

# LOCAL Wicklow Times

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Tuesday 2nd November 2021 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

## 'DAYLIGHT ROBBERY'

Wicklow home owners are among the biggest losers in the Home Tax revaluations currently being demanded by the Government and the Wicklow the revaluation process will lead to increased tax for thousands of Wicklow families, Independent councillor Joe Behan said.

LPT is a self-assessed tax. This means that people need to self-assess the value of their property at 1st November and submit their LPT Return including their valuation by 7th November. The valuation of property on this date will determine the amount of LPT they pay for 2022 and for the three years from 2023 to 2025.

CLlr Behan says the Home Tax for people in

Wicklow will increase because homes in the greater Dublin area have the highest valuations in the country and the Government parties on Wicklow County Council voted to increase the home tax by 6% for 2022 adding more expense for the homeowners of the county.

He said "Many homeowners are angry that they are being asked to pay extra tax on their

homes when their incomes are flat if not falling. This is especially so for thousands of older homeowners who are struggling to survive on fixed incomes. The miserly €5 increase in the social welfare pension will be eaten up by the increase in the home tax and in fact many will be worse off after the Budget than before. So much for the triumphant boast of Government that every-



Hannah Gormley, Millie Tutty, and Callie O'Neill at the Rathdrum Off-Road Club grasstrack event in Aughrim. Pic: Michael Kelly



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one will be better off after the Budget. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"Homeowners have already paid substantial money for the privilege of owning a home in the first place, paying stamp duty, VAT and development levies for one-off houses as well as an enormous amount in mortgage interest payments which may go on for more than forty years in some cases.

"I have been taking calls from older people who are confused about the process of revaluation. They are not computer experts and find it hard to submit online returns. This is yet another example of the appalling treatment of our older people who are being left behind in this Government's policy of forcing everyone to do their business online.

"The most unjust

aspect of this home tax is that it is daylight robbery of the homeowners of Ireland. This is because it is taking the money from people to pay for local authorities which used to come from general taxation. At the same time, the Councils have reduced outdoor staffing levels and less funds for roads, footpaths, litter collection and many other core Council activities. The destruction of the Town Councils in Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Wicklow has left those towns without the funding necessary to provide the facilities these towns need.

"This home tax is an unfair tax and the increased valuations in County Wicklow make it even more unfair. The use of Revenue to collect the tax means it has almost 100% compliance. However, the

silent majority of people in this country who struggled to buy their

homes are deeply unhappy with it and they will make this

clear to Government parties whenever they get the opportunity."



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Isla Dunne dressed as Wednesday Adams with 2nd Class pupils at Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara, Brittas Bay.

## 66th Wicklow ICA Drama Festival

The 66th Wicklow ICA Drama Festival will take place in Glenealy Village Hall on 21st 22nd 23rd January 2022. This is an open festival with a section for sketches and section for one act plays. Closing date for entries is 10th November. For further details and an entry form email [hderoiste@gmail.com](mailto:hderoiste@gmail.com)

### Bray Kabbadi

Bray Kabbadi group is starting in November and is looking for members. Kabbadi is an ancient sport that hasn't reached Irish shores yet. "We're looking

for sporty people to learn about this fantastic game and meet new people as well. Men and women's groups, free to join event. Sport clothes advised. It will take place on Sundays at 4:30pm in People's Park, Bray. Contact Joseph on 089 702 9857.

### Lisne Centre for Wellbeing to re-open

Following two major setbacks - Covid restrictions and a second sale of the property where it was located (resulting in its final withdrawal from the premises) - Lisne is preparing to open its doors for classes at a new location: The Egan Business Centre in Bray in January 2022 - provided there is no further upsurge of Covid. The new facility allows for the running of a full programme of classes and these will begin in a phased manner. Rooms are available at reasonable rates to former and new tutors who specialise in courses which enhance well-being. Current courses vary from meditation to art, sacred dance and relaxation exercises. Lisne also welcomes volunteers to help with minor tasks e.g. meet and greet attendees. View the website at [www.lisne.ie](http://www.lisne.ie).

### Apollo Bridge Club Arklow

Apollo Bridge Club returned to face to face bridge at Presbyterian Church Hall, Dublin Road, Arklow recently. All members need to comply with all covid recommendations advice by the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland. Everyone coming to play bridge must be fully vaccinated and wear mask if moving around.

"Our President Nancy Quinn welcomes everyone back. We are looking for new members to join our club. There is no need for a partner as we have a joker system in place. We are a very sociable and friendly club and learners and improvers are welcome. If you wish for any more details phone Marie 0872027529."

### Hot Spot Music Club

Take a journey through Van Morrison's Songbook, at the Hot Spot Music Club, above The Beach House at Greystones Harbour Marina, on 6th November, With Celtic Soul, a seven-piece band from Bangor.

Full details on all events with times, bookings and admissions from: [www.thehotspot.ie](http://www.thehotspot.ie), [hotspotmusicclub@gmail.com](mailto:hotspotmusicclub@gmail.com), 087 2917519.

# Local communities encouraged to act to protect biodiversity

Communities in Wicklow that are committed to protecting biodiversity and wildlife are being offered an opportunity to work with an expert ecologist under additional grant supports.

The supports are being offered by The Community Foundation for Ireland in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage as part of a joint Community and Nature Fund, which is now in its third year.

Local groups in Wicklow are being invited to apply under three strands, each with the aim of developing actions which will deliver real results with a Community Biodiversity Plan. Communities will work with an ecologist to draw up a community biodiversity action plan within their local community or with two or 3-5 local landowners.

The aim is to contribute towards reversing a crisis which has seen nature and biodiversity under severe threat.

The three strands are:

- Strand 1: Grants of up to €5,000 for community groups to work with an ecologist to classify their local habitats, assess their condition and extent, map them, and define a suite of actions to enhance biodiversity
- Strand 2: Grants of up to €7,500 for community groups who carry out the work outlined in Strand 1 in collaboration with one or two land managers/owners to classify habitats at landscape scale with a focus on field boundaries (hedgerows, treelines and stone walls), assess their condition and extent, map them and define a suite of actions to enhance biodiversity
- Strand 3: Grants of up to €10,000 for community groups

who carry out the work outlined in Strand 1 in collaboration with three to five land managers/owners to classify habitats at landscape scale with a focus on field boundaries (hedgerows, treelines and stone walls), assess their condition and extent, map them and define a suite of actions to enhance biodiversity

Announcing the grants Minister of State for Heritage at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Housing, Malcolm Noonan TD, said community involvement on the ground can have a big national impact.

"Initiatives at local level can have a hugely positive impact on nature in Ireland, while helping people to get to know the biodiversity in their area and understand what to do to protect and enhance it. Communities have an important role to play in addressing the biodiversity crisis, and we need their help to create new habitats, restore existing ones, tackle invasive species and raise awareness of nature locally, which in turn has a regional and national effect.

"More than ever, people are making space for wildness in their lives - in gardens, on farms, and in public spaces - and reaping all sorts of benefits, not least of which is the sense of wellbeing and peace that we get from spending time in nature.

"My Department's investment in local projects such as this will support community efforts to deliver benefits for biodiversity, and for society. We are delighted that over the last two years this fund resulted in the production of

56 community biodiversity action plans. We hope to continue to support the measures arising from these plans, and welcome new communities to come on board too."

Minister Noonan noted the grants arose from the "Seeds for Nature" commitments made at the National Biodiversity Conference in 2019.

"Communities need access to scientific expertise so we undertook to provide specialist support from ecologists to help people understand local context and determine priorities based on evidence. I would urge community groups all over County Wicklow to apply."

Denise Charlton, Chief Executive of The Community Foundation for Ireland added: "There is real passion and energy in local communities to reverse the crisis facing our native plants and animals. Our fund has already seen citizen scientists mobilised to protect peat-lands, native butterflies, butterflies, bats and birds as well as plants and trees even during a pandemic. Now we are setting ourselves long term goals by offering communities access to ecologists who will advise and guide on the actions which need to be taken. This will see groups reassured that the actions they take are the right ones which will be impactful by delivering benefits not just for the immediate future but for generations to come."

Full details of the application process are available at [www.communityfoundation.ie](http://www.communityfoundation.ie), the closing date is 12th November 2021

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Senior Infants and 1st Class pupils from Woodstock Educate Together school in Newtownmountkennedy enjoying their recent Halloween fancy dress day.

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# Calls for investigation into Arklow vaccine centre spend

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called for an investigation into the spending of nearly €100,000 of public funds on the opening of a Covid vaccine centre in Arklow, which was to close three months later without a single Covid vaccine being administered.

Deputy Brady said: "The much-vaunted vaccine centre that we were led to believe would open in the Arklow Bay Hotel, has proven to be nothing more than another publicity opportunity for the Minister for health Stephen Donnelly. Although not one single Covid vaccine dose was administered at the Arklow vaccine centre, the taxpayer is being asked to foot the bill for €98,832.44.



John Brady TD

"Minister Donnelly was happy to feed us all the line of spin back in February when he announced that two vaccination centres were to open in Wicklow. One was to be established at the former Charlesland Golf Club in Greystones and the second in the Arklow Bay Hotel in Arklow. It later transpired that the contract hadn't actually been signed to use the former Charlesland Golf Club and the HSE had to quickly scramble to find other premises to use. Eventually they secured the use of the Shoreline centre in Greystones.

"In May an announcement was made that the 3-month contract to use the Arklow Bay expired before a single Covid vaccine was administered and it wasn't

going to be extended. This is despite €40,632.44 being spent on the fit out of the Arklow Bay for it to be used as a Covid vaccination centre.

"People from Arklow subsequently had to travel to Co.Wexford to get their Covid vaccination. It is a damning indictment of the Minister who seems to be more concerned about grabbing a headline and photo op as opposed to ensuring that due diligence is given to the details of the vaccine plan.

"I believe that there needs to be accountability and transparency when it comes to Ministers dishing out public funds for white elephants. This can only be achieved at this late juncture through a proper investigation into the deci-

sion making concerning the spending of the taxpayer's money.

"Granted the cost of the Arklow Vaccine Centre does not compare to the overspend we witnessed on the National Children's Hospital during the tenure of Simon Harris as Minister for Health, nonetheless, it is important that there are checks and balances at every level in public life.

"And I believe it is important that Minister Donnelly be asked to give a full account as to where the money was spent, and just as importantly, why it was spent, why the vaccine centre failed to open, and why there was only a 3month lease in place which ultimately resulted in the waste of nearly

€100,000 of taxpayers money."

A spokesman for Minister Donnelly told *Wicklow Times*: "The Arklow Bay Hotel was used to oversee a highly successful schools vaccination programme. However, when the regulations changed allowing the reopening of hotels the owners of the Arklow Bay, as was their right, wanted to reopen their business.

"It needs to be recognised that the superb HSE staff overseeing the setting up of the vaccine centres were dealing with a rapidly evolving situation. Despite the complicated requirements for a vaccination centre, a second site was found less than 15 minutes from Arklow.

"It's a cheap political stunt and an insult to the HSE teams who worked on setting up one of the best vaccination rollouts in the world to suggest an investigation is needed. Ireland has consistently been amongst the best in the EU for both the speed of the vaccination rollout and our vaccination uptake which is thanks to both the incredible work done by our HSE staff as well as the public's overwhelming support for the vaccines."



Minister Donnelly

## Grant aid for development of Bray amphitheatre

Wicklow County Council has been awarded a significant grant of €250,000 from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media for the development of a high-quality arts and culture performance space at Bray Seafont.

This follows a successful application by Wicklow County Council under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme, 2021 designed to accelerate public realm capital improvement projects with a primary focus of assisting local authorities to adapt, equip or otherwise improve outdoor public spaces for arts and culture events and also festivals, taking account of public health guidelines.

The performance space, which will be located at the north end of the Bray Esplanade will link the public realm to the arts and culture directly with potential audiences and will include: A tented canopy structure providing cover for performing artists; It will be equipped with sound and lighting equipment; Have a backdrop to the rear of the stage area; Treated hardwood timber seating.

An encircling pedestrian access pathway to frame the space and connecting it to the existing main seafont footpaths and promenade at either side is proposed.

Work will now begin on the preparation of architectural drawings to facilitate public consultation and engagement and the procurement process. Work is expected to be completed in late 2022.

Drawn up in response to the Outdoor Spaces Scheme, the Amphitheatre is an ambitious design which will exceed the available grant amount, however Wicklow County Council believes that this design delivers the best potential amenity for the chosen area and is committed to providing the additional funding resources to deliver a 'best in class' urban amenity for the residents of Bray, the wider community and visitors to the town.

Commenting on the development, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Frank Curran, said: "the project is strategically aligned to the broader infrastructural development of the Seafont and Harbour areas of the Town which have recently secured significant investment of URDF funding. It will add to and compliment adjoining projects such as the proposed redevelopment of the Bray harbour and the recently completed Seafont Plaza scheme which has created a high-quality civic space providing a suitable and safe place for pedestrians and cyclists."

Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, welcomed the funding by saying that "the development will provide a much-needed performance space for use by local community groups and artists. The space will be innovative in design providing broad public access with designated wheelchair facilities. It will include space for workshops and dance performances as well as art fair, yoga, pilates and other cultural projects. It will be a creative and visible space for arts and culture set in a very high-profile public thoroughfare thereby integrating the arts as a normal aspect of life in this historic recreation and amenity area."

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, congratulated Bray Municipal District on securing the funding for the project which he said will achieve the aim of enhancing a key high quality open space in order to maximise its functions as a public amenity and a tourism attraction.



Willie Rooney and Macayla Murphy with baby Alfie after Knockananna beat Donard/Glen in the Senior Camogie Championship in Arklow.

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Photo courtesy of Wicklow RNLI

## Bank Holiday rescue for Wicklow RNLI

Wicklow RNLI Inshore lifeboat crew brought a man to safety after his kayak capsized in choppy waters off Wicklow Head on Monday 25th October.

The kayaker was spotted by members of the public, who then contacted the Coast Guard.

The Inshore lifeboat, under the command of helm Alan Goucher and two volunteer crew launched at 4:25pm. They arrived on scene four minutes later and located the casualty on the cliff under Wicklow Head Lighthouse, weather conditions in the area at the time were wind south westerly force five with rough sea.

The kayaker had left Wicklow harbour earlier in the afternoon and intended to travel south along the coast, but due to tidal conditions and rough sea at Wicklow Head the kayak capsized and he was thrown into the water. The man managed to swim towards the cliff and climb five feet above the waterline, to wait until help arrived.

The casualty was transferred onto the lifeboat and landed safely ashore.

Speaking after the call out Wicklow RNLI Press Officer, Tommy Dover said: 'The casualty was fortunate to have been spotted by walkers at Wicklow Head this afternoon, he was shaken after his ordeal but required no medical attention. We urge anyone going afloat to always carry a means for calling for help and if they get into difficulty dial 999 or 112 and ask for the Coast Guard.'

The crew on the callout were Helm Alan Goucher, Lisa 'O Leary and John Stapleton.

# 30km/h speed limit around all Greystones schools

Greystones Councillors unanimously supported the proposal on the implementation of 30km/h speed limits around all schools within the area at last week's October Municipal District meeting.

The motion was tabled by Greystones Cathaoirleach, Cllr Lourda Scott in advance of the upcoming county wide speed limit review.

Speaking after the meeting Cllr. Scott said: "I brought this motion forward in response to community concerns about poor driving around our schools. In particular regarding drivers speeding, this has resulted in some very near misses. As a parent of school going children I have unfortunately witnessed this first hand.

"It is one of the reasons why people are reluctant to allow their children to walk and cycle to school. Currently roads around our schools are at 50km/h speed limit, but taking statistics from the Road Safety Authority, it is shown that lower speed limits dramatically reduce the number of people killed in a collision and reduce the severity of injury.

"However it is not just a road safety issue as lower speed limits also reduce air and noise pollution at our school gates, reduce carbon emissions

and allow traffic to move more smoothly.

"With the speed limits across the County coming up for review shortly it seems an ideal opportunity to improve the roads around our schools and ask for 30km/hr zones either at school opening and closing times or all of the time, depending on the road type.

"Increased Government funding has led to improved pedestrian and cycle path facilities and active travel schemes such as Park and Stride are becoming increasingly popular. Lowering the speed limits have been shown to play an important part in making the roads around schools safer, healthier and more attractive places to be.

"I am delighted to have the full support of my fellow Councillors on this motion.

The opportunity to change speed limits only arise every 5 years so now is the time to take a united stand and push for the necessary changes," Cllr Scott concluded.



Cllr Lourda Scott near Temple Carrig School in Greystones

## 'West Wicklow needs social and community audit'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called on Wicklow County Council to carry out a Social and Community Audit in West Wicklow.

Deputy Brady stated "West Wicklow has been neglected by successive governments for far too long. As a result, West Wicklow has a major deficit of community, recreation, and basic public infrastructure.

"I believe that carrying out a social and Community audit will help gauge and identify the potential infrastructure and

community resources needed now and in the future.

"The Community Pool for West Wicklow group have recently called on Wicklow County Council to carry out an audit and this is something I fully support.

"The council is currently in the process of carrying one out in the Greystones and Delgany,

due to the growth of residential development in the area this audit is required. West Wicklow has far fewer community facilities so an audit would be critical for the area that is lacking many of the facilities other areas of Wicklow currently have.

"As well as identifying areas of strength it will also identify areas that need to be addressed. Many of the issues are well known such as the need to upgrade the N81, develop a

community Swimming pool and gym, community centres and sporting facilities.

"I believe that by carrying out a social and community audit and consulting with residents and community organisations it will strengthen applications from Wicklow County Council for State funding as projects can be prioritised based on the identified needs. I have asked Wicklow County Council to give serious consideration to carrying out the audit."

## Fáilte Park is finally out of the dark

Wicklow Sinn Féin representatives, Cllr Grace McManus and Deputy John Brady have welcomed the repair and turning on of the lights at Fáilte Park in Bray.

Cllr McManus said "It is wonderful news to see that the lighting problems in Fáilte park have been addressed. Fáilte park is the home to many of our older population, some who have mobility issues, so lighting really was essential for their safety and wellbeing.

"To know now that they can move more freely and watch out for trip hazards, while also feeling more secure in their homes is very welcome as we come into the Winter months, and my admiration and appreciation to both the residents here for campaigning on this, and Wicklow County Council for ensuring this essential work was done"

Deputy Brady said "It's really positive that the long-standing issue of the public lighting not working in Fáilte Park has finally been resolved. Cllr McManus and I got a commitment from the council in August that the important work that was required to get the public lighting would be done. So to have the lights back working now after being out of action for a number of years is really positive, particularly as we move into the evenings getting darker earlier."

"I want to commend the residents for their perseverance on the issue and to the council for getting the work done."



The repaired lights in Failte Park in Bray

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# Connecting Ireland launched in Brockagh

The Connecting Ireland plan was launched on Friday 29th October by CEO of the National Transport Authority (NTA) Anne Graham, Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan and Green Party TD Steven Matthews in Brockagh Resource Centre in Glendalough.

The Connecting Ireland plan is a major national public transport initiative developed by the NTA with the aim of increasing public transport connectivity, particularly for people living outside major cities and towns.

Discussing the launch, Deputy Matthews said: "This is very welcome progress on a key green party objective in the programme for government that committed to improving rural transport options, interconnectivity between towns and villages and making public transport a genuine option for those who live in rural areas.

"I frequently have conversations with people from South and West Wicklow in particular that don't want to use their cars as much as they do and would welcome the opportunity to access frequent and reliable bus option but in many areas this does not exist. The Connecting Ireland plan being launched by Minister Ryan is about putting in place the bus infrastructure in areas that have been highlighted as



Deputy Matthews with Minister Ryan at the Brockagh Resource Centre last Friday

needing a service by the NTA through their consultation with stakeholders including transport operators and Wicklow County Council amongst others. "Work has been ongoing on this plan since 2019 so much of the groundwork is already in place. The NTA has completed a comprehensive assessment of the existing network of regular public transport services operating across the country. This gave a clear idea of

the gaps in service, the need to ensure that public transport caters for a range of functions and is not just for commuting to work or education and the need to improve integration of timetables so that connections between transport options are more viable.

"As it stands, 2 in 5 villages are not connected to their nearest big town by any sort of public transport service and we need massively improve

this- not only as a basic public service but the knock on impact of getting people out of their cars and shifting attitudes in this way will reduce car dependence and have a very positive impact on our carbon emissions.

"Once the connecting Ireland plan is fully implemented, we need to think about rural public transport as an overall service and not just during rush hour times for commuting. Whether its shopping in the town during the day, going for a meal or a drink in the evening, if a reliable bus service is available -it will be used. There will be a natural teething period and it will be about building trust with residents but once the service is reliable and offers a practical timetable that links up with other public transport options, the demand will be there.

"I look forward to continuing to work with the NTA and local residents to progress the Connecting Ireland plan as quickly as possible, it's very important that we don't see any delays



Katie Kavanagh, Sarah Nolan, and Rose Donohoe from Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara in Brittas Bay, enjoying their school's recent dress-up day.

down the road. This strategy is part of a wider transport plan for Wicklow that I am actively engaging with the NTA on which includes the LUAS to Bray, the DART to Wicklow town and the express buses for the N11. The Green Party were integral in having these projects kept in the National Development plan and I will continue to work towards getting these projects completed, concluded Deputy Matthews.

Also speaking last week, Fine Gael Minister

Simon Harris TD outlined the potential of the Connecting Ireland plan to provide more sustainable environmentally friendly public transport options for communities in rural Wicklow.

Minister Harris said: "I am delighted to see the roll out of Connecting Ireland in County Wicklow. I recently undertook a survey of West Wicklow residents regarding the future upgrade of the N81 route through Baltinglass and Blessington. A key demand from communities along the length of

the route has been the need for reliable public transport services.

"Rural Communities want to play their part in tackling the climate crisis, but a key support they need is reliable public transport and the Connecting Ireland initiative will go towards achieving this goal".

The Connecting Ireland Plan's objectives include: Connecting more villages to their nearest local town; Ensuring the additional public transport caters for a range of functions and is not just for commuting to work;

Better integration of timetables to make public transport more useful and connections between different public transport options easier.

Minister Harris concluded: "I am to meet Minister Eamon Ryan soon regarding the outcome of my West Wicklow N81 survey to address the need to speedily co-ordinate the efforts of all the public transport and roads agencies to ensure the N81 upgrade includes the most up to date facilities for sustainable and active transport."

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Bray Cualann Historical Society committee members are pictured with their National Heritage Week 2021 County Award; Mark Murphy, Brian White, May Harte (holding some glasses from the old Portland glass factory Boghall Road), and Dave Murphy.

In previous years, before Covid19, the society presented a number of walking tours focusing on particular areas of Bray. This was not possible in 2020, so the Society posted some research papers on their website featuring some well known landmarks of Bray.

This year the Society posted nine papers featuring the Boghall area of Bray. This is an extensive piece of research work and it is hoped that it will result in further discoveries and folklore from this area. The Boghall Area presentation featured the social and cultural history of the Boghall area of Bray from 1744 up to the present day including Homes for Heroes (Old Soldier's Road), Trades, Aerial Views, and Scott Park among the topics. The Society was founded in 1977 and a number of Boghall area contributors assisted in the research with their personal knowledge of the area.

The National Heritage Week Awards highlight Ireland's 'heritage heroes', and showcase the most engaging and innovative projects from National Heritage Week 2021. 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 time. Each heritage activity shared on the National Heritage Week website was considered for a National Heritage Week Award. The award is testament to the great research work carried out over the years by past Bray Cualann Historians including Eva Sutton.

# Boost for recreation and tourism with new investment in Wicklow walking trails

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD has welcomed the substantial funding allocated to Wicklow under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme to develop and improve outdoor projects in rural communities across the country.

Minister Harris said "I am delighted to confirm that walking trails across county Wicklow are to receive substantial funding to upgrade mountain trails and forest walks that will enhance our enjoyment of the beautiful Wicklow countryside.

see more evidence of the hugely positive impact 'Our Rural Future' is having in Rural Ireland".

## Wicklow Outdoor Amenities to Receive Funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme:

"Outdoor recreation and walking trails have seen a substantial growth in their popularity over the past two years and the unprecedented level of investment in our outdoor amenities is a cornerstone of the Government's policy for Rural Ireland, 'Our Rural Future'.

"This investment will support my ambition to make Wicklow a destination of choice for outdoor pursuits and adventure tourism.

"By drawing more visitors to experience the beauty of Wicklow's towns and villages, we will help further support our rural economy.

"In the coming weeks, we will

• Kilmacanogue Nature Trail: Enhancement of the links between Wicklow Uplands Way and Sugarloaf Way by taking a section off road. €18,000.00

• Lacken Mass Path: Provide a link between the final section of the original mass path and carry out repairs along the trail. €16,200.00

• Mass Path: Upgrade of the existing trail surface, infrastructure and drainage. €11,700.00

• Avonmore Kayak Project: Enhancement of the access and egress points along the river bank by placing railings. Living willow changing screens will also be

planted. €14,850.00

• Age Friendly Triobikes for older people: Cycling with Age allows volunteers to bring people living in nursing homes and community resource centres out into the community in an enjoyable way, improving their health and wellbeing. €20,000.00

• Keadeen Access: To extend the carpark at Ballinabarney Forest to allow for improved access. €12,150.00

• St. Kevin's Way Video Guide: To extend the provision of a multi-media video guide of St. Kevin's Way. €18,000.00

• Avoca Red Kite & Mottee Stone: To extend the Avoca Red Kite Loop and signage and improved access along the route. €10,800.00

• Waymarking of the Wicklow Way: Replacement of waymarking plaques, posts and finger post road signs throughout the Wicklow Way. €18,000.00

## Codling Wind Park to power St. Patrick's U15 Hurling Team

Codling Wind Park has announced its latest local partnership - with St. Patrick's GAA Club in Wicklow.

St. Patrick's GAA is the largest sporting organisation in County Wicklow with over 30 teams, across men's and ladies' football, Hurling and Camogie. It is also one of the longest-established GAA clubs in the country, with a proud tradition dating back to 1886.

From October 2021, Codling Wind Park will

be the new sponsor of the U15 Hurling team's jerseys, which will be worn on a weekly basis throughout the GAA season.

Arno Verbeek, Project Director of the Codling Wind Park project, said: "It is a real privilege to be able to get involved with such a prestigious and historic club as St. Patrick's

GAA in Wicklow. The GAA provides an amazing outlet for young people all over Ireland to enjoy a healthy lifestyle and the St. Patrick's club is a fine example of this. In Codling Wind Park, we're also aiming to support a healthier future for young people - both the current generation and generations to come."

John Smith, Chairperson of St. Patrick's GAA Club, said: "We wouldn't be able to keep serving our younger players without the support of partners such as Codling Wind Park. We are very appreciative of this sponsorship and hope it will be the start of a long-term relationship between the young people of the club and the project in many different ways."

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Arno Verbeek, Project Director of Codling Wind Park, presents a new set of jerseys to St. Patrick's hurling coach James Phelan. Also pictured are Joe Culleton and U15 captain Ciaran Matthews.

# Two thirds of Wicklow dentists exit scheme to treat Medical Card holders

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has expressed alarm over the falling rate of dentists participating in the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS). In Wicklow the number of dentists with contracts with the Health Service Executive (HSE) to provide services to adult medical card patients under the dental treatment service scheme has dropped by 66% since 2017.

Deputy Brady said "Figures released to me by the HSE indicate an alarming fall off in the rate of Dentists who are signed up to contracts with the HSE under the DTSS. Indeed, parts of Wicklow, and West Wicklow in particular are amongst the worst affected in the state, despite the fact that the last two ministers for health have been from the county.

"From 2017 we have witnessed a decrease from 52 to 25 dentists in January 2021, who are operating under the scheme in County Wicklow. That figure now sits at 18 as another 7 dentists have dropped out since January.

"Based on these fig-

ures we now have 66% less dentists signed up to the DTSS today than we had in 2017. Nationally, the figures spent by the government on the DTSS are now back at 2001 levels. Essentially, we are now at the same spending levels we were at twenty years ago. This is 50% less than the figures spent in 2009 when the government slashed funding to pay for the banking crisis. And yet the government continues to refuse to restore spending figures.

"Every medical card holder in this state is eligible for access to dental treatment under the DTSS. But individuals are finding it increasingly difficult to source dental

care under this scheme. I have been contacted by countless people from across Wicklow who are finding it near impossible to source a dentist participating in the scheme in their locality.

"This situation is not only leading to delays, it is resulting in patients having to travel further distances, therefore incurring even greater costs. In many cases medical card patients are forced to pay privately to get treatment.

"This is not acceptable. Medical card holders are entitled to access dental care under this scheme, and the Minister for Health has a responsibility to make sure that they can.

"The government is ignoring this issue - it has been flagged to them for a number of years now - and still, there is no resolution in sight.

"In the meantime, medical card holders are facing worry and concern in relation to their dental care. I am calling on Minister Donnelly to do what needs to be done to resolve this situation. If this means he needs to sit down with the Irish Dental Association and sort this mess out, then that's what he will have to do.

"Allowing vulnerable people to suffer because of his failure to resolve the issue is a disgrace, it's now past the time for the Minister to act."

## 'Children lingering on waiting lists for scoliosis surgery unforgiveable'

Social Democrats Spokesperson for Children, Deputy Jennifer Whitmore raised in the Dáil last week the issue of children waiting for long periods of time for scoliosis surgery.

Deputy Whitmore called on the Taoiseach Michael Martin to intervene saying "there has been little to no engagement from the Department of Health on this issue" and says that "the linger of children waiting for scoliosis surgery is unforgiveable.

"I think the whole country was delighted to hear that Adam who had been on national radio waiting in pain for scoliosis surgery, has now received an appointment.

"But there are thousands of children who are waiting for their first consultation with their orthoedic surgeon and 179 children, like Adam, who are waiting for surgery.

Some of these children live in Wicklow who wait in pain and discomfort along with their families. Their lives are interrupted, they can't go to school regularly, they can't sleep or hang out with their friends. It's incredible disruptive to their childhood.

"While covid and the cyberattack placed increased pressure on waiting lists, my question to the Taoiseach was what additional measures are being put in place to help those children to receive an appointment within the four month time limit promised back in 2017 and which has been Government policy ever since.

"The Taoiseach says that Children's Health Ireland is in discussions with the HSE and the Minister for Health to look at increasing capacity, which I welcome, but alongside increased capacity those children in Wicklow waiting on surgery need certainty now and a clear pathway towards getting the surgery they urgently need.

"It is clear that the best outcome for the child is simply not happening at the moment for these children and a lot of work is needed to deal with the crisis in scoliosis care. I continue to work with our Spokesperson for Health, Deputy Róisín Shorthall to make our healthcare system more responsive to the needs of children in Ireland", concluded Deputy Whitmore.

## Young people waiting 11 weeks for Jigsaw mental health appointment

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said the waiting times for the Jigsaw youth mental health service in Wicklow and right across the state are worrying.

Deputy Brady has called on the Minister to urgently engage with the service to provide a solution.

Waiting times for an appointment with Jigsaw are currently up to 20 weeks across the State, in Wicklow the waiting time is 11 weeks.

Deputy Brady said: "Figures released through a Parliamentary Question to Sinn Féin spokesperson for Mental Health, Mark Ward TD, have shown there are significant wait times for counselling appointments with Jigsaw, the mental health service which provides vital support to young people, in Wicklow.

"Demand for the Jigsaw service in Wicklow and across the State continues to grow, however, as a result youths are waiting up to 20 weeks to get an appointment, and young people from Wicklow are currently waiting 11 weeks.

"Every expert in child and adolescent mental health

will tell you that early intervention is absolutely vital in avoiding enduring and worsening problems in the future. Yet, these figures reveal that if a child or young person seeks out care they are in all likelihood going to be faced with extended waiting periods which are simply unacceptable and put them and their mental health at a very serious risk.

"Young people's mental health has been adversely affected during the pandemic. Loss of schooling, sports, peer supports and even their ability to socialise with friends have impacted on their mental health.

"Jigsaw have experienced a 42% increase in the demand for their services and this cry for help from our young people cannot fall on deaf ears.

"There is also an element of postcode politics, that depending on where you live you may get treated quicker. Some areas have a 3-week waiting time while others are left waiting for 20 weeks. Uniformed mental health treatment is needed so our young people can access the care they need, when they need it and where they need it. The Minister must urgently engage with the service to provide a solution."



Paddy, Sandra, Sarah, Nathan, Kiara, Sinead, Padraic, Oisín, and Patrick Byrne with the Senior Camogie Championship trophy following Knockananna's victory over Donard/Glen in Arklow.

## Bord Pleanála hearing on Delgany to Blacklion Cycleway & Road CPO

On Tuesday 16th October An Bord Pleanála held a hearing, into plans to build the missing central section of the Delgany to Blacklion cycleway and road.

Wicklow County Council needs to acquire about 20 small pieces of land, mostly at the end of gardens, for the works to be completed. Nine householders objected, mainly on the grounds of wanting better boundaries to protect their privacy.

Speaking about the road, Cllr Derek Mitchell said "This road connects five large schools and is narrow and dangerous to cycle along. When built it will provide 4m wide cyclepaths and footpaths on either side of a 6m road. This will be much safer and it should encourage children to walk and cycle to school.

"I have pressed for this for over 10 years, in order to reduce car use, and I am glad to see progress. The Inspector will produce a report and hopefully the Bord will confirm the CPO allowing the Council to complete the design of the 700m of road. Possibly construction could start next Summer provided there are no Court cases."



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Maureen Dunne, Eileen Earls and Emma De Courcy show off some of the art and photos that will be on sale at the Unwanted Gifts Coffee Morning in aid of St. Patrick's Church and Wicklow Cancer Support. It will take place on 7th November from 10am to 2pm in The Pastoral Centre beside St. Patrick's Church, Wicklow Town

## 'Public voice must be represented'

Independent Councillor Mags Crean has stressed that any new CLG's (Companies Limited by Guarantee) set up by the Local Authority must be accountable to the public.

Cllr Crean was speaking after learning of moves being made to turn Greystones Town Team into a legal entity. The implications have raised concerns among councillors regarding oversight, and a Special Meeting of Greystones Municipal District Council was called by Cllr Tom Fortune in response.

Cllr Crean has questioned the role of County Councils in facilitating the set up of companies limited by Guarantee for town renewal.

She stated "My role as a public representative is to ensure that the public have a voice in local developments. I welcome collaborative work to revitalise towns but new structures, especially if they are private entities, need to be accountable to the public".

She added that "A private institution is not subject to Freedom of Information requests". In conclusion, she suggested that "at the very least, these private entities need to establish a reporting mechanism to the local Municipal District Councils, whereby public representatives can have oversight on proposals and ideas."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**ARE YOU AGED 55 OR OVER AND  
LIVING IN COUNTY WICKLOW?  
NOW OPEN – WICKLOW'S NEW  
AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGY –  
CONSULTATION SURVEY  
'WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU'**

As part of the development of the new Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy (2022- 2027) Wicklow County Council in association with Wicklow's Age Friendly County Alliance and Wicklow's Older Persons Council are seeking to engage with people 55 years and older living in County Wicklow. Insights and contributions gathered through this consultation process will result in the identification of priority areas for action in the new strategy, for implementation over the next 5 years. We encourage you to engage and have your say in the consultation process by completing our survey via Wicklow County Council's 'Consultation Hub' on the link below.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Community/Wicklow-Age-Friendly-Survey>

To request the survey link by email or to arrange for hard copies of the survey, please email: [agefriendly@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:agefriendly@wicklowcoco.ie)

Please share information about our consultation with family, friends, and any groups you are involved with to help us engage with as wide an audience as possible.

The survey will remain open until the end of December 2021.



# Home Instead's new Wicklow office opened

Home Instead, Ireland's largest private provider of home care services, welcomed Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly TD to officially open its new offices in County Wicklow on Friday 29th October.

The care company delivers essential home care to almost 7,000 clients across every county in Ireland, including 130 in Wicklow.

The new offices at Glencormack Business Park in Kilmacanogue will act as a base for Home Instead's 103 caregivers right across County Wicklow, and features state of the art office space, training and learning facilities, and rest and recreation areas.

Home Instead's mission is to enhance the lives of ageing adults and their families. For the vast majority of older people, ageing at home has better health outcomes, is less expensive than institutional care, and can help prevent unnecessary or premature admission to long-term residential care.

Earlier this year, the care company announced the creation of 1,000 new CareGiver roles, including 30 in Wicklow, who will be based at the new office.

As Ireland, like so many countries, faces the challenge of an ageing population in the years ahead, home care can play an increasingly important role in providing care to the country's oldest and most vulnerable citizens.

Opening Home Instead's new Wicklow Office, Stephen Donnelly

TD for Wicklow and Minister for Health, said: "I am delighted to officially open Home Instead's new offices in Wicklow."

"This new facility will help Home Instead to continue to deliver vital home care services to the people of Wicklow, and supports the desire of the vast majority of older people to live independently at home for as long as possible."

At the opening ceremony,

Chief Operating Officer of Home Instead, Shane Jennings said "We are delighted to have the Minister for Health here with us to open our new Wicklow office."

"We are all aware of the acute and expanding shortage of professional care workers around the world. With the number of people over the age of 65 in Ireland expected to reach 1.4 million by 2040, this has the potential for a huge impact on health ser-

vices. As life expectancy increases in Ireland, so too does the need for quality home care - and quality home carers."

"We recently announced the creation of 1,000 new carer jobs in Ireland, including 30 in Wicklow. Facilities like this new office underline our commitment to the county and will help us deliver the vital home care services that older people want and need."

General Manager of

Home Instead in Wicklow, Michael Lowe, said: "Our new Wicklow office includes office space, rest and recreation areas for our current and new caregivers and a fully equipped caregiver training room."

"This base will act as a centre for training and learning for our 103 current caregivers in Wicklow, who serve more than 130 clients across the county."



Shane Jennings, Chief Operating Officer of Home Instead; Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD; and Michael Lowe, General Manager of Home Instead in Wicklow, as the Minister officially opened Home Instead's new Wicklow offices at Kilmacanogue.

## Concerns over future of Citizens Information Service in Wicklow Town

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has expressed concern at reports that the Citizens Information Board (CIB), which falls under the authority of the Department of Social Protection, and Minister Heather Humphries, will no longer provide funding for the replacement offices of the Wicklow Town Citizens Information Service (CIS).

He said that this decision puts at risk the continued service provided by Citizens Information Service in the town as the previous premises were deemed unsuitable under HSE guidelines.

Deputy Brady said "I have real concerns in relation to the continued operation of the Citizens Information Service in Wicklow Town unless the decision not to provide funding for a replacement premises in Wicklow Town is reversed. The previous office in Wicklow was forced to close under HSE guidelines during the pandemic. The Citizens Information Board (CIB) who are the funders of the Citizens Information Service approved funding for the appointment of a project manager for a new premises. They also instructed South Leinster Citizens Information Service to submit planning permission for the new premises that they had identified. The

planning permission was recently secured for the new replacement premises."

"Unfortunately, at the last Board meeting of the South Leinster Citizens Information Service they were advised that the Citizens Information Board will no longer provide funding for the refurbishment and opening of the replacement Citizens Information Centre in Wicklow Town."

"Unless this decision is reversed it will seriously put at risk the continued operation of the vital service in Wicklow Town. The Citizens Information Service in Wicklow Town provides critical assistance to many of the most marginalised and vulnerable members of our community. In an average year the CIS deal with over 4,500 appeals for help. It provides a free, non-judgemental, and confidential service, providing advice and advocacy on a wide range of issues including social

welfare, employment rights, housing, health, and immigration."

"It is not just the CIS which is affected. The Money and Budgeting Service (MABS) in Arklow, was able to use the CIS office in Wicklow Town to provide clinics for clients who were not in position to travel to Arklow. The Bray Women's Refuge will also be availing of the new CIS premises if and when the funding is granted."

"There are no other organisations in Wicklow Town which can provide the service that the Citizens Information Service does. It is an important service to the local community and needs to be resourced. There needs to be a guarantee of funding, and the decision to relieve CIS volunteers of their frontline role, which was taken during the pandemic, needs to be overturned, in order to meet the growing demand for services."

"Our country, our county, and

our local communities are facing a very difficult time. With rising living costs, utility bills, rents, and heating costs going through the roof, ordinary people are coming under more and more pressure, and the work that the Citizens Information Service provides will become even more important, as the government's mismanagement of the economy and disregard for it continues to bite."

"I will be contacting Minister Heather Humphries on this matter, as the Department of Social Protection are the funders of the Citizens Information Board. The Minister needs to directly intervene and reverse in the decision to refuse to fund this important service. It is also my intention to raise this matter directly with the Citizens Information Board and ask them the reasons for this retrograde decision and for them to reverse it."

# Lakers join We Act campaign to drive post-pandemic community recovery

Lakers Social and Recreational Club in Bray was involved in the launch of We Act last week, a new national campaign aimed at building on the huge upswell of community activity during Covid-19 to help drive the post-pandemic recovery.

Lakers featured in a promotional photocall to coincide with the launch of We Act. A promotional video was also released and can be viewed now at [www.weact.ie](http://www.weact.ie).

Lakers Social and Recreational Club is a community club catering for just under 380 adults and children with an intellectual disability from Bray.

The organisation runs over 60 activities a week for members from its centre in Bray which is open six days a week and supported by over 160 volunteers.

In addition to Lakers Social and Recreational Club, charities and community groups across Wicklow are joining and being encouraged to join the We Act campaign.

The campaign aims to promote the value and impact of Ireland's charity and community sector. There are 34,000 organisations in the sector, employing almost 165,000 people and with a further 1 million volunteers.

Commenting on the launch of We Act, the campaign's manager, Sarah Monaghan, said: "The Covid-19 crisis brought a renewed public focus on the work of our sector. From support lines for older people to laptops for children in emergency accommodation, when we saw a need in our communities - in Wicklow and right across the country - we responded to it.

"The pandemic demonstrated that, in times of real need, charities and community groups are at the forefront of our national response. We saw a shift in values towards equality, justice and supports for the most vulnerable in our communities and across the globe. Now, there needs to be a

concentrated effort to ensure the innovation, goodwill and community cohesion continues as we recover from the pandemic."

#### Public Survey

A survey of 1,000 people in Ireland conducted on behalf of the We Act campaign found:

\* 70 per cent of people believe the lives of people in their communities would be impacted if charities disappeared overnight but just 8 per cent believe they interacted with a charity or community group in the past year.

\* 63 per cent of people have given to a charity or community group in the last three months.

\* 62 per cent think charities are more likely to be responsive in their services than the public sector, but only 54 per cent think staff in the charity sector should be paid similarly to those in the public sector.

\* Despite the fact that board members in both large and small charities are unpaid volunteers, over 40 per cent of people believe those who serve on charity boards are paid a salary.

\* 70 per cent believe a homelessness organisation is a charity while only 8 per cent think an arts organisation is a charity. Both can be charities.

A goal of the We Act campaign is to bridge the gap between some of the views raised in the research and create awareness of the value and impact of charities and community groups in Ireland.

"We know from the incredible support during the pandemic that people in Ireland have a huge affinity for good causes and we can see from the research that they understand the role some charities have in providing vital services,"

said Sarah Monaghan. "However, a majority of the public feel charity is for someone else. This campaign wants to celebrate the wide breadth of groups who have an impact on our lives every single day - even if we don't realise it.

"Think of your local tidy towns association, fun run, Men's Shed, community gardens, youth club, cancer or dementia supports, or animal rescue. All of these have a positive impact on both our lives and our wider community.

"We hope a better understanding of the benefits of charitable work and volunteering will drive community and voluntary action in communities across Wicklow and nationwide, which - in turn - will help drive the post-pandemic recovery."

The We Act campaign will run over the next three years. It is funded through a grant from RTÉ Does Comic Relief, distributed by The Community Foundation for Ireland.

Denise Charlton, Chief Executive of The Community Foundation for Ireland, said, "The Community Foundation for Ireland works with and supports more than 5,000 voluntary, community and charitable organisations. There are a million stories of the positive impact they have on families, homes and individuals across Ireland, often out of public view.

"We want to see more people working and staying in the sector, more people volunteering and engaging at a community level, more people knowing what services are out there should they need them, and more people feeling part of something positive and bigger than themselves."



6th class pupils at Newtown National School enjoying their recent dress up day



## Our numbers have changed

The Department of Social Protection phone numbers have changed from 1890 to **0818**.

Calls to 0818 numbers will cost no more than to a landline from any phone.\*

For more information visit [gov.ie/dspnumberchange](http://gov.ie/dspnumberchange)

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\* Includes mobile costs with landline inclusive package



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Government of Ireland



Matthew Davis and Caroline Burrell of Lakers Social and Recreational Club at the launch of We Act. Photo by Naoise Culhane.



Chairman of the Wicklow County Camogie Board Ivor Lehane presents Knockananna captain Laura Hogan with the Senior Championship trophy after her side beat Donard/Glen in the Senior Championship at Pearse Park in Arklow.

## 'A blow for rural communities'

Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) representing the Country's 35 LEADER providers have expressed deep disappointment at the allocation for LEADER 2023-2027 announced as part of the indicative CAP measures.

Commenting on the allocation of €180 million for the period 2023-2027, ILDN Chairman Jim Finn said; "this allocation marks a continued decline in support for Rural Communities through LEADER over the course of successive programmes. Prior to 2016 the LEADER Programme exceeded over €400 million over the budgetary period. Today's allocation points to another devastating cut to the Programme over the course of the last decade."

Finn continued; "for 30 years LEADER has been a driver for Rural Development across Ireland. It is extremely disappointing to see how funding for the Programme has diminished significantly over recent Programmes. LEADER has been the life blood of Rural Community Groups and businesses in areas where alternative investment is simply not available. Today's allocation sends out a very poor signal to Rural Communities as they face up to the challenges of Covid & Climate."

"The ILDN are calling on Minister for Agriculture Food & Marine Charlie McConalogue and Minister for Rural & Community Development to revisit the allocations under CAP to ensure that the LEADER Budget is increased over the 2023-2027 period."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### 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](http://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](http://www.checktheregister.ie) or by following the link on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)**

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 Certificate.

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](mailto:franchise@wicklowcoco.ie)

# 'Funding for Sheep Sector in CAP Plan far short of what's needed'

Wicklow's IFA Sheep Committee representative Selena McKenzie said the Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue's CAP Strategic Plan will exclude one million ewes from any funding.

"The proposed €20m/annum Sheep Improvement Scheme with payments of €12/ewe will only be available to 1.7m ewes. This is even fewer than the number of ewes in the current Sheep Welfare Scheme," she stated.

The IFA National Sheep Chairman Sean Dennehy made this point directly to Minister McConalogue at the recent IFA protest in Kilkenny and called on the Minister to provide funding for €30 for all ewes in the country in the new CAP plans.

"According to the most recent census figures, there are over

2.6m ewes in the country. Using those figures, the proposed funding will only deliver a payment of €7.70/ewe," he said.

Ms McKenzie has highlighted the vulnerability of sheep farming and the dangers of losing this key contributor to quality food production, environmental ambitions and critical social and economic activity in some of the most challenging farming regions of the country.

She said a targeted €30/ewe payment is crucial to support the sector; encourage generational renewal; and ensure sheep farm-

ing remains a significant and positive contributor to those areas where it's carried out.

"IFA has clearly set this out to the Minister and his officials throughout the CAP process, but this has not been provided in the proposed sheep scheme," Ms McKenzie said.

She said the new Sheep Improvement Scheme must be amended to have a budget to deliver €30/ewe for all ewes in the country.

She said IFA had specifically called for shearing to be included in the scheme to address the col-

lapse in the wool market.

"The inclusion of this measure would offset the enormous costs now associated with what is a key animal health and welfare measure on farms, and allow payments in the scheme build to €30/ewe."

"The Minister must come forward with meaningful amendments to the proposed scheme and a budget that will provide €30/ewe for all 2.6m ewes in the country, which would reflect his stated support for the sector with meaningful actions," Ms McKenzie concluded.

## Bluebird Care coordinator honoured at HCCI awards

Emma Dennis, a 31 year old Care Coordinator from Palmerstown in Dublin, has been named as Care Coordinator of the Year at the inaugural Home and Community Care Ireland (HCCI) Home Care awards. Emma, who works as a care coordinator with Bluebird Care, Dublin South-East and Wicklow, was announced as the winner at an awards event in the Shelbourne hotel last week.

A panel of independent judges – TV presenter & designer, Brendan Courtney; Professor Thomas Kearns, Executive Director, Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery, RCSI; Katie Sloan, CEO Leading Age, USA and Sandra Tuohy, Assistant National Director, Operations and Services for Older People HSE – chose Emma as the winner.

According to the judges Emma went way beyond what would be expected of anybody, moving across the country to help out in other offices. "There is nothing Emma wouldn't do to make sure there is a carer in the right place. She is such a worthy winner," Dermot Clancy, CEO, OneTouch said, "We are delighted to be sponsoring the inaugural Care Coordinator award. Care Coordinators play a vital role in the delivery of care and it's great to see them being honoured through these awards. The team at OneTouch would like to congratulate Emma on being selected by the judges as this year's worthy winner."

Joseph Musgrave, CEO, HCCI which is the representative body for home care providers and advocates for home care services to be made available to all on a statutory basis, said, "Heartfelt congratulations to Emma Dennis of Bluebird Care on winning Care Coordinator of the Year. We are very lucky to have people like Emma working in homecare. Her dedication and commitment makes a real difference to care clients and her colleagues and she should be very proud of her achievement. 2021 is a fitting year for HCCI to launch the inaugural Home Care Awards, a time when homecare providers and carers should be recognised and commended for their inspiring response to Covid-19. Homecare has been a vital resource for our most vulnerable in society, particularly since the onset of the pandemic."

"Our members and their teams have demonstrated outstanding commitment, care excellence and exceptional service to their clients. The HCCI Home Care awards celebrate and highlight this wonderful and vital work that enables the most vulnerable to stay in the safety and comfort of home. This safety and resilience is demonstrated by the



Emma Dennis, Bluebird Care, Dublin South-East & Wicklow

fact that covid infections never rose above 1% among our members' 20,000 clients. I would like to sincerely thank our event sponsor First Ireland whose support made this ceremony possible, as well as HaloCare, OneTouch and RCSI Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery for their sponsorship of individual awards. We are also very grateful to our 2 independent judges – Sandra Tuohy, Katie Sloan, Brendan Courtney and Professor Thomas Kearns for their time and expertise. And thank you to all our members who nominated team members for these inaugural awards."

Other award winners announced during the event were sisters Lauren and Chloe Kelly, Connected Health, Derry, Carers of the Year (award sponsor HaloCare); Geraldine Tabb, Right at Home, Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow, Nurse of the Year (award sponsor RCSI Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery) and Christina Mooney of InisCare, Dublin, Care Manager of the Year.

HCCI also recognised its late member Geraldine Casserly of Westcare Homecare who tragically died from Covid earlier this year with the Lifetime Achievement award (sponsored by First Ireland Insurance Brokers). Joseph said that Geraldine made a commitment to care through becoming a nurse and then through her commitment to homecare as well as to her local community through her business Westcare homecare.

"There is no one more worthy of this inaugural Lifetime Achievement award," he concluded. Her husband Seamus accepted the award along with his son Conor and daughter Samantha saying that Geraldine was "a beacon of care, a shining light. She had the natural ability to treat all clients with compassion, respect and dignity and offered comfort and solace to all her clients and their families during their darkest times. Geraldine was dedicated to giving the highest standard of care and was truly at her happiest when helping others."

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Marie Seery and Santina Kennedy enjoy afternoon tea at Victorian Tea Times during the October Feast in Arklow

## Bray to be included in Sláintecare Healthy Communities Scheme

**Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD has welcomed the inclusion of Bray in the Sláintecare Healthy Communities, Community Enhancement Scheme**

Minister Harris said "The focus of Sláintecare Healthy Communities Scheme is to support projects that will positively impact on the health and wellbeing of those who live within the Programme Area.

"I am delighted that Bray has been included in the scheme which will see the investment in 3 community kitchens to deliver healthy eating and cooking courses, refurbishment of pitches and installation of sports equipment".

Minister Harris added: "Sláintecare/Healthy Ireland and HSE are joining forces with other public agencies, community and voluntary groups to deliver a targeted intervention to improve healthy behaviours in young families and vulnerable groups in the community".

Healthy Communities Community Enhancement Scheme is designed to promote healthy behaviours with targeted interventions and advice for patients in the areas of Physical Activity, Diet and Nutrition.



**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](http://www.checktheregister.ie) or by email request to [Franchise@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto: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](mailto:franchise@wicklowcoco.ie)

# Wicklow residents unable to fully access birth registration services

**Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has written to the Minister for Health regarding delays in the issuing of birth certs in county Wicklow and problems around accessibility of birth registration services in the county.**

Deputy Whitmore says, "Previously I raised the issue of many Wicklow residents waiting on average two months to get a birth certificate for their newborn. I initially raised this with the Minister for Health and the HSE which stated that due to the current Cyber Attack on all of the HSE ICT systems, the Civil Registration Services (CRS) continue to encounter difficulties in delivering its services which provides for the registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages. The Minister for Social Protection in

response to my query stated that walk-in clinics were available as well as online and phone services.

"However, the feedback I am getting from people in Wicklow is that a walk-in service is still not available, that you have to ring the HSE Civil Registration Office in Wicklow to book an appointment. Often times people aren't able to get through to a member of staff and this is proving difficult for people. yet someone rarely picks up the phone. However for many this is proving very difficult

"It's clear that all these offices

are under huge pressure and dealing with a huge backlog, and the staff that are working in these offices are doing the best they can with the limited resources available to them. However, it is time the Minister stepped in here and addressed the ongoing situation with more resources including staff so that a more comprehensive services is provided for

"This is causing a lot of stress for people who need the birth certificate in order for a PPS number to be issued to a child, so the parents can access Child Benefit or

even apply for a passport. The current lack of clarity and full access to services for people in Wicklow needs to be addressed, urgently.

"I have written to the Minister again and hope to raise this in the Dáil at the first opportunity. I will be calling for the full resumption of walk-in clinics in the Wicklow office, more resources and staff to receive phone calls and clearer guidance as to how people can register and apply for birth certificates and other certificates of that nature," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

## Great Pink Run raises €650,000 for breast cancer research

**This year's Great Pink Run virtual event has raised almost €650,000 in essential funding for vital breast cancer research, through an incredible global event which saw 8,359 individual #PinkTribe participants, including runners, joggers, and walkers of all ages taking part from all over the globe over the weekend of 16th & 17th October, with people from no less than 23 countries participating.**

The aim of the event this year was to 'turn the globe pink', with participants being encouraged to run, walk, jog (or even scoot!) the circumference of the globe (40,700km) over the course of the event weekend, and to log their distance, supporting Breast Cancer Ireland's pioneering research and awareness programmes nationally. This ambitious goal was realized on Sunday afternoon of the 17th October when the total number of KM's logged during the event tipped over the 46,200km mark.

As an indication of the sheer scale of this event, to date, over 68,000 people have now taken part in the Great Pink Run since it began in 2011, raising over €4 million euro to support pioneering research across Ireland - ultimately aimed at developing new and more effective targeted therapies for patients diagnosed with breast cancer and fulfilling the charity's mission to transform this disease, from often fatal, to a treatable illness that can be maintained long-term.

Commenting on the results of this year's event, CEO of Breast Cancer Ireland, Aisling Hurley, says, "We are thrilled with the success of the Great Pink Run again this year, and whilst we were disappointed not to be back in a physical sense with everyone, we are delighted with the phenomenal amount of money raised which I can personally guaran-

tee, will make a significant impact through research into metastatic disease and will also help us change the landscape of this disease into the future." She added, "Once again, I'd like to thank our valued sponsors, Glanbia, Fitbit, Cornmarket, Aut Even Hospital and Joe Duffy Group amongst others, who came on board and helped us, not only financially, but also by engaging with their staff and stakeholders. All costs associated with this year's event were fully covered, ensuring that participant entry fees and individual fundraising efforts will now go directly to fund much needed and pioneering research efforts."

The proceeds from this year's event will now be used to help to fund life-saving research across two areas of particular need: Continued investment into metastatic disease research, an ever-challenging area in need of significant support; and Investment in driving progression and speed of scientific discovery from research settings into clinical trials.

Over the last six weeks, several well-known faces joined the 'pink tribe' in raising awareness of the event and driving regis-

trations, including Sonia O'Sullivan, who is the Event Patron, Bobby Kerr, Entrepreneur, Broadcaster and News-talk Presenter, Virgin Media broadcaster and Breast Cancer Ireland Ambassador Elaine Crowley Social Influencer & TV personality James Patrice, his mother Veronica Butler (Fron), Anne & Linda Nolan of the famous Nolan Sisters, international rugby player Josh van der Flier, and TV Presenter and personality, Nadine Reid amongst others.



Aishling Hamill, Breast Cancer Ireland patient supporter and Great Pink Run Ambassador, with her children Jenna and Clara, at the launch of this year's virtual Great Pink Run. Pic: Leon Farrell

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# Bray's Dara Ó Briain honoured with award for raising public awareness of Maths

*'Maths is the language in which the universe is written'*

Renowned Irish comedian Dara Ó Briain has been honoured as the recipient of the 2021 Maths Week Ireland Award for his lifelong contribution to Raising Public Awareness of Maths.

The award is presented once each year during Maths Week Ireland - the all-island festival of maths and numeracy (16th - 24th October) and has a distinguished list of previous recipients. The all-island event is supported by Science Foundation Ireland, the Department of Education (ROI), the Department for the Economy - Northern Ireland, ESB, universities, institutes of technology, libraries, schools, training colleges and employers, north and south.

Mr. Ó Briain received the award in an online ceremony.

The award was inaugurated in 2016 to honour outstanding work in raising public awareness of mathematics on the island of Ireland. Ó Briain's infectious enthusiasm for maths, demonstrated across a variety of different platforms through the years, makes him a worthy winner of this award.

With an aptitude for maths from a young age, Ó Briain graduated in 1994 with a degree in mathematics and theoretical physics from University College Dublin (UCD).

While his decision to pursue a career as a stand-up comedian initially led him away from the world of mathematics, it continued to have an influence on him and his work. He has noticed similarities between the mathematical proof called 'reductio ad absurdum'. This is where you take an initial supposition and explore it to see how it leads to a contradiction, and the logic used in comedy - where an assumption is made and then exaggerated until it reaches its breaking point. Dara has shown that the way in which comedians' minds work; that is, seeing patterns and relationships, is not unlike how the mind of a mathematician might work.

Ó Briain has since combined the two passions, with television programmes including 'Dara Ó Briain: School of Hard Sums', and books such as 'Secret Science', and 'Beyond the Sky'. He has used his platform, as one of Ireland's most successful comedians across the island of Ireland and in the UK, to give a voice to mathematicians, and to highlight that maths and numeracy, like most things, is something that can always be improved upon with practice and engagement.

Dara had this to say on receiving the award: "I'm very flattered and privileged to receive this award for Raising Public Awareness of Maths in Ireland. Maths Week itself is a great initiative as it shows us maths and numeracy are for everyone regardless of your level of proficiency. I would like to congratulate the Maths Week team for their work in promoting maths, it's incredible to see the huge numbers participating. I've always had an interest in maths and am very pleased that I've been able to share that interest with a wider audience.

"I don't consider myself an expert in maths, but I'm an enthusiastic fan and I do try to help promote the work of those who are. To that point, I would like to dedicate this award to Professor Seán Dineen (Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, UCD) who helped to inspire me and my love of maths. Maths is the language in which the universe is written. It's innate to the human brain and a spectacular thing that we've discovered. It permeates our lives, so it's important to engage with it positively and I'm delighted to be able to help people to do that."

Professor Dineen was present at the online award ceremony.

Dr. Sheila Donegan, Co-founder of Maths Week Ireland said: "As an all-island festival of maths and numeracy, we're always looking to get people, both north and south, to engage with the subject in a fun and interesting way. Throughout his career, Dara Ó Briain has done



Dara Ó Briain

that repeatedly, while also working to make maths less mysterious, or intimidating. Fear of failure can hold people back from engaging with maths, despite the career opportunities it presents, and its importance in every aspect of our lives.

"Dara Ó Briain has helped many overcome this fear. Dara has made mathematical concepts more accessible to the public and has normalised maths. Dara has always been an unapologetic champion of critical thinking and rationality, positioning maths and science in that arena. Frequently in interviews he references maths and science in a relevant and unforced way. For Dara, science and maths are part of his make-up. And because of that he has been, and is, and will continue to be an excellent ambassador and role model for maths. As such, he is a very worthy recipient of the Maths Week Ireland award for Raising Public Awareness of Maths."

The award was individually crafted by Irish silversmith Seamus Gill and is modelled to represent a Mobius Strip, a twisted strip that, bizarrely, has only one side.

Former Maths Week Ireland Award recipients include:

- Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, Assistant Professor in the School of Mathematics & Statistics University College Dublin, and former Rose of Tralee (2020).
- Prof. Des MacHale, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, University College Cork. (2016) for his many years of promoting mathematics, in particular his work on publicising the work of George Boole.
- Prof. Peter Lynch, columnist Irish Times, author and former Met Éireann Professor of Meteorology at the School of Mathematical Sciences, UCD. (2017)
- Prof. Tony O'Farrell (Emeritus Professor of Mathematics)/ Dr. Fiacre O'Cairbre (Senior Lecturer), Maynooth University, co-founders of The Hamilton Walk in Dublin. (2018)
- Dr. Mark McCartney, Senior Lecturer in Mathematics, Ulster University (2019) significant contributions in promoting and recording the history of mathematics which has led to a body of important work on mathematicians (and mathematical physicists) in particular with Irish connections.

# Harris launches Speak Out - an online and anonymous tool to report violence and sexual harassment

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD has launched Speak Out - the Anonymous Violence and Harassment Reporting Tool for higher education institutions.

Speak Out is an online and anonymous reporting platform for incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, discrimination, hate crime, coercive behaviour/control, stalking, assault, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape.

Minister Harris said: "I am delighted today to launch this incredibly important initiative. The creation of this innovative and supportive online platform will provide a safe and anonymous medium for students and staff to report incidents of bullying, assault or sexual violence in a trauma-informed environment.

"These are issues that my Department is acutely aware of, and I'm delighted we could provide funding for this vital project. Speak Out represents a national approach to tackling these issues by raising awareness, and by providing a means of recording instances, which will assist in achieving a zero-tolerance culture."

The project, led by the Psychological Counsellors in Higher Education Ireland (PCHEI), and funded by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, will be rolled out across 18 higher education institutions throughout this academic year for students, staff and visitors.

The 2019 Framework for Consent in Higher Education Institutions: Safe, Respectful, Supportive and Positive - Ending Sexual Violence

and Harassment in Irish Higher Education Institutions outlined the need for data to be collected on the incidence rates of sexual harassment and violence across our higher education sector.

The data collected through this tool will be used to inform policy and targeted educational initiatives. It is the goal of PCHEI to provide a trauma informed tool which will provide users with support services relevant to their experience.

This project, which has been supported by the HEA Centre of Excellence for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, is a groundbreaking initiative which is underpinned by an ethos of cross-institutional collaboration in response to such incidences within higher education institutions.

An online anonymous reporting tool - Report and Support - is already in operation in University College Dublin, and UCD staff and students can access this here <https://reportandsupport.ucd.ie/>

Gertie Raftery, Chairperson PCHEI and Project Lead, said: "I am delighted to have led, on behalf of PCHEI, on the development of Speak Out which provides a voice for students and staff in higher education to speak out about their experiences of sexual harassment, violence or intimidation of any kind. The tool will also provide bespoke signposting to trauma-informed supports."



Minister Simon Harris

USI Vice President for Welfare Somhairle Brennan said: "We know from previous research, and what we regularly hear from students and student representatives, that further action is needed to continue to support students who experience sexual violence or harassment or other forms of aggression or bullying.

"The launch of the Speak Out tool is a welcome step forward in continuing to destigmatise conversations about consent. It will hopefully empower students who have had a non-consensual sexual experience to have their voice heard in a way that feels safe for them.

"Having as much knowledge as possible is also vital and the data we will get from this tool will be incredibly useful in directing the supports we provide for students into the future."

Dr Ross Woods, Director of the HEA Centre of Excellence for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, added: "This tool will allow HEIs to understand staff and stu-

dent experiences of harassment and violence, and will assist the HEA in making evidence-based policy decisions in this area.

"Most importantly, it will raise awareness of the supports available to students and staff and encourage them to seek help if they need it."

Institute of Technology Carlow has warmly welcomed the launch of Speak Out. IT Carlow Vice-President for Academic Affairs, David Denieffe said, "IT Carlow is delighted to support this incredibly important initiative. We have worked for many months with sectoral partners to support the launch of Speak Out for our students and staff. The initiative is in line with our own published action plan for implementation of the 2019 Framework for Consent in Higher Education Institutions: Safe, Respectful, Supportive and Positive - Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Irish Higher Education Institutions.

"We hope Speak Out will assist students and staff in higher education to speak out about their experiences of sexual harassment, violence or intimidation and empower them to have their voices heard. Information is power and we believe the data from this tool will help inform IT Carlow, and other institutions, in the supports we provide for students in the months and years ahead".



# ICTU conference calls for more teaching posts

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) biennial Conference has supported a call for better resourcing of education on the island of Ireland.

In Co. Wicklow the average class size in 2020 was 24.1, above the EU average of 20, and there were 83 classrooms across the county with over 30 pupils.

Welcoming an Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO) motion passed by Conference, INTO President Joe Mc Keown said: "The Covid-19 pandemic shone a light on the under-resourcing of primary and early childhood education throughout Ireland, particularly in respect of class sizes and the under-availability of

substitute teachers.

"The INTO has consistently said the pandemic has highlighted a range of areas that are under-resourced, and we campaigned vigorously this year for the retention and development of measures introduced to cope with Covid.

"Supply panels of substitute teachers in the Republic; and improved terms and conditions for substitute teachers in Northern Ireland, must be a top priority into the future," the INTO's Northern Chairperson Marie O'Shea said.

The INTO motion also saluted the work of teachers and education staff for keeping the education system going throughout the pandemic, "including the early, rapid adaptation to support remote learning".

The motion also directs ICTU's Executive Council to prioritise education resourcing in pre-Budget processes and to encourage cooperation through the mechanisms of the Good Friday Agreement to address challenges faced by the education systems North and South.

The role of schools in

building and sustaining diverse and tolerant, inclusive communities throughout the island of Ireland was also recognised.

"Teachers are at the coal face of shaping the Ireland of tomorrow. To get the best educational outcomes and improve social cohesion, teacher unions must be included in the development of reforms such as curriculum development, assessment, and responding to the demands of a more digital world," INTO Deputy General Secretary Deirdre O'Connor said.

## IT Carlow launches CIRDAS

€1.73m third-level centre of excellence for insurance and financial services sectors

A third-level centre of excellence specialising in upskilling and reskilling for the insurance and financial services sectors has been launched by Institute of Technology Carlow with industry giant Axa among its first learners.

The Centre for Insurance, Risk and Data Analytics Studies (CIRDAS) was created by IT Carlow's faculty of lifelong learning and Insurtech Network Centre (INC), an IT Carlow/Enterprise Ireland initiative, in partnership with Letterkenny Institute of Technology, as a third-level academy for upskilling and reskilling insurance and financial services industry professionals.

The €1.73million initiative is funded by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) under the Human Capital Initiative Pillar 3, Innovation and Agility initiative.

CIRDAS will offer three pillars of learning: data science, business thinking and design thinking. Bespoke course content will aim to upskill and reskill insurance and

financial services professionals in ever-changing areas such as: data science (analytics and algorithms); problem solving with design thinking; underwriting for the future; strategy mapping; transformative technologies; environmental, social and governance (ESG).

The CIRDAS initiative has already been endorsed by other large concerns such as Axa, Zurich, Verisk, Sun life and Unum that have favour the bespoke course content, flexible learning, transferable qualifications and access to academic and industry knowledge networks CIRDAS offers.

A recent PwC Ireland-Insurance Ireland Leaders Survey for 2020 that researched the views and priorities of 79 Irish insurance leaders highlighted that 70% of respon-

dents were experiencing skills shortfalls with 24% admitting they were struggling to address these skills gaps. The survey found that just 45% had clearly defined upskilling strategies in place and of these just under half or 48% struggled to appropriately resource these plans to create the workplace of the future.

Damian Rossiter, a Wexford native with 15 years' experience in banking, finance, data analysis and risk, has been appointed development manager for CIRDAS and says there is a need for relevant and up-to-date upskilling options within the insurance sector that has suffered a lack of confidence in bridging skills gaps.

"Evidence suggests the insurance sector recognises the clear need, but also the challenges, of creating an agile and innovative workplace of the future. It is apparent that a lack of confidence and resources in addressing these skills gaps are key impediments to realising the benefits of opportunities increasing digitisation presents in the areas of data science, business thinking and design thinking", commented Damian Rossiter.

"Collectively, the insurance and financial services sectors employ approximately 99,000 people nationwide. The HEA has been quick to recognise and address these gaps by funding bespoke and agile educational solutions for these sectors through CIRDAS in conjunction with the faculty of lifelong learning at IT Carlow", said Mr. Rossiter.

"Educational solutions will be transversal and offer encompassing learner-centred design offerings from masterclasses and single module certificates, up to full major Level 8 & 9 awards recognised under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). Programmes will give learners the flexibility to undertake a 10-credit module which grants the option to exit at that point with a qualification recognised at a European level, or to continue through to degree or postgraduate diploma with creative timetabling built around the needs of the learner cohort", added Mr. Rossiter



Olga Prezbor and Tammy Whelan having fun at Newtown National School's Halloween dress up day.

## Improvements in grants for Wicklow students

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD increased the SUSI Maintenance Grant and reduced the distance for the higher non-adjacent student grant as part of Budget 2022.

Minister Harris said: "From the next college year, the following three changes will take place to improve student grants: The SUSI Maintenance Grant will increase by €200 and the income threshold to qualify for student grants will increase by €1,000 - ensuring more students qualify and more families can access SUSI Grant support.

Thirdly the distance for the higher non-adjacent student grant will be reduced from 45km to 30km. This means more students who are living away from home or travelling to college will qualify for the higher grant. The reduction of the distance for the higher non-adjacent student grant from 45km to 30km should benefit a considerable number of students in Wicklow attending higher and further education in surrounding counties as well as in County Wicklow. As Minister for Further and Higher Education I am anxious to expand the range of opportunities for school leavers and Budget 2022 will see the first major changes to the Student Support Scheme rates and eligibility in over a decade."

## €22 million in financial and mental health wellbeing supports to students

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD has announced €17.2 million in student supports, and €5 million to support students' mental health and wellbeing.

The supports are being provided as part of a €105 million package for Further and Higher Education provided by Government. IT Carlow will receive €208,000, IADT €65,000, and Waterford IT €212,000.

Minister Harris said: "When we set about getting staff and students back to college campuses, we also made a commitment we would put supports in place to make this happen. I am delighted to follow through on that commitment with the announcement of two very important funds.

"Students have endured an incredibly difficult 18 months due to Covid-19. They are now back on campus but they still need significant support - financial and other. The Student Assistance Fund is a fund that is in place for students who might be financially struggling, and today we are confirming €17 million for students.

"The long-term impact of the pandemic on young people's mental health has the potential to be significant. We invested €5 million in services and increasing staff numbers last year and this additional €5 million will enable the continued provision and enhancement of student counselling services and the roll-out of innovative mental health and wellbeing supports for students and training for staff."

The Student Assistance Fund provides financial support to full or part-time students who are experiencing financial difficulties while attending college. Students

can apply for the Student Assistance Fund to help with either temporary or ongoing financial difficulties.

The Student Assistance Fund is available to help with costs such as books and class materials, rent and other utility bills, food, essential travel, childcare costs, and medical costs.

The mental health funding will be used to:

- \* Recruit additional Student Counsellors
- \* Recruit additional Assistant Psychologists
- \* Recruit Head of Service posts for those HEIs employing more than 2 FTEs.

\* Train HEI staff to enable them to support and refer students to appropriate services.

\* Raise awareness among students of mental health and wellbeing services available, including through student outreach activities.

\* Support implementation of the National Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Framework.

\* Support implementation of the Framework for Consent in HEIs; Safe, Respectful, Supportive and Positive: Ending Sexual Harassment in Irish Higher Education Institutions.

Commenting on the announcement, Dr Alan Wall, Chief Executive Officer, HEA said: "Throughout the pandemic our higher education institutions (HEIs) have demonstrated an ability to find new ways to engage with students. Student support services, including advice and counselling, have played a central role over the past year.

"We have seen the enhancement and extension of mental health services to students who have faced all kinds of challenges. This additional funding will allow HEIs to continue to support students and their frontline staff as we reopen higher education again."



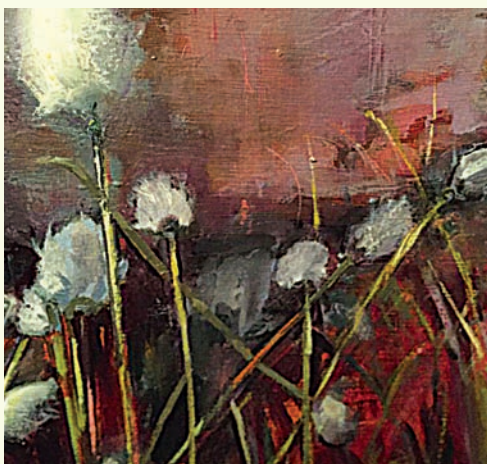
Pictured at the launch of CIRDAS, from left: Damian Rossiter, Development Manager, CIRDAS and Dr. Joseph Collins, Head of Faculty of Lifelong Learning, IT Carlow.



At the launch of the Arklow Visual Arts Gallery 2021 Expo in Adrian O'Brien's, were Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, Adrian O'Brien, Sara Manson, Andrew Manson, Sonya Shortt, Senator Pat Casey, and Cllr Peir Leonard

## Rhythms by ReVerve

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



**RHYTHMS** a group exhibition by ReVerve. 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.

## On the Road: An Exhibition by Shane Harrison

Signal Arts Centre, Monday, January 17th to Sunday, January 30th

The sixteen paintings featured in this exhibition focus on the many roads the artist has travelled. There are all sorts of journeys involved: foreign holidays, city breaks, the journey to work, or play, and the journey home.

Travel might only take Shane Harrison a few steps from home but the landscape, though familiar, is never the same. What he likes to capture is the magic of light whether in daytime or at night. Streetlamps shimmering in the rain at the end of a long walk home, the seductive lights of a beating city, or the sun emerging from rainclouds giving a sudden hint of magic on an everyday scene.

Each painting is a narrative in itself and each is linked to the broader narrative of the exhibition. On the Road is a partial pictorial diary that is being added to all the time. As a writer, the artist's travels and experiences have always contributed to his prose, whether in the fiction of his short stories and novels, or in the accounts he has written of the places, local and foreign that he has visited. These paintings are another way of describing things. Free of words but rich in detail, it is the artists profound hope that the viewer will feel part of the scenes he has created here.



# Wicklow bookshops shortlisted for An Post Irish Book Awards

The shortlist for the An Post Irish Book Awards 2021 features a diverse mix of exceptional writing from new and established writers across 20 categories, including Novel of the Year, Children's (Junior and Senior), Cookery, Crime Fiction, Popular Fiction, Nonfiction, Sports, Short Story, Poetry, Teen and Young Adult and Irish Language. Bridge Street Books in Wicklow Town and Halfway Up the Stairs in Greystones have also been shortlisted in the Bookshop of the Year category.

The An Post Irish Book Awards celebrate and promote Irish writing to the widest range of readers possible. Each year it brings together a vast community passionate about books - readers, authors, book-sellers, publishers and librarians - to recognise the very best of Irish writing talent and 2021 is no different.

Four new categories have also been added to the initiative this year:

- The 'An Post Bookshop of the Year' category which is designed to acknowledge the significant role played by independent bookshops and local book store chain branches right across the country in helping their local communities to find and savour the titles of their choice, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The 'Library Association of Ireland Author of the Year' category which is aimed at acknowledging an Irish author whose work has contributed significantly to the reader experience and enjoyment of Irish books during 2021.
- The 'Dubray Biography of the Year' which will celebrate the large number of wonderful biographies from Irish writers.
- The 'Bookstation Lifestyle Book of the Year', a category that covers a range of interesting lifestyle subjects.

A live in-person ceremony to celebrate the winners will take place on Tuesday 23rd November in the Convention Centre in Dublin, subject to any change in government guidelines or any change in circumstances that impact on the safety of our guests.

The event will also be live-streamed for those who are unable to attend.

Meanwhile, a one-hour special will be broadcast on RTÉ One television on Wednesday 8th December exploring the six books and authors shortlisted for the 'An Post Irish Book Awards Book of the Year 2021', culminating in the reveal of this year's overall winner. To tie in with the announcement of the An Post Irish Book Awards shortlist, the public are now being asked to cast their votes online for the best books of the year on the An Post Irish Book Awards website [anpostirishbookawards.ie](http://anpostirishbookawards.ie). All voters will be entered into a prize draw to win one of five €100 National Book Tokens vouchers. Votes may be cast until 5pm on 15th November.

An Post is also continuing with their hugely successful #ReadersWanted campaign, celebrating the value and joy of reading and encouraging everyone to pick up more books, more often. Simply search for the hashtag online to get involved.

John Treacy, Chairperson of the An Post Irish Book Awards, says:

'Like most other sectors, the book industry faced severe challenges this year: bookshops were closed; publication dates postponed; events and festivals moved online. The personal touch which we all value so much was sadly missed. But then something wonderful happened. We discovered that books were saving the sanity of thousands of readers during lockdown. Bookshops operated click-and-collect services to keep

their customers supplied with the books they wanted. Our book-sellers rose to the occasion, sometimes hand-delivering books to their customers. An Post also catered for everyone's needs, while also supporting booksellers with special rates during the pandemic, which was very appreciated.

Now, thank goodness, the bookshops are open once again and The An Post Irish Book Awards season is upon us. Congratulations to all of the authors who have been shortlisted and we look forward to finding out the winners on November 23rd. In the meantime, don't forget to vote for your favourites at the awards website.'

David McRedmond, CEO of An Post, says: "Books were our best companions through the Pandemic, and as we emerge, they will be our close companions too. The An Post Irish Book Awards celebrate brilliant writing from a diverse universe of Irish authors. At An Post we celebrate the joy of reading for all ages, and recognise those who contribute such richness to our lives from the authors, to the publishers, the publicists to the booksellers. These truly are the best Irish books of 2021."

Ann-Marie Power, Group Head of Arts and Culture, RTÉ says: "RTÉ is delighted to support the 2021 An Post Irish Book Awards as both official media partner and as sponsor of the RTÉ Audience Choice Award. Books have helped sustain many during the past year and this is a welcome opportunity to celebrate our great writers and the reading public."

## Greystones Film Club presents: Enchanted

Whale Theatre, Thursday 11th November @ 8pm. Tickets €10 at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550. (PG/107mins)

With the fairy dust from the Disenchanted shoot in Greystones just about settled, the Greystones Film Club are hosting one of their Secret Cinema screenings on Thursday, November 11th with the 2007 original.

And, as anyone who has seen that original will tell you, Enchanted is just about the most charming, self-effacing and slapstick hilarious a Disney princess outing as you could ever hope for.

Think Elf in a dress.

Special guest on the night will be a certain young woman who just happened to be in the thick of that Greystones shoot. Who knows, the people's princess may even reveal what it was like to meet McDreamy in the flesh.

As always, your €10 admission comes with a free box of freshly-popped popcorn. Now, that's magic.



# November at Mermaid

Julie Kelleher (Artistic Director) and the Mermaid Team have revealed the November lineup of events at Mermaid Arts Centre. "YARN Storytelling Festival is back with a bang bringing us delights such as Niall de Búrca, Little John Nee, Oein DeBhairduin and Colum Sands... to name but a few," they said.

"Our gallery space is awash with colour with Daniel Kennedy's show WHAT MATTERS MIND OVER MATTER OR MATTER OVER MIND running until 11th November, followed by HOME by Brigid O'Brien opening on 18th November.

"Theatre highlights include Keith Walsh's Pure Mental and exciting new live performance in development at Pop Up.

"The music programme celebrates the joy of live music with contemporary trad from Onset, traditional and classical music from Eamon Sweeney and guests and Irish rock royalty Mick Flannery joins us with thrilling new talent Susan O'Neill to share their superb collaboration In The Game live!

"We have a wide range of excellent films in November including Arracht, and also, as part of YARN, Every Kinda People, a documentary remembering BLB - Bray Local Broadcasting community station.

"Your comfort and safety are as important to us as offering you the best programme available. You can read more about the current measures we have in place to keep everyone safe here. We're looking forward to seeing you soon!"

## What I (Don't) Know About Autism



## A Jody O'Neill & Abbey Theatre co-production

WEDNESDAY 3rd November at 8pm (Live Stream) (MONDAY 8th - SATURDAY 20th November (On-Demand) (€20 / 15) See website for further on-demand prices | Age Suitability: 14+ Years

This show is taking place in the Abbey Theatre. Tickets are available for in-person, live-stream & also on-demand. Please use promo code 'MERMAID' when booking your ticket!

The return of the 2020 sold-out production, What I (Don't) Know About Autism is performed by autistic and non-autistic actors. This show, originally produced in association with Mermaid and The Everyman is taking place in the Abbey Theatre.

Sandra is looking for love. Gordon is seeking acceptance. Simon just wants these parents to stop talking for two minutes so he can get on with teaching their kids. And Casper? Casper is not here. This show takes the audience on a highly theatrical journey, it is a sometimes comic, sometimes heartbreaking look at the world of autism.

## Anna Newell Theatre Presents: My Smile Has Fallen Down



THURSDAY 4th & FRIDAY 5th November | 3pm & 4.30pm (SATURDAY 6th November | 10am, 11.30am & 1pm (€10 Includes Adult & Child) | Age Suitability: 5 - 7 Years

Where has Mr Hoppity the rabbit gone? Did he not want to be with his friends anymore? Did he run away? Has he been eaten by the Bed Monster?!

Gagglegoose thinks it might have something to do with Jelly Beans. Mrs Fox is very sure that the Bed Monster doesn't exist, Mr Fox can't get a word in and Grumble Skunk is just too cross about everything to be much help!

My Smile Has Fallen Down is a show for 5-7 year olds about mental health and the power of listening, of finding your voice and of keeping going.

## Mick Flannery & Susan O'Neill - In The Game

SUNDAY 21 November | 8pm (€25 With support from Stomha Brock

In a first for multi-platinum artist Mick Flannery, he and Irish newcomer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Susan O'Neill have come together on a collaboration album 'In The Game'. In The Game is a themed collection of songs about a couple coming together and falling apart, a journey familiar to most. The highs and lows of the game of love, that raw space that the human condition can leave one most vulnerable. This record is as nostalgic as it is a fresh wound, it's so familiar yet a stranger. 14 songs in a timeless capsule, the songs on In The Game will resonate for a long time after. The album was written and recorded over the summer of 2020 during lockdown, between Cork and Los Angeles. Produced 'virtually' by LA based, Australian producer Tony Buchen (Courtney Barnett, Smashing Pumpkins, Tim Finn), and featuring musicians from both Ireland and America.



Mick Flannery and Susan O'Neill

## Nyree Yergainharsian and Shaun Dunne Present Pop Up

SATURDAY 27th November | 8pm (€12/10)

Oh hi there. It's been a minute. But we're back! Take a leap of faith into the unknown with Mermaid Arts Centre this November where, for one night only, POP UP MERMAID returns to present a line-up of delectable bite-sized performances across theatre, dance and comedy.

Curated by Nyree Yergainharsian and Shaun Dunne, and featuring a series of post-show conversations that bridge the gap between artist and audience, POP UP is the best way to get to know what's new, now and soon to come across contemporary performance in Ireland.



Nyree Yergainharsian and Shaun Dunne in Pop Up

## Sonamus

## Jane Clarke & Alchemy Strong Quintet Present: Neighbours

SUNDAY 28th November | 8pm (€20)



A special concert of Irish music and poetry – reflecting on the centenary of the inception of the Northern Ireland border. Featuring: Newly-commissioned music and poetry from composer, Elaine Agnew, and poet, Jane Clarke. Works from the Traditional Irish Canon, Fiachra Trench, Thomas Moore. Commissioned musical arrangements by Malachy Robinson (Irish Chamber Orchestra).

## Branar Téater do Pháistí: How To Catch A Star

29th November - 10th December 2021  
Call Box Office 01 272 4030 for full details & bookings

How To Catch A Star will be virtually touring classrooms this November & December.

Once there was a boy who was always looking up. He dreamt of having a star as a friend. This is the story of his adventure. Branar, in association with Town Hall Theatre, are delighted to present a new film version of their acclaimed production of How to Catch A Star by Oliver Jeffers.

Partnering with 24 venues across Ireland, all schools will have the opportunity to experience this unique and well loved story. Based on the beloved book, this film will be available to stream to classrooms throughout the country for a limited period. Schools can book to receive access to the filmed production for a full weekend receive access to a dedicated online educational resource pack for pre-and post-engagement.



Artist Niki Keane and Melanie McNerney at the launch of the Arklow Visual Arts Gallery 2021 Expo in Adrian O'Brien's.

## Yarn Storytelling Festival

## Shiva R. Joyce Presents PaperZines Storytelling Workshop

SATURDAY 13th November | 11am (€15 | Age Suitability: 9 - 11 Years Duration: 2 Hours

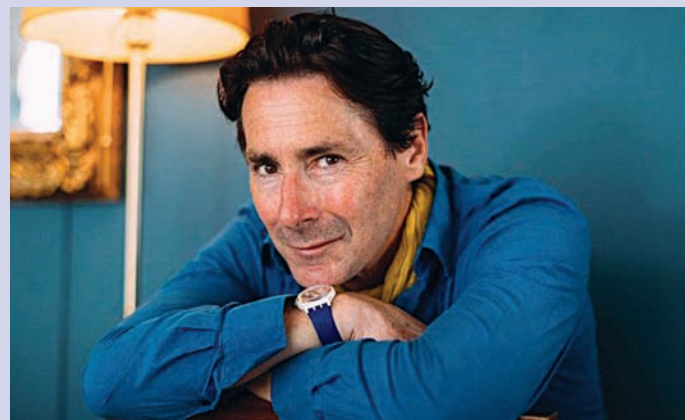
YARN 2021 kicks off in style with a fun, creative workshop with artist Shiva R. Joyce. This workshop will provide a half hour story development concept for 9 - 11 year olds, then give them the chance to create their own story or story ending from the tale shared in a single page zine which they will be able to take home.

## Niall De Burca Presents Wild Atlantic Tales

SATURDAY 13th November | 2pm (€5 | Age Suitability: 5+ Years)

Batten down the hatches and hang on tight for a storytelling experience that will ensnare your imagination and banish the darkening nights!

Niall de B'rcá is coming your way with a very special show for children, spinning tales inspired by one of the world's most unique and mighty landscapes & The Wild Atlantic Way.



Storyteller Niall De Burca

## Niall De Burca Presents Stephen Spielberg Ruined My Life! & Other Tales

SATURDAY 13th November | 8pm (€12 / 10)

Mermaid Arts Centre is delighted to welcome master storyteller Niall de B'rcá to the stage with this unique story of a kid in the west of Ireland whose life is changed for ever when his Dad took him to the movies one night. It is also a tale of migration, coming of age and reconciliation.

Niall de B'rcá is a scEalaí: a traditional storyteller with the ability to connect with all ages. Raised in the west coast of Ireland he has performed on six continents and in countries as diverse as Russia, Iran, and Argentina.

## Carmen Cullen Presents My Aunt and I - The Story of Four Generations

SUNDAY 14th November | 7pm (€10 / 8)

Poet Carmen Cullen tells her childhood story with her stunning Pandemic Poetry Videos.

Interspersed, are live readings of the poems and a fictional setting, read by her grand-daughter Rianna Roddy.

Music to accompany the readings is by Gerry Anderson. Also in the programme, Carmen reflects back on her singer Aunt, the iconic Delia Murphy, an invisible influence to help her on her artistic journey. She tells her aunt's story and sings her songs.



## WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Brenda Hendriks, on behalf of CréoleFood Ltd is seeking Planning permission to change the use of the car parking space associated with the business building to an outdoor covered space for the sale of food and beverages, situated at 16 Strand Road, Brennan's Parade, Bray, County Wicklow, A98XR59.

The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the office 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

Philip and Caroline Rice are seeking planning permission for the erection of a shed structure for use as a personal gym at Robin's Rest, Ballygahan Lower, Avoca, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town 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.

# Shop local, shop smart, and shop safely this Christmas in Wicklow

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Luke 13:22-30 GOSPEL

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.'

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"'

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.'

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

C.J.

*Consumers advised to shop local but stay vigilant this festive season as part of a joint campaign*

Shoppers buying online this Christmas are being encouraged to support local businesses by buying Irish, but they have been warned to stay vigilant to ensure a safe and positive online shopping experience.

With more and more Irish consumers spending online, which was accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic, there naturally comes more concerns for online security and safety from opportunistic cybercriminals, personal data breaches and online transactions.

Encouragingly, 81% of consumers believe buying Irish is important, so Guaranteed Irish and .IE have joined forces to share some top tips and advice for consumers to help them shop safely and securely this Christmas.

1. When it comes to buying gifts online, shop with trusted retailers and recognisable brands. If you are suspicious, do your research to see if other shoppers have the same concerns or have had bad experiences.

2. Before making a purchase online, check the address and location of the retailer. Websites with a .ie address are the easiest way of finding businesses with an Irish connection. Though it might not be physically located on the island of Ireland, all .ie websites must have a proven connection to Ireland. 91% of .ie websites are registered by businesses and individuals that are located here.

3. If prices seem too good to be true, they most likely are! Avoid clicking on unsolicited links and use your common sense when it comes to deals and prices.

4. Always look for delivery details so that you know all the costs associated with the delivery of your items, including taxes and charges. This information is usually found on the FAQ, help, shopping cart areas of a website. If it is not available, email or phone customer service for clarification.

5. Shop early to avoid disappointment! In the lead-up to Christmas, there can often be delays in receiving items due to increase in demand, potential supply issues, and delivery delays. Shopping early helps to ensure you will receive your items on time.

6. Always look for the returns policies so that there are no surprises or hidden costs if you need to return the item later.

7. Shop with websites whose addresses begin with a https:// (as opposed to a http://). In simple terms, look for the lock icon! The lock icon ensures your data is protected and your transaction is safe.

Comment from David Curtin, Chief Executive of .IE

David Curtin, Chief

Executive of .IE said: "By using common sense and obeying basic security rules, online shopping is a safe and convenient experience. However, Christmas, coupled with increased online spending, can be a perfect time for opportunistic cybercriminals looking to take advantage of the festive frenzy."

"When it comes to buying gifts online, shop with trusted retailers and recognisable brands. If you're suspicious, check online to see if other shoppers have had your concerns. Avoid downloading apps and clicking on unsolicited links that promote deals and prices that seem too good to be true—they probably are."

"At the online check-out, make sure your web address bar has a lock or shield icon; this means your connection is safe and can't be intercepted by a third party. If you don't see it, don't buy."

"Over the Christmas period, keep account of every payment you make online and compare it with your bank statement. If you think your account has been compromised, contact your bank immediately."

"Finally, if you are a business, we would urge you to be upfront with information for customers by making all terms and conditions visible and accessible on your website to avoid

any unnecessary confusion and disappointment later."

Comment from Bríd O'Connell, CEO of Guaranteed Irish

"We welcome this initiative with .IE, which not only reassures consumers they are shopping securely but supports our local economy and communities and shortens the supply chain, which ensures less damage to our environment."

"Every €20 spent on a Guaranteed Irish gift this Christmas is worth €100 to the Irish economy. This helps our Irish producers, makers, and suppliers to keep trading while giving the consumer a feeling of solidarity in supporting our exceptional local businesses. We are encouraging everyone to look out for the Guaranteed Irish symbol and .ie websites for a local, secure, and seamless online purchasing experience."

Guaranteed Irish is a business membership network championing business based in Ireland since 1974. The Guaranteed Irish symbol is the national symbol of trust in business in Ireland. The official Guaranteed Irish licenced mark is awarded to businesses based in Ireland that support sustainable jobs, contribute to our local communities, and are committed to Irish provenance.



## TELESALES EXECUTIVES WANTED

Ideally, we are seeking candidates with previous experience of sales. Candidates should be hard working, conscientious and have the ability to work well in a team environment. An **attractive salary**, together with a **rewarding commission structure** is on offer.

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### PRAYER TO St. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO

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 a 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.

R.W.

### THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

K.C.

### THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

R.B.

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## Bray Cualann Historical Society

On Thursday November 4th the Society will hold an in-person talk 'The Terror - The Uncomfortable Realities of the War of Independence' by author, historian and History Ireland magazine columnist Joseph E.A. Connell Jr, at 8 p.m. in the Royal Hotel, Bray, and will be held in line with Government Covid-19 rules. This lecture will be based on his latest book launched on Tuesday November 2nd. Please note that Thursday November 4th is not the Society's regular meeting night.

## Rathmichael Historical Society

On Wednesday November 3rd Dr. Joseph Connell will give a lecture at 8 p.m. based on his recent book 'The Shadow War: Michael Collins and the Politics of Violence.' Dr. Joseph Connell is a native of the US and specialises in the history of early 20th century Ireland, with a particular focus on the period prior to the Rising up to the founding and early days of an independent republic.

He has published several books on the period and writes a regular column in History Ireland magazine. You can access the Zoom link by purchasing a ticket from the Rathmichael Historical Society - <https://rathmichaelhistoricalsociety.ie/rhs-zoom-lectures/>.

The lecture will start at 8 p.m. - please click on the link about 5 minutes before. Alternatively, you may become a member of the society on <https://rathmichaelhistoricalsociety.ie/rhs-membership/> and you will have access to the Zoom address for this and all subsequent lectures in 2021 from the web site.



### COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

- **STAFF OFFICER (GRADE V)**  
REF: 45/2021 Salary €44,133 – €52,925  
gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)
- **SENIOR STAFF OFFICER (GRADE VI)**  
REF: 46/2021 Salary €49,040 – €59,913  
gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ARTS OFFICER – (GRADE V) TEMPORARY 3 YEAR CONTRACT**  
REF: 47/2021 Salary €44,133 – €52,925  
gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)
- **SLAINTECARE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (GRADE VI) TEMPORARY 3 YEAR CONTRACT**  
REF: 48/2021 Salary €49,040 – €59,913  
gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON SHARP ON THURSDAY 25TH NOVEMBER, 2021.**

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

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

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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

Phone: 0404 20159, Fax: 0404 20112  
Email: [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie)

## Public consultation on new Climate Action Plan

**Waterways Ireland is calling on members of the public to have their say on its new Climate Action Plan, the public consultation for which is now open.**

This is the cross-border navigation authority's first climate action plan. Focused on the decade to 2030, it sets out the vision for how Waterways Ireland will reach its key climate action targets. This includes reducing emissions by at least 51% and improving energy efficiency by at least 50%. It also addresses Waterways Ireland's aim to be a net zero organisation by 2050.

The draft Climate Action Plan details the seven objectives Waterways Ireland has identified as being essential to delivering on its climate ambitions. The first two are centered on people and processes; setting out how Waterways Ireland will deliver through collaboration and engagement, and by leveraging its assets. The other five objectives focus on delivering across climate mitigation and climate adaptation. The integrated objectives align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Commenting, Waterways Ireland chief executive, John McDonagh said: "Waterways Ireland is the custodian of Ireland's inland navigable waterways and we see climate change as a critical challenge for our organisation and its stakeholders. As the body responsible for vital shared heritage across the island of Ireland, we have both an opportunity and a responsibility to take a leadership role in climate action. We will enthusiastically take on that mantle by identifying transformative and innovative ways to engage in climate action initiatives over the lifetime of the plan."

Under the draft plan, Waterways Ireland commits to considering climate action in decisions around the acquisition, operation, maintenance and disposal of its assets, as well as the procurement of energy, consumables and third-party services. These activities will be supported by targeted actions and initiatives in priority areas to implement climate mitigation and adaptation measures. Progress in achieving key results will be measured quarterly, ensuring that activities are agile and can keep pace with carbon budgets and other measures developed for the sector. The draft Waterways Ireland Climate Action Plan can be found on the Waterways Ireland website. Submissions can be made via email or post, details of which can be found on the website. The closing date for submissions is Monday, 17th January 2022. Following the 12-week consultation, submissions will be reviewed and the final Climate Action Plan will be prepared.

Waterways Ireland is hosting a questions and answers webinar on the draft Climate Action Plan at 7pm on Thursday, 11th November 2021. Registration details can also be found on the website or attendance can be reserved by email to [climate.action@waterwaysireland.org](mailto:climate.action@waterwaysireland.org)



Junior Infants enjoying their Halloween Dress Up Day at Woodstock Educate Together in Newtown.



### COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

- **COMMUNITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER – PERMANENT (GRADE IV)**  
REF: 41/2021 Salary €29,253 – €46,965  
gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)
- **COMMUNITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER – TEMPORARY 3 YEAR CONTRACT (GRADE IV)**  
REF: 42/2021 Salary €29,253 – €46,965  
gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)
- **SPORTS INCLUSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICER – PERMANENT (GRADE IV)**  
REF: 43/2021 Salary €29,253 – €46,965  
gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)
- **STRATEGIC PROMOTIONS OFFICER TEMPORARY 3 YEAR CONTRACT (GRADE V)**  
REF: 44/2021 Salary €44,133 – €52,925  
gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON SHARP ON THURSDAY 2ND DECEMBER, 2021.**

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

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

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

Phone: 0404 20159, Fax: 0404 20112  
Email: [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie)

## RECRUITMENT

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012863006 / [bray@daata.ie](mailto:bray@daata.ie)  
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