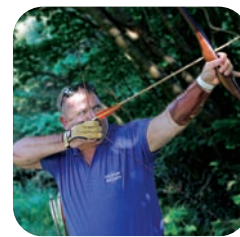




**SPORT SOUVENIRS**  
Page 2



**RNLI RESCUE**  
Page 4



**ARCHERY**  
Page 12

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Tuesday 27th July 2021 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: [wicklowed@localtimes.ie](mailto:wicklowed@localtimes.ie) [www.wicklowtimes.net](http://www.wicklowtimes.net)

# HOME-TAX TIME BOMB?

Wicklow County Council will meet on Tuesday 27th July to set the rate of the Local Property Tax for next year. Indications are that Council officials will seek a 10% increase (a source told Wicklow Times that officials will settle for a 5% increase), however Minister Simon Harris has urged councillors not to increase it at all in light of the difficult financial year people have had.

Speaking in advance of this week's meeting - the documentation for which councillors only received at close of business on Friday - Minister Harris said "In relation to local property tax, my priority as a Wicklow TD has been to ensure that every cent of property tax paid in Wicklow can stay in Wicklow. It is after all meant to be for local

services and it's not right that residents here pay significant property tax but don't see the full benefit in local services.

"I am very pleased that at Cabinet recently there was a proposal to ensure this is fixed and that 100% of the funds raised in the county will stay in the county as part of a series of reforms coming in from 2023.

"Regarding 2022, I

fully appreciate the local authority has a challenge on its hands but so too do hard working families across our county. Covid has had such an impact on so many people that I would encourage the Council to endeavour to leave the property tax as is this year particularly knowing that they are set to benefit significantly from the reforms in 12 months."



Jessica Tierney and Aoibhe Lily O'Toole from Kilcoole, helping to launch 'Summer Songs', a series of family friendly intimate outdoor concerts taking place in around Wicklow in August and September, presented by Wicklow County Council Arts Office. Pic: Andres Poveda



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### FREE CHILDCARE

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Councillor Joe Behan (Ind) says he will be seeking the maximum possible reduction of the tax and he called on his fellow councillors to do the same.

"Again, we are faced with a totally unfair, unjust and discriminatory tax imposed by the three Government parties," said Cllr Behan.

"One of my main objections to the Home Tax is that it takes no account of ability to pay. Many homeowners struggle to meet their normal bills and the prospect of this annual tax on top causes great hardship for some and unnecessary hardship for many.

"It is also a sleight of hand as the revenue raised only replaces what used to be given to Councils from central taxation so the Councils are no better off. When one looks around at the state of our roads and footpaths, or the reduc-

tion in services generally, it is easy to see that this tax is not improving the environment or the local government sector generally.

"When we meet on Tuesday, we will probably be told that the home tax must be increased even though thousands of additional homes will be added into the net.

"I will be rejecting this spurious argument, if it is advanced by Council management, and will be seeking the maximum reduction possible so that the burden of this unfair tax is as low as it can possibly be.

"It is time for Councillors, from all parties and none to stand up and be counted this time. We should unite and ensure that this unfair and unjust tax is reduced as much as possible in the coming year."

Also speaking in advance of the meeting, Independent councillor Mary Kavanagh said she

considers the tax to be 'unfair and regressive'.

"While most people

dislike paying tax, they are more likely to be willing if the system is

designed to be fair," said Cllr Kavanagh. "When I

*Continued on page 5*

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Chairman of the Irish German Society of County Wicklow George Jones recently attended a farewell reception in the gardens of the residence of the Embassy to mark the departure of German Ambassador Deike Potzel after her four year term in Ireland. H.E. Deike Potzel was a great supporter of the partnership arrangements between County Wicklow and Wurzburg. George Jones said "Ambassador Potzel had given great support and encouragement over the past four years and attended many events in County Wicklow during that time." Mr Jones thanked her for all the work over the years and wished her well on her new posting in the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.

## Concern over Kindlestown Woods littering

Walkers who frequent Kindlestown Woods in Delgany have contacted Wicklow Times to complain of littering and dumping in the woods.

A local resident told Wicklow Times that young people are camping overnight in the woods and leaving their litter behind. The matter has been reported to Gardai. This has been happening on "a regular basis", the resident said.

## Community gain in Dunlavin

Cllr Edward Timmins has welcomed the transfer of ownership by Anne Tynte of Dunlavin Handball Alley and Dunlavin Fair Green to Dunlavin & District Forum for the community of Dunlavin.

"This had been in the ownership of the Tynte family since 1710," said Cllr Timmins. The Green is a unique area, a special place and is of huge historical significance to Dunlavin. Well done to all involved."

## Liam 'tiny' Kenny Memorial show

The 3rd annual Liam 'tiny' Kenny Memorial show and run will take place at Ballinacor Community Park, Kirikee, on August 29th. Registration will be from 11.30 to 12.30pm, with the run leaving at 1pm. Vintage, Classic, cars, bikes, tractors, lorries, etc, are welcome. All monies raised for Rathdrum Cancer Support. Refreshments at end of run. Please adhere to covid guidelines on the day. Email [tinykennymemorial@outlook.com](mailto:tinykennymemorial@outlook.com) if you have any questions or queries.

## No dogs on blue flag beaches

In order to comply with Wicklow County Council bye-laws and criteria for retaining Blue Flags on beaches in the county, dogs are not permitted to be on the designated areas of the four beaches at Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South, Greystones and Bray. Please ensure that the above is complied with at all times. This is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from 1st June 2021 to 15th September 2021.

## No overnight campers at Brittas Bay

Campers and Camper Vans are not permitted to stay overnight at Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South. Anybody attempting to camp or stay in a caravan overnight will be moved on every evening from 7.30pm starting Thursday 15th July 2021.

## Live Performances at Brockagh

As part of the Government's Local Live Performance Programming Scheme, Wicklow County Arts Office is proud to present a Summer Songs concert with Hothouse Flowers, Leslie Dowdall & Mark Caplice and Mobile Music Machine 4pm to 9pm in the Brockagh Centre, Laragh on Saturday August 21st.

Having had to put their touring on hold for 2020, Hothouse Flowers can't wait to safely get back to their natural habitat in front of a live audience! Earlier, Leslie Dowdall will then take to the stage with Multi-Award-Winning Songwriter and Producer Mark Caplice.

Mobile Music Machine will open the show and showcase why they are some of Ireland's leading classical musicians. Tickets can be booked only through Eventbrite. (Please read terms and conditions before booking)

## Make Way in Your 5K!

The award-winning public awareness campaign, 'Make Way in My 5K', returns this September.

The Disability Federation of Ireland will once again be asking for paths to be cleared and for some consideration in the public spaces we all share.

Equipped with a digital survey, people with disabilities and their allies can survey their neighborhoods within a 5km radius, rate them and report on social platforms.

The Disability Federation of Ireland, DFI, are the co-ordinators of Make Way Day, which also involves local authorities across the country.

It will take place nationally on Friday 24th September.

# Wicklow's sporting souvenirs and stories wanted for major European collection

Do you have a sporting story or sports souvenir that you are proud of? Share it with EPIC to have it included in the Europeana Sport collection.

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum is inviting sports fans, aficionados, experts and collectors throughout Wicklow and abroad to become part of the Europeana Sport collection, a major project undertaken by museums, libraries and cultural organisations across Europe.

Souvenir programmes, tickets, medals, photographs, jerseys, keepsakes, song sheets or other sporting memorabilia and the stories connected with them are all welcome.

Those with sporting memories or memorabilia to share are invited to have them assessed, digitised and uploaded to the Europeana Collection, either at a Collection Day in the CHQ building on July 24th or online via the EPIC Website.

It will be shared as part of Europeana - Europe's platform for digital cultural heritage and be recognised as part of Ireland's



Jack Charlton signed these Ireland jerseys for people in Ballina, Co Mayo where he fished for salmon

sporting history.

People can find out more at [www.epicchq.com/storyofsport](http://www.epicchq.com/storyofsport)

Europeana Sport brings stories of our personal sporting activities and achievements together with archive material,

sharing the story of Europe through our sporting activities in the past and the present. Throughout 2021, Europeana, along with museums, galleries, libraries and archives across Europe, will raise

awareness of the diversity of Europe's sporting heritage through creative and online activities. The material collected will be available to academics, researchers, media and those interested in sporting history.



A girl's race featuring Jacob's Biscuit Factory workers, 1940 - 1960. Digital Repository of Ireland [Distributor], Dublin City Library and Archive.

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# WICKLOW COVID SURGE

*Parts of Wicklow see 600 percent rise in cases*

The Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly has urged caution amongst the public as Covid cases in some parts of the county have surged by more than 600 per cent in just one week.

Over the past month, the five day average for cases nationally has jumped from 300 to 1,182- an almost four-fold increase.

And the nationwide surge of the Delta variant has been mirrored across Wicklow.

The highest increase between July 12th and 19th was seen in Bray East where cases rose from just 5 to 38 - a massive rise of 659 per cent.

Greystones also saw a huge jump in cases over the same period from 16 to 66 which equates to a 312 per cent rise.

Cases in Bray West are also on the up from 14 to 43 while Wicklow Town saw its case numbers rise from just 13 to 40.

In the west of the county, Baltinglass saw its number of cases rise from 37 to 57.

The only place where there was a fall in cases was in Arklow but the numbers in the town are high. It recorded 52 cases compared to 54 cases the week before.

The data also shows the ages with the highest incident rates are amongst young people aged between 16 and 24 years old.



Minister Stephen Donnelly

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly warned the public need to do everything within their power to limit the spread of COVID.

The Minister said: "What we are seeing happening in Wicklow is being reflected across the country. The Delta variant is much more transmissible than anything we have seen so far in this pandemic."

"We are now seeing over 1,000 new cases being reported per day and it is only likely to grow. We are seeing particularly high infection rates in those aged 16 to 24, as well as rapid growth in the number of infections among those aged 24 to 29."

"There are real fears we could see over 200 people in ICU in just a few months' time. The good news is the vaccine programme, which is going from strength to strength with over five million doses administered."

"Three in five adults are now fully vaccinated while three in four adults have had at least one dose. But it is still as important as any time since the start of this pandemic to continue to follow the public health advice."

"Please avoid crowds, prioritise who you meet, meet outdoors where possible but if it's indoors make sure it's a ventilated room."

"And of course, continue to wear a mask and wash your hands when needed. We are making fantastic progress but we still need to do everything we can to keep each other safe."



Megan Burke, Keira O'Neill, Jacqueline Donegan, Stephanie Burke, and Sinead O'Neill enjoying the sun at Jimmy Burke's 90th birthday party in Arklow.

## Wicklow house prices expected to rise by 6% in the next 12 months

Eighty six percent of SCSi estate agents expect national property prices to increase by an average of 6% over the next 12 months while a similar number say the main reason for the increase is due to lack of supply.

These are among the key findings of a survey of over 200 estate agents from all over the country which also revealed a marked regional variation with regard to future price movements.

While agents in Munster and Connacht/Ulster expect prices to increase by 7% over the next 12 months, the figure in Leinster is 6% while in Dublin, where prices are highest, it's 4%.

In cash terms a 7% increase on a €200,000 home outside of Dublin will equate to an increase of €14,000 while a 4% increase on a €400,000 home in Dublin will mean an increase of €16,000.

Agents said the higher price forecast for properties outside Dublin reflected the covid effect and the increased attractiveness of regional properties due to the dramatic rise in people working from home.

Despite covid, eight out of ten respondents reported an increase in enquiries and viewings over the last quarter. The SCSi/Central Bank of Ireland Residential Property Price Survey is a quarterly sentiment survey of SCSi members, consisting mainly of estate agents, auctioneers and surveyors.

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Breda Tobin at the Blainroe Lodge Nursing Home's annual summer party on July 14th.

## BirdWatch Ireland welcomes the passage of Climate Bill

**BirdWatch Ireland has welcomed the passage of the Climate Bill through the Dail.**

Oonagh Duggan Head of Advocacy at BirdWatch Ireland, said "Biodiversity, including wild bird populations, is impacted by climate change. Warming temperatures, sea level rise and extreme weather events can have devastating consequences for the food web, migration, and the habitats that birds depend on.

"The passage of the Climate Bill is an important first step so that Ireland meets its emissions targets. Now we need concerted action.

"Nature-based solutions to climate action such as restoring peatlands, wetlands, semi-natural grasslands and woodlands will play an important part in tackling emissions and helping to address biodiversity loss, but it is critical that Ireland cuts emissions at source in the first instance.

"Climate mitigation measures such as wind energy can have negative consequences for wild birds and these impacts must be avoided. Ambitious plans to restore biodiversity including wild bird populations need to be put in place."

# Funding for six Wicklow volunteer groups

**Funding of €162,000 is to be divided among six volunteer groups across Co. Wicklow, it was announced recently.**

The funding announcement was made by Minister Joe O'Brien. The finding is part of the latest round of funding from the national Covid stability fund.

These supports were targeted at groups that provide critical services within the community and who in some instances may have seen their funding reduced due to an inability to carry out standard fundraising due to Covid restrictions.

Welcoming the news, Green Party TD Steven Matthews, stated, "This latest round of funding being distributed to vital community and voluntary groups is extremely positive news for those involved and who

use their services. It's vital that all these organisations are able to continue because without these groups of community activists and volunteers, the knock-on impact for those who need their support would be immeasurable.

"Throughout my time on Wicklow County Council and more recently as a TD, I have seen first-hand the support that these groups offer in the community and they are invaluable.

"We have always known and appreciated the work that organisations like this do across Wicklow, but the pandemic has brought to the forefront the integral role that they play in so many people's

lives. The selflessness of those involved is something that can never be repaid but I hope that this funding will assist the organisations in regrouping and returning to some semblance of normality in the coming months as we slowly emerge from public health restrictions.

"There are many other organisations across Wicklow that are more than deserving of stability funding and I look forward to working with my colleague, Minister Joe O'Brien to ensure that as many groups as possible are recognised for the vital role they play in our community," concluded Deputy Matthews.

## Wicklow organisations that received funding:

*Dublin & Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team*  
€86,000

*Lakers Social and Recreation Club*  
€43,368

*Aughrim Community Sports & Leisure Association*  
€21,000

*Glenealy Village Hall (Carnegie Trust)*  
€6,037

*Sphenoid Ireland*  
€3,722

*Teen-Turn*  
€2,000

## Whitmore meets with Ballinaclesh locals after Coillte site protected

**Social Democrats TD and Spokesperson for Climate Action Deputy Jennifer Whitmore, met with residents in Ballinaclesh recently to visit a Coillte site after local campaigners successfully stalled plans to have the area cleared for commercial forestry.**

"When locals from Ballinaclesh approached me about a Coillte site that had been left idle for a number of years and had become a home to many species of birds and wildlife as a result, I felt it was important that we maintained this area for biodiversity.

"However, the site was due to be cleared to make way for commercial forestry by Coillte and so

the timing was critical that we got the site preserved due to nesting season.

"After much engagement with the community on this, I presented Coillte with a list of arguments as to why this site needed to be protected, providing them with the information local campaigners had gathered on the local biodiversity thriving on the site.

Thankfully, Coillte listened and the site is protected for now,

"I welcome the decision of Coillte not to clear the site at Ballinaclesh. I want to congratulate the local community for coming together and raising this and ensuring the breeding site of birds is protected, particularly Muirín, Jill, Margaret and Eric who campaigned tirelessly for this. Having visited the site and met with some of the campaigners, it was clear from the number of birds that I saw in that time, that it is an important area.

"However, I will continue to

work with the local community to ensure the long term protection of the site. Overall, the Government's policy desperately needs to move away from Sitka forestry as this type of forestry does not have benefits for biodiversity.

"Planting should always incorporate biodiversity needs and do so sustainably. This recent victory for campaigners in Ballinaclesh shows how listening to locals can mean the best for our environmental, something the Government needs to do more," concluded Whitmore.

## Arklow RNLI rescues swimmer from Avoca River

**A number of Arklow RNLI volunteers were involved in the rescue of a swimmer who got into difficulty in Avoca River on Sunday afternoon, 18th July.**

Volunteers Craig O'Reilly, Jimmy Myler and Mark Corcoran were aboard their own vessels returning to Arklow Harbour following a day on the water at Cahore Harbour when at approximately 2.30pm and as the three vessels separately entered the Avoca River, Craig noticed a swimmer in the water trying to grab one of the ladders on the South Pier.

He immediately turned his boat in the river to see if he could provide assistance and was followed by Jimmy in his boat and then in turn by Mark in his boat along with several other vessels.

It soon became clear that the girl was in need of assistance and was struggling to access the ladder.

With time of the essence and given the flow on the river and the tidal state at the time, it was decided that Mark's boat which also had his daughter and a family friend onboard, was best suited to providing assistance, with help from prospective crew member Aaron O'Neill who was onboard, and with Declan Smullen, Arklow RNLI's Deputy Launching Authority who was on the pier. The casualty was lifted aboard the boat and made comfortable. Once aboard, she was

checked over and brought ashore at the inner harbour pontoons.

Following the call out, Mark Corcoran, Arklow RNLI Volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer and Community Safety Officer said: "With the excellent sunny weather, we had

been at sea all day. As we came back into harbour, the casualty was spotted and with all three of our boats on scene, we just did what we are trained to do to help. Thankfully we happened to be in the right place at the right time and were happy to assist. We would like to wish the casualty well and thank all onboard the vessels and ashore for their help during the rescue."



Arklow RNLI volunteers coming to the rescue of a swimmer in the Avoca River

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# HOME-TAX TIME BOMB?

*Continued from Page 1*

first started studying the Irish Tax System many years ago, one thing that struck me was that it was, generally speaking, a fair system. Revenue collection in Ireland is essentially based on the principle of 'ability to pay' and is applied fairly and equitably across the board.

"For instance, under the PAYE system, an employee pays tax relative to their earnings. Therefore someone on low income pays very little tax compared to high earners who pay higher amounts of tax. A tax credit system and a standard rate cut-off point are just two of the mechanisms used to ensure the system doesn't unfairly disadvantage lower earners.

"Similarly, business owners only pay tax on their profits and if a business incurs losses for a number of years, the owner is allowed to carry those losses forward to off-set against future profits thus ensuring that a business isn't badly hit for tax liabilities on the back of one successful year. Another example is Capital Gains Tax whereby if a person disposes of an asset, they only pay tax if they

make a gain on the sale. If they make a loss, they can offset that loss against a future gain.

"So the tax system in Ireland was designed to be fair, not punitive. However, the same can't be said of the Local Property Tax which is fundamentally flawed because it does not take into account a person's ability to pay. Not only does it discriminate against people on the lower end of the socio-economic scale, but it treats them most unfairly.

"For example, if someone can prove inability to pay, their property tax isn't written off, instead the tax is charged against their property and incurs a punitive rate of 8% interest. If this situation were to continue for a number of years, the property tax outstanding would grow year on year and interest would be added to the total outstanding amount thereby making the local property tax higher for those least able to pay.

"Local Property Tax grew off the back of the NPPR (Non Principal Private Residence Tax) which was a tax on second homes introduced in 2009 when the country was on its knees follow-

ing the collapse of the Celtic Tiger and the bank bailouts. The NPPR was a successful mechanism for raising revenue.

"It lasted until 2013 and in 2014 it was replaced by the local property tax, one of a series of revenue generating measures which formed part of Ireland's agreement with the European Troika. LPT was a badly devised and crude tax which could fluctuate widely depending on which part of the country you lived in. A three bed semi in Leitrim valued at €150,000 would incur LPT of €225.

"A similar house in one of the commuter belts of Dublin, such as Wicklow, could be valued at €400,000 and attract an LPT rate of €765. How is this a fair tax? There is nothing fair about it. Any tax that does not take into account a person's ability to pay is regressive and not fit for purpose. The LPT should be scrapped and replaced with a fairer method of revenue collecting which is the same for everyone regardless of where they live and which does not disproportionately affect the less well off."

## Wicklow is 'stuck in time' on LPT

Speaking in a Dail debate on the Local Property Tax (Amendment) Bill on 13th July, Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy drew a comparison between counties Wicklow and Mayo to illustrate the flaws in the LPT system.

"If one looks at the total income for each local authority and makes some comparisons, it gives some sort of an understanding of how daft our system is," said Deputy Murphy.

"Let us look at counties Wicklow and Mayo, for example. Wicklow has a gross expenditure of €91 million. Mayo has a gross expenditure of €125 million. Wicklow has a population of 142,000 and Mayo has a population that is 12,000 lower, at 130,000. Wicklow has €35 million less to spend than Mayo. We might then look at what happens with the property tax in those two counties. We have already established that Mayo has €35 million more to spend and has a smaller population. Both have many towns and a big rural area so they are quite similar. Included in their income is the local property tax. I am using 2017 figures because I previously made a submission on this. They have not changed much since, however. As the Minister knows, the local property tax has not changed and that is what this Bill is about. Wicklow took in €17 million in local property tax and Mayo collected

€10 million. Wicklow had a benchmark of just €8.5 million, however. This is going back to the needs and resources model from the year 2000. It had a benchmark that was set at €8.5 million while Mayo had a benchmark of €19.8 million.

"Wicklow was, therefore, stuck in time. It did not matter that it was growing or that it had additional population and new needs. Wicklow, with a bigger population and less money, was deemed to have €13 million in excess of what was needed from the local property tax. It had to put 20% into an equalisation fund and was then restricted in what it was permitted to spend from some of the remainder of the local property tax. This is called the self-fund element and it must be spent on capital projects instead of funding being provided through central funds. This is where we really need to be paying attention regarding how local property tax is supposed to fund councils. Roads and housing are deemed to be the two areas on which councils must spend their money.

"We know that Wicklow took in €17

million in local property tax and Mayo took in €10 million. Mayo, however, got €19.8 million out of the fund, even though it had a bigger income from all the collective sources. The unequal nature of these baselines are highly problematic and make it very difficult to argue that this is a fair tax, even if one takes the other issues into consideration.

"I received a reply to a parliamentary question from the Minister stating that the 20% equalisation fund would be phased out and councils would retain all their tax. The problem with the baselines, however, is what they now require of local authorities. If the local authorities take in a lot more money, the baselines will mitigate them having the discretion to spend that money on the things they deem to be needed in their county, even in counties with a very large growing population. They must spend it on roads or housing. Only six or eight counties fall into that particular category. Essentially, what will happen is the central Exchequer will reduce the amount of central government grants that will go to those coun-

ties, even though they are less well-off than some other counties when one looks at their total income.

"People are right to ask what they are getting for this local property tax. It is a fair question. They want to see the additional services. They do not want this one-dimensional development where they see rows and rows of housing without the ability to fund parks and playgrounds, normal maintenance or things one would expect to see. We are going into a very challenging time as well. Local property tax made up between 8% and 10% of council budgets but obviously now with Covid-19, commercial rates will be very significantly hit. Welcome and justified subsidies were given to the commercial rates sector in the context of Covid-19 but there will be a lot of recovery and a loss of income there in terms of the commercial rates. That will make these baselines even more problematic and those councils, which appear to be well-off, will be well-off in terms of growing populations but not with the services to match those growing populations."



Miamh, Ellen, Marie and Katie Marron on Disney's Disenchanted set in Enniskerry

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Gertrude Lambert (Green Manager with Dublinia) who was presented with the certificate of completion of the 50 Shades Greener Online Programme at the KWETB Marine House, Wicklow. Also pictured are Aaron Jackson, Anamarija Petric (Green Team Dublinia), Denise Brady Executive Director Dublinia, Eileen Cullen (KWETB Head of Training), Bernice McLoughlin (KWETB Employer Engagement Officer), Ann McLoughlin, Luke Byrne (KWETB 50 Shades Greener) and Patrick Flanagan (KWETB SME in Hospitality)

## Gertrude and her 'green team' complete 50 shades greener programme

Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) in collaboration with 50 Shades Greener were delighted to present Gertrude Lambert (Green Manager) and her green team from Dublinia with their certificate of completion of the 50 Shades Greener Online Programme.

This programme is the first national state funded training programme to 'green' the Hospitality & Tourism industry and reduce Ireland's carbon footprint.

Dublinia are the first from the Association of Visitor Experiences and Attractions (AVEA) in Ireland to complete this programme and receive their digital badge.

They have implemented actions that will see them reduce their carbon footprint even further. Gertrude said "The 50 Shades Greener sustainability programme teaches you how to establish your energy, water and waste production figures and then systematically guides you through the process of reducing your carbon emissions by introducing practical and effective solutions that can be adjusted to your individual business needs. The training support I received from Éimhín was excellent, always encouraging me, giving tips and suggesting ideas to move me forward. The training videos are short and lighthearted and the charts and workbooks are a great aid."

KWETB are proud to lead and collaborate with their partner ETBs in the national rollout of the 50 Shades Greener initiative. For further information on the programme, please visit [www.kwetbmarinehouse.ie/50shades-greener](http://www.kwetbmarinehouse.ie/50shades-greener).

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# Greystones men play part in development of People's Park on Haulbowline Island

Three men from Greystones played a key part in the development of the new People's Park on Haulbowline Island at Cork Harbour.

The new park was opened on Friday 16th July and has been called a 'turning point' for Cork Harbour.

Three men who grew up in Greystones were involved in the park's construction; Cormac Ó Súilleabháin, son of Con and Marcella Ó Súilleabháin, headed the project for Cork County Council; Maurice Killeen, son of Jim and Mary Killeen, was in charge of the project for Hegarty Construction; park, along with

and of course, Michael Malone is Flag Officer Commanding of the Irish Navy. The Irish Navy and the new park are neighbours on Haulbowline Island. Michael was presented with a special certificate from Greystones Municipal District in 2019. His parents are the late Sean and Róisín Malone. An Taoiseach Micheal Martin attended the official opening of the new park, along with

Ministers Simon Coveney, Michael McGrath, and Cork County Council officials.

€60 million was spent to transform the old industrial dump into a stunning new park with a panoramic view of Cork Harbour. The island was formerly the site of the old Irish Steel/Irish Ispat operation and was a dumping ground for hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of toxic steel

waste. The toxic material has now been removed and replaced with clean top soil, and the site now contains playing pitches, walkways, cyclepaths, hundreds of trees, and wild-flower areas, making it a great local amenity and tourist attraction.

The new park has been in use since last January but due to Covid restrictions, the official opening ceremony couldn't be held until now.

## 'Compostable cups need compost bins'

Minister Simon Harris TD has raised the need for public compost waste bins with both Wicklow County Council and the Minister for the Environment.

Minister Harris said "With the growth of outdoor takeaway, coffee shops and dining out many coffee shops and sandwich bars have stepped up to the challenge of moving beyond recyclable cups to cups made from compostable materials.

"Business owners have pointed out to me the

anomaly that while they have moved on to maximising their use of compostable materials, public authorities have been slow to respond to the fast emerging trend. As it stands compostable materials are being placed in general refuse bins due to the lack of suitable bin facilities.

"I have raised this issue with Wicklow County Council and on foot of this I have asked my colleague the Minister for the Environment to bring forward proposals to support Councils upgrading their public bins to accommodate compostable coffee cups".

## Funding for Seamus Heaney Woodland Walk seat

The Rotary Club of Wicklow is to receive €3,000 for a seat design on the Seamus Heaney Woodland Walk.

In total, €1.4 million is to be divided among 39 groups across the country. Applications for funding were invited through an open call from the Department of Agriculture, Food & The Marine.

The Call was aimed at promoting the multi-functional benefits of forestry from recreational, environmental, community and economic uses and will be funded by the Department over the next two years. Over 61 applications were received of which 39 individual projects have now been selected for funding.

Minister of State at the DAFM, Senator Pippa Hackett, said I am delighted to see such a broad range of inspiring projects aimed at supporting woodlands and I am particularly pleased at both the spread of projects throughout the country and at seven of those chosen highlighting the environmental benefits of woodland.

"This was a category I specifically added to this year's Call and it is gratifying to see that it was so well responded too. Overall, I

believe the response demonstrates that there is a huge interest in communicating the benefits of our woodlands, in enhancing our knowledge of sustainable woodland management and in progressing the development and use of timber products."

The projects will develop the knowledge base of farmers, woodland owners and the wider sector about the benefits of forestry, they will advance timber development, they will support native woodlands and agroforestry, and they will engage the wider community with trees as a source of enjoyment, inspiration and biodiversity.

Minister Hackett had originally allocated funding of €1 million to the Woodland Support Fund but on receipt of the proposals, she increased that figure considerably. Explaining the increase, she said "Given the response to this Open Call and in order to fund as many projects as possible, I was more than pleased to increase the available budget to €1.4 million. I did not wish to see any worthy project

left behind and really look forward to seeing them being rolled out and to what they can achieve."

The projects selected will support woodlands through a variety of approaches.

"They include, for example, a series of forestry webinars; field workshops on Continuous Cover Forestry; promoting the use of home grown timber for construction; the sourcing and planting native trees in GAA club grounds nationwide; woodland open days; ecological restoration, and awareness raising through multi-media, targeted promotional/educational initiatives to develop the potential of agroforestry in Ireland and many others besides.

The Minister concluded "The publication of the EU forestry Strategy last week highlighted the diverse benefits which our woodlands can play and this open call aligns very much with that approach.

"I want to thank all those individuals and organisations for taking part and we look forward to working with the successful groups on the implementation of their projects over the next two years."



# Concerns about Ballinclare Landfill raised with statutory agencies

*Harris seeks full public oral hearing*

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD has written to the Chief Executives of Inland Fisheries Ireland, the Environmental Protection Agency, Fáilte Ireland, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Irish Water and the Minister for the Environment regarding the proposed landfill at Ballinclare in South Wicklow.

Minister Harris said: "There is real anger across the community regarding this proposal. I share the view of local residents and I believe a majority of people throughout our county. This proposed landfill is most concerning and the lack of public consultation and information is particularly concerning."

"I have now written to a number of the key statutory bodies these include Inland Fisheries Ireland, the Environmental Protection Agency, Fáilte Ireland, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Irish Water and also the Environment Minister. I have expressed my serious concerns and sought their views."

"The local road network is incapable of handling the proposed HGV traffic, while implications of the runoff from the landfill into adjacent wetlands, has serious implications for the environment and tourist industry."

"I have also written to An Bord Pleanála seeking a public oral hearing be held in respect of the application by Kilsaran for the Ballinclare Landfill. I believe this is essential to ensure all the issues and concerns can be publicly discussed. This is vital in the interests of transparency, democracy and good planning. I will keep local residents up to date concerning my engagement with all the relevant statutory bodies".

Councillors first learned of the plans for Ballinclare Quarry last month and were so outraged that a special meeting was called. Kilsaran Concrete Unlimited made a 'Strategic Infrastructure Application' to An Bord Pleanála to backfill Ballinclare Quarry near Kilbride.

The proposal would see over 6 million tonnes of inert waste brought to the quarry (700,000 tonnes per



Minister Simon Harris

year), with 300 movements of Heavy Goods Vehicles per day (150 in and 150 out), which equates to a truck passing every two minutes.

The proposed route will take the trucks onto the L1157, a small rural road, and the M11. It's estimated that it will take up to 8 or 9 years to fill the quarry but permission is being sought for 20 years to allow for slower periods.

At the special meeting

of Wicklow County Council on 21st June, councillors unanimously supported a proposal which objects to the Ballinclare quarry plans and seeks an oral hearing to examine what councillors are describing as "flaws and inaccuracies in the planning application".

The proposal was drafted by councillors from Arklow and Wicklow Municipal Districts.

The councillors' resolution objects to the development on the grounds of: "Lack of consultation with Arklow and Wicklow Municipal District representatives; Lack of consultations with WCC Climate and Biodiversity SPC; Lack of consultation with local land and property owners; The excessive nature of the scale of the proposed development in a rural area; Negative impact on the environment; Negative impact on watercourse (in particular Potters



Jimmy Burke celebrates his 90th birthday in Arklow with his family; James, Terry, Eilish, Paul, Angela, and wife Maura. Pic: Michael Kelly

River and Brittas Bay); Impact on local residents and wildlife from noise pollution; Negative impact on surrounding residents' quality of life; Negative impact on mental and physical health of the local community; Health and safety concerns in particular road safety; Negative impact on biodiversity; Concerns in relation to future environmental and traffic manage-

ment monitoring and enforcement; Concerns in relation to the potential negative impact and devaluation of local properties; Concerns in relation to the absence of any consideration towards provision of a local Community Fund such as the one that's in place at a nearby landfill site; Concerns in relation to the inadequacy of the surrounding road network and

width of the local road to facilitate the amount of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) proposed; Negative impact on surrounding tourism attractions; Concerns in relation to the close proximity of a local school to the proposed landfill access routes."

Cllr Tom Fortune asked that a delegation from the Council be sent to meet

with representatives from the Department.

The quarry was in operation since the 1960s, but quarry activity was suspended in 2016 following the discovery of naturally occurring asbestos in the rock.

The latest application was lodged with ABP on 20th May and the case is due to be decided in October.

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Taylor Brauders enjoying the sunshine on the set of *Disenchanted* in Enniskerry

## Dormant accounts funding for library service

**Wicklow County Council Library Service is to receive a total of €24,577 from the Dormant Accounts Action plan which is designed to assist libraries in reaching out to marginalised and disadvantaged groups.**

The announcement of the funding allocation was made by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD.

The funding, under the Dormant Accounts Action Plan, is designed to assist libraries in reaching out to older people, the unemployed and other marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged groups.

Following the announcement, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen said: "This funding is so important. In 2018 we received funding from Dormant Accounts to support the library service in the provision of literacy supports to every school in County Wicklow. Over twelve hundred children from primary and post-primary schools have benefitted from access to 'Lexia'. This additional funding will help us to extend the offer of this valuable resource for another three years."

Dormant Funds consist of money from unclaimed accounts in banks, building societies and post-offices; this money also comes from unclaimed insurance policies and is allocated annually to successful applicants by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The three projects Wicklow County Library received funding towards are Lexia, Zoomtext Magnifiers for six main branch libraries and 'Social Stories' for all libraries across the county.

Outreach librarian, Margaret Birchall, said: "This is really good news for our libraries - in addition to Lexia, we will now have 28 social stories professionally designed and created for all 13 branches and our mobile library. These 'Visiting the Library' social stories are aimed at neuro-divergent children who often find new situations stressful. The stories will be hugely helpful to them and to their parents as they plan their visit to the library."

The installation of Zoomtext Magnifiers in six of the library branches at Arklow, Baltinglass, Blessington, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow will also be funded.

Michael Nicholson, Director of Services, commented: "Funding the installation of this equipment will improve accessibility to our public access computers for people with visual impairment and print disability. This is vitally important for anyone using a computer for work, study or leisure pursuits."

Libraries across Wicklow are open for browsing and borrowing and some are now facilitating outdoor events such as workshops and story times. Library membership is completely free of charge for everyone. If you are not yet a library member, drop into your local library to join or you can join now online at <https://www.librariesireland.ie/join>, the library card can then be collected at your convenience.

# Calls for underground waste management system to address Wicklow's litter crisis

**Jennifer Whitmore TD and Cllr Jodie Neary of the Social Democrats have called on Wicklow County Council to look at the introduction of an underground waste system to tackle what they call 'a litter crisis' in the County.**

Deputy Whitmore has said "towns and villages across Wicklow are experiencing an increase in litter and as a result of Covid and the Government's campaign for an Outdoor Summer particularly on warmer days like recently experienced.

"As a result of good weather, places like Brittas Bay, Maghermore, Wicklow Town and even the Wicklow mountains are experiencing an increase in visitors - many visiting from outside the county - and who end up dumping a lot of their rubbish. This is resulting in overflowing bins, even skips and fly tipping as a result which

is not only creating an unsightly mess but is causing damage to the local environment.

"There simply isn't the capacity to keep up with this and future trends of hotter weather due to climate change. We need a long-term solution such as an underground waste system used by other countries like Portugal which increases capacity and reduces workload for individual outdoor council staff.

"The idea behind an underground waste system is under each bin is a larger underground waste area which when full, waste trucks can go around emptying as needed. I think this

could be done on a smaller scale in Wicklow which could make a huge impact on our environment while putting our resources to better use."

Also speaking to the issue, Cllr Neary says "as a local Councillor I am inundated with locals upset by the amount of litter piling up on streets in Greystones, Kilcoole and Delgany and in public spaces especially parks and beaches. While my requests for additional bins has gone a long way to alleviating this problem, these are only temporary while funding is still available. We need more permanent solutions and one that

is sustainable for both the Council staff managing waste as well as for locals using our amenities so that Cllrs don't have to go begging for more bins in future.

"I have requested that the Council look at the idea of an underground waste system and research into the potential of putting it in place in towns like Greystones for the long term solution to litter management. Our enjoyment of the outdoors is set to continue and as climate change worsens, we need local solutions like these to help better protect our environment," concluded Cllr Neary.

## Council yet to make application under EV Charge Points Scheme

**Wicklow County Council has yet to make an official application for funding under the Government's Public Charge Points Scheme, Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan said.**

Minister Ryan was responding to a parliamentary question from Green Party TD Steven Matthews, who asked him for information regarding funding applications from Wicklow County Council in 2021 for electric vehicle charging points.

Minister Ryan stated that Wicklow County Council is currently chairing a sub-committee which is preparing a document providing guidance to local authorities on the provision of charging infrastructure.

Minister Ryan stated, "The Government is fully committed to supporting a significant expansion and modernisation of the electric vehicle charging network over the

coming years.

"A national charging infrastructure strategy is due for publication later this year which will set out a pathway to stay ahead of demand over the critical period out to 2030. My Department has begun an engagement with the Local Authorities to inform this work.

"In terms of existing supports for public charging, the Public Charge Point Scheme continues to be available during 2021 to provide local authorities with a grant of up to €5,000 to support the development of on-street public chargers. The primary focus of the scheme is to provide support

for the installation of infrastructure which will facilitate owners of electric vehicles, who do not have access to a private parking space, but instead rely on parking their vehicles in public places near their homes to charge their EVs. My Department has committed to reviewing the Scheme in early Autumn to ensure that it is as effective as possible in driving the decarbonisation effort.

"Thirteen local authorities have been in touch with SEAI in relation to the scheme. To date, letters of offer have issued to Louth County Council and Dublin City Council to install a total of 29 charge points within their administrative areas. As yet, Wicklow County Council has not made an official application for funding under this scheme."

## ‘€105m funding to reopen on-site third level learning will benefit Wicklow students’

**A funding package of €105 million to aid the reopening of on-site learning for third level institutions will ensure that students across Wicklow can get back to lecture halls come September, Wicklow Fine Gael Minister for Further and Higher Education Minister Simon Harris TD has said.**

Minister Harris said, "The past year has been exceptionally difficult for college students, in particular those who started last September and after a full year of remote learning, still haven't set foot in a lecture hall or library.

"The funding I announced today reiterates the Government's commitment to ensuring a return to on-site campus learning in the new academic year. While remote learning has bridged the gap during the pandemic, it is not a long-term replacement for classroom learning and we need to see students return back to third-level campuses.

"Included in the €105 million package is funding of €21 million specifically ring-fenced for additional student supports. This covers an extra €3 million for stu-

dent mental health services, an extra €10 million for the Student Assistance Fund which provides financial supports to students experiencing financial difficulties while in college, as well as €8 million for the Mitigating Educational Disadvantage Fund which supports and engages disadvantaged learners.

"Third level education is essential, and we need to see that reflected in the return to in-person learning at the start of the new academic year. This is something that I have prioritised for months, and I am continuing work colleges and institutions



Minister Simon Harris

who are currently engaging in detailed planning for their own buildings and campuses.

"Attending college is not only a defining experience for young people

from an educational point of view, but also from a social perspective. While remote learning ensured that students continued to receive their education, so many people missed out on making friends, getting involved in clubs and societies and living away from home. This is what we need to see resume again.

"I look forward to seeing students across Wicklow return to their lecture halls and libraries, meet up with their friends and get back to enjoying the normal college experience again as soon as possible," concluded Minister Harris.



# FISHERMAN'S BLUES

*Plight of Arklow fisherman continues*

**Sinn Féin TD John Brady has expressed his anger and disappointment at the Government's inaction over the plight of an Arklow fisherman CJ Gaffney, who has lost his livelihood due to a dangerous flaw in his fishing vessel that made it unstable.**

Deputy Brady said that the "Irish government has not followed advice from the EU to compensate an Arklow fisherman and his family from EU funds as a consequence of a stability flaw in a fishing vessel."

The beam trawler, the MV Mary Kate, was purchased in 2007 by Mr Gaffney, who is from a fishing family that's given five generations of service to the RNLI. The vessel had been certified as safe by the German authorities, however, significant flaws were soon discovered which made it unstable and in danger of capsizing, and it was repossessed and sold. Mr Gaffney has now been left sinking in debts of about €1 million.

Mr Gaffney met with Minister for Agriculture, Food & The Marine, Charlie McConalogue, on Friday 16th July, but his plea for help in the matter was rejected. Mr Gaffney says that he will continue to seek compensation.

Deputy Brady said "An Arklow fisherman, CJ Gaffney, has been left with his life in ruins as a result of the callous indifference of the coalition government to take on board the guidance and advice of the EU commission and provide compensation for the costs incurred due to the stability flaws in a fishing vessel, the MV Mary Kate,

which had been certified by the EU.

"We are talking about an individual who has lost his livelihood, his trawler, his licence, and his life savings, and who has to sit with the threat of his home being repossessed."

Deputy Brady said that Magda Kopczynska, Director for Innovative and Sustainable Mobility in the European Commission's department for Mobility and Transport, wrote to Sean Kelly MEP on behalf of the EU Commission, and "laid out in explicit terms that the EU advised the Irish Government that compensation for CJ Gaffney could be drawn down under the European Fund for Maritime and Fisheries, but the Irish government had to do this themselves as the EU had no authority to put forward the request themselves, but if the Irish Government did so the funds would be granted. The Government has consistently refused to do so. And at this point it appears nothing more than vindictive.

"The EU has recognised that there may well be stability issues with Sister Vessels of the MV Mary Kate; and have informed a number of EU Countries of this. The Netherlands has recently launched an inquiry into the issue.

"I am calling on the

government colleagues of Charlie McConalogue in this county, Simon Harris, Stephen Donnelly, and Steven Matthews, to get the government to accept the solution it has been offered by the EU."

In a statement to Wicklow Times, the DAFM said "Minister McConalogue held a virtual meeting with Mr. Gaffney on Friday 16th July, to hear first hand of the very unfortunate situation Mr Gaffney finds himself in.

"The situation that arose relates to a private commercial transaction between two contracting parties to purchase a vessel. The responsibility for ensuring the authenticity of the details, specifications and stability of the vessel being purchased rested with the purchaser.

"The core issue here relates to the safety and safety certification of the vessel purchased by Mr Gaffney. The safety of fishing vessels and safety certification, including matters relating to stability, is the responsibility of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has no function in relation to the safety certification of Fishing vessels or matters arising in relation to their stability.

"Regarding the ques-

tion of compensation under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Programme (EMFF), this fund is the principal source of development funding for the seafood sector. The Programme is implemented under the provisions of the EMFF Regulation which specifies to what purposes funds can be granted.

"There is no particular provision of the EMFF Regulation that would facilitate an ex-gratia payment to compensate a fishing vessel owner as a consequence of a flaw in his fishing vessel. Furthermore, it is not possible to provide a grant for the decommissioning of the vessel concerned, as under the terms of the EMFF Regulation, decommissioning is not permitted after 31 December 2018.

"The new EU Regulation establishing a European Maritime, Fisheries & Aquaculture Fund for the 2021-27 period entered into force on 7th July 2021 and while the Regulation permits decommissioning in the future, it may only be implemented for very specific purposes concerned with addressing an identified imbalance in a particular fleet segment and only for active fishing vessels."

## Pedestrian access closed at Greystones Marina

**Pedestrian access to the northern breakwater at Greystones Marina was closed on Friday 23rd July, due to ongoing serious health and safety concerns caused by youths jumping into the marina water.**

Signage and fencing has been erected to prohibit the public from accessing this section of the marina.

Former councillor Kathleen Kelleher is a frequent user of Greystones Marina and says she is "very sorry" to see this amenity closed.

She was walking on the north pier on the afternoon before the announcement of the closure was made, and told *Wicklow Times* what she witnessed:

"As I was walking south along the pier towards the double pier heads, I could see a group of about 10 of young boys jumping off the pier into the marina water. There were also three young girls nearby, on the ocean side of the pier wall. They were clambering over the con-

crete slabs on the ocean side that protect the breakwater. When I got south to the double pier heads and looked back, I could see what was going on. The lads were jumping, feet first, into the marina water, taking running jumps.

"As more and more of them were in the water, it was obvious that the jumpers couldn't see the swimmers before jumping in. It looked as though one jumper was going to land on top of one of the swimmers already in the water. I was shocked watching them, because it was such a dangerous thing to be doing.

"A man from the harbour office asked the boys to get off the moorings and boats and out of the water. He explained that there was no swimming allowed in the marina

waters. He told them that there had been difficulties with youngsters in the marina, and that there was a chance that the pier would have to be closed and that this would deprive people of their ability to walk on the pier. He asked the girls if they had heard what he was saying and they said yes.

The girls, by this time, were back over the breakwater wall and on the pier itself. I said that the marina water was filthy, including diesel oil, and not fit for swimming at all.

"Another lady and I spoke with the harbour office man. He explained that, later on, an older group of teenagers would be coming. This group, apparently, comes on a regular basis. The group does not take advice and, if he tries to talk with them, they start filming him with their phones. So now I see that the pier is closed, such a shame. But I do understand the life threatening safety concerns."



*Outgoing President of Wicklow Rotary Andy Bolger hands over the chain of office to incoming President Peter Byrne*

## Funding for remote working hubs

**Three Wicklow remote working facilities have received funding under the Connected Hubs Scheme.**

€132,000 in funding for Wicklow will target at pre-existing remote working hubs to assist them modernise their facilities and includes a wide arrange of works including the installation of video conferencing, sound proofing, fire safety improvements amongst other positive improvements to further incentivise the use of these hubs. Grants will also fund measures to assist hubs with COVID related challenges.

The three Wicklow Hubs that have received funding thus far under the scheme are: Wicklow Office Suites, Wicklow Hub, and Arklow Business Enterprise Centre.

Welcoming the news, Minister Simon Harris said "The last year has created an enormous opportunity for County Wicklow with the growth in remote working. People having to commute shorter distances is good for the environment and the local economy with people spending more of their money locally.

"Remote working has presented a number of challenges, in particular the need for quality remote working facilities for workers, whose own home may not have suitable space and furniture to facilitate safe remote office working.

"The Connected Hubs Scheme will enable existing hubs and broadband connection points to enhance and add capacity to remote working infrastructure in every region across Ireland.

"This investment will support the ongoing development of the recently launched National Hub Network - connectedhubs.ie - which already has more than 100 hubs using the platform and 380 hubs mapped.

"This is only a start. I have met many community groups and premises owners across County Wicklow with excellent viable remote working hubs that would help revitalise our local villages and communities. I have been impressing upon both the local authority and the Department of Rural and Community Development the need to expand sup-

ports for these initiatives as they will pay for themselves in increased local prosperity.

"Remote working can be a game changer for County Wicklow and I fully support the expansion of schemes such as the Connected Hubs Scheme to accelerate the necessary transition to a more environmentally sustainable working environment."

Green Party TD Steven Matthews said "This latest round of funding being awarded to three digital hubs in Wicklow makes up part of a key commitment in the Programme for Government in relation to increasing the provision and accessibility of remote working - digital hubs.

"The funding will enable these existing hubs to enhance and add capacity to remote working infrastructure that will encourage more people to access these facilities and to consider them as a genuine alternative workspace. I hope that one of the primary lessons that we have learned from the pandemic is that the old work model is completely outdated. Everybody does not need to work the 9-5 day, sitting in traffic for hours on end to go into a city's large town-based office. "Covid-19 forced us to rethink how we work and has sped up the move towards remote working and digital hubs much faster than any of us could have imagined.

"The increased shift to remote working because of the pandemic has provided an opportunity for a greater regional distribution of jobs to support a better work life balance for many people. I hope that the investment in these three Wicklow hubs will provide an increased number of families and individuals with the option to live and work in our rural communities. The knock-on benefits of this type of investment and work practice shift will also support local economies and assist in reducing our carbon emissions.

"This round of funding makes up only one aspect of the Government's wider National Remote Working strategy and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that we fulfil all our commitments in improving remote working options for communities across Wicklow," concluded Deputy Matthews.





Patricia O'Byrne and Mona Kinlan enjoying the sunshine in Wicklow Town last week

# No funding to address traffic chaos at Wicklow beaches

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has said she is disappointed that Government has refused to fund a local transport bus route to help to bring people to and from Wicklow beaches to address ongoing traffic concerns in these areas.

"With the good spell of weather in combination with the lifting of Covid restrictions, beaches such as Brittas Bay and Maghermore are experiencing huge traffic problems," said Deputy Whitmore.

"I am deeply frustrated that my calls for a coastal Local Link bus to transport people north and south of Wicklow Town to various beaches in Wicklow was turned down despite the cost associated with Garda traffic management, towing and the danger involved when emergency vehicles cannot pass.

"Surely, a better way to address the costly management of this situation every time there's good weather is if the Government proactively dealt with this with some joined up thinking.

"I've been writing to the NTA for a number of years outlining the social, environmental and cost

benefits to this proposal but to no avail. Instead, it will be up to a private operator who is interested in providing a coastal service to bring people to and from popular beaches in Wicklow.

"I hope that anyone who is interested will pursue this and see this as a real opportunity not just for business but for the area as well so that we can all enjoy our wonderful amenities in a sustainable way.

"It would make sense to invest in public transport to reduce the number of cars parking in this area and trying to navigate the small roads leading to the beaches, causing so much disruption on the weekends which no doubt is also causing hardship for locals too. I will continue to call on the Minister for Transport to provide funding for these kinds of local initiatives which make sense for many different reasons," concluded



Jennifer Whitmore TD

Deputy Whitmore.

Gardai recently released a statement reminding people flocking to Brittas Bay and Magheramore to not to park in a manner that obstructs traffic, emergency services, or the local farmers who are currently harvesting in the area.

They said, "We're appealing to the public to park legally in designated car parks and spaces when visiting beaches, beauty

spots and other public amenities. The good weather has seen an increase in dangerous illegal parking at these locations across the country in recent weeks.

"Parking illegally can lead to unnecessary risk and dangers such as pedestrians being forced to walk along dangerous roads. It can also prevent emergency services from gaining access to these amenities at seaside locations which could lead to the loss of life.

"We encourage the public to plan their journeys and think safety first when parking your vehicle. The outcome of parking illegally could be far more serious than a FCPN or vehicle towing and puts others and your own life at risk. An Garda Síochána reminds and encourages the public to social distance and follow public health guidelines when attending these locations this Summer."

## Wicklow rivers top the leaderboard

Wicklow's rivers continue to score high for water quality, according to a new report from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The recently published EPA Water Quality Report shows a continued improvement nationally in river water quality. The biological quality of river water bodies is assessed as part of the Water Framework Directive.

Wicklow's biological ratings show that 83 per cent of rivers have Good or High Biology, which indicates a marked, continuous improvement in water quality in County Wicklow.

Welcoming the news, Chief Executive, Mr Frank Curran, said: "Water is a critical natural resource. Ensuring Wicklow has water of good quality, available across the county, is essential from an ecological, environmental and public health perspective. Our water is used for drinking, industry, energy generation and recreational activities and is also home to a wide variety of plants and animals."

Activities impacting water quality include agriculture, urban and domestic wastewater, forestry, peat extraction, industry and roads.

The Council's pollution control team consistently monitors its waterbodies to ensure their continued improvement and protection.

## Heritage Council to recognise Wicklow projects for national awards scheme

The Heritage Council has announced details of the National Heritage Awards 2021, which will recognise successful heritage projects showcased during this year's National Heritage Week. Included in the seven award categories is a county award which recognises the best heritage project in each county, including County Wicklow.

Organised by the Heritage Council, National Heritage Week is one of Ireland's largest cultural events. Running from Saturday, 14th - Sunday, 22nd August, the focus of this year's event, is on opening the door to heritage and getting as many people as possible to enjoy heritage.

The county award category recognises those projects that promote awareness of, and engagement with heritage in the community. The winners in each county, including County Wicklow will have maximised the involvement of a community in the project development or execution and increased awareness of an aspect of heritage in a community. Project organisers might choose to create something unique, or to build on an existing heritage project, or heritage networks in a community.

Speaking about the announcement, the Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, Virginia Teehan, said: "The National Heritage Awards provides an opportunity to

reflect on the dedication and enthusiasm of the National Heritage Week project organisers and to celebrate the success of their heritage projects."

In addition to county awards, the following award categories will apply to this year's awards:

- Heritage Hero: awarded to an individual or organisation that has demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the protection and promotion of heritage in Ireland. This award will be based on nominations received by members of the public.
- Heritage newcomers: awarded to an individual or a group who have not previously participated in National Heritage Week, and who demonstrated considerable interest and innovation in their first encounter with the week.
- Heritage sharing: awarded to the project which connected with an individual or a group in the community which is normally excluded from heritage; or a project which explored an aspect of local heritage that is seldom considered

or celebrated.

- Heritage for all ages: awarded to a National Heritage Week project which successfully included participants from different age groups.
- Water Heritage: awarded to the project that best explores how a canal, river, lake or the sea shapes heritage in a locality, and which is shared with the wider community.
- Wild Child: awarded to a National Heritage Week project which successfully encourages children and families to drop the devices, jump off the couch and get outdoors for and explore the heritage in their locality.

All participants who successfully upload a heritage project on the National Heritage Week website by Monday, 30th August 2021 will be considered for a National Heritage Award. Projects will be assessed on the basis of their local reach and community engagement, educational value and the level to which they involve different age groups.

A judging panel, convened by the Heritage Council, will consider submitted heritage projects for awards under the categories listed above. Awards will be announced in October 2021.

For more information, visit [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie).



An Roinn Cosanta  
Department of Defence

ARMY RIFLE RANGES

### **WARNING**

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



An Roinn Cosanta  
Department of Defence

RAONTA RAIDHFILÍ AN AIRM

### **FOLÁIREAMH**

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



# 'Questions surrounding nursing home deaths remain unanswered'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady recently raised in The Dail the matter of nursing home deaths that occurred in Co. Wicklow last year. Deputy Brady was speaking in a debate on 13th July about Long-Term Residential Care.

The Long-Term Residential Care motion, put forward by Waterford Sinn Féin TD David Cullinane, calls on the Government to commence a full public inquiry into the deaths of residents and quality of care of residents in nursing homes during the Covid-19 pandemic, and systemic failures in the sector.

Deputy Brady said, "As early as last summer, it was revealed that there were 43 deaths at six different nursing homes across County Wicklow due to Covid-19. Those included the deaths of 24 people in Bray, with ten people passing away in just one nursing home in the town. Twelve people lost their lives in St. Brigid's nursing home in Crooksling, on the border between Dublin and west Wicklow. Another seven people died in nursing homes in the rest of the county. That is a total of 43 deaths in nursing homes in

Wicklow in the first few months of the pandemic.

"The first confirmed case of Covid-19 in a nursing home in Ireland was on 13th March 2020. On 23rd March, the first resident at Crooksling tested positive for Covid-19. Despite this, the HSE seemed to fast-track pre-existing plans to close the public nursing home. Forty-six of the residents were transferred to Tymon North nursing home in Tallaght, two residents were moved to Baltinglass hospital and one resident was moved to the Maynooth community care centre.

"The transfer of those residents happened while eight of them were awaiting test results for the virus. Twelve of those residents died and 34 members of staff tested positive for Covid-19.

"Many questions remain unanswered as to why these residents were moved in the midst of a seri-

ous outbreak in the facility and what impact the move had on the spread of the virus.

"The now Minister for Health, Deputy Stephen Donnelly, stated last year that nursing homes in Wicklow and elsewhere were left 'screaming [out] for help' and they did not get it. He also stated that his work on the Covid-19 committee had painted 'a dark picture' of how Wicklow's nursing homes were dealt with by the State. I agree with him. The reality is that the former Minister for Health, Deputy Simon Harris, has serious questions to answer regarding how he managed and handled this situation. The Minister for Health and the Minister of State can now ensure that the calls for truth coming from families who lost loved ones are listened to and acted upon. We need clarity and information. The families need that and we need a public inquiry now."



Betty Styles, Elena and Maggie Pollard at the Blainroe Lodge Nursing Home's annual summer party on July 14th.

## Donnelly questioned over home carers' wait for second jab

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has questioned Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly on cases where home carers who have received one dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine are having to wait 12 weeks for their second jab.

Speaking in the Dail, Deputy Matthews said "In many cases those they care for are now fully vaccinated". He asked if their wait time could be expediated in light of concerns over different Covid variants.

Deputy Matthews sought an explanation via a parliamentary question.

Responding, Minister

Donnelly said "On 4th June I announced a shorter interval between doses for the Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) vaccine. This follows updated recommendations from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC), which have been endorsed by the Chief Medical Officer.

"NIAC has concluded

that those of any age (without any previous COVID-19 infection), who have received their first dose of Vaxzevria(r) should receive their second dose 8-12 weeks later.

"The HSE recently received updated advice from NIAC in relation to reducing the dose interval for the administration of the AstraZeneca

vaccine from twelve weeks to eight.

"Extensive planning has been required to put in place a programme that will now see the remaining, approximately 450,000 people, in receipt of the AstraZeneca vaccine fully immunised through the administration of this second dose by the end of July."

## Wicklow Ministers launch Healthy Campus Framework

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly TD and Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD jointly launched Healthy Ireland's National Healthy Campus Framework which will help higher education institutions across Ireland to embed health and wellbeing into campus life for staff and students.

The Framework will be supported with seed funding for each of the institutions that commit to implementing the Healthy Campus Charter and funding of a national co-ordinator for 3 years.

This National Healthy Campus Framework offers guidelines to third level institutions to build on existing wellbeing actions, and will assist with the integration of health and wellbeing into decisions surrounding teaching and learning. It will also assist in identifying opportunities in the college environment, whether social or academic, that can help foster an ethos of care, compassion and inclusion on campuses. The Framework was developed in partnership with the higher education institutions, the HSE and Healthy Ireland.

Minister Donnelly said: "One of the main aims of Healthy Ireland is to ensure that everyone can enjoy

physical and mental health and wellbeing in the settings of their everyday life. This move by the higher education institutions is to be commended as they will potentially meet the needs of some 235,000 students each year and set them on a healthy trajectory in their formative years. The framework will help the institutions to deliver a roadmap for the environment they want to create on campus and will impact not only on the students but on the wellbeing of their families, the faculty staff and the local community."

Minister Harris said: "This is a huge opportunity for our institutions to embrace the Healthy Campus Framework, taking a positive and proactive approach to supporting the health and wellbeing of all staff and students and building resilience in our campus and local communities.

"Your health and wellbeing are vital to your development as a student and indeed as a lecturer or researcher. The environment you are in matters enormously when it comes to your wellbeing, and that's why we are launching this Framework today. We can and will make good health and wellbeing accessible and achievable for a person, whether it's through keeping our campuses tobacco-free, providing access to sexual health services or through a range of opportunities to keep active."

## GNECB warn public of recent 'smishing' scam

*Fraudsters purporting to be from Permanent TSB*

An Garda Síochána at the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau (GNECB) are warning the public of a recent smishing scam where persons are receiving text messages purporting to be from Permanent TSB advising of 'unusual activity' or a 'suspicious log-in attempt' on their account.

Once the person clicks on the link they will be brought to a cloned website where the fraudsters will seek their pins, passcodes and other personal information from them. The information sought is far and beyond what a bank would ever seek.

The fraudsters want your personal data so they can steal money from your bank account or purport to be you when contacting banks.

GNECB would like to warn the public to be wary of such text messages and if in any doubt of the authenticity of the text, contact their bank on the numbers they usually use.

Do not use a number supplied by these texts.

There are other 'smishing' texts being received and these can purport to be from service providers,

revenue, banks and/or delivery businesses. Some can fit into the threads of previously received genuine texts which adds an air of authenticity to them.

An Garda Síochána's advice to the public is as follows:

- Never click on a link of an unsolicited text, email or respond to cold callers seeking personal information.
- Never give away personal data like PIN number, card numbers, passwords, one time codes, PPS numbers
- If you are expecting a delivery and receive such a text be very careful.
- Banks will never text you seeking personal information like account numbers, passwords, pin codes, mother's maiden's name
- If you have been a victim it's vital to change your passwords/pin codes
- If you have responded to such a text contact your bank immediately
- It is also important to report the matter to Gardai.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES

Wicklow County Council invites applications under the Community Involvement Scheme. This scheme relates to public roads only.

This scheme encourages a joint approach between the Council and groups of local residents and landowners for the restoration of roads, mainly local or cul de sac roads. The Community Involvement Scheme will be based on community contributions, contained in the application form.

Application Forms and details are available on Wicklow County Council's website [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) or by contacting the undersigned.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 31st August, 2021.

Allyson Minion, Administrative Officer,  
Wicklow County Council, Transportation, Water & Emergency Services,  
County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow.

Tel: 0404 20100  
e-mail: [roadtrans@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:roadtrans@wicklowcoco.ie)





Alan Callister of Wicklow Archers takes aim.

# Local archer selected to 'shoot for Ireland' at Euro Championships

Wicklow archer Alan Callister, a member of Wicklow Archers Club, has been selected to be a member of Team Ireland at the upcoming European 3D Championships.

The Championships will be taking place in Maribor, Slovenia, in the first week of September.

Wicklow Archers recently resumed activity after a long period of being closed during lockdown. The club is based in Enniskerry, where they offer archers the chance to train and compete on their target ranges or on their field course in the woodland surrounding the Dargle river.

They are currently working through their backlog of people interested in taking up archery, by bringing them through their comprehensive safety/beginners courses held on Saturday mornings.

"Wicklow Archers is a community-based club supporting the growth and promotion of all forms of archery. We support social inclusion and equality, and believe archery should be open to every-

one. This is something we strive for in our coaching and facilities," the Club says.

The Club was formed in 2012, when two archery clubs - Woodbrook Archery Club

and Garden County Archery Club - amalgamated into one. It is now the largest archery club in Ireland.

For more information see [www.wicklow-archery.org](http://www.wicklow-archery.org)



## Yoga course at SCFE

Since September 2018, Sallynoggin College of Further Education, SCFE, has been delivering a hugely successful Yoga Teacher Training course including Wellbeing and Holistic Studies. This one-year course runs from September to May.

It is certified by International Therapy Examination Council (ITEC) and Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and leads to the Diploma in Yoga Teaching.

It is also recognised for membership by the Complementary Therapists Association (CTHA) YTI (Yoga Therapy Ireland) and CIMSPA (The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity). The course also encompasses practical holistic studies such as Reflexology, Massage and Indian Head Massage, thereby enabling the student practitioner to develop the personal qualities, knowledge, confidence and skills to progress and pursue a career as a Yoga teacher and a Complementary Therapist.

Features of the course include Holistic & Yoga workshops delivered by industry specialists and Work Experience placement in a variety of settings. SCFE's recently refurbished facilities include fully equipped complementary therapy rooms, a large mirrored yoga studio and access to fully equipped IT suites, Library, Wifi and Office 365.

Those who successfully complete the course may set up their own business as a Yoga Practitioner, a Reflexologist, a Massage Therapist and work in the wellness/holistic sector. With almost 100 successful graduates to date many of them are now teaching in this thriving industry, sharing their knowledge and experience.

There are also opportunities to progress to fur-

ther studies. SCFE has also introduced a Pilates Teacher Training course for details see [www.SCFE.ie](http://www.SCFE.ie).

The course costs €700 with exemptions of €250 for holders of a medical card and €200 for SUSI grant recipients. Funding is also available for Social Welfare recipients through the Vocational Training Opportunities scheme (VTOS) and the Back to Education Allowance scheme (BTEA) scheme. Mature applicants are very welcome, and applicants may also be accepted without meeting formal entry requirements.

"SCFE yoga training and Holistic studies was a transformational experience that exceeded my expectations," student Joanne Reid said. "The physical and emotional health benefits have been life changing. I met the most wonderful people all learning, sharing and growing together in a lovely warm nurturing environment. Aoife is a truly knowledgeable inspiring teacher with a wonderful passion to share the gift of yoga with others."

For more information check out the website [www.scfe.ie](http://www.scfe.ie) or call (01) 2852997.

All courses commence mid September 2021, applications close 30th September.

SCFE is located within walking distance of Dún Laoghaire and is well served by public transport. SCFE will deliver this course in line with the Guidelines for Public Health Measures in ETB Further Education and Training Institution.



## Rowing clubs invited to take part in the Braystones Challenge

Bray & Greystones Rowing Clubs have announced plans to repeat their 2020 Braystones charity fundraiser event on 31st July. The inaugural event was the highlight of the rowing calendar for both clubs in 2020.



"This year we are extending an invitation to all East Coast Rowing Clubs to participate and help make it an even bigger and better event," they said.

"Clubs will have an opportunity to have a fun day out whilst rowing in a beautiful scenic piece of coastline and also raise funds for local charities.

"Multiple crews will row legs of the journey starting in Bray and Greystones. The launch location will be decided by the organisers to ensure maximum health and safety protocols.

"The cost of registration for the event is €100 per crew/boat. 50% of all funds raised will be donated to Purple House Cancer Support (Bray).

"Greystones will also be nominating a charity partner, the remainder will go towards club's maintenance and upkeep."

Please confirm if your club wish to participate by July 30th (specifying the number of boats/crew that you wish to register).

Further Details available from Sharon Fitzpatrick G.R.C. (0868583415), or Robbie Doyle B.R.C. (0877590087).

## Join Leinster rugby brothers to Run@Home this August

Dublin Simon Community has announced the launch of their Run@Home with Ross & Harry Byrne campaign in response to the continued cancellation & postponement of outdoor running fundraisers in Ireland.

With the 38th annual Simon Home Run planned for this October looking increasingly unlikely, Leinster Rugby players, brothers and great competitors Ross & Harry Byrne have come on board to help give our fundraising a much needed boost.

Run@Home with Ross & Harry Byrne is a virtual race from the Aviva Stadium in Dublin to the Stadio Olimpico in Rome and back, covering the host stadiums of the Six Nations Championship in Dublin, Edinburgh, Cardiff, London, Paris and Rome.

The race will take place over two weeks between 2nd and 16th

August, with participants automatically assigned to #TeamRoss or #TeamHarry on registration.

Ross and Harry will act as team captains as both teams go head-to-head to clock up the furthest distance by August 16th.

On registration, each participant will have a digital fundraising page created for them, which they can link with their Fitbit or Strava accounts and share with family and friends to make donations.

Each individual's fundraising page will be linked with that of their team, where every km walked or run will make a vital

contribution to their team's overall performance and they can see on a digital map how far they and their opposing team have come in the overall journey.

"We would encourage as many people to sign up as possible. The race lasts for just two weeks which is very doable, and the team format means that participants can run or walk at their own pace without any pressure on them individually," said Harry Byrne.

"I think at a time when Covid-19 is still so present in our minds and day-to-day lives, getting involved in something like this provides a healthy sense of release and more importantly helps to raise vital funds for the victims of the homeless crisis, which has not gone away."



# A fifth of parents have sought support for their children's mental health during pandemic

A recent survey has shown that almost 20% of parents of mostly primary school age have sought some form of mental health support for their child during the Covid-19 pandemic. It also showed that 55% of parents have concerns about the long-term impact of the pandemic on their child's mental health.

The survey, which was carried out by Walk in My Shoes, the awareness-raising and education campaign of St Patrick's Mental Health Services, in conjunction with the National Parents Council Primary, saw nearly 2,000 parents respond to the questionnaire that explored parents' concerns for their children's mental health as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some 85% of parents who responded to the survey had children aged between five and 12 years.

The survey was issued to over 9,000 parents on the National Parents Council Primary network and was completed between 8 June and 30 June. This is the second consecutive year that Walk in My Shoes and the National Parents Council have conducted a survey to specifically gain insights into how Covid-19 is impacting young people's mental health, particularly younger children between the ages of five to 12.

Findings revealed that: Approximately 55% of parents are concerned about the long-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their children's mental health

Almost 20% of children received some form of mental health support over the course of the pandemic;

(private counselling (6%), HSE community supports (3.5%), school counsellor (2.7%), local clubs (2%), other supports (6%)

30% of parents sought support or information about their children's mental health during this period, mostly from online sources (61%), their GP (57%), or teachers (50%)

25% of parents are concerned about their child's readjustment as society opens-up over the next few months

Anxiety (60%), coping strategies (44%) and isolation and loneliness (41%) were identified as the top three areas where parents felt they need assistance to support their child's mental health (similar to 2020 results). Social media overuse during the pandemic and stress were also identified as areas of concern for parents, with 26% and 27% of parents citing these concerns respectively.

The survey findings also highlighted parents' worries about their children developing trust issues as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions; both due to changing plans and last-minute cancellations, and lack of trust in themselves and others in adhering to public health guidelines. Lack of physical connection, aggression, lashing out and establishing

and maintaining good relationships with friends and peers were among other worries parents held for their children.

In light of this year's survey results, Walk in My Shoes will host a free webinar for parents on 27 July, exploring how parents can support their children's mental health, with a specific focus on the top three concerns identified by parents in the survey findings. These include coping strategies, managing children's anxiety and supporting children through loneliness and isolation.

Speakers include Clinical Psychologist and CEO of St Patrick's Mental Health Services, Paul Gilligan; Áine Lynch, CEO, National Parents Council; and Cliodhna McDonnell, Founder of Doing the Best We Can.

Speaking on the survey results, Paul Gilligan, CEO, St Patrick's Mental Health Services said: "Children's mental health has been a serious concern for everyone throughout this pandemic, so it is understandable that up to 55% of parents worry about the long-term impact of restrictions on their children. It is important, therefore, that parents feel reassured that support is available and that overall young people

have shown incredible strength and resilience during this time.

"The next step is to use these findings to inform how we support parents and children going forward. Walk in My Shoes will be holding a free webinar for parents and guardians that will address some of the main concerns highlighted including anxiety, coping strategies and loneliness and isolation."

Speaking about the survey findings, Áine Lynch, CEO, National Parents Council said: "While the results of this survey have illustrated an understandable level of concern about children's mental health among parents, it has also shown that parents are actively seeking and engaging in ways to support their child's mental health at this time and to address their concerns, whether that be online via mental health websites or through a GP, teacher or friends and family.

We are pleased to once again partner with Walk in My Shoes for this important piece of research that can inform how we, as a society and as individual organisations, can support and guide parents as they help their child navigate the current landscape to which we are all adapting."

## Farmers and SMEs urged to collaborate on Right to Disconnect Policy

Ifac, Ireland's farming, food and agribusiness specialist professional services firm, is advising Wicklow farmers and SMEs to work together with their employees when developing their Right to Disconnect Policy.

Earlier this year, the Workplace Relations Committee (WRC) published a Code of Practice on the Right to Disconnect from work outside of normal working hours. The Code acknowledges that different working arrangements suit different businesses but says that the right to maintain clear boundaries between work and leisure is universal.

Mary McDonagh, Head of Payroll Services at ifac said: "It is important that farm employers and SMEs familiarise themselves with the Code and work together with their employees when developing an appropriate Right to Disconnect policy for their business to ensure it takes account of both business needs and the wellbeing of their workforce."

While failure to follow the Code is not an offence if disputes arise relevant provisions of the Code will likely be taken into account by Adjudicators or Chairpersons in WRC or Labour Court cases involv-

ing issues such as dismissal, penalisation and/or equality discrimination.

### What is the Right to Disconnect?

The Code sets out three key elements of the right to disconnect:

- The right of an employee to not have to routinely perform work outside their normal working hours;
- The right not to be penalised for refusing to attend to work matters outside of normal working hours;
- The duty to respect another person's right to disconnect (for example: by not routinely emailing or calling outside normal working hours).

The Code recommends that employers engage with their employees to develop a Right to Disconnect Policy that accommodates their business needs. The policy needs to take into account relevant health and safety legislation, the statutory obligations of employers and employees, and employees' terms and conditions of employment.

### Developing a policy

When developing your policy, it is important to emphasise the expectation that staff disconnect from work outside of their normal working hours and during annual leave. The policy should also allow for occasional legitimate situations where it may be necessary to contact staff outside of normal working hours. Once you have your policy in place, it should be referenced in your employees' terms and conditions of employment and read in conjunction with your other employment policies.

### Grievance procedure

A procedure for your employees to raise concerns should be included in your Right to Disconnect policy. Examples of concerns that may arise include being contacted regularly outside of normal work hours, being expected to regularly work through breaks or being penalised for not being available out of normal working hours. Guidance for addressing concerns and resolving workplace issues that may arise is also included in the Code.



Last week, Delgany Golf Club said goodbye to the club's life-long honorary member, Paddy Fitzpatrick, who sadly passed away.

"May he rest in peace," the Club stated. "Paddy was a true Delgany legend, he represented us in inter-club matches for most of his life. Paddy won 6 GUI medals, consisting of 3 winning Barton Cup medals and 3 winning Senior Cup medals, what a record! Condolences to the entire Fitzpatrick family, including his sons John and Brian, brother Seamus and sister Mary.

## The Camogie Association Launch Skill Evolution

The Camogie Association has launched Skill Evolution. Skill Evolution is a suite of videos which provides coaches, teachers, parents and players a modern look at the technical skills of the game of Camogie and their progression across the player's phased development.

This resource provides an easily accessible tool which endeavours to maximise skill practices within Camogie's youngest players in their formative years, through to the adult player who continues to refine their skillset in preparation for competitive action at club level and beyond.

"The Games Development team looked first at the changing and differing learning needs of the modern coach and player. We wanted to create something which lent itself to the modern player and something that would stimulate a clear vision of where a player/group of players are in their development, where they are going, and give direction in getting there through their practices", said Liam Clancy of the Camogie Association at the launch at Croke Park Stadium.

Skill Evolution exhibits fifteen of the technical skills of the game of Camogie. Under 8, Under 12, Under 16 and Adult players act as signposts within the development of each skill providing a visual representation of the skill in action whilst also pro-

viding succinct and appropriate coaching cues through the voiceover of Ciara Doyle (Scariff-Ogonelloe Camogie Club).

Louise Conlon (Technical Development and Participation Manager, The Camogie Association) said: "It is our great pleasure to publish such a modern resource for the use of our members going forward. Skill Evolution can be utilised by all our members in a variety of ways, be it volunteering at underage Go Games level, involvement in speed leagues at youth level, or incorporating it as part of our many existing programmes such as the MNA Hurl With Me Programme. Skill Evolution offers viewers a vibrant insight into the modern-day Camogie player, as they progress through the phases of the Gaelic Games Player Pathway".

Liam Clancy said: "As a team, we wanted to produce something which was easily accessible and provided the short, sharp information and visual that's required. Skill Evolution does that and provides an anchor of support to the viewer, be they a player themselves or someone involved in the development of players within the game of Camogie. We looked across various sporting contexts in the search for resources which subtly blend the phases of player development and the coaching of such but had little success. Skill Evolution depicts the smooth transition from phase to phase in the one place, at the one time".



Louise Conlon (centre) launching Skill Evolution





Thinking of upskilling, reskilling, changing your career, or contemplating a return to education in 2021? If so, you can attend IT Carlow's Lifelong Learning Online Open Week 2021 that takes place each evening from Monday, 26 July to Thursday, 29 July. A series of online sessions will showcase the faculty's comprehensive range of part-time and Springboard+ courses. The sessions will take place from 7pm to 8:30pm to cater for busy schedules and will focus on the following areas: Monday, July 26th: Business, Supply Chain Management and Accountancy; Tuesday, July 27th: Humanities, Early Childhood Education, Social Studies and Law; Wednesday, July 28th: Science, Engineering and IT; Thursday, July 29th: Springboard+ and July Stimulus programme courses. The sessions will be held via Zoom and can be attended by using a link on <https://www.itcarlow.ie/>.

Pictured are Tom Fortune from Kilkenny, Aisling Gannon from Wicklow, and John Walsh from Rathdowney during IT Carlow conferrals. Pic: Pat Moore

## Harris launches new digital hub to promote educational and information resources on sexual consent

**Minister Simon Harris TD last week launched a new online learning hub to provide an integrated, publicly available resource on sexual consent awareness and consent learning resources.**

This initiative builds on the work of the pioneering Active\* Consent research team in NUI Galway and comes as part of a Government initiative to improve the understanding on the meaning of, and importance of, consent in sexual activity. At the heart of this partnership will be a dedicated website, populated with resources that have already been developed by the Active\* Consent team for the third level sector, as well as newly-designed resources supported by this project.

Launching the initiative, Minister Harris said: "No part of our society is untouched by sexual violence and harassment. People need to be safe, empowered, confident, and capable in their relationships and Ireland can take a leading role in confronting sexual violence and harassment. The work being done in our higher education sector on Consent can be a positive educator for other areas, and this online learning hub will provide an important resource not only for our higher education institutions, but also for a wider community.

"For higher education students, the programme available through the hub reflects the three levels of the Active\* Consent online programme - a consent workshop based on the team's research; an eLearning resource on consent, sexual violence and harassment; and ongoing social media engagement into topics such as disclosure that links to students' social media platforms.

"For higher education staff, the three tiers of engagement available on the hub will provide awareness raising on definitions, skills, and student support practices; education for decision makers and leaders on how they can support lasting culture change; and in-depth training for those involved in consent education, support for student disclosures, and policy implementation."

The Department of Justice will fund the Active

Consent research team at NUI Galway to create the online learning hub, and is partnering with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science on this important initiative.

Minister Naughton, speaking at the launch in NUIG, said: "There can be no place for any forms of sexual violence and harassment in our society, and there can be no room for doubt or ambiguity on the meaning and importance of consent.

"We must improve people's understanding of what consent is, and what healthy consent looks like. This initiative will be an excellent resource for the third level sector and beyond.

"It is an important commitment in Supporting a Victim's Journey, the Department of Justice roadmap to improve the justice system for victims and vulnerable witnesses in sexual violence cases, and will contribute to our national campaign on consent later this year."

NUI Galway President, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgarthaigh, said: "NUI Galway is delighted to partner with the Department of Justice and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science on this excellent initiative.

"At the heart of NUI Galway's values are respect and openness. By championing respect and openness through initiatives such as the online learning hub, we can have a profound and sustainable transformative impact on society. We look forward to supporting this initiative and all who participate."

Dr Padraig MacNeela, Active\* Consent Programme Co-Lead, NUI Galway, said: "The online learning hub is based around the idea of 'consent literacy' for all members of our society. This means that people feel confident in their knowledge and understanding of consent, their communication skills with partners, how to access supports themselves or help others to do so, and how we can safely challenge unacceptable aspects of our culture.

"We will work with our partners such as Galway Rape Crisis Centre and Rape Crisis Network Ireland to create the resources we need to have a culture of consent in our colleges, schools, and communities."

# 'Wicklow's primary and special schools deserve better'

The Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO) is the trade union for teachers and principals in primary and special schools across the island of Ireland. Following a challenging year for primary schools, their pupils and staff, INTO has published a pre-budget submission which sets out the investment needed to support recovery and improve educational outcomes.

In a series of meetings with all political parties recently, the union set out the deficiencies in our primary system that need to be tackled in the forthcoming budget.

IINTO stated, "Irish primary class sizes remain the largest in the European Union. Too many pupils in Wicklow still learn in a classroom of 30 or more pupils, with one in five pupils nationally learning in such crowded environments. At the height of the pandemic, Ireland was the only EU country that had to plan for social distancing in supersized classes of thirty or more. Research shows that smaller classes enable teachers to give adequate and necessary time to each child in the classroom, which has a positive impact on learning outcomes.

"Smaller classes support inclusion and diversity, whilst teachers cater to the range of individual learning styles in the room. The INTO calls on the government in Budget 2022 to reduce class size and make a commitment to better learning outcomes for Irish primary school children.

"At the heart of a strong school community is a well-supported school leader. Principals must be supported in their efforts to lead teaching and learning in our schools whilst they simultaneously carry out the range of administrative tasks assigned to the role. No school in the country would have been able to open during the pandemic without the incredibly hard work of school leaders.

"Middle management posts allow schools to coordinate curriculum and school development and to facilitate a range of initiatives that provide a holistic education, including leading wellbeing initiatives in school, supporting special education and inclusion, co-ordinating digital learning and delivering environmental and physical education programmes. As a result of the recession, the number of middle management posts remains at 73% of what it was in 2009. Budget 2022 must begin the process of delivering the restoration of these assistant principal posts.



INTO President Joe McKeown

"Teaching principals essentially do two jobs. They teach their class and also have to manage their entire school. It's a very difficult juggling act. During the pandemic, the government finally listened to calls from this union and provided for one day a week release from teaching duties to enable these principals to lead and manage their schools. INTO is calling for this weekly release day to be maintained in the coming years. This will be essential for teaching principals to manage an orderly, secure, and healthy school environment whilst catering to the educational needs within their own classrooms.

"Every child in a Wicklow primary and special school classroom should be taught by a qualified teacher every day. Nationwide substitute supply panels are essential to achieving this. A supply panel involves a base primary school hiring a full-time substitute teacher, who covers absences in their school and neighbouring schools, thereby guaranteeing every absence is covered.

During the pandemic, the government introduced supply panels covering about two thirds of all primary schools in the country. Feedback from schools and parents has been overwhelmingly positive. Budget 2022 must guarantee the panels remain in future years and roll them out to all schools.

"It's 2021, and primary schools in Wicklow still have to fundraise to cover basic expenses like lighting, heating and insurance. It is simply not good enough that the parents of Ireland have to contribute nearly €50 million every year to keep primary schools afloat. As the government has said repeatedly during the crisis, primary education is a national priority. It should therefore be fully, not partially, funded.

"Wicklow primary schools receive significantly less funding than second and third level institutions. Primary schools receive a capitation grant of €1 per pupil per school day to cover their running costs. The standard capitation grant per primary school pupil has dropped from €200 in

2010 to €183 at present, in contrast to the current figure of €316 at post-primary level. This funding disparity is grossly unfair. The INTO requests that the government invests in our primary and special schools by restoring funding to pre-recession levels in Budget 2022.

"INTO President Joe McKeown said: "As we move out of the pandemic, we need to invest in our primary schools as they play their role in the great national effort supporting their pupils, some of whom have sadly fallen behind. While it will be easy for Government to roll out short term sound bites, sustained support for the sector is the only proven method for ensuring pupils and schools are supported in the years to come. We have set out practical, pragmatic and costed proposals that will ensure class sizes in our primary schools align with our EU neighbours, bring an end to the requirement for school fundraising to cover basic needs and support our school leaders who stepped up admirably during the crisis."



# People affected by cancer who need to talk, urged to reach out for help

*Charity increases commitment to counselling after funding 326 sessions in Wicklow last year*

The Irish Cancer Society is encouraging anyone affected by cancer in Wicklow and who is in need of free counselling support to reach out for help.

The charity is doubling its funding for the service to more than €800,000 this year to ensure people can access this crucial free service when it is needed more than ever.

Cancer patients, survivors and those around them have had to deal with a huge amount during the pandemic including disruptions to treatments and services, social isolation and uncertainty around vaccinations. This has understandably taken its toll on people at a time when they are also dealing with a life-changing diagnosis.

Counselling provides a safe space for people to talk about their worries and anxieties in a supportive and non-judgmental setting.

The Irish Cancer Society funded some 326 counselling sessions in Wicklow in 2020, ensuring that the service was able to continue on a remote basis during the pandemic.

Counselling is available for children and adults, including family members as well as those directly impacted by a cancer diagnosis or who have lost loved ones to cancer. Whether your experience is recent or in the past the service is available to you.

Referrals for counselling sessions are available through the Society's



*Irish Cancer Society Director of Services Donal Buggy*

Freephone Support Line on 1800 200 700 and SupportLine@IrishCancer.ie.

Cancer patient Anne Kearney from Dublin who received free counselling sessions last year spoke of the difference they made for her: "It was during the first lockdown that I was told over the phone that I had cancer. I got the news on 4 June, four days before my 60th birthday, and on 12 June I was told the cancer they picked up had spread and I was to start chemotherapy the following Monday.

"I had great support from my own circle, but it

feelings of "shock, fear and panic".

She said: "Talking with somebody can help break these feelings down and make them more manageable. People can now access it from anywhere with the remote service, and many actually find it more comforting being able to do it from their own home environment."

Welcoming the increased funding commitment for counselling, Irish Cancer Society Director of Services Donal Buggy said: "Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the public who responded to our Daffodil Day and Late Late Show fundraisers we are able to ensure that anyone affected by cancer who requires counselling can get the help they need.

"This has been a really challenging time for anyone affected by cancer, with some people isolated from their normal support network of family or friends."

He concluded: "Each of our counsellors are very experienced at working with people affected by cancer. We want to tell people that it's ok for them to take the first step and reach out, and any concerned family members or loved ones can do the same."

got to a stage where I just wanted to speak to a trained person. I've experienced so many fantastic people and services over the last year, including through counselling. It's a scary, lonely journey especially given all that's happening in the world recently, but to know that you have these services beside you and to call upon if you need them is amazing," Anne said.

Experienced cancer counsellor Deirdre Stanley added that it's often not just the person who receives the diagnosis who needs support as a cancer diagnosis can incur

## Patient advocacy service offers support to people in Wicklow

**A newly established Patient Advocacy Service is offering support to people in the Wicklow area who want to make a complaint about the care they have received in a public hospital.**

The Patient Advocacy Service provides free, independent and confidential information and support to people making a formal complaint about their care in a Health Service Executive (HSE) funded public acute hospital.

People in the Wicklow area looking for support can contact the Patient Advocacy Service confidential helpline on 0818 293003 to speak to a trained advocate who will help them to get information on the HSE's complaints investigation process, called 'Your Service, Your Say'.

The professionally trained independent advocate will support and empower the person making the complaint, with the aim of highlighting their views and concerns.

The advocate will explain to the

person how to write a formal complaint and what to include in it. They will also help the person prepare for meetings with the HSE about their complaint, and they will help the person explore their options following a response from the HSE to their complaint.

Service Manager for the Patient Advocacy Service, Claire Lehané, said: "Until now, people in Wicklow and across Ireland who experienced difficulties in the Irish health service often felt there was nowhere for them to turn.

"The newly established Patient Advocacy Service offers patients the guidance and information they need to make a complaint when they are unhappy with the care they receive. It is free, independent and run by our professionally trained patient

advocates who will use their compassion and knowledge to guide people through the HSE complaints process."

For people in the Wicklow area looking for advocacy support to make a formal complaint, you can contact the Patient Advocacy Service helpline on 0818 293003. The helpline is open Monday to Friday from 10am until 4pm, including lunchtimes. You can also email info@patientadvocacyservice.ie.

The Patient Advocacy Service was commissioned by the National Patient Safety Office in the Department of Health and is provided by the National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities. The Patient Advocacy Service receives no funding from the HSE and is therefore fully independent of the HSE.

More info about the Patient Advocacy Service is available at: patientadvocacyservice.ie



*Cameron Petrie in action during the Bank of Ireland Leinster Rugby Summer Camp at Greystones Rugby Club. Piuc: Sportsfile*

## In-store Covid rapid antigen testing service being offered in Bray

**Boots Ireland recently announced the launch of in-store antigen testing, specifically and only available for customers without COVID-19 symptoms. The service is being launched in response to international travel guidelines where some countries require an antigen test to access the country.**

The service, priced at €35, delivers a result within one hour and the provision of a certificate which is recognised for international travel which can be uploaded to the EU Digital COVID Certificate which came into effect as of July 19th.

The launch of this service follows the introduction of PCR testing last year at Boots which continues to be available for those who need to provide a PCR certificate for travel.

Rapid antigen testing is now available at 14 Boots stores including Bray. Customers who wish to avail of COVID-19 testing for international travel purposes should ensure to check the entry requirements for the country they are travelling to as they differ from country to country.

With Boots Ireland now offering both PCR and antigen testing, all travel certification needs can be met under one roof offering greater convenience and ease for customers navigating requirements for international travel.

It is important to note that a negative test result

does not preclude people from observing Government guidelines which must continue to be adhered to at all times. These tests are specifically for customers who do not have any COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone with symptoms must follow the latest Government or HSE guidance to access testing.

Caoimhe McAuley, MPSI, Director of Pharmacy and Superintendent Pharmacist at Boots Ireland commented: "The introduction of in-store rapid antigen testing at Boots Ireland is the latest evolution of COVID-19 services at Boots Ireland as we aim to keep pace with the changing landscape. As international travel returns from the 19th July, different countries are operating different testing requirements for entry either using a PCR or antigen test. Both tests are now available at Boots Ireland stores providing customers with a trusted partner for all COVID-19 testing needs."

To obtain a COVID-19 rapid antigen or PCR test, customers will be able to book via www.boots.ie. Online pre-screening will take place before people come to store to ensure that they are not currently experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Once in store, a Boots COVID-19 Testing Service Advisor will facilitate the test and results will be made available to customers within an hour.

More information on this service is available on boots.ie.

## Hay Fever warning from pharmacists

**While the predictions of a prolonged period of good weather have been welcomed, for the one in five Irish adults who suffer from hay fever it will also bring very high levels of pollen across the country.**

The Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) has said that we are now in peak hay fever season and advised preventative action to minimise the effects. The IPU has advised sufferers to consult with their local pharmacist about the best treatment methods.

Hay fever, also known as seasonal allergic rhinitis, is caused by pollen and spores creating an allergic reaction affecting

the nose and sinuses. Although it can occur at any time of year, sufferers are particularly impacted from the spring until autumn. Pollen from grass typically peaks in July, meaning this year's hay fever season has a few weeks left to run.

While hay fever is a common condition, the symptoms can be extremely unpleasant and include itchy eyes, runny

nose, sneezing, coughing and headaches. Community pharmacist and IPU Vice President, Ann Marie Horan issued the following advice to hay fever sufferers: Apply a little Vaseline inside the nose to trap pollen and stop it being inhaled; Wear sunglasses, preferably wraparound glasses which prevent pollen entering the eyes; Don't mow the grass and avoid working in the garden; Don't dry clothes outside if possible; and Wash your hair, hands and face when you come back indoors and change your clothes to get rid of any

pollen. Pharmacists have a wide range of non-prescription allergy remedies and they can also provide valuable advice to hay fever sufferers. Pharmacists also warn that hay fever can be a significant trigger for asthma. Asthma patients should ensure they have an up to date prescription for their inhaler and should carry their inhaler at all times and use it as prescribed.

Up to date information on pollen forecasts in your region can be found at: [www.met.ie/forecasts/pollen](http://www.met.ie/forecasts/pollen).





## Paddy Casey at The Mermaid

Irish singer/songwriter Paddy Casey will perform at the Mermaid Arts Centre on Thursday 23rd September at 8pm. Tickets are €26. This will be for one night only. Limited capacity, so early booking advised.

## The 4 of Us

Mermaid Arts Centre, Friday 24 September at 8pm. Tickets €26



This multi-award-winning band have seven fine albums under their belt and a back catalogue of memorable songs that have featured on American, British and Irish TV and film soundtracks.

To this day, their smash hit Mary, remains one of the most played tracks on Irish radio. There is limited capacity, so early booking is advised.

The 4 of Us are a rock band from Newry, County Down. Brothers Brendan, Declan, and Paul Murphy formed the band in the late 1980s. They had a big radio hit in 1989 with their song Mary on their debut album 'Songs for the Tempted'.

## The 9th Annual Signal Open

Signal Arts Centre, Tuesday 3rd August to Sunday 15th August

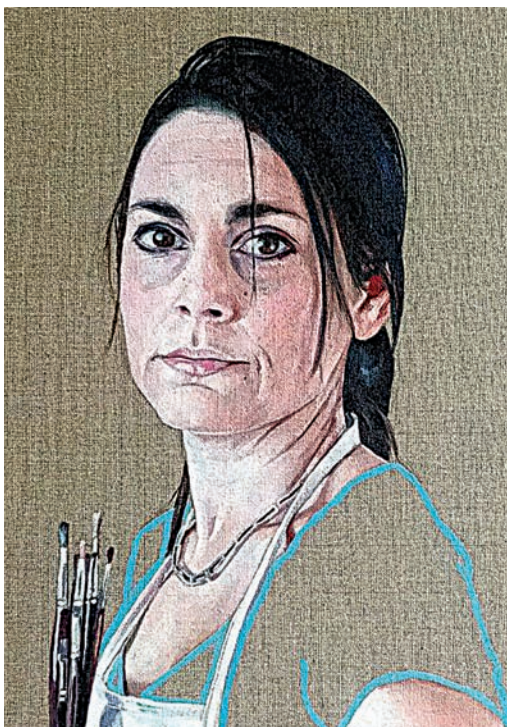
Over the last 250 years 'Open Submission' exhibitions have become established as an essential element of Arts infrastructure.

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

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

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

The 9th Annual Signal Open Exhibition takes place at the Signal Arts Centre from Tuesday 3rd – Sunday 15th August 2020. The 'Best in Show' winner will be awarded €1,000 and will be announced at the Exhibition Opening on Sunday 8th August from 3-5pm.



# 'The Hitmen' shooting in Wicklow Town

Dream Factory Productions' have been hard at work in Wicklow Town lately, filming their latest project, The Hitmen.

Starting out in 2018 with three people, Dream Factory Productions now consists of 16 skilled and experienced members, and The Hitmen represents their most ambitious project to date.

Founded by Anthony O'Reilly Jr, they have so far produced four short films, independently sourcing, funding and producing them.

A public fundraising campaign was needed this time, to cover the costs of wardrobe, locations, and props, and the fundraising target was surpassed, with almost €3,000 raised towards the film's production.

Auditions were held online in September of last year, and rehearsals started in January 2021. Filming began in June.

'The Hitmen' is a short film about two contractual killers, who reminisce on their past hits, and become close friends. The two hitmen meet many interesting characters in their line of work. The idea for the film was created by Writer & Director Anthony O'Reilly Jr in 2015.

"We chose Wicklow

Town as one of the locations because we thought the scenery was beautiful, particularly along the coast!" says producer Nicola Molloy. "We thought the location would suit the film perfectly. The scenes which are based in Wicklow are set in the 1990s so we have to pay particular attention to the details in the background to ensure continuity throughout the film.

"We have a couple of crew members from Wicklow, our Assistant Director and Actor James Byrne, and Key Make-up Artist Sarah Fox. They have both supported us greatly in sourcing the film locations and providing essential props for filming. We are filming the final few scenes in Wicklow Town this coming weekend. We cannot wait to film and get cracking on editing the film!"

Dream Factory Productions will be submitting The Hitmen into various film festivals, and once the film is ready to share they will be posting it on their YouTube platform - The Dream Factory



Productions. More details will also be available on their Instagram page @thedreamfactoryproductions.

The Dream Factory Productions have produced four short films to date; The Interview, The Lotto Ticket, This Christmas, and Widespread.

The team consists of Anthony O'Reilly Jr as Founder, Writer and Director; Nicola Molloy as Producer, Craig Johnston as Cinematographer; James

Byrne as Assistant Director and Actor; Sarah Fox as Lead MUA; Rebecca Flynn as 2nd Assistant Director; Marcus Rochford as 1st Assistant Cinematographer; Michael Kane and Greg Young as Sound Engineers; Robert Stanley as Production Designer; Sean O'Brien and Liam Boland as Editors; Lee McPartlin as BHS Photographer; Amy O'Donoghue as Hair Stylist; Grace Whelan as MUA.



The cast and crew of The Hitmen, in Wicklow Town

## Meet Donal the DART

Criminal law specialist turned children's author Ken Doyle has created a new book called 'Donal the DART'.

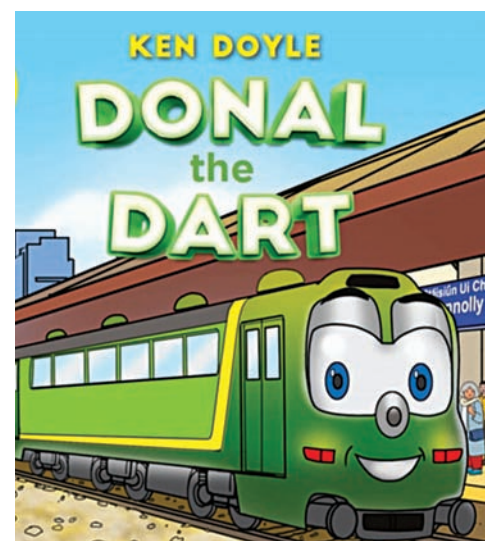
The book, which will be available from August 5th, tells the story of Donal, a little green passenger train on the Dublin railway line. One morning Donal oversleeps and he is late to collect his passengers. The book details Donal's adventure that day and his DART friends.

"In researching the book I considered fonts, formatting and colours that are helpful and comforting for children on the autism spectrum," explains Ken.

Ken's own son is on the autism spectrum and loves trains, which inspired Ken to create the book. "He watches YouTube videos of DART trains all the time," says Ken.

The book has been illustrated by Alvin Perez, a dn is Book 1 in the 'DART Friends' series of books.

Donal the Dart will be published as a printed soft-cover edition and may be ordered through Irish book-sellers and bookstores.





# New scholarship initiative for players and ex-players

Institute of Technology Carlow (IT Carlow), the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and the Professional Footballers Association of Ireland (PFA Ireland) last week launched a new annual postgraduate scholarship open to players and former players with the aim of encouraging and supporting the pursuit of postgraduate study among international, League of Ireland and Women's National League players and ex-players.



Pictured at the announcement of the inaugural Institute of Technology Carlow Postgraduate PFA Ireland/FAI Scholarship, from left: Declan Doyle, Vice-President for Development and Research, IT Carlow; Barry Ferguson, FAI Regional Manager; Paul O'Reilly, FAI IT Carlow Football Programme Manager; Lauryn O'Callaghan, IT Carlow sports scholar and player with Peamount United; Ollie Cahill, PFA Ireland Player Executive; Republic of Ireland U21 Head Coach and ex-professional Jim Crawford; Will Clarke, FAI League of Ireland Academy Development Manager; Donal McNally, Head of Sport, IT Carlow.

The innovative postgraduate scholarship, to be jointly funded by IT Carlow and PFA Ireland/FAI, will be available for 28 different programmes of study at IT Carlow, from higher certificate to masters, across six academic departments: engineering; science; computing and data science; business; digital marketing and design; humanities and social sciences. A full list of the eligible courses is available on [www.itcarlow.ie](http://www.itcarlow.ie).

Applications for the new scholarship are now being accepted via [www.itcarlow.ie](http://www.itcarlow.ie) with a closing date of 30 July and the term to commence this September. Successful applicants will be known as Institute of Technology Carlow Postgraduate PFA/FAI Scholars.

Speaking at the launch of the new postgraduate scholarship, David Denieffe, Registrar and Vice-President for Academic Affairs at IT Carlow said, "Institute of Technology Carlow is delighted to provide this unique opportunity for football players and ex-players to progress to postgraduate study. This scholarship programme builds on our long-standing and highly successful

relationship with the FAI and incorporates PFA Ireland. We look forward to continuing to build on these very strong relationships into the future."

Republic of Ireland Under-21 Men's team manager Jim Crawford was present for the launch of the postgraduate scholarship programme at IT Carlow alongside FAI Regional Manager Barry Ferguson and Peamount United Women's National League and FAI Cup winner Lauryn O'Callaghan, a student at IT Carlow.

Well qualified to talk on the subject, Jim Crawford returned to education towards the end of his playing career and completed a master's degree in his mid-40s. He commented, "This scholarship programme will greatly assist current and former players and coaches with their education and post-playing career prospects. I know from personal experience that it can be a challenging time for players and ex-players as they look to return to and progress within education. This scholarship has the potential to have a hugely positive impact on the successful applicants."

IT Carlow sports scholar Lauryn O'Callaghan said, "As I enter the final

year of my honours degree here in IT Carlow, I already have one eye on 'what's next' in terms of my progression to masters level. I am considering the MSc in Strength and Conditioning in the future as I will continue to combine training and playing with Peamount United alongside work and study. It's great to know that there are opportunities to apply for a postgraduate scholarship such as the one announced here today."

PFA Ireland Player Executive Ollie Cahill commented, "PFA Ireland is delighted to be working with IT Carlow and the FAI in offering this new postgraduate scholarship opportunity for our members. It is a new and exciting concept and IT Carlow is hugely supportive of players and ex-players in their educational endeavours. We look forward to working with them on this programme, and other similar opportunities, in the future."

Representatives from IT Carlow, PFA Ireland and the FAI were also in attendance for the announcement including: IT Carlow Director of Sport Donal McNally; Declan Doyle, Vice-President for Development and Research,

IT Carlow; Paul O'Reilly, FAI IT Carlow Football Programme Manager; Will Clarke, FAI League of Ireland Academy Development Manager; and Ollie Cahill, PFA Ireland Player Executive.

League of Ireland Academy Development Manager Will Clarke said, "The FAI and IT Carlow have a longstanding relationship since the launch of the BA Sports Coaching and Business Management degree programme in 2009. We are delighted to further develop this relationship by collaborating in this new IT Carlow/PFA Ireland/FAI postgraduate scholarship, the first of its kind in Ireland."

"This is the first time the three bodies have come together to offer a scholarship at this level and it is a significant milestone in player education and support within Irish football. We look forward to working closely with both IT Carlow and PFA Ireland on this initiative."

IT Carlow will assess applications and entry criteria for the Institute of Technology Carlow Postgraduate PFA Ireland/FAI Scholarship. For more information, contact [paul.oreilly@itcarlow.ie](mailto:paul.oreilly@itcarlow.ie).



Hannah Leddy in action during the Bank of Ireland Leinster Rugby Summer Camp at Greystones Rugby Club. Pic: Sportsfile

## Rothwell lands back-to-back races on the final day of Killarney festival

**Wicklow racehorse trainer Philip Rothwell landed back-to-back races on the final day of the Killarney festival on Friday 16th July where he won both divisions of the two-mile one-furlong handicap hurdle.**

County Meath conditional rider Paddy O'Hanlon enjoyed a comfortable success on the King Horses Syndicate-owned Ricky Langford which won the opening leg by three and a half lengths from the Val O'Brien-trained Trenchtown Rock. Rothwell said of the 18/1 chance, "I thought he'd win on that good ground. He was doing a half-speed when brought down the last day. James O'Sullivan chose to ride another horse and Paddy was down to ride one in Kilbeggan but I told him to get off it and come here instead. He's owned by some friends of mine from school, he won for them last year and it's great that he's won again here."

It was far tighter in the second division of the same race which went the way of Rothwell's Baltinglass Hill. Rachael Blackmore got the 8/1 shot home by a nose from the Karl Thornton-trained 7/2 chance Rich Belief in the colours of owner James Guilfoyle. Rothwell commented, "Rachael was brilliant at the last and that made a big difference. I thought he was an unlucky loser in Navan and then it came up that little bit soft for him in Cork."

Glenealy trainer Peter Croke saddled Humps And Bumps to win the two and a half-mile handicap chase. Owned and bred by Maurice Sheehy, the eight-year-old came from the back of the field to win by a length and a quarter from Dento Des Obeaux at odds of 9/1 under County Kilkenny conditional rider Jack Foley. The success completed a first carer treble for Foley who had earlier ridden two winners for trainer Tom Mullins.







Minister for Further and Higher Education, Simon Harris, with Elaina Fitzgerald Kane, President of the Irish Hotels Federation, Chief Executive of Skillnet Ireland, Paul Healy, and Irish Hotels Federation Skillnet Network and Learning Manager Dervla O'Neill, at the launch of the Irish Hotels Federation Skillnet. The national business network will address skills challenges in the sector, offering subsidised development and upskilling and training courses tailored to the needs of the sector. Pic: Conor Healy.

## PLANNING • PLANNING

### Discharge of Effluent to Waters

Notice is hereby given that Anita van Rheenan intends to apply to Wicklow County Council for a license to discharge Sewage effluent from a residence in The Old Church, Knockanode, Avoca, Co. Wicklow Y14 A259 following Treatment via Klargester BioDisc Domestic Sewage Treatment Plant and Reed Beds to Avoca River Surface Water.

#### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Eric and Michelle Ryan seek permission for development at 129 Hollybrook Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 Y282 for the removal of the existing hipped roof to be replaced by new dormer roof with gabled end. Salvaged roof tiles to be included to front and back. Roof light and dormer to rear. Stair window to be replaced with new windows at first floor and attic level. New dormer extension to contain master bedroom with en suite and to be accessed by new stairs from first floor level. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

#### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning permission is sought for construction of new, two storey, two bedroom, mews dwelling, on site on Stable Lane, to rear of Slieve Na Mon, Florence Road, Bray, Co Wicklow, Eircode A98EY68, for Tony and Frances Quinn. The application includes the provision of a soakaway in the rear garden of Slieve Na Mon, a driveway, new and upgraded garden walls, railings, electric gate, landscaping, and associated siteworks. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, during its public opening hours, and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

#### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Caromy Corcoran intends to apply for Planning Permission for; demolition of existing single storey extension to rear of existing house and construction of new two storey extension to rear comprising (a) new Kitchen & Dining Room with courtyard at Ground Floor Level, (b) new bedroom and family bathroom with lightwell at First Floor Level, (c) new roof lights to front roof plane and to proposed extension to rear and (d) all associated site works at 2 Kilmantin Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, A67 F297. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie), under planning online enquiries. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

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**12 noon on Tuesday 3rd August 2021.**

Dr Deirdre Keyes,  
Chief Executive.

## WFH in a Heatwave?

### 5 tips for staying cool and sun safe

While we've all rejoiced at seeing the big yellow ball in the sky lately, for many the sun's continued presence has become too much to handle, particularly for those who have to work through the heat.

For those working from home in cramped attic rooms, home offices or modern glass kitchens the heat can feel unbearable, but it can also be dangerous and heat stroke and heat exhaustion are a real threat to workers right now.

Below are five tips from Matrix Recruitment for working through the heatwave safely and comfortably:

#### Dress for the weather, not for the meeting:

When it comes to dressing for the workday, most of us consider our schedule first, dressing for particular meetings we may have through the day. But this week, the weather

should be your first consideration. Choose light and breathable clothes that will regulate your temperatures. The best part of working from home is any Zoom meetings are only visible from the waist up so use it to your advantage and opt for shorts, skirts and sandals for the rest of the week.

#### Keep shaded:

While it's tempting to work outside and catch a tan while replying to emails, it's much safer to work indoors and in the shade. Direct sunlight over an extended period could cause you to burn badly if you're not careful, or worse, you could get heat stroke. To help prevent your house building up heat during the day, try keep all your curtains closed - this will keep the

sun out and prevent your home feeling like a greenhouse. You can also ventilate by opening the windows so a nice breeze flows through the home.

#### Skip the coffee:

When the temperatures rise you need to up your water intake. Skip the coffee and instead opt for plain, carbonated or flavoured water. Make sure to hydrate every hour throughout the day. As for the post-work pint or glass of vino? Alcohol can dehydrate you quickly and if you're already dehydrated it can worsen symptoms, so make smart choices and balance any alcohol with plenty H<sub>2</sub>O.

#### Change your working hours:

If the job allows, ask your manager if you can

work earlier or later in order to avoid the high temperatures of the afternoon. You're probably find that you work better too as the high temperatures can severely affect work output and cause brain fog.

#### Take five to cool down:

Make sure to take plenty of breaks throughout the day and, if you feel you are over-

heating, take 5 minutes to cool down. Run cold water in the bath and paddle your feet for a few minutes - your feet are the quickest ways to regulate your temperature and a splash of cold water can be just the ticket in the heat. If you don't have a bath, you can also use ice or a cold damp towel on your pulse points to cool down the body.



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