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DONNELLY & DONNELLY!

DONNELLY BRINGS IN DONNELLY TO SHORE UP BRAY

After a disastrous local election result that saw no Councillor elected for Fianna Fáil in Bray and only one in Greystones, Fianna Fáil last week announced the appointment of Bray business woman and outgoing President of Bray & District Chamber of Commerce, Ruth Donnelly, as their new local area representative for the town of Bray.

Minister for Health and Fianna Fáil TD, Stephen Donnelly said "I am excited to have Ruth Donnelly appointed to the Bray area having seen the hard work she has been doing over the past few years. I know she will be a great addition to

the party team in Wicklow". Taoiseach Micheál Martin said "I am delighted that Ruth Donnelly has agreed to join the party and be our Bray LEA. I look forward to getting the chance to meet her in the

near future." Speaking on what she sees as her key priorities for the role Ruth Donnelly said "Being a mother to a young son I want to make sure that the town he grows up in is a safe and vibrant one with a strong sense of



Niall Gibbons, Chief Executive of Tourism Ireland, with actor Bill Murray, who visited Druids Glen last week to film a documentary series about golf. See more on page 6.

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Minister Stephen Donnelly

community. I will listen to anyone who feels they have an idea to make the town better and will work with anyone who feels they have any issues needing to be addressed."

At the time of the last local elections prominent local members of Bray Fianna Fáil left the organisation saying that Fianna Fáil HQ had abandoned the membership and that Stephen Donnelly was imposing his chosen candidates.

Local Bray barrister Malachai Duddy, the then Cathaoirleach of the County Wicklow Constituency Comhairle Dáil Cheantar has resigned from Fianna Fáil, as did Enniskerry man Rory O'Connor, a great-grandson of Fianna Fáil founding member and Taoiseach Seán Lemass.

Duddy claimed Bray membership in Fianna Fáil had collapsed. Local Fianna Fáil sources further claimed that "It is now clear that Fianna Fáil headquarters has

cooperated in the wrestling of the local North Wicklow Fianna

Fáil organisation from the hands of the membership and handed

it to Stephen Donnelly on a plate, creating an

Continued on page 3



Ruth Donnelly

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office

Your Local Enterprise Office Wicklow has now launched the 2021 Autumn Winter Training Schudele for small businesses & the self-employed in Co. Wicklow

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- Prepare Your Business for Customs Workshop Tuesday 12th October, 2021

For further details or to book GO TO:
www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings

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Phone: 0404 30800
Email: enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie

European Union
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Local Enterprise Office Wicklow

Let's talk Business

WICKLOW



Buachaill Ispíní Dána is representing Wicklow in the Nose of Tralee 2021, a competition for the best dog in Ireland run by Petsitters Ireland and Tesco. Voting opened on August 3rd and the winner of the competition will be announced this week on Tuesday, 24th August. People can vote for Buachaill every 24 hours, at wshe.es/v9U0IIVv or they can follow him on Instagram @buachaillthedog

The Shaking Bog Festival is back - where art and nature meet

The Glencree Valley will be enlivened once more with a host of well-known writers, artists and nature experts for a densely packed programme of events.

Please put the dates in your diaries, pack your wellies and make plans to join this vibrant blend of artistic engagement and nature immersion.

Tickets will be limited due to government restrictions so book your place early to avoid disappointment. There are more events this year and most events will be available through live stream and view on demand.

Find more information check out www.shaking-bog.ie and follow us @theshakingbog across social media channels.

IT Carlow Information Evening

The Lifelong Learning team at IT Carlow will host an online information evening on Tuesday, 24 August from 7pm to 8pm about the full range of LLL courses on offer. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about the variety of courses available, eligibility criteria and the application process. The information session will be followed by a Live Q&A where the team will answer queries. Registration is via itcarlow.ie/study/life-long-learning/information-evening.htm

The Caroline Foundation Skydive

Greystones man Tom O'Mahony will skydive for The Caroline Foundation on 28th August. Many will remember Tom's parents, Pat and Tommy O'Mahony, from Killincarrig. They served the community of Greystones all their lives. Tom will reach speeds of up to 200 km per hour to raise funds for cancer research. Funds will support Cancer Clinical Research Trust for Professor John Crown.

Tom will freefall from an altitude of over 10,000 feet to highlight cancer medical research. Professor Crown and CCRT help improve prevention, detection and treatment of cancers. They ensure that survivors live longer, healthier and better quality lives. Every donation is welcome and will make a big difference.

See https://www.idonate.ie/.../11408712_tom-o-mahony-s-page.html

Annual Liam 'tiny' Kenny Memorial show

The 3rd annual Liam 'tiny' Kenny Memorial show and run will take place at Ballinacor Community Park, Kirikee, A67WY83 on August 29th registration from 11.30 to 12.30pm run leaving at 1pm. Vintage, Classic, cars, bikes, tractors, lorries, etc. All monies raised for Rathdrum Cancer Support. Refreshments at end of run. Please adhere to covid guidelines on the day.

Email tinykennymemorial@outlook.com if you have any questions or queries.

New Wicklow Library to open at end of the month

Wicklow Town's new library will be opening its doors to the public on the last day of August.

After 41 years service the library at Market Square, Wicklow town, is closing down - but only to make way for an ultra-modern library nearby.

Wicklow library has operated from a small, but effective, building at Market Square since opening there in May 1980.

The end of July however saw the final items borrowed from this location, as it closed after 41 years of service.

But as one door closes, so another opens. This is to enable staff prepare for the opening of the new Wicklow library on the corner of Main Street and Salt House Lane.

Mr Michael Nicholson, Deputy Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said: "Wicklow library has had great appreciation from the people of Wicklow town. Despite its limited space, an average of 60,000 - 65,000 items have been borrowed annually in recent years. I am confident these figures will double in the new facility, which will open its doors to the public on the last day of August.



Fia Williams at the closing of the library at Cill Mhantain Hill in Wicklow Town

"There will be four floors from street level up, including a floor for study and research plus a community room for public use. The top floor will be an art gallery and a location for civic receptions and launches.

In addition, the building will be the new home to Wicklow County Archives and the main centre in the county for Local Studies".

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, stated: "The new library will be a flagship facility in County Wicklow. With 120,000-150,000 visits per year anticipated, it will ensure a vibrancy to Wicklow's Main Street and Market Square area. I am also pleased that the library will have 'My Open Library' access which will allow people to use it 7 days a week from November onwards".

Library staff Siobhan Jameson and Denise Rice are looking forward to the new location. Siobhan said: "Having worked 25+ years in the library at Market Square and I have many happy memories of this building.

"However, the library users are really excited to see the new library reaching its final stages and it will be a great addition to the town".



Library staff members Siobhan Jameson, Colin Heslin, and Denise Rice at the new library in Wicklow Town

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ABP approve Enniskerry residential development

Planning permission has been granted by An Bord Pleanála for a strategic residential development of a 6.57 acre site at Cookstown Road, Enniskerry. Wicklow County Council was against the development on the grounds that it contravened the development plan and would cause a traffic hazard, and the development had also been opposed by many in the local community.

The application was made by Cairn Homes plc. The planning grant will enable Cairn to construct 105 houses, 60 duplex and maisonette apartments and a creche at the site. The development will also include significant open and landscaped spaces.

Michael Stanley, CEO & Co-Founder, Cairn said: "I welcome the decision by An Bord Pleanála to grant planning permission for the development of our Cookstown Road site in Enniskerry. This development will contribute to the delivery of private housing in the Enniskerry area which continues to experience high demand for quality family housing. Our focus is and continues to be on creating a high-quality development for the local community in the area."

Cairn said it is committed to the design and delivery of exceptional residential schemes and looks forward to adding Cookstown Road to its expanding delivery portfolio.

Wicklow County Council had made a submission stating that the development would materially contravene the zoning objectives for the area.

In its conclusions, ABP stated that subject to compliance with conditions, the development would not seriously injure the residential or visual amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity and would not endanger public safety by reason of traffic hazard. "The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development in the

area," ABP said.

ABP maintains that the development would not materially contravene a land use zoning. "Permission for the proposed development should be granted having regard to Government policies as set out in Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework", ABP said. "These guidelines and policies contain objectives which support the delivery of residential development in appropriate locations through the promotion of densities on serviced sites in urban areas. The proposed development is located on a serviced site identified for growth in the Action Area Plan in the Bray Municipal Local Area Plan 2018-2014."

"The proposed development is considered to

be of strategic or national importance by reason of its potential to contribute to the achievement of the Government's policy to increase delivery of housing as set out in the provisions of the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness 2016," ABP stated, "and to facilitate the achievement of greater density and height and range of typologies in residential development and to facilitate the achievement of compact residential growth in an urban centre close to public transport and centres of employment. The site, located in an area designated for growth, on an edge of centre location on Enniskerry, circa 20 km from Dublin centre and served by public transport, can assist the delivery of housing.

Wicklow rents rise 8.3% in one year

Sinn Féin TD, John Brady, has expressed his frustration at the failure of the government to address the shortage of housing crisis in the country, which has led directly to the situation highlighted in the recent 'Daft.ie' report on the increase in the cost of renting accommodation in Ireland.

The report states that the average home rental in Wicklow is an astonishing €1,555 per month, which represents a year on year increase of 8.3%. The average listed rent is now €1554, up 101% from its lowest point.

Deputy Brady said: "A litany of government failures is producing dire consequences in the rental sector across the country for ordinary people. The government has failed to put in place a comprehensive programme of home building to address the chronic shortage for hard-pressed families; the government has failed to cap rent increases, twice voting against Sinn Féin Bills in the Dáil, which would have accomplished just that.

Government folly has led to a chronic shortage of rental accommodation. Outside of the capital city of Dublin, according to the latest 'Daft.ie' report, there are a mere 789 properties to rent across the country.

This is resulting in the creation of an upward pres-

sure on rents, as with less and less people being able to buy a home, there are huge increases in the number of people seeking to rent a home. Which is resulting in astonishing levels of rent increases across the country, and which in our own county of Wicklow has led to an increase year on year of some 8.3% in the cost of renting a home.

It is now substantially cheaper to pay a mortgage than it is to rent a home. Unfortunately, the banks that we the taxpayers bailed out a number of years ago, are still making it difficult for ordinary families and workers to access mortgages.

We have had three successive Minister's for Housing, who have overseen the development of this debacle. Simon Coveney, Eoghan Murphy, and current Minister Darragh O'Brien along with their three government colleagues in Wicklow should hang their heads in shame.

Brady concluded:

"We need to see a major government commitment to increase capital investment in affordable housing, to both buy and rent. We need to see the introduction of a ban on rent increases for the next three years, and a refundable tax credit for renters that would put one month's rent back in the pocket of hard-pressed renters. We need to see the delivery of affordable cost rental homes, delivered at scale, where they are needed."



Aoife Devitt, Sophie, Leila, Daisy, Heidi, and Boo the dog checking out Maxi Zoo's store makeover at Bray Retail Park. Customers were invited to see the revamped premises, with a lot of perks. Customer's could snap a selfie at the pop up photobooth before browsing the newly merchandised store with an improved layout, lighting and product signage making shopping for your pet even easier. Maxi Zoo Bray opened on 22nd April 2010, and was the 7th addition to the Maxi Zoo family with staff that love pets as much as you do. Pic: Joe McQuillan



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Continued from page 1

oligarchy that is deaf to the membership."

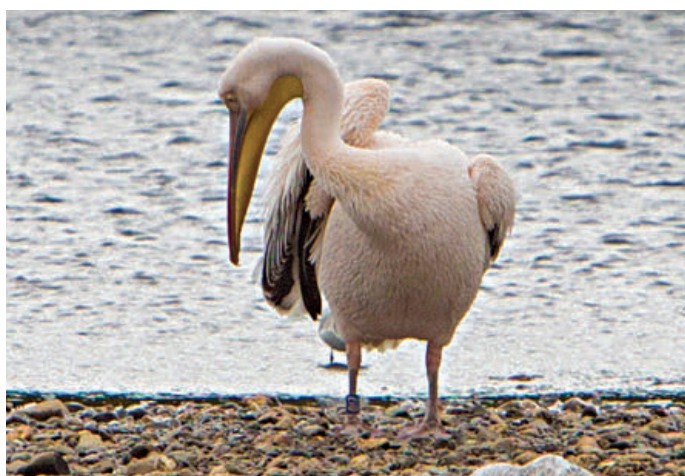
One former Fianna Fáil member said, "I have seen the loyalty and hard work of the local membership sacrificed over the expediency of the whims of Donnelly, where two weak candidates were placed in the field in Bray, including one who was never even a Fianna Fáil member. One of these has since joined

the Green Party

"Fianna Fáil headquarters, in permitting Stephen Donnelly this level of control over the North Wicklow organisation, is creating a Donnelly dictatorship where a 'boys club' of his former parliamentary assistant and his Blackrock based public relations guru, Conor Dempsey, who voted at the Bray convention, having never attended a single meeting, are having a greater say over the

local Fianna Fáil organisation than the democratic interests of the membership and long-time supporters.

"With just a skeleton Fianna Fáil membership left, Stephen Donnelly is attempting to assert control over the organisation by inserting Donnelly loyalists at Wicklow County Council level with the support of Fianna Fáil HQ over the heads of the local membership and supporters."



A Great White Pelican made a very rare flying visit to Arklow recently after escaping from Fota Wildlife Park in Co. Cork. It landed in Arklow before going on to Bull Island in Co. Dublin. According to Fota Wildlife Park, the Great White Pelican is a superb flier and can fly for a whole day and night without stopping, covering distances of up to 300 miles. Air spaces in its bones and under its skin make it very light for its size, allowing it to travel such distances. It's natural habitat is the swamps and shallow lakes of Southeastern Europe, Asia and Africa. Fota Wildlife Park says about the Great White Pelican: "One of the largest flying birds in world, the Great White Pelican is a striking-looking animal. Generally weighing about 10kg and with a wingspan of nearly three metres, they are graceful and fast in the air or water but awkward on land. Males are larger than females and both sexes have long, distinctive beaks that are hooked at the end. Generally pure white, the bird has a pink facial patch around its eyes and pinkish, short legs."

Free online training and workshops

Bray Area Partnership has launched its autumn training programme - with a variety of free workshops and courses starting from September 2021. The programme includes training to help you upskill and get back to work if you're unemployed, parenting programmes, courses to support wellbeing, and training for local community groups.

If you're looking for work, training on offer will include: Careers Skills; Manual Handling; Food Safety, Hygiene and Allergen Awareness; Barista Essentials; and a Start Your Own Business Bootcamp. To support wellbeing and creativity, there will be Yoga for Relaxation; Healthy Eating for Healthy Ageing; and Beginners Smartphone Photography.

Fáilte Isteach Conversational English classes for people from new communities will start again with a new term in September. For voluntary and community groups there's an Introduction to Motivational Interviewing course where you can learn the skills to help individuals you support make positive change in their lives. Or why not explore the option of setting up a Social Enterprise in the Introduction to Social Enterprise workshop? This training is funded by the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme, (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

You must be living in Bray, Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Kilmacanogue, Newcastle Lower or Newtownmountkennedy to qualify to take part in this training and other criteria may apply. See www.brayareapartnership.ie to find out more or call 01 286 8266.



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Sustainable transport bridge proposed for Dargle River

A planning application has been lodged with An Bord Pleanála for a sustainable transport bridge in Bray, over the Dargle River. Sinn Féin TD John Brady and Councillors Grace McManus and Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien have made a submission to ABP requesting a screening determination regarding the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the development.

Cllr McManus said "This a substantial project that would have far reaching consequences for the community of Bray. Since going out to public consultation, many concerns have been raised around the risk of flooding, impact on biodiversity and wildlife and safety issues.

"While we welcome that Wicklow County Council have done several reports to examine these issues, in terms of public confidence and diligent environmental protection in a project with such potential consequences as this, it is my belief that every avenue of protective measures must be exhausted. That is why we are supporting the call for a

screening determination by An Bord Pleanála to see if further environmental reports are indeed necessary."

Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien said, "We have declared a Climate and Biodiversity crisis in County Wicklow. For me that means we should take our responsibilities seriously and make use of every available option to investigate the impact and implications of a project on this scale. There should be no space for acceptable collateral damage in a crisis and therefore an EIA represents an important component of the deliberations on this project."

Deputy John Brady said "Myself and my colleagues Cllrs

Grace McManus and Dermot O'Brien have made a submission to An Bord Pleanála requesting a screening determination regarding the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the new Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge over the Dargle River. I fully support the need for a new bridge over the Dargle River, however we must ensure that all the necessary oversight and protective measures are carried out as part of the planning process. I believe it is essential that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is carried out to evaluate any potential negative impact."

Deputy Brady concluded,

"Whilst its ambitious to develop a 22 metre high bow-string arched bridge and link road which will consist of a two-lane public transport road, concerns have been raised about the impact this will have on the floodplain, public safety on the Seapoint Road and the wildlife in the area. Wicklow County Council has stated that it has concluded from a screening determination that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development, however I believe there are issues that warrant further analysis and that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is carried out."

Over 100 Wicklow volunteers already registered for the Big Beach Clean

Registrations for the Big Beach Clean only opened a couple of weeks ago and 5,000 volunteers from all over Ireland have already registered to receive free clean-up kits to tackle litter in over 200 different locations.

In County Wicklow, over 100 volunteers have already signed up to carry out clean-ups in different locations across the county.

The Big Beach Clean is an annual call-to-action organized by Clean Coasts that calls volunteers from communities all over Ireland getting involved to remove litter from our beautiful coast at the end of the bathing season, as part of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), operated internationally by Ocean Conservancy. This year, the initiative will run between 17th-19th September, which is also the same weekend as World Clean-up Day.

Communities and volunteers across the country are invited to register their own clean-ups in any location in Ireland, no matter how far from the coast. Alternatively, Clean Coasts will be facilitating a number of clean-ups in several counties, for people who wish to join them. Places will be limited, so make sure you check the calendar of events and register your interest through Clean Coasts' website or social media.

The Big Beach Clean is also an opportunity for volunteers to get involved in a worldwide citizen science project, which entails collecting

the amount and types of litter on Irish beaches and filling in Clean Coasts' Marine Litter Data Cards. This will help heighten awareness about the issue of marine litter serving as an indicator of the magnitude of the problem.

Public participation through Citizen Science is the key concept in which everyone does their small part to increase knowledge and provides a lifeline to scientists that would not have the capacity to carry out this research alone and the data collected contributes to a growing body of knowledge, helping to reveal patterns and trends, identify areas for further research and even inform policy. The benefits of citizen science, however, are not only confined to the scientific community. Taking part in these collaborative efforts also promotes active citizenship, increases environmental awareness, and enables people to be part of a bigger picture.

Statistics show that the number one cause of marine litter is litter dropped in towns and cities. This is why the Big Beach Clean will once more be open to all residents of Ireland, no matter how far from the coast they are based, thanks to the involvement

of the National Spring Clean Programme. Getting involved in the Big Beach Clean is a way for residents of non-coastal counties to help prevent litter entering our waterways and seas by holding a clean-up no matter where they are in the country and tackling the problem at source.

Finally, Cully and Sully will support the initiative again, by providing registered volunteers with the Big Beach Clean kits. Cullen Allen (Cully) said "Cully &

Sully are proud to be partners with the Big Beach Clean again for 2021. The work carried out by the teams across the Island of Ireland is amazing and unfortunately very much needed during these times. We all use our local beaches and have spent time on many of the beautiful beaches and waterways across Ireland and are so thankful for the work that the groups and organisations do."

"Highlighting the importance of taking

your rubbish home with you and encouraging everyone to do their part really is critical in the world we are living in. We would urge everyone to get out during the Big Beach Clean 2021.

"Why not get together with your family, friends, work colleagues or even your classmates and make a fun day of it whilst also helping this amazing initiative. We need to maintain our clean beaches and waterways and protect them for future generations."



COVID-19 Vaccines



**COVID-19
VACCINE**
Public Health
Advice



If your child is aged 12 to 15, they will be offered a free COVID-19 vaccine next.

- i** COVID-19 usually causes mild to moderate illness in this age group, but it can cause more severe illness. All children aged 12 to 15 will be offered a vaccine, but they are especially important for children who:
- have long-term health conditions
 - live with someone who is more at risk from COVID-19

- 📞** The quickest and easiest way to register is on **hse.ie**. To register, you will need your child's Personal Public Service (PPS) number. You will also need an Eircode, mobile phone number and email address. If you don't have any of these or you don't want to register online, call HSELive on **1800 700 700**.

- 📞** **When to register**
Registration is open now.

- 🏠** Most children will be vaccinated at HSE vaccination centres. You'll get an appointment for your child by text message 3-7 days before their vaccination. Participating pharmacies can also give vaccines to this age group. Talk to your pharmacist or check **hse.ie** for a list. A parent or legal guardian will need to give consent. Find out more about this on **hse.ie** or by calling HSELive.

- 💉** Children aged 12 to 15 will be offered the COVID-19 Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. They will need two doses of the vaccine for the best possible protection.

- i** COVID-19 vaccines are helping to protect our communities, but COVID-19 is still infecting people. If you're aged 16 or over and you haven't registered yet, please register now, online or on the phone. You can also go to a walk-in clinic, or talk to your local pharmacy. If you have questions about your COVID-19 vaccine, we have answers you can trust on **hse.ie**.

#ForUsAll

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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Director of Golf at Druids Glen Golf Resort Marcus Doyle with actor Bill Murray

Bill Murray helps 'putt' Wicklow on the map!

Actor Bill Murray was visiting Ireland last week - filming a new season of a golf series called *The Links Life*. The golf travel documentary will air on YouTube and other major streaming platforms and will highlight some of our top golf courses. The first stop on his Ireland itinerary was Druids Glen Golf Resort in Newtownmountkennedy.

Viewers will see the *Caddyshack* and *Lost in Translation* star - who is joined by the show's presenter, author Tom Coyne - play a number of courses around Ireland - including Druids Glen, the O'Meara course at Carton House, Carne Golf Links, Portsalon, the new St Patrick's Links course at Rosapenna, Cruit Island, Narin & Portnoo, Enniscrone, Connemara, Galway Bay Golf Resort and Ballybunion. Filming for the series is supported by Tourism Ireland and Fáilte Ireland.

Publicity and broadcasts like this are a key element of Tourism Ireland's programme of activity, to keep Ireland front and centre in the minds of future visitors from the US and elsewhere around the world.

Niall Gibbons, Chief Executive of Tourism Ireland, said: "We are delighted to support the filming of *The Links Life* featuring Bill Murray. It is a really great way to showcase Ireland and some of our top golf courses. Our aim is to remind viewers that Ireland offers some of the very best golf in the world, as well as spectacular scenery and fantastic experiences. The episodes filmed here will help ensure that Ireland stays 'top of mind' among golfers in the US and elsewhere around the world."

Funding to enhance streetscapes & shopfronts in towns and villages

Wicklow will receive a total of €320,000 to support the enhancement of streetscapes and shopfronts in rural towns and villages as part of a new €7 million national fund, Minister Simon Harris has said.

Minister Harris said the announcement of the Streetscape Enhancement Initiative from Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, will provide funding to property owners to improve the facades of their buildings and will be a great boost for communities in Wicklow.

The Streetscape Enhancement Initiative is a key part of the Our Rural Future campaign and will make rural towns and villages more attractive places to live, work and visit. The allocation of funding is based on the number of towns and vil-

lages in each county.

Minister Harris said, "Funding of €320,000 for Wicklow towns and villages will see communities across our county becoming more colourful, vibrant and attractive places. Projects will include upgrades to building facades, artwork, murals, lighting, street furniture and canopies."

"Other projects across Wicklow will include the commissioning of murals in towns and villages, the provision of street planting, shrubbery, trees and flowers boxes and the illumination and lighting of architectural features."

It also includes the installation of canopies and street furniture which will contribute to the great work done by many bar and restaurant owners this summer.

"Collaboration and strategic thinking will form a key part of this initiative; Local Authorities will work with businesses and property owners, and we'll also see strategic collaboration between property owners themselves to paint buildings or shopfronts in vibrant colours."

Announcing the new initiative, Minister Humphreys said, "We

have all seen the huge success of towns across the country who have put a major focus on improving their streetscapes by painting buildings in vibrant colours, upgrading and restoring their traditional shopfronts and removing unnecessary clutter from their main streets."

"Outdoor Dining is here to stay, and I believe that will only be a positive for towns and villages across the country."

"Through this fund, we want to make sure that people are looking out at vibrant, colourful and welcoming streets in our rural towns."

Funding announced for fisheries conservation

Over €770,000 awarded to 17 projects to support fisheries conservation across Ireland including a project in Avoca catchment in Wicklow

Inland Fisheries Ireland, the state agency with responsibility for the protection and conservation of freshwater fish and habitats, is awarding funding to 17 projects in 11 counties under the 'Habitats and Conservation Scheme 2021'.

In Wicklow, €50,000 in funding has been awarded to the East Wicklow Rivers Trust. The grant will be used to fund surveys, reports and a feasibility study to identify the optimum solution for fish to move through an 'impassable' weir at Ballinglen Bridge on the Derry River in the Avoca catchment.

Under two separate funds, the Salmon and Sea Trout Rehabilitation, Conservation and Protection Fund and the Midland Fisheries Fund, eligible angling clubs, commercial fishermen and fishery owners were invited to apply for financial assistance to support fisheries conservation projects in their local areas.

€774,000 in funding for 17 projects has been approved so far this year, going to projects based in Wicklow, Carlow, Wexford, Cork, Donegal, Galway, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Mayo and Westmeath. Examples include:

- Construction of rock ramp passageways to make it easier for fish to migrate upstream and downstream of impassable weirs
- Improvements to water quality by installing fences to stop livestock from entering the river and providing water pumps and troughs for livestock to minimise agricultural impacts
- Encouraging wild river regenera-

tion by planting native Irish trees and shrubs along riverbanks in combination with fencing

- Enhancement of spawning and nursery habitats for salmon and sea trout
- Research to inform and improve national management decisions around sea trout
- Carrying out catchment-focused feasibility studies, habitat management plans, aquatic invasive species plans and environmental assessments to improve river habitats and species
- Soft engineering works to help regenerate the land and water adjacent to rivers.

The announcement has been welcomed by Minister Eamon Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. The Minister said: "The Habitats and Conservation Scheme 2021 is a great example of proactive conservation and protection of habitats. The scheme will support angling clubs, commercial fishermen and fishery owners in improving habitats, water quality and fish passage at a local grassroots level. The works and studies supported by the scheme will also result in wider benefits for the environment."

Since 2016, Inland Fisheries Ireland has made more than €4 million available through its vari-

ous funding schemes, including the two 2021 funds. Suzanne Campion, Head of Business Development with Inland Fisheries Ireland said: "Protecting and conserving fish species, like Atlantic Salmon and Sea Trout, is critical to overall health of our eco-system. Threats like water pollution, climate change and invasive species are all having a damaging impact. Under the Habitats and Conservation Scheme, made possible through fishing licence income, groups all over the country will be working on projects and measures that benefit the conservation of salmon, sea trout and their freshwater habitats."

Financial assistance under the Salmon and Sea Trout Rehabilitation, Conservation and Protection Fund (SSTRCPF total of €744,326) is generated by the sale of salmon and sea trout angling licences and commercial fishing licences in Ireland. The Midlands Fisheries Fund (MFF total of €29,778) is financed through contributions from permit income, received through the Midlands Fisheries Group permit area. To be eligible, applicants to the SSTRCPF must have purchased a valid salmon and sea trout angling licence or a commercial fishing licence or for the MFF, hold a current Midlands Fisheries Group permit.

Further allocations of funding may be announced later in the year and the full list of projects can be seen at www.fisheriesireland.ie.

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Maxi Zoo staff Sophie Ward, Maya Power, Katie Byrne, and Fatima Branco at the store makeover at Bray Retail Park. Customers were invited to see the revamped premises with a lot of perks. Customers could snap a selfie at the pop up photobooth before browsing the newly merchandised store with an improved layout, lighting and product signage making shopping for your pet even easier. Maxi Zoo Bray opened on 22nd April 2010, and was the 7th addition to the Maxi Zoo family with staff that love pets as much as you do. Pic: Joe McQuillan

Wicklow group calls on Donnelly to publish timeline for safe access zone legislation

North Wicklow Together for Choice and Equality has called on Minister for Health and Wicklow TD Stephen Donnelly to publish a timeline for when safe access zone legislation is to be enacted.

It has been three years since the then Minister for Health, Simon Harris, committed to safe access zone legislation to stop the practice of protests and vigils outside medical premises.

"We believe such protests have the singular intention to shame vulnerable people seeking reproductive healthcare and to intimidate staff," stated North Wicklow Together for Choice and Equality.

Sarah Murphy, spokesperson for North Wicklow Together for Choice and Equality, highlighted the strong feelings felt by so many upon reading recent reporting: "Simply, we've just had enough. We are beyond frustrated and frankly, Minister Donnelly's assertion that he is now committed to enacting safe access zone legislation is meaningless without a timeline for the enactment of legislation. We need action, not more promises."

"While the Department of Health believe that there have been a 'limited number' of protests outside maternity hospitals and GP surgeries since the introduction of termination of pregnancy services (TOP), we know that this is simply not true. Preliminary findings from research by Maynooth University, has found that 40% of healthcare workers have reported protests outside of their workplaces and 89% are in favour of safe access zone legislation. 40% is not a 'limited number'."

Mairead Enright, Legal Academic, has written that the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994 is not effective: "Section 7, which regulates display of offensive material has already proven ineffective to address display of graphic abortion imagery outside maternity hospitals. Other provisions under the Act are targeted at violent or provocative behaviour, and so are unlikely to catch more restrained activities - for example, silent or polite protest - which may nonetheless be hurtful, obstructive and intimidating to patients and to staff."

Ms Murphy continued, "While Minister Donnelly quickly issued a statement

to clarify that he was in fact now committed to enacting legislation, we have to wonder is this new commitment because of the public backlash and it being pointed out to him by his Green Party colleagues that safe access zone legislation is in the Programme for Government. His statement gave no insight into the progress of the legislation nor a timeline for its enactment. It was vague and offered no concrete detail."

Lourda Scott, Wicklow Green Party Councillor and Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, said, "The events over the last few days surrounding the legislation for safe access zones are deeply concerning. I welcome Minister Donnelly's statement that he is committed to progressing this. However, women have been listening to vague promises for long enough. This legislation was named as a priority by the previous Minister for Health, Simon Harris in 2018 and we are still wait-



Cllr Lourda Scott

ing. Protests are happening right now. People attending medical appointments are being intimidated, staff are being intimidated, people that have lost babies are being traumatised. Enough is enough. I ask Minister Donnelly to provide a clear timeframe for the enactment of this legislation without any more delays."

Jennifer Whitmore, Social Democrats TD for Wicklow is equally concerned: "It is absolutely unforgivable for the Minister to row back on this important issue. No person should be subjected to intimidation whilst accessing medical care, and the Government needs



Jennifer Whitmore TD

to keep their promise to legislate for exclusion zones. This is yet another example of how this Minister and this Government is failing women's health needs, and follows hot on the heels of the failure of the Government to allow partners in maternity hospitals, the ongoing debacle of the National Maternity Hospital and the treatment of those involved in the Mother and Baby Homes. At what stage will this Government deliver on their promises?"

North Wicklow Together for Choice and Equality says it is gladened by the outpouring of support for safe access zones by public representatives.

"The time is now for concrete commitments that detail the current status of the legislation and a deadline for its enactment," the groups stated. "We have waited long enough and the women of Wicklow, and Ireland deserve better. Patients and staff should be protected from having to run through a gauntlet of intimidation just to visit their doctor or get to their work."

"If people wish to protest the legalisation of termination of pregnancy, do so outside TD offices or government buildings. The point of safe access zones is not that some viewpoints must be silenced, but that some methods of expressing those viewpoints cannot be permitted. We call on Minister Donnelly to not delay any longer and provide a timeline for when this legislation will be enacted and pregnant people and medical staff will finally be protected from intimidation."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 8 OF 2021 – CONFIRMATION ORDER 8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow

Wicklow County Council has on the 6th day of August 2021, made a confirmation order confirming the above named compulsory purchase order as respects the land described in the Schedule hereto. The said order, as so confirmed, authorises Wicklow County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily for the purposes of the Housing Act 1966. It will become operative three weeks from the date of publication of this notice.

A copy of the order as so confirmed and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:
Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow.

An application for judicial review of the decision of Wicklow County Council, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (SI No 15 of 1986) may be made to the High Court within eight weeks of the date of publication of this notice in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

If such an application is made, the court:

- (a) May by interim order suspend the operation of the compulsory order as so confirmed either generally or in so far as it affects any property of the applicant until the final determination of the proceedings;
- (b) If satisfied upon hearing of the application that the compulsory purchase order as so confirmed is not within the powers of the Housing Act 1966 (as amended), or that the interests of the applicant have been substantially prejudiced by any requirement of the Act not having been complied with, may quash the order as so confirmed either generally or in so far only as it affects any property of the applicant.

SCHEDULE

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

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
21/06/64/100 8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow.	Dwelling house and land of 190m ²	Mario Testa and Christine Testa of 8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow.	Not Known	Not Known

Dated this 6th day of August 2021
Joe Lane, Director Services

Ardmore Studios acquired by Hollywood media platform

New owners pledge to boost productions

The world's leading media real estate and studio services organisation, a joint venture of Hackman Capital Partners and its affiliate The MBS Group, and Square Mile Capital Management, have announced the acquisition of two world-renowned film and television studios in Ireland - Ardmore Studios in Bray and Troy Studios in Castletroy, Co Limerick.



The A Stage building at Ardmore Studios

The partnership owns the world's largest independent studio and media portfolio, which now includes approximately €3.6 Billion in media real estate assets and exclusively services over 360 sound stages within its MBS Group network of 65+ locations across 46 cities and four countries.

Both iconic Irish studios will continue to operate with their existing branding, with CEO Elaine Geraghty and the staff at both facilities remaining unchanged.

Ardmore Studios and Troy Studios CEO Elaine Geraghty said "We are delighted to have Hackman Capital Partners, Square Mile Capital and The MBS

Group join the Irish screen content production community. Their industry acumen and global footprint will preserve the legacy of the Studios as well as ensure the continued success of Ireland's two most significant studios.

"Ireland has a long history of filmmaking and today's announcement solidifies the ambition of the industry, and will bring new opportunities in line with the Government ambition to establish Ireland as a global hub for the production of film, TV drama and animation. The demand for high-end TV series is exponential. We compete globally to attract inward productions and valuable investment

to Ireland and today's announcement is momentous to enable further growth of the industry in Ireland."

Long recognised as a world-class production destination, the Irish content production industry has experienced a boom in recent years, establishing itself as an increasingly attractive location for international film and high-end TV production alongside an already growing slate of indigenous production and talent. Screen Ireland, the State's film, TV and animated production agency, reported on 15 July 2021 that this year is set to break production activity records despite the disruption of Covid-19, with the

sector's economic contribution already estimated to be €289m from 37 Irish and international productions; on track to beat the previous production contribution record of €358m reached before the pandemic in 2019.

Michael Hackman, CEO Hackman Capital Partners: "Ireland is a superb destination for production, with the richness of its natural landscape, it's indigenous content industry and it's skilled production crews. We look forward to building upon this great history and are committed to growing both indigenous and international production activity in Ireland, by investing in and forging strong links with local talent and communities and by promoting further inward investment from international content creators."

Craig Soloman, CEO Square Mile Capital: "The extraordinary global growth in demand for high quality studio facilities and services continues unabated. Our partnership remains focused on opportunities to participate in the growth in this sector, on behalf of our investors. We are excited to grow our platform by establishing a presence in Ireland, which we view as a premier and growing global production market. While we have now established strong presences in several of the world's top production centers, we will continue to look for additional opportunities."

Troy Studios, Limerick, has become Ireland's largest studio complex, offering 100,000 sq ft of stage space and a further 250,000 sq ft for production support, including the largest sound stages in the country. Since its inception Troy has consistently served as a home for high-end international productions, leading to a regional uplift in content creation and inward investment throughout the south-west. Ardmore Studios, Bray, is Ireland's preeminent and foremost historic studio facility with over 140,000 sq ft of sound stages and some 160,000 sq ft of support



Almost 200 boxes of clothes and toiletries are currently on their way from Greystones to a Syrian refugee camp in the Lebanon. Local teens recently came together under the supervision of Fr. John from Greystones Parish, and helped to accept and sort the kind donations. Suggestions were made to donate clothing items appropriate for boys and girls aged 3 to 16, and that each household put together a toiletry bag containing items such as soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, sponges, hairbrush, roll-on deodorant, female sanitary items and other personal hygiene materials.

buildings. The iconic studio campus has contributed to Irish cultural history for over 60 years. Most recently, major titles such as The Last Duel, AppleTV+'s Foundation and Netflix's Winx have all benefited from Ardmore Studios and Troy Studios world-class studio infrastructure, state and regional support, quick access to adjacent natural locations, as well as availability of highly skilled local production crews.

Jason Hariton, Chief Real Estate Officer, The

MBS Group says: "These two Irish studios have established Ireland as a major global production hub and have played a significant role in delivering year on year growth in Irish film and television production. We are immensely proud to add these campuses and their talented staff to our global platform, and are committed to protecting and growing this unique legacy while working collaboratively with local stakeholders to enhance the Studios' offerings, further strengthening

their stellar reputation on the world stage."

Joe Devine, Chairman of both Troy Studios and Ardmore Studios says: "On behalf of the shareholders in both Troy and Ardmore, I want to congratulate Hackman Capital Partners on their acquisition and wish them every success in the coming years. When we were approached, we realised that this could really transform the outlook not just for the two studios but for the wider industry in Ireland. When we began this journey in

2016, we had ambitious plans to establish world class production facilities here in Ireland and create the market leader through acquisition and development. After a successful €30m company investment programme we have achieved our objective and are delighted that a global leader like HCP will continue developing the studios. The industry is transforming before our eyes and HCP will ensure that Troy and Ardmore - and Ireland - can take full advantage of that transformation."



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The new CAP for 2023-27 has been finalised in Brussels, with **€10.7 billion secured for Ireland**. Now, the national implementation plan must maximize the benefits for our farmers.



The Irish economy was strong when Covid-19 hit, and Ireland's Economic Recovery Plan and National Recovery and Resilience Plan will drive a **green, digital and jobs-led recovery**.



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FINE GAIL



Harris visits St David's to view progress on large extension

Fine Gael Minister and St David's past pupil Simon Harris TD visited St David's last week to attend the signing of the contracts for a major school extension and refurbishment.

Minister Harris said "As a past pupil of St David's I am particularly delighted to see the long-awaited school extension finally take shape.

Greystones has seen considerable investment in extra schools, classrooms and facilities in recent years and as a past pupil of St David's I am particularly delighted to see the long-awaited school extension finally take shape".

St David's extension will include a new PE hall, new classrooms, new technology room, arts room and media room. Not only does the extension provide St David's with much needed extra capacity but modern up to date 21st century facilities for pupils and staff. Works are due to be completed by the end of 2022.

"I would like to pay tribute to all the team at St David's, in particular principal Mary O'Doherty who retires this week and wish the incoming principal Simon Carey every success in his new role".

Enniskerry woman swims the English Channel to support sight saving charity

Sarah Mortimer from Enniskerry recently set off on her point-to-point Channel swim from Dover on the southeast coast of England. After 13 hours and 35 mins of swimming she arrived in Cap Gris Nez, France.

Following a trip to Ethiopia with Orbis in 2015, Sarah set herself several sporting challenges, all to raise funds for the sight-saving charity. These challenges included a blindfolded 10K run, a marathon and a half ironman (to name a few). So far, Sarah has raised €25,000 for Orbis's work in Ethiopia, where they are working to eliminate avoidable blindness.



Sarah Mortimer

Sarah, who is not a competitive swimmer, began training for the 33 km point-to-point Channel swim in 2018, and on the 1 July 2021 made her first attempt. Unfortunately, after swimming over 25 km, Sarah had to withdraw this initial attempt.

Before leaving Dover, Sarah said, "In 2015, when I stepped onto the flight to Addis Ababa to take part in the Great Ethiopian Run for Orbis, I had no idea the impact this charity would have on me. Having seen the incredible work on the ground in Ethiopia, I realised I needed to do more to support. And here I am, ready to take on my biggest challenge yet - none of which would have been possible without amazing friends and family. I am humbled by the support for both me and Orbis."

Speaking of the support, Dr. Maurice Cox, Chairman, Orbis said "Orbis is thrilled to receive support from Sarah. As a friend of Sarah's, I am so proud of her today. It has been a long journey of sweat and tears, but I never doubted she would finish. Having known Sarah's father, Liam, who was a former Irish international swimmer, I know he would have been bursting with pride to witness this magnificent achievement."

The rules state that swimmers cannot touch the boat and they can only stop to feed every 30 minutes for just 15 seconds. Like most things, Covid-19 impacted the normal circumstances of a channel swim. Sarah was not able to have any friends or family travel to Dover with her, other than the essential crew. And once she completed her swim, she was only allowed five minutes on French soil, before she got on the boat to return to Dover.

Through supporting Orbis Ireland, Sarah is helping to address one of the world's most pressing needs - the treatment and prevention of avoidable blindness. Since opening its doors, thanks to generous donations from Irish individuals, corporate organisations and an annual grant from the Irish Aid Civil Society Fund, Orbis Ireland has been at the forefront of eliminating the threat of blinding eye diseases across regions of southern Ethiopia. The charity brings together medical and behavioural components to treat and reduce the prevalence of blinding eye diseases, like trachoma

Welcome progress on Greystones Community College

Green Party TD, Steven Matthews has welcomed the rapid progress made on Greystones Community College following an on-site visit last week.

"The site was busy; work is ongoing at pace and from what I saw it is on target to welcome students on time for the start of term," said Deputy Matthews discussing the site visit.

"I know this has been an extremely stressful time for parents, teachers and students connected to Greystones Community College as they faced an uphill battle in getting a temporary site for their new school. The initial 8 units are just ready for the start of the school year and the larger, longer term project - the 16-classroom building will commence soon after.

"I am very encouraged by the huge progress in recent months. I have been consistently contacted by understandably worried parents about whether their children will be in classrooms in time for the new school year. Although the timeline and supply side factors presented serious challenges, through constant liaising with Minister Foley and the Department of Education the project has been delivered on time. The classroom units look well, and I was particularly encouraged by the quality and high standards of these prefabricated units especially the heating and ventilation controls.

"I thank Greystones Tennis club for the temporary accommodation solution last year when combined with distance learning, but it was never envisaged to be anything more than a temporary fix. I expect that the parents, teachers, and students alike will be relieved and look forward to the



Steven Matthews TD at the site of Greystones Community College

year ahead in much more suitable, purpose built, classroom accommodation.

"Overall, the stress that the shortage of school places has placed on parents throughout Greystones and Kilcoole is not acceptable and not something that future students should have to endure. Wicklow County Council and the Department of Education forward planning services liaise to ensure that zoning of land, population targets and the general demographics of school places provision are managed in the planning system. However, with the rapid growth in housing and population numbers in the area, which was agreed by Greystones Councillors in their Local Area Plan, it appears that the provision of school places has failed to keep up to pace. There is more residential development planned and zoned in Greystones and this will create further school

places pressure.

"In my view there is a flaw in the planning system, whereby an applicant for large scale housing only has to show that there is an adequate number of schools in the area to serve the development. There appears to be no onus on the applicant to prove that those schools have excess capacity of places to serve the increase in demand from their development. I have made a submission to our Wicklow County Development Plan that applicants for large scale housing, as part of their planning application, shall provide proof from each school that they have excess capacity.

"As we continue to build housing across the county, we must ensure that the community, public and transport services needed are delivered on time to turn houses into homes and better served communities", concluded Deputy Matthews.

'Apprenticeship system in Wicklow is in crisis'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has accused the government of hiding the full extent of the crisis in the apprenticeship system as he revealed that over 67 percent of all apprentices (13,440) are now on a waiting list to access off-site training. Of those apprentices unable to gain access, 127 are on waiting lists from the Kildare/Wicklow ETB area.

Deputy Brady said: "Sinn Féin has been raising the issue of waiting lists in the apprenticeship system for months. In March this year there were 6,928 apprentices on a waiting list to access the off-the-job training. By May that had increased to 9,071 apprentices.

"When this was raised again in the Dáil in July, I was shocked to hear that there were 'over 10,000' on waiting lists according to the Minister.

"Figures released to Sinn Féin spokesperson for further and higher education, Rose Conway-Walsh by the department show that the Minister knew then that the figure was in fact 13,440 and 127 are from the Kildare/Wicklow ETB area

"That means that over 67 percent of all apprentices are now waiting to access off-site training - training that is essential to completing and progress through an apprenticeship.

"I can only surmise, it was a clear attempt to hide the truly alarming rate of increase in the waiting lists after months of claiming the government were taking steps to address the problem.

"We have been contacted by so many apprentices in despair at the situation. One has been rescheduled multiple times and has just been informed he won't be able to access training until January 2022. This means his four-year apprenticeship will take over 5 years to complete.

"Another apprentice has been waiting since the pandemic began and has still not be able to access a place.

"Despite repeated assurances that action would be taken, waiting lists continue to spiral out of control. This has serious implications for not only their education, but also their income. Through no fault of their own, many apprentices will be

trapped on apprentice wages for years longer than they should.

"The government claims it is doing all it can to address the issue and has invested €12 million to support additional classes and teaching capacity. However, from department reports we know that savings of 16.7 million were made due to the state paying less in apprentices' allowances in 2020. This means that the government is not even fully reinvesting the savings that they have made.

"No other cohort of students are treated in this way. At the same time as the government is talking about the safe return of further and higher education to campuses of tens of thousands of people, we have a situation where the apprenticeship system has been left to grind to a halt.

"Despite the amazing efforts of administrators and teaching staff across the country, apprentices are being badly let down when it comes to getting the education and training which they need.

"Every one of these apprentices represent tradespeople and other professionals sorely needed now and for the post-pandemic recovery.

College Choice - A Different Pathway with BIFE

Bray Institute of Further Education are full steam ahead preparing for the new academic year and a return to relative normality in September after the unprecedented nature of the last year with COVID-19 restrictions.

While in many cases students, schools and parents see the CAO as the 'be all and end all' for those seeking third level education, nothing could be further from the truth according to Gabriel Allen, deputy principal at Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE). "Over recent years many new avenues have opened up to students to enable them pursue their dream career via a different route."

BIFE's Open Day on Friday 27th August from 10am to 1pm will showcase the large variety of courses they have in the College ranging from Art & Design, Media, Sport, Psychology, Body Therapies, Science, Business, Nursing, Theatre/Dance and much more. "We have over 70 full-time courses to choose from, all progressing on to Higher Education Institutes

in Ireland and abroad", according to Deputy Principal Gabriel Allen.

He added, "Further Education offers a learner, who may not have achieved the required CAO points, the opportunity to gain advanced entry onto honours degree programmes."

The huge range of courses available at BIFE offers learners fabulous opportunities, not only for those looking for additional skills or hoping to go directly into employment, but also as an alternative route on to a college course in a university or institute of technology in Ireland or abroad.

Over the past few years, graduates of BIFE have achieved honours degrees across a wide range of programmes, opening up a myriad of career opportunities from graphic design to performing arts to psychol-

ogy.

This year BIFE will offer Higher National Diplomas in the following: Fine Art - Art Practice, Acting, Dance, TV & Film production, Music Production, Music Performance, Traditional, Irish Music, Graphic Design.

As Gabriel Allen explained, "These eight courses will allow graduating students to proceed to the final year of an honours Degree Programme in Ireland or Britain if that is their ultimate ambition."

BIFE are introducing the following new courses this September: Traditional Irish & Folk Music Performance - BTEC HND Level 6+; Brewing & Distilling Technology - QQI Level 5; Emergency Care Studies (Pre-paramedic, Fire & Ambulance) - QQI Level 5; Barista, Pastry & Baking - C&G/QQI Level 5; Tour Guiding - QQI Level 6.

Allen assured that there are many opportunities for mature students to study and progress at BIFE. "All courses have valuable certification and offer progression routes to Higher Education, yet you don't need CAO points to study at Bray Institute."

To discover more about the courses available at BIFE, prospective students are invited to attend their 'Open Day' on Friday 27th August from 10am to 1pm.

Applications for September 2021 Courses are now open. Apply on-line at www.bife.ie or call the Institute any day during office hours on 01-2829668 for further information between 9am and 4pm.



Dr. Deirdre Keyes CE KWETB, Tom Fortune BIFE board of Management, Simon Harris Minister of Further & Higher Education, Gabriel Allen Deputy Principal BIFE, Ray Tedders Principal BIFE.



The Bray Adult Education Centre building

Learning for Work and for Life

To many people, this doesn't feel much like a time of opportunity, but that may be a false impression. The Covid pandemic has put a lot of things on hold for a while. A lot of normal activities are happening less than they usually would.

But it's quite possible that this is exactly the right time to consider taking a course that will offer new skills and certificates to back them up.

Education and training for adults has been available for many years, and the opportunities are increasing all the time. One of Ireland's oldest schemes offering support to adults who want to learn something new is The Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme [VTOS]. VTOS has been in place since 1989, and it's in every part of the country.

In north Wicklow, VTOS is available in the heart of Bray, in Bray Adult Education Centre, which is in the Civic Centre right beside the HSE building and opposite the INTREO office [social welfare]. Ten full-time courses and four part-time courses are ready to go in September, and the centre is still taking applications. The selection is surprisingly varied and those who have attended this centre over the years always say it was one of the best things they ever did. Learning new skills, making new friends, seeing new doors open before you; there isn't any down-side. It's truly for adults and it's one of the very best ways to beat the Covid blues.



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• 10 full-time courses • 4 part-time courses

Our 10 full-time courses

Course	Level	Details
Computers for beginners and near-beginners	[Level 3]	Learn to use a computer for a wide variety of day-to-day purposes
Art Crafts & Design for beginners and near-beginners	[Level 3]	Arts and crafts for people who have always wanted to but never had the opportunity
21st Century Skills for Work	[Level 4]	Learn all the modern skills needed for the world of work
English as a 2nd Language	[Level 3 - 4]	For people who need English for life and for work
e-Business	[Level 5]	How to do business on-line, including a wide variety of computing skills such as designing Internet sites
Healthcare Support	[Level 5]	A professional training leading straight to employment in a high-demand area
Creative Craft	[Level 5]	Art, Crafts and Design for more advanced participants
Computer Systems & Networks	[Level 5 with CompTIA A+]	Repairing, maintaining and networking computers in a hands-on course with excellent employment opportunities

Course	Level	Details
Special Needs in Childcare	[NEW Level 5 Early Learning & Care]	A professional training in Childcare with an emphasis on special needs
Inclusive Education & Training	[Level 6]	Highly specialised preparation for employment in special needs (both adults and children)

Our 4 part-time courses

Course	Level	Details
Computers for beginners and near-beginners	[Level 3]	Learn to use a computer for a wide variety of day-to-day purposes
Computers for the more confident user	[Level 4 - possible ECDL]	Learn how to specialise in computing skills relevant to most workplaces
Workshop Crafts	[Level 3 - 5 woodcrafts]	Working with wood, producing beautiful and useful objects, and gaining certification
Computer Programming & Coding	[Level 5 Programming Design Principles]	Learn to programme using coding skills in just few hours a week

Bray Adult Education Centre is in the Civic Centre (beside the HSE building).

Contact: Phone 0871666074 E-mail baec@kwetb.ie Web: baec.ie



Rueben and Aiko with Oliver the dog checking out Maxi Zoo's store makeover at Bray Retail Park. Customers were invited to see the revamped premises with a lot of perks. Pic: Joe McQuillan

Extra funds for local roads improvement

Wicklow County Council welcomes an additional allocation for Local Improvement Schemes in the county.

This will be used to continue improvement of non-public roads in rural communities and improve access to rural homes and farms, as well as outdoor amenities such as our lakes, rivers, mountains and beaches.

The additional funds bring to a total allocation for 2021 to around €750,000 which will benefit many communities.

While Wicklow County Council does not maintain these private roads and laneways, nonetheless these roadways represent a vital piece of infrastructure for rural residents.

The Council is pleased to assist in allocation of this funding and will be notifying applicants who will benefit from the Local Improvement Schemes when formal notification is received from Minister Humphrey's office.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SECTION 75 - ROADS ACT, 1993 PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROADS

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice that it proposes the temporary closure of the following public road in Redcross for the period described;

Main Street, Redcross, Co. Wicklow

From 09:00 Monday 16th August 2021 to 23:59 Monday 16th August 2021

From 14:00 Sunday 22nd August 2021 to 23:59 Monday 23rd August 2021

Alternative Route:-

- Eastbound traffic will be diverted at Avoca onto the R752 via Rathdrum and from there to Rathnew
- Westbound traffic will be diverted at Barndarrig along the R772 to the R772 /L2180 (Beech Road) junction in Arklow and from there to Avoca
- Local diversions will be signposted.

The proposed closure is to allow for the laying of a road covering to facilitate filming.

Minister for Sport is welcomed to Wicklow

Minister for Sport Jack Chambers was in Wicklow on Friday, where he visited Ardmore Rovers in Bray, Greystones United AFC and St Patrick's GAA Club in Wicklow Town.

Minister Simon Harris said: "I was delighted to be able to show Minister Chambers the valuable contribution Wicklow Sports Clubs make to our community and their exciting plans to expand and enhance their facilities.

"Wicklow is very proud of Ardmore Rovers' continued success and development however it is clear the club can no longer sustain the accommodation limitations it faces. The club is currently operating out of multiple different locations which is a significant logistical burden.

"Now that the pandemic is over I want to see renewed momentum behind the Bray Sports Campus project and I have met with the Minister for Sport.

"Wicklow County Council also has a role in advancing the project and I will be meeting the Chief

Executive of the Council to discuss this."

On visiting Greystones United AFC Minister Harris added: "Greystones United are going from strength to strength with 55 teams. I wholeheartedly support their application for funding for the development of another all weather pitch at Woodlands and showed the Minister for Sport first hand their valuable work and how the extra pitch is much needed."

Minister Harris spoke at St Patrick's GAA Club in Wicklow Town saying, "St Patrick's GAA is going from strength to strength with 34 teams catering for boys, girls and adults.

"I am excited by their proposals for their new 28 acre site and I am happy to support their application for Sports Capital Funding towards this project."



Minister Jack Chambers at Ardmore Rovers with Minister Simon Harris, Minister Stephen Donnelly, Steven Matthews TD and representatives from Ardmore Rovers

Minister Chambers also visited and met with representatives of Wicklow Town RFC, the Rathdrum GAA Centre of Excellence, Arklow Geraldine's GAA, Arklow Boxing Club, Arklow Rugby Club and Arklow Town Soccer Club.

In conclusion Minister Harris

said: "I am eager to encourage people, especially younger people to increase their physical activity and now that we are coming to the end of the Covid 19 pandemic it is important that we support Sports and provide clubs with the modern facilities and resources they need."

Female councillors form caucus

A new Wicklow Women Councillors Caucus has been formed to address barriers preventing women from taking part in local politics.

Following the 2019 Local Elections an unprecedented number of female councillors were elected to Wicklow County Council and in recent months these councillors have come together as a group to establish the Caucus.

Despite the recent success of female candidates in Wicklow, the picture nationally is that women continue to be seriously underrepresented in Local Government and make up just 25 per cent of all councillors.

The barriers and challenges identified to participation by the female councillors of Wicklow County Council have mirrored those outlined in

national reports such as the 'Independent Review of the Role and Remuneration of Local Authority Elected Members' (Dept Housing, Local Government and Heritage) and 'Women Beyond the Dáil' (National Women's Council of Ireland).

The aim of the Wicklow Women Councillors Caucus is to address these barriers and to strengthen co-operation between women across political and ideological lines and strengthen their capacity to effect change. They hope that through the work of the Caucus they can help build the capacity of women councillors, through

formal and informal mentoring, and to promote women's equality in Local Government in Wicklow.

The caucus is chaired by Cllr Lourda Scott aided by Cllr Avril Cronin as vice chair. The caucus was guided to this stage under the temporary chair of Cllr Anne Ferris.

Commenting on the setting up of the Caucus, Cllr Scott said: "A big motivation for me in for running for election was the lack of representation of women in local government. I see women everyday as the driving forces in their communities through volunteer work and activism but this isn't

reflected in politics. I have organised two National Women's Councillor Network meetings and now I am honoured to be selected as the first chair of the Wicklow Women's Councillor's caucus. We have a talented, hard working group of female representatives and I look forward to collaborating with them to build cross party relationships and work together on areas of common interest. It's often said that if you can't see it you can't be it. So I hope that being more visible as women Councillors we will also act to encourage more women from all backgrounds to run for election in the future."

Council commits to repair broken lights in Bray's Fáilte Park

Sinn Féin Councillor Grace McManus has welcomed confirmation that the lighting in Fáilte Park in Bray is finally to be repaired.

The lighting has not been working now for a number of years and has been a cause of concern for the residents.

Cllr Grace McManus said "The news that the lighting in Fáilte park in Bray will be repaired shortly is very welcome. There is an older population living in the estate who need well-lit pathways for their health and safety.

"Deputy John Brady and I had met and chatted with residents several times who told us their concerns around mobility and trying to navigate in the dark. We have been raising this issue and working with the council for over a year and a half to try and get a resolution to this, so the news of this work coming down the tracks will come as a welcome relief for all.

"Hopefully we will see the broken lighting back working before the dark evenings of the winter months. This is a case of ensuring our older population have the right environment to enjoy the evenings without undue risk due to poor lighting.

"I look forward to walking past the estate in the dusk evenings and seeing a well-lit, safer and happier estate."



Deputy John Brady and Cllr Grace McManus in Fáilte Park beside one of the broken lights

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Wicklow writer and director Antaine Furlong unveils debut movie *Rising Wolf*

A dramatic new sci-fi thriller has been written and directed by Wicklow man Antaine Furlong. *Rising Wolf*, which is set in Shanghai, was filmed in Fox Studios in Australia and has been acquired by Samuel Goldwyn Film for US, Canada and rest of world distribution.



Antaine Furlong – The Irish Writer and Director of *Rising Wolf*

Featuring music by Academy Awards nominee and BAFTA winner David Hirschfelder, *Rising Wolf* has already had a successful opening in cinemas in Australia and New Zealand, opened across cinema and multiple platforms in the US on 6th August, opened in Japan and across Europe on 9th August on iTunes, Amazon, Google Play, Sky, and Virgin.

Rising Wolf is a slick and deliberately disorientating thriller about a young environmentalist, Aria Wolf (Charlotte Best), who wakes up in an elevator in a high-rise building - with no recollection of how she got there! Trapped in a futuristic space and at the

mercy of the villains responsible for her kidnapping, Aria knows she has to rely on her instinct to survive in a situation that is completely out of her control.

The film boasts an impressive ensemble cast of well-known names such as Charlotte Best (Home and Away and also Tidelands on Netflix), Jonny Pasvolsky (Rabbit, Mortdecai and McClouds Daughters), Alex Menglet (The Seagull), Susan Prior (Aftertaste and The Rover, for which she won an AACTA) and Tahlia Sturzak (Netflix's I Am Mother)

Rising Wolf is the brainchild of Antaine Furlong, who recently

returned to his first love - film - after a stellar 20-year career in financing in the global entertainment industry. His interest in film goes back to his childhood in Roundwood where his father used to run the local cinema out of their living room. From there, Furlong went on to do small jobs during summer holidays on various films like *The Old Curiosity Shop* with Peter Ustinov. He was also a production runner on *Sweeney Todd* with Ben Kingsley, directed by Academy Award Winner John Schlesinger. Ant went on to work on various other films including *Kidnapped* where he got to meet his childhood idol Superman, Christopher Reeve. He soon became an assistant director, working with Mike Myers on a small Irish film called *Pete's Meteor*.

Rising Wolf is co-written with Kieron Holland and Sydney based Furlong says he is delighted that his dedicated team managed to successfully portray his unique and uncompromising vision to create a sci-fi psychological thriller - despite the chal-

with Peter Ustinov.

Over the course of his schooling, Ant became a production runner on *Sweeney Todd* with Ben Kingsley, directed by Academy Award Winner John Schlesinger. Ant went on to work on various other films including *Kidnapped* where he got to meet his childhood idol Superman, Christopher Reeve. He soon became an assistant director, working with Mike Myers on a small Irish film called *Pete's Meteor*.

Ant started his professional career in accounting, as he hoped someday it might lead to a better understanding of financing films. As time went by, Ant's career in finance took off and he grew further away from the film, although he was still able to write fantasy/sci-fi material at night.

After moving to Australia, Ant joined a small media technology company called Massive Interactive, as their CFO, shareholder, and lender.



Antaine Furlong – The Irish Writer and Director of *Rising Wolf*

lenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Myself and Kieron wrote this story 12 years ago and we're delighted that it has finally come to fruition. When Covid struck we hit a lot of hurdles, but we got back up and persevered. It was a Herculean feat by everyone to get the movie completed, but we did it. When I watch *Rising Wolf* now, it represents to me everyone's unwavering love for making the film, their professionalism dedication, and need to create. This is what art is - creating something from nothing."

Ant's first-hand experience behind the camera was after his father became an animal wrangler and he was fortunate to do small jobs during summer holidays on various films like *The Old Curiosity Shop*

He helped the company grow internationally with stellar clients like Sony, BBC, DAZN, Bell Media, AT&T, Lionsgate. After the successful sale of Massive to Deltatre, Ant decided to switch career paths and pursue his dream of filmmaking.

Ant started digging through his old scripts and pulled a great team of industry professionals together to make *RISEING WOLF* - a script he and his co-writer Kieron Holland wrote 12 years ago. The film is what Ant hopes will be the start of a dream he's always wanted to fulfill. He hopes *RISEING WOLF* will find an audience and that his journey inspires others to never give up, even if life steers you in the opposite direction.

Ant currently lives in Australia with his wife and four children.

Wicklow filmmaker showcasing Ireland's young alternative talent

'The Matchmaker' is a new short film from Wicklow filmmaker John D. Breen being shot in Listowel, Kerry this summer. A JDB Video production, where the crew has launched a crowdfunding campaign to ensure production can continue throughout August. The team at The Matchmaker aims to bring absurd, comedic, almost magical elements into an otherwise traditional, formulaic genre of film.

An Old Man's decade long disability benefit scheme is foiled when an iron-fisted Social Welfare Worker discovers the truth. Little does the Welfare Worker know, the Old Man is not as feeble as he tries to appear. In fact, he may be much more powerful than the Worker ever could have imagined.

'The Matchmaker' is a low-budget, independent, self-funded film and as creative, resourceful filmmakers, the team can make a lot out of a little. Their priority is to pay their cast and crew for their time and creativity, which is an essential part of making film production sustainable. However, their small budget can only stretch so far, so in order to do justice to the people, culture and legends of Kerry represented in the film, they have launched a crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo (link). In exchange for financial support, JDB are offering an array of quirky, worthwhile perks, from the Uncut Martial Arts Mini-Movie, to handwritten letters from the crew about the set and the legend of Dan Paddy Andy, to an Executive Producer credit. They hope this will entice people from all walks of life to support the arts in some small way.

The Matchmaker' is funded, co-written and directed by John D Breen, and produced by Katie Lee Lynch, and tells the story of the legendary, Kerry-based matchmaker, Dan Paddy Andy, in an innovative, eccentric way for a modern audience.

John D Breen, (24) from Wicklow, said of deciding to film 'the Matchmaker', "At JDB, we want to make films that people real-



Preparing to shoot *The Matchmaker* in Listowel.

ly want to see, that's all we've ever wanted to do and bringing a mostly unknown cultural figure like Dan Paddy Andy to people's attention just makes it better. We want to break the mould of traditional storytelling, escalating the narrative in unexpected directions. By bringing together Irish cultural legends and fresh storytelling techniques, we hope this film will be a dynamic addition to the Irish film canon."

Katie Lee Lynch, (22) also a Wicklow resident and producer of 'The Matchmaker' added, "The team is made up of remarkable young filmmakers who have made names for themselves in their respective fields, from running an established editing company, to touring internationally with their band, to producing an international film festival."

The money from this crowdfunding campaign will go towards fairly paying all cast and crew as well as supplementing the cost of editing an alternative film like this one. Any assistance is hugely appreciated, whether it comes in the form of a donation or spreading the word about the film and fundraiser.

Once 'the Matchmaker' is complete the plan is to enter it into film festivals and see how far they can take the story around the world. The Matchmaker is a special film, with an exciting point of view, and the hope would be that the money from their fundraiser will help them to realise this fun vision!

To donate, go to www.indiegogo.com/projects/the-matchmaker-another-painfully-irish-short-film/

Wicklow native releases film 'The Bright Side' nationwide

Following recent raves and awards on the festival circuit Break Out Pictures are delighted to announce that they will release **THE BRIGHT SIDE** in cinemas across Ireland from August 20th.



World-weary stand-up comedienne, Kate McLaughlin is in a dark place - she wants out. Her morbid prayers are answered in the form of a cancer diagnosis. To placate her family, she begrudgingly agrees to undergo chemotherapy. Armed with staggering levels of cynicism and a plethora of blackly comic jokes, Kate gets off to a bad start with four other women she encounters in the chemo ward; four women from all walks of Irish life, whose unsolicited friendships are perfectly designed to blow open her shut down heart.

Inspired by Anne Gildea's best-selling memoir *I've Got Cancer, What's Your Excuse?* THE BRIGHT SIDE is a fresh new dramedy about the healing power of love, laughter and friendship.

Speaking on the upcoming release, Director Ruth Meehan said "It was an absolute joy to make such a personal film as *The Bright Side*. It has nurtured, inspired and entertained me in a dark time. I am delighted to have a chance to share it with Irish audiences on the big screen this summer where I hope it will do the same for them."

The Bright Side is a Playground Pictures production, directed by Ruth Meehan, written by Jean Pasley and Ruth Meehan.

It stars Gemma-Leah Devereux, Tom Vaughan-Lawlor, Siobhan Cullen, Derbhle Crotty, Barbara Brennan, Karen Egan and Kevin McGahern. It is produced by Tony Deegan with backing from Screen Ireland, RTE and BAI.



Raiders earn Bronze Club mark

The Dublin Raiders basketball club, which has players from North Wicklow, are the most recent club to be awarded the Basketball Ireland Bronze Club Mark.

There are four levels to the Basketball Ireland Club Mark. Clubs must achieve a pass grade at each level to progress to the next stage. Once this level is reached, they will receive the Bronze Basketball Ireland Club Mark.

Dublin Raiders Basketball Club provides basketball training and competition to boys and girls living in North Wicklow and South Dublin. The Club was established in 1989 by American born and now Bray man Ed Randolph. The club has over 350

members aged 6 up to senior men and ladies teams. The Club competes in both Dublin Ladies Basketball League and Dublin Men's Basketball League.

Like all basketball clubs across Ireland, Dublin Raiders was affected by Covid-19 restrictions with their 2019 season being cut short and their 2020 season not taking place. The Club was very proactive in securing outdoor courts to ensure all members under 18 were given the opportunity to continue training outdoors in a safe and con-

trolled environment. Many thanks to Henry Hurley Principal Woodbrook Academy Bray for hiring their outdoor courts to the club. During the periods that outdoor training was allowed, Dublin Raiders had the four outdoor courts operating from 9am - 2pm every Saturday with over 100 players U18 availing of weekly training.

In addition, Raiders ran a 4 week Summer camp during July again in Woodbrook with 60 children U12 attending each morning session and 50 players aged 13-17 years

attending the afternoon sessions. Players travelled from as far as Arklow, Tinahely and Saggart to the camp. The Club was delighted to have current Irish basketball star Lorcan Murphy coaching alongside former Irish international player Shane Davidson. The Club also welcomed Jay Fazande, soon to be inductee of Fordham Athletic Hall of Fame, as a guest coach in week 2 of the camp.

Dublin Raiders were also delighted to see some up and coming coaches from their underage sections helping out and learning skills which will be put to good use helping at their Academy next season.

Dublin Raiders Basketball Club is looking forward to getting back on the court and hopefully seeing both ladies and mens leagues starting in late September. Due to the number of underage teams in the Club, Dublin Raiders welcome any volunteers over 18yrs who wish to get involved in coaching. Also, new members over 6 years old welcome, please contact admin@dublinraidersbasketball.com



Members of the Dublin Raiders Basketball Club



Wicklow forest named among top 5 for thrillseekers

Coillte is highlighting its top five forests for outdoor activities which are sure to get the blood pumping, and Ballinastoe forest has been named as one of them.

From mountain biking to ziplining, canoeing to wild camping, Coillte's forests have something to offer adventurers of all ages.

#A Red C survey reveals 56% of Irish adults did not know there are 260 Coillte recreational (with marked walking trails) forests they can visit.

Entry to Coillte's forests is free for pedestrians and cyclists with onsite carparking available for just €5 for the larger forest parks. Annual membership to visit all forest parks, on an unlimited basis is €40.

"Coillte is delighted to offer a range of outdoor escapes for adventure lovers in some of the most beautiful places in Ireland this summer," said Deborah Meghen, director of recreation, Coillte. "Enjoying the outdoors and nature has been a huge benefit for people's wellbeing in the past year and we hope it continues throughout the summer and beyond," she said.

Ballinastoe Forest, is 344 hectares, with about 40 car parking spaces. If you're a cyclist looking for a serious challenge this summer and some beautiful scenery, visit the mountain bike track at Ballinastoe. It offers stunning views of Calary Common, the Sugarloaf mountain and Lough Tay as you twist and turn beneath the forest canopy of this challenging and thrill inducing world class track. Not for the fainthearted, the single-track trails feature plenty of ups and downs, tight turns and technical elements on different terrains. Afterwards you can relax with a picnic or enjoy a barista coffee from the café. Bike hire is available on site.

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Judging of entries in the 67th Texaco Children's Art Competition is now reaching its final stages, with winners expected to be announced shortly.

Speaking at the announcement of final judging, Chairman of the judging panel and final adjudicator, Professor Declan McGonagle (pictured), spoke of his 'admiration' for the levels of creativity and imagination revealed in the thousands of entries received this year. In addition, he congratulated the children, their parents and teachers for keeping alive the spirit of the Texaco Children's Art Competition throughout Covid-19, despite the interruption to normal school activity. Through their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment, those who have submitted entries continue to demonstrate the importance that art has in the lives of our young people," he said. First held in 1955, the Texaco Children's Art Competition is widely acknowledged as the longest running art sponsorship in Ireland. It is hosted annually by Valero Energy (Ireland) Limited - the company that markets fuel in Ireland under the Texaco brand.

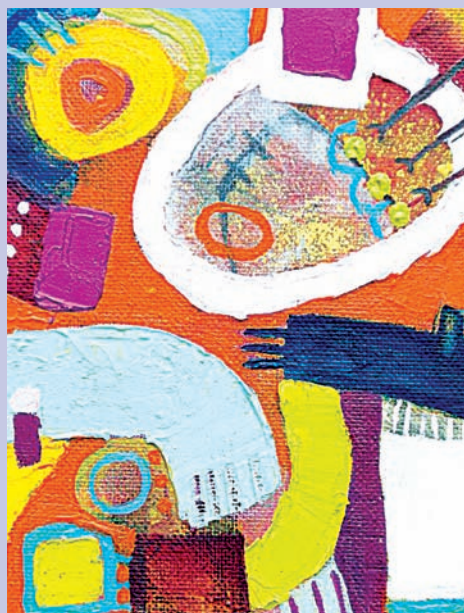
Coming up at Signal Arts Centre...

A Way to Equilibrium: An Exhibition by Derval Freeman

Monday 16th August to Sunday 29th August

A new body of work by artist Derval Freeman goes on exhibit at Signal Arts Centre running this August the 16th to the 29th. Titled, 'A Way to Equilibrium' her paintings began as a journey back into abstraction focusing on drawing, colour, shape and composition. Since graduating from Limerick School of Art and Design, Derval's style has evolved over 25 years or more and her exhibition will showcase a significant change in her direction, especially over these past two years.

Her art is an exploration and response to life, nature and the wonders of the universe. She paints in oils and cold wax medium and often begins with the drawing. Her paintings can be described as playful and vibrantly colourful with a thick application, in contrast with washes of bright sweeping colour transparencies.



Divergence - An Exhibition By Papillon Art Group

Monday 30th August to Sunday 12th September

Papillon Art Group is an eclectic group of artists from a wide range of artistic backgrounds and practices. They meet in the Signal Arts Centre on Saturday mornings, and work on their own projects and subjects of interest.

The group was originally founded by artist and tutor Gill Mac, who sadly passed away in 2019. Being a socially close-knit team, the artists decided to continue painting together at Signal and to invite other artists to give occasional workshops in different disciplines.

'Divergence' represents the group's transformation from having a much-missed friend and tutor to individual learning and exploration within the framework of a supportive and motivational team.

The exhibition is colourful and vibrant, depicting various subjects, such as animals, nature, landscapes, still life and maritime.

Exhibiting Artists are Aisling McMorow, Catherine Finn, Catherine Russell, Ciara Nolan, David Swail, Mark Diggin, Declan Vaughan, Gerry Parle, Jennifer Moran, and Audrey McCoy.



Wicklow artists shortlisted for competitions at National Gallery

Two Wicklow artists have been shortlisted for this year's Zurich Portrait Prize and Zurich Young Portrait Prize at the National Gallery of Ireland. Dragana Jurisic has been shortlisted for the Zurich Portrait Prize with her work *Daithi sleeps*, while Rita Ruitong Chen (aged 8) has been shortlisted for the Zurich Young Portrait Prize with her portrait *My Mum*.

From hundreds of entries, 24 artists made it through to the final stage of the Zurich Portrait Prize, while 20 young artists aged between five and eighteen years old have been shortlisted for the Zurich Young Portrait Prize.

The winner of the Zurich Portrait Prize will receive a cash prize of €15,000 and will be commissioned to create a work for the national portrait collection, for which they will be awarded a further €5,000. Two additional awards of €1,500 will be given to highly commended works. Judges for the Zurich Portrait Prize are: artist Eamonn Doyle; Róisín Kennedy, art critic and Lecturer/Assistant Professor in the School of Art History & Cultural Policy, UCD; and Seán Kissane, Curator at IMMA.

The Zurich Young Portrait Prize returns for its third year in 2021. Five winners (one from each age category and an overall winner) will be selected from a shortlist of hundreds of entries by children and young people aged up to 18 from across the island of Ireland. Winners will receive a bespoke art box and a cash prize. This year's Zurich Young Portrait Prize judges are: visual artist Aileen Barry; artist, art teacher and activist Joe Caslin; and Tadhg Crowley, Senior Curator: Education + Community at the Glucksman.

Exhibitions of shortlisted works in both competitions run at the National Gallery of Ireland between 13 November 2021 and 3 April 2022. The exhibi-

will travel to Crawford Art Gallery, Cork, where it will be displayed between 23 April and 17 July 2022.

Seán Rainbird, Director of the National Gallery of Ireland, said, "The Zurich Portrait Prizes at the National Gallery of Ireland continue to go from strength to strength. Our aim is to encourage interest in and excitement about contemporary portraiture, and we're thrilled to have Zurich partnering with us once again as we do so."

"A terrific selection of works has been shortlisted this year for both competitions, and we look forward to the exhibitions later this year at the Gallery and next year in Crawford Art Gallery in Cork."

Neil Freshwater, CEO of Zurich, said, "After such extraordinary competitions and exhibitions in 2020, Zurich are delighted to see another impressive selection of works in this year's shortlist. The Zurich Portrait Prize and Zurich Young Portrait Prize exhibitions are a highlight of the cultural calendar and we are very proud to continue to sponsor these competitions and to support Irish talent of all ages, now more than ever."

Find out more at www.nationalgallery.ie.



Dragana Jurisic, *Daithi sleeps*, Archival pigment print



Rita Ruitong Chen (aged 8), *My Mum*, Watercolour and pencil on paper.

Two 'Summer Songs' concerts remain

Two concerts remain in the 'Summer Songs' series of concerts that's been taking place around Co. Wicklow this summer.



Jessica Tierney and Aoibhe Lily O'Toole from Kilcoole are pictured with bodhrán player Robbie Walsh of the band Perfect Friction in The People's Park Bray at the launch of 'Summer Songs'

Sunday September 5th will bring Mary Coughlan and Leslie Dowdall & Feel the Pinch from 2pm to 4.30pm at North Beach, Arklow and the final concert will be with

Pillow Queens from 6.30pm to 9pm at North Beach, Arklow. At each location, viewing pods will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Viewing

pods will be socially distanced by 2m from each other within the venue. Patrons will be required to maintain a minimum of 2m social distancing and wear a face covering when outside their ticketed pods. All events operate a "leave no trace" policy and each group is provided with a refuse bag so you can take your waste with you at the end of the event.

The events will be fully compliant with government COVID-19 guidelines. Tickets are available from Eventbrite on www.summer-songswicklow.eventbrite.ie. Each Ticket admits 6 people to a Pod and can not be sold on an individual basis. Up to 200 people will be in attendance as audience members at each event.

The series kicked off in early August. It is part of the Government's Local Live Performance Programming Scheme and is presented in association with Wicklow County Arts Office.

Deadline approaching to apply for Brighter Future Arts Fund

Artists in Co Wicklow planning to apply for project funding from the new ESB Brighter Future Arts Fund, in partnership with Business to Arts, have until 5pm on Wednesday, September 8th to submit their application online.

The €250,000 fund is open to artists working with organisations on creative ideas that will engage the public in a positive way around the energy transition.

These artworks and arts projects can be in any art form that takes place on the island of Ireland including visual arts, spoken word, music, theatre

and much more. Potential project themes include environmental sustainability, engaging communities around climate change, sustainable development goals and imagining what a brighter future might look like.

For more information on the fund and for details on how to apply, visit: www.businessstoarts.ie/artsfund/esb/.



Pat O'Doherty, Chief Executive of ESB, with his granddaughter Eve and Andrew Hetherington, Chief Executive, Business to Arts, painting a sustainable future with a 3D artwork by artist Mark Cronin at the announcement of ESB's Brighter Future Arts Fund.

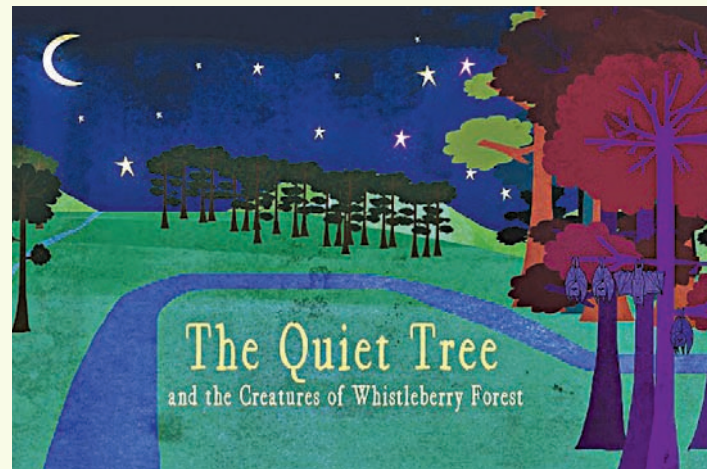
Coming up at Whale Theatre... The Quiet Tree – Ceol Connected

Sunday 29th August @ 12pm and 3pm. Tickets €12

The creatures of Whistleberry Forest have discovered a little oak tree growing deep in the woods. However, there are no birds singing, no leaves rustling, and no animals scurrying around its trunk.

Presented by Ceol Connected, this delightful show is packed with mesmerising music and singalong songs. Children and their adults are invited on an adventure through the forest where they will explore musical soundscapes, sing, dance, and help Ornaith the owl, Sorley the snail, and Faolán the frog bring the little oak tree to life through music. The Quiet Tree has been

described as "a wonderful, magical, absolutely enchanting and beguiling work... a real treasure" (Ellen Cranitch, Vespertine on RTÉ Lyric FM). The Quiet Tree has brought joy to children at events in Ireland and internationally including Etnosoi! (Finland), Cross-Culture Festival (Poland), TradFest at The Ark (Dublin), Ballincollig Winter Music Festival (Cork), Tradfest at The



Ark (Dublin), and Thomas Johnston (whistles and song) and supported by The Opening Doors Wales International Festival of Performing Arts for Young Audiences, and many more. Performed by Ceol Connected's This programme is

Colm O'Regan

Saturday 28th August @ 3pm and 8pm Tickets €22

Best-selling and critically acclaimed broadcaster, author comedian and, for recently RTE Comic Relief Quizmaster Colm O'Regan is raring to get back onto the stage after lockdown.

He is the author of six best-selling books including the Irish Mammy trilogy, Bolloxology and the two Ann Devine novels – the latest of which is the novel Ann Devine Handle with Care ('A heart-warming Irish tale provides a much-needed lift in spirits' Sunday Times 'very funny' Irish Times). He hosts Ireland's most successful storytelling night the Dublin Story Slam and is resident MC at Inn Jokes, one of Dublin's longest established Comedy Clubs. As a stand-up comedian, he has performed all over the world. His stand-up has also featured on RTÉ's Late Late Show and on Comedy Central. He writes and presents the multi-award winning RTE 1 Radio comedy show Colm O'Regan Wants A Word since 2016. 'an excellent series presented by the Cork genius' Irish Independent. Colm writes a weekly column about 'everything and anything' for the Irish Examiner.

This programme is supported by The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media through the Live Performance Support Scheme.



Hothouse Flowers Acoustic Show

Friday 3rd September 2021 @ 8pm. Sold Out. Register on waiting list at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550

Something amazing happens when Hothouse Flowers step onto the stage – something that has been shaped by over thirty years of singing and playing all over the world, yet no two shows have ever been the same!

There is a sense of musical adventure - an impulse to reach new heights and depths in music where the unspoken aim is that the band and the audience become one and the world becomes a different place for a while. Hothouse Flowers is a rock n' roll band, Hothouse Flowers is a traditional band, and also a soul band. Despite the bands lengthy career, which is now heading into its fourth decade there is a sense of unfinished business. Every night they want to play the best gig they have ever played and take the musical risks that can

maybe make that possible. There are still songs to be written and emotions to share. Hothouse Flowers were featured in the opening scene of Amazon Prime's hugely successful 'The Grand Tour' this year to perform their version of 'I Can See Clearly Now' for an invited audience in the Mojave Desert. I Can See Clearly Now then went to Number 1 in the UK iTunes Rock Charts... a mere 26 years after its first release! The band's recent UK tour saw them reveal new material from their new album 'Let's Do This Thing' which is out and available for download on

the band's website! Last year marked thirty years since Hothouse Flowers' debut album, 'People', was released. It was the most successful debut album in Ireland ever! Liam, Fiachna and Peter

joined Ray D'Arcy on his radio show on RTE Radio 1 for a chat and a few songs to mark the occasion. Hothouse Flowers will be touring in Ireland, the UK and beyond when possible.

This programme is supported by The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media through the Live Performance Support Scheme.



Wicklow company is turning grapes into bbq logs

As the Irish love affair with barbequing and wine continues, a Wicklow company has cleverly combined the two and is launching Eco Fire and BBQ Logs, made entirely from grape seeds.

The logs, which are a 100% recycled product and the first to come onto the Irish market are a by product of South Africa's booming wine industry, which has some 10 million hectares of vineyards producing millions of gallons of wine per annum and is one of the top ten wine producing countries in the world.

John Mulder of 'Eco Fire and BBQ Logs Ireland', based in Redcross, says the revolutionary product is set to transform the way Irish people BBQ their food.

"We're hugely excited about this product. It's a complete winner from so many perspectives.

"The logs are truly a unique product suitable for recreational BBQ's and domestic heating with so many of the pre-requisites that meet the drive to go green. Primarily it is carbon neutral, a 100% recycled natural product, and there is no impact on the environment as far as deforestation, mining

activities and usage of chemical binders to get this combustible product to the consumer. The flame burns bright for 45 odd minutes giving off a wonderful heat, then the coals maintain a good constant heat".

John is confident that his Eco Fire Logs and BBQ will go in part towards the growing effort Irish people are making to reduce their own carbon footprint as they embrace

green products.

"We definitely care about our planet and are taking our own personal responsibility for reducing their consumption, and switching to more environmentally friendly products seriously.

We are all more conscious about what we buy and are getting away from 'over consumption.

"That said, while the people are great, we do feel the Irish

Government could and should do more

Ireland has been talking for a while about going green and greatly reducing its carbon footprint and sustainability, and stopping the production of peat on a commercial scale it's however questionable why the Irish Government has allowed the importation of foreign peat briquettes, charcoal and coal as these are not carbon neutral products."



Victoria O'Brien and Mia Bolger with their pet dog checking out Maxi Zoo's store makeover at Bray Retail Park. Pic: Joe McQuillan

CLASSIFIEDS

John 6:41-51 GOSPEL

The Jews were complaining to each other about Jesus, because he had said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' 'Surely this is Jesus son of Joseph' they said. 'We know his father and his mother. How can he now say 'I have come down from heaven'? Jesus said in reply, 'Stop complaining to each other. No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets: They will all be taught by God, and to hear the teaching of the Father, and learn from it, is to come to me. Not that anybody has seen the Father, except the one who comes from God: he has seen the Father. I tell you most solemnly, everybody who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the desert and they are dead; but this is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that a man may eat it and not die. I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

REFLECTION

The Liturgy of the Word invites us to focus on Jesus who continues to draw us to Himself so that we can be nourished and strengthened like Elijah in the desert. Jesus chose to be the bread and wine to be in communion with humanity. Those who partake in the consumption of the body and blood of Christ establish a close relationship with him. Hence to eat of Christ's body and drink of His blood is to share in His life.

C.J.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

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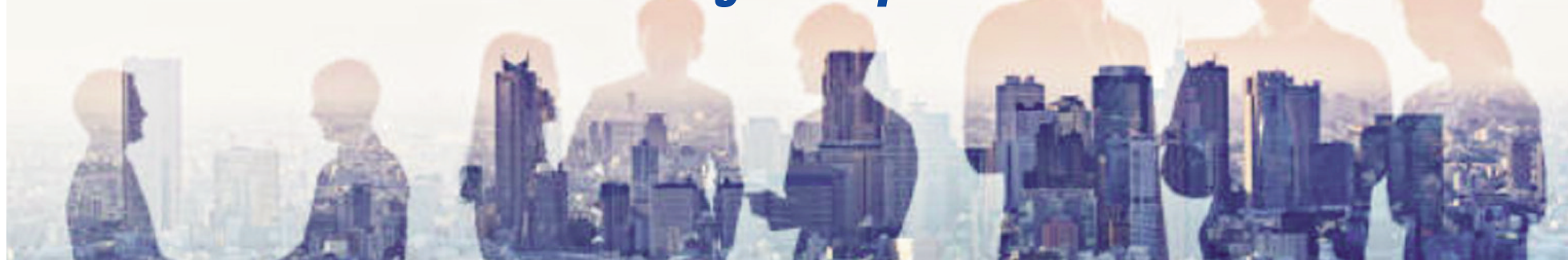
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GLC 300 de - innovative diesel hybrid is the frugal, fast and fancy mercedes

bhp - the combination giving a sensational 0-100kph time of 6.2seconds. This car is very quick. The hybrid drivetrain is four-wheel drive via 9 speed automatic gearbox - so it is able for the steep inclines of the Wicklow Uplands - even in snow and ice.

With a plug-in hybrid, you have an option of going on electric only journeys - but the battery range in this mode is just 35km.

The GLC is an SUV and the elevated seating position gives tremendous all-round visibility - especially important this year as many roadside hedges

have been let overgrow - dangerously limiting visibility around corners. The interior is superb - with vast, clear dashboard screens to aid safety, connectivity, navigation and

musical enjoyment.

The handsome AMG body styling is included as standard in the €62,300 price tag, which while pricey is a lot less expensive than the all-electric

SUVs of a similar size.

This could be the best selling Mercedes ever, in Ireland with its combination of qualities than will appeal to select Wicklow drivers.

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Mercedes Benz are expanding their range at an amazing rate - with no less than six new hybrid models being added this year alone. Generally, hybrids are a combination of a petrol and electric engine, but this last decade Mercedes have been a pioneer in developing a diesel / electric hybrid combination.

By Martin McCarthy



The reasoning is simple. Diesel engines are much more economical than petrol engines - with approximately 30% more km per litre of fuel. The GLC 300 de combined cycle fuel consumption is just 2l/100km, the road tax is an incredibly low €140 p.a. and CO2 of 49g/km makes it amongst the cleanest cars on the road. The 2-litre diesel engine produces 194 bhp and the electric motor a further 122

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WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Mr & Mrs Ian & Mary Hamilton seek permission for 12m² single storey extension to the side of & all associated ancillary works at 51 Deer Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within a period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

RECRUITMENT



**COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

• PERMANENT ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICIAN GRADE II

REF: 31/2021 Salary €27,926 – €43,546 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

• PERMANENT TECHNICIAN GRADE I

REF: 32/2021 Salary €40,900 – €48,941 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

• PERMANENT SENIOR EXECUTIVE TECHNICIAN

REF: 33/2021 Salary €46,606 – €56,186 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

• COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (TEMPORARY 5 YEAR CONTRACT POST ANALOGOUS TO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER G.VII)

REF: 34/2021 Salary €50,832 – €66,082 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS
12 NOON ON THURSDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2021 SHARP.**

Application Forms and further details may be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20159 or by emailing recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie and on the Wicklow County Council website www.wicklow.ie

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

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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

Phone: 0404 20159 Fax: 0404 20112
Email: recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie

GHS Greystones Home Help Services ASSISTANT MANAGER

FOR GREYSTONES HOME HELP SERVICES

Closing date for applications is 7/9/2021

Apply with covering letter and C.V. to

Mary Devoy-Franklin, Greystones Home Help Services, Shoreline Sports Park, Charlesland, Greystones, A63 CA18 or email:

marydevoy-franklin@greystoneshomehelp.ie

Call Mary on: 01 2016424

with any queries or to discuss role.

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