

# LOCAL Wicklow Times

**WE DELIVER! - for 33 years**



**BRAY CENTRAL**  
Page 4



**FUNDING EMERGENCY**  
Page 7



**QUEST**  
Page 14

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 9th November 2021 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# SAFE, CLEAN WATER

A critical milestone in the delivery of a safe, secure and sustainable water supply for Co. Wicklow and the Dublin Area has been reached with the completion of a major upgrade to the historic Vartry Water Supply Scheme in Roundwood.

A new state-of-the-art treatment plant was opened last Friday by the Minister for Local Government Darragh O'Brien.

The Vartry Water Supply Scheme or "The Vartry" was originally constructed in the 1860s. A major feat of engineering for its time, the scheme was developed by Dublin Corporation to provide a safe and reliable drinking water supply to the Dublin region

and helped to reduce outbreaks of water borne disease such as cholera.

Over 150 years on and "The Vartry" remains an integral part of the water supply for the Greater Dublin Area, supplying more than 200,000 people. The scheme was in urgent need of improvement and was listed on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Remedial Action List, which identifies

water supplies that are in need of improvement to comply with drinking water regulations.

The delivery of this new Treatment Plant will secure the water supply for much of North Wicklow and South Dublin for the coming decades.

It marks the culmination of a total investment of €150 million in the upgrade of the Vartry Water Supply Scheme, which also delivered the replace-



Lucy Doyle at the Rathdrum Halloween Playfest. 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**



**WINNER**  
FAMILY BUSINESS 2020

**ALL-IRELAND BUSINESS AWARDS 2019 WINNER**

**ALL-STARS ACCREDITED**  
K&K WINDOWS ALL-STAR BRAND 2019

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

visit us online [WWW.KKWINDOWS.IE](http://WWW.KKWINDOWS.IE)

Freephone: 1800 250 260  
Phone: 053 9383526  
Post Code: Y25 N2T7  
Email: [info@kkwindows.ie](mailto:info@kkwindows.ie)

f t i y

NO MIDDLE MAN, WE SELL, MANUFACTURE AND INSTALL

ment of the old Vartry to Callowhill tunnel and the construction of a new covered reservoir in Stillorgan.

Speaking last Friday Cathaoirleach Cllr Shay Cullen said "The Vartry scheme supplies a large area stretching from Roundwood, through North Wicklow and into south Dublin, so we will all benefit from the successful completion of these upgrades. This is a great example of collaboration between Irish Water and local authorities in Wicklow and Dublin."

Niall Gleeson, Managing Director of Irish Water, said: "Providing safe, secure water supplies for all our customers is a top priority for Irish Water. We are delighted to have completed this project on time and within budget.

"The new plant will build on the legacy of

'The Vartry', and will ensure that this scheme continues its proud history of safeguarding the water supply for this highly populated and rapidly growing part of the country. We would like to thank the local community for their patience and support as we carried out this work.

Minister for Local Government, Darragh O'Brien said: "It means we now have a robust infrastructure in place to support the delivery of housing and wider economic and social development.

"Our new Plan for Housing, clearly acknowledges that housing cannot be delivered without the supporting services infrastructure," he concluded.

As part of the upgrade, Irish Water has also committed to releasing sustainable freshwater flows to the

Vartry River which is important to safeguard the ecology of the river,

particularly in times of drought. This is the first time in the 150-year

operation of the plant that such a guarantee is in place.



## DARGLE VALLEY PHARMACY

The Feel Good Pharmacy



**PHARMACY**

**Fitzmaurice's Pharmacy has moved from Quinsborough Road to the Dargle Valley Pharmacy in the Egan Centre**

**You'll get the same great service but in a convenient new location with free and easy parking right outside our door plus our unbeatable delivery service**

We are **only 5 Minutes** from Kilmacanogue, Enniskerry and Shankill, 3 minutes from Bray, and 12 minutes from Kilpeddar

**Call us on 01 286 2210**

**Park at our door or we can deliver to yours!**





The Dunne family all dressed up at the Rathdrum Halloween Playfest

## Carnew Musical Society presents: Altogether now

Carnew Musical Society will present **All Together Now!** in St. Brigid's Hall, Carnew on Friday 12th November at 8pm and for those who might not be ready to venture for a night out for a live show, the show/concert will be streamed online on Sunday 14th November at 8pm.

To attend the live performance, you can purchase tickets from any of the committee and cast of Carnew Musical Society or in Halls Shop, Main Street Carnew. You can also purchase Tickets for Friday's live concert and for Sunday's streamed concert by logging on to Eventbrite. Tickets for live or streamed concert are €10.

There is a palpable excitement among the group about performing on stage to an audience for the first time in two years and what a fabulous line up is in store. The group will be performing musical hits from West End and Broadway shows that Musical

Society's would not normally be able to obtain the rights for under the musical direction of Jennifer Byrne.

The rights for the All Together Now! Concert are provided by Music Theatre International who cite the event as 'A global event celebrating local theatre', providing an exclusive musical revue featuring songs from MTT's beloved shows. Carnew MS will perform songs including Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious; When I Grow Up; (Matilda), Gimme, Gimme; Good Riddance (Time of Your Life); and Seasons of Love.

The concert will feature Carnew Musical Society regulars including John Young, Erin Hogan, Thérèse Canavan Bolger, Ellie Willoughby, Pádraig D'Arcy, Richard O'Toole, Mandie O'Keeffe, and our experienced chorus, including Sean Hallahan, still going strong after all these years.. Debbie Furlong has the challenge of doing Front of House, while Fergus Garrett is Stage Manager and Kevin McEvoy has set up the lights for the show.

## Light up your Christmas in Wicklow Town

On Saturday, 20th November at 4pm, everyone is invited to take a stroll down Wicklow Town's main street for the annual Santa Parade and turning on of the Christmas lights.

With a special appearance from Santa Claus who will be arriving in a special Train courtesy of Wicklow Christmas Market and performances from Wicklow Community Choir and The Bandits, it promises to be a treat filled family event.

The Santa Parade will start at Market Square and finish at Fitzwilliam Square, and the lights will be switched on at Fitzwilliam Square.

To ensure crowd safety, road closures (Main Street) will take effect from 3.30pm until 6pm - please leave sufficient time to park and walk to the Santa Parade.

Children must be accompanied by a parent / guardians at all times and organizers are requesting that the public adhere to social distancing guidelines.

The event is being organised by Wicklow Town & District Chamber

of Commerce and Wicklow Municipal District.

Wicklow Chamber said "We are also delighted to announce that the Wicklow Christmas Market 2021 is back again and better than last year. This year they are delighted to launch the New Eco Ice Rink as part of the Wicklow Christmas Market Experience. This exciting event is new to the Wicklow Christmas Market and will take place at Leitrim Place, The Murrough Wicklow Town. The Market is FREE to the public, and offers food, activities and entertainment for everyone in the family. Start your Christmas shopping, visit Santa and spend the day enjoying the sights and sounds of Christmas.

"Located within the Wicklow Christmas Market is the Santa Express, an interactive opportunity to take a magical trip to the North

Pole and to Santa's house. Families will travel in their own train car with Oribel, Santa's head elf, as the conductor. Once at the North Pole, families will be entertained by the mischievous Elf and Safety and Mrs. Claus. Then of course, there will be the chance to get to visit with Santa Claus himself, take a picture with Santa, and post a letter at Santa's official post box."

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

For more information on the Christmas Market please call (0404) 54400 or Email [info@wicklowchristmasmarket.com](mailto:info@wicklowchristmasmarket.com) for ticket information or bookings at [www.wicklowchristmasmarket.com](http://www.wicklowchristmasmarket.com)

## West Wicklow Historical Society journal

The 11th Journal of the West Wicklow Historical Society will be launched on Thursday 11th November by Chris Lawlor. As well as being the renowned local historian of Dunlavin, Chris is also joint-editor of the Journal, along with the WWHS Hon. Secretary, Donal McDonnell.

This new edition features articles by an array of the area's best known local historians, including Jim Corley, Brendan Corrigan, Cora Crampton, Johnny Glennon and Emma Lyons, and Rosemary Raughter from over the mountains. There are articles on oatmeal biscuits, railway history, Punchestown fashion, early twentieth century Unionist Wicklow women, the lead up to the Civil War in Kildare, a Wicklow man in India, Irish language influence on West Wicklow placenames, a beautiful woman in a long red cloak, and a murder in 1916.

Boleying or, more formally, transhumance, in the Wicklow area is examined. The sixteenth century 'O'Tooles of Imai' are brought to life. Burgage is visited and Baltinglass Courthouse is revisited. The Rev. Ogle Moore of Manor Kilbride is remembered. And then there is the Baltinglass-born Jennie Wyse Power (another O'Toole) and her husband featuring in the pages of Joyce's Ulysses.

This Journal is bursting at the seams. The place to get it hot off the press is at **Baltinglass Golf Club at 8pm on Thursday 11th November**. All are welcome, but admission will be in accordance with government and HSE guidelines. Tea / coffee will be served, while journals will be available to purchase.

The West Wicklow Historical Society has been working to preserve the heritage of West Wicklow since 1980. It covers the western half of the county, all the way from the Blessington area in the north down to Carnew in the south. It shares an interest in adjacent areas of Cos. Carlow and Kildare.

The WWHS holds lectures in the autumn and spring, and excursions in the summer. It also publishes its Journal about every two years and runs occasional exhibitions. It maintains a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WestWicklow..>



Korah Martin, Stella Martin, Aza Gammell and Alex Gammell at the Walk in the Woods in Newtownmountkennedy on Halloween.

**BRAY**  
ACMEblinds Vevay Rd, Bray

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

**\*12 Month Guarantee on ALL Blinds\***  
Tel: 286 5057 Fax: 201 4335 [www.acmeblinds.com](http://www.acmeblinds.com)  
email: [bray@acmeblinds.com](mailto:bray@acmeblinds.com)

## Support for Bereaved Parents

National organisation, Anam Cara has resumed their face to face meetings, supporting parents who are sadly bereaved. Regardless of the age of the child or circumstances of death, Anam Cara offer free peer to peer support meetings monthly, both face to face and online. On Monday 15th November, they will host a support meeting in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy at 7:15pm. They would welcome any bereaved parent seeking compassion, support and information to help on the journey following the death of a son or daughter. Each Anam Cara group is co-facilitated by an Anam Cara volunteer parent and a professional facilitator. Registration is required to attend. Anam Cara would welcome any bereaved parent in the Wicklow area and surrounds to contact them to register for this free event. Anam Cara can be contacted on 01 4045378 or by email [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)

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](mailto:shay@localtimes.ie)

Ian Colgan, News Editor - [ian@localtimes.ie](mailto:ian@localtimes.ie)

Sales / General enquiries - [info@localtimes.ie](mailto:info@localtimes.ie)



# Councillors tired of being kept in the dark

*'We found out about amphitheatre plans from a tweet'*

Councillors have once more vented their frustrations with the Council Executive as they feel they're being kept in the dark about major projects coming down the pipeline.

Wicklow County Council has been awarded a grant of €250,000 from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media for the development of an amphitheatre performance space at Bray Seafront. This follows a successful application by Wicklow County Council under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme.

However, speaking at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Independent councillor Joe Behan said he only found out about the plans from seeing a tweet. "We have never heard one mention of this at a meeting of Bray District Council," he said.

"We weren't told that this grant had been applied for, nor have we seen the plans or where it is to be, we don't know the first thing about it. Does it even matter to the Chief Executive if the councillors are consulted about these things or not? As far as I'm concerned if we are to support projects that are promoted, we have to know about them and be given a chance to discuss them.

"This is a trend that's been happening for some time. As a public representative I'm not happy about it. We are finding out from Twitter! It is not good enough as far as I'm concerned."

Cllr Edward Timmins voiced a similar complaint about a 'master plan' for a site in Blessington: "There is a proposal for social housing at the 31-acre site at Avonrea which is very welcome. I read in the papers that there is a master plan being developed for that site and consultation is being had with a certain member of the public. I am concerned that as elected councillors for the area that covers Blessington have not been consulted in relation to the master plan.

"I think we should be consulted and kept up to speed on it. Our opinion should be sourced by the consultants or whoever is putting together this master plan. I'm not even sure who is doing it, but someone is clearly putting together a master plan and I think we have been left outside in relation to consultation for input into this master plan. I am quite con-

cerned about that. I think it's a worrying development that things like this are happening, so I would ask that the local councillors be informed and brought up to speed and consulted with. We have monthly meetings, municipal meetings and there is a lot of opportunity for us to be consulted in relation to these matters."

Cllr Irene Winters also supported these comments. "We sat here not long ago to discuss the plans for the landfill at Ballinclare, and we were told how it was an oversight that the councillors were not informed, but if something is distilled down into a tweet, that means there's been many, many missed opportunities to have communication with the councillors by the time it got to a tweet," she said. "It seems almost a modus operandi at this stage and it is wrong."

Speaking about the amphitheatre plans for Bray, Cllr Dermot O'Brien said "The first principle of place-making is that the community is the expert. I have never had anyone from the community ask for some-

thing like an amphitheatre to be developed in Bray. When I read a Facebook post about it, I thought about a group who have been lobbying for a skate park for a decade and wondering what they need to do to be considered. They were told the seafront was out of bounds for the skate park. They were the people who have been lobbying us but then an amphitheatre drops in out of nowhere. It's not good practice in terms of how we operate."

Lorraine Gallagher, Director of Enterprise and Corporate Services, said the concept of a performance space on the seafront "has been in the ether for a while". She explained that it will cost a lot more than €250,000 to bring the project to fruition.

"We secured a grant and now we must go and do the public consultation, public engagement, and go through the tender processes, et cetera. We just have one concept drawing, that we can certainly circulate to elected members and the Bray elected members for discussion at our Bray meetings."



Dave, Daniel, and Alison Fleming at the Confirmation Day for Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara, Brittas Bay.

## 'We need a participatory budgeting approach'

Bray Sinn Féin Councillor Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien has criticised the exclusion of some councillors from the process of allocating €260,000 in funding.

"The people in the chamber might change but the culture of exclusion certainly doesn't," stated Cllr O'Brien after last week's Bray Municipal District. Cllr O'Brien said "€260,000 was allocated without any prior notice or call for proposals from elected members. It was quite clear that some Councillors had pre-arranged the allocation of the municipal district funding while other Cllrs including myself, my colleague Cllr Grace McManus and Cllr Joe Behan were completely excluded from the process.

"The senior engineer had proposed €200,000 be allocated towards footpath repairs which was broadly welcomed. He made a further proposal to develop a trail on Bray Head and asked for the remaining €60,000 to be allocated towards that work.

"A couple of months ago it was proposed to put a dog park in this area, now it's a series of trails. What I can't get my head around is the complete absence of a process when it comes to allocating money. We were being asked to

allocate €60,000 to an idea that we hear about for the first time in a ten minute presentation with absolutely no backup documents, no details about costings, no impact assessment, no design plans, no public engagement and no prior consultation with elected members (well not the three mentioned above anyway)."

Cllr O'Brien offered the view that a participatory budgeting approach should be considered which would see the money set aside and a series of projects be presented as options and the public invited to choose which one should be funded, but to no avail.

"Bray Cathaoirleach, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, then produced a proposal which allocated €40,000 to the trails on Bray Head and €20,000 to a wish list which it appears had been pre-agreed among the five Councillors who also happen to be the ones who voted in favour of increasing the Local Property Tax by 6%.

"I have worked in the youth and community sector locally, nationally and across the EU for

more than twenty years and I've never seen funding allocated in such an unethical manner," said O'Brien.

"I sit on committees in Wicklow where anyone who wants to spend €20,000 must complete a 25 question application form which journeys through an assessment before it is presented to a body of representatives who are accountable for the decision to give it the go ahead or not.

"So, apart from the highly questionable behaviour of excluding some Councillors from the budgeting process there was absolutely nothing produced to justify any of the proposals. No needs analysis, no costings or quotes, no consultation, no rationale, no criteria or metrics and ultimately what we have is a prime example of why the general public have lost faith in our democracy.

"A process with zero transparency or accountability whereby a group of entitled elected members and officials carve up the funds to serve their own agenda and those deemed unworthy of involvement are consciously excluded. This would not be acceptable in any other arena and should not be accepted in Bray."

**DARGLE VALLEY PHARMACY**  
*The Feel Good Pharmacy*

**Fitzmaurice's Pharmacy has moved from Quinsborough Road to the Dargle Valley Pharmacy in the Egan Centre**

**You'll get the same great service but in a convenient new location with free and easy parking right outside our door plus our unbeatable delivery service**

**We are *only* 5 Minutes from Kilmacanogue, Enniskerry and Shankill, 3 minutes from Bray, and 12 minutes from Kilpeddar**

**Call us on 01 286 2210**

**Park at our door or we can deliver to yours!**





Emily Browne at the Rathdrum Halloween Playfest

## ‘Cliff Walk diversion route should be marked’

**Cllr Derek Mitchell has asked that signs/maps be put up to notify people about the diversion in place at the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk.**

The Council has put in permanent fencing to close the original middle section of the walk off for good and prevent further erosion.

"The Cliff Walk from Bray to Greystones could be closed some time while the Council tries to get land to move it inland a bit," he said. "I have asked that signs/maps be put up of diversion: along Cliff Road, main R761 down to Redford Dip or along a lane to the East. This crosses the rail line and leads to the harbour boardwalk. Many tourists won't know it exists. The danger of collapse of the eroded Cliff Path is greater in wetter Winter conditions which is why it has been fenced off."

Cllr Jodie Neary raised the issue of the continuous closure of Cliff Walk at a recent Greystones Municipal District meeting. She said "There has been a lot of confusion at this stage on the future of the cliff walk. I sought clarity as to the short-term and long term plans for the route. It was noted that the cliff walk as we know it is permanently gone and will no longer be open as part of it has fallen into the sea."

"An alternative route has been outlined but will require ongoing negotiations with landowners. I asked for an update and while negotiations are ongoing, solicitors have become involved until an agreement has been reached. As a result, it is unclear what the timeframe is for the development of an alternative route along the cliff walk. In the meantime, the Council has agreed to advertising diversion routes, however there are some portions that remain on private property. More signage will hopefully be put up on the Bray side which has caused some confusion for walkers."



Riverview House  
Seapoint Road,  
Bray, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 01 276 1330 Fax: 01 276 1336  
Web: [www.benvillerobinson.ie](http://www.benvillerobinson.ie)  
E-mail: [info@benvillerobinson.ie](mailto:info@benvillerobinson.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.



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

# New technological university announced for the South East

The announcement that the south east is to get its first university has been welcomed by the presidents of Institute of Technology Carlow (IT Carlow) and Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT), and the chairs of both institutes' governing bodies.

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD has announced IT Carlow and WIT will become a technological university in 2022.

At a meeting of the south east Oireachtas members, chairs and presidents, the Minister said that all parties were working toward the new technological university opening its doors by 1 May 2022. The new TU represents a positive milestone for the south east - the first university for the region.

Minister Harris said "This is a really exciting day for higher education in the South East region, signalling the establishment next year of a multi-campus university presence across the region. After years of debate, the establishment of this new technological university will become a reality next year, and the South East can look forward to it increasing higher education access, driving enhanced regional development and increasing opportunities for students, staff, business and enterprise, and local communities across Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford."

"We will continue to invest in this new university with new campuses in Wexford and Waterford. The footprint of this TU will be felt right across the region. Students graduating in the current academic year will be the first to do so in the region with locally sourced university qualifications."

The Minister concluded "I would like to warmly congratulate and sincerely thank the very many people from the two Institutions including their management, governing



Pictured from left are Chair of Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) Governing Body, Jim Moore; President of WIT, Prof Willie Donnelly; President of Institute of Technology Carlow (IT Carlow), Dr Patricia Mulcahy; Chair of IT Carlow Governing Body, John Moore. Pic: Patrick Browne

bodies, staff, students and the wider regional and community stakeholders who have enabled today's announcement and who can now look forward to an exciting future for this new university.

"I would like to thank the HEA, and the international advisory panel for their important roles in the assessment of the application. The HEA will now seek to finalise remaining operational elements in line with the advice of the advisory panel in preparation for establishment next year. The HEA will continue to keep me informed and advise me on these matters."

Minister Harris's Department will shortly be inviting expressions of interest for the roles of chairperson and two external members of what should become the first governing body of the new TU.

Welcoming the announcement, Tánaiste Leo Varadkar TD said: "This is really excellent news for the south-east. It will make it easier for the IDA to secure foreign direct investment for the

region and is sure to become an incubator for new Irish businesses which will become major employers in their own right. University of Limerick had a transformative effect on the city and Mid-West region. I believe the same can happen now in Waterford and the South-east."

President of IT Carlow, Dr Patricia Mulcahy commented, "We thank Minister Harris for this announcement. Our new university has strong foundations developed over five decades and we look forward to the new national and international opportunities that lie ahead for us as a unitary multi-campus university. With this exciting step forward, we will be better positioned to leverage these opportunities for the benefit of the people and regions we serve; to meet the challenges that we face as a region and country; to drive social and economic transformation; and ultimately to deliver on the ambitious expectations of our stakeholders. We are aware that it will be a great challenge to realise the full potential of

our new university and will involve significant effort from all our staff in the months and years ahead. I thank all our staff, students, graduates, collaborative partners, governing body members and external stakeholders for your ambition, support and contributions to-date. Táimid buíoch díbh go léir."

President of WIT, Prof Willie Donnelly said, "Today is a hugely significant day for the staff and students at IT Carlow and WIT, our many stakeholders, and the future generations who will be empowered by a university degree while living at, or near, home. We have long promised we would deliver a university of international standing for the region. Thanks to the hard work and ambition of our staff and students, we are on the crest of creating the first university for the region. Of course, the student and their families and communities are at the heart of everything we do. Our new status will help positively transform the south east, making it even more attractive to indigenous SMEs and for-

eign direct investment by linking knowledge, research, education, innovation and international collaboration. We will remain focused on the delivery of a university of international standing and look forward to an exciting future for this new TU and the region it will serve."

Chair of WIT Governing Body Jim Moore commented, "I am delighted to see the great effort undertaken by both institutes culminate in today's announcement in relation to the creation of Ireland's newest TU. The university will inspire and serve its students, staff and the region with dedication and distinction, futureproofing higher education across the south east through learning, research and engagement. The future is indeed bright, and we can now look forward to starting this new chapter in our story."

Chair of IT Carlow Governing Body John Moore said, "On behalf of all past and present governing body members who have collectively been steadfast in enabling a combined strategic vision for higher education in our region, I warmly welcome Minister Harris's announcement today."

"I congratulate and sincerely thank those governing body members along with the presidents, executive, staff, students, partners and stakeholders of both institutes on reaching this important milestone on our journey. We look forward to supporting our new singular governing body, president and executive as they play a pivotal role in creating a future of boundless potential for the south east."

## Bray Central development back on track

The Bray Central site is back fully operational and working to make up for lost ground due to the lockdown and issues within the construction industry, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy said.

Last week saw contractor activity intensify on site to meet the new opening deadline early in the New Year.

Commenting on the news, Cllr Kennedy, said: "This is very positive news for Bray. It has always been the Council's aim to rejuvenate the heart of the town and its environs, to extend the trading period on Main Street and to add life and vibrancy to the area in the evenings. When Bray Central is opened early next year this aim will have been achieved".

Following practical completion there will be period of fit-out for all units which includes cinemas, bowling alley, restaurants, anchor units and further retail.

An announcement is due shortly regarding the anchor units in the development.



Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, and Enda Donohue of Oakmount



# Covid cases increasing in most areas of Wicklow

The latest Covid data for Co. Wicklow has revealed a worrying trend with case numbers increasing in five of the six Local Electoral Areas (LEAs) and almost tripling across the county in recent weeks.

Former Government Special Adviser and Ballinacash resident Stephen Kearon, who has been tracking Covid case numbers in Wicklow's LEAs over the last number of weeks, has been analysing the data and says that the latest metrics are concerning. Mr Kearon has put the data into tabular form, which can be seen on his Twitter page (@skearon).

In Co. Wicklow as a whole there were 335 Covid cases in early October, however in the 14 days preceding 1st November there were 937 cases.

Arklow LEA is again showing the largest increase (74.3% in just a couple of weeks), and its 14-day incidence per 100k is over 1,000 for first time since data by LEA began. In early October there were 44 cases in Arklow, however in the 14 days up to 1st November there were 298.

The second highest increase has been in the Wicklow Local Electoral Area which covers Wicklow Town and surrounds. Here there has been a 47% increase, and there were 172 Covid cases in the 14 days up to 1st November (609.5 per 100K). Again the rise is drastic when compared to the start of October

when there was 32 cases.

Numbers have also steadily increased in the Greystones LEA, but not as sharply. Nevertheless case numbers almost doubled throughout the month of October (from 57 in the 14 days before 4th October to 109 in the 14 days before 1st November). By 1st November the incidence rate per 100K was 414.1.

In the Baltinglass LEA there was a 27% increase in Covid cases, with 210 cases in the 14 days up to 1st November (802.5 per 100K). Again the rise is concerning when compared to just a few weeks previously when there were less than 60 cases.

Case numbers in the Bray East LEA began to decline during October but numbers were going up again by the end of the month. There were 76 cases up to 1st November (443.7 per 100K), which represents a 7% increase from the previous week.

Bray West is the only LEA in Co. Wicklow where case numbers steadily fell over the last two weeks of October (a drop of 12%). In the 14 days up to 1st November there were 72 cases (391.2 per 100K), compared to 99 cases earlier in the month.

Minister Simon Harris said everyone must take steps to manage the risk posed by Covid-19 as the phase of reopening proceeds on a cautious basis.

"In line with public health advice, my colleagues in Government agreed to the full reopening of the hospitality, entertainment and night-time sector from October 22nd, thanks to the enormous efforts made by people in Wicklow and the success of the vaccination programme," said Minister Harris.

"All protective measures should be employed by everyone, including acting fast, isolating and getting tested if we have symptoms; wearing our face coverings where appropriate, making sure indoor spaces are well ventilated; maintaining adequate social distancing whenever appropriate; and covering our coughs and sneezes and keeping our hands clean.

"With regard to the vaccination programme, a booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine will be offered to people aged 60 to 79 who have completed their first course with any Covid-19 vaccine, following a recommendation from NIAC. The booster

dose should ideally be given six months (with a minimum interval of five months) following completion of their primary vaccine course.

"NPHET has also recommended the HSE should implement a programme of Covid-19 antigen testing (with PCR confirmation of positive cases) for people who are identified as fully vaccinated close contacts of a confirmed case and who do not have any symptoms.

"The Rapid Testing Expert Advisory Group has been requested to provide a view as to the potential utility of voluntary self-testing by asymptomatic individuals who plan to engage in high-risk behaviours and activities, such as going to nightclubs.

"Current enhanced illness benefit payment arrangements for Covid-19 will also remain in place. This benefit is available at a rate of €350 a week, with no waiting days, for employees and self-employed people who are certified by a registered medical practitioner as having been diagnosed with Covid-19 or a probable source of infection of Covid-19."



Fancy Dress winners Sarah Nolan, Andrea Kelly, and Sheena Rawat at the Rathdrum Halloween Playfest

## ‘Wicklow communities to see the benefits from improved wastewater infrastructure’

The latest EPA Urban Wastewater Treatment Report, published last week, shows the progress being made, while also highlighting the need for continued investment in our essential wastewater services.

Irish Water is investing in wastewater infrastructure in a number of towns across Wicklow including Arklow, Avoca, Blessington and Aughrim.

In the last six years, Irish Water has prioritised areas where it can support housing and development and have the greatest environmental impact, particularly in locations where raw sewage was discharging into our rivers and seas.

Over 60% of raw sewage discharges have been eliminated since 2015 - and replaced with treatment capacity for the equivalent of 120,000 people.

To date new wastewater treatment plants have been built in 17 locations where raw sewage had been discharged into the sea for decades. By the end of this year construction will have started in an additional 14 locations, with a further eight projects due to get underway next year and the remaining nine from 2023 onwards. This means that the majority of raw sewage discharges are on track to be removed by the end of 2025.

In addition to ending the discharge of raw sewage by building infrastructure where none previously existed, Irish Water has also been continuing with its programme of upgrading existing wastewater treatment plants and networks in towns and villages throughout Ireland.

In 2020, a total of 10 wastewater treatment plants were built or upgraded (two built and nine upgraded), directly benefiting the equivalent of over 20,000 people in these communities while also protecting our

wider environment. The number of plants on the Environmental Protection Agency's Priority Action List is also continuing to fall, currently down to 97 from 148 in 2017.

In Wicklow, Irish Water is on track to eliminate the vast majority of raw sewage discharges by 2025 with the construction of a new state of the art wastewater treatment plant in Arklow. Works are progressing and the demolition of the Old Wallboard Factory has already commenced. When completed, the new treatment plant will result in significant improvements to water quality in Arklow by ending the discharge of raw sewage directly into the Avoca River, safeguarding the environment and facilitating growth and development in the town.

The start of this project marks another major milestone in Irish Water's work to end the unacceptable practice of discharging untreated sewage into our waterways and seas. More than half of all the raw sewage discharges have been eliminated since the establishment of Irish Water in 2014 and Arklow is the largest remaining town without treatment.

The Avoca Wastewater Treatment Plant is progressing through the necessary planning & design stages and it is hoped that a planning application can be submitted in early 2022. The upgrade of Blessington Wastewater Treatment Plant is progressing well with construction works already underway. When completed, the project will increase the capacity of the plant to serve a population equivalent (PE) of up to

9,000, enabling future growth and will safeguard the environment by ensuring compliance with national and EU legislation.

Aughrim Wastewater Treatment Plant was recently selected for funding under the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, Irish Water's scheme to support growth in smaller towns and villages and is currently progressing through the necessary stages including detailed design, planning, procurement and construction.

Michael Tinsley, Wastewater Portfolio Delivery Manager with Irish Water, commented: "Having a modern, sustainable and functional wastewater network is critical in order to protect our environment and to support housing and economic growth in the years ahead. Irish Water is working closely with the EPA and our other partners, including local authorities, to ensure this can be delivered in the most efficient and sustainable way through the use of cutting-edge technologies, science and engineering expertise, and meaningful engagement with local communities around Ireland.

"There is no doubt that challenges remain. Much of the infrastructure for safely collecting and treating wastewater around the country has suffered from decades of under-investment. But Irish Water has a plan in place to address these deficiencies and we are making real progress.

"Continued investment will be required in the coming years to build a modern, fit-for-purpose wastewater network but we are confident that we are on track to achieving that aim."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Wicklow County Council Joint Policing committee will hold a public meeting on

Thursday 18th November 2021

At The Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy

Commencing 7.30 p.m.

The purpose of the JPC is to provide a forum where the local authority and the senior Garda officers, responsible for the policing of that area, can consult and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area and in particular to keep under review the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour occurring and the factors underlying and contributing to it.

Membership of the committee consists of the Chief Superintendent, Senior Members of the Gardaí, Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Elected Members and representatives from the voluntary and community sector.

The focus of the public meeting will be on policing, rather than individuals and obtaining the co-operation of the public in preventing crime. The local community will have the opportunity to make their views known and ask questions and all are welcome to attend.

To increase the productivity of the meeting and encourage greater participation written questions may be submitted prior to the meeting to [hpurcell@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:hpurcell@wicklowcoco.ie) or in writing to the undersigned.

Questioners should give their name and contact details, which will not be publicised. While every effort will be made to provide the information requested in certain circumstances it may not be possible for legal reasons or because it would not be in the public interest to do so.

Covid Protocols will be followed.

Helen Purcell, Senior Executive Officer,  
Wicklow County Council  
County Buildings, Wicklow

21st October 2021





# Rural transport improvements under new plan

Rural villages across Ireland will have access to viable public transport for the first time under the Connecting Ireland Plan published on 29th October for public consultation.

The plan from the National Transport Authority (NTA) proposes an overall increase of 25% in rural bus services, significantly increasing public transport connectivity for people living outside major cities and towns.

In Co. Wicklow, a better integration of routes is proposed along the corridor between Wexford and Dublin, serving Enniscorthy, Gorey, Arklow, Wicklow Town and other places en route. A minimum service frequency of 30 minutes is proposed between Wexford and Dublin and between Wicklow and Dublin.

Also proposed is a new route from Sallins to Arklow via Naas, Blessington, Glendalough, Wicklow and Rathdrum. There would be a minimum service frequency of four return trips Monday to Saturday and three return trips on Sunday.

It's proposed to extend route 874 from Hacketstown to Knockananna, with an increase in frequency (Minimum service frequency of 3 return trips a day); to extend route 884 from Ballymore Eustace to Carlow (Minimum service frequency of 4 return trips on weekdays and 3 return trips at weekends); establish a new route from Carlow to Gorey via Bunclody and Carnew (Minimum service frequency of 3 return trips a day).

No significant changes are planned to improve the 64, 132, 181, 184, 84, 84X, or 800 routes, the plan states, or the Dublin to Rosslare train. "As the public transport network develops, and as more people travel more often and more widely by public transport, we will continue to review their usage and take steps to ensure their continued fitness-for-purpose," it says.

Brian Leddin TD, Green Party Spokesperson for Transport, Climate Action and Environment, said "It is absolutely critical that we enhance our regional transport network and this plan is the first step towards improved connectivity between our rural towns and villages

and our regional cities. The plan will mean that more than 70% of those living outside of cities will have access to a public transport service that provides at least three return trips each weekday to a nearby town. We will need to first implement this plan and then increase the frequency of services so that people living in or near villages have a viable alternative to using the car, while ensuring that services are fast and direct.

"A frequent, reliable and direct public transport system is key to reducing rural isolation as well as reducing our dependency on cars, as we work towards our climate goals and net zero emissions target. This is another positive example of Ireland taking action on climate.

"In developing the Connecting Ireland Plan, the NTA engaged with a range of stakeholders including public bodies and state agencies. The next step will involve broader public consultation including information sessions with local authorities and the Oireachtas

and public information webinars."

Senator Róisín Garvey, Green Party Spokesperson for Rural Development and Enterprise, Trade and Employment added; "We have made a commitment in Government to a 'Town Centres First' policy that will bring life and vibrancy back to our regional towns and rural villages. This is only possible if we have a robust public transport system in place. This will enable not only businesses to thrive but will make living in rural communities a more viable option for those looking for alternatives to our cities.

"I am delighted to see the Connecting Ireland Plan published today for public consultation. We need the input and voices of rural Ireland at the heart of this plan in order to get it right. The plan will also address improved mobility options for those in remote areas and I welcome the fact that the consultation process includes engagement with the disability community living in rural Ireland."



Local North Wicklow UN Veterans, Post 21, are pictured at the recent Service for Deceased Members.

## Harris meets with Municipal Council about Kilcoole Skate Park

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD met with officials from the Municipal District Council and Temple Carrig student Jake Mitchell last week regarding the campaign to secure a skate park for Kilcoole.

Minister Harris said: "Along with Temple Carrig student Jake Mitchell I met with officials from Greystones Municipal Council in the Town Council Buildings.

"Jake has brought together a group of your scooter enthusiasts in Kilcoole who are seeking a skate park for safe recreational space. There are examples of other council owned skate parks elsewhere in the county including the Murrough in Wicklow, and Jake has been working on identifying a suitable site for such an amenity in Kilcoole.

"Jake discussed with me and the District Administrator a number of sites in Kilcoole that could accommodate a skate park and we are to make further enquiries with landowners and community groups as to which site would be best. I am especially happy to see that the Skate Park for Kilcoole has been included in the list amenities to be examined as part of the County Council's community audit for Greystones and Kilcoole and I look forward to working with Jake and his team to advance the project."



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.marrakesh ltd.com**

## Progress on N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has welcomed a progress report on the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme, currently undergoing Phase 2.

The severity of traffic congestion issues on the N11/M11, particularly at peak travel times, in conjunction with public feedback, requires an early intervention to start addressing the problems on the corridor.

Accordingly, a project to assess the feasibility of providing bus lanes on the N11/M11 corridor is progressing. If feasible, bus lanes could offer a practicable interim solution in advance of the main N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme.

This separate project, entitled the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme, is a multi-authority project involving Wicklow County Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, National Transport Authority and Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

The N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme is being implemented in accordance with Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Project Management Guidelines and aims to deliver bus priority measures on the N11/M11 national road in the form of a dedicated lane that can be used by

buses/coaches during peak periods to avoid congested traffic lanes.

The project is currently in Phase 2 (Option Selection) and work is progressing on the development of feasible design options for the provision of bus lanes along the existing N11/M11 route from Loughlinstown roundabout in the north to Junction 9 (Glenview) in the south.

The Project Team has now released Bulletin No.1 on the scheme website [www.n11m11.ie](http://www.n11m11.ie) which provides an introduction and progress update on the scheme.

The project team is available to interested parties and members of the public to deal with any queries or issues arising on the project by emailing [n11m11@arup.com](mailto:n11m11@arup.com) or at the contact details contained in the Bulletin.

Deputy Whitmore said "I'm delighted to see that the project for an interim bus corridor is progressing into Phase 2 (option selection) and that work is progressing on the development of design options for the provision of bus lanes along the

existing N11/M11 route.

"As any resident in Wicklow will know, traffic is back to pre-covid levels with traffic chaos each time an accident takes place. Wicklow urgently needs bus corridors put in place to get people in and out of Dublin quickly and to reduce our overreliance on cars.

"It has been a whole year since it was announced they were looking into this proposal and things need to move quicker now as we enter a new stage of climate action, as traffic increases alongside new housing developments and as the economy attempts to reopen post-covid.

"The long commute times are adding additional stresses to families juggling work, childcare and family life. It's no longer sustainable to commute or depend on cars to get by - we need a large-scale bus corridor scheme in place sooner rather than later.

"I do welcome the announcement from that a preferred option route for the scheme will be identified and recommended in early 2022. From then, I hope that work will be speeded up to facilitate the additional activity along this important route for Wicklow," concluded Deputy Whitmore.



# 'Wicklow needs a fit for purpose transport system'

As part of the ongoing Sinn Féin campaign for a public transport system which meets the needs of the people of the county, Sinn Féin TD John Brady challenged the Minister for Transport in the Dáil last week on the 'shambolic approach' of the government towards the lack of a fit for purpose rail service for the county.

Speaking last week Deputy Brady said: "This week the government launched the long-awaited Climate Action Plan to much self-acclaim. And while the target of removing half a million cars a day off the roads, is laudable, it is a ridiculous objective without putting in the much-needed public transport infrastructure to support it.

"The reality for Wicklow is that for too long we have been forced to rely on an antiquated rail service that has remained unchanged since the nineteenth century. We are heading towards the 150th anniversary of the opening of our own Bray Daly station. It is arguable that those that were there at the opening in 1854 would not have much difficulty recognising the architecture of the current

rail service.

"The current public transport system in Wicklow is not fit for purpose. A mere five trains per day run from between Dublin and Arklow. Two trains leave Arklow every morning, wholly insufficient for the current - never mind future - demand on the line. There is literally standing room only. We need increased capacity alongside more frequency on the line.

"The DART service needs to be extended as far as Wicklow Town. I have lobbied the Minister on this and will continue to do so. I will also continue to engage with the National Transport Authority on these issues. In the National Development Plan, transport in Wicklow does not even get a mention. If we are serious about meeting

our climate objectives, we need to revitalise our public transport system. It needs to be a system that encourages people to get out of their cars and onto trains and buses.

"As part of our ongoing campaign to develop a public transport system fit for purpose, I have engaged and challenged the Minister in Dáil. I have laid out very clearly to the government that: We need a public transport system that is fit for purpose in Wicklow.

"We need the Dublin Rosslare line expanded, with more frequency and increased capacity. There is a need to reduce the turnaround time of 20 minutes on the DART between Bray and Greystones to 15mins, which could result in an extra train per hour. The DART service also needs to be extended to

Wicklow Town.

"The needs of the West of the county cannot be allowed to be ignored by the government. We need to see the LUAS extended from Tallaght as far as Blessington. I have also launched a public survey on public transport in Wicklow. I want to hear from members of the public. I want them to tell us what type of public transport system they believe that Wicklow needs. The survey can be found on any of our online and social media pages. I encourage the public to engage with this survey.

"It is their opportunity to put out there what they believe is needed, what they believe needs to be done to keep Wicklow moving, to take car journeys off the roads, and to allow for the much-needed economic development of the county."



At the official opening of Purple House Cancer Support's new premises were John Brady TD, Billy Byrne, William Munroe, Veronica O'Leary, Betty Wogan (HUG), and Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly. The Centre which is located at 2 Duncairn tce on Quinsborough Road in Bray will cater for the needs of thousands of Cancer patients and their families over the coming years. This forever community-based Cancer Support Centre is a culmination of 31 years of Purple House's work supporting cancer patients. Due to Covid19 restrictions, not everyone could be present at the official opening, but Purple House would like to invite members of public to visit their new community-based Cancer Support Centre and learn more about their services at an Open Day on Monday 15th November from 11am to 1pm.

The building is laid out over four floors and features a drop-in centre, counselling rooms, a coffee dock, cancer rehabilitation gym, children's therapy room, support group and cancer survivorship classrooms, a healthy eating demonstration kitchen, complimentary therapy room, and a sensory garden. The building was secured with a 50% capital grant from the HSE and a mortgage by Purple House over 15 years for the remaining 50%, which will be repaid through fundraising efforts over the coming years. Purple House would like to acknowledge the generosity and support from many members of the public for ensuring that their community has a permanent Cancer Support Centre that will be here for generations to come.

## Additional accommodation approved for Scoil Chaoimhin Naofa

Glendalough's Scoil Chaoimhin Naofa's extension has received project approval.

Welcoming the news, Minister Simon Harris said: "Scoil Chaoimhin Naofa in Glendalough has a deserved reputation for being inclusive, promoting a culture of acceptance and celebration of difference.

"The school has been very proactive in Special Educational Provision and the accommodation that now has received project approval includes one special education classroom as well as an SET room and an additional classroom".

Minister Harris continued: "I would like to pay tribute to principal Pádraig Murphy and all the team at Scoil Chaoimhin Naofa. The school has already expanded its Special Education enrolment in advance of the extension and it shows the commitment of the school to inclusivity. The school can be assured of my continued support and I look forward to the project going to design and then to planning approval."

## Wicklow Rapid Response needs €45,000 to survive

Major fundraising drive to fund replacement Rapid Response Vehicle

In the face of changing sponsorship, Wicklow Rapid Response need to raise €45,000 for fitting out a new vehicle which is critical to helping them save lives.

So far in 2021 Wicklow Rapid Response have attended over 100 calls of which there have been 20 cardiac arrests, 10 emergency pre-hospital anaesthetics, where the patient is placed in a medical coma and 4 cases that have required blood/plasma transfusions.

"We are very grateful for the generous support of the Sinnott Family who, over the past 5 years, have supplied our Skoda RRVs free of charge, and have now retired from the motor trade," they say.

"Our vehicle sponsorship package is now changing, Trinity Skoda, the new owners of Skoda in Wicklow have agreed to support us

with a discounted purchase on a 4x4 Skoda Kodiak.

"The Kodiak will allow us the space to safely transport all the specialist equipment needed by our doctor to deliver pre-hospital critical care, while ensuring an ability to respond in inclement weather and off-road conditions.

"Preparations to get the Kodiak on the road include fitting emergency lights, sirens and reflective markings, as well as making custom compartments for all our equipment.

"The success of this service relies on the support of the community and volunteerism of our members. To continue providing our lifesaving

service, we will have a number of sponsorship initiatives for companies and supporters.

We are calling out to all our followers, local companies and businesses to ask if you would like to help sponsor our new rapid response vehicle?

"Large Sponsors packages available, will offer having your company name and logo on the vehicle for the next 5 years, as well as being promoted on our social media platforms.

Small business and companies can have their company name on the RRV yearly, for as little as 7 euro a week.

"Supports and followers of Wicklow Rapid Response can have their name on the RRV yearly for 10 euro. Just head to [www.wvrr.ie/donate](http://www.wvrr.ie/donate). If you would like to become a company sponsor and ensure the continued availability of this vital and lifesaving service, please contact [andy@wvrr.ie](mailto:andy@wvrr.ie) for further details.

"If you wish to arrange a fundraiser for Wicklow Rapid Response please contact [chairman@wvrr.ie](mailto:chairman@wvrr.ie). Wicklow Rapid Response receives no statutory funding and is completely dependent on donations to support the service."



## 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](http://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







Sophie, Jos, Aoife and Frederique Van Buuren at the Rathdrum Halloween Playfest.

## 'Wind farms should set up Interpretive Centre in Greystones'

Greystones will be 'Windfarm Central' with the Codling Bank & the Dublin Array wind farms meeting offshore, some of the largest windfarms in Ireland. It is vital that this benefits the town and it is connected to them, says Cllr Derek Mitchell.

"I asked a year ago for one or both to set up an Interpretive Centre in Greystones with a view of the windfarm. So far they have made no commitments," Cllr Mitchell said.

"I visited the Rampion Windfarm Visitors Centre in Brighton, UK, to learn about this. I was very impressed with its educational & visitor value including: Augmented Reality of going up the towers; Models of special ships and films of the dramatic erec-

tion of the turbines; An electronic display dealing with aspects of it with a quiz to say why things were done that way including the about 16 mile underground connection cable, why site the windfarm there. Very good for curious people; Bright and cheerful with facilities & papers for children. They get teachers along, explain it and arrange school visits; 2 staff to assist & explain displays; Also displays dealing with the need for windfarms; Explanations of local groups who have benefited from the local funding.

"We are going to have to look at these turbines for a long time so Greystones, Kilcoole & Newcastle MUST benefit from this. The windfarms are necessary to get carbon free electricity which can be generated at low cost on these shallow offshore banks. I would also like to see subsidised trips to see the construction of the turbines which will be dramatic."



Cllr Mitchell in the Rampion Windfarm Visitor Centre in Brighton

# Whitmore meets with families calling for legal clarity over surrogacy

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has met with representatives of the Irish Families through Surrogacy Group who were protesting outside the Dáil to support their calls for international surrogacy to be included in upcoming legislation.

"For too long the issue of surrogacy has been put on the back burner by successive governments and it has left many families in legal limbo. It's time that all concerns around surrogacy are finally dealt with in an honest and compassionate manner. I know many families in Wicklow who are directly affected by the lack of legislation and uncertainty as a result for them and their children.

"I recently met with

the protestors outside Leinster House who were calling for the inclusion of surrogacy, including international surrogacy, in the Assisted Human Reproduction Bill and who have had their own experiences with surrogacy, including legal limbo as a result of governments failing to act. Some parents remain legal strangers to their children because the state does not recognise them as legal parents to chil-

dren born from surrogacy.

"The Government have decided to leave the issue of surrogacy and international surrogacy to a new Special Committee due to be established, however there are concerns this will cause further delays for these families who are seeking legal recognition. I will however, be asking that these families be heard during the Committee proceedings by having the opportunity

to tell their story and give their first hand account of their experience to members of the Committee.

"Hopefully, families in Wicklow and across the country will have an opportunity to be heard and legislators will be properly informed of the consequences lack of action and exclusion of surrogacy in legislation has had on families and children to date", concluded Deputy Whitmore.



Deputy Whitmore with protesters outside the Dáil

## Concerns over passport application delays for children

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has raised concerns about passport application delays for children.

Deputy Matthews was speaking following a series of submissions he made to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney, on behalf of a number of Wicklow constituents who have been unable to get passports for their young children due to delays in processing. Discussing the matter, Deputy Matthews said: "I have been in regular contact with the Minister's office since the beginning of the summer as we began to see a reopening of foreign travel. In fairness to the Passport Office, many of the teething issues brought about by the huge influx in applications have since been resolved and the turnaround time for applications is back within their targets. Unfortunately, the main issue which has yet to be

resolved is the delay in obtaining first passports for children - which in some cases brought to my attention in recent weeks can take several months - which is not acceptable.

"This is an issue that I have raised on a number of occasions with the Minister, both in writing and in the Dáil but the matter persists. Unfortunately, this has led to situations where people have been forced to cancel trips, have missed funerals and in one tragic instance were unable to visit a dying relative before they passed away.

"While I think we all fully accepted delays in obtaining passports during the earlier stages of lockdown, now that we are getting closer to full capacity in terms of

foreign travel, these issues need to be ironed out. The real-life implications of being unable to get a child's first passport can be extremely upsetting and costly for families.

"I have been in a fortunate position to assist a number of families with their applications in recent weeks, so I would ask anyone who is struggling to obtain a passport to get in touch with me directly and I will assist in any way I can.

"One point raised by the Minister in his recent response to me on this issue was the advice from his Department that flights should not be booked without having a passport but the reality is, this isn't just about family holidays and the existing turnaround time of a couple of months or more is not acceptable," concluded Deputy Matthews.



# €250,000 for Bray under Healthy Eating Community Programme

€250,000 in funding was recently announced for Bray under the Healthy Eating Community Programme. The funding, which was applied for by Wicklow County Council, will see three community kitchens established and the transformation of a play area and sports pavilion in Ballywaltrim.

The kitchens at SPECS (Supportive Services & Early Childhood Services) Ballywaltrim Community Centre and Giltspur Heights will provide healthy eating cookery courses as part of the scheme. While an outdoor gym and climbing boulders will provide teenage focused activities within walking distance of their houses. Also, the refurbishment of the sports pavilion which will see the addition of accessible toilets and upgrades to the showers and four playing pitches in Ballywaltrim will open them back up to the community.

The sports pavilion is also set to get a new mural based on the health eating theme.

Minister Stephen Donnelly said: "I'm delighted to be able to announce this investment for the Bray area Which I'm certain will have a really positive impact on the local community's quality of life. The aim of the Healthy Eating Programme is to improve the long-term health and well being of the people living in communities like Ballywaltrim. The three kitchens and the work being carried at the sports pavilion will all help to promote a healthier lifestyle. The overall impact is not just promoting the physical health but also the mental health of the people living in the area."

Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, was in Bray recently to visit the projects which have been supported by Healthy Ireland funding and to meet the people involved on the ground.

The Minister was welcomed by the Bray Area Partnership's (BAP) CEO Peter Brennan; Bray Municipal District Cathaoirleach, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, and staff from both the Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership and BAP who were keen to share the successes of some exciting local projects that have been made possible with Healthy Ireland funding.

Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership showcased their three actions under the Healthy Ireland Fund Round 3: Healthy Towns, Physical Activity for All and the Teenage Urban Outdoor Recreation Initiative which demonstrated the aim to increase physical activity among specific groups in Wicklow.

The Minister learned about an initiative to support younger people in East County Wicklow who were pregnant or were new parents. The Partnership's SPECS team worked with local agencies and young mothers to create a booklet for

young Mams and Dads, 'Looking after Your Mental Health and Wellbeing During Pregnancy and Beyond', with lots of relevant information and listings of support services available to them in the area.

Another of the Partnership's Healthy Ireland and SICAP-funded projects highlighted was a programme of Wellbeing Workshops held in local DEIS primary schools. The children taking part are enjoying the fun activities around mindfulness, gratitude and positive intentions, smoothies and healthy treats, and putting their positive affirmations on the Gratitude Tree.

In the current challenging times the Minister was interested to learn more about how Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare funding has supported Bray Area Partnership's ASPIRE Social Prescribing service to work with people experiencing social isolation and low wellbeing by connecting them up with supports and activities in their local community.

The Minister's second visit was to St Kieran's Special School to meet parents and children involved in a healthy eating project run by Bray Area Partnership's SPECS service. Healthy Ireland funding was used to build a new state-of-the-art kitchen, providing a space for parents and children to come together and learn more about healthy eating and cooking, and to provide cookery classes. The participants went on to create and publish their own cookbook with all proceeds from its sales going to the Temple Street Foundation.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, remarked: "The huge benefit of the Healthy Ireland Funding in supporting local organisations in delivering actions that improve health and well-being". Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, congratulated all action partners in continuing to develop happier and healthier communities in Wicklow despite the recent challenges and uncertainties of the last eighteen months.

Healthy Ireland Coordinator for Wicklow County Council, Lorraine Dunne, commented that "Healthy Wicklow is about taking steps towards making Wicklow a healthier and prosperous County and this involves a partnership approach to addressing the determinants of health and supporting healthy lifestyles".

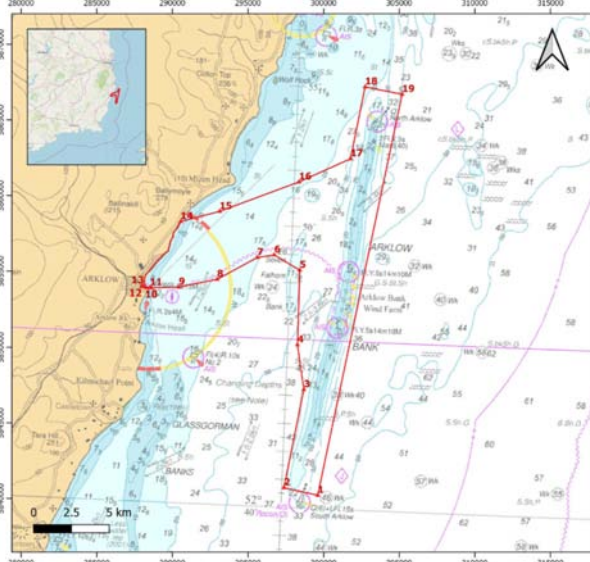


Minister Donnelly visiting the Bray Area Partnership SPECS Family Centre

## PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS OR OBSERVATIONS ON APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 42(13) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, of an application for a foreshore licence (FS007339) in relation to site investigation works required to inform the engineering and design of an offshore wind farm located 6-13km off the coast of Wicklow at Arklow (Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2) and the cable route to shore and associated infrastructure. The objectives of the site investigations are to gather sufficient geotechnical information to develop a detailed ground model and to gather refined information on the wind resource. The geotechnical data will be gathered over the array area, cable routes, landfalls and potential in-harbour works.

The Foreshore Licence Application Area is shown in the map below:



Coordinates of the Foreshore Licence Application Area are provided in the following table:

System: WGS 85/ UTM30		
ID	Eastings	Northings
1	299604.725	5840204.549
2	297368.718	5840705.557
3	298685.457	5847199.105
4	298266.327	5850156.224
5	298412.08	5855055.057
6	296730.959	5856065.006
7	295600.1	5855890.074
8	292956.567	5854449.085
9	290421.376	5853939.514
10	288603.073	5853891.893
11	288509.041	5853900.09
12	287963.17	5853972.737
13	288008.665	5854038.248
14	290537.744	5858272.546
15	293116.465	5858943.048
16	298371.62	5860895.221
17	301773.255	5862426.71
18	302737.078	5867179.839
19	305185.865	5866690.49

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is responsible for making a decision on the application and the Minister may either grant, approve or consent to the application with or without covenants, conditions or agreements, where applicable, or refuse the application.

The Minister has determined, in accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, that an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of the proposed plan or project. A copy of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment is available on <https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/5d162-sure-partners-arklow-bank-wind-park-phase-2-site-investigations/>.

The Minister will make a determination as to whether or not the proposed plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site in accordance with Regulation 42(11) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and, in doing so, shall have regard to the matters in Regulation 42(12).

In this regard, in accordance with Regulation 42(13), any person may make a submission or observation to the Minister concerning the proposed project between 10th November 2021 and 9th December 2021. The Minister shall have regard to any submissions or observations received during the public consultation.

A copy of the application, map of the proposed project, the determination that an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of the project, the Natura Impact Statement and the other information and documentation relevant to the application are available for inspection for 30 calendar days between 10th November 2021 and 9th December 2021, free of charge, at:

**Foreshore Unit,**  
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,  
Foreshore Section, Newtown Road, Wexford, Y35 AP90

Opening hours are 7:30am to 7pm Monday to Friday and no appointment needed

The relevant documents may also be purchased from this Department at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making such available.

**Wicklow County Council,**  
County Buildings, Station Road, Whitegates, Wicklow, A67 FW96.

By appointment only with the Planning Department to view the application documents at the public counter, by calling: 0404 20148 or by emailing [plandev@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:plandev@wicklowcoco.ie).

Planning Counter Opening Hours - Mon-Fri: 9am - 12:30pm & 2pm - 4pm.

**Arklow Garda Station,**  
Abbey Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Y14 H392.

**Wicklow Garda Station,**  
Batchelor's Walk, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow, A67 HK20.

**Arklow Library,**  
7 Main St, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Y14 PY61

Opening Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10am-5pm, Tuesday 10am-8:30pm

**Wicklow Library,**  
The Mall, Main Street, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, A67 X504

Opening Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10am-5pm, Tuesday 10am-8:30pm

This documentation and information is also available on the Department's website, at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/5d162-sure-partners-arklow-bank-wind-park-phase-2-site-investigations/>

Members of the public who wish to make a submission or observation in writing concerning the proposed project may do so between 10th November 2021 and 9th December 2021 (quoting ref: FS007339) to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Foreshore Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or [foreshoreORE@housing.gov.ie](mailto:foreshoreORE@housing.gov.ie) The closing date for submissions is 9th December 2021.

Take notice that material to which the Minister shall have regard in making the Appropriate Assessment determination will be published on the Department's website. In this regard, the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at:

<http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process>



Jake Werder at the Rathdrum Halloween Playfest





Cllr Joe Behan and Tom Fitzgerald at the official opening of Purple House Cancer Support Centre's new premises at 2 Duncairn tce on Quinsborough Road, Bray

## 'The Same But Different' - Bray author reads new book to school children

Bray author Emer O'Neill visited the children of Treetops Daycare & Afterschool in Kilcoole recently to read her new book, 'The Same But Different' for all the children.

The book is a must for parents or anyone working with children who want to help them learn to embrace their differences and learn that being different is what makes them who they are.

Emer O'Neill is a mother of two. Born and raised in Ireland, she is Irish/Nigerian and a Bray native. Emer has become a well known figure in Ireland; she is television's favourite Muinteor at Home School Hub, co-presenter on the Today show with Dáithí Ó Sé, is well known for her work as an anti-racism activist, and ambassador for Dove's self esteem project which tackles poor self esteem and body confidence in our Irish youth.

'The Same but Different', her new children's book, takes us on a journey with little Emer who doesn't like it when she is teased for having brown skin and fuzzy hair. She just wishes she could fit in and look like everyone else.

Emer, with the help of her mom soon realises that being different is in fact a beautiful thing and that "The things that make me different are the things that make me me!", and if we all looked the same, how boring would the world be! This book



has a beautiful and powerful message and is a great tool to engage in the topics of racism and inclusion.

"My four-year-old son told a boy in his class last week that he didn't like his skin colour, my husband and I were mortified," said one parent. "I went online and bought Emer's book immediately and he has responded so well to it. His teacher sent me a lovely

picture of the two of them playing away today. They are great pals now. We couldn't believe that this happened but we are so happy to have this wonderful book and it's made a big difference in this house."

'The Same But Different' is available to buy at Easons, Dubraybooks, Gillbooks, Amazon, Bookststion and other bookstores nationwide.



Emer O'Neill reading her book to children at Treetops Daycare & Afterschool

# 'Hats Off' to Wicklow's heroes

Ashford grandmother Wendy Lee was among the nominees for Brain Tumour Ireland's 'Hats Off Heroes' initiative, taking place as part of Brain Tumour Awareness Week which ran until Saturday, 6th November.

The 'Hats Off Heroes' initiative offered those who have been affected by brain tumours an opportunity to thank those people, who, through acts of support and kindness, helped them around their diagnosis.

Wendy was nominated a 'Hats Off Hero' by her daughter Tara Doyle, who had surgery for a brain tumour when her daughter, Zoey, was eight weeks old. Zoey is now age 15 months.

Explaining why she wanted to nominate her mother, Tara said, "Since I had surgery for a brain tumour while having a very young baby, my mum has travelled to me once and sometimes twice a week - a one and a half-hour journey each way. She helps me mind my daughter while my husband is at work and also brings me out to have a change of scenery as I can't drive. Having her visit just brightens my week and gives me someone else to see and talk to."

Reacting to being nominated, Wendy said, "I'm absolutely honoured. I love coming and spending time with Tara and Zoey. I feel like I'm the lucky one, getting to come and spend time with them."

Twenty-three-year-old Justin House from Carnew was nominated a 'Hats Off Hero' by his girlfriend Layla Doran, also from Carnew. Layla, age 24, was affected by a brain tumour in 2019.

Explaining why she wanted to nominate Justin, Layla said, "Justin has been my rock since being diagnosed. Over and over again, I was told by hospital staff and family about how lucky I am that he stuck by me, especially with us being only 22 at the time. He saw me at my



Brain Tumour Awareness Week 'Hats Off Hero' Kim O'Neill with her husband Padraig. Photo by Marc O'Sullivan.

very worst, fresh out of surgery, with half my hair shaved off. He didn't even blink an eye.

"Day after day, he sat on my bed doing his college work while I slept off my chemotherapy. He brought me to my appointments and listened to some tough conversations and yet still didn't run a mile. He is an absolute keeper."

Dunlavin husband Padraig O'Neill nominated his wife Kim a 'Hats Off Hero', while Kim nominated the couple's children, Charlie, 10, Ruby, 8, and Jack, 6, as well as her parents, Ann and Dermot Heatley.

Explaining why he nominated Kim, Padraig, who underwent brain tumour surgery in 2010 and 2015, said, "Kim is the best wife ever. For the last 10 years, she has been dealing with me and our three kids while working full time. Everything she does is to help me and our kids without ever thinking of herself."

Explaining why she

nominated their children, Kim said, "These three beautiful souls are my true heroes. They have been with us through every step of our brain tumour journey. Charlie has grown into the most responsible, sensible and caring 10-year-old you could ever meet. He constantly looks after his siblings and helps out so much at home. Ruby is a strong and caring sister to her brothers and is always watching out for her daddy. Jack was born during Padraig's chemotherapy treatment and to this day, Padraig will tell everyone that Jack got him through every step. They are amazing kids and my heroes."

Explaining why she nominated her parents, Kim said, "Without them, we would not be standing the other side of this brain tumour journey. They have gone above and beyond, between looking after our children, cooking, cleaning and driving Padraig to and from treatments and for MRIs. They are not just

my parents but my best friends. This journey has been long and hard, and I can honestly say we could never have done it without them."

Commenting on the stories submitted to Brain Tumour Ireland for 'Hats Off Heroes', Chairperson of Brain Tumour Ireland Peter Cosgrove said, "These stories demonstrate how invaluable everyday acts of support and kindness are to people affected by brain tumours. It also shines a light on the strength and resilience of people who are affected by brain tumours, as well as the impact of the illness on them, their families and loved ones. More than 400 people are diagnosed with a brain tumour in Ireland each year, with many contacting Brain Tumour Ireland for support when they receive their diagnosis. On their behalf, we feel privileged to learn about these stories and to be able to thank the 'Hats Off Heroes' who have helped them."

## New Wicklow Age Friendly Survey - have your say

People worldwide are living longer than ever, and while this is a great achievement, the challenge is to work towards improving 'wellbeing' and 'quality of life' for the increasing number of older people, ensuring they reap the benefits of this longevity.

Following on from the success of the current Age Friendly Strategy, Wicklow County Council in association with Wicklow's Age Friendly County Alliance and Wicklow's Older Persons Council are keen to ensure a strong focus for older people in the county in the future and are currently developing a new Age Friendly Strategy which will cover the period 2022 to 2027. Areas of interest include outdoor spaces, transport, housing, social participation and community support and health services.

Stakeholder engagement and consultation is currently underway; therefore, the partners want to hear the views of people aged 55 and over living in the county. Insights and contributions gathered through this process will result in the identification of priority areas for action in the new strategy. To have your say please complete the survey by logging on to Wicklow County Council's Consultation Hub on.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Community/Wicklow-Age-Friendly-Survey>  
To receive the survey by email or paper copy please email: [agefriendly@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:agefriendly@wicklowcoco.ie)



# Bray singer shortlisted for Local Hero Award

The shortlist of twenty-five artists for the A New Local Hero award has been revealed with East Coast FM's nominee Aoife Doyle from Bray included in the austere group of up-and-coming Irish artists in with the opportunity to win the overall prize.

A New Local Hero is a feature of Irish Music Month - a month-long programming initiative for the month of October, which saw Hot Press join forces with 25 radio stations all over Ireland, who are members of the IBI (Independent Broadcasters of Ireland), to support Irish music and Irish musicians. Irish Music Month is supported by XL Retail Group as well as the BAI through its Sound & Vision scheme, MCD Productions, IMRO, RAAP and XMusic.

Following a call to action from each of the stations, five artists were selected in all 25 franchise areas for the 'longlist' of A New Local Hero - with a total of 125 artists and bands in the running at that stage.

Now, the 25 stations - covering every blade of grass across the country - have revealed their individual selections for the shortlist stage. One from each franchise area is still in contention for the A New Local Hero award.

East Coast FM chose Aoife Doyle, a singer-songwriter from Bray, Aoife who grew up in a very musical family. Like many of the A New Local Hero shortlist, she sang from a very young age. Nowadays, Aoife has B.A. in jazz performance from Newpark Music Centre in Dublin. Her recent tune 'Strength to be Strong', showcases her ability to superbly meld jazz, folk and soul into a winning sound.

"The calibre of the artists is brilliant," Hot Press editor Niall Stokes says, "the 25 songs really enraptured everyone and Aoife is a real contender for what is a fantastic overall prize, so the judges have a tough job on their hands to select Ireland's overall Local Hero!"



Aoife Doyle

In real terms, every one of the 125 original nominees was a winner. It is a feature of Irish Music Month that all of these long-listed artists were paid for their endeavours when they were invited to play on their local stations - as well as gaining significant extra exposure and recognition and getting a shot at the ultimate A New Local Hero award.

Now, the judging will get even more

intense as the 25 is reduced to five - who will play the Academy, in Dublin, on November 18th - on a showcase night, at which the recipient of the A New Local Hero 2021 award will be revealed.

"There is a brilliant mix of genres and styles among the 25 acts," Hot Press editor Niall Stokes added. "Some of them will already be familiar to music audiences. Others are relative newcomers, who have announced themselves powerfully through A New Local Hero. All of them are artists of real calibre. It will be an extremely difficult task for the judges, to get from 25 artists down to the final five, for our showcase night on November 18th. But that is in the nature of a process like this."

"The important thing is that we now know that the artists and bands selected locally are brilliant," he added. "Which means that an artist of outstanding calibre will be the recipient of the A New Local Hero award 2021. It is a really exciting prospect."

The showcase event on November 18th will be broadcast subsequently by all 25 stations, including East Coast FM, and on the night A New Local Hero will be announced to benefit from a special bursary. There and then, the act will be launched onto another level in their career level, and will receive: €5,000 in cash; €5,000 worth of gear from XMusic; The release of a single through the renowned Rubyworks record label; A guaranteed 30 plays on all 25 stations, adding up to a minimum of 750 in all; National exposure via an interview in Hot Press; A full PR campaign around the release of the single.

## Sunbeam House Services launches new CD for 20/20 Vision Project

Sunbeam House Services are very proud to have launched their latest CD, which is titled '20/20 Vision'. The CD was launched on 15th October at Jack White's Inn, with a coffee morning.

An enjoyable morning was had by all, with music provided by John and Tommy Breen. Councillor John Snell was in attendance, along with the conductor of St. Mary's College School Orchestra Christine Steele, and Deputy Client Services Manager Lynda Burke from Sunbeam's

Ballyrairie campus and they presented certificates and CDs to all the clients involved in the making of the CD.

The event was well supported by clients, family members and staff, and was held in the marquee which allowed ample space in an outdoor setting for everyone.

This is the second CD released from their music programme, and it has been in the making for the last eighteen months. It follows on from the success of their '40 years of Sunbeam' CD in 2017 and their 'Live in Concert DVD in 2018. There were no less than 33 Sunbeam House clients of all ages

contributing to the content of this latest CD. The clients spent a lot of time learning words, instruments, timing and arrangements, and then had the experience of the concentration needed for recording in a live setting. There are 11 tracks in total, including traditional tunes, popular songs, and Irish ballads.

"We hope all those who purchase the CD enjoy it as much as our clients enjoyed putting it together. A special thank you to staff members at the following Sunbeam House venues - Ballyrairie campus, Bri Nua, Bray Learning Centre, Start, Eolas, DCB, and The Pod - who helped with preparation, logistics, transport and simply making themselves available for whatever needed to be done in what has been a challenging year! A word of thanks also to the managers/deputy managers of the various locations for giving us the time needed to make it happen."

The 20/20 VISION project received funding

from the following individuals and groups: Wicklow County Council, Linda Lambert, East Wicklow Youth Service/The Vault (UBU), Devlin Hannon, Karen Nolan and Intreo.

"We cannot thank enough, for all their support, the staff and customers at the Corner House Arklow who ran a fundraising night which included a live performance by Na Cailini traditional group. Community spirit at its best! Last but not least, we are very proud of everyone who has done their best to keep up their music this year, and for all those who made it on to this CD. We already have a number of new names working on being part of our next project. If anyone who would like a copy of the CD, please contact Tommy Breen the music instructor at Sunbeam House Services at tommybreen@gmail.com."

Sunbeam House remain grateful for any future donations towards the funding of their next musical project.



Chris Steele, leader of St. Mary's College Orchestra, with Stephen Dignam and Tommy Breen at the CD launch



Mary Doyle and Jane Kierans at the official opening of Purple House Cancer Support Centre in Bray.

## Multi-agency task force on homelessness is needed

Sinn Féin Councillor Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien has called on the Council to convene a multi-agency task force as a matter of urgency to discuss the homelessness issue in the County.

Cllr O'Brien said "We need to get all of the stakeholders in a room and really shine a light on some of the gaps and challenges that are causing people to fall through the cracks. There are numerous specialist organisations voluntary and statutory working very hard to support individuals and families in the areas of mental health, addiction, domestic violence, social inclusion, family support and of course housing and homelessness."

"What concerns me greatly is when I hear stories of people striving to transform their lives against all the odds and making phenomenal progress only to be knocked back to square one because they don't have a roof over their head. We have people leaving psychiatric hospitals and returning to a tent, we have services providing facilities for people who come off the streets in the morning to shower and eat before they go to work or a training course and after a days work or a night shift they return to their tent. Every organisation is doing their best and often going above and beyond their roles because their work is rooted in compassion but sadly this is not a sustainable approach."

"I am well aware that there are many committees and fora that are striving to have a positive impact in this complex area of work but for me I think convening a gathering of stakeholders as an opportunity to take stock of where we are and really committing to the development of concrete proposals for how we resolve the emerging issues is a matter of genuine urgency."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### APPLICATIONS FOR POSTAL/SPECIAL VOTES

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

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

Postal Votes (PV1) Forms\* are available from [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) or by email request to [Franchise@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:Franchise@wicklowcoco.ie)

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

If you have any queries please email [franchise@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:franchise@wicklowcoco.ie)





Odhran Wall, Aidan Foran, Aisling Foran and the Wickwed Witch at the Rathdrum Halloween Playfest

# 'Council needs Biodiversity Officer'

**Green Party TD Steven Matthews has made the call for a full-time biodiversity officer for Wicklow County Council.**

"We are in a biodiversity crisis, a water quality crisis and a climate crisis and our local authorities have a vital role in addressing these issues but need the resources to take real action," said Deputy Matthews.

"We have no time to waste, this is urgent, and every county needs this resource to guide and advise on all aspects of development, environmental management and council projects.

"I was a member of Wicklow County Council when we declared a Climate Emergency and I led the negotiations to establish the Climate and Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committee making us the leading local authority on this issue. In the Programme for Government the Green Party secured a commitment that local authorities shall have a sufficient number of Biodiversity and Heritage officers and I am working closely with Minister Malcolm Noonan and with Wicklow County Council on this objective.

"There is so much work required to

reverse decades of ecological decline and this will in part be done through the National Pollinator Plan, the National Biodiversity Action Plan, investment in waste water treatment, management plans for areas of ecological importance and through supports for local community and biodiversity action groups.

"We also need urgent action on protection for urban trees and roadside hedgerows, tree planting and for all those green spaces throughout our towns and villages that can support biodiversity if managed and cared for properly.

"In order to address this crisis with the urgency it requires, our local authority need the right resources and expertise. I am confident that our beautiful, wild and biodiversity rich county will benefit from the appointment of a full-time expert biodiversity officer and I look forward to continuing support for our local councils with national level objectives and funding to ensure they get what they need to do the job," concluded Deputy Matthews.

## Fortune asks for blockage at Breaches to be resolved

**The threat of flooding for residents in Newcastle and Kilcoole as a result of the blockage issue at the Breaches, an area of unique habitat immediately to the south of Kilcoole's railway station, has raised its head again.**

"This has been a serious problem ongoing every year and there was a lot of problems in the last six or seven or eight months," said Cllr Tom Fortune at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council. "Here we are again and it's kicked off once more. There was a panic situation over the weekend and my understanding is that Minister Simon Harris and Minister for the Office of Public Works Patrick O'Donovan have been in touch with Wicklow County Council and there is funding to do what needs to be done.

"I've been led to believe there is a blockage. The main thing is that it's a serious problem for people

living on the Sea Road in Newcastle and all the people living on the seaford in Kilcoole. There is a simple solution.

"It's a question of just sitting down with an individual over at Newcastle airfield and this could all be solved to everyone's satisfaction until proper funding is put in place for a much bigger project. I think at this stage it's gone beyond a joke, so I would ask the Chief Executive to engage with ministers Harris and O'Donovan to get this sorted."

Irish Rail took over the task from John Nugent of Newcastle Airfield of keeping the Breaches clear of blockage, however Irish Rail subsequently ceased

this work after their equipment was damaged.

Wicklow County Council Engineer Mark Devereaux said "What I am trying to do is get the National Parks and Wildlife Services and the OPW to come together and agree what has to be done. I have had several meetings with them, I am hoping in the next several weeks they will agree on what they can do. They are awaiting some details from their hydrologist as well. The only way of doing works in the short-term is to get the NPWS to get them together in relation to that. I am expecting contact with the OPW in the next couple of days."

## Kilmullen Lane still closed off almost one year later

**Speaking at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Cllr John Snell raised the issue of Kilmullen Lane in Newtown which remains closed after many months. The lane services St. Catherine's Special Needs School and its closure is inconveniencing parents and staff.**

"Unfortunately the 20 minibuses plus the staff and the parents who drop kids off there on a daily basis have to take a six kilometre route around, by the Druids Glen Hotel," he said. "There was a leakage of heating oil from Newcastle Hospital's storage tanks which was leaking into the stream and carrying on out into the open sea. I am asking the Chief Executive to please get this resolved. The last indication I had, which was in the summer, was that the environmental section of Wicklow County Council and the local engineer had all been on site and identified this with HSE officials and that this was going to be resolved. The road had been dug up and any diesel that was underneath the road surface was taken out.

"We are at the end of the year and these kids are still having to use what I believe is an unsafe road to bring them the 6 kilometres around. The insurance company for the HSE were supposed to pick up the tab for this. That is what insurance is for. The belief was that Wicklow County Council would go ahead and restore this road network and reclaim the insurance. I am asking the Chief Executive to please get this short road network reinstated, so these children can go to school safely. It's almost a year now, it's unacceptable."

## First virtual nationwide Bin It! roadshow gets under way across Wicklow

*A total of 64,092 students have participated in the Bin It! programme since 2006*

**The annual nationwide Bin It! programme has launched its new virtual Bin It! Hit Record Show which is being rolled out to secondary schools across Wicklow in a bid to educate and raise awareness of issues surrounding litter and the impact it can have on communities.**

Bin It! Hit Record replaces the annual Bin It! programme national roadshow, which has been postponed in 2021 to ensure adherence to Covid-19 guidelines. The new virtual show and adaptable teaching resource is being launched to over 25 Secondary schools across Wicklow and will enable teachers to facilitate lessons that focus on the science behind littering, the behaviour

of littering, and what can be done to change people's attitudes towards litter.

Bin It! is entirely funded and supported by the Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) and forms an integral part of the GLT gum litter education campaign which seeks to encourage correct gum disposal amongst the public. Established in 2006, the GLT includes members of the chewing gum industry, repre-

sented by Mars Ireland, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Food Drink Ireland, local authority representatives and civic society.

Bin It! Hit Record will provide teachers with information on how to deliver the lesson programmes and how to adapt the content to suit their needs and effectively engage stu-

dents. Central to the free teaching resource is a series of short videos which will follow main characters Doc and Taylor from the roadshow who will look at four key areas of littering. Students will also have the opportunity to conduct practical experiments from the roadshow and experience what it is like to be a key decision maker when it comes to managing litter.

The Bin It! campaign has toured across the country since 2006, visiting 580 schools and engaging 64,092 students through actor-led workshops that educated and encouraged students around correct gum disposal. Last year, the campaign was postponed due to Covid-19.

Speaking about the rollout of this important element of the GLT campaign, Chairman of the GLT, Paul Kelly said; "Like many other environmental initiatives, Bin It! has had to be creative in how it continues to educate students around the topic of litter. As younger generations are more aware about the global environmental challenges that we are facing, and are eager to learn and enact positive change, it is important that the Bin It! education programme continues to evolve in order to captivate and educate future decision makers."

The GLT education campaign also includes outdoor poster, TV and online advertising which ran from June until August this year and an accompanying website [www.gumlittertaskforce.ie](http://www.gumlittertaskforce.ie). Since the campaign began back in 2007, the proportion of gum as a percentage of litter has decreased by 64% as more and more people regard chewing gum as litter.



Pre-pandemic: A Bin it! school tour visit to St Gerard's school in Bray in 2019.





# Flanagan Kerins®

Furniture for Life



## COMO

RECLINER CHAIR Was €895 **Now €695**

2 SEATER RECLINER Was €1145 **Now €995**

3 SEATER RECLINER Was €1395 **Now €1295**



## MICHELANGELO FABRIC

3 SEATER - FIXED SOFA Was €2595 **Now €1995**

2 SEATER - FIXED SOFA Was €1595 **Now €1195**

ARMCHAIR - POWER RECLINER Was €1395 **Now €995**



## ARVO CHARCOAL

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



## RAPHAEL

3 SEATER - FIXED SOFA Was €1995 **Now €1545**

# 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](http://www.flanagankerins.ie)





Racers on their bikes for the start of the Quest Glendalough event. Photo by Fiona Madden

# Quest Glendalough returns to delight of adventure racers from across the world

Nearly 2,000 adventurers descended on Glendalough on Saturday 30th October to run, cycle and kayak their way around Wicklow National Park and surrounds for the first time since the race was last held in 2019.

This sold-out Quest Glendalough event saw adventure racers come from as far afield as Australia, the USA, the UK and across Europe to take part in the event.

Quest Glendalough is a sought-after event, and the only time of the year that kayakers can take to the Upper Lake in Glendalough.

Winners of the 'Expert' route were Niall Davis and Ellen Vitting. Winners of the 'Sport' route were John Mullin and Joan Mahony. Winners of the 'Challenge route' were Dwayne Flynn and Catriona Fogarty.

Race Organiser, Oliver Kirwan, says the popularity of the event continues to grow despite the pandemic related hiatus: "Glendalough is a really special place for us and our participants just love this event. We're delighted to be back after a two year absence, and that the event sold out is testament to its continued popularity.

"We've had great support locally, and would like thank all our volunteers, marshals and especially moving the the Laragh GAA pitch for letting us set up camp on their doorstep.

"We'll be back next year again, all things going to plan, to introduce even more people to this wonderful, historic, unspoilt area." Participants undertook one of three challenging routes, the 21km 'Challenge' route, the 43km 'Sport' route and the 59km 'Expert' route."

After the event they were treated to hot food, music and a fabulous welcome home at the finish line. Quest Adventure Series has just launched its dates for 2022, announcing it will hold five Quest adventure races next year in: Kenmare on 12th March 2022, Glendalough on 2nd April 2022, Beara Peninsula on 27th August 2022, Lough Derg on 10th September 2022 and Killarney on 8th October 2022. The next Quest Glendalough takes place on 2nd April 2022.

Quest Adventures Series is a series of adventure and endurance races run by Elite Event Management based in Killarney, Co Kerry, Ireland. EEM run a series of events in Ireland and the UK that range from long-distance elite endurance events, to 10k running races and one-day cycle races.

## Race Results

### Expert results

#### Women

- 1st Ellen Vitting 3:41:26
- 2nd Laura O'Driscoll 3:46:39
- 3rd Ciara Brennan 3:53:55

#### Men

- 1st Niall Davis 3:10:49
- 2nd Sebastian Giraud 3:15:40
- 3rd Shane Kenny 3:17:02

### Sport results

#### Women

- 1st Joan Mahony 2:40:47
- 2nd Denise Malloy 2:41:15
- 3rd Niamh O'Brien 2:51:15

#### Men

- 1st John Mullin 2:08:30
- 2nd Bernard Smyth 2:13:04
- 3rd Kevin McGuinness 2:14:20

### Challenge results

#### Women

- 1st Caitriona Fogarty 1:17:08
- 2nd Zara Elkinson 1:28:43
- 3rd Patricia Gallagher 1:29:51

#### Men

- 1st Dwayne Flynn 1:09:48
- 2nd Darragh Browne 1:15:13
- 3rd Chris Byrne 1:15:17

National Learning Network  
*Learn to change your story*

# 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](mailto:arklow@nlm.ie)
- 🌐 [www.nlm.ie](http://www.nlm.ie)
- 📘 [facebook.com/NLNArklow](https://facebook.com/NLNArklow)
- 🏠 Briggs Lane, Arklow

Courses are funded by the HSE. Eligibility criteria apply.

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



Quest Glendalough at its finest for kayakers - photo by Marek Hajdasz



# Forest bathing launched in Wicklow

County Wicklow Partnership and Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) recently launched Wicklow Forest Bathing at the Glenview Hotel.

The LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 supported by County Wicklow Partnership funded the training of 12 Forest Bathing Guides in Wicklow. Each guide, with their own unique individual offering, will endeavour to establish Wicklow as the centre of Forest Bathing in Ireland.

Forest Bathing is a process of relaxation to reduce stress and help reconnect with nature. Forest bathing was developed in Japan as a national health programme. The simple method of being calm and present amongst the trees, observing nature around you, with all your senses, whilst breathing deeply has been proven to help boost health and wellbeing in a natural way (no swimsuit or bathing in water required!).

Forest Bathing comes under the umbrella of nature-based solutions for health and well-being. There is currently an international focus on the development of new green jobs in forest-based care for both the eco-

tourism and green care sectors.

To ensure maximum success with lasting outcomes, the 12 new Wicklow guides went through two distinct programmes during their training: Forest Bathing Guide training and First Aid as well as a foundation course in entrepreneurial business thinking. The Forest Bathing Guide training programme was undertaken by Shirley Gleeson and Kerry Walker. Shirley is a nature & well-being consultant.

She is the Managing Director of Ecowellness Consulting and the Co-Founder of Nádúr Centre for Integrative Forest Therapy. Shirley trains and mentors Forest Bathing Guides in Ireland and internationally and is the leading expert on Forest Bathing in Ireland. She is deemed an international expert in the area of nature and well-being. Kerry Walker is a passionate Forest School Leader, Forest Bathing Guide, Forest Therapy Practitioner, and an Art Therapist. The 15 week

entrepreneurial business development programme was undertaken by The Entrepreneurs Academy.

Making comment prior to the Forest Bathing launch, Brian Carty, CEO at County Wicklow Partnership said: "Our own well-being, that of our staff here at CWP, our colleagues and the many clients within the wider community that we work to support is of key importance to us here, especially when we consider the busy, stressful lives we all live now. So many of us are looking for a way to slow down, destress and take time out from the daily grind to look after our mental health. Both the company, the board of CWP and the Local Community Development Committee are today delighted to announce the launching of this project and to see our new 12 fully trained guides working to make Wicklow the centre of Forest Bathing."

"It is without doubt, that our Garden County attracts high volumes of local, national and international day trippers and

being so rich in publicly accessible forests. This gives Wicklow the perfect opportunity to promote, provide and welcome this project as a relatively new eco-wellness & tourism focused offering for 2022. Not only will it provide the opportunity to experience how these immersive walks can enhance general wellbeing. It will also promote the beauty of our existing forests and give an additional focus to bring those eco-wellness minded people to the more unusual forest paths that are so abundant in Co Wicklow."

Forest Bathing in Wicklow is an exciting new collaboration between a group of specialist guides in Co. Wicklow who each bring their own unique vision and skill set to their work. This pilot eco-tourism training programme initiative was developed by Co. Wicklow Partnership, Ecowellness Consulting and funded under the LEADER Rural Development Fund 2014-2020.



Ghosts and Ghouls enjoying the Walk in the Woods on Halloween in Newtown

## Changes to CAO website include apprenticeship opportunities for school leavers in Wicklow

Enhancements to the CAO website will include further education and apprenticeship opportunities for school leavers in Wicklow, Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD has said.

The CAO website went live last week and for the first time the portal will include options across higher education, further education and training, and apprenticeships for school leavers and other applicants.

Minister Harris said: "The changes to the CAO website I have introduced will allow students to see the full range of third-level options in one place for the first time."

"Students across Wicklow will now have access to over 400 Post Leaving Cert (PLC) courses and 62 apprenticeship programmes, as well as university options, on the enhanced CAO portal."

"Access to education for all is a key priority for Fine Gael in Government and this is just one more step in breaking down the barriers to third level. As part of last month's Budget 2022, Minister

Harris announced the abolition of the €200 course levy, which will apply to all PLC courses in the Kildare/Wicklow Education and Training Board from next September.

"The inclusion of apprenticeships on the CAO website speaks to the societal shift that has occurred over the past few years. Students, teachers and parents recognise there is so much more than university to consider when thinking about life post Leaving Cert."

"This is a significant step in making our third level sector a more inclusive environment which caters to the needs and skills of all school-leavers in Wicklow. It is a change which reflects education, of some form or another, is for all - but the 'one size fits all' model is now a thing of the past."

Minister Harris concluded: "I really want to pay tribute to the CAO, Solas and ETBI for coming together to bring this to this point. This is an important day for this Department and our third level sector. Across Wicklow over the next few months, Leaving Cert students will be considering their next steps in life."

"We have so many industries offering diverse and interesting careers and there are so many ways to get there. If full time education isn't for you, then we have options that are."



Minister Harris launching the enhanced CAO website

## 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](https://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



## Coming up at Mermaid...



**THEATRE:**

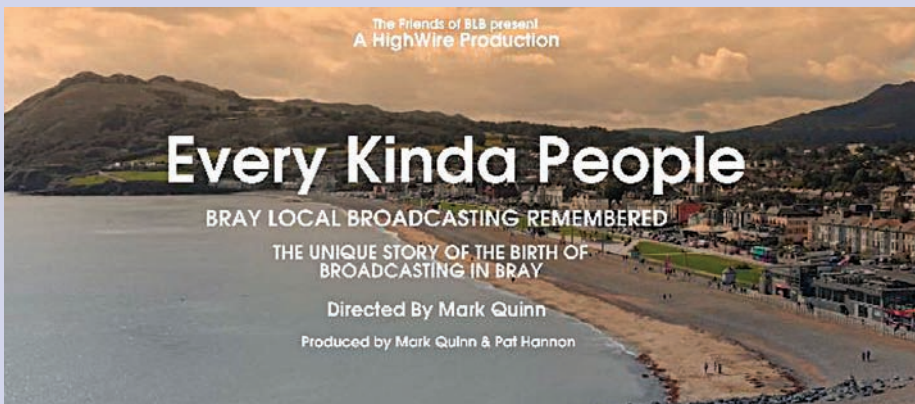
### PURE MENTAL by Keith Walsh

TUESDAY 30th November | 8pm €20

Keith Walsh is Pure Mental. Having finished up a 5-year stint presenting on National Radio, in the pressure cooker that is a breakfast show, Keith has finally found a bit of time for himself. More importantly, he's found time to check in with his mental health.

Midlife Crisis? Midlife awakening? Breakdown? We'll find out. This show is part of his therapy and you're his therapist!

Join him on a journey of introspection and exploration, as he locates his demons and traumas in order to try and find the real person underneath the fuzzy mess of stress.



**CINEMA:**

### Every Kinda People - Bray Local Broadcasting

Monday 15th November | 8pm (€9/7), Duration: 90 Mins

This full-length feature captures a nostalgic tale of a growing town and a pioneering sound in an era before mobile phones and the Internet. It is the story of a radio station proudly sounding like the townspeople themselves, which valued authenticity over slickness. Hear old ads for long-gone businesses and tales of what went on behind the scenes! Stories of endeavour and innovation, fun and adventure, this feature documentary is an important addition to Bray's rich social and cultural history.

This film will be preceded by Broken Sleep - A Short Film by David Stephenson.



**GALLERY:**

### Brigid O'Brien- Home

Friday 19th November 2021 - SATURDAY 8th January 2022 (Admission Free)

Wicklow based artist O'Brien introduces a new series of monumental drawings of people performing the most commonplace tasks - hardly worth a mention but for the fact that people with a sense of security in their own homes build better futures. These immersive works aim to initiate a conversation on our feelings around the word 'Home'. Over the past two years O'Brien has been initiating conversations with strangers, asking them to describe what 'home' means to them. Is a home an innate human right? How do people cope without a home? How would they describe their home? The artist's huge pen and pencil drawings on paper illustrate some of these notions of home, from cosy sitting room views to family kitchen activity. The viewer is enveloped in these scenes, but also outside of them. To accompany the exhibition, O'Brien has compiled a Spotify playlist of songs about home which will go live when the exhibition opens.

## Local author shortlisted for Crime Novel of the Year Award

Kilmacanogue based crime writer Sam Blake's latest thriller *The Dark Room* was launched in the depth of January's lockdown when all the bookshops were closed, but has now been shortlisted for the An Post Irish Book Awards Irish Independent Crime Novel of the Year.

*The Dark Room* is her fifth bestselling novel and she finds herself rubbing shoulders in a shortlist with world renowned writers including Booker winner John Banville, lawyer Steve Cavanagh and Mary Higgins Clarke Award winner Jane Casey.

Sam Blake is the pen name of Vanessa Fox O'Loughlin, founder of the Writing.ie writing resources website and the Murder One International Crime Writing Festival. She's been writing fiction since her husband went sailing across the Atlantic for eight weeks and she had an idea for a book. Sam says, "When I started writing, and the bug truly bit, but I made all the rookie mistakes with my first book, literally putting the last full-stop down and sending it out to agents and publishers. Needless to say it was rejected everywhere." Bestseller Sarah Webb told Sam to "just keep writing" and she says "that was the best advice I was ever given, by book three I'd found my voice and my debut novel, the first in the Cat Connolly Garda procedural trilogy, *Little Bones*, was a runaway bestseller."

Sam explains, "I use a pen name because my married name is O'Loughlin and Vanessa Fox O'Loughlin would be a real squash on the cover. There's also a theory that men don't buy



Kilmacanogue writer Vanessa Fox (aka: Sam Blake)

crime written by women, so many female crime writers dodge that bullet with an androgenous first name."

*The Dark Room* is set in Hare's Landing, a mysterious country house hotel in West Cork, but was inspired by locations in Cornwall where Vanessa is a regular visitor. "I came up with the idea for *The Dark Room* sitting just a few hundred yards from Frenchman's Creek and

the story is definitely influenced by Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*, my favourite book."

Bestseller Liz Nugent described *The Dark Room* as 'Twisty, unpredictable and compelling' and fan, blogger Bookish Jottings as 'A sinister, twisted & atmospheric thriller sure to send a chill scuttling down your spine... a nail-biting page-turner readers will not be able to put down... sure to go

down a treat with fans of Lisa Jewell and C L Taylor.'

In *The Dark Room*, Rachel Lambert leaves London with Jasper, her German Shepherd dog, afraid for her personal safety after a break-in on her houseboat. Her partner, Hunter, has been involved in a hit and run, and she's determined to uncover the truth behind the sudden death of the homeless man he was filming for a documentary. The only lead she has is a country house hotel in West Cork called Hare's Landing.

When she arrives, Rachel meets New York-based crime reporter Caroline Kelly whose career is threatened by a lawsuit - she's in Ireland trying to get some thinking space away from her job. But almost as soon as they arrive, Hare's Landing begins to reveal its own stories - a 30-year-old missing person's case and the mysterious death of the hotel's former owner. And as Rachel and Caroline join forces, it becomes clear that their investigations are intertwined - and that there is nothing more dangerous than the truth...

Released in the smaller paperback format on 4th November, *The Dark Room* is in all bookshops. The winner of Irish Crime Book of the Year Award is decided by a public vote - you can vote here: [irish-bookawards.ie/vote](https://irish-bookawards.ie/vote)

## Jack O'Rourke at The Courthouse Arts Centre

Saturday 13th November €18  
8.30pm Doors 8pm

The Courthouse Arts Centre has announced the return of Jack O'Rourke following the release of his new album *Wild Place*.

One of Ireland's most gifted songwriters he has gone from strength to strength since his song 'Silence' became synonymous with the Irish Marriage Equality Referendum.

Winner of the Nashville-based International Songwriting Award, Jack's career has seen him headline *Other Voices* in 2019, playing with an orchestra at the Cork Opera House and most recently in *Home*, alongside Loah, Villagers and Denise Chaila. His collaboration, 'New Day' with electronic artist, Kormac has nearly 500,000 views for its award winning music video. His album, *Ivory Towers*, a foray into alternative pop, produced many radio hits, including the title track and *Myth*.

'*Wild Place*' was recorded on an old Steinway in The Triskel, Cork, a song cycle embracing folk, chamber and blues, one of the tracks Patsy Cline has just been nominated as best original folk song of the year on RTÉ Radio 1





# Wicklow artists in spotlight at Art Source

Wicklow artists will be in the national spotlight as Ireland's premier art fair returns to the RDS from November 12th-14th.



Enniskerry artist David McGlynn

David McGlynn, who lives in Enniskerry, and Christine Callaghan, who lives in Delgany will join 200 of the best contemporary Irish and international artists alongside a collection of contemporary art worth €1.3 million at Art Source.

David has captured the benefits of slow living in his work.

"Despite the drawbacks of lockdown, I found that people around me were waking up to the huge value in the stillness of nature and that had been a great source of inspiration," said David.

"Bronze sculpting is a patient process, and there is an element of the slow but steady pace of nature, and the mindset you need to appreciate that, reflected in the work. It can be frustrating because you want to work in a free and spontaneous way, but sculpting, like life in many ways, takes a huge amount of work and patience.

"Having said that, once you like the piece itself, you want to see it through and go on the journey - that is where the magic is.

"This feeling has informed my work since lockdown - where previously my work had been quite playful, now I am inspired by moments, like walking along Bray beach at dawn, and the things that keep us going, like music and hope."

Holly Christine Callaghan is a portrait illustrator who uses ballpoint pens as her main tool to tackle unusual images of cultural icons. Using her experience as a new mother, Holly aims to channel the strength in vulnerability that many women find threads through their lives.

Her artist statement, to represent strong women, led her to her collaborating as an artist to create 21 portraits of forgotten Irish women for author Clodagh Finn's book *Through Her Eyes* - a

new history of Ireland in 21 women.

She has also worked as the lead illustrator for the hand-drawn film *Home* which follows a young female protagonist through her experiences of the Irish Famine.

"Portraiture is my first love as an artist, and I wanted to return to that discipline for Art Source," said Holly.

"What I love to work with at the moment is taking iconic figures, especially women but not exclusively, and showcasing them in unfamiliar moments.

"I use cinema stills, or will search out photography of them when they are older than we typically see, to capture a sense of vulnerability, and the strength that exists there."

The collection of the stars of contemporary art is presented by Gormleys Fine Art, and will showcase Warhol's iconic portrait of Mick Jagger, signed by both the artist and the singer,

valued at €125,000.

The collection will also include works by Joan Miro, Roy Lichtenstein, Salvador Dali, Robert Indiana and Keith Haring as well as Irish artists Maser, Peter Monaghan and Stephen Forbes.

Over 15,000 people are expected to attend the year's biggest and most exciting art show, which will feature 200 of the best contemporary Irish and international artists and galleries.

And Irish art lovers also have the unique chance to get their hands on 100 pieces of original artwork for €100 each on a first-come, first-served basis on the opening morning of the show on Friday, November 12.

This year's Art Source showcases painting, sculpture, photography, illustration, prints and ceramic art.

"Art Source offers visitors the opportunity to purchase a one-off affordable original artwork to make their home unique and also the opportunity to meet the artists and hear about their work," said show organiser Patrick O'Sullivan.

The show will also feature a free children's art workshop where youngsters can work creatively on the theme of *Nature Around Us*.

*Art Source takes place at the RDS, Dublin, from November 12-14, admission is €10 adults, €8 OAPs. Children under 16 free if accompanied by a parent or guardian.*

*Opening times: Friday Nov 12: 11am-9pm, Sat Nov 13 and Sun Nov 14: 10am - 6pm. See Artsource.ie*

## Coming up at Whale Theatre...



### Clare Sands

Friday 19th November @ 8pm. Tickets €22 available from [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550

**Channeling the music of her ancestors through her deep rooted Irish traditional fiddling & bilingual song, Clare Sands is a unique force in Irish music. A sixth generation fearless feisty fiddler, the singer-songwriter & multi-instrumentalist is breaking the boundaries of Irish Music. She makes pulsating Folk music, infused with a myriad of influences from around the world to create an invigorating new sound, for the young and the old, brave and the bold.**

BBC Radio called Clare Sands "An empowering, exceptional talent, channeling the music of her ancestors while reimagining the sound of a new Ireland". Sands has been wowing audiences around Ireland and further afield with her groundbreaking style, passionate performance, and infinite warrior-like energy. Her electrifying live performances of Fearless Folk see Clare on fiddle, guitar, percussion & vocals combined with live electronics to create expansive soundscapes weaving story and song. Her performances possess "a brilliant energy that's both irresistible and refreshing as she traverses a path where Irish and English languages, Traditional, Folk, and Contemporary music meet", said Folk Radio UK.

As well as performing solo, Clare has also performed with critically acclaimed artists such as the Hothouse Flowers, The Stunning, Daithí, Mick Flannery, Susan O'Neill, Manchán Magan, Niamh Regan & many more. This 'force of natures' time has truly come....

Throughout 2021, Clare has been collaborating with some of Ireland's finest Folk and Traditional musicians to compose four new songs over the four seasons, inspired by the landscapes and soundscapes of the four provinces. These compositions with Steve Cooney & Tommy Sands, Susan O'Neil, Brídín and Liam Ó Maonlaí will feature on Clare's highly anticipated self-titled debut album of pulsating Folk, due for release in 2022. Described by Mark Radcliffe on BBC Radio 2 as 'full of life' they are a glance into the invigorating new Irish sound to come.

## GAME ON

Sunday 21st November @ 6pm.  
Tickets €10 available from [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550

**Celebrating how the video game industry has challenged traditional structures of music, opening new doors for musicians to explore, critically-acclaimed pianist - and aspiring video game music composer - Jack Byrne offers up a unique, mind-bending and time-hopping concert experience.**

Combining his love of performance with his love for video games, Jack will perform piano arrangement of popular video game scores while displaying a compilation of clips from Playstation, Nintendo, Xbox and beyond. Piano works featured in this one-hour, one-off special will include music from both the *Final Fantasy* and the *Kingdom Hearts* video game franchises, plus *The Legend Of Zelda: Ocarina Of Time*. Get ready to break through the fourth wall...



Holly Christine Callaghan



Holly Christine Callaghan's portrait of Frida



## PLANNING

## WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We Paul & Orlaith Cullen seek planning permission for Construction of new single storey dwelling, new entrance, waste treatment system and associated site works at Bahana Whaley, Ballinaclash, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow.

The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

## WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Mr. Tapani Tillikinen seeks full planning permission for a revised entrance, a revised driveway, a garage, a first floor (north west facing) gable end window, a stairs and all associated works and site works at Kilbride, Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

## WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Eoin and Jenny O'Connell seek permission for the demolition of existing vehicular entrance pier to North and small section of adjoining wall to North East, Construction of new vehicular entrance pier to match existing and associated wall to North to reduce vehicular entrance from 4.7m to 4m wide and All associated external and landscaping works at Willow Court, Chapel Road, Blacklion, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 N762. 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.



Aoife, Lucy, Sophia, and Stephen Nolan at the 'Walk in the Woods' event in Newtown on Halloween.

## LOCAL BUSINESS

ALL SEASONS  
PAVING & LANDSCAPING

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

Call Clive:  
01 2875662 or 087 6632074

**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**

**ALLSHADES BLINDS**  
• Roller • Vertical • Wood Venetian  
• Pleated • Velux • Roman  
**Tel: 087 2201600**  
FACTORY: Unit 10, Block 1, Broomhall  
Business Park, Rathnew. Tel: 0404 20344

If you need to reach NEW CUSTOMERS, call us: 01 286 9111

Know the signs  
of Stroke

The Irish Heart Foundation is urging Wicklow people to know the signs of stroke and to be aware of the vital action to take in the event of witnessing one. Research conducted nationally has found that only one in five people know the most important steps to take in the event of a stroke - with 43% unaware of any of the four key signs, new research shows.

There were 51 stroke or stroke-related deaths in Wicklow in 2020 - 21 men and 30 women - according to Central Statistics Office data.

The Irish Heart Foundation voiced concern at the "shockingly low" awareness of stroke as a medical emergency as it launched a new Act F.A.S.T. campaign nationwide.

"A high proportion of death, severe disability and misery for families caused by stroke in Ireland, could be avoided just by knowing what those four letters mean," said Chris Macey, the Foundation's Head of Advocacy.

"Facial weakness (can the person smile and has their mouth or eye drooped?), Arm weakness (can the person raise both arms?), Speech problems (can the person speak clearly and understand

you?) and Time (call for an ambulance if you spot any one of these).

"Stroke is one of the few conditions where your own actions will determine your outcome. Treatment has improved dramatically but doctors still rely on people getting to hospital as soon as possible after experiencing symptoms to give them the best possible chance of recovery.

"The average stroke destroys two million brain cells every minute - and it's estimated that every 60 seconds saved between having a stroke to getting effective treatment, saves one week of healthy life for a patient.

"Unfortunately, the survey, conducted earlier this month, found that 43% do not know any of the F.A.S.T. signs and just 10% know them all, even though they are among the most

vital signs."

An estimated 7,500 people in Ireland are hospitalised due to stroke each year, with younger age strokes becoming more prevalent, an average of 1 in 4 strokes affecting those under 65.

Visit [irishheart.ie](http://irishheart.ie) for more information on stroke.

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.

J.B.

## CLASSIFIEDS

## Luke 17:26-37 GOSPEL

Jesus said to the disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it also be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating and drinking, marrying wives and husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and the Flood came and destroyed them all. It will be the same as it was in Lot's day: people were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but the day Lot left Sodom, God rained fire and brimstone from heaven and it destroyed them all. It will be the same when the day comes for the Son of Man to be revealed.

'When that day comes, anyone on the housetop, with his possessions in the house, must not come down to collect them, nor must anyone in the fields turn back either. Remember Lot's wife. Anyone who tries to preserve his life will lose it, and anyone who loses it will keep it safe. I tell you, on that night two will be in one bed: one will be taken, the other left, two women will be grinding corn together; one will be taken, the other left.' The disciples interrupted. 'Where Lord?' they asked. He said, 'Where the body is, there too will the vultures gather.

C.J.

## LOCAL BUSINESS

Reach the MOST people for the LEAST money with Wicklow Times  
For details of our amazing deals please call 01 286 9111



# Lions campaign to mark World Diabetes Day

More than 2,000 members of Lions Clubs in Ireland will provide information on Type 2 Diabetes and healthy living in a nation-wide campaign to mark World Diabetes Day on Sunday 14th November.

They will join 1.4m members of 44,000 Lions Clubs throughout the world who are dedicated to fighting the con-



Ann Ellis, District Governor, Lions Clubs International promoting healthy living to mark World Diabetes Day

## RECRUITMENT



Coláiste Eoin, Hacketstown

### PART-TIME CLEANER

Fixed Term Contract - 13 hours per week

A panel will be created for the filling of other Cleaner positions in Kilkenny and Carlow ETB that may arise during the 2021/2022 school academic year.

Please refer to: [www.kceth.ie](http://www.kceth.ie)

for job application form and further details

Closing Date: Wednesday, 24 November 2021 (12 noon)

Shortlisting may apply

Kilkenny and Carlow ETB is an equal opportunities employer

dition known as 'The Silent Assassin'.

Lions will undertake 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.

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-](http://www.diabetes.ie/are-you-at-risk-free-diabetes-test/)

you-at-risk-free-diabetes-test/

Diabetes UK (NI) [www.riskscore.diabetes.org.uk/start](http://www.riskscore.diabetes.org.uk/start)



## Citizens Information Information Officer

Part time post consisting of 17.5 hours based in the Wicklow Area

South Leinster Citizens Information Service is currently seeking to recruit a Temporary Part Time Information Officer for the Wicklow area.

Key tasks for the post include the direct delivery of information, advice, advocacy and referral services, and liaison with other service providers, both statutory and voluntary.

Excellent communication skills, a good level of research and IT skills, and a Leaving Certificate and/or equivalent of education are required. Ideally, applicants will also hold a higher-level qualification in relevant field of study, (e.g. social policy, human rights, social work/social care practice, legal qualification etc.), and / or substantial previous work experience in a busy information/advice/advocacy environment.

- **Fixed Term Post:** This is a fixed term position (job share) of a minimum of one year with a possible extension to two years, subject to completion of a 6 month probationary period
- **Full Time Salary Scale:** €29,821 - €45,498 including 2 x LSIs, long serving increments (pro rata for part-time staff)
- **Incremental Credit:** CIS operates an incremental credit process, on request, which is based on the information provided by applicants on their application form

Applications must be made on the relevant application form and sent to: [recruitment@citinfo.ie](mailto:recruitment@citinfo.ie)

Closing date: at 5pm on 26th November 2022 (late applications will not be accepted).

A detailed job description and application form together with further information on CIS can be accessed at [www.citizensinformationboard.ie](http://www.citizensinformationboard.ie)

For details on how your personal data will be used as part of this process our Data Protection Notice for Job Applicants is available at: [www.citizensinformationboard.ie/en/data\\_protection/cib.html](http://www.citizensinformationboard.ie/en/data_protection/cib.html)

South Leinster Service Citizens Information Service is an equal opportunities employer

## Find a Job that suits your lifestyle

Come along to our Applegreen Recruitment

# Open Day

Wednesday 10th November 10am-4pm  
Glenview Hotel, Co Wicklow

We have positions in food and retail in

Cullenmore Co. Wicklow  
Ballymount, Dublin  
Mount Merrion, Dublin

✓ Make Money ✓ Make Friends ✓ Kickstart your career

f Applegreen Careers ROI

@Applegreencareers

@applegreen

www.applegreenstore.com/careers



**CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS**  
**CALL 01 2869111 EMAIL: [pauline@localtimes.ie](mailto:pauline@localtimes.ie)**  
**PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS AND APPOINTMENTS IS 12 NOON FRIDAY**





# YOU'LL NEVER TAKE A WRONG TURN WITH TOYOTA



## Amazing 221 Offers

LOWER VRT<sup>†</sup> TAX

APRs FROM 3.9%\*\*

FINANCE CONTRIBUTION  
UP TO €2,500\*

DIESEL TRADE IN BOOSTER  
UP TO €2,500

3 YEARS SERVICING

For 221, there's low APRs from just 3.9%\*\* with Toyota Easy PCP Finance, and finance contributions of up to €2,500\*. For non-finance customers, you'll enjoy a trade-in booster of up to €2,500.

Our three new models will make Ireland's largest electrified range even greater. The Yaris Cross SUV, The RAV4 plug-in hybrid and the updated Camry Platinum Edition. Demand is high and supply is limited, please come in and talk to **Boggan Motors** about your new car for 2022 as soon as you can.



# BOGGANS

visit us at: [www.hughbogganmotors.ie](http://www.hughbogganmotors.ie)

**Gorey 053 942 0215** Toyota Dealer for Gorey and South Wicklow just off the M11 Exit 22

<sup>†</sup>Retail Price of €33,240 relates to Toyota C-HR Sport and excludes delivery and related charges.

Toyota C-HR Sport. On the Road Price/Retail Price<sup>†</sup> €34,240. Finance Contribution €1,500. Deposit €11,786.40. Finance Amount €20,953.60. 36 monthly payments of €222.06\*. Term of 37 months. GMFV<sup>††</sup> (Optional Final Payment) €14,958. Total Cost of Credit €2,125.54. Fixed APR 3.9%\*

<sup>†</sup>On the Road Price includes/Retail excludes delivery & related charges. Model shown for illustrative purposes only. GMFV<sup>††</sup> payable if you retain or renew the vehicle at the end of the agreement. Further charges may apply subject to kilometre limits/condition of vehicle. \*Lending criteria, terms and conditions apply. Finance by a way of PCP agreement provide by Toyota Financial Services Ireland DAC. Finance example is based on a fixed rate APR and is inclusive of a documentation and purchase fee of €63.49 each. A deposit of 0% - 36% of the finance amount may be required and a maximum term of 49 months applies. Rate quoted is at 22/10/2021 and is subject to change. Rate of 3.9% APR\* available on all Toyota C-HR Models purchased between 22/10/2021 and 31/12/2021.

Model shown for illustrative purposes only. Spec detailed relates to Toyota C-HR Sport model only.