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Tuesday 31st August 2021 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

'ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!'

'OFFICIALDOM DICTATE TO WEAK, COWARDLY AND SPINELESS POLITICIANS'

Opposition is growing over the government's restrictions on the numbers that can attend various events with church leaders and local politicians saying that the restrictions are not only restrictive but also contradictory.

Archbishop Dermot Farrell, who believes priests should be allowed to proceed with Confirmations and First Communions if they consider it safe, despite Covid guidelines, has said there's been a 'lack of consistency' in public health advice.

Speaking on RTÉ radio's News at One, Archbishop Farrell said

"the only gathering that seems to cause any risk is a parent taking their child along to receive the sacrament of confirmation and that's simply not credible." He said that parents have to be trusted to respect the guidance.

Referring to the event organised by former minister for children Katherine Zappone in

July, he asked why "it's okay to have a bash in the Merrion Hotel with 50 people present. But yet, it's not possible for a parent to take their child along to receive the sacrament".

Independent councillor, Joe Behan has launched a broadside at our national politicians saying 'Enough is enough!'



Clodagh and Ellie Forde from Greystones at the opening day of the Sunflowers at Scalp Woods Nurseries, Kilternan, which were grown in aid of the Wicklow Hospice.

"Recent revelations that a Cabinet Minister, Minister for Culture and the Arts, Catherine Martin, was excluded from a Cabinet subcommittee meeting on Covid restrictions are shocking," said Cllr Behan.

"The arts sector including music and dance performers have been placed firmly at the back of the queue for easing of restrictions. This has had a devastating impact on their income and morale and they are rightly angry that Government is deaf to their concerns. Even their Minister can't get a hearing!"

"Shane Ross's account of the role of unelected senior civil servants in Cabinet subcommittees is also deeply worrying. In a recent newspaper column he described how the Cabinet received decisions already made

by the members of small Cabinet subcommittees. These committees of a select few senior ministers are guided in their deliberations by senior civil servants who obviously hold the power in their hands. When you add in the power accorded to the unelected members of Nphet, it is clear to me that we do not have democratic government in Ireland any more. Instead, we have strong, powerful and unaccountable officialdom dictating to weak, cowardly and spineless politicians.

"We are now entering the second month of Autumn and the vast majority of the adult population of the country have been fully vaccinated for some time. Yet, we are now told by Nphet that this is not enough. We are now being told that healthy young people and children must be vaccinated

if we are to open up again.

"We are told that it

will be the end of September at the earliest before any further

easing of restrictions is allowed.

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- Tax & VAT for Start Up Businesses Monday 13th September.
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- Digital Marketing Clinics (one to one) Monday 4th October.
- Prepare Your Business for Customs Workshop Wednesday 12th October.

For further details or to book GO TO:
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Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow
Phone: 0404 30800
Email: enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie

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Jog with your dog at 'Woofborough' House

Pawsitive Fitness's 'Woofborough' canicross event will take place on 12th September on the grounds of Russborough House in Blessington.

There will be 5km and 3km classes for a male and female, and two dog and junior classes available.

"We have different class options of various distances to suit all ages and abilities (even kids). Every participant will get a goody bag at the event, with lots of human and canine goodies and will also include a fab custom medal," say organisers.

"We're all about getting people out and about and staying active with their dogs. It's been a long year with no events and it's great to finally have an event to give people something to look forward to. We'll have lots of different types of people and their dogs there, from competitive runners, to people just coming to have a walk with their dog, to younger competitors and their dogs, as well as a special golden oldies and wonky donkey category! It'll be a very inclusive event, open to all. After the event itself, we'll also be holding a fun dog show too.

"For anybody who would like to make a weekend out of it, we have booked a dog friendly campsite just down the road from Russborough, so it'll be a lovely weekend filled with activities, dogs and like minded people."

For more information see @Pawsitive Fitness on social media or email pawsitivefitness@hotmail.com.



Those living in and visiting Bray urged to think before they flush

In a brand new video produced by the Think Before You Flush campaign, people living and visiting Bray are encouraged to keep their local environment; beaches and riverways clean by only flushing the 3 P's - pee, poo and paper, down the toilet and putting wipes, sanitary items and cotton bud sticks in the bin.

Launched on Bray.ie, this video features recognisable faces from Bray: local business owner Conor Duggan; Irish Freediver Claire Walsh; Vet, Journalist and Author Pete Wedderburn as well as much loved town mascot and positivity ambassador Bray's Barbie.

This video showcases the beautiful and diverse coastline and waterways Bray has to offer. Presenting stunning shots of the Seafront and the swans at the harbour, the video is a celebration of Bray's wonderful natural environment, while offering simple steps to help conserve and protect it, directly from home.

The video urges the people of Bray to make small changes in their flushing behaviour, by never flush-

ing items like wipes, cotton buds and sanitary waste down the toilet. The video highlights the impacts of flushing unsuitable items and encourages positive behavioural change.

Why #ThinkB4UFlush? Unlike toilet paper, which is designed to disintegrate quickly in our pipes and sewage systems, the synthetic materials in items like wipes, cotton buds and sanitary products makes them very strong and unable to break down. When these unsuitable items are flushed down the toilet, they can cause blockages in our wastewater network, pumping stations and wastewater treatment plants. These blockages can result in wastewater water overflows

which can end up on our beaches and in our oceans, damaging our marine environment. Think Before You Flush is a public awareness campaign operated by Clean Coasts in partnership with Irish Water, which addresses the issue of flushing these unsuitable items down the toilet.

Speaking about the campaign Pete Wedderburn said "Bray has such a wonderful natural environment, and the sea is key - the harbour, the beach, the birds, the seals and other wildlife. It's so important to care for all of this properly, which is why I feel so strongly supportive of the Think Before You Flush campaign."

Claire Walsh added, "Bray beach has been such an incredible resource to have on our doorstep, particularly over the last 18 months. The least we can do is take small steps at home to protect it." Check out the video on Bray.ie's Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



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Chris Proby makes a donation of €1,000 to Mary O'Brien of Arklow Cancer Support from funds raised from the 'Never Give Up' 5k-10k run

5km Night Walk for Irish Cancer Society's night nursing service

Boots Ireland has partnered with Muireann O'Connell, Virgin Media TV presenter, to launch its Boots Night Walk in aid of the Irish Cancer Society Night Nursing service which provides end-of-life care for people living with cancer in Ireland.

The Irish Cancer Society Night Nursing service is free to people who avail of it, and it is funded almost entirely by donations. Boots Ireland has been a proud supporter of the Irish Cancer Society since 2012 and through the support of their colleagues and customers have raised over €2 million for the service so far, equating to over 6,300 nights of care.

This year, due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines and to ensure everyone's safety, Boots Ireland is continuing to do things a little differently. The Boots Night Walk will take place on **Monday 6th September** - you choose the location and time of your 5km walk and we will all walk together from afar! You can visit www.bootsnightwalk.com to donate now or set up your own fundraising page and start raising money for this great cause ahead of the walk on September 6th.

Alongside the walk, Honour Tags are now on sale in Boots stores nationwide for €2. Customers can purchase a tag in honour of someone who has survived or passed away from cancer. The front of the tag allows for the name of the individual with space on the back for a personal message. One metre will be walked in honour of that person by members of the Boots Ireland team on September 6th.

All funds raised from the Boots Night Walk will go towards the Irish Cancer Society Night Nursing service which provides end-of-life care for cancer patients, allowing them to spend their final days at home surrounded by family and loved ones, as well as giving much needed respite for the family caring for them.

Exercise & Cancer Talk

As part of Cancer Rehab Awareness Week and to coincide with the recent opening of their new Cancer Rehab Gym, Purple House Cancer Support Centre are hosting a free talk on Exercise & Cancer: the role of exercise in cancer management and recovery. The talk will be given by Purple House's resident Physiotherapist Dr. Grainne Sheill and will take place on Zoom on Tuesday 7th September 2021 at 12.30pm. To register, please visit www.purplehouse.ie All welcome.

New Facebook page on local wildflowers

The Laragh and Glendalough community is home to a beautiful array of wildflowers that come into bloom during the Summer months. Although they often go unnoticed, these wildflowers provide an

important food source to our pollinators. A new Facebook page has been set up to document, using photos, the wildflowers growing in the area, & to provide information on their names and distribution.

The page can be found at: facebook.com/WildflowersLaraghGlendalough

Laragh/Glendalough Sustainable Energy Community

The names of everyone who completed the Laragh/Glendalough Sustainable Energy Community's home energy survey in 2020 were entered into a draw for a MiHome home energy monitor kit. Congratulations to Michael Cullen who was the winner of the kit.

"We wish Michael all the best in monitoring & improving energy use in his home. The energy survey was carried out as part of our funding from the SEAI into exploring options for improving energy efficiency in the community. We recently received a report based on the survey results from 3 Counties Energy Agency, and we are now planning the next steps based on the feedback.

"The UN's report on climate change (published 9th August) clearly lays out the challenge that lies ahead, even for small, rural communities such as Laragh/Glendalough. Climate breakdown is now 'widespread, rapid, and intensifying' and the window for preventing catastrophic change is quickly closing. The report also warned of increasingly extreme heatwaves, droughts and flooding, and a key temperature limit being broken in just over a decade. Improving energy efficiency in our communities is crucial to reducing greenhouse gas emissions & moving away from our dependency on fossil fuels. We all have a part to play, and Government support will be vital to helping with the rapid transition to a clean, sustainable future."

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NO ROOM IN CLASSROOMS

John Brady TD has called on the Minister for Education to urgently tackle large class sizes, as figures released to Sinn Féin show there are over 2,500 classes across the country with over 30 kids, with 83 of those classes in Wicklow. The average class size in Wicklow in 2020 was 24.1, well above the EU average of 20.

Deputy Brady said: "The pandemic has shone a light on the fact that our education system is underfunded, understaffed and overcrowded. It is clear that overcrowding in classrooms is a huge problem.

"The reality is that keeping school buildings open in the last year was made much more difficult because we have some of the highest class sizes in Europe. There are countless classes that are far too big, in buildings too small, and not fit for purpose. In Wicklow, for example, there was a shocking 38 kids sharing one classroom last year.

"The first step in ensuring that educational standards and safety protocols are maintained, is by drastically reducing class sizes down to the EU average of 20.

"If there ever was a time to tackle this issue, surely it is now.

"The government must immediately undertake an audit of class sizes across the country, and work to address this issue sooner rather than later, so that schools can remain open in a safe and sustainable way in the coming months."

Alongside the ongoing issue of large class sizes, the issue of school places in Co. Wicklow also continues to be a problem.

Wicklow County Council is being unfairly blamed for the lack of school places in the Greystones Municipal District, said Cllr Derek Mitchell, who instead

blames the Government.

Cllr Mitchell said that 16 years ago the Council zoned land for schools in Greystones but that the Department of Education "sat on its backside" and didn't build the schools.

Cllr Mitchell was speaking at a recent meeting of Wicklow County Council, where a notice of motion was put forward by Sinn Féin Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien asking that a presentation be given to councillors by the Council's Planning Department which "specifically illustrates" the existing provision of land that's available for education across the county.

Cllr O'Brien explained, "We [councillors] often get hammered at a local level when there's a crisis in terms of school places. Maybe rather than us trying to fight for schools in our own Municipal areas, we might look to prioritise areas as a council, and put collective pressure on the Department of Education to activate



John Brady TD



Cllr Derek Mitchell

some of these critical schemes".

He said that constituents are "really, really worried about not being able to go to the school in their local area. To show that our team are on the ball with this, we need to look at how to activate the Department."

Cllr Derek Mitchell said "The issue is that the council gets blamed for the lack of school places in a rapidly expanding place like Greystones. As councillors, at the suggestion of the officials 16 years ago, we zoned two sites, one for primary education, one for secondary education.

The Department of Education then sat on its backside for 12 to 15 years, particularly on the secondary school.

"The children of Charlesland, one of the densest developments and largest ones in Wicklow, should have been able to walk to

school. We did act on it. And the fault was entirely with the officials in the Department. They seemed to be allowed to do this, which I feel is peculiar. Anybody could see there was going to be a need for the schools in Charlesland. It's not rocket science."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran stated "We have more than enough land zoned for education, it's covered in the County Development Plan. It's there in the draft at the moment. When we come back from the draft, we can certainly discuss that in detail at that point in time."

The matter will go to the Council's Strategic Policy Committee for Planning for discussion.

Cllr O'Brien said "Maybe the Planning SPC, or the relevant SPC can consider where to put the pressure on the department."

In March, the Department of Education's Building Unit agreed to provide accommodation for an additional first year class in Greystones Community College, Colaiste Croabh Abhainn and Templecarrig.

Minister Simon Harris said "All these school boards are willing to expand their autumn 2021 enrolment subject to the Department of Education providing the necessary guarantees in respect of extensions and additional accommodation."

No evidence St Gerard's solicited vaccines, report finds

A HSE review into Covid-19 vaccines from the Beacon Hospital being given to St. Gerard's in Bray has found no evidence that the school solicited the vaccines, it was reported last week.

RTE news said that it has seen the as yet unpublished report, and that it states the school acted in good faith of the offer of the vaccines from the hospital CEO being legitimate and above board. The school was under the impression that the offer was permitted by the HSE, the report says.

In March it emerged that 20 vaccines from the Beacon had been administered to 20 teachers at St. Gerard's private school. Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly requested the HSE to

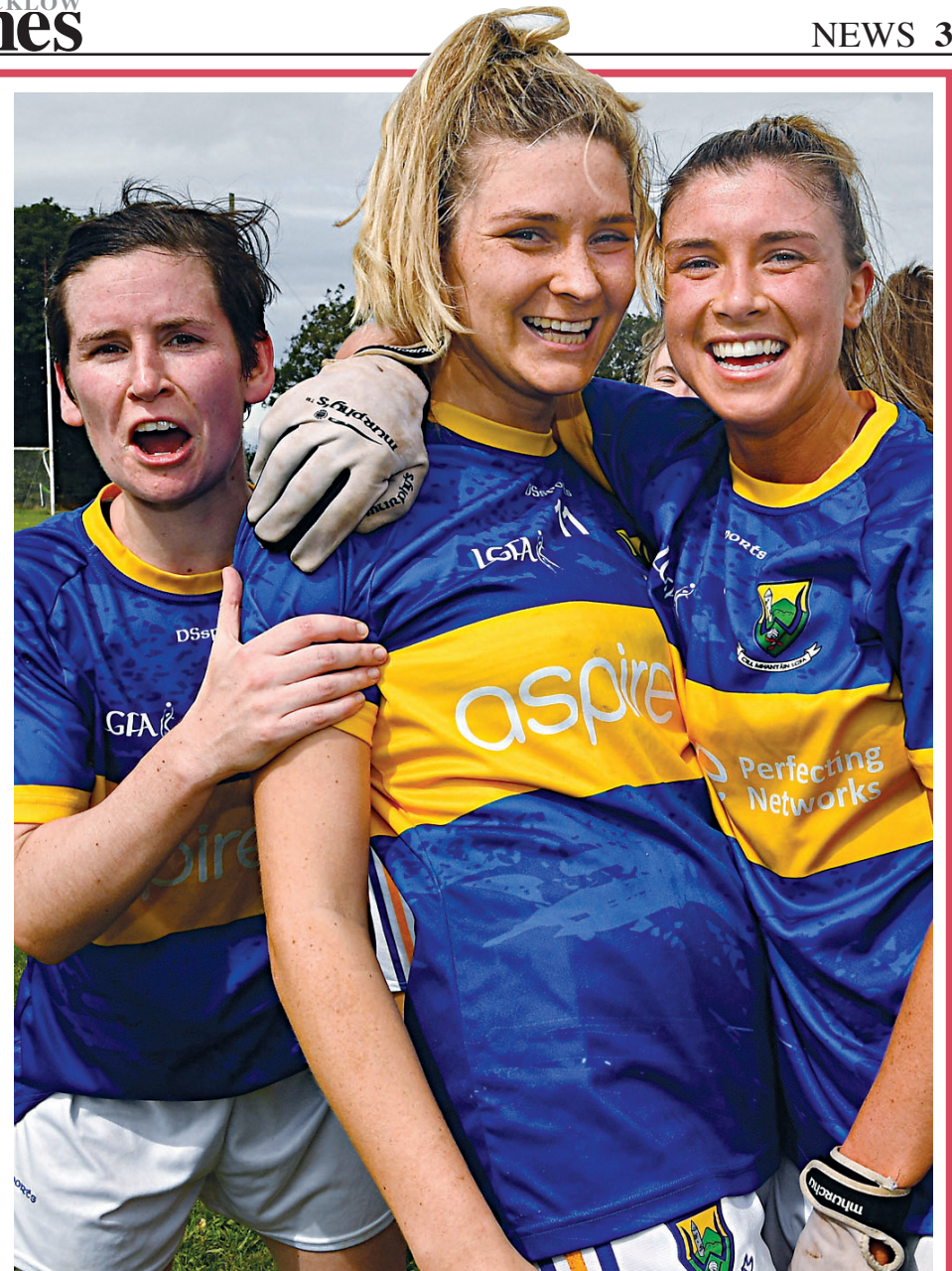
suspend vaccine operations at the hospital at the time. Minister Donnelly sought an external review into the matter.

The Beacon said at the time that the vaccine's use was time-bound and that they were given to the teachers to avoid wastage.

The RTE news article published last Wednesday states: "The HSE review has concluded that the Beacon Hospital vaccination programme had two main weaknesses. The first was that it relied on a predictable flow of people to be vaccinated and the

second was that vaccine doses were drawn into syringes, in advance of people attending for vaccination, and contrary to the HSE's clinical guidance.

"The report says that the Beacon Hospital Vaccination Centre came on stream at a critical point in the national vaccination programme. It says the centre contributed significantly to the vaccination of non-acute healthcare staff at a time when it was critical for these staff to maintain or restore the delivery of services to vulnerable groups."



Aoife Gillen, Meadhbh Deeney, and Niamh McGettigan of Wicklow after the TG4 All-Ireland Ladies Football Junior Championship Semi-Final match between Wicklow and Limerick at Joe Foxe Memorial Park, Tang GAA Club in Westmeath. Wicklow won by 1-12 to 0-4 and will face Antrim in the final on September 5th. Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile:

'ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!'

Continued from page 1

"We are not being told why it is necessary for healthy children and young people to be vaccinated and we are not being told what safeguards are in place to ensure that they won't suffer longer-term side effects from a vaccine administered at a time of onset of puberty and adolescence. We are also not being told why Astra Zeneca is no longer being used and if there is any correlation between increased cases of clots/strokes in healthy people and the

widespread uptake of all of the vaccine types."

Cllr Behan continued, "It is absolutely unacceptable that weddings, funerals and many other religious gatherings are still being restricted and that any questioning of this arbitrary limitation is tantamount to treason.

"It is time we said enough is enough. We have kept the rules even though many of them were unnecessary and inconsistent. We have stood by and watched as the rules were interpreted favourably when politicians got

caught out. We have listened to the constant unquestioning regurgitation of the Nphet message by our national, taxpayer-funded broadcaster. We have had enough. It is time for us to get back to some level of normality and it is beyond time for us to discuss the fact that so much damage has been done to the emotional, physical and mental health of so many people, young and old as we were put through one of the most severe and unforgiving lockdowns anywhere in the world."

Wicklow IFA to commence lobbying for a fair, sustainable agri-food sector

Discussing the launch of IFA's pre-Budget submission - IFA Wicklow County Chair, Tom Byrne said Wicklow IFA would be lobbying TDs and Senators from the County in the coming weeks to ensure they understand the scale of the challenges farmers face and the supports needed from Government.

"Now is the time for Government to step up and put action and money behind the rhetoric. IFA is seeking co-financing to ensure that Pillar II schemes such as Areas of Natural Constraint (ANCs); Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environmental Scheme (GLAS); Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS); Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP - suckler cows); the Sheep Welfare Scheme and Organic Farming Scheme; are properly funded. We are seeking €300 per suckler cow, €30 per ewe and €300m for

ANCs. In addition, we need a new scheme for tillage farmers to stop the exodus from this sector," Mr Byrne said.

"The Government gave a clear commitment that it would ring-fence €1.5bn of carbon tax receipts for an agri-environment scheme, referred to in the Programme for Government as 'REPS-2'. We are still waiting for this commitment to be honoured."

IFA Farm Business Committee Chair Rose Mary McDonagh said, "In June, IFA held a nationwide Day of Action to highlight farming's contribution to the rural economy. In County Wicklow, Bray was selected as the location for farmers to demonstrate. Our message to Government has not changed. The sustainable growth of our sector needs policies that encourage investment at farm level, and recognise the role of agriculture in achieving balanced regional development and viable farm incomes".



Newly married couple Emily Jicha from Wisconsin, USA, and James O'Connell from Arklow, who were married in Dublin followed by a reception in Arklow.

Funding for 67 local projects

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, have announced the successful projects in Wicklow under the 2021 Community Enhancement Programme.

The 2021 Community Enhancement Programme was launched in May 2021 with funding of €4.5m to provide small grants to local community groups across the country. Wicklow received an allocation of €141,343 from the Department under the programme. The key theme of this year's programme was supporting groups as they re-open facilities which have been closed due to COVID-19.

Speaking in support of the funding Minister Harris said: "I am delighted to see funding announced for 67 local projects across County Wicklow. These grants can make a big difference by supporting communities at a grassroots level. After a difficult year, it is important that we provide support to community groups where possible, allowing them to continue to provide much needed services in local communities."



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'Antiquated electricity grid cannot sustain the uncontrolled proliferation of data centres'

The government must introduce a moratorium on the construction of new data centres if it wants to reach its emission reduction targets, according to Social Democrats Climate Spokesperson Jennifer Whitmore TD.

"The growth of data centres in Ireland, and the consequent increased demand on the national grid, has been unprecedented in recent years. In the last four years alone, the increase in demand has been equivalent to the addition of 140,000 homes each year to the power supply.

"The energy regulator, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), has already warned that consumers could face rolling blackouts later this year. At the weekend, we learned that the CRU has recommended postponing the permanent retirement of coal generators at Moneypoint beyond 2025 due to the inability of the national grid to sustain increased demand.

"Following the publication of the stark

IPCC report on climate change, Environment Minister Eamon Ryan said the first thing we need to do is stop using fossil fuels. But, there is now a danger that, under his watch, coal burning generators at Moneypoint could be retained after they were due to be decommissioned. This would clearly make achieving our emissions targets almost impossible.

"Our antiquated electricity grid cannot sustain the uncontrolled proliferation of data centres. Eigrid has already warned that it has so many new applications from data centres, seeking electricity connection, that supplying them would amount to 70pc of national power use. This is unsustainable.

"Minister Ryan has conceded that we are

in the midst of an emergency situation as regards the security of our immediate energy supply this winter. However, the emergency extends much further than that, and has implications for our ability to meet our climate change targets unless the growth of data centres is not curbed.

"The government must introduce an immediate moratorium on the construction of data centres until it investigates the ability of the national grid to sustain new connections into the future. We know we have a limited time to tackle climate change and the government has said it has ambitious climate action targets. Its blithe attitude to the threat posed by data centres suggests otherwise."

Broadband team visits Kilcoole

Green Party TD Deputy Steven Matthews took part in a site visit with the National Broadband Ireland team in Kilcoole recently and received an in person update on broadband roll-out.

Deputy Matthews said, "I was delighted to meet the National Broadband Ireland team to discuss the supply of high speed broadband across County Wicklow.

"I met with the project managers and installation teams in the Kilcoole network area to look at various aspects of this huge scale project. The scale and complexity of running 1000s of kilometres of fibre optic cables to every premises in Wicklow is matched by a high standard of installation, mapping and future proofing of the system.

"There is no substitute for fibre optic cable, it is the 'gold standard' in terms of communications cables. I am confident that its connection to every premises in Wicklow will provide the highest speed communication network for every business, home entertainment and educational need as we



Deputy Matthews in Kilcoole with the NBI team.

become more reliant and invested in a digital economy.

"As a member of the Oireachtas committee on Transport & Communications I have met several times with the National Broadband team for updates on progress across Wicklow and this was my first opportunity to carry out site visits. As someone with previous experience of cable networks I can see that this job is complex but is being carried out to a very

high standard. This communication network will provide the very best of service across the county and provide those in rural areas with better broadband than most urban areas.

"I will continue my meetings on the ground with NBI to ensure the entire Wicklow installation is done in a timely manner and that high speed broadband is available to every home and business as soon as possible."

'Developer needs to provide amenities for Wicklow Hills in Newtown'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady and area representative Muireann Dalton have called on the developer of Wicklow Hills in Newtownmountkennedy to give clarity to residents when they will install a long overdue playground in the estate and make the green space functional.

Speaking after meeting some of the residents, Deputy Brady said "The residents of Wicklow Hills bought their homes in good faith from Tower Homes LTD. The large residential development has been constructed in phases, residents in the Phase 4 houses were promised that a playground would be in place prior to them moving into their new homes, they are living there 2 years now and there is still no playground."

"Despite many attempts to contact the developer they are still in the dark as to when the playground will be installed. Unfortunately, all that the

residents have is an unsightly unusable fenced off area. Residents would be happy with just a green space at the moment until a playground can be erected."

"I have spoken to the council on the issue a number of times in an attempt to get the developers to carry out the work which is contained in the plans. Unfortunately to date no progress has been made."

Sinn Féin representative Muireann Dalton said "Green space in Newtownmountkennedy is decreasing daily and it is vital that we ensure we provide green open spaces for people to enjoy, green

space is vital for social, physical and mental well-being. Children have nowhere to play and it

was particularly hard during the pandemic. Tower Homes must immediately give badly needed clarity

to the residents in Wicklow Hills when the long overdue playground will be finally installed."



Deputy John Brady and Muireann Dalton at the location for the playground in Wicklow Hills

'Decision on Bray dog park location needs to be made'

In July 2020 Wicklow Sinn Féin Councillor Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien submitted a motion to Bray Municipal District proposing that a site for a Dog Park be identified in Bray and that the council pursue the necessary funding avenues to support its delivery.

Now Cllr O'Brien says that a decision needs to be made on a site.

"There is a need and a desire for a Dog Park in Bray. It would alleviate some of the stress and strain of competing for space in popular areas where pedestrians are already walking, or people are enjoying green space in family groups or playing sports.

"A designated area for dogs would facilitate socialisation among dogs and dog owners, it would be positive for older people or people with disabilities who will benefit from the enclosed space, it would allow for exercise off the leash and

would reduce the incidence of dog fouling in public spaces.

"Over a year ago I proposed that a location in Bray would be identified for a Dog Park. This proposal was supported and at the meeting there were suggestions floated by Council officials about the former Par 3 Golf Course at Bray Head as a possible location. We were informed that some draft plans were being drawn up with that in mind, however these have not yet been formally presented."

Cllr O'Brien concluded, "So, a year on it still has to be decided where the dog park should be located.

Unless we see the proposed plans and discuss it, we may be here next year still wondering about it! There are a lot of ideas out there about how we can improve the town and provide additional amenities but it is very important that we have the right type of conversations about these proposals so that the final decisions represent something that we arrive at through a process that is transparent and inclusive. It is my intention to continue to raise the issue with the council and to propose a public consultation to support the decision about a location."



James Doyle, Jessica Doyle, and Lucy Greene are pictured at the recent 'Braystones Rowing Challenge', a collaborative charity fundraiser by rowing clubs from the east coast.

Wicklow RNLI join night search for missing sailor

Wicklow all-weather lifeboat launched at 10pm on Sunday 22 August after a sailor was reported missing from a container ship 16 miles off the Wicklow coast.

The lifeboat arrived in the search area before 10:45pm and began an immediate search. The Coast Guard helicopter Rescue 116 was also tasked to join the search.

During the sector search the casualty was located just after 11pm by the lifeboat crew.

The Rescue 116 Paramedic winchman was lowered onto the lifeboat to assess the casualty, before being winched onto the Coast Guard helicopter and airlifted to hospital in Dublin.

Speaking after the callout Coxswain Nick Keogh said, "We located the casualty 5 miles north-

east of the Codling Buoy during a sector search, weather conditions in the area were calm at the time with good visibility."

The crew on the call out were Coxswain Nick Keogh, Mechanic Tommy Murphy, Tommy MacAulay, Alan Goucher, John Stapleton, and Peter Byrne.



The Wicklow RNLI all-weather lifeboat. Photo courtesy of Wicklow RNLI

Public asked to have their say on proposed Bray Sustainable Transport bridge

The submission deadline is fast approaching for people to have their say about the proposed plans for the sustainable transport bridge over the River Dargle in Bray.

Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development can be made at www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub or in writing to the undersigned clearly marked 'Bray Sustainable Bridge Project'. All submissions must be received on or before 12 noon Monday 6th September.

The proposed bridge and link road will consist of a two-lane public transport road 3.25m wide and variable width pedestrian, cyclist and shared path facilities. A new pedestrian boardwalk is proposed along the southern bank wall to link the existing walkway to the bridge crossing.

In accordance with Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001(as amended), Wicklow County Council has concluded from a screening determination that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

Ballymore recently submitted their plans to An Bord Pleanála for development of 'The Coastal Quarter' on the former Bray Golf Club Lands.

Wicklow woman talks about the dangers and dread of back to school for Palestinian children at campaign launch

Just as children here across Wicklow are gearing up for back to school, children in Palestine are also gathering up their bags and books for a new academic year. However, for students and teachers in Palestine, the School Run is fraught with difficulties, danger and dread as they face intimidation, harassment and aggression from Israeli soldiers and settlers on their way.

Last week, Sadaka, the Irish Palestine Alliance, and Defence for Children International - Palestine (DCI) launched a new campaign called A Different Kind of School Run to highlight the extraordinary difficulties faced by Palestinian children and their teachers as they return to their education after the summer months.

Jenny Derbyshire, who lives in Enniskerry, has worked with EAPPI, the Ecumenical Programme in Israel Palestine, operated by The World Council of Churches and The Quakers, and has accompanied children to schools through checkpoints and groups of settlers as part of work to monitor and witness life under occupation. She has seen upfront the stress it can cause and how quickly a daily routine of going to school can become a flashpoint of danger and violence.

"Many children in Palestine absolutely dread going back to school," Jenny said. "It rekindles fears of Israeli soldier intimidation and harassment, of relentless and often violent attacks by groups of illegal Israeli settlers. Many would much prefer to just stay at home.

"It is important to understand that this relentless intimidation is not happen-chance," she continued. "Israeli forces systematically target Palestinian children and schools. It is part of a much wider campaign of obstruction and disruption to children's education and their precious lives as young people. This is no way to treat a child and this is why school accompaniment is such an important part of our monitoring work when we are in Palestine."

The partner organisations document that children in Palestine routinely face vexatious delays, searches, intimidation and the threat of arrests as they pass through checkpoints.

DCI reported that during the 2019-2020 school year, which was cut short in March by Covid-19, it documented 134 violent incidents by Israeli forces. The Norwegian Refugee Council documents an average of 10 attacks, at least, on education every month. The week before last, two Palestinian schools in the village of Far'ou, outside the city of Tulkarm in the West Bank, had to be evacuated because Israeli soldiers fired tear gas towards it.

The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) estimates that more than half a million Palestinian children currently face serious challenges in accessing quality learning in a safe, child-friendly environment.

At present, at least 53 schools in the Occupied Palestinian Territory have demolition orders issued against them by the Israeli authorities. Orders are often issued if Palestinian schools try to extend or improve their premises.

"Israeli soldiers too often disrupt exams by raiding classrooms and arresting Palestinian students. Attacks on schools by Israeli forces violate international humanitarian law and may constitute war crimes, and they must be held accountable," said Khaled Quzma, DCIP's General Director.

The campaign was launched by Dáil Éireann's newest TD, Ivana Bacik. She said that, while the Dáil unanimously passed a motion recognising that Israel has in fact annexed large portions of the West Bank before the summer break, much more could be done to call out the daily crimes and violations being perpetrated against children.

The campaign is being supported by The Quakers and a number of trade unions: The Communications Workers Union, Unite and SIPTU. There will also be Ad Vans in major cities, including Galway City and a comprehensive social media campaign to raise awareness about the very different school run faced by Palestinian children.



Ben Kearney, Senan O'Neill, Ciaran Deegan, and Philip Byrne of the Poulaphouca Paddlers Kayak Club

Wicklows' Poulaphouca Paddlers Kayak Club take top four places

Four West Wicklow Kayak Athletes competed in the Junior Mens Freestyle Kayak Competition at the Canoe Centre in Parmerstown last weekend.

The four young men (Ben Kearney, Senan O'Neill, Ciaran Deegan, and Philip Byrne) took the top four places in the beginners category. These young guns who have only started in the discipline of freestyle kayaking this summer left a big impression on the judges, other paddlers and the spectators. They were smashing high scoring moves, one after the other. The four guys are long term members of Poulaphouca Paddlers and have been training with SouthEast Freestyle in Clonmel under David McClure who represents Ireland and is currently ranked 5th in the World.

Freestyle kayaking is a form of white water kayaking probably best summed up as gymnastics on water. Participants use specially designed kayaks to perform a range of acrobatic tricks and manoeuvres, usually whilst surfing a fast-flowing river-wave. The competition took place on the River Liffey in Palmerstown at a feature wave popular with Irish freestyle kayakers. First place: Ciaran Deegan, Second Place: Senan O'Neill, Third Place: Philip Byrne, Fourth Place: Ben Kearney. The lads were absolutely buzzing and looking forward to moving up to intermediate section next season.

Bray's drug and alcohol task force commended following report

At the recent launch of the Bray Drug & Alcohol Task Force (BLDATF) Annual Report there was a consistent message about the importance and impact of working collaboratively.

Sinn Féin Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien said, "As a current member of the Task Force who remembers when it first landed in Bray I can say with absolute certainty that the impact is probably unquantifiable at this stage in terms of the people in the wider Bray area who have benefited in one way or another from the actions supported by the BLDATF. Whether its activities delivered within the Education and Awareness strand or the Treatment and Rehabilitation strand, projects funded and supported by the Task Force are doing phenomenal work for people from across the district. From youth projects, headlamps and the drugs awareness forum to the community addiction team, outreach work and counselling we see activities, interventions, training and most importantly a spirit of

collaboration that ensures the sharing of experience, insight and best practice is at the heart of the ongoing work and also informs the responsive actions such as the hidden harm project and dual diagnosis."

Cllr Grace McManus said "The services and support, rooted in compassion, that the organisations on the task force provide is something to be truly valued by our community. At the launch of this report I was particularly struck by the mindfulness to ensure young people's experiences are an important part of the work of the BLDATF. Whether it is early intervention or prevention work, or intervention at crisis point, it is clear that we have a task force committed to responding to drug and alcohol issues within our youth. I think it is always worth stopping to say how much

that work is appreciated, valued, and needed in our community."

Deputy John Brady continued "It was a privilege for me to attend the online launch of the Bray Drug and Alcohol Task Force Annual Report. The work carried out by the Task Force is immense and really appreciated. It is important to take note and formulate a response at a national level to the issues identified in the report such as Dual Diagnose. This is when a person suffers from both a substance abuse issue and another mental health issue such as depression or an anxiety disorder. A joint care plan between addiction and mental health services needs to be developed to make sure people get the care they need, when they need it and where they need it."

"Another major issue which is impacting fami-

lies in Bray and across the County is Drug related intimidation. I have spoken to many families living in fear of violence to themselves or other family members to pay off perceived drug debts. Some people have been drawn into criminal activities to try clear debts and stop the intimidation. Whilst some excellent work has been done on this serious issue by the Garda National Drugs Unit and the National Family Support Network, I fear the issue is much more prevalent than reported."

Deputy Brady concluded "Sinn Féin are committed to supporting the work of all Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces and the National Drugs Strategy, in our alternative budget for 2021 we increased funding by 10% to help them continue the work they are doing in the community."

Loveridge Digital Wins 2021 NYX Video Awards

After an intense judging period featuring 2163 entries from 33 countries, Loveridge Digital is the Gold & Grand Winner in the 2021 NYX Awards. The winning work was created by the team at Loveridge Digital for Stratton Studios.

The International NYX Video Awards program was open to all videography and video marketing professionals, whose fresh stories, visuals, brilliant video marketing ideas and videography expertise impressed the jury panel. "All the amazing individuals, agencies, and companies who joined the NYX Awards this year prove that creativity never dies, even in these trying times", said Kenjo Ong, CEO of the International Awards Associate (IAA). "This win by Loveridge Digital is a testament to their unbridled talent!" "What's even better is that we are given the opportunity to shower these individuals and businesses with accolades, and rightfully so."

The winning entries were judged impartially by a group of esteemed videography and marketing professionals. IAA selected a panel of international judges in the adjudication process, adhering to a strict code of excellence. The 2021 NYX Awards panel comprise 40 professionals of various disciplines from 22 countries, and from large and small agencies, embracing diversity from all corners of the world.

NYX Video entries were ranked via blind judging in accordance with the best industry standards. Entries are evaluated based on creative proficiency and the ideation of the final work. Winners was then be selected based on their ability to meet competition criteria.

"It is an honour for us here at Loveridge Digital to be able to serve our customers in Wicklow and all over Ireland, with our talented individuals from all over the world"

Wicklow company Loveridge Digital was originally founded in 2017 by past BIFE Games Development Student Josh Loveridge to fill a gap in the market for consumers who wanted access to a studio that could deliver high quality video productions, at a reasonable price.

In 2019 Kyle Simpson along with Josh Loveridge opened an Australian division after many successful



Josh Loveridge

years of working together. Now in 2021 the company is expanding by the day servicing all businesses, non-profits and local councils with the key areas focusing on delivering websites, video productions, digital marketing services at a competitive price.

Josh and the team have have been working with brands in over thirty-eight countries for many years, helping over 1700 brands, including the likes of Red Bull, Microsoft and Disney, to transform their media, content and marketing, while continuing to be customer and success orientated for local businesses.

While Josh is very appreciative of the recognition, they feel the ultimate achievement is seeing their clients succeed. "Without our customers and clients none of our award-winning work would be on display! We thank all of our customers and dedicate this award to all of you for putting your trust in our vision!"

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Turning of sod for Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant welcomed

Ends the 30 year saga of delay and disappointment for Arklow

Arklow based Fianna Fáil Senator Pat Casey has welcomed the decision of Minister Darragh O'Brien TD to formally launch the Irish Water project on Monday 30th September to begin building the long awaited Arklow Waste Water Treatment Plant.

"This is a red letter day in the delivery of the plant which is essential for the future development of Arklow Town and to end the pollution of the Avoca River. Having worked for years on this project I am delighted to announce that my Fianna Fáil colleague Minister Darragh O'Brien TD has

instructed Irish Water to proceed in the building of the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). This is an historic day in the delivery of the plant. "I pledged to the people of Arklow that the delivery of the Waste Water Plant was a top priority and this is a clear indication that the plant will be delivered.

The people, communities, and businesses of Arklow have had 30 years of disappointment and delay but I am thankful that just over a year after Fianna Fáil returned to Government that we can now proceed to build this plant. A new era of economic and social growth is now in the pipeline and I will continue my work

to ensure that Arklow's future is bright and prosperous for all its people.

I will continue to work with Minister O'Brien to ensure that construction on the plant proceeds as quickly as possible and that we ensure sustainable growth for Arklow and the South Wicklow region into the future."

Calls for enhanced safety measures at Newcastle rail crossing after dog hit by train

Green Party Councillor Lourda Scott has sought agreement from Irish Rail for increased safety measures at a dangerous rail crossing south of Newcastle.

A dog was hit and killed by a passing train at 5 mile point recently and with the increase in pedestrian traffic, Cllr Scott says that enhanced safety measures are required as a matter of urgency to prevent a more serious accident occurring.

Cllr Scott said: "I have been contacted by several Newcastle residents drawing my attention to this serious hazard at the rail crossing onto 5 Mile beach. When

I visited today I was shocked to see that the crossing on the beach side is completely unprotected and the swing gate on the road side is far from adequate.

"Residents have spoken of how popular this beach has become with locals and tourists alike and having an exposed rail line such as this is completely unacceptable. They have reported dogs wandering onto the tracks that have sadly been hit and killed by

a passing train, along with several near misses.

"The very real concern is that it can only be a matter of time before a child is involved in a serious accident. Recently the rail crossing at Newcastle (6 mile point) was improved and it is only right that the same measures are taken here."

Cllr Scott concluded: "I have spoken with Irish Rail and they are sending out inspectors to assess the crossing immediately. I will continue to press them on this and I am confident that a solution will be reached very soon."

'Political intervention needed for the re-opening of Wicklow District Courthouse'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called for political intervention to ensure the closed Wicklow District Courthouse is refurbished and re-opened.

Speaking after getting a reply from the Minister on the status of the closed courthouse in Wicklow Town Deputy Brady said "It is deeply disappointing that the refurbishment works at closed Wicklow District Courthouse have again been pushed down the road. I have been pushing the issue of the closed courthouse now since I was first elected as a TD. Unfortunately, no political priority has been given to reopen the courthouse which is in a landmark building in Market Square in Wicklow Town.

"In early 2018 the

Minister for Justice said Wicklow Courthouse would be included in the ten-year capital plan. It was also stated that some demolition works to facilitate a planned extension would take place in early 2018. Three years later no works have commenced and the latest reply from the Minister fails to commit to any timeframe as to when the work will start.

"The courthouse in Wicklow Town stopped holding District Court sittings in 2010 having previously ended Circuit Court sittings back in 2008. Due to



John Brady TD

huge pressures on the court service in Bray a decision was taken to reopen the closed courthouse in Wicklow Town. The plan is to extend and refurbish the courthouse in Wicklow town to provide a significantly

larger 4 courtroom venue together with a range of facilities for staff, the judiciary, persons in custody, jurors, legal professionals, other state agencies and members of the public."

Deputy Brady concluded, "Unfortunately, not only has a clear timeframe for the reopening of the courthouse not been outlined, the works to facilitate it have been kicked down the road again. This is bitterly disappointing and clearly shows the interest the government has in Wicklow Town. Political intervention is now needed from the Government TDs here in Wicklow to ensure that the work to reopen the courthouse is given priority."



Ciara O'Brien and Sarah Jane Winders of Wicklow are pictured after the TG4 All-Ireland Ladies Football Junior Championship Semi-Final match between Wicklow and Limerick at Joe Foxe Memorial Park, Tang GAA Club in Westmeath. Wicklow won by 1-12 to 0-4 and will face Antrim in the final on September 5th. Photo by Ray McManus/Sportsfile

Contract signed for €3m

A €3m contract for the construction of a Content Creation Enterprise Hub was signed at Wicklow County Council Buildings by Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG and Cumnor Construction Ltd on Wednesday (August 25th). Work on the site will commence mid-September and expected to be completed by Q3 in 2022.

The Content Creation Enterprise Hub will provide 10,000sq ft of private and co-working spaces and aims to boost job creation in the sector and spin out services feeding into these industries.

The project will include the courtyard buildings, the second floor of the existing campus building and the chapel, which will be refurbished and renovated. It will also include a newly built two-floor extension to the courtyard buildings.

It is intended to support content creation and will complement the film industry, with a particular focus on businesses servicing productions happening in Ashford Studios, Ardmore Studios and Greystones Media Campus when constructed.

The Hub will also offer a collaborative social space, conference centre, podcast studio and screening facility along with access to a range of existing meeting rooms and training facilities on the larger campus.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, said: "I'm delighted that the construction of the Enterprise Hub for the content creation sector at Wicklow County Campus will now commence. This hub will support our unique audio-visual industry, which was hard hit by the lockdown, to internationalise and grow and will be a very welcome addition for the businesses working in and supporting this sector. This project is good news for the development of the campus by Wicklow County Council as a centre of excellence in education, innovation and job creation."

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council and Chair of Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG, commented: "We welcome and look forward to construction commencing on this development. It is a really positive initiative for Wicklow County Campus. It's also positive news for the future growth of a strong local screen industry. Stakeholders and development agencies in this industry are extremely supportive of this innovative project."

He added: "Wicklow County Council has a strong relationship with the film industry. It's a crucial economic driver in the county and the demand for content is increasing rapidly."

In 2020 funding of €1.43m was secured under the Government's Regional Enterprise Development Fund. The remainder will be matched by Wicklow County Council.



Pictured signing the contract for the Clermont Enterprise Hub, are Eoin Quinn (Director of Cumnor Construction), Michael O'Mahoney (CEO of Cumnor Construction), Cllr Shay Cullen (Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council), and Frank Curran (CEO, WCC).



Vanessa Wulson, Ruth Keenan, Daphne Danga, and Vasunth Solomon are pictured at the recent 'Braystones Rowing Challenge', a collaborative charity fundraiser by rowing clubs from the east coast

'Wicklow residents invited to submit their ideas on how to make Ireland better'

Residents across Wicklow are being offered the chance to have their voice heard and contribute to national policymaking through Fine Gael's new Better Ireland initiative, Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD said.

Minister Harris said: "People across Wicklow have the opportunity to contribute their ideas on how we can make Ireland a better place for everyone. Fine Gael is asking people to submit their ideas for a better Ireland, with the winning entrant securing a virtual meeting with An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar to discuss the proposal.

"Entries are open now and the entry process couldn't be any easier; just log onto [Finegael.ie/BetterIreland](https://finegael.ie/BetterIreland), describe your idea in 250 words or less and submit via the website. Anyone over the age of 18

who is a resident in Ireland is eligible to submit their idea.

"We would like to hear from as people as possible, from a diverse range of backgrounds, occupations, areas etc, to share their ideas with us on how we can improve life for residents in towns and cities across Wicklow.

"Tell your friends, families and neighbours about the initiative and encourage younger people in your life to have a think about it as well."

Speaking at the launch of the Better Ireland initiative this week, An Tánaiste Leo

Varadkar said, "I'm looking forward to hearing from people across the country on how they think we can make Ireland a better place to live, work, raise children, receive an education, start a business and grow old.

"It might be a major policy initiative that will be completely transformative and change our country for the better, but it could also be something smaller; an idea that would make a real difference at a local and community level.

"Whatever your idea is, we want to hear it. I look forward to reading your submissions and meeting with the winning entrant where they will have the chance to pitch the idea to me over a video call - and you're welcome to bring your friends and colleagues along as well," An Tánaiste concluded.

SOLAS calls on community education providers to apply for Mitigating against Educational Disadvantage Fund 2021

Community education providers in Wicklow are being given the opportunity to apply for funding for eligible projects under the €10 million Mitigating against Educational Disadvantage Fund 2021. The Fund opened for applications on Friday, 30th July.

The Fund was announced, by Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD and is administered by SOLAS, the further education and training authority and the sixteen local Education and Training Boards. The aim of the Fund is to support community education for adult learners in Wicklow and across Ireland, who have the highest level of need, with a strong focus on building the digital infrastructure of community education providers to increase the capacity to deliver online learning.

The latest phase of the Fund is seeking to support projects under three main categories:

- Digital Technologies, where the supply of devices is considered a

barrier to learning;

- Learner Assistance, to help, for example, with the cost of books and materials, childcare and essential travel; and
- Reach-out and/or Mentoring, for awareness-raising and promoting re-engagement.

In 2020, over 500 community education projects were funded through the 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs). Around the country, the projects helped to support online learning, connect communities and provide social supports to the most vulnerable groups.

Commenting on the announcement, Andrew Brownlee, CEO of SOLAS, said: "As we move towards a wider return to on-site learning from September, it is

critically important that we re-engage with learners and encourage others to take up further education and training opportunities. We are calling on community education providers in Wicklow to apply for funding through a new phase of the Mitigating against Educational Disadvantage Fund. Through the Fund, we are supporting those in society who are furthest removed from education through social disadvantage. We are also supporting community education providers to continue delivering their much-needed services, and to ensure that all sectors of society are remaining connected and supported to continue their learning journeys."

Paddy Lavelle, General Secretary of Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) welcomed the announcement of the 2021 Fund, commenting: "Education and Training Boards deliver whole of life education

and training for all, including to our most disadvantaged learners. This fund will enable ETBs and our community education partners to provide disadvantaged learners with the technology, financial supports and mentoring they need to engage or re-engage in further education and training. I would encourage all ETBs and Community Education providers to get the application process underway."

Funding applications from community education providers can be made by completing a funding application which is available from the adult education officers in your local Education and Training Board. For further information, including the September closing date for your local ETB, contact your Education & Training Board. For full details of the Mitigating Against Educational Disadvantage Fund, visit www.SOLAS.ie

Wicklow woman discusses how to address loneliness and isolation of older people

Wicklow woman Mai Quaid, development officer for Active Retirement Ireland, is a featured guest on a new podcast, 'The Old Country', exploring healthy ageing in Ireland.

The podcast is a 12-part series produced by Active Retirement Ireland and explores issues around ageing such as combatting ageism, age-friendly environments and integrated and long-term care.

In the latest episode, Mai Quaid speaks to activist, broadcaster, Mayor of South Dublin and podcast host Peter Kavanagh, about how loneliness affects older people and the challenges of reaching out to the most isolated. Mai also discusses her experience as a development officer at Active Retirement Ireland and her time spent as President of the organisation.

Each episode of the podcast features a guest involved in making Ireland a better place to grow older, from older people themselves to activists and policy experts. Fortnightly episodes will examine the challenges and opportunities which an ageing population brings.

The podcast, which is available to stream on all major platforms, including Spotify and iTunes and through the Active Retirement Ireland website, has been created to mark the beginning of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing

and is supported by the Community Foundation for Ireland.

The next two episodes of The Old Country will feature: Paddy Connolly, CEO of Age Action, on how we view ageing in Ireland, and how this can be improved by looking at ageing through the lens of equality; and Maureen Kavanagh, Chief Executive of Active Retirement Ireland, on how a membership-based organisation like Active Retirement Ireland can respond to the challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Commenting on the launch of The Old Country podcast, Mayor Peter Kavanagh said: "We are delighted to have Mai Quaid joining us on the podcast to discuss how to address the epidemic of loneliness and isolation amongst some of our older communities. It is a huge challenge and it's great to have Mai share her huge knowledge on the topic and share practical ways that we can all combat this."

Speaking about the podcast, Peter Kavanagh continued: "With the ever-increasing popularity of podcasts, now feels like the right time for something to cater for our older

population. With The Old Country, we are really excited to tell the story of ageing in Ireland. The podcast explores the challenges for our ageing population, highlights some of the great opportunities and discusses how we can make the experience of ageing in Ireland as positive as possible.

"We know how much our retired population in Ireland have to offer through our work with local Active Retirement Ireland groups. We also know that older people will become a larger proportion of our population: by 2030 the population aged 80 or above will increase by between 89 per cent and 94 per cent, according to the ESRI. This is a major shift in the demographics of our country. This podcast is all about sharing insights from those making the most of their older years, and how we can better the experience of our older years through community, well-being and a positive attitude towards ageing."

Speaking further, Peter Kavanagh said: "We understand that some older people may never have listened to a podcast before. We've tried to make it as simple as possible for people to tune in."



Sophie Pender from Greystones attends the opening day of the Sunflowers at Scalp Woods Nurseries, Kilternan, which were grown in aid of the Wicklow Hospice.

Wicklow accounts for second most callouts for pest birds

Wicklow has accounted for the second most callouts for gulls and other pest birds, according to Rentokil, who has issued a warning to the public. The company is advising the public to treat gulls with caution, and also has a number of practical steps that people can take to prevent the presence of these pest birds on their premises.

Rentokil has noted that a large proportion of callouts for gulls and other pest birds so far this year are originating from urban areas. Urban areas offer pest birds easy access to food waste and tall buildings can mimic high cliff tops that birds such as gulls would traditionally nest on.

Dublin has accounted for the vast majority of total pest bird callouts from Rentokil so far in 2021, with 63% of the callouts. Wicklow has accounted for the second most callouts at 18%, while Kilkenny and Cork accounted for 9% of callouts each.

August is typically the time of year when gulls are nesting; tending to young chicks who have

recently fledged. The birds can become extremely aggressive and protective of their young. They are also likely to harass or try to steal food from members of the public and raid waste bins in search of food to bring back to the nest.

Pest bird droppings can also present a hazard as they can contain bacteria including E. coli and Salmonella and can lead to the spread of infections through surface contamination, inhaling bacteria from dried droppings, or being transferred by bird mites, which can bite both people and birds.

Richard Faulkner, Advanced Technical Field Consultant with Rentokil said "Pest birds such as gulls can be a nuisance for

home or business owners at this time of year. However, there are some steps you can take:

The best way to discourage the presence of birds at a premises is to remove their food sources.

Removing access to nesting sites, for instance by putting barriers over window ledges, can also be an effective bird deterrent.

Home or business owner should also make sure bin lids are secure and rubbish bags are not left in the open - gulls have sharp beaks that will make short work of bin bags.

Another option to consider would be the use of a fake decoy birds of prey which may deter the

presence of pest birds.

However, if the problem persists, the best option would be to seek the advice of a professional pest control service."

Rentokil controls pest bird species in accordance with the EU Birds Directive and the Irish bird derogations and use non-lethal methods to control all other species of birds if they become public health pests. Rentokil employs a number of different safe and eco-friendly methods to protect premises from pest birds, including the installation of bird spikes and bird netting. Experts can also employ hawking, using specially trained birds of prey to scare and deter pest birds from an area without harm.



Regina Hogan with grandkids Keela, Fiadh, and Lily Byrne, out for a walk on Bray Beach

Calls for Council to expedite lease for Ardmore Rovers

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris has written to the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council regarding the need to finally resolve and modernise the lease for Ardmore Rovers at Ballywaltrim.

Minister Harris said: "Last week I was delighted to be able to show the Minister for Sport first-hand the valuable contribution Ardmore Rovers makes to the community in Bray and the need for modern facilities to accommodate this major club.

"It is a source of frustration that a major club such as Ardmore Rovers that has been part of our community for over 40 years with 800 members still cannot access substantial supports such as the Sports Capital Grant due to the fact the club's lease has still not been updated by the Council.

"Wicklow is very proud of Ardmore Rovers' continued success and development, however it is clear this bureaucratic hurdle is a significant impediment to the club getting much needed funding. I have written to Wicklow County Council's Chief Executive calling for the local authority to expedite its work on updating the club's lease for the grounds in Ballywaltrim.

"The Minister for Sport's visit to Ardmore Rovers with me last week underpins this government's support to local clubs and Ardmore Rovers can count on my continued full support", Minister Harris concluded."

Becki IV sails from Holyhead to Greystones

A familiar visitor to Greystones Harbour, the Becki IV, sailed over recently from Holyhead once again.

Over the years, the Becki IV has been a familiar boat in Greystones

Harbour Marina.

The Becki IV is part of the twinning partnership

between Greystones and Holyhead.

Skipped by Mark

Williams, she sailed with a crew of two, Dewi Thomas and Steve Jewel.

Steve was celebrating his retirement from the Holyhead postal service after 46 years. The team was welcomed by former Greystones Mayors, Stephen Stokes and Kathleen Kelleher.

"Our visitors spent several days in Greystones, which they now know very well.

They enjoyed our town, our sights, restaurants and a portion of the Cliff Walk.

Greystones is an excellent location for all marine enthusiasts to visit," said Kathleen Kelleher.

The twinning partnership is looking forward to further contacts. Possibilities include a visit from the Holyhead Santa later this year, and secondary school students visiting Holyhead in March. Holyhead is also participating in Greystones' St. Patrick's Day activities. All of these plans are Covid restrictions dependent.

Mark Williams, skipper of the Becki IV, says: "It is always a pleasure to spend some time in Greystones. It is a wonderful town with much to see and do. We always receive a warm welcome and we always enjoy our stays. That is why we keep coming back!"



Kathleen Kelleher and Stephen Stokes with the crew of the Becki IV



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

N11/M11 JUNCTION 4 TO JUNCTION 14 IMPROVEMENT SCHEME Non-Statutory Public Display of the Preferred Option (Phase 2)

Wicklow County Council is progressing the development of the N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme in partnership with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Department of Transport.

Public Display

An online public display event is being held to inform the public and stakeholders of the Preferred Option identified for the scheme, the work undertaken to date and the programme for advancement of the project. This non-statutory consultation event also provides an opportunity for feedback and observations to be submitted regarding the process and conclusions reached to date, which may inform the further development of the scheme in the next phases.

In consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wicklow County Council will hold a 3 week online public display event which will be available on the project website www.n11m11.ie. This event will go live from 5pm on Monday 30 August 2021 until Monday 20 September 2021 and the online platform will provide access to a consultation room containing a display of information boards and maps describing the preferred option.

The public display platform will also include an online booking facility where the public and other stakeholders can schedule an online or telephone meeting with a member of the project team during the consultation period up until Monday 20 September 2021.

Submissions will be accepted via the online feedback form available on the project website www.n11m11.ie, or by email to n11m11@arup.com, or by post addressed to N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96. Submissions must be received during the consultation period up until Monday 20 September 2021.

Wicklow County Council values the opinion of the community on this project and welcomes feedback and submissions from the public and interested parties. The knowledge gained from the engagement will be considered by the project team as part of the next stages of the development of the scheme.





Pictured is French President Emmanuel Macron with Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD in Dublin last Thursday. President Macron was shown around the campus of Trinity College by Minister Harris during his first visit to Ireland.

Sallynoggin College of Further Education

Yoga & Pilates Teacher Training, Personal Trainer and Youth Work qualifications are amongst the many opportunities available at SCFE, Dún Laoghaire.

No CAO points are required and mature students are especially welcome

Sallynoggin College of Further Education, SCFE, located in Dún Laoghaire is a leading Further Education College offering a diverse range of Certificate and Diploma courses for school leavers, mature students, international students and those wishing to retrain or upskill. All courses are of one or two-year duration and are accredited by QQI at levels 5 and 6 and ITEC

Industry led qualification and clear progression routes to universities and institutes of Technology

All courses have been developed in liaison with Industry and Higher Education Institutes enabling the graduates to progress to employment or to degree programmes. The one-year Yoga or Pilates Teacher Training Diploma, also includes qualifications in Reflexology, Massage and Indian Head Massage, thereby enabling the student practitioner to progress to a career as a Yoga or Pilates Teacher and a Complementary Therapist. SCFE also offer a one-year Personal Training Diploma with the

option of specialising in Strength and Conditioning or Sports Rehabilitation including Sports Massage and Physiotherapy.

Over the past year, SCFE has adopted a blended approach to learning with a mixture of in college and online classes for all courses. Courses include Social studies, Youthwork, Disability Studies, Sports, Hairdressing and Beauty Therapies, Hospitality and Tourism and many more, for a full list of courses check out the website www.scfe.ie or call (01) 2852997. Exemptions of €250 for holders of a medical card and €200 for SUSI grant recipients. Funding is also available for Social Welfare recipients through VTOS and the BTEA scheme.

All courses commence end of September 2021 until May 2022, applications close 30th September.

SCFE is conveniently located within walking distance of Dún Laoghaire and is well served by public transport. Students can also avail of the free secure car park.

Leaving Cert Points? Check! CAO Offer? Check! Knowledge of Renting Rights?

The Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) have released their five top tips for first time and returning college students.

1. Take a look around: Although it can be tempting, you should not sign a tenancy agreement or pay a deposit for the first place you see - take some time to check out other properties and find somewhere that can best meet your needs.
2. Check out the basics: When viewing accommodation available to rent, check that it meets basic minimum standards.
3. Pay your deposit & get a receipt: Landlords will often ask for a deposit at the start of the tenancy. A landlord cannot ask you to pay more than one month's rent as a deposit.
4. Know how much to pay: If your tenancy is in a Rent Pressure Zone (RPZ), rents cannot be increased by more than general inflation.
5. Contact the RTB if you need help. If you have any questions about your tenancy or your rental rights and responsibilities, the RTB can help. Call Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm on 0818 303037 / 01 702 8100 or visit www.rtb.ie and speak to one of their customer service agents via WebChat.

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FASHION BUYING, STYLING & VISUAL MERCHANDISING

FASHION STUDIO WITH CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

HAIRDRESSING & BEAUTY THERAPIES

PERFORMING ARTS ACTING FOR THEATRE, TV & FILM

MUSICAL THEATRE AND DANCE

EARLY LEARNING CARE AND EDUCATION WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

ADVANCED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTING

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING WITH DISABILITY STUDIES

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▶ 20-26 November 2021

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Hairdressing Junior Stylist
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bifeenquiries@wicklowvec.ie

Harris announces expansion of Student Support Scheme for those in the International Protection System

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD has announced further improvements to the Student Support Scheme for eligible students in the international protection system to access third level education for 2021/2022.

The Student Support Scheme provides supports in line with the current Student Grant Scheme to eligible school leavers who are in the international protection system (other than those at the deportation order stage) and who are either:

- Asylum applicants;
- Subsidiary protection applicants; or
- Leave to remain applicants.

Following changes made last year, the 2021 scheme will now fund postgraduate studies for the first time. Funding is aligned to the statutory Student Grant Scheme (SUSI) with a maximum amount of €6,270 for fees and up to a maximum of €5,915 for maintenance support for eligible applicants.

The 2021 scheme opened for applications on 24th August, 2021.

Minister Harris said: "I'm delighted to announce the further expansion of this scheme to fund postgraduate courses for 2021. This financial support provides a valuable opportunity for eligible students in difficult situations to access further and higher education, resulting in more inclusive campuses and ultimately a more diverse workforce for our economy."

"The scheme has supported 51 people so far, and is an important support to young people who are in our international protection sys-

tem and are seeking to progress their education here in Ireland".

Minister Harris said: "I have always put a strong focus on supporting vulnerable groups. I would encourage all prospective students who may be eligible for support, to submit their applications so that supports can be put in place early in the academic year."

This follows on from the joint announcement in March 2021 by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science and the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, that, from the start of the 2021/22 academic year, international protection applicants who have permission to work and are seeking to access PLC courses will no longer have to pay international fees of €3,600. Today's announcement is another step in the journey to help more people access further and higher education in Ireland.

Charlotte Byrne, Education Officer with the Irish Refugee Council said: "We are delighted to welcome the news that the Student Support Scheme now includes the option to apply for postgraduate study for Protection Applicant students as well as undergraduate and PLC courses."

"This is something we had raised in our response to the Public

Consultation on Statement of Strategy 2021-2023 in December 2020, and again at our meeting with Minister Harris in January 2021 and we are grateful to him for taking our opinion into consideration."

"It is very important that all people be allowed to improve and develop their skills and experience through education. This Scheme provides a concrete pathway for Protection Applicants to improve their level of education, which will allow them to find meaningful work, and thus support their family and contribute to society."

Applicants in the broad protection system who wish to be supported to pursue either PLC courses in further education, undergraduate courses or postgraduate level course in higher education will be required to meet the following criteria:

- Meet the definition of a protection applicant or a person at leave to remain stage (other than those at the deportation order stage);
- Have been accepted on an approved post-leaving certificate course, an approved undergraduate course or an approved postgraduate course.

And

- Have been part of an application for protection or leave to remain for a combined period of three years as at 31 August 2021.

Further information on how to apply, including the application form, is available on our website.

The application window is open until 30 November 2021.

Exciting Courses at Bray Institute

Over recent years many new avenues have opened up to students in pursuit of their dream career.



According to Gabriel Allen, Deputy Principal at Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE), "Further Education offers a learner, who may not have achieved the CAO points they wanted, the opportunity to gain advanced entry onto honours degree programmes, both in Ireland and abroad. It is also a very supportive route for the mature student".

He added, "The comprehensive range of courses available at BIFE provides an excellent opportunity to anyone who wants to advance their qualifications enhance their employment potential or progress their career."

Working as a Chef

BIFE provides many courses in this area for those who are looking to start or develop a career in hospitality to experienced chefs who wish to gain a higher qualification. BIFE will also be running a new "Barista, Pastry and Baking course this year."

An Acting or Dance Degree Programme for you?

The emphasis of these courses is on performance in live theatre. Learners explore their creative talents developing original concepts and ideas and performing to live audiences every term with performances taking place in local venues, Black Box Theatre and at Mermaid Arts Centre. The Higher National Diploma provides a clear pathway following to a top-up year at University leading to a B.A Hons in Dance or Acting.

Work as a Brewing & Distilling Technician.

This course provides the scientific and technical background into the process of brewing and distilling in a micro-brewery. Additionally, this course enables entry into a first year of a degree course in food science or a science related field within higher education.

Working with Horses

The focus of BIFE's Equine Studies Course is to develop the skills to work in the equine industry. Content includes work experience, stable and yard routine, equine nutrition, equine anatomy and physiology.

Working with Small Animals

BIFE's Animal Care courses will allow learners to develop the knowledge and skills to competently handle a range of animals in a work environment and pursue a career in the animal care industry. Work Experience is an integral part of the courses providing practical, hands-on experience. All courses link to higher education progression.

Would you like to work in a Pharmacy?

Working in a busy atmosphere like the pharmacy

retail sector is a rewarding and important job. There is a big demand from Pharmacies for the skilled counter staff. If learners are considering pharmacy retail as a career option, Bray Institute have a number of courses to help them achieve their goals.

Working as a Healthcare Assistant

If Learners are interested in working in the Care Industry, BIFE provides the recognised qualification necessary for working as a Health Care Assistant in a variety of settings, including hospitals; day and residential care palliative care and the home. The course equips the carer with the knowledge and skills necessary to work in this rewarding role as a member of the care team. It is suitable for those wishing to embark on a care in caring and those already working in the sector who wish to gain a recognised qualification.

A Career working in Health Spa might well suit you

Luxury hotels, cruise ships and many complementary health centres are seeking qualified staff to work in their Health Spas. With the renewed emphasis on Wellness, therapies such as Swedish Massage, Indian Head Massage, Reflexology and Aromatherapy are in big demand. Bray Institute Learners can study these therapies at Bray Institute in the mornings and gain a valuable ITEC Diploma, which is the internationally recognised standard. BIFE graduates have had outstanding success in making careers in this field of complementary therapies.

Fancy yourself as an Artist?

The BTEC Art Practice/Fine Art course at BIFE offers an exciting and challenging programme of study providing students with both essential subject knowledge and skills. The course consists of a broad range of subjects from drawing techniques to 3D studies in ceramics and mixed media, printmaking, photography and art history.

New Courses at BIFE

BIFE have new courses in Traditional Irish & Folk Music Performance, Brewing & Distilling Technology, Emergency Care Studies and Barista Pastry & Baking.

"There are also many opportunities for mature students who want to break into the world of paid employment. All courses have valuable accreditation and certification and offer progression routes to higher education, yet you don't need CAO points to study at Bray Institute," said Allen.

Places are still available on these courses but do hurry as they are filling fast. You can call the Institute during office hours on 01-2829668 or log on to www.bife.ie and apply on-line.

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We are looking for 2 scholarship winners in 2021

Application forms are available at www.braycu.ie/Community

Closing date for applications is Friday, 10th September 2021

*TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY.
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FREE FULL AND PART-TIME COURSES

Dementia - more than just memory loss

By Professor Iracema Leroi, Global Brain Health Institute, Trinity College Dublin & Director, Lewy Body Ireland

September is World Alzheimer Month and the Wicklow Times is featuring a series of articles on dementia. With an estimated 1,838 people living with dementia in Wicklow, this week we focus on some common types of dementia.

Most people understand dementia as a progressive condition in older people that affects a person's memory. However, the syndrome of dementia can present in many ways, with memory function being spared in the early stages. In such situations, people often don't realise that they have a condition that may lead to dementia, leaving them without the right diagnosis, support and care.

Alzheimer's Disease

Nearly 60 per cent of dementias will be caused by Alzheimer's disease which particularly affects areas of the brain involved with memory. Thus, in 'typical' Alzheimer's, forgetfulness and memory complaints are the main concern in the beginning. Over time, more areas of the brain become damaged, eventually leading to problems with other aspects of thinking such as recognising people, paying attention and making decisions. Over time, other problems can arise, such as anxiety and hallucinations, or personality change.



Professor Iracema Leroi

Fronto-temporal dementia is another type of dementia, caused by different protein abnormalities, which affect the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain. It most often occurs in younger people, between the ages of 50 and 70 years. It can affect understanding or speech, or it can affect a per-

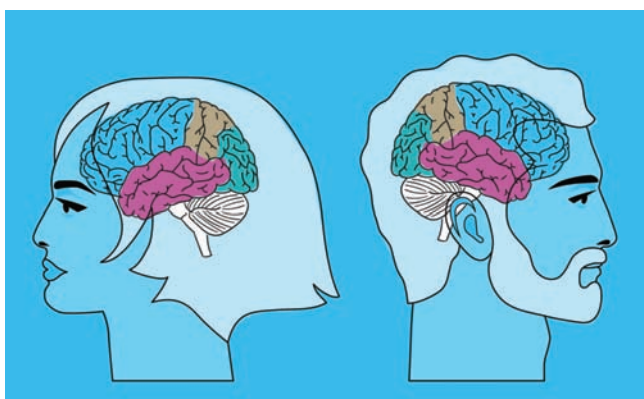
son's behaviour and personality.

All of these dementias may run in families but can also occur out of the blue.

Taking Action

If you're worried about dementia, your GP can arrange an assessment at a specialist service. While there is no cure, symptoms due to Alzheimer's disease or Lewy body dementia may respond to certain medications. The most important thing is to arm oneself with the necessary information to enable everyone involved to make decisions about the future.

For information on supports and resources, including a local service-finder for people with dementia and their carers, visit www.understandtogether.ie or contact The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Helpline for support on Freefone 1800 341 341 (Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm). For specific information on Lewy body dementia, email LewyBodyIreland@lewybodyireland.org



Other Dementias

In Lewy body dementia - named after Lewy proteins in the brain - a person may first experience difficulties with vivid dreams, loss of their ability to smell, and visual hallucinations. Episodes of confusion and disorientation may occur, and Parkinson's-like movement problems may arise. Memory problems occur much later during the condition, as more brain areas become involved.

NCBI launches Clear Our Paths Campaign

NCBI (National Council for the Blind of Ireland) has launched its Clear Our Paths campaign aimed at creating a safer and cleaner environment on our streets for people who are blind or vision impaired to get around independently.

June Tinsley, NCBI Head of Advocacy and Communications said "This campaign is aimed at informing and educating people on the implications of temporary obstacles and shared spaces for people who have sight loss. Everyday obstacles such as cars parked on footpaths, dog fouling, overhanging branches, wheelie bins etc., can obstruct or injure someone who is blind or vision impaired to navigate past safely. We are encouraging people to be mindful of these obsta-

cles and remove them to ensure our footpaths are safe and clean."

As part of this campaign, NCBI has created a striking campaign video with a young NCBI service user to highlight the challenges caused by dog fouling in public areas. Edith, a 9-year-old speaks about her experience as cane user to assist her in her daily life and makes a plea to the public to pick up after their dogs.

Based on figures supplied by 29 of the 31 Local Authorities, very few fines have been

issued for dog fouling, as permitted under Section 22 of The Litter Pollution Act. In 2020, twelve local authorities had issued 0 fines for dog fouling, eleven issued 1 fine, one issued 2 fines and five issued 3 fines. The number of fines issued may highlight a lack of enforcement but also indicates the threat of receiving a fine is not a strong enough deterrent to encourage pet owners to pick up after their dogs.

Summer 2021 is being promoted as an 'outdoor summer' due to Covid19 and businesses and restaurants have responded accordingly. Many urban areas have become pedestrianised and plenty outdoor furniture to facilitate outdoor

dining is available. These changes to the streetscapes have caused concern among some people who are blind or vision impaired as furniture is not adequately cordoned off or the new layout of previously familiar streets is disorientating.

NCBI's #ClearOurPaths campaign will run across social media until August 27th, highlighting the different obstacles each day. We encourage others to join us by sharing on their social media channels too. Together, we can garner a greater understanding among the public about the needs of people with sight loss and how these temporary obstacles can impact their daily lives.



Liz Gleeson, Wicklow County Champion for this year's Vhi Virtual Women's Mini Marathon

Wicklow County Champion for Virtual Women's Mini Marathon

Liz Gleeson from Greystones is the Wicklow County Champion for this year's Vhi Virtual Women's Mini Marathon.

Running doesn't come easy to Liz. She has started and stopped, on and off, for the past 10 years since she first began. Last year, however, she broke through her glass ceiling and it became her life-line during the first two lockdowns. She started a Couch to 5k in January 2020, got to 5k just as the first lockdown hit, but kept running in the background. She managed to keep going until October 2020 when she did her first marathon ever!

She hasn't been running since; it's been a tough few months as her father became ill and died earlier this year and she launched a new Education Programme, to get Counsellors and Psychotherapists Grief-Educated, so her body has been glued to a laptop and the running shoes have been much neglected!

She is delighted to be County Ambassador for Wicklow to draw attention to the wonderful work of the Irish Hospice Foundation, where she works as a lecturer. She is a Grief Therapist and has never been busier since the pandemic started. Some of the stories she hears are simply heartbreaking.

One of the questions that she asks nearly everyone that she supports is, are you walking? Are you moving? If not, get moving, grief needs to move. She likes to practice what she preaches. Signing up for the mini-marathon this year feels like a real challenge, but she knows it will help her to get back into her body again and all of her will feel better for it. Now who's coming with Liz?!

The Vhi Women's Mini Marathon is going virtual for the second year running in 2021. The event, now in its 39th year, will take place virtually on Sunday September 19th with the help of the brand-new Official Event App that has been developed to support those looking to walk, jog and run the 10km route anywhere in the country.

The theme of this year's event is #PowerOfMe, recognising the difference one person can make in the lives of others, and celebrating the spirit of camaraderie and coming together as a group.

AIHPC call on people to become more informed about palliative care

All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care (AIHPC) is calling on people in Wicklow to become more informed about palliative care and its benefits as part of Palliative Care Week. Now in its eighth year, Palliative Care Week takes place from 12th to 18th September.

Palliative Care Week 2021 aims to raise awareness across the island of Ireland about the difference palliative care can make to people's quality of life.

This year's theme is 'Palliative Care: It's more than you think.' It reflects AIHPC's commitment to raising awareness of the positive impact that palliative care has on the lives of people with life-limiting illnesses and their families; allowing them to live their lives as fully as they can.

It also recognises the role of health and social care professionals in providing palliative care support to people across the island of Ireland.

Karen Charnley, AIHPC Director, said; "Palliative care is more than some people realise. Often people think that palliative care is only available at the end of

life, but palliative care can benefit people at all stages of illness and people of all ages. Support can be provided at home, in hospitals, nursing homes and hospices and be for days, weeks or years. People can move in and out of palliative care services depending on their needs.

"It also involves a team of professionals who, alongside the person's family and friends, provides them with physical, psychological, social and spiritual supports tailored to their situation.

"Throughout most people's lives they will know someone who needs palliative care - often a family member. So, this year for Palliative Care Week we want as many people as possible in Wicklow to be better informed about all aspects of palliative care and its benefits.

"It is important that people talk to their health or social care professional and communicate their concerns and ask questions about palliative care and how it could help them or someone important to them," Ms Charnley said.

Any groups or individuals wishing to obtain leaflets and/or posters can contact AIHPC by calling +353 1 4912948 or by emailing info@aihpc.org.

CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

We're all only human and at times it is all too easy to get bogged down with life. It is often difficult to avoid feeling overwhelmed, in need of a helping hand, some sound advice or guidance or even just a friendly ear to talk into or a shoulder to lean on.

Purple House launch September Programme

Purple House Cancer Support Centre have launched their September programme for Cancer patients, and anyone affected by Cancer.

Highlights of the upcoming programme include:

A free online talk on 'Exercise and Cancer' with resident Purple House Physiotherapist Dr. Grainne Sheill on Tuesday 7th September at 12.30pm. All welcome.

The 7 week Stanford Cancer Thriving & Surviving Programme starts on Tuesday 14th September. The six week CLIMB Programme for children of a parent with Cancer, starts on Wednesday 13th October.

There are also monthly support groups for Breast Cancer, Parents of Children with Cancer, and a Carer's Support Group.

Specialist wig fitting & Mastectomy fitting clinics take place in Purple House with Caroline's Breast

Care and Roches Hair Care.

One to one and group Physiotherapy and Cancer Rehab sessions take place in the Purple House Cancer Rehab gym on a daily basis, as well as daily Children's therapy services with Purple House child and adolescent counsellors and therapists.

Classes in yoga, knitting, and the Purple House Choir will also resume in September.

In addition to the above, the daily services available at Purple House include:

Drop-In Cancer Support Service • Counselling & Psychotherapy • Bereavement Support • Telephone Support Line • Complimentary Therapies & Acupuncture • Chemotherapy & Radiotherapy Transport Service • Benefits & Entitlements Service.

Purple House @Home is a special service whereby all of Purple House's classes and programmes are available to patients through Zoom, in the comfort of their own homes or care setting.

To find out more, or to contact Purple House, please call 01-2866966 or visit www.purplehouse.ie

Bluebird Care

With offices in Rathnew and Dun Laoghaire, Bluebird Care prides itself on being a professional, modern service delivering a wide range of care and support services in the community.

Their QQI trained staff are committed to delivering a quality service that allows people to live independent and healthier lives in their own surroundings among their family and friends. Bluebird Care is an approved provider for the HSE in County Wicklow and South County Dublin under the Home Care Package Scheme, this means that they meet a uniform level of national standards as set by the HSE. Approved providers are required to deliver standards of care through QQI Level 5 trained staff and to support defined care plans.

Customers can choose their own care company from the list of approved providers in the area following the Home Care Package assessment process. Please call 0404-31177 or 01-2144066 for more information on the services and assistance available.

Wicklow Volunteer Centre

Do you know a local volunteer hero? Would you like to see them recognised? Then why not nominate your hero for a County Wicklow Volunteer Award?

County Wicklow Volunteer Centre is delighted to announce our first volunteer awards. These awards are a recognition of the many individuals and groups of people that work tirelessly in Wicklow to provide services to the old, the young, the lonely, the sporty, and the vulnerable. The awards will recognise the local historians, the tidy towners, GIYers and volunteers looking after animals. The awards will give a bow to the information givers, the help-line listeners and the English language tutors. So please nominate your heroes. Contact Leah@volunteerwicklow.ie for further information.



The role of exercise in Cancer management & recovery

**Free Online Talk:
Exercise & Cancer**

Dr. Grainne Sheill, Physiotherapist



Tuesday 7th September 12.30pm

Book your place at

www.purplehouse.ie

Arklow Cancer Support - 'We will always be here to help'

Arklow Cancer Support are hoping to reopen their premises on a phased basis in line with Covid regulations.

"Like many other businesses and groups we were forced to close our doors last March. We had clients who had commenced their treatment and our main concern was

to continue to provide support and transport for them. We adapted our vehicles with sneeze screens and the appropriate PPE for the safety of both client and driver

This allowed us to continue to provide our transport service throughout the pandemic and we owe a huge gratitude to our many drivers who gave their free time to under-

take these journeys. If you feel you would like to become a volunteer driver please do not hesitate to contact our office.

"Our counsellors quickly adapted to provide one on one sessions via Zoom and phone consultations for adults, adolescence and children, which we are very grateful for.

"Art, Sound Meditation, Chair Yoga, Creative Writing and Friday Morning Drop on are all still available online. We delivered a group session on Managing Stress and Anxiety. We also set up a Women's Group which is running very successfully.

"Like all other local groups, our fundraising events were all cancelled initially. We were overwhelmed with the response we received from the local community and many others.

"We are very thankful to the general public and the businesses of Arklow for continuing to support us throughout this very difficult time.

If you have been recently diagnosed with cancer or are bereaved, and would like find out more about our supports we can gladly arrange an appointment safely for you at our Centre. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0402-23590 or 085-1100066. Once you make that first call, we will always be here to help wherever possible. Keep well and stay safe!

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Contact **Leah@volunteerwicklow.ie**
or **085 862 2051** for further information.

Coming up at Whale Theatre...

Luan Parle accompanied by Clive Barnes

Friday 10th September @ 8pm. Tickets €20

Meteor & Tatler Award winner Luan Parle has had numerous hits & accolades including Meteor Award for Best Irish Female. Her top 10 hit single 'Ghost' spent three months in the Irish Charts and was the most played Irish single of that year.

Parle signed her first record deal at just 12 years of age before later signing with Sony Music & Elton John's management company Twenty First Artists. Luan has written and recorded with some of the worlds most successful songwriters & producers including Grammy award winning Bill Bottrell (Sheryl Crow, Michael Jackson, Prince, Travelling Wilburys, Elton John) & Billy Steinberg (Madonna, Roy Orbison, Cyndi Lauper, The Pretenders, Whitney Houston, The Bangles, Celine Dion). Luan will be playing songs from her latest album 'Never Say Goodbye' released last year to critical acclaim as well as songs from her back catalogue. Luan will be accompanied by renowned guitarist Clive Barnes who is highly regarded as one of the best performers on the roots circuit and has been gaining a worldwide reputation as one of the finest songwriters and guitarists on today's scene. Having released four critically acclaimed albums of his own, he has played and recorded with some of the most talented musicians on the world stage including Joe Cocker, Taj Mahal and Eric Bibb and also shared stages with Dr John, Jeff Beck, Solomon Burke, The Blind Boys of Alabama, & Gary Clark Jr to name but a few. Barnes has played



Luan Parle with Clive Barnes

numerous US, UK and European Tours and taken various awards, including Album of the Year for "Welcome to Farewell" in the US magazine 'Acoustic Guitar'. This programme is supported by The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media through the Live Performance Support Scheme.

Seven Ages of MAM

Saturday 11th September @ 3pm and 8pm. Tickets €22

A new, laugh-out-loud funny yet poignant one woman show starring Pauline O'Driscoll (Smalltown, The Young Offenders) in which Mam hilariously reminisces about her life as a woman, a daughter and a mother. An entertaining, thought-provoking, funny and moving exploration of the universal themes of motherhood, sexuality, grief, infidelity, ageing, equality, love, lust and loneliness.



Pauline O'Driscoll

Finally touring in Ireland for the first time having garnered rave reviews and been nominated BEST NEW PLAY at its World Premiere at Brighton Fringe Festival in 2019, this is a contemporary reimagining of Shakespeare's most famous soliloquy - but from a Mam's point of view!

Albeit a female centric piece about what it means to be a woman and a mother, Seven Ages of MAM will appeal to men and women alike. As performer/producer/writing contributor, Pauline O'Driscoll says "Anyone who is a mum, knows a mum or ever had a mum will relate to this play yes, in other words everyone! One male audience member actually told me he laughed and cried and next day took his mum to lunch. I loved hearing that. On behalf of mother's all over the world, it made my day".

The creative team behind Seven Ages of MAM is made up of Pauline O'Driscoll (performer, producer & co-writer), Mark Evans (co-writer) and Tom Kibbe (director).

Simon Jenner of Fringe Review said it's a "must see show": "wondrously inventive exploration of motherhood, grief, lust, heartbreak and joy... hilariously detailed....consummately acted.... wholly believable... the most original riff on the Seven Ages I've seen, and so beautifully subsumed you might not notice it at all ... See it."

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

Niamh Regan

Sunday 12th September @ 4pm. Tickets €20

Niamh Regan is a songwriter from Galway who released her debut album 'Hemet' in late 2020 to critical acclaim, with The Journal of Music describing it as "a game-changing record" and the Irish Independent calling it a "bewitching album".

The album went on to be nominated for 'Best Irish Album of the Year' at the RTE Choice Awards, and 'Best Album' at the RTE Folk Awards. With the release 'Hemet', Niamh Regan carved out her own niche in the world of contemporary folk music, and this year she has some new songs to share. Niamh will be performing songs from Hemet as well as song new material at The Whale Theatre with her band Alex Borwick (trombone, synths, vocals) Caimin Gilmore (Double bass, guitar and vocals) and Dominic Mullan (Percussion). Prepare to hear something synchronously earthly and familiar, yet intoxicatingly fresh.

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



Niamh Regan

Hot Spot Greystones presents: North Beach Music Festival

It's all happening in Greystones on the 4th & 5th of September at the NORTH BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL with a summery feast of LIVE music in the open air. The stage is set to accommodate the cream of Irish musicality and talent from past and present with three TICKETED events in addition to free concerts presented by The Hotspot Music Club, so bring your own folding chair, sit down and relax in your own 'safely distanced' pod of four or six and watch on the "Gig Rig" behind the Beach House Pub at Greystones Marina.

On Saturday 4th September (Entry 6.30pm ticketed) the masters of their own brand of traditional and world music, KILA will perform. Support will come from Niwel Tsumbu with Eamon Cagney.

On Sunday 5th come and see "those sell out show stoppers" MACK FLEETWOOD [Entry 1pm - 4pm ticketed]. Re-entry at 5pm [Ticketed] for the legendary MARY COUGHLAN and her band followed by LADIES IN THE BLUES. Support comes from Katie Theasby. Yes! The girls are back in town, after storming the oldest and biggest festival in the world - Glastonbury.

And there's more... There will be a FREE CONCERT on Saturday (2-5pm) featuring Dann's Bar Veterans - Leo O'Kelly, Eoin Woods, and Steve Belton.

BRING YOUR OWN UKE to the Harbour Ukulele Performance & FREE Class - on Saturday 4th, from 11am behind the Beach House Pub. All ages are welcome to attend.

There's more to come from the Hot Spot. In October - FREE TO WATCH ONLINE - you will be able to view performances from Freddie White, Andy Irvine, No Crows, Daoiri Farrell, Mark Geary, and the Bob Dylan Birthday Celebration, and A Mighty Session. Dates for these are TBC.

Pod tickets from www.thehotspot.ie For more information call 087 2917519. This event is supported by the Department of Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media through the Live Performance Support Scheme.

The Esposito Quartet

Courthouse Arts Centre, tinahely, Thursday
9th September, 8pm €16/€14

Mia Cooper (violin), Anna Cashell (violin), Joachim Roewer (viola) & William Butt (cello)



The Esposito Quartet comprises four of our most distinguished musicians with a combined wealth of experience as recital artists, orchestral leaders and teachers, who have been playing as a quartet since 2010. Their national tour this autumn forms part of the National String Quartet Foundation's Beethoven 250 celebrations. The Quartet's name honours Michele Esposito, pianist and composer, who for forty years from 1888 was the initiator for much of the chamber music making in Dublin through the establishment of The Royal Dublin Society concert series.

Their programme will consist of:
Mozart - Quartet in F major K.590
Ian Wilson - 'Across a Clear Blue Sky'
Korngold - Quartet No.1

Ian Wilson's 'Across a clear blue sky' was written in 2009, inspired by Seanus Heaney's poem 'Horace and the Thunder', written follow-

ing the attacks on New York's World Trade Centre on 11th September 2001.

The Esposito Quartet opens this autumn season with performances of the work marking the twentieth anniversary of that atrocity.

The programme opens with Mozart's great F major quartet from 1790, famously written for the

cellist King of Prussia and concludes with Korngold's first quartet, completed in Vienna in 1923.

This beautiful quartet lives in the fairytale sound world of late romanticism (Schoenberg's Verklarte Nacht is recalled, especially in the slow movement) and also clearly holds the seeds which led to Korngold's later fame as a film composer.

September at Mermaid

Mermaid has a great line-up for September, including a new exhibition, films and live performances. "We can't tell you how much we are looking forward to welcoming you back," they said. For the full September lineup see www.mermaidartscentre.ie.

"You can rest assured that we're re-opening with everyone's safety in mind. We are delighted to have been awarded the Fáilte Ireland Safety Charter badge, and our Covid protocols are in line with government recommendations such as they currently stand. We'll keep on top of any changes as they might arise, and you can be sure we'll be ready to welcome you when you get here.

While some events - Paddy Casey and The 4 of Us - are already sold out, we're busily scheduling more exciting gigs, plays and films for you to enjoy:

"Our gallery is open 11am to 4pm Mondays to Saturdays and admission is free, so from now until September 18th you can enjoy Joe Wilson's beautiful "Glencree Valley" exhibition.



Photo by Carmine Covelli

Masterclass Presented by Brokentalkers in collaboration with Adrienne Truscott

Tue 21st September | €15

MASTERCLASS blends the fearless and savagely comedic feminist discourse of Truscott with the subversive and slippery dramaturgy of Brokentalkers to parody the "great male artist" to within an inch of his life. The piece begins in the form of a cockamamie masterclass performed by fed up feminist Adrienne Truscott and all round good guy Feidlim Cannon. It's fun. It's familiar. There are wigs. But there is something more at play...MASTERCLASS is funded by the Arts Council and is a Co-produced by Dublin Fringe Festival, Project Arts Centre & Mermaid Arts Centre.



Joe Wilson: Glencree Valley Exhibition runs until Saturday 18 September

Admission Free

Joe Wilson's exhibition entitled 'Glencree Valley' opened in Mermaid's gallery on 13th August. Speaking about the exhibition Joe said: "The 'Glencree circuit' is a popular route for walkers. As a local resident I have walked this circuit and valley numerous times. I have produced works from other 'valley'/'circuit' projects, eg - Connemarra 'Twelve Bens'; Beara Peninsular. The Glencree circuit came into focus for me for work as a consequence of the 'Shaking Bog Festival' organised by Catherine Nunes in conjunction with Mermaid Arts Centre.

The work produced for this exhibition is a result of walking around the Glencree valley and surrounding hills - looking across the valley and walking up along the river. When I'm walking in the landscape, I don't feel that I am simply observing appearances. The experience is too immersive and arresting of other senses as well as the purely visual, for example - being aware of the terrain and continual flux of light and weather. The exhibition is a collection of glimpses of the landscape and attempts to repossess the physical experience of regularly walking the area".



Thy Harp Strung With Apollos Golden Hair

With Siobhan Armstrong, Cormac Breatnach, Jane Clarke, Steven Cooney, Malachy Robinson & Eamon Sweeney

10th September | 8pm | €20

A very special concert of music & poetry to celebrate the ongoing return of live concerts. This concert features some of Ireland's most respected musicians in Traditional, Early Music, and Classical genres, in addition to the award-winning poet, Jane Clarke. Music on the night will be the beautiful and haunting tunes of Irish Harpers from the 17th and 18th centuries - taken from original sources and played on historical and modern instruments - Early Irish Harp, Lute, Bandora, Viol da Gamba, Guitars, Susato Whistle. Recreating the historic sound world of the Irish Baroque era and blending it sensitively with Traditional instruments.



Morning Walk with Artist Joe Wilson

Sat 11th September | 8.30am | Curtlestown Wood

As a companion event to Joe Wilson's gorgeous exhibition - Glencree Valley: New Works - at Mermaid Arts Centre, The Shaking Bog invites you to walk some of the Glencree Valley that inspired his paintings and drawings. Join him for this morning trail and see the valley through an artist's eyes. A rare treat.



Singer Kayssie K is pictured performing as part of Words Don't Move by Festival in a Van and Poetry Ireland at the Abbey Grounds in Wicklow Town. Festival in a Van and Poetry Ireland are bringing the festival around the country to 10 counties, putting together ten poets with ten singer-songwriters. Pic: Leon Farrell

The Shaking Bog Festival - Where Art & Nature Meet

Glencree Valley - 10th-12th September

The Shaking Bog Festival sits on the seam of the creative and the natural. Based in the Glencree Valley, County Wicklow, this Festival and Podcast hope to reawaken our connection to the natural world through a vibrant blend of artistic engagement and nature immersion.

The festival also includes family events like bushcraft techniques, bird and bat box building, creepy critters and nature trails exploring Moths, forest bathing and nature in Autumn. There will also be a screening of and discussion about the works of Éamon de Buítléar.

This year's lineup includes:

Roddy Doyle is the author of twelve novels, including The Snapper, The Woman Who Walked Into Doors, Love, and Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha, for which he won the Booker Prize in 1993. He has written two collections of short stories, eight books for children, a memoir of his parents, three collections of his Two Pints dialogues, and Charlie Savage. He co-wrote the Second Half, with Roy Keane. His latest book, a collection of stories called Life Without Children, will be published in October.

Paraic O'Donnell is a writer of fiction, poetry and criticism. His essays and reviews have appeared in the Guardian, the Irish Times, Winter Papers and elsewhere. His first novel, The Maker of Swans, was named the Amazon Rising Stars Debut of the Month for February 2016, and was shortlisted for the Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Awards in the Newcomer of the Year category. His most recent novel, The House on Vesper Sands, was a Guardian and Observer book of the year for 2018.

Michael Longley was born in Belfast to English parents, Longley was educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, and subsequently read Classics at Trinity College, Dublin, where he edited Icarus. He was the Ireland Professor of Poetry from 2007-10, a cross-border academic post set up in 1998, previously held by John Montague, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill,

and Paul Durcan. An atheist, Longley describes himself as a "sentimental" disbeliever.

Melissa Harrison is a nature writer, children's author and novelist who lives in Suffolk. A collection of her columns for The Times, The Stubborn Light of Things: A Nature Diary, was longlisted for this year's Wainwright Prize, as was Rain: Four Walks in English Weather. Her most recent novel, All Among the Barley, won the European Union Prize for Literature, and At Hawthorn Time was shortlisted for the Costa Novel of the Year award and longlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction.

Lisa Lambe, is one of Ireland's best-known performers. Described by the Irish Times as the finest singer and actor of her generation, she is now poised to attract a global audience with her forthcoming album, Juniper. Lisa graduated Trinity College Dublin with distinction as an actor, working with Ireland's National Theatre and starring in many smash hit plays including most recently "Jimmy's Hall."

Colm Mac Con Iomaire is an Irish composer and musician from Blackrock, Dublin, who plays violin and sings with The Frames. He is the son of Liam Mac Con Iomaire, a writer, journalist and broadcaster. He attended school at Coláiste Eoin in Dublin and while there, in 1987, he was a founder member of Irish folk group Kíla. Mac Con Iomaire has been involved with The Frames since 1990 and his interest in the Irish Language led to The Frames's involvement in with the release of two Irish-language albums released for Irish charity Concern during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Kerri ní Dochartaigh was born in 1983, in Derry-Londonderry at the border between the North and

South of Ireland. Her work has appeared in the Irish Times, Winter Papers, Caught by the River and others. She lives in an old railway cottage in the very heart of Ireland with her partner and dog. Thin Places is her first book. Thin Places is her first book. It was shortlisted for the Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing.

Dara McNulty is a naturalist and activist from Northern Ireland. He has received many awards for his conservation work, including from BBC Springwatch, The Daily Mirror and Birdwatch magazine. Dara is the youngest ever recipient of the RSPC medal for conservation. He is the winner of the 2020 Wainwright Prize and the Non-Fiction prize at the Books are My Bag 2020 Readers Awards and the British Book Awards for his book Diary of a Young Naturalist.

Colin Stafford Johnston is one of the best known faces on Irish television, Colin has most recently been on our screens presenting Wild Cuba: A Caribbean Journey for which he won the prestigious Jackson Wild 'Best Presenter-Led' award for a second time. Last year, Colin presented Animal Babies: First Year on Earth on BBC Two and Wild UK on BBC One.

Poet **Alice Oswald** was trained as a classicist at New College, University of Oxford. Her first collection of poetry, The Thing in the Gap-Stone Stile (1996), received a Forward Poetry Prize for Best First Collection. Oswald often works in book-length projects and is known for her interests in gardening, ecology, and music.

Her second book, Dart (2002), was the outcome of years of primary and secondary research into the history, environment, and community along the River Dart in Devon, England.



Alison McGinley, Managing Director, TaxAssist Accountants pictured launching the Complete Covid-19 Supports Guide for SMES. Pic: Andres Poveda

Businesses urged to check they still qualify for government supports

Business owners are being urged to make sure they are not missing out on government support still available to them with the next phase of the roadmap approaching fast.

After frequent changes, some confusion around eligibility and when schemes will wind down has set in. TaxAssist Accountants, an accountancy network for SMEs, has launched a free, consolidated, guide that brings together all of the remaining supports, including their planned end dates. The document acts as a practical checklist for business owners who want to ask themselves; am I still getting all the supports I could be getting?

Speaking about the guide, Managing Director of TaxAssist Accountants, Alison McGinley, said 'The key thing to say is the support is there so don't miss out. Business owners are busy re-establishing their businesses and they don't have the time to spend online researching the latest updates from each government agency. Add to that the fact that some information on the internet is now out of date and you can see how business owners are confused. If you want to see at a glance what might apply to you, how much you can get and how you go about applying step by step then this is the guide for you'.

The guide is available to download for free online at www.taxassist.ie and is available via TaxAssist's app. TaxAssist's dedicated Covid 19 <https://www.taxassist.ie/covid-19> hub is also updated weekly with new information.

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Wicklow social enterprise awarded funding and business supports from Rethink Ireland

€400,000 awarded by Rethink Ireland to 34 social enterprises around Ireland

A Wicklow social enterprise has been awarded funding and business supports by Rethink Ireland under their Social Enterprise Development Fund.

The successful Wicklow organisation is: Shuttle Knit. The project empowers female Travellers by challenging social exclusion and creating employment opportunities and promoting Traveller heritage through the design and creation of knitwear to be sold online, at events and in stores. Shuttle Knit creates long-term, meaningful employment for this marginalized group and create a safe and accepting workplace which contributes to the wellbeing of their staff.

Rethink Ireland's Social Enterprise Development Fund has awarded €400,000 to 16 projects around Ireland, while a further 18 projects have been awarded a place on the organisation's Genesis Programme which provides strategic business support to organisations. The Genesis Programme is an intensive two-day workshop that will focus on building the skills and knowledge needed to develop a sustainable social enterprise and to be successful in future funding opportunities.

Speaking at the announcement was Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Frank

Curran, who said: "We would like to congratulate Shuttle Knit on their success in receiving a Social Enterprise Development Fund Award from Rethink Ireland."

Coming out of an extremely challenging period for Irish society – and Irish businesses – we're delighted with this good news story for Wicklow. Social enterprises have an important role to play in guiding Ireland to become a more inclusive and equal society. Organisations like Shuttle Knit, are leading the charge by not only creating jobs but working towards bringing about positive social change."

The Social Enterprise Development Fund is a €3.2 million Fund being delivered from 2018 – 2022. The fund was created by Rethink Ireland in partnership with Local Authorities Ireland and funded by IPB Insurance and the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The Social Enterprise Development Fund has been supported by IPB Insurance since 2018. Also speaking at the announcement was George Jones, Chairman of IPB Insurance, who

said: "We're proud to see the Fund going from strength to strength each year. Using innovative solutions to tackle social problems in our communities is something IPB Insurance strongly believes in, and we're delighted to support the fund."

Commenting on the funding announcement, Deirdre Mortell, CEO of Rethink Ireland said: "Just a few weeks ago, Rethink Ireland set out our Manifesto for 2030, detailing the Ireland we want – a fair, inclusive and sustainable Ireland. I'm delighted that Rethink Ireland is awarding both funding and business support to 34 organisations who are actively working to achieve this vision."

"Social enterprises are already living our Manifesto by actively working to tackle the greatest social challenges in Ireland. Whether they are knitting groups working to bring together marginalised members of society, innovative therapy practices using the power and beauty of our coastlines, or innovative ideas to strengthen safety in rural communities, they are the heart of our communities, and we're

delighted to be able to support them."

Rethink Ireland have also launched a new Start-Up Fund for social enterprises at the early stage of their development. The Fund will award cash grants as well as strategic business support to Awardees. Rethink Ireland are encouraging early-stage social enterprises to apply for the Fund to receive the support they need to grow and scale.

"Rethink Ireland (previously Social Innovation Fund Ireland) supports the most innovative non-profit organisations working in communities across the country. We believe that a team effort is more effective than working alone. So joining forces with the Government, companies, families, individuals and foundations, who understand as we do that lasting change demands new thinking, is how we do business. Together we create funds to help innovations rise to the challenges of our most pressing social and environmental issues. Our cash grants and business supports enable social innovations to develop and maximise their impact. This is our venture philanthropy model."

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Mazda Cx-5 passes rigorous German 100,000km endurance test

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

William Daynes seek permission for 1) Demolition of existing lean-to agricultural building and silage pit retaining walls 2) A geomembrane lined storage lagoon (including a leak detection manhole, agitation point, safety fencing and all ancillary works) for the storage of brewing and distilling wastes for recovery to agricultural land, tillage and grassland 3) New recessed site entrance at Bluestone, Knockandort, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow. The proposed works will also require a Waste Facility Permit Application. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Eoin Coogan intend to apply for permission for development at this site at Ballymaoney, Rathdangan, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of the erection of a slatted lieback cattle shed, animal handling area, silage pit, concrete yards, and ancillary works. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission. www.farmbuildings.ie

Motoring press in Ireland do not have the resources to do detailed, long-term endurance test of cars, so we tend to rely on word of mouth and service centre stats to establish which cars are the most - and least, reliable.

By Martin McCarthy

With Germany's vast car market, there are one or two outlets who can do these long-term tests and recently the Mazda CX-5 passed the 100,000-kilometre endurance test conducted by "AUTO BILD" magazine with flying colours. Mazda's highly successful model not only convinced the jury in terms of day-to-day use. With no notable defects and impeccable workshop performance, the compact SUV also earned one of the best marks ever awarded in an endurance test. This confirms the perception here is Wicklow that Mazda's are true premium cars with amazing durability. In particular, the bodywork on Mazdas

which have spent 20 + years exposed to the Irish Sea mist is often flawless. Folklore also tells of bulletproof mechanicals that can keep going in the agricultural uplands of West Wicklow.

The editors of "AUTO BILD" had already attested to the excellent long-term qualities of the predecessor model in the 2015 endurance test.

During everyday use, the Mazda CX-5 impressed the editorial team with its spaciousness, offering ample room for the family or photographic equipment, as well as a high level of motoring comfort and a refined powertrain. Particularly highly praised was the smooth interac-

tion of the Skyactiv D 184 diesel engine with the six-speed automatic transmission (NEDC consumption 5.5 l/100 km; CO2: 145 g/km).

The Mazda compact SUV also displayed no technological shortcomings during the test period, neither breaking down nor stalling, and there were no defects or unscheduled workshop visits. And even when the CX-5 was stripped down to its individual parts under expert supervision, the judges did not find any notable defects. Neither the 2.2-litre diesel engine nor the chassis or interior seemed particularly fazed by the 100,000 kilometres - which, in turn, left the trade journal's expert very impressed.

This excellent performance in the endurance test is further proof of the Mazda CX-5's strong reliability and long-term quality. In model year 2021, the second generation of the successful SUV has been further optimised, with an upgraded interior, expanded equipment and even more refined powertrains.

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.

F.O'K.



CLASSIFIEDS

Luke 12:32-48 GOSPEL

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, 'My master is taking his time coming,' and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.'

The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

C.J.

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