



ROAD SAFETY
Page 6



RATHDRUM PRIMARY CARE
Page 11



CLIMATE CONCERN
Page 13

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Tuesday 19th October 2021, First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowned@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

RAW DEAL FOR SCHOOL KIDS

Government spending on temporary school accommodation in Co. Wicklow has been spiraling, with €6 million spent by the Department of Education this year alone. At the same time, classes across the county have become 'supersized', with worsening teacher to student ratios. As of August, there were 83 classrooms across Wicklow with over 30 pupils, including one with almost 40.

Over the last five years, the Department has spent over €11m in providing temporary accommodation, land, prefabs, and former educational buildings in Wicklow. John Brady TD described the spending as 'ridiculous'. "This is nothing more than evidence of the failure of the Government to accommodate a rapidly increasing school population," he said. "It has failed pupils, it has failed parents, and it has failed teachers. I have repeatedly raised the immediate need for Greystones Community College (currently accommodated in Greystones Tennis Club) to be fast tracked. In response to questioning the Minister for Education has informed me that the planning application for Greystones Community College will be lodged before Christmas. "There is a real need to ensure that every effort is made to ensure that the school is completed at the earliest possible opportunity. North Wicklow has experienced a significant population increase over the last number of



Anne Thompson with Tiglin Chairman Aubrey McCarthy at the presentation by the Bray and Greystones Fire Services of a new defibrillator at Carraig Eden in Greystones. Pic: Michael Kelly

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years, particularly in the Greystones area, as a result of the huge building developments in the community.

"We have three Government TDs in this county. One of which has responsibilities in the area of higher education. Despite this the government has quite obviously failed to keep pace with demographic developments, which has led to a failure to respond to the needs of Wicklow, for schools with the capacity to accommodate the needs of local families.

"The Government needs to get its act together and ensure that cognisance is taken of demographic changes that take place. And to ensure that the money required to address the educational needs of the school going children and young adults of Wicklow is allocated where it is needed and is spent when and where it

is needed. Not wasted on temporary measures in an attempt to address previous failings.

"The failure of the government to keep pace with demographic changes, is indicative of its failure to keep pace with the appetite for political change amongst the ordinary people of this country.

"The appetite for change is being continually reflected in the polls, and I have no doubt, will be further reflected in the next election. Where the people of this country will return a government committed to change, committed to delivery, and committed to fair play for ordinary workers and families."

The latest OECD 'Education at a Glance' report, published last month, confirms that Ireland's supersized classes remain the largest in the EU. In 2020, the average class

size in Co. Wicklow was 24.1, well above the EU average of 20. The

report sets out a negative correlation between larger classes and per-

formance in reading, with a clear view as to **Continued on Page 3**

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Ann Connolly, Roma Hennessy, Wanda McCamley, and Mary Carey, President of the the Delgany ICA Guild, with a cheque for €1,000 raised for UNICEF for the Get a Vaccine Give a Vaccine campaign. The Delgany ICA also raised another €1,000 for Greystones Cancer Support. Donations to the Get a Vaccine Give a Vaccine campaign will ensure that vaccines get to the most remote and isolated places in the world; Vaccines are stored safely using secure cold chain equipment; Health workers are vaccinated and protected against COVID-19; and Vulnerable families and children receive the life-saving care they need to survive. Pic: Joe McQuillan

Have a safe Halloween

Every year at Halloween An Garda Síochána receive a number of callouts for bonfires and firework related incidents. The Guards are urging parents to stay safe and not to buy fireworks for their children.

Local Gardai in Greystones recently stopped a vehicle and a large number of fireworks was discovered and seized.

Gardai are reminding people that it is an offence to possess fireworks without a license.

Possession of unlicensed fireworks can result in a fine of up to €10,000 or up to five years imprisonment or both.

Fireworks can cause damage to property, injury to people and animals. They can be an annoyance to

elderly people.

The Guards will continue to confiscate any fireworks found with persons without a license.

Tips for a Safe Halloween from An Garda Síochána:

- *If attending organised fireworks or bonfire, stay a safe distance away.
- *Young children should be accompanied for Trick or Treating.
- *When Trick or Treating, avoid houses with no lights on.
- *Wear reflective material so that you can be seen by motorists and cyclists.
- *Keep pets indoors on Halloween Night.

Wicklow Uplands Council

Wicklow Uplands Council has welcomed the announcement that funding for the Pureproject has been extended until the end of 2023. First established in 2006, the PURE Project has gone from strength to strength and proved to be extremely successful in combating illegal dumping and fly-tipping in the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands. We congratulate Ian and look forward to continuing to work together!

Walking group

On Monday mornings weekly at 10am join the

Laragh walking group at the Brockagh Resource Centre for a walk around the Glendalough area for approximately one hour.

Mobile Library

A mobile comes to Laragh every second Thursday from 12.15 to 12.50pm. (Annamoe 11.30-12pm). Contact details are 087 9135229, library@wicklow-coco.ie. The next dates are Sept 23rd and Oct 7th. Free access to online databases including e-books, languages, magazines, downloadable audio books, newspapers from across the world and more!

Greystones Flower Club demonstration

Greystones Flower Club is having Janet Maddock to do a demonstration in wreaths on 26th October at 8pm in their Evangelical Church, Hillside Road, Greystones. There will be a presentation of harvest presents, flower garlands, etc. There will be an €8 entrance fee for visitors. Masks and vaccine certs are a must for entry. There will also be a raffle, tea/coffee, and biscuits. All are welcome back.

Social Housing Assessment

An assessment is being carried out on those approved for housing on/after 30th July 2020. Assessment form will be sent to the address on file. If you have moved since then, you must update WCC. They will then be able to send you the assessment form. All approved Applicants must fill in the form and provide documentary evidence. If Applicants do not do this by 22nd October, names will be taken from the list. WCC can help you details and information. Please contact WCC Housing and Corporate Estate, 0404 20100 or email hna@wicklowcoco.ie.

€17,000 raised from Wicklow Hospice Glen to Glen walk

An amazing €17,000 was raised for Wicklow Hospice on the recent Wicklow Hospice Glendalough to Glendassen walk, a 12.5km hike.

Wicklow Hospice very much appreciates all the hard work and would like to thank everyone who sponsored, fundraised, volunteered and engaged in the Glen to Glen challenge.

"A special thanks to John Tyrrell, Linda Strahan, Allison Ryder, Ursula Doyle, Maud Cloke, Edward Wolohan, Darren Smith, Ken Tancred, Stephen Cloke and Conan Doyle, facilitating the walk logistics

and all other organizations, volunteers, participants and sponsors who joined together in creating a positive feel good factor all making the Glen to Glen such a resounding success. This fifth year for this event with so many people coming together and supporting a wonderful cause by helping to continue to deliver love, kindness and support to patients and families. Please accept a sincere

thank you from our hearts, people working together always form an amazing positive power, creating change and building a better community," said a spokesperson for the Wicklow Hospice.

After ten years of extraordinary fundraising the purpose build 15-bedroom Wicklow Hospice welcomed its first patients in December 2020. It is this first in-patient facil-

ity in Wicklow to provide specialist care for patients and their families and such an important part of our community.

The Wicklow Hospice is a great cause and worthy of support. If you can help by organising a fundraising event or participate in one of their many organised events, please email starmey@olh.ie or contact Sinead on 0870 954137.



Agata Szymanska and Stephen Whelan present a donation of €17,000 to Fabian Doyle and Sinead Tarmey of Wicklow Hospice after the Glen to Glen Walk fundraiser. Pic: Michael Kelly

‘Create an Autumn Wreath’ free online workshop

Bray Area Partnership is joining with RehabCare Bray to offer a free online workshop where you can create your own beautiful autumn wreath using upcycled materials.

Collect your free kit in advance from the Partnership (or it can be dropped off to you) with all the materials you need. During the workshop your tutor Natalia from RehabCare will take you through the steps to use the materials to make your own unique and beautiful wreath.

We've all been through challenging times with COVID-19 lately, and a bit of creative time out is a great way to chill out and relax.

The workshop is funded by the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022, which is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

To qualify you have to be living in Bray, Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Kilmacanogue, Newcastle Upper or Newtownmountkennedy - and priority will also be given to certain groups such as people who are unemployed or on a low income.

Check out www.brayareapartnership.ie to find out more about this workshop and other upcoming free training on offer, or call 01 286 8266.

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LACK OF DENTAL APPOINTMENTS FOR MEDICAL CARD HOLDERS

Green Party TD Steven Matthews is calling for an urgent review of dental services for medical card holders.

Deputy Steven Matthews was speaking following a series of correspondences from constituents across Wicklow that raised serious concerns regarding the lack of dental appointments available for those who have medical cards. Discussing the issue, Deputy Matthews said: "This is an issue that is becoming increasingly apparent as we emerge from lockdown. It appears to be a longstanding problem between the HSE and Dental practices that was put on the long finger because of the pandemic. What is particularly distressing is that it

is an issue only impacting on medical card patients and this disparity is not acceptable. "I've been contacted by numerous people from across Wicklow who have been unable to get appointments due to being on the medical card. Dental care is something that we all need and should have equal access to. What is also clear is that this is not an issue just impacting new customers to dental practices as I have been contacted by people who've been with the same dentist for over a decade but only in recent weeks have they been

told that they no longer accept medical card patients. "I wrote to Minister Donnelly last week to ask that his Department/ the HSE urgently look into the matter and if a solution is not forthcoming in the short term, I plan to raise this directly in the Dáil as it is simply unfair. I accept that there had been issues early in the summer relating to accessing patient records due to the HSE cyber-attack, but we are several months on from that issue. Reports have indicated that Wicklow is particularly impacted by the drop off in service

access for medical card patients, but this issue is replicated in towns and villages across the country. "I have called on Minister Donnelly to engage with representatives from the dental industry to immediately seek solutions for patients that are the victims in this dispute. As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, dental appointments are an example of the primary - day to day health care that people need and there needs to be fair and equal access for all patients," concluded Deputy Matthews.



Pictured are Nollaig Cruise, Charlie Burke and Anna Lee with Daisy who took part in a walk in Avondale to mark World Mental Health Day

RAW DEAL FOR SCHOOL KIDS

Continued from Page 1... the benefits of smaller classes for schools in disadvantaged communities.

"The reality is that keeping school buildings open in the last year was made much more difficult because we have some of the highest class sizes in Europe," John Brady TD said. "There are countless classes that are far too big, in buildings too small, and not fit for purpose. The first step in ensuring that educational standards and safety protocols are maintained, is by drastically reducing class sizes down to the EU average of 20. If there ever was a time to tackle this issue, surely it is now."

Reacting to the 2022 Budget, INTO said "We welcome the commitment to further reduce our classes for the second successive year in this year's budget. This government appears to have got the message that Ireland is significantly out of kilter with the rest of Europe. Class size reduction must continue to be a multiannual commitment, over the lifetime of this government, to meet the challenge of reducing our class sizes to the EU average by 2025."

The Wicklow branch of INTO recently met with Green Party TD Steven Matthews to outline their concerns. Following the meeting, Deputy Matthews made a series of submissions supporting the asks of the teachers to the Minister for Education Norma Foley.

Discussing the meeting, Deputy Matthews said: "I welcomed the chance to meet with a local branch of the INTO

as it's a much better opportunity to get an on the ground understanding of issues instead of meeting with the national group who will quote you stats and figures but can't tell you what it means to the teacher and student in the classroom. "One of the key concerns raised by the teachers is the current student teacher ratio in our primary schools. There are clear commitments in the Programme for Government that the Green Party pushed for, but this is something that needs to be prioritised as we are coming out the other side of the pandemic. I have written to Minister Foley to not

only emphasise this but to also ensure that the reality of schools in more built up and densely populated parts of Wicklow, that have class numbers significantly higher than the average - in some cases over 30 students per class. This is not fair on the teachers or the students and I have called for this to be reviewed immediately. "Other key issues that were raised included the school capitation grant - which is the government funding for the day-to-day operation of the school. Currently and historically, this is significantly lower per pupil at primary school level than it is for secondary and I

have called for this disparity to be reviewed. Some of the teachers I met reported that schools were forced to fundraise to cover basic school costs which is not an acceptable position for any school to be in. "There were also concerns raised with regards senior teachers who held middle management positions retiring and those roles not being replaced. This places undue burden on principals and the rest of the staff having to cover these roles and I have asked for the Minister to fully engage with teaching unions to alleviate their concerns in this regard."

Farmer anger is growing

Following four regional rallies around the country on Friday 8th October, IFA Wicklow County Chair Thomas Byrne said it should be clear to the Government that anger is building amongst farmers on the ground.

"The clear message from the thousands who turned out for the rallies is that farmers are frustrated and angry at the way they are being treated by our Government," Thomas said. "Farmers won't accept being offered up as a sacrificial lamb to

the Green Party to keep the Government in office. "Farmers feel that our Government wants to regulate them out of business. Every policy, including those on climate action, CAP and the Nitrates Action Plan, is designed to reduce production," he said

"Farm families are being subjected to policies driven by regulation, restriction and reduction without any heed to its impact on farm

family income and overall economic impact. Farmers are aware of climate action and are willing to play their part," he said. "Farmers cannot understand why our Government flatly refuse to sit down with their elected leaders to make a plan for the sector that will allay their concerns and give them confidence that there is a long-term future for farming. If there's a forum for employers and unions on the future of the economy, there's no reason why there cannot be one for farming".



Wicklow IFA members at the recent rally



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

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

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



An Roinn Cosanta
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Peter Mark has announced the launch of its annual fundraising initiative the Petermarkathon. The event which takes place in Peter Mark salons each year across the October Bank Holiday weekend has been extended this year to mark the 60th anniversary of Peter Mark. This year the team will be raising vital funds for Pieta from Sunday 10th October until Saturday 30th October.

Each Peter Mark salon in Wicklow has been given the task of coming up with its own individual and unique way to raise money this year, so visitors to their local Peter Mark salon in Wicklow can expect sponsored cliff walks, morning swims, raffles, fancy dress, and many other fun-filled events over the course of both weekends!

Pictured is Peter O'Rourke, CEO of PeterMark, with Elaine Austin, CEO of Pieta. To find the location of your nearest Peter Mark salon, see www.petermark.ie

For more information on Pieta House, visit www.pieta.ie

Upward trend in electric vehicles

The Society of the Irish Motor Industry (SIMI) has released their official new vehicle statistics showing a decline in September new car registrations and an upward trend in Electric Vehicles.

In Wicklow electric vehicle registrations increased from 146 in 2020 to 304 in 2021.

Brian Cooke, SIMI Director General, said "Despite a 22% (4,426 units) decline in total new car registrations for the month of September, the electric vehicle segment has seen an increase of 18% (775 units) when compared to the same month last year. With an annual growth rate of 117%, the upward trend in Electric Vehicles is hugely positive, but would not have been achieved without the availability of the generous Government incentives.

"As we start on the road to zero emissions transport, increasing taxes makes no sense and penalises those who want to make better environmental choices. The EV numbers this year speak for themselves; the Industry has supplied the cars and the Government has provided the incentives, thus allowing consumers to make strong environmental choices. By keeping on this pathway, we can continue to provide the retail environment to help drive down emissions."



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

N81 upgrade scheme excluded from National Development Plan

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has criticised the Government for excluding the N81 upgrade scheme from the amended National Development Plan 2021-2030.

Deputy Brady said: "The failure to progress the 31km upgrade of the N81 between Tallaght to Hollywood Cross, is a major public safety issue for West Wicklow and an issue that has stifled the development of the area.

"I have been campaigning and advocating for an upgrade to the N 81 for many years, to be faced with an avalanche of rebuttal from government sources.

"The design of the upgrade to the N81 started in 2008 and the preferred route selection was chosen in 2016. However due to a lack of Government prioritisation the badly needed upgrade to the N81 hasn't progressed. From the outset I want to say that I believe that a consultative process between a state body and local communities is always a positive initia-

tive - particularly if the results are listened to by those in authority.

"However I feel that a social media survey from a senior government Minister about people's views on the N81 at this stage, is nothing more than a disingenuous attempt to deflect from the failure of this government, and in particular the three government TDs for Wicklow who have singularly failed to progress this project.

"The N81 upgrade scheme has already gone through several stages of public consultation. The people of West Wicklow have already spoken on the proposal to date.

"The dangers of the road have also been widely discussed. The N81 is one of the most dangerous roads in the Country.

"I feel that rather than offer-



John Brady TD

ing the people of Wicklow platitudes, it would suit Minister Harris better to pull on the county jersey and get stuck in at the cabinet and get some

results for the county. It is an absolute disgrace that the N81 hasn't been included in the National Development Plan again, despite there being three Government TD's in the County, two of which are senior Government Ministers.

"What we want to see from the senior government Ministers in the County is less style and more substance. We need to see delivery - not spin.

"The Minister does not need to wait for a survey - maybe he should just check his correspondence from the from ordinary workers and their families from the county, or dust down the plans for the Tallaght to Hollywood Cross upgrade scheme and familiarise himself with the detail of it rather than engage in gimmicky spin," concluded Deputy Brady.

Irish Water addressing high levels of water leakage in Bray

Irish Water has stated that securing the water supply in Bray remains a vital focus for them. Irish Water is continuing with efforts to drive down leakage and improve the water supply for customers. The works are currently being carried out on behalf of Irish Water by Ward & Burke Construction and are expected to be completed by mid-November.

Working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, Irish Water is replacing old and problematic water mains in Westfield Park to provide a more reliable water supply, reduce high levels of leakage and improve water quality for homes and local businesses.

The works will involve the replacement of almost 150 metres of old, cast iron water mains with new modern pipes which will reduce the number of bursts and water outages impacting customers and ensure a more reliable supply of water for the local community.

The works will also involve laying new water service connections from the public water main in the road to customers' property boundaries and connecting it to the customers' water supply. Where existing service connections on the public side are lead, these will be replaced as part of this improvement work.

Irish Water said "To minimise the impact on customers, areas of work will be limited to short sections. Traffic management may be in place during this time to facilitate the safe delivery of these works, however, local and emergency access will be main-

tained. The works may also involve some short-term supply disruptions which we understand may cause inconvenience, however, the project team will ensure that customers are given a minimum of 48 hours' notice prior to any planned water outages. Irish Water and Wicklow County Council regret any inconvenience these necessary improvement works may cause.

"This project is one example of how Irish Water is working in partnership with Local Authorities to provide a more reliable water supply and reduce leakage. Fixing leaks can be complicated but we are making progress. In 2018 the rate of leakage nationally was 46%, by the end of 2020 it was reduced to 40%. We are currently on course to achieve a national leakage rate of 38% by the end of 2021.

"Irish Water continues to work with our Local Authority partners, contractors and others to safeguard the health and well-being of both staff and the public and to ensure the continuity of critical drinking water and wastewater services. Irish Water would like to remind people to follow the current HSE COVID-

19 advice and ensure frequent handwashing."

Speaking about the project Joe Carroll, Leakage Reduction Programme Regional Lead with Irish Water said: "These works are vital to ensure a more secure water supply to homes and businesses in Bray and are part of a significant investment by Irish Water to safeguard

the water supply. We understand this type of work can be inconvenient and we will ensure our work crews make every effort to minimise any disruption these necessary works may cause. We would like to thank the local community in advance for their patience and cooperation while we deliver these vital water network improvement

works and safeguard the water supply now and into the future". The Irish Water customer care helpline is open 24/7 on 1800 278 278 and customers can also contact them on Twitter @IWCare with any queries. For updates please visit the Water Supply Updates section of the Irish Water website.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

APPLICATIONS FOR POSTAL/SPECIAL VOTES

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

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

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

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

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



South Irish Sea
Positive Energy for a Sustainable Future



Public Consultation

19th October to 26th November, 2021



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

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

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

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



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



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



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

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

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

Best regards,



Our Community Liaison Officer, Aiveen Finn, is available to discuss the South Irish Sea project.

087 183 7452 | info@southirishseawind.ie



Deputy John Brady and Cllr Grace McManus at the new road through the old Bray Golf Club

Capital funding for school building projects in Wicklow

The publication of the National Development Plan 2021-2030 provided capital funding of over €4.4bn for investment in school infrastructure during the period 2021 to 2025.

This funding will facilitate the continued building of a modern and sustainable school infrastructure across the country.

Approximately 1,200 school building projects are currently in progress around the country across the various stages of planning, design, tender and construction - most of which are expected to be either under construction or completed in the period 2021 to 2025. These projects, with a monthly status update, are listed on gov.ie.

The school building projects which are currently in construction or at advanced stage of planning and design in Wicklow are:

Scoil Mhuire Realt Na Mara (Extension); St Saviours NS (Extension); Moneystown NS (Extension); Marino School NS (Refurbishment); Gaelscoil an tInbhir Mhor (New School Building); Newtownmountkenedy Primary School (New School Building); Kilcoole Primary School (New School Building); St Michaels & St Peters Jun School (Refurbishment); St Mary's College, St Mary's Road (Extension); St. David's Holy Faith, Co-Educational School (Extension & Refurbishment); Dominican College (Extension); Scoil Chonglais (Extension); Gaelcholáiste na Mara (New School Building).

'Road safety issues at old Bray Golf Club Lands'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady and Cllr Grace McManus have called on all stakeholders with responsibility for the road that serves Colaiste Ráithín and Ravenswell schools on the old Bray Golf Club lands to work together to address "the serious road safety and maintenance issues along the road".

"The road through the old Bray Golf Club lands was constructed to facilitate the construction of Colaiste Ráithín and Ravenswell Schools," said Deputy Brady.

"Unfortunately, the area has been badly neglected since the road was constructed. There are also serious road safety issues along the road as it is being used as a rat run. Myself and my colleague, Cllr Grace McManus have been working to have the issues addressed; however nobody seems willing to take responsibility for the road.

"Responsibility is being passed between Wicklow County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, The National Development Finance Agency (NDFA) and Ballymore. It is essential that all the stakeholders come together to address the serious

issues regarding the road.

"I have been informed by the Minister for Education that the Public Private Partnership Company that was behind the construction of the two schools is responsible for the road. It was also stated that the PPP company remains responsible until such time as it is taken in charge by the relevant local authorities. Wicklow County Council, however, have informed Cllr McManus that Ballymore has plans to dig up much of the road to facilitate development of the land and has not agreed to initiate taking in charge the road.

"It is critical that the passing of the book on responsibility for the road ends. All the key stakeholders must sit around the table and put a plan in place in addressing the road

safety and maintenance issue on the road. Waiting for a number of years for Ballymore to develop the area simply isn't an option, road safety can't wait."

Cllr McManus added "You only need to take a walk down this road at school collection time to see how busy this road can get. It's not hard to imagine the potential harmful impacts and serious implications of leaving this road unmanaged.

"While there may be future plans for the area, responsibility needs to be taken in the interim for the safety and maintenance issues there.

"It is not good enough to place school buildings and then leave the infrastructure around them below standard. It seems to me a serious conversation is needed, and a plan mapped out for the road urgently."

'More breastfeeding supports needed in community'

To mark National Breastfeeding Week, Green Party Councillor and Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Lourda Scott spoke with community members that provide support and education to mothers and new parents with their feeding journey.

Speaking on the matter Scott says: "I met with local volunteers from Cuidiú and La Leche League along with Doula's to talk about breastfeeding supports that are available in the community. It was widely acknowledged that the pandemic was extremely challenging and everyone is looking forward to meeting parents and babies in person again. However the question of where to meet was raised again and again to me."

Sandy Connolly, com-

munity volunteer with Cuidiú and postpartum centric Doula says: "We need to talk about the lack of community spaces where we can meet without having to pay money to be there. Even the price of a cup of coffee can be out of the reach of a lot of people. We have to ask the question how we open up breastfeeding supports so that groups are not reliant on private business spaces or religious premises. Breastfeeding support is not just about feeding, but is also about

parenting and peer to peer support allowing open and honest conversations in a non-judgemental environment. Having access to a community space that facilitates this is vital."

The problem of lack of community facilities despite a rapidly growing population is one that has been raised previously by Cllr Scott.

"I was glad to see the commission of a social audit following questions I raised at a Council meeting earlier this year. I

also welcome the news that construction of a new community centre in Greystones is shortly about to start. However with the increase of families moving to the area it is critical that the numbers of community spaces are also increasing to meet the needs of everyone. Family supports, such as provided by breastfeeding groups, play an important part in a new parent's wellbeing and we should be making this as easy as possible," Cllr Scott concluded.



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Cllr Lourda Scott with Sandy Connolly, Cuidiú Volunteer

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'Budget 2022 will reduce the cost of living'

Budget 2022 contains the necessary measures to reduce the cost of living, Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD said.

Minister Harris said: "Budget 2022 will help to recover our economy from the pandemic, repair our public finances and restore our public services. Every person paying income tax will receive a tax benefit thanks to a total budget package of €520 million. The standard rate band is increasing by €1,500 and we are increasing each of the personal tax, employee tax and earned income credits by €50.

"For several Budgets now, Fine Gael has prioritised supports for small businesses and entrepreneurs; we recognise they are crucial to job creation and the development of our local economy in Wicklow. Supporting entrepreneurs and the wider business community will be central to our broader national recovery from the pandemic, and so there is a significant package for them in Budget 2022.

"The Employment Investment Incentive (EII) scheme is being extended for a further three years and will also be opened up to a wider range of investment funds. There is a further €30m of investment in the Innovation Equity Fund. There will be an extension of corporation tax relief to certain start-up companies and a new tax credit for the digital gaming sector.

"Welfare payments are increasing and there will be a 100% Christmas bonus in 2021. The Old Age Pension will increase by €5 per week and the Living Alone Allowance will increase by €3 per week. The duration of Parent's Benefit will increase by 2 weeks to 7 weeks from July next year, and from June next year, the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance will increase by €10, equalising the

income thresholds for the allowance for one and two parent households and increasing the income threshold for the Working Family Payment by €10 for all families. We are increasing the income disregard for Carer's Allowance from €332.50 to €350 for a single person and from €665 to €750 for a couple.

"The minimum wage will increase by 30c to €10.50 in January, the eighth consecutive increase to the minimum wage under Fine Gael in Government. In tandem with this, we will increase the ceiling of the second USC band to ensure the increase in the minimum wage won't push people into higher rates of USC.

"Fine Gael is prioritising reducing childcare costs and we recently produced a report proposing a major re-prioritisation of early childhood in our national ambitions, with a need for increased focus on well-being in early childhood. Budget 2022 reflects this with a new funding stream for up to 4,700 early years and childcare providers which will be in place from September 2022 onwards, at an estimated cost of €69 million next year. This will support improvements in the quality of childcare provision, and will be linked to a commitment of no increases in fees to parents.

"Next year, we will spend in excess of €2 billion, or over 25% of the Education budget on providing additional teaching and care supports for children with special educational needs. This represents an increase of over 50% since 2011 and it will include an unprecedented 1165 new SNAs, bringing the total number of SNAs in Ireland to a record of 19,169. We are also



Minister Simon Harris

adding 980 new teachers in special education in mainstream schools, special classes and special schools, and we will open over 1,700 new special class places next year.

"Addressing medical waiting lists is a huge priority for Government and €250 million has been allocated to address this challenge, further to the Acute Waiting List Action Plan. We are extending free GP care to children aged 6 and 7 next year, with the intention of reaching all children under 12 with this Fine Gael led policy.

"The government is acutely aware of the impact on households of increasing energy costs. To directly address this, we are increasing the weekly rate of the Fuel Allowance by €5 and increasing to €120 the amount of means allowed above the maximum State Pension (Contributory) rate for the Fuel Allowance means test. The qualifying period on jobseekers allowance and supplementary welfare allowance will be reduced from 15 to 12 months.

"There is a comprehensive €1.85 billion agriculture package, an increase of €32 million on last year. This will maintain critical supports across the sector while also providing for a number of new measures, including: providing for a second phase of the soil sampling programme in

2022; fully establishing the Food Ombudsman; and delivering on the Programme for Government commitment to double ex-gratia funding for Animal Welfare Organisations by 2022. Key farm schemes will be rolled over for a further year to a value of €630m ahead of the start of the new CAP in 2023.

"One positive legacy of the pandemic is that remote and flexible working has become commonplace, something Fine Gael has been campaigning for quite some time. Budget 2022 provides an income tax deduction amounting to 30 per cent of the cost of vouched expenses for heat, electricity, and broadband in respect of those incurred while working from home.

"As part of a range of housing measures announced in Budget 2022, we are extending the Help to Buy Scheme, which has already helped over 28,300 people to buy their first home.

"Budget 2022 will fund the recruitment of 800 new Gardaí, 400 garda civilian staff to free up Gardaí for front line policing, and a 20% increase in the Garda Mountain Bike Unit. This will help to protect communities in Wicklow and keep them safe.

"As part of a comprehensive Climate Action package in Budget 2022, we are extending the €5,000 relief for Battery Electric Vehicles to the end of 2023, to continue to incentivise the uptake of electric vehicles.

"Every single euro raised by the increase in Carbon Tax will be returned to the people of Ireland in a progressive manner. There is an additional €174 million for energy efficiency and to protect the most vulnerable in society."

BirdWatch Ireland welcomes increase in funding for NPWS

BirdWatch Ireland has welcomed the increase in funding for the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in Budget 2022 to €47million.

Oonagh Duggan, Head of Advocacy said "Minister Malcolm Noonan has succeeded in securing a 64% increase in funding for the National Parks and Wildlife Service since coming into post in 2020 indicating that halting the loss of biodiversity and restoring it is a top priority for him. This increased funding brings NPWS funding back to pre-2008 financial crisis levels which is very welcome.

"However, the Minister will need the full support of his cabinet colleagues to continue to ramp up staffing and funding of this state body in future budgets. The

climate crisis is a biodiversity crisis. A strong NPWS is critical infrastructure in the state's efforts to tackle climate change. Failure to resource NPWS to the required level to address the scale of the challenges facing biodiversity would not only undercut state efforts to address the biodiversity emergency but also slow down the achievement of climate goals.

An example is the rolling out of offshore renewables. If they are sited in locations that are also important for seabirds like the Roseate Tern, they could significantly impact internationally important breeding seabird populations. A resourced NPWS is critical to prevent these worst case scenarios where a climate solution creates a further problem for biodiversity. We hope that government supports the Minister for Heritage to avoid these scenarios".



Tiglin Chairman Aubrey McCarthy, Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly, Ciaran Hayden of Wicklow Fire Service and Cllr Gerry Walsh at the presentation by Bray and Greystones Fire Services of a defibrillator to Carratig Eden in Greystones. It is one of 12 new defibrillators being installed in Greystones and Bray. The life-saving machines were provided by both Bray and Greystones firefighters to run from the beach promenade in Bray, across Bray Head walk, and through the coastal walk and along the seafront in Greystones.

'They blew it'

Brady slams Government for 'Budget of lost opportunity'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has slammed the 2022 Budget as "a lost opportunity" that will not be enough to support families and workers in their attempts to cope with the rising cost of living. "Never has a government spent so much to achieve so little," said Deputy Brady. "The Government is out of touch and out of ideas," he added.

"The government had an opportunity with Budget 2022 to help families and workers to deal with the crisis in fuel and energy costs," he continued. "But in an almost predictable fashion they blew it, instead of easing the burden on families they have hiked up fuel costs further, something that will leave many families struggling to keep the lights and heat on in the coming weeks and months.

"Never has a government spent so much to achieve so little. They are out of touch and out of ideas. This was a budget about maintaining the status quo, to avoid the demand for change from ordinary people, many of whom could face breaking point in the months ahead.

"The government clearly doesn't understand the gravity of the issues facing people. Budget 2022 shows that they don't have a clue what life is like for hard-pressed renters paying sky high rents, for parents crippled with childcare costs or for households hammered by the cost of living who are now dreading the arrival of their winter energy bills.

"The government has a total inability to solve problems, so tomorrow, we will still have a housing crisis. We will still have the highest rents in Europe. We will still have nearly one million people on hospital waiting lists. Cost of living will still be totally out of control. But through it all investment funds will still prosper, and sweetheart deals will continue. "We need a government of



John Brady TD

change, of imagination, of solutions. What we have witnessed here today is more of the same old story. Offering small increases that will have little or no impact on the lives of the less well off.

"The sooner that there is an election and the people of this country are offered an opportunity to give voice to their appetite for change the better."

Half-price travel on public transport for young people secured by Greens

Young people in Wicklow between the ages of 19 and 23 will get half-price travel on public transport in a measure announced in Budget 2022 called the young adults travel card.

The move is part of the Green Party's commitment in this year's budget to support young people as we recover from Covid, reduce carbon emissions, and expand the use of public transport as we tackle the climate crisis.

Young adults will be able to apply for a travel card from next year and there will be no restrictions on travel, with reduced fare applying to both peak and off-peak times on intercity buses and trains, local buses, the Luas and the Dart.

Discussing the news and the impact for young adults in Wicklow,

Deputy Matthews said: "I was delighted with the announcement and it is something that I have been calling for in recent months following meetings with student groups in Wicklow. These are the types of meaningful and permanent changes we must make to help tackle emissions and to encourage people to use public transport. It's also a welcome boost for this age cohort in terms of their cost of living so it's a win win that only happened because the Green Party pushed hard for it to be included in the budget.

"As we emerge from the other side of the pan-



Steven Matthews TD

demic, we have a near return to normal in terms of students travelling to Dublin and further afield for third level courses and I hope this will encourage more of them to opt for the bus or the train instead of the car to get to college.

"It must be said that this is also applicable to those in this age bracket

in apprenticeships and those who have entered the workforce so it's a welcome boost for all 19-23-year olds. We continue to listen to young people as they demand increased action on equality and climate, and the Green Party is committed to delivering on these issues in government.

"It is hoped that this price reduction will help form a habit in this age cohort that will encourage greater use of public transport and less of a reliance on private cars going forward. We all know the reality of climate change that is facing us, and this is just one step that the Green Party has implemented is helping us reach our carbon reduction targets, concluded Deputy Matthews.

Donnelly visits St Colman's Care Centre

Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D. visited residents, service users and staff at St Colman's Residential Care Centre, Rathdrum last week. The Minister said he was delighted to see day care services back in action, and welcomed the plans for the development of a new 95-bed Community Nursing Unit on the campus.

St. Colman's Residential Care Centre is managed wholly by HSE Community Healthcare East. It provides a variety of services to the growing population of older persons in Wicklow including day care, respite care, rehabilitation, palliative care for adults and residential care.

Day care services had been restricted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to protect older people from COVID-19 transmission, and to facilitate the redeployment of staff to long-stay units, private nursing homes and COVID-19 testing and vaccination centres. Working with the wider community, a number of new initiatives were developed to reduce the impact on older people and their families as much as possible. These included increased home support, increased provision of meals on wheels, pre-

scription and grocery collection, regular outreach calls, zoom get-togethers, and befriending phone calls.

Acknowledging these efforts, Martina Queally, Chief Officer, HSE Community Healthcare East noted, "The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in unprecedented interruption to normal healthcare services for all. Older people in particular, used to social interaction and physical supports in their community, were severely affected. I would like to commend our staff for their flexibility in adapting to these challenges and working to ensure that older people in our community were not left behind, and were provided with alternative supports."

"Up to 400 older people are benefiting from the reopening of day care and respite services delivered from St Colman's, and other HSE

commissioned sites across Wicklow. As older people regain their confidence, we are pleased to see that they are choosing to return, and as they do, staff are working with them to identify any new or additional support they may require."

"We look forward to continuing to expand the facilities onsite at St Colman's, as well as increasing the services offered, to enhance the quality of life and wellbeing for older persons in our community. The new facility will be a welcomed addition to the local community as St Colman's has a significant waiting list of clients wishing to move here for care in their later years."

Planning permission has been granted for a new 95-bed Community Nursing Unit on the St Colman's campus. The development will include two 10-bed, dementia-specific units to meet the growing need for specialist long-term care in this area, as well as general, long-term care households.

The appointed design team are currently working on the programme to bring this project through tender and onward to site towards the end of 2022. In addition to St Colman's, HSE Community Healthcare East provide Day Care Services at Wicklow Day Care Unit, Glenside Road, Carnew Day Centre, Kylemore House Nursing Home and Arklow Day Care.



Minister Donnelly meeting with staff of St. Colman's



Jan and Colin Taylor raised over €25,000 for six good causes from growing sunflowers at their farm in Minmore, Shillelagh; - the Irish Cancer Society, Church of Ireland Shillelagh, BUMBLEance, Church of the Immaculate Conception Shillelagh, Talk to Tom Taxiwatch, and the Clonmore Cancer and Medical Trust.

Councillors informed about draft mineral mining policy

A new mineral mining policy would see the creation of a regulatory framework for mineral mining in Ireland, that might include a ban on mineral mining off the coast

Councillors were informed about the new policy, currently in draft form, by Eoin Keegan from the Geo-Science Division from the Department of Environment, Climate & Communications, at this month's meeting of meeting County Council.

"In everyday life, we use minerals in absolutely everything we do, from agriculture to construction, and minerals are going to become more important as we seek to transition to decarbonise energy and transport systems through solar and wind power," said Mr Keegan.

"Although we absolutely need to design our products better so they use less material and last longer, Ireland and EU will still need minerals to meet net zero carbon emissions by 2050."

Ireland is currently reliant on importing the majority of its minerals. The draft policy establishes the requirement for planning permission, integrated pollution control measures, an EPA license for mining minerals at sites in Ireland. "It is critical they're extracted in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, enforced with strong legislation," he said.

"Given scientific knowledge that we have at the moment, proposed exploration and mining does not take place offshore in our seabed until we have adequate information to measure the impact of that activity," Mr Keegan explained.

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A call has gone out to schools in Wicklow, and elsewhere across the country, from sprinter Phil Healy and fellow athlete, David Gillick, who have joined forces with Fyffes in a quest to find 'Ireland's Fittest School'. Together, the Irish Olympians have recorded a series of workouts which they say are 'fit for even the least active' – exercise routines they hope schools will adopt as part of their PE curriculum. In this latest fitness initiative, Fyffes has introduced a strong competitive element. Coupled with monthly and spot prize rewards, one successful school will have the distinction of being chosen as 'Ireland's Fittest School', the prize for which will be a visit from the Fit Squad ambassadors Phil and David and €5,000 worth of sports equipment. Registration for the Competition, which runs from November until April, can now be made online at www.fyffesfitsquad.ie, with the overall winner to be announced in May.

Date extended for completion of works under Streetscape Enhancement initiative

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has confirmed that she has extended the deadline for completion of works under the €7 million Streetscape Enhancement Initiative to 31st December 2021.

The Streetscape Enhancement Initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future and is designed to make our rural towns and villages more attractive places to live, work and visit.

Announcing the change, Minister Humphreys said: "There has been a very positive response to the new Streetscapes Enhancement Initiative introduced by the Government this year. This unique initiative is about making our rural towns and villages more

attractive and welcoming places for locals and visitors alike. I have no doubt that the works funded will make a big impact on the appearance of our towns and villages.

"Given the challenges faced by many property owners in delivering their projects within the required timeframe, I am pleased to be able to extend the deadline for completion of works until the end of the year.

"I am also providing some further flexibility to Local Authorities as

regards how they manage the scheme locally and report on the outcomes to my Department. My Department has already been in contact with each Local Authority to inform them of these changes."

Under the scheme, property owners in over 120 towns and villages are being provided with funding to improve the facades of their buildings, carry out artwork and install features such as canopies and street furniture.

The initiative is being delivered by the Local

Authorities, with considerable discretion provided to each Local Authority to design the scheme locally to meet their individual needs.

Initially, Local Authorities were required to report back on the delivery of the scheme in November of this year, resulting in some property owners being required to complete works by the end of October. The deadline for completion of works has now been extended to 31st December 2021.

Works carried out on new playground in Wicklow Hills estate

Sinn Féin TD John Brady and area representative for Newtown Muireann Dalton have welcomed work carried out by Tower Homes in Wicklow Hills in Newtownmountkennedy to install a long overdue playground in the estate and make the green space functional.

Speaking after recently meeting with local residents and engaging with Wicklow County Council Deputy Brady said "Thankfully work has finally commenced on the installation of a promised playground in Wicklow Hills. Recently we called the developer at Wicklow Hills to make the green spaces in the large new estate functional and install the promised playground. This work has finally started, we have also been informed that the equipment for the playground has been ordered."

"The residents of Wicklow Hills

bought their homes in good faith from Tower Homes LTD. The large residential development has been constructed in phases, residents in the Phase 4 houses were promised that a playground would be in place prior to them moving into their new homes, they are living there 2 years now and there is still no playground. After meeting with the residents, we started a petition and engaged with Wicklow County Council to ensure that the work in the estate is done in accordance with the planning permission that was granted."

"While it is welcome that these works have finally commenced, there are still a large number of issues within the estate. I believe that there needs to be serious engagement with Tower Homes by Wicklow County Council to ensure that all outstanding issues within Wicklow Hills are addressed before the granting of permission for additional phases of development."

Sinn Féin public representative for the area Muireann Dalton said "Newtown is the fastest growing town in the State, there is a shortage of community amenities within the area and a real need for more. So, it's critically important that when permission is granted for new developments that the community amenities that might be part of the application are delivered on."



Deputy John Brady and Muireann Dalton at site for new playground in Wicklow Hills

Seamus wins gold at 84

84-year-old Bray resident Seamus Mallin won two gold medals recently at the National Masters Track & Field Championships.



Seamus Mallin with one of his medals at the National Masters Track & Field Championships

Seamus competed in both the 100m dash and the 400m in the M80 category and took home the Gold in both, as well as achieving a personal best of 28.6 seconds in the 100m event.

Originally from Tullow, Co. Carlow, Seamus has lived in Bray for some time and trained with Bray Runners AC in preparation for the championships, making use of the athletics track in Greystones.

Seamus also did a lot of training in his spare time, going to the gym regularly and also running around the Bray area. During his training, Seamus overcame both a bout of cellulitis and a hamstring injury to make it to the championships fit and ready.

Seamus has always been interested in sport, and played hurling and Minor football in his native Tullow in the 1950s, where he was part of the 1961 and 1963

Junior Hurling Championship winning teams. He was also Club Secretary of Erin's Own GAA Club in Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.

In the 1980s, Seamus got into running, joining Dundrum Athletics Club and competing in his first marathon in 1981. He took part in eight marathons over the next four years and kept improving - his finish time going from 3:54 in his first one to 3:05 in his last.

He continued to run into his 70s and survived a brush with Cancer in 2014. He is now in remission.

Earlier this year he joined Bray Runners AC and so impressed the coaches with his speed that they suggested he compete in the National Masters Track & Field Championships, which took place in Morton Stadium in Santry on 5th September.

'Double-digit growth likely to taper by end of year'

Commenting on last week's CSO Residential Property Price Index for August IPAV, the Institute of Professional Auctioneers & Valuers, said the double-digit growth evident in the latest figures across 15 of the 20 market cohorts captured is likely to abate somewhat towards the end of the year.

Pat Davitt, IPAV Chief Executive said, increasing supply, although far from sufficient, is now tapering the high level of growth seen in the figures and leveling off.

"However, special properties and those in coastal regions are likely to continue to command strong prices. This is evident with a 15.3pc increase in the South East in today's figures," he said.

And he said Bord Pleanála's decision to insist that two developments, in Dublin and Galway, were to be reserved for individual buyers over institutional investors is to be welcomed.

"Institutional investors have a place in the market but this decision brings a greater balance to the equa-

tion enabling individual buyers compete in a market with a deep shortage of supply," he said.

However, he said there were still "major impediments" in the way of building more affordable homes.

"It is disappointing we did not see any move in the 2022 Budget to reduce the 13.5 pc VAT rate on new housing for owner-occupiers or extend the Help-to-Buy scheme to include second-hand homes. This was a missed opportunity," he said.

He said issues with planning, taxation, the supply of services are delaying the delivery of housing and increasing the cost of delivery. There needs to be a fundamental re-appraisal of these issues to address the supply side problems in the market, he said.

Ministers attend opening of Rathdrum Primary Care Centre

Ministers Simon Harris and Stephen Donnelly last week attended the official opening of Rathdrum Primary Care Centre.

Rathdrum Primary Care Centre opened to the public two weeks ago and will initially offer a range of Primary Care services all under one roof including a GP Practice, Public Health Nursing, Paediatric Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Psychology, Mental Health and Social Work services.

Services will also expand to include Dietetics and Podiatry in the future. The new Centre will also deliver a Sláintecare-funded Pulmonary Rehabilitation Service and Chronic Disease Programme.

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly T.D.

acknowledged the dedication of HSE staff at the official opening at the Centre, commenting: "I am delighted to have been in a position to assist in delivering this essential healthcare service for the Wicklow community. I would like to acknowledge the work and dedication of HSE staff in continuing to work towards a better health care system for all during what has been a challenging time for health care professionals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I would also like to extend a thank you to everyone involved in this project for working together to provide this service for the Wicklow community.

"The establishment of

Primary Care Centres, like this one, puts service users at the centre of healthcare policy in Ireland. They are pivotal in the realisation of Sláintecare's vision to shift health and social care services left and take pressure off the Acute Care system in hospitals."

The Centre will provide a population of approximately 6,500 people within the Rathdrum area, (including Ballinaclesh, Roundwood, Laragh, Glenealy and Greenane), access to a full range of community-based health and social care services. Previously, residents in this area often had to travel to Wicklow Primary Healthcare

Centre to avail of this support.

Speaking at the opening, Martina Queally, Chief Officer, HSE Community Healthcare East said: "We are delighted to open Rathdrum Primary Care Centre which will ensure easier access to health and social care services for the residents of Wicklow.

"HSE Community Healthcare East value the continued support and funding provided by the Government for the development of estates and infrastructure for Primary Care services. I would also like to recognise the efforts and dedication of HSE staff in bringing this new facility to fruition. We look forward to helping to assist and enrich the continued health and wellbeing of residents in this community through services offered at this Centre".

Minister Harris said "During my term of office as Health Minister, I was really pleased to be able to announce a new Primary Care Centre for Rathdrum. It is brilliant to now see this major health facility for the community finally opened.

"This new facility will provide public health and community nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, dietetics and counselling. It will also be home to an on-site GP Practice.

"As a one stop shop for a wide variety of primary health care it will greatly improve the delivery of local health services in Rathdrum."

Minister Harris added: "The opening of the Primary Health Care Centre forms part of a wider regeneration of Rathdrum Town Centre. In addition to the Primary Care Centre, the new Library will open next month and I am currently working with Wicklow County Council for an application for funding for a new community centre for Rathdrum.

"I look forward to working with the community on these project and for the development and the further enhancement of Rathdrum in the years ahead".



Ministers Stephen Donnelly and Simon Harris with members of the HSE and local politicians at the opening of the new Primary Care Centre in Rathdrum last week. Pic: Michael Kelly

Major boost for Respite Services in Wicklow through additional once-off grant

Sunbeam House Services (SHS) has just received notification of additional funding from the HSE, on foot of a significant application made under the 'Strengthening Disability Services Scheme'.

Sunbeam will use the additional once off funding to restart and upgrade respite services in the South Wicklow area.

In announcing this funding in August Minister Rabbitte said, "I have met with many service users, families, and providers, and know how important respite can be for relieving pressure and increasing quality of life. I hope this announcement will highlight the great work carried out by the HSE and service providers in a very challenging time, and in line with public health guidance."

This additional funding of just over €300,00, will enable Sunbeam to cease colocation of respite and residential services in the same location. Since March 2020 respite services in Hall Lodge have not been operating due to the risks to respite and residential clients from Covid-19. The redevelopment of Hall Lodge will create a stand-alone respite centre ensuring access to 4 high needs respite beds and also create individual apartments for existing residential clients.

Joe Lynch, CEO SHS said "This is an extremely welcome grant of additional funding, which will allow us to further enhance and expand our facilities for high needs clients. As we exit Covid-19 restrictions we are actively involved in developing and enhancing our services in every possible way. This includes additional staffing, further community engagement and outdoor activities for our clients, staff training and the development of new housing and residential options for our clients - all to be achieved safely within the parameters of whatever covid restrictions apply. Our recently developed housing plan - My Place - has received a much-appreciated boost from this grant."



Jackie Lambert (Area Administrator), Cllr Pat Kennedy and Kathy Walsh (CHN Manager) at the opening of the new Rathdrum Primary Care Centre



HEALTH SERVICE
EXECUTIVE

The HSE currently has the following opportunity:

- Health Care Support Assistant (formerly Home Help)
Patient & Client Care in Kildare, West Wicklow.
Ref: NRS11038

Closing date for receipt of Application Forms is Thursday 28th October 2021 at 12 noon.

For further information on this post and download an application form please visit: www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/job-search/patient-and-client-care/

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Christy Kavanagh of Kavanagh's Christmas Trees in Newtown, was a triple winner at this year's annual Irish Christmas Tree Growers Association competition. Kavanagh's won first prize for Korean Fir, Nordmann Fir, and Noble Fir. The Noble Fir also won a prize for Best Tree of the Show. Since the foundation of the Irish Christmas Tree Growers Association no grower has ever won a clean sweep of '1st' prizes except for now when Kavanagh Christmas Trees had a clean sweep of awards. Dedication and determination pays off!

Ambitious, inspiring and innovative 'green' building projects sought for European Union award

Irish Green Cities Award is part of the More Green Cities for Europe campaign, which aims to increase the proportion of green landscaping in building projects in Ireland and encourage the use of locally-grown planting stock.

The More Green Cities for Europe campaign in Ireland is inviting nominations from Irish building projects that demonstrate the innovative use of green landscaping, which makes a substantial difference to people's lives, for the Irish Green Cities Award 2021.

The annual European Union award recognises and profiles building projects that add value to the area in which they are located, and bring social, economic or environmental benefits through the successful incorporation of green planting in their designs.

The Irish Green Cities Award winner will represent Ireland in the European Green Cities Award 2022, where it will be showcased at a prestigious European-wide ceremony which will be attended by MEPs and other dignitaries. Shortlisted entrants will be profiled on social media in Ireland by the Irish More Green Cities for Europe campaign.

More Green Cities for Europe is an initiative which aims to increase the proportion of green landscaping in building projects in Ireland while encouraging the use of locally-grown planting stock. Supported by funding from the European Commission, the initiative is co-ordinated in Ireland by Bord Bia, in conjunction with the Irish Farmers Association on behalf of the Irish Hardy Nursery Stock Association.

Projects eligible for the Irish Green Cities Award are wide-ranging, and can include school grounds and business parks, and hospitals and residential areas. Submissions from other EU Member States have included: urban public parks of various sizes

in France, Sweden, Portugal, Italy, Belgium, Denmark and Greece; a primary school in the Netherlands; and a large-scale commercial unit in Germany. Full details of all entries from other EU Member States can be found at <https://thegreencities.eu/award/>.

Live plants should comprise a substantial part of a given building project. Projects must demonstrate the added-value brought by the inclusion of planting, and the positive impact it has on social cohesion; biodiversity; economic factors; climate; and human health and wellbeing. Entries are welcome from the private and public sectors. The project must be fully realised and in use, and have been completed no earlier than 1st January, 2016.

Entrants must detail the selection, origin and quality of greenery and construction materials used; and offer an overview of the design, its environmental impact and its innovation. Entries can be supported by visual materials, including videos, photographs or artists' impressions. The application form is available via the More Green Cities for Europe website. The award process has been designed so that the application process should take no more than 30 minutes.

Projects will be assessed by a jury that consists of representatives from the Irish Hardy Nursery Stock Association, Bord Bia and an independent judge with an academic background.

Commenting on the announcement of the Award, CEO of Bord Bia, Tara McCarthy said: "The potential for urban greening pro-

jects to bring tangible economic, social, human, environmental and other benefits is increasingly well-recognised. The Irish Green Cities Award highlights efforts from local building projects in this regard, encouraging successful, ambitious, inspiring and innovative green infrastructures projects.

"The Irish Green Cities Award is an opportunity to identify leading projects, which can serve to influence future developments and the building sector at large, and make clear the case for enhanced greening when building in our towns and cities. I urge those involved in any manner of building project, in which a meaningful effort to integrate planting into the development can be seen, to submit their project for consideration for this award."

Chairman of the Irish Hardy Nursery Stock Association, Val Farrell added: "As members of the judging panel for the Irish Green Cities Award, the Irish Hardy Nursery Stock Association will be particularly keen to see the use of locally-grown plants among entrants. The benefits of locally-grown planting are many, not least economically and environmentally, and this award will help to drive home that message. On behalf of the Irish Hardy Nursery Stock Association, we look forward to assessing the submissions received."

The deadline for receipt of submissions for the Irish Green Cities Award is 5.30pm on Thursday, 11th November 2021. The application form is available for download here. Completed forms should be sent to greencitiesaward@enaplants.eu.

For more information visit <https://ie.thegreencities.eu> and follow More Green Cities for Europe on LinkedIn.

Wicklow media company lands top business accolade for third consecutive year

Wicklow company Loveridge Digital has achieved Business All-Star Accreditation for a third consecutive year.

The media production company was founded in 2017 by Josh Loveridge, a Newtown Mount Kennedy native and former BIFE student after noticing a gap in the market, where consumers lacked access to agencies that could deliver projects at a reasonable price point, efficiently and with uncompromising quality. The company has now grown into a global brand with offices in Ireland and Australia.

Loveridge Digital has been recognised for its phenomenal growth and for its conduct in the areas of performance, commitment, trust and customer-centricity.

Business All-Star Accreditation is an independently verified standard mark for indigenous businesses, based on rigorous selection criteria. The Accreditation is overseen by the prestigious All-Ireland Business Foundation, whose adjudication panel is chaired by Dr Briga Hynes of the University of Limerick and Kieran Ring, CEO of the Global Institute of Logistics.

Reacting to the announcement, Loveridge Digital Managing Director Josh Loveridge said: "Loveridge Digital is delighted to achieve Business All-Star Accreditation for the third year in a row. I see this accolade as recognition of the hard work that my team puts into ensuring that we remain market-leaders and continue to offer a quality service to our loyal and valued customers."

Deputy Chair on the Adjudication Board Kieran Ring, said in support of the announcement: "Loveridge Digital has achieved AIBF 2021-1014 Business All-Star Accreditation for a third consecutive year. Loveridge Digital was founded after Josh noticed a gap in the market, where consumers lacked access to agencies that could efficiently deliver projects at a reasonable price point with uncomprom-



Josh Loveridge and Kyle Simpson of Loveridge Digital

ised quality. The company expanded in 2019, opening an Australian division based in Bathurst, NSW. We wish to recognise Loveridge Digital's conduct in the areas of trust, commitment, performance & customer-centricity. Loveridge Digital is hereby included in the AIBF Register Of Irish Business Excellence."

Managing Director of the All-Ireland Business Foundation Kapil Khanna said the accreditation, which is now held by over 500 firms, is needed by the thousands of small and medium businesses which operate to their own standards but have nothing to measure them by.

He said: "We evaluate a company's background, trustworthiness and performance, and we speak to

customers, employees and vendors. We also anonymously approach the company as a customer and report back on the experience. The business goes through at least two interviews and is scored on every part of the process against set metrics."

The All-Ireland Business Foundation (AIBF) is an autonomous national accreditation body tasked with enterprise development and the promotion of Best-in-Class in Irish business.

The Foundation actively engages and supports its network through peer-dialogue, collaboration, mentoring and enterprise development activities. Companies are qualified for accreditation by completing an enterprise audit and are identified by their use of the AIBF's Business All-Star Marque.

B2B workshop aims to grow Ireland's share of world tourism market

Some 60 tourism companies from Ireland – including Powerscourt Hotel & Gardens – attended Flavours of Ireland 2021 in London, last week. 'Flavours' is Tourism Ireland's annual B2B tourism workshop, where tourism companies from Ireland meet and do business with top global inbound tour operators.

Now in its 19th year, 'Flavours' – which took place virtually in 2020 – was an in-person event once again this year. It was held in Guildhall, and was attended by around 100 top global inbound tour operators who deliver business from all over the world, including the US, Mainland Europe, Asia, Australasia and Africa.

This year, 'Flavours' is of particular importance, as overseas tourism restarts and the participating global inbound tour operators prepare to sign contracts for 2022 and 2023.

David Boyce, Tourism Ireland's Head of Global Inbound and Emerging Markets, said: "Tourism Ireland is delighted that so many tourism organisations from Ireland and so many leading global inbound tour operators took the time to join us at our annual 'Flavours of Ireland' event – which was an in-person event once again this year. Before COVID-19, these tour operators were responsible for delivering millions of bed-nights to Ireland. As overseas tourism restarts and the participating tour operators prepare to sign contracts for 2022 and



Lisa Moran, Powerscourt House & Gardens; Steven Bradley, Tourism Ireland; Henrietta Ferguson and Daine Ferguson, both Henrietta Ferguson Luxury Tours, at Flavours of Ireland 2021

2023, we very much welcome the business and networking opportunities it presented. Our aim is to increase awareness of Ireland among these hugely influential global inbound tour operators and to help Ireland and our tourism partners secure a greater share of the huge worldwide tourism market."

91% of school children want climate change taught as separate subject

A new survey, supported by KWETB, of more than 1000 school-aged children from across Ireland, including respondents from County Wicklow, has found that more than three-quarters of all who were surveyed say that climate change is something they worry about. Within County Wicklow that number jumps to 91% and two out of every three want to see climate change taught as a separate subject in school.

The survey was conducted by the Climate and Nature Summit, Ireland's first climate change summit bringing together school-aged children, teachers, educators and activists, which will run from the 1st to the 5th of November 2021.

The survey also found that:

- While 86% of respondents said they have heard about climate change in school, 51% said it is not covered in a way that inspires them to take action.
- As COP26 approaches, only 14% of Irish schoolchildren surveyed have heard about it
- 1 in every 5 children never talk to their family about climate change while 43.2% often talk to them about it
- 83% revealed they get their information on climate change from the media rather than a parent or family member.

The survey was conducted in advance of the opening of the Climate and Nature Summit and in the aftermath of the recent climate change pressure exerted by young people across Ireland to see an acceleration in environmental action, amid calls for better climate educa-

tion on the curriculum.

The summit is a new initiative developed in partnership with Fifty Shades Greener, The Irish Schools Sustainability Network (ISSN) and Education for Sustainability and is supported by Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB).

It will coincide with COP26 in Glasgow and aims to highlight the magnitude of the climate and ecological emergency that is happening across the world today and to help equip young people with the knowledge, confidence and skills to bring about change.

Local Co. Wicklow student, 13-year-old Poppy Mac Andrew from Temple Carraig in Greystones says: "I would love to see climate change introduced as a separate school subject in the Irish school curriculum. I really think it could help make a difference to the way other young people approach the topic."

The summit is open to all schools across Ireland and further afield and will aim to bring together students, teachers, business leaders, charities and more, to encourage stimu-

lating climate and nature conversations, highlighting the positive actions that can be taken.

Raquel Noboa, Founder and CEO of Fifty Shades Greener, and one of the summit organisers said: "We are so excited to be hosting the Climate and Nature Summit, the first of its kind in Ireland. At the same time as our summit is running, world leaders will also be meeting in Glasgow at COP26 to discuss their plans for battling climate change. However, history has shown us that the inaction of these same leaders has led to millions of children and young people around the world rallying together to demand faster action and change. Students want to learn how they themselves can assist the climate emergency, they understand this is an issue where every single person, business and country has a part to play."

"This past spring, I had the opportunity to run an environmental programme funded by KWETB for 3,500 students on how to calculate their home's carbon emissions. We taught them that when you measure something, you can man-

age it, therefore empowering them to take action for themselves. We want to keep spreading this message to as many schools and young people as possible and we believe the summit is a great tool for enabling us to do just that."

The Climate and Nature summit will consist of a series of empowering virtual sessions and will create a space for teachers and students to have conversations and consider action plans that could be put in place for their schools.

Patrick Kirwan, Founder of the Irish Sustainability Schools Network and one of the summit organisers said: "Our education system exists to prepare our students for today's society and unfortunately, that society has caused the current climate and ecological emergency. We urgently need a different approach. The results of this survey clearly demonstrate that our education system is falling short in relation to climate and ecological education."

The Climate and Nature Summit is a unique opportunity for primary and secondary



Trailblazing jockey Rachael Blackmore has become an official ambassador to the Equestrian Centre Charity Festina Lente. The organisation supports people to achieve their personal best through experiences with horses, horticulture, and community. Blackmore recently paid a visit to the centre in Bray to meet with Dr. Jill Carey as well as staff and students. Pictured is Dr. Jill Carey, left, with Jockey Rachael Blackmore at the Festina Lente Equestrian Centre in Bray. Pic: Sportsfile

schools to create a space for whole school collective conversations. This summit will energise and inspire teachers and students to realise their own agency to make a difference."

Sue Adams, Founder of Education for Sustainability and one of the summit organisers

said: "I've been running climate literacy courses since 2017 which foster behaviour change through action. I love making it real and seeing the students join the dots between the environment and their own lives. Educators have expressed that support is needed to help them nav-

igate the emotional dimensions of the climate crisis with the students and I am so excited to be a part of the summit and to be collaborating with so many incredible organisations and schools across Ireland.

The climate crisis is so urgent that organisations, driven by their

core shared values, are putting their own business interests to one side to arm young people and educators with the skills, tools and knowledge they need."For more information on the summit or to register your attendance, visit www.climateandnature-summit.com.



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Maria O'Dwyer and Wendy Nairn examining the Halloween pumpkins during Brittas Bay National School's recent Harvest Day

IT Carlow welcomes Unmute Consent campaign

Institute of Technology Carlow has welcomed the launch of the nationwide 'Unmute Consent' campaign to drive a positive conversation on consent and to end sexual violence and harassment.

The campaign was launched by the higher education institutions, their representative bodies IUA and THEA, the Higher Education Authority, and Union of Students in Ireland (USI). It seeks to mobilise the student community to make a difference by speaking out, enhancing their own knowledge about consent and, ultimately, challenging and changing behaviours.

In a 2020 survey completed by 6,026 students from 14 Irish HEIs, 20% of female respondents think that verbally asking for sexual consent is awkward, compared to 34% of male respondents.

The #unmuteconsent campaign was informed by such findings from the USI and the Active Consent Sexual Experiences Survey (2020). This research is alongside significant work by the HEA, Higher Education Institutions, Union of Students in Ireland and other specialist bodies to research this area further and to inform students on the subject of consent.

UnmuteConsent is being rolled out across all higher education institute campuses and the website www.unmuteconsent.ie will highlight the support, resources and training available in each university and institute of technology.

Wicklow schools back bid to plant trees in Ireland and Africa

Primary school children in Wicklow are being urged to sign up to support a nationwide campaign that's aiming to plant tens of thousands of trees in a single day, to combat climate change.

Schools that support the initiative will receive a native Irish tree sapling per classroom, and get the chance to support communities across sub-Saharan Africa, who are seeking to plant 100,000 trees in December and early next Spring, as a part of the initiative.

The schools tree planting is part of development organisation Self Help Africa's 'One Million Trees' campaign, which is planting a million trees in Africa and 100,000 new native trees in Ireland, each year.

The campaign is being backed by the Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO), and by sports stars from the Gaelic Players Association (GPA).

INTO president Joe McKeown said that they're hoping to recruit upwards of 500 national schools to support the effort, and back Self Help Africa's bid to plant trees in Ireland and Africa, starting on 3rd December next, and into next Spring.

"We will be distributing tree seedlings to schools around the country that sign up, and also providing teaching resources that have been developed and can be used by teachers, that highlight the value and importance of trees in combatting climate change," Mr. McKeown said.

2020 INTO President Mary Magner, who is a



Schoolgirls Amber Heneghan, Nicole Connolly and Sienna Heneghan from Maynooth were at the site of Ireland's oldest tree – at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth – for the launch of the schools campaign to plant one million trees in Ireland and Africa to combat climate change.

campaign ambassador, said that she'd been hugely heartened by the huge number of expressions of goodwill and support that she'd received from teachers around the country.

"Children are extremely passionate about the environment. They're alarmed by the stories that they read and hear about global warming, and want change. "Young people are already active-

ly engaged with initiatives like Green Schools, they are frequently the champions of waste reduction and recycling in the home, and they understand how important trees are to removing damaging greenhouse gases from the atmosphere," she said.

GPA CEO Tom Parsons said: "We are very proud of our ongoing partnership with Self Help Africa. In support of

this initiative, we will be asking the hundreds of primary school teachers amongst our members to get involved and to ensure their classes take part. Inter-county players are role models within their communities. They are looked up to by children and that's why we realise the importance of getting behind the 'One Million Trees' campaign which sets a great example in combatting climate change.

"Self Help Africa will distribute tree seedlings and planting materials to hundreds of communities across 15 countries as a part of the initiative, and is aiming to plant 25,000 on December 3rd, and an additional 75,000 trees in Africa to support the schools initiative, when planting seasons start in the Horn of Africa and West Africa, in Spring 2022."

Age appropriate lesson plans and other resources are being provided to support primary teachers to carry out tree focussed activities in their classrooms on the same day, while participating schools to make donations, large or small to the campaign - with every €2 raised by class groups being sponsoring 10 new tree seedlings in Africa.

To read more about the upcoming 'One Million Trees Schools Campaign' see selfhelpafrica.org/onemilliontrees.



All-Ireland winning footballers Ciaran Kilkeny (Dublin) and Niamh O'Sullivan (Meath) are pictured at the site of Ireland's oldest tree – at St Patrick's College, Maynooth – at the launch Self Help Africa's One Million Trees Schools campaign

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This course prepares learners for a rewarding career in the creative industries. All learners have access to computer design facilities using industry standard software from Adobe Creative Cloud- Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, After Effects and Dreamweaver. Learners study a range of project-based modules, learn design principles and develop creative problem solving skills. Final year learners will exhibit their work at our end-of-year exhibition in the Institute.



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At the Courthouse Arts Centre...



Kit Downes' Dreamlife of Debris

Friday 22nd October 8.30pm €16/€14

An unmissable opportunity to hear Kit Downes' highly anticipated and critically acclaimed album Dreamlife of Debris in concert.

The Courthouse Arts Centre is extremely pleased to present Kit Downes in association with Music Network, with Tom Challenger on tenor saxophone, Lucy Railton on cello and Sebastian Rochford on drums.

The wandering mind is a curious thing, and Kit Downes' Dreamlife of Debris explores its tangents and threads, subtleties and secrets in this stunning project inspired by W. G. Sebald's The Rings of Saturn novel. There is a suitably zero gravity feel to this music, buoyant, orbital, full of whorls and tendrils and utterly bewitching.

Kit's playing is highly original and personal, his solo church organ album Obsidian being one of the most remarkable ECM albums of recent years. His three co-navigators on this voyage of discovery are all world-class improvising musicians and their in-flight conversation invites us into a world of restless melody, crisp rhythmic jousting, and a luminous palette of sonic colour and texture.

Garnering major attention worldwide, this is an inspired, highly anticipated and critically acclaimed album, already a must-have on the shelves of anyone who is curious about or in love with intelligent, beautiful music.



The Glimmering Landscape by Alison Bayne

Opened Sunday 17th Oct, Runs until Sunday 31st Oct

Alison Bayne is an Irish artist from County Wicklow, working in oils. She lived for many years in Scotland where she had a number of exhibitions, and moved permanently back to Ireland in 2017.

For the last four years she has focused primarily on landscape painting, inspired by the beauty of light reflected on water and on snow. This exhibition grew out of a particular love of the light at the end of the day (and sometimes the beginning too), hence the title 'The Glimmering Landscape', words plucked from the poem 'Elegy written in a Country Churchyard' by Thomas Gray. With apologies to the poet for lifting lines from two distinct verses, the theme running through this exhibition could not be described more beautifully than in the words: 'Now fades the glimm'ring landscape on the sight.....and leaves the world to darkness and to me.'

New group ONSET to play Mermaid

Featuring Pádraig Rynne, Niall McCabe, Tara Breen, Davie Ryan, Graham Henderson and Adam Taylor

ONSET is an exciting new group featuring some of Ireland's finest traditional musicians who have just announced the release of their debut single as well as a nationwide tour for 2021. They will play at the Mermaid Arts Centre on November 6th.

ONSET was formed by Pádraig Rynne (concertina + electronics), Graham Henderson (keyboard) and Davie Ryan (drums) who are joined by Tara Breen (fiddle), Niall McCabe (vocals/acoustic guitar) and Adam Taylor (bass). The group was borne out of their collective passion for a dynamic approach to traditional music. The music draws from their diverse musical backgrounds, and creates a deep and fascinating musical experience with flowing melodies and rhythmic character.

Successful recipients of the MISP scheme, ONSET began remotely in writing and recording a four track EP over lockdown in 2021 developing a unique and fresh sound. They are planning to release their debut single 'Invictus' which will tie-in with their upcoming tour this autumn.

Through funding from the Arts Council of Ireland ONSET, will embark on a series of live shows through October, November, and December 2021 where they are sure to wow audiences with their extraordinary musicianship through a mix of brand new music, tunes



from Pádraig Rynne's 2019 album Conscious, and original songs from Niall McCabe.

Described as "one of the freshest sounds in Irish music", Pádraig Rynne is a virtuoso musician, prolific composer and is regarded as the finest concertina player in Irish music today. Pádraig released two albums with his ground-breaking band Notify who collaborated with multi-Grammy award winning musicians Mark Lettieri and Jason Thomas of Snarky Puppy.

Graham Henderson is a multi-instrumentalist, producer, and composer. He began playing with Fairground Attraction who toured internationally and were nominated for

two Brit Awards. Graham later joined Coolfin and has worked with artists such as Iarla O'Lionaird, Paul Brady, Declan O'Rourke, Moving Hearts, and Sinéad O'Connor. Graham also produced the 2019 Dervish album The Great Irish Songbook.

Davie Ryan has toured extensively both nationally and internationally as a touring and recording musician in a range of diverse genres including, jazz, folk, pop, rock, world and traditional music. Davie has collaborated with renowned studio producers, including Grammy award-winning Jay Joyce (Tragedy Studios, Nashville), Kieran Byrne

(Cauldron Studios, Dublin), Christian Best, and John Fitzgerald.

Niall McCabe began playing traditional Irish and folk music before branching out into rock and soul. Following the success with his folk/soul project The Niall McCabe Band he teamed up with Irish New Wave Trad group Beoga. His first solo release Borders saw traditional roots accor-dions and mandolins intertwine with synths and drums, something he has brought to ONSET.

Tara Breen is a highly talented multi-instrumentalist and has performed with Ciorras, Galician piper Carlos Núñez and the Chieftains. In 2011 Tara was one of the musicians chosen to perform the Queen of England's visit to Ireland.

Dubliner Adam Taylor trained in the Dublin Institute of Technology Conservatory of Music and Drama under Waldemar Kozak of the National Symphony Orchestra. Adam is one of the founding members of the groove jazz collective, Creamy Goodness - a group made up of top session and jazz players from Dublin.

Art is not boring!

New one-of-a-kind exhibition aims to change perceptions

Wicklow man Matthew McNulty is one of the curators of a new one-of-a-kind exhibition, 'Boring Art?' in the National Gallery of Ireland which aims to challenge the perception among some people that art is 'boring'.

The free exhibition, which opened on October 16th and runs until the January 16th, is part of the National Gallery's Apollo Project, a dedicated programme for young people, created by young people.

For this exhibition, a team of young people bring fresh relevance to the historic artworks of Russborough House.

The National Gallery says about the exhibition: "This showcase is all about asking bold questions, such as how can we reconcile the art of the past with the issues of today? Ten paintings from the Gallery's Milltown Collection will be brought together in the Sir Hugh Lane Room, re-energised with a contemporary twist. No longer decorations for a rich man's country home, these paintings erupt with rebellious tales, iconic figures, and hilarious tangents.

"Giving ownership and a voice to a new diverse, under-represented audience who may feel that the Gallery is inaccessible to it, collaboration with young people is at the core of Apollo Project.

"In a new partnership between the Gallery and Apollo Project Young Curators, this exhibition is created by a dynamic team of young people with the support of Gallery teams."



Matthew McNulty

Coming up at Whale Theatre

The Story of Europe – Painting history

Thursday 28th October, Thursday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th November & 2nd December

This course gives an overview of the main artistic movements that occurred throughout Europe between 1400 and 2000 that not only defined how art was produced but provided the lasting imagery behind Europe's most influential rulers - royal, religious and republican - as well as the philosophies upon which their rule depended.



Rosemarie Devereux

These movements also recall the changes in social mores that were necessary for societies to endure and provided the mechanism through which the technological advances of each age were manifested and proclaimed. Their evolving styles and ever-changing subject matter provided a visual record of each nation's cultural aspirations ensuring the survival of these images as important social documents in their own right.

Importantly these movements chart the long and challenging journeys that were undergone by various groups of artists throughout the past 600 years of art history, whereby the cold place generally occupied by anonymous medieval craftsmen was replaced by a hotbed of renowned celebrity artists which ensured their fame and longevity would long outlive them in today's modern world.

Week 1 - The Story of the Renaissance – Magnificence and Display in Italy; Week 2 – Painting the Ordinary and the

Everyday of the Dutch Golden Age; Week 3 – Celebrating International Women Artists from 1550 to 1800; Week 4 – Revealing Facades - The Great Baroque Masters; Week 5 – Revolutions! Art & Society in 19th century France; Week 6 – The Avant Garde and early 20th Modernism.

Rosemarie Devereux is a freelance art historian from Greystones. She has a BA and Masters in Art History from UCD. Over the past few years has published 2 articles in the Irish Arts Review; facilitated 2 Irish art modules in UCD; presented The Visual Story of Ireland at the Whale theatre in 2019 and ran a series of art history courses online through Covid. She is currently a volunteer and a guide at the NGL. This autumn she will be giving a new course on European art history to be held in the Whale Theatre as well as a repeat of last year's Irish art history course.

10.30am each morning - Tickets €100 for 6 classes or €20 each class.

The Greatest Showtunes

Saturday 30th October 2021 @ 8pm - Tickets €22

An evening of best loved hits from the world of musical theatre, featuring West End performers **Róisín Sullivan** (Evita, Oliver!), **Chris Holland** (Les Misérables, Phantom of the Opera) and renowned musical director and pianist, **David Wray** (The Rocky Horror Show, Cabaret).

Róisín Sullivan

Róisín delighted to be back performing in Whale Theatre in her home town of Greystones. She is a graduate of Mountview Academy of Theatres Arts, London and previous shows include 'Scrooge' with Sir Tommy Steele at The London Palladium (West End) where she understudied and played Ghost of Christmas Past, understudy Eva Peron in 'Evita' (UK & International Tour), the Broadway touring production of 'Riverdance' (USA), Adele in West End premier of 'A Man of No Importance' (Arts Theatre, West End) and Beggar Woman in 'Sweeney Todd' (Union Theatre, London). Back home, Róisín played Nancy in 'Oliver!' and Grace in 'Annie' both at the National Concert Hall, Jeursha Abbott in the Irish Premier of 'Daddy Long Legs' (Smock Alley), Rita in 'Educating Rita' (Mill Theatre), Claire in 'Ordinary Days' (Smock Alley), Kathleen in 'Flynn' (Peacock Stage, Abbey Theatre), Eliza Doolittle in 'My Fair Lady' and Gigi in 'Gigi' both at the Gaiety Theatre.

Chris Holland

Chris has been starring in west end musicals for over twenty years. He was first seen in the legendary original production of 'Miss Saigon' at The Theatre Royal Drury Lane in 1993. He has since gone on to appear in some of the world's



greatest musicals, playing many iconic roles including Jean Valjean in 'Les Misérables', Firmin in 'The Phantom Of The Opera', Billy Kostecki in 'Dirty Dancing', Pharoah in 'Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour

Dreamcoat', Khashoggi in 'We Will Rock You', Vince Fontaine And Teen Angel in 'Grease', and Elwood Blues in 'The Official Tribute To The Blues Brothers'. He has created roles in new work such as Rags Ryan in 'Burlesque', and Davy

David Wray

David trained at Lancaster University and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London. He has since worked as a pianist, musical director and arranger in both Musical Theatre and Opera. David was musical director for the critically acclaimed world premiere production of 'Angela's Ashes' playing at the Bord Gais Energy Theatre Dublin and Belfast Opera House and was M.D. for the Irish Premiere of 'Daddy Long Legs' at Smock Alley Theatre. Other Musical Direction credits include 'The Rocky Horror Show', 'The Hot Mikado', 'Side by Side by Sondheim', 'Cabaret', 'Sweeney Todd', 'Assassins', 'Putting It Together', all in Dublin. As Artistic & Musical Director for Music Theatre Ireland,

productions include 'Listen to my Heart, the Songs of David Friedman', 'The Last Five Years', 'And The World Goes Round', 'I Love You're Perfect Now Change', and 'Songs For A New World'. USA & European Tours include musical direction and arrangements for The Three Irish Tenors, Druid and The Irish Sopranos. David is currently Artistic & Musical Director for Opera In The Open, Dublin and is head of music for the Music Theatre programme at the American College, Dublin.

October at Mermaid



Perfumes (Cert: Club)

FILM

Perfumes (Cert: Club)

Monday 18th October 2021 | 8pm | €9/7

Guillaume is a divorced, private chauffeur, desperately trying to make ends meet so that he can afford a larger apartment, in the hopes of winning joint custody of his daughter. He is assigned a demanding new client, Anne, a once-famous professional "nose" in the world of perfume design. Featuring winning performances from the always reliable Devos and Call My Agent!'s Montel, this French comedy-drama is charming, elegant and refreshing.

MUSIC

Wicklow Arts Office Presents an Evening of Song with the Penstons

Tuesday 19th October | 8pm | €12/10

Join the Penston family Amy, Leah and Naoimh for your favourite West End and Broadway hits alongside some glorious classical and celtic crossovers. A beautiful night of song for everyone. Special guests include singer Chris Currid and Ciarán Olahan accompanied by the incredible Conor McCarthy on piano and a cellist.

THEATRE/CHILDREN

Alice & The Wolf

Friday 22nd October | 7pm | €10/€35 (Family of 4)

Age Suitability: 9 - 14 Years | Duration: 65mins

Alice spends virtually all her time in Wolf Wood. You know, the world's deepest, darkest online game. Why not? Her dad isn't around, her mother's gone to Canada to meet a lumberjack and her best friend's dumped her for a YouTube star. But what happens when the people you meet online come looking for you in real life? Who can you trust, and who is the Big Bad Wolf? This re-telling of the Little Red Riding Hood story is a digital fairy tale that's deliciously funny and full of dangerously dark twists.

Changing Horizons

An exhibition by **Nóirín Dodd** and **Fergal Flanagan**
Signal Arts Centre, October 26th to Sunday, November 7th

Fergal Flanagan's paintings consist mainly of rural scenes with the emphasis on land, sea and sky, with some local scenes, painted at different times of the year to compliment the works. Mostly painted 'en plein air' and completed back in his studio, they capture the beauty of the countryside using a bold colourful palette.

His inspiration comes from being outdoors, immersed in the scene he is painting and the joy of capturing the light as it changes throughout the day.

Nóirín Dodd's paintings are a contrasting variety of rural and urban



scenes. Her urban transport and development, while her landscapes reflect woodlands, coastal scenes and the natural environment.





Pictured at the launch are At the launch (l-r), Martin Stapleton, Chairman of IFA Member Services, John Cahalan, Chief Commercial Officer FBD Insurance and James Kelly, IFA's Director of Organisation. Pic: Finbarr O'Rourke

15% off new farm policy for IFA members

IFA and FBD Insurance have launched a new offer which will see IFA members get 15% off a new farm, motor or home policy with FBD. This exclusive offer can be used in conjunction with the €85 off member voucher.

At the launch, James Kelly, IFA's Director of Organisation said, "We continue to ensure that all of our benefits are exclusive so our members get genuine savings. Our main aim to help reduce farm business and home costs. We are delighted to launch this new offer with FBD Insurance, which offers a wide range of tailored products for farmers".

Martin Stapleton, Chairman of IFA Member Services said, "FBD works closely with IFA to ensure that their product offering reflect the needs of farmers. In addition to strong representation, IFA works hard to ensure that our members have access to a comprehensive range of benefits".

IFA Members can now avail of this offer in conjunction with their FBD Insurance €85 benefit by calling their local FBD Insurance office or phoning 01-7617 617.

Local retailers given additional support to prevent underage tobacco and vape sales

Vaping company BAT Ireland's VERIFY campaign aims to help retailers prevent the sale of tobacco and vapour products to those aged under 18.

The VERIFY campaign provides retailers and their staff with information and practical materials about why tobacco and vapour products should only be sold to adults. The campaign comes following a seven-year delay by the Government to introduce legislation to ban sales to under 18 sales for vapour products, bringing them in line with tobacco products.

Over 3,000 retailers across the country, including 96 shop owners and their staff in Wicklow will be provided with posters, stickers and other materials to display at the point of sale, as well as training on how to prevent nicotine products from being purchased by under-18s.

The sale of tobacco products to under 18s has long been illegal. A ban on the sale of vapour products to under 18s has been in the last two Programmes for Government and the Bill containing the proposed measure has been on the Legislative Agenda since 2014, but has yet to be published.

BAT Ireland's Country Manager Simon Carroll said that while his company awaits the legislation, VERIFY will help to ensure that retailers and their staff are aware of best practice.

"The ban on sales to under-18 needs to be a priority for the Government. The UK introduced a ban six years ago, which is the same amount of time Ireland has spent examining the issue. We're now one of the few EU

countries without a ban. While we await legislation, we believe that our new VERIFY awareness programme and retailer training will help to ensure that vaping and other nicotine products are only sold to smokers over the age of 18. All of our VUSE vapour product branded materials will now display the VERIFY icon on them, clearly showing that our products are only for those over 18. This reinforces our long-standing commitment to only direct our products to

adults, as set out in our International Marketing Principles.

"The international evidence shows that regular vaping by young people remains low, but we believe it's important that this law is introduced as quickly as possible to ensure that vaping remains an adult-only activity."

According to the National Drug and Alcohol Survey (NDAS) published last month, the average Irish vaper is age 35 plus, with low regular use reported in the 15-24

age bracket.

Carroll said: "Vaping has helped 93,000 smokers give up cigarettes for good. Vaping is a better and less risky alternative to smoking, and has an important role to play in reducing tobacco-related harm. According to the last Healthy Ireland Survey by the Department of Health, vaping was used by 38% of successful quitters, compared to the 10% who used NRT. Almost four times as many successful quitters used vaping."

CLASSIFIEDS

Matthew 5:1-12 GOSPEL

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle; they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn; they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right; they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

C.J.

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(Corke Abbey, Bray)

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Mid-harvest celebration of Wicklow Naturally's October Feast takes place in Kilquade

PLANNING PLANNING PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Application is being made by Michael Farrell for permission to retain a small two-storey house of 50 Sq M. at site of No. 2 Ballywaltrim Cottages, Bray, Co. Wicklow. For reference site "C" at above address. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority, during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made on payment of €20 within a period of 5 weeks from the date the application is received by the planning authority, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Gary Egan and Sandra Kiely seeks planning permission for demolition of rear extension and construction of new single storey extension to rear and all associated works at Kelshamore, Davidstown Donard, County Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Ger Devlin Haulage & Plant Hire Ltd intends to apply for permission for development comprising the importation and deposition of inert subsoil and topsoil for land profiling and recontouring purposes at an existing agricultural holding and all ancillary site works. The purpose of this work is to improve the site for agriculture. A Certificate of Registration under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration Regulations) SI 821 of 2007 as amended is required for this development. Permission is also sought for temporary site entrance to facilitate the development, all at this site at Boleynass Lower and Tomcoyle Upper, Newcastle, 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 the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Sure Partners Limited, seek planning permission for the demolition of the existing building and structures on site as well as the removal of the existing synchrolift at the water's edge. Development to the south of South Quay will comprise the erection of a new building with a four storey element to the front, tapering to a two storey element to the rear, to provide operation and maintenance facilities to support the operation of an offshore windfarm. The proposed building will consist of office, warehousing and welfare facilities and other ancillary uses associated with the offshore windfarm operation. Landscaped terraces are proposed at roof level at the two storey and three storey elements. A c. 40 m lattice communication mast, associated with the proposed use, is proposed for the southern corner of the site. Car parking for 60 vehicles is proposed along with cycle parking for 26 bicycles and 5 motorcycles. An ESB substation is proposed to the south of the building. Waste and recycling storage is proposed on site. Vehicular and pedestrian entrance gates onto South Quay and pedestrian and bicycle entrance to the west are proposed. Security fencing is proposed around the site. Development to the north of South Quay will comprise a general area for the berthing of vessels to service the offshore windfarm. A pontoon is proposed along with up to four cranes for the loading and unloading of vessels. Shore side storage is also proposed including two shipping containers, a bunded waste oil tank (5,000 l), a grey water tank (20,000 l), a treatment unit/equipment kiosk and two x 50,000 l bunded fuel storage tanks. A blackwater tank (20,000 l) is proposed below ground. Parking for six vehicles is proposed to the north and west of the site. A flood wall approximately 700 mm high is proposed (top level 2.42 mOD). Vehicular and pedestrian entrance gates onto South Quay and pedestrian emergency entrance to the west are proposed. Security fencing is proposed around part of the site. It is proposed to construct a ramp on the section of South Quay to tie in with flood wall (at 2.42 mOD). Access between the areas to the north and south of South Quay will be via a raised ramp along South Quay with controlled crossing across South Quay. New paving is proposed at this location and to the west of the building. Wastewater on site will be stored underground and removed to a treatment plant. A hardcore surface is proposed at the location of the temporary construction compound with a new gate and security fence along South Quay. The application also proposes the dredging of approximately 6,000 m³ of material from the nearshore area to provide for the navigational depth, berthing area and manoeuvring area for vessels. Landscaping, utilities and other services are proposed throughout the site, and all other associated works. The Applicant seeks 10 years in which to construct the development. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report and a Natura Impact Statement have been prepared in respect of the application at South Quay, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

On Friday, Wicklow Naturally members marked October Feast's halfway point at Kilquade Arboretum. The month-long festival celebrates Wicklow's food and drinks story, including farming, foraging, brewing, distilling, and much more.

Wicklow Naturally's Chairperson, Pamela Walsh, said, "Today, we're celebrating the mid-harvest of Wicklow Naturally's October Feast as we continue our focus on Wicklow's thriving food & drink scene by showcasing our members' range of products, diverse experiences, and numerous interactive events throughout October.

"I'm delighted with the reaction so far. It's great to see festival-goers enjoying our combination of rich in-person events and the convenience of virtual events on offer this year."

The celebrations aren't over just yet as there are still 20+ events to enjoy, so why not feed your appetite and fill your calendar with these delicious events... From hands-on masterclasses, learning about farm-family sustainable stories, taking some of the country's best distillery, beer, wine tasting tours, to cooking demonstrations, meeting the producer, and heading out on guided foraging and mushroom hunts.

The full event programme is available on Wicklow Naturally's event page at wicklownaturally.ie/events/.

Here are some of the top picks from Wicklow Naturally's October Feast jam-packed programme to tantalise the tastebuds:

Meet the Makers

You can 'Meet the Makers', taste their delicious range, and get some great recipe ideas every Friday throughout October from 12 noon to 2 pm at Gallagher's SuperValu Wicklow. The remaining schedule includes Old MacDonnell's Farm on October 15th and Le Paysan on October 29th.

Enjoy a taste of Wicklow Naturally

Enjoy a taste of Wicklow Naturally as eatery members throughout the county showcase the finest Wicklow produce in their seasonal menus. There are numerous dining experiences to tantalise your taste buds, including BrookLodge & Macreddin Village, Lily's On Church Street, Mickey Finn's Pub and Restaurant, Sorrel & Eve, The Wicklow Escape, The Victorian Tea Rooms and Woodenbridge Hotel & Lodge.

Have a culinary adventure

Have an unforgettable culinary adventure with Wicklow Naturally's bespoke producers' tours of County Wicklow. The final tour takes guests on a trip to 'West Wicklow Food Producers' and includes visits to BallyHubbock Farm, Daisy Cottage Farm, and Russborough House on Saturday, October 30th. You can book a tour for an exclusive promotional price of €50 by emailing: chefpaulthemysticcelt@gmail.com or calling +353 87 6998103.

Forage for tasty ingredients

Wicklow Naturally's forager members, Hips and Haws Wildcrafts, Mushroomstuff, and Wicklow Wild Foods, will host several tours during October Feast to teach attendees how to forage for food in County Wicklow.

"Why not explore, discover and get involved in the many events still to come across County Wicklow this October by heading over to wicklownaturally.ie/october-feast21/," concluded Pamela.



Pictured at the mid-harvest celebration of Wicklow Naturally's October Feast are (L to R) Paul Smith, Tadhg Byrne and Santina Kennedy.

RECRUITMENT



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

- **PERMANENT DRIVER/PLANT OPERATOR A**
REF: 37/2021 Salary €641.84 – €663.41 gross per week
- **PERMANENT DRIVER/PLANT OPERATOR B**
REF: 39/2021 Salary €656.20 – €676.10 gross per week

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON SHARP ON THURSDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2021.

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

Wicklow County Council reserves the right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate. Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Lorraine Gallagher,
Director of Services,
Enterprise & Corporate Services,
Wicklow County Council,
County Buildings,
Wicklow
Phone: 0404 20159, Fax: 0404 20112
Email: recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie

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