parochial Hall to replace existing stop on the east side of the square; Alterations to parking including a new disabled access and an age friendly parking bay beside the Parochial Hall, new loading bay on Church Hill and reduced number of general parking spaces; Remedial work to the Town Clock and associated monument features and include for up-lighting of monument. There are also plans to create a Community Garden at the Fair Green.

The public can make submissions on the planning application up to 28th May.

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Postponed Vartry works to go ahead on Thursday

Works scheduled to take place at Vartry water treatment plant recently were postponed, but will now take place on Thursday 6th May. The works involve the installation of pipework that will facilitate the connection of the new Vartry Treatment Plant to the existing water distribution network.

The works are scheduled to take place between 8am and 6pm. Irish Water in collaboration with Wicklow County Council and the Dublin Local Authorities have reconfigured the network to maintain normal supply to as many customers as possible and treated drinking water reservoirs will be filled to their maximum in advance of the works starting.

Irish Water is appealing to all customers in the following areas to conserve water as their drinking water supply is dependent on reservoir storage for the duration of the works; Callowhill; Newtown Mount Kennedy; Cronroe; Rathnew; Broomhall; Priestnewtown; Kilcoole; Drummint; Kilmurray; Enniskerry; Bray; Greystones; and surrounding areas in Wicklow and the following locations in South Dublin; Rathmichael; Kilboget; Shankill; Shanganagh; Cabinteely; Kill Lane; Cornelscourt and surrounding areas.

While handwashing remains a priority, simple water conserva-

tion efforts can have a big impact on reducing demand on the supply. Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth and shaving can save up to 6 litres of water per minute. Taking a shower instead of a bath or using a watering can rather than a hose when gardening can also make a big difference in water use. There are lots more tips on how to conserve water in your home on our website at water.ie/conservation/.

Irish Water has said that some customers in the following locations may be impacted by low water pressure and outages for the duration of the works; Monolin Roundwood Road; Newtown Mount Kennedy; Palermo; Fassaroe; St Valeris; Callowhill; Timmore Lane; Killiskey Ashford; Newtown Mount Kennedy and surrounding areas on higher ground in Wicklow and the following areas around Ballyman in South Dublin; Corke Abbey; Woodbrook Glen; Old Connaught; Thornhill Road; Ballyman Road; Allies River Road and the Dublin Road from

Corke Abbey Avenue to Crinken Lane as well as areas off the Dublin Road. Following these works it may take a number of hours for normal water supply to return to all impacted properties. Given the size of the network some impacted customers may continue to experience disruption to their supply until the early hours of Friday, 7th May.

Speaking about the works, John O' Donoghue, Regional Operations Manager, Irish Water said, "We understand that this type of work can be inconvenient and working in partnership with Wicklow County Council and the Dublin Local Authorities we will make every effort to minimise any disruption that these necessary works may cause."

"The delivery of this work is an essential part of Irish Water's upgrade of the 150 year old Vartry Water Supply scheme. The new Vartry treatment plant is scheduled to be completed later this year and will help to safeguard the water supply to homes and businesses in the GDA ensuring a safer more sustainable water supply into the future."

Irish Water's customer care helpline is open 24/7 on 1850 278 278. For updates visit water.ie/water-supply/supply-and-service-update/.

Supporting Wicklow's offshore wind supply chain



The Climate Action Plan and the Programme for Government have committed Ireland to meeting 70 per cent of its electricity needs with renewable energy by 2030. This equates to the delivery of 5GW from offshore wind. To set us on the road to achieving that target they have also committed an interim target of 1GW of offshore wind by 2025, just four years away.

Offshore wind has many benefits, for climate, the economy, for communities, for the supply chain and for jobs. It is estimated that offshore wind energy could create 2,500 jobs over the next ten years and attract over €42 billion in lifetime investment.

For this to become a reality, some key challenges must be overcome not least in relation to developing and nurturing the local supply chain as well as creating valuable education and training opportunities to ensure a skilled workforce is ready to operate Irish offshore wind farms.

SSE Renewables is the leading developer, owner and operator of renewable energy in the UK and Ireland. The company holds the largest portfolio of operational, in-construction and in-development renewables sites and projects across the UK and Ireland at over 15GW, comprising offshore wind, onshore wind and hydro energy. This includes two operational offshore wind farms in the UK including the 588MW Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm off the coast of Caithness in Scotland, currently the fourth largest offshore wind farm in the world.

As the largest developer, owner, and operator of Irish onshore wind energy and now, SSE Renewables is ready to drive the domestic offshore wind industry to flourish.

James O'Hara Project Manager for Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2, says

Ireland and we're ready to deliver. We believe that Ireland is perfectly positioned to become an attractive market for offshore wind investors but these opportunities must be fully capitalised on."

Already supporting the existing offshore supply

targets committed to in the Programme for Government.

Wicklow company AlphaMarine has been working with SSE Renewables for the past two years and Commercial Director Tim Greenwood says that this partnership reflects the capabilities of the Irish supply chain.

"As part of phase 2 of the project, our team of experts worked with SSE Renewables to undertake the bathymetric survey, which captured seabed conditions in high resolution format, across the site. The expertise and knowledge provided by our team highlights the capabilities of the Irish supply chain in supporting the emerging offshore wind sector in Ireland. As a local maritime services provider we are immersed into this project as a partner due to the ongoing requirement of engineering and design works for the project."

By establishing a local indigenous supply chain, Irish companies will be in a position to develop the skills and experience needed to compete in a global market and maximise the national economic gain.

Wicklow County

"The expertise and knowledge provided by our team highlights the capabilities of the Irish supply chain in supporting the emerging offshore wind sector in Ireland."

Tim Greenwood, AlphaMarine

that his company is ready to deliver for Ireland.

"We have seen at first-hand how offshore wind can transform and reinvigorate ailing coastal communities. Wick which is home to Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm's onshore operations is case in point here - where the majority of up to 90 operational roles are held by local people"

"We are currently constructing the world's largest offshore wind farm - Dogger Bank Wind Farm off the North East coast of England, a project which is already supporting 2,500 high-value jobs including manufacturing roles."

"We want this for

chain, the 520MW Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 will be located 6km to 13km off the coast of Arklow, Co. Wicklow. Once operational, the wind park will power almost 450,000 homes annually and offset 463,000kg of CO2 each year.

SSE Renewables will invest up to €2 billion to deliver the project, which will help meet the nation's interim renewable energy target of 1GW of offshore wind by the mid-point of the decade (2025). In turn, the project will decarbonise our environment by 1 per cent annually, making a significant contribution to the annual 7 per cent carbon reduction



SSE Renewables apprentice Jasmine Allen who is currently training for a career in the UK renewable energy industry

Council is supporting efforts to develop and grow the county's offshore wind supply chain.

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive Frank Curran said: "County Wicklow has the capacity to deliver a strong supply chain offering a wide spectrum of high quality skills, goods and services which will be of value to the renewable energy sector, while at the same time supporting economic development and employment. Wicklow County Council and the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow are committed to developing the county as a centre of excellence for the offshore renewable energy sector and we are delighted to support SSE Renewables in building a robust local supply chain."

Enterprise Ireland has undertaken a supply chain

mapping exercise that demonstrates the potential to supply the offshore wind industry.

According to Liam Curran, Senior Technologist, Enterprise Ireland: "The importance of the supply chain is evident through the partnerships that SSE Renewables have established during the Arklow Bank Wind Park project. As part of the process, companies get to know each other and their respective strengths, they identify areas where they can work together and supplement each other's offers. This approach will help current and potential offshore windfarms like Arklow Bank Wind Park."

SSE Renewables is ready to bring its world-leading excellence in offshore wind energy to Irish waters with plans to deliver 2GW of offshore wind

energy in the Irish Sea and Celtic Sea by 2030, including Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2, helping create local jobs.

Employment is one of the greatest benefits offshore wind developments can bring to any single community but without adequate education and training, the local workforce could be overlooked in favour of better-skilled candidates.

Offshore wind development plans along the Eastern and Southern coasts reinforce the belief that the region is perfectly positioned to become a Centre of Excellence for the industry but this can only be done if the right education and training opportunities are made available.

There is an awareness of the skills gap here and Minister for Further and Higher Education,

Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris has committed to supporting the development of suitable training courses.

"The establishment of a Technical University for the South East along with the expansion of local FE colleges such as the Bray Institute for Further Education are key priorities for me to ensure County Wicklow is prepared for the jobs of the future such as the Renewable Energy Sector," the minister said.

The development of training opportunities the Minister references, as well as strategic investment in Irish port and support for suppliers seeking to develop skills and expertise must all be delivered in order to ensure that Ireland can capitalise on the huge opportunities that offshore wind is poised to create.

FOR WORLD LEADING
EXCELLENCE AND
LOCAL INVESTMENT
WE'RE READY

We're ready to deliver the next phase of Arklow Bank Wind Park. This will help hit Ireland's annual carbon reduction commitments while creating local jobs.

sserenewables.com/offshoreinireland





As the Rathnew LGFA players returned to their first training session on Tuesday 27th April, they took the opportunity to present their founders, Tommy and Katrina Murphy, with a framed jersey marking their contribution to girls football for the club. Tommy and Katrina set up the juvenile ladies section of Rathnew GAA seven years ago with only 12 players. Now the club can boast over 100 girls with new members always welcome.

Surge in demand for mental health services among 12-14 year olds

Demand for mental health services is increasing among children in the 12-14 age bracket more than any other, John Brady TD has said. However the waiting time for children to access Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Wicklow is now 12 months.

Deputy Brady, speaking recently during a debate on a Sinn Féin motion on Mental Health Surge Capacity in Ireland, described the impact that Covid-19 was having on individuals' mental health, and the crisis that this is causing in the health services.

Deputy Brady said: "Almost six in ten people responding to a recent CSO Social Impact of COVID-19 survey believe that Covid-19 has impacted negatively on their mental health and wellbeing.

"In the 18 to 34 age group, one in five reported being downhearted or depressed all or most of the time. In Wicklow service providers have informed me that the biggest increase in demand for mental health services is amongst the 12 to 14 age brackets.

"These increases are set against excessive pre-pandemic waiting lists for care, and as a result we have moved from a crisis in mental health to an emergency, with many workers saying there is a tsunami coming at them.

"In Wicklow, the waiting time for children to access Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Services is now 12 months. Service providers I've spoken to say they are under so much pressure that health practitioners are being forced to almost triage patients as they would following a major incident. In some instances, being unable to accept children or young people, unless they are very serious cases.

"And even then, are forced to pass them onto other child health services, which are not equipped to deal with the severity of their problems, who in turn refer them back to their GP. So, the whole merry-go-round can recommence.

"In some instances we are hearing reports of young people turning to alcohol and smoking weed and other illegal drugs, as they believe that this will help them.

"This is adding to a whole other issue of dual diagnosis which is another massive issue and failing within the system.

"Mental Health Services are unable to manage the numbers of children and young people who need the service now - not twelve-months-time.

"Some teenagers are facing an even worse scenario. I am aware of situations that due to the waiting lists, where seventeen-year olds have been denied appointments, because by the time they will get an appointment they will have become adults.

"But, at seventeen, they are too young to be placed on an adult waiting list, so they are left with no support. We need action now before this situation spirals further out of control."

Wicklow burglaries down by over a half during lockdown

After spending most of our lockdown days in the safe haven of our homes, it's no surprise to hear that burglary figures decreased by 21% in Wicklow during 2020, with a total reduction of 41% throughout Leinster and 35% nationwide.

Although reassuring and positive to see, PhoneWatch wants to highlight that burglaries continued to occur nationwide, with one taking place every 48 minutes in 2020. As restrictions lift and the normality of socialising and being outside of our homes becomes more frequent, PhoneWatch wants to encourage homeowners to remain diligent and continue to protect the things and people they cherish most.

Almost 11,000 burglaries and other related offences occurred nationwide last year, with 323 taking place in Wicklow and 7,710 burglaries throughout Leinster. Dublin was the hotspot within Leinster with 5,162 burglaries in 2020. Kildare reported 438, Wexford 376, and Louth 361. Laois and Offaly combined reported 271 and Kilkenny and Carlow combined reported 233 burglaries.

Nationally, Leinster is the hotspot accounting for 70% of all burglaries. In

the past year, burglaries have been reported in every county in Ireland from Donegal to Kerry. Unsurprisingly the capital, Dublin, has experienced the most break ins (47%), followed by Cork and Limerick. Mayo (0.9%) is the county in Ireland with the least number of burglaries in the past twelve months, with Roscommon and Longford reporting low figures too (1%). Interestingly, break ins in commuter counties have dropped significantly too (45%) over the past year, as people travel less and work from home.

As we prepare to hopefully holiday at home again this summer, PhoneWatch share some simple tips to ensure you feel confident and comfortable:

1.) Double check that all windows and doors are securely locked when leaving the house

2.) Secure outdoor valuables: Make sure garden equipment or bicycles are secured in a shed or garage,

and kept out of sight where possible

3.) Close gates: Make a habit of closing gates, especially those leading to the rear of the home

4.) Maintain your garden: Cut the grass before you go away, overgrown grass can make a house look empty. Also, prune trees and shrubs that may grow more quickly in the summer for clearer views, large bushes can act as cover for anyone who may be watching a home.

5.) Don't advertise your trips on social media: Keep those photos of your days out and staycations until you return home

6.) Leave a light on: Timer switches for lamps can provide a cost-effective way to keep your home looking occupied.

7.) Arm your alarm: If your home is equipped with an alarm, be sure and use it.

8.) When going away, nominate a next-door neighbour: An important tip for keeping your home

safe is "maintaining an appearance" that your home is occupied. A neighbour or family member can help you keep your house look occupied by keeping post or deliveries clear from the letter box, parking a car in the driveway for a few hours, putting the bins out and taking them in on the same day and acting as the nominated key holder to your monitored alarm provider.

Eoin Dunne, Managing Director of PhoneWatch said: "We have been keeping a close eye on the CSO burglary figures over the past 12 months and welcome the good news that the total amount of burglaries nationwide is declining. However, as the country begins to open up and we all start to travel a little more, it is vital we consider our home safety. We all appreciate the value of our homes now more than ever - let's remember this and continue to ensure home safety is a top priority!"

Two new deputy coxswains appointed at Wicklow RNLI

Wicklow RNLI volunteers Graham Fitzgerald and Alan Goucher have been made deputy coxswains by a RNLI Trainer Assessor, after undertaking months of training and completing a rigorous exercise on the all-weather lifeboat in Wicklow bay.

Graham Fitzgerald who has been a volunteer crew member for the past eleven years, and Alan Goucher who joined Wicklow RNLI in 2011, launched on an operational exercise with a RNLI Assessor during the week. The exercise involved boat handling tests and various emergency situations to test their skills. Both volunteers successfully carried out the tasks and were passed out as deputy coxswains by RNLI Trainer Assessor Alan Pryce after completing the exercise.

Over the last decade Alan Goucher and Graham Fitzgerald have been involved in many rescues and in July 2014 they were praised for their bravery when they pulled a woman from the water and saved

her life at the Silver Strand Beach. Graham and Alan received letters of commendation from the Operations Director of the RNLI George Rawlinson for their actions during the rescue in 2014.

In the letter to Alan, Mr Rawlinson wrote: 'Your willingness to swim into the cave and use of your local knowledge to extricate the casualty safely ensured a good outcome on this rescue. I commend your commitment and professionalism.' Mr Rawlinson commended Graham Fitzgerald on his quick decision making, saying: 'During the rescue, you demonstrated calm and sound command of the incident, quickly gaining the required information and assessing the risks

involved in committing your crew to enter the water.'

Wicklow RNLI Operations Manager, Mary Aldridge said, "Alan and Graham have over 22 years' service between them as volunteers at RNLI Wicklow, and we are delighted with their achievement this week. Both have gained a lot of experience and have been involved in numerous rescues resulting in the saving of many lives.

"They have both worked extremely hard during the assessment to become deputy coxswains. This was made more difficult in recent times with Covid-19 and the suspension of training for a time. Great credit for Alan and Graham's achievement is also due to the support from their families, trainers, assessors, and the crew who generously shared their knowledge and experience to prepare Alan and Graham as deputy coxswains."



Graham Fitzgerald and Alan Goucher with RNLI Trainer Assessor Alan Pryce after they were made Deputy coxswains at RNLI Wicklow. Pic: Connie O' Gara



An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

ARMY RIFLE RANGES

WARNING

If you are walking in the countryside do not walk onto any of the Military Firing Ranges as you could be in **GREAT DANGER** at all times from unexploded shells and other dangerous ammunition **RED FLAGS indicate LIVE FIRING** Watch out for the warning signs **AND TAKE CARE!**



An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

RAONTA RAIDHFILÍ AN AIRM

FOLÁIREAMH

Má bhíonn tú ag siúl faoin tuath, ná siúil isteach i gceann ar bith de na Raonta Lámhaigh Míleata mar d'fhéadfá a bheith i **nDEARG-BHAOL** i gcónaí de bharr sliogáin neamhphléasctha agus armlón contúirteach eile **Is ionann BRATACHA DEARGA agus BEO-LÁMHACH** Bí ag faire do na comharthaí foláirimh **AGUS BÍ AR d'AIRDEALL!**

SIPTU seek emergency WRC hearing over future of Greystones Home Help Services

SIPTU representatives on Tuesday sent an urgent request to Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) seeking an emergency hearing over advanced plans to transfer Greystones Home Help Services to a new 'for profit' provider.

SIPTU Organiser, John Hubbard, said: "SIPTU members are profoundly concerned over the future of Greystones Home Help Services. This is a very important and vital service for thousands of local people in the wider community. Our members have decades of loyal service and are now understandably very fearful for their futures. The decision to transfer this essential operation to a 'for profit' organisation has been taken without any proper consultation and in the absence of any sustainable options being properly explored. We are demanding urgent and meaningful consultation without any further delay.

"SIPTU representatives have written to the Board of Management asking that they go to the WRC and engage with us. Their refusal will indicate its blatant disregard for this dedicated workforce and service users and will not bode well

for the long term future of these essential community services."

He added: "Our members in Greystones Home Help Services have provided this essential caring service to older members in the Greystones community throughout the Pandemic. They have been rightly hailed as frontline heroes so for their representatives to be ignored like this by management is absolutely disgraceful."

A call for Greystones Home Help Services to remain as a not-for-profit community provider has also been made by the Bray & District Council of Trade Unions.

The council has also called for the staff to be "treated with respect and be properly represented by their union", and has pledged the support of the trade union movement in the area in their efforts.

Secretary of the Council of Trade Unions, Kieron

Connolly, has stated that the decision to privatise the operation has been taken without all other options being properly explored.

"We understand that there has been no engagement with either Bray or Wicklow Town home help services community providers to explore the option of either of them taking over the Greystones operation, which is the proper solution to this for both workers and the clients," he said.

"It is simply unacceptable to us that this not-for-profit community service is being handed over to a private provider. Furthermore, for the board of management to refuse to engage with the workers' union organiser, John Hubbard of SIPTU's health division, is disgraceful and is showing utter disrespect towards them.

"There are two important issues here; the transfer of a publicly funded community

operation to a private provider which flies in the face of commitments given to trade unions at a national level, and secondly, the scant disregard for the workers concerned.

"These are the very workers that have carried on providing this vital caring service to our older members in the Greystones community during this dreadful pandemic, and who are rightly hailed as part of our frontline heroes, and this is the way they are being treated.

"This is unacceptable to us on all fronts and whilst we commend the efforts of Cllr. Jodie Neary and Deputy Whitmore of the Social Democrats for helping to highlight this disgraceful situation, we now call on both the HSE, as the funding providers, and the Health Minister Stephen Donnelly, in whose community this is taking place, to urgently intervene in this matter," he concluded.



Mary Harmon celebrates her 96th birthday last week with her family in Kiltegan

Harris second favourite to be next Taoiseach

Minister Simon Harris is now second favourite to become the next Taoiseach according to BoyleSports.

The latest betting suggests Leo Varadkar may not resume Taoiseach duties next year as scheduled as part of the coalition government deal.

Investigators have now questioned the Tánaiste and retained a mobile phone as the probe continues into the leak of a confidential health document to a friend when he was Taoiseach. Now Irish punters are starting to bank on a Fine Gael leadership election as Varadkar was backed into just 3/1 from 6/1 with BoyleSports to be gone before the rotating Taoiseach position is due to change hands.

Deputy Simon Coveney is the current 2/5 favourite to step up should a leadership election be triggered, but the big mover in the market is Further and Higher Education Minister Simon Harris, who is now the second favourite having shortened into 9/2 from 12/1.

Lawrence Lyons, spokesperson for BoyleSports said: "Leo Varadkar's future continues to be a subject of interest for punters and they are clearly expecting a change before the end of the year. That has given us no choice but to go 3/1 from 6/1 that he'll be replaced by the time he is due to retake the reins from Micheál Martin with Simon Harris gaining momentum as a potential replacement."

COVID-19 Vaccines



If you're aged 60-69,
it's time to register for
your COVID-19 vaccine.

- To register online you will need your Personal Public Service (PPS) number, your Eircode, a mobile phone number and an email address.
- If you don't have all of these, or you don't want to register online, you can call HSELive on 1850 24 1850 to register on the phone.
- When it's time for your vaccine, we'll send you a text with your appointment time and location. You will be invited to get your vaccine at a HSE Vaccination Centre.

This registration is for everyone aged 60-69, including people with very high-risk or high-risk health conditions.

To register, or to find out more about
your COVID-19 vaccine, go to hse.ie



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland





Margaret O'Rourke Doherty, CEO of the Hair & Beauty Industry Confederation

Hair and Beauty sector announces roadmap for re-opening

Re-opening guidelines provided for customers and staff in 261 salons in Wicklow

The Hair and Beauty Industry Confederation (HABIC) this week cautiously welcomed the announcement by the Government regarding the easing of restrictions which are to lead to a re-opening of the personal service sector and hair and beauty salons across Ireland on May 10th.

In preparation for the easing of restrictions, HABIC produced updated guidelines for its members across the country, as they look to welcome their customers back into salons. The HABIC Reopening Guidelines are made up of a combination of the Government's Work Safely Protocol and the adoption of learnings in the sector from the first two lockdowns. The updated guidelines will provide guidance for 877 staff working in 261 hair and beauty salons in Wicklow.

"It is essential that health and safety remain the priority for the sector and we are ready, as we prepare once again to welcome our clients back to our salons," said Margaret O'Rourke Doherty, CEO of HABIC. "We are proud of the track record of salons across the country since the outbreak of Covid-19 and our previous health and safety response to the virus. From approximately 6.8 million individual services, there have only been seven outbreaks associated with the personal grooming sector. However, as we look forward to reopening, there is no room for complacency.

"We are truly excited to welcome our customers back and in preparation we have provided salon owners and employees a comprehensive set of reopening guidelines, to ensure the experience is safe as well as it enjoyable. While closed, we have been extremely busy preparing our salons, training our teams and following the government and public health advice to ensure, we deliver the best experience, in a controlled and professional manner. The health and safety of our customers and that of our teams, is our number one priority," she said.

The key advice for customers of the hair and beauty sector is to follow the public health advice and specifically the following key points in the case of salon visits:

Please do not attend salons if: There are any

signs or symptoms of Covid-19; If the customer has been in close contact, with anyone who is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19; If the customer has been abroad in the last 14 days.

"We kindly ask that they reschedule your appointment. We ask that they give due notice if cancelling or rescheduling your appointment, as cancellation policies may apply."

Appointments

- When attending appointments, customers are asked to arrive on time.
- Due to decreased capacity, customers are asked to come alone.
- In line with public health advice and for the purpose of contact tracing, customers will be asked a series relevant of questions.
- On arrival, customers will be asked to sanitize their hands
- Customers may also be provided with a fresh face mask
- Throughout visits, customers are reminded to be mindful of social distancing .
- Regular cleaning and sanitization will take place
- When arranging appointment, clients may be asked for a booking deposit. This is a common and standard practice across the industry.

Last week HABIC wrote to the Government to highlight the devastating impact of Covid-19 on the sector in Ireland, where it outlined the key supports needed to ensure the future sustainability of the sector where many businesses are challenged to remain as a viable going concern and which have been further challenged by a huge increase in black market trading.

HABIC has 2,500 members throughout Ireland and overall there are 9031 businesses in the sector. The economic value or GDP contribution of the sector in 2019 was €2,624 million in 2019, reduced to €1,740 million in 2020. In 2019 the industry provided 30,800 jobs and 18,480 indirectly; with these numbers reduced to 27,000 direct jobs and 16,200 indirect jobs in 2020, and decreasing.

New funding stream available to Council to help facilitate safe outdoor summer

A new funding stream is being made available to Wicklow County Council that will help facilitate a safe outdoor summer.

The 'Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund' has been launched by Green Party leader, Minister Eamon Ryan. The fund is €15 million nationally with all local authorities encouraged to submit applications in the coming weeks.

Welcoming the funding, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said: "This further funding will be allocated to local authority led initiatives that enhance outdoor urban space and improve walking and cycling infrastructure. It is designed to work in conjunction with the other grant funding streams released in recent weeks regarding outdoor dining and outdoor recreation spaces to fully make use of our outdoor space as much as possible this summer. This will assist the safe outdoor re-opening of society as Ireland grad-

ually emerges from current COVID-19 public health restrictions. The funding will allow for changes to traffic management arrangements to facilitate the reallocation of road space to improve facilities and safety for urban pedestrians and cyclists.

Examples of projects eligible for funding include:

- Street pedestrianisation measures
- Reallocation of road and street space, using footpath extensions, bollards, public seating etc.
- Traffic management arrangements.
- Other minor improvements.

"While we continue our efforts with social distancing and minimising the spread of the virus, we also need to provide ways for people to meet, exercise and enjoy their communities in a safe way, so we can all have an enjoyable summer.

Through a combination of government initiatives, local authorities will now have the resources to help reimagine our towns and villages so that they can prioritise outdoor living in the summer months. We want to facilitate local businesses and the public in making the most of our outdoor spaces so that recreational activities can be safe and enjoyed by all.

"This newest round of funding will be administered through the National Transport Authority and I look forward to working with Wicklow County Council on any projects they seek to propose. The measures will need to be quickly implemented and provide areas in villages and towns where people can walk, cycle and gather outdoors while practicing social distancing," concluded Deputy Matthews.

Donnelly meets with Archbishop over criminalisation of public worship

Archbishop Eamon Martin had a meeting with Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly recently to discuss concerns that have arisen following the publication the previous Friday of SI 171/2021, which gathering for public worship a criminal offence.

Minister Donnelly was joined at the meeting by Dr Colette Bonner from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer.

Archbishop Eamon Martin explained the deep concerns already expressed with regard to the criminalising of leading, and gathering for, public worship at this time in Ireland despite the consistent support from the Churches for public health messaging since the beginning of the pandemic.

He reiterated the Church's support for the

protection of health, life and for the Common Good and he emphasised the importance of respecting and sustaining people's spiritual well-being alongside their physical and mental health. For people of faith, he added, this is deemed essential.

The Archbishop emphasised that the vital pastoral work of priests and other ministers on the ground should also be respected and deemed essential, rather than subject to penal sanction.

The Archbishop argued

that Ministers of religion are often on the front line supporting the sick, the bereaved, the isolated and those who are struggling to cope. Pastoral ministry and spiritual support, he said, are important for people during the time of pandemic, and ought not to be confined to a small number of legally acceptable and "regulated activities".

Archbishop Eamon Martin stressed the importance of regular and meaningful conversation and consultation between Church, State and public

health advisers to ensure that there is mutual understanding and positive cooperation in supporting life and health during times like the Covid-19 crisis.

The Minister outlined that the Statutory Instrument was not intended to single out worship but was designed to regulate indoor and outdoor gatherings that might pose a risk. He said that religious worship and spiritual wellbeing were taken very seriously by government and consideration would be given to early re-opening of public worship in accordance with public health advice in the coming weeks.

DART services returning to a standard timetable

DART services return to a full timetable on all routes including to and from Greystones on Tuesday, May 4th. Delays, in-carriage timetables and overcrowding on carriages have all been flagged as concerns with Green Party TD Steven Matthews in recent weeks and he has welcomed this response to public concerns.

Discussing the news, Deputy Matthews said "I want to first commend the employees of Irish Rail who have worked throughout the pandemic to ensure that front line workers have been able to access public transport. Their efforts cannot and should not be diminished. I accept that the reduced service reflected demand, which even at this stage is 20% of what it was pre-Covid. However, some of the logistical issues in terms of inaccurate timetabling could have been avoided and I have asked that these issues are reviewed.

"Many of the issues with the reduced services really came to a head after the full return to schools after the Easter Holidays. I am in frequent contact with Irish rail and to their credit they did immediately increase

the number of DARTs at peak school times after some serious teething issues on the first Monday back.

"The return to a full service is a reflection of the increased demand brought about not only by schools but also the loosening of the travel restrictions, the improved weather and the cautious reopening of our economy that is seeing more people travel to work such as the construction sector. I would ask that if possible, people using DART services avoid using them at peak school times so that social distancing measures are possible and that any risk with regards transmission is minimised. I would also urge the importance of continuing to follow health guidelines, not only using masks but wiping down surfaces where possible, keeping your distance and washing your hands after touching contact points like handrails.

"I hope that the return of a full timetable is another signal of a cautious reopening of our economy as we face into the summer. I would ask that any DART users who are still experiencing any issues with regards to the service after May 4th get in touch with me. I meet regularly with representatives from Irish rail and I will inform them of any concerns directly," concluded Deputy Matthews.

Avoca Community Hall begins online bingo to raise maintenance funds

Avoca Community Hall started online bingo this week on Wednesday 28th April. The fundraising event is essential to maintaining the hall which is used by the local community and plays a pivotal role in the social, cultural and educational needs of the Avoca Community.

The Hall hosted a weekly Bingo night every Wednesday. Unfortunately due to the covid pandemic this cannot be organised.

The hall, which was previously a primary school, has been the centre of community activity in Avoca Village since 1979 when the students moved to a new premises. The building was also the parish hall for many years. Then in the early 2000s under the auspices of Very Rev Dan Breen, the Catholic Church very generously handed over the building to the Avoca

people as a community centre.

The centre has been renovated over the years, windows and floors have been replaced and the building has been insulated.

The community centre is administered by a voluntary committee which is a limited company with charitable status. The hall has two very hardworking and dedicated staff members; Alice Dobson and Cathleen Keogh.

The current committee are; Chairperson Lar Harper, Secretary Jenny Kane & Treasurer Lorna

Whelan, and members Brigid O Grady, Pat Cronin, Victor O Shaughnessy, Ann Fogarty, Denis Murphy, Mary Geoghan, Eira Dobson, Cathleen Keogh, Alice Dobson and Marie Merrigan.

In a remote country area, the centre is a pillar of the community, providing a facility to combat rural isolation and loneliness. The centre is home to a number of voluntary groups which cater for people of all ages and diverse interests.

Unfortunately due to the pandemic almost all

activity in the hall has currently been suspended.

Groups which used the facility in the pre-covid era include:

Avoca Miners branch of Ceoltas Ceolteoirí Eireann who are an organisation dedicated to the promotion of traditional music and singing among young people. Contact - Lar Harper; 14th Wicklow Avoca Scouts provides activities where young people can learn new skills and participate in adventure sports. Contact - Paddy Purser; Avoca Active Retirement Group which caters for the retired and organises; line dancing, french classes, bowling, tea dances, crochet classes and Sunday

morning cuppa with card and board games.

Contact - Mary Geoghan; Avoca ICA provides an opportunity for social interaction and educational opportunity for

women of all ages.

Contact - Brigid O Grady; Martina Lynch school of Dance; Avoca First Responders also use the Community Hall for courses and training.

Contact - Dermot Moore; Men's Shed' is a

community based project, where men can come together for social interaction and to learn and share skills. Contact

- Pat Cronin or Victor O Shaughnessy; A Bible Group meets on Sunday evenings 6-7pm. Any enquiries to Avril: 086 6627681, or Jenita: 083 3823860.

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RNLI launches Mayday for funds

The RNLI is launching its Mayday Mile fundraiser as the charity's rescue figures for 2020 show that volunteer lifeboat crews at its lifeboat stations in Wicklow launched 42 times and brought 55 people to safety.

The RNLI operates two lifeboat stations in the county at Arklow and Wicklow. Nine of those launches were carried out in the hours of darkness.

Nationally, over half (53%) of the charity's 945 lifeboat launches took place in the months of June, July and August. Volunteer lifeboat crews are getting ready for what they expect will be a busy summer with people continuing to holiday at home. Last year, with the country dealing with restrictions put in place to fight the pandemic, lifeboat crews were still busy, bringing 1,145 people to safety.

The RNLI's Mayday campaign begins on Saturday 1 May and runs throughout the month. Lifesavers are calling on supporters to join the Mayday Mile and cover the distance for the charity in any way they chose to raise vital funds to help lifeboat crews continue their work. Sign up at RNLI.org/supportMayday

Wicklow RNLI Lifeboat Operations Manager Mary Aldridge said, 'Our lifeboat crews will be on call as always over the summer as they are throughout the year. We are very grateful for the support we get from

the public, which goes to fund our lifeboats, our training and the equipment. We have been on call throughout the pandemic and our volunteer crews have had to get familiar with wearing PPE on their rescues. The Mayday Mile is a fundraiser that anyone can do by signing up online and you can cover any distance short or far. In taking part you are helping to save lives at sea and supporting the lifeboat crews.'

To sign up for the Mayday Mile, or to make a donation in support of the RNLI's lifesavers, visit RNLI.org/supportMayday



**COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 3 OF 2021

NO. 108 CHARNWOOD, BRAY, CO. WICKLOW

Wicklow County Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Housing Authority") in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Section 76 of the Housing Act 1966, and the Third Schedule thereto (as amended by the Planning and Development Act 2000) have made an order entitled as above which is about to be submitted to an Bord Pleanála for confirmation. If confirmed, the order will authorise the Housing Authority to acquire compulsorily the land described in the Schedule for the purposes of the Housing Act, 1966.

A copy of the order and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow or Bray Municipal District Offices, Civic Centre, Bray.

Owners, lessees and occupiers of the land described in the Schedule will receive individual written notice.

The Housing Act 1966, as amended, provides that An Bord cannot confirm the order in respect of the land if an objection is made in respect of the acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the land, and not withdrawn, until it has held an oral hearing into the objection and until it has considered the objection and the report of the person who held the oral hearing.

SCHEDULE

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
21/06/50/100 Wicklow County Council- Compulsory Purchase Order No 3 of 2021.	Dwelling house and land of 279 m ² .	Edel Bannon (otherwise Mrs Edel Bannon-Lyons) of Lackan, Rahara, Co. Roscommon.	None (vacant house).	None (vacant house).

Dated this 26th day of April 2021.

Joe Lane, Director Services.



Nissan's new Qashqai is bigger, bolder and greener

The problem with success is that people expect you to be able to follow it up with even more success!

By Martin McCarthy

When the first Qashqai was unveiled in 2007, it was an instant success and created a new type of car - the Crossover. Millions of Qashqai were sold in Europe and over 50,000 were sold in Ireland.

Shortly after the initial launch, Nissan encountered another problem with success - rivals copy the formula - a lot! In quick succession we had the VW Touran, Hyundai Tucson, Opel Mokka, Peugeot 3008 - all trying to de-throne the Qashqai.

A further challenge with success is that the designer of the winning model finds it very difficult to change it substantially. Nissan did not fall for that trap. Times move on and next month we will see the arrival of the 3rd generation Qashqai into Windsor Bray and other Nissan dealerships around Wicklow and Leinster.

Having seen and sat in the new model, it is clear that Nissan have grabbed the bull by the horns and substantially upgraded Qashqai with a lot more interior space and with radical changes in the engine line up, plus much sharper styling.

The vehicle is longer and taller - especially over the rear seats - and looks much crisper and more dramatic than its predecessor.

With Nissan's pioneering of electric drive with the Leaf, they have shown that they really under-

stand how part-electric can also be made to work well for the motorist. Fully electric and Plug-In hybrid are expensive options and the Crossover C segment is seriously price sensitive.

The 12V mild hybrid system available on new Qashqai is a more affordable hybrid technology that provides torque assist, extended idle stop, quick restart and coasting stop [Xtronic only], with improvements to both fuel economy and CO2 output (-4g/km). It's mated to the refined 1.3 Dig-T petrol engine that was introduced to Qashqai in 2018.

The new Qashqai's e-POWER system is a unique solution which provides the enjoyment of driving electric without having to worry about range or charging. The unique element of the e-POWER is that the petrol engine is used solely to generate electricity, while the wheels are completely driven by the electric motor.

The new Qashqai's e-POWER system is comprised of a high-output battery and powertrain integrated with a category-leading variable compression ratio 154hp petrol engine, power generator, inverter and 140kW electric motor of similar size and power output to that found in Nissan's electric vehicles.

Prices will be finalized next month but are sure to be competitive. Like previous models, the third generation is designed at Nissan's European design HQ and built in Sunderland, where dozens of Irish engineers are engaged.

Details released of proposed Glen of the Downs underground tunnel

Details have been released of the proposed 2km tunnel underneath Glen of the Downs which is one of the corridor options being explored as a part of the N11/M11 Improvement Scheme.

The 'Purple Route' comprises of an underground tunnel option, tying into the online corridor at Glenview to the north and tying in near Kilpedder to the south.

The Purple Corridor would bypass the Glen of the Downs and is the corridor favoured by local heritage enthusiasts as it would be the least disruptive to biodiversity and heritage.

The tunnel, on the west side of the glen, would be underneath 20 houses, as well as St. Mary's Church and the Norman Ringfort which overlooks the glen, and the Norman

Downs Village and Fair Green.

The other options are the 'Cyan Route', which would be a high bendy road on the west side of the glen, and the option of widening the existing road along the floor of the glen which would infringe upon a Special Area of Conservation.

The N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme is progressing through Phases 1 to 4 of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Project Management Guidelines (PMG's).

On 14th April the Project Team released

Update Bulletin No.7 on the scheme website, entitled "Phase 2 Short-Listed Corridors Interim Update".

The update provides details of the refined areas for the retained corridors.

The Bulletin states that the corridors "are in draft form and are still subject to change."

As the Project progresses, more detailed assessments, on-going studies and the incorporation of information received

from the public may result in changes to these corridors".

These refined corridors are now available to view through an interactive web

mapping browser, which can be accessed by clicking on a link on website for the scheme (n11m11.ie).

The Stage 2 Assessment of these retained corridors is ongoing and it is expected that the results of this assessment and the emerging preferred option will be published early Quarter 3 of 2021.

The project team remains available to interested parties and members of the public to deal with any queries or issues arising on the project by emailing n11m11@arup.com or at the contact details contained in the Bulletin.

CAB seize vehicles in Wicklow

Criminal Assets Bureau Officers, supported by the Regional Armed Support Unit, District Detective Unit personnel and the Customs Dog Unit, conducted a search operation in County Wicklow this morning, (Friday, 30th April).

This operation, which involved the search of two locations in Wicklow, a business in Dublin and a professional search, targeted an organised crime group (OCG) involved in burglary, theft and the sale and supply of controlled drugs throughout the Eastern Region.

A 201 Toyota Landcruiser, a 171 Nissan X-Trail and an Ifor Williams Trailer were seized during the course of these searches.

Gardai stated: "This morning's operation is a significant development in an ongoing Criminal Assets Bureau investigation into assets acquired by an OCG involved in criminality throughout the Eastern Region."

HIQA report recognises improvement in West Wicklow child protection services

A new HIQA Inspection report of Foster Care and Child Protection and Welfare Services in West Wicklow, Kildare, and Dublin South West has noted positive improvements since the previous inspection.

The HIQA inspection noted that strategic changes have been made to enhance service delivery in recent years and also identified a number of areas for improvement. Extensive remedial work has been carried out in recent months to address the required improvements and plan the new measures required.

Commenting on this week's publication, Patricia Finlay, Tusla Service Director for Dublin Mid Leinster, said: "The report published today relates to an inspection carried out in December 2020, during the Covid-19 pandemic. We are pleased that HIQA has recognised the positive improvements that had been made since previous inspections. We have developed a detailed action plan, have liaised with HIQA and have made significant progress since this inspection was completed."

"This area has, for a range of reasons struggled to achieve full compliance with HIQA standards and management in the area is working to address operational

issues, some of which were identified prior to the HIQA inspection. Whilst challenges remain for this area, there has been progress made and additional resources have been provided to the area to assist with this work. Where a child is at immediate risk of harm they receive an immediate protective response."

Examples of positive practice include:

- Risk management systems were in place to identify, manage and escalate risk.
- There is a defined management structure with clear lines of accountability and responsibility.
- Completed initial assessment work evidenced good analysis of the child's needs, which informed the determination of the level of risk for the child, and determine the outcome and next steps that needed to be taken to ensure the child was safe and protected.
- The content of child protection safety plans developed at Child Protection Conferences were of good quality

- Reviews of child protection conferences were comprehensive and were completed in a timely manner.
- There were policies and procedures in place regarding caseload management.
- The area has established a multi-agency planning forum to assist decision making for children with complex needs.

- Areas identified for improvement:
- Relative assessments were not completed in a timely manner.
- Not all foster carers/ significant adults/young people over 16 had up-to-date Garda vetting on file.
- The process for monitoring, reviewing and updating child protection safety plans required improvement.

Ms Finlay added: "Tusla receives consistent and high quality regulation and oversight by various external bodies, including HIQA. This oversight assists us in ensuring that our practices deliver good quality, timely and appropriate interventions and services for children."

Wicklow property prices remain unchanged in Q1

Property prices in Wicklow have mirrored the national trend and stayed flat over the quarter, according to the latest MyHome.ie Property Report.

The report for Q1 2021 shows that the median asking price for a property in the county is still €335,000. This means prices have fallen by €2,000 compared to this time last year.

However, the asking price for a 3-bed semi-detached house in the county has risen by €12,500 over the quarter to €342,500. This represents an increase of €27,500 compared to this time last year.

The asking price for a 4-bed semi-detached house in Wicklow has fallen by €2,500 over the quarter to €430,000. This represents a fall of €5,000 in the segment compared to this time last year.

The number of properties for sale in Wicklow on MyHome.ie is down 10% compared to Q4 2020. The number is down 23% compared to this time last year.

The average time for a property to go sale agreed in the county after being placed up for sale now stands at just over five months.

The report found that annual asking price inflation rose by 4.2% nationwide, by 4.1% in Dublin and by 4.8% elsewhere around the country.

Meanwhile, quarterly asking price inflation was flat - at 0% nationwide, while increasing by 1% in Dublin, and falling by 0.4% elsewhere around the country.

The author of the report, Conall MacCoille, Chief Economist at Davy, said that a striking feature of the report was how housing market activity had persevered through the third lockdown. "Remarkably, new listings for sale in the first quarter were down only 30% compared with

2020 versus 80-90% annual falls during the first lockdown.

"All the data suggests that housing market activity should bounce back rapidly once the restrictions are lifted. Mortgage approvals in January were up 12% on the year, with the average approval up 8% to a fresh cyclical high of €256,000. So, there is no evidence of tightening credit conditions holding back homebuyers."

Angela Keegan, Managing Director of MyHome.ie, said that interest in the property market was at a historic high and as such it was imperative that the supply issue be dealt with. "Traffic through the MyHome.ie website is up 13-30% on different metrics, such as users, sessions and page views. As such, it is crucial that the construction sector be allowed to return to normal activity in order to address this obvious demand and safeguard the market as we emerge from Covid."

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Cllr Jodie Neary and Cllr Lourda Scott with a bin in Greystones

Joint motion leads to more temporary special bins for Greystones

Social Democrats councillor Jodie Neary and Green Party councillor Lourda Scott submitted a joint motion to Greystones Municipal District meeting this week seeking a new bin collection schedule to deal with the issue of overflowing bins and litter during summer months.

As a result, the Council committed to putting in place a number of temporary special bins to deal with the unprecedented rise in litter across the District.

Speaking on the issue, Social Democrats Cllr Jodie Neary said "I'm delighted our joint motion was passed and there is a commitment to add a number of temporary special bins to reflect the unprecedented rise in litter since Covid. It was a timely motion with the better weather and longer days kicking in, a time when people are out more, getting take-aways or having picnics. But it also means a scourge of overflowing bins across the District. Covid restrictions have seen more people out and about in local areas, while during non-COVID times, Greystones was becoming more of a destination town connected by the Cliff Walk. The result is always, more litter.

"Many times we have asked the Council to look at revising the bin collection schedule instead of having the usual 'one man with a van' doing the rounds. The answer is often that we need to rely on people to be personally responsible but as more people

come to visit or use our recreational spaces and with the additional population growth, this is an unsustainable way to manage litter. Ultimately, it's Tidy Towns and clean up groups that end up having to deal with more rubbish on the street - saving the council money. I have been collecting bags of rubbish that parents have been filling from various playgrounds across the district - we shouldn't have to rely on good will all the time".

Green Party Cllr Lourda Scott who also proposed the motion says, "the problem of overflowing bins in the Greystones District has become a very common and unpleasant sight in the area. Seeing bags of litter propped against bins that are packed to the brim is not only unhygienic but is also bad news for the environment with bits of litter and plastic blowing into the sea. This has been exacerbated during the pandemic with people restricting their movements to the same area and buying more takeaway food and beverages. However, even in normal times the resources allocated to the area is not in line with the pace of develop-

ment that we are all familiar with.

"In the summer months in particular, Greystones is a popular tourist town attracting many visitors on the DART and Cliff walk, which bring a welcome boost to our local economy. However increased numbers of people living and visiting the area lead to more rubbish and require additional resources to be allocated by the Council. While personal responsibility is important, the Council also has a responsibility to manage litter bin collections to be able to keep up with the demand. It makes sense that more frequent collections occur during the busy summer period and help keep our beautiful town litter free.

"Myself and my fellow Councillors raised the issue last year but were told that nothing could be done. This year myself and Cllr Neary are flagging this problem to the officials well in advance so that they have time to plan ahead. We were delighted with the response to our motion this month where a commitment to include special pizza bins were promised and agreed with Greystones Tidy Towns. We look forward to seeing the outcome of this initiative and hope it will help in dealing with the problem of litter until Greystones gets more council staff to properly address the issue," concluded Cllr Scott.

DNA from dog excrement to help trace irresponsible owners?

Wicklow County Council is looking into taking DNA from dog excrement to track down the owners who don't clean up after their dogs while out walking.

Currently prosecutions from dog fouling are low because the culprits are difficult to track down. Unless they are caught in the act, the likelihood of the council being able to issue a fine is low.

At the April meeting of Wicklow County Council, Green Party councillor Lourda Scott asked what steps the Council was taking to combat dog fouling which she described as "still a massive issue in Greystones which I'm sure is echoed in Districts across the county".

Cllr Scott also raised the issue of dog fouling at the March meeting and has put forward a number of suggestions to deal with the problem, one of which is to use the DNA from the dog's excrement.

Breege Kilkenny, Director of Services in the Council's Planning, development and Environment department, said "we have actually started looking into the research for this. But besides the substantial operational cost, there are some issues with regard to getting the type of tests for DNA and the voluntary nature of the proposal, because people who are willing to give their dog's DNA are responsible owners who would pick it up and not the type of owner who would let their dog foul.

"Most of the dog dirt on a particular road is

from the people using the road daily. We do recognise that it is a significant issue, and it will be brought forward again at our next SPC meeting."

Cllr Scott told Wicklow Times that she got the idea from the company called PoorPrints, which carries out DNA testing on dog excrement across the United States, Canada and the UK. In 2016, the village of Alresford in Essex became the first in England to introduce the method.

Research shows that in the absence of such a system up to 40% of dog owners do not pick up after their dog when it defecates.

Cllr Scott said she did not know how much it would cost to employ the DNA tracing system, but said that the cost has to be balanced against the cost of cleaning up after dog fouling, increased bins, increased bin collection, etc, as well as the human and animal health costs.

"A certain recoupment of costs can be built into fines when people are caught", she said.

Cllr Scott believes that the weaker link with this method is not the high cost but is getting people to buy into it by registering their dog on a database.

"In bigger cities in UK and USA they ban dogs from dog parks and public

parks if they aren't registered. We'd need to think creatively how to encourage people to sign up so that everyone is included, not just the responsible pet owner, who probably clean up after their dogs anyway."

Ms Kilkenny explained that the Council has also progressed on a number of awareness issues. Under the anti-dumping initiative it has installed a number of speakers which sense when people are walking by and will say 'If you have your dog with you make sure you clean up after you'.

Ms Kilkenny continued, "We have also started producing a number of signs saying 'Bin the poo, bin the poo bag and leave only your dog prints'. On top of that, we have also asked for both the litter wardens and the dog wardens, when they are out, to do on the spot fines if they can. It is quite difficult to enforce but we have asked for it."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran said "I would say there's very few fines issued for dog fouling because it is so hard to detect the individual involved. That's the reason for that. It is all about education and enforcement and we've been providing essentials over the years in terms of pooper-scoopers."

Come on out for Delgany Tidy Towns' big clean-up in May

Delgany Tidy Towns are planning a big clean-up for the 8th & 9th May, and are looking for volunteers to come out and help by cleaning up around the area where they live.

Delgany Tidy Towns stated "Due to covid restrictions we are not having a central meeting point but instead there will be a number of smaller locations based around the Zones marked on the above image.

"People will be meeting on both the Saturday and Sunday from 10am-1pm. Please wear a face mask and gloves and bring any gardening tools that might be useful such as gloves, brushes, spades, hoes, secateurs etc. We'll be picking litter, sweeping footpaths and doing a big tidy-up.

"We're aiming to cover a large number of areas around Delgany so we need as many volunteers as possible. You don't need to commit to a full morning, we would be delighted with any time you have to spare.

"Everyone is welcome to come along and we would especially love to welcome new faces. Please note that we will be following Covid guidelines. If you have any questions and want to help please email delganytidytowns@gmail.com"

Zone 1 The old Waterpump to the Old Delgany. Area leader: David Curtis. Meeting at the HSE Building.

Zone 2 Priory Road & The Fairy Trail. Area leader: Sheena Gogarty. Meeting at entrance to Struan Hill.

Zone 3 Wicklow Arms to Carmelite Gates. Area leader: Lorraine Finn. Meeting at Carmelite entrance.

Zone 4 Church Road to Delgany NS. Area leaders: Zoe & David Woodward. Meeting at Llyods Garage.

Zone 5 Bellevue Road. Area leader: Gabriel Dooley. Meeting at HSE building.

Zone 6 Carmelite Gates to Chapel Road. Area leader: Declan Morris. Meeting at

Carmelite entrance.

Zone 7 Glen Road to Barry's Bridge. Area leader: Rona Barker. Meeting at Barry's Bridge.

Zone 8 Delgany Woods to Killincarrig. Area leaders: Gerry Devlin, Jenny Kehoe & Keith Scanlan. Meeting Points: Sat AM bottom of Priory Way. Sun AM meeting at Cherry Lane.

Zone 9 Blackberry Lane. Area leader: Eithne Dalby. Meeting at Delgany Bridge (crosses Three Trout Stream on Blackberry lane).

Zone 10 Three Trout Stream. Area Leaders: Noel McMullan & Keith Scanlon meeting at top of Jacobs ladder on Church Rd

'Our towns and villages are becoming absolutely filthy'

A special task force may be needed to tackle the increasing problem of littering in towns and villages across the county, Independent Wicklow Town councillor Mary Kavanagh has suggested.

At last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Kavanagh spoke about the problem of littering across the county during the pandemic as a result of more people eating food on the streets.

"I think we need some kind of a task force in place, maybe with people from different community-based entities contributing to it," said Cllr Kavanagh.

"Maybe we need an initiative like 'Sponsor a Bin'. We need something desperately because our towns and villages are becoming absolutely filthy and there's too much work for councils to keep cleaning up after people. The pandemic has brought

everybody out onto the streets.

"There's more eating in public places than you ever saw before. Our own river walk every weekend is a disgrace and any visitors to the place would be shocked to see. I know that's replicated right throughout the county. I just think it's time that we started being a bit proactive and come up with a few creative ideas to try and deal with this dreadful, dreadful problem."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran said "We have a very strong waste management team. There's no question about that. We are really successful in terms of the cases we take to court. Illegal dumping is still an issue, and sometimes COVID hasn't helped the situation. It is something for the environment SPC to look into. I will certainly take that on board and pass it on to the SPC to see what more we can do in terms of creating working groups."

Visible increase in litter across Wicklow

Pure Mile volunteers collect over 1,000 bags of litter and rubbish from Wicklow roads in March

The environment/community initiative, the Pure Mile, which encourages communities and groups living in rural areas to adopt a mile a road, or miles of road, and work together to keep these areas litter and rubbish free, are reporting a visible increase in litter in County Wicklow.

In March, the Pure Mile removed over 20 tonnes of rubbish from Wicklow/Dublin uplands. The majority of this litter and rubbish was collected by Pure Mile Volunteers from hundreds of roads, verges, drains and ditches in rural Wicklow. There are now over 800 miles or

already taken place, with over 2,000 bags of litter, rubbish, and dumping, removed from the Wicklow/Dublin environment, all by thousands of Pure Mile Volunteers. In some instances, recent clean-ups by Pure Mile groups resulted in the collection of over 120 bags

the Wicklow environment. Pure Mile groups are also contacting Pure to report illegal dumping sites that they locate on the landscape during their litter picks, and Pure are collaborating with Wicklow County Council to investigate sites for evidence, prior to Pure truck

their natural environment, and becoming aware of the amount of litter and rubbish on roadside verges, hedges, and drains. Pure Mile groups are now contacting us every day to organise litter picks and the Pure truck has been extremely busy collecting the rubbish on a daily basis, ensuring that no bags are left on the landscape. It's amazing the amount of litter and rubbish the Pure Mile Volunteers are removing from the Garden of Ireland, and I would like to thank them and congratulate them for their dedication in Cleaning Up The Uplands.'

Further Pure Mile litter picks, clean-ups, anti-dumping initiatives, community projects, biodiversity, and heritage projects, are currently being organised throughout the year.

Pure provide all groups with Pure Mile signage, Pure Mile bags, gloves, litter pickers and Pure Mile high-vis vests, and they also remove all of the rubbish collected by the groups.

All groups who enter the Pure Mile are invited to the Pure Mile Gala Event, and all receive a Certificate of Participation, a selection of Native Irish Trees, and all groups feature in the

removal. Ian Davis, manager of Pure commented, 'The Pure Mile was established in 2010 and the project has grown from 5 miles to over 800 miles this year. With Covid-19 we have seen an increase in people reconnecting with the area they live in, walking their local roads, rediscovering

roads, mountains, woodlands, valleys, and upland amenities, signed up to the 2021 Pure Mile Project, the largest number ever since the project began.

Over 500 litter picks/clean-ups, undertaken by Pure Mile Groups (individuals and family units, all following Covid-19 guidelines) have

of rubbish from just one area. Other discarded material included, tyres, batteries, mattresses, radios, hovers, TV's, cables, piping, furniture, chairs, bedframes, building materials, toys, prams, suitcases, buckets, bikes, and much more, with each Pure Mile clean-up making a huge difference to



Bags of rubbish collected in Kiltegan

Pure Mile Calendar.

Registration for the 2022 Pure Mile will open again in November 2021. Further information on Pure can be found on www.pureproject.ie.

The Pure project is a partnership project and the first of its kind in Ireland which incorporates statutory and non-statutory organisations, including: Wicklow County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council. Funded by The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Pure was established to

combat illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. The project was officially launched in September 2006.

The Pure project focuses directly on the fly-tipping/illegal dumping issue and has introduced a number of enforcement, preventative and educational initiatives including:

- A lo-call-phone-line for reporting of fly-tipping/illegal dumping - 1850 365 121.
- Environmental Effectiveness - development of a unique database to record all complaints and incidents of fly-tipping/illegal dumping.
- Dedicated clean-up

vehicle which responds to all incidents of fly-tipping/illegal dumping.

- GPS/GIS data-base to record all incidents of fly-tipping/illegal dumping.

* Pure covert CCTV deployment and installation in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.

- Public Awareness - various campaigns to create environmental awareness.
- Environmental Videos - creation of environmental videos showing the negative impact illegal dumping has on our environment.
- Website - www.pure-project.ie providing information on all aspects of the Pure project.
- Community Initiatives - The Pure Mile - a project

that encourages people who live on a mile stretch of rural road to work together to enhance and improve their environment, their heritage and their community

- Education programmes - Primary School Teacher's Pack - Pure Animation, Pure Music, Pure Wisdom, Pure Theatre, etc.

- Media Campaign - An extensive regional and national P.R. and media campaign to create awareness of the effects of illegal dumping

**TO REPORT
DUMPERS AND
DUMPING LO-CALL
1850 365 121**



Bags of rubbish collected by Pure Mile volunteers in Barnbawn



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 4 OF 2020 – CONFIRMATION ORDER NO. 30 SOUTH GREEN, ARKLOW, CO WICKLOW

Wicklow County Council has on the 14th day of April 2021, made a confirmation order confirming the above named compulsory purchase order as respects the land described in the Schedule hereto. The said order, as so confirmed, authorises Wicklow County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily for the purposes of the Housing Act 1966. It will become operative three weeks from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the order as so confirmed and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at: **Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow or at Arklow Municipal District Offices, Arklow.** An application for judicial review of the decision of the Board under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (SI No 15 of 1986) may be made to the High Court within eight weeks of the date of publication of this notice in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

SCHEDULE

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
CPO MAP 30 South Green, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Dwelling house and land of 134.4sq/m	Henry Kinsella (deceased), 30 South Green, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	Not Known	Not Known

Dated this 16th day of April 2021
Joe Lane, Director Services



Sheenagh Shannon and Hannah Grace and , aka Paddy & Johnny

Musical comedy duo Paddy & Johnny are bringing back the craic

Hannah Grace and Sheenagh Shannon are two young singer songwriters from Bray who dress up as old farmer men and write and sing original satirical songs from their perspective. Their act is called Paddy & Johnny and their first single 'The Good Ol' Days' will be released on May 14th

The song is a witty and upbeat original song about how things were better back in their day!

Within several weeks of their internet launch in 2020, Paddy & Johnny garnered thousands of views on videos of their original songs and skits and have been bringing a light-hearted atmosphere to the streets with their regular busking act. Well known and loved amongst local Irish fans,

they have even managed to catch the attention of American, Australian, and Asian viewers.

"Our act initially started as an inside joke when we started ironically listening to Irish country music," Hannah and Sheenagh told *Wicklow Times*. "But last February we released our first video on Facebook and started busking regularly in Bray, later venturing out to Greystones, Dun

Laoghaire and Dublin City. Last February, we actually suddenly lost a close friend of ours - another young music student, he was only 19 too. We used Paddy & Johnny as a form of escapism, and a reason to get up each day to write, sing and perform, even through the early stages of the pandemic.

"With the world changing around us, we really felt that stepping into the

characters of two old men stuck in their small town ways was the strangest, most unexpected and light-hearted escape. We're happy to be releasing our first single next month and seeing where else Paddy & Johnny will go!"

'The Good Ol' Days' was recorded at Yodel Studios in Galway and will be released internationally on all streaming platforms on May 14th.

Medici.tv - for classical music fans

Are you a lover of classical music or have you often thought you might like to add more than the familiar sound of 'Phantom of the Opera' to your listening experience?

You can now attend live performances from the comfort of your own home - thanks to Wicklow County Council Library Service.

Wicklow County Council Library Service is now offering access to Medici.TV, the largest classical music streaming library in the world.

It features over 2,000 music videos, concerts, operas and ballets and includes artists' profiles, documentaries, master classes and educational programmes.

Users will enjoy free access to live events streamed from prestigious venues around the world and replays will be available after these events. All you need is a current library membership card and access to the internet. You can use Medici.TV on any device through your internet browser and you can also view videos on your TV by connecting to a computer or device using a HDMI cable or via Chromecast.

If you are not a current library member or your membership has expired - just contact your local library or email libraryoutreach@wicklowcoco.ie to arrange membership.

Signal Arts Centre presents: 'Stills' - An exhibition by Maggie Wright

Monday, 26th April - Sunday, 9th May

Maggie Wright is a figurative and portrait artist originally from Belfast. Graduating from the University of Ulster with a BA honours degree in Fine Art, Wright has been based in Dublin for the past number of years.

Her work is housed in both public and private collections and she has also exhibited widely. Wright's work has been shown in the Royal Hibernian Academy, the Royal Ulster Academy, the Éigse Arts Festival and the Boyle Arts Festival.

She has long been intrigued by the interactions

of all living things. She believes that in a lot of our waking hours we are engaged in a form of dance. This she believes to be a primal commonality shared by all of us across all cultures.

A member of the Dublin Painting and Sketching club, Wright also has been drawing with the RHA self-directed group since 2010.

When people "SIT" they often communicate more because they are not engaged in the "dance", the veil is dropped.

Stills is a celebration of the medium that is drawing, both individually and as part of a narrative. Please visit the Exhibition online at: signalartscentre.ie

An inspiring true story of love, loss and a fight for survival

In July 2018 the nation held its breath when news reports confirmed that an Irish man had tragically lost his life in the wildfires in Greece.

Clare man Brian Westropp-O'Callaghan and his wife, Zoe Holohan, had been married just four days when the unspeakable tragedy occurred on what was supposed to be their fairytale honeymoon. Ultimately 102 people lost their lives in the fires, and Zoe was one of the few survivors from the area, having been miraculously rescued from the boot of a burning car just seconds from death.

Zoe suffered severe burns all over her face and body, and that day was the beginning of a life that she had never planned for. She has now written a remarkable new book, *As the Smoke Clears*, where she speaks for the first time about her life with Brian, the heart-rending story of their attempt to flee the inferno, the unimaginable pain of seeing her beloved husband lose his life before her eyes, and what her life has looked like since that fateful day.

In *As the Smoke Clears* Zoe shares

her deeply personal journey through a life-altering year. A year of grappling with the loss of her true love and partner, learning how to walk, talk and use her limbs

again, and a future facing PTSD and a heavily scarred body.

Through the inconceivable darkness, Zoe managed to find hope through progress, positivity through the actions of others, and even humour.

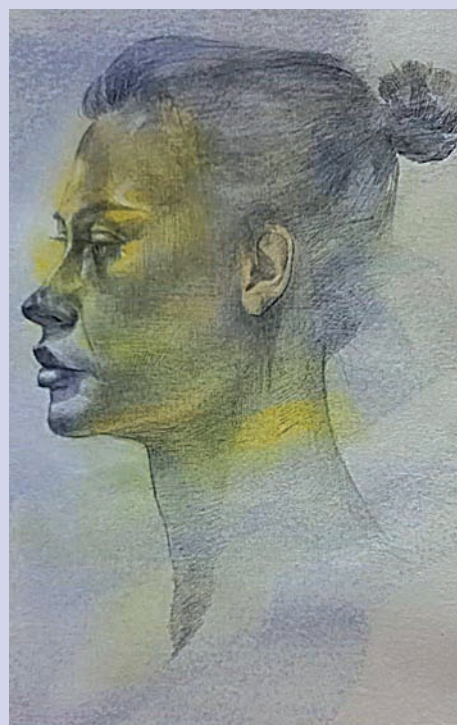
Zoe's authentic voice shines through in her writing, resulting in an inspiring love letter to her husband and to her life that is yet to come. Her reflections on inheriting and preserving Brian's legacy are rare and thought-provoking, and will inspire the reader to look inwards. At a time when the world as a whole is healing from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, Zoe's story stands out as an exemplary tale of what we can withstand, even with the odds against us.



AS THE SMOKE CLEARS

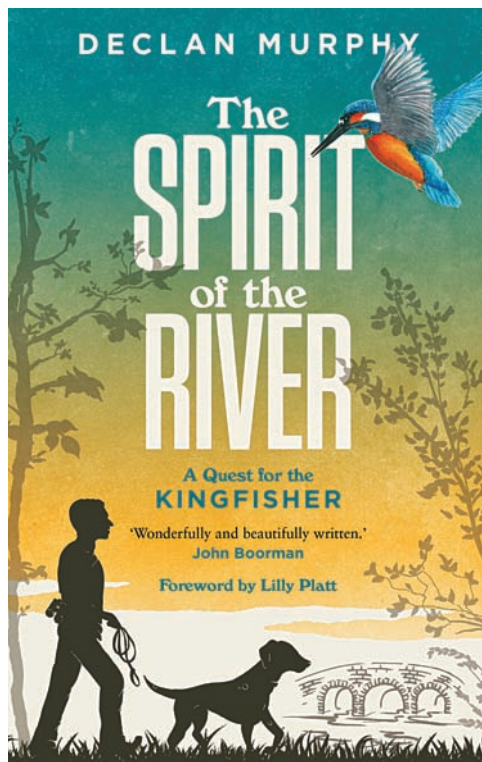
The inspirational true story of surviving Greece's deadly wildfires, overcoming devastating loss, and discovering a path to hope and renewal

ZOE HOLOHAN



Wicklow man releases new book 'Spirit of the River'

Wicklow man Declan Murphy has 'birded' across Ireland, Australia, North America, Asia and Africa. He has worked with BirdWatch Ireland, the country's largest conservation charity, and has been published extensively in The Irish Wildlife Trust, The Native Woodland Trust, BirdWatch Ireland and The Sherkin Comment. He has now released his new book 'Spirit of the River'.



This stunning new non-fiction work chronicles Declan's observations on nature and his personal journey with mental health, alongside his closest companion - his Dalmatian, Lucy. The book includes beautiful colour photographs, and the foreword is written by thirteen-year-old Global Youth Environmentalist and Activist, Lilly Platt.

"As I study the birds, animals and plants around me, I cannot help but see the patterns all living things seem driven to create," says Declan.

Declan Murphy's first encounter with a kingfisher as a young boy was unforgettable. Returning to the rivers years later, he embarks on a quest to study this most brightly-coloured bird during its nesting season, a seemingly straightforward challenge. But the river is slow to reveal the

habits and secrets of its residents. Dippers, goosanders, grey wagtails and great spotted woodpeckers all yield their hidden habits to the author's patient pursuit; yet the kingfisher continues to elude him.

In this work of rare calibre in the mould of the great contemporary nature writers Robert Macfarlane, Helen Macdonald and Tim Robinson, the author's retreat into the natural world is not simply for the sake of knowledge: nature is his remedy for managing the world around him. Since childhood, nature has provided balance, solace and direction.

As the search for the kingfisher reaches its culmination, these two spheres, the author's and the others', suddenly and unexpectedly collide, forcing him to confront how he sees the world and leading to a resolution where bal-

ance is restored through the power and intervention of nature. Writing with hallucinatory clarity and singular powers of observation, he brings the beauty and mystery of the animal kingdom to light. His quest becomes the reader's in the unfolding drama of his search for harmony and knowledge, from mythography to an acute awareness of people's fragility.

The Spirit of the River has been described as 'truly wonderful and beautifully written ... a close observation of Nature's abundance and glory' by BAFTA lifetime achievement recipient John Boorman and has been praised for its 'crystalline prose and singular focus' by director Alan Gilman.

'The Spirit of the River' is published by Lilliput Press and is available from Gil Books (sales@gil.ie /01 2806532)



Declan Murphy with his dog Lucy

Arts combined in unique book by diplomat

The arts of painting, poetry and calligraphy integrate seamlessly in a new book by Gearóid Ó Cléirigh.

The retired Dublin-born diplomat has created original artwork, new poems and traditional Gaelic script in a book of verses and essays published by Coiscéim. 'Dánta[i] Daite agus Léaráidí Litrithe' signifies 'Poetry in Paint' and 'Illustrations in Letters'.

The book features full page reproductions by Johnswood Press of the author's original paintings along with his commentaries in verse and prose. The hand-written text in traditional script accompanies each poem and essay, enabling the finished book to reflect the style of ancient monastic manuscripts.

Ó Cléirigh's poetic painting is impressionistic in style and is often of Irish, and European landscapes and seascapes, with some inspired by locations where he worked as a diplomat.

A recurring theme of the pictures and their accompanying text, is the relationship of human endeavour with the natural world. A kingfisher, for example, symbolises nature. A tree-cricket inspires a poem by the ancient Greek poet Anacreon which the author gives both in the original and in his modern Irish translation while a flight of parakeets turned wild which he witnesses in Belgium, inspires another poem.

Man's achievements can at times become controversial. The cover illustration repeated in different forms inside the book shows a 17th century structure, 'Robert Boyle's



Gearóid Ó Cléirigh

Bridge' across the Nire river at Glasha in Co. Waterford.

Robert Boyle is recognised as the father of modern chemistry. He also enunciated Boyle's Law in physics. His genius spurred on the Industrial Revolution and so technological applications, among which is the use of fossil fuels, which has led to global warming.

Robert Boyle was nearly drowned as a

child. He was ejected by the force of the Nire, from his father the Earl of Cork's coach as it attempted to ford the river at Glasha. To prevent any recurrence the Earl built a bridge. This 17th century structure still stands but it is endangered by the increase of heavy traffic.

The author's paintings are supplemented by a Russian Icon depicting St. Patrick as the Apostle of Ireland. It introduces an early Irish poem, along with the author's translation of a hymn attributed to the saint showing that nature requires the supernatural. This is 'Faeth Fiada' and is known to many as the 'Deer's Cry'.

Gearóid Ó Cléirigh was born in Dublin on Christmas Eve 1930. He studied Latin and Greek classics at UCC and law at UCD and Kings Inns. Called to the Bar, he opted instead for a career in the public service and served in the Department of Foreign Affairs for 40 years, during which time he was Consul General in Boston and New York, and held Ambassador posts in the Middle East and Europe.

Following retirement in 1996 he obtained an M.Phil at TCD in Early Irish, and wrote a number of books which Coiscéim published, including 'Creach Coicríche' and 'Barra Trá'.

Gearóid is married to Máire Ní Bhriain and they have a son (Eoin) and a daughter (Síle). Dánta[i] Daite agus Léaráidí Litrithe is hardbound in A4 format and printed in full colour. The cover price is €20 and the book is available not only in Ireland but also worldwide from www.sioipa.ie

Arklow Visual Arts Gallery develop new website

With galleries closed because of COVID, Arklow Visual Arts Gallery developed a new website and are trading online for the time being.

The gallery stated "We will be hosting an online exhibition in May and submissions for that are now open on our website. Subscribers to our newsletter will get access to this exhibition for one week before it goes live to the public."

The Gallery's Chairperson Andrew Manson said "The AVA's Gallery is unfortunately no longer on the main Street in Arklow, as any unnecessary risks to the health of the service users there had to be eliminated. Actual exhibitions are as yet a short way down the road.

"It is hoped that other premises can be located in the near future to continue the activities of the AVA or at the very least a 'pop up' shopfront exhibition.

"Communication is the key. Sarah Manson is co-ordinating a number of virtual pathways and if there is sufficient development of content from AVA members there should be exciting developments

along these lines.

"The biggest challenge the AVA faces, without a permanent or part-time formal management structure and relying for day-to-day face-to-face encounters with the general public with a small number of part-time CE scheme curators, is developing control mechanisms to oversee and develop relevant content platforms for the benefit of our members.

"Artistic persons are just buzzing with ideas and possibilities and a challenge is to bring all members and friends to a level where all can take part in future actual events without burdening a tiny number of people with onerous responsibilities for no reward.

"Furthermore, there is still a wish to keep the AVA as a loose conglomeration of art practitioners and consumers without it changing without clear planning into a business in all but name, with the inevitable inherent risks to any sponsors.

"What the members want should be clearly sent to our e-mail so possible directions as outlined by the members can be fully explored in the near future."

New report highlights importance of Ardmore Studios to Irish economy

A new report published this week highlights how Film, TV and Animation productions supported by the Section 481 tax credit scheme delivered over €469 million in total economic contribution to Ireland in 2019, representing a return on investment of €3.80 for every €1.

The report also finds that there were 124 productions supported by Section 481 in 2019, which enabled the employment of 16,952 full time positions and provided an estimated

40,000 days of skills training and development.

The PwC report - The Film/TV Industry & Ireland's Economy: Insights report on the contribution of Section 481 Film Tax Credit-supported production activity to the Irish economy - was commissioned by Ardmore Studios and Troy Studios, with the support of Animation Ireland and Screen Producers Ireland. It sets out to quantify the positive contribution the sector delivers to the national economy, whilst demonstrating the importance of Section 481 to incentivise the growth and success of domestic and international productions.

According to Elaine Geraghty, CEO of Troy Studios and Ardmore Studios the ongoing success of the industry is underpinned by a range of factors, including our skilled talent pool in front of and behind the camera, as well as the availability and development of high-quality studio facilities. The Section 481 film tax credit, however, is the cornerstone of Ireland's successful screen industry and a critical pillar of the financing structure of the industry.

"Over recent years we have seen global successes such as Normal People and Fate: The Winx Saga produced in Ireland and filmed at Ardmore Studios, Bray; on Sunday night we saw Kilkenny's own WolfWalkers competing for an Oscar with the world's best, and later this year Apple TV+'s Foundation - principally shot at Limerick's Troy Studios will debut on screens around the world. Covid-19 has shown the insatiable global need and appetite for new content and programming. The pandemic has also showcased the resilience of the sector, where it swiftly adapted and invested significantly to provide a safe environment for productions to continue during 2020 and to date. A step change has taken place internationally for demand, and Ireland is well placed to take advantage of this."

"Section 481 allows Ireland to compete for international production investment and it is timely to look at that competitive landscape to ensure our incentive continues to attract those multi-million scaled repeat productions that can further develop our skills and talent pool, as well as provide significant further fiscal benefits to our economy. What is becoming increasingly clear, however, is that the upper limit of €70 million on our Section 481 tax incentive is a barrier to Ireland securing those large-scale international productions," Ms. Geraghty states.

"The Government's stated ambition is to increase the scale of the sector to a point where we will double employment to 24,000 people employed, delivering a gross value added of some €1.4bn. To achieve this, the Section 481 incentive needs to be adjusted to ensure Ireland remains as competitive globally as possible."

Susan Kirby, CEO at Screen Producers Ireland, said "Screen Producers Ireland (SPI) are delighted to support

the launch of this industry report, which demonstrates the return on investment of S481 to the economy through the development of a competitive audio-visual industry. The indigenous independent production sector, along with local crew, underpin the success of S481 in developing a world class Irish AV sector and attracting incoming productions to film in Ireland. The ongoing success of the Irish AV sector and S481 will be through the work of Irish producers continuing to secure incoming productions along with the continued development and creation of Irish-centered content."

Commenting on the figures, Animation Ireland Chief Executive Ronan McCabe said; "The PwC report shows that Ireland is now a major global player when it comes to animation production, and this is something we should all be extremely proud of. The creativity, talent and expertise we have on this island is extraordinary. The Irish animation industry has enormous potential and these figures demonstrate that the sector is moving in the right direction."



Wicklow Publican Paul Moynihan is named new VFI President

Paul Moynihan is the new Vintners' Federation of Ireland (VFI) President. Paul, who runs a family pub in rural Wicklow, takes over from outgoing President Padraic McGann, from Monivea, Co Galway.

Paul was appointed President at the VFI AGM, which took place against the backdrop of the ongoing closure of the country's pubs. Speaking to delegates gathered online, the new President said his only role in the short-term is to get pubs reopened.

He said: "I will do all in my power to fight for pubs to open together and be treated fairly. Pubs should be allowed open at the same time and with the same guidelines as all other hospitality outlets."

Paul is the third generation of his family to run Moynihan's pub in Donard, Co Wicklow, his grandfather having purchased the premises in the 1940s.



Elaine Geraghty, CEO of Troy Studios and Ardmore Studios



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

William Roedy seeks permission for the proposed conservation, repairs and refurbishment at Martello Tower, Royal Marine Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow which is a Protected Structure (RPS ref: WCC B85) under the Planning and Development Act 2000. Work will include the replacement of the existing glazed roof, the replacement of the existing access stair, removal of existing sheds, construction of a garden room and all associated site works. 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

FULL PLANNING PERMISSION Sought for:

- a) Ground Floor Extension to Rear of Existing Dwelling (2.2 Msq Storage).
- b) First Floor Extension to Rear of Existing Dwelling (52 Msq) including existing attic conversion.
- c) Modifications to Existing Dwelling including Larger Replacement Window to replace Two Smaller Existing Windows to West Facing Elevation at Ground Floor.
- d) New Ridge Rooflights to New Roof of Extension & Rooflights to roof of West Facing Elevation.
- e) New Window at Ground Floor to North Facing Rear Elevation for New Bedroom.
- f) All associated ancillary site works at 'Rhoda Cottage' Putland Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. A98C3Y1.

Signed: Annette Doyle
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.

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for the **LEAST** money:

01 286 9111

TRANSFER WANTED

From a one bedroomed ground floor maisonette in Stillorgan to Greystones/Kilcoole area. Central heating. Front and back garden and driveway. Good bus service from Wicklow.

Telephone Margaret:
085 7178544

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one. (Mention request) Take it, dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken Heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. St Anthony and St Jude, helper of the hopeless, aid me in my distress. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail. Thank You. S.M.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: 'do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house, if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me, so that where I am, you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going'. Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me'.

Reflection

These famous words of Jesus are, quite understandably, frequently read at funerals, since they resound with consolation and assurance. But they speak not only of the next life, but of the present. It is wonderful that we are assured of the place Jesus has won for us in heaven, but he himself is the Way there. We do not look to the next life as a positive thought to keep us going, but we choose to live in intimacy of life with Jesus here and now, and in doing so we enter into a living hope which already shines its light on us here and now.

C.J.

Calling all aspiring Wicklow chefs!

Join Ross and Rachel (no not the pair we know from Friends!) in cooking up a storm for GOAL. Celebrity Chef Rachel Allen and author Paul Howard, (aka Ross O'Carroll Kelly), are joining forces to cook up a storm in aid of the humanitarian aid agency.



Paul Howard

Ross and Rachel are promising recipes for laughs and fun in the unique online brunch cooking event on Saturday 15th May.

Those taking part will get the chance to cook live with Rachel while she tries to keep it together with Paul Howard cracking jokes the whole way through.

Speaking about the event Rachel said: "This is the perfect event for cooking enthusiasts, and for those who just want to have a laugh, all in aid of supporting GOAL's work in 14 countries around the world. I will be focusing on fantastic brunch recipes, with Ross helping me as I go along!"



Rachel Allen

Paul Howard said: "I am delighted to be involved in this cook-along with Rachel Allen. Brunch is big with ROK (Ross O'Carroll Kelly) and I am looking forward to having some great fun with this! I urge everybody to sign up it's a great way to spend time on a Saturday morning. You get to have a laugh and learn how to cook up a

great brunch at the same time!"

Once registered, participants will receive a recipe booklet and a list of ingredients so they can cook along without any hassle.

The event is suitable for all skill levels, even those whose idea of a good meal is a pint of Guinness at a Leinster match, royshe?

Launching the event, GOAL's Director of Fundraising Eamon Sharkey said: "It's great to

once again have the support of our ambassadors Rachel and Paul. This online cook along will be great fun and is the perfect way to prepare your week-end brunch."

All money raised will go towards GOAL's work supporting vulnerable communities in 14 countries on four continents. Like many of its fundraising events, GOAL has had to adapt its programmes to combat the spread of

Covid-19. Since the start of the pandemic, GOAL has reached over 14 million people with Covid-19 messaging and support.

Registration costs just €10 and people can sign up now at www.goalglobal.org/cookalong/.

The event will take place at 10:30 am on Saturday 15th May.

So don your fur lined coat, put on your apron and get cooking for GOAL!

RECRUITMENT



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA
CHILL DARÁ AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN
KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board
invites applications for the following posts:

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

St. Kevin's Community College,
Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew, Co. Wicklow.

POST PRIMARY TEACHING POSTS

in KWETB schools in Kildare and Wicklow.

Full details are available on www.kwetb.ie
and click on 'vacancies'.

Dr Deirdre Keyes,
Chief Executive.



HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE

The HSE currently has the following opportunities:

Health Care Support Assistants West Wicklow

Ref: NRS10138

Closing date for applications:
Monday, 17th May 2021 at 12 noon.

For more information and to apply visit:
www.hbsrecruitmentservices.ie/health-care-support-assistant/

Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Wicklow Public Health Nursing Service

**Registered Midwives urgently required for the
Bray and North Wicklow Area**

**Registered General Nurses required for
vacancies across East Wicklow**

*The Public Health Nursing Service in Bray PCC and surrounding area has a number
of temporary vacancies for experienced Registered Midwives and General Nurses.
(whole time and part-time hours)*

For informal enquiries please contact Margaret Scargill ADPHN at

phnwwadmin@hse.ie or phone 0404 63043/40

Or forward CVs to phnwwadmin@hse.ie

PART-TIME LECTURERS REQUIRED

Level 5 & 6 Awards

Email CV to bifeenquiries@kwetb.ie



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CHILL DARÁ AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN
KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

It's been a tough climb but you can make it

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