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Tuesday 15th June 2021 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowned@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

SCHOOL DEADLOCK BROKEN

The Department of Education has formally taken control of Greystones Community National School (CNS), it was announced last week. It is now possible that the school will be ready for occupancy in September, and that students can move out of their prefab accommodation after nearly six years.

Builders WBS handed over the keys last Thursday as the Department formally took charge of the building. The keys and the health and safety manuals were handed over to the management company paving the way for the school to open.

The breakthrough has come almost a year after the brand-new school was completed.

The Department has

rejected the recommendations of the Conciliation report and a fire test is still scheduled to take place later this month. However the Department itself has said it is confident the school will pass the test.

Minister Simon Harris welcomed the news, calling it "a major step forward for the school community in Greystones". He continued, "There has been justifiable outrage in the

Community about the Greystones CNS building lying idle the past year impacting on both Greystones CNS and Greystones Community College and the two schools having to remain in temporary and inadequate accommodation.

"The handover of the building provides added certainty to both the staff and families regarding the new school year in autumn



John O'Toole enjoys a pint of Guinness at O'Keefe's pub in Knockananna last week as the pubs re-opened after lockdown. Pic: Michael Kelly

2021. However, I will continue working with my oireachtas colleagues to ensure that the outstanding Fire Safety issues that were the subject of the dispute between the builder and Department of Education are brought to a final resolution.

The Department of Education have advised in respect of the fire safety test, this is to be carried out in a suitable laboratory in the UK next week and like the rest of the community we await the final outcome of these tests to determine that the buildings will be fit for occupancy in the new school year. I would like to pay tribute to everyone in the Greystones CNS community, both staff, board and parents' association for all their work over the past year and they can be assured of my full continued support."

Social Democrats' Spokesperson for Children, Jennifer Whitmore TD, said "this is a crucial step in the opening of the school to students currently located in the Greystones Rugby Club and who have been waiting nearly a year and a half to learn in the new school.

"As former Chair of the Greystones Community National School I can safely say that the news of the handover will bring much needed relief to the school community who have worked tirelessly for over a year so that students could learn in the brand new school. Seeing the building left idle for so long has been very difficult for everyone but I'm delighted the handover is finally happening. For that reason, I consistently wrote to the Minister requesting meetings with the

Department and successfully arranged for a cross party forum

between Wicklow TDs and the Department of Education. I'm happy

to see that this forum helped move things *Continued on page 8*

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Jerin, Nizia, and Jisha John enjoying a walk on Bray seafront. Pic: Joe McQuillan

Open Door Mid-Summer Lunch 2021

Unfortunately, as with last year, due to COVID-19, this year's traditional Open Door Mid-Summer lunch has been cancelled. In order to keep the event going they have decided to ask their supporters to become involved.

"Sunday 20th June is the Summer Solstice so we are asking people to send us photos of their own socially distanced Mid-Summer lunch on that day. Photos can be emailed to developmentofficer@opendoor.ie, posted to Open Door's Facebook page or sent via WhatsApp to 0876250823. This could be a group of family members in their garden or perhaps a group of friends having a picnic or even a Zoom party, there are many possibilities. The pictures will be posted on Open Door's website and social media. There will be prizes for the best three photos. Last year a total of €2,051.15 was raised through donations from participants. This money went towards the many activities including physiotherapy, art, ceramics and woodwork."

Open Door Day Centre is open once again and the members are really enjoying and benefitting from the activities and the social outlet provided by Open Door.

GAA Cúl Camp

After a number of years absent, Laragh GAA will be hosting their own Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camp from the 5th to the 9th of July in the GAA pitch. The 2021 Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camp website is now open and taking bookings. Places are limited due to Covid-19 Regulations & GAA Guidelines so book now to avoid disappointment. Pre-registered online bookings are

only accepted. That means NO walk-ins will be accepted and once the camp capacity is reached the camp is closed for bookings. The demand for places at the 2021 Kellogg's GAA Cúl camps has seen a number of other Cúl Camps booked out already. Contact Cormac Noone County Coordinator for more details. (086) 701 3403. See www.kelloggsculcamps.gaa.ie.

Fraud and scam warnings

Please be alert to scam calls/messages claiming to be from Department of Health. These messages may be seeking personal information. The Department will not contact you in this way. Do not share any personal information, and let vulnerable friends or family know.

In one scam, callers pretend to be from Vodafone, offering customers a better deal, while another scam is a message which claims to be from Revenue saying that there are warrants out for your arrest. Be vigilant and don't become the victim of a phishing attack.

LEO business supports

The Local Enterprise Office is the first stop shop for business supports and offers a range of supports to business impacted by COVID-19 including training, mentoring, answering customs queries and access to funding. For more information on these supports please see: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Financial-Supports/COVID-19/> and <https://www.localenterprise.ie/response/>. Please call 0404 30800 or email: enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie to start the conversation.

Keep Well Campaign

Remember to look after your mental health and wellbeing. Find out what is available in your local community by visiting www.wicklow.ie/wellbeing for tips and resources on how to stay connected, mind your mood, or switch off and take part in activities either indoor or outdoor. Recipes and tips on eating well can be found there also.

Enniskerry community comes together to sponsor refugee family

A core group of residents from the Enniskerry community has come together to start the process of welcoming and sponsoring a refugee family into the community.

As part of the community sponsorship programme, which was introduced as a response to the humanitarian crisis in Southern Europe, the Irish Government pledged to resettle 4,000 refugees through Irish Refugee Protection Programme. In 2017 the Community sponsorship programme was launched and the first family arrived in 2018. Since then, many other communities have welcomed families as Enniskerry hopes to.

This is a community initiative, and they will need to raise money to be

able to support the sponsored family for the first two years. They are planning several fundraisers. The first one is a Fundraising walk on Sunday June 20th which is also World Refugee Day. They are asking people to join them in going for a 5k walk either individually or in their own small bub-

ble and in their own area, to post their photos onto the Facebook or/and Instagram at Enniskerry Welcomes and make a donation to the GoFundMe page <https://gofund.me/daf6ca049>. Walkers are encouraged to comply with covid restrictions and to walk in their own area at their own risk.

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Members of the Enniskerry Welcomes group

Sanctuary Runners movement comes to Bray

There was a splash of vivid blue around Bray Seafont and surrounds over the June Bank Holiday Weekend as Bray Sanctuary Runners completed a virtual relay of the Cork City Marathon in Bray.

Sanctuary Runners brings together local residents, asylum seekers and refugees to run, jog or walk as part of a team. The iconic blue T-shirt represents the energy of the group which unites all members through the core values of Friendship, Solidarity and Respect.

The Cork City Marathon which was held virtually this year was a huge success. Half of the Marathon runners were Sanctuary Runners who participated from the four corners of the world.

From Hong Kong to Sydney, from Paris to Abu Dhabi, from San Francisco to Bray the universal spirit of the Sanctuary Runners was captured by the energy

of running, walking and jogging together!

Sanctuary Runners was founded in 2018 by writer and broadcaster Graham Clifford and photographer Clare Keogh.

It is a non-profit organisation and multi-award winning movement which is helping to build sustainable bridges in communities and to celebrate our diversity.

Pod running has started back since late May and its positive benefits cannot be underestimated where asylum seekers and Irish runners run shoulder to shoulder representing solidarity through positive action.

Sanctuary Runners has spread to many locations across Ireland and its members take part in weekly runs, walks and park runs. Sanctuary Runners has set up a Bray group since May and it is going from strength to strength. Look out for the blue T-shirts on Bray Seafont on Saturdays or email us for further information at sanctuaryrunnerswicklow@gmail.com.



The Sanctuary Runners on Bray seafont.

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COUNCIL WAGING WAR ON WASTE OFFENDERS

Nearly €60,000 in fines issued in the last 2 years

Wicklow County Council's continued war on waste resulted in several successful prosecutions of waste offenders in the Courts.



Fines, clean-up costs and legal fees added up to significant penalties for those caught. In 2019/20 approximately 80 cases were taken to court. The total figure imposed was over €58,000. Also, nearly 1,000 litter fines were issued in the same period.

Highlighted cases include a covert operation carried out by the Council's Enforcement Officers in collaboration with An Garda Síochána where an individual with no Waste Collection Permit was caught red-handed and faces imprisonment if they do not pay the fine imposed by the Court, and a Bottle Bank Dumping case, resulting in court fines of €9,500.

Evidence retrieved from illegal dumping in Blessington, Arklow, Aughrim, Ashford and Glencree led to successful prosecutions also



Illegal dumping on Seefin Road, Manor Kilbride

with significant fines being imposed.

Illegal burning of waste proved costly for one offender - legal proceedings resulted in a court fine of €1,150.

A landowner in Shillelagh paid the price for illegal storage of waste, including scrap metal and household appliances. Court fines of €9,000 were handed down in this case.

In commending the work of the Waste Enforcement Team, the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran,

advised that "Wicklow County Council is sending out a clear message to illegal waste collectors and indiscriminate dumpers - neither the public nor the Council will accept the blight on its countryside by irresponsible individuals and will take swift action to combat same."

The Council has issued a leaflet on waste which reminds people that: "Householders are responsible for the proper disposal of their waste. The only legal way to dispose of waste is by using the services

of an Authorised Waste Collector who holds a valid waste collection permit or at an Authorised Recycling Facility. You can find a list of authorized waste collectors for Wicklow on www.nwcpo.ie."

The Council also warns against phoney waste collectors: "The Waste Management Section in Wicklow Council works tirelessly to investigate waste related complaints. In 2019 2,317 cases of littering and illegal dumping were investigated. Evidence was found

relating to people who had handed over their waste to people who they thought were going to bring it to an authorised facility. They were wrong! Many ended up with a court conviction and a fine. Don't let this be your waste."

You can report illegal dumping via the 24-hour lo-call telephone number (1850 365 121).

Wicklow County Council, the Gardai, and the Environmental Protection Agency will follow up on the information provided by the public, as appropriate.

FOR THE NEXT STAGE WE'RE READY

Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2:
Operations and Maintenance Facility, South Dock, Arklow Harbour
Public Consultation now open until 25 June, 2021

We're unveiling plans for our proposed Operations and Maintenance Facility, which will be the base for 80 full time employees working on Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2.

We want to know what you think

To find out more and offer feedback visit
saserenewables.com/arklowbank

Visit our self-guided exhibition at Bridgewater Centre, Arklow and information point at Main Street Courtown.*

To request a postal pack contact
deborah.coleman2@sse.com or 087 1457603

The image shown is a computer-generated illustration of what our proposed Operations and Maintenance Facility will look like.

*Exhibitions are self-guided due to Covid-19 restrictions and are subject to change. Exhibitions will run in line with venue opening hours.

See saserenewables.com/arklowbank for updates.



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Cllr Melanie Corrigan in the upgraded Bog Meadow car park

Upgrades to Bog Meadow car park

The upgrade works in the Bog Meadow carpark in Enniskerry were completed last week. This has involved the laying of tarmac and marking out designated car parking spaces to include a disability and an age friendly space.

Works done have also included the dipping of pavements for disability access and a raised platform for people to safely cross the Monastery road to access the carpark.

The Bog Meadow is also now the new terminus for the 44 bus in Enniskerry. This Bus will now stop to drop passengers off outside the Spar shop in the village before terminating in the new area in the Bog Meadow carpark before it makes the return trip to Dublin.

Transport for Ireland have put up notifications in the Village to show the new route and terminus. Works are still ongoing to complete the bus shelter for this area.

Cllr Melanie Corrigan has welcomed these improvements for the safety and accessibility for the community, and to help with the huge influx of visitors that are coming to the village to view the Disney set. She expressed thanks to the Bray Municipal staff for all their work on this project.

€42,000 heritage fund to boost tourism and jobs

Five projects in the county will share €42,000 under a special grant scheme run by The Heritage Council. The funding will boost local economies, grow tourism, and enhance community spirit by supporting local heritage projects.

Under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme, €42,390 has been allocated to community groups and not-for-profit organisations in Wicklow.

Glendalough Heritage Forum has received €9,900 to create a large model of the monastic city at Glendalough, built entirely from LEGO bricks.

It will include key structural features, depicting everyday life as it was in the 12th Century.

The Arklow Maritime And Heritage Museum has been allocated €2,800 to create an online digital archive.

In addition, €12,000 has been made available for conservation work at Wicklow Head Lighthouse.

The Alfred Beit Foundation receives €15,000 for the repair and stabilising of an 18th century weir wall at Russborough.

And the Transport Museum Society is allocated €2,690 for a paper archive

conservation project.

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, TD, stated: "I am delighted to note this announcement by the Heritage Council. This funding is essential to safeguard our heritage while also providing much needed economic stimulus and providing employment in the sector. It is also a significant investment in this Government's commitments under the Programme for Government to promote and protect our heritage."

Commenting on the announcement, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan, TD, said: "I would like to acknowledge the fantastic work of the Heritage Council in supporting community heritage through this important scheme. As the scope and scale of these projects illustrate, communities play a vital role in caring for all aspects of our heritage. The new national heritage plan, Heritage Ireland

2030, which will be published later this summer, will recognise the role of communities in safeguarding our heritage and ensure that they continue to be supported."

Chairman of The Heritage Council, Michael Parsons, said: "These schemes continue to provide a central focus for the work of The Heritage Council. They are testament to the close collaboration between the Council, local authorities and community groups, all sharing a common purpose."

Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive of The Heritage Council, said: "The Heritage Council is delighted to fund such a diverse range of projects and initiatives, particularly at this point in time."

"It is especially gratifying that the primary work of The Heritage Council, in preserving and nourishing our history and traditions, has a spin-off by way of putting investment into communities around the country."

'Donnelly must move quickly to ensure State ownership of maternity hospital'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore last week spoke on a Dáil Motion calling for the new Maternity Hospital to be transferred fully into state ownership.

As SocDems Spokesperson for Children, Deputy Whitmore spoke about the importance the new hospital will have on women in Wicklow and the need to ensure women have access to healthcare that is not influenced by anything other than medical science.

"The new National Maternity Hospital will be an opportunity to get women's healthcare finally right in this country. But the only way we can make sure this happens is for the Minister for Health to ensure that the new Hospital is fully within state ownership and control. Unfortunately, despite many promises to date, we are still no closer to ensuring the new hospital will in fact be completely free from religious influence."

"Women across Wicklow voted for Repeal not to see the new National Maternity Hospital in the hands of a religious organisation, not to see it in the hands of a religious-affiliated charity and yet despite the Minister repeating the concept that he will ensure this happens, nothing has been done to date to realise this."

"To add to that, the Minister for Health left the Dáil chamber before I and my other female colleagues came on to speak on the motion about state ownership of the National Maternity Hospital. As the only female TD in Wicklow, I was angered that once again the voices of women were not being heard and listened to at the highest level."

"As part of the Social Democrats I will be campaigning to have the new Hospital in full public ownership. In the meantime, the Minister must move quickly to reassure women in Ireland that this will be achieved. I don't think

women will accept anything less" concluded Whitmore.

North Wicklow Together for Choice and Equality welcomed Minister of Health Stephen Donnelly's strong statement during the Motion on Maternity Services, on June 2nd, when he said: "I will not countenance any new maternity hospital that has any governance or influence whatsoever involving any religious ethos. That is an absolute commitment. Services will be provided in accordance with the law and national policies."

However, the volunteer group believes that the evidence contradicts Minister Donnelly's statement.

North Wicklow Together for Choice and Equality is a group of volunteers using the momentum of the North Wicklow Together for Yes campaign in the North Wicklow area.

They stated "We call on the Minister to meet with the Campaign Against Church Ownership of the new National Maternity Hospital to answer



Jennifer Whitmore TD

questions on the ownership and governance of the new National Maternity Hospital.

"The Mulvey Agreement sets out that St. Vincent's Holdings CLG, 100% owned by the Sisters of Charity, will own the hospital and the land that the new National Maternity Hospital is built upon. This private company, with its own board of directors, will govern the hospital that the government will build at a revised estimate cost of €500m, with additional hundreds of millions to outfit plus ongoing operational costs. All paid for by the taxpayer to be then gifted to a private entity."

"The constitution of St. Vincent's Holdings CLG, submitted to the Charities Registrar, sets out its core values which are identical to those of St. Vincent's Hospital and of the Sisters of Charity. Presently, St. Vincent's Hospital do not provide medical treatment in contradiction to the core values of the Sisters of Charity. This includes vasectomy for family planning and contraception."

"St. Vincent's Hospital staff are obligated in their employment contracts to adhere to the ethos of

the hospital; i.e. the core values of the Sisters of Charity. Clause 5.11 of St Vincent's Holdings' Constitution gives the directors the power to "acquire, hold, sell, manage, lease, mortgage, or dispose of all or any part of the property of the Company..." including, obviously, the new NMH.

"As per a 2019 Government report, a private religious company cannot be compelled to provide healthcare services in contradiction to its ethos."

"Therefore, once the Government gifts the new National Maternity Hospital to St. Vincent's Holdings CLG, it will have no legal avenue to deliver on its guarantee that all healthcare services will be available to the women of Wicklow, of which the new National Maternity Hospital will be the primary maternity hospital all the way to the South of the county."

"As the members of religious orders are ageing and their numbers declining, it has been a regular occurrence worldwide over the last couple of decades for the orders to set up lay succession organisations. Without exception anywhere in the world, the Holy See has stipulated that Catholic ethos must be maintained in these organisations."

"We are being asked to believe that the Sisters of Charity's transfer will be the sole exception. Therefore, we cannot take Minister's Donnelly statement in good faith when everything we know contradicts his guarantee."

"We call for the proposed new publicly-funded National Maternity Hospital to be constructed on land vested in the State; and that, to guarantee its secular ethos, the new facility be fully owned and governed by the State."



Minister Stephen Donnelly TD

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

Report finds 'ongoing and relentless' biodiversity loss in Greystones

A recently published report commissioned by Greystones Tidy Towns found that urgent action is needed to protect biodiversity in the Greystones area.

The report was carried out by ecological consultant Faith Wilson and was funded by a grant from Community Foundation Ireland's 2019 Environment and Nature Fund.

The report states: "The biodiversity loss in the environs of Greystones in the last twenty years has been an ongoing and relentless one. These losses have occurred principally through rezoning of lands for development, encroachment into areas designated as being of importance for biodiversity, amenitisation and sanitisation of natural habitats, inappropriate management of grasslands, inappropriate ornamental planting, garden escapes becoming invasive in natural areas and a lack of protection for areas of scrub, which form critical habitat for our invertebrates and birdlife.

"Wicklow County Council has become the first local authority in Ireland to declare 'a biodiversity and climate-change emergency', recognising the need to respond more urgently to the threat of climate breakdown and the global decline of species.

"So what needs to be done and can be done for the biodiversity in Greystones by its residents, politicians and local authority? The most significant biodiversity losses occur when lands are rezoned in an area through either Local Area Plans or the County Development Plan - this drives development, land prices, development pressures, urbanisation

and land use change. Nature needs your voice at the planning stage."

The report makes a number of recommendations in which Greystones can respond to both the extreme biodiversity loss and the climate crisis.

These include: Zoning the extant areas of lands in Greystones with biodiversity still intact as lands with biodiversity as the core objective for the lands; Implementation of the Actions for the Biodiversity Areas Identified in 2006; Implementation of Grassland Management Measures which are favourable to biodiversity; Protecting the Coastal Areas in light of climate change; Restoring a Sense of the Wild Back to Greystones; Tackling Invasive Species within Greystones; Implementing individual and garden measures for biodiversity.

"An overriding theme running through all of these is that of the need for education and improving awareness of biodiversity and understanding the forces driving losses of same," Ms Kelly writes.

"We need to protect areas for biodiversity and adjust our thinking, our perceptions and our understanding and tolerate a little more wildness, scruffiness and unkemptness in the environs of our towns and villages if we want biodiversity loss to be halted and reduced. This gift is in our hands."

The full report can be accessed via the Greystones Tidy Towns website.

Meanwhile, a petition to create

a nature reserve for Greystones and Delgany has so far gained over 1,300 signatures.

The campaign, on myuplift.ie, was created in March by Annette Vaucanson Kelly, and has so far gained over 1,300 signatures. It appeals to Wicklow County Council and the Government to help make the Greystones and Delgany area 'greener, healthier, and wilder', and the first region in Ireland to create 'biosecurity'.

The campaign page states: "We can all be part of a legacy we can be proud of: handing over to our children and future generations an area that is climate-resilient and supports our wildlife to live alongside us. Please support this petition and we will bring it to the Government and Wicklow County Council to transform Greystones & Delgany (and North Wicklow).

"Greystones & Delgany are currently undergoing a frenzy of development, with new housing estates approved and planted in every available field left. Not only is the infrastructure (roads, public transport links, schools, healthcare, etc.) not keeping up, but nature is taking a huge hit. So what if the answer to overdevelopment was to create a Community Nature Reserve - a gift to current and future generations?"

The petition states that some of the things that could be achieved by the nature reserve would be: the expansion of the Glen of the Downs on both sides of the Three-Trout stream with permanent native forest; Returning

Kindlestown Forest to permanent native woodland (under the Government's new Project Woodland and/or Coillte's Millenium Forests programme) as each Sitka spruce plot is harvested, and link it to the Glen of the Downs SAC (Special Area of Conservation); Relist and protect the Bronze Age hillforts of Coolagad (Kindlestown) and Downhill; Add chestnut fencing and a raised boardwalk on South Beach to protect coastal flora and dune grasses from collapse, plus nature signage indicating plants and insects present.

The nature reserve could also include a coastal nature reserve on two fields east of the railway line above the North Beach, thus extending Bray Head SAC (Special Area of Conservation) into Greystones. If this Nature Reserve was to see the light of day, Greystones & Delgany would become the first biosecure area in Ireland by 2026! At a time when successive lockdowns have highlighted the dire need for green spaces near urban centres, Greystones & Delgany could become a flagship example of a town living in harmony with nature, and a template to be replicated across the county and country," the petition states.

"As the next County Development Plan is being drafted, let's change the story of Greystones & Delgany - from a town besieged by suburban sprawl, to a place where a greener, healthier and wilder future is possible."



'It's good to be back'. Joey Lambert enjoys a drink at O'Keefe's pub in Knockananna as it re-opened after lockdown.


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Ireland is recovering from the pandemic – our society and economy continues to reopen as the vaccination programme makes a real difference in people's lives, and our economic recovery plan helps to get people back to work. We are getting there, and as we recover we still need to stick to the public health measures. The Government continues to advise against all non-essential travel.

If you travel to Ireland from overseas, you must quarantine at home. You can stop quarantining if you get a negative PCR test taken no less than 5 days after arrival in Ireland. This PCR test is free.

Travel to and from Great Britain is a particular concern due to new variants of COVID-19. If you arrive from Great Britain, you are reminded to quarantine at home and book your free PCR test.

Let's all keep working together and keep moving forward.

Tá Éire ag teacht chuici féin i ndiaidh na pandéime, tá ár sochaí agus ár gcultúr ag athoscailt agus tá an clár vacsaíne ag déanamh difir ollmhór i saol daoine. Tá ár bPlean Náisiúnta Eacnamaíochta ag tacú le daoine dul i mbun oibre arís. Táimid nach mór ann, ach caithfimid cloí leis an gcomhairle sláinte póiblí. Is í comhairle an Rialtais ná gan a bheith ag taisteal ar bhonn neamhriachtanach.

Má thagann tú go hÉirinn ó thar lear, caithfidh tú coraintín éigeantach a dhéanamh sa bhaile. Is féidir deireadh a chur le seo má fhaigheann tú toradh 'neamhbhraite' ó thástáil PCR ní lú ná 5 lá i ndiaidh duit teacht go hÉirinn. Tá an tástáil seo saor in aisce.

Tá an-ínní maidir le taisteal idir Éirinn agus an Bhreatain Mhór de bharr athraitheacha nua de COVID-19. Má thagann tú go hÉirinn ón mBreatain Mhór, caithfidh tú coraintín éigeantach a dhéanamh sa bhaile agus do thástáil PCR atá saor in aisce a chur in áirithe.

Leanfaimid ar aghaidh le chéile.

For more information go to
Le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais téigh go
gov.ie/covidtravel



Rialtas na hÉireann
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Coronavirus
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National
Programme



Senator Pat Casey and Joanne Hamilton with Emily, Luke and Declan Murphy and pet Lucy at the launch of Declan's new book *The Spirit of Wicklow*, at Bridge Street Books in Wicklow Town.

Campaign seeks to preserve public access to Magheramore beach

A GoFundMe campaign has been set up to preserve public access to Magheramore Beach. The campaign organisers say they are taking a stand against the increasing number of sites becoming privately owned and inaccessible along Wicklow's coast.

The plot of land which overlooks Magheramore Beach extends to 21 acres and will be included in BidX1's upcoming online auction on June 25th. The guide price is €210,000.

The campaign group has engaged with TD John Brady who has a petition to prevent the site becoming inaccessible to the community.

The campaign is attempting to raise €250,000. All funds raised will be donated in the following:

1. Supporting Wicklow County Council's bid to buy the site to

keep in public ownership for community benefit.

2. Investing in the public facilities on the site for future community benefit e.g. toilet, shower block, playground of the future.

3. If unsuccessful in buying the land to fund legal objections to limit future development or blocks of access to the community.

The campaign organisers state "With vast areas of Ireland being bought up by foreign investors, vulture funds and private developers for exclusive use, we passionately believe in preserving

Ireland's heritage and keeping Irish landmarks in community hands. The goal is to ultimately prevent further swathes of Irish coastal landmarks being inaccessible to residents and visitors. Join us in the fight to preserve Magheramore for future generations."

Bidding will be shown live on the day of the auction, with each bid displayed in real-time on the relevant property listing, along with the final sale price.

To make a donation, go to www.gofundme.com/f/save-magheramore-from-vulture-funds

Fall in number of people claiming PUP

The number of people claiming the Pandemic Unemployment Payment in Wicklow has fallen. New figures show that since the scheme was first introduced in March of last year over 25,000 people in the county have received the payment.

In total €235 million has been spent on the PUP scheme in Wicklow. To date, over €7.5 billion has been spent nationally on the PUP since it was first introduced. The latest figures show on the 13th April the number of people in the county receiving the payment was 12,728 but that number fell to 11,035 by May 11th.

Minister Stephen Donnelly said: "It has been an incredibly hard year for businesses in Wicklow who have been forced to shut their doors during the pandemic."

"Unfortunately some of those businesses won't reopen but many more will and the signs are all positive at the moment as the country continues to move in the right direction. The fact that we have seen over 1,500 people come off the PUP in the space of a month in Wicklow is a really positive sign. And I would expect to see that number fall still further as more and more businesses are able to reopen over the coming weeks."

The scheme is scheduled to remain open until 30th June 2021 however, reductions in the payment are expected to be introduced later in the year.

'Maghermore discussions must ensure environmental protections are in place'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has spoken with Wicklow County Council about the matter of Maghermore Beach being up for sale and the potential for ownership to be transferred to the Council.

Deputy Whitmore says she went straight to the Council as soon as the area went up for sale.

Speaking on the issue, Deputy Whitmore says "There has been a lot of anxiety about the prospect of lands at Maghermore Beach up for sale and future access to the beach to the public. As a much-loved amenity it would be a shame if access was taken away as a result of it being sold."

"I met with the Council to discuss people's concerns about this and to see of the possibility of the Council being able to purchase this land. The

meeting was a very positive one and I welcome their commitment to examining it.

"However, as this is a Special Area of Conservation site, any plans for the site would have to be conscious of this designation and the Council will need to ensure protection of this important habitat."

"This includes any plans for future access to the beach and ensuring that the area is fully protected from continued erosion or overuse. Done sustainably, future plans for the site could benefit both visitors and the surrounding environment."

"I am continuing to engage with the Council on Maghermore and hope that a plan can be put in place to ensure both access to the public and protection of the local environment," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

Council vote against Sinn Féin amendment to ban sale of public lands to private developers

An amendment to the Draft County Development plan, which would ban the sale of public lands zoned for housing to private developers was voted down at the recent meeting of Wicklow County Council.

The Sinn Féin councillors who proposed the amendment have outlined their disappointment at the vote, calling the decision a "wrong step" policy wise.

Cllr Grace McManus said "This amendment proposed that all land banks zoned for housing development owned by Wicklow County Council would only be developed by the council and/or approved housing bodies for 100% public housing (social and affordable) and would not be sold to private developers."

"Sadly, this amendment failed to pass, with 14 Cllrs supporting, and 18 voting against. We proposed this amendment for several reasons. Firstly, public lands offer us the best opportunity to deal with the social housing needs we have in

the county with direct local authority builds.

"To sell off any of this precious land would put us even further behind in dealing with the long and ever-growing social housing list."

"Secondly, we recognise the need for affordable housing for those who do not qualify for social housing. We believe that this should be provided by the local authority or approved housing bodies, and that developer involvement will not provide true affordability for the buyer, nor good value for money for the taxpayer."

"Finally, from an ethical standpoint, we do not believe any private profit should be made off of public lands during a housing crisis. It is the children in bed and breakfasts or

emergency accommodation who should be first in line to benefit off of publicly owned land, not private developers."

Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien said, "We are hearing a lot of rhetoric about affordable housing at the moment but when it comes to making big decisions, some people are still more inclined to merely tinker around the edges or wait for the market to sort itself out?! A crisis situation requires a dynamic and solution focused response. This is within our control; this is something we could have done for the people of Wicklow. Unfortunately, not enough Councillors agreed with our proposal and 'business as usual' prevails."

John Brady TD said "At a time when people are

crying out for social and affordable homes, selling publicly owned land to private developers is not a good use of such a strategic public asset. Public land should not be sold to allow developers to make massive profits with such unaffordable prices."

"It is quite shocking that the majority of councillors on Wicklow County Council voted against this amendment which would have ensured that public land would be used for public houses."

"All land residentially zoned land owned by Wicklow Council should be ring fenced for social, cost rental and affordable purchase homes. Handing the land over to private developers or international investment funds will not address the housing crisis so many Wicklow families are experiencing, it will simply make things worse."



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Nearly 500 breaches of employment law in Wicklow over two years

New data provided to Sinn Féin reveals that 484 breaches in employment law and abuse of workers' rights were detected after Workplace Relations Commission investigations in County Wicklow over the past two years.

Last year alone there were 317 breaches in Wicklow, the third highest in the country behind Dublin and Kildare. In 2019 there were 167 breaches in Wicklow.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady said that this underlines the need for additional WRC investigators and improved workers' rights legislation.

Deputy Brady said "Despite being underfunded and under-resourced, the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) does fantastic work on behalf of workers across this state.

"In spite of the challenges posed by the pandemic the WRC carried out 7,687 inspections in 2020 and managed to recover almost €1.7m in unpaid wages for workers.

"Indeed, data recently revealed to Sinn Féin outlined how, since 2011, the WRC has recovered almost €18m in withheld wages for workers.

"Sinn Féin have also obtained data which shows the scale and number of breaches of employment law detected by WRC investigations since 2015. In those six years, the WRC has detected breaches in employment law in more than one-third of all investigations.



John Brady TD

scale and nature of these breaches reveal a dark underbelly of Irish economy, which must be stamped out.

"County Wicklow was not immune to seeing workers' rights and employment law trampled over as 584 breachers were detected in 2019 and shamefully during the pandemic in 2020. In 2020 Wicklow had the third highest number of breaches in the State.

"The WRC is underfunded and understaffed, it has only 53 inspectors carrying out this work, despite being authorised to recruit 90 inspectors back in 2006. It is essential that additional inspectors are recruited immediately.

"In addition, this data also reinforces the need for workers being given the legal right to collective bargaining through their recognised Trade Union so they can stand up for workers and protect them against such abuses.

"The government cannot continue to turn a blind eye, there has to be protections for workers on one hand, and consequences for employers who ride roughshod over employment law and workers' rights on the other."



Pictured are Ian, Enya and Danny Alvey, with Minister Malcolm Noonan, and Green Party TD Steven Matthews TD.

Almost 12,000 people sign rewilding petition

Green Party TD Steven Matthews met with the founders of the Rewild Wicklow group, the Alvey family, last Thursday at Leinster House along with Minister Malcolm Noonan to hand over the massive petition on ideas for rewilding the Wicklow Mountains National Park.

The petition has been signed by almost 12,000 people and the group has been looking at a range of ideas on restoration and regeneration of the vast expanse of natural habitats in Wicklow's national park.

Deputy Matthews said, "Minister Noonan recently launched an ambitious bog rewetting initiative at the Liffey Head Bog in the Wicklow Mountains and visited the scene of devastation after wildfires last month. The National Parks and Wildlife Service NPWS has a vital role in managing our national upland areas and I also met with the review team recently on how we can strengthen the Service to carry out their work. The NPWS this year received significant increase in their budget and resources to ensure we protect our biodiversity and habitats in Wicklow. The recent public consultation on the role of the NPWS generated huge public engagement and I look forward to the publication of the review report.

"There is a huge challenge to reverse the biodiversity crisis and ecological damage of the past decades and the petition today signifies the overwhelming desire for action on this issue. There is an unprecedented commitment in the Programme for Government for action on Biodiversity and Climate Action and I urge everyone to keep the pressure on all political parties to support us on our objectives and ensure sufficient funding and community inclusion on this existential challenge."

COVID-19 Vaccines



If you're aged 50 or over, you can get your COVID-19 vaccine at a local pharmacy.

Many local pharmacies are now offering the Janssen single-dose COVID-19 vaccine to people aged 50 and over who are not already vaccinated.

The quickest and easiest way to get this single-dose COVID-19 vaccine is to talk to a local pharmacist or check the list of participating pharmacies on hse.ie.

You don't need to register on hse.ie but you will need to book your appointment with a participating pharmacy.

#ForUsAll

For more information visit hse.ie or call 1850 24 1850



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland





Jane Neill, Grainne Flynn, and Ava Kavanagh from Arklow Rugby Club who have been selected for the Leinster u18 Girls 2021 rugby squad

Nine Wicklow players make Leinster U-18 squad

The Leinster Rugby U-18 Girls squad has been announced for the coming season following a series of trials and nine Wicklow girls have made the panel.

They are; Grainne Flynn (Arklow RFC), Ava Kavanagh (Arklow RFC), Jane Neill (Arklow RFC), Amy O'Mahoney (Greystones RFC), Eva Sterritt (Greystones RFC), Robyn Johnston (Wicklow RFC), Vicky Kinlan (Wicklow RFC), Jen Madden (Wicklow RFC) and Leah Murphy (Wicklow RFC)

Over the course of three Sundays in May, close to 120 players from schools and clubs right across the province, whom were identified and put forward by their area development coaches, took part in three on-pitch screening sessions.

These sessions were all held in Cill Dara RFC in compliance with IRFU and Government COVID guidelines and were supported by Leinster Rugby domestic staff.

Congratulations to all the girls who took part and best of luck to those selected to participate and represent their clubs at provincial level.

Residents hopeful that Council will address recurrent housing repairs on foot of local research

Councillor Mags Crean (Ind) is calling on Wicklow County Council to provide adequate remediation funding for Farrankelly Close to address recurrent housing repairs since the estate was completed in 2009.

The call comes after submission of a local research report to the Council documenting recurrent repair issues since 2009.

Prepared by Cllr Mags Crean, the report draws on results from a survey carried out by residents to capture the ongoing repair issues.

Recurrent repair issues listed included persistent problems with draughty windows, warped doors, poor insulation, piping faults and a host of other ongoing repairs, all of which impact negatively on the quality of life and living conditions for residents.

One survey respondent stated "If there is heavy rain, water leaks in under the front door; windows have draughts so it's always cold and locks and handles are faulty on interior doors. The small bedroom

is freezing".

Cllr Crean remarked that "These recurrent repairs in Farrankelly Close need to be addressed urgently as residents have a right to adequate housing standards. I am hopeful that Wicklow County Council will use this local report as a basis to allocate funding for remediation works that may finally give residents some peace of mind."

There was a Council of Europe ruling in 2017 in the case of local authority tenants that Ireland was in breach of article 16 of the European Social Charter. In March of this year, a progress report by a human rights committee of the council of Europe found that local authority tenants in Ireland continue to live with inadequate housing standards.



Cllr Mags Crean (right), with Samantha O'Rourke, resident of Farrankelly Close

Students call on Harris to address impacts of Leaving Cert results date

In a letter issued to Ministers Simon Harris and Norma Foley, the Irish Second-level Students' Union has called for a set of measures to be taken following the announcement of the Leaving Certificate results date.

The measures the organisation is advocating for center around accommodation for students in Irish third-level institutions along with a fair transition for those who plan on studying overseas.

The letter sent to the Ministers points out that "Some students will have less than 72 hours from results being issued until their college starts (for example, NUIG starts teaching on September 6th). We cannot put students under unfair pressure and unwarranted stress."

The measures they are calling for are:

- o Certainty to be provided to students applying to European universities that they will be able to progress to third-level.
- o All Universities to be

instructed to provide flexibility for first year students and move all payments and application deadlines for on campus accommodation until after the CAO Offers are released.

o Government representatives to meet with private student accommodation providers to ensure these groups also move all payment and application deadlines until after CAO Offers are released, ensuring affordable accommodation options are available to 1st year students.

o All third-level institutions to not commence teaching for first year students before September 25th, in order to give a fair and adequate timeframe to students.

o The Department of Education to evaluate the

possibility of bringing forward the release date.

o The Department of Education to communicate the reasoning behind the results timeline to the student body.

o Clarifications surrounding the Appeals Process timeline are communicated to the student body.

ISSU President Reuban Murray commented, "Right now the turnaround time faced by students is too close and third-level institutions need to recognise this. It is completely in the power of the individual colleges to move back their start date for students and change the accommodation arrangements for incoming first years. This transition is going to be a challenge for students but if all stake-

holders come together, then we can work together to find a feasible solution."

Mr. Murray further noted, "We welcome the news from UCAS that their deadline for results will now be September 7th - this is a great relief for many students, but there are still no answers for the hundreds of students applying to universities in places like the Netherlands, Poland, Italy and Germany. Some students are facing result deadlines of August 26th, and not starting this year may exclude them from applying for grants in the future. There is real worry - and we need to give these students clarity as soon as possible".

The ISSU welcomes the early announcement of the results date, which now gives the education sector time to recognise its impacts and adapt to the situation.

SCHOOL DEADLOCK BROKEN

Continued from page 1

along and brought a sense of urgency to the situation facing the students at GCNS.

"While I welcome the handover of the keys to the Department of Education from the contractor today, it beggars belief why it has taken a whole year and 5 months to find a resolution bringing unnecessary stress and uncertainty to staff, teachers, parents and students. I believe serious questions remain as to why this issue was left to escalate.

"For now, I hope that the Department makes swift moves to ensure the school is open in time for the new school year this September. The children deserve nothing less and could benefit from the certainty of a secure school building especially with all the disruption the global pandemic has caused.

"I want to congratulate teachers, staff, parents and the students themselves for creating a healthy learning environment at the Rugby Club, despite not having a permanent school home and wish them all the best in the new building. I can't wait to see them all in their new classrooms and desks enjoying their new school grounds and I've no doubt

the school and wider community will benefit from it," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly said he had spoken to Minister for Education Norma Foley about the urgency of the matter on numerous occasions including at a meeting as recently as the first week of June to discuss the issue.

Minister Donnelly said: "I'm delighted to see the deadlock has finally been broken. It has been an extremely tough and traumatic year for everyone involved in this issue from the parents to the pupils and the staff.

"I've been tracking the progress of the Conciliation process and pushing hard to try and get the school opened as soon as possible. In recent days I made it clear to Minister Foley just how important it was to get the school open in time for September. I'm delighted to see that message getting through and sense prevailing".

He added: "There are children in GCNS who will have spent most of their primary school years in prefabs. The staff have done an incredible job up to this point but it can't compare to being able to use the state-of-the-art new building.

"I know how much this will mean to the parents at the school who have been pushing hard for this day to come. I would like to congratulate them and the school committee on a job well done in making sure the interests of the students were remembered at all times.

"It has been a long hard campaign to get to this point but the school is now ready to open its doors to be used by generations of Greystones children to come."

The new school building was completed a year ago, but students have not been permitted to occupy it due to a dispute between the builder Western Building Systems (WBS) and the Department of Education regarding fire safety issues. The Junior Infants who began their primary school education in 2015 were first accommodated in a spare room in Temple Carrig Secondary School before moving to prefabs on the grounds of Greystones Rugby Club. Almost €1 million has been spent by the Department in rent to the rugby club since Greystones CNS first occupied prefabs on the club's grounds (approximately €11,000 per month).

Family carers report enormous strain and plea for re-opening of dementia services

Past year sees 'irreversible deterioration' for people living with dementia

The enormous challenges faced by the family carers of people living with dementia - and urgent need for access to support services - have been highlighted in a stark report from The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI).

The report found that the pandemic has led to a significant and irreversible deterioration in the condition of many people living with dementia - with their world becoming smaller and more frightening.

The research Caring and Coping with dementia during COVID-19 was launched recently and also found family carers to be at breaking point - with their mental and physical wellbeing seriously affected.

Findings include:

- * 81% of respondents were concerned about decline in the person with dementia

- * 54% of family carers reported a decline in their mental health, and 40% a decline in their physical health

- * 54% of family carers were worried about how they will continue to cope, with 44% feeling less able to cope

- * 28% of family carers reported considering a move to long term care for the person with dementia, with 65% saying that this has become a consideration sooner due to the pandemic.

The report comprised telephone and online surveys and focus groups including people living with dementia, family carers, Dementia Advisers and front-line service managers - and follows earlier surveys by The ASI in 2020.

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland CEO Pat McLoughlin said the lives of people with dementia and their family carers remain very seriously impacted by the pandemic period.

"This research shows the enormous sacrifices family carers have made in order to protect those they care for. Their struggles include heightened exhaustion, burnout, anxiety, grief, helplessness and despair.

"Other relationships and responsibilities (such as children or work) have also paid a price. The fact that there was no prioritisation of family carers in the vaccine roll out has left these people feeling abandoned. There were even cases of suicide risk reported among family carers.

"In parallel many people living with dementia

have experienced irreversible deterioration over the past year. These families feel angry, betrayed and frustrated and we need the Government to take additional measures to address their needs. We now need to see urgent and safe re-opening of day care centres and social clubs. Our research found that family carers' need for practical support almost tripled in the past year rising to 70%. They also need access to emotional support, including counselling services."

Describing her experience of being a full-time carer during COVID-19, Wicklow based Aisling Harmon said: "My Mum has advanced Parkinson's Disease and dementia. Her needs could not be put on hold, but our day-care and community services were cut off overnight. There was no emergency or contingency plan to fall back on. The world went online, but homecare couldn't. My part-time caring went 24/7, without subsidy or alternative support. We are so vulnerable and have been left unprotected. Vaccines

get rolled out, but carers were at the back of the queue. Everyone is focused on getting back to normal. My new norm is more of the same, only with less supports than before. It still feels like carers are invisible and have no voice."

In response to the report The ASI set out the following recommendations: Provide the necessary capital and revenue resources now for day care re-opening arising from public health guidelines; Better assistance for family carers through support groups and therapeutic services including counselling; Continued funding of ASI's Day Care at Home service in order for additional support to be provided; Provision of additional dementia appropriate home care hours to be provided urgently; Pilot and develop the Statutory Home Care scheme without further delay; Plan and coordinate dementia services post COVID-19 alongside other major chronic diseases; Implement fully The National Dementia Strategy.



Philip Rothwell enjoyed further success with his dual Punchestown festival scorer Singing Banjo at Wexford on Wednesday 2nd June. The 11-year-old was twice a winner over the banks' course at Punchestown but he was just as effective over the regulation chase fences and battled well to see off An Droichead Gorm by half a length under Gorey amateur rider Barry Walsh in the three-mile handicap chase. He won at odds of 11/4 joint-favourite in the colours of the winning rider's father John.

Rothwell helped champion Flat jockey Colin Keane complete a treble at Listowel on Sunday 6th June. The Joseph Fitzpatrick-owned Shazza landed the opening division of the John Thomas McNamara in great style, the 14/1 chance easily seeing off the Sheila Lavery-trained Supreme Machine by two and a quarter lengths.

Bray and North Wicklow Youthreach to move into former Colaiste Ráithín building

Minister for Further Education Simon Harris TD has announced that Bray and North Wicklow Youthreach are to move into the former Colaiste Ráithín building in Bray. The former school building is to be extensively refurbished.

Minister Harris said: "I am delighted to confirm that North Wicklow Youthreach will be moving to Colaiste Ráithín. My Department has now appointed a design team for the redevelopment and modernisation of the Colaiste Ráithín building.

"The refurbished Colaiste Ráithín facility will cater for 50 learners per year and provides education, training and work experience programme for early school leavers aged between 15 and 20. Youthreach provides a caring and supported environment in which young people have the opportunity to gain qualifications, develop their social and personal skills and progress positively into further education and training or employment. The current accommodation for Youthreach in Bray is rented and the new facility at Colaiste Ráithín will not only be a better facility but provide a permanent home for this excellent local service."

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Pictured are brother and sister Lily Houlihan, and Ivan Houlihan, from Rathdrum at Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services Wicklow. Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services is inviting members of the public to sponsor a flower in memory of a lost loved one, as part of its annual Hospice Sunflower Days appeal. For the second year in a row, this well-known on-street fundraiser cannot go ahead and instead takes a new form as Hospice Sunflower Days - Together we Remember, which gives people an opportunity to remember and celebrate a loved one.

Geraldine Tracey, Head of Nursing & Operations, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, Blackrock & Wicklow Hospices said: "Although Covid-19 created significant challenges, our work has very much continued. I see first-hand every day the unrelenting care, support and dignity provided to our patients and their loved ones in Harold's Cross, Blackrock and Wicklow. To take part, people are invited to share their loved one's name on a flower card and return it to Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, with a donation of €5. The flower card will be placed in the hospice garden of choice: Harold's Cross, Blackrock or Wicklow. Alternatively, people can choose to plant their card in their own garden, patio or a place of significance for a loved one. For more information or to sponsor a flower, please go to: olh.ie

SUAS Project seeks new participants

The 'Sustainable Uplands Agri-environment Scheme (SUAS)' Project has announced the opening of a third round of applications for parties interested in participating in the pilot project.

The SUAS Project is designed to assist both commonage and individual farmers across the Wicklow and Dublin uplands and is inviting interested parties to submit an Expression of Interest form before the July 2nd deadline.

Initiated in 2018, the five-year project is working to develop practical and innovative solutions to the complex challenges associated with the management of commonage and hill farms in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands region. This latest call follows two previous open calls in 2018 and 2019.

Pat Dunne, the Project Lead commented, "We received a substantial

number of applications in response to the previous open calls. Those that were selected have gone on to develop and implement a range of measures under agreed management plans.

"We are delighted to have an opportunity to take in new applicants under this third tranche and we are calling on interested parties to submit an expression of interest before the deadline of July 2nd."

Project Manager Declan Byrne said, "The project represents a significant opportunity to make a positive and lasting change to secure the sustainable future management of the Wicklow and Dublin uplands."



"We will support new participants to complete a number of simple, habitat improvement measures on their sites, to encourage collective working among commonage farmers and to deliver habitat improvement on all sites."

Expression of interest forms and guidelines can be downloaded directly from Wicklow Uplands Council's website: wicklowuplands.ie/project-application-process/ or by contacting the project office on (01) 2818406 or email info@wicklowuplands.ie

lowuplands.ie/project-application-process/ or by contacting the project office on (01) 2818406 or email info@wicklowuplands.ie

The SUAS Project is a European Innovation Partnership (EIP) funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

Roundwood & District Athletic Club receives funding for sports equipment

Roundwood and District Athletic Club were the Wicklow County winners in the recent Texaco Support for Sport initiative, and the club was last week presented with a cheque for €5,000 to be used to purchase new sports equipment.

One of almost 400 clubs countrywide to make application under the scheme, the club was established in 1991 and has over 100 members. It is operated on a voluntary basis catering for children age 6 to 18 with a social running club for adults.

In their winning submission, the Club revealed plans to purchase new sporting equipment such as high jump mats, shot putt and javelins. A longer-term plan includes the development of a 100-

metre track, jumping and throwing area and clubhouse.

The presentation was made to the Club by Valero Energy (Ireland) Limited - the company that markets fuel in Ireland under the Texaco brand. Under its Texaco Support for Sport initiative, launched last September, a fund of €130,000 was set aside for allocation in equal amounts of €5,000 to successful applicants chosen on a county-by-county basis. Overseeing the adjudication process was Texaco Support for Sport ambassador, former Irish rugby international and broadcaster, Donncha O'Callaghan.

The cheque presentation to Wicklow's Roundwood and District Athletic Club members Trisha Molloy (Chairperson), Terry Kavanagh (Founding Member) and Anne Marah (Club President), was made at a private event held at the Newtownmountkennedy Texaco Service Station. Also in attendance were Texaco dealers Ben and Gerard Marbach (left and second right) with Valero Area Sales Manager, Niall O'Rourke (centre).

Entries to the Texaco Support for Sport 2021 initiative will open this Autumn.



Ben Marbach, Texaco Dealer, Newtownmountkennedy, Trisha Molloy, Chairperson of Roundwood & District Athletic Club, Niall O'Rourke, Area Sales Manager, Valero Retail, Terry Kavanagh, Founding member of Roundwood & District Athletic Club, Gerard Marbach, Texaco Dealer, Newtownmountkennedy, and Anne Marah, Club President.

New CARA small job service

A new small job service for older and more vulnerable people living in Bray and North Wicklow has been launched by Bray Area Partnership.

CARA (Care and Repair Action) provides help with a variety of small jobs such as cutting hedges and lawns, flower beds, minor carpentry, small paint jobs and installing smoke alarms. This service seeks to support older and vulnerable people to remain in their own home and live as independently as possible. You only have to pay for materials used - although donations are gratefully accepted. All staff are Garda-vetted.

CARA service is supported by the DSP, Wicklow County Council and the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022. SICAP is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

You can contact the team on 01 286 6080 or email james@brayareapartnership.ie. To find out more about the service see www.brayareapartnership.ie

Ógra Shinn Féin Launched in Wicklow

Ógra Shinn Féin is being launched in Wicklow, and is open to young people aged between 16 and 26. An online public engagement event is taking place on Tuesday 15th June at 8pm.

The Party says it is a way for young people "to get involved in politics in their local area and to stand up for issues with other young people who are facing the same struggles on a daily basis".

Ciarán Deay, Youth Officer for Wicklow Sinn Féin said of the new structure in the county: "Young people have lost so much over the last year and have largely been forgotten about by the Government. Ógra will be a space for them to speak up and be heard amongst their peers - peers who are going the same struggles, be it with their mental health, employment or education.

"This is such an exciting opportunity for young people to have a space to discuss issues that matter to them and decide on ways that they can help to solve the issues or shine on light on them."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady commented on the news saying: "Ógra Shinn Féin will allow more young people to have a voice across the county. More and more young people feel they are not being listened to and are being left behind.

"Ógra will bring these young people together and will allow them to shape campaigns and initiatives in their own way."

This will be a way for those who want to find out more about Ógra to come and hear speakers from local and National Politics, such as John Brady TD will be and Máiréad Farrell TD, speak about the opportunities that Ógra brings to county Wicklow.

If you wish to attend you can email wicklowgrasf@gmail.com or message their Instagram page @wicklowgrasf



Did you know that County Wicklow has a number of different services with dedicated staff and volunteers who are there when people in the community need them?

Often times, people can come to a crossroads in life. Whatever the case may be, whether it's to do with caring for the more vulnerable people in a community or helping someone find a new

career path, the help is there.

If you or someone you know in your local community is in need of a helping hand, take a look at the services listed in this feature and remember, you are not alone.

We're all only human

and at times it is all too easy to get bogged down with life.

It is often difficult to avoid feeling overwhelmed, in need of a

helping hand, some sound advice or guidance or even just a friendly ear to talk into or a shoulder to lean on.

Fortunately, Co. Wicklow is full of amazing services with dedicated

staff and volunteers who are there when you need them.

There are a number of options available to people looking for a little extra care, whether for the elderly, the young, or

people who just need a little extra help with certain life skills. Help is at hand from a number of local organisations who can assist you with a range of different requirements.

Arklow Cancer Support

Arklow Cancer Support, like many other businesses and groups were forced to close their doors last March with the sudden lockdown restrictions due to Covid-19.

"We had clients who had commenced their treatment and our main concern was to continue to provide support and transport for them. We adapted our vehicles with sneeze screens and the appropriate PPE. This allowed us to continue to provide our transport service throughout the pandemic and we owe a huge gratitude to our many drivers. Another of our vital services we continued to provide was our Counselling and Psychotherapy. Our counsellors quickly adapted to provide one on one sessions via Zoom and phone consultations for adults, adolescence and children. We now offer Art, Sound Meditation, Chair Yoga,

Creative Writing and Friday Morning Drop on online. We delivered a group session on Managing Stress and Anxiety. We also set up a Women's Group which is running very successfully. We are now in the process of developing further online supports for the near future. We are very thankful to the general public and the businesses of Arklow for continuing to support us throughout this very difficult time.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0402-23590 or 085-1100066. Once you make that first call, we will always be here to help wherever possible. Keep well and stay safe!"

Open Door Day Centre

This year Open Door is proud to celebrate 37 years of caring in the community and would like to thank all its supporters for helping to make a difference to member's lives.

Open Door is based in Bray with a catchment area covering North Wicklow and South County Dublin. The Centre provides facilities and activities for adults with varying disabilities as a result of Stroke, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, Spina Bifida, accidents and other causes.

"Strict COVID-19 protocols are in place and we are very happy to see our members, once again, enjoying the activities and the social outlet provided by Open Door. Activities include art, music, computers, physiotherapy, ceramics and woodwork. Find out how Open Door can help you or someone you know by calling 01 2867123 or email info@opendoor.ie."

While Open Door is partly funded by the HSE, funds must be raised to cover the deficit in order to continue to provide the many therapeutic activities to members of the community. Visit www.opendoor.ie for more information on how you can help support Open Door.



open door

Open Door caters for adults with physical disabilities on a daily basis. Our modern, purpose built Activity Centre is situated on the Vevay Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

**Ph: 01 286 7123
E: info@opendoor.ie
www.opendoor.ie**



ARKLOW CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Arklow Cancer Support offer practical & emotional support for patients and families on their Cancer journey



**8 ST. MARY'S RD, ARKLOW, CO. WICKLOW
Phone: 0402-23590 / 085-1100066
Email: arklowcancersupport@gmail.com**

KYLEMORE DAY CARE

Meet with friends and socialise again

- Re-build your confidence with Professional care in a safe environment

Move it or lose it

- Keep active with Fit for Life Classes

Have fun and stay safe

- Creativity Arts and Crafts -Reminiscence Therapy
- Relaxation and Quiet time -Music and sing along

Delicious Healthy Food prepared by our Chefs

- Tea/Coffee on arrival, lunch and high tea with special dietary needs catered for

Transport

- Minibus available for those within a certain radius of the Centre.

Availability

- To reserve your place contact Liz Wats, Centre Manager: 01 286 3255 / 085 735 5464

Open 9-6pm Monday - Friday
Contact: Centre Manager
Liz Watts: 01 2863255 or
Mob: 085 7355464
Kylemore House, Sidmonton Rd.,
Bray, Co. Wicklow

Kylemore Day Care - Where connection is important



RNLI en route to the site of the kitesurfer. Photo courtesy of Arklow RNLI

Yacht takes detour from race to rescue kitesurfer

A yacht taking part in the Dun Laoghaire to Dingle Yacht Race played an important part in the rescue of a kitesurfer on the evening of June 9th.

The Yacht Freya and its crew picked up the kitesurfer close to Mizen Head and took them aboard. The casualty had reportedly been in the water for about two hours after getting into difficulty.

Meanwhile, Arklow RNLI lifeboat had been launched at approximately 7.45pm following a pager alert.

The volunteer crew made their way to the lifeboat station and within minutes of the request were aboard RNLB Ger Tighearr and enroute to the reported location.

The All-weather Trent Class lifeboat made its way to the reported position approximately 6 miles North East of Arklow.

While Arklow Lifeboat was enroute to the area they encountered the yacht Freya and the kitesurfer was transferred to Arklow Lifeboat upon arrival on scene which then returned with him to Arklow. Once aboard the lifeboat he was assessed and helped to warm up. No further medical attention was required, and upon return to Arklow all hands came ashore safely.

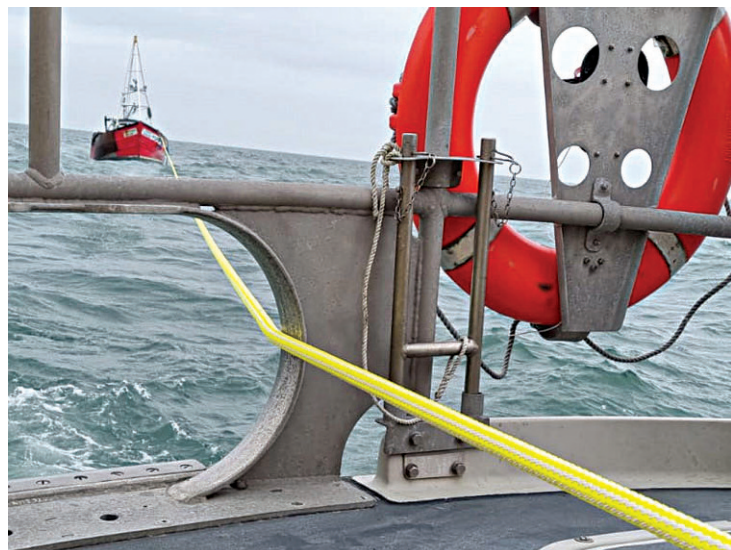
Arklow RNLI's crew on this shout were Coxswain Ned Dillon, Station Mechanic James Russell, Jimmy Myler, Craig O'Reilly, Daniel Downey & John Tyrrell.

Following the callout, Ned Dillon, Coxswain at Arklow RNLI said: "Huge thanks to the Skipper of the yacht Freya and crew, who despite being involved in the Dun Laoghaire to Dingle yacht race, assisted in the rescue of this casualty by taking him aboard the yacht, had they not taken this action, its very likely this would not have had such a positive outcome, in our eyes they are already winners"

Arklow RNLI rescues fishing vessel near Ennereilly Beach

Arklow RNLI volunteers rescued a 9-metre fishing vessel on June 8th after it lost propulsion approximately two miles North East of Arklow near Ennereilly beach.

The alarm was raised at approximately 1pm. The volunteer crew made their way to the lifeboat station and within minutes of the request were aboard RNLB Ger Tighearr and enroute to the reported location.



Arklow RNLI towing the vessel. Photo courtesy of Arklow RNLI

Once on scene the casualty vessel with 3 persons aboard was located and it was confirmed that the vessel had lost propulsion.

Arklow RNLI stated "Using our new towline system the tow was established and the casualty vessel was towed back to Arklow where all hands came ashore safely."

Arklow RNLI's crew on this shout were Coxswain John Bermingham, Eddie McElheron, Austin Gaffney, John Tyrrell, Michael Mordaunt and Station Mechanic James Russell.

Following the callout, Mark Corcoran, Volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer at Arklow RNLI said:

"Thanks once again to our volunteer crew, who at a moments notice go to sea to assist others. Please remember to respect the water."

Brittas Bay lifebuoys tossed onto bonfires

Wicklow County Council and An Garda Síochána are investigating incidents of theft and vandalism at Brittas Bay on Friday 4th June which saw seven lifebuoys and their holding stakes destroyed and the lifeguard hut broken into.

The vital lifesaving equipment was thrown onto two illegal bonfires on the beach, and equipment and personal items belonging to lifeguards were stolen from the hut.

The charred remains of the lifebuoys were discovered on the morning of Saturday 5th June by Council staff, south of the beach entrance.

It's estimated that the damage done was in the

region of €1,000. The Council has a stock of lifebuoys and the stolen ones were quickly replaced.

If anyone sees someone tampering with lifebuoys or notice any lifebuoys missing, they should notify Wicklow County Council. You can also report missing ringbuoys on watersafety.ie.

The advice from Water Safety Ireland is that "a stolen ringbuoy is a stolen life".

Funding available for angling projects and events

Inland Fisheries Ireland's Sponsorship Programme for 2021 is open for applications from suitable angling events and initiatives in Wicklow and nationwide.

The programme, which is one of the main funding mechanisms of Inland Fisheries Ireland, awarded funding to 87 angling events and initiatives across the country during 2019, resulting in an investment of €30,000 to support novice anglers and angling tourism in Ireland.

In Wicklow, three initiatives were awarded funding as part of the scheme in 2019. They included: the Youth Initiative Day - Leinster organised by the Irish Federation of Sea Angling, the Novice/New Angler Introduction to Boat Angling organised by Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club and the CBS James' Street Transition Year Fishing Programme which was organised by CBS James Street.

Due to public health guidelines around the Covid-19 pandemic, the Sponsorship Programme didn't go ahead in 2020 but in 2019, it supported 45 angling competitions to showcase Ireland's angling resource and contribution to local

economies. Over 800 anglers travelled from outside Ireland to participate in these competitions.

A total of 37 Coaching and Juvenile events, aimed at novice and young anglers with a view to increasing participation in the sport, along with five public awareness events and angling-related initiatives were supported in 2019. In total, over 600 juvenile and novice anglers participated in these initiatives.

Eligible events and categories in the 2021 Inland Fisheries Ireland Sponsorship Programme are as follows:

- Large international competitions held in Ireland which showcase Ireland's angling resources and contribution to local economies, supporting jobs and businesses (maximum sponsorship available is €3,000 per event).

- Novice angler events and training courses which increase participation in angling including funding of transport hire for participants to facilitate attendance at novice

angler events. Minimum of 20 novice angler participants required (maximum sponsorship available is €500 per event or course).

- Information dissemination or initiatives to promote fisheries awareness, conservation and protection of the inland fisheries and sea angling resource; promotion of angling as a key Irish tourism activity e.g. Production of high quality angling promotional videos, seminars, coaching, training or workshops (maximum sponsorship available is €1,000 per event).

- Juvenile and minority angling teams representing Ireland at international events both home and abroad (maximum sponsorship available is €500 per team).

Applications for funding from the Sponsorship Programme are now invited from angling clubs, associations or any local group organising an angling initiative. The programme will remain open for funding applications until the 25th of June 2021 with applications for equipment, staff support and biosecurity assistance available throughout the year.

To find out more and to apply, visit ifi.smartsimple.ie

Swim Ireland launches new 'Me and the Water' membership category

Swim Ireland has announced the launch of a new membership category, entitled 'Me and the Water'. The membership will cater for those who love to dip their toe, swim out to the buoy and back, enjoy an early morning workout in the pool and a whole community who have a passion for and relationship with the water, but are not members of a club.

The launch announcement was accompanied by the release of a new video, which explores the impact swimming, and the water, can have on people's lives, as described by enthusiasts in their own words.

'Me and the Water' represents Swim Ireland's ambition to 'Get Ireland Swimming'.

Swim Ireland says "It's a broad remit, but an exciting one. It is about creating a community of people (a tribe!) who have a genuine love of swim-

ming (and the water) and connecting them through various channels and activities. It lets peers support each other and develop a forum where swimmers can talk swimming and help each other.

"The conduit for this is the new website, meandthewater.ie."

Annual membership for the 'Me and the Water' category is €10. 'Me and the Water' members will be able to avail of many benefits including member-only events, monthly prizes, giveaways and will

receive a specially designed 'Me and the Water' swim hat to connect you with the tribe.

Siobhan Kennedy, an open water swimmer enjoys the thrill of the elements. Siobhan said, "There's a real buzz, it can be exhilarating to be out in the midst of the big waves. What draws me to the water? Well, everything, it's magic, it's bigger than you. You walk into the water and it takes all of your problems away, you can't think of anything when you're

there. I don't know what I'd do if I couldn't swim - it's my solace, it's my everything."

Speaking at the launch, Sarah Keane, CEO of Swim Ireland said, "We want people to share their relationship with the water and afford these people the opportunity to share their story and become part of a wider community. It will be about members making and building human connections and telling us their stories as to why they love to swim. It is about the members communicating with each other and not about Swim Ireland, we are the conduit that makes it all happen."

Innovative Arklow oyster farm project praised

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has praised an Arklow-based community group for its "innovative approach" and work to date to promote marine biodiversity and the use of oyster farms to help fight climate change.

Deputy Whitmore recently arranged for a meeting between the the Arklow Oyster Farm Project's committee members and NORRI (Native Oyster Reef Restoration Ireland).

Speaking on the Committee meeting, Deputy Whitmore says "As a Member of the Oireachtas Climate Action Committee I was delighted to be able to arrange for the Arklow community project NORRI to present to Committee members in a bit to promote their idea of a pilot project to set up a restoration site in Co. Wicklow for the regener-

ation of an area of our coastline. This project which is supported by Wicklow County Council hopes to pilot a project which could significantly help Ireland reduce its greenhouse gases as oyster farms have been proven to absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

"Essentially, the project would be a living lab of oysters that if successful could help restore a historic area of Wicklow's coastline, while also absorbing co2 and which can then be replicated throughout Ireland and Europe. Other benefits this project could provide are increasing biodiversi-

ty in our coastal waters, improved water quality, enhancing fisheries and shore-based industries, increase in marine tourism and education on the need for preservation.

"What is needed is funding to support this project and as we enter new decade of intense climate action we need to fund more of these types of projects. It is particularly important for local communities to be able to engage in innovative projects like this and NORRI is a prime example of how climate action can be carried out on a local level as this has done between Arklow resi-

dents, local community groups and Wicklow County council.

"I have raised the worthiness of this project with the Minister for Climate Action and the Marine and look forward to working with them to see if they can get this project off the ground and on the national agenda.

"As a marine scientist myself, I hope this project will lead to the next generation of eco and climate conscious marine scientists and citizens who will protect and manage our marine resource sustainably into the future" concluded Deputy Whitmore.



Local voluntary group Bray Coastcare were recently delighted to be able to return to their normal routine of holding a monthly clean up of the coastal areas of Bray once it was deemed safe to do so.

Bray Coastcare Chairperson and Founder Séamus Connor was delighted with the turnout with 24 volunteers coming out to lend a hand. "Since setting up Bray Coastcare in 2007 we have always been blessed with kind and passionate volunteers from Bray and beyond. Last Saturday I was delighted to see one of our biggest turnouts since our foundation and many of those who joined us on Saturday were new volunteers. It is terrific to see a wide range of volunteers joining us; solo volunteers, family groups, groups of friends and age is not an issue as we have had volunteers as young as 6 and right up to volunteers aged 80+."

At Saturday's clean up several large bags of litter were removed from Bray Head, the Cliff Walk, Naylor's Cove, Bray Beach, and all the other areas in between. These bags are then collected and recycled by Bray Municipal District. The 'Bray Coastal Habitat' mural, that was commissioned by Bray Coastcare in 2018 and is in the shelter about 15 minutes walk from the Bray end, was restored after it had been graffitied in recent months.

Harsh reality on display for World Ocean Day

To mark World Ocean Day on June 8th, SEA LIFE Bray Aquarium, along with SEA LIFE Centres in the UK, filled an empty habitat with plastic waste to demonstrate the reality of what lies within our waters.

World Ocean Day is an international day that aims to increase public interest and awareness in the protection of the ocean and the sustainable management of its resources, so SEA LIFE wanted to ensure the message was made loud and clear of the true threat to the world we live in.

With more than eight million metric tons of plastic dumped into our oceans each year, it is predicted that by 2050, ocean plastic will outweigh all the fish in the ocean*. This frightening fact is one of the reasons SEA LIFE wanted to create these shocking displays within its centres, to remind people of the harsh reality of ocean pollution to help ensure this doesn't continue.

The plastic pollution displays have been constructed at SEA

LIFE Centres in Birmingham, Manchester, Loch Lomond, London and Bray, meaning visitors can get a first-hand glimpse of the full extent of the issue. As plastics don't break down easily, they cause huge damage to the natural environment, and it is often mistaken as food by marine creatures.

General Manager of SEA LIFE Bray Aquarium Pat Ó Súilleabháin said: "Ocean pollution is one of the biggest environmental issues in the world right now. The amount of plastic waste in our waters is constantly rising and there needs to be more awareness of the damage we are doing to our planet. The constant flow of rubbish filling our oceans becomes life threatening and risks damaging the creatures' habitats.

"We wanted to bring to light what is found on our seabeds in the hope that this will help protect our oceans and our beloved sea creatures. By filling these tanks with plastic, we hope they can act as a reminder to everyone that action needs to be taken to prevent the state of our oceans worsening."

SEA LIFE centres reopened to the public last month with a strict health and safety policy in place, to ensure the safety of visitors and the site team. This includes social distancing measures, online pre-bookings for specific visiting slots, reduced capacity, extensive and additional cleaning operations, and face masks must be worn inside at all times.

As part of its commitment to conservation, SEA LIFE centres across the UK and Ireland are also taking part in the SEA LIFE Trust Global Beach Clean in July.



Sea Swimming survey submitted to Council

Social Democrats Councillor for Greystones Municipal District Jodie Neary has submitted her Greystones Sea Swimming Survey which received over 500 respondents during the Month of April and May.

"It's clear that during COVID sea swimming in the Greystones and Kilcoole area experienced a particular rise in popularity because of the mental/physical health benefits and also as a safer social outlet during lockdowns. The fact that it's a free and easily accessible activity makes it easier for people to take up the activity but it's clear that the Council has an opportunity now to build on the benefits sea swimming offers people in Greystones and across Wicklow.

"I organised a survey which received over 500 respondents and gave a very detailed picture of the trends in sea swimming in Greystones. I used the results to help support my Council motion for more sea swimming facilities.

"In terms of facilities, a lifeguard at The Cove, outdoor changing shelter, public toilets and fixing of railings were identified as priorities for sea swimmers. The survey has helped me to make a case to Wicklow County Council for a renewed focus on facilities and the Council responded initially by putting in place temporary public toilets by the South Beach.

"However, I am hopeful this is just the beginning of more sea swimming facilities down the road and I am working closely with the Council to identify funding opportunities including a potential donor to make this happen."

Cllr Neary also submitted a proposal to the Council outlining the following needs made evident from the sea swimming survey which are:

- Increased promotion of water safety and facilitating more sea swimming instructors/classes including buoys along the coast where people sea swim.
- Greater access for people with limited mobility and none - sea swimming is great for rehabilitation, but access is often an issue for people.
- A place for people to congregate safely to harness

the social benefits of sea swimming.

- A focus on the seascape as part of any public realm plans.
- Look at funding opportunities including the Blueway proposal to develop facilities in future.



Cllr Jodie Neary on Greystones seafront



Abby Mullins, Megan Carroll and Chloe Murphy from Moate Community School who were the overall group winners from BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition pictured at Hodson Bay launching BTYSTE 2022. Pic: Fennell Photography

Wicklow students wanted for virtual Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2022

The virtual BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) will return in January 2022 and Wicklow students are being called on to get their thinking caps on.

For the second consecutive year, Europe's largest national Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) event will be a virtual affair taking place from the 12th -14th January 2022. Now in its 58th year, the BTYSTE showcases the incredible ability of Irish students to create and test potential solutions that tackle everything from everyday problems to some of the biggest, global issues of our time. Once again BT Ireland, the exhibition organiser, has waived project entry fees for participating students.

Students that are chosen to present their projects in the virtual exhibition hall will be vying for some of the 200 plus prizes that will be up for grabs across four categories and age groups. The overall top prize is a trophy, €7,500 prize money and the opportunity to represent Ireland at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS).

Speaking at the launch of BTYSTE 2022, BT Ireland Managing Director Shay Walsh said: "The BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition is a staple in the school calendar and is an exciting and fun way

for young minds to engage with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths subjects. We are thrilled to give students the opportunity once again to challenge themselves and use their ingenuity to come up with fresh new ideas, solutions and approaches in the world of STEM. It's very exciting to know that thousands of students across Ireland will be working on projects in the weeks and months ahead."

Speaking at the launch of BTYSTE 2022 today, Mairead Cusack, Moate Community School teacher, and one of the recipients of the Educator of Excellence Award said: "We've always considered the BTYSTE a fun and exciting way to build our student's interest in science and we were delighted when one of our teams won best overall group at January's exhibition. I'm always so proud when I see the ideas students have and how excited they are to carry out their investigations."

BTYSTE 2022 is open to second-level students aged between 12 and 19 years. To enter, an individual or group must submit a one-page proposal outlining their project idea. Entries can be made in any one of four categories: technology; social and behavioural science; biological and ecological science; and chemical, physical and mathematical science. The deadline for submissions is Monday, 27th September 2021. Visit btyoungscientist.com for more information.

NCSE publishes list of special classes for Wicklow for 2021/22

The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) has published the list of special classes available in Primary and Post Primary schools across Co. Wicklow. The list provides important information to assist parents in supporting their child's education.

A total of 76 special classes are to be provided in Wicklow, an increase of 6% in the year-on-year provision for the County.

Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion, Josepha Madigan T.D., welcomed the publication, saying, "The publication today of the list of special classes for this September will be a great support to parents and families of young people with special educational needs, and confirms the commitment to ensure that young people have appropriate school places suitable to their needs. I want to thank everyone in the National Council for Special Education for their work in supporting special education and the establishment of special classes. Across the country, the number of special classes continues to grow year-on-year. This announcement is another step on the road to strengthening support and inclusion in our education system for the benefit of all students, and will ensure that students have the supports needed to reach their full potential."

Speaking on the publication of the list Michelle McConnon, Regional Manager, South Eastern Region of the NCSE, said: "This is a vitally important resource for parents in County Wicklow. Many parents have anxieties about their child's education and how they will cope but this is especially true for parents of children with Special Educational needs. While many of these special classes will be fully or nearly fully subscribed at this time, we want to increase awareness of the options in County Wicklow to ensure that children with Special Educational needs receive an education that enables them to achieve their potential. The list underlines the NCSE's commitment to providing inclusive, responsive and appropriate education for children in the county. The NCSE would like to thank all the schools who have responded positively to the local SENOs request to establish additional special classes for the forthcoming year."

A full list of all classes can be found at <https://ncse.ie/special-classes> and any parent with questions is encouraged to visit NCSE.ie or contact their local SENO for further advice and supports including information on new special classes opening in 2022 or beyond.

Harris supports Temple Carrig students' demands on future of open space at Coolagad

Minister Simon Harris TD has commended Temple Carrig students for their campaign regarding the future of the open space at the residentially zoned lands at Coolagad, Greystones.

Minister Harris said: "I would like to commend Temple Carrig students on their campaign and I fully support their list of demands and have written to both the County Council and Cairn Homes Ltd.

"It is wonderful to see the students take such an active interest in the future of their community. The petition has been signed by over 800 students and they are rightly demanding a proper Multi Use Games Area with full sized pitches to enable a wide range of field sports.

"The students have

studied the various proposals that have been developed by Cairn Homes for the Active Open Space over the past four years and are concerned that Cairn Homes is trying to avoid providing the necessary community dividend in return for new residential development".

Cllr Derek Mitchell, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, is also supporting the campaign.

Cllr Mitchell said: "I am not happy with the most recent presentation to local councillors



Minister Simon Harris TD

regarding Cairn Homes' intentions for this site. The latest proposal from the developer included only a 'juvenile grass

pitch' which would be of limited use for local schools and clubs. Cairn Homes must honour their original commitments in respect of the open space and I fully support the students' campaign."

While Cairn Homes have not yet submitted a final application to An Bord Pleanála for the Coolagad site, Minister Harris has asked for greater engagement between the developer, council and local community to ensure the final plans will include a full sized pitch to facilitate a wide range of field games.

East Glendalough is runner up in DCU's Covid languages competition

East Glendalough School in Wicklow was awarded third place in the category of Best Tik Tok Story in a new competition launched by DCU's School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies.

The competition saw hundreds of Transition Year students across the country embraced the opportunity to 'Express yourself in COVID times' through a foreign language. The new competition was launched by DCU's School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies.

Supported by Languages Connect, DCU organised the event to provide students with a creative outlet for their passion for foreign languages during the pandemic when usual in-person interactions, which are so fundamental to language learning, were not able to take place.

Students were invited to submit entries across a range of topics in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Spanish and multilingual for a chance to win prizes for Best Tik Tok story, Best video/Instagram story and Best Comic strip.

The competition attracted more than 300 entries from 70 schools around Ireland. Organiser, Assistant Professor Lucía Pintado Gutiérrez from DCU's School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies, said: "We live in a multicultural society and studying languages opens doors to other countries, cultures, people and employment opportunities. Our language competition was designed to make students feel excited and inspired about continuing to learn languages in a difficult year and so they could feel optimistic about the bright future ahead of them if they choose to go on to study languages at third level in DCU."

According to Dr Pintado Gutiérrez, studying languages opens up global career opportunities across many industries as businesses expand into broader markets.

She added: "Good communication through foreign languages is essential to organisations and sectors operating globally. Graduates from our degree in Applied Language and Translation Studies are immediately work-ready and sought after for their professional competencies as language professionals and translators. Many of our graduates have found employment across a range of industries where they have applied their language skills, including localisation, gaming, banking, tourism, education, research, and recruitment. Students taking a language as part of their Joint Honours degrees also acquire very interesting profiles that make them ready for the workforce."

The benefits of studying a lan-

guage are well reported with evidence to show that learning vocabulary improves memory and being bilingual develops multitasking and problem-solving skills.

Being well versed in a foreign language also encourages appreciation for other cultures and helps students understand different cultural values.

The DCU Transition Year Languages Competition 2021 was organised with support from Languages Connect, which promotes the personal, social, professional and economic benefits of foreign language skills to principals, teachers, guidance counsellors, parents, students and stakeholders in post-primary education. The campaign was funded by the Department of Education and facilitated by Post Primary Languages Ireland, as a key objective of the Languages Connect - Ireland's for Foreign Languages in Education 2017 - 2026.



East Glendalough School, Wicklow Town

Two Wicklow scholars earn prestigious Fulbright Award

Fulbright Ireland-USA are awarding two Wicklow scholars a Fulbright Award this year which will see both go to the USA next year.



Dr Emma Penney

The award is being given to Dr Emma Penney from Wicklow and Daniel Johnston from Greystones. They will go to Howard University in Washington, DC, and Harvard University in Boston, respectively.

Dr. Emma Penney is an IRC Postdoctoral Fellow at University College Cork where she is completing her monograph *Women Writing the Margins*. She is currently collaborating with poet Sophie Meehan and digital artist, Áine O'Hara on an Arts Council funded project to recuperate and create a digital archive of working-class writing. Emma is also organising Ireland's first Working-Class Studies Conference with the support of an IRC New Foundations Award and is a member of the Steering Committee of the Working-Class Studies Association of America. As a Fulbright-NUI Scholar, Emma will travel to Howard University in Washington, DC where she will consult the archives of the National Welfare Rights Organisation paying special attention to the creative writing produced by grassroots women's groups as part of a welfare rights movement. She will be based at the Cathy Hughes School of Communication where she will work closely with Dr. Monica Ponder and Dr. Loren Saxton-Coleman on their CDC Foundation-funded project, *Project REFOCUS*, which addresses social stigma related to COVID-19 and racism. Through transnational archival practice, Emma will explore how writing cultures can be collectively transformative and could offer a non-

researches the underlying causes of inflammatory skin disease. He completed his undergraduate studies and PhD research in Immunology at Trinity College Dublin, before undertaking post-doctoral research at the University of Oxford where he held the Bryan Warren Junior Research Fellowship at Linacre College.

As a HRB-HealthImpact Scholar at Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard University, Daniel will be using single-cell RNA-sequencing data to rationally design in vitro models of the inflammatory skin disease Hidradenitis Suppurativa.

Chair of the Board of the Fulbright Commission in Ireland Professor Diane Negra said "The Commission Board congratulates the Awardees travelling to the U.S. in the coming year. It is exciting to consider the role they will play in the resumption and reinvigoration of academic and cultural activities."

Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission in Ireland Dr Dara FitzGerald said "The Fulbright program is really about people; the resilience of our Fulbright awardees and alumni this year has been wonderful. The impacts of our partners' and sponsors' support, flexibility and vision are heartening, especially in challenging times as the world recovers from a difficult year. We thank our partners, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Dublin, the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Irish Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media."



Daniel Johnston



Stephanie Doyle, Katie Doyle, Stanislav Ustinov, Dylan O'Neill, Coach Leon Power of Presentation De La Salle in Bagenalstown, Carlow who won the Concern Debates Cup

Coláiste Chill Mhantáin praised in Concern Debates championship

Coláiste Chill Mhantáin's debating team has been praised for their efforts in the All-Ireland Concern Debates championship - which went ahead online this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Wicklow team made it to the quarter final of the contest's Shield Cup.

Presentation De La Salle in Bagenalstown, Carlow won the Concern Debates Cup in their online final with Baileborough Community School, Co Cavan.

The All-Ireland champions - captain Stephanie Doyle, Katie Doyle, Dylan O'Neill, Stanislav Ustinov, and team researcher Adam Zielinski - successfully argued against the motion that "cuts to overseas aid, proposed by the British Government, are unjustifiable and counterproductive."

Friends' School Lisburn in Antrim won the separate Concern Debates Shield final in their clash with Ardscoil Mhuire Limerick.

The winning team - captain Alice Francey, Beth Eccles, Eden Wilson and Holly Thompson - successfully argued for the motion that "even beyond 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals are beyond humanity's reach."

Concern Debates was created by the Irish humanitarian organisation, Concern Worldwide, in 1984 to encourage further debate and awareness of global issues and to improve the level of debating skills amongst young people.

Over 50,000 students have taken part in Concern Debates since the competition began and some of its well-known past participants include Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe, RTE broadcaster Claire Byrne and Virgin Media One presenter Karen Koster.

"We congratulate all 102 secondary schools and their debating teams from across Ireland and Northern Ireland who took part in Concern Debates this year," said Concern's Head of Active Citizenship, Michael Doorly.

"They showed exceptional debating skills and we applaud them and all who supported them as they moved from large halls to debating in front of their computer screens."

"The only time there's not been a debate final was in 2001, due to precautions around the foot and mouth disease, but we were determined to keep it going in 2020 and 2021 during this pandemic."

"Debating is a wonderful and very useful skill for people to equip themselves with. It teaches us how to put our points across in a respectful, dignified, yet convincing way."

"Our hope is that by taking part in Concern Debates, students embark on a lifelong, social justice journey of speaking out for those left behind."

This year was the first time the entire contest was done online and it was also divided into two categories, the Shield and the Cup, to allow more schools to progress further in the competition.

'Good news for students with special educational needs'

The announcement of a new enhanced Summer Programme for students with special educational needs and those facing disadvantage is good news for Wicklow students, Minister Simon Harris has said.

Minister Harris has welcomed an announcement from Minister for Special Education Josepha Madigan for the provision of expanded summer education programmes for pupils with complex special educational needs and those at greatest risk of educational disadvantage, as a Covid-19 pandemic response measure, for summer 2021.

Up to €40 million in funding will be available for the programme, a 100% increase on the allocation for summer provision in 2020.

Minister Harris said: "This is a great announcement for students with complex needs in Wicklow. Many students and their families will welcome the opportunity to return to the classroom over the summer

to benefit from additional support and routine after a very difficult year.

"For the first time ever, all schools will be able to host a summer programme, meaning that more students than ever before will be able to take part. The programme will include students in special schools and special classes, as well as students with complex needs in mainstream classes."

"I encourage all schools in Wicklow to avail of this opportunity for the benefit of local students with complex needs who need it most," Minister Simon Harris added.

The programme's aims are to support pupils to re-engage with education, build their confidence and increase their motivation, promote wellbeing and, for

some who are at key transition stages, help to ensure they can move on to their planned educational placement next September along with their peers.

All schools (primary and post-primary) are encouraged to provide summer programmes and the eligibility criteria have been extended to include post-primary children with complex needs and children at risk of educational disadvantage.

Prior to this expansion, summer programmes were only available to special schools and pupils in special classes in primary schools and DEIS schools.

The five key strands of the programme will run as follows:

* Numeracy and literacy camps in DEIS primary schools.

* School-based summer programmes in primary schools with special classes and special schools.

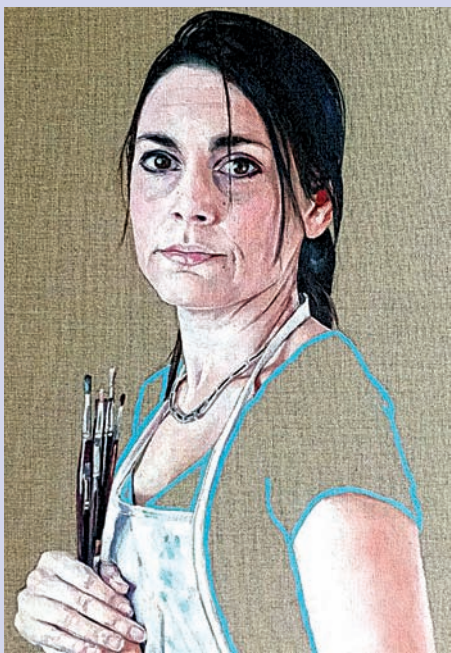
* Home based provision for children with complex needs where no school-based programme is available.

* All primary schools (DEIS and non-DEIS) have the opportunity to provide a two-week summer programme for mainstream pupils with complex needs and those at greatest risk of educational disadvantage.

* All post-primary schools (DEIS and non-DEIS) have the opportunity to provide a two-week summer programme for mainstream students with complex needs and those at greatest risk of educational disadvantage.

Coming up at Signal Arts Centre... *9th Annual Signal Open*

The Signal Arts Centre's 9th annual Signal Open, an exhibition by various artists, takes place from Tuesday 3rd August to Sunday 15th August.



Over the last 250 years 'Open Submission' exhibitions have become established as an essential element of Arts infrastructure. They act as one of the most accessible routes for artists to have their work seen by the public and are almost invariably amongst the stepping stones in an artist's career. These exhibitions provide an opportunity for artists to come together as a community to show and sell their work and provide the public with an eclectic insight into what's happening in the arts both locally and nationally.

A founding tenet of Signal Arts Centre is the belief that there is a huge amount of talent that goes unrecognised and that an opportunity should be there for all artists to exhibit their work. The Signal Open is just such an opportunity.

The Signal Open Exhibition is now in its 9th year and has become an annual event in artists' calendars. We have been delighted by the response and the quality of work submitted each year and we are very grateful to all of the artists for their support.

The 9th Annual Signal Open Exhibition takes place at the Signal Arts Centre from Tuesday 3rd - Sunday 15th August 2020. The 'Best in Show' winner will be awarded €1,000 and will be announced at the Exhibition Opening on Friday 6th August from 7-9pm.

Above the Horizon: An exhibition by Anna Hryniewicz

Anna Hryniewicz is an abstract painter working primarily in acrylics. She draws her inspiration from both music, which is an integral part of her life and from nature with its majestic landscapes and seascapes.

Hryniewicz's work focuses on the power of colour and the interaction of shapes and lines. She transforms materials into a strong artistic expression, which seem to emanate with colour creating intriguing compositions. Each painting represents the thought, the feeling, the sense of place rather than the traditional look of the world.

In her work she refers to her childhood memories, the passage of time and how it forms her sense of being. She creates a window into colourful realms that are around us and in us but they also lie beyond our worldly affairs. Her work is a vision of imaginary worlds, undiscovered planets, unknown places in the Universe.

Anna graduated from Czestochowa University (Poland) in Painting and Teaching Art in 2004. She is a professional member of VAI and her works are in public and private collections in Europe, the UK and the USA. She was the recipient of Incubate Residency Award in Draiocht in 2019.

Above the horizon can be seen at the Signal Arts Centre from now until Sunday 20th June.



'The Way We Art': An Exhibition By The Bray Artists' Circle

Bray Artists' Circle has been providing opportunities for local artists to develop their artistic talent since 2003. The members range from artists who have been painting for many years, to others who have taken it up more recently as a hobby.



A cross-section of styles and media preferences from oils to watercolour, acrylics to pastels is displayed within the group. While there is no formal teaching, more experienced artists are willing to give advice as members work on their own subject preferences in a relaxed atmosphere.

Workshops led by professional artists are organised annually. Trips to art galleries such as the National Gallery have also been organised for members. Some members have also travelled to France, Spain and Italy for painting workshops.

The group meet throughout the year on Monday evenings for two hours in St. Cronan's B.N.S., Bray. At present there are approximately 25 members many of which have successfully sold their work in a variety of exhibitions.

This exhibition (Monday 19th July to Sunday 1st August) includes a selection of work in oils, watercolour, acrylic and pastel by our members, all of whom have their very individual styles.

Mermaid to re-open gallery in July

Summer is here at last, and there is palpable hope and excitement in the air at Mermaid Arts Centre.

"The announcements from government recently were very welcome," Mermaid stated. "The date given for cinema and theatre re-opening was much earlier than expected – it's not possible for us to deliver indoor events at this short notice, so we are working to the plans we already had in place."

"We took a decision three months ago to make plans as best we could, given the limited informa-

tion available, which means that our programme is focused on delivering outdoor in-person events and digital events for an at-home audience. In the meantime, the auditorium and gallery are being put to good use as workshop spaces for artists throughout the summer.

"We're hugely looking forward to re-opening our gallery in early July with a new exhibition from

Joan Davis, followed by Joe Wilson in August. In the meantime, there's some really exciting concerts and theatre events that are made to be experienced in really intimate settings, both at home and outdoors – read on for more! While all of that goes on this summer, we are busy finalising our autumn programme. It's a tricky process as so much is still uncertain. However, we're staying

optimistic, and trying to plan as best we can, in the hope that we can do what the whole team has been craving to do and welcome people back to the building to enjoy the escape and the balm that artistic experiences bring to so many of us.

"For up to date info on what's on, you can check out our website and social media channels. We look forward to seeing you soon!"

Joan Davis: Garden as Gallery, Gallery as Garden *Opening Friday 2nd July at 11am*

Mermaid Arts Centre will present an exhibition by Joan Davis, opening to the public on Friday 2nd July at 11am. The exhibition runs in conjunction with a series of live outdoor dance performance events at Gorse Hill.

Garden as Gallery at Gorse Hill is a series of live outdoor dance performance events. It celebrates all that is artful, natural, spontaneous, healing and heartfelt. There will be four dancers, one musician and one tour guide to bring you on this magical GARDEN AS GALLERY tour. In conjunction with GARDEN AS GALLERY, GALLERY AS GARDEN runs at Mermaid Arts Centre as an exhibition with aspects of the installations translated into indoor pieces. Magical and utterly inspired by nature and all that dances in her.

In a very unique setting overlooking the Bray/Greystones cliff path, is a steeply terraced garden of approximately four acres. Family owned for over fifty years, the gardens have filled out with mature Cordyline trees, New Zealand flax's, Fuchsias, giant Echiums and many more plants that can withstand a seaside environment. There is more than a sense of the surreal about the garden but also one of tranquillity. It is a wild garden; strange, quirky and fascinating. Not for the tidy person who likes things ship-shape and in ordered order. Even more unique are the garden installations that have evolved over the past twenty five

years. Joan Davis works directly with the elements in her artistic endeavours. Each year the storms change the installations and then in the spring, she goes out and works with those changes. Most of the installations are really works in progress over the past twenty five years. Joan says, "I consider myself to be a work in progress. Coming from a dance background and getting older, as I step out of my dancing self, the garden becomes more inhabited by dancing figures and forms made of wood ash, rotted grass cuttings and peat briquette ash as well as anything bio degradable from the garden. It is a big recycling as well. There are several themes that run through GARDEN AS GALLERY; one is the grounded body of form. I love working with bone, most of which has been collected on Wicklow hill walks. I love working with the opposite of that, formlessness or spirit. Another related theme arises from my interest in Jewish Mysticism and the Hebrew alphabet, letters that are forms (like our bodies) through which the light shines. How do form and formlessness meet and embrace each other is an ongoing enquiry for me. Linked

to this is my life long relationship with the faery world and the magic, madness and mischief therein. There is one corner of the garden that particularly seems to hold this energy. It is always in some chaos and there is a great sense of ongoing movement mischief there." Joan Davis has lived her whole life in Ireland, where she has pioneered innovative contemporary dance practices since 1976. From 1996, when she moved to Wicklow, she developed the arts practice and performance offerings of Maya Lila. In 2012 Joan offered a somatic training, the first of its kind in Ireland, called ORIGINS. In 2013 Mary Wycherley, a dance filmmaker based in Limerick, Ireland, was funded to make a film of the work of Maya Lila called 'In the Bell's Shadow'. Between 1996 and 2021, Joan developed the gardens at Gorse Hill with many outdoor garden installations. This is her first exhibition in an indoor gallery space.

To book your place to one of the outdoor dance performances at Gorse Hill contact Rosemary at gardenasgallery@gmail.com

The exhibition runs until Saturday 31st July 2021, 11am - 4pm. Admission is free
Outdoor dance performances at Gorse Hill: 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th, 24th and 25th July 2021.



Loreto eco-activists win Young Environmentalist Awards

Young eco-activists from Loreto Bray were named winners at this year's Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA). Hosted by ECO-UNESCO, the winner's were announced virtually at the YEA virtual ceremony at the end of May.



Loreto students with their 'Seed Library' project

The Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) is an all-island programme that recognises and rewards young people aged 10-18 who have taken environmental action and come up with innovative solutions to environmental issues. Over 200 projects applied to the YEA programme this year.

Despite Covid-19

interruptions, young people continued to work on their projects at school, at home and during youth clubs in an effort to tackle climate issues.

Young people from Loreto Secondary School Bray reached the finals with an astounding six environmental projects. Their school Seedling Swap earned them the top overall award in the

Senior category, while their Rainwater Rescuers project was named winner of the Senior Water category.

Students Katrina Smyth, Erica Brierton, and Aoife Blount set up a 'seed library' to promote biodiversity. They gathered seeds, provided information on how to grow them and encouraged other students to bring their own seeds into school contribute to the library.

The Rainwater Rescuers, meanwhile, collected rainwater and put it to use watering plants in the school and washing art supplies, etc.

Coláiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole, meanwhile, made it to the finals of the Senior Biodiversity Category for their Project Pollinator Garden. Their project is based on raising awareness around the importance of Pollination Areas in the community. They have also been working with the local Tidy Towns committee to find an area in the village

to plant a pollinator garden and have also found an area in their school to plant.

Elaine Nevin, Director of ECO-UNESCO said "We are so proud of the projects that have been submitted this year and the efforts these young people have made to create awareness and make a positive environmental difference. It is these individuals that are shaping a better future for our planet and we are so excited to announce our winner's at this year's ceremony."

ECO Week 2021 was held from 24th to 28th May and included a range of environmental workshops, well-being activities, talks, and challenges for young people alongside the YEA Winner announcements. The aim of ECO Week is to celebrate the achievements of young activists, to allow young people to explore career opportunities in environmentalism and to educate them on a range of environmental topics.



Loreto's Rainwater Rescuers



Ann Marie Phelan, Enterprise and Innovation Manager, IADT Media Cube, Tom Flanagan, Director of Enterprise and Commercialisation, NovaUCD and Paula Carroll, National Programme Manager, New Frontiers, Enterprise Ireland. Pix: Leon Farrell, Photocall Ireland

IADT Media Cube and NovaUCD announce €1.6m new partnership programme

IADT Media Cube and NovaUCD have announced a new 5-year partnership, with €1.6 million in funding from Enterprise Ireland, to deliver a New Frontiers Programme for entrepreneurs in Dublin.

The entrepreneurship programme is aimed at the growing number of emerging entrepreneurs based in the greater South Dublin area, incorporating South Dublin, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and North Wicklow.

The New Frontiers programme will provide participating entrepreneurs with access to a comprehensive package of supports including mentorship from some of Ireland's leading business people, funding support from Enterprise Ireland and access to resources including hot-desk facilities from two of

Ireland's leading business innovation centres, IADT Media Cube and NovaUCD.

The partnership will enable a total of 275 entrepreneurs, up to 55 annually, to develop their innovative business ideas with a view to building globally scalable businesses.

Ann Marie Phelan, Enterprise and Innovation Manager, IADT Media Cube commented, "We are delighted to be working with the team at NovaUCD in delivering the New Frontiers programme for Enterprise Ireland. IADT has been delivering the programme since 2013 and has

been responsible for the emergence of numerous successful companies including, Cambrist, Snapfix, Ambr Eyewear, Dr. Coys and CheckVentory, all of whom are located in South Dublin, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and North Wicklow.

"This new partnership will allow us to consolidate a myriad of enterprise supports and will go a long way to supporting start-up companies in the local region while providing them with expert insight and access to innovative practice-led research in design, technology, and entrepreneurship that has been integral to the Media Cube's success. The next five years promises to be a very exciting time for entrepreneurs coming to IADT Media Cube and NovaUCD."

Non-profit organisations invited to apply for Carmichael awards

Non-profit organisations in Wicklow are being invited to apply for the Good Governance Awards 2021. Applications for this year's Awards were opened on 1st June by Carmichael.

Now in its sixth year, the Good Governance Awards recognise and encourage adherence to responsible governance by non-profit organisations in Ireland. In 2020, Carmichael received its highest number of applications for the Awards, with 100 non-profit organisations applying.

Diarmaid Ó Corbuí, CEO of Carmichael, said: "We are delighted to open applications for the Good Governance Awards 2021. We look forward to receiving more entries from organisations in Wicklow this year. Each year the Awards showcase the excellent work carried out by non-profit organisations to implement effective and transparent corporate governance policies.

"Strong governance is essential in maintaining public trust and support for the vital work non-profit organisations do. Public trust in the sector in recent years has been damaged by a number of high-profile cases of bad governance. These cases are unacceptable and not the norm in our sector.

"Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, our sector has been at the forefront in supporting some of the most vulnerable and marginalised communities in our society. Non-profit organisations have provided essential services such as food parcels, supports for the elderly and online

learning for children. Strong governance is now more important than ever in ensuring non-profit organisations are operating effectively."

As part of the judging process for the awards, annual reports of applicants are assessed by panels of governance and accountancy experts, under the following criteria: transparency, governance, performance and impact and financial information. Last year's awardees were: Concern, Laura Lynn, BeLong To, Children's Rights Alliance, Sharing Point and Serve the City.

Mr. Ó Corbuí added, "The Good Governance Awards raise the quality of corporate governance in our sector by encouraging higher standards of good practice. Expert feedback is provided to all entrants on how to improve the quality of their annual reports. This helps to ensure our sector is meeting best practice and constantly reforming. This year we are especially encouraging applications from the diverse range of organisations working in the non-profit sector. We welcome applications from all areas - from arts and sports to homeless services and youth organisations. Due to the growing profile of the Good Governance Awards, we expect to see our highest number of applications yet this year."

To enter, the non-profit organisation must be registered in Ireland and have a social purpose. There are seven categories for the awards based on the annual turnover of the organisation. Details on the entry criteria and categories; the judging panel; guidance on how to enter; and other resources such as annual report templates are available at: www.goodgovernanceawards.ie.



Tommaso Spennato with his Breakfast of Champions Award

Caffe Delle Stelle scoops 'Breakfast of Champions' Award

Having scooped the Greystones Best Coffee six years in a row, Tommaso Spennato of Caffé Delle Stelle was on winning form once again recently when he picked up the town's Breakfast Of Champions award.

Having been pipped to the post by the likes of Joe Sweeney and Three Q's in the past, Tommaso's Caffé Delle Stelle was finally victorious this year - which was, as always, down to the public vote.

"I have some very loyal customers," said Tommaso of his latest win, "and they know my mood can change in a second. So, it's always best to vote for Caffé Delle Stelle. We're right on the main road. I will find you..."

Sponsored by Sherry FitzGerald, the fact that Greystones has over 20 options for breakfast (and over 30 for coffee) makes Tommaso's consistent winning streak all the more impressive.

"I think everyone knows that, like the Best Coffee, this breakfast award is rightly mine," he finishes with a grin. "No one would ever dare try and take it away from me..."

7 out of 10 would take a job that required them to be vaccinated

More than seven out of every ten people (74%) in Wicklow would take a job that required them to be vaccinated, a new survey by one of Ireland's leading recruitment companies has revealed.

The annual FRS Recruitment Employment Insights Survey for 2021 highlights that optimism is returning to the jobs market in Wicklow as the country emerges from lockdown.

It also showed that 58% of Wicklow people are in favour of employers being required to check vaccine certification before admitting staff to their place of work. 69% of people in Wicklow believe they would secure a new job within three months and 19% believe they would do so within one month. More than four out of ten employees in Wicklow (44%) also believe there will be more job opportunities available to them this year.

Three out of every five Wicklow employees (63%) expect to receive a pay rise in the next 12 months. While 50% would consider a pay cut if their job was at risk and 81% of people in Wicklow would be open to a reduction in their working week under those circumstances. 44% admit to being fearful for their job security which, as the country emerges from lockdown, is lower than the national average (58%).

50% of Wicklow employees are currently remote working some or

all of the time. Nationally, when the pandemic restrictions are eased, 85% of employees want to be able to work remotely and 83% of all employers plan on offering more remote working opportunities. More than half of employers believe that employees are more productive when working remotely and 32% believe they are less productive.

Almost half of people in Wicklow (48%) believe the reopening of the economy has been too slow in 2021.

A total of 3,192 people participated in the survey nationally which was conducted over 12 days in April.

"What comes across in the survey this year is that optimism is returning to the jobs market in Wicklow and all around the country," said Colin Donnery, General Manager of FRS Recruitment. "People in Wicklow have adopted to the change of circumstances created by the pandemic and as we emerge from lockdown they are ready to move forward. After a year of lockdown and an understandable reluctance to consider change, we are seeing that both candidates and

employers are now keen to see what the market offers.

"With 9 out of 10 employers nationally either currently hiring or planning to start hiring in the next 3 months it shows that confidence is returning to the economy, which is likely to drive extensive job market activity through the remainder of 2021. This is matched by the attitude of candidates, with our survey showing almost half of those who participated across the country are employed but looking for fresh opportunities.

"The survey also shows how the pandemic has had a dramatic impact on attitudes to remote working. The vast majority of employers expect to offer additional remote working opportunities post pandemic and the vast majority of employees in Wicklow and throughout the country want remote working to now be part of their professional lives. While the pandemic has undoubtedly disrupted business and played havoc with our lives, perhaps one of its most lasting impacts on the professional realm will be shepherding in a new approach towards working in line with a digitally enabled world," Mr. Donnery concluded.

Bray company wins Spirent EMEA Partner of the Year award

Network and application performance management company Data Edge has been selected as EMEA Partner of the Year for 2020 by Spirent Communications - the global leader for automated test and assurance solutions.

Headquartered in Bray, Data Edge won the Spirent '2020 EMEA Partner Award' for outstanding sales achievement, the first Irish company to win this prestigious award.

Spirent has more than 140 partners across the Americas, EMEA, and APAC regions, with whom they collaborate to understand a diverse portfolio of customers' technological and operational challenges, and to develop

first-to-market solutions. The Spirent Awards Ceremony was held virtually this year and attracted attendees from all over the world. Data Edge was recognised alongside prominent technology partners such as Laser 2000 (UK), Ampercom (Italy), Bynet Electronics (Israel), GFT, NetMetrix (Spain), Systemics PAB (Poland) as Spirent's EMEA Partners of the Year.

Data Edge has been



Paul Phelan, CEO, Data Edge

providing timing infrastructure, lab and field test equipment to Ireland's telecommunications companies and equipment manufacturers for over 30 years.

Data Edge's Spirent award stems from a universal jump in the Telecom industry's requirement to test, measure and deploy ever increasing bandwidth networks (e.g. Siro, NBI), and 5G networking technology (e.g. Intel, VFI).

Paul Phelan, CEO, Data Edge said: "Data Edge has been working with Spirent for over 20 years, it's been an extremely dynamic working relationship, sometimes hard to keep up! Being recognised as EMEA Partner of the Year by Spirent is a testament to the drive of our team here at Data Edge."

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Mazda 3 buyers can save €2,000

As Wicklow is "The Garden of Ireland" it is highly appropriate that the National Botanical Gardens are at Kilmacurragh, close to Rathdrum and in a stunning, but somewhat 'off the beaten track' part of our county.

by Martin McCarthy

I was out testing the new Mazda 3 over the June bank holiday weekend and nipped 8 km up the road to Avondale in Rathdrum, on the way home. It is also a fabulous venue - now in the middle of a massive redevelopment to both Charles Stuart Parnell's home and the surrounding gardens.

Traffic was heavy and there was an amazing number of daily rental cars

about - mainly GoCar and Yuko. These alternatives to car ownership are the way of the future for many.

Mazda have been in Ireland a long time and have a great reputation as an almost premium brand, with a thirst for innovation. Their current Skyactive engine range operates in some modes as compression ignition, like a diesel and in other modes like the petrol

engine it basically is.

A striking feature of Mazdas for years has been outstanding bodywork - and especially paintwork. Even 20 year old models can look amazing. They are always up towards the top of any reliability league - which is just as well as they provide a 100,000km, 3 years warranty with every new car.

The 3 is the Mazda family saloon, with the base

model starting at €29,020. The version I drove was 100th anniversary edition of 3 - which has every extra available on this model, and priced at €37,220. Included are beautiful leather seating, the most powerful version (180bhp) of the Skyactive 2.0 petrol engine (giving over 40mpg) and expansive IT including lane depart, head up display,

Apple iPlay and so on. It looks and performs like the premium model it is.

Mazda Dealers are close by - at Sandyford Mazda off the M50, Trinity Motors Wexford and Bolands Carlow and other locations.

Until the end of July, new Mazda buyers can avail of the €2,000 rebate - and a low 3.9% APR finance offer.



The Mazda 3 in Kilmacurragh

RECRUITMENT



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.

• TEMPORARY EXECUTIVE SOLICITOR

REF: 21/2021 Salary €50,534 - €70,245 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

• PERMANENT & TEMPORARY EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

REF: 22/2021 Salary €50,534 - €70,245 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

PART TIME RETAINED FIRE FIGHTERS:

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form panels from which vacancies may be filled on the following Fire Brigades:

• DUNLAVIN FIRE BRIGADE

REF: 23/2021 Retainer Fee: €8,194.00 per annum (paid on a quarterly basis)

• TINAHELY FIRE BRIGADE

REF: 24/2021 Retainer Fee: €8,194.00 per annum (paid on a quarterly basis)

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON SHARP ON THURSDAY 1ST JULY 2021

Application Forms and further details can be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20100 or by emailing recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie and on the Wicklow County Council website 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

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 Gorey, Co Wexford

Matthew 6:19-23 GOSPEL

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth where moths and woodworms destroy them and thieves can break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where either moth or woodworms destroy them and thieves cannot break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'The lamp of the body is the eye. It follows that if your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light. But if your eye is diseased, your whole body will be all darkness. If then, the light inside you is darkness, what darkness that will be!'

Reflection

Where is your treasure? Is it in worldly possessions or where Jesus envisages it? Jesus knows that this world for us is fleeting and passing. All that we invest our time and energy in passes away. Part of awakening to a life of holiness is recognising that the answers to our searching will not be found in the places of the world. Seeking this Kingdom will allow us to find where the true treasure lies.

C.J.



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning permission is sought for revisions to existing 2018 Grant of Planning Permission 18/1005 (Decision date 21-08-2019) which proposed the demolition of an existing single storey house, and construction in its place of two single storey houses, each with a new vehicular access, and each complete with siteworks, landscaping, boundary wall treatment, and associated infrastructural works.

The changes proposed in this new application include revisions to the plan layouts of both houses, revisions to the elevations as granted, the introduction of continuous clear-storey windows and large roof overhangs, the introduction of a new garden shed, three ornamental garden pools, garden courtyard walls, and a revised fire-pit. The surface water retention tank, too, is now divided into two smaller tanks, one located in the front garden area, and one in the back garden area.

The applicants are Neil and Grainne Murphy, and the address is Meadow Court, New Road, Greystones, Co Wicklow, Eircode A63 ER83.

This 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 planning authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee of €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Louise Curling seeks permission for alterations and extensions to existing dwelling, stables and stores including replacement of all windows with new windows and installation of rooflights at Freynestown House, Freynestown Lower, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow, W91 W718. 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 planning authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee of €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

CLASSIFIEDS

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

M.C.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

M.D.

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