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**Tuesday 18th May 2021** First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: [wicklowed@localtimes.ie](mailto:wicklowed@localtimes.ie) [www.wicklowtimes.net](http://www.wicklowtimes.net)

# NO JABS IN SOUTH WICKLOW

People across South Wicklow are now wondering when and where they can receive their Covid-19 vaccinations as the new vaccination centre which was meant to begin operating in Arklow Bay Hotel last Monday was closed before a single vaccine was administered. The HSE confirmed last week that a new vaccination centre is being sought while the contract to use the hotel will expire.

Martina Queally, Chief Officer, HSE Community Healthcare East, stated "The Arklow Vaccination Centre was scheduled to commence COVID-19 vaccination from 11th May 2021. Following the recent national decision on re-opening services, the Arklow Bay Hotel has indicated that it will return to normal hotel

business and consequently the HSE is looking for an alternative site.

"The HSE is actively exploring available options for establishing a COVID-19 Vaccination Centre in the South Wicklow / North Wexford area. A number of sites are currently under consideration. In the meantime, the capacity at the Aviva

Vaccination Centre will be maximised. The vaccination capacity at Greystones Vaccination Centre will be increased by moving from a 12-booth model to a 15-booth model and by increasing the daily opening hours of the Centre.

"Those in the Arklow area who are registered



Artist Kevin 'M50' Signs, decorates the Life Guards Comfort Cabin at the South Beach in Arklow.  
Pic: Michael Kelly

on the public portal will be offered appointments in the Shoreline Vaccination Centre in Greystones until such time that another option becomes available.

"Through the two COVID-19 Vaccination centres in this area, Community Healthcare East has administered 54,349 vaccinations to date (12th May, 2021). This is in addition to the residential care facilities and other specific vaccination cohorts prioritised by NPHET. I would like to recognise the efforts and flexibility of managers and staff in ensuring the success to date in the roll out of the vaccination programme and their continued commitment to same."

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called on the Minister for Health to ensure public transport provision is in place for Arklow and South Wicklow residents who need to travel

to alternative vaccine centres.

"After the shocking revelation that the vaccination centre at Arklow Bay Hotel would not be going ahead, it is highly likely that many from the South of the county will have to travel to get their vaccines.

"The HSE has confirmed they are looking at alternative vaccination venues for South Wicklow. For now though, residents from the south of the county will have to travel to Greystones to get vaccinated at the Shoreline centre. This is far from ideal but given that it is the only choice at the minute, public transport must be provided to enable people to travel for vaccination.

"It is important that residents from Arklow and South Wicklow have access to public transport to access alternative vaccination centres. The HSE and the NTA must make

arrangements to ensure public transport is available to those who need it.

"People in Wicklow have been so positive about getting their vac-

cine. We need to make it easier for them to get  
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After return to golfing throughout the country, golfers and supporters of the local Wicklow Lions Club are very keen to take part in the forthcoming Wicklow & District Lions Club Golf Classic, the first of the season, which will take place on June 11th at Blainroe Golf Course. Huge support is expected as this is the first Lions Classic in a few years and supporters are aware that all funds raised are distributed within the community.



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## Rathdrum Cancer Support

If you have any unwanted gift items suitable for inclusion in hampers, Rathdrum Cancer would greatly appreciate them. Items can be left in Avondale Sports Shop, Main Street, Rathdrum.

## Online biodiversity talk

To celebrate Biodiversity Week Wicklow Greens are hosting an online talk on Friday May 21st at 7pm. They are delighted to have Kealin Beattie of Leitrim Flowers and environmentalist Justin Ivory to talk about what flowers to plant to attract pollinators and other wildlife and the importance of nettles, ivy and brambles to our natural heritage. Email [wicklow@greenparty.ie](mailto:wicklow@greenparty.ie) for further information and to receive a Zoom link.

## Grow it Forward

Join in the #GrowItForward campaign! This is part of the Healthy Ireland initiative and the Government Keep Well Campaign.

If you're not already a member of the library, you can join online at [giy.ie/growitforward](http://giy.ie/growitforward). Contact your local library today to get your seed pack and share seeds, seedlings or produce with at least 10 other people. Let's get Wicklow growing!

# Celebrate Africa Day in Wicklow

The Africa Irish Society of Wicklow (AISW) has secured funding worth €2000 from the Department of Foreign Affairs, and through Wicklow County Council for celebration of Africa Day 2021.

Africa Day was founded in 1963. It marks the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which was the precursor to the African Union (AU). The day celebrates African unity, and all the wonderful cultures that this amazing continent is home to. It's a day to reflect on the progress Africa has made as a continent, in the face of the many challenges that a global environment brings.

It's also a day to recognise the

successes of the continent and its cultural and economic potential.

The day is celebrated all over Africa and around the world. It's sometimes referred to as African Liberation Day. Celebrations for Africa Day can stretch over a number of days, and the day is a public holiday in some African countries. It takes place every year on 25th May.

In Ireland, the department of Foreign Affairs has always been at the front hosting flagship

events in Phoenix Park with attendance from top government officials to the public in general. Various organisations as well as individuals have used this day to display positive image of Africa and its vibrant cultures.

From 2019, Irish Aid gave power to local authorities to organise events at their local constituents, and one was hosted in Arklow that year.

In 2020 due to the pandemic it was celebrated virtually. This

year is no different, and virtual celebrations are going ahead but with available funds.

There will be a week of events from 24th May - 30th May and events will be shared on the Africa Irish Society of Wicklow Facebook page as well as with the Department of Foreign Affairs under Africa Day Team.

Anyone interested can email [aishwgroup@gmail.com](mailto:aishwgroup@gmail.com) or can WhatsApp on 083 4878 515.

## St. Patrick's National School start fundraiser lotto

St Patrick's National school in Wicklow Town is doing a fundraiser lotto. The money raised will be used to directly support the school and the children's education.

They stated, "As a school community we are committed to providing the very best digital technology, the very best PE equipment, the very best school books and the very best Art, Craft, Music and Science material for your children."

"There are however, many financial challenges faced by schools each year. Over the past number of years grant income from the Department of Education & Skills has not been keeping up with the increases in our running costs e.g. insurance, water charges, gas, electricity and waste collection."

"We work hard to reduce the schools' running costs and regularly review sup-

pliers to reduce our costs. The commitment to provide the very best for the children in our care costs more than the school grants provided by the department. This is a challenge for every school in Ireland and we want to overcome this challenge with our fundraiser lotto."

"We wish to improve our in class technology in order to provide the best learning experiences for our children. We will do this by purchasing the very latest interactive whiteboards and high definition touch screen displays."

The school outlined other objectives such as touch screen displays. The school also wants to develop the school garden

as an outdoor learning facility for Environmental Studies, refurbish the Junior playground surface to provide a softer and safer surface for outdoor play, and purchase outdoor play equipment for both free play and guided play.

"We understand the financial position for many of our families and hope that the weekly option of €2 per line will allow everybody to contribute. If you can contribute 3 lines for €5 it would be hugely appreciated and you never know you might just win! Thank you for your support and the best of luck in the weekly draw."

The jackpot will increase weekly up to €3,000. You can take part by going to [ourfundraiser.ie/org/stpatsnswicklow/](http://ourfundraiser.ie/org/stpatsnswicklow/)

The foirst draw will take place on Thursday 20th May.



Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran, Cathaoirleach Pat Kennedy, and Arthur Curran are pictured in Glendalough after completing their Darkness Into Light walk.

## 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,  
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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](mailto:patdosteo@eircom.net)

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# €400K HOUSE IS 'AFFORDABLE'

Wicklow house prices have been set at €400,000 in an 'affordable' housing scheme approved by Cabinet.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has slammed the Government for the €400K cap in the new Affordable Housing Bill, saying the price will not help first-time buyers.

Deputy Brady said "The need for genuinely affordable homes to rent and buy were a key issue of the last general election. However, what is proposed by Fianna Fáil, the Greens and Fine Gael in their 'affordable housing scheme' is a plan by developers for developers.

"It will not help first-time buyers' access more affordable homes. It will simply increase house prices and developers' profit margins. The Government's proposed new housing legislation will include a plan to cap the price of affordable housing using seven different rates across the country. These inflated price caps will mean that so-called 'affordable' homes will be out of reach for most people. The decision to introduce the 'shared equity'

scheme, and the inclusion of these expensive homes, is more about providing subsidies for developers than homes that are genuinely affordable.

"The rate for Wicklow is €400,000. I'm not sure in whose world €400,000 for a house is affordable, but it certainly isn't for ordinary working families. The household salary needed to be able to afford one of these homes will be in the region of between €90,000 and €100,000.

"The government's decision will cause developers delight, but it will be a source of stress and worry for first-time buyers and young families up and down the country. We have to start putting the interests of families ahead of the interests of developers and international funds."

"Last year Sinn Féin produced a plan that showed how under a Sinn Féin government we would build 8,000 would be genuinely affordable homes for

working people, evenly split between affordable cost rental homes and affordable purchase homes. These affordable homes would be available to purchase for €230,000 or less in Dublin, the commuter belt and other major urban areas."

Also criticizing the €400K cap, Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said "Four hundred thousand euro would not be considered affordable in anyone's language. To afford a €400k home would require a €40,000 deposit and income of approx. 90k, a completely unrealistic expectation to have on first time buyers.

"It's clear that the Government's idea of 'affordable' is out of touch with the reality on the ground for people in Wicklow. House prices continue to rise here. An average three-bed semi is expected to rise by 5% in the next 12 months which means many more people will be priced out

of Wicklow.

"These inflated price caps will mean that so-called affordable homes will be out of reach for most people. The decision to introduce the 'shared equity' scheme, and the inclusion of these expensive homes, is more about providing subsidies for developers than homes that are genuinely affordable. In fact, the ERSI have warned that this affordable housing scheme will lead to a rise in houses prices.

"Government housing policy to date has sided with a developer-led approach, and is forcing people to migrate further south, away from their communities, away from their jobs. Already, places like Wicklow Town and Arklow are feeling the pressure inward migration is having on their public transport and road infrastructure, school places and lack of green spaces. In turn, the effects are urban sprawl, underdeveloped public transport



Denis Dwyer and his dog Ted out for a walk in Wicklow Town

links, increase reliance on car use and negative impacts on the local environment as well as increasing carbon emissions as a result.

"With the Greens in Government you would expect a housing policy that did not force people into longer commutes

and put the focus on how we live in tandem with the environment as we enter a decade of ramped up climate action. Instead, we have a housing policy that is out of touch and will continue to undermine communities and the environment. "Today's decision will

cause developers delight, but it will be a source of stress and worry for first-time buyers and young families up and down the country. We have to start putting the interests of families ahead of the interests of developers and international funds. There is another way.

The Government could build houses on state-owned land and sell or rent these at cost. These would be truly affordable homes and would be in line with more community and environment-conscious development across our towns and villages."

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## EGS students competing in national finals of Student Enterprise Awards

East Glendalough School students Hillary Oughton Hollingsworth, Nadia Finnan and Heidi Zeig are competing in the national finals of the Student Enterprise Awards with their 'Simple Signposts' project.

Minister Simon Harris visited the school on Friday and met with Principal Craif Petrie and Chair of the Board Geoffrey Perrin. He said "I am delighted to that Hillary, Nadia and Heidi made it to the national finals today. Their TY mini company project involved the publication of a book called 'Simple Signposts'. The book has sixteen stories that describe everyday social situations encountered in a primary school environment to help students with autism.

"I want to salute their work and efforts to spread awareness and support families of children with autism. All the proceeds of their book will go to the autism charity Aslam." For more information on the book go to [www.simplesignpost.com](http://www.simplesignpost.com).

Minister Harris also noted that construction work is now underway at the school for a sports hall: "I am delighted to see construction work underway for the Sports Hall at East Glendalough. This will not only be a fine facility for the school but will be a much needed amenity for the wider community in Wicklow Town," he said.



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# Public asked to express need for swimming pool in West Wicklow

Minister Simon Harris and Cllr Avril Cronin met with the Pool for West Wicklow Committee, Water Safety Ireland and the Blessington Town Team last week regarding the proposed municipal swimming pool for West Wicklow.

Minister Harris said "I was delighted to meet with members of the Pool for West Wicklow Committee along with members of the Blessington Town Team with my colleague Cllr Avril Cronin.

"With both the National Sports Plan and Wicklow County Development Plan under preparation it is important that the West Wicklow Pool be placed top of the agenda. Along with my colleague Cllr Avril Cronin I have requested a

meeting with the CEO of Wicklow County Council to advance this project not only within the council's priorities but with national sporting bodies too.

"The Sport Action Plan is being developed by the government at present and there is to be a review of swimming pool provision nationally. I am anxious to ensure that the West Wicklow Pool is included in this review. I am impressing the importance of this with my colleague the Minister for Sport."

Cllr Avril Cronin

added "This is clearly a Community Project. As part of the Wicklow County Development Plan process I am encouraging as many West Wicklow families, community groups and schools to make submissions as part of the forthcoming public consultation process outlining the urgent need and demand for a swimming pool for West Wicklow.

"The draft Wicklow County Development Plan has the provision of a municipal swimming pool as an objective for West

Wicklow, but it is important in the public consultation that the community make clear the high priority they attach to the project".

The first draft of the Wicklow County Development Plan is to go out to public consultation in the summer.

The exact dates for the consultation will be announced after councillors vote on a series of amendments to the draft recently completed by the council planning department.

## Upgrade for Aughrim wastewater treatment plant

**Aughrim Wastewater Treatment Plant has now been selected for upgrade as part of the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme.**

This investment in the local wastewater infrastructure will provide additional capacity for the development of new homes, while ensuring that wastewater continues to be treated to an appropriate standard.

Details of other towns and villages to be included in the programme, if any, will be announced in the coming months.

Welcoming the announcement, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Pat Kennedy said "This investment is in the region of €750,000 to €800,000 and, having worked on this for so long, I am delighted that it has finally come to fruition. This funding is vitally important to Aughrim to enable growth in the village and to allow badly needed homes be built for local people."

Continuing he said "While it is fantastic to see Aughrim get this funding, it is important to remember that there are many other villages and towns through our county that also badly need funding. Tinalahy requires funding for a wastewater treatment plant upgrade and both Rathdrum and Dunlavin require water supply upgrades. This is a rolling Irish Water programme and further projects will be announced by Irish Water when they have carried out their due diligence. I will be working to make sure that all villages and towns throughout Wicklow get the funding that they require"

Elaine Heneghan, Irish Water's Regional Forward Planning Specialist, said: "We are pleased to confirm

that this important project to improve wastewater treatment capacity in Aughrim has been given the green light. This will bring big benefits to the area by ensuring the infrastructure is in place to meet the needs of Aughrim.

"The purpose of the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme is to support growth in smaller towns and villages. Aughrim was selected following detailed consultation with the Local Authority to identify and prioritise areas for investment."

The project will now continue through the next stages including design, detailed planning, procurement and approvals. Further updates on the budget and timelines for delivery will be provided in due course.

Irish Water is responsible for public water and wastewater infrastructure and is committed to providing a safe and reliable water supply, protecting the environment and supporting the growth of homes and businesses. The building, repair and upgrading of Irish Water's water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, water and sewer network will require a multi-billion euro investment programme over many years. Irish Water is investing €5.2 billion in the period from 2020-2024 in drinking water and wastewater quality and capacity and new infrastructure.

The Draft Capital Investment Plan is subject to consultation and final determination by Irish Water's regulator, the Commission of the Regulation of Utilities (CRU). This process is ongoing. Following its completion and with the approval of the CRU, updated details of the planned investments in each county will be outlined over the coming months.



Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, welcoming the announcement of the Aughrim wastewater treatment plant upgrade.



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Sadie Doyle celebrates her 88th birthday with her granddaughter Stacey Roche and great granddaughter Grace O'Reilly in Avoca

## Council make application for Ashford footpath

Wicklow County Council now has a proposal for a footpath from Ashford village centre roundabout to the junction for road to Glendalough and Roundwood.

Welcoming the news, Minister Simon Harris said "I welcome that Wicklow County Council has acted upon the generous offer by local landowners to facilitate a footpath at minimal cost between Ashford village centre roundabout out to the junction for Glendalough and Roundwood. The impact of building this path will improve the quality of life of Ashford residents".

Minister Harris has already been in contact with the National Transport Authority outlining the necessity of this footpath to aid pedestrian access to and from the village from the housing developments on this route.

Other sections of the footpath are due to commence in the coming weeks which are part of the developers planning permission in Ballinahinch Woods.

Cllr Irene Winters added "This pedestrian link into the heart of the village will benefit all the users, retailers and facilities in the village. It will improve safety and help to provide another means of integrating new residents in that area with the existing community."

Wicklow County Council has submitted a funding application for the footpath to the National Transport Authority. Subject to the funding being made available it is hoped work will be completed by the end of the summer.

# Funding to revitalise Wicklow's rural towns and villages

The 2021 Town and Villages Renewal Scheme is now open for applications, Wicklow County Council has announced. A key aim of the scheme is to help revitalise towns and villages around the county.

The new Town and Village Scheme objectives are being refocused to align with commitments within the Government's "Our Rural Future - Rural Development Policy 2021-2025".

It will prioritise objectives such as tackling vacancy in towns and villages, remote working and supporting town centre living. Other projects which will be welcomed include regeneration projects that support active and vibrant town or village centres, upgrading shopfronts and street facades, and green spaces and parks, etc.

Speaking of the launch of the scheme, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, said: "This Town and Village regeneration scheme represents a fantastic opportunity for communities in the county to turn their visions into reality for their areas. I urge people to get involved and to take advantage of this funding opportunity".

Minister Simon Harris said: "I'm delighted that my colleague, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has made this funding available to

help rural communities in Wicklow - making them more attractive places to live, work, socialise and raise a family.

"The initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future - the Government's five year strategy to revitalise rural Ireland. The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is administered through Wicklow County Council which is required to work with local communities and businesses to develop and implement proposals.

"I would therefore encourage Wicklow County Council to submit their project ideas to make a positive and long-lasting impact on our towns and villages. Applications for funding are submitted to the Department of Rural & Community Development through Wicklow County Council and the closing date for the submission of applications is 16th July 2021," Minister Harris concluded.

Measures that will be supported by the 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme include:

- Tackling dereliction in town centres
- Turning vacant properties into remote working and multi-use community spaces

- Investing in town centre living

- Investing in amenities to make town centre living more attractive

- Upgrading and improving shop fronts and streetscapes on Main Streets

- Projects that support and enhance the nighttime economy and add vibrancy to town centres

For the 2021 Scheme, the minimum grant available is €20,000. The maximum level of grant funding available is being raised to €500,000 in respect of one application from each Local Authority. A maximum of

€250,000 will apply in respect of two applications and €100,000 in respect of four applications. Two applications must be in respect of Towns/Villages that have not previously received funding under the Standard Town and Village Renewal Scheme

In order to apply, community groups must fill out an Expression of Interest form which should be submitted to Wicklow County Council. Selection of projects is a competitive process. Eight Expressions of Interest will be selected for development into

detailed applications to be submitted to the Department. All Expressions of Interest will be assessed based on the priorities contained in the Scheme Outlines (available on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)).

The closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest is Friday 4th June at 4pm. Expressions of Interest forms should be emailed to [townandvillage@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:townandvillage@wicklowcoco.ie)

All relevant guidelines and application forms are available on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie). All queries should be emailed to [townandvillage@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:townandvillage@wicklowcoco.ie).



Minister Humphreys launching the Town & Village Renewal Scheme

## NO JABS IN SOUTH WICKLOW

Continued from page 1

from A to B at this time which will be crucial to the success of the vaccination programme for Wicklow.

"I have spoken with Wexford Bus operators who would be happy to work with the HSE to facilitate this and I have written to the Minister asking him to urgently engage with the operators to make this happen. We must not create any unnecessary barriers for people wanting to get vaccinated and return to normal life again" concludes Whitmore.

John Brady TD called it "a massive blow to the rollout of the Covid vaccination programme in Wicklow" and called on Minister Donnelly to ensure that an alternative local venue in Arklow is secured.

He said "In February Minister Donnelly made an announcement that two vaccination centres were to open in Wicklow. One was to be established at the former Charlesland Golf Club in Greystones and the second in the Arklow Bay Hotel in Arklow. It later transpired that the contract hadn't actually been signed to use the former Charlesland Golf Club and the HSE had to quickly scramble to find other premises to use. Eventually they secured the use of the Shoreline centre in Greystones.

"The administration of Covid-19 vaccinations had been delayed in Arklow and has resulted in many people from the south of the county having to travel to the Greystones centre to receive their vaccination. In turn people from the North of the

County have been forced to travel into Dublin to be vaccinated. Forcing people, many of whom are very vulnerable, to take long journeys to be vaccinated is totally unacceptable, particularly when there is poor access to public transport. The Minister needs to take action now. We cannot have the rollout of the vaccination programme delayed any longer across the county."

Local Arklow area representative Ciarán Deay said of the recent announcement: "Unfortunately Arklow seems to be receiving more and more bad news each week. I have been contacted by a number of people who were unable to travel to Greystones to receive their vaccine and were told they would be accommodated in the Arklow Centre when it opened. What is going to happen to these people now? This is a reflection on the Government's admissible performance over the last number of months. How this situation has happened needs to be examined and an explanation given to all those who were due to receive vaccines. A new location for the centre must be identified as soon as possible."

Green Party TD Steven Matthews said "The onus is on the HSE to find a new location, and quickly. At this juncture, I have no interest in pointing fingers or blaming anyone within the HSE or elsewhere for this situation. This issue needs to be resolved immediately and we can review and assess what happened at a later date once everyone has received their vaccinations and our society has reopened.

"The geographical spread that had been arranged, broadly speaking with people from North Wicklow set to attend Greystones and people from West and South Wicklow to attend Arklow, made sense and was the fairest option available given that many elderly people in particular got their vaccines from their local GP. The anecdotal evidence now is that any from the south and west of Wicklow are receiving appointments in Greystones and those from the north of the county are getting appointments in one of the centres in Dublin.

"I have written to Minister Donnelly and the HSE to ask that this is urgently addressed. It is unreasonable to ask people to travel such long distances, particularly from parts of Wicklow that we know have a lack of public transport. What is more pressing is that as we continue to ramp up our vaccine rollout which has been broadly positive, we could seek bottle necks in terms of the vaccine rollout emerging for Wicklow if the HSE don't urgently open a second centre in the county.

"I would expect that all other infrastructure had been put in place in terms of the required staff and other logistical issues, the sourcing and confirming a second centre for Wicklow needs to be prioritised.

"The mood on the street is definitely improving and there is a positive feeling about the loosening of restrictions and the speed of the vaccine rollout. We can't allow a bureaucratic issue like the moving of a centre get in the way of this progress."

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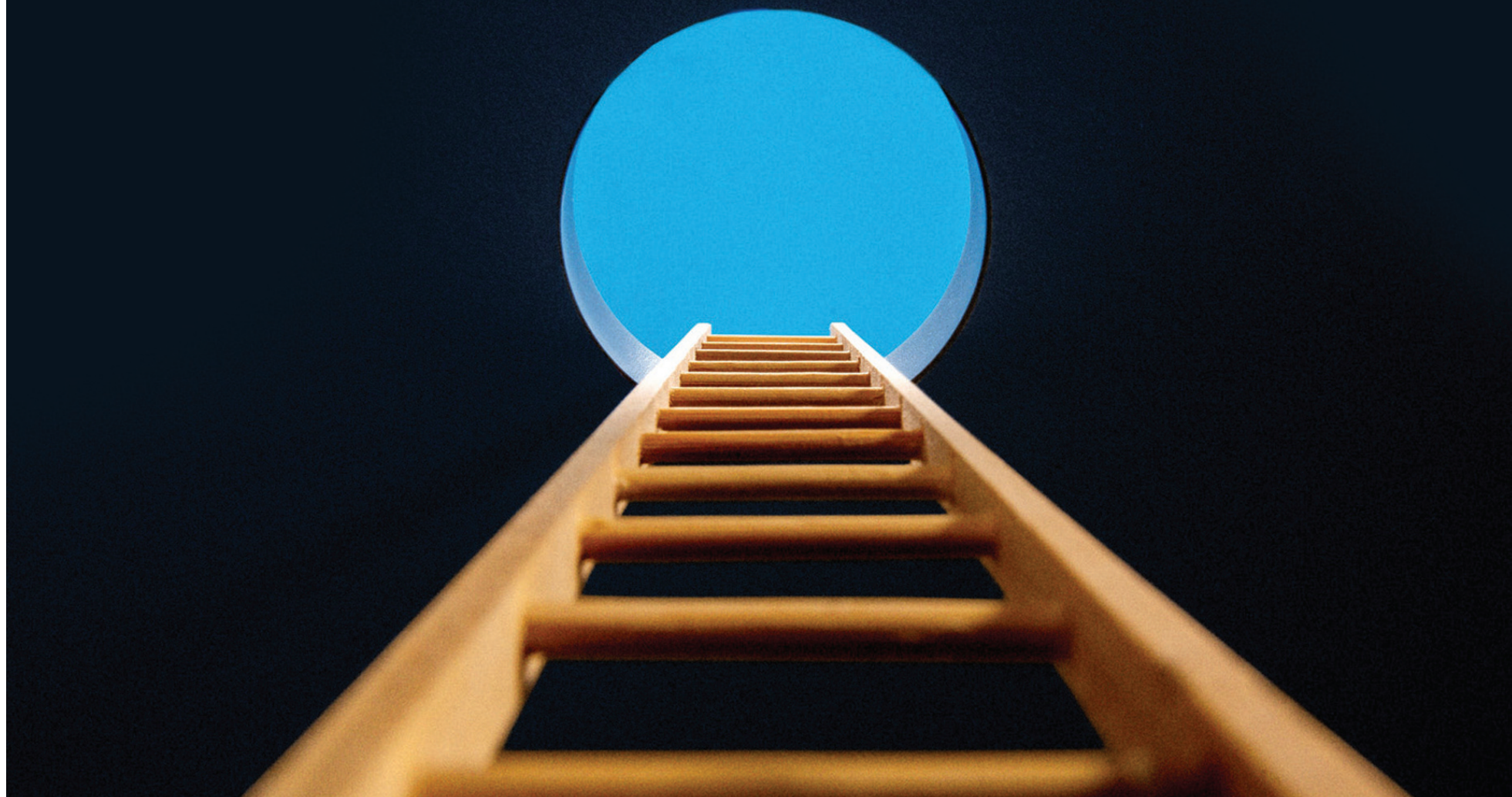
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Theresa Timmons back at work with her first customer in at Poppies Hair & Beauty in Newcastle

# 'Wicklow needs targeted business supports'

Jennifer Whitmore TD has called for targeted supports for small businesses in Wicklow ahead of the re-opening of some sectors in May and June. Deputy Whitmore organised a Wicklow Business Survey for business owners across the county, which revealed many are dealing with covid-related legacy debt issues.

"This is an exciting time for customers who can now get their hair done, go into shops that have been closed to them for so long, but it's an anxious time for business owners dealing with a legacy of covid-related issue including debt and continuing high costs," she said.

"Recently I organised a survey and received dozens of personalised responses from business owners across the county detailing their experience but also their fears ahead of reopening.

"It was clear from their responses that the third and final lockdown had the most negative

impact, not even just financially but from a time and energy perspective. Business owners are exhausted, like many of us, because of the time, energy and stress involved at this time to manage their business. With all that work involved, many were only just about able to keep their business afloat.

"A huge concern relayed to me from the survey is the fact that many businesses are still saddled with debt. Not many received a break on their rent/mortgage or loan repayments even though they were closed and banks were encour-

aged to be flexible. It has meant owners now having to deal with legacy debt and will not be making profit for some time even when the economy is fully reopened.

"Debt will have a lasting impact on businesses that will go beyond full reopening of our economy and is something the Government must look at in terms of long-term targeted supports to make sure small local businesses can continue in a sustainable way.

"Employment supports were mentioned as being very important to businesses including PUP and the Temporary

and Wage Subsidy Schemes. The Online Trading Voucher was cited as helpful as well as Click & Collect but this was strangely, only introduced in the past week leaving many bookshops and local businesses needlessly starved of cash during the latest lockdown. It reveals

the Government's 'one size fits all' approach during the pandemic and a lack of learning from previous lockdowns.

"It is also important to highlight that Wicklow Co Council and Local Enterprise Office were the most helpful in terms of providing supports for local businesses, particularly the waiver of commercial rates, which is a great reflection on Wicklow County Council but businesses want to see the commercial rates waiver continue into September to give local businesses a fighting chance to recoup losses.

"When asked whether businesses were optimistic of the future, the answer was mixed. While approximately 46% of respondents said they were optimistic, a third of our businesses are very pessimistic which is a very concerning portion who feel negatively about the future. This mixed result shows that while some are optimistic, there remains a huge level of uncertainty in the business committee even ahead of reopening. Addressing this will be key to the success of this sector reopening.

"I have written to the Minister for Enterprise Leo Varadkar outlining the key issues business owners in Wicklow have relayed to me and the need for targeted supports to deal with legacy debt and other covid-related costs. I hope to have an opportunity to discuss this in more detail with the Minister in the Dáil," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

## WICKLOW RE-OPENS FOR BUSINESS

Though things are not quite back to normal, we are getting there slowly but surely, and around Co. Wicklow the green shoots of recovery can be seen as many businesses re-opened last week or this week.

Last week saw the beginning of the phased re-opening of 'non-essential' retail. Click & Collect services resumed in stores and libraries, while some stores began in-store shopping by appointment, and outdoor retail was also opened. Hairdressers and barbers re-opened by appointment, and cultural attractions such as museums were re-opened.

Intercounty travel resumed, with people now allowed to travel anywhere they wish in the State.

This week sees the re-opening of the remaining retail outlets that did not open on May 10th, albeit with some restrictions that are due to be lifted in June.

Hotels, B&B's, guesthouses and self-catering accommodation are due to re-open on June 2nd, and it is envisaged that outdoor services will be able resume in bars and restaurants from June 7th.

Also from June 7th, it is hoped that gyms, swimming pools and leisure centres can re-open for individual training. To aid the recovery of the local economy, it's more important than ever now to shop local and support local businesses that were forced to shut up shop in recent months. Though travel restrictions have been eased, it's important to think of your local traders first before you head off to the city.

## Wicklow business survey results

- For new businesses, 62% said turnover was less than projected as a result of the pandemic.
- 85% said their business had been impacted negatively by Covid restrictions and lockdowns
- The majority of businesses (61%) said the most recent lockdown (January to May) has been more damaging for their business in terms of turnover than either the first or second lockdowns.
- 34% said rent was the most expensive overhead cost during Covid-19 restrictions and another 34% said that the most expensive overhead was Covid related costs including PPE/modifying premises for social distancing/hand sanitizer/cleaning.
- 45% of businesses applied for the Commercial rates waiver (a nine-month commercial rates waiver to 27th December with further commercial rates relief for affected sectors extended to 30 June 2021)
- 37% received assistance from the Local Enterprise Office and 31% received assistance from Wicklow County Council.
- Asked 'Are you optimistic about the future of your business in Wicklow?' 46% said yes, 27% said no, and 27% said they didn't know.
- 41% of businesses said they were 'somewhat confident' about their business surviving the Level 5 lockdown restrictions while 22% were 'not very confident' and 22% were 'very confident'.

John **BRADY** TD *Sinn Féin*

Best Wishes to all businesses re-opening in County Wicklow

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Steven **MATTHEWS** TD

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SENATOR

Pat **Casey** *FIANNA FÁIL THE REPUBLICAN PARTY*

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# Wicklow people urged to shop local

Minister Simon Harris is urging people in Wicklow to shop local to ensure a strong post-pandemic economic recovery.

The Covid-19 crisis and the latest lockdown particularly has been an extremely challenging time for small business owners who have been faced with an unprecedented challenge and have suffered a significant loss of income.

Many businesses re-opened last week and more re-opened this week.

Minister Harris said the key to the economy bouncing back after a year of lockdowns was for shoppers to support Irish businesses when they re-open in the coming weeks.

"Shopping locally, supporting our retailers when they open up will help Wicklow get back to work. We have all learned in the past year of local businesses we may have overlooked previously that we now value highly, and it is important we continue to support these businesses in the

months and years ahead," he said.

A local spending boost would be great for the Wicklow economy and hopefully allow even more people to return to work and businesses to survive."

A range of business and employee supports will remain in place for the coming months as will the 9pc VAT rate for the hospitality sector to ensure reopening is as viable as possible for most businesses.

"We can look towards a better future and not just merely a return to the past – I am very optimistic about the months ahead," concluded Minister Harris.

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly said "The past year has been a once in a 100 years event that will leave everlasting scars for those of us who have lost loved ones or suffered intol-

erable isolation during lockdown.

We are thankfully starting to see real changes happening as the impact of the vaccine rollout starts to take hold.

Last week we administered over 250,000 vaccines in just seven days and over 2 million since the programme started.

In Wicklow, the Shoreline vaccination centre is offering close to a 1,000 vaccines a day and that number is only set to increase as they open more vaccine booths.

What it also means is our businesses are finally starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel.

Hairdressers, click and collect and construction have already returned but in just a couple of weeks restaurants and hotels will be able to open albeit with some restrictions.

It has been a devastating time for business but it is my absolute determination that when businesses open this time they will stay open.

This Government has recognised the immense hardship faced by businesses which is why there have been a huge number of supports put in place from income supports, loans, grants and voucher schemes.

Simple measures such as introducing a rates waiver or the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme has helped keep many businesses afloat who otherwise might not have survived.

Even still, we face a huge challenge in rebuilding our economy but I am certain we will get back to where we were.

The journey won't be easy but both I and my team in Wicklow will be there to help every step of the way.

## Applications open for outdoor seating

Applications for funding under the Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Business Scheme opened on the 12th April and will remain open until 30th September 2021.

Funding up to €4,000 or 75% of costs is available to eligible applicants. Fáilte Ireland in partnership with local authorities across the

country is working to assist town centre hospitality businesses to increase their outdoor seating capacity while providing a safe envi-

ronment for shoppers and diners.

The key aim of the scheme is to provide support to individual hospitality and tourism businesses towards the cost of equipment to provide additional outdoor seating and facilitate individual businesses to increase their outdoor dining capacity for the summer of 2021.

Please note that applicants who wish to place seating and/or furniture on public property must have a Section 254 license in place; applicants who wish to place seating and/or furniture on private property must have satisfied all necessary planning requirements.

More information can be found on [www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub](http://www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub).



Magda McAuliffe and Deirdre Flannery re-opened Ballywaltrim Library last week. Libraries across Co. Wicklow re-opened on Monday, 10th May, operating a Browse & Borrow service at all of the 13 library branches.

This means: Customers can come in and browse the shelves and borrow; Customers can return library items; Remote printing is available, where technology allows; Study spaces and computer use are unavailable for now, but we hope to be able to reintroduce this in the near future. Please refer to individual library branches for opening times as some may have changed, details on [www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Libraries/LibraryBranches](http://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Libraries/LibraryBranches). Pic: Joe McQuillan

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**Cllr Irene Winters**

Best of luck to everybody and locals please support local business

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**Cllr. Joe BEHAN**

**INDEPENDENT**

**I URGE PEOPLE TO SHOP LOCAL AND SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES**

*Ní neart go cur le chéile*

**Tel: 086 8375602** **Email: joebehan@outlook.ie**





Tara Carroll enjoying the fine weather in Aughrim

## Construction works to begin for Avondale House and Forest Park redevelopment

Construction works will commence in the coming weeks to redevelop Avondale House and Forest Park into a state-of-the-art visitor destination for County Wicklow.

"With the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions on the construction sector, the first phase of construction is set to begin at Avondale in mid-May," said Deborah Meghan, Director of Stewardship and Risk with Coillte.

"We are excited to get this project underway, which will significantly benefit Wicklow's tourism offering once it has opened. In addition, we are happy to announce that Irish timber is being used predominantly in the redevelopment, with a significant proportion of this from Wicklow forests," she said.

When completed the new development will take visitors 'under' (via a tunnel) and through the trees, to an incredible viewpoint high over the Avonmore river

valley. A new 'living history' experience in Avondale House will share the life and times of the Parnell family to visitors in a highly engaging way and a new restaurant/café and pavilion with the story of Irish Forestry will demonstrate how Coillte is at the cutting edge of technology in managing Ireland's forest estate.

The forest park will remain open throughout the redevelopment however, certain pathways and walkways will be restricted to the public as construction works get underway. Signage will be put in place to advise visitors and Coillte asks that the public keeps clear of areas under construction.

Construction works are set to continue throughout the year with an opening date of the newly redeveloped Avondale House and Forest Park expected in the spring of 2022.

For more information and for any queries about the project, please email [avondale@coillte.ie](mailto:avondale@coillte.ie)

## Matthews seeks support for digital hubs for rural Wicklow

Green Party TD, Steven Matthews has written to Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, to ask for increased urgency in supporting Digital Hubs for rural areas after he was contacted by the operators of a hub in West Wicklow.

Discussing the letter, Deputy Matthews said: "Digital Hubs are something that has been of interest to me long before the pandemic but Covid has brought how important they can be to rural towns and villages to the forefront. A significant amount of people have been forced to work from home due to the ongoing restrictions. This has brought up countless issues with poor broadband speed and other related services, particularly in rural areas where the national broadband rollout hasn't arrived yet.

However, even if in the short term, a hub or remote office space was available to them in their town/ village, it may save them commuting to Dublin or other employment bases.

"This would be of huge benefit to West/ South

Wicklow in particular but any area that could potentially benefit from the introduction of a Digital Hub needs to be examined. I'm particularly thinking of Carnew, Tinahely and Rathdrum that are set to lose Bank of Ireland branches this coming September. I hope that these soon to be vacant units can be considered given their prominent locations; refitting an office would be less costly than building one from scratch and it will breath new life into the main streets of those areas.

"One of the very small positives of the pandemic is that it has shown that the 9-5, office-based day isn't the only way of operating. The pandemic forced a change in work practice that otherwise could have taken a decade, but it needs to be embraced. Working from



Steven Matthews TD

home poses its own challenges in that you are removed from colleagues but the Hub in West Wicklow that contacted me has coffee docks and communal areas that could be replicated in villages across Wicklow if the funding was there. People could be working for various companies but

still have that community outlet that an office offers, without the commute.

"There is a commitment in the Programme for Government to support remote working which includes Digital Hubs, but in my letter to Minister Humphreys, I asked that this be expedited as soon as possible. We are hopefully coming out the other side of this pandemic and we should not return to the status quo of before - the long and frustrating commute, the traffic and the pollution. Covid has shown us that a new way of working is possible, it just needs the funding and support from Government, and I look forward to working with Minister Humphreys to see our commitments realised", concluded Deputy Matthews.

## Work commences on €2m project to stop the old Bray landfill being washed into the Irish Sea

Work has commenced at the North Beach in Bray to stop the old Bray municipal landfill being washed into the Irish Sea. Work on the €2m coastal project commenced last week after being delayed due to Covid restrictions.

This will bring an end to the 14-year campaign John Brady TD has been involved in to address the serious environmental issue.

Welcoming the commencement of works, Deputy Brady said "After a 14 year battle it's fantastic to see work finally commence at the old municipal landfill at North Beach in Bray to stop it being washed into the sea. Contracts on the €2m project were signed last December, however due to Covid restrictions work on the project was delayed and they finally moved on site this week.

"I have been working on this important environmental issue for the last 14 years. Now that work has finally commenced it will thankfully bring an end to this sorry chapter which has seen tonnes of waste being washed into the Irish sea from the old dump causing an environmental disaster.

"The old dump, which is located on the border between Wicklow and Dublin, was used by the local authorities in Bray right up until the 1960s. It's estimated that it contains more than 104,000 cubic metres of waste including, asbestos, excessive levels of ammoniacal nitrogen, potassium and manganese.

"Due to coastal erosion the old landfill has been getting washed into the Irish Sea, causing an environmental disaster.

"Work on the €2m project is expected to take 6 months to complete. A comprehensive traffic management plan has been put in place as a large volume of rock

will be required to be transported to the site.

"The scheme consists of the placing of an armour stone revetment at the toe of the cliff at the landfill and stabilising the cliff face above by re-grading to a long-term stable slope. The work will prevent contaminated material reaching the foreshore.

"For the duration of the works public access to the North Beach has been restricted, I look forward to the completion of the works in the coming months and the

reopening of the area as an amenity for the public to enjoy without the environmental damage that the erosion of the dump had been causing."

Cllr Grace McManus added "Our community is passionate about protecting the environment, so I know these works will be warmly welcomed. We don't need reminding how important outdoor spaces are now too, so there is so much positive potential to turn a site of great beauty into something every resident of Bray and beyond can enjoy.

"I'm excited to play a role in gathering ideas for the area, and look forward to the day we can all enjoy the space together."



John Brady TD and Cllr Grace McManus at Bray North Beach

## Nearly 800 people avail of walk-in Covid test centre at Newcastle Hospital

A total of 775 people availed of the walk-in covid test centre which operated from the grounds of Newcastle Hospital.

The facility, which was housed beside the permanent testing facility on the grounds of Newcastle Hospital, tested people over seven days beginning on Friday 23rd April. Wednesday was the busiest day with 175 members of the public availing of the free service.

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly welcomed the huge response to the temporary walk-in test centre.

Results showed there was a positivity rate of just 6 per cent amongst the cases tested in Wicklow.

Minister Donnelly said:

"The popularity of the walk-in test centres has been fantastic to see.

"What has been even more encouraging is the number of asymptomatic cases they are picking up.

"By running these centres we are able to go after COVID in the community so we can reduce the spread.

"I would like to thank the HSE and the National Ambulance Service for their help in operating the walk-in test centres."

The Minister added: "We are now starting to win the fight against COVID as we had

211,000 vaccines administered in the past seven days.

"The aim for this week to reach between 220,000 and 240,000.

"The remarkable success of the vaccines does mean we can look forward to brighter days this summer but I would just ask people to continue to follow the public health guidelines to make sure we keep everyone safe.

"The walk-in test centres are a way of us going after the virus in the community and trying to seek it out.

"The public health

strategy has been to target the virus, suppress the virus, use walk-in PCR testing as well as deploying rapid testing.

"We are also using genome sequencing, home quarantine, hotel quarantine, public health measures and of course our vaccination programme in the battle to suppress this disease.

"If our collective experience of Covid-19 has taught us anything, it is that we need to be flexible and adaptable. The disease continues to evolve. Our response must continue to evolve too."



# South Wicklow people having serious difficulties in accessing a GP

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said immediate measures need to be taken to ensure that people in South Wicklow are able to access GP services.

Under the current arrangement patients in South Wicklow are being forced to wait up to several weeks in order to secure an appointment with the GP which is located in the Primary Health Centre in Carnew.

Deputy Brady said "Currently people in the Carnew, Tinahely, Shillelagh areas of South Wicklow are experiencing serious difficulties and long delays in getting an appointment with

the GP service which is located in the Primary Health in Carnew. The practise appears to be open only a few hours a week.

"This has caused huge concern and anxiety for people who require access to their GP. It's important that people can access a GP in the early stages of illness to avoid conditions getting worse, it can also become more distressing for patients too.

"I have contacted the HSE and asked them to look at this issue and to clarify if the practice is in adherence to the GMS contractual requirements regarding opening hours.

"I'm glad that the HSE are taking the issue seriously and have agreed to investigate the issue."

Sinn Féin area representative Aidan Kinsella said: "I fought for a long time for improved ser-

vices for Carnew and South Wicklow. Whilst we have a relatively new Primary Health Centre in the area its deeply concerning that only a handful of services are provided there. The issue of adequate access to GP care has long been an issue in the area. Currently people in the area haven't got the access to the service that should be in place and this needs to be addressed immediately."

## Maternal Care Matters roadmap launched

Green Party Councillor Erika Doyle has welcomed the launch of the party's 'Maternal Care Matters' roadmap that she helped to create with colleagues Senator Pauline O'Reilly, Deputy Neasa Hourigan, and councillors Hazel Chu, Claire Byrne and Martina O'Connor.

"I know from speaking to new mothers and pregnant women over the past 14 months that Covid restrictions have proven extremely challenging for them. While we all felt the pressure, pregnant women are particularly vulnerable and have had to face experiences like pregnancy loss and difficult pregnancies without the side by side support of partners," said Cllr Doyle.

"This is on top of an existing deficit in the area of supports for new mothers, for example breastfeeding supports.

"With all this in mind we created this roadmap for maternal care, calling for urgent action to address the shortfall in services and supports for pregnant women and new mothers.

"As the country recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic and the enormous impact it has had on our health services, we need to prioritise women's health and wellbeing which have been long neglected."

The roadmap lays out a number of key priorities over the next 12 months. These include: The creation of a Family Centred Plan for Maternal Care; A Two-Year Extension and Dedicated Funding Package for the National Breastfeeding Action Plan; Supporting the Milk Bank Scheme across Ireland; A Commitment to Reproductive Rights based Healthcare.

Green Party representatives will be meeting with the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD to present the Roadmap on Maternal Care to discuss next steps.



Cllr Erika Doyle with her daughter Eve-Starlight



Elijah Lopez from Gaelcholáiste na Mara receiving the Walk in My Shoes TY Programme Graduate certificate

## Three Wicklow students graduate as Walk in My Shoes mental health ambassadors

Three Wicklow students joined over 120 Transition Year students across Ireland to graduate as Walk in My Shoes mental health ambassadors during a special online ceremony held to celebrate the class of 2020/2021.

The Wicklow students who took part in the Transition Year Programme include:

Elijah Lopez, Gaelcholáiste na Mara, Arklow; Emma Beierova, Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew; Aobh Counihan from Hollywood who attends St Louis High School, Rathmines.

For over ten years, Walk in My Shoes, the flagship education and awareness-raising campaign of St Patrick's Mental Health Services, has run a Transition Year programme inviting over 100 students per year from across Ireland to take part. The programme is one week long in duration and is run five times during the academic year between October and March.

This is a milestone year for the TY programme, with over 1,000 students graduating since it began in 2010. This year's programme also marked a transition in how the programme was run, with the entire schedule moving online due to the pandemic.

The programme is hosted by the adolescent mental health team and staff at St Patrick's Mental Health Services, who deliver over 25 sessions to students across the week. This year, 123 participants undertook a

range of classroom-based activities which included viewing mock multidisciplinary team meetings with psychiatrists, psychologists, occupational therapists, nurses and social workers. Other topics included advocacy and mental health, pharmacology, career pathways and much more.

There were two additions to the programme for 2020/2021, including a presentation from a former service user who described her own journey to recovery, and a new group project where students worked together to prepare and deliver presentations on their chosen aspects of mental health.

The graduation ceremony took place online and students were joined by WIMS Ambassador and Dublin GAA Ladies star Nicole Owens, and Singer/Songwriter Davie Furey, who gave a live performance.

Speaking about the programme and the importance of open conversations, Walk in My Shoes Ambassador Nicole Owens said: 'Walk in My Shoes' Transition Year Programme gives young people the opportunity to educate themselves about mental health, which I believe leads to

increased awareness in society. I was inspired to become a WIMS ambassador because the more we talk about mental health, the more we normalise it for others. I would like to congratulate all the student graduates and ask that they share all they have learned from this programme among their peers and their communities'.

Paul Gilligan, CEO at St Patrick's Mental Health Services said "young people have experienced a lot of uncertainty over the past few months and for this reason Walk in My Shoes was proud to be able to bring its popular Transition Year programme online for 2020/2021. The programme is a real insight for young people into mental health services, and provides tools and resources to empower our participants to act as a mental health ambassador for their communities.

Over 1000 young students across Ireland have taken part since its establishment in 2010, and this experience will equip them to support their own wellbeing or those of families and friends during this difficult time and into the future."

For more information on the Walk in My Shoes Transition Year Programme and how to apply for the 2021/2022 programme, please visit [www.walk-inmyshoes.ie](http://www.walk-inmyshoes.ie)





Minister Harris outside Loreto Bray Secondary School

## Progress made on Loreto Bray refurbishment

Minister Simon Harris has welcomed the news that the Department of Education finally agreed to the refurbishment and extension of Loreto Bray Secondary School.

Minister Harris said: "I welcome the news that the Department of Education has agreed to Loreto Bray's refurbishment and extension. Loreto has been key part of the community in Bray for nearly 175 years and the replacement of its prefabs and older buildings is long overdue. It is intended that the application for the new school buildings will be submitted to Wicklow County Council in the autumn.

"Loreto is a popular local school and the new buildings will allow the school's capacity to increase from 750 students to 1000. The new complex will bring an end of the use of prefabs at Loreto and provide the school with modern canteen facilities, specialist rooms allowing the introduction of new subjects in the area of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) and SEN classes.

"This is great news for Bray, and I would like to pay tribute to Emma Raughter, Michael Denny at all the team in Loreto Bray for the work they do and the school can be assured of my full support for the next chapter in its long and distinguished history."

## Bray pupil joins Ireland's Global Goal Getters

The work of pupil Anna Grassetti from St. Patrick's Loreto National School, Bray has been chosen to feature in the latest edition Global Goal Getters. This online magazine showcases projects from primary school pupils taking part in this year's Our World Irish Aid Awards, the Department of Foreign Affairs' flagship global citizenship award scheme.

Since January, primary school pupils across Ireland have been learning in the classroom and at home about the importance of working with others to address global challenges and build a more equal, peaceful, and sustainable world.

Congratulating Anna Grassetti on her work, Minister of State for Overseas Development and Diaspora, Colm Brophy T.D. said: "The Awards provide an important opportunity to learn about the work Irish Aid carries out on the behalf of the people of Ireland and how we can all play a part in making the world a better place for all.

"I am extremely encouraged by the strong response to this year's Our World Irish Aid Award. To date we have received 330 entries from schools across the country, including many entries from pupils learning at home.

"There is still lots of time to take part and so I would urge primary school teachers to look at the range of creative and engaging cross-curriculum teaching materials which have been developed."

For the first time in its 16-year history, the Our World Irish Aid Awards features a rolling deadline for submis-

sions. Each and every entry is considered for inclusion in the three Global Goal Getters online multi-media magazines which are being published to showcase children's learning, creativity and voices nationwide.

The inaugural edition of Global Goal Getters was published online in early March and has already attracted the attention of people not just in Ireland, but also as far away as Finland, the United States of America, South Korea, India, Haiti and Brazil.

Registered primary schools nationwide receive curriculum-linked teaching and learning materials to help teachers and pupils discover more about each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the work of Irish Aid. Materials are available in Irish. There is also a suite of home learning materials for pupils who would like to take part from home, all of which can be found at [www.ourworldirishaidawards.ie](http://www.ourworldirishaidawards.ie).

Schools are invited to communicate their ideas and understanding of the issues in writing, song, film, artwork or another medium of their choosing.

In addition to the opportunity to have a project featured in the Global Goal Getters online multi-media magazines, selected entries will win a place at a final awards ceremony, the format of which will be determined in the context of the prevailing Covid-19 guidelines. There will also be special edition printed magazine. Additional awards such as Teacher of the Year and Best Irish Language Submission are also included.

The Our World Irish Aid Awards Global Goal Getters magazine can be found at [www.ourworldirishaidawards.ie](http://www.ourworldirishaidawards.ie). Schools are encouraged to submit projects on an ongoing basis for inclusion in the subsequent issues of Global Goal Getters.

## Dept confirm meeting for St. Andrew's and Temple Carrig Boards

Green Party TD, Steven Matthews has received confirmation from the Department of Education that it will facilitate a meeting with representatives of the boards of St. Andrew's National School, Bray and Temple Carrig School, Greystones regarding feeder school status.

Discussing the news, Deputy Matthews said "I'm delighted that this meeting has finally been confirmed between the Department and the two school boards. As parents who have been in touch with me from both schools will know, I have been pushing for this meeting to be confirmed for several months and recently asked Education Minister Norma Foley to ensure it was facilitated.

"There are longstanding issues at play here with regards to formal feeder status for St. Andrew's and to me it seems like there has been a series of miscommunications and half communications that has led to frustration for parents and school management alike. Nobody is particularly at fault

for this, but it needs to be cleared up. Now that this meeting has finally been confirmed with the Department, I hope that this will open clear lines of dialogue between both schools and a point of contact in the Department who will be able to deal with any concerns as they arise.

"As parents in Wicklow; and in particular around Greystones will know, there have been a series of issues in recent years regarding a lack of school places and forward planning. I am happy with the progress we have made on the site for the new secondary school and longer-term plans around Greystones Community College. There is new accommodation for local secondary

schools including Temple Carrig and Colaiste Craobh Abhann which will provide some temporary relief but ultimately these school need permanent extensions. I am working to extend feeder status for St. Andrew's to Temple Carrig, and as new school accommodation is provided across the wider area, reducing capacity issues, I hope to see provision made for a limited number of St Andrew's students.

"This is an issue that parents and school management have been working on for years and I hope that getting both boards of management and the Department of Education in the same room is the beginning of a path forward."

## Can sustainability help save the hospitality sector?

Over 120 businesses from the hospitality and travel sector have participated over the last 6 months in Ireland's first ever state-subsidised green hospitality programme, Fifty Shades Greener, including celebrity TV chef Kevin Dundon's Dunbrody House Hotel in Co. Wexford, and as a result are set to save approximately 30% on their energy, water and waste bills when they finally reopen their doors next month, at no extra cost to themselves.

Founded in Liscannor, Co. Clare, by sustainability expert Raquel Noboa, Fifty Shades Greener saw a massive demand for their services during the pandemic. They offer a Green Business Programme to the Irish hospitality and tourism industry, which is subsidised by the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board and Skills to Advance. Participants on the programme range from hotels, restaurants, tourist attractions and even Croke Park. KWETB is the lead ETB driving this sustainability initiative, and has collaborated with other ETBs nationally.

Over the past 12 months Fifty Shades Greener has grown its client base more than 500% and has expanded from a one woman show to a team of eight, with operations in both the UK and Ireland and clients from all over the world. Participation in the programme is fully subsidised to all businesses in the hospitality and tourism sector in Ireland and teaches simple and costless steps to help reduce carbon emissions and cut operating costs by €10,000 - €60,000 per year on average, by lowering energy and water use and waste generation.

Noboa says: "Many people falsely believe you need to invest a lot of money to make businesses greener, but it's possible to make really significant savings by making small

behavioural changes. Many businesses are starting to become aware of this not just in hospitality but across the board. In the next five years, you will see many bringing on dedicated "Green Managers".

"Let's take a 100 room hotel for example. If the team understands how to measure carbon emissions the hotel can save on average €30,000 per year. Awareness of food waste management can save another €6,000 on average. Even simple things like ensuring all staff turn off lights in unused rooms or close doors can save €3,000. If you fine tune the water and heating units you're looking at a potential further €5,000. It's really significant savings for simple behavioural changes."

Dunbrody House, owned by Kevin and

Catherine Dundon, is well known for providing equal measures of luxury and sustainability, and is currently participating on the course.

Dundon says: "We're a nation known for our warm welcomes and our hospitality is second to none but our industry has really taken a hit this past year. Emerging from the pandemic, sustainability is great to focus on, as we get ready to reopen. We want our guests to enjoy their stay and feel confident that we are doing our best to ensure they have an enjoyable and green-friendly stay. There is potential for huge savings for the industry too by greening and Fifty Shade Greener lays out a clear framework to make these changes. Who would have thought that something as simple as turning

the oven on an hour later in the mornings could save us €2,000 this coming year."

Award-winning Head chef at Dunbrody House, Janice Casey-Bracken from Co. Tipperary, is the designated Green Manager and is leading the team at Dunbrody House on their Fifty Shades Greener journey. She is also a member of the Chef's Manifesto, is an advocate for the future 50 foods, and has signed on as a food system hero with the UN food systems summit.

Casey-Bracken says: "By working with Fifty Shades Greener we have been able to understand the impact each of our small efforts makes. In fact our green team now knows how to measure our carbon emissions, which is surprisingly easy and when our full workforce returns we will be sharing this knowledge with everyone. Raquel has given us a clear framework and we aim to be carbon neutral within the next 5 years."



Janice Casey Bracken, Kevin Dundon, and Raquel Noboa, Dunbrody House Hotel, Wexford. Pic: Arthur Ellis



# Wicklow girl announced as winner of #MoreThanSchool art competition

#MoreThanSchool is a social media competition run by the Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO). Children were asked how they felt about returning to school after such a long time at home. #MoreThanSchool was an opportunity for children to give their views and to have their say.

Lauren Harwood (11) from Wicklow was selected as the winner by the OCO Youth Advisory panel, which is made up of young people from all over the country.

Lauren's winning entry was a picture she painted showing the coronavirus and a light at the end of the tunnel to sum up her feelings about returning to school.

The competition drew entries from all age groups across the country and the final winners were whittled down by the Ombudsman for Children's Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) last week.

Key themes from the #MoreThanSchool entries were anxiety about exams, getting used to online learning and missing their friends, teachers and sport.

YAP judge Emer Neville said: "What we



Lauren Harwood

thoughtfulness to tell us what school means to them."

"I was blown away by the creativity of the young people and their entries. We have a living history of our young people's perspective on the pandemic and the importance of school in their lives and how it has impacted them and their families."

"The young people have shown a level of wisdom, honesty and insight that adults and people in power should sit up and listen to."

"I want to congratulate all the winners and thank every single young person who took the time to create an entry - well done," he said.

The #MoreThanSchool entries can be viewed on the Ombudsman for Children's Office website. [www.oco.ie/news/more-than-school/](http://www.oco.ie/news/more-than-school/)

learned from the entries is that school is not just a place of learning - many children spoke about how much they liked to see their friends, how much they missed their teachers and their struggles with online learning and missing their hobbies."

The Ombudsman for Children Dr Niall Muldoon said: "Children and young people from all over Ireland responded with enthusiasm and



Lauren's winning artwork for the 'More than School' competition

# Wicklow winner at 'Aistritheoirí Óga 2021'

The winners of the 'Aistritheoirí Óga 2021' (Young Translators) contest were announced at a virtual award ceremony on 30th April. Five secondary school students made the list - one from each of the four provinces in Ireland (translations from English to Irish) and one who was selected for her excellent translation from Spanish to Irish. This year's winners come from Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Tyrone and Wicklow.

Alanna Plunkett from Colaiste Chraobh Abhann, made translation from Spanish to Irish and won the award for Best Translation from a language other than English.

The winner of the Connacht prize, Maitilde Warsop from Galway, was also selected as the winner of the overall prize for the best translation in the country.

Speaking at today's awards ceremony, Jack Chambers TD, Minister of State for the Gaeltacht and Sport, congratulated this year's winners and remarked that this competition provides those who participate in it with 'an introduction to translation.' He spoke of the opportunities available in the EU institutions to those fluent in Irish and said that 'the use of Irish at official level is central to the efforts underway to ensure that the language will be used by generations to come.'

Seán Hade, Head of the Irish Language Department at the European Commission, remarked upon the 'significant achievement' by this year's candidates, in particular given the additional obstacles they faced due to the virtual nature of the competition. He said that the candidates should be 'very proud' of what they had achieved and that he found the high standard and level



Alanna Plunkett from Colaiste Chraobh Abhann

of accuracy displayed by the winners in their translations 'uplifting'. He commended all participating students and their teachers on their work and concluded by saying that he hoped their efforts would inspire the candidates to consider a career in translation in the future.

This was the fourth edition of 'Aistritheoirí Óga', the annual translation contest organised jointly by the European Commission and the Irish Government. The contest has three goals: to promote a high standard of Irish, to encourage multilingualism among secondary school students and to

encourage their interest in linguistic professions.

62 students from 28 schools took part in this year's contest and students translated from English, French, German and Spanish to Irish.

There are six categories in the competition: a prize for the best translation from each province, an overall prize for the best translation across the island of Ireland, and a prize for the best translation from a language other than English.

The first edition of the contest was launched in October 2017. It is open to pupils who are at least 15 years of age.

The competition is part of a wider effort to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of the status of the Irish language as an official language of the European Union. Council Regulation 2015/2264 set out that the Irish language will have full status as an official language of the European Union by 2022 and that all legislation which is enacted in the Union will be translated into Irish from that date (as is already the case for the other 23 official languages).

For that reason, the EU institutions are looking for more staff with Irish to do the work necessary to fulfil the obligations arising from granting full status to Irish.

# Gaelcholaiste na Mara claims top prize at Money Smarts Challenge Virtual Grand Final

The team from Gaelcholaiste na Mara in Arklow emerged victorious from the Bank of Ireland Money Smarts Challenge Grand Final, held virtually on Wednesday, May 5th.

The Money Smarts Grand Final, comprising six rounds of money related questions and puzzles, saw Gaelcholaiste na Mara students Connor Mac Cárthaigh, Micah Young, Rian Ó Dubháin and Jamie Colmáich Ó Ceallaigh triumph over 11 other student teams from across Ireland to claim the top prize of €25,000 for their school.

RTE presenter Lottie Ryan and Bank of Ireland Ambassador James Patrice were on hosting duties for the final, ensuring the proceedings ran smoothly and offering encouragement to the teams taking part. Despite being present only by the virtues of technology the winning Gaelcholaiste na Mara students were congratulated by the CEO of Retail Ireland Gavin Kelly, who was on hand to present the sought-after trophy.

The Money Smarts Challenge is designed in conjunction with business studies teachers and

Financial Wellbeing experts, and is part of Bank of Ireland's five-year Financial Wellbeing Programme. The aim of Money Smarts is to increase financial awareness among teenagers, presenting core elements of financial wellbeing like spending, saving, earning, credit and debt through interactive content and real life scenarios.

Rory Carty, Head of Youth Banking, Bank of Ireland, commented: "We knew ahead of the Grand Final that this year's line-up was extremely strong, with all the winning schools emerging from the regional events displaying a real flair for all financial matters. Money Smarts is designed to put students to the test and it is a challenge that this Gaelcholaiste na Mara team passed with flying colours."

I want to congratulate the winning students and look forward to hearing what the school decides to do with the fantastic €25,000 top prize. Each member of the winning team displayed an impressive level of knowledge, and has already made a flying start in understanding the keys to maintaining their Financial Wellbeing into the future."



The winning team from Gaelcholaiste na Mara





A beach clean-up in Greystones

## Pledge to make a difference for our marine environment in only two minutes!

**Clean Coasts are calling people in county Wicklow to sign up to receive a #2minutebeach clean kit and join them in their mission to protect our coast, sea and waterways.**

The Irish coast offers numerous opportunities to have fun and, with the nice weather on the way, an increasing number of people are enjoying the beautiful coastal areas in county Wicklow, whether it is for sea swimming, do water sports, or simply enjoy the stunning landscape.

However, we have all seen marine litter along our coastline. For all the beach lovers out there, here's an opportunity to do something about it in just 2 minutes! Clean Coasts are calling people around Ireland to visit their website and pledge to do a #2min-

utebeachclean to receive a reusable individual beach clean kit containing a tote bag and gloves.

How to take part in the #2minutebeachclean? The next time you are out and about along the coast or near a waterway, take two minutes to pick up some litter you see, share a picture of it on social media tagging Clean Coasts and using the hashtag #2minutebeachclean and dispose of the litter properly.

Sarah Maunsell, Managing director of Wicklow based eco-friendly company The Ecoset, has been a big

supporter of the #2minutebeachclean campaign with her family: "We started doing beach cleans while out on walks on our local beach in Greystones with our children. It just became impossible to walk past other people's rubbish on the beach and feel ok about it. Our youngest son would insist on picking up any bit of plastic he found on our walks as he knew where it was headed once the tide came in. We have to save the marine life! Rubbish on our coastline is a huge problem and especially more so with COVID and clo-

sure of pubs and restaurants and everyone socialising outdoors more. We signed up for the #2minutebeachclean and Clean Coasts sent us out the full kit. We have picked up all sorts of rubbish from our local beach, all the usual plastic bottles and coffee cups, glass bottles and cans but we find lots of used face masks these days which is a huge knock-on effect with COVID. One day to our amusement we picked up a pair of men's underpants! The #2minutebeachclean is such a great initiative. If everyone just did a short #2minutebeachclean while out for their walk, we would all be living in a much better place."

Sinead McCoy, Coastal Communities Manager said: "The #2minutebeachclean is such a great initiative to get involved in. Every day, so many people around Ireland share their #2minutebeachclean on social media, and that helps show how easy it is to get involved and make a difference. By taking part, not only you make an immediate positive impact for the marine environment and wildlife, but it's also a chance to spend time outdoors by the sea, exercise and even practice mindfulness."

To sign up to receive your own #2minutebeachclean kit, visit the Clean Coasts website at [www.cleancoasts.org](http://www.cleancoasts.org).

# Amira is the first Pure Mile Youth Ambassador

**Amira Morgan Darcy was recently honoured by the Pure Project and has become the first Wicklow Pure Mile Youth Ambassador in recognition for all of her litter picks and cleanups of the beautiful Meetings of the Waters.**

The Pure Mile is an environment/community initiative which encourages communities and groups living in rural areas to adopt a mile, or miles of road, and work together to keep these areas litter and rubbish free.

The 8-year-old girl first became aware of the amount of litter on the road verges when she started walking her local roads during lockdown and decided, enough was enough. Amira is usually assisted by her neighbour, Gigi, and Sid the dog, and their regular walks of the area now involve a litter pick of the local environment. She also created signs highlighting the beauty of the area and asking people not litter.

Pure recently presented Amira with her own Pure Mile Pack which includ-

ed, Pure Mile signage, Pure Mile bags, gloves, litter pickers and Pure Mile high-vis vests, and they are also organising the removal of any rubbish collected by Amira. Later in the year Amira will be presented with a Pure Mile Certificate of Recognition for her work in Cleaning Up The Uplands and Pure Mile Youth Ambassador for Wicklow.

Amira Commented, "I'm happy and excited about being the first Pure Mile Youth Ambassador. I started litter picking in lockdown as I wanted to help the environment, because there was lots of litter everywhere."

In March, the Pure Truck collected over 20 tonnes of rubbish from Wicklow/Dublin uplands. The majority of this litter and rubbish was gathered

by Pure Mile Volunteers from hundreds of roads, verges, drains and ditches. There are now over 800 miles or roads, mountains, woodlands, valleys, and upland amenities, signed up to the 2021 Pure Mile Project.

Over 500 litter picks undertaken by individuals and family units, (all following Covid-19 guidelines) have 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.

Ian Davis, manager of Pure commented "I'm delighted that Amira is receiving the recognition she deserves. It's great to see someone so young showing environmental awareness and highlighting the issue of litter and dumping in the county."

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 Pure Mile Calendar, with over €5,000 worth of prize money provided to groups.

Registration for the 2022 Pure Mile will open again in November 2021. Further information on Pure can be found on [www.pureproject.ie](http://www.pureproject.ie)

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



Amira Morgan Darcy, the first Wicklow Pure Mile Youth Ambassador

## Celebrating National Biodiversity Week in Wicklow

**Wicklow is playing its part National Biodiversity Week - an annual exploration and celebration of the natural world and our place within it.**

Running from 15th - 23rd May, there are a host of online events taking place this year, with a focus on connecting people with nature, communicating the importance of biodiversity and motivating people to play their part in protecting it.

The Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council is hosting the following free online activities in partnership with Wicklow Libraries service:

Tuesday 18th May at 7pm join a **talk on Wicklow Rivers** - Ecology & Connectivity. This talk will be an opportunity to learn more about the rivers of County Wicklow, including research on birdlife and on barriers to fish migration.

This is a partnership event with

Inland Fisheries Ireland, East Wicklow Rivers Trust and the Local Authorities water and Communities office.

On Thursday 20th May all are welcome to our lunchtime **workshop on Summer wildflowers** running from 1-2 pm. Oisín Duffy from the National Biodiversity Data Centre will introduce you to the most common wildflowers to be seen at this time of year, and will instruct you on how to become citizen scientists by uploading our records to the portal [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)

To register for these Wicklow events email [wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie).

Other key events, organised by

National Parks and Wildlife Service, include the 9th annual Biodiversity Photographer of the Year competition running throughout May; the Backyard Bioblitz, a family fun event where kids are challenged to complete the Biodiversity Scavenger Hunt (and maybe win a prize), and the Bioblitz where ecologists and wildlife experts are on hand to identify what you can find in your local area.

Participants are encouraged to take a photo and tag BiodiversityWeek on Twitter or Instagram to find out what that creature is, and to be in with the chance to win a prize from the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The national portal for the full programme of events taking place throughout the week is [www.biodiversityweek.ie](http://www.biodiversityweek.ie).





# 'A skatepark for Bray is long overdue'

Skateboarders have been a feature on Bray's seafront for many years. In recent times their numbers have been increasing as the popularity in the sport grows. The Bray Skateboarding Association has made several presentations to Bray Municipal District councils over the years seeking a skatepark. However, although some work was done, a skatepark for Bray has yet to materialise.

Fine Gael councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy raised this issue with Bray MD recently in the form of a motion and called for real action to take place. Cllr. Flynn Kennedy stated, "It's easy to say it's not good enough, to point out the obvious, it's a lot harder to take actual action to create change."

This motion was passed on Tuesday 11th May and a working group will now be established with local authority support.

Her motion called for the establishment of a working group to look at the need and identify a suitable site. She acknowledged "It isn't an easy task and will require the involvement of everyone, residents, the skateboarding community and the wider community." However, she called on us all to consider the needs of those involved in skateboarding, the many public calls for action to support young people to engage in sports and to maintain their mental health. "This is an opportunity to address a need and to really work at finding a solution," she stated.

Sinn Féin public representatives have said that the time to deliver a skate park for Bray is long overdue

and have called on Wicklow County Council to immediately progress the issue.

John Brady TD said "The search for a skatepark in Bray has been ongoing for a number of years and many people have lobbied the council over the years to provide the amenity within the town. Bray is the only large urban centre in Wicklow without a skate park and the council needs to ensure that another generation of young skaters don't have to continue campaigning on the issue."

"In 2016 I worked with Bray Skateboarding Association and the council on the issue of delivering a skate park for the town. At that time the council identified 4 possible suitable locations, at Ballywaltrim Playground behind the library on the Boghall Road, the seafront, a green area adjacent to the Naylor's Cove and the People's Park in Little Bray."

"An independent analysis of the 4 sites showed that the seafront was the best location for the skatepark. I strongly believe that this is still the best location and it's an area that's widely used by skaters currently. There may also be additional sites that could be looked at and I'm open

to them. The important thing is to get the issue back on the council agenda and finally deliver a skate park for Bray."

Speaking on the issue Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien said, "It is fair to say that the Skating community in Bray have done everything that has ever been asked of them as they pursued the development of a Skate Park in Bray. Now it's time for the Council to fulfil its role and honour its own commitment by choosing a location and building a skate park. Outdoor amenities are more important than ever and such a critical part of how we support young people to feel valued, to have fun and to improve physical and mental health."

Cllr Grace McManus said "What a joy it is to see people enjoying skateboarding, rollerblading and other similar activities. I think it's well agreed now that there's so much potential to support this enjoyment with a proper facility, in a way that's suitable for the community and of course the skateboarders themselves. I think the time is now to move on this, so that community of Bray can have something to look forward to after a very difficult year."

## Stephanie Roche launches Special Olympics Ireland virtual fundraising appeal

One of Ireland's best-known football stars, striker Stephanie Roche has joined forces with Special Olympics Ireland to ask the public to help raise €200,000 throughout May.

The vital fundraising target is needed to enable the charity to continue its support of 7,351 registered athletes, children and adults with an intellectual disability across the island of Ireland.

For the second year running, Special Olympics Ireland's annual Collection Day campaign, which culminates on May 28th, will go virtual in response to COVID-19. People from across Ireland are being encouraged to make a donation

or organise a virtual fundraising event by going to [cantstopnow.ie](http://cantstopnow.ie).

With all 292 of the charity's clubs across Ireland closed due to the pandemic, Special Olympics Ireland has worked diligently to develop new ways to keep its athletes physically and emotionally fit, including operating virtual clubs and developing healthy eating recipes, live workouts, mental health management tech-

niques and for the first time ever virtual competition opportunities.

Commenting on the fundraising initiative, sports star Stephanie Roche said:

"I'm thrilled to help launch Special Olympics Ireland's second virtual annual Collection Day. Now more than ever, we need the public to get behind this campaign and help to raise much needed funds for these incredible athletes and the sports clubs that offer a lifeline to them."

Collection Day is the charity's biggest annual fundraising event. The amount raised will enable Special Olympics to support its clubs and create additional material to keep its athletes connected, until it is safe for them to meet in person again.

One such athlete is Rian Harrison, aged 8 from Dublin, who was also on hand to help launch the charity's fundraising appeal. A member of Dundrum Special Olympics Club, Rian's family credits the club's coaches for bringing out his confidence and helping him feel part of a community.

Rian's dad, Richard says: "Special Olympics has been a lifeline to us. Rian has grown in confidence, he's more independent, his coordination skills have really improved as have his football skills. More importantly he has lots of friends and it's not only the kids that benefit from being part of the Special Olympics club, myself and my wife Shira have also gained new friends and a support network. His club is opening up for outdoor training this weekend and we can't wait to get back to see everyone."

Matt English, CEO of Special Olympics Ireland added "It's been a year like no other, but as always, our Special Olympics athletes continue to inspire us with their positivity and determination to overcome all the challenges that the pandemic has thrown at them. We're doing all we can to keep our clubs connected and I'd like to personally ask the public to support us and the work we continue to do, by making a donation or hosting a virtual fundraiser."



Special Olympics athlete Rian Harrison, with football star Stephanie Roche



Adam Short and Give Me A Moment (left) on their way to winner at Tipperary. Photo: Patrick McCann

## The wins keep coming for Tinahely trainer

The winners just keep coming for Philip Rothwell and the Tinahely trainer added to the previous week's gains at the Punchestown festival with a double at Ballinrobe on Tuesday evening, 4th May.

Rothwell enjoyed three winners at Punchestown, a tally match by Jessica Harrington and only bettered by Willie Mullins, and he won back-to-back races here with a couple of 100/30 chances.

Both wins came in divisions of the two-mile five-furlong handicap hurdle and first up was the Oliver Barden-owned Osker Romero in the opening leg, the six-year-old hitting the front under Hugh Morgan before the final flight and

skipping clear to win by nine and a half lengths from the Ann Mooney-trained Pino boy. The James O'Sullivan-ridden Galon De Vauzelle was left clear at the final flight as he won division two of the same race by an easy 12 lengths. Sporting the Mayo colours of famed owner Tom Doran, the five-year-old would probably have won in any case even if rival Glorious Singer had stayed on her feet.

Adam Short was on the mark with the Pat Griffin-trained Give Me A Moment which scored a 33/1 surprise in the handicap chase at Tipperary on Thursday. The outsider got up late on to beat the front-running Jack Holiday by two lengths for owners Douglas Pryde and David Van Der Hoeven.

## Knockananna Camogie Club celebrate 50 years

Knockananna Camogie Club are seeking your support to help raise funds for their 50th Anniversary Year Fund Raiser.

The club stated, "2020 was a very challenging year for raising the funds needed for the running of our adult and juvenile teams. We were not able to run any of our usual fund-raising events in 2020 like our Easter walk, Table quiz, Halloween fancy dress etc."

"So, we are calling all past and present players, supporters and communities to walk/run/cycle with us from May 10th to May 24th and help us reach our target to have at least 50 families walking 50 kms during these two weeks. If we can raise €1 for every km, this will help us reach our financial target of €2,500 to go towards the running of the club for 2021 and allow us to host some additional events later in the year to celebrate 50 memorable years."



Sarah Byrne, Loretta Mutton and Shannagh Goetlelen celebrate 50 years of camogie in Knockananna



# Greystones Players presents: Arsenic and Old Lace a radio play Sunday, 23rd May, 8 pm



The cast of Arsenic and Old Lace during rehearsal

Greystones Players, Greystones' dynamic community theatre group, has been busy despite the lockdown working on a radio play version of Joseph Kesselring's infectiously funny black comedy Arsenic and Old Lace. Greystones Players' fans and followers and starved theatre lovers everywhere are invited to join them for their online premiere which can be accessed at 8pm on May 23rd via the Whale Theatre website or their facebook page.

The original stage play was inspired by the case of a real-life serial killer and, despite initially starting it out as a serious horror/melodrama, the playwright Arthur Kesselring was persuaded of its comic possibilities and his screwball black comedy Arsenic and Old Lace debuted on Broadway in 1941. The plot centres on the Brewster family, a once elite American bloodline that has

now descended into homicidal insanity. Mortimer Brewster, a drama critic and the most ostensibly normal of his clan, is faced with the dilemma of covering up for his sadistic kin while being torn between family loyalty and his desire to marry the woman he loves. The New York Times described it as 'so funny none of us will ever forget it', and the New York Herald Tribune called it

'riotously hilarious'. The first production had a record 1,444 performances and it was made into the classic film directed by Frank Capra and starring Cary Grant.

As was common at the time for many stage plays in the golden age of radio, Arsenic and Old Lace was also adapted and broadcast as a radio play soon after. Greystones Players has taken that version, adapted by Ernest Kinoy, with further adaptations by director Aileen Walton.

The cast includes Niamh Clancy (Abby Brewster), Joanne O'Shea (Martha Brewster), Conor Horan (Mortimer Brewster), Derek Lynch (Teddy Brewster), John Mardrosian (Jonathan Brewster), Violet O'Brien (Dr. Einstein), Katie Lacey-Curtis (Elaine Harper), Nicole McLaughlin (Miss Witherspoon & Brophy), and Eoin O'Mahony (Reverend Harper & Lieutenant Rooney).

It's directed by Aileen Walton, with sound design, editing and mixing by Pete O'Neill.

Founded in September 2016, Greystones Players is a non-profit community theatre group based in Greystones, that aims to bring people together from Greystones and environs to work collaboratively on making great drama, and to enrich the cultural life of our town and area.

The Players past productions at the Whale Theatre include Dancing at Lughnasa by Brian Friel (2017), Connections – An Evening of One-Act Plays (2017), The Playboy of the Western World by J.M. Synge (2018), Summer Shorts – Comedy Sketches & Musical Surprises (2018), Juno and the Paycock by Seán O'Casey (2018), Harvey by Mary Chase (2019) and Aileen Walton's adaptation of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens (2019).

For more information, see  
[www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie)

## Support for artists, festivals and cultural organisations during Covid-19

Over 250 artists and arts professionals in the county have availed of bespoke new supports devised by the Wicklow County Arts Office in response to the pandemic and launched last November.

For over a year, COVID-19 has decimated the arts sector in County Wicklow, leaving artists and cultural institutions availing of government supports and reeling from perpetually postponed performances.

In response to an urgent need for leadership in the arts sector, Wicklow County Arts Office have taken firm steps to implement robust support measures to ensure the survival and sustainability of the county's many artists, festivals and cultural organisations.

These supports include bespoke coaching and mentoring opportunities, festival and event planning during COVID-19 workshops, webinars and online events for visual artists, funding webinars, individual funding clinics, as well as new funding programmes for artists, communities, organisations and festivals.

The Arts Office are also developing a new monthly Arts Newsletter, as well as a digital 2021 Festivals Calendar aimed at providing a central point of information and key dates for Wicklow's festivals throughout the year.

Speaking about the impact that these supports have had on the sector, Arts Officer Jenny Sherwin explains: "We developed these opportunities to allow artists and organisations to regroup to be at their best for 2021 given all of the challenges they are facing. They are the lynchpins of the arts ecology in the county and despite the huge difficulties they have faced as have all sectors from Covid-19, there is still huge creativity, optimism and resilience among them."

She added: "There will be brighter days ahead when

once again the public in County Wicklow can look forward to excellent access to the arts by a range of wonderful artists and organisations. In the meantime, there are also great opportunities to access the arts digitally and in smaller groups as we emerge from Level 5."

Wicklow County Arts Office hosted two consultation sessions in November 2020 with festival organisers from various parts of the county. Representatives from festivals including Bray Jazz Festival, YARN Storytelling Festival, The Shaking Bog Nature Writing Festival, Music in Calary and many more attended a workshop led by strategic consultant Janice McAdam.

Festival organisers were invited to share their experiences, to think about what support would have helped them and to make suggestions as to what support they would like to see put in place for future years. Wicklow Arts Office are in the process of designing a suite of new support measures based on this feedback and the suggestions made by these, and other, festival organisers.

Wicklow Arts Office also teamed up with Visual Artists Ireland (VAI) to deliver a series of free webinars, workshops, panel discussions and clinics for visual artists based in Wicklow. A total of six events were held between December 2020 and February 2021. As part of this series, VAI also facilitated a very special "Show & Tell" event featuring the work of six Wicklow-based visual artists, including Paul Gaffney, Rachel Fallon and Joanna Kidney. In response, a Coaching &



Storyteller Jack Lynch at YARN storytelling Festival

Mentoring Opportunity was announced in January which offered artists and arts professionals the chance to benefit from two one-hour sessions with experienced coaches and mentors including Katherine Zeserson, Paul Johnson, and Susan Coughlan.

A total of 21 applicants were selected representing a broad range of backgrounds, disciplines, and people at various stages in their careers. The objective was to help build the confidence and capacity of artists and arts professionals and to support them to be at their best in terms of their thinking, practice or performance at work in 2021.

Already in 2021, significant levels of funding have been awarded through the Arts Office's Artist Award Scheme, Artist and Communities Collaboration Fund and Small Arts Festivals Awards Scheme. The Arts Office also delivered a number of online events to support organisations with their applications to these schemes, as well as for those artists applying for the Arts Council's Bursary Scheme.

An Online Webinar was held in January, which outlined the upcoming funding opportunities and offered additional information on how to apply. This webinar was attended by over 50 artists and arts professionals.

Individual Clinics were also held for artists applying for the Arts Council's Artist Bursary Scheme, which saw 20 applicants receive expert guidance on their application by experienced arts consultants, Helen Meany and Paul

Johnson. A further Online Workshop was held in January to support applicants to upload their submissions to Wicklow Arts Office's new digital application platform Submittable.

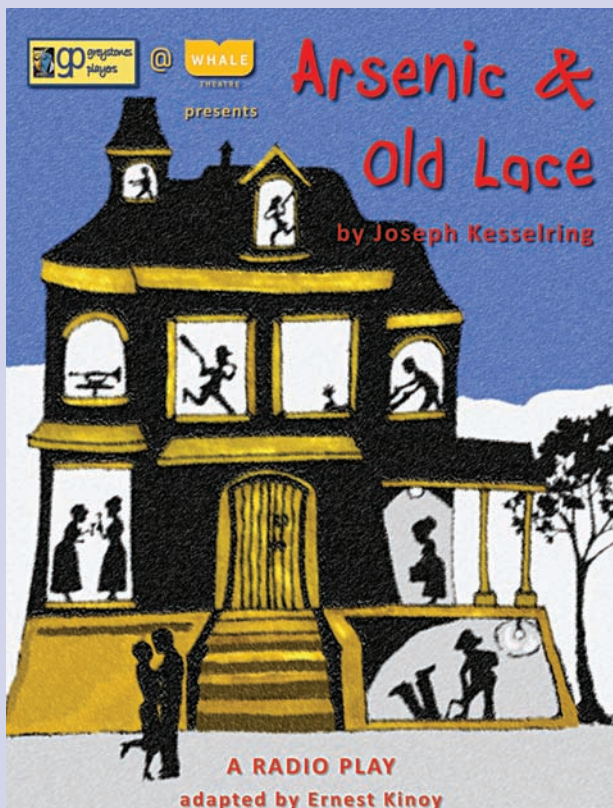
In addition to providing essential funding, Wicklow County Arts Office also recently engaged SLUA Event Safety Consultancy to devise and deliver a total of four online Festival & Event Planning Workshops to assist festival organisers, performance venues and galleries in their preparations for reopening and restarting live events in 2021. These workshops covered areas of planning including COVID-19 Risk Assessments, Infection Control Measures, Controlled Environment Requirements and many more aspects of Health & Safety in the context of the virus.

The first round of workshops was held in March and was attended by representatives from Mermaid Arts Centre, The Whale Theatre, Courthouse Arts Centre, Tramway Theatre, Bray Jazz Festival, West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival, YARN Storytelling Festival, Wicklow Screendance Laboratory, The Shaking Bog Nature Writing Festival and many more from all over the county. A follow-up workshop took place in April which gave participants the necessary tools and guidelines to plan their safe return to live events.

For more information about any of these supports and opportunities, please visit [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) or contact the Wicklow Arts Office at [wao@wicklow-coco.ie](mailto:wao@wicklow-coco.ie).



Streamed Performance with Fiachra Garvey Gavan Ring at West Wicklow Festival





# Bray authors included in new collection of women's writings

Well-known local novelists, Mary Rose Callaghan and Liz McManus have been included in a major new collection that's just been published by Arlen House.



Liz McManus

'We are delighted to be included in this major all-Ireland collection,' say Mary Rose and Liz, 'Éilís Ní Dhuibhne and Alan Hayes of Arlen House are to be commended for this high-quality production. It covers the span of women's writing that came of age at a time when the Womens' Movement was

changing Irish society.'

The editor Éilís Ní Dhuibhne asked 21 writers who were born in mid-twentieth-century Ireland, north and south, to write about their literary lives. They tell it like it really was, and is.

A picture of Ireland's rich literary landscape from multiple female points of view is painted

by this kaleidoscope of original and brilliant essays. Poets, fiction writers, playwrights, impresarios, writers in Irish and English, have written accounts which are funny, tragic, philosophical, angry, but all are lively, stunningly-honest testimonies of the writing life during a pivotal period in the history of Irish literature. These writers came of age when legislation for gender equality was beginning to be enacted. They are growing older on an island where a great deal has changed, for the better, as far as women are concerned. They have participated in, and created, new and more egalitarian literary scenes through their activism, but above all with their writing. They were movers and shakers when it really mattered. They are literary survivors.

The contributors are: Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Catherine Dunne, Lia Mills, Medbh McGuckian, Evelyn Conlon, Mary O'Malley, Liz McManus, Mary O'Donnell, Moya Cannon, Celia de Fréine, Mary Dorsey, Anne Devlin, Mary Rose Callaghan, Mary

Morrissey, Áine Ní Ghlinn, Sophia Hillan, Ruth Carr, Cherry Smyth, Máiríde Woods, Ivy Bannister, and Phyl Herbert.

With a foreword by novelist Martina Devlin and an afterword by Arlen House publisher Alan Hayes, this book is essential reading for

anyone with an interest in how Ireland finally began to value the voices of women. Here is, in their own words, the story of the women who are the way-pavers of modern and post-modern Irish literature. There has never been a collection of essays quite like this.



Mary Rose Callaghan

## Signal Arts Centre presents: Trauma - an exhibition by Carol Jordan

Monday, 10th May - Sunday, 23rd May

**The Signal Arts Centre is this month showing the exhibition entitled Trauma by Carol Jordan.**

An expressive artist, Carol Jordan works across numerous disciplines including ceramics, weaving, sculpture, painting, printmaking with photography often being a prominent part of her installations. A searing poet and a storyteller, Jordan is no stranger to performing in Bray and includes projections of her artworks as companion pieces to her poems.

Equipped with a background in psychology, Jordan is drawn to exploring and expressing difficult emotional states

and does not shy away from themes such as anxiety, dementia and death.

Arising from her political activism, Jordan's art has a socio-political dimension - as in her Tuam babies installation, a savage yet poignant indictment of the Mother and Baby Home.

This exhibition addresses the experience of cancer and its devastating impact on the emotions. Arising from the breast-cancer journey of Carol Jordan's close friend

and artist, Trish Cavanagh, the stark black and white photographs are co-creations and testify to her courage and artistry in embodying her emotions for the camera.

Jordan likes to work ritually, choosing hairs, shorn at the onset of chemotherapy to oversee her image of Trish's mastectomy scar. The more recent large-scale sculptural works address states of associated anxiety, terror and dark-night -of -the-soul in an immersive way.

This is a highly charged exhibition and aims to evoke a strong emotional response.



Pictured at DIAS Dunsink Observatory marking the launch of the online public vote to choose Ireland's best astrophotography images are: Tánaiste Leo Varadkar; Dr. Eucharía Meehan, CEO and Registrar of DIAS; and Professor Peter Gallagher, Head of Astrophysics at DIAS.

## Wicklow photographers advance to next stage of DIAS astrophotography competition

Five Wicklow photographers have advanced to the next stage of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS) 'Reach for the Stars' astrophotography competition. The photographers feature in the online public vote that was launched this week by Tánaiste Leo Varadkar, during a private visit to DIAS's Dunsink Observatory.

'Reach for the Stars' aims to find the best astro-photographs taken in Ireland over the past year. While a high-profile judging panel will select the overall winning entries, an online vote is running over the coming weeks, so members of the public can also have their say.

The five Wicklow photographers included in the online public vote are: Alex Labunskij, Greystones; Enda Kelly, Wicklow town; Jack Kelly Brown, Arklow; Michal Mielnik, Rathdrum; and Derek Ford, Wicklow town.

Members of the public can now view all images shortlisted for the competition and cast their vote for their favourite via an online gallery on the DIAS website. Over 170 images have been shortlisted this year - the inaugural year of the competition. The winning images selected by the judging panel and the public vote will be announced towards the end of May, and an outdoor exhibition will be staged by DIAS to showcase the best images.

Commenting, Professor Peter Gallagher, Head of Astrophysics at DIAS and a member of the judging panel for 'Reach for the Stars', said: "We are blown away by the images submitted to the competition. From stars and galaxies to meteor showers and the moon - there are dozens of fantastic entries. We are delighted to be able to showcase all the eligible submissions online, so that the public can enjoy them too."

"The enthusiasm for the competition has really proven to us the interest there is in astronomy amongst the public, and the many talented photographers that are out

there. We encourage people to take a look online and cast their vote for their favourite."

Alongside the Public Choice Award, an overall winner and runners-up will be chosen by the judging panel, which includes: Professor Gallagher; Brenda Fitzsimons, Picture Editor of The Irish Times; John Flannery, Vice-President of the Irish Astronomical Society; and Martina Quinn, Managing Director of Alice PR & Events.

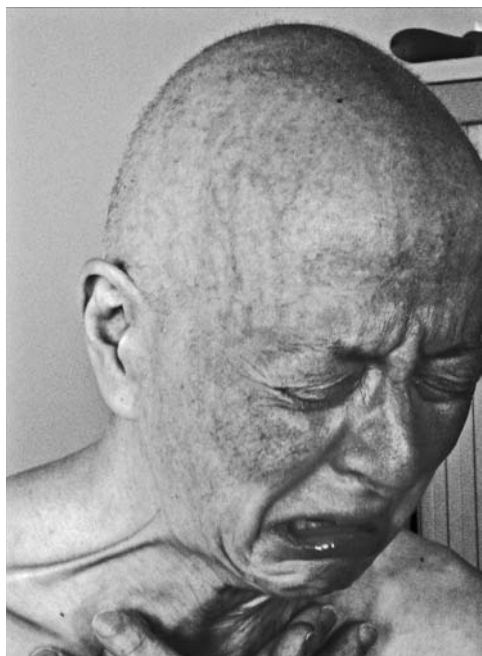
Commenting today, Dr. Eucharía Meehan, CEO and Registrar of DIAS, said: "We're delighted the competition has captured the imagination of people in all corners of the country. We received entries from right across the island of Ireland."

"The competition is being run as part of the DIAS80 programme of events, marking 80 years since DIAS was established, and builds on our proud astronomical heritage. The Public Choice Award will give people an opportunity to engage with these fascinating astronomy photographs and have their say on who their winner is."

Votes for the Public Choice Award are restricted to one vote per person, and voting will close at midnight on Sunday, 9th May 2021.

DIAS's 'Reach for the Stars' competition is being run in partnership with The Irish Times and is sponsored by Alice PR & Events. The Irish Astronomical Society are initiative supporters.

Further information, including the online gallery and background information on the competition, is available at: [www.dias.ie](http://www.dias.ie)







National President of Network Ireland Aisling O'Neill (r) with the organisation's Social Media Manager Amy O'Sullivan. Photo: Patrick Browne

# Network Ireland honours member resilience in pandemic

Network Ireland branches across the country have begun the judging process for the organisation's annual Businesswoman of the Year Awards. The event is a major highlight of the group's calendar and the winners of the regional round will go forward to the national final in the autumn.

Despite a difficult year for the economy, the ambition and drive of Network Ireland members shine through once again in the number of entries for the awards, with the total of 435 on a par with last year's figure.

Applications are spread across 8 categories: Solo Businesswoman, Emerging New Business, Established Business, Employee - Rising Star, Employee - Shining Star, Creative Professional, STEM and the 'Power Within' Champion.

National President of Network Ireland Aisling O'Neill says: "It speaks to the power of Network Ireland that the number of entries for our awards has remained so high this year. It's especially encouraging to see 80 entries in the Emerging New Business category. As President I also want to show that our organisation is not just for business owners, it's for

women of all ages and all stages of their career. Our employees' categories are a fantastic showcase for members and I'm really looking forward to recognising the Shining Stars and Rising Stars from all over Ireland."

National Awards Coordinator Maura Glynn, says Network Ireland's members have displayed great resourcefulness throughout the pandemic: "So many of us have realised just how well we can adapt to challenging circumstances over the past year and the awards are a great opportunity to highlight that. I also love to see the confidence of the women coming forward saying 'I've achieved this and I deserve recognition for it' - and they're dead right!"

The winners of the regional awards will be revealed between now and the end of June and the national

awards will coincide with Network Ireland's Annual conference in October.

Network Ireland is the country's leading women's business organisation, and AIB has been its national partner since 2013. Catherine Moroney, AIB's Head of Business Banking Market says the Businesswoman of the Year Awards are a real source of inspiration: "I'd like to congratulate every entrant in this year's awards programme - your perseverance and drive to achieve your goals in such a testing year should stand as encouragement to women across the country. And as we prepare to exit the worst of the pandemic restrictions, I've no doubt the power within Network Ireland will be a fantastic support to members, their businesses and communities in the months to come."

## Opportunity to take over Blessington Bookshop & Coffeeshop

Ever dreamt of owning your own bookshop and coffeeshop? Ready for a lifestyle change? This could be your best chance of making your dream come true.

Award winning Blessington Bookstore and Coffeeshop was looking to expand at the start of 2020 to make space for the increasing number of customers drawn to this welcoming, successful business.

"Looking around the low ceilinged, cosy shop during the first lockdown, it finally dawned on me that it would be a long time before we could run the business as we had before, and that the sensible option was to close the main street premises," explains Janet Hawkins, owner. The May 2020 closure announcement reached over 25,000 people on Facebook and

brought hundreds of messages of support.

Hawkins continued to sell books online on her [blessingtonbooks.com](http://blessingtonbooks.com) website and still offers her renowned online school books service to local parents.

"So many people have said they would love to see us re-open that when a suit-

able building became available in the town centre I was sorely tempted to start again," says Hawkins.

The only thing stopping her is the fact that she had a significant birthday during lockdown and had promised herself to take up further study.

"It would be lovely to pass on all the knowledge

and goodwill which I built up over the last 15 years," says Hawkins. "I would be willing to consult for an agreed period of time for new owners, helping them to re-establish the bookshop and coffeeshop in their own way."

If you are interested email : [info@blessington-bookstore.ie](mailto:info@blessington-bookstore.ie)

## John 14:6-14 GOSPEL

Jesus said to Thomas: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, 'Let us see the Father?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask for in my name I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask for anything in my name, I will do it.'

C.J.

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## PLANNING

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Richard & Alison Callaghan, intend to apply for permission for development at No. 6 Waverly View, Greystones, A63CK68. The development will consist of the conversion of the existing attic space into a habitable space, comprising double ensuite bedroom, walk in wardrobe & utility room. There will be 2no. Velux rooflights fitted to the attic space on both sides of the roof. A new window to the attic space will be installed in the gable wall.

The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Brian McMahon seeks planning permission for (a) change of use from residential to commercial use (coffee shop and ice-cream parlour) and (b) upgrading of the existing effluent disposal system to current EPA standards and all associated site works at The Gate Lodge, Ballyfree East, Glenealy, Co. Wicklow. 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

I, Elaine Cooke, intend to apply for retention planning permission for development at this site at: 23 Ard Glass, Baitinglass, County Wicklow. W91WT3H The development consists of: Permission for retention of a detached single storey timber flat roofed storage shed to the rear of the property. 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

Angela & Brendan Carton intend to apply for permission for development at this site 25 Woodbrook Lawn, Bray, Co. Wicklow A98 D6H9. The development will consist of first floor extension to the side and conversion of existing attic to create new attic room with dormer window to rear and Velux rooflights to front. The new attic room will be served by a new stairs from first floor level with internal alterations to ground and first floor. New first floor extension to create a self-contained two bedroom granny flat with access to the main house through a door to the front at ground floor. New shared porch to the front will serve both dwellings. Internal alterations to ground floor layout and alterations to front and rear elevations and 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.



# 'Competitive Start Fund could create the next start-up success story in Wicklow'

The Competitive Start Fund could create the next start-up success story in Wicklow and ambitious early-stage start-ups should apply now, Minister Simon Harris has said.

Minister Harris was speaking as Damien English TD, Minister for Business, Employment and Retail, invited entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial teams to apply for Enterprise Ireland's €1m Competitive Start Fund (CSF) which is now open for applications.

Minister Harris said, "This fund is aimed at start-ups with the potential and ambition to succeed on the global stage. That could well be a new business in Wicklow. It is open to early-stage companies across all sectors with an eligible innovative product or service set for global markets."

"Up to 20 successful applicants will be awarded up to €50,000 investment along with mentoring opportunities with the Enterprise Ireland team as well as access to entrepreneurial networks. You would also receive assistance with evaluating overseas market opportunities, building prototypes, developing market entry plans, and securing third party investment."

"Wicklow start-ups and entrepreneurs should apply now through the Enterprise Ireland website. The closing date is 3pm on 25 May 2021."

Damien English TD, Minister for Business,



Minister Simon Harris

Employment and Retail added: "This €1 million of funding will provide a critical boost for innova-

tive entrepreneurs and companies in Ireland at the start of their journey, helping them to drive forward their pioneering products and services."

"As the country moves towards a post pandemic jobs-led national economic recovery, targeted initiatives such as the Competitive Start Fund will help to build the businesses of tomorrow and propel their future prosperity. I'm delighted to launch the fund today and would encourage companies to make the most of the opportunity to realise their global aspirations and turn their ideas into an international commercial reality."



Eoin Canna happy to be back on the course at Baltinglass Golf Club

## Take part in National Volunteer Week in Wicklow

This National Volunteer Week celebrates the immense impact and value of volunteers throughout the country, recognising that even the smallest actions can have big impacts!

Whether it's an action you take to support your community like picking up litter or doing something for yourself like enjoying a good walk, even the smallest acts can have a big impact.

This week is all about encouraging volunteers, and volunteer-involving organisations to celebrate volunteering and encouraging others to give volunteering a try.

County Wicklow

Volunteer Centre stated: "The last year has been hard on us all but there are small things we can do for ourselves, and for each other, that make a big difference. With our sister Volunteer Centres

across South Leinster we have put together a programme of activities for everyone to enjoy, including webinars on a range of subjects such as:

- Opening and re-opening during the pandemic
- Engaging volunteers
- Personal growth, mental health and wellness
- Kick starting your garden
- All things environmental

For a full list of FREE events, please see [www.volunteer.ie](http://www.volunteer.ie).

"This week-long celebration of volunteering is our chance to say thank you to volunteers across the country. Wicklow would be a much different place if it weren't for the wonderful volunteers who give their time each year. This has never been more obvious than throughout the pandemic. We want to say thank you to each and every volunteer for everything that they do, inspire others to do the same and encourage volunteers to join an event and take a moment to step back and recognise the positive impact they have."

"The events calendar is now live on [www.volunteer.ie](http://www.volunteer.ie) with volunteers and volunteer managers encouraged to sign up to free events across the week. We are also inviting organisations to think about how they can thank their volunteers with lots of ideas to get started on the Volunteer Ireland website."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form a panel from which future temporary/permanent positions may be filled.

### • EXECUTIVE TECHNICIAN

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### • TEMPORARY PART-TIME SUBSTITUTE BRANCH LIBRARIAN

REF: 19/2021 Salary rate €12.74 - €21.02 gross hourly rate (includes 1st LSI)

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF  
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Application Forms and further details may be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20159 or by emailing [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie) and on the Wicklow County Council website [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

Wicklow County Council reserves the right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate.

Wicklow County Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Lorraine Gallagher,  
Director of Services,  
Enterprise & Corporate Services,  
Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow

Phone: 0404 20159 Fax: 0404 20112  
Email: [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie)

## RECRUITMENT



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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For informal enquiries please contact Margaret Scargill ADPHN at  
[phnwwadmin@hse.ie](mailto:phnwwadmin@hse.ie) or phone 0404 63043/40  
Or forward CVs to [phnwwadmin@hse.ie](mailto:phnwwadmin@hse.ie)

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Bray-based human rights  
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