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Tuesday 26th October 2021

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

HUK UEMUUKAU

Independent Councillor Tom Fortune is alarmed over moves to make Town Teams legal entities, and says the potential implications could pose a threat to local democracy.

to make Greystones Town Team a legal local democracy and entity and at Cllr another step in the under-Fortune's request a Special Meeting of Greystones Municipal District Council was held last week to discuss the Memorandum Articles of Association for Greystones Town

At the meeting, Cllr Fortune said that such that the new structure legal entities are being rolled out by Local Authorities around the meeting was "the first country, and described

The process has begun the current situation as "a red flag for accountable mining of democratically elected councillors".

"The legal entities

being rolled out are a red flag. Councillors in and Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Clare have spoken with me about their concerns," he said.

He expressed his fears would be a Quango, and said that the special step in protecting proper

oversight"

The next step will be to raise it with Wicklow County Council and then with councillors, TDs and Senators nationally, he said.

"These two legal documents have not been brought to the attention of elected councillors and have not appeared on any of our Council meeting agendas until I requested this special meeting," he said. "It's another imposition on the role of councillors, who over the years have lost



Christy Kavanagh with his Halloween helpers pumpkin picking at Kavanagh's Christmas Trees in Newtown. Every tree selected during pumpkin week will receive a complimentary pumpkin. Pic: Michael Kelly

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to housing, planning, waste management. water & sewerage, roads, the County Development Plan." Town Greystones Team was established in Grevstones 2020

2017 as a follow-on from the voluntary group, to promote the area of Greystones. Greystones Town Team is not a CLG (Company Limited by Guarantee). Once it becomes a legal entity however it will qualify LEADER Programme funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

input on matters relating

Cllr Fortune has called for the Memorandum and Articles of for Association Greystones Town Team to be fully reviewed by an independent barrister.

"The language is vague and deceptive, they lack defined scope, Performance Indicators are unknown.

We as democratically elected councillors should have had oversight of all this in the first instance before this undemocratic process ever left the station. This amounts to a parallel structure being proposed to run separately from democratically elected councillors. This raises serious oversight issues and is a road that we should not be going down. It's changing the public realm and may involve very large public funds.

"I would love to trust what is happening but I fear that what's happening is the setting up of Quangos to leverage public money. I do not believe that an entity of this construct is required, it has never been required.'

He added, "There seems to be a strategically driven growing disconnect towards councillors, we are being excluded at a progressive

level. Democracy may have its flaws but we will miss it when it's gone.'

Cllr Fortune, with hosted an online dis-Independent councillor cussion on the issue of Mags Crean, recently

Continued on page 3





Children from the Boys School and St. Saviours School in Rathdrum preparing for Rathdrum's Halloween Playfest taking place in the Memorial Park on 30th and 31st October. See page 8 for

Shankill Classical Music

The club is finally getting going again! The first meeting since early 2020 will be on Wed 3rd

"The arrangements will be much as before, with some modifications to respect best practice at this stage of the return to 'near-normal'. We will operate the rules or guidelines concerning vaccination or immunity certificates and on-the-spot temperature reading.

"The music will be as always: a varied programme of classical music on CDs, covering many genres - orchestral, instrumental, vocal, opera etc Usual venue: Shankill Day Centre, Lower Rd, Shankill, 7.45-10.00 pm.

100 yds from the main street, car parking avail-

Visitors and new members welcome - no charge! "If you've not been there before it would be helpful if you could contact us ahead of time so that we can get an idea of the numbers attending. Please phone or text John on 087-2109175.

For further details of the club see www.shankillclassical.org.

Laragh Active Retirement

Active Retirement Group will be resuming their weekly Tuesday morning meetings on the 26th October for Tea/Coffee, light exercise and a catch up from 11am - 12pm at the Brockagh Centre.

Active Retirement group meets every Tuesday morning from 11am - 12pm in the Brockagh Centre and they have a great lineup of activities each week. So if you fancy a chat, a cuppa and some



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light exercise, dancing and music come along on Tuesdays. "We always welcome new members to join our group. If anyone would like to offer their services or share their skills with the group please contact the centre. For more information call Denise on 0404 45600, email brockaghoffice@gmail.com or drop in to the centre."

LEO Courses and Workshops

Wicklow Local Enterprise Office is offering a wide range of courses and workshops. Here are the updated offerings: Leadership For Your Business; Content Creation and Copywriting; Trading Online Voucher Seminar; Food Works Programme; Lidl Kickstart Development Programme; October Feast; ShowcaselIreland's Creative Expo 2022; Retail Industry Survey

Every €10 spent locally on Irish products generates more than €40 of benefit to the community. This benefit is in terms of employment.

Wicklow Library events

Wicklow Branch Library is hosting the following events: **Beginner Pilates** with Marilu Esnal: 6 week course commencing Wednesday 27th October at 11.30-12.30; Wicklow Libraries and KWETB Workmatters Workshop: Top tips for a successful CV and Interview Preparation, Tues 9th November from 6-8.30pm.

For details of above events contact: wick-lib@wicklowcoco.ie phone: 0404 67025.

Virtual conference for people battling sight loss

A forthcoming virtual conference will be held for people with sight loss and their families. Most recent statistics show that there are almost 272,000 people living in Ireland with a vision

"Our forthcoming Retina 2021 public engagement day, taking place on Saturday November 6th from 10am to 2pm, will focus on rebuilding resilience and optimism for the future among our community," said Kevin Whelan, CEO Fighting Blindness. There will be presentations on the revolutionary developments taking place to retain and regain sight, as well as motivational talks on developing coping skills to ensure we live our best lives in the face of adversity.

The conference is being presented virtually and registration is completely free at www.fightingblindness.ie

Wicklow Christmas Market is back for 2021

return this year, bigger and better than before. It will run from the weekend of the 27th of November through until 21st of December.

"We are delighted to launch the New Eco Ice Rink as part of the Wicklow Christmas Market. This exciting event is new to the Wicklow Christmas Market and will take place at Leitrim Place, Murrough Wicklow Town.

"We are pleased to announce this Market is FREE to the public, and offers food, activities and entertainment for everyone in the family. Start your Christmas shopping, visit Santa and spend the day enjoying the sights and sounds of Christmas.

"Wicklow Christmas Market is the perfect way to ring in the festive sea-Activities will include:Food vendors offering culinary delights from around the globe; Local artisans selling handmade crafts, gifts and art; Fun Fair including carnival rides and games;



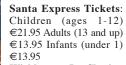
Visit with Santa and his elves; New this year The Eco Ice Rink

"Located within the Wicklow Christmas Market is the Santa Express, an interactive cal trip to the North Pole

and to Santa's house. Families will travel in their own train car with Oribel, Santa's head elf, as the conductor. Once at the North Pole, families will be entertained by the misopportunity to take a magi- chievous Elf and Safety and Mrs. Claus. Then of

course there will be the chance to get to visit with Santa Claus himself, take a picture with Santa. and post a letter at Santa's official post box.

A sensory Santa experience will be offered on the 3rd of December, and 10th December from 10:00am-12:00 pm, where the sights and sounds will be toned down and calmer. yet still include all of the fun and festivities of the Santa Express.



Wicklow on Ice Skating Tickets: €13.95.

Please call 0404 54400 or email info@wicklowchristmasmarket.com for ticket information or bookings at www.wick-



New project to support social enterprises

A new initiative just launched - the SEED Regeneration Programme - is offering free mentoring and networking to local social enterprises and social entrepreneurs, and a series of free online workshops starting this month.

The service is being provided by Bray Area Partnership in the Bray and North Wicklow area.
Social enterprises are businesses whose core objective is to achieve a social, societal, or environmental impact. They often work to support groups such as unemployed people or people with disabilities, or address issues such as food poverty, social housing or environmental matters. Examples could be a community café or shop, a recycling project or workshop creating products for sale while providing training or employment for marginalised groups.

We're delighted with this new project to be able to continue supporting our brilliant local social enterprises", says Bray Area Partnership

CEO Peter Brennan, "and to help them gain skills to manage and grow their enterprises and also to network with other local social enterprises", says Peter Brennan, CEO of Bray Area

The Partnership is also encouraging local voluntary organisations who are interested in setting up a new social enterprise to get in touch.

The upcoming series of free online social-enterprise focused workshops includes Strategic Planning and Review on 26th October, with ten further workshops scheduled for November and December.

Find out more at www.brayareapartnership.ie or call Eithne on 01 205 0111 if you are interested in mentoring, training or exploring the possibility of setting up a social enterprise.

The SEED Regeneration Programme is funded through the Dormant Accounts Fund and supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Irish Local Development Network



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Anger and frustration at Arklow Wind Park delay

Speaking in the Seanad last Thursday, Fianna Fail Senator Pat Casey said he is "annoyed and frustrated" at the time being taken by the Department to progress the application for the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 project that would allow it to move to the next phase of the process - a transboundary public consultation.

since any significant advancement was made on the project.

He made a statement on the positive impact the project will have in terms of its contribution to Ireland's energy and decarbonisation targets, and warned that Ireland's 2025 emission targets could be "thrown out the window' if the project isn't progressed with

This project will reduce Ireland's carbon emissions by approximately 1% and will offset more than 500,000 tonnes of harmful CO2 annually," said Senator Casey. "Wicklow currently has a housing stock of more than 56,000 homes. This project will generate eight times the electricity required for these homes. That is 520MW of electricity, which is enough to power more than 450,000 homes with green energy, contributing to Ireland's action plan target of 1GW of offshore energy by 2025.

"In March, a report was presented to the Department to facilitate the extension of the long-stop dates within the lease and ensure that the project is delivered in line with the most up-to-date environ-mental standards. This will allow the project to deliver the positive change in line with Ireland's ambitious climate action targets and mitigate the current electricity generation capacity crisis the country is now facing by 2025.

"While I appreciate that this application requires examination, I do not consider that a delay in excess of seven months without any apparent advancement is acceptable. This is the core of the problem, not just in the Department but with all Departments and arms of the State. They just do not seem to understand the implications of processes and applications that are not timebound. The uncertainties caused by

Senator Casey observed that it's have a significant effect on Ireland Maritime Area Planning Bill sets been more than seven months delivering solutions and addressing the challenges we face.

"Arklow suffered from serious

decline in the late 1990s and early 2000s when thousands of jobs were lost, including in the IFI plant, which at its peak employed more than 1,200. These industries left behind hundreds of acres of industrial wasteland. I have supported this project in Wicklow. I delighted when SSE Renewables decided to locate the operation and maintenance facility in Arklow in 2020. This will mean 80 full-time jobs and thousands of indirect jobs in Arklow and Wicklow during the construction phase and over the project's life-time. It will contribute millions of euro annually to benefit communities and commercial rates. It is a capital investment of up to €2 billion to power the green recovery. I am annoyed and frustrated at the being taken by the Department to progress this application, which would allow it to proceed to the next stage, namely, a transboundary environmental public consultation. If that is not achieved, we can throw our 2025 targets out the window.

Thanks to the likes of SSE Renewables, and others showing confidence in Arklow and Wicklow, Arklow is now moving to a new era of green technology, embracing new industries and new technologies. Arklow is at a turning point in its history. Let us not risk losing these opportunities to revitalise Arklow due to a process that is not time-bound and that is not progressing.

He asked Minister of State for Public Health, Well Being and National Drugs Strategy Frank Feighan to make a statement on the matter. Minister Feighan was there to speak on behalf of the Minister for Housing, Heritage and Local Government.

Minister Feighan said "The

out special provisions for Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) projects satisfying the definition of 'relevant maritime usage'. The special provisions for ORE are in recognition of the need to have a pipeline of projects progressing under the new regime in order to meet our 2030 climate and energy targets. Recognising that it will take time to establish the new agency, MARA, it was decided by the Government that the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications should be granted limited powers to invite MAC applications for specific ORE projects for a specified period in advance of estab-

"In the case of SSE Renewables and the Arklow Bank wind park phase 2 project, the company has an existing lease in place under the Foreshore Act and has now applied for an extension of the long-stop dates specified in that lease. While it is not appropriate to comment in detail on an application that will come before the Minister for determination, it is important to note that the application by SSE Renewables is unprecedented in the level of change from the existing lease arrangements, and, accordingly, it is necessary to review the application carefully so as to ensure that any decision made upon it is as robust as possible and will stand up to any challenge that may be brought forward.

"We want to meet our 2030 climate and energy targets. SSE Renewables has a lease in place for the Arklow wind project, which is, fortunately, under the Foreshore Act.

"I do not have the information on when a decision will be made. but I will bring the question back to the Minister to see if we can expedite the matter as quickly as



Wicklow photgrapher Susan Kyne Andrews came 2nd in the Royal Meteorological Society's 'Weather Photographer on the Year' competition, in the Mobile Phone category, with this photo of a double rainbow titled 'Between Showers' taken on Greystones South Beach. A worldwide competition, it was the first time it included a mobile phone category. Her prize

Susan took the photo on her phone on a May evening when she was out walking her cuckapoo Evie. The photo has since received much publicity and was featured on the Italian Vanity Fair and French GEO websites.

was €250 and the book 'Smart Phone Smart Technology' by judge Jo Bradford.

Improved performance for Council, NOAC report shows

Wicklow County Council improved its performance across a range of indicators during 2020, despite COVID-19 challenges and while providing additional innovations and services during the pandemic, according to a new report.

The NOAC Local Wicklow Authority Performance Indicator Report 2020 shows Wicklow County Council made advances last year, in particular in the areas of Community and Business supports.

COVID-19 placed a considerable burden on the Council, with a reduction in revenues and strained resources. However, essential services were delivered throughout the pandemic while Wicklow County Council played a vital role in the national response to COVID-19.

Wicklow County Council established the Community Call service to provide support to more than 1795 people since March 2020.

The Council also provided a range of new supports and grants to businesses, offered resilience and wellbeing supports to the community, and worked to facilitate changes to the public realm in the interests of public health and safety.

Alongside County Council continued to deliver essential serthroughout COVID.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, said: "Last year was very challenging vear for all sectors in our community and

County Council played a vital role in the national response to the pandemic by supporting the most vulnerable in our communities and continued to help economic recovery in Wicklow by supporting all our local businesses.

Commenting on the report, Chief Executive,

Frank Curran, paid trib- tinually seeking to ute to the hard work and improve services and dedication of Wicklow County Council employ-ees, stating: "Wicklow County Council continued to provide hundreds of services throughout 2020, despite the chalstraints of public health restrictions. We are con-

increase efficiency and did manage to make progress in a range of areas last year. Now that we are in a more certain situation with regards to COVID, we will build lenge and uncertainty of on our progress, contin-COVID-19 and the con- ue to innovate and deliver quality public ser-



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VALUE YOUR VOTE!!!!!!

Wicklow County Council are currently preparing the 2022/2023 Draft Register of Electors which will be published on 1st November 2021.

Electors are strongly advised to check that they are registered to vote on www.checktheregister.ie

If you are not on the Register, have moved into Co Wicklow recently, changed address or have members of your household who will be 18 on or before 14th February 2022, you can apply to be included in the Draft Register of Electors as follows:

RFA Form - available from Libraries, Post Offices, Garda Stations and at Council Offices or online from www.checktheregister.ie or by following the link on

If any elector has obtained Irish Citizenship since May 2019 and wish to update their citizenship status on the Register of Electors an RFA5 Form must be completed and submitted along with a copy of their Irish Passport or Naturalisation

THE CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE DRAFT REGISTER IS THURSDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2021

If you have any queries please email franchise@wicklowcoco.ie

RED ALERT FOR DEMOCRA

the erosion of councillors' powers which was attended by almost 50 people including six Senators and guest speaker Professor of Sociology at Maynooth University, Mary Murphy. At last week's meeting Cllr Crean said "as part of our role as public representatives we have to ask these questions. Oversight in these matters is critical"

Addressing the meeting last week, Christine Flood from Greystones Town Team said: "I accept that Councillors have lost some input and functions; the way Councils operate is changing, there's a move towards participative democracy. I accept that Cllr Fortune has issues with this, but also remember that these articles of memorandum are merely a template document; they can be reviewed and amended. Greystones Town Team will act as a separate entity to the Municipal District Council (however there may be an overlap of objectives) and should be regarded as such, and procedures of governance should be in place. It will not be a parallel structure but a collaborative structure, councillors have also been working with Town Teams and have been supportive. It is not an attempt to undermine local democracy. When we apply for funding from Screen Ireland, for exam-

towards the establishment of companies in this

Ms Flood stressed that the Town Team is a nonpolitical organisation and is there to develop projects for the town, promote the interests of the community and businesses, encourage collaboration and co-operation with key stakeholders, and provide a positive image for the town.

Cllr Fortune raised questions about insurance and governance for the new entity, and Ms Flood said they are in the process of getting insurance and that governance training could be provided by an agency such as The Wheel.

'We're working in the interests of everyone, and it's sad that there appears to be a breakdown of trust here," said Ms Flood.

Cathaoirleach of Greystones and Green Party Councillor Lourda Scott, said "I had some confusion about the Town Team's role so this meeting has been welcome. A review of Town Teams across the country would also be welcome. I agree that councillors' powers are being eroded, howev er I don't see Town Teams as being part of that erosion, but maybe there needs to be some expansion of the Council's oversight role in this."

Harris launches Power2Progress at St. Kilian's school

Minister for Further and Higher Education Simon Harris launched Power2Progress on Friday at St. Kilian's Community School in Bray, a new programme targeted at 700 students in 21 **DEIS** schools across the country.



Minister Harris in St. Kilian's in Bray

The initiative commenced last month with weekly tuition being provided by UCD student teachers. Two blocks of tuition will run, from September to December, and again from January to April, starting in 5th year of senior cycle and contin-

uing into 6th year. Minister Harris said: "I am delighted to join the wonderful team here at St Kilian's Community School Power2Progress.

This transformative programme seeks to introduce second level students to the potential of Higher Education and the work environ-

"I would like to pay tribute to the work and initiative of Professor Judith Harford and her team in UCD who developed this magnificent programme with the backing of the Z Zurich Foundation and Rethink Ireland.

"The programme facilitates each of the 21 schools to ask their senior cycle pupils to which they would benelaunch fit from additional attainment s. tuition. This tuition is Generally, provided by UCD student teachers, on-site, in schools, after school

> "The also involves a career

guidance/mentoring dimension and students who sign up to the programme will be provided with a laptop.

Minister Harris concluded "I am excited by the work Mr Murphy and the staff at St Kilian's undertake and I am delighted to see the recognition of the importance of this with the inclusion of the school in the Power2Progress programme. This programme will expand student's horizons as to what they want to do after they finish second level and will make a positive impact on student's choices for the years ahead."

DEIS schools have been selected as the focus for the programme as these schools are located in communities where the socio-economic status of pupils is below the national average.

DEIS post-primary schools make up just over 27 percent of all post-primary schools in Ireland and account for just under 76,000 postprimary students.

DEIS schools typically have lower levels select subject areas in of literacy, poorer attendance and lower these inequalities can persist into adulthood and impact health and career options programme affecting entire communities

Progress on West Wicklow pool campaign

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris and the Pool for West Wicklow Committee met with the CEO of Wicklow County Council on Friday to outline the progress and momentum behind the campaign to deliver a municipal swimming pool for West Wicklow

Minister Harris said: "I am to hold a public consultation on the delighted with the progress to date by the campaign to deliver a municipal pool for West Wicklow. I had made a submission to the Wicklow County Development Plan to ensure the pool project be given priority in the next County Plan.

"National sporting bodies such as Swim Ireland have come on board to support the project and I have highlighted to my colleague the Minister for Sport the national priority this project should be afforded. I have requested that the Pool for West Wicklow project be included in the review of the Department of Sport's Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund and requested that Wicklow County Council update their application to the fund in light of these developments.

Wicklow County Council are

Master Plan for the Council owned land at the Avon in Blessington, It is envisaged that this should be the location for the new municipal pool as part of a Multi Purpose Indoor Sports Facility and other outdoor recreation facilities linking to the new Greenway". Blessington

Minister Harris added: "I am anxious to see this project progress and I am encouraging as many West Wicklow families, community groups and schools to make submissions as part of the forthcoming public consultation process for the Avon lands. I have asked the council to ensure that key community stakeholders with the expertise such as the Pool for West Wicklow Committee and Water Safety Ireland are centrally Multi-Purpose Indoor Sports years ago.'

John Brady TD welcomed the progress that has been made by Wicklow County Council on developing a Masterplan for the 32 acres of council owned land at Burgage in Blessington. The Deputy has consistently stated that this land provides the best location for a Swimming Pool and sports campus for West Wicklow.

Deputy Brady said "I'm delighted that considerable progress has been made on developing a Master Plan which will outline the best usage of the 32 acres of council owned land at Burgage in Blessington. The council has engaged consultants who are currently in the process of developing can express their views on it.

involved in the Public the Master Plan for the land that Consultation process for this new the council purchased nearly 20

> "I have consistently stated that this land would provide the best location for the badly needed swimming pool and sports complex for West Wicklow. I have made a strong argument for the swimming pool to be included in the Master Plan. It could also help address the needs of many other sports clubs like Blessington AFC.""I believe that if a site for the swimming pool is included in the Master Plan it will help strengthen funding applications so the badly needed project can progress. It is hoped that the Master Plan will be completed in the coming weeks and then go out to public consultation so people

Sarah Finnegan in driving seat of Bray Chamber



Sarah Finnegan

Local Business Group Bray & District Chamber elected Sarah Finnegan as their new President at the group's AGM on Thursday the 14th October.

Sarah, the Director and Transport Manager for Finnegan Bus, replaces Ruth Donnelly after a two-year term. Speaking on her election Sarah said "I am honoured to take up this role and believe strongly that there is great potential in Bray and the surrounding area to connect more businesses together. I aim to use the position to give a stronger local voice for lobby ing on issues that affect business and for

collectively improving working and employing locally.

Sarah who held the position vice-president for the past two years and is keen to see the return of the Chambers networking and community events return in-person. She said "these events are vital to bring people together to network and promote Bray as a fantastic place to work and live and I look forward to hosting as many of these as possible over the next year."

Also at the meeting a new executive team was elected with the following members appointed Jonathan Donnelly (Alpha CC), Kieran Ward (Condor Publishers), Pat O' Suilleabhain (Sealife), Ruth Donnelly (Alpha CC), Karl Kelly, Brenda Hendrix (Creole Food), David Tew, Emma Messitt (Permanent TSB), Eugene Finnegan (Finnegan Bus), Malachaí Duddy, Mick Glynn (Planet Sound), Oliver Mahony (Hygenic Barbers), Robbie Smyth (Butler & Barry Waterfront Inns), and Sharon Bolger (Wicklow Voice).

Welcoming the new team Sarah said, "I am excited to work with the new bring new and exciting ideas to the Chamber.

Changing Places facility confirmed for Avondale House

Upgrade works at Avondale House will to take care of personal include facilities that meet the criteria for 'Changing Places'. The news was confirmed to Green Party TD Steven Matthews by his Party colleague, Minister Catherine Martin.

Deputy Matthews said "The news that Avondale will have this facility is hugely positive and I hope represents a mindset shift from designers, Department officials and local authorities. I first raised Avondale as a specific concern over the summer because even at that point, it was unclear whether the facilities would meet with the requirements that many

Welcoming the news, require. I welcome the

Minister's clarification. "I have been working with the Changing Places campaign in recent years and our goal is to amend Irish building legislation for these facilities to be mandated in certain public buildings. For those who are unaware, a changing place facility is a purpose-built toilet facility gives disabled people and carers more space families/ individuals and the right equipment

hygiene, in safety and comfort.

"There is ongoing work behind the scenes by the Departmental working group Changing Places that was established last year. The group is due to publish their recommendations on how best to proceed in an interim report before the new year. The group includes representatives from Changing Places campaign, and I hope will offer a clear pathway forward. I look forward to engaging with various the report and continuing



Deputy Matthews

to push for Changing Places to be legislated

for as soon as possible.

"Although it is hugely Avondale, ultimately the people in our society.

goal is to have a situation whereby new public buildings or public buildings that are undersignificant going upgrades would be required to have changing place facilities included as part of the design. Until that happens, I will continue to advocate for Changing Place facilities in all suitable public buildings but I look forward to getting to the point where this will be the industry standard and not down to individual groups politicians to push for the basic needs of some of the most vulnerable

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



Public Consultation 19th October to 26th November, 2021



Hello and I hope you are keeping well. My name is Eoin McPartland, Offshore Renewables Manager with Energia. I am delighted to announce the first phase of public consultation on a proposal by Energia for an offshore wind energy project in the South Irish Sea.

This project is proposed to be located a minimum of 10km and up to 25km off the coasts of Co. Wexford and south Co. Wicklow in the South Irish Sea. The South Irish Sea project aims to decarbonise energy supply, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and help to achieve Ireland's 2030 climate action and offshore wind energy targets. The project will generate clean electricity to power the equivalent of over 500,000 Irish homes.

We are committed to ensuring the project delivers significant economic and environmental benefits for coastal and fishing communities including high quality, long term employment and an annual community benefit fund in line with the Government's Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS).

This early consultation provides an opportunity to learn about the project, meet the team and provide feedback. There are a variety of ways to get information about the South Irish Sea project:



• **Online Exhibition Room:** Visit the virtual room to view project information including survey area maps, indicative photo illustrations, a project timeline, and information on our engagement with local and fishing communities. A feedback form is also available. The room can be accessed via our website: www.southirishseawind.ie.



• **Live Webinar:** The South Irish Sea project team will present details on the project in a live webinar on **Tuesday 9th November from 7-8pm**. This will include a question and answer session. For more information and to register visit: www.southirishseawind.ie



• Information Clinics: You are welcome to book an appointment with the project team to discuss specific aspects of the project. These information clinics will be held from 15th to 19th November. Booking requests can be made via our website www.southirishseawind.ie.

The project team is currently undertaking offshore and onshore studies to help determine site suitability and to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and design process. Further periods of consultation will take place over the coming 18 months to share progress on the development. It is anticipated that a planning application would be made in 2023 with a planning decision in 2024.

I look forward to engaging with you during this consultation period and as the project progresses. Your feedback is important and can help to shape the development of the South Irish Sea project. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or the project liaison officer, using the details below.

Best regards,







Times 6 NEWS Tuesday 26th October 2021



Cal, Nate, Jodie and Sarah Whitley at the Rathdrum Off Road Club Grasstrack event in

Harris seeks meeting with NTA on Baltinglass bus services

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD has requested a meeting with the National Transport Authority regarding bus services for West Wicklow.

Minister Harris said: "I have been working with communities across West Wicklow regarding the improvement of road safety and public transport along the N81 corridor. I have sought a meeting with the

National Transport Authority to discuss the future of public transport for West Wicklow.

"There clear demand for public transport solutions along the N81 corridor. Residents who completed my recent survey on the future of the N81 cited this as one of the key investments needed as part of any upgrade of the route. Baltinglass residents have demanded a shuttle bus to link their town to the Luas Red Line Terminus in Tallaght. A number of West Wicklow bus services are to be reconfigured as part of the Bus Connects network being rolled out. It is essential that this must include all of West Wicklow



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€5.45m investment for the conservation of Kilmacurragh House

A major project to conserve and preserve the historic Kilmacurragh House was announced last week by Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works (OPW), Patrick O'Donovan TD.

One of the last Queen Anne-style houses in Ireland. Kilmacurragh House at the heart of the National Botanic Gardens Kilmacurragh has lain derelict since it was destroyed by fires in 1978 and 1982. The OPW now plans to stabilise the building and roof the structure to save this important historic house and conserve it for the enjoyment of generations to come.

Speaking Kilmacurragh, Minister O'Donovan said "The OPW and I are delighted that the Government's infrastructure investment of €5.45 million under the renewed National Development Plan will help us to protect and enhance Kilmacurragh House through sensitive conservation

"When Kilmacurragh came into the care of the OPW in 1996, the house was already a ruin and although so much has been achieved under the expert leadership of Head Gardener Seamus O'Brien to restore the gardens with their world-famous collection of Himalayan rhododendrons to their former glory, it will significantly contribute to visitors' experience to see the historic house's structure also being carefully preserved and its exterior restored by our OPW conservation special-

ists.
"Ultimately, this project will give visitors a sense again of the architectural importance and history of

the house at the centre of these magnificent gardens and support two of the NDP's key objectives to strengthen rural economies and communities and to enhance amenity and her-

The

vision

Kilmacurragh House is to preserve the building as one of the earliest unfortified country houses in Ireland. Some local protection works will be completed before this winter and the main works will commence on site in 2022. The project will address structural issues and close the building from the elements by restoring the external appearance of the house, including reinstatement of the roof and restoration of existing external windows and doors, stabilisation of the internal floor structure, and conservation of external wall finishes. As an important historic building and protected structure, the OPW will retain to the greatest extent possible all

existing fabric. Welcoming the funding, Minister Simon Harris said "This is just the latest development in the OPW's plans to invest in and develop the National Botanic Gardens Kilmacurragh. In 2019, the Office of Public Works acquired an additional 55 acres of lands from Coillte, which included the Regency Walled Garden and the historic eighteenthcentury Arcadian Deer

works will significantly contribute to visitors' expe rience to see the historic house's structure being carefully preserved and its exterior restored by conservation specialists. This is an important historic building and protected structure and the OPW will retain to the greatest extent possible existing fabric. I am delighted to see this invest-ment save and restore such an important historic house and conserve it for the enjoyment of generations

This acquisition re-unites the house and botanic gardens with important elements of the historic demesne. The purchase of the Deer Park is particularly noteworthy, as its surrounding walls and ha-has are virtually intact and are a significant part of the original Dutch Park that surrounds the house. Exciting plans are underway to restore important landscape features within the Deer Park and also to return the Walled Garden to its original Regency design. This will double the area presently open to visitors and, when comwill plete, ensure Kilmacurragh's place among the Great Gardens of Britain and Ireland.

Kilmacurragh House is a protected structure of international importance. Sited close to the Wicklow Mountains, it is the centrepiece and focus of an important garden which is under the care of the

"The new restoration National Botanic Gardens and run by OPW National Historic Properties. The house is a rare example of the Queen Anne style in Ireland and was built in 1697. Designed by Sir William Robinson and commissioned by Thomas Acton, the house was known as "Westaston House" from 1750 to 1850. The house and gardens remained in the Acton families' hands from their inception at end of the 17th century until 1944 when sold by Charles Acton (1914-1999). The structure is of considerable historic and architectural

> Kilmacurragh renowned for the remarkable gardens and plant collection established by the Acton family. The present collection is based on material collected by some of the great plant hunters of the nineteenth century from South America and Asia. Many of these plants were provided by the National Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin. The tree and plant collection has been revitalised over the past 20 garden a mecca for plants people and garden visitors. The differing soil type (acidic) and higher rainfall makes this the perfect complimentary site to the collections at the National Glasnevin. The Gardens became an official outpost of the National Botanic Gardens with its name change in 2010.



Minister Patrick O'Donovan, Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works (OPW), pictured at the historic Kilmacurragh House.

COVID-19: Reframing the challenge, continuing our recovery and reconnecting



COVID-19: Proceeding with Caution

COVID-19 infection rates are once again increasing along with hospitalisations and ICU admissions – which means that we must all continue to proceed with caution.

The resilience and solidarity of our people, however, combined with exceptional support for the vaccination programme, means that we can move forward carefully.

Here are four important things to know:

4	Vaccinations
ь.	work

Vaccination is the best means of protection against COVID-19. The vaccines are free, safe and effective..

2 Act immediately if you have symptoms

If you experience any symptoms, you must self-isolate and get tested even if you are vaccinated. Stay at home — do not go to work, school or college.

Do not socialise.

Take steps now to reduce your risk of infection

Vaccination does not eliminate the risk of spreading the virus. That is why it is important to wear masks, clean our hands, cover up when we cough or sneeze, choose outdoors over indoors, keep our distance, and ensure indoor spaces are well ventilated. These behaviours **ARE** effective - they **DO** work. And remember if you are in a place where guidelines are not being followed and you don't feel safe - take your business elsewhere.

4 Your actions influence others

Think about what you can do to support and encourage all of the people around you to stay safe - your work colleagues, your clients and customers, your family members and friends.

The following measures will continue for the time being:



COVID-19 Pass -

Proof of vaccination or recovery (e.g. Digital Covid Certificate) is necessary for access to indoor hospitality and events.



Keep your distance

as an important protective measure.



Wear a face covering

in the appropriate settings.



Return to workplace

continues on a phased and cautious basis for specific business requirements.

We will have to live with the virus for some time to come. We must continue to work together so that it causes minimal disruption to our lives.





Members of the Rathdrum Development Association Seamus O'Toole, Maeve Burne, Karen Kennedy, and Cllr Pat Kennedy with Margaret Nolan from the Rathdrum Market, Lorraine Dunne, Carol Coad, and Jenny Sherwin, Wicklow County Arts Office, with students from the

Rathdrum's Halloween Playfest

Workshops, Demonstrations, Puppet Show, Dance Events, Disco, Concerts, Games & More

A spooktacularly-playful weekend of free, family-friendly events will take place on 30th & 31st October in Memorial Park, Rathdrum.

demonstrations, puppet shows, HIIT (2-2.45pm Families). in Memorial Park, Rathdrum on Silent Disco with Fancy Dress for Gibbs, and a demonstration on how to cook with leftover pumpkin by Ages). celebrity chef Catherine Fulvio.

are free and many activities are events listed: available to enjoy on the spot from 11am throughout the weekend, 11am & 12.30pm children and including:

On Saturday 30 October visitors the Beast puppet show with Julie Rose McCormick (11.45am-12.30pm (All Ages), a characteristic pupper show with Sunday to the Beast pupper show with Julie in a drum circle will be sure to get everyone's creative energy flow. can enjoy Giant Outdoor Games 12.30pm (All Ages), a chance to try out Balance Bikes on an obstacle course (11am-4pm Toddlers 3+), a colourful tribal-style dance display by **The Zoryanna** (11am-12pm All Ages) and a Tiny Disco & Fancy Dress for ages with DJ Mick (1.30-2.30pm Ages 0-12).

On Sunday 31 October there'll be another opportunity to enjoy **Giant** 104's DJ Al Gibbs for a **Silent Outdoor Games** (12-4pm All **Disco with Fancy Dress**. Taking Ages), while fitness fanatics can tryout Pound Fit, a drumming-

Wicklow Council Council is inspired class that fuses movement a headset for the duration of the gig delighted to present Halloween and music (12pm Families 5+) or Playfest, a weekend of workshops, enjoy a workout at **Family FIT** dance events, disco, concerts, included are Wicklow Willow games and more that will take place Halloween Decoration Decoration Workshops (1-2pm All Ages 6+), Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 Play Sessions led by Rachel Tyrell October. Highlights include trad (1-1.45pm All Ages) and a perforband Perfect Friction, 70's rock mance by West Wicklow singerband Feel the Pinch, and East songwriter Amy Barrett (1-1.30pm Coast Jazz Band in concert, as All Ages). After burning up all that well as Bodhrán Buzz and energy, visitors can join celebrity Pumpkin Carving workshops, a chef Catherine Fulvio, who'll be on hand to demonstrate how to teenagers with FM 104's DJ Al make delicious food with leftover pumpkin carvings (2-3pm All

Advance booking is recommend-All events at Halloween Playfest ed on Eventbrite for the additional

> On Saturday 30 October at adults can get to know our national drum by joining Robbie Walsh for a Bodhrán Buzz Workshop. The

Teenagers aged 12+ and adults of their work cancelled and they can join artist Sue Fortune for can't wait for you to get your rock Pumpkin Carving Workshops on Saturday 30 October at 12.30pm, 1.15pm & 2pm. All pumpkins and carving kits will be supplied and there'll be prizes for the best carvings in different age categories.

Teenagers aged 13+ can join FM place on Saturday 30 October,

jazz classics ensure they appeal to all music fans. Book on Eventbrite. All Halloween Playfest events are free. Seating is provided for concerts and the stage is fully covered from the weather in an attractive open stretch tent. Full compliance with Covid-19 measures for the event industry with support stewarding will be in place.

Halloween Playfest is supported through the Creative Ireland Programme and presented by Wicklow County Council's Culture Team. With thanks to Rathdrum Development Association. Also supported by the LLPS, Healthy Ireland, Wicklow Local Sports Development Partnership and the Play Paradigm. Perfect Friction. Feel the Pinch and East Coast Jazz Band in Concert are presented as part of the Local Live Performance

and the music will be pumped in via

Bluetooth. Dancers are encouraged

to get into the spirit of Halloween

and come in an upcycled Fancy Dress costume made from materials

found at home. There'll be prizes for

the best pair or couple and the best

2.30pm audiences of all ages can

enjoy Perfect Friction in concert.

Band members Louise Kelly.

Debbie Byrne, Laura Callaghan,

Courtney Cullen and Robbie Walsh

will bring their high-energy trad style to the party with their own

take on pop and rock songs tastefully arranged with a trad theme.

at 7pm, Arklow's very own 70's

sent their lively set on the Memorial

Park stage. Band members, Ray

Weadick on guitar and lead vocals,

Fran Harper on lead guitar and

vocals, Gerry Power on Drums and Paul Tyrell are all delighted to be

back playing after Covid-19 saw all

On Sunday 31 October at 3pm,

the East Coast Jazz Band will

round-off Halloween Playfest with

a lively and eclectic mix of popular

jazz styles, ranging from blues, dix-

ieland, ragtime and swing to bossa

nova. Their high energy take on

rock kings, Feel the Pinch will pre-

Later on Saturday 30 October

On Saturday 30 October,

witty interpretation of fancy dress!

Arklow shines in IBAL's post-lockdown litter rankings

the ranking of 40 areas nationwide. While the majority of our towns have cleaned up over the past 12 months, litter in our main cities has worsened to levels not seen in ten years. Portlaoise emerged as cleanest town. The study found no fall-off in PPE litter across the country.

The An Taisce report survey on behalf of rankings were occupied an increase in alcoholfor Arklow stated: "An excellent result for Arklow. The three approach roads got the top litter grade, and this high standard was maintained for many of the other sites surveyed. There is clearly a strong Tidy Towns presence throughout the town, based on various signage and projects. One notable feature throughout Arklow was the way in which many of the closed / boarded up properties had been brightly painted, even camouflaged to remove the sense of abandonment. Arklow Sports Centre - Coral Leisure and Environs wasn't just very good with regard to litter but there was a strong emphasis on the environment with solar panels on the roof and 'water conservation garden' to the

The number of areas deemed clean by An IBAL, rose from 17 to 23. In all, 68% of towns showed an improvement on last year. Portlaoise, which was at the very foot of the table back in 2010, topped the rankings, ahead of Leixlip and past winner Ennis.

IBAL's Conor Horgan commented: "With local authority cleaning schedules normalising again and volunteer groups reengaged in clean-ups across the country, our towns are almost as clean as 2 years ago. This is still some way short of where they were in 2014, however.'

By contrast, the majority of urban areas fared worse than in 2020, among them Dublin, Cork and Limerick City Centres, which were all deemed 'littered'.

for cities

All but one of the bot-Taisce, who carry out the tom 10 places in the masks on our streets and League.

by urban areas. "For related litter such as cities, this survey paints a bleak picture," comments Conor Horgan. "Litter levels have worsened to a level we have not seen in posable masks, we're the past ten years. Now that we have emerged alarming rate and they from lockdown, we cannot use it as an excuse for high levels of litter.

"As we invest in promotional drives and build translating into more city hotels in anticipation of more visitors, we need to be mindful of the littered environment we are presenting to them."

For the first time since 2014, Dublin's North Inner City was deemed a litter blackspot. Of the 25 sites in the area surveyed, only 2 were found to be clean, and 17 were 'heavily littered' or worse.

Continued Rise in Covid-related litter

The study showed a near-30% increase in the prevalence of PPE

cans and bottles

"The need for PPE has not abated - unfortunately we're still using disstill dropping them at an are still not being picked up," says Conor Horgan.

We are consuming more outdoors and this is food- and drink-related litter." Despite this, the survey showed a 20% drop in coffee cup litter. There was also a steep fall-off in cigarette butts.

IBAL was once again critical of the failure of local authorities to address sites which they have previously high lighted as heavily littered, especially in urban areas. Of the 103 such sites exposed last year, fewer than half have been cleaned up in 2021

of the IBAL Anti-Litter

Bungalow in picturesque south Wicklow hills in online auction

A bungalow set in the picturesque, rolling direct access to the roadway. hills of south Wicklow will go to auction this week.

The three-bed detached bungalow at Slievebawn. Monaseed, is in an elevated rural setting, approximately two kilometres west of Hollyfort Village and the same distance east to Monaseed Village.

The 129 sq mts house will go to auction with Youbid.ie on October 27th with an advised minimum value of €225,000.

The property, which is being sold with a tenant in situ, is a seven minute drive to Gorey and the area is known for its natural beauty and availability of woodland walks on its doorstep.

Set on its own private plot which extends to approx. 0.29 hectares/0.7 acres, this property benefits from

There are also two stone/block built sheds ideal as storage space or, perhaps, conversion to a home

The property comprises generous and light filled rooms throughout, including an entrance hall, sitting room with a fireplace, open plan kitchen with a combined dining area and sunroom, utility room with a door to the rear garden, main bathroom, three bedrooms - one with an en suite.

The October 27 auction will feature apartments, a variety of residential house types and agricultural land from eight different counties.

The properties for the auction are listed on the plat form. Documentation and brochures are available by registering on Youbid.ie or by calling 01-5676979. Email: info@youbid.ie for more details.



Students from the Boys School & St. Savoirs School in Rathdrum prepare for the Ratthdrum Halloween Plaufest



Divine plans for Nazarene Community Church

Luke Carrig and Tim Bowen-Evans from Grevstones Nazarene Community Church have ambitions to enhance and expand the function of the building and grounds at Burnaby Lawns.

The plans would include the creation of a sheltered play-ground, preschool, allotments and coffee shop, as well as enhancements to the building itself which would enable it to accommodate more community groups and events.

Luke and and Tim gave a presentation to councillors at last week's Greystones Municipal District council meeting where they outlined their hopes for the future role of the church in the local commu-

The Church has been in the community for three decades as a place of Christian worship and Luke says he wants to see it become a more inclusive 'com-munity hub' for people of all faiths and none.

population Greystoines is growing and there's an increased demand for community facilities. We believe we can make a significant contribution to meet this growing need," said Luke.

"We want to make our space serve the community around us, large area of green space behind community programmes such as



The Nazarene Community Church in Greystones

want to encourage good spiritual, mental and physical health.

could be transformed into a

we believe in a hollistic us and we want that to be a approach to wellbeing and we flourishing area of natural biodiversity. Greystones also badly needs another preschool to meet "We have an open area that the needs of the growing population. Inside the building, we sheltered playground, we have a want to have rental spaces for

first aid training. We would like to have a free cofee shop, too, where the elederly can meet for a coffee and a chat. We want to partner with the local community and include everyone -not just religious groups. We need to remodel our facility to achieve all of this and we need funds

Luke and Tim appealed to councillors for any help and

support they could give.

"We have some funds, but not a huge amount," said Luke. 'We will need to collaborate with local entities.

Councillors were broadly supportive of the vision. "These are some excellent ideas," said Cllr Derek Mitchell. "There's a lot of space there and it's not being well utilised at the moment. It won't be easy to get funding for this, however.'

Cathaoirleach of Greystones, Green Party councillor Lourda Scott, said that the question of funding still needs to be teased out but she agreed that lack of facilities in the community is an



Connie Mae Fagan at the Rathdrum Off Road Club Grasstrack event which was held in Aughrim.

Fundraising walk from Bray to Howth for young father's cancer battle

A GoFundMe campaign has been started to raise funds for Simon Kelly. a 37-year-old husband and father of three who has been diagnosed with bowel cancer.

Simon's cancer was detected in June of this year after he went for routine blood tests following a recurring stomach bug. Further tests revealed that he has aggressive stage 4 bowel cancer which has already spread to his liver and stomach and without further treatment he only has a few months to live.

The fundraiser has been started by Natasha Kelly and Kamila Kelly and over €11,000 (£9,000) has been raised so far.

On 30th October, to raise money to help support treatment (in additional to chemo, Simon's using many other treatments to stop the cancer from spreading further), Simon's friends Lee Martin and Jolein Hogerzeil will be walking from their home in Bray to Howth. On the same day, a group of around 18 of Simon's other close friends and family members will be walking from Brighton to his house in Crawley, UK - a similar distance.

Simon is a loving, caring husband and a fantastic dad to three boys: one aged almost 16 and twins aged 13. Simon has so many plans and dreams and is determined that cancer will not stand in the way of fulfilling them. He has started on a gruelling course of chemo and despite many side effects he's staying positive and fully believes that he can beat the disease.

"He's staying unbelievably positive, keeping his brilliant sense of humour and an incredible resolve; he's determined to beat this and his family and friends are all backing him," Lee Martin says.

"Both walks wil be starting at the same time and we'll be keeping in touch for support and encouragement via video calls and Instagram live. We have all got tshirts made up for the walk which says 'go n-éirí an bóthar leat'."

Although born and raised in the UK,



Husband and father of three, Simon Kelly, who was diagnosed with Stage 4 bowel

Simon has Irish heritage - his Dad was whelmed by the support they have born in Dublin in 1952 and later moved to the UK for work, where he met his wife Marion and had Simon and his sister Natasha. Simon's father sadly passed away last year after struggling with dementia so it's already been a difficult year for the family. Simon has family members in Ireland including Howth where the walk

received so far, not only from friends, but strangers have been chipping into the fund-raising which has a target of £20,000. This support has truly giving them all a huge morale boost as well as giving hope for treatments to beat the dis-

To donate and find out more, see Simon's family have been over- gofund.me/70394f53

Joint Committee on Transport and Communications visit Broadband rollout sites

The Joint Committee on Transport and Communications last Tuesday, 19th October, observed the deployment of the National Broadband project during a site visit to National Broadband Ireland (NBI) facilities in Wicklow and Dublin.

Members of the Committee visited NBI's offices in Citywest followed by a multi-site field trip to the Blessington Deployment Area.

Committee Cathaoirleach Deputy Kieran O'Donnell said: "The Committee received an update last month from National Broadband Ireland on the rollout of the fibre project across the country and Members were invited to visit a deployment site to see the progress being made to see the works underway

The Joint Committee said they were "interested in seeing first-hand the work involved in the development of this critical national infrastructure by NBI and its partners, together with their plans to make up for the delays which have set the project back between six and eight months to date.

The Joint Committee on Transport and Communications has 14 Members, nine from the Dáil and five from the Seanad.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

APPLICATIONS FOR POSTAL/SPECIAL VOTES

Wicklow County Council are currently preparing the 2022/2023 Draft Register of Electors which includes the Postal and Special Voters List

If an elector who would like to be included on the Postal Voters list for reasons of disability, illness or vulnerability and are unable to travel to a Polling Station can apply for a Postal Vote at Home.

Postal Votes (PV1) Forms* are available from www.checktheregister.ie or by email request to Franchise@wicklowcoco.ie

* PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PV1 FORM WILL REQUIRE VERIFICATION FROM THE APPLICANTS GP AND THE ELECTOR WILL REMAIN ON THE POSTAL VOTERS LIST FOR THE LIFETIME OF THE INCOMING 2022/2023 REGISTER OF ELECTORS

If you have any queries please email franchise@wicklowcoco.ie

The feel good pharmacy



PHARMACY

Bringing Experience and Healthcare even closer



Fitzmaurices's Pharmacy - now Dargle Valley Pharmacy - at it's new premises in the Egan Business Centre - same great service in a convenient new location.

Paul Burns and the Team of Fitzmaurice's Pharmacy have provided support, advice and care for nearly 25 years to their loyal customer base. "We have always put our customers first. That's why in October 2021, it was time to move" explains Paul.



Pharmacist Paul Burnes helps a customer at the Dargle Pharmacy in the Egan Centre

"As a service provider you have to be close to your customer, as a Pharmacy you have to be there for them. This was becoming increasingly difficult. Trying to improve our service and experience for our customers was becoming impossible. Customers spent hours in traffic jams and then had to find scarce and distant parking from the Town Centre, which is more than a nuisance when you are trying to pick up medication for a sick relative, or if you are feeling unwell yourself.

"We expanded our customer base by providing our free delivery service, but even we found it difficult to find parking for Tony (our delivery driver) to load his car to deliver the medicines.

"We realised that we could not grow our service to our Patients by trading from the Town Centre

"We needed a solution. It was time to take the initiative Time to make a change for the better.

"We wanted to find a new premises where we could get closer to our customers, provide free and easy parking, expand our delivery service and somewhere we could have the space to improve services to customers and their fami-

"Donal Egan of The Egan Centre provided that space, just off Junction 6 on the N11. He had a magnificent unit next to Centra. It was a perfect location and size

Donal was as excited as we were as he understands there was a need to have a good Pharmacy in the area.

Now in our new premises we can offer everything our customers need: free parking, a range of products and services from our beautifully designed Pharmacy. We can now offer our unique health services closer to the community and families of the Upper Dargle and Fassaroe area who formerly did not have easy access to health care and advice.

It only takes 10 minutes to get to the Pharmacy from Kilmacanogue, just off the N11 at Junction 6 and right next to Centra, we are only a couple of minutes from Bray town

















Just a small selection of the products available at the new Dargle Valley Pharmacy in the Egan Centre.

The feel good pharmacy



PHARMACY

Bringing Experience and Healthcare even closer

centre and 5 minutes down the road from Enniskerry and Shankill

"As a service provider you have to be close to your customer, as a Pharmacy you have to be there for them. This was becoming increasingly difficult. Trying to improve our service and experience for our customers was becoming impossible. Customers spent hours in traffic jams and then had to find scarce and distant parking from the Town Centre, which is more than a nuisance when you are trying to pick up medication for a sick relative, or if you are feeling unwell yourself.

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It only takes 10 minutes to get to the Pharmacy from Kilmacanogue, just off the N11 at Junction 6 and right next to Centra, we are only a couple of minutes from Bray town centre and 5 minutes down the road from Enniskerry and Shankill.

We now have space to grow. Please come and visit us or call us on 01286 2210.

We have the room to expand our products range and now include gift sets, Pink Bomb products, bath bombs, a selection of amazing soaps and creams perfect for presents.



The frieldly and knowledagable staff of the Dargle Valley Pharmacy are ahppy to help.



Bath Bombs and many more items are available at the Dargle Valley Pharmacy.



 $The \ spacious \ and \ well \ laid \ out \ interior \ of \ the \ Dargle \ Valley \ Pharmacy \ in \ the \ Egan \ Centre.$

With a state of the art private consultation room we can now offer the following services:

- 1. Blood pressure monitoring
- 2. BMI indexing
- 3. Health care advice
- 4. Antigen testing
- 5. Vaccines
- 6. Pre packaged medication for complicated doses

We now have the space to grow, so that we can offer our customers more. Call in store to learn more.

Time to Pharmacy
10 minutes
12 minutes
Just around the corner
3 minutes
5 minutes
5 minutes

The shop:

Not only do we provide a full dispensary and Pharmacy service but our team are there to help you with wonderful range of gifts and special offers from our ethical range of fun bath products selected from our Pink Bomb range, Designer Perfumes, and baby department to our health and lifestyle range of vitamins and supplements.

Service

As health care evolves, we have always been at the forefront of Patient Empowerment and education. We work with the health care teams to improve Patient well-being and health outcomes through our unique Family focused support services.

Call in and ask about our bespoke blister packing service for patients that are on complicated medication doses. Our systems aim to reduce Hospital admissions and help Patients and Carers be more focused during their GP and Consultant, which helps everyone to get better Patient outcomes.

We are so proud to be able to expand our services including vaccination, antigen certs and blood pressure monitoring .

Thanks:

We like to thank all our Patients and Customers who have supported us so much thought the years, our staff who worked so hard with the move. Donal Egan and his family and Leona, Dave, Paul and Danny who helped so much with putting the shop together.

Come and visit us and park at our door or we will deliver to yours!

limes 12 NEWS Tuesday 26th October 2021



Riona Long and Tetiana Leshchenko receiving their Early Childhood Ireland National Award

Wicklow childcare provider celebrated at **Early Childhood Ireland National Awards**

A Wicklow childcare provider is among the winners of Early Childhood Ireland's National Annual Awards which recognise and applaud the excellent practice of educators in early learning and care settings.

Ashvale Creche were awarded the Learning Story of the Year from a 'Newcomer' Award, Sponsored by Allianz, at this year's National Annual Awards for their story submission: 'Stay Connected.'

Early Childhood Ireland supports 3,800 childcare members nationwide, who - in turn - support over 120,000 children and their families. This includes 140 members in County Wicklow.

Commenting on the awards, Teresa Heeney, CEO of Early Childhood Ireland, said: "I would like to con-

gratulate Ashvale Creche and thank them for their innovative approach and contribution to the continued development of the early years sector. The winning story delivered the emotional connection children had with the story and how impactful great family participation can be.

"The Early Childhood Ireland National Annual Awards showcase the excellent practice in early learning and care settings. Our sector has faced another challenging year as we continue to live with COVID-19, but as the high quality of the awardees demonstrates, our members and their staff continue to deliver quality care and education for Irish families."

Teresa Heeney added: "The National Awards clearly demonstrate the resourcefulness and commitment of those who work within the early years sector and reinforces the need to fully professionalise the sector to ensure our workforce is properly recognised and valued. I hope the government moves positively in this direction in the very near future.

Public's views sought on ways to improve Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme

Inland Fisheries Ireland, the state agency that has responsibility for the protection and conservation of freshwater fish and habitats, has launched an important public consultation on the future management of the Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme.

The state agency is encouraging anyone in Wicklow with an interest in the area to submit their views on how the tagging system, which started in 2001, can be improved and modernised. It is especially keen to hear from salmon and sea trout anglers in the region, angling those businesses that distribute salmon and sea trout licences, such as fishing tackle shops.

The Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme was set-up twenty years ago to record the issuing of wild salmon and sea trout licences, gill tags and logbooks to both recreational anglers and commercial fishermen and to process details of fish catches on a database for further analysis. It was part of a series of measures introduced to help with the management and conservation of Ireland's wild salmon and sea trout populations, which have been in decline.

Figures from the 2020 Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Statistics Report show that 14.138 salmon and sea trout licences were sold to recreational anglers in the state last vear, which were a mixture of virtual licences sold online and hard copy licences sold over the counter clubs, commercial fishermen and in shops. In addition, 78 public commercial licences were made available to commercial fishermen in 2020.

Inland Fisheries Ireland is now carrying out a review of the whole tagging system, to see how it can be made more user-friendly in the future and to ensure that it can provide the agency with real-time, accurate data to assist with the protection, management and conservation of wild salmon and sea trout.

The Head of Business Development with Inland Fisheries Ireland, Suzanne Campion, said: "The Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme was first intro- Business Campus, Dublin 24.

duced two decades ago and since then, we've seen a seismic shift towards buying and selling online, with many technological advances along the way that we'd like to harness. As we're undertaking a review of the tagging system, we see this as the perfect opportunity for the public, especially those involved in the angling sector in Wicklow, to have their say on the management of how licences, tags and logbooks are issued and distributed in the future. In other words, how can Inland Fisheries Ireland make the tagging system as user-friendly as possible in the future and a better service for all?"

Public consultation for the Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme closes at 5pm on Wednesday, December 1st 2021 and members of the public are invited to make submissions by completing a short survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/BradanConsultation.

Alternatively, written submissions can be emailed to bradanconsultation@fisheriesireland.ie or posted to Inland Fisheries Ireland's head office address in Citywest

Bray Cualann Historical Society are 'Heritage Heroes'

preservation, protection and promotion of Ireland's built, natural and cultural heritage were recognised last week at the National Heritage Awards, hosted by the Heritage Council.

Awards County Award recognised the most successful project in each Local Authority across the island, with Bray Cualann Historical Society, claiming the prize in County prize in County Wicklow. Its project, 'Boghall Area, Bray', focused on social and cultural history of the Boghall area of Bray from 1744.

Winners announced at a virtual ceremony presented by RTÉ broadcaster. Anne Cassin and attended by Minister of State for the Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD.

The National Heritage Week Awards highlight 'heritage Ireland's heroes', and showcase the most engaging and innovative projects from National Heritage Week 2021. To take account of restrictions on gatherings due to COVID-19, this year National Heritage Week comprised a mix of online, in-person and community projects. In total. more than 1,050 projects and events took place around the country, as communities and individuals answered the Heritage Council's call to 'open the door to heritage and celebrate local heritage for the first Each heritage activity shared on the National Heritage Week website was considered for a National Heritage Week Award.

The National Heritage Awards were expanded this year to include a Wild Child Award, sponsored by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

cessfully encouraged children and families to explore the heritage in their locality.

Projects assessed on the basis of their local reach and community engagement, approach to awarenessraising, use of resources to inform their work, and the level to which they involved different age groups.

Other categories com-prised: The Heritage Hero Award; Heritage Newcomers: Heritage Sharing; Heritage for All Ages; and the Water Heritage Award. A special award was also presented to the most successful heritage project from each county. The Water Heritage Award 2021 is sponsored by the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) and is awarded to the project that best explored how a canal, river, lake or the sea shapes heritage in a

locality. Commenting, Minister of State for the Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD, said: "I am delighted to be able to attend the annual National Heritage Awards and celebrate the efforts of the awardees in ensuring the realisation of the promotion, preservation and conservation of our heritage. I am particularly encouraged by many of the awarded projects' use of modern technologies to communicate and record our heritage at a local level. This makes their work, and our shared heritage, more accessible to new audi-

Council announced in ties. The result has been last week's budget Minister Noonan continued. "I was delighted to secure additional fundrecent budget, including a significant increase for the Heritage Council, which will bring their total allocation from my Department, for 2022, to over €12m. This will put it in a position to increase its grants schemes and further support those communities and organisations who care for our her-

Minister

Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman TD said: "The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth is delighted to support the Wild Child Award at the National Heritage Awards. Under the implementation of First 5: A Whole of Government Strategy, our aim is to improve the lives of babies, young children and their families. National Heritage Week, particularly Wild Child Day, is a wonderful opportunity for children and their families to 'open the door to heritage', explore the heritage in their locality and develop a greater sense of place and connection heritage. with community as a

Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, ties and groups who, Virginia Teehan added: "This year, as part of and deliver projects and National Heritage Week, events during National the Heritage Council invited heritage enthusiasts to 'open the door to heritage' and think about ational, cultural, envi-Referring to the how as many people as ronmental, increased funding allopossible could be ic benefits.'

The National Heritage project that most suc- cation for the Heritage included in their activia huge volume and variety of heritage activities being organised. This success reflects the deding for heritage in the ication of individuals and communities, many of whom are being recognised today at the National Heritage Awards, to capture, celebrate and share Ireland's rich and varied heritage. 'Heritage Hero', Patrick Boner, is one such individual whose work in west Donegal has led to a greater understanding and appreciation of the heritage in that particular area.

"On behalf of everyone at the Heritage Council, I offer sincere congratulations to not only the winning and shortlisted groups and organisations, but to all those whose who were involved in the organisa-Heritage Week activities and considered for an

Communications and Marketing lead for the Local Authority Waters Programme Alan Walsh said: "As a partner of National Heritage Week, LAWPRO is delighted to sponsor the Water Heritage Award at this year's National Heritage Awards. The sea and our great rivers, lakes, and wetlands have shaped Ireland's

"This Water Heritage Award recognises the work of local communiyear on year, organise Heritage Week that highlight the importance of water for recreronmental, and econom-

Last day for 18 to 20 year olds to apply for free EU rail travel passes

Fine Gael Minister for Further and Higher Education Simon Harris TD has highlighted the deadline of October 26th for 18 to 20 year olds to apply for the DiscoverEU Initiative free rail travel passes around the European Union next year.

Minister Harris said "The European Commission's DiscoverEU Initiative will supply tens of thousands of young Europeans with free rail travel passes around the European Union next year. The deadline for applications is Tuesday October 26th.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for any Irish (or

and 31st December 2003, to apply for one of 60,000 DiscoverEU rail passes

"Winners will be able to travel for free for a maximum of 30 days between 1st March 2022 and 28th February 2023. Visit the DiscoverEU Portal (europa.eu/youth/discovereu_en) before the closing date of 1pm on Tuesday, 26th October to

The DiscoverEU Initiative is part of the European Year of Rail, an initiative to encourage EU citizens to travel by train to help tackle climate change and achieve a carbon neutral EU by 2050.

Wicklow facing substitute teacher crisis

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has raised concerns of a growing substitute teacher crisis in schools in Wicklow.

After speaking to numerous pri mary and secondary school Principals across county Wicklow, Deputy Whitmore says, "It is alarming to hear directly from school Principals and staff of the chronic lack of substitute teachers currently available to them if a teacher is absent.

"During the current pandemic, teachers have to stay home if they or their child are sick or are waiting for covid test results. Normally, there would be a number of substitute teachers to fill in, but the number of available substitutes has been dwindling over the past number of years for many reasons. There are less and less teachers due to the higher cost of living in areas like Wicklow, many going overseas and fewer training to be a teacher now that it takes two years for a person to qualify. Covid has made the current situation even more untenable as teachers are often absent last minute when they suspect an infection making it harder



Iennifer Whitmore TD

both primary and secondary, are telling me that where there is an absence they are forced to use existing Special Education Teachers which means children go without this support in the meantime. Principals themselves are also stepping in to take over for a class. There is an INTO online resource but most substitute teachers are booked up by the time a "Principals in Wicklow schools, school contacts them. Another con-

cern is that not all those who substitute for a teacher's absence are in fact qualified, but a school can be forced to take on the extra help where it can.

"All of this is unsustainable in terms of education provision for children and workload for existing staff, who are already working hard during the current pandemic to maintain a safe school environ-

"What is shocking is that we are hearing very little from the Minister for Education on this issue, and there is no clarity as to what additional resources are in place from Budget 2022. There is no long term plan either to increase teacher cover in Wicklow and across the country, a huge shortcoming of this current Government.

"I have followed up with the Minister on this and will find out what the Department is doing, if anything to stem this crisis, encourage more people to take up teacher training and to assist schools who

13 Wicklow schools awarded Green Flag

Thirteen schools from Wicklow were awarded the Green Flag last week for their dedication to sustainability and protecting their environment.

Despite two school Citizenship and Marine couple of years. 94% of Schools Manager Cathy years with closures and Environment. This year challenges posed by schools in Ireland COVID-19, 526 schools achieved amazing results across Ireland were in the themes: awarded Green Flags this month, including 33 schools that have been awarded the Green Flag for the first time.

Green-Schools is an environmental manage- of litter and waste issues ment programme for schools which focuses on Waste; Energy; Travel;

o 70% of schools working on our Litter & Waste theme took part in awareness raising action days, with 73% reporting an increase in awareness

o 29% of schools working on the Energy themes including Litter theme managed to make energy savings which is amazing considering the Biodiversity; Global challenges over the last

Wicklow's new Green Flag schools:

All Saints N.S. Carnew Lacken N.S, Blessington Mary's Senior National School, Blessington Greystones Community NS, Greystones Moneystown N.S, Bray Nun's Cross N.S, Ashford Scoil Mhuire Realt Na Mara, Wicklow Mary & Gerard's N.S, Enniskerry Carysfort N.S, Arklow Colaiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole Holy Rosary Primary School, Wicklow Woodbrook College, Bray Marino Community Special School, Bray

schools saw an increase in awareness on the topic of Energy.

o 77% of schools awarded for the Green-Schools Travel theme hard in your schools over saw an increase the number of students cycling to school and 85% of schools recorded an increase in sustainable school closures and travel overall.

o Schools involved in the Biodiversity theme increased the level of biodiversity nationwide by planting over 2000 trees; creating more than 150 new wildlife-friendly gardens and erecting at least 250 new bird feeding stations

working on the Marine Environment investigated_the sources of marine litter and promoted an action to reduce

o 93 secondary school students took part in the Water ambassador programme as part of the Nicola Coughlan, cham-Water theme, which provides mentoring and training for committed students who want to make a difference.

Speaking at each cere- their particip mony this week, Green- Green-Schools.

Baxter congratulated the 526 schools receiving their Green Flag: "We know that you have all been working incredibly the last year and you continued to find innovative ways to keep the programme going during social distancing. You managed to have outdoor Committee meetings. online workshops and attending online webinars to keep up to date, so

Schools were invited Family Carers Ireland supto six online award ceremonies which took place g stations from Monday, October o 88% of schools 4th to 8th with the final ceremony for the Water theme theme taking place on October 14th. At the ceremonies schools enjoyed activities like Sea Shanties and online quizzes, with messages of support played from "Captain Climate", actor pion cyclist Lara Gillespie and local authority Environmental Awareness Officers, who support schools during their participation in mitments whilst formally accred-



IT Carlow awarded €1m funding to support family carers across Ireland

Institute of Technology Carlow has been awarded a special €1million fund for the development and nationwide delivery of a Certificate in Family Caring in partnership with Family Carers Ireland (FCI) in recognition of the programme's support for carers.

ered in nine different regions in of knowledge. 2019/2020, the certificate programme has provided family carers with the skills they need to care safely and confidently for a loved one at home. With 94% of the 162 students entering third level education for the first time, it also gave learners a renewed confidence in themselves, their skills and knowledge.

Minister for Further and

Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris T.D. announced the Performance Funding as part of dedicated investment by Government for higher education institutions in recognition of innovative programmes to help create a better society. Institute of Technology Carlow is one of only five institutions to be awarded funding alongside MTU, NUIG, UCC and LIT/AIT.

The €1million fund was awarded to IT Carlow following the submission of a case study detailing the impact of the Certificate in Family Caring on participants.

ports more than 500,000 family carers who care for loved ones such as children or adults with disabilities, older people, the terminally ill or those suffering from chronic illnesses or addiction. Funded part-time thirdlevel opportunities, such as the Certificate in Family Caring, are the only viable higher education options for most family carers. In its collaboration with Family Carers Ireland, IT Carlow created the opportunity for learners to enter higher education for the first time. The bespoke programme was carried out in communities and facilitated the participants' daytime caring com-

Developed in 2018 and deliviting their experience and wealth

The course also allowed family carers to meet and provide peer support to one another, thereby reducing social isolation and improving social integration whilst enhancing their caregiving skills, facilitating engagement in third-level education. and leading to renewed self-con-

Head of Faculty of Lifelong Learning, Dr Joseph Collins welcomed the HEA funding: "This award of €1million Government funding is testament to the dedication and incredible work undertaken by our Faculty of Lifelong Learning and its commitment to providing undergraduate and postgraduate programmes for social and community benefit. This is truly transformative education at its best and here at IT Carlow the Faculty of Lifelong Learning is creating and embracing a culture of lifelong learning that transforms our society and enables people to participate fully in the workforce, in their homes, in their communities and in the

Lindsay Malone, Deputy Head of Lifelong Learning, IT Carlow said, "We are delighted to receive such an endorsement for our Certificate in Family Caring. Family Carers who participated in this programme identified the importance of self-care and connecting with other carers as being very beneficial aspects of the course. Participants also identified the skills they learnt, including communication, understanding behaviours of concern, legislation around caring and the rights of individuals, and loss and grief. With this funding, we hope to further develop and rollout this course to more learners".

Head of Communications for Family Carers Ireland Catherine Cox said, "Working in partner-ship with IT Carlow in developing and delivering a certificate specifically for family carers has been incredibly rewarding. The Certificate in Family Caring acknowledges and, most importantly, accredits both the life experience and care skills that family carers have developed over their time caring for loved ones at home. Feedback from family carers who have participated in the training to date has been incredibly positive and includes comments such as,"I learned so much about myself. my abilities, my strengths and weaknesses. It gave me so much more than learning and knowledge, it gave me a sense of who I am again". Another family carer who participated told us 'I have realised now how resilient I am and how I was always putting my needs last - but that has changed'.

"We are over the moon with the recent announcement of the HEA's Performance Funding Award of €1 million and are looking forward to working closely with IT Carlow's Faculty of Lifelong Learning in bringing this vital training to many more family carers right across the country", added Ms Cox.

Commenting on the funding, Minister Simon Harris said, "I would like to congratulate the successful institutions on submitting high quality case studies that provide us with a snapshot of some of the exciting and innovative initiatives ongoing in higher education.

"The institutions receiving awards are clearly making a positive and significant impact on Irish society, in areas such as inclusion and gender equality. leadership and sustainability, and are helping create an Ireland that is progressive, and one in which every person has the same opportunities to reach their potential.



Cllr Lourda Scott in Greustones with members of Clean Coasts North Wicklow

New Clean Coasts group established for North Wicklow

up event held in September, the Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, Cllr Lourda Scott, along with other community volunteers, have established Clean Coasts North Wicklow.

Clean Coasts North Wicklow joins the 1500 community groups as part of the Clean Coasts initiative who together who form a network engaged in coastal management, environmental actions, and education activities Clean Coasts engages communities in the protection of Ireland's beaches, seas and

The programme is operated by An Taisce and is made up of two main elements; Clean Coasts Volunteering and the Green Coast Award.

Speaking about the new group Cllr Scott says "We are very lucky to live beside such a beautiful stretch of coast line. During lockdown people became very familiar with the beaches in their 5km and they are used for everything from walking and

awareness of how important it is that we look after this special environment so that we can continue enjoying it long into the future. I hope that starting a group such as Clean Coasts North Wicklow will help to provide an easy way to help protect our part of our coast. "Our initial focus will be on regular clean-ups rotating between Greystones, Kilcoole and Newcastle beaches. Everyone in the community is welcome to join in even if it's just for a short while and families are especially welcome.

"We want to engage with the wider community and as the group grows to gather expertise and expand our activities. In particular I note that no beach in Co Wicklow has been awarded the Green Coast award and this is something I would like to see progressed."

Clean Coast North Wicklow can be found on Facebook (facebook.com/CleanCoastsNW People are invited to join the first beach clean at 10am, Oct 31st in Greystones and the group will meet near the playground. You can contact Cllr Scott on 0879867532.

'October Feast's success shows potential of Wicklow food sector'

Fine Gael Minister Simon commended the success of Wicklow Naturally's October Feast at their recent Mid Harvest Celebration at the Kilquade Arboretum.

Minister Harris said: "The agrifood sector is Ireland's oldest and largest exporting indigenous industry, deeply embedded in the landscape, history and personality of our country. I am delighted at the success so far of Wicklow Naturally's October Feast which is showcasing successfully Wicklow's food and drinks industry, including farming, foraging, brewing, distilling, and much

"There are still tickets available at a number of the October Feast events and I urge anyone want to book a place at to go to wicklownaturally.ie to book a place. This agri-food sector is a key part of Government's Development Policy for the next five years which was launched earlier this year.
"A vibrant and sustainable agri-

food sector is central to Ireland's economic wellbeing, as well as to supporting rural communities. The funding provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development through the LEADER programme towards Wicklow Naturally is an example of this government's commitment to Wicklow's agri business sec-

Meet the Makers

You can 'Meet the Makers', taste their delicious range, and get some great recipe ideas every Friday throughout October from 12 noon to 2 pm at Gallagher's SuperValu Wicklow. The remaining schedule consists of Le Paysan on October 29th.

Live Cookery Demonstration at Wicklow Town library Have you tasted a Wicklow

Naturally signature dish yet? Well, on Tuesday 26th October at 6 pm there is a special live cookdemo with chef Tadgh Byrne. This event will take place on the exhibition level of the new Wicklow Town library. Register for free at https://wicklownaturally.ie/events/culinary-library-talkon-october-26th/.

Oíche Shamhna Cocktail Night

Powerscourt Distillery Ltd presents Oíche Shamhna Cocktail Night online event on Sunday, October 31st. The evening promises to be a great night. It will feature Fercullen Whiskey and other Wicklow Naturally members' products, including Kilmullen Farm's Apple Juice, Olly's Farm Honey, and Wicklow Way Wines.

Student Challenge

We all know that food waste is an ethical and environmental problem as every year, about one-third of all food in the world is lost or wasted across all stages in the food supply chain. Waste means opportunity, so during Wicklow Naturally's month-long October Feast, 6th Class and Transition Year students in County Wicklow have been asked to participate in a student challenge competition and suggest innovative solutions to food waste. Entries can be submitted here: https://wicklownaturally.ie/events/o ctober-feast-schools-competition

"Why not explore, discover and get involved in the many events still to come across County Wicklow this October by heading over to wicklownaturally.ie/octoberfeast21/," concluded Pamela.

Places are limited on tours and selected events. Tickets can be booked by visiting Wicklow Naturally's event page at wicklownaturally.ie/events/. To book a dining experience at any of Wicklow Naturally's members' eateries, please contact the hotel or restaurant directly. All events are subject to change without notice and may be dependant on weather

Extra safety measures on cliff walk

Extra safety precautions are being taken by Wicklow County Council to prevent people using the closed-off section of the Bray-Greystones Cliff Walk.

At the same time the Council is find a solution to the serious erosion which forced the closure. Earlier this year it was necessary to close a section of the Cliff Walk as a result of damage caused by a number of landslides which resulted in the cliff prolonged period of very heavy rain-

Some of the landslides are visible from the walk while others are not but have been photographed from the sea below the cliffs and these are considered very dangerous as those using the walk would not be aware

While the Cliff Walk is still officially closed, high numbers of people

Due to this, and further deterioracontinuing to engage in efforts to tion of the affected area, it is neces sary for the protection of the public to physically close the walk with more robust fencing as inclement weather in the coming months may further erode this dangerous section. Investigations were undertaken at the becoming unstable in parts due to a time of the landslide to determine the extent of the collapse and possibilifor remedial action. Unfortunately, due to the instability of the area where the damage occurred, repairs are not possible and the only solution is to relocate the walk inland.

> Wicklow County Council is engaging with local landowners to divert the walk away from the most hazardous sections and will immedi-

route once agreement is reached.

An alternative looped walk around Bray Head was developed in early summer and directional signage was put in place to facilitate walkers while the through route is closed.

Attempts to close the walk have been problematic as some walkers are ignoring notices and barriers. The public are advised that there is currently no through route on the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk; it is safe to walk from Greystones as far as the barriers at the southern end and on the Bray Head loop at the northern

"The co-operation and patience of the public is requested and appreciated during this temporary closure in the interests of health and safety," the

Beware of jelly sweets containing cannabis in run up to Halloween

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) is urging the public, especially parents and guardians, to be extremely vigilant to the dangers of inadvertent consumption, particularly by children, of cannabis edibles, products such as jelly sweets containing the psychoactive cannabis component known as tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

This call by the FSAI follows reports of the first cases of paediatric cannabis poisoning in Ireland with six children, all under the age of ten, hospitalised after accidentally consuming these illegal jelly sweets. In addition, there have also been reports of teenagers falling seriously ill, and in some cases requiring hospitalisation after having seizures and becoming unconscious from overdosing on these cannabis edibles.

There is growing availability in Ireland of food products, in particular jelly sweets that contain significant amounts of the illicit narcotic drug THC. The FSAI issues this warning in advance of the Halloween festivities next week where small children, teenagers and adults will be celebrating and where there is an increased risk of people, particularly children, unwittingly consuming these types of products that are intentionally packaged to resemble popular brands of jellies in order to avoid detection. This year to date, it has been reported that six children under the age of ten have been hospitalised having accidentally consumed THC-containing products which looked like normal jelly sweets.

Cannabis edibles are illegal food products containing THC and come in many forms, but primarily jelly sweets. THC is a controlled substance in Ireland with a zero tolerance under the Misuse of Drugs Act. 1977. Furthermore, in food, THC is considered a con-













Products are intentionally packaged to resemble popular brands. Photo courest of An Garda Siochana

taminant, with no permitted threshold in EU or Irish

The FSAI states that the high concentrations (up to 50mg/jelly) of THC in these illicit edible sweets can pose serious health risks, particularly to teenagers and children of all ages whose neurological, physical and physiological development could be impacted negatively. Depending on the THC concentration, eating one of these jellies can mean ingesting a level of THC that is 5-10 times higher than that inhaled when smoking cannabis. The real concern is that children are not aware of the dangers and if they manage to gain access to a bag of these jellies, they will rarely eat just one and therefore, overdosing is a very likely outcome. Unlike the almost immediate effects from smoking cannabis, there is at least a thirty-minute time delay from consumption of cannabis edibles until the

initial effects are felt. This

poses a serious risk to those

who have eaten these iellies who might mistakenly believe that they need to consume several iellies to feel an effect and then find they have overdosed when it is too late. Cannabis toxicity can cause cognitive and motor impairment and in the case of children this can be extreme, lasting up to 24 to 36 hours after consumption.

Dr Pamela Byrne, Chief Executive, FSAI says the accidental consumption of edible cannabis products by children is extremely wor-

"We know adults and/or teenagers are ordering these illegal products from online or other illegal sources for their own personal use. However, they often have no understanding of the real health dangers of these products and are careless or reckless in putting young children's health at risk by allowing them access to these products. The prevalence of these edible products containing THC in communities and schools around the

country is a growing cause for concern and parents and guardians should be extra vigilant during festivities such as Halloween where parties will be underway, and the risk of accidental consumption of these products is considerably higher.

"We are working closely with other Government agencies including the Health Service Executive's Environmental Health Service and the Public Analyst's Laboratory, Dublin; An Síochana: Revenue's Customs Service; Forensic Science Ireland; the State Laboratory and; the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland to detect and stop the import of these illegal food products into Ireland. We welcome any information from the public in the national effort to curb the availability of these illegal products and to protect our children and young people. We can be contacted through our online complaint form at www.fsai.ie/makeithetter she added.

BD Festival postponed, new dates announced

New Rescheduled dates - Easter weekend. 16th & 17th April 2022

Organisers of the BD Festival which takes place at Glenbdalough House, decided to postpone this year's festival which was due to take place over the weekend of October 23rd-24th as a result of comments made by the Taoiseach Micheal Martin indicating that the lifting of final restrictions on 22nd October may not proceed as planned.

In a statement, they safety and welfare of existing ticket holders, happen. This edition said "The postponement festival is due to the risk ber one priority.
of the continuation of "However, the dates Covid-19 restrictions. Without government both events taking place reassurance that reopen- on Easter weekend, 16th ing will proceed as planned we cannot provide an environment in which all our BD fans can truly re-live the with all artists and unique festival experience we have all missed play the new BD Festival so much. Under current dates, with more top restrictions venue capacistatus is just 50% and coming days and weeks. also subject to appropriate protective measures confirm that the bus serincluding social distancing between groups and for the new date, with face masks. Whilst we less than half price priorhave done everything in ity tickets available to all our power to ensure the festival goes ahead, the restrictions make the

every single person at BD Festival is our num-

will be rescheduled, with & 17th of April 2022. All current tickets will be valid for these new dates.

"We are working hard agents to enable them to class international artists

"We are delighted to vice has been confirmed today. existing ticket holders."

Organisers were also

Sunday 24th October, featuring some international artists from the original line-up.

port and also thanks to partners, artists, crew and all those involved working on our festival. available, however as Now running for 14 this is a sold-out event years, BD is one of the longest running music go back on sale on a first and arts festivals on the ty of mixed immunity to be announced in the Irish circuit. Without Priority bus tickets will your support, enthusiasm also only be available to and love the festival would not be what it is

> "We'd also like to thank technicians, sup- thank you for your conpliers, traders, partners, tinued support. We will Gardai, Fire Officers, security and all those and information on the working hard to curate a who play their part to new date soon! Stay

accessible online on being postponed has caused huge difficulty across the board to all concerned. As a small business we ask that you "Thank you as ever stick with us and enjoy for your continued sup- the next installment which will be one of the Glendalough House, our first major festivals of the 2022 calendar year.

"Refunds will be available, however as any refunded tickets will come first served basis existing ticket holders. We look forward to welcoming you back to the rescheduled event and be posting exciting news

AVA artists showcase in Adrian O'Brien's new gallery space

Artists from The Arklow Visual Arts Gallery (AVA) will show- coastal town and its creative case their best works in the newly renovated gallery space in community. The event is free and Adrian O'Brien's, 2 Church buildings, Main street, Arklow, Wicklow on 25th October from 3 pm - 7 pm.

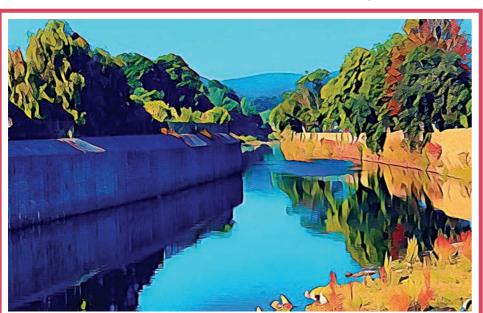
Peir Leonard will officially open 2021 - 26th November 2021 with the exhibition. An innovative art a private viewing on the 25th exhibition showcasing art in October. Arklow is set to take place in A wo

Senator Pat Casev and Cllr Main Street from 26th October

A wonderful collaboration Arklow's Adrian O'Brien between a long-established busi-Photography & Framing shop on ness in the heart of our thriving offered by Adrian O'Brien's.

will bring together a collective of established and up-and-coming artists to showcase their work.

The exhibit will be open to the public on Tuesday 26th October from 10 am to 5 pm until Friday 26th November - closed on Sundays. In addition to the art, there will be displays of services



BRAY ARTS IS BACK - November 1st, 8pm

Bray Arts returns on Monday 1st November at 8pm in the Hibernian in Bray. This show will feature Billy O'hAnluain (emerging writer of contemporary Dublin stories and poems); Mircea and Elizabeth Petcu(musicians from the RTE concert orchestra); Kevin C. Olahan (host of 'Fireside', the Irish storytelling podcast); and Vawn Corrigan (visual presentation on weaving and textiles). The cost is €5



BBC TV artist Dermot Cavanagh holding 3-day watercolour course

BBC TV Artist Dermot Cavanagh is holding an inspirational 3-Day watercolour course in Glendalough from 2nd to 4th November 2021. This will be a great opportunity for art enthusiasts to learn new skills in watercolour. Dermot Cavanagh is the artist and presenter behind the hit BBC TV learn-to-paint series 'Awash with Colour'.

During his 74-episode TV show he taught and inspired a host of celebrities to paint the Irish landscape. Pauline McLynn, Packie Bonner, Charlie Dimmock, Barry McGuigan and Gloria Hunniford to name a few all took up painting under Dermot's expert tuition. Now he's coming to teach a 3-Day watercolour course in Glendalough, County Wicklow and he invites you to join him.

At his 3-Day watercolour course, Dermot will take his small group of guests through a range of techniques and help them to paint a local watercolour landscape. People often say they've learnt more from Dermot's courses in a few days than from years attending other classes. His hands-on method of tuition allows him to bring out the artist in anyone, even those with the most basic skills. Dermot Says "I will build your confidence and take away the mystery around painting, I welcome all levels of artistic ability from basic beginners to the more

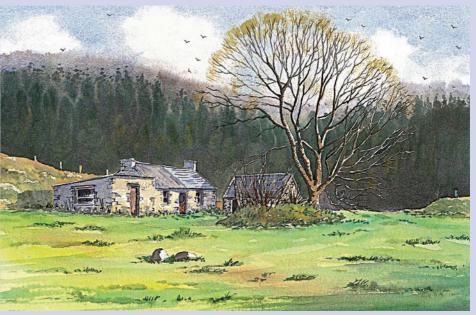
The course runs from 10:00am to 4:30pm. Paces are limited to a small and exclusive group of painters to allow for lots of Dermot's individual attention and instruction. All the art materials and equipment needed for the course will be provided by Dermot during the course. Tea/Coffee and light refreshment will be available on arrival and through-



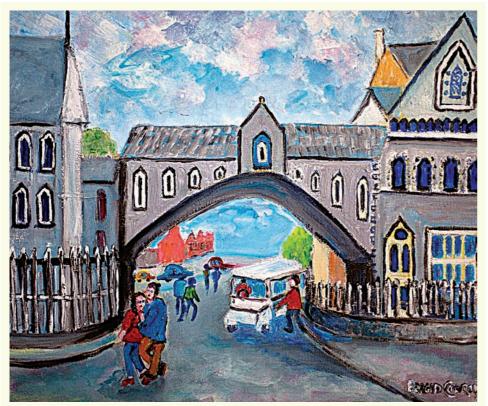
Dermot Cavanagh

out each painting day. Lunch will also be available for purchase at the venue. The 3 Day course price is

Please do not hesitate to contact Rhoneview Studio - Telephone: 0044 2887 784166 or Email info@dermotcavanagh.com for further information. Bookings can be made securely over the phone.



Slieve Gullion



Moments: An Exhibition by Brigid Conroy

Signal Arts Centre, Monday 8th November to Sunday 21st November



Brigid Conroy is an 83-year young self-taught artist who has been drawing and painting since childhood.

She very often had to draw on the back of cornflake boxes when she couldn't find any paper.

Painting has always been an important part of her life and now as an older woman she is consciously aware of how fleeting life is and it has become increasingly important for her to capture "Moments" in time.

Of her painting she opines "I allow the paint to capture and tell the story, painting for me is like breathing" This collection of paintings is the Moments that she sees in her daily life, the places and people she observes.

All Welcome. Opening Reception: Friday, November 12th 7pm - 9pm

Rhythms: A group Exhibition by ReVerve

Signal Arts Centre, Tuesday, January 4th to Sunday, January 16th

Rhythms is a response to an idea by a group of nine visual artists based in Meath and surrounding area. This body of work by ReVerve was made through a mutual and energising process of investigation, exploration, constructive discussion and a sharing of processes and ideas over the last 2 years.

Works reflect each artist's own practice in interpretations and narrative, while at the same time there is a collaborative thread running through the show.

Techniques and materials displayed show a diversity reflecting the membership of ReVerve. Rhythmic stitching, photography, painting, printing, charcoal, soft and hard sculptures and installation works are present in thoughtful and investigative ways.





Time to celebrate Wicklow's Wonder Women

As part of the Decade of Centenaries, Wicklow County Council's Arts and Heritage Offices and the Archives Service have joined forces with Herstory and curator Liz Kelly to produce Wicklow's Wonder Women, a fantastic programme of events to celebrate the centenaries of two local trailblazers. Averil Deverell (1893 – 1979) was the first Irish woman barrister called to the Bar in 1921 and Kate Tyrell (1863 – 1921) was the first woman ship's sea captain in Ireland.

At the time, only men were allowed to be employed in these roles. Both women smashed the glass ceiling to rewrite the gender rulebooks for their professions, leading the way for future generations of female lawyers and seafarers. It was forbidden for women to captain a ship but that didn't stop Kate from registering her captaincy in the name of a man in order to sail. Tyrrell spent most of her time captaining the Denbighshire Lass from her base in Arklow, becoming adept at navigation and passionate about all aspects of sailing. She had a reputation for being a stern enforcer of order on board her ship, intolerant of any drunken crew members on duty. The Denbighshire Lass continued to sail throughout World War I, navigating landmines in the Irish Sea without incident, despite having no insurance. Kate's was the first ship to fly the new Irish tricolour flag at a foreign port. Averil Deverell was involved in Irish Law at the foundation of the judiciary and court structures in Ireland. Graduating with a law degree from Trinity College Dublin in 1915, in the middle of World War I, she served as a VAD Nursing Sister at Trinity and in her home town of Greystones, Co. Wicklow. Eventually, after clocking hundreds of hours of service in Ireland, she persuaded the authorities to allow her into France as an ambulance driver. In 1918, Averil served in France and Flanders with the French Red Cross, returning home to a community devastated by loss. Well aware that the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919 was heading for the statute book, she opted to train as a barrister and entered the King's Inns, Dublin in January 1919. In November 1921, Averil was duly called to the Bar in Dublin with Frances Christian Kyle from Belfast, the first two women to be admitted. Frances returned to Belfast, Ireland was partitioned and Averil entered the closed, male, confines of the Law Library at the Four Courts in January 1922, becoming the first practicing woman barrister in Ireland.

The Wicklow's Wonder Women programme features a spectacular light show, historical talk, experiential Brehon Law Court workshop and fascinating salon event. All events are open to the public and booking is essential, with the exception of the light show which is free.

"Wicklow County Council Arts and Heritage Offices and Archive Service have commissioned these projects to mark women's history and outstanding achievements as part of our ongoing Decade of Centenaries Programme in 2021. Supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 initiative, two trailblazing Wicklow Women take centre stage and we are delighted to work with Liz Kelly Curator, and Herstory to commemorate and celebrate Averil Deverell and Kate Tyrell in their home county' said Jenny Sherwin, Arts Officer and Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer Wicklow County Council.

Herstory Light Show, Friday 5th November, 5 – 10pm

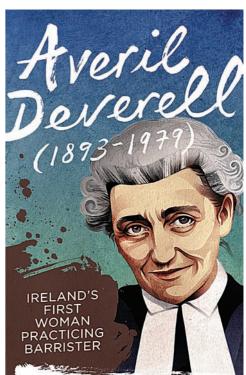
On 5th November at 5 pm a spectacular Herstory Light Show by Dodeca will see The Cove in Greystones illuminate with newly commissioned portraits of the local legends by artist Lauren O' Neill. The heroines will be in lights again at 8.30 pm in Arklow Harbour, where Kate Tyrell navigated her ship 'The Denbeighshire Lass' across the Irish Sea. Throughout the weekend, look out for our especially commissioned portraits of both Averil Deverell and Kate Tyrell on billboards in Arklow and Greystones.

"Women's achievements and struggles have been lost

"Women's achievements and struggles have been lost in the shadows for too long, resulting in global inequality and a regression of women's rights. That's why Herstory is harnessing the alchemical power of light, to celebrate women and equality, spotlight inequality, and create visions for a World of Equals," explains Melanie Lynch, Founder of Herstory.

Wicklow's Wonder Women Day Out Mná 100 with Dr Sinead McCoole and John Mahon, grandson of Kate Tyrell Arklow Library Saturday 6th November at 11.30am

On Saturday morning we welcome Dr Sinead McCoole to Arklow Library where she will talk about her research work on the Mná 100 project. She will welcome guest John Mahon, grandson of Kate Tyrell, who will be in conversation with Sinead about his grandmother, her life and her work. Pre booking is essential.



Brehon Law Court workshop Upstairs, Greystones Library, Saturday 6th November, 2.00 - 5.00pm

Averil Deverell was Ireland's first woman barrister and practiced the law throughout her life. On Saturday 6th November from 2 – 5pm, master storytellers CandleLit Tales will host a Brehon Law Court workshop at the Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray. This experiential event will explore contemporary society's approach to wrongdoing, lawbreaking, and harm to individuals and community. For centuries, Ireland operated without prisons or police, tackling legal issues through the Brehon law – a complex and fascinating legal code that focused on restorative rather than punitive justice. In this workshop, participants will test out the Brehon law by holding their own trial. They will experience the similarities and differences of this approach to our modern legal system, and will have a chance to explore a

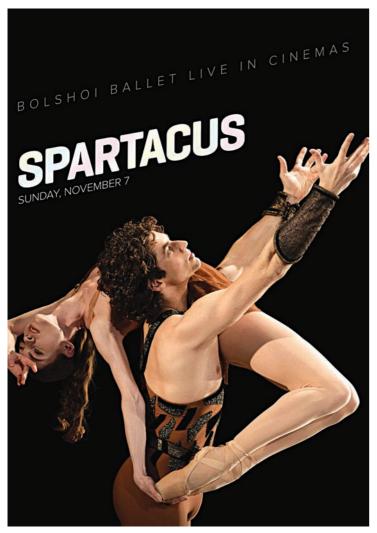
completely different approach to crime and punishment. They will be guided through some of the principles and processes of Brehon Law and will explore concepts of fair play, justice, and legality through a mock-trial. Participants will experience the concept of restorative justice in the context of a real legal code that held sway on this island for thousands of years.

The Breaking Ground SalonSaturday 6th November at 8.00pm

On Saturday 6th November at 8.00p.m, we celebrate Wicklow's Wonder Women with The Breaking Ground: Wicklow's Pioneering Women Salon which takes place at the Whale Theatre in Greystones. This collaboration with Herstory will interweave lively conversation with performances by visionary local poets and musicians. Poets Jane Clarke and Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill will read new poems inspired by the Wicklow trailblazers, alongside cellist Lioba Petrie and soprano Catherine Redding. Hosted by journalist and broadcaster Dearbhail McDonald; speakers include historian and retired judge Liz Goldthorpe; Chair of the Bar Council Maura McNally; and lawyer and chair of AkiDwA Ashimedua Okonkwo, Together they will discuss Averil Deverell's contribution to the law and share stories from their own career history. Also in conversation about women and our connection to the sea will be renowned Irish surfer, marine social scientist, and artist Dr Easkey Britton and Dr. Karen Weekes who is training to become the first Irish woman to row solo across the Atlantic.

Wicklow's Wonder Women is a timely tribute to two local heroines and we hope that it inspires the public to become curious, research their own family tree and create future opportunities to celebrate more

Coming up at Whale Theatre Bolshoi Ballet - SPARTACUS – Live Screening



Sunday 7th November 2021 @ 3pm. Tickets €20 and Concession €17.50 available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550

Music

Aram Khachaturian

Choreography

Yuri Grigorovich

Libretto

Yuri Grigorovich (after the novel by Raffaelo Giovagnolli, ideas from Nikolai Volkov's scenario)

Cast

The Bolshoi Principals, Soloists and Corps de Ballet

Synopsis

In Imperial Rome led by Crassus, Spartacus and his wife Phrygia are reduced to slavery and are separated by slave dealers. His love for her and his desire for freedom lead him to revolt against the Roman army with the help of the other captives. But the treacherous Aegina, who seeks to conquer Crassus and gain power, will get in the way of Spartacus's plan.

About the ballet

Huge in scale and spectacular in effect, Spartacus is a true tour de force of a ballet, set to Aram Khachaturian's superb score. With an incredible display of might from the four leading dancers to the entire corps de ballet and its passionate pas de deux, Spartacus is the ultimate spectacle of virtuosity and lyricism born at the Bolshoi Theatre.

Children's writing competition part of An Post 2021 Irish Book Awards



Children are being encouraged to enter Specsavers' nationwide writing competition, which celebrates its sponsorship of the Junior and Senior Irish Children's Book of the Year categories at the An Post Irish Book Awards.

Inspired by a cartoon drawing of a young girl, Mystic Meg and her crystal ball, children across the country are being asked to create a short story, no longer than 500 words, inspired by the picture attached and the words; 'I can see you're going to have the most amazing adventure...'.

Speaking about the competition, Specsavers Ireland Chairperson Kerril Hickey says: 'We are delighted to, once again, sponsor the children's categories at the An Post Irish Book Awards this year as well as launch this fantastic competition. It is a great opportunity for young authors across Ireland to show their writing talents and be in with the chance of winning a prize for their school. Children have such creative imaginations, so we are very excited to see this year's entries.'

The competition is open to children and teenagers up to 14 years of age. The winner of each category will win \leqslant 500 for their school library along with all of the shortlisted children's titles for 2021.

Be sure to use as much creativity and imagination as possible and remember to give your short story a title, staple it to the application form and detail your name, address, age and a contact number for you and your guardian

All entries should be posted to: Specsavers Short Story Competition, _c/o WHPR, 6 Ely Place, Dublin 2 or submit online at www.specsavers.ie/irish-book-

Don't hold back - let your imagination soar! The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 26 November 2021.

At Mermaid Arts Centre



CHILDREN'S THEATRE

A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings

Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th October | 7pm | €10 | Age Suitability: 8+ | Allergy Warning: Goose Feathers

Gabriel García Márquez's darkly comic tale, brought to the stage for children and adults to share. In a kitchen, in a theatre, two storytellers and their audience find something remarkable — a very old man with enormous wings. The wise neighbour woman tells us he's an angel.

The priest says he's an imposter. Pilgrims flock to see him, hoping to be healed by him, hoping for a gawp. They leave with something different than what they expected.



FILM

Supernova (Cert: 15A) *Monday 25th October* | 8pm | €9/7

Classical pianist Sam and successful novelist Tusker are still very much in love, even after twenty years together. But their lives have had to change in the two years since Tusker's diagnosis of early onset dementia. Before Tusker's health deteriorates further, they undertake one last road trip across England, to visit family, friends and places that are dear to them. Staring: Stanley Tucci, Colin Firth, Pippa Haywood.



MUSIC

Anakronos Presents: Citadel Of Song Plague-Proof Ballate from Boccaccio's The Decameron

Founded in 2019 by Caitríona O'Leary, Anakronos is dedicated to presenting early music in a uniquely modern way, combining ancient music, jazz & contemporary styles. For Anakronos' new project, CITADEL OF SONG, Caitríona O'Leary has set song lyrics from Boccaccio's The Decameron to Italian music of the time (14th century) as a starting point for creating a stunning new musical experience. Anakronos is comprised of celebrated and adventurous virtuoso musicians from the worlds of classical music, early music, jazz and traditional music.

Shingo Prize awarded to Bray healthcare company

The Shingo Institute, a program in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business at Utah State University, has awarded Jabil Healthcare Bray the Shingo Prize

"Receipt of the Shingo Prize is a worldwide recognized symbol of an organisation's successful establishment of a culture anchored on enterprise excellence principles such as respect for every individual, leading with humility, quality at the source, the quest for perfection, and creating value for the customer," said Ken Snyder, executive director at the Shingo

Jabil Inc. (NYSE: JBL) is among the most technologically advanced and trusted manufacturing solutions providers in the world. Jabil serves global leaders and their brands across many industries, Jabil Healthcare Bray's including healthcare, automotive and transport, defense and aerospace, retail, computing and storage, networking, and tele-



Jabil Healthcare Bray Operations Manager Alan Fogarty, Jabil Healthcare Bray General Manager Kevin Heffernan and Jabil Healthcare Europe Senior Director of Operations Padhraic McGinn.

reagent diagnostics, for

Established in 1980, annual production exceeds 1.7 billion products and components for the respiratory, ophthalmic diagnostics, and renal health markets, as well as

which Bray received designation as a Centre of Excellence. With expertise in the areas of molding, tooling, engineering, quality assurance and automation, Jabil Healthcare Bray also serves some of the largest packaging cus-

tomers in the world.

By "challenging" or applying for Shingo recognition, organisations invite a group of accomplished professionals and trained examiners to thor-

oughly review their culture and operations. The examiners evaluate the challengers based on a rigorous set of standards and the Shingo Institute awards the organisations according to their assessment results. Team members from Jabil Healthcare Bray will receive the Shingo Prize during the Awards Gala at the 34th Annual Shingo Conference in May 2022

in Orlando, Florida, USA. Kevin Heffernan, gen-

eral manager at Jabil Healthcare Bray says. "Embedding the Shingo Model and challenging for the Shingo Prize has been great for Jabil Healthcare Bray. It has helped us align around common purpose, systems, and tools to achieve our goals, engage our employees, delight our customers, and create a better place to work. It has been demanding, but a lot of fun, and we are so proud of what we have achieved together. It is a great distinction for our

The conference will be a two-day hybrid conference featuring keynotes and interactive breakout sessions. Attendees will

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask ou 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.

THE

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OH, BEAUTIFUL FLOWER OF MOUNT CARMEL

Oh, most beautiful flower of Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother or God, Queen of Heaven and earth! I humbly beseech from the bottom of Heaven and earth! I humbly beseech from the bottom of my heart to succour me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse in thee (3x). Holy Mother I place this cause in Mother I place this cause in your hands (3x). Say this prayer for 3 days and publish. Your prayers will be heard.

PRAYER TO St. JOSEPH

O Great St Joseph of Cupertino, who while on earth did obtain from God the grace to be asked at your examinations only the questions you knew, obtain for me like favour in the examinations for which I am now preparing. In return I promise you make you known and cause you to be invoked. Through Christ our Lord St Joseph of Cupertino, Pray for us. Amen.

also have the option to add pre-conference workshops and company tours to their agenda. The annual conference is designed to provide ongoing knowledge, insights, and experience for organizations in their pursuit of operational

The Shingo Institute is

home of the Shingo Prize, an award that recognizes organisations that demonstrate an exceptional culture that fosters continuous improvement. A program in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business at Utah State University, the Shingo Institute is named after

Japanese industrial engineer and Tovota adviser. Shigeo Shingo. Dr. Shingo distinguished himself as one of the world's thought leaders in concepts, management systems, and improvement techniques that have become known as the Toyota Production System.

MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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Luke 14:1.7-11 GOSPEL

Now on a Sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him

He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

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MIRACULOUS PRAYER

OF CUPERTINO



Help to safeguard animals this Halloween

mals and to take extra measures to safeguard the safety of not only domestic pets but farm animals and wildlife too.

At a recent National Fireworks Inspector Conor Dowling said: "Halloween can be a frightening and dangerous time for animals, due to the use of illegal fireworks. They cause significant distress for pets, other animals and livestock given their heightened senses of hearing and smell".

Conor added: "We would ask those con-

sidering acquiring or using illegal fireworks to think about the impact it has on others on the elderly and infirm, on our vital emer gency services, and on our pets. And to ask themselves, is it really worth it, he said".

The ISPCA is amplifying the National Fireworks Awareness Campaign messaging that fireworks are illegal because they are dangerous and urges people not to buy, sell or use them!

- · Fireworks are illegal and dangerous members of the public are encouraged not to Microchipping - it's the law! buy, sell or use them.
- · Serious penalties can be imposed for the misuse of illegal fireworks - Fines of up to €10,000 or 5 years imprisonment, or both, can apply.
- Fireworks cause significant distress to animals and to a wider section of our com-

Halloween can be one of the spookiest nights during the year, but you can help keep your pets safe with our safety tips and advice below. Some pets can be terrified by the sound of fireworks so ensure they are kept safe in a secure area where they cannot dart out an open door from the noise.

The ISPCA has put together some tips and advice to help pet owners to keep their pets save this Halloween.

It's a good idea to walk your dog early morning and before dark, keeping them away from any fireworks in the area. Pet owners can help train their dogs and cats to become accustomed to the sound of fireworks by playing similar sounds. Try keeping the lights low, and playing a radio or television in the background to help drown out some of the noise outside. As difficult as it may be, try not to react to your pet showing signs of fear as it may be the best way you can help them. Licking objects such as kong toys filled with treats may help ease your pet's stress. It is important that they have a safe, secure place to hide indoors if they are scared. If you are concerned that your pet is unmanageably terrified of the noise of fireworks, you should consult your vet to discuss ways for managing your pet's

Be mindful that some pets may find wear-

stressful. Consider festive-themed bandanas Awareness Campaign, ISPCA Chief instead which will be less restrictive. If you do choose to put your pet in a costume, make sure it does not limit the animal's movement, vision, ability to breathe or behave normally

Sweets and Wrappers

Chocolate and raisins are highly toxic to pets, as are any sweets containing the sugar substitute xylitol and should always be kept out of reach from curious paws and noses.

Indoor Hazards

Keep dogs and cats away from wires, decorations and candles. Ingesting foil or plastic wrappers can also lead to digestive problems and may require surgery. If your pet does ingest something toxic, contact your vet immediately.

The ISPCA strongly recommend that all dog owners have their pet's microchipped. It a legal requirement for all dogs and puppies once they are 12 weeks old and failure to do so, is an offence under the Animal Health & Welfare Act 2013 (AHWA). Dog owners need to be in possession of a microchipping certificate also so it is important that your contact details are kept up-todate on the microchipping database. It is the pet owner's responsibility to inform the database operator of any change so once your dog has been microchipped, check it to ensure your details are correct. If your pet becomes lost, having them microchipped is the best way to ensure they will be reunited with you. Lost pets put extra pressure on animal rescue centres, dog pounds and veterinary practices but it also causes more upset for pets and pet owners so don't delay and get your dog microchipped today - it's the law! While microchipping is recommended for cats, there are no current plans to make cat microchipping compulsory.

Horses, ponies and donkeys should be securely stabled to prevent them from escaping or hurting themselves if they live in areas with a considerable amount of Halloween-related noise. Small mammals or birds should be kept indoors such as a garage or a shed, covering over hutches or cages with blankets to act as soundproofing.

Look out for wildlife

Hedgehogs go into hibernation this time of year and will sleep in woodpiles or heavy scrub and leaves. It is important you check under all woodpiles before lighting any bonfires to ensure there is no wildlife hibernat-

ing Halloween costumes uncomfortable and ing. Some outdoor plastic decorations such a fake spider webs or string lights can snare wild animals, so be careful if hanging them and ensure they are removed after the festiv-

Report Animal Cruelty

Sadly stray animals can fall victim to abuse or cruel Halloween pranks. If you witness any animal cruelty, please contact your local Garda station immediately and report it in confidence to the ISPCA National Animal Cruelty Helpline on 0818 515 515 or report online here. In case of an emergency, please contact your local Gardaí.

Halloween fireworks are having a devastating impact nationwide on Guide and Assistance Dogs and their owners according to Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The charity, which supports those who are vision impaired and the families of children with autism, says fireworks can be extremely distressing for all animals but particularly working dogs such as Guide Dogs and Assistance Dogs. As a result, some dogs are no longer able to support their owners and therefore must be retired. ((Tim O'Mahony, Chief Executive Officer Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind explains; "If a dog has an experience which goes beyond a normal level of stress, such as a firework exploding close to them, this can overly sensitise the dog, similar to PTSD in humans. Whilst most dogs can recover, some will overreact to unexpected noise which manifests as a fear reaction. Every Halloween our teams support a number of our Clients whose dogs have been adversely impacted by fireworks. In some cases, the only option is to retire the dog meaning their owner loses the independence and mobility which had changed their lives. ((Guide Dog Owner Tina Lowe says, The incidents of fireworks have increased over the last 2 to 3 years, and Covid restrictions were no deterrent last Halloween. It starts in early September each year and continues after October 31st!†It is hugely disruptive and frightening to our Guide Dogs. I have a very large German Shepherd/Golden Retriever called Forrest, who is terrified and iumps every time a noise is emitted. The means I tend to remain indoors for a few days before and after the Halloween as it is too unnerving and unsettling for my dog. ((Guide Dog Owner Nadine Lattimore, who conducted nationwide research on the incidents of fireworks over the Halloween period last year says, With 152 responses from 36 locations only 4 responses had no concern for their dog. A phenomenal statistic that there were 148 instances of concern for a dog s welfare were logged.



Pictured at the launch of the fund are Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys TD, Deirdre Mortell, CEO of Rethink Ireland, and Shane Nolan, Managing Director, New

Bright sparks sought to lead rural recovery

Rethink Ireland and Google.org, the philanthropic arm of Google, are seeking bright sparks from Wicklow and across Ireland to lead the recovery of the county's rural areas as we emerge from

Google.org provided a \$500,000 (€430,000) grant to Rethink Ireland to establish the €600,000 Rural Recovery Fund, which is also supported by the Government of Ireland via the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The fund will be awarded to five organisations around Ireland that support education, job readiness and training programmes for people living in rural areas, with a particular focus on minority and under-served communities. Organisations in Wicklow providing such services are being encouraged to

For information on how to apply to the fund, visit www.rethinkireland.ie/current_fund/rural-recovery-fund-2021/

PLANNING • PLANNING

Robert Coyle and Monika new rooflights to front and rear of existing roof

merging of two first floor

lowering of cill level to existing ground floor window

to front of house at 2 Castlefield Way, Castlefield at 2 Castlefield Way, Castlefield Terrace, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 FC44. 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 John Murray seeks planning

permission for 10 houses together with associated site development works and connection to public services at Cronyhorn Road, Carnew, Co Wicklow in accordance with plans prepared by Turner Phelan Ltd. 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.

Full Planning Permission Sought for: . Proposed New Single Storey 3 Bed Dwelling (123Msq) to Rear of Existing
Dwelling 'Claymore' Ballyronan Rd, Kilguade, Co. Wicklow.

2. New connection to Existing Mains Drainage & All Ancillary Site Works to facilitate proposal at Site to Rear of Existing Dwelling 'Claymore' Ballyronan Rd, Kilquade, Co. Wicklow. A63 P291.

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



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