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Tuesday 8th June 2021 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowned@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

MAGHERAMORE BIDDING WAR

News that a plot of land overlooking Magheramore beach is to be auctioned off has sparked fears that access to the popular natural amenity could be restricted and that the beach could be sealed off to the public.

A site that serves as the route to Magheramore Beach will be included in BidX1's upcoming online auction. The plot of land directly overlooks the beach and extends to 21 acres.

Minister Simon Harris along with his Wicklow Town colleague Cllr Irene Winters has asked Wicklow County Council to avail of the opportunity to purchase the land for sale adjacent to Magheramore

Beach.

Minister Harris said "I have been contacted by a considerable number of Wicklow residents requesting the council acquire the lands for sale at auction next month next to Magheramore beach. These lands have no use as development land, but if publicly acquired, could facilitate much needed carpark and direct pedestrian access for users of the beach".

Cllr Irene Winters

said "Magheramore is a beautiful sandy beach and a real asset to the county. The popularity of the beach is matched only by the traffic chaos that ensues on a sunny day, particularly if it falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

"It would be wonderful if the council could buy the land to ensure that access to the beach is maintained for the public. If the council purchased the land it would also be possible



Layla and Ali Sheehy-Islam at the Newtown/Kilcoole Educate Together National School 'Road to Tokyo', celebrating their completion of the Olympics Schools Challenge with an innovative sports and cultural awareness day. See more on page 12



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to put in a hard core rough carpark above the beach which would alleviate the traffic difficulties and make the whole area safer for all road users. Land not used for access or a carpark could then be sold or leased as agricultural land".

Minister Harris and Cllr Winters have contacted the CEO of Wicklow County Council regarding this proposal and the council management have agreed to examine the possibility of purchasing the land for sale.

The plot of land has been listed with a guide price of €210,000 and will open for bidding on 25th June.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said that any attempt to restrict public access to Magheramore Beach will not be tolerated and will be "bitterly opposed".

Deputy Brady said "Magheramore Beach is

one of the best beaches in Ireland and concerns have been expressed that continued access to the beach could be jeopardised as a 21-acre site serves as the route to Magheramore Beach is to be auctioned in the coming weeks. It is critical that this site is sold with the knowledge that there is a public right of way to the beach through it.

"Generations of people have enjoyed Magheramore Beach which is a beautiful cove just outside Wicklow Town. In 2006 a barrier was placed across the entrance to restrict vehicular access to the beach and attempts have been made previously to stop all public access.

"The path to the beach is a well-established right of way and any attempt to close or restrict public access to the fantastic beach will not be tolerated and will

be bitterly opposed."

Deputy Brady concluded "The sale of the

21 acres of land gives an ideal opportunity to Wicklow County

Council to purchase some of the land and
Continued on page 4

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Pictured is lifeguard Nicole Devitt on duty at Brittas Bay Beach. Wicklow County Council resumed its full time Beach Lifeguard service on June 1st last. The service will run every day from 11am through to 7pm for the entire months of June, July and August with weekend cover for the first two weeks of September. Lifeguards are stationed in Bray (North & South), Greystones-South, Wicklow Harbour, Brittas Bay (North & South) and Arklow South Beach. This season twenty-four fully trained lifeguards will be on hand to ensure water safety is observed along the Wicklow Coastline.

With the ever-increasing numbers of people swimming in open water, Wicklow County Council advises the public to use the lifeguard patrolled areas this summer. Nationally, the number of temporary lost children on beaches is increasing year on year. Though the outcome is normally positive this can be extremely stressful on parents and guardians of the lost children while the search is underway. When minding children on the beaches please keep a close eye on them at all times.

Grow it Forward

The "Grow it Forward" campaign for Wicklow County Council is up and running, as part of a national campaign under Healthy Ireland. It is being operated from Greystones library for East and South Wicklow, or Blessington library for West Wicklow. The Council will arrange for a Grow It Yourself kit to be sent to you. Each kit is a large envelope that contains five packs of seeds (tomatoes, beetroot, carrot, peas and oriental greens), 10 gift labels (for sharing), and a Growing Guide. If interested in taking part, email Fiona in Greystones (fscannell@wicklowcoco.ie), or Deirdre in Blessington (dpriestley@wicklowcoco.ie), giving your full address and Eircode.

Glendalough Car Boot

The Glendalough Car Boot is back on Sunday 13th of June (outdoors only). It is open to the public from 10am to 3pm with free entry (limited parking). The barrier will not open to stallholders until 9am. You can contact us by phone 0404 45600 (Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm) or email brockaghcarboot@gmail.com. Social distancing and masks must be worn in accordance with government guidelines.

N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme

The N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme is progressing through Phases 1 to 4 of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Project Management Guidelines (PMG's). 31st May the Project Team released Update Bulletin No. 8 on the scheme website, entitled "Transport Scenarios Update".

The update provides further detail on the Transport Scenario Assessments undertaken to date and details which scenarios have been advanced to Stage 2 appraisal.

The Bulletin and further information on the project can be found on the scheme website at www.n11m11.ie.

Quinn Emigrants to South Africa 1858:

Kindly seeking information from anyone living in/from Wicklow for a historical family search being carried out. Specifically should you have any information related to a Catherine Quinn age 18yrs, Margaret Quinn age 21yrs and John Quinn age 20 yrs, that emigrated to South Africa in 1858? I do not know if they were siblings but they travelled together. They may have been from Avoca/ Rathdrum/Delgany area.

Johns parents were a Henry Quinn/ Catherine Quinn. It is believed they had a family member in the USA also. Margaret's father was also a Henry Quinn but mother's name unknown.

All information is gratefully received.
Contact email: irishtown6@gmail.com
(No reward is offered for any information)

Schools put their shoulders to the wheel to sell tickets for Greystones Drive-In

Wicklow schools have put their shoulder to the wheel to sell tickets for the Greystones Drive-In, raising funds for their individual schools. This is the first community event of its scale in some time, and four screenings will take place over the weekend of the 12th – 13th June - a movie for everyone! Check out the website for the running order (greystonesdrivein.ie/)

The drive-in experience is brought to you by St. Patrick's National School, Greystones, with the support of schools from the whole community and sponsors. In addition to St. Patrick's National School, the following 10 schools are busy selling tickets for this community fundraiser: Temple Carrig Secondary School, Greystones; Delgany National School; Greystones Community National School; St. Laurence's National School, Greystones; St. Kevin's National School, Greystones; Greystones Educate Together National School; St. Fergal's National School, Bray; Powerscourt National School, Enniskerry; Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School, Wicklow Town; East Glendalough, Secondary School, Wicklow.

Rachel Harper, School Principal of St. Patrick's National School said: "Schools have been very restricted in their fundraising options this year and we wanted an event that would help raise funds for our school, but also, to benefit the whole community. I have spoken to many of the other principals and we are all excited to be promoting something the whole family can enjoy together safely. The children (and parents!) in our school certainly can't wait for it!"

Kyle O'Connell, the man responsible for bringing the 45-metre squared screen to town, is the Parent-Teacher Association Chair of St. Patrick's and the Director of Irish Film & Television Services said; "This is first time we have been able to enjoy something together as a community for a while, this screen is the first of its scale in Wicklow so it's very exciting indeed!"

"We owe a big thanks to Grattan Evans, for providing the perfect location and we are very grateful to our sponsors who have already pledged their support: Just Eat, Spirit Motor Group, Derek Byrne Property Consultants, Camile Thai and Gleaming Clean, among other community partners.

Commenting on their sponsorship involvement, Just Eat Managing Director Amanda Roche-Kelly said; "Following the welcomed government



Rachel Harper, School Principal of St. Patrick's National School, Greystones, Just Eat's MD Amanda Roche-Kelly, from Delgany along with Kyle O'Connell, Director of Irish Film & Television Services.

announcement on the easing of COVID 19 restrictions, we are delighted to sponsor the Greystones Drive-In, which is providing a safe, socially distanced and fun source of entertainment for families and the local community. To further add to the experience, we will be offering moviegoers 15% discount codes which can be used on the Just Eat app in local restaurants like Green Mango, Four Star Pizza and Indian Spice for a pre-theatre family meal or after movie treat."

This is the first time this massive 45 metre squared drive-in movie screen has been to Wicklow, the top of the range screen will be located at Priestnewtown, opposite Kilquade Cemetery on the 12th and 13th June.

Check out the screening choices and book your car in for a unique movie experience. Tickets, (€32.50) are available on www.greystonesdrivein.ie.

If anyone would like to get involved as a sponsor, please contact Yvonne Johnston on 086 850 88 79.



Paul Lancaster of Knockananna GAA Club presents Laura Murphy with a cheque for €9,800 after she hit the jackpot in the club's weekly lotto draw

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Quarter of houses to be reserved for locals

An amendment has been made to the draft Wicklow County Development Plan (2021-2027) which states that 25% of new houses be reserved for people that are from the immediate and surrounding area or have been a resident there for three years.

The amendment was proposed by Fine Gael councillor Shay Cullen and was seconded by Cllr Irene Winters.

Cllr Cullen, who proposed the amendment, explained: "The reason I brought this amendment forward is to try and address the situation that is occurring at the moment in our county where people just can't afford to purchase a home in their local area. We're all aware of vulture funds and investors purchasing large numbers of houses in the greater area, and this is putting pressure on the Wicklow market in terms of people not being able to buy a home in County Wicklow."

Cllr Cullen cited the example of Greystones where "People born and reared in Greystones are priced out completely by people moving into the area. This is where the displacement of communities is actually happening. People from Greystones are moving to Newtown, people from Newtown are moving to Rathdrum and



Cllr Shay Cullen

eventually we have residents from Wicklow moving to Wexford and other counties.

"I want to be clear on this, I don't have a problem with people moving into our county and that's why there will be no restriction for 75% of people. But the 25% restriction ensures people from a local area have an option to purchase a home within their local area. This amendment is about protecting the people of County Wicklow. We have

an obligation to stand firm for local people and try and give them some sense of hope in terms of purchasing a home."

Cllr Irene Winters added: "All the time, planners and planning laws keep saying we should have less and less houses outside of urban areas and we should restrict rural planning, however we're not giving people another option - people haven't got a chance to buy a house in their own communities at a reasonable price."

Cllr Derek Mitchell said that he liked the concept of the amendment but that it would be "very difficult to implement", while Cllr Mags Crean said she disagreed with the amendment. "Greystones has the highest average cost for a home and it's not just the competition that's driving up the cost," she said, adding that it also raised concerns about civil liberties.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran said that the

Council had received legal advice regarding the amendment, and the advice states that it is not an unlawful amendment but there would be a high risk of a judicial review and it would be in conflict with European Law.

The Council's legal advice cites the Flemish Decree case of 2013, where the European Court of Justice ruled that placing restrictions on where people can live is a breach of the Treaty on the free



Cllr Irene Winters

movement of citizens.

Expressing his support for the amendment, Independent councillor Joe Behan said "What are we telling the people of our county? 'Go on to Gorey, we can't help you?' I think we should have a vote on this. We don't have to run away at the first objection. Let the public have their say on this too rather than abandoning it today."

Cllr Cullen concluded, "There could be lots of elements of the development plan open to judicial review. We're here to support the people of Wicklow and help them find a home, we're not here to support people coming in from other counties and outbidding somebody who's from the local area. For 75% of people there will be no restriction, but 25% is for the people I represent."

A vote was taken on the amendment and it passed, 19 to 13. The CDP is now out on public display for a period of 10 weeks and the public can make submissions.



Emer O'Neill at an Irish African celebration day in Bray on 22nd May, in advance of Africa Day which took place on 25th May.


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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
senerenewables.com/arklowbank

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

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 senerenewables.com/arklowbank for updates.



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Anne Burke, Susan and Alisha McDarby at an Irish African celebration day in Bray on 22nd May, in advance of Africa Day which took place on 25th May. Pic: Joe McQuillan

MAGHERAMORE BIDDING WAR

Continued from page 1...

develop a carpark to cater for the growing number of people that now use the beach. Currently people must park along the main road which has been the cause of some trouble as some people park irresponsibly. Providing a carpark would ensure people can park safely and enjoy the beach.

"I have contacted the council to ask that they would give serious consideration to purchasing some of the land and also to ensure the public right of way to the beach is protected in any sale."

BidX1 specialise in online prop-

erty auctions, based around a transparent bidding process. 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.

Magheramore beach is located between Blainroe and Brittas Bay, approximately 3km from Wicklow Town.

It's popular for surfing and other water sports, has served as the location for the annual 'Dip in the Nip' charity fundraiser and has been used as a filming location for shows such as Vikings, Camelot and Redwater.

€16m redevelopment of Avondale House & Forest Park commences

Coillte and Fáilte Ireland last week broke ground on a €16m redevelopment of Avondale House and Forest Park which will provide an iconic and world-class visitor destination in Rathdrum.

The announcement was made by Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Catherine Martin TD and Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity, Pippa Hackett TD at Coillte's Avondale House and Forest Park, Rathdrum.

This €16 million project, a partnership between Coillte, Fáilte Ireland and EAK (erlebnis akademie AG) will transform Avondale into a unique family attraction and a key new destination in Ireland's Ancient East. The newly redeveloped Coillte Avondale House and Forest Park is expected to open to the public in Spring 2022.

Coillte Avondale House and Forest Park main attractions include:

- * A new 38 metre (c12 storey high) wooden viewing tower offering visitors a spectacular 360-degree views of Coillte's Avondale Forest Park and the surrounding countryside. It includes an innovative slide that will delight adults and children alike.

- * A unique 1.2km Tree Top walkway with breath-taking views of Avondale's diverse forest. (Both of the above structures will showcase the use of high-quality Irish wood for large scale construction projects).

- * The park will contain a Visitor Orientation Hub with a new café and renovated courtyard buildings.

- * The walled garden will be rejuvenated for garden lovers to enjoy.

"It is a momentous day as works start on this wonderful project. The historic Avondale House and Forest Park is already a much-loved visitor destination and this redevelopment will make it an even stronger attraction in Ireland's Ancient East," said Minister Catherine Martin TD.

Visitors will be able to explore interactively:

- * At Home with the Parnell's' celebrating the life and times of Charles Stewart Parnell, and his

two sisters Anna and Fanny Parnell, co-founders of the Ladies Land League in 1881.

- * 'The Evolution of Forestry' will look through the history of the forest park from the 1700s to the present day and beyond. Visitors will learn about the growing importance of wood as consumer preferences rapidly turn towards selecting renewable and sustainable construction materials.

"I'm truly delighted to celebrate the launch of this exciting new project," said Pippa Hackett, Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. "Avondale House and Forest Park is known as the birthplace of Irish forestry, and the ambitious forest biodiversity plans will make Avondale a fitting destination to celebrate the great past, and even more exciting future for Irish trees and forests."

Coillte is also progressing a forest management plan to rejuvenate the original forest plots, now over 100 years old and enhance the

overall biodiversity of the forest park. "Fáilte Ireland is pleased to partner with Coillte on the exciting redevelopment works at Avondale House and Forest Park. The project will create a new and vibrant destination for families and overseas visitors when it opens next year which will benefit the local economy and local employment," said CEO of Fáilte Ireland Paul Kelly.

While parts of the park will be restricted to visitors during construction works, the forest park will remain open.

The 1.2km tree top walkway and 38m viewing tower will both be constructed from high quality Irish wood. Locally grown Irish Douglas fir trees are being used to build these structures.

The visitor hub, café, tree top walkway and viewing tower will be wheelchair accessible.

Avondale Forest Park is the home of Irish forestry and Coillte's plan is to enhance the biodiversity whilst maintaining the heritage of the site with the

beautiful range of trees, rich wildlife and vegetation and for future generations to enjoy.

For example, Avondale Forest Park plans to maintain a broad range of tree species from around the world. This has the dual purpose of helping to conserve these species, while also giving people a chance to see and appreciate them.

Minister Stephen Donnelly said: "Avondale House and Forest Park is already one of the best destinations in the county but this funding is going to bring it to a whole new level. The work being done will make both the House and the Forest Park a key attraction in the Ancient East tourism trail.

"Having something like this in Rathdrum will bring a huge amount of business to the town and will inevitably help to support jobs in the area. I'm absolutely thrilled to see this project getting across the line because it will have an enormously positive impact."



Pippa Hackett TD, Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity, Imelda Hurley, CEO Coillte, Orla Carroll Director of Product Development at Fáilte Ireland, Catherine Martin TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, breaking ground on the €16m redevelopment of Avondale House and Forest Park.

Access Report for Blessington provides 'clear analysis of barriers to inclusion'

An accessibility report was carried out to assess and identify areas around Blessington Main Street that require improvement creating better access for all. Following this, a meeting was held with members of the Blessington & District Forum, Blessington Accessibility Group, Blessington Tidy Towns and Green Party TD Steven Matthews.

Speaking after the meeting, Deputy Matthews said: "I am very impressed with the extent and detail of this report. It provides a clear analysis of barriers to inclusion, mobility and accessibility for elderly persons, people with disabilities, young families, and school children and for all users and visitors to our Main Streets in Blessington.

"The report looked at multiple issues such as footpath conditions, road crossing points, avail-

ability of public seating, parking and set down areas, cycling facilities, recreation areas and many other factors that can impact on us as we move around our town. There are often small changes that can be made which might not be noticeable to most people but for someone with reduced mobility it can make a big difference. For example, Blessington has a beautiful wide and long main street, but the pedestrian crossing time allowed is a little too

short for comfort for someone who needs a bit more time to cross.

"We should always be striving to ensure everyone is included in how we design and maintain our streets and shared spaces especially for our younger and older residents and visitors. Good design that is welcoming for all and improves enjoyment of our main shopping streets is good for the local economy too. If you enjoy the space and feel comfortable there, it's likely you



Steven Matthews TD

will spend more time socialising and shopping and that brings multiple benefits to our community.

"With this impressive accessibility report and the previous Blessington Town Centre Health Check report, it provides a good basis to develop

an action plan on short, medium and long-term objectives to improve the areas highlighted in both reports. Under Green Party funding, Wicklow County Council and the Municipal Districts now have resources and funding to improve active travel, walking, cycling and town centre accessibility.

"I look forward to working with the local councillors and Municipal District to act on the recommendations in these reports and will be seeking similar reports for Wicklow Town, Arklow and Baltinglass in the near future," concluded Deputy Matthews.

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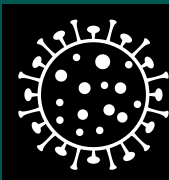
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*In contentious business, a solicitor may not calculate fees or other charges as a percentage or proportion of any award or settlement

COVID-19: Supporting Recovery

The Path Ahead



Coronavirus
COVID-19
National
Programme

We have now entered a new stage of our recovery. The National Vaccination Programme is having a significant and positive impact. As society reopens over the coming months, a far-reaching Economic Recovery Plan is extending supports and investing to help people get back to work.

The Economic Recovery Plan



Helping People Back to Work

Reaching 2.5 million people in work by 2024.

EXTENSION OF SUPPORTS

Employee Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) and **Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP)** extended for the rest of 2021 with phased adjustments.

PRACTICAL SUPPORTS such as individual advice, CV preparation and work placements.

Expanded Jobs Plus Scheme to 8,000 places.

Workplace Experience Programme, 10,000 participants by 2022.

UPSKILLING AND RESKILLING

Accelerated availability of **50,000** extra education and training places.

Investment of €114m in education and training through **Solas Recovery Skills Programme**.

10,000 Additional Apprenticeships per annum by 2025.



Building Sustainable Businesses

Helping business to recover and embrace new opportunities.

EXTENSION & ENHANCEMENT of the **COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS)**.

Extension of the **Commercial Rates Waiver** and **Debt Warehousing Schemes**.

New **Business Resumption Support Scheme**.

SME and Entrepreneurship Growth Plan – 2,000 additional SMEs to begin exporting by end 2025.

IDA 2021-2024 Strategy – aims to win 800 total investments to support creation of 50,000 jobs.

SUPPORT AND PLANNING for sectors that have been particularly impacted by the pandemic.

Lower Tourism VAT rate of 9% extended to 1st September 2022.

Live Performance Support Scheme (LPSS).

Music and Entertainment Business Assistance Scheme.

New events sector support scheme.

Fáilte Ireland initiatives including **Business Continuity Scheme**.

Roadmap for **Aviation Recovery**.

BUILDING RESILIENT, PRODUCTIVE AND INNOVATIVE BUSINESSES for the future.

Digital Transformation of Enterprise Fund.

National Artificial Intelligence Strategy.

Technological University Fund.

National Grand Challenges Programme.



Recovery for All

Building on the lessons of the pandemic.

SUPPORTING A DIGITAL AND GREEN ECONOMY

€915 million of funding under the **European Recovery and Resilience Facility**.

Retrofit Loan Scheme.

BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Updated National Development Plan.

Brexit Adjustment Reserve (over €1bn).

Remote Working Strategy.

FAIR RECOVERY

Social Dialogue.

Statutory Sick Pay.

Wellbeing Framework.

Just Transition.



Vaccinations

Vaccinations are a key part of our Recovery. The progress of the vaccination programme throughout the summer will allow us to continue reopening the economy.



Safe Reopening

We can see society and the economy recovering slowly and steadily. To maintain our momentum, we need to continue to follow the public health guidelines in the coming weeks.

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



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Florence Webster presenting Billy and John of Rathdrum Cancer Support Group with a cheque for an astonishing €5,000 from her recent marathon and head shave. Rathdrum Cancer Support wish to thank Florence for her fundraising and Florence says she wishes to thank all those who donated and supported her. On Saturday 1st May Florence ran a 42km marathon and shaved her head: "Shelly Fitzgerald, Brian Dunne, Noleen McDonald and Matt did some laps with me. Bill Porter arrived with goodies, Joe Haughton to take photos and Deja Brew offered their services. Afterwards I had tea at The McDonald Hotel. Thanks also to the Barber on duty for my head shave and peoples' support too. Rathdrum Cancer Support Group do wonderful work all year, every year."

Funding for Arklow outdoor play area

The playground at Seaview Avenue in Arklow will be refurbished thanks to a grant from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth under the Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation.

Minister Simon Harris said "I am delighted that Arklow has been allocated funding for new playground equipment by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The new facilities include a multi-play area and new maritime themed equipment such as boat play systems and spring rockers.

"The purpose of the government's Summer of Play initiative is to support and encourage children and their families to get outside and play as restrictions ease in the coming months. The initiative will see grants, supports and information resources rolled out over the summer months, creating opportunities for children and their families to enjoy an outdoor summer. There will be further funding rounds for outdoor play, and I encourage parents to check out the Let's Play Ireland website on gov.ie which has been updated and is packed with new resources for children and families to enjoy".

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District, Cllr Sylvester Bourke welcomed the funding saying: "It is so important to have play facilities for children. It helps them get the physical exercise they need to stay healthy, and it develops critical cognitive, emotional and social skills. Any funding opportunities available are welcome to keep this facility modern and up to the standard required."



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Plans unveiled for 'state-of-the-art' operations facility at Arklow Harbour

The renewable energy developer SSE Renewables has revealed official designs for the Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) proposed for the South Dock in Arklow Harbour as part of Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2. They are inviting the public to share their views during a Public Consultation which runs from 7th-25th June.

The facility will act as the support base for the offshore wind farm over its operational lifetime.

The development is a key component of the planned Phase 2 520MW Arklow Bank Wind Park, located 6km to 13km off the coast of Arklow, Co. Wicklow. SSE Renewables is actively progressing its plans to deliver Ireland's first offshore wind farm of scale by 2025, and expects to invest between €1 billion and €2 billion to deliver the project.

Delivery of the planned Operations and Maintenance Facility at Arklow Harbour's South Dock will require an expected investment of around €15 million. SSE Renewables is proposing to develop the facility at a disused site known as The Old Shipyard. Approximately 60 construction roles will be created during the delivery phase of the Operations and Maintenance Facility alone, and additional indirect supply chain roles are expected.

Once complete, the building will accommodate around 80 full-time employees who will be recruited to work on the wind farm once it becomes operational. These direct jobs will include site managers, supervisors, technicians, control room operators, engineers, vessel crew,

stores and administration staff. The wider wind park project will also support thousands of indirect and induced jobs over the project's lifetime.

The four-storey development for Arklow's South Dock has been designed to be a 'Nearly Zero Energy Building' (NZEB), meaning the building will operate to a very high energy performance. The facility will accommodate warehousing for wind turbine components, office and meeting space and staff welfare facilities.

Plans are also in place to provide a Sustainable Development Centre on the top floor overlooking the Harbour which will anchor the facility in the community and welcome visitors for educational tours, exhibitions and sustainability-themed events.

Urban realm improvements are also planned for the site including landscaping and improved public lighting.

The nearshore element of the plans will see the existing disused syncro-lift removed from the Harbour's dockside and replaced with berthing and pontoon facilities for crew transfer vessels (CTVs) which will transfer maintenance employees to and from the turbines on a daily basis to help operate the offshore wind park.

SSE Renewables will lodge a planning application with Wicklow County Council later this Summer for the proposed development. Ahead of that, the company has launched a three-week Public Consultation which is open now and running to 25 June. The consultation will provide an opportunity for members of the public and stakeholders to engage with SSE Renewables on its plans and submit feedback to further inform the development of the facility.

Arklow Bank Wind Park Project Manager James O'Hara said: "We are delighted to share plans for the Operations and Maintenance Facility which will act as the support base for Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2. This state-of-the-art building will play a crucial role in kickstarting the regeneration of Arklow Harbour. It is also from this building where 80 full-time employees will be based for decades to come. I encourage the local community to share feedback on this element of the project so we can refine our plans accordingly before we seek planning approval later this year."

Andre Negri, Architect and Founder of Dublin-based Studio Negri, was commissioned to design the Operations and Maintenance Facility: "I

was delighted to have the opportunity to work on the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2, which is a trailblazing project, both onshore and offshore. Inspired by Arklow's credentials as a Decarbonisation Zone, we wanted to ensure the Operations and Maintenance Facility is designed to deliver a high-performing, state-of-the-art facility, with minimum impact on the environment, and powered by renewable energy sources. The social element of the facility has also been carefully considered. The building will be engaging for users and the community with spaces for people to work, but also to gather and collaborate."

Full information on the proposal is available via a virtual exhibition accessed via www.sse-renewables.com/arklow-bank and at a self-guided exhibition at Bridgewater Centre, Arklow.

An information point has also been set up on Main Street, Courtown, Co Wexford and a live webinar will take place on Wednesday, June 16 at 7pm.

Hard copy brochures and feedback forms are available from Community Engagement Manager Deborah Coleman by email (Deborah.coleman2@sse.com) or 087 1457603.



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David Kinsella, Michael McNamara (Administration Officer, WCC), Lifeguard Nicole Devitt, Jackie Carroll (Senior Executive Officer, Planning Development and Environment, WCC), and Robert Kelly (Water Safety Officer, WCC) at the raising of the Blue Flag in Brittas Bay

Wicklow volunteers rise to the occasion

Volunteering is all about giving back to your community and the volunteers involved with the Centralised Vaccination Centre (CVC) in Shoreline Leisure Centre, Greystones are certainly doing that.

Dressed in their distinctive Wicklow Volunteer Hi-Viz jackets, the volunteers are there to support the amazing HSE staff to keep the system rolling efficiently along. With a smile and a good humoured word, the volunteers keep it all moving, letting you know where and when to go.

The entire team from the fantastic security crew, volunteers from the Order of Malta, staff from Wicklow County Library, and the wonderful HSE clinical and operational staff are putting every-

thing they've got into making the vaccination drive in Wicklow a success.

Up to 12 volunteers can be needed to fill the volunteer rota for a 12-hour day in Shoreline CVC. So if you would like to join this happy team of volunteers we would love to hear from you. Volunteers must commit to one shift per week for a minimum of three months, supply us with photo ID, and complete the necessary training and attend induction. You can register to volun-

teer at www.volunteer-wicklow.ie, call Yvonne on 085 862 1525, Fiona on 086 325 8803 or email info@volunteerwicklow.ie.

Volunteering may be challenging, but it is rewarding. This is your opportunity to support your community and make a real difference. Join our volunteering team and support the vaccination programme in Wicklow.

Volunteers must be aged 18-69 and must observe all Covid-19 guidelines.

The Shoreline Vaccination Centre is open from 8am to 8pm seven days a week.

The County Wicklow Volunteer Centre promotes, develops and supports volunteer participation in the Wicklow and its natural environs. We work with individuals and groups who are looking for volunteering opportunities and with organisations that need volunteers.

For further information please contact Leah on 085 862 2051 or email leah@volunteerwicklow.ie

Help to support families living with Cancer by cycling Coast2Coast

This August, help to support families living with Cancer by cycling Coast2Coast from Sligo to Bray from the 6-8th August 2021!

Purple House Cancer Support said "We want you to join us as we cycle from Coast2Coast of Ireland to raise funds and awareness of our Cancer Support Services and ensure that no family living with Cancer is alone."

Friday afternoon 6th August 2021: The cyclists will travel by coach from Purple House Cancer Support Centre in Bray Co. Wicklow to Sligo.

Saturday 7th August 2021: Cycle from Sligo to Mullingar (130km).

Sunday 8th August 2021: Cycle from Mullingar to the finish at Purple House Cancer Support Centre in Bray (110km).

This is a fully guided cycle event with the support of Irish Cycling Safaris. Support van, meals, snacks, hotels and a Purple House jersey are all included. Purple House has seen a 30% increase in demand for their counselling services and the effects of Covid19 will see greater demand on the charity's services. Events like the Coast2Coast cycle are vital to ensure that Cancer patients receive the support they need.

'Home carers need to be better prioritised in vaccination rollout'

Green Party TD, Steven Matthews has called for greater focus to be placed on home carers with regards to the vaccination rollout and has written to Minister Donnelly asking that priority is given to ensuring that they are fully vaccinated as soon as possible.

This issue particularly relates to home carers who received the AstraZeneca vaccine as per their age cohort and now must wait 3 months or more for their second dose. Discussing the issue, Deputy Matthews said:

"Since the very beginning of the vaccination rollout, I have been calling for home carers to be given priority as a cohort but unfortunately these calls were not addressed. I accept the pressure that the HSE and NIAC were under from countless organisations seeking priority, but I was disappointed that priority was not offered to carers given the serious knock on practical implications for the health service were they to develop Covid symptoms and be unable to offer the same level of care.

"The overall rollout of the vac-

cines is progressing at pace but a consistent concern that is being raised with me is the wait between doses for those who were in receipt of the AstraZeneca vaccine. In many cases this vaccine was provided to frontline healthcare workers and those in the 60-70 age bracket who were deemed a risk due to their age. Due to the differences in waiting times for different vaccines, we are seeing and will continue to see much younger cohorts fully vaccinated before those who received their first dose of AstraZeneca 3-4 months ago.

"While I accept and understand the frustration of all those in this position, I believe that the priority in such cases needs to be for home carers who have received their first dose of AstraZeneca and may have to wait until August or later to be

fully vaccinated. In most of these cases, those who they care for will be fully vaccinated using Pfizer or Moderna. With the potential risk of the variants for those who are only half vaccinated, there needs to be an emphasis placed on minimising the risk for this group as soon as possible. "Carers have faced untold hardship throughout the pandemic, respite services have been curtailed, support networks moved online and other factors that have generally made an already difficult situation, even more challenging. The least we can do at this stage is ensure that their wait times between vaccine doses are reduced to a more manageable 4-8-week period.

"To offer a second dose of AstraZeneca to the number of carers currently waiting is not an insurmountable challenge for NIAC, and the HSE. Home carers have been front line workers in this pandemic as far as I am concerned and they should be treated as such," concluded Deputy Matthews.

Urgent need for registered nurses for end-of-life care service in Wicklow

Patients wishing to spend their final days at home are facing a more urgent need for palliative care night nurses than at any point in the pandemic, the Irish Cancer Society has said.

Requests for the Society's Night Nurses, who offer a free service for end-of-life patients provided in their own home, increased by 30% in Wicklow for the first four months of 2021 compared with the same period last year.

While there has been a general rise in demand for the service across the country during the pandemic as patients seek to spend their final days in the company of their family at home, the impact of this trend has been particularly felt in some areas facing staffing shortages.

Irish Cancer Society Director of Services, Donal Buggy said: "Now more than ever in Wicklow we

urgently need to recruit more Night Nurses so we can continue to provide this incredibly important service to anyone who might need it, so we are encouraging registered nurses who may be interested to please get in touch with us.

"The last 14 months since the start of the pandemic have been extremely challenging for our Night Nurses, but we know that dying at home surrounded by friends and family provides real comfort to patients in these difficult times, and we believe that anyone who can be cared for in their home should be able to have that option."

The Irish Cancer Society Night Nursing Service is always complementary to the community specialist Palliative Care Team or the community Primary Care Team.

Details on applying for Night Nurse positions can be found on www.cancer.ie/jobs or by emailing recruitment@irishcancer.ie.



The road and retaining wall above Cove Beach in Greystones has been subsiding for some time due to rougher waves and rain, and cracks have deepened in the wall.

Cllr Derek Mitchell last week welcomed the news that the Government has now allocated €70,000 for works to stabilise this cliff face in the town centre.

A day of free creativity for children and young people at Cruinnú na nÓg

Young people all over Wicklow are being encouraged to unleash their creativity as Wicklow host Cruinnú na nÓg on Saturday, 12th June.



Sam Serrie, Kayleigh Horan and Harry Eaves getting ready for Cruinnú na nÓg with the Mr. Sands Youth Theatre podcast 'Oh the places You'll Go'

Running for the last three years, this one-day festival, an initiative by Creative Ireland, enables young people under the age of 18 to unlock their creative potential, discover something new and have fun.

Wicklow County Arts Office have curated a full programme of online events as well as the launch of creative projects on the day.

Among the events happening to celebrate this day of creativity are Sun Print Workshop at the Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely, an online art workshop with White Doodle and an online Sea Shanties workshop with Music Generation Wicklow.

Also on the day will be the release of Dance Slam! - a collaborative dance video presentation set among spectacular Wicklow landscapes,

watch the dance abilities of four separate youth groups from County Wicklow's sporting and arts scenes; including Baltinglass Bulldogs Basketball Club, Carysfort NS Arklow, Blessington GAA Club and FYI Dance Club.

In addition, there will be the launch of the Mr Sand's Youth Theatre podcast "It's Only a Podcast, What Harm Can It Do?", a digital gallery of artwork create by participants of WhizzKids Digital Art Workshops, and a showcase of Wicklow Willows Totem Pole and Wigwam making workshops. This are all available to view on wicklow.ie on the day.

Young artists of Wicklow will also be taking over public spaces across the country with the This Is Art project - an inclusive nationwide, young people's art compe-

tion and digital gallery run by RTÉjr and funded by the Creative Ireland programme.

Speaking about Cruinnú na nÓg 2021, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy said: "Cruinnú na nÓg provides opportunities for our children and young people to be inquisitive, innovative and to fulfil an inner creative talent. The emphasis is always on participation and trying something new like knitting, drumming, stop-start animation, contemporary dance and so much more. All events are free and are accessible online."

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, commented: "This time last year we were forced to bring all our Cruinnú na nÓg events online, yet it proved to be our most successful Cruinnú to

date with hundreds of young people joining us in our national day of youth creativity. This year we hope to replicate the same level of excitement with new and exciting projects."

Wicklow Arts Officer Jenny Sherwin stated that Cruinnú na nÓg is a wonderful all-Ireland expression of the creativity, abilities and agility of our young people adding: "The range of projects, events and programmes they will participate in nationwide is vast and of the highest quality. The Creative Ireland Programme under the Creative Communities strand has enabled this to happen and is very well received in each local authority area."

In Wicklow, she said, "We are particularly proud of our young participants who have faced an extremely difficult last year. They have embraced the opportunities with enthusiasm and gusto and given their very best to the work they have created in dance and youth theatre. We hope that the general public will enjoy the family programme for Wicklow and even check in on some of the National projects that can be availed of."

Although all events are free, booking in advance is highly recommended for the workshops.

The full programme of Cruinnú na nÓg events and booking information can be found at cruinnu.creativeireland.gov.ie or for Wicklow at www.wicklow.ie



Alisha and Susan McDarby with Anne Burke at an Irish African celebration day in Bray on 22nd May, in advance of Africa Day which took place on 25th May.

Pharmacists top the 2021 Veracity Index

Community pharmacists are the most trusted professional group in Ireland according to the 2021 Veracity Index, which is based on polling carried out by Ipsos/MRBI.

Over 1,000 members of the public were asked to indicate who they trusted to tell the truth out of 27 types of job or profession across a wide variety of fields including medical, commercial, public service, legal, media, advertising and politics.

Pharmacists emerged in first position followed by nurses and then doctors, with 96% of people saying they trust local pharmacists to tell them the truth.

Darragh O'Loughlin, Secretary General of the Irish Pharmacy Union said: "After what has been a uniquely challenging and difficult last 15 months for everyone, it's heartening that the public places such high trust in their community pharmacists."

"This high level of public trust reflects the high quality of personal service provided by pharmacists on an ongoing basis and in particular during the pandemic, when they remained open and provided an excellent service to the public throughout."

"Community pharmacists have the skills, knowledge and public support to play an enhanced role in primary healthcare. We can support the delivery of more efficient, more cost-effective health services such as a wide range of vaccinations, a health check service and the Minor Ailment Scheme."

Wicklow and Kilkenny account for second highest level of callouts for pest birds

Pest control provider Rentokil has recorded a 50% increase in callouts to deal with gulls and other pest birds so far this year, when compared to the same period last year.

The company is issuing a warning to the public to treat the birds with caution, as lockdown restrictions are eased, and we enter the summer period. Increased time spent outdoors and socialising will likely lead to greater interaction between the public and pest birds, and Rentokil expects callout numbers to climb further.

The breeding season for gulls runs from April until September, and this is the time of year when they are at their most active. Seagull chicks begin to hatch in June, and this period in particular is when they are most aggressive in securing food and protecting their offspring.

As restrictions are eased and outdoor activities increase in the summer months, the public will likely come into greater contact with the birds. Rentokil is urging people to be wary of them when eating outdoors, in particular once outdoor dining returns in June, as this is when they are most likely to harass or try to steal food from

members of the public and raid waste bins.

The top three counties which have accounted for pest bird callouts so far this year are Dublin (66% of total callouts), Wicklow (16%) and Kilkenny (16%). Rentokil controls pest bird species in accordance with the EU Birds Directive and the Irish bird derogations and uses non-lethal methods to control all other species of birds if they become public health pests.

The dangers which gulls present are not limited to antisocial behaviour. Pest bird droppings contain bacteria including E. coli and Salmonella and can lead to the spread of infections through surface contamination, inhaling bacteria from dried droppings, or being transferred by bird mites, which can bite both people and birds.

Bird mites, textile beetles and fleas are attracted to their nests and roosting sites, so the presence of gulls at a home or business can

bring about infestations from these insects.

Richard Faulkner, Advanced Technical Field Consultant for Rentokil said: "As we enter the warmer summer period and lockdown restrictions are eased, we encourage members of the public to treat gulls with caution and keep their distance from them where possible. This is the period when people and gulls are most likely to cross paths, and it is also when they are at their most aggressive. To discourage the presence of pest birds at your home or business, it is essential keep any food sources well-hidden and ensure bin lids are secure and rubbish bags are not left in the open."

Members of the public can find out more about pest birds and how to deter their presence on the Rentokil website.

Rentokil employs a number of different safe and eco-friendly methods to protect premises from pest birds, including bird spikes and bird netting. Experts can also employ hawking, using specially trained birds of prey to scare and deter gulls and other pest birds from an area without harm.



Dance Slam! - a collaborative dance video presentation set among Wicklow landscapes

Wicklow re-opens for business

Small businesses optimistic as restrictions ease

Domestic economic growth is primary driver of recovery

Confidence among small business owners has notably improved, according to the latest 'Small Business Sentiment Survey' report from the Small Firms Association (SFA), published last week. Over half (55%) of SFA members feel that the business environment is improving, compared with 35% in summer 2020.

Sven Spollen-Behrens, SFA Director, said: "Despite the challenges faced by our small business community in early 2021, business owners and entrepreneurs are confident for summer 2021 and the second half of the year.

"Domestic economic growth continues to be identified as the primary driver of business opportunities in 2021. 70% of respondents plan to invest in their business this year with business growth, IT and brand development

identified as areas of priority.

"COVID-19 restrictions in the first half of the year led to decreased working hours, the pausing or cancelling of planned recruitment and a temporary reduction in staff numbers. Despite these challenges, survey respondents indicated that performance of the business and the individual permitting, they expect wage rates to increase over the coming months.

"As we restart our economy and move

towards recovery it is vital that we bring down unemployment and restore working hours. Therefore, government policy goals must avoid increasing labour costs and additional regulatory burden. Business owners indicated that the introduction of a Statutory Sick Pay scheme should be delayed allowing small firms to restart after the crisis."

In conclusion, Spollen-Behrens stated "The first half of 2021 was the most difficult for the Irish

economy and society since the onset of COVID-19. Due to the confidence in the vaccination programme and the pace of roll out and the action we have all taken to stop the rise of COVID-19 within our communities the return to normal trading in the second half of 2021 is, now, within our grasp. The SFA will remain focused on working and supporting members, as they begin to welcome back customers and return to the office."



Jamie Long back at work at Poppies Hair & Beauty in Newcaslte.

Funding to facilitate outdoor dining

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

Funding up to €4,000 or 75% of costs is available to eligible applicants. Fáilte Ireland in partnership with local authorities across the country is working to assist town centre hospitality businesses to increase their outdoor seating capacity while providing a safe environment for shoppers and diners.

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

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

More information can be found on www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub

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Wicklow re-opens for business



Rachel Von Metzratd, manager of the Jack & Jill charity boutique in Wicklow Town, re-opening her shop after being closed since January.

'A jobs-led recovery will see Wicklow's economy bounce back after Covid'

A jobs-led recovery will see Wicklow's economy bounce back after Covid, Minister Simon Harris said.

Minister Harris was speaking on June 1st after the Government launched its Economic Recovery Plan for the sustainable rebuilding and renewal of our economy now that the vaccine roll-out is comprehensively underway and the economy is re-opening in clear phases.

Minister Harris said, "Fine Gael successfully implemented a jobs-led recovery after the economic crash over a decade ago. This new plan will help to drive a jobs-rich recovery in Wicklow, with an overarching ambition of 2.5 million people across the country in work by 2024.

"The plan is focused on helping people back into work, re-building sustainable enterprises, creating a balanced and inclusive recovery, and ensuring sustainable public finances.

"The job creation element of the plan is significant. We know from past experience that this is the way to rebuild our economy. It includes in excess of

€3.5 billion in further labour market and enterprise supports, intense and comprehensive activation and accelerated training, reskilling and upskilling opportunities, and just under €1 billion additional funding under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP).

"Crucially these jobs will be more productive, innovative, resilient and in new areas of opportunity, aligned with the Government's green and digital ambitions. This reflects the acceleration of many trends, in particular increased online working and shopping, coupled with the urgent challenges we face in meeting our climate and housing targets.

"At the very beginning of the pandemic, Fine Gael in government responded decisively to support people's income, putting in place an extraordinary range of supports for workers and businesses including through the Pandemic Unemployment Payment

(PUP), the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) and the COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS).

"These supports have been vital in sustaining businesses and workers, ensuring we are now at a point where they can plan to reopen and resume work again.

"Today's Government Plan comprehensively expands EWSS and PUP and provides clarity and certainty for businesses and employees over the period ahead by outlining the next steps. It extends CRSS and also enhances the re-start payment; extends the Commercial Rates Waiver until the end of September 2021; provides for a new additional Business Resumption Support Scheme; extends Tax Debt Warehousing until the end of 2021; and further extends the 9% tourism VAT rate until September 2022.

"Thanks to prudent economic management by Fine

Gael in the years before the pandemic, our economy was in good shape to withstand the onslaught of Covid-19, allowing us to put in place all these supports and safeguards.

"We can and we will rebuild the Wicklow economy; we will get our people back to work and safely emerge from the pandemic, and we will align our economy for the digitised and green future, by creating more productive, sustainable and importantly more secure and valued jobs", Minister Harris concluded.

Director of the Small Firms Association (SFA), Sven Spollen-Behrens said: "The SFA broadly welcomes the Government's announcement, particularly the commitment to a tapering off of financial support schemes rather than a cliff edge termination. Such supports will continue to play a crucial role for thousands of businesses across the country in the short-term, while the gradual easing of such schemes will enable businesses to more effectively address

the staffing challenges over the coming months as the economy and wider society emerge from Covid restrictions.

"The SFA welcomes the extension of the commercial rates waiver in its current form, increased funding for upskilling and further education, particularly in the online space. The announcement of a new Business Resumption Scheme will be good news for small firms with significantly reduced turnover as a result of

public health restrictions and will allow them the space to reopen.

"As we move out of the immediate crisis and into recovery, we would like to see a commitment from Government for a detailed Return to Workplace plan. The ad hoc nature of this phase of the reopening must be addressed urgently to allow business to plan their return and to get the recovery of our business parks and town centres underway", concluded Spollen-Behrens.

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96%

are in favour of pharmacies providing a minor ailment scheme

96%

of the public trust the advice and patient care they receive from the pharmacist

92%

are in favour of pharmacies providing services to improve patient adherence to medicines



The future of the healthcare system rests in the enhancement of pharmacists' roles and the expansion of services made available to the public.

Behaviour & Attitudes market research, 2020



Lucia Murtagh, Eva Vasquez, Oisín Healy and Lennon Kirk-Flanagan at the Newtown/Kilcoole Educate Together 'Road to Tokyo' event

Wicklow flies pride flag in support of the LGBTQ community

Wicklow County Council in support of the LGBTQ community is flying the Pride flags for the month of June.

The Pride flags are flying at many of the council buildings, including County Buildings in Wicklow town; Arklow, Greystones, Bray, Baltinglass and Wicklow Municipal District buildings and all Wicklow County Council Libraries across the county to mark Pride Month, June 2021.

The Council said "We continue to support social inclusion in our community by raising awareness through the flying or displaying of the Pride and Transgender flags throughout the month of June.

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

Win a Delgany property while helping a charity!

If you've ever fancied owning a property in Eden Gate, Delgany, you will be interested in this competition currently being run on online raffle platform Raffall.

Ann Marie and Alan Sparks are running a competition through Raffall, which will see their beautiful Eden Gate property go up for grabs in a raffle.

For just €20, a person can enter a ticket in the prize draw for the furnished property. The winner will get the property mortgage free, with all all legal and stamp duties paid, so that all the winner has to do is collect the keys. Properties in this Estate sell for up to

€1 million. This property can be a lovely home or a rental, recently yielding a rent of €1,400 a month. The grounds are impeccable, maintained to an exceptionally high standard.

There is however a limited draw of 20,000 tickets, and with interest guaranteed to be high, you are advised to enter now.

If that wasn't enough incentive, the competition is also in aid of the Ross Nugent Foundation charity, which raises funding for equipment for St. Clare's Oncology Ward in Beaumont Hospital.

To purchase a ticket, go to the WinHomeDelgany facebook page or go to raffall.com/234326/enter-raffle-to-win-coastal-home-in-delgany-ireland-hosted-by-



Pupils complete 'Road to Tokyo' Olympics School Challenge

Newtown/Kilcoole Educate Together National School celebrated their completion of the Olympics Schools Challenge, 'Road to Tokyo' with an innovative sports and cultural awareness day which celebrated all things great about sport and the Educate Together ethos.

In preparation for the event, each Junior and Senior Infant student was given a country to research and present, based on the diverse pool of nationalities that attend the school.

In their country colours, students completed a course of Olympic themed activities where their balance, ball control, speed and teamwork were challenged.

Principal, Dr Nicola Martin affirms that "we are thrilled to partake in this initiative. It is a wonderful opportunity that inspires children to tap into the wealth of cultural diversity and sports whilst becoming physically active in a fun and interactive way. Indeed, the Olympic values resonate strongly with the Equality-based Educate Together ethos, wherein kindness, inclusion and respect are key components to the children's robust academic journey at Newtown/Kilcoole ETNS.

On the day, Heather McNulty, Olympic Federation of Ireland Head of Communications, came to the school playground to give a socially distanced talk about her role in the Olympics and to share some insights about the upcoming Games in Tokyo. "It has been really

exciting, as a parent, and as someone so involved in Olympic sport, to watch the children in Newtown/Kilcoole Educate Together who are on this Road to Tokyo, really embrace the wider meaning of sport, and have so much fun on the way. It fills me with confidence that our children are learning in a way that helps them devel-

op into strong, thoughtful and conscientious people."

This Olympics challenge is just one of many initiatives undertaken by Newtown/Kilcoole ETNS since its inception in 2019, including a community garden and outdoor classroom, the Global Earth initiative and the Discover Science and Maths Awards.



Aaron McCarthy and Erica Whinery at the Newtown/Kilcoole Educate Together 'Road to Tokyo' event

Irish Wheelchair Association encourages people with disabilities to apply for social housing

The Irish Wheelchair Association has launched a national campaign 'Think Ahead Think Housing' to tackle the shortage of social housing for people with disabilities across Ireland.

The campaign is working directly with Wicklow County Council and local authorities nationwide, among others, to ensure people with disabilities across Ireland are included and represented in social housing planning and delivery.

Over 5,000 people with disabilities are currently waiting for social housing in Ireland. Irish Wheelchair Association believes this figure is an under-representation of the actual need. A recent report has also revealed that 1,300 young and middle-aged people with physical disabilities have been forced to live in elderly nursing homes because of the lack of accessible social housing.

Think Ahead, Think Housing is encouraging disabled people to state their current and future social housing needs now, by applying to their local authority through its newly revised housing application form which was published last month.

Michelle-Kent Byrne, Irish Wheelchair

Association Wicklow said: "We know of disabled people waiting years on the housing list, with no idea of when a house will be available, and there are many more people living with parents and guardians or in nursing homes, as they cannot move out and move on. People with disabilities have a right to live independently in the community, but to date their needs have not been catered for. Most people with disabilities do not want to be dependent on relatives or elderly parents for accommodation as they grow older themselves, but they face barriers and discrimination that make getting a home of their own particularly difficult.

"Think Ahead, Think Housing will advise people with disabilities about how to apply for a social house with their local authority by giving step-by-step advice. Importantly, it will also support the Government to plan for the current and future housing gap that exists by encourag-

ing people with disabilities to think ahead and register their future housing need now."

Since April, for the first time in Ireland, a person applying to their local authority for social housing will be able to request wheelchair accessible accommodation thanks to recent changes in the national social housing application form made by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. These new forms are available directly from Wicklow County Council.

Michelle Kent Byrne, Irish Wheelchair Association concluded: "Up until April 2021 requesting wheelchair liveable accommodation in a social housing application was not possible. This is one reason why we believe people with disabilities have been chronically under-represented in social housing planning and delivery, but we are hopeful this is about to change.

"Through our Think Ahead, Think Housing

campaign, we want to give the Government a more accurate estimation of the number of people nationwide who need wheelchair-liveable social housing, alongside other kinds of disabilities. This will help local authorities, housing agencies and developers to plan and deliver for the housing needs of our society. People with physical disabilities can be included in Ireland's social housing strategy like never before."

Irish Wheelchair Association's 'Think Ahead, Think Housing' campaign is working directly with local authorities, The Housing Agency, Irish Council for Social Housing, HSE, Citizen's Information and Disability Federation of Ireland among others to ensure all people with disabilities across Ireland are included and represented in social housing planning and delivery.

For more details about how to apply to the Council for social housing log onto iwa.ie/thinkhousing.

Coillte reveals most commonly dumped items in forests

Coillte reveals that the most commonly illegally dumped items to the nation's forests over the past year include: Washing machines/fridge freezers (these are almost always free to re-cycle at your local bring centre.); Household waste, e.g., black sacks sometimes with food, nappies, cans and bottles (the latter two can be re-cycled at no cost); Tyres; Beds and sofas, household furniture; Building rubble i.e. old bricks, wooden planks and soil.

"Illegal dumping and fly tipping remain a serious issue for the nation's forests," said Mick Power, Coillte's National Estates Manager. "The vast majority of visitors are respectful and bring all their litter home, which Coillte and staff on the ground appreciate enormously".

There is a small number of people who make the public roads and entrances to our forests unsightly, some of the rubbish is foul smelling, attracts vermin and is a health and safety hazard

for families, their children and their dogs", according to Power.

Coillte has spent almost €2million to remove illegally dumped waste from its forests over the past five years. This material is often discarded at forest entrances or along the forest boundaries which makes it unsightly and unsanitary for visitors. Illegal dumping causes serious environmental problems including: Damage to habitats and biodiversity; Polluting soils, rivers and drinking waters.

Coillte takes the issue of illegal dumping extremely seriously and works closely with the Gardaí and the local council authorities to ensure offenders are prosecuted. In known blackspot areas, Coillte has increased its surveillance by deploying remote cameras to monitor illegal dumping activity and to help seek prosecutions.

Coillte encourages the public to report all instances of illegal dumping to the relevant Local Authorities immediately

or contact Coillte directly via its confidential forest security hotline on 1890 800 455.

Coillte also operates a "Love this place, leave no trace" litter policy.

"We continue to welcome people to Coillte forests knowing they provide a much needed physical and mental boost for so many during Covid. We ask all visitors to the forests to bring home any litter with them - just like you were never there," said Power. "That way forests remain beautiful for everyone."

Whitmore submits observation on wind farm application

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has submitted an observation to An Bord Pleanála on ABO's appeal of Wicklow County Council's decision not to grant them permission to build a wind farm in West Wicklow.

Deputy Whitmore had welcomed the planning decision of WCC, citing the potential negative impact development could have on the Baltinglass Hill Fort Complex and on surrounding archaeological heritage.

Making the observation to ABP, Deputy Whitmore says "While wind energy production is very important to meet our climate action obligations it must be done sustainably and in the right areas. I believe Wicklow County Council made the right decision as a large-scale project like this could negatively impact on the archaeological and natural heritage of the Kilranelagh Hill and the

Baltinglass Hillfort Complex.

"Anyone in West Wicklow will tell you that this area is an integral part of Ireland's most unique and ancient landscapes but has not been given the attention it deserves. I have been campaigning alongside Save West Wicklow who regularly highlight the fact that very little protection or promotion of this archaeologically rich area in West Wicklow has been provided for despite its reference in the County Development Plan. There is also huge potential for further excavation and other archaeological finds as well which was not adequately referenced in the planning application.

"Now that the company is appealing the Council's decision with An Bord Pleanála, I felt it was necessary to highlight these issues once again and to state plainly the need to prioritise this truly special place. I hope that An Bord Pleanála take my observation and those of other local campaigners on board to reflect the concerns on the ground.

"In the meantime, I continue to request at national level for adequate funding and resources to ensure that the future of this area is sustainably managed for the benefit for the surrounding environment and residents in the area. As our economy re-opens and restrictions ease no doubt this area will be enjoyed by many more people highlighting the recreational value this area holds for residents in Wicklow," conclude Deputy Whitmore.

'Climate Bill must ensure continued viability of sustainable farming'

The Climate Bill must not undermine the continued viability of sustainable farming across Wicklow, Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD has said.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill 2021 is currently going through the Houses of the Oireachtas. At a recent Fine Gael parliamentary party meeting, a motion about protecting the future for Irish farming families was agreed unanimously following a long discussion with members from both urban and rural constituencies backing the proposal.

Minister Harris said, "Farmers in Wicklow are very climate aware, they want to pass on a sustainable and viable farm to the next generation and they have taken measures to ensure increased sustainability in their production.

"It is absolutely crucial that commercial farm families are supported by the Climate Bill to ensure the very group that can most affect change and strengthen sustainability are not alienated by this legislation.

"Everybody accepts that farming contributes to our emissions, and farmers accept the need to constantly change practices to more sustainable methods.

"Carbon budgets will play a real role in helping us achieve our emissions targets, but these

budgets must take into account the measures that farmers are already taking.

"CAP reform must prioritise viability also, to allow Wicklow farming continue to be the best it can be. We don't want to see a situation where viable Wicklow farms become non-viable because of measures adopted in either the current round of CAP negotiations or the Climate Bill.

"Our systems for beef and dairy are the best and most sustainable in the world and any threat to the viability of farming in Wicklow would not only have severe consequences for this county as well as Ireland in general, but would also set back the war against cli-

mate change more globally, as we will simply be replaced by less sustainable producers elsewhere in the world.

"The agri-food sector is our most important indigenous industry, providing 173,000 jobs nationally and accounting for 10% of Irish exports. Agriculture is crucial to our rural economy and the income generated is spent locally.

"The most certain way to achieve balanced rural development is to ensure the viability of family farming in Wicklow, and across the country. We must keep people farming, ensure that farms remain profitable and that farm succession is more viable to protect the family farm model for future generations, and guarantee the protection of our rural environment," Minister Harris concluded.



Eddie Mongrey, 1st year carpentry and joinery apprentice, at John Sisk & Son, planting trees in Manor Kilbride.

Sowing the seeds of the future in Manor Kilbride

John Sisk & Son's new cohort of carpentry & joinery apprentices has completed one of Sisk's first tree planting exercises as part its commitment to planting 1.7 million native woodland trees over the next nine years. Sisk's new group of apprentices got stuck into help plant the trees near Manor Kilbride.

Working in conjunction with the Woodland Environment Fund and Forestry Service Ltd, over 46,000 trees were planted in Manor Kilbride, Co. Wicklow with an initial investment of €20,000. The tree planting forms one of the first steps for Sisk in line with its recently published 2030 Sustainability Roadmap that outlines ambitious targets and actions, aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals. The planted saplings are primarily native broadleaf with pockets of native conifer (scots pine). This mix will provide greater habitat and species diversity over the years.

The land is owned by local farmer Martin O'Hara. By the planting of this Native Woodland Martin too has demonstrated his commitment to the sustainable management of forestry and native woodlands in Ireland. This will also support Ireland's plan to tackle climate change by planting 440 million

trees by 2040.

The planting of this Native Woodland was funded by the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine through an establishment grant and 15 annual premium payments.

Sinead Hickey, Head of

Sustainability, Ireland & Europe, John Sisk & Son said: "We are delighted to have partnered with Martin O'Hara and his family, Forestry Service Ltd and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine in Manor Kilbride. We have a target to plant 1.7 million trees by 2029, which forms a part of our wider sustainability roadmap. This is an important first step in our journey as demonstrates our commitment to a range of sustainability topics our company and wider industry needs to address."



Sinead Hickey, Head of Sustainability at John Sisk & Son, planting trees in Manor Kilbride.

Additional funding provided for litter management

Funding of €5 million is being made available to local authorities to help tackle litter issues arising from increased outdoor activities.

Discussing the funding, Green Party TD Matthews said "Firstly, it should be said that Wicklow County Council are doing their utmost to tackle what we've all noticed to be an increase in public litter, particularly in recent weeks. To the council's credit, any litter black spots that I have raised with them have been cleaned up quickly but the news of extra funding is hugely welcome as we face into what we all hope will be an enjoyable and active summer. The Government has already provided significant funding for local authorities to develop outdoor spaces and for businesses to purchase outdoor furniture funding and now we are providing extra money to manage litter in those public places.

"As the economy re-opens, and Wicklow prepares for an outdoor summer, we will enjoy a much higher level of outdoor dining and socialising, and local authorities have had to increase their spending on recycling and litter facil-

ities. The funding will add more recycling and litter facilities to meet increased demand and I understand will include bins, dog litter bags and litter picking equipment. This will assist the safe outdoor re-opening of society as we gradually emerge from current COVID-19 public health restrictions.

"I look forward to working with Wicklow County Council on this issue in terms of highlighting key target areas for litter reduction, the addition of public bins in prominent locations and the frequent emptying of these bins, particularly on weekends.

"We all are looking forward to getting outside more over the summer to catch up with family and friends and the onus is on Wicklow County Council to ensure that sufficient facilities are in place in terms of their waste management strategy. However, while this funding for local authorities is welcome, it doesn't take away from our own personal responsibilities in terms of cleaning up after ourselves. I ask that people take personal responsibility for their litter, place it in a bin or if no bin is available, they take their rubbish home with them and dispose of it correctly," concluded Deputy Matthews.



Age friendly parking for Greystones

Age Friendly car parking spaces have been introduced in the Greystones Municipal District area.

These car spaces are reserved for older people who are identified in the County Wicklow Age Friendly strategy as those aged over 55 years.

The spaces are clearly marked out and signposted. Age Friendly parking spaces are similar to mother and baby car parking spaces in supermarkets and they are subject to normal parking fees. Motorists are asked to respect these courtesy spaces and leave them free for older people in the community who may need them.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, welcomed the age friendly spaces, saying: "As a dedicated supporter of the age friendly strategy, I am delighted to see new spaces set aside for the older people especially in these difficult times. Some older people are nervous going back into

society but knowing that they won't have to worry about finding parking may make the transition easier."

Cathaoirleach of the Greystones Municipal District, Cllr Derek Mitchell, added: "The Greystones spaces are especially useful as customers with limited mobility can park closer to the shops. As an added incentive to encourage Social Distancing and assist pedestrians, the parking on Church Road has been replaced by seats and planters."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council and Chair of the Age Friendly Alliance, Mr Frank Curran, said: "It is crucial that we make our towns age friendly and these parking spaces are one of the important steps needed to make our towns and villages more inclusive and welcoming".

There are a number of age

friendly parking spaces in Arklow at the Castlepark car park and at the swimming pool as well as at four of the County Wicklow civic amenity sites. Brittas Bay Carpark also has age friendly parking and so has the Council Buildings in Wicklow. Many more age friendly spaces will follow.

"These special car spaces are strategically located close to central services and identified by older people as areas regularly used. Of course, if you are still young at heart and don't consider yourself old, you can leave these car spaces for those who would benefit from them."

Age Friendly programme manager for Wicklow, Richella Wood, pointed out that actions from the programme result from consultation with the older people and it was important that we recognise the value of older people, listen to their views and act where we can on their needs.

Irish Water continues Bray works to reduce leakages

Irish Water in partnership with Wicklow County Council is continuing its efforts to improve the water supply in Bray. Further works are now planned as part of its programme to drive down leakage and reduce the number of bursts and unplanned outages impacting the community.

The current phase of works involves replacing backyard service connections which is key to reducing leakage in the area. Backyard services are found in older areas, often installed to the rear of a customer's property and typically made of cast iron or lead. Due to the age and deteriorating condition of the pipework, they are often a significant source of leakage and supply disruption for customers. Backyard services are usually shared, running through a number of neighbouring properties making it difficult to detect and repair leaks. Since all properties share a connection, leaks and bursts affect all properties, usually resulting in low pressure.

Since January, leakage reduction crews have already successfully completed works in a number of areas in Bray including Fr Colahan Terrace, Edward Road, Dwyer Park, and Ballywaltrim Cottages. Over 80 properties in these areas were

removed from aging and problematic backyard services, made up of cast iron and lead, providing customers with a much improved water supply. Irish Water said they would like to thank customers in these areas who facilitated and assisted in the provision of the backyard services programme which has not only resulted in significant water savings but has also reduced the number of bursts and outages impacting customers in these communities.

Speaking about the benefits of the project, Joe Carroll, Leakage Reduction Programme Regional Lead with Irish Water, said, "Replacing these old, damaged pipes will reduce the instances of bursts and water outages and provide a more secure and reliable water supply for customers in these areas. We would like to thank the local residents for engaging with us, supporting our vision and helping us deliver these vital network improvement

works to safeguard the water supply in Bray".

Following these works, Irish Water continues to replace old backyard services in the town with works on a number of properties already under-way in the Palermo area which was prone to significant leakage and poor water pressure. The works may involve some short-term water shut-offs, however, the project team will ensure that customers are given a minimum of 48 hours' notice prior to any planned disruptions. To facilitate the safe delivery of these works, some traffic management may be necessary, however, local and emergency traffic will be maintained at all times. The works are being carried out by Ward & Burke Construction Ltd in partnership with Wicklow County Council on behalf of Irish Water.

Noel Doody, Water Inspector with Wicklow County Council, added, "As a result of the collaborative work between Irish Water and Wicklow

County Council, many customers in Bray are enjoying a more reliable water supply. The works undertaken are benefiting customers in the area by reducing interruptions to supply and improving water quality. The decommissioning of these old backyard water pipes will contribute to safeguarding the water supply in Bray and reduce water lost to leakage.

"We would like to join in thanking the community for their patience during the works of which the benefits will be seen for many years."

As part of Irish Water's national Leakage Reduction Programme, €500 million is being invested up to the end of 2021 to reduce the level of leakage across the country by fixing and replacing old and damaged water mains.

Irish Water said "This will ensure a safe, reliable water supply which is vital for our health, our environment and our growing population and economy."

Additional toilets installed at Greystones South Beach



The council have put in place temporary toilets at Greystones South Beach in Greystones due to increased demand.

The toilets, in a pre-fab, will be in place for the summer months, are free of charge, and will be cleaned on a regular basis, the Council stated.

Speaking on the news, Cllr Jodie Neary said "I'm delighted to hear this in response to my motion for more sea swimming facilities after a survey I conducted which called for changing facilities as well as public toilets."

"I'm delighted that there has been a move for additional public toilets, albeit in a temporary nature. This is a positive move towards the provision of public facilities in Greystones which has experienced a huge demand for these types of facilities as we are a growing town. With the reopening of the economy and the summer months ahead, demand is only set to increase. This will tie in very

well with the additional bins that have been allocated across Greystones and Kilcoole to facilitate the summer months.

"As a mother with young kids, I am always in search of public toilets and there never seems to be enough nearby. Many other families can relate and there is certainly a gender element to this as well as women need access to these facilities for various reasons. This is the feedback I get from a lot of women in many stages of their life including in their caring role with children or the elderly."

"I have been calling for this for a long time and commend the Council for being proactive in this regard. I hope that the facilities will be used well and cared for so that we can demonstrate the demand for permanent facilities going ahead."

Matthews calls for toilet blocks at Bray DART station to be re-opened

In a recent letter to Green Party TD Steven Matthews, Irish Rail outlined that the toilets at Bray DART station will not be re-opening this summer, citing concerns related to antisocial behaviour.



Steven Matthews TD at Bray Dart station

Discussing the letter, Deputy Matthews said: "My correspondence to Irish rail on this issue was prompted by several constituents writing to me asking whether the toilets in the station would re-open now that capacity in public transport is back to 50% and we have seen an overall reduction in public health restrictions."

"I use this station on a daily basis and given how busy it is and the fact that it is staffed on a full-time basis, I couldn't see a justification for not re-opening the toilet facilities."

"I was extremely disappointed by the response I received from Irish Rail. I accept that antisocial behaviour is a concern but not to the extent that it means that no passengers can access facilities. I would have accepted this position in more rural areas - that the station is partially staffed or rarely staffed - but this is not the case in Bray."

The response from Irish Rail went on to recommend that passengers use other public toilets provided by the local authority.

Deputy Matthews said "Passengers who use this service, provided by Irish Rail, should be catered for by Irish rail in this regard. I outlined my disappointment in writing to Irish Rail and will continue to press them on this issue in the coming weeks. I accepted and understood the rationale for keeping them closed under Level 5 restrictions, but now that they have lifted and we are beginning to return to normal, the toilets should not remain closed."

"The focus this summer is on being outside and outdoor activities. We need to have a wider discussion about the provision of public toilets but at the very least, train passengers should be able to access this basic necessity before or after their journey. We should be encouraging people to get out and travel within Wicklow to support our local economy, not putting barriers up to people using the service."

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership launch Arklow Community Sports Hub

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership has launched Arklow Sports Hub at Coral Leisure Centre in Arklow. The Hub, which was launched on Wednesday May 26th, will be a centre for recreation and physical activity for the area

This is part of an investment of over €150,000 in physical activity equipment, programmes and training and education in the area over the next five years. The project being rolled out by Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, is supported by Sport Ireland as part of their Community Sports Hub initiative and funded through dormant accounts.

It will host education and training opportunities from Safeguarding, disability inclusion and first aid training to more sport's specific education courses. Aisling Hubbard, Coordinator, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, said this investment was very "timely with the development of a public realm plan and the huge potential the entire site holds for the community."

Eamonn Whelan, Chairperson, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, highlighted what a critical time for the community this is at the launch: "The significant funding that has been allocated over the next five years to Arklow in the form of capital and community investment will help the recovery of sport in the area, particularly in these challenging times. COVID-19 has had a catastrophic effect on our sporting organisations and participation in sport and recreation. Despite these challenges and uncertainties, we believe there is an enormous opportunity to reinforce the importance of sport and physical activity in reopening our society and

developing a happier and healthier community."

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, thanked Sport Ireland for their continued "investment in sport in the county" and paid tribute to "the significant benefit sport and physical activity has had

Recreation Partnership, thanked Sport Ireland for the significant investment in the Arklow Sports Hub. Mr Curran reinforced the importance "sport and physical activity opportunities have played in maintaining the physical and mental health of people during the COVID

the community on how to use the equipment."

International Soccer players Aine O'Gorman and Stephanie Roche gave a demonstration of the newly installed Teqball table. A Teqball Table is a uniquely designed curved table on which five sports can be played. The foot-



Amy Kavanagh and Tiernan Duffy with Irish soccer internationals Stephanie Roche and Aine O'Gorman at the launch of the the Arklow Sports Hub

on the community during the recent pandemic."

Cllr Sylvester Bourke, Cathaoirleach Arklow Municipal District, said: "We are delighted to see the new Community Sports Hub coming to Arklow."

Arklow Municipal District is committed to developing an overall public realm plan for the area, and to ensure the future of the area as a public amenity space for the town and its environs."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Frank Curran and Aisling Hubbard, Coordinator of Wicklow Sports and

pandemic" and was looking forward to the future development of the Arklow sports hub.

Jamie Geraghty of 'Bar Monkey' gave a demonstration of the Calisthenics equipment that is to be installed in the coming weeks. As part of the Sports Hub courses on calisthenics will be provided to schools in the area alongside a coach education programme. Jamie said he was "delighted that Wicklow is one of the first sites to combine the installation of equipment with a schools training programme and educating

ball-based sport of Teqball is regarded as the fastest growing sport in the world with Teqball clubs, leagues and national tournaments taking root at a phenomenal rate.

Philip Fitzgerald noted that "Teqball tables have been embraced by so many high-profile clubs, national sports associations and even Olympic Councils, the beauty of this innovative table is the fun it generates for almost everyone playing on it and the improvement in coordination and touch & technique that is generated by playing Teq Sports."



Baltinglass conditional rider Charlie Hart has certainly found a friend in the High Stakes Syndicate-owned Bal De Rio and he landed his second success on the eight-year-old when winning claiming hurdle at Limerick on Thursday 27th May. The 3/1 shot, trained by Denis Hogan, lasted home by a neck to win from the Joseph O'Brien-trained Fama Et Gloria. Hart said, "That's my second winner and both have been on him so he has been a great servant to me. I thought he had a fair chance today. We were tight for space going down to the last which was bypassed and we didn't really know which side to go, left or right. There was a lot of roaring and shouting going on but at the last minute we wheeled in right and once we passed by the hurdle he found another gear again and took off. I'm with Denis full-time and have been there a year and a half now."

Get walking/running in aid of St. Colman's

This year's walk/run in aid of St. Colman's Residential Care Centre in Rathdrum aims to cover the distance from Rathdrum to Vancouver, a total of 7,193km.

The connection to Canada is to remember Connor Kavanagh, the son of Director of Nursing May Kavanagh, who died tragically in Canada in August 2020. Connor under the guidance of his Mother was part of the Centre and supported fundraising for 21 years with a variety of roles such as Santa's Helper, Goldfish minder, Circus Guide as well as many other supporting roles of the Walk Day Fete and voluntary Centre Activities to enhance the lives of the Residents within St Colmans. The funds support many activities for the Residents, Mystery Tour outings, Circus visits, dances, musical entertainment and many more.

Saint Colman's was built as a County Home in the 18th Century. Over the years it has progressed with the development of a new Hospital in the 70's and in 1980 with the leadership of the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, Sister Philomena Tansey pioneered the idea of houses on site for Older People of County Wicklow who

required supports but not admission to the hospital. This progressed to the 3 blocks of 4 houses which were built to the highest standard achievable at that time. Now St Colman's Residential Care Centre wishes to advance the standard of their houses. "Currently the washbasin and toilet do not meet the hygiene standards we have come to expect," they said.

"The Human Rights based approach focuses on care and support, with staff promoting and protecting independence of all Older Persons within our care. Our primary aim is to improve the quality of care and in so doing enhance the quality of life for all who use the Older Persons Services within St Colman's. This leads us to the Project now underway. We hope to raise funds to add shower facilities to the houses as part of our annual fundraising for St Colman's Patients Benefit Fund.

"Lets all get walking or running!! You can walk a mile or two and with the distance we all walk together we hope to make our destination to Canada. You may not walk at all and may wish to donate instead whatever you choose we thank you in advance for your support of the Residents of St Colman's Residential Care Centre."



Director of Nursing at St. Colman's, May Kavanagh, with Bill Porter at the launch of the walk/run in aid of St. Colman's



Cllr Sylvester Bourke, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran, and Eamon Whelan of the Wicklow Sports Partnership with soccer internationals Stephanie Roche and Aine O'Gorman.



Bray Junior Musical Theatre School Choir to record two songs for world famous group

Pictured are the members of Bray Junior Musical Theatre School Choir who will be recording two songs for world famous group Secret Garden on June 18th for their upcoming Christmas Album. Secret garden is an Irish-Norwegian group who specialise in new instrumental and vocal music, led by Irish violinist Fimmoula Sherry and Norwegian composer, Arranger and Pianist Rolf Lovland. The group has sold over 5 million albums since winning the 1995 Eurovision song contest representing Norway with the composition Nocturne.

The ever famous song 'You Raised Me Up' was composed by Lovland with Lyrics by Brain Graham and has been recorded by numerous artists including Brain Kennedy, Josh Groban, Westlife, Aled Jones and Celtic woman. The children from Junior Musical are thrilled to be part of Secret Garden's New Album and their Musical Director Louise Masterson from Bray is honoured and equally thrilled for this amazing opportunity for her students. Photo by Joe McQuillan

Success for local photographers in 'Reach for the Stars' astrophotography competition

Alex Labunskij from Greystones and Enda Kelly from Wicklow town have been selected to feature in an exhibition of the judges' 20 top-rated images, as part of the inaugural 'Reach for the Stars' astrophotography competition run by the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.

The exhibition is running online initially, on the DIAS website, www.dias.ie. An outdoor exhibition at DIAS's premises on Burlington Road is planned for the coming weeks, followed – later in the summer – by an exhibition at DIAS Dunsink Observatory.

Mr. Labunskij's shot 'M81 Galaxy Group' was capture from Delgany and features The Garland, Cigar and Bodes Galaxies. These galaxies are part of the M81 galaxy group, located at a distance of about



Alex Labunskij's shot 'M81 Galaxy Group'

12 million light-years away from Earth. Mr. Kelly's image 'High-Res Lunar Mosaic' features the Moon, captured from Ashford.

Commenting on the images selected for the exhibition, Professor Peter Gallagher, Head of Astrophysics at DIAS and a member of the judging panel for 'Reach for the Stars', said: "The standard of entries to the competition was excellent, and the judging panel had a very difficult job making our final selection. The chosen images showcase a variety of striking and impressive astronomy scenes, and capture the talent of astrophotographers in Ireland."

Brenda Fitzsimons, Picture Editor of The Irish Times and a member of the judging panel, said: "I'm simply in awe of the talent, perseverance and technical ability applied to accomplish these wonderful images. The winning photographs are not only astonishingly beautiful and a well-balanced images, but are perfectly executed. It is evident that the photographers have immense technical knowledge and patience."

Speaking about the entries overall, John Flannery, Vice-President of the Irish Astronomical Society and member of the judging panel, added: "I was blown away by the entries to the competition – the level of skill, imagination and creativity shown. Many of the images captured very complex astronomical features that are extremely difficult to photograph, and require great skill and patience. It is great to see such interest in astronomy from both amateur and experienced photographers and astronomers across the country."



Enda Kelly's image 'High-Res Lunar Mosaic'

National Gallery's exhibition New Perspectives features art with a Wicklow connection

Exhibition showcases a compilation of works acquired over the last decade

To coincide with re-opening after 137 days of closure, the National Gallery of Ireland is presenting the exhibition New Perspectives, a show comprised of acquisitions made by the Gallery between 2011-2020.

The exhibition highlights two fascinating historic views of Wicklow in the 1800's - Edward Lear's view of The Great and Little Sugarloaf from the Scalp, painted in 1835 and View of Bray Head and Killiney Bay with Steam Train, c.1857, by Andrew Nicholl.

The latest exhibition will allow the public to view many of new acquisitions to the national collection for the first time. Some highlights include Cityscape by American artist Alice Neel and City Rectangle by Ilya Bolotowsky.

New Perspectives also features works that have been purchased by Friends and Patrons of the National Gallery of Ireland, including Her First Communion by John Lavery and Crayfish by Anne Yeats.

As ever, visitor safety is at the heart of all reopening plans. The Gallery is operating a one-way system, and so entry is via Merrion Square only. To comply with health and safety protocols at the Gallery

those intending to visit any part of the Gallery will be required to pre-book free tickets, for contact tracing purposes. Tickets for New Perspectives can be purchased online, starting from €5. Tickets can be booked by visiting www.nationalgallery.ie.

The popular national collection is open to the public for free, and the much-loved Gallery Shop re-opened on site on Monday 17th May 2021. Sean Rainbird, Director of the National Gallery of Ireland, commented: "We are very happy to be open again after months of closure. These extraordinary times have reinforced the importance and value of the National Gallery of Ireland. After months of staying at home, we know that people are craving culture and live experiences, and we are delighted to welcome our visitors back. Our latest exhibition New Perspectives is a culmination of ten years' of acquisitions. Visitors will find great variety in the show, and the stories behind each work are truly fascinating. We are grateful to our Friends, Patrons, and the public for their support over the last number of months. I especially would like to thank our Friends and Patrons, without whom, some of the art showcased in New Perspectives, would not have come to be here. We look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks and months."

Niamh MacNally, Curator at the National Gallery of Ireland, continued: "There is something for everyone in this exhibition. A great variety of subject matter, landscapes, portraits - visitors will recognise some of the places and faces that feature too. Over the past decade, we have been working hard on gender balance in the national collection, and this exhibition features almost an even split of work by male and female artists. The earliest work in the exhibition dates back 500 years and the most recent work was created just last year. It has been a privilege

to get to know these works and to learn more about the story that accompanies each one. I'm sure visitors to the Gallery will feel the same."

To accompany the exhibition - or for those who cannot attend in person - a programme of online activity will run alongside it, including podcasts, pop-up videos, interactive webinars and guided tours. Events and activities will cater to all ages and focus on three themes: ways of collecting; a practical focus on variety of media; and a closer look at some of the contemporary artists represented in this exhibition, as we ask them to give their perspectives on their work, and to share what it means for them to be included in the national collection.

The New Perspectives - Acquisitions 2011-2020 Companion Book can be purchased from the Gallery's online shop, price €22.50. Find out more at www.national-gallery.ie.

Kaleidoscope Festival expected to make 'triumphant return' in 2022

2021 tickets will remain valid for next year

The organisers of Kaleidoscope recently expressed their disappointment that the festival was not going ahead this year but stated they expect the festival to make a 'triumphant return' in 2022.

They stated: "We are incredibly disappointed to announce that Kaleidoscope Festival will not go ahead this June as planned. With the prospect of restrictions being relaxed, we had sincerely hoped to be able to proceed."

"Hope is on the horizon for the return of live events later this year, however as our show dates creep closer, we owe it to our ticketholders to provide clarity and certainty around the situation, and so have made the difficult decision to postpone this year's festival until 2022."

"We have made this decision in support of family safety and well-being, one of our core values. As frustrating as this is for us all, it is

simply the right thing to do.

"While this is a disappointing announcement, with great hope and joy we think of Kaleidoscope 2022, when we expect to make our triumphant return to the grounds of Russborough House with an amazing line-up and incredible activities to enthral and entertain festival-goers of all ages."

"All current tickets will remain valid for Kaleidoscope 2022 and we sincerely hope to see you there. Refunds are available for anyone unable to attend Kaleidoscope 2022, please log into 'My Account' on ticketmaster.ie for fan support."

"Family and fun are always at the heart of what we do, so we will

be working hard to deliver an even more unforgettable experience next year to make up for the hard times we have all endured. We also have a little magic up our sleeves in the hopes that smaller-scale events may go ahead this summer."

"For now, we hope that everyone is keeping well, and we look forward to welcoming you all back to Kaleidoscope when it is safe to do so."

"Keep up to speed with all our updates and news on tickets for Kaleidoscope 2022 over on our Instagram @kaleidoscopeireland or visit our website www.kaleidoscopefestival.ie

"We would also like thank Russborough House, our partners, artists, crew and all those involved working on our festival. We sincerely hope that come 2022 life will have returned in full colour again."

Life in Ireland: A Short History of a Long Time

The island of Ireland is a billion years in the making. From Irish Book Award nominee and Wicklow Town man Conor W. O'Brien comes this brief history of a very long time. A hugely accessible and fully illustrated guide to the evolution of natural life in Ireland.



Wicklow town author Conor W. O'Brien

With its castles, crannogs and passage tombs, Ireland is a land where history looms large, but the saga of life on this island dates back millions of years before the first people set foot here.

In *Life in Ireland*, Conor W. O'Brien guides the reader on a journey around the island to explore the history of natural life here. Along the way, we'll meet some of the astonishing creatures to have called Ireland home through the ages. Vital strands in the story of life on Earth have left their mark here, including some of the first creatures to crawl onto land or take to the wing. This epic journey will take us from the first fossils to the present day, to see how our wildlife has adapted to the human age and explore what the future might hold for life in Ireland.

Conor W. O'Brien has been interested in wildlife and nature from a very early age, and it is a passion that has since taken him around the world. He's a member of Birdwatch Ireland and has presented at member meetings of the Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT). His first book, *Ireland through Birds: Journeys in Search of a Wild Nation*, was shortlisted for Best-Irish Published Book at the 2019 An Post Irish Book Awards.

June at Mermaid...



The Art of Swimming

The Art of Swimming, an intimate and compelling solo performance from Lynda Radley about long-distance swimming, celebrity, storytelling and time is being screened online from Mermaid Arts Centre on Monday 14th June at 8pm.

Mercedes Gleitze swam the English Channel in 1927, aged 26, and it took her 15 hours and 15 minutes.

She was a celebrated endurance swimmer who set and broke many records, often years in advance of men in her field. Lynda Radley found her in a faded photograph in Cork City Library and has been fascinated and frustrated ever since.

Fourteen years after the original stage production was seen at Cork Midsummer Festival, *The Art of Swimming* returns in a newly-conceived film version for online presentation, directed by Tom Creed and with music by Michael John

McCarthy.

Tickets cost €10 and are available from www.mermaidartscentre.ie.

The Art of Swimming is streaming on demand on Tuesday 15th June for a period of 48 hours.

It is written and performed by Lynda Radley, directed by Tom Creed, with music and sound by Michael John McCarthy.

It was filmed and edited by Jack Cocker, and created with the support of Aboagora - Between Arts and Sciences - Symposium, Turku, Finland.

It is being presented as part of Cork Midsummer Festival 2021

Arts at the heart of Childhood Services Week

Making friends, exploring your imagination, learning to concentrate and relax, having fun and developing motor skills, confidence and talent are just some of the extensive ways in which the arts foster early childhood development. For these reasons and more, 'Arts at the Heart' was the theme of this year's Childhood Services Week 2021, from 24th May to 29th May.

Recognising and supporting the work of the early childhood and school-age care sector on the island of Ireland, Childhood Services Week is organised by The National Childhood Network (NCN) in conjunction with other childcare-focussed agencies.

The 32-county cross-border initiative this year promoted the diverse ways to encourage children to explore, play and learn through experiential engagement in the arts, according to Denise McCormilla, CEO of the NCN.

Childcare services right across Ireland held their own Festival of the Arts, providing lots of opportunities for children to engage in different arts experiences to enrich their learning and support their holistic development.

There is a fabulous booklet on the NCN website, free to download, on creative play ideas for young children that will keep them happy and busy all summer long.

Produced by Barnardos and the NCN, and sponsored by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, it details arts experiences for young children that are joyful, spontaneous and creative.

There are practical projects to undertake and guidance for parents and carers on how children learn through art and play.

Arts experiences with malleable materials, junk art, drawing and painting, storytelling and puppetry, music, dance and movement are among the activities the booklet explores.

Dr. Christopher Clouder, an internationally renowned author, teacher and campaigner on creativity and innovation in social and emotional education, delivered the keynote webinar address of Childhood Services Week.

He said it is crucial that parents and everyone working with young children understand creativity, in order to help the children preserve and develop their own natural creativity.

"Creativity is where imagination and reality meet, and it is the gate to both our emotions and understanding. It should be one of our most of prized attributes and when we are awake to our creativity we can all better serve our children, our societies, and our globe".

By encouraging creativity and imagination, you improve a child's ability to understand and negotiate their world, Denise McCormilla says, while essentially supporting their social and physical development and wellbeing.

"Engaging in artistic expression helps develop independence and self-confidence. Being better able to express feelings and to engage with others are among the skills children will bring with them into adulthood, along with an understanding and appreciation of the arts".



Twins Elin and Alexa Baynes, age four with Aaron Cao, also four from Little Eaton Montessori in Shankill.



We Used to Play Here

Intimate live outdoor performances on the slopes of Bray Head

Saturday 26th June | Performances: 2pm - 10pm | Pair of tickets €30

Musicians Kate Ellis and Caimin Gilmore will perform new music from electronic artist Neil O Connor, composer Amanda Feery and pro-skater Sam Perkin, weaving local traditional music and improvisation throughout, to create one off performances in each location.

The space was designed and built by architectural designer, Shane Sugrue, of Unqualified Design and is specifically designed for socially distanced concerts, in a variety of outdoor terrains for audiences of up to six.

Tickets go on sale on Tuesday 8th June.



Pictured at the new Boots store opening in Wicklow Town is Store Manager, Jade Masterson, previous store owners Sean and June Leonard and Assistant Store Manager Tammy Bryne.

Boots opens new store in Wicklow

Boots Ireland has announced the opening of a new store in Abbey Street, Wicklow Town. The former Butler's Medical Hall pharmacy was recently acquired by Boots and has since undergone refurbishment works to offer customers an extended offering of beauty, health and wellness products, as well as a broader range of pharmacy services.

As part of Boots continued investment into the growth and expansion of stores around the country, the new store in Wicklow Town brings the number of stores in Co. Wicklow to 3 and 90 in total across the Republic of Ireland.

The new store now employs 8 people in the locality, all of which have joined from the original Butler's Medical Hall team.

Customers visiting the new store will have access to pharmacy services including prescription services, blood pressure testing and emergency contraception with additional services planned over the coming months.

Boots say that the health and safety of customers, patients and Team Members remains the highest priority. Every purchase made in the store will be done in the safest way possible, with Perspex screens for counters, tills and self-checkouts. Contactless payments are encouraged, and

customers will be able to avail of the Boots Order and Collect service for ease and convenience. All Team Members have access to the PPE they need to ensure they are safe to serve customers.

Commenting on the store opening, Store Manager, Jade Masterson said: "We are delighted to open the doors to our new Boots Ireland store in Wicklow Town. We have extended the pharmacy offering in store and our customers will also have access to extended product lines across beauty and baby and we have plans to add further services in the coming months.

"We welcome our new Team Members that join us from Butler's Medical Hall who have worked here for many years and look forward to welcoming customers back into the new store."

Butler's Medical Hall began trading in Wicklow Town back in 1911. Former owners, Sean Leonard and Frank Mulvey commented: "We would like to sincerely thank all our staff and loyal customers for all their support over the years. The success of this pharmacy will continue to flourish under the ownership of Boots Ireland who have some very innovative plans in place going forward. We wish Boots all the success with the new store and look forward to their future in Wicklow Town."

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Enterprise Ireland encourages companies in Wicklow to start planning for a green future now

Recently launched by the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar, and the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan, the Climate Enterprise Action Fund includes three supports that Wicklow-based companies supported by Enterprise Ireland can access to assist on their sustainability journey.

These are:

1) Climate Action Voucher - a €1,800 grant to engage consultants to develop plans in areas such as resource efficiency and renewable energy.

2) GreenStart - up to €5,000 to measure carbon footprint and identify actions to reduce emissions and operate more sustainably.

3) GreenPlus - grant funding of up to 50% to develop a multi-annual climate change plan aligned to international standards and frameworks.

Michael Brougham, Regional Director for the Midlands and Mid-East at Enterprise Ireland said, "Ireland has an ambitious target to reduce emissions by more than 51% by the end of the decade. The

enterprise sector accounts for 13% of Ireland's emissions so it has an important role to play in this national strategy.

"Reducing emissions and adopting more sustainable production practices is a smart business strategy. Increasingly consumers are placing a premium on environmentally sustainable products and services. Responding positively to this growing demand is important for consumer-facing businesses.

"Likewise, businesses that provide products or services to larger companies are now being required to show transparent environmental credentials and alignment with international standards. Inclusion in this supply

chain will increasingly rely on a commitment to our emerging low-carbon, sustainable economy.

"Applications to the Climate Enterprise Action Fund will close on 31 August 2021 so I would strongly encourage companies to visit www.globallambition.ie/climateaction for more information."

Enterprise Ireland is also holding a series of webinars to outline the benefits of making sustainability central to business strategy and how to avail of Enterprise Ireland green supports.

The first webinar focussed on the food and beverage sector, and took place on Tuesday, 1st June.

Speakers included

Rosaleen Hyde of Ballymaloe Foods, Louise Brennan of O'Brien Fine Foods, Pdraig Mallon of Kerry Group, Owen Keogh of Lidl Ireland and Deirdre Ryan, Director of Origin Green at Bord Bia.

The webinar highlighted the progress that leading food companies have achieved in reducing emissions and adopting more sustainable processes.

It also focussed on how transparent environmental credentials are increasingly important in supply chains.

Other webinars taking place during the month of June will focus on the manufacturing and construction sectors, and digital technologies, fintech, BPO and consumer services.

Economic Recovery Plan guarantees extension of 9% tourism VAT rate

The Economic Recovery Plan launched by Government on 1st June sets out a range of supports and investment for the tourism industry in Wicklow including the extension of the 9% tourism VAT rate.

The Plan includes targeted supports for the tourism sector such as pilot events for arts, culture, sports, and live entertainment, as well as restart payments up to a maximum of €30,000 for businesses reopening in time for the tourist season this Summer.

Minister Simon Harris said "From double CRSS payments to a lower VAT rate, the tourism industry in Wicklow is set to get a real boost over the coming months with the launch of the Government's Economic Recovery Plan.

"I know that some businesses haven't had the opportunity to take full advantage of the reduced tourism VAT rate to date, so I'm delighted to see the extension of the tourism VAT rate of 9% until September 2022. This will give businesses across Wicklow the opportunity to claw back some of their much-needed lost revenue. Many restaurants, shops and local attractions in Wicklow have faced huge challenges over the past 15 months, but today's announcement marks a new chapter on our road to recovery post-pandemic.

"Our economic recovery is going to be rapid; businesses are going to reopen, and people are going to return to their jobs. Summer 2021 is a summer we can look forward to, with tourists returning to visit our local attractions and businesses here in Wicklow. We're going to see people back in our restaurants and pubs, our parks and beaches, and our local shops and attractions. The supports for the tourism industry outlined in the Plan go far beyond the reduced VAT rate. The commercial rates waiver will be extended for three months for businesses in Wicklow, while businesses set to reopen can avail of double CRSS payments for three weeks up to a maximum of €30,000."

LOCAL BUSINESS

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Pictured are participants of the Get Ireland Growing initiative Nurses and Midwives from University Hospital Waterford Maria Murtagh, Helen Patmore and Victoria Ben with GIY Founder Michael Kelly.

Searching is on for 'Get Ireland Growing Champion'

Ireland's budding GIY'ers invited to join the first 'Get Ireland Growing Day' GIY and Energia are calling on Wicklow's budding GIY'ers to join them in the first-ever Energia Get Ireland Growing Day on June 19th.

The midwifery team from University Hospital in Waterford has joined the 'Get Ireland Growing' challenge and are encouraging as many people as possible to join in 'Get Ireland Growing' day on June 19th to enjoy the benefits of growing your own food.

The team from the midwifery unit have been getting growing with their 'Green Team' led by Nurse and midwife Maria Murtagh. Commenting on the group's growing efforts so far Maria says, "We have 45 in our group now, from nurses to neo-natal team members to consultants, who are all hugely competitive about 'outgrowing' each other. As we are now in the growing season again pictures on our WhatsApp group are flying in and everyone either comments or gets upset because theirs isn't growing as well as the next persons. It's only just at the beginning stage this year because we're all busy, but it's also a great release for us all."

Midwife Helen Patmore says, "It's really therapeutic. You wouldn't think it is, but when you go out it's absolutely wonderful. Even if you don't have a garden you can just grow in a few pots or planters."

The Midwife team are also part of an ambition to make the hospital a more sustainable place, Maria says, "There's a big green committee in the hospital and the one we're involved with is part of the maternity hospitals in the South and South-West group. In April all on the same day all of our green committees planted a native Irish tree at each hospital. That's a start and now we have great hopes for more; we all work very hard and it's very hard to get time at work, which is why when we go home then it's just free flow, enjoying the garden and growing."

The founder of GIY, Michael Kelly, and his co-presenter from GROW COOK EAT, Karen O'Donohoe will be broadcasting live online from the home of GIY at GROW HQ in Waterford and they will be challenging the nation to join them in growing their own food.

In May 2021 the Energia Get Ireland Growing initiative announced the giveaway of 1,000 GROWBoxes to families and communities across the country and in the lead up to Get Ireland Growing Day everyone in Wicklow is invited to take up the set of growing challenges on the GIY app to

represent their county and stand a chance to win a range of growing prizes.

Members of the public also have the opportunity to nominate someone going above and beyond to support others to grow and be named their province's Get Ireland Growing Champion. Whether leading a community garden project, bringing food growing into schools or simply motivating other households in the neighbourhood, Get Ireland Growing Day's €1,000 top prizes aim to support the most passionate food growers in Ireland to develop their passion project.

On the day itself, Karen and Michael will be sharing their knowledge and insights into successfully growing great food at home, showing that growing it is really not difficult. They are inviting everyone to download the free GIY app and discover 12 simple but powerful challenges to help people connect with nature through food growing. Anyone who takes part can share their photos on any social channel using #GetIrelandGrowing and be in with a chance to win spot prizes throughout the day.

Throughout the day, Mick and Karen will be joined online by some familiar faces from the campaign and other special guests giving it a go from their own home. For more details on how to get involved see, www.getirelandgrowing.ie



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Ballycumber Windfarm Limited, intends to apply to Wicklow County Council for Permission for the development of infrastructure at Ballycumber Wind Farm. The development is located in the townland of Ballycumber South, Tinahely Co. Wicklow.

The development consists of installation of a Storage Container, a Site Office / Canteen Portacabin, and a self-contained free-standing 2-person portable toilet unit and associated site works, on a level area adjacent to existing Substation and Compound.

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

RECRUITMENT



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CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 24TH JUNE 2021.

A panel may be formed from which further vacancies or relief cover may be filled.

Application Forms and further details may be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20159 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.

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Matthew 5:1-12 GOSPEL

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven; this is how they persecuted the prophets before you.'

Reflection

The world will tell us where to find happiness. Wealth, fame and material things are supposed to solve all our woes and bring us joy. In our Gospel today, Jesus turns this on its head. What Jesus says is completely upside down and back to front from the way the world shows us. He knows where real happiness lies and places this happiness in the context of his Kingdom. In the Beatitudes all this wisdom is placed in the context of eternity.

C.J.

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