

LOCAL Wicklow Times

WE DELIVER! - for 33 years



TIDY TOWN AWARDS
Page 4



ORGAN DONORS
Page 6



TRANSPORT FARES
Page 9

Delivered to 44,500
homes & businesses

DELIVERED TO HOMES & BUSINESSES IN: SHANKILL, ENNISKERRY, BRAY, GREYSTONES, DELGANY, KILCOOLE, NEWCASTLE, KILQUADE, ASHFORD, KILPEDDER, NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY, KILMACANOGUE, LARAGH, MONEYSTOWN, ROUNDWOOD, RATHNEW, WICKLOW, GLENEALY, BRITTAS BAY, AVOCA, WOODENBRIDGE, ARKLOW, SHILLELAGH, TINAHELY, REDCROSS, BALLINACLASH, AUGHIRM, RATHDRUM, DONARD, DUNLAVIN, CARNEW, COOLATTIN, BALTINGLASS, BLESSINGTON.

Tuesday 23rd November 2021 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

COVID CUL DE SAC

As Covid-19 once again surges throughout the country, County Wicklow which was doing very well with infection control has seen in excess of 300% increases in major towns. Arklow and Wicklow towns have seen a month on month jump of over 300% while Baltinglass has seen a monthly jump of 250%. (see chart on page 3).

Independent councillor Joe Behan has reacted angrily to the situation. "The nation is being led into a Covid Cul de Sac by one of the most incompetent governments in our history," he said. "As NPHET and the Government is talking about closing the gates behind us and locking us down again at Christmas, we must question what is

going on.

"We have suffered one of the longest and most severe lockdowns in Europe; we have had one of the highest vaccination rates in the world and now we are told, for the third time in two years, that our hospitals cannot cope with the unprecedented rise in Covid numbers.

'Something is wrong here! Why is it that countries with much

less severe lockdowns like Sweden and Spain are not suffering the same Covid numbers as we are? (on November 16th, Sweden with a population of more than 10 million had 1,302 new cases; Spain with a population of 48 million had 4,091 new cases and Ireland with a population of 5 million had 4,395 new cases. Source: Worldometer).

"Why is it that the



Sarah and CJ Wilson from Avoca at the Junior B Football final between Avoca and Knockananna in Aughrim. Pic: Michael Kelly

K&K Windows LTD

WINDOWS • DOORS • CONSERVATORIES
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Our New Virtual Google 360° Showroom.

CONTACT US NOW FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION

K&K Windows Ltd, Craanford, Gorey, Co. Wexford, Ireland

visit us online www.kkwindows.ie

Freephone: 1800 250 260
Phone: 053 9383526
Post Code: Y25 N2T7
Email: info@kkwindows.ie

NO MIDDLE MAN, WE SELL, MANUFACTURE AND INSTALL

UK has been able to remove most restrictions and its hospital system is not in crisis? How long has it been known that vaccines don't work longer than a few months?

"Why has it taken so long for the rollout of boosters given the experience of Israel's hugely successful booster programme?

"Why did the Government extend its emergency powers to impose more lockdowns unless it already knew something the rest of us didn't?

"Why is it that there is no serious attempt being made to discuss these questions in Dáil Éireann?

"The Government and the HSE have failed to use the last two years to improve the Intensive Care capacity in our hospitals. They have failed to ensure that enough critical care pro-

fessionals were recruited or trained to staff our Intensive Care Units. They have failed to convince the people that they really know what they are doing and are staggering around from crisis to calamity with no strategic plan for us to live with Covid rather than hide from it.

"We need strong, courageous and competent leadership from our Government as we face the threat of another Christmas Lockdown.

"However, all we are getting is incoherence, inconsistency and incompetence. We deserve better."

Aontú leader Peadar Tóibín TD also castigated the government over the lack of a real hospital capacity response to Covid. He stated: "In terms of hospital capacity, the Government are not treating Covid as an Emergency.

Aontú leader Peadar

Tóibín TD also castigated the government over the lack of a real hospital capacity response to Covid.

He stated: "In terms

of hospital capacity, the Government are not

Continued on Page 3

the tin roof

From Monday 29th November we are excited to launch our new bar food menu.

We will be serving up great quality 'pub grub' 7 days a week from 12-8.30pm.

A welcome addition to Bray town, drop in & try our signature 'Tin Roof Buffalo Burger' For bookings & enquiries contact us on 01-558 4129 or email thetinroofbar@gmail.com 4 Westbourne Terrace, Quinsboro Road, Bray www.thetinroofbar.com





Knockananna supporters at the Junior B football Final between Knockananna and Avoca in Aghrim

Age Friendly Strategy Consultation Survey

Wicklow County Council now has a Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy (2022 to 2027). Have your say in the consultation process by completing the survey (<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Community/Wicklow-Age-Friendly-Survey>). The survey is for those 55 years and older living in County Wicklow. Insights and contributions will help identify priority areas for action over the next five years. Hard copies of the survey are available from agefriendly@wicklowcoco.ie. The Survey will remain open until the end of December 2021. Please share this news with friends, family and groups you are involved with.

Glendalough Trail Closure

Please be advised that the Lower Lake Boardwalk, Glendalough was closed on Monday 15th November 2021, to allow for the removal of non-native trees. It's estimated that the Lower Lake Boardwalk will remain closed for a period of two weeks.

For visitors planning to walk the Green Road Walk (Green Route) or the Woodland Walk (Silver Route), please be advised to use the Green Road for the duration of the Lower Lake Boardwalk closure.

The National Park Information Point is open daily from 9:30am to 16:30pm. The guide on duty will be happy to answer any queries you may have about any of the walking trails.

DCD/Dyspraxia Group

A new DCD Dyspraxia Wicklow and South Dublin has been established with the following aims; To Run Activities for children and young people with DCD Dyspraxia in the local area; To Raise Awareness of DCD Dyspraxia within the local community. Find them on facebook - DCD Dyspraxia Wicklow & South Dublin or email us at dcddyspraxia@gmail.com

DCD Dyspraxia is a condition affecting physical co-ordination. It causes a child to perform less well than expected in daily activities for their age, and appear to move clumsily.

DCD/Dyspraxia:

- Affects 5-10% of the population which means that on average there are approx 1-2 children in every school class.
- Is more common in boys than girls and is usually identified between the ages of 6-12 years.
- Presents differently in everyone but typically causes difficulties with motor skills, but can also impact on sensory processing, speech and language, concentration and memory.
- Affects COOL people like Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe, Florence + the Machine singer Florence Welch.

The group's online launch event, 'Growing up with DCD/Dyspraxia - The school years', takes place this week on 24th November at 7:30pm. The panel will be made up of four young adults with DCD/Dyspraxia who will introduce themselves and talk about their experiences in both primary and secondary school. This will be followed by a Question and Answer session

See www.eventbrite.ie/e/growing-up-with-dcddyspraxia-the-school-years-tickets-208679665497

Wicklow's libraries are open - drop in!

Wicklow County Council Library Service is putting out a call to the public to drop in, relax, explore, connect, work or learn at their local library.

Libraries were among the first institutions to close their doors as the early COVID-19 restrictions were put in place in March 2020.

But while buildings closed to the public, library services continued with events, classes and clubs moving online, new click-and-collect and book delivery arrangements, as well as soaring loans of e-books, audiobooks, online newspapers and magazines. In fact, many people joined the library for the first time during Covid.

With libraries now permitted to provide a greater number of services, in line with public health guidance, they are now putting out a call to come visit, explore and

enjoy the library in-person again.

Issuing the invitation on behalf of Wicklow County Council Libraries, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen said: "Whether you used to visit regularly, or you've never been, we're urging everyone to drop into their local library and discover what's on offer."

"Your library is one of the few places you can spend time for free. So, please enjoy the space and services, take time out with a book or a newspaper; look into events and culture; meet friends and family; catch up on work or study, use the computers and Wi-fi."

"The library has some-

thing for everyone of all ages and interests. Hopefully, once you discover what's on offer, you'll drop in regularly."

"I am particularly pleased to note that each of Wicklow's 13 libraries has CO2 monitors, to assess ventilation conditions and assure public and staff of their safety. Wicklow County Council has also led the way by installing individual study screens, to ensure students and researchers are protected, when using our libraries."

Wicklow's Libraries offer a huge range of services, free at point of access.

- Libraries are free to join, with no late fees.
- Members can borrow from 12 million items

from any library in the country - browse the national catalogue at www.librariesireland.ie

• Library members can download free e-Books, e-Audiobooks, e-newspapers and e-magazines straight to their phone, tablet or computer.

• Libraries offer space to study, work or research.

• Wifi and computer access is free.

• Libraries offer a range of events, classes, clubs, meet-ups and exhibitions. There are specific collections available including lots of items for children and young adults.

Visit <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Libraries> to find your local library, to join online or to search the online catalogue.

Motorcycle Run for dog charities

Georgia Diskin and her dad Ivor Hemingway are organising a motorbike run for two dog charities; Wicklow Animal Welfare and South East animal rescue in Enniscorthy.

It takes place on 28th of November with a raffle and auction on the day and 100% of funds raised will go directly to both charities. Donations of dry or tinned dog food or cash is welcome. Please donate in store before Monday 29th November or donate through Paypal. You can email wicklowanimalwelfare@gmail.com and southeastanimalrescue@gmail.com

"Both charities work extremely hard, fostering and placing animals in good loving, caring homes," says Georgia. "Sadly, some stay in the rescues for their entire lives as they have been damaged beyond repair. Both rescues have a 'no-kill' policy."

"Unfortunately with pandemic rules lifting and people returning to work, there is a major problem with dogs being surrendered or abandoned. Rescues are overburdened, with some having to close as a result. The rescues are operating on reserves, trying to feed dogs and keep the lights on."

"Both my Dad and I have been rescuing dogs for years, witnessing first hand the awful conditions dogs brought to these rescue centers have been in. Some are unable to eat, hear or walk due to physical neglect."

"We have also, however, witnessed these dogs flourish and return back to full health when placed in the correct care. The veterinary bills, food bills and overhead bills to allow the centers to run can only be accomplished through fundraising which is why we need your help."

Contact Ivor at 0871852156 for more information.



Green Party Minister of State at the Department of Energy Ossian Smyth checks the broadband speed at Ballinacor GAA Club in Glenmalur, with Brian Gleeson (Director of Finance, Wicklow County Council), Fianna Fail councillor Pat Kennedy, Breda Byrne, and Wicklow Uplands Manager Brian Dunne.

WICKLOW
Times

is published by Wicklow Times,

First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01-2869111

Shay Fitzmaurice, Managing Editor - shay@localtimes.ie

Ian Colgan, News Editor - ian@localtimes.ie

Sales / General enquiries - info@localtimes.ie

BRAY
ACMEblinds Vevay Rd, Bray



- **Free Fitting**
- **Free Measuring**
- **Free In Home Advice & Design Service**
- **No Obligation Quote**

12 Month Guarantee on ALL Blinds

Tel: 286 5057 Fax: 201 4335 www.acmeblinds.com
email: bray@acmeblinds.com

O'BRIENS
ROOFING & GUTTERING

Supplying Premium Roofing & Guttering Services across Dublin and surrounding areas

As a professional roofing company, O'Briens Roofing & Guttering specialises in offering top-quality roofing repairs for all kinds of properties.

FULL GUTTER SERVICE PROVIDED
• All gutters cleared out • All guttering, downpipes, unblocked • All gutter and downpipes fittings checked • All leaking gutters repaired

From
€49

North Dublin: 01 267 8647 South Dublin: 01 267 8690
Emergency Callout: 087 3488516

www.obriensroofingandguttering.ie

'Wicklow leading the pack in water quality'

While river water quality has declined nationally by over 5% since 2015, in Wicklow the overall water quality has improved by about 7% according to the latest EPA Water Quality Reports.

Almost two thirds of Wicklow's rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and ground waters are at 'good' or 'high' quality status: 13 high status 'pristine' water bodies, 58 good, 33 moderate, 6 poor and 2 bad.

Speaking at this month's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Johnathan Sexton from the Council's Environmental Department said "Wicklow is probably leading the pack with Cork in that we have the highest proportion of rivers at good or high status. About 83% of our rivers are at good or high biological quality."

Director of Services Breege Kilkenny added "This hasn't happened by accident, we have an extremely dedicated team within the Council's pollution control department. They are passionate about this issue of water quality and are doing a lot of work on the ground, working with the farmers, creating awareness campaigns, and working with the Local Authority Waters

Programme (LAWPRO)." Although the report is positive news overall for Wicklow, it has still revealed some troubling signs such as the deteriorating quality of the rivers in Newtownmountkennedy and Newcastle.

The Newcastle river has seen an increase in phosphates in the last two years and the Council doesn't yet know the source of this. Cllr Gerry Walsh noted that there was a fish kill incident in the river in August.

"It will be up to the scientists to go into the catchment and to do investigative monitoring and a public awareness campaign to figure out where that pollution is coming from," said Mr Sexton. "That water body is listed as a priority area for action in the next River Basin Management Plan.

"We would like to see the Newtownmountkennedy river return to 'high status'. That's something we will follow-up with the landowners upstream of the monitoring location. We will probably have to do a river walk to exam-

ine the forestry and agriculture activities within the catchment."

There are worrying trends in nutrient pollution in the South East of the country generally, including Co. Wicklow rivers such as the Newtown river, the Red Cross river, the Three-

Mile Water, and Ballyduff River.

Cllr Edward Timmins said "Great work is being done in Wicklow, but nothing has been done to improve water and waste water infrastructure in the small villages and that is a serious problem."



Denise Meade, Emilie Quigley Sammon, and Fiona McStay at the announcement by Codling Wind Park that Wicklow Port has been chosen as the location for the new operations & maintenance base.

COVID CUL DE SAC

Continued from Page 1

treating Covid as an Emergency. They are leaning on the people of Ireland instead. In 2009, the HSE said we needed 579 ICU beds. This morning Paul Reid stated on radio that there are a total of 300 ICU beds currently. In the last 10 years the Government has closed down ICU beds in 9 hospitals including Nenagh, Ennis, Dundalk, Monaghan, Roscommon and St John's in Limerick.

"Before Covid Ireland had the 4th lowest num-

ber of Hospital Beds per capita in the OECD. Ireland had 1/3 of the number of beds of Germany. Ireland had already the second highest death rate from respiratory disease in Europe before this crisis. We have the 5th lowest number of practising doctors and we are the bottom in terms of hospital nurses for the countries recorded.

"Yet despite 5,609 deaths and over €40 billion in Covid related expenditure the Government has hardly moved the dial at all in terms of hospital

capacity. This is exceptionally crazy. In terms of hospital capacity the government are not treating this as an emergency at all. The primary approach over and over again is to lean on the people in terms of restrictions.

"The government will point to one of the highest expenditures per person on health in the EU. This is true. It's not an excuse. It's a damning indictment of expenditure waste," concluded Deputy Tóibín.

Co Wicklow LEAs, Last 14 Days Cases Up To 15-Nov-2021
Twitter @skearon

LEA	Up to 18 Oct		Up to 25 Oct		Up to 01 Nov		Up to 08 Nov		Up to 15 Nov		Cases	Cases	Cases
	CASES	PER 100K	CASES	PER 100K	CASES	PER 100K	CASES	PER 100K	CASES	PER 100K	Ratio to Prev Week	% Change to Prev Week	% Change to Prev Month
BALTINGLASS	113	431.8	166	634.4	210	802.5	302	1,154.1	396	1,513.4	1.31	31.1%	250.5%
ARKLOW	93	355.2	171	653.0	298	1,138.1	399	1,523.8	376	1,435.9	0.94	-5.8%	304.3%
WICKLOW	91	322.5	117	414.6	172	609.5	306	1,084.4	380	1,346.6	1.24	24.2%	317.6%
GREYSTONES	89	338.1	103	391.3	109	414.1	182	691.4	257	976.3	1.41	41.2%	188.8%
BRAY WEST	99	537.9	82	445.6	72	391.2	127	690.1	178	967.2	1.40	40.2%	79.8%
BRAY EAST	98	572.2	71	414.6	76	443.7	123	718.2	161	940.0	1.31	30.9%	64.3%
Co Wicklow Cases Total	583		710		937		1,439		1,748				
RoI Average		493.0		587.1		695.0		924.1		1,160.7	1.26	25.6%	135.4%



D I S T R I K T B Y M I A . I E

Bohemian, Lifestyle Interiors with Luxury and unique Gifts
Opening Hours

Tues 10am to 5pm, Wed 10am to 5pm, Thurs 10am to 5pm, Fri 10am to 5pm, Sat 12pm to 5.30pm
Christmas opening hours from Monday 29th Nov till Christmas 10am to 5.30pm



BLACK
FRIDAY
SALE

on selected items



Unit 1, Earlton House, South Quay, Wicklow Town. Email: istriktbymia@gmail.com

www.distriktbymia.ie





Owen, Claire, Sarah, Orla and Peter O'Neill from Avoca at the Junio B football final in Aughrim between Avoca and Knockananna

Glendalough graveyard wins major international award

Glendalough Graveyard, located on an ancient monastic site which includes the renowned Round Tower, has received international recognition through An Taisce's Green Flag Award scheme.

The scheme rewards well managed parks and green spaces across Ireland and the rest of the World.

Welcoming the award, Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, said: "Glendalough Graveyard is the first graveyard in the Republic of Ireland to be awarded this coveted award of the Green Flag. The Green Flag Awards are assessed against eight strict criteria, including horticultural standards, cleanliness, sustainability, and community involvement".

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, noted that "the Green Flag is only awarded for sites that exceed tough environmental standards in green space management and is a mark of a quality park or green space which is recognised throughout the world. At this time, particularly, highlighting the importance of such places as parks and gardens for quality of life within our communities cannot be overemphasised."

Three Gold Medals for Wicklow in National Tidy Towns Awards

Three County Wicklow towns achieved the coveted Gold Medal award in this year's national Tidy Towns Awards.

Arklow, Bray and Wicklow finished near the top at national level in their respective size categories. Greystones secured a Silver Medal in this year's competition.

Arklow achieved highest in County Wicklow with a score of 349 points, just six points behind the national winner which was Ennis in County Clare. Wicklow Town with 346 points had the second highest score while Grangecon with 339 points took third place in the County.

Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council paid tribute to all 28 towns from Wicklow who competed in the competition and congratulated Arklow on achieving the top place in the county. He commented: "Tidy Towns play a key role in caring for our towns, ensuring the community has an input into their development. Volunteer activity has been strong over the last two years and it is good to see this work recognised in the competition".

The adjudicator for Arklow noted that despite the pandemic, Arklow Tidy Towns had achieved significant improvements. Some of the work singled out for praise included maintain-



Market Square, Wicklow Town

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, paid tribute to the participating towns, congratulating them on the best ever results achieved and noted that "Tidy Town committees work closely with Wicklow County Council though the Municipal Districts and other services to develop projects of benefit to all inhabitants of our towns" adding that

Communities projects in the community. Some of these projects have built over time (starting in 2018) and have generated valuable assessments/findings and continue to gain momentum.

"The projects have leveraged work on Three Trouts Stream - reviewing river water quality and monitoring biodiversity and have expanded to other nearby river monitoring projects. Over this past year the projects have integrated with a Citizen Science project that investigated the Three Trouts River System and shared findings with the EPA and WCC.

"Congratulations to all in the community who continue to support the work of the DTT, and congratulations to the committee itself. DTT would also like to acknowledge support from LAWPro, WCC Water Pollution control team and the DCU Water Institute for expert collaboration and guidance during these projects, and thank them for contributing to the award winning result!"

Wicklow Town won the regional award for engagement of younger people in its work, ensuring local youth and schools had opportunities to undertake project work and actively participate in Tidy Towns.

Blessington won a regional award for its COVID-19 response with the group using its volunteer capacity and strong network of contacts to quickly adapt to a programme of helping out the elderly and more vulnerable in society when COVID restrictions were in place.

Tidy Towns groups across the county scored well for their approaches to tackling litter

with marks achieved demonstrating their success. This mirrors success by both Arklow and Bray which scored well when judged in the IBAL league over the last year.

Strong scores were achieved in Community, Planning and Involvement by many Wicklow towns where structured plans are helping to develop towns and enhance town centres. Tidy Towns groups reach out to wider audiences engaging other key stakeholders including schools, Men's Sheds, the business community and local sports clubs among others.

Another notable positive in marks awarded to Wicklow communities was their performance under Nature and Biodiversity. Actions for pollinators were widely referenced in reports with strong links into the All-Ireland National Pollinator Plan. The Swift Project to raise awareness on endangered swifts and provide nesting sites was a common project to many towns.

Sustainability is a newer area for marks and one in which Wicklow towns are now actively engaged. A strong focus on tree planting featured and Wicklow, Laragh and Blessington were commended for their work on energy through the Sustainable Energy Communities' programme.

A focus on communal gardening and food waste prevention featured in several towns, with opportunities to promote repair also featuring.

All 28 towns that participated in this year's Tidy Towns competition are commended for their hard work and commitment.



Members of Bray Tidy Towns cleaning up the Albert Walk in Bray

ing historic buildings with revitalising of town centre shop fronts. The 'Town of Gardens' project with its focus on sustainable practice was also praised.

Bray Tidy Towns called it "A good day for all volunteers, businesses, Bray Municipal District, the Seafront Team, interested parties, promoters of BTT, donors, and all of the people and community groups and residents associations it takes for Bray to put its best (and great) foot forward. Well done to all who turned up and did their bit with their litter pickers, plants, rubbish sacks, bright ideas, words of encouragement, spades, shovels, trowels, advice, donations and kind words. What a job was done by all of the litter pickers who 'picked a spot' and worked on them during the very locked down times we had, the community groups, collecting singly, collecting in family pairs. What a job was also done by all the Planter group people who made parts of Bray look very very pretty a happy and a good place to be. We have a great town."

their work helps to build more sustainable and vibrant communities.

The national competition also has a set of special themed awards and 2021 was the most successful year for Wicklow groups with three towns being successful in achieving these.

Delgany won the national Waters and Community award for its programme of citizen science, awareness and protection for the Three Trouts River. Detailed monitoring of the whole river catchment has been undertaken with local schools and youth involved in studying life in the river. The community is playing an active role in improving water quality and removing impediments to fish in the river.

Delgany also received 313 points in Category C, which was the second highest score in their group and received an additional award.

Delgany Tidy Towns stated "The committee would like to acknowledge the leadership of Keith Scanlon who has led the work on the Water and



Roundabout at Junction 20 leading into Arklow

Benville Robinson
STATE SOLICITORS

Riverview House
Seapoint Road,
Bray, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 01 276 1330 Fax: 01 276 1336
Web: www.benvilleroobinson.ie
E-mail: info@benvilleroobinson.ie

Personal Injury Lawyers*

Medical Negligence* Catastrophic Injuries*
Workplace Accidents* Road Traffic Accidents*
Trips and Falls*

For professional, confidential and expert legal advice regarding
Personal Injuries suffered, please do not hesitate to contact
Brian Robinson or Clare-Ann Temple.

Benville Robinson
STATE SOLICITORS

Rory P. Benville B.C.L.
Brian Robinson B.B.L.S., L.L.M.
Eilish Bradshaw B.A., L.L.B., L.L.M.
Clare-Ann Temple L.L.B.

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

Whitmore introduces Bill to ban cars idling near schools

Social Democrats TD and Spokesperson for Children, Deputy Jennifer Whitmore introduced her third Bill to the Dáil last week, this time seeking to ban car idling near schools.

Deputy Whitmore introduced this piece of legislation during Clean Air Week to symbolise the need to protect children from localised air pollution cars by car traffic and reduce car emissions.

Speaking on the Bill, Deputy Whitmore says, "This is my third Bill I'm introducing in my capacity as TD for Wicklow and is a culmination in the work I've been doing as Spokesperson for Climate Action as well as for Children. In this Bill, the aim is to ban the unnecessary idling of cars within 100m of schools. This ban is supported by international and national research which finds that

not only are car exhausts from idling more pollutant, children are the most vulnerable when breathing it in. As most children get to school by car, there is a lot of car exhaust in the vicinity which is affecting children's health and development in a real way.

"According to the Asthma Society of Ireland, young people are arguably more susceptible to air pollution than adults, due to their smaller size, developing physiology and closer proximity to fumes from cars. The Society also notes that one in five Irish children experience asthma at some stage in their lives and this is directly linked

to poor air quality.

"Banning car idling will go some way to cleaning up the air around schools, while helping to reduce CO2 emissions. I know from speaking to a lot of parents in Wicklow that many believe there are simply too many cars during school traffic times. Not only is this increasing air pollution, its also dangerous from a road safety perspective. Part of the rationale behind this piece of legislation is to get parents thinking about real alternatives to driving their kids to school which help take more cars off the road.

"Legislation alone will not stop car idling near

schools, it will take an educational campaign to help families to understand the rationale behind banning unnecessary idling and the wider things we need to think about including children's health and safety but also the environment and climate change.

"Each of the government parties have in the past committed to introducing similar legislation, so today I am asking that they support my Bill going forward and the need to prioritise air quality as an issue. Schools are already engaging in their own 'stop idling' campaigns but leadership needs to come from government."



Nancy Quinn from Arklow signs copies of her new book 'I Julia: An Arklow Family memoir'. Proceeds from the book will go to the local RNLI.

YFG National Secretary resigns

Wicklow-based Young Fine Gael National Secretary & Director of Policy Dylan Hutchinson has resigned from the National Executive Council along with two other members.

This follows a resignation from a fourth member of the committee last June.

Mr Hutchinson has now resigned along with Dublin and Munster Regional Organisers Gary O'Donovan and Audrey O'Leary, citing "the silencing of democratic and open discussion".

In a joint statement, they said "Due to recent decisions made without discussion or consultation with us as elected representatives of the National Executive we feel our position on the current Young Fine Gael National Executive has become untenable. In our opinions, we feel the current National Executive is dysfunctional and the thoughts and opinions of all are not welcome.

"Everyone is entitled to voice

their thoughts and opinions in an open, welcoming, and healthy environment where discussion is valued. These thoughts may not always be expressed in the correct manner, and all may not necessarily agree with certain statements expressed, but we welcome an open, transparent, and fair discussion on them.

"Young Fine Gael was founded for this very reason; to allow young people to voice their concerns and opinions in a transparent and democratic way. Our opinions may at times be opposed to current government or party positions, but that is, or should be, the essence of what we stand for as a young dynamic political party.

"We aim and aspire to be the voice of the younger generation, and we hope that continues, but we can-

not in full consciousness continue to act as members of an executive that has continuously silenced and at times oppressed democratic and open discussion that can only lead to a better and fairer Ireland for all.

"Recent revelations, coupled with other incidences since the inception of the current executive, has caused us to reflect on our current positions. We have requested that these issues of concern be reviewed but unfortunately our requests were not respected.

"We can no longer associate ourselves with the current decision-making process within the current YFG Executive and for that reason we are, with immediate effect, resigning from the current board of the YFG national executive. Furthermore, Dylan Hutchinson has also resigned from Fine Gael's Executive Council. The senior party will continue to have our full support."

Tree grants awarded to 29 groups

Wicklow County Council has awarded tree grants to 29 communities and groups around the county. The grants will fund the planting of 4,735 trees in the coming weeks.

Every Autumn Wicklow County Council provides an annual grant for tree planting, which covers 75 per cent of the cost of purchasing trees for planting. Trees must be native species, fruit trees or a limited range of pollinator friendly trees recommended under the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

A diverse range of groups applied for funding including residents' associations, Tidy Towns groups, schools, community gardens and local biodiversity groups. Trees will be planted in all parts of County Wicklow. Demand for funds to plant has doubled in the last two years.

Some of the trees are being purchased as single trees or small groups of trees on public open space while others will be used to create larger belts of wooded habitat in our town and communities. This year several groups availed of grants to buy native hedging plants which will be used to create natural corridors for wildlife allowing wildlife to move around and live

safely in urban settings.

Cllr Rory O'Connor, Cathaoirleach of the Climate Action and Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committee, commented that increasing tree canopy cover in the county and particularly in our towns is a goal of Wicklow County Council for delivering Climate Action. He said: "It is great to see such strong engagement by Wicklow communities' in the tree planting programme with participants not only giving up their time to plant but also contributing to the cost of planting".

Autumn and Spring are the best seasons to plant trees as native deciduous trees are dormant, soils are warm enough and moist to allow for good root growth.

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, advised that "Planting more native trees will help us to reduce the amount of carbon taken up in our atmosphere, can help to reduce some negative climate impacts such as heavy rainfall runoff while also providing much needed habitat for our biodiversity."

Now is a good time to visit a local garden centre to see what trees they have to plant and discuss what tree would suit space you might have for planting one.

Our numbers have changed

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

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

For more information visit gov.ie/dspnumberchange

Brought to you by the Department of Social Protection

* Includes mobile costs with landline inclusive package



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Maiú Levi Lawlor from Greystones

Greystones boy to represent Ireland in Junior Eurovision

Representing Ireland in this year's Junior Eurovision Song Contest in Paris on December 19th is 14-year-old Maiú Levi Lawlor from Greystones.

Competing against 19 other countries, he will be hoping that his Irish language song 'Saor' (Disappear) will win the prestigious event for Ireland.

His song is about teenagers emerging from the struggles of our Covid lockdown and how they will

now live life to the full.

Their spirit can never be crushed! Can Maiú go on and claim Eurovision glory for Ireland? The nation holds its breath...

Join presenter Louise Cantillon and judge Niamh Ní Chróinín on the 19th of December to cheer Maiú on. Online voting details will be announced soon.

The songwriters are Niall Mooney, Lauren White Murphy, Anna Banks, and the music was written by Niall Mooney, Brendan McCarthy, Cyprian Cassar, Lesley Ann Halvey.

Bray people take part in 36th Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for organ donors

Thousands of organ donor families and grateful transplant recipients tuned in from at home and abroad to watch the Irish Kidney Association's 36th Annual Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving. The pre-recorded interfaith Service was broadcast on RTÉ News Channel and Live on RTÉ Player on Sunday, 21st November coinciding with the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims and the month of All Saints. The 'virtual' Service was recorded at Merrion Road Church in Dublin 4.

One symbolic procession included a large Organ Donor Card being carried to the altar by heart transplant recipient Aoife Farrell from Bray, who has undergone two heart transplants ten years apart, the first when she was just 19 years old.

The beautiful flower arrangements which adorned the altar were prepared by Una Whelan, also from Bray, a member of the Dublin East Wicklow branch of the Irish Kidney Association and wife of kidney transplant recipient John Whelan, the National Honorary Secretary and former National honorary Chairman of the Irish Kidney Association.

It is the second year in a row, for the event to be held virtually and pre-recorded by Kairos Communications, due to safety concerns around the pandemic. Prior to COVID-19, the annual event attracted a physical congregation of close to 2,000 people. At last year's first 'virtual' Service, 64,000 households nationwide tuned in to watch its first viewing on RTÉ and it was streamed in 24 other countries.

For many organ donor families this unique annual Service has become an anniversary to remember their loved ones, and for transplant recipients, the opportunity to honour and give thanks for the wonderful 'gift of life' they have received.

The ceremony was led by two members of the successful Transplant Team Ireland sports team - Dubliners Harry Ward (team captain) from Baldoyle, who received a



Aoife Farrell from Bray who received two heart transplants

kidney transplant from a deceased donor fourteen years ago, and Sandra Doyle from Beaumont, who has received two lifesaving liver transplants, her first in 2003 and second in 2017.

The interdenominational Service, an occasion for both sadness and joy, included clergy, a humanist celebrant, as well as organ transplant recipients, families of organ donors and members of the medical profession involved in organ donation and transplantation.

A letter by President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins, who is patron to the Irish Kidney Association, was read aloud at the Service. In an extract from the President's message, he states that "The act of organ donation is a reminder of the great advancements that have been achieved in medical science in recent times. It is also a reminder of the extraordinary spirit of

humanity and human solidarity that exists within our society, and of the many people whose lives are guided by a fundamental instinct of compassion and care for others".

The Service included contributions from the Very Rev. Gareth Byrne on behalf of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin Dermot Farrell, as well as Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin & Glendalough Dr. Michael Jackson. The Service is facilitated by Parish Priest, the Very Rev. Fr. Fergus O'Connor with Chief Celebrant Very Rev. Damian O'Reilly presiding.

Since its inception 36 years ago, the Service has become a hugely important event in the calendar of members of the organ donation and transplant community.

The confidential database for organ donor families is held by Organ Donation Transplant Ireland (ODTI). The first

and second readings at the Service are delivered by ODTI Clinical Lead Dr. Catherine Motherway, an Intensive Care Consultant in the University of Limerick, and ODTI Director Prof. Jim Egan, a Consultant Lung Transplant Physician at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. Other members of the medical profession taking part are Dr. Niamh Dolan, a Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist at Children's University Hospital, Temple Street and Aoife Coffey, Transplant Co-ordinator at the National Liver Transplant Service in St. Vincent's University Hospital.

Organ Donor Cards can be obtained by phoning the Irish Kidney Association on 01 6205306 or Free text the word DONOR to 50050. You can also visit the website www.ika.ie/get-a-donor-card or download a free 'digital organ donor card' APP to your phone.

Marrakesh

Marrakesh Ltd is a family run business specialising in Construction and Demolition Waste Management & Recycling, Site Clearance and Supply of Material from 4" down to Blinding, Recycled Screened Topsoil, Sand, Gravel etc.

EPA LICENCED FACILITY • ALL TRUCKS CARRY WASTE PERMITS

Recycled:

- Screened Topsoil
- Screened no 2 soil
- 4" Down Crushed Concrete
- 4" Clean Crushed Concrete
- 3" Down Crushed Concrete
- 3" Clean Crushed Concrete
- Crushed Concrete Fines
- Crushed Tarmac Fines
- No 2 Stone

Also available:

- Granite • Pebble • Sand

We also accept for recycling: • Clay • Stone • Concrete • Tarmac • Sand

We can organise SITE CLEARANCES - no job too big or small

Tel: 01 286 8119 Mobile: 087 664 1866
www.marrakeshltd.com



Florist Una Whelan from Bray

Deep concern over lack of GP services

People in Co. Wicklow are running into great difficulties in their attempts to sign up to GP practices.

The shortage of GPs in Co. Wicklow means that in a growing number of instances, sick people are being left waiting for a GP appointment for up to several weeks.

In Aughrim the situation is being made worse by the GP surgery being currently suspended.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady expressed deep concern over the situation, saying "The failure of the Government to address the shortage of GP services in the state is now being felt by patients across the country.

"In County Wicklow

we are feeling this impact as much if not more than any other area in the country.

"The lack of GP services in parts of Wicklow means that patients cannot be taken on by a GP practice. Many people have been forced to try to get a GP practice in different counties, due to the inability to find one to take them on.

"There are countless instances where sick people have been left unable to get an appointment to see a Doctor for several weeks. This is simply unacceptable. And mat-

ters appear to be deteriorating.

"The difficulties in getting access to a GP is compounded in Aughrim as the GP Surgery providing General Medical Services is currently suspended.

"With one Minister for Health, and one former Minister for Health in Wicklow, questions need to be asked how this has been allowed to occur.

"The reality is that the Government has allowed a crisis to emerge unnecessarily. They know we need more GPs; but do nothing to

resolve the issue.

"Sinn Féin has put provisions in our alternative budget that would increase the numbers of GPs across the country. And this is what needs to be done immediately.

"Ordinary people cannot be left to fend for themselves in times of illness. They need timely access to health care that in most instances will only come as a result of referral from a GP.

"The Government needs to get its act together and address this major issue in the provision of health care in Wicklow.

'Rising rents in Wicklow unsustainable'

Average rent in Wicklow now €1,577

Rents in Dublin's commuter counties rose 5.7% year-on-year, reflecting a sharp fall in availability - just 145 homes were available to rent on November 1st, the lowest on record. In Wicklow, rents were on average 5.9% higher in the third quarter of 2021 than a year previously. The average listed rent is now €1,577, up 104% from its lowest point. Nationwide rents in the third quarter of 2021 were an average of 6.8% higher than the same period in 2020, according to the latest Rental Report by Daft.ie.

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called out against the unsustainable situation of rising rents in Wicklow and across the country.

"The recent Daft.ie Report releases reveals that rents have increased dramatically across the country and for Wicklow," said Deputy Whitmore. "For a one bed house in Wicklow the average rent is now €1,156, an increase of 2.4% from last year. Rent for a two bed house now stands at €1,340, up 6.0%. For a three bed house, rent is on average over €1,500 up 4.3% and for a 4 bed the increase is up 5%.

"Rent Pressure Zone rules have been an utter failure from the very start. Yet, the Government continues to implement variations of this failed approach including the latest change, the 2pc cap, which just won't address skyrocketing rents in Wicklow.

"Spiralling rents in Wicklow are creating a completely unsustainable situation for many living in the county. There are very few places for people to rent so people don't have a choice to move to something smaller or cheaper. If you look for rental places in Bray for example, you will see less than 6 homes available to rent, this means people are effectively stuck in ever-rising rents they are forced to pay.

"There will come a point though, when someone in Bray, Greystones or Wicklow will no longer be able to afford another rental increase and what options will there be for these people, especially where children are involved?



Jennifer Whitmore TD

"The Government has no contingency plan in place. HAP is still being used but again there are very few properties signed up for HAP rental agreements. Those looking for HAP places in their area are already struggling to find somewhere to live and many end up living in overcrowded accommodation with other family members and end up in situations that are inappropriate to their needs. Social and affordable housing is not developing quick enough to address the increasingly fall out from rising rents, and existing homelessness figures.

"What's unfolding in Wicklow is part of the government's wider set of policies which over time is seeing a rise in the cost of living and which is squeezing working families with rising rents, energy costs and bills."

The increase in rents around the country reflects an on-going and unprecedented scarcity of rental

homes. Nationwide, there were just 1,460 homes available to rent on November 1st, an all-time low in a series that extends back to January 2006.

The level of availability now is almost half the lowest level recorded between the start of 2006 and the outbreak of Covid-19, which was 2,706 in mid-2019.

Commenting on the report, Ronan Lyons, economist at Trinity College Dublin and author of the Daft Report, said: "Covid-19 temporarily reshuffled Ireland's rental problems but the latest figures confirm those problems of shortages are getting worse over time.

While Dublin had initially seen an increase in rental availability, with the number of rental homes on the market doubling from 1,600 to nearly 3,200 in 2020, those trends have reversed rapidly, with just over 800 homes available to rent on November 1st. In Ireland's four other cities, there were 81 homes available to rent in total.

"While some argue against the construction of large numbers of purpose-built rental homes, any solution to the chronic shortage of rental homes in Ireland must include building new ones. In this regard, the pipeline of almost 45,000 new build-to-rent homes - while concentrated in the Dublin area - is particularly welcome. More than 50,000 more rental homes have been proposed. Their construction would help improve the availability and affordability of rental homes, something for policy-makers and planners to consider."



Stephen Delaney of The Shoe Box in Wicklow Town, John Brady TD, and Kitt Dunne at the announcement by Codling Wind Park that Wicklow Port has been chosen as the location for the new Operations and Maintenance Base.

CURRAN TO RESIGN

Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council has advised the Elected members of the Council that he will be resigning from his position as Chief Executive.

Mr Curran will take up the position of Chief Executive of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in January 2022.

"We wish him every success in his new position," the Council stated.

Mr Curran, a native of Waterford, took on the role of Chief Executive of Wicklow

County Council in September 2017.

The position was then being filled temporarily by Bryan Doyle following the retirement of Eddie Sheehy in 2015. Previously, Mr Curran was the Chief Executive of Leitrim County Council. He also previously served with Waterford County Council as Senior Executive Engineer.



Frank Curran

FREE ENTRY

WICKLOW CHRISTMAS MARKET

Nov 27th & 28th
Dec 4th & 5th • Dec 11th & 12th
Leitrim Place on the Murrough from 12 - 6pm

- Craft Market • Funfair • Eco Friendly Ice Skating Rink
- Alpaca Experience • Santa Express • Artisan Foods
- Puppet Shows • Live Music & Entertainment • Workshops

Visit Santa himself with our new Santa Express experience where Oribel, our mischievous and fun elf, will transport you on a magical journey aboard our Santa express train to Santa's Wonderland

www.wicklowchristmasmarket.com



Niall McCarthy in The Tin Roof dining area

Buffalo burgers coming to Bray

The Tin Roof, a new pub on Bray's Quinsborough Road which opened its doors during the summer, will be serving food from the 29th November as they recently completed their brand-new kitchen and dining area.

Speaking to *Wicklow Times*, Niall McCarthy of The Tin Roof says they will be serving up pub grub and will be specialising in Buffalo burgers and steaks, with buffalo meat sourced from the Macamore Buffalo Farm in Wexford.

Macamore is one of only three Buffalo farms in Ireland, and is run by Liam and Sinead Byrne who imported a herd of water buffalo after learning of the health benefits of buffalo meat which is rich in iron and protein and low in fat.

The Tin Roof finally opened its doors for the

first time in July, after Niall saw to the refurbishing of the premises over several years.

Taking the lease back in 2015, Niall - an experienced tradesman - got to work on the renovations and was originally hoping for an early 2020 opening.

However, Covid put a stop to that and Niall had to wait until restrictions were lifted earlier this year.

The Tin Roof is located at 4 Westbourne Terrace on the Quinsborough Road, which was formerly Clancy's bar and before that The Westbourne Hotel. Since opening, The Tin Roof has already gained popularity for its cocktails, and a new cocktail menu is now on offer.

Music lovers have also been flocking to The Tin Roof, with Trad nights on Thursdays as well as live music on Fridays and Saturdays.

A 'bohemian gem' at Wicklow Port

On the 19th of June, just over five months ago, Mia Parsons opened the doors to a long held dream: A lifestyle and interiors store. In an area ripe with urban regeneration, 'Distrikt by Mia' is situated at the port in Wicklow town. With an eye for sourcing exotic, ethnic and eclectic treasures, she has created a truly bohemian gem.

Mia is essentially a creative. As well as being an award winning jewellery designer, she is a singer, a vocal coach and has been an interior stylist and adviser for many years. This reinvention of herself is a culmination of all that she is, a passionate designer and a magpie at heart, sourcing, gathering and showcasing beautiful pieces, buying only what she loves.

'Distrikt by Mia' is well supported, not just locally, but because of the location, word has spread throughout the Wicklow and Wexford holiday community and many customers are now happily returning to shop on day trips down from Dublin and up from Wexford and way beyond.

"Perhaps accentuated by the lockdown experience people are reimagining their living space," says Mia. "Whether they are reinventing their current home, moving house or a first time buyer, they are beginning to give themselves permission to think outside the box. Here at 'Distrikt by Mia' we are seeing a growing bravery around colour, form and texture. Embracing individuality is at its core."

With her designer's cap on, Mia is developing her own brand. Complementing her range of jew-



Mia Parsons

ellery, prints and cards is a new line, crossover and shoulder bags, with her signature seventies feel.

As a stylist she is attracting huge attention with commissions

both commercial and residential, recently styling The Wicklow Escape in Donard, the award winning getaway owned by Lisa Wilkinson.

Child's act of kindness inspires new mural on Wicklow pier

An artist who recently added the finishing touches to his latest mural at Wicklow Harbour is looking to make contact with the Avoca family of the girl who inspired the piece, which he calls his best yet.

Artist Pat Davis explains, "Approximately two years ago, while walking on the pier on a damp Saturday morning, I met young Aoife, who along with her younger brother and her grandparents were admiring my artwork along the pier. I decided to spend some time with them, explaining how I managed to paint and maintain the murals along the pier."

"As we were coming back along the pier before parting company, young Aoife spotted a crumpled up wet 50 euro note in between the railings on the pier."

"I told her she was very lucky, and asked her what she might do with her exciting find."

"Without any prompting from the others, she looked up at me and smiled and told me that I could use it to buy more paint for my artwork on the pier."

"I was so moved by her act of kindness that I decided to dedicate a full mural to Aoife, with a ship of the same name, the L.E. AOIFE which

served in the Irish Naval Service till 2015."

Pat started work on the mural towards the end of August, and made the most of the good weather

and his free time in September and early October. Now complete, it took 70 hours in total. It's Pat's 50th mural after 45 years of painting at

the pier, and it coincides with the very first mural of the ELIANA, a Greek ship, completed by one of her crew members 50 years ago.



Artist Pat Davis putting the finishing touches to his mural, the L.E. Aoife, at Wicklow Pier



**Music Generation
Wicklow**
Chill Mhantáin

**ALL TOGETHER NOW
CALLING ALL YOUNG MUSICIANS**

ARE YOU BETWEEN 12 AND 18 YEARS OF AGE?
DO YOU HAVE REGULAR LESSONS ON YOUR INSTRUMENT?
YES?

THEN WE WOULD REALLY LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU
FOR

Wicklow Youth Orchestra

Music Generation Wicklow is looking for young musicians who play an orchestral instrument to audition to gain a place in an exciting new initiative giving young people the opportunity to be part of a new youth orchestra for Wicklow rehearsing regularly in Ashford Heritage Centre.

AND

Rithim Traditional Orchestra

Music Generation Wicklow is also looking for musicians who play traditional instruments to audition and gain a place in the Rithim Orchestra rehearsing regularly in Ashford Heritage Centre.

Simply email Clare at clareokeeffe@kwetb.ie

and we'll send you the relevant audition application form, just complete and return it to us.

Deadline for receipt of applications is Friday 3rd December.

We're looking forward to seeing you!



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILÚNA
CHILL DARIA AGUS CHILL MCHANTÁIN
KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD



Music Generation is Ireland's National Music Education
Programme. A Music Network initiative, co-funded by LÉ, The Inland Funds, The Department of Education and Skills and Local Music Education Partnerships



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Greystones excluded from new reduced public transport fares

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has spoken out against the decision by Transport for Ireland not to include Greystones in the recently announced 90 minute fares for Darts.

"It is extremely unfortunate that the 90 minute fare boundary for commuter rail and DART services only applies as far as Bray to the south of Dublin, encompassing Zone 1 - 4 journeys. Greystones and Kilcoole will remain as Zone 5/6 stations under the new fares structure. The NTA has determined that fares on these longer distance services will remain at prices set in 2018. In effect, this means that a passenger boarding at Greystones will pay the

existing Zone 5 Leap fare to reach Dublin city centre of €3.80. Passengers will be able to make a free transfer onto another service (bus, Luas or rail) in order to complete their journey, availing of the 90-minute fare.

"However, as anyone in Greystones knows, it can take over an hour for someone to get to Dublin from Greystones leaving very little time to avail of the 90 minute free travel limit. The TFI 90-Minute fare does cover all Dublin City bus services provid-

ed by Dublin Bus and Go-Ahead Ireland, such as the 84 and 84x the journey for people commuting from Kilcoole and Newcastle.

"This decision unfortunately, means people living in Greystones are effectively being discriminated against due to geography despite many people having to commute to Dublin, and Greystones Dart Station now the only stop not to be included.

"I have written to the NTA to express my huge disappointment in the

exclusion of Greystones on the reduced Dart fares and the lack of consideration of the unique circumstances of these areas. We need to reduce car dependency on the area and traffic congestion by getting more people onto public transport, yet initiatives like the 90 minute fare does nothing to encourage people south of Bray to take up alternative methods of travel. I think this is very short sighted and I will be raising this with the Minister."



Jennifer Whitmore TD meeting with the NTA

Do you require a Housing Adaptation Grant?

Every year the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government provides Wicklow County Council with funding for adaptations to private houses for people suffering from disabilities, mobility issues and various medical conditions.

The purpose of the scheme is to allow older people and people with disabilities to remain living independently in their own homes for as long as possible and to avoid them having to be cared for in hospitals and nursing homes.

The scheme consists of 3 different grants.

Mobility Aids Grant (MAG) - this is intended to provide rapid access to mobility aids such as stairlifts and level access showers. The maximum amount is 6,000 Euro.

Housing Adaptation Grant (HAG) - this is intended for more extensive works such as extensions. The maximum amount is 30,000 Euro.

These two schemes are intended for people with disabilities and medical conditions and a doctor's certificate is required. An Occupational Therapist (OT) report is also required for the HAG scheme and for a stairlift. Wicklow County Council arranges the OT report and pays for it but applicants may also arrange their own OT report.

The Housing aid for Older People (HOP) scheme is intended for elderly people (defined as 66 years of age and older) living in poor housing conditions who need essential repairs carried out to enable them to continue living in their homes. This grant is typically approved for repairs such as re-wiring, roof and chimney repairs, replacement of windows and doors etc. There is no requirement for a doctor's certificate as the applicant does not have to be suffering from any medical condition or disability to qualify, although a doctor's cert may be submitted in support, if the applicant does have a condition.

All 3 grants are Means Tested. The household income (i.e. income of everyone living in the house) is

assessed and if under €30,000 per annum, the applicant is eligible for 100% of a MAG or 95% of a HAG. Households with an income of over €60,000 per annum are not eligible. There is a pro-rata scale between €30,000 and €60,000 income. E.g. if your household income is €45,000 then 50% of the grant is available. Various adjustments are made for adult children in full time education etc. Grants must be approved by the Council before works start. They do not pay grants retrospectively for works which have been started without approval. Grants are paid directly to the applicant's bank account once the works have been completed satisfactorily and same has been verified by inspection by the Council. In the case of elderly people who sometimes don't have a bank account, it may be paid into the account of a relative who has been authorized by the applicant. VAT paid on the work may be claimed back from the Revenue Commissioners. The Council will supply the relevant Revenue form but unfortunately cannot assist the applicant any further in claiming back VAT.

The grant amount approved may not always cover the entire cost of doing the work which the contractor will charge. Any amount above the approved grant will have to be paid by the applicant.

It is up to the applicant to source contractors/suppliers to do the work and to supervise them. Wicklow County Council supplies a list to applicants of contractors who have indicated a willingness to do grant related work but please note that such contractors are not vetted by the Council and are not approved by us. The list is compiled purely to assist applicants in finding a contractor. The Council cannot get involved in supervising works

or in disputes with contractors or suppliers.

In 2020/2021 Wicklow County Council implemented a system of Standard Costs for typical grant works. The cost of carrying out the works has been assessed by an Independent Quantity Surveyor and is reviewed every 6 months. The full list is on our website. This simplifies the process for the applicant as they no longer have to worry about getting the previously required number of quotations. Obtaining quotations had become a significant hurdle for applicants, so this has now been eliminated as much as possible.

A typical scenario would be an elderly person suffering from arthritis or one of many other conditions which reduce mobility, who needs to have an existing bath removed and a level access shower installed together with non-slip flooring, grab rails, thermostatically controlled shower, half height doors, folding seat etc. If the bathroom is upstairs, a stairlift may also be needed and both can be covered by a Housing Adaptation Grant. Other typical works would be ramps and handrails for wheelchair access at the front and/or back doors. A bathroom conversion typically takes a contractor about a week to complete. Stairlifts are usually installed within 3 or 4 hours.

The Occupational Therapist plays an important role in this process as he/she will visit the applicant and assess their current and most importantly, future needs; and often in consultation, where appropriate with family members, will prepare an OT report. There is no closing date for this scheme and we accept applications all year round as it is a rolling scheme. Once approval is granted for works, applicants are encouraged to get the works done as soon as possible (in their own interests), however there is no deadline for getting work done and any approvals issued will be honoured, even if several months have elapsed due to difficulties in sourcing builders, etc.

'Budget is not fit for purpose'

Greystones Fine Gael councillor Derek Mitchell says that Greystones Municipal District is being treated as a 'cash cow' and yet is only getting half the funding of other areas.

Cllr Mitchell expressed his anger in advance of next week's budget meeting, and described the Wicklow Council Budget as 'not fit for purpose'.

Wicklow County Council will be holding its Annual Budget meeting on the 29th November.

"For the first time in 20 years as a Councillor I will not be supporting the Budget," said Cllr Mitchell.

"The budgets of Arklow and Bray West are €9m each, while the budget for Greystones District is €4.5m. The population of each area is similar. Each other area has two or three times as many staff. Yet the Local Property Tax income is highest in Greystones due to higher house prices. It's being used as a Cash Cow by the rest of the County.

"Also the Chief Executive's report shows that less than 2% of the County Capital spend is spent in Greystones which has 18% of the population.

"As an Accountant I understand that difficult choices have to be made in a budget which is why I have always supported it. After five years of asking for proper funding for Greystones, last year the Chief Executive made it worse with the area getting the least increase of any.

"This results in the ludicrous situation of a €50,000 street sweeper being kept in the depot because there are no staff to drive it! The area is expanding fast and a lot of work is needed to cope."



**Greystones
& District**
Credit Union



Get Christmas all wrapped up

Borrow €1,000 and pay €20.27 a week for
52 weeks, interest rate 10.4% (10.93% APR*
Total amount repayable €1,053.63

www.gcu.ie | E: loans@gcu.ie | T: 01 287 7165

*APR stands for Annual Percentage Rate. This is a variable rate loan. Lending criteria, terms and conditions apply. Greystones & District Credit Union Limited is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. Warning: If you do not meet the repayments on your loan, your account will go into arrears. This may affect your credit rating, which may limit your ability to access credit in the future.



Bernie O'Brien and Elizabeth Belton at the Unwanted Gifts sale in aid of Wicklow Cancer Support and St. Patrick's Church in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town.

Conversation in Bray about lived experiences of Black community

Creating Our Future, the Government-led campaign on the future of research in Ireland, has announced that Ambassador Emer O'Neill (Author and Presenter of RTE's Today show) will host a discussion with a range of guests about the lived experiences of Ireland's black community in 2021.

Baidu Sayeh Speaking ahead of the event Emer O'Neill said: "I'm really excited to be an ambassador for Creating Our Future and rightly this campaign is placing a focus on the experiences of diverse communities across Ireland. It's so important that we strive for a society that serves all of its people and addressing everyone's concerns. We are here to help researchers build that type of country."

The event will take place on Thursday, 25th November at 7:30pm at the Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray.

Attendance at the event is free, but pre-registering on the website is required through the Mermaid Arts Centre website.

The conversation will also be livestreamed on the Mermaid's website.

with everyone at the Mermaid and on the livestream. This is a real opportunity for us to shape the future of Ireland."

Dubbed Ireland's Biggest Brainstorm, Creating Our Future has now entered its final month for receiving submissions from the public. The campaign has received more than 7,000 submissions so far and aims to secure 10,000 by the closing date of 30th November 2021.

The submissions received to date have come from members of the general public submitting both directly on the campaign website or through engagement with

the Creating Our Future Team. Creating Our Future travelled to every county in Ireland with a roadshow in October.

Ideas can be submitted directly on creatingourfuture.ie before midnight on the 30th November or on postcards provided at brainstorming and Creating Our Future roadshows.

All the ideas/suggestions received are compiled, filtered, and categorised by independent experts from a broad range of backgrounds. The submissions received will then form a report for Government and will inform current and future research.

Online meeting on supports for teenagers and young people

Labour Greystones Area Representative Anne Waithira Burke is holding a Facebook Live meeting on Wednesday 1st December at 7:30pm on the Wicklow Labour Facebook Page. Entitled 'It takes a community to raise a child - Supports for Teenagers and Young People in Wicklow' the meeting will hear from Labour T.D Ivana Bacik and Former Lord Mayor of Dublin Andrew Montague.

Annie Waithira Burke said: "I organised this meeting because of a number of issues we have had here in Wicklow that are affecting our young people and the community. Adolescence can be a challenging time for teenagers as they learn to navigate the world and for their parents trying to keep them safe. This meeting will come up with positive constructive solutions instead of the usual commentary which involves demonising young people."

"Former Lord Mayor of Dublin Andrew Montague is a Social Policy researcher with extensive experience working with the community of Ballymun and he will also discuss the Icelandic adolescence problem solving model that is theoretically grounded and evidenced based which I believe could and should be implemented in county Wicklow. This is an environmental approach in which parenting, parental supervision, and organised leisure time activities, together with increased normative pres-

sure (curfews and facilitating parents meeting other parents) play a central role in supporting our youth and their families."

"The meeting will also hear from newly elected Labour T.D Ivana Bacik who will speak about her experience dealing with young people's issues and discuss the laws in relation to adolescents while also outlining her views as Labour Children and Disability Spokesperson."

Anne Waithira Burke will chair the webinar and will be supported by Cllr. Anne Ferris. There will be a question and answer facility at this webinar.

"I would ask anyone interested to tune into the meeting and want to send their questions in for our speakers can send them to waithiraburke@vote-labour.ie or sent them through Facebook messenger @waithiraburkelabour. The link for the meeting is <https://www.facebook.com/wicklowlabour> and I look forward to a good discussion on the night."

Urgent need for volunteer drivers

The Irish Cancer Society is in urgent need of Volunteer Drivers to provide transport for cancer patients to and from their hospital chemotherapy treatments. Last year, the Irish Cancer Society Volunteer Driver Service provided 121 journeys for cancer patients in Wicklow and just under 12,000 journeys throughout Ireland.

While there is a need to recruit Volunteer Drivers nationwide as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the expansion of the service, the impact has been particularly felt in some areas facing volunteer shortages.

The Volunteer Driver Service helps to ease the strain of travel on cancer patients, who often find it hard to get to hospital because of transportation costs or they might not be feeling well enough to drive themselves because of their treatment. Volunteers need to be available for two full week days each month,

have a roadworthy car, a valid driving license, insurance and NCT. The service is completely free for patients, and volunteers receive money from the Irish Cancer Society to pay for their fuel costs, road tolls and an allowance for food while waiting for the patient.

Irish Cancer Society Director of Services Donal Buggy said: "Now more than ever in Wicklow we urgently need to recruit more Volunteer Drivers so we can continue to provide this incredibly important service to anyone who might need it, so we are encouraging anyone who

may meet the requirements to volunteer, to please get in touch with us."

Irish Cancer Society Volunteer Driver Paul Markey said: "I have been a Volunteer Driver for the Irish Cancer Society for five years. Last year I was diagnosed with cancer myself, during my treatment I had to pause my volunteering, but this summer I got the all clear to get back out there again and I was delighted. I personally know how important the service is to anyone going through a cancer diagnosis. On the other side, as a Volunteer Driver it provides you with a great sense of purpose when you are able to be there for people when they need it most."

Details on applying for a Volunteer Driver position can be found on <http://www.cancer.ie/volunteer-driver-service> or by emailing volunteer@irishcancer.ie

Green light for Lott Lane social housing

Minister Stephen Donnelly has welcomed the addition of new social housing to Kilcoole in the form of 75 new units at Lott Lane which have now got the go ahead.

Speaking last week, Minister Donnelly said "It's fantastic to see the social housing on Lott Lane in Kilcoole getting the green light."

"The addition of 75 social housing units to the area is badly needed. This Government has promised it will build houses and that is exactly what we are doing."

"Wicklow has an extensive list of people waiting for both social and affordable housing. Developments like these are not just a major step in the right direction but will also change the lives of those struggling to get a place to live."

"We know there's more needed but it's fantastic to see such positive progress."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL & WATER SAFETY IRELAND GUIDELINES FOR WATER SAFETY AT CHARITY SWIM EVENTS

If you are organising a charity swim event, you have a responsibility to ensure adequate water safety measures are in place, to reduce the possible risks to attendees. Water Safety Ireland provides guidelines for a number of charity swim types including charity dips, swims up to 3km and swims over 4km.

Charity Swim Events (Christmas Day/ New Years Day Swim)

- Two Fully Qualified Lifeguards (with First Aid Kits)
- Coastguard Should be Notified

A Swim up to 3 Kilometres

- Kayak/ Paddle Board for every 12 participants
- A Motor Craft for every 50 participants
- First Aid Provision
- Coastguard to be notified
- Tow Floats for each swimmer

A Swim up to 4 Kilometres

- Kayak/Paddle Board for every participant
- A Motor Craft for every 10 participants
- First Aid Provision
- Coastguard to be notified
- Tow Floats for each swimmer

Motor craft should be fitted with a prop guard/Jet Ski qualified personnel.

Organisers should have an emergency action plan.

Organisers should also be aware of the following:

- It is appropriate to inform local Gardaí about the event
- An application to the local authority may be required for permission to access the location

For further information contact the Water Safety Development Officer at Wicklow County Council – 0404 20127 or email watersafety@wicklowcoco.ie.

Minister English visits local Enterprise Office and client companies

Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English TD, visited the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) in Wicklow last week as part of a series of visits by the Minister, who is keen to engage with the LEO teams and their client companies throughout the country.

The Minister was greeted at the Wicklow County Campus at Clermont House by the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Shay Cullen and LEO Head of Enterprise, Vibeke Delahunt and was joined by Senator Pat Casey.

Minister English was then briefed on developments and future plans in the county. This included presentations by Wicklow County Council's Lorraine Gallagher and Vibeke Delahunt on the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan, as well as an overview of the role of the film industry in Wicklow, by the LEO's Linda Healy.

The Minister spoke to members of the LEO staff and was shown a display of some of the locally supported and produced food and beverages from the

Wicklow Naturally brand. Minister English said "I am delighted to be here in Wicklow today to hear about current developments and the exciting future plans from the Council and the Local Enterprise Office. The support of local networks such as the LEOs has been vital for the last twenty months, providing training, mentoring and other practical supports to local businesses. Their role is hugely important and they will play a key role in the coming time as businesses continue to confront the challenges presented by Covid."

Refreshments at the Campus were provided by LEO client, Kevin Ward of Reward Catering, who provide purpose-built vintage trailers and vehicles for the catering community and the corporate sector. Minister English also met LEO client compa-

nies The Foley Lab and Hubcat, who are based at the Wicklow County Campus.

The Foley Lab works in the reproduction of everyday sound effects that are added to film, video and other media in post-production to enhance audio quality. Hubcat are a technology and communications company who offer what is called 'Push to Talk' (PTT) communications for corporate customers.

For his final engagement the Minister travelled to Green Treats Ltd in Arklow where founder Stephen Smith gave him a tour of their premises. The company manufactures and produces pet food treats for private label companies and provides a full product development service to clients. Green Treats is one of many former LEO supported businesses that has

grown and graduated to the Enterprise Ireland portfolio of clients.

On the conclusion of his visit Minister English said "It is extremely important for regional development that we continue to support local entrepreneurs and start up businesses. There are a number of initiatives and programmes that do just that, such as the Regional Enterprise Development Fund. When this type of support is complemented by the Local Enterprise Offices it can bring about hugely positive results - as can be seen here in Wicklow. The local companies I have visited today are making a real difference to the local economy and beyond. The Government will continue to support and encourage other businesses like them so that they can become the next success story."



Minister for Business, Employment, and Retail Damien English is pictured with Cllr Tommy Ammesley, LEO Head of Enterprise Vibeke Delahunt, Lorraine Gallagher and Michael Brougham, Regional Director at Enterprise Ireland, at Wicklow County Campus in Rathnew.

Luisne to re-open in Bray

After over 16 years in Kilcoole Luisne is busy preparing to open its doors for classes at a new location: The Egan Business Centre in Bray in late January 2022.

There will be two events which will impart to participants something of the spirit of Luisne.

Learn what Luisne has to offer, meet some of the tutors and enjoy some live entertainment at the LUISNE EXPO scheduled for January 9th. If there are still Covid restrictions the Expo will be online but we hope we can showcase Luisne live.

Please note that rooms are available at the new centre at reasonable rates to former and new tutors who specialise in courses which enhance well-being. Current courses vary from meditation to art, sacred dance and relaxation exercises.

Luisne also welcomes volunteers to help with minor tasks e.g. meet and greet attendees. View the website at www.luisne.ie If interested in offering a course/workshop or in volunteering contact office@luisne.ie.

Calls to halt pesticide use on railway tracks

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has called for a halt to the use of pesticide on railway tracks.

Deputy Matthews was speaking following a recent engagement with Irish Rail and the Department of Transport calling for a change in policy regarding the use of pesticides in clearing weeds from railway tracks. The response has outlined that the feasibility of using other methods is being examined but the use of pesticides persists in some cases.

Discussing the issue, Deputy Matthews said: "This issue was initially raised by a couple of fre-

quent users of Irish Rail services who were growing increasingly concerned to see Irish Rail staff using what appeared to be heavy duty pesticides to clear weeds from the rail tracks.

"They were particularly concerned in parts of the track that cross or ran near water sources and the potential damage the pesticides run off could have on the water and surrounding biodiversity.

"I raised the matter in the Dáil

last month but finally received a definitive response from Irish Rail. The response was broadly positive in that they accepted that the use of heavy pesticides was not ideal and other methods were being trialled to establish their effectiveness.

"This includes old fashioned but quite useful methods such as the use of boiling water and concentrated vinegar. At a national level we have already seen some local authorities moving away from pesticide use in their weed killing policy and I hope that Irish Rail will follow in due course.

"Ultimately this is a matter of safety and any build up of weeds on the tracks could pose a danger to passengers. However, while the use of pesticides may be the most effective in terms of speed, given the potential damage it can do to the biodiversity, it is worth taking the extra time to not only ensure passenger safety, but also to minimise the damage done. I look forward to the opportunity to work with Irish Rail and the Department of Transport in the coming months to try and encourage the fast tracking of this policy change.

"I am a long-term advocate for taking the train as a means of protecting the environment and how the tracks are maintained should also reflect that," concluded Deputy Matthews.



Steven Matthews TD

Finished school and deciding what to do next?

If you needed extra learning support in school or had an SNA, meet us to discuss our free training course in Arklow.

It could be your route to further education or a job.

No CAO points needed.

Contact us today to make an appointment:

- 0402 31370
- arklow@nlm.ie
- www.nlm.ie
- facebook.com/NLNArklow
- Briggs Lane, Arklow

Courses are funded by the HSE. Eligibility criteria apply.

Free life-changing courses and supported **training**



Pictured on the biodiverse-rich Daniels family farm at Kilmoganny Co. Kilkenny at the launch of this year's campaign were Operation Biodiversity champion, Bryan Daniels, his wife, Gail, and their children Shannon, Toby and Ely. (Photo by Finbarr O'Rourke)

Farming families urged to get involved in Operation Biodiversity

Glanbia Ireland and its family farm suppliers in Wicklow and across the country are working together, as part of Operation Biodiversity, to plant over 100,000 native trees and hedgerows in 2021, twelve months ahead of schedule.

In the 2021 phase of Operation Biodiversity, for every 15 native trees purchased, Glanbia Ireland is giving away a further 10 for free. Also for every two bare root hedgerow bundles purchased, Glanbia Ireland is giving a third bundle away at no additional cost, helping its farmers sow up to 10 metres more of hedges.

In Wicklow, CountryLife's centres are in Ashford and Rathdrum. Locals can also order stocks and avail of a huge range of services in the county and general region across Glanbia stores in Ashford, Rathdrum, Inch, Ballycanew and Ballytore.

Dr Michelle Larkin, National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme Officer with the National Biodiversity Data Centre said: "Irish farms can be pollinator and biodiversity friendly without impacting on agricultural productivity. Low cost small actions can help improve pollinator biodiversity and biodiversity in general. Planting native trees and hedgerows is an excellent way to help. Leaving hedgerows uncut for a minimum of three years is brilliant as it allows them to flower, giving pollinators food. Cutting hedges in rotation instead of all at once will also ensure that some areas of hedgerow will always flower," she added.

Operation Biodiversity champion and award-winning dairy farmer Bryan Daniels is leading by example again this year. "It has been a busy year. We created a new 80 metre section of hedging and planted it with Whitethorn and Oak. We added in a few Ash trees that we had grown from seedlings. We also planted trees in the gaps in about another 50 metres of hedging.

"We've also added about 100 Scots Pine in groves and the plan now for the winter is to plant an extra 84 metres of hedging. Whitethorn is very much the dominant species on farm. But we like to add in something a little different every now and again to add a splash of colour, life and variety."

Operation Biodiversity builds on the many actions already in progress on farms and in the community and on the strong foundations put in place by earlier Glanbia Ireland sustainability programmes, including Operation PolliNation and Operation WildNation.

For further details on the Operation Biodiversity initiative, to enter the competition and to follow Glanbia Ireland's blogs and educational videos check out www.glanbiacconnect.com and www.countrylife.ie



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

HOUSING & CORPORATE ESTATE HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANTS FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

Wicklow County Council would like to make the public aware that we are still accepting applications for the above grant scheme. There is no closing date for receipt of applications.

Application forms may be downloaded from the Council's website at www.wicklow.ie or by emailing tmulhallburke@wicklowcoco.ie or by telephone on 0404-20120.

November 2021.

€282,686 Fund to support community groups impacted by COVID-19 in Wicklow

County Wicklow will benefit from €282,686 in funding announced as part of a special Government fund to support community groups impacted by COVID-19.

It is part of a €9m fund announced last week by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD.

The €9m fund is to support community groups impacted by COVID-19 by providing small grants to such groups and will support facilities such as community centres, men's and women's sheds, parish halls and youth centres.

The Community Activities Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their running costs such as utility or insurance bills, as well as with improvements to their facilities.

Groups will also be able to use

the funding to carry out necessary repairs and to purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment.

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, welcomed the announcement of the funding stating: "It will be of great benefit to the many organisations and groups in the County who are endeavouring to provide a service for their members and their communities in a time of great uncertainty."

Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, stated: "This is a much-needed boost and will help to reinvigorate communities as society opens up again and normal activities resume."

Announcing the funding, Minister Humphreys said: "This

funding is about giving a helping hand to our local groups and clubs, which have continued to serve their community during COVID-19.

"These grants may be small in nature, but they help thousands of community organisations, clubs, men's and women's sheds, youth centres and parish halls.

"I would encourage all interested groups to get in touch with their Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) that administers the programme in their area."

Speaking in support of the funding, Minister Simon Harris said: "This funding will provide support to Wicklow groups and clubs which held our communities together during COVID-19. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of a vibrant community sector and how

much we rely on community groups in times of need."

Minister O'Brien said: "This past year has, once again, shown the importance of a vibrant Community and Voluntary sector. The efforts of local community groups & volunteers throughout the pandemic have been immense and this funding will help to provide practical support to smaller community groups and facilities at a grassroots level across the country. I hope that this will continue to help foster and grow the community spirit that is so evident across Ireland.

The closing date for applications for County Wicklow is Monday 31st January 2022. Details of the scheme will be advertised in local press and on www.Wicklow.ie in the coming weeks. Any enquiries should be addressed to cep@wicklowcoco.ie.

The Ireland Funds donates €25,000 to Wicklow non-profit organisations since start of the pandemic

Since the onset of Covid-19, The Ireland Funds, the global philanthropic network, has provided €25,000 in funding to three charitable causes in County Wicklow through The Ireland Funds Covid-19 Response Fund, its emergency fund that provided immediate interventions and The Ireland Funds Heart of the Community Fund, which provides critical and timely funding to a wide range of not-for-profit organisations.

Through The Ireland Funds Covid-19 Response Fund, the following local organisation received support: AsIAM. Through The Ireland Funds Heart of the Community Fund, the following local organisations received support: Dunlavin Community First Responders and Greystones FRC received support.

Through its extensive global network, The Ireland Funds has harnessed the generosity of the Irish diaspora to assist charitable causes and communities hardest hit by the pandemic. The organisation is strategically embedded in the Irish charity sector and as a result donations were swiftly dispersed.

With limited resources and collapsing fundraising streams, many charities have struggled to deliver their services over the past 18 months. The Ireland Funds is strategically posi-

tioned within the non-profit sector and was able to swiftly identify and prioritise vital areas of impact including food distribution; disability support; domestic and child abuse; elderly services; access to education; mental health and community support. As the country begins to recover from the pandemic, The Ireland Funds continues to support a huge variety of non-profits in the face of unprecedented challenges.

Adam Harris, CEO, AsIAM said: "2000+ people have remotely accessed AsIAM programs since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Support is ensuring that it can continue to innovate to effectively support members of the autism community."

Darren Ryan, Vice President and Director Ireland of The Ireland Funds, said: "The Ireland Funds is proud to support the Wicklow non-

profit community with funds of €25,000 over the past 18 months through our Covid-19 Response Fund and the Heart of the Community Fund. The global diaspora has responded incredibly to the need in Wicklow and also throughout Ireland. Despite not being able to travel to Ireland, it has stepped up to support great Irish causes through our global network. This generosity highlights the network of people around the world that are supporting Wicklow and Ireland when we need it most. We are extremely grateful to the donors who have supported us. Much like the rest of the world, Ireland has faced unprecedented challenges over the past 18 months. Non-profit organisations on the island of Ireland have responded incredibly to the extreme challenges they have faced, continuing to provide essential services to those in need."

Organisations across the island of Ireland that The Ireland Funds has supported during the pandemic include ALONE, Barnardos, DePaul, FoodCloud, The Irish Wheelchair Association, Jigsaw, Age NI, FareShare NI, Kinship Care NI and Fighting Words NI.

Bray Credit Union Current Account wins prestigious international award

Irish Credit Unions, including Bray Credit Union, operating under the currentaccount.ie brand have seen off stiff international competition to land the coveted New Credit Union Services Organisation (CUSO) of the Year award for 2021 at the NACUSO 2021 Network Conference held in Las Vegas.

Owned by 50 of the most forward-thinking credit unions in the country, currentaccount.ie has gone from strength to strength since it launched in 2019. Its availability in 150 Credit Union branches across the country, market leading service offering, and superior customer service were enough to see it win out against its much larger American counterparts.

It is the first time that any CUSO outside of the U.S. has been recognised with this award and it is a testament to the collaborative efforts of the credit unions involved.

Speaking at the announcement of the award, Jack M Antonini, President & CEO, NACUSO said "NACUSO's core purpose is to be the catalyst for instituting collaboration, innovation, and the reinvention of the Credit Union industry. We had a very compelling group of nominees this year but currentaccount.ie's pioneering work on the collaborative model in Ireland, helping your credit union partners to offer expanded services, consistent value to your credit union partners and growing impact separated it from the others."



New initiative to develop compassionate culture in Wicklow

Killruddery House and Gardens and Irish Hospice Foundation have joined forces to invite creative explorations of loss.

This winter Killruddery House and Gardens and Irish Hospice Foundation will launch a new initiative inviting people to walk, talk, and explore what might be created after loss.

In 2016, Irish Hospice Foundation carried out a national survey where people said they'd like more places to talk about death and bereavement.

This winter of 2021 after two years of pandemic, while its gardens are closed to the general public, Killruddery House is offering this to people wanting to take a walk and talk through the sensations of winter.

Building from "Death Cafes" which invite people to discuss death, dying, grief and bereavement the Compassionate Culture Network is formed of seven locations around the country where people can use creativity to make sense from bereavement. The uniquely beautiful gardens of Killruddery House are a perfect backdrop for this project in Wicklow.

Killruddery CEO Fionnuala Ardee says "It is our pleasure to open the gardens for this small group, intent on prioritising communication and companionship, to

exchange life stories, including that epic part of life; death. Poignant that it will be the winter gardens that will hold these walks and talks, that allow us all to look towards the light."

Dominic Campbell of Irish Hospice Foundation says, "Over the last two years Irish people came together in many ways. As we head into winter Killruddery House's collaboration with Irish Hospice Foundation and the support of The Creative Ireland programme is a beautiful space for those in need."

Walks take place on Thursday mornings and are led by Andrea Scott

of theatre company Floating World Productions.

"They are free to take part in. Places are limited. Registration in advance is required. To register go to <https://killruddery.com/programme/>

The project in Killruddery House is part of a larger nationwide IHF initiative, the Compassionate Culture Network supported by the Creative Ireland Programme whose aim is to use creative practice to establish opportunities for people to talk about loss.

For details see www.hospicefoundation.ie/cen



Pictured launching the My Legacy Month campaign recently were representatives from number of charities who are members of My Legacy, including: Nathan Burke, a Royal National Lifeboat Institution volunteer; Emma Carroll, ISPCA Animal Welfare inspector; Aoife Garvey, Chairperson of My Legacy; Sinead McDonagh, a client of Irish Guide Dogs, with Guide Dog Milan; Diarmuid Gavin, campaign ambassador; Pamela McLoughlin, recovering cancer patient, representing ARC Cancer Services. Photo credit: Julien Behal.

Consider leaving legacy gift in your will

Renowned gardener Diarmuid Gavin is calling on people in Wicklow to 'grow their legacy' as part of this year's My Legacy Month campaign, which was officially launched at the start of November. As the 2021 campaign ambassador, Diarmuid is encouraging people to consider leaving a legacy gift in their will to a charity that means something to them.

Commenting at the launch of the campaign, Diarmuid said: "Even thinking about making a will is a taboo for some. It's something we don't like to confront. It almost feels like we're tempting fate. That's why a campaign like My Legacy Month is so important - it encourages us to think about our wishes and allows us the space to consider what we want in our wills. Once family and friends have been taken care of, do we have room to leave a legacy gift to a charity we admire?"

"I hope that my own legacy will benefit our natural environment - a place of beauty and biodiversity, an environment which enhances my life enormously and gives me great joy. This month, I would encourage people to consider what they would like their legacy to be and to have those conversations with their loved ones about considering a charity in their will.

Legacy gifts large or small can have a huge impact and it's important that we make it a greater part of the fabric of society."

My Legacy Month is an annual campaign that reminds people of the importance of making a will and generates awareness about legacy giving, asking people to consider including a legacy gift in their wills for a charity they care about.

The campaign is run by the umbrella group My Legacy, which is made up of 80 Irish charities working together to make legacy-giving the norm in Ireland. Wicklow-based New Evangelisation Trust is a member charity of My Legacy.

Also commenting, Aoife Garvey from My Legacy said: "The past 18 months have been a really challenging time for everyone and have forced us to reevaluate and focus on what is truly important to us. Despite

numerous cancelled fundraising events and various difficulties they have faced, charities in Wicklow and across the country have continued to provide essential services to the most vulnerable people in our society.

"In an increasingly challenging environment, legacy-giving is vital for a sustainable, shock-proof future for Irish charities. There is a common misperception that philanthropy and legacy-giving are only for the wealthiest in society. But the truth is that even a small gift could have a huge impact for a charity and its beneficiaries by helping to protect their services into the future. By leaving a legacy gift, you'll also have the satisfaction of knowing you'll have a positive impact on someone who will need your help in the future. This month, we are encouraging people to think about what their legacy will be and to consider including a charity in your will that matches with your values and what's important to you."

Further information on how to make a will and the My Legacy Month campaign is available at www.mylegacy.ie.

Bray and Wicklow Lions projects promote Type 2 Diabetes awareness

Bray Lions Club and Wicklow Lions Club recently undertook projects to raise awareness of diabetes to mark World Diabetes Day on 14th November. They joined more than 2,000 Lions in Ireland in a nation-wide campaign to mark the day.

They also joined 1.4m members of 44,000 Lions Clubs throughout the world who are dedicated to fighting the condition known as 'The Silent Assassin'.

Bray Lions Club gifted apples to 500 local schoolchildren as a symbol of healthy living. The parents of the schoolchildren also received information on Type 2 Diabetes and advice on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Wicklow & District Lions Club launched their Diabetes Awareness projects on the streets of Wicklow on Saturday 13th November.

Lions Clubs in Ireland are conducting an extensive information campaign, through a wide spectrum of

media, to make people aware of the growing incidence of Type 2 Diabetes in Ireland. Projects will include the presentation of apples and vegetable seeds to school children as a symbol of healthy eating, the distribution of information leaflets and a bookmark, public relations activities and posts on social media.

Joe Codyre, president of Bray Lions Club said that Lions in Ireland have a long tradition of working towards Type 2 Diabetes prevention. "We are delighted to be part of this world-wide Diabetes Day Campaign," he said.

The World Diabetes Day Campaign is undertaken in the context of new research which indicates that the number of people with Type 2 Diabetes in Ireland could double to more than 410,000 in the next 15 years unless a population-wide, comprehensive campaign is put in place.

The research, commissioned by HSE, modelled the current growth in Type 2 Diabetes, often linked to being overweight or inactive, and the possible measures used to control it. The researchers said that 'a prevention programme, based on the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme, is estimated to result in a reduction of between 2,000 (0.5%) and 19,000 (4.6%) in the number of prevalent cases of diabetes in 2036 resulting in substantial health and quality of life benefits."

Ann Ellis, District Governor of Lions Clubs in Ireland, stressed the importance of this initiative. "Diabetes is the 8th leading cause of death in the world. It is estimated that worldwide more than 460 million people have Diabetes, and this number is growing," she said.

Lions can play an important role in arresting the spread of the condition by increasing awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle in staying free of Type 2 Diabetes.

The worldwide Lions Signature Project aims to specifically address the risk of Type 2 Diabetes. Eating healthily, increasing the level of physical activity and maintaining a healthy weight, all play a role in preventing or delaying the onset of Type 2 Diabetes.

A quick, easy and free test can indicate the degree to which people are at risk of contracting Type 2 Diabetes.

To take the test visit: Diabetes Ireland www.diabetes.ie/are-you-at-risk-free-diabetes-test/ or Diabetes UK (NI) www.riskscore.diabetes.org.uk/start



Pictured are Wicklow Lions members Maria Neilan, Jim Molloy, and Sean Olohan distributing Diabetes Awareness leaflets in Wicklow town to mark Diabetes month throughout the world

Value your Vote! Register by 25 November

Check the **Draft Register of Electors**
by 25 November 2021



The Draft Register of Electors is on display at your local Council offices, Garda Stations, libraries, post offices and online at www.checktheregister.ie until 25 November 2021.

If you will be aged 18 or over on 15 February 2022 check that your name, address and other details are present and correct on the Draft Register. If there is a mistake, tell your local Council **before 25 November 2021**.



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage





Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD is pictured during his visit to IT Carlow with IT Carlow President Dr Patricia Mulcahy and IT Carlow Governing Body Chair John Moore. Pic: Mary Browne.

People of Wicklow asked to stand with GOAL this christmas

Irish humanitarian aid agency GOAL is launching this year's hugely popular Christmas fundraiser, the GOAL Mile, for people across Ireland and abroad, with registration now open at www.goalmile.org.

The annual event sees people across the country gather over the Christmas holidays to run, jog or walk a mile in support of vulnerable communities across 14 countries where GOAL works in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Started first in 1977, this year's GOAL Mile is supported by AIB in the first of an exciting new three year partnership, announced just last month.

This year marks the first time that both in-person and virtual GOAL Miles are taking place following the move online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, over 170 GOAL Miles were organised across Ireland, with approximately 50,000 people raising over €250,000 in 2019. With AIB's support, the GOAL Mile is now set to return stronger than ever.

GOAL's Director of Fundraising and Marketing, Eamon Sharkey, sees the option of physical or virtual GOAL Miles as an opportunity to connect even more people with their communities, the Irish diaspora and GOAL's work this Christmas.

"We are so excited to re-connect with people in-person this Christmas. For many people, it will have been two years since they were last with family, friends and neighbours, and we hope the GOAL Mile can play a part in bringing people together as we come out of such a challenging period."

"Of course, there are many people around the world who still can't be at home or take part in

physical events this Christmas. That is why we are delighted to also be encouraging virtual GOAL Miles once again. Last year people from every corner of the world took part to make it a truly global event, and we would love to see that become a part of the longstanding tradition of the GOAL Mile."

GOAL CEO Siobhan Walsh hopes to reach more communities throughout Ireland and across the globe with the GOAL Mile.

"Hundreds of communities across Ireland already know and love the GOAL Mile," said Ms. Walsh. "They show incredible compassion for communities in need across the world that this event supports. GOAL helped more than 14 million people in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America last year. We could not have achieved this without the continued support of the Irish people."

She added: "We look forward to AIB's 9,000+ staff and wide customer base standing with GOAL as we continue our mission to help communities to respond to and recover from humanitarian crises."

AIB Chief Executive, Colin Hunt, said: "The GOAL Mile is a renowned and long-standing event that helps transform the lives of the world's most vulnerable people. We know that the GOAL Mile is already at the heart of many of the communities we serve, and we look forward to taking part in this unique event with our staff and customers. At AIB we are committed to building a sustainable tomorrow by backing those who are building it today, and by supporting GOAL we are reaching those communities that are already suffering deeply from the impact of crises, poverty and climate change."

To register for your local GOAL Mile or to arrange one at a new location, please visit: www.goalmile.org.

Harris visits IT Carlow to discuss May 2022 merger

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD visited Institute of Technology Carlow (IT Carlow) last week - just days after announcing May 2022 for the establishment of the south east technological university in partnership with Waterford Institute of Technology.

Arriving at the Carlow campus, Minister Harris was greeted by IT Carlow President Dr Patricia Mulcahy and IT Carlow Governing Body Chair John Moore, who accompanied the Minister on a tour of the campus. The Minister met with students, staff and research leaders who outlined some of the new initiatives currently underway.

Minister Harris said it is a very exciting time for Carlow and the region as it is set to get its first university in the current academic year. He commented, "I am thrilled today to finally visit IT Carlow in person and to discuss their exciting plans for their merger with Waterford IT next year to create the south east technological university."

"This is going to be a watershed moment for higher education in the south-east region, and we can look forward to the TU increasing higher education access, driving enhanced regional development, and delivering more opportunities to students, staff, businesses and communities across the region."

I want to congratulate

everyone in both IT Carlow and WIT, as well as the wider communities, who worked so hard to make this a reality."

At the campus Barrow Centre, Head of Learner Support and Student Services Rosemary Flynn introduced the Minister to the student union president and officers, 1916 bursary recipients, access students, peer mentors and lifelong learners.

The Minister viewed the institute's high performance sport facilities in the company of Director of Sport Donal McNally and met with representatives from some of IT Carlow's 60 student clubs and societies and several student athletes - including IT Carlow alumnus and Olympian Marcus Lawler.

In the Haughton Building, Vice-President for Development and Research Dr Declan Doyle introduced Minister Harris to some postgraduate research students representing the institute's research centres, who were delighted to share an overview of their research work with the Minister.

Vice-President for Academic Affairs David

Denieffe and Director for People, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Colette Lane briefed the Minister on several initiatives underway at IT Carlow, including the work of the institute's Ending Sexual Violence, Prevention and Support Committee (ESP) group that is overseeing and driving implementation of the governmental Framework for Consent.

A strong advocate of apprenticeships, Minister Harris was briefed on the new geodrilling apprentice programme by Head of Faculty for Engineering Dr Frances Hardiman and colleagues, while International Affairs Manager Donal McAllister, TU Project Director Dr David Ryan, and colleagues provided an update on recent international initiatives. These included the Carlow International College of Technology, to be established in the city of Zhengzhou in Henan Province, China, and the newly established European university consortium that is working towards an application under the European Universities Initiative.

Capital Projects

Manager Keith Williams provided the Minister with a tour of the modern and expanding campus, highlighting new developments, including the recently completed €15million, 31-acre South Sports Campus and the north quarter site of the campus where the new €21million corporate support services building recently broke ground.

Welcoming the Minister to the Carlow campus, Dr Mulcahy said "Our thanks to the Minister for taking the time to meet with our students and staff in-person and experience first-hand the incredible spirit, pride and exceptional work of all those in our community. It is their efforts that has brought us to the point we are at today when we will see, in partnership with Waterford Institute of Technology, the establishment of our south east technological university by May 2022. We thank the Minister for his recent announcement on this matter and for all his support in enhancing education provision across the country and, particularly, across all counties of the south-east region."

Purple House a recipient of St. Patrick's Festival x TikTok Creative Fund

TikTok and St. Patrick's Festival have announced the recipients of the €100,000 St. Patrick's Festival x TikTok Creative Fund, which has been awarded to ten community groups across Ireland.

Purple House Cancer Support will receive €10,000 from the St. Patrick's Festival x TikTok Creative Fund, to provide children's one-to-one Art Therapy sessions and adults Art and Crafts Cancer Therapy classes.

The fund, which was designed to support and inspire creativity in Irish communities, will be distributed to ten community groups and charitable organisations in counties Dublin, Cork, Offaly, Louth, Kilkenny, Wicklow, Cavan, and Donegal.

This €10,000 project award will support the work of these local groups in developing and delivering creative responses to their own unique community challenges. A pop-up community choir, dance workshops, heritage projects and tours, and arts and craft therapy sessions are just some of the projects which will be supported by the St. Patrick's Festival x TikTok Creative Fund.

This creative investment forms the final part of the €500,000 commitment made by TikTok earlier this year to support St. Patrick's Festival 2021. This took place over six days in March through SPF TV, a dedicated online TV channel, and an historic partnership with Oireachtas TV which brought the Festival to

1.1 million homes in Ireland during lockdown. St. Patrick's Festival 2021 was Ireland's most significant digital festival to date, with more than 102 million global engagements.

The St. Patrick's Festival team will now commence work with each of the ten selected community groups to realise their ambitious creative projects.

Purple House Cancer Support in Bray is to the forefront in providing a range of professional support services to people of all ages affected by cancer in Ireland. Their aim is to help rebuild the lives of families affected by cancer. Purple House is at the heart of the community. Founded in 1990, Purple House was the first Community based Cancer Support Centre in Ireland and today operates a wide range of support services including counselling, complimentary therapies, bereavement counselling, services for children and young adults including play therapy, creative arts and one to one support, CLIMB programme for children, camps & workshops for children, hospital transport, survivorship programmes, support groups, cancer rehab gym, meal distribution, PH choir, Yoga and Mindfulness, CheckMeOut.ie health awareness campaigns aimed at

18-30 year olds and more.

Speaking about the funding, Veronica O'Leary, Director of Services, Purple House Cancer Support, Wicklow said: "When children or adults access our services, they are often in crises mode, anxious and confused. They often don't know how to express or verbalise their feelings and emotions. Our counsellors and therapists are especially trained to respond to the child or adults needs in wherever they are at that time. Interaction now helps people cope more effectively with future life challenges and gaining resilience."

"This creative fund will allow us to expand services and sessions as the need for our services is growing constantly. We will be able to continue to provide, Children's One to One Art Therapy sessions and Adults Art & Crafts Cancer Therapy classes. On behalf of Purple House Cancer Support and all of our clients, we would like to sincerely thank the St. Patrick's Festival x TikTok Creative Fund."

The artistic journey of each community group, from selection through to the presentation of their creative project, will be captured and shared on both St. Patrick's Festival and TikTok platforms. A selection of work will also be showcased to Ireland and the world during the national St. Patrick's Festival in March 2022. Details of the Festival will be announced in the coming months.



Pictured at the launch of this year's GOAL Mile are children Sinead O'Suilleabhain and Barra O'Suilleabhain with Shamrock Rovers' captain Ronan Finn, writer Paul Howard, rugby international Jenny Murphy, Senior Dublin Ladies' footballer Sinead Ahern and Irish Paralympic athlete Greta Streimikyte. Pic: Leon Farrell

'The Last Song' - A Song for Jim

A story about true love, loss and the kindness of strangers

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) has announced that 'The Last Song (Song for Jim)' written and re-released by International singer-songwriter Don Mescall, is available to download now, with all funds raised from downloads and donations funding The ASI's dementia-specific supports and services across the country. This is a story of true love, loss and kindness of strangers. 'The Last Song (Song for Jim)' is accompanied by a new music video featuring people living with dementia and family carers from across Ireland.

It was a strange journey of synchronicity that brought together a retired County Cork builder, Jim Colbert, his loving wife, Caroline, with international singer-songwriter Don Mescall but come together they did, bound by a diagnosis of dementia, a true love story and the kindness of strangers.

Life couldn't have been better for retired builder Jim and his wife Caroline until, like 30 couples throughout Ireland every day, in late 2017, Jim received a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

Caroline says: "Even though dementia was an uninvited guest into our home, and initially something we fought against hoping interventions and treatments would 'cure' it, once we accepted the diagnosis it gave us the freedom to talk and plan around this new life of ours."

Showing strength, they didn't realise they had, and with much help and support of The ASI, they planned how they would deal with the years ahead and the many changes that were to come - with Jim playing a very active part in planning how he wanted this unwanted adventure to pan out. Jim always liked a plan.

One of the many things Caroline did was to make a daily video of them together, something she looks at often to remind her how far they have travelled as they faced this diagnosis head-on and worked to adapt their world to accommodate it. Caroline's devotion to Jim is such that during lockdown she trained to care for Jim so she could



Don Mescall

continue to visit him. With the co-operation of the team at Oaklodge, they devised a first of its kind ECP (Essential Care Partner) programme which Caroline and one other family member undertook.

Jim initially attended The ASI's Bessboro Day Care Centre in Cork and within three years of diagnosis, he started a new part of this adventure under the care of the dementia-specific team at Oaklodge Nursing Home where he happily resides still, Caroline visiting him every day she is allowed to do.

Often putting music to these beautiful soundtracks of their life, their special song became 'The Last Song', an emotionally charged piece of music written by Don Mescall and Mike Reid taken from Don's 'Lighthouse Keeper' album (2018). Caroline played it often to Jim, making a movie of them together to put over Don's gentle words and melody as they continued to make

the most of this new life.

Having once again listened to 'The Last Song' one dark March evening, Caroline decided to reach out and contact Don just to say thank you for creating such a wonderful song. Not expecting a reply, she was dumbstruck when Don replied directly and she feels what happened next was divine intervention culminating in the launch of this poignant song to raise awareness and much-needed funds.

Singer / Songwriter Don Mescall said: "I remember being really moved after reading a message from Caroline sent to me on Instagram; it was one of those moments when the words travelled straight from one heart to another. As we started to correspond I learnt a little more about her and Jim's extraordinary journey and how 'The Last Song' had become a catalyst of sorts and brought us all together. I later invited Caroline to come to Quivvy Church

where I now live in Cavan, and after listening and gaining an understanding of their beautiful love story, I offered to re-record the song and make it available for release to help raise awareness of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland and their amazing work, and of course Caroline and Jim's touching story and the stories of the many other people living with dementia in Ireland. It truly is a joy to help and I'm truly humbled by the response to the song."

Citing early intervention from The ASI as one of the many blessings they have received on this road, Caroline Colbert said: "Call The Alzheimer Society of Ireland as early as you can, I delayed as I foolishly thought this was a disease for old people. From my initial contact with our Dementia Adviser Vanessa Bradbury, my shoulders relaxed when for the very first time I was able to say my husband has dementia whilst sitting with Vanessa at The ASI's Bessboro day care centre in Cork. From that day to this, the team at Bessboro has been a constant support, facilitating me to attend training courses and learn a new language of communication which has really helped both Jim and me. We also have a wonderful local GP and geriatrician who have been great friends to us both."

Thanking Don for his generosity in releasing his beautiful song and honouring Jim in this way, Caroline ended by saying: "My gorgeous fun adventurous husband Jim left me in December 2019. I wish I had known the day he would leave because I would have made sure we had one last wonderful conversation. However, I have grown to love this new Jim that I share my days with. He looks so like the man I married six short years ago. I tell him every day how much he is loved and cherished and I like to think he hears me. I know Jim is still there and for that, I am very thankful. We may not have been each other's first love but being the last is a privilege."

Download the song now at <https://thealzheimersocietyofireland.bandcamp.com/track/the-last-song-song-for-jim>



Caroline and Jim Colbert



Celebrating the launch of Youth Theatre Ireland's nationwide recruitment campaign were Lily Bunting and David Rawle, and Emma Corrigan.

Youth Theatre Ireland Launch National Recruitment Campaign

Youth Theatre Ireland, supported by the Creative Ireland Programme, has launched a national recruitment campaign to increase awareness and membership of young people across Ireland.

This is a particularly difficult time for young people as they face all of the challenges of resuming social and personal interaction with their peers and participation in youth theatre is an excellent and effective way of helping them to meet new people and learn useful life skills.

Eoghan Doyle, Director of Youth Theatre Ireland commented "For over 40 years, Youth Theatre Ireland has valued the social, personal and artistic development of young people and today we want to make more people across Ireland aware of youth theatre and the benefits it can have for young people. I want to thank the Creative Ireland programme for the continued belief and support of Youth Theatre Ireland to assist us in achieving our vision to empower young people through youth theatre and to provide access to youth theatre to every young person in Ireland."

There is widespread concern for the wellbeing and mental health of young people and youth theatre is a proven way to support the social, personal and artistic development of young people. The benefits of youth theatre include the learning of acting, design or performance skills in addition to other

vital supports. Youth theatre helps to develop creativity, increase friendship circles, build confidence and self-esteem, increase wellbeing and happiness, decrease anxiety and stress, increase in fun activities and physical activity, build a sense of achievement and to develop the individual as a team player.

Alongside this recruitment campaign Youth Theatre Ireland, with further investment from the Creative Ireland Programme, are announcing a direct investment of over €34,000 directly into youth theatre groups across the country. This funding will support groups to re-open for in person activities for young people as well as running artistic programmes to attract new members.

Tania Banotti, Director, Creative Ireland commented on the importance of the campaign.

"Creative Ireland is delighted to support the wonderful work of Youth Theatre Ireland. This initiative will enable existing youth theatre groups to welcome back young theatre makers who have not been able to meet for over a year. Youth Theatre Ireland has provided so many young people with a creative outlet that in turn supports social interaction and enhances wellbeing and we believe that it is important to make their programmes available to as many young people as possible."

You can find your local youth theatre and find out about the full list of benefits and programmes provided by Youth Theatre Ireland by visiting YouthTheatre.ie

Tusla appeals for carers for 16 and 17 year olds in Wicklow

Tusla - Child and Family Agency has launched an initiative aimed at highlighting the need for carers for older teenagers in Wicklow.

The week-long campaign aims to drive further awareness for the need for carers for older teenagers in their local communities. Right now in communities across Wicklow there are 16 and 17 year olds who need a safe and supportive place to live. Tusla is looking for understanding and compassionate individuals and families who are willing to become approved carers.

They would then offer a young person the opportunity to live in their home, and to help guide and prepare them for independent living. While caring for young children may not be suitable for some people, choosing to care for an older child may offer more flexibility for people who are at a particular stage of their career and who want to

maintain an existing lifestyle.

Speaking about the campaign, Audrey Warren, Area Manager, Tusla, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow, said, "This weeks' campaign will highlight the immense rewards that come with caring for an older child, as well as the flexibility that caring for an older child can offer to families and individual carers.

"We know that it is harder for older children to find suitable placements, however they have the same needs for support and safety as young children do. Through being there for an older child, to listen to their feelings and offer them a place to feel safe and secure, you will make a huge difference in their future and how they move towards

adulthood and independence with the support they need."

Potential carers will be assisted along their journey with assessment and training to inform and empower their decision. Approved carers will have access to financial supports, and to a social worker who will help them establish what type of care they can best offer a young person and what training and supports would be of benefit. Across the week there will be a number of online and in-person information events open to members of the public.

These information events will offer potential carers the opportunity to hear from experienced carers and social workers, and to learn more about the process of becoming an approved carer for an older child.

For more information visit fostering.ie; call freephone 1800 226 771; or email tusla.fostering@tusla.ie



Jennie Wyse Power

Jennie Wyse Power: Reflections on late 1921-1922, and the Road to Civil War

Courthouse Arts Centre, Friday November 26th 7.30pm. Admission FREE

Written by Ann Mathews, Performed and directed by Andrea Kelly
Q&A afterwards with writer Ann Mathews in attendance

This short performance on Jennie Wyse Power is an insight into just one aspect of her political activism from 1881 until 1941.

Her interest and work within political and Irish cultural activism mark her out as the outstanding

female activist during this period. She was not a seeker of public acclaim. This performance concentrate on the period from the Truce negotiated by Eamon de Valera with the British Government in July 1921 to the outbreak of the Civil War in July 1922.

Jennie's daughter Nancy Wyse Power was a member of

the Foreign Affairs Department of the Irish Republic in German. From August 1921, until July 1922, Jennie wrote to her everyday as events unfolded in Ireland.

Andrea Kelly is an award winning actor, screen writer and aspiring director based in Aughrim. Her work extends across theatre, television and film for over 20 years. She has a Bachelor Degree in Acting from Trinity College.

Andrea is currently theatre maker in Residence at the Courthouse Arts Centre working on a new devised theatre project based on JM Synge's Wicklow with director Cliona O'Connell.

She voices the Queen Mother in new animation 'Royals Next Door' coming soon to RTE. Ann Mathews' first play Lockout was staged in 2013 in Dublin and her second play Made de Markievicz on Trial was staged in 2015 and went on a national tour in 2016. The finale was performed in the Irish Cultural Centre (Cultural Irlandais) in Paris on the 100th Anniversary of the 1916 Rebellion in Dublin

'The Moving Bridge that was part of the 2020 New Theater programme Fightback Theatre, and in 2021 My Sister Elizabeth



Ann Mathews

can be viewed as an epilogue. Ann completed her PhD in 2004 at Maynooth University. In 2010 she published Renegades: Irish Republican Women 1900-1922 and The Kimmage Garrison 1916. She published Dissidents: Irish Republican Women 1922-41 and The Irish Citizen Army in 2012 and

2014, respectively. She has also contributed to several historical publications.

Covid Digital cert or proof of immunity required. Mask wearing essential indoors.

Coming up at Whale Theatre... Moya Brennan

Friday 3rd December @ 8pm. Tickets €35 available online at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550

Moya Brennan, the Voice of Clannad & First Lady of Celtic Music, brings the unique atmosphere of her music to the Whale Theatre for a specially produced seasonal show of celebration and reflection. Moya, along with her multi-talented Irish band, will draw not only on a rich selection of traditional Irish and European Christmas songs and carols but also her enticing repertoire of well-known solo & Clannad songs.

The show has never failed to warm the heart and carry the spirit and message of the season. Moya's Christmas release, An Irish Christmas, is a Celtic-inspired album of classic and contemporary songs and carols, such as Silent Night, In the Bleak Midwinter, In Dulci Jubilo and Joy to the World. Bono stated recently, "I think she has one of the greatest voices the human ear has ever experienced", he was



heralding what many people know already about Moya Brennan. She sings like nothing you've ever heard before! So it makes sense that her live solo shows – with all the musicality and power of Clannad but with added, heart-warming intimacy – should be such a rich and moving experience. Her effortless vocals and timeless music pay homage not only to her vibrant traditional Irish heritage but also her grasp of contemporary forms.

Movie & Meal Nights

December - January, Meal & Movie Tickets €30 or Movie only €10
available online at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550

Given that a good meal out often makes you feel like not going home just yet, The Whale have come up with a groovy solution. Namely, their Big Night Out, which couples a dinner in one of Greystones' fine restaurant with a classic movie on the big screen for afters. Complete with free popcorn, a full bar and waiter service. With the likes of The Godfather, My Big Fat Greek Wedding and The Dead planned for 2022, the Big Night Out series got underway on Saturday, November 20th, with Camille being your first port of call followed at 8pm by the Thailand-set 1974 Bond outing The Man With The Golden Gun.

On Saturday, December 4th, Sonny's are joining the party with a fine burger menu on the night (plus that complimentary drink) at 6pm whilst the big screen will be giving itself over at 8pm to The Big Lebowski. Which is one sweet way to celebrate leading man Jeff Bridges' 72nd birthday on the day.

Coming on Saturday, January 22nd, The Hungry Monk will be teaming up with The Whale for a 50th anniversary screening of The Godfather - details to follow. With plans for The Whale's Big Night Out to become a monthly fixture on the Greystones calendar, you can find out more - and book your ticket - over on www.whaletheatre.ie.



Andrea Kelly

Wicklow shines in Love Your Coast photography competition

Clean Coasts announced the winners of the 12th Love Your Coast photography competition during their virtual awards ceremony that was premiered on Friday, 12th of November on Clean Coasts' social media channels. A number of photos showcasing Co. Wickow's coastline were shortlisted

The Love Your Coast competition is an integral part of the Clean Coasts programme. Ireland has some of the most spectacular and diverse coastlines in the world. For the past 12 years, the 'Love Your Coast' competition has been about capturing the essence of the Irish coastline, its beauty, and its diverse character.

Being Ireland's foremost community-based coastal programme, Clean Coasts counts on the work of nearly 2,000 volunteer groups nationwide to help protect our coastline, waterways, seas, ocean, and marine life. Once more, Clean Coasts' volunteers and groups have been eager to engage with us and support the fight against marine pollution. Clean Coasts mission is to foster pride in our coastline and waterways and each year the Love Your Coast competition is an opportunity to see this reflected in

the entries.

For the Love Your Coast 2021 competition, almost 1,300 entries were received - the most entries the Love Your Coast competition has had to date.

Clean Coasts' Love Your Coast Photography awards were held virtually for the second year in a row, where the winning photographers for the Love Your Coasts Photography competition were announced. The competition had a prize fund of €5,000 for the amateur photographers competing in five categories: Coastal Heritage, Coastal Landscape, People & the Coast, Wildlife & the Coast and the introduction of a brand-new Love Your Coast Category for 2021, Creativity and the Coast.

The 50 best shots were shortlisted by the Love Your Coast judges for an online gallery. Declan Roche's winning image from

the Wildlife and Underwater category, entitled Let Me Out, was the overall winner for 2021 Love Your Coast photography competition.

Michael John O'Mahony, director of the Environmental Education Unit said: "This is the 12th year of the competition and it has been very successful and very well received and we have seen some of the most amazing photographs of our coast over the last number of years. This is more than just a photography competition: we are an island nation and our coast and marine environment are incredibly important to us. Clean Coasts has almost 2,000 volunteer groups who are doing amazing work when it comes to managing and protecting our marine environment, so these photographs are a way for everybody to appreciate and celebrate our coast and be inspired to get involved too."

A SMALL WORLD - GITHIN TOM ZACHARIAH

This shortlisted image by Githin Tom Zachariah entitled A Small World was taken at Glen beach cliff walk, Dunbur Lower, for the Coastal Landscape category in the Love Your Coast competition.

Zachariah said when discussing their image;

"I've always been blown away by the sheer scale and beauty of the Irish coast. This shot was unplanned as I was hiking with friends.

I went with an ultra-wide shot to embrace the natural distortion of the lens to give the scene a "miniature" like effect to contrast my realization of being a tiny spec in this vast beautiful nature."



THREE GENERATIONS - JAMES GRANDFIELD

This shortlisted image by James Grandfield entitled Three Generations was taken at Wicklow Head, for the Coastal Heritage category in the Love Your Coast competition.

Grandfield stated when discussing their image that; "I was looking to get this shot for a long time, you can see the three generations of lighthouses on Wicklow Head.

"I've always had a fascination with them growing up, I love the history behind them and the workmanship that made them possible."



WEBBED FOOT - ODETA BUROKAITE

Webbed Foot by Odetta Burokaite, shortlisted for the Creativity and the Coast category for the Love Your Coast competition was taken at Kilcoole Beach, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow.

When asked about the image Burokaite said;

"I love walking at Kilcoole beach. I absolutely adore swans, they magnificent creatures. I love photographing them. Every bit about them fascinates me. I would spend hours sitting on the rocks and just watching them."



Coming up at Mermaid



FILM

ARRACHT (Cert: 12A)

Monday 22nd November 18pm | €9/7

This film will be preceded by Broken Sleep – a short film by Bray-based filmmaker David Stephenson.

1845. The Great Hunger begins. Colmán Sharkey (Dónall Ó Héalaí) is a fisherman living on the shores of Connemara. In an attempt to advocate for his starving community, Colmán visits his Landlord (Michael McElhatton) to plead for clemency in the face of continued tax hikes. After a violent altercation forces him on the run, he flees to an island cave, living in isolation for many years. Starving, grieving, on the verge of giving up he meets Kitty, a sick young girl (Saise Ní Chuinn) and a life-saving friendship develops. He teaches Kitty to fish and they find a way to live together. But the past is never far and a ruthless bounty hunter is continues to search for Colmán Sharkey...



THEATRE

Nyree Yergainharsian and Shaun Dunne present POP UP

Saturday 27 November | 8pm | €12/10

Oh hi there. It's been a minute. But we're back! Take a leap of faith into the unknown with Mermaid Arts Centre this November where, for one night only, POP UP MERMAID returns to present a line-up of delectable bite-sized performances across theatre, dance and comedy. Curated by Nyree Yergainharsian and Shaun Dunne, and featuring a series of post-show conversations that bridge the gap between artist and audience, POP UP is the best way to get to know what's new, now and soon to come across contemporary performance in Ireland.

So, pop up, chill out, have a drink and get familiar with some of the amazing artists that inspire Mermaid Arts Centre.

Have a magical Christmas in Bray

To help spread a little festive cheer and to continue to encourage the Bray community to shop, buy, hire and source locally first, Bray Chamber, Bray.ie and the Bray Municipal District Council have launched its Christmas marketing campaign for 2021.

Bray will make it a Christmas like no other with a Christmas Cracker Concert on Saturday, November 27th at 2 pm and again at 4:30 pm in the Civic Plaza. The open-air family concert is to celebrate the magic of Christmas.

This festive extravaganza will feature live music performances of Christmas songs, yuletide classics, and carols, a very special guest from the North Pole and lots more fun.

The concert will be fully compliant with Covid-19 guidelines. Each ticket admits a family (up to four people) and cannot be sold on an individual basis. A family ticket is just €5.00. Tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Ticket holders will be required to maintain social distancing and wear a face covering when staying 2 metres apart from people is difficult. Tickets are available at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/o/wicklow-county-council-19765150292>. The concert is part of the Government's Local Live Performance Programming Scheme and is produced by Wicklow County Arts Office and Wicklow County Council.

For those unlucky not to pick up a Christmas Cracker Concert ticket, the event will be streamed live on Bray.ie's Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/bray-town-from-4:30-pm-where-the-bray-town-centre-s-christmas-lights-will-be-switched-on-during-the-concert>.

Sarah Finnegan, Bray & District

Chamber of Commerce President said, "It's been an unquestionably another difficult year, and many people will be relieved to see it end. But, as we approach Christmas, however different it may be this year, it's critical that we focus on what our amazing town has to offer so why not make a break for Bray this festive season."

Throughout the festive season, there's an array of events and activities to keep all the family entertained. They include:

- Santa at Killruddery from Saturday, November 27th
- Classics by Candlelight at Christ Church on Sunday 28th November at 7.30 pm
- Killruddery Christmas Market weekends from Saturday, November 27th
- Santa Claus at Festina Lente - From Thursday, December 2nd
- Purple House's Christmas Candlelight Service on Friday, December 3rd at 7 pm in Christ Church
- Festive Christmas Concert in support of Bray homeless charity - BARSS on Saturday, December 4th at 8 pm.
- Purple House's Lights of Life - Virtual Christmas Tree
- The Dubliners Show at Mermaid on Saturday, December 11th
- Phil Coulter - Returning to Tranquillity at Mermaid on Saturday, December 18th
- Christmas Movies at Mermaid from December 18th. They include Stick Man & The Snowman on

Saturday, December 18th, Elf on Sunday, December 19th and It's a Wonderful Life on Monday, December 20th

- Christmas Table Centre Piece Workshop at Killruddery on Sunday, December 19th
- Ballet Ireland's Nutcracker Sweeties at Mermaid on December 22nd & 23rd

Clr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District said, "The Christmas in Bray campaign aims to drive foot-fall safely into the town so I'm encouraging consumers to spend locally and help businesses to continue to bounce back. To support this campaign, there's free parking at weekends throughout December at Wicklow County Council Bray car parks so it makes perfect sense for everyone to shop local first this year."

Bray Chamber, Bray.ie and the Bray Municipal District Council will continue to try and reach out to even more people in the lead up to Christmas through their digital platforms to raise the much-needed awareness that Bray Town is open for business safely and responsibly.

Businesses can get involved in the Shop Local First initiative, feature on Bray.ie's 'See & Do', 'Eat & Drink' or 'Stay' pages by submitting a free listing here: <https://www.bray.ie/submit/>.

All events and activities are subject to change without notice. Competitions close on Friday, December 17th 2021.

New beauty subscription box business offers free delivery in Greystones

Ethos Beauty and Wellness is a new start-up by Greystones entrepreneur Eileen Hannon.

Consisting of a unique monthly subscription box of Irish cosmetics and wellness brands, Eileen says that free delivery will be offered to anyone living locally in the Greystones area.

Subscribers will receive a bespoke gift box containing four full size products; a carefully curated blend of skincare, cosmetics, supplements and wellness products.

Brands that will feature include Modern Botany, Nunaia, Oxmantown Skincare, Ayu Cosmetics, Nima Brush, Ella & Jo Cosmetics, Kinvara Skincare, Green Angel, Dublin Herbalists, Bellamianta and many more.

Eileen says she is committed to eco friendly and sustainable packaging, and Irish brands who champion locally sourced ingredients.



Eileen Hannon of Ethos Beauty and Wellness



Subscription Box from Ethos Beauty and Wellness

ALLSHADES BLINDS

- Roller • Vertical • Wood Venetian
- Pleated • Velux • Roman

Tel: 087 2201600

FACTORY: Unit 10, Block 1, Broomhall Business Park, Rathnew. Tel: 0404 20344

ALL SEASONS PAVING & LANDSCAPING

- Natural Stone • Limestone • Sandstone
- Porcelain • Fencing • Turf Lawns
- Artificial Grass • Tarmac and Concrete

Call Clive:
01 2875662 or 087 6632074

LOCAL BUSINESS LOCAL BUSINESS LOCAL BUSINESS

KELLY DRAIN MAINTENANCE SERVICES LTD WISH TO PURCHASE THE FOLLOWING:

- Combined equipment for suction, recycling and transport of non-hazardous sewer, storm water and liquid waste, and the hydrodynamic cleaning of pipes, channels, drainage ducts, etc. through high pressure water jetting, to be fitted to a Scania 8x4 chassis.
- 5 stage water recycling system.
- Tank to be constructed from stainless steel 304.
- Hydraulically tipping cylindrical tank and opening door.
- Tank capacity to be at least 15,000 litres.
- 6.5 - 7 metre 270 degree suction hose boom, 20 metres of 6 inch rubber hose.
- Jetting hose reel to be mounted on the front of tank & hose to be delivered via the boom.
- Vacuum pump to be a blower, capability to be 5000 cubic metres per hour.
- High pressure jetting pump - Uraca 350 litres per minute @ 205 bar

We are seeking tenders to supply a quotation for the above within 21 days of the date of print. Tenders to reply to gilliankelly@kellyes.ie

Ray Menton

- Patio and BBQ gas • Camping gaz stockist,
- Portable hotplates, "sizzlers" & heaters for camping and leisure • Regulators for all appliances.

We supply a full range of gas cylinders

41 Lower Main Street, Arklow. **FLO GAS**
P: 0402 39312 E: mentonray@eircom.net
WE DELIVER GAS & FUEL

SELF-STORAGE

24hr access own door/key.

Secure dry storage units/containers various sizes. Suit house contents etc. Reasonable rates.

ASHFORD AREA
Tel 086 259 1538

YOU SAY IT, WE SPRAY IT

Sprayit

COMPLETE KITCHEN RE-SPRAYS

Charvey Lane, Rathnew. Tel: 089 2365271

Heal yourself to some de-stress treatments

€5 off your 1st Treatment €75 per hour

- Reki
- Lomi Lomi
- Reflexology
- Thai Foot Massage
- Cupping Massage
- Indian Head Massage

Text Domnic Plant: 086 828 9382

Order online at staffordclarke.ie

STAFFORD CLARKE

RETAIL SOLID FUELS

COAL, FIREWOOD, GAS AND MORE FUEL PRODUCTS ONLINE

Delivering in Dublin and East Wicklow: Bray, Greystones, Enniskerry, Roundwood, Ashford, Rathnew, Wicklow and Arklow.

- Premium Grade Kiln Dried Firewood
- Easy to light and produces very little ash
- High Heat Output
- Environmentally Friendly and Carbon Neutral
- Moisture below 20%
- Suitable for outdoor use in Chimneys and Fire Pits

Product Code: KLG54

✓ **Stockists of smokless fuels**

✓ **Best Priced Fuels** ✓ **Placed into Bunker**

1850 336 699 / 0404 67027
sales@staffordclarke.ie

ITCO REDWOOD IT LTD.

The IT store for you...

Desktops from €95 Laptops from €75

Plus Monitors, Drives, SSDs, Peripherals

We repair, upgrade and painlessly transfer data to speed up your old PC. Free quotations.

087 256 9153
tom@itoc.ie **www.itco.ie**

Victorian Tea Times

in Arklow, County Wicklow

Christmas bookings & reservations available

Serving delicious warm mulled wine sitting beside a Victorian fire blazing up the chimney

What more can you ask for this Christmas do something different and special

Book 'The Victorian Tea Times Experience'
www.victorianteatimes.com
or call 089 4285848 for more information.

Amanda's Hair Salon

CHRISTMAS GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT SALON

Covid safety measures in place

9 Lr. Mall, Wicklow Town. Tel: 0404 64562

LOUISE D'ARCY

PGA HEAD PROFESSIONAL
THE PRO SHOP @ WICKLOW GOLF CLUB

The perfect Xmas gift to get those you love back in the game!

- Golf Lesson Vouchers Available - Make your best, better!
- Custom fit golf clubs with free custom fit
- Lots of Christmas Offers and many Sale Items reduced to clear!
- Pro Shop - with great Gift Ideas and Stocking Fillers

Tel: 0404 67379 | Mob: 087 751 0727
Email: louisedarcypga@yahoo.ie
thelouisedarcygolfclub.com

ethos Beauty & Wellness

Ethos Beauty & Wellness is a Skincare, Cosmetics & Wellness gift box featuring premium Irish brands exclusively. An ideal Christmas present or a gift that keeps on giving - Gifts include brands such as Modern Botany, Green Angel, Kinvara Skincare and many more. Please call: 087 611 9143

Visit: www.ethosbeauty.ie

for more details on subscription plans • Free local delivery in the Greystones Area

Up to 4,110 young people in Wicklow may not be on electoral register with days to deadline

Youth Council advises young people not to wait until an election or referendum is called before they register

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) - which represents organisations working with over 380,000 young people nationwide - is urging young people to make sure they have registered to vote before the deadline on Thursday November 25th. Registering to vote now means less red tape and bureaucracy than registering down the line, explains the youth council.

James Doorley, NYCI Deputy Director said "Census 2016 figures indicate that there are 702,796 young people aged 18 to 29 in Ireland, which represents a potentially very large youth vote. Based on the most recent population data from the Central Statistics Office this would mean up to 1,800 young people in County Carlow would have turned 18 since February 2020 and may risk missing out on their right to vote unless they register by Thursday November 25th.

James Doorley, NYCI Deputy Director explained "We know from our work with

young people that the vast majority want to vote but not all are aware they have to register. This is particularly an issue among the 126,344* young people who turned 18 and became eligible to vote in the last 2 years since the 2020 General Election.

Check the register

Local Authorities are currently preparing the 2022/2023 electoral register. For those unsure whether they are registered or not, the NYCI advises that they check online at checktheregister.ie.

"If young people are not on the electoral lists, we are strongly encourag-

ing them to register now. To do this they need to fill out an RFA1 form (available at checktheregister.ie) and return it to their local city or county council by Thursday November 25th. In effect the deadline is Wednesday, November 24th as the form needs to be completed and posted back to the local authority to arrive by the deadline. If applicants miss the postal deadline, the only other option is to deliver the completed RFA1 form by hand," continued Mr Doorley.

Anyone 18 on or before 15th of February 2022

"This does not just apply to those currently aged 18-29 years. Any person who turned 18 since the election in February 2020 and is not registered, but also any young person who is currently 17, but will turn 18 by the 15th of February 2022, can apply for inclusion in the 2022/2023 register. NYCI also reminded applicants that it is their responsibility to make sure all the documentation arrives on time, so we recommend they post it by Wednesday November 24th at the latest.

"One of the privileges of living in a democracy is the right to have a say in who represents us at local level and who governs us at national level. We only get the chance to have our say every four or five years in general elections, so it is important that all citizens, especially young people who have recently gained that right, make sure they can exercise their franchise by being registered to vote in time, and we strongly recommend they do so on or before the upcoming deadline on Thursday, November 25th next," concluded Mr Doorley.

The National Youth Council of Ireland is a membership-led umbrella organisation that represents and supports the interests of voluntary youth organisations and uses its collective experience to act on issues that impact on young people.



Enna and Kiera DeCourcy at the Unwanted Gifts sale in aid of Wicklow Cancer Support and St. Patrick's Church, which took place in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The rules and decision-making processes governing state bureaucracy in this country continue to amaze me. The latest gem: My request for the annual Fuel Allowance being turned down because I receive Carer's Allowance. By definition, I receive it as I am caring for someone - in this case my old and infirm (and now cold as well) mother with dementia and cancer. In other words, the very type of person the Fuel Allowance scheme was devised to help in the first place. I was advised that another person in the household, who is on a different social welfare payment, could apply instead - presumably referring to the person I am caring for. So, basically, I should go through the whole application process again, taking my time and energy away from her due to everything that entails.

And what is the reward at the end of it all - even if it is granted eventually? A drop in the ocean. Fuel Allowance is €33 euro per week, compared to the fortune I am saving the state by keeping her at home and out of a nursing home.

I am fighting on every front, at enormous cost to myself. As generous as this country is, it's time to take a long, hard look at the bureaucratic apparatus running it and to overhaul the rules which don't help too many people who they were designed to help.

Markus Heinrich
Blainroe, Co. Wicklow

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

P & D Vambeck Ltd. seeks permission to replace and alter windows to the front left of shop premises with concertina opening panels to the left of front door and matching panels to the remaining windows at 2 Abbey Street, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, McAulay Rice Architects (0404 62178) intend to apply on behalf of Jason Hedderman for Full Planning Permission. Permission is being sought for the demolition of existing dwelling on site, a proposed new dwelling, garage/carport, a proposed secondary treatment system with percolation area all to current EPA guidelines, new entrance and all associated site works at Rosnastraw, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased, at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, from Wicklow County Council at Wicklow County Buildings, Wicklow, during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the planning application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alwyn Owens and Denise Beck seek full planning permission for a new Garden shed to rear of their house at Kinvara, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow A63 ET28. 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.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

• ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (GRADE VII)

REF: 50/2021 Salary €51,340 – €66,743
gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

• BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (TEMPORARY 2 YEAR CONTRACT)

REF: 51/2021 Salary €51,340 gross per annum

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

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

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

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

E.C.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

H.M.

Gospel: Matthew 7:7-12

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. Is there a man among you who would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or would hand him a snake when he asked for a fish? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

'So always treat others as you would like them to treat you; that is the meaning of the Law and the Prophets'

C.J.

RECRUITMENT

GP practice in Wicklow Town seeks to recruit a part-time person to job share as

RECEPTIONIST

The main responsibilities of the role are managing the reception area and providing support to doctors. This role may be most suitable to a mature and flexible person who has experience in this or similar area.

Please send CV to:

practicemanager@thedoctorsurgery.ie

Closing date for this position is Monday the 6th Dec 2021.

**HURRY!
EVENT ENDS
SATURDAY 27th**



**HURRY!
EVENT ENDS
SATURDAY 27th**

Flanagan Kerins®

Furniture for Life



BOTTICELLI

2.5 SEATER - POWER RECLINER SOFA

Was €2245 **Now €1795**

2 SEATER - FIXED SOFA Was €1545 **Now €1195**

ARMCHAIR – POWER RECLINER

Was €1295 **Now €995**



VARESE

3 SEATER POWER RECLINER Was €2445 **Now €1795**



KACY

LARGE SOFA Was €2235 **Now €1345**



ARVO

3 SEATER RECLINER Was €1495 **Now €1195**

**SOFAS FOR
IMMEDIATE DELIVERY!**

THE GREAT SOFA SCRAPPAGE SCHEME IS NOW ON!

Up to €100 allowed for your replaced suite!

Free parking. Free recycling of your replaced bed/mattress

Bray Retail Park, Southern Cross Road., Bray, Co. Wicklow. Mon-Sat: 10am - 6pm

P: (01) 281 3338 www.flanagankerins.ie