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Tuesday 16th November 2021 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# TWENTY YEAR WAIT FOR TRAINS

The National Transport Authority's draft strategy for 2022-2042 was published last week and announcements of two major projects for County Wicklow were greeted by local politicians with both delight and derision.

The strategy is divided into two time bands, with the Luas to Bray (first announced 16 years ago) and DART Extension to Wicklow projects falling into the second time band which covers the period 2031-2042. The first time band (2022-2030) includes projects such as the Luas Green Line Upgrade and Dart+.

The transport strategy for 2022-2042 states: "On the South-East Line, the extension of

electrified services to Wicklow Town would provide a significant enhancement of rail service to this county town, which will alleviate some of the road congestion pressures along this overall transport corridor. As part of the development process, the potential for further extension of electrified services on this line may be considered and may be brought forward for implementation. Accordingly, the pro-

posed terminal points of the DART network may be further broadened as part of the design development process."

The strategy also commits to "support ongoing investment in public transport infrastructure, including the appraisal, planning and design of the Luas extension to Bray. The development of Bray-Fassaroe should be undertaken in collaboration between Wicklow County Council, Dún



Aoife, Dara and Cria Cullen with Lily Keogh celebrating Blessington winning the Senior Football championship after 38 years. Pic: Michael Kelly

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Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the transport agencies to ensure the delivery of enabling transportation infrastructure and services."

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has been working for the past few years to convince the NTA, the Department of Transport and Irish Rail that an extension of DART services to Wicklow makes good economic, societal and environmental sense.

"I have been researching this proposal and putting the findings to all agencies including Wicklow County Council since my time as a Councillor," he said. "As a TD for Wicklow I put the improvement of public transport across Wicklow as a priority on entering government. The NTA decision to include this extension is a real game changer as it

needed NTA backing before it could go any further. I have met with Wicklow County Council and local business and residents groups and while there was firm support for the rail extension I think there was doubt that I could convince the transport authorities to get behind the proposal.

"With the NTA now firmly stating that this proposal is part of the overall transport strategy for the Greater Dublin Area we have a clear route to extending the DART to Wicklow Town and delivering one of the most important transport opportunities for Wicklow."

"Wicklow has been largely ignored for many years in terms of public transport and combined with constant urban sprawl this has led to unsustainable car dependency and traffic congestion. Last week in

Wicklow Minister Eamon Ryan launched Connecting Ireland which will offer a huge improvement and investment in new bus routes and better services across rural Wicklow.

Continued on Page 3

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Donagh, Senan, and Doireann O'Brien celebrate Blessington winning the Senior Football Championship in Aughrim.

## Blessing of the graves

The annual blessing of the graves at Redford Cemetery in Greystones takes place on Sunday the 21st November at 3pm.

## Candle light walk

Ballinacor Community Projects magical candle-light walk is back on November 21st from 5.30-6.30 in Avondale House and Forest Park. The route has changed and is still suitable for all ages. Entry fee is €5 per walker or €15 per car. There will be some refreshments at the end of the walk and some surprises along the route. Organisers ask all to adhere to Covid guidelines and where possible keep to the 2 meter social distance. Up to date details can be found on Facebook, twitter and Instagram or email ballinacorcommunityproject@gmail.com with any queries.

## Support for bereaved children

For Childhood Bereavement Awareness Week, Purple House Cancer Support Centre are hosting an Online talk on 'Supporting Bereaved Children' on Friday 19th November 2021 from 2pm-3pm GMT.

The talk will be hosted by Anne Regan MIAHIP, ICP, ACAP and Teresa Grant BA (Hons). Anne is an Integrative Humanistic Psychotherapist, a Child Art Psychotherapist, and a Clinical Supervisor at Purple House Cancer Support Centre.

Teresa is the Child & Family Liaison Coordinator & CLIMB Facilitator at Purple House Cancer Support Centre. Theresa holds a Degree in Early Childhood Development & Education, and is an Accredited Parent Plus and Meitheal Facilitator.

Registration is now open at [www.purplehouse.ie](http://www.purplehouse.ie)

## Wicklow Willow Basketry Courses

Aoife & Pat at Wicklow Willow in Laragh are pleased to announce their upcoming courses and workshops: Saturday November 27th - Christmas Wreath-making, 9am to 1pm; Tuesday December 7th - Basketry Course, 9am to 5pm (includes lunch); Saturday December 11th - Basketry Course, 9am to 5pm (includes lunch). To book your place, see <https://wicklowwillow.ie/shop/> and select the course date you'd like. Please be aware that course dates may change at short notice owing to Covid restrictions. Participation on courses will be subject to Covid regulations at course date.

## Delgany Thursday Group Christmas Lunch

The Delgany Thursday Club's Christmas Lunch will be held on Thursday 2nd December 2021, 12.45pm, in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy. The cost is €25.00 per person. To book contact Peter (086 830 7644) or John (086 356 6527). Please book by Friday 19th November 2021 so number of attendees can be confirmed.

## Aughrim Active Retirement

Due to covid concerns, Aughrim Active Retirement has decided to postpone the Xmas lunch until early in the new year. In the meantime they are meeting up each Wednesday morning for a leisurely walk, meeting at the Pavillion after the 10.30am mass. All are welcome. Also the pottery classes will be starting up again soon. Time and dates will be made known.

# Get into festive finery to support Christmas Jumper Day for sick children

Irish rugby legend Rob Kearney joined little friends Thea, Amelia, Olivia, Alex and Kai to launch Children's Health Foundation's 'Christmas Jumper Day' 2021 campaign, taking place this year on Friday, 10th December.

This year, Children's Health Foundation is calling on people all over Co. Wicklow to get in their festive finery and support the long-standing campaign Christmas Jumper Day will help more children than ever, by raising vital funds to support Children's Health Ireland (CHI) hospitals and urgent care centres across Crumlin, Temple Street and Connolly.

Rob, who is an ambassador for Children's Health Foundation, is asking families, communities, schools, crèches, clubs and companies to host a Christmas Jumper Day fundraiser, put on their best (or worst!) Christmas fashions and raise funds that will be put to work where they are needed most to help sick children and their families.

Commenting at the launch Rob Kearney said, "I am delighted to be involved in Christmas Jumper Day again for 2021, which is a fun way to support sick children across Children's Health Ireland. This campaign is a great way to have a laugh, and wear your tackiest, cheesiest or gaudiest Christmas Jumper for a fantastic cause. Help us create some magic for sick children in hospital this Christmas by signing up today!"

Denise Fitzgerald, Chief Executive of Children's Health Foundation said, "It's the most magical time of year once again and we need you to put on your silliest sweaters, raise vital funds and help make a real and lasting difference to the lives of sick children and their families across Children's Health Ireland hospitals and urgent care centres. By taking part in this



year's Christmas Jumper Day you will help fund vital equipment, essential patient supports, groundbreaking research and new services.

She added, "Our huge thanks to our wonderful ambassador Rob Kearney for taking the time to join us for the launch of Christmas

Jumper Day once again this year - thank you for your ongoing kindness to sick children!"

For more information and to sign up today for your free Children's Health Foundation Christmas Jumper Day pack, simply visit [www.childrenshealth.ie/xmasjumper](http://www.childrenshealth.ie/xmasjumper) or call 01 709 1700.

## Greystones gearing up for Christmas Lights switch on

The Christmas Lights Ceremony in Greystones will begin at 4:30pm on Saturday 20th November.

Due to COVID-19, there will be no large gathering in Burnaby Park this year, but the ceremony will be live streamed on greystones.ie's Instagram and Facebook pages. If the children can't come to Santa, then Santa will come to the children! Holyhead Santa will visit Greystones estates with his specially lighted sleigh and house.

The Christmas Lights Ceremony starts the beginning of the Christmas season in Greystones. Remember to shop local this year, as every €10 spent locally on Irish products generates more than €40 of benefit to the community.

The exact route has yet to be announced but the plan is for Santa to arrive back at Whale Theatre at 5:30pm. for an all-star party with special guests that include Dustin the Turkey, the Unity Gospel Choir and TV3's Annea Daly. Santa is looking forward to seeing everyone very shortly.



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# TWENTY YEAR WAIT FOR TRAINS

*Continued from Page 1*

"We now see the most important transport agency backing my proposal for a DART extension. These projects will not be delivered overnight but in the last few weeks we have seen County Wicklow placed firmly on the map in terms of public transport investment and I will continue my work to ensure that these proposals are delivered and that the people of Wicklow get the transport they need for access to work, college, recreation and services across the county."

Cllr Derek Mitchell welcomed the inclusion of the Dart+ in the first time band. "The Dart+ project will provide 50% more DARTs to Greystones before 2030. This follows on from my 2018 paper on how to do it, and is being designed in detail," he said. "Consultation on the design is expected in 2022. The DART to Wicklow Town will be later, possibly by battery operated DARTs which are to be ordered this year."

"There's to be Park n' Ride sites on the N11, Wicklow Town (200 spaces), Greystones (600 spaces), and Fassaroe (400 spaces), the latter two bus based. There will be Bus Connects and improved longer distance services on the N11 Bus Corridor which is being designed to the Glenview junction. Improvements in the N81 include Bus priority measures where needed."

Social Democrat TD Jennifer Whitmore, the Party's Spokesperson on Climate, criticised the NTA for putting the Dart extension and Luas to Bray projects into the 2031-42 time band: She said "This could spell disaster for Co. Wicklow not only in terms of hampering efforts to increase public transport capacity but also in our capacity to address climate change. Wicklow will be hugely negatively impacted by this delay, in particular for residents in Bray and Greystones where public transport is at maximum capacity."

"Dart extensions including those proposed for Wicklow and the extension of the Luas to Bray which won't see construction commence until sometime after 2031. It is unclear to what extent this will affect the Dart+ to Bray to increase frequency of Darts."

"The NTA has acknowledged public submissions which were overwhelmingly in support for reducing our dependency on cars and we need to get about half a million cars off the road per year in order for the transport sector to reach its emission reduction goals. However, this delay could derail all of that if alternative modes of transport are not being provided for people living and commuting in Wicklow. As a commuter county, we need very real viable options delivered to us in the near future, not in the next decade."

"There is so much being proposed for Wicklow to help address transport issues, which is welcome, but it's unclear when these projects will be delivered to help us meet our climate action goals and whether they'll met with delays like what's been announced this week."

"Add to that an ongoing cost of living crisis, people are not able to afford greener lifestyle choices which makes this announcement question whether the Government is up to the task of real and effective climate action that addresses the everyday needs of people in Wicklow," added Deputy Whitmore.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady also expressed disappointment in the "lack of ambition" contained in the Draft plan. He said the Government "has fallen at the very first hurdle" with regards reaching the targets that were set out in the Climate Action Plan.

Deputy Brady said: "While I welcome the inclusion of plans to extend the DART line from Greystones to Wicklow Town, the need for the rail extension is now, not in twenty years' time. What this report reveals is a lack of commitment on the provision of environmentally friendly public transport as an alternative to car journeys. Minister Eamon Ryan talks about taking half a million car journeys a day off the roads by 2030, and yet it will take decades before a viable public transport alternative will be put in place."

"I believe that this plan portrays the same type of disregard that the government has become renowned for displaying towards ordinary people living outside of the Dublin bubble for far too long. As such it comes

as no surprise to see the needs of West Wicklow once again being absolutely ignored in this plan."

"Minister Ryan displays an extraordinary willingness to increase carbon taxes at the drop of a hat. Yet, ordinary people who remain reliant on their cars to get them to work along our densely congested roads, are being offered no alternative but to continue to suffer the cost of continually increasing carbon taxes."

"The idea of extending the DART to Wicklow Town has been actively spoken about for the last number of years. The necessity for the extension of the DART line has been clear from the get-go. There have been consultations and presentations by the NTA to elected representatives and Council officials. There is widespread support for the proposal."

"Yet, even with what is essentially a twenty-year embargo, we need only look at the experience of the Dublin Metro, to see that this might even be adjudged to be optimistic! It is twenty years since the idea of the Metro was first introduced, and now we hear that it is to be kicked back again!"

"The 9km extension of the Green line to Bray was first announced in 2005 and was due for completion in 2015. In this plan it will be 2032 at the earliest before it's even looked at. The government's commitment to increase the carbon tax every year until 2030 was always going to impact unfairly on the ordinary people of the country. But with the failure to put in place an alternative, this seems almost cruel at this juncture."

"If this government was serious about tackling climate change, they would be frontloading plans to offer alternatives to car journeys, not kicking the reality of a public transport alternative into touch for the guts of a generation. The timelines in this plan need to be rejected, the government needs to get serious about providing a fit for purpose public transport system and it needs to be fast-tracked."

The NTA stated last week that the Luas to Bray project is still on the same schedule it was on before the publication of the strategy, and that it has not been 'delayed' or 'deferred'.

The consultation period on the strategy closes on the 17th December.



Aoibhinn McCloy, Bridget Connors, Ann Doonin, and Lee Collins, celebrating Wicklow Travellers Pride Day at C.E.A.R.T., Crinion Park, Wicklow Town

## Works progress to upgrade water supply in Barndarrig

**Irish Water is working in partnership with Wicklow County Council to deliver a significant upgrade to the water supply for customers in Barndarrig.**

"The delivery of this water project will help to provide a safer and more secure water supply to the community while also supporting future residential and commercial development," Irish Water stated.

Works will involve the construction of a new water main and ancillary works linking Barndarrig to Redcross Water Treatment Plant, replacing the local water supply in the area and providing the community of Barndarrig with a secure, safe and robust water supply. The project, which is being carried out on behalf of Irish Water by Ward & Burke is scheduled to begin on 22 November and is expected to be completed in Q2 2022.

To facilitate the safe delivery of these works some traffic management will be in place, however, local and emergency access will be maintained at all times. Irish Water said that it and Wicklow County Council will make every effort to maintain normal supply to our customers throughout the delivery of these vital works, however, some short-term water interruptions may be necessary and the project team will ensure that customers are given a minimum of 48 hours' notice prior to any planned interruptions. Standard working hours are between 8am and 6pm, with no work anticipated on Sundays or public holidays.

"Work crews will make every effort to minimise any disruption these necessary works may cause," Irish Water said.

Commenting on the project, Peter Thornton, Irish Water said, "These works are part of a significant investment by Irish Water to safeguard the water supply across Wicklow. The works will help to provide a safer and more secure water supply for the community of Barndarrig while also supporting future residential and commercial development. We will continue to engage with local stakeholders as we deliver this vital project."

The Irish Water customer care helpline is open 24/7 on 1800 278 278 and customers can also contact us on Twitter @IWCare with any queries. For updates on local water supply issues, please visit the Water Supply Updates section of the Irish Water website.

## No extra funding for Local Link

**Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called out against the lack of increase in funding for Local Link in Wicklow for the second year in a row. Deputy Whitmore was speaking in response to a reply she received from the NTA regarding funding invested in the network across Wicklow.**

"In response to a query I sent to the NTA, it was confirmed that once again Local Link did not see an increase in funding in 2020, despite all the recent plans and ambitions announced by government parties to radically overhaul public transport and reduce our car dependency as part of climate action. For 2020, the figure set aside for Local Link bus routes in Wicklow was €615,028. This is the same figure as in 2019. Despite this network proving to be very successful, recognition of this is not being met when it comes to funding for its development."

"Demand for Local Link services is on the rise and I had previously voiced my opinion that I want to see funding increased for 2021 and 2022 to meet this demand, however this has yet to be seen."

"When I approached the NTA for an additional Local Link service to cater to the many visitors flocking to Brittas Bay during the summer months and to address the impact the chaos of parking is having on the community I was told there were no plans to put this in place and further to that, no additional funding made available yet for 2021 to cater to more routes."

"There are public transport black spots across Wicklow

which need to be addressed. Recently the government launched Connecting Ireland to deliver transport needs to rural areas in Wicklow and across the country yet only €5m has been committed to this programme for the whole of the country. How serious can the government be in helping people reduce their dependency on cars if so little funding is being provided for sustainable public transport investment?"

"Local Link routes are so important for a variety of reasons including local economic development and tackling rural isolation. They perform an invaluable service for our elderly, those that don't drive and students in helping them get around. And now with our local shops struggling, it's going to be more important that people can easily shop in their locality, using Local Link to get around."

"We are in a climate and biodiversity emergency but Government funding for major infrastructure projects is not currently reflecting this. I have requested a meeting with the NTA and hope to meet with them to push for greater investment in local link services for the County as well as other transport projects that will reduce car dependency in Wicklow."

## 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,  
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Amy Barrett performing at the recent Playfest weekend in Rathdrum.

## 'Councillors should support good work by Town Team Volunteers'

"The Town Team in Greystones is a group of volunteers doing good work for the town and should be supported," said Cllr Derek Mitchell.

"It is a good way of getting LEADER funding for attractive projects in conjunction with the Council. They have prepared an attractive Public Realm Plan after much consultation which should be implemented over time.

"The greater pedestrianisation of Church Road has come from this and is attractive. They have an attractive Art at the Station project which we hope to obtain funding for.

"The Sensory Garden in Burnaby Park was devised by the Tidy Towns, and implemented with some assistance from the Council. They run the Christmas lights & turning on ceremony. We should be glad for this voluntary work and the benefits it brings the town."



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# Wicklow's social housing scheme achieves highest green home certification

The Irish Green Building Council (IGBC) announced that it has awarded the Home Performance Index (HPI) Gold Certification to Kilbride Court social housing development in Bray.

Designed by COADY Architects, the Wicklow County Council's scheme is the first multi-units' development to be awarded the Home Performance Index Gold Certification. The HPI was developed by the IGBC as the first comprehensive sustainability certification for new Irish homes. The certification goes well beyond the Building Energy Rating (BER) and addresses all the environmental impacts of new homes and encourages home builders to improve the health and wellbeing of occupants.

Pat Barry, CEO of the Irish Green Building Council (IGBC) said: "This rating highlights the very high sustainability credentials of the development. These homes are not only highly energy efficient. They were also designed with care and tested to verify their environmental impact across their whole life cycle, which is critical if we are to reach our climate targets."

New homes built to the current building regulations must reach a minimum Building Energy

Rating (BER) of A2. They are energy efficient, but this only tells part of the story. There are emissions associated with all stages of a home life cycle. Emissions associated with the production and transportation of building materials and with the construction of the home (embodied emissions) account for almost 50% of lifetime emissions of a typical home built in Ireland in 2021.

Simon Keogh, Senior Architect at COADY Architects said: "Taking a holistic and whole life approach to the way we design and test our homes is urgent. For this project, we measured the overall environmental impact of the development in a robust way and included metrics, such as embodied carbon and change in ecological value that are still rarely considered. If we don't measure something, we cannot improve it. Developing high quality data is a critical first step in building more sustainable homes".

The Life Cycle Assessment involved a calculation of the embod-



ied carbon impact and other environmental impacts across the homes' life cycle according to EN 15978-2011 standard. To support this assessment, 59 Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) were gathered from product manufacturers and suppliers. An EPD is a standardised report which publishes data about the environmental impacts of a product or material over its lifetime. The homes were also designed to have exemplary levels of water efficiency, meeting the recently published RIAI

Climate Target four years ahead of time and just short of the 2030 targets.

Cllr Shay Cullen Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council said that the Council is very proud of what has been achieved in Kilbride Court with 42 families now living in these highly energy efficient homes and went on to wish all the residents the best of luck in their new homes.

Frank Curran Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council added: "Wicklow County Council is delighted to deliver

these forty-two, much needed homes in Bray to the highest quality standard. To achieve the gold category of HPI certification from the IGBC for Kilbride Court demonstrates our commitment to deliver high quality energy efficient homes and to lead by example to tackle climate change in line with Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2021. COADY Architects and their team, along with contractor MDY, are to be complimented on their achievements".



Kilbride Court, Bray

## Those in need of housing adaptations urged to apply to Council

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD is reminding Wicklow families that 2021 applications are still being accepted by Wicklow County Council for private home adaptations for older people and those living with a disability in Co. Wicklow.

Minister Harris said: "These grants play a vital role in improving the quality of life and living conditions for older people and those living with a disability. They are available for the owners of their own home and often people are unaware of the grants available."

There are 3 types of grants available:

- The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability assists people with a disability to have necessary adaptations, repairs or

improvement works carried out in order to make their accommodation more suitable for their needs.

- The Mobility Aids Grant is available to fast track grants to cover a basic suite of works to address the mobility problems of a member of a household. Qualifying works include the provision of stair lifts, level access showers, access ramps, grab rails and some minor adaptation works.
- The Housing Aid for Older People Grant

assists older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out. Grant eligible works include structural repairs or improvements, re-wiring, repairs to or replacement of windows and doors, provision of water supply and sanitary facilities, and provision of heating.

Details on who can apply, the means test and the types of work allowable can be found at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Housing/Grants> or for further information contact Wicklow County Council on (0404) 20100. My full time constituency team are always happy to assist and can be reached at [simon.harris@oir.ie](mailto:simon.harris@oir.ie) or during office hours on 01 2813727.



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The Knockananna Under-15 camogie team which took part in celebratory events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of John West Féile at Croke Park recently. Pic: Fintan Clarke.

## Extended opening hours for Ballywaltrim Library

**Ballywaltrim Library, on Boghall Road, Bray, is extending its opening hours from Monday November 15th.**

The library will open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 5pm including through lunchtime. Additionally, on Wednesdays it will open from 10am to 8pm.

Director of Services with Wicklow County Council, Michael Nicholson said: "Now that Wicklow County Council has restored staffing numbers in Ballywaltrim Library, this is a great opportunity to increase our opening hours and extend services here."

"Each of Wicklow's 13 libraries has individual study spaces + CO2 monitors installed, so staff and public can visit our libraries, knowing their safety is being catered for."

Ballywaltrim library has a great collection of information resources available both on-site and online and catering for all ages including books, eBooks, audio books, magazines and newspapers, DVDs, CDs, online language learning and other courses.

The new Sensory Space and Sensory kits provide a relaxing experience for young visitors to the library. Study spaces and PCs are available to book. Places can also be booked for weekly Storytime sessions, Tummy Time and Arts & Crafts lessons by contacting the library directly.

The new Community room hosts events such as Book club meetings and talks on a wide range of subjects such as the upcoming "Astronomy for Beginners" talk by Astronomy Ireland.

Library staff are looking forward to meeting you soon in Ballywaltrim library. Contact: Email ballywaltrimlibrary@wicklowcoco.ie or telephone 01-2723205.

# West Wicklow 65 Bus replacement scheduled for April

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD has updated his West Wicklow Constituents on his engagement with the National Transport Authority (NTA) regarding the replacement of the 65 bus route and better public transport connectivity and bus shelters for communities across West Wicklow.

Minister Harris said: "This week the National Transport Authority advised me that the replacement bus services for the 65 route now has a tentative delivery date of April 2024."

"Dublin City bus services are being upgraded under the Bus Connects programme and the route corridor of the 65 Bus is included in phase 9 of the roll out of Bus Connects in 2024".

Minister Harris outlined his own work in respect of Public Transport provision in West Wicklow.

"This government has prioritised investment in

public transport for rural communities, villages and towns under the Connecting Ireland Plan launched last week and for Dublin City bound services under Bus Connects. When these plans are implemented there will be a new network of public transport routes and connections and it is important that these be integrated to ensure maximum public transport access across County Wicklow.

"I have raised with the NTA the lack of safety, poor lighting and shelter at bus stops along the 65 route to Blessington and communities in West



Minister Simon Harris

Wicklow. This has been an issue for commuters along the entire length of the 65 route and needs to be addressed if increasing number of commuters are to avail of public transport in West Wicklow.

"I recently surveyed my West Wicklow constituents regarding N81 improvements and better public transport provision and safe facilities was one of their top priorities".

Minister Harris concluded: "The National Transport Authority has contacted Wicklow County Council with a view to establishing a bus shelter programme for County Wicklow. I have asked Wicklow County Council to avail of the funding available from the National Transport Authority for modern bus shelters at the earliest opportunity."

## Cannonball Convoy will set off from Enniskerry

**Cannonball, the action-packed supercar spectacle has always been a firm favourite in Wicklow and Wexford for spectators. Now Cannonball is coming to Enniskerry with the all new 4x4 event on November 19th and sets off from the Powerscourt Hotel at 10am.**

Car enthusiasts will get to see a Bentley Bentayga E-Hybrid and a Bentley Bentayga First Edition, a Porsche Cayenne E-Hybrid, 2 Range Rover SVRs, 3 Range Rover Sport P400, a Land Rover Defender 90, a Ford Ranger, a BMW X5 M-Sport, a Land Rover Defender 110, a Mercedes-Benz GLE and many more.

Any car enthusiasts wishing to come out to see the cars on the route are asked to please adhere to the advice of the Cannonball COVID-19 marshals and maintain social distancing.

This year all Cannonball events are raising funds for The HOPE Foundation, an Irish Charity doing incredible work with the street children of Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) in India HOPE funds and operates over 60 projects including 11 child protection homes, a hospital, an ambulance, counselling, food and nutrition, education, healthcare and the restoration of childhoods to children. Cannonball has already raised €1,250,000 for charities and has been rolling since 2009.

The road trip begins at 10am from Powerscourt Hotel in Wicklow on November 19th and takes in the last of Wicklow's magnificent Autumn majesty in Enniskerry, Sally Gap, Glendalough

and Hollywood. The newly restored Castle Durrow Country House Hotel in Laois is the first stop for lunch - a jewel of the midlands. After lunch, the convoy will drive southbound to the luxurious Great Southern Hotel in Killarney for 2 nights from where they will explore the Ring of Kerry, Dromquinna Manor, The Black Valley, Gap of Dunloe and finally Killarney National Park and the many treasures of the Kingdom County.

In recent years, manufacturers have committed to countering the 'gas-guzzler' image of large SUVs. With diesel falling out of favour with new car buyers, brands have turned to hybridisation and battery-electric power to reduce emissions and running costs - often with impressive results.

In true Cannonball style, this road-trip goes the extra mile with wonders at every turn including a bagpiper on a

bridge, a falconer at breakfast and that rare 'camaraderie' that makes all Cannonball road-trips truly unforgettable experiences. The headline sponsor of the Cannonball 4x4 road-trip is 4x4 Vehicle Hire Ireland. The event is also sponsored by Karl Goodwin Motors and Majestic Ireland, a new company offering tailor made luxury road-trips and corporate events. See [www.cannonball.ie](http://www.cannonball.ie) for details of all road trips.

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# Wicklow Port to be new Operations and Maintenance Base for Codling Wind Park

Wicklow Port has been confirmed as the preferred home for Codling Wind Park's Operations and Maintenance base, the long-term facility from which the offshore wind farm will be operated and serviced.

The location of the long-term base in Wicklow Town represents a major economic boost for the area, with significant investment to be made in the development of the port facilities in readiness to support Ireland's flagship offshore wind project.

The busy fishing and commercial port has been selected following a detailed technical study of potential port options along the east coast and engagement with relevant port authorities and stakeholders.

The new base will provide offices, warehousing and vessel berthing facilities, as well as an operations control centre. This will enable the safe operation and maintenance of Codling Wind Park over its expected 30-year operational lifetime.

A total of 115 jobs are anticipated during the construction and operational phases combined. The new facility will see the creation of 75 new, long-term, local jobs in a variety of maintenance, technician, engineering, administration, and other roles. Additional

potential benefits include training, retraining and apprenticeship opportunities in the local area. There will also be opportunities for local businesses to support the planning, design, construction, and ongoing operation of the new base.

Construction of the new base, which could get underway in early 2025, will see the creation of an additional 40 temporary jobs.

Arno Verbeek, Project Director of the Codling Wind Park project, said: "We are delighted to announce Wicklow Port as our preferred long-term home and deliver on our commitment to bring investment to local communities and businesses. With a long and successful history as both a fishing and commercial port, Wicklow is the perfect choice for our base. We look forward to working with Wicklow County Council and all the existing port users to bring our plans to fruition in a collaborative way in the years ahead."

"We have been encouraged by the tremendous

local support for the project so far and progressing our Operations and Maintenance base plans

will allow us to engage more deeply with local residents, businesses, the marine community and community organisations. We very much look forward to this, as we want the community to be involved in the Codling Wind Park project as it develops," he said.

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, welcomed the news, noting that it represents a 'once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Wicklow'.

"The selection of Wicklow Port as the long-term base for such a significant offshore wind project is a huge endorsement of our port and our town. It represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Wicklow, placing us at the heart of the energy revolution that our country will undergo in the decades ahead."

"In addition to the economic boost during construction and the jobs it will create in the long-term, it

offers other potential opportunities - enhancement of the port facilities, education and training, investment, openings for local businesses. It complements our ambitious plans for the regeneration of Wicklow Town and the entire harbour area, and we look forward to working with the Codling team and other stakeholders to ensure that the benefits of these exciting developments are fully realised for the local community."

Senator Pat Casey commented, "This is great news for the area and represents a major economic boost, with a total of 115 jobs anticipated during the construction and operational phases and up to 75 jobs expected at the long-term base for what will be Ireland's largest Phase One offshore farm. I have been working closely on this for over 18 months and the project is already well advanced with construction expected to start by 2024/2025."

Sinn Féin TDD John Brady said "The importance of the location of the long-term base in Wicklow



Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Shay Cullen and Arno Verbeek, Project Director of Codling Wind Park, on the pier in Wicklow Town. Pic: Michael Kelly

Town cannot be overstated. The opportunities offered through the expansion of the offshore energy industry to the country are incredible. I also welcome the opportunity for retraining and apprenticeship schemes to be developed to meet the needs of this industry. I know that the Kildare and Wicklow ETB has been progressive and innovative in its attempts to develop training and qualification opportunities for individuals in the county, and this represents a further opportunity for workers to develop a career in the alternative energy industry."

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly said: "This is a major boost for the town. The arrival of the largest phase one offshore operation in the country also strengthens the case for the port in its application for Urban Regional Development Funding which we are working hard on bringing to the town. The future for the town is looking bright with this announcement but the key thing now is to keep working on improving the area still further."

The next steps in the realisation of the Operations and Maintenance base will

include site investigations and studies to assess the most suitable locations for the facilities, as well as engagement with local business, landowners, and other port users. A period of public consultation on the proposed plans, once they have been drafted, will take place prior to the submission of a planning application.

Codling Wind Park is a 50:50 joint venture between EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Renewables. With a maximum installed capacity of up to 1,500 megawatts, Codling Wind Park has the potential to provide renew-

able energy to up to 1.2 million Irish homes and save around 2 million tonnes of CO2 emissions every year. Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling Wind Park could begin construction in 2024/25, and is expected to take two to three years to complete.

To find out more about Codling Wind Park and how it will create a safer and healthier environment, alongside the vital role it has in helping the Government achieve its renewable energy targets, please visit [www.codling-windpark.ie](http://www.codling-windpark.ie).

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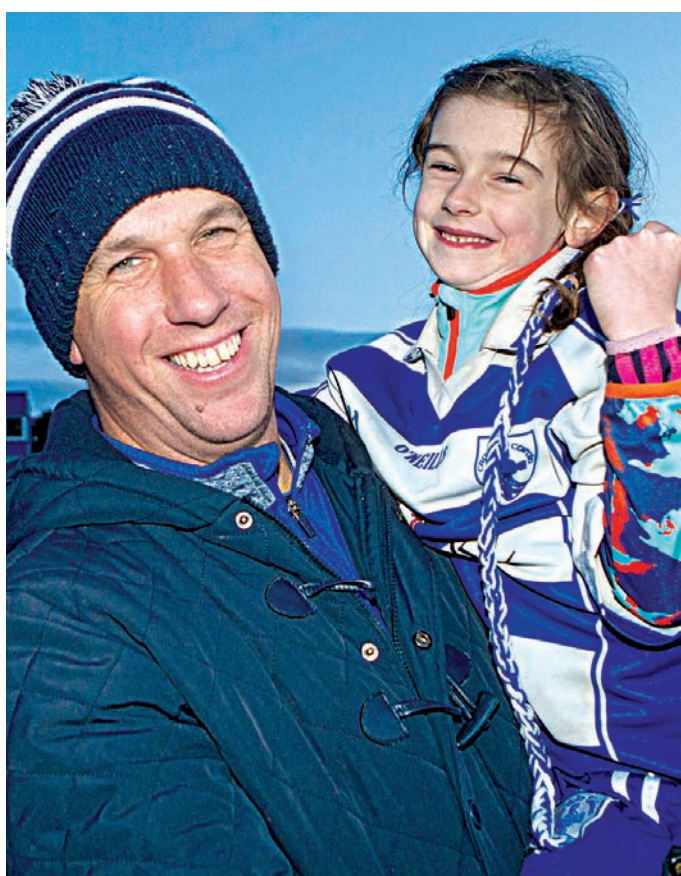
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Paddy and Kayla Brophy celebrate Blessington winning the Senior Football Championship after 38 years by beating Baltinglass in Aughrim after 38 years.

## Harris opens Tinahely National School ASD Unit

Minister Simon Harris TD officially opened the new ASD Unit at Tinahely National School last week.

Minister Harris said: "I am delighted to be able to finally officially open Tinahely National School's ASD unit. We had originally intended to hold the official opening last year, but the public health advice in force at that time led to it being postponed. Tinahely National School 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 new ASD unit has been open since November 2020 with Ms Gahan and Ms O'Byrne teaching classes with the support of Louise, Amy and Dina.

"I know from my own family's experience the need for strong special education supports and I am delighted to see Tinahely National School's ASD unit finally come to fruition".

Minister Harris continued: "I always like coming to Tinahely National School. The school has a remarkable number of enterprising initiatives including the school garden, pupils making soups and juices in the school kiand selling left over produce at pop up shops. The school's participation in the Music Generation Scheme and emphasis on good physical health with the daily jog by all pupils on the running track shows the well rounded and broad education pupils in Tinahely receive in addition to the core curriculum. I would like to pay tribute to Ms Gallagher and all the team at Tinahely National School for all the work they do and their commitment to inclusivity and the school can count on my continued whole hearted support."

# 'Screen Wicklow' - a five-year development strategy for Wicklow's film industry

A new five-year development strategy for Wicklow's Film & TV industry aims to help the county take advantage of the coming 'explosion in demand' for studio space and filming locations. The strategy proposes the rebranding of Wicklow's screen content sector as 'Screen Wicklow'.

John Gleeson, Head of Film & TV at Saffery Champness Ireland accountants, outlined the strategy at this month's meeting of Wicklow County Council.

According to a 'SWOT' analysis (Strengths & Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats), Wicklow's strengths in terms of attracting film productions include its proximity to Dublin, an experienced cast and crew living locally, a range of interesting exterior scenery combined with studio space, the Clermont Building and the S481 tax credit. Weaknesses include a shortage of studio space, limited post-production capabilities, insufficient networking opportunities, public transport availability, tax credit cap, and shortage of animation talent compared to places such as Kilkenny and Galway.

Opportunities include the global demand, the new Greystones Studios, film tourism and the natural beauty of Co. Wicklow, and the audio-visual media services directive coming on stream shortly. Threats include new studio space being developed outside Ireland and the lack of visual effects capabilities needed for the enterprise hub.

The strategy says that Wicklow is well positioned to take advantage of the shortage of studio space in the UK.

Currently in the UK there is 3 million square feet of studio space, much of which is booked and rented under 10-year leases at 90-100 percent capacity. There is over 2 million square feet either under construction or going through the planning process currently.

"The head of production finance in Netflix in the UK told me they are now actively turning



New building under construction at Ardmore Studios

away work from the UK this year and next year because there is just no more studio space left in the UK and they are struggling to get crews," says John. "It's an understatement to say that there is a huge demand for content globally. I think that County Wicklow is very well placed to absorb a lot of that demand."

The recommendations of the Screen Wicklow strategy include the creation of a dedicated website (including an online database of locations, crew and facilities), and the appointment of a full-time Screen Officer to take a more proactive role in growing the screen sector in the area, and promoting the unique location offerings. The strategy recommends doing this in tandem with developing a considerable amount of additional sound stage space. The

strategy also suggests locating Screen Wicklow in the new Enterprise Hub, and states that Screen Wicklow should take a more proactive role in areas such as training and development.

A shortage of studio space has been recognized as a factor limiting the growth of Irish film and TV production. There is currently 238,000 sq.ft of studio stage space (12 stages) in Ireland that's suitable for film and TV production (excluding alternate 'pop-up' facilities), with 60% being in Co. Wicklow. There are plans for a further 40 stages and 1.12 million sq.ft. of floorspace, all of which will be in Wicklow or along the Eastern corridor from Ashbourne in Co. Meath to Gorey.

Given the concentration of filming in the East, existing production currently located in alter-

nate spaces, ideally migrating to purpose-built facilities could increase demand further. Ashford and Ardmore studios have additional land where further phases of development are possible, while Greystones Media Campus will not have space to increase beyond its 360,000 sq.ft of space.

The Screen Wicklow strategy states that Wicklow will need to work with many stakeholders to promote the importance and potential of film in the county. The combination of the new content creation enterprise hub and a new and proactive prospective 'Screen Wicklow' should take a lead in better coordinating the delivery of film policy at the local level, the strategy says. The strategy outlines the need for a programme of 'Continuous Professional Development' which takes advantage of the location film work within Co. Wicklow and neighbouring counties, and productions filmed in the nearby studios.

The strategy recommends an audience development programme to promote film culture to the local community and young people, and the development of a local social media presence to promote the screen sector to local communities and school children.

"There are currently no formal links between Wicklow County Tourism and the Wicklow Film Office," says John, "so Wicklow Tourism mightn't be aware of filming in the county until the late stage or maybe even until the film or TV programme has been released. We are recommending that a more formal mechanism be established to ensure that Wicklow County Tourism is aware of forthcoming filming in the area and opportunities for the two sectors to work together is maximised."

## Primary school students submit pandemic movies for this year's FÍS Film Awards

Primary schools throughout Ireland are gearing up for the 16th annual FÍS Film Awards Ceremony which will feature a host of short movies filmed over the course of the pandemic. The event hosted by RTE's Sinead Kennedy will take place virtually on the 19th November. With over 1,500 pupils involved, the FÍS Film Awards aim to recognise the moviemaking skills of the younger generation.

Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley, TD is set to make a virtual appearance at the annual national awards ceremony. The premise of the FÍS project is to introduce and lead pupils, often as young as 6 and 7, through the filmmaking process. By doing so, children develop a wide range of skills that potentially may otherwise lay dormant in everyday classroom activities. Budding moviemakers can develop their communication and collaborative working skills which are essential for their personal growth and learning. Additionally, pupils learn digital skills which will prove to be invaluable in the technologically advanced world we live in today. The FÍS project is in line with the Government's digital strategy for schools, an action plan for integrating digital technologies into teaching and learning assessments in the classroom.

From one cohort of students to another, the award ceremony will be filmed and broadcast by third level students from the IADT's National Film School, MA in Broadcast Production for Radio & TV to provide them with hands-on professional and practical experience. Post-production of the awards is produced by students on IADT's BA in Film & TV programme.

Due to the uncertainty of the past 19 months, this year has seen the introduction of a special award for a COVID-19 related film. This is an extremely poignant category as it aims to shed light on the struggles, fears and hope that children have faced during lockdown.

Commenting on this year's FÍS Film Awards, Bernadette Meagher, FÍS Manager, Institute of Art, Design & Technology added: "The ongoing interest and participation in

film making and in our annual FÍS film competition is very impressive. Particularly considering the challenges school communities faced over the course of lockdown. Despite all of this we received some very creative movies this year. The awards and quality of the movies produced are testament to the agility of teachers, their ability to adapt and facilitate new ways of learning for their pupils. Ireland's youngest film-makers and their teachers have worked hard to create films that entertain, engage, challenge, inform, make us laugh, cry and wonder."

Speaking about this year's upcoming event, Ciara O'Donnell, National Director, PDST said: "The FÍS 2021 award winning films are a powerful demonstration of how creativity combined with technology influences children's learning, makes learning meaningful and highlights the richness of its impact. The creative use of technology supports teachers to realise the curriculum in an interesting and interactive way, very much in line with the focus in the Department of Education's ongoing Digital Strategy for Schools and the Digital Learning Framework."



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# Wicklow company 'rows in' to support record-making solo Atlantic row

Ashford company Voyager IP will be keeping Irish University lecturer Dr Karen Weekes in touch with the outside world as she embarks on a record-making 3,000-mile/4,800 kilometres solo row across the Atlantic in December 2021.



Karen Weekes' boat Millie faces a 70-day, 3,000-mile journey across the Atlantic in December.

Voyager IP has supplied Karen with a robust Thales Vesselink unit that sits atop her rowboat and used for uploading videos and making calls at sea, and a military grade satphone as backup.

It has sponsored airtime costs to support her on her 70-day journey and if she succeeds, it will also be the first time that an Irish woman has rowed solo across any ocean on Earth.

Mark Elliott, managing director, Voyager IP, said "It's great to be involved

as it's not often you get a chance to support a record-making bid like this. We're delighted to be able to keep her in touch with family, friends and the media every step of the way. She'll be making some exclusive calls for us to share as we monitor her progress across the Atlantic."

For Voyager IP, sponsoring Karen fits into its own strategy of supporting women in sport. It also sponsors Nicole Lynch from Dublin, Ireland's

fastest female motorbike racer who champions participation in her sport with the hashtag #girlscandoit-too.

Dr Weekes wants to encourage females to take part in more adventure and endurance sports, which is why the campaign for her upcoming Atlantic row is called "SheCanDo2021". Dr Weekes hopes her journey will also highlight two of the UN's Sustainability Goals, gender equality and ocean conservation.

The experienced adventurer, with a PhD in sports psychology, lectures in sport, health and physical education at Munster Technological University in the South-West of Ireland. Her long list of physical endurance achievements includes sailing the Atlantic Ocean twice, a 4,000-mile cycle across Canada, and a 1,000-mile kayak around Ireland.

Karen's boat is named 'Millie' after her mother and it left Dublin by ship at the end of October for Gran Canaria, the jump off point for her row. It is due to arrive there by end November and it is where Karen will be making final preparations. She will set off in December, rowing southwest to catch the trade winds, which she hopes should give her an extra boost as she aims to reach Barbados in roughly 70 days.

Karen Weekes said: "The closest person to me when I'm mid-Atlantic will be in a space station, so I'll be waving up to the lads above me! Having high end communication equipment provided alongside the expertise of Voyager IP should allow me to have essential interaction with land during both stormy conditions and the calmer days while out at sea."

Follow her progress @shecando2021 on all media platforms or at [www.shecando2021.org](http://www.shecando2021.org)



Mark Elliott, Managing Director at Voyager IP with Dr Karen Weekes and her rowboat Millie with the Thales unit on top, just before its departure from Dublin docks for Gran Canaria. Photo: Silver Image



Students and staff from Loreto secondary school in Bray joined staff, volunteers and members of Open Door Day Centre in a virtual Camino De Santiago walk to raise funds for Open Door Day Centre which is an activity centre for adults with physical disabilities. 73 participants walked a combined total of 38,850km in two weeks. The students raised €950 through the iDonate "Loreto Bray and Open Door Virtual Camino Page". Principal of Loreto Bray, Emma Raughter, recognised the hard work of all participants by further contributing €2 for each participant and 10c for every kilometre covered. This brought the total to €1,482. These funds will go towards activities at Open Door and are very much appreciated by the members, staff and Board of Trustees. Pictured is Ella Royle of Loreto Secondary School in Bray with Suzanne Cox, Development Officer at Open Door

## 'Park and Stride' scheme for Clean Air Week

As the third annual Clean Air Week is launched, Greystones Cathaoirleach Councillor Lourda Scott is calling on families and schools to get involved in setting up a park and stride scheme in their area.

Already successfully run by Greystones Educate Together National School, Park and Stride is a very simple way for families who live further away to enjoy all the benefits of walking to school; the idea being that people park away from the school and make the rest of the trip on foot. The scheme offers an alternative to driving children all the way to the school gate as well as adding towards the recommended 30 minutes of daily physical exercise.

Speaking on the matter Scott says: "As a parent of three primary school children, every day I see the amount of traffic building up around our schools. I understand how time pressured parents are and often drive to school while on the way to work or a crèche drop off, as it is simply the quickest way to get there. It won't suit everyone, but if we can think of parking a little bit away from the school and walking the rest of the way once or twice a week, it will help reduce traffic congestion and air pollution at the school gates. It also gives us a chance to get some exercise in, have some fun and may even speed up the overall journey time."

Cllr Scott thanks Tesco Greystones who agreed to participate by allowing Parents/Guardians to use their car park for a short period of time while they walk their child to school. This may be used also as Drop 'n' Hop locations for older children to make their way to school independently.

Lorraine Flanagan, a Senior Travel Officer with Green-Schools works with a number of schools throughout Wicklow on Sustainable Travel solutions and is an avid fan of Park and Stride. Lorraine says:

"When I drop my children to school I find it is faster to do part of the way on foot instead of driving the whole way. It's also a lovely time together. While walking, the children get a chance to run and chat with their classmates and parents get to know each other a little more too. Less traffic around the school gate also makes it feel much safer and relaxed. I am delighted to work with Green-Schools Travel promoting the third annual Clean Air Week running from November 15th to 19th, which this year coincides with the European Commission's third EU Clean Air Forum. The aim of the week is to raise awareness of and to take simple actions to reduce air pollution around the school. Students can make a pledge to #beatairpollution by asking is there a 'clean air' alternative to making this journey by car? Can I walk or Cycle? Schools can tackle issues of air pollution at the school gate by launching a 'Clean Air' focused campaign or a 'No-Idling' campaign. It's the every-day actions taken by families, students and community members by choosing to travel actively and

make fewer car journeys that helps us beat air pollution."

Throughout the week students and schools can follow Green-Schools' digital online campaign, which will showcase air quality resources and activities each day.

Download lots of resources including a clean air experiment, videos and toolkits from [www.greenschoolsireland.org/clean-air-week-2021](http://www.greenschoolsireland.org/clean-air-week-2021) In addition check out Green-Schools on facebook, twitter and Instagram and use the #beatairpollution and tag @GreenSchoolsIRE to be in with the chance to win prizes for your school.

Cllr Scott Concluded "I am often contacted about the problem of traffic around schools and subsequent safety issues. Active travel initiatives such as walking buses and park and stride schemes are measures that parents and children can be directly involved with, and most importantly have fun doing. I encourage anyone interested in these measures to contact myself or Green Schools for more information."



Cllr Lourda Scott



# ARKLOW C.B.S.

Arklow C.B.S. was opened by the Christian Brothers in 1961 to provide a second level education to boys in Arklow town and the surrounding areas. It has a long and proud tradition of academic excellence. As the school approaches its 60th birthday there has never been a better time to highlight its achievements and all that the school has to offer your son.

## Enrolling

The decision regarding which secondary school your son should attend is a vital one and it is one which parents do not take lightly. It is important that parents make a fully informed choice after looking at all the options available to them and their children.

## High Standards

Arklow C.B.S. has excellent teaching staff committed to high standards and exacting the same from their students. Students excel in their Leaving Certificate examinations each year. Many score significantly above the national average across all their subjects. Many

C.B.S. students have progressed to and excelled in all the universities and colleges in Ireland including NUIG, Trinity College, UCD, UCC, UL and DCU. Others have gone on to study at universities abroad including the prestigious Oxford University. Teachers work hard to ensure that each student is encouraged to meet their full potential. C.B.S. provide additional supports such as after-school study and learning support to help the students achieve all they are capable of.

## Learning Support

C.B.S. are particularly proud of the support which they give to students with special educational needs



The Counselling Centre at C.B.S.

across all areas of the education range, from students with learning difficulties to those who are academically gifted. Each class teacher takes into account the needs of each individual student and provides differentiated learning opportunities to both challenge and support students. C.B.S. also have dedicated learning support teachers and SNAs who provide designated students with one-to-one or small group support to help enhance their learning.

## ASD Class

Arklow C.B.S. offers additional support to students with Autism to allow them access the curriculum in a mainstream post primary setting. The ASD class is integrated into the mainstream timetable. Students follow the mainstream timetable for most of their time and attend the ASD class as an alternative to the subject on offer in the mainstream timetable. Here they receive personalised supports in many different areas.

## After School Hub

The after-school study facility is provided by the school for the exam year students in particular and provides a quiet, supervised environment for students to study in.

## Pastoral Care

The teaching staff of Arklow C.B.S. are committed to the pastoral care of all students through a system of Class Tutors and Year Heads in co-operation with the Guidance Counsellor and School Management.

## Wellbeing

Arklow C.B.S. recognises the huge importance of wellbeing. The school promotes and encourages students to look after their mental health and wellbeing through the hugely successful Mental Health and Positivity weeks. These are fun filled weeks with guest speakers and various activities organised for the students.

## Positive Behaviour & Restorative Practice

The school promotes a Code of Positive Behaviour, developed with the intention of encouraging students to become self-disciplined and responsible individuals. Built into this is a system of Restorative Practice. The aim of Restorative Practice is to encourage



'Year Head' who has overall responsibility for the year group. In addition, specially trained senior students known as Liaison Students are assigned to the incoming First Years. These Liaison students assist in the organisation and supervision of lunchtime activities for First Years and are also available to assist students with any problems or issues they may have.

the students to develop mutual respect, empathy, consideration, emotional intelligence, intrinsic motivation and to encourage them to take responsibility for their actions and words.

## Positive Affirmation Committee

The aim of the PAC is to change the focus from discipline and to focus on positive targets. This might be academic or extracurricular achievements or random acts of kindness. This is an attempt to celebrate the excellent behaviour of our students. All Junior students have individual merit cards in their homework journals where a teacher can give merits. There is a ladder of rewards then for students when they reach a certain number of merits. This is proving to be a big hit with the students, parents and teachers.



Arklow C.B.S. Principal Peter Somers

## Induction for 1st years

Each year a programme is devised to enable first year students to make a smooth transition from primary to secondary school. This programme is implemented by the Principal, Deputy Principal, Guidance Counsellor, Year Head and 1st yr Class Teachers. It takes place over a number of days during the first week of the new academic year.

A Taster programme of certain subjects is offered to 1st years. Students get to sample each of the following subjects - French, German, Art, Business Studies, Music, Woodwork and TG for a 3-week trial period. C.B.S. believes that students should have an opportunity to sample as many subjects as possible before making their final decision before the end of term 1. At the end of this trial period students choose 3 subjects which they will then pursue through to their Junior Cycle exams.

## IT and Microsoft Teams

The importance of technology and its role in education is recognised in Arklow C.B.S. The use of Microsoft Teams and One Note is now at the core of the curriculum and is the online platform used. Students can use this forum to upload assignments and homework, communicate with their teachers and organise their own personal workspace. All TY students are provided with a laptop.

## The Curriculum

Arklow C.B.S. provides a broad and diverse range of curriculum subjects ensuring that students can choose and pursue those subjects for which they may have an aptitude and passion for.

## Junior Cycle

The Junior Cycle covers a vital period in young people's lives when they

encounter significant changes in their educational experiences. This programme seeks to extend and deepen the quality of students' educational experience in terms of knowledge, understanding, skills and competencies and to prepare them for further study at senior cycle. The following subjects are currently taught to the Junior Cycle students - English, Irish, Math's, Business Studies, French, German, Computer Studies, Science, Woodwork, Technical Graphics, Art, Music, History, Geography, S.P.H.E., C.S.P.E., Religion and Physical Education.

## Senior Cycle

The aims of Senior Cycle are to develop each

student's potential to the full and to equip each student for further education or for the world of work. The senior cycle programme helps to foster in students a sense of self-esteem, self-reliance and innovation so that they are adequately prepared for active involvement in the social, cultural and economic future of society. The following subjects are available to senior students of Arklow C.B.S. - English, Irish, Math's, History, Geography, Business, Economics, Accountancy, French, German, Polish, Construction Studies, Design & Communication Graphics, Music, Art, Computer Studies, L.C.V.P., Religion,

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We wish Arklow CBS and its pupils all the best for the future



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# ARKLOW C.B.S.



Students at work in the Art Room

Physical Education (Exam and non-exam), Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

## Transition Year

Transition year is offered to students who have completed their Junior Certificate. It offers them the opportunity to develop new skills and talents and to consolidate existing interests. Students still study the core subjects of English, Irish and Math's but also get lessons in the subjects they will study at Leaving Certificate Level. Students believe that this can make the process of choosing Leaving Certificate subjects an easier and better-informed process. In Transition year students get to participate in a diverse range of workshops and courses, many of which lead to certification.

They also participate in three separate weeks of work experience spread throughout the school year; these are valuable weeks where students get to experience the adult world of work and to get an idea of where their future career path may lie.

## Assessment

All student's academic performance is monitored on a regular basis in the classroom. Students complete a full set of House Exams/Mock Exams at least twice per year and results are reported to parents/guardians after each of these assessments via VS Ware. Students are encouraged to perform to the best of their ability in their study of their various subjects. Many students have had their high levels of achievement recognised at both Junior Certificate and

Junior Certificate.

## An Ghaelbhratach

Arklow C.B.S. is only one of two schools in Co. Wicklow to be awarded this prestigious award. It is a reward-based scheme which officially recognises schools which are active in the promotion of Irish throughout the school. An Ghaelbhratach has been well and truly earned and flies proudly outside our school. We look forward to continuing our work for the Gaelbhratach in the coming year and all the fun and enjoyment that goes with it.

## Rewarding Achievement

Student achievements are feted in Arklow C.B.S. throughout the school year by means of various award ceremonies. Student successes in the Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate, Sports and

Attendance, are all celebrated as well as awards given for Contribution to School Life, Achievement, Sport, Literacy, Numeracy and Entrepreneurship. The Brendan James Kincaid Memorial Trophy is presented annually by the Kincaid family to the pupil that achieves outstanding Science results in the Leaving Certificate. Additionally, Transition Year students have a Graduation Evening attended by parents and guardians where subject and course awards are presented.

## Facilities

Arklow C.B.S. has excellent sports and academic facilities. The school has an indoor basketball court, two outdoor courts and a football pitch in addition to two fully equipped Science Laboratories, two

and Computer Club.

## School Tours, outings and exchanges

Subject-specific educational tours take place regularly throughout the academic year. Outings, tours and visits of various groups to the school bring the outside world to the students and help them to see that there are many and varied opportunities to learn beyond the classroom. Arklow C.B.S. is twinned with Lycée Jean Felix Paulsen, Châteaudun. Every year a group of TY students head off on a week-long exchange there.

## Music

Arklow C.B.S. has a very strong and proud tradition of music and of producing fine musicians. Every year an annual school concert is organised. Students go to Emmanuel



Computer Rooms, two sets of laptops for classroom use, a Woodwork Room, Technical Drawing Room, Art Room, Music Room and a School Library - 'The Kincaid Library'. Lockers are provided to students so that their books, etc. can be safely stored. Arklow C.B.S. also has a dedicated resource room where students on the Autistic Spectrum or those with a Special Educational Need can avail of extra supports. A school canteen operates at mid-morning break and at lunchtime where students can either eat the food they have brought from home or purchase hot or cold food and snacks at a low cost. Because of current Covid regulations, there are designated zones for the different year groups with outdoor seating available. The school is fully Covid compliant and has hand-sanitiser dispensers outside each classroom. There are bicycle racks provided for students who cycle to school.

and the big sing amongst many other things. A new school brass band is currently in the making - so watch this space!

## Parents Council

Arklow C.B.S. has a very active Parents Council and all parents are encouraged to become involved in it. The Parents Council provide invaluable assistance to the school in many ways, including reviewing school policies, catering for after school events and fundraising. Meetings are held regularly throughout the school year, details of which are given to students.

## Student Council

The Student Council is pro-active in giving a voice to the entire student body, thereby creating a happy and healthy school environment. Through this forum, elected class representatives air their opinions and concerns regarding all matters relating to school and student needs.

## Extracurricular Activities

There is a wide range of extracurricular activities on offer at lunch time or after school. Activities include Athletics & Cross Country running, Gaelic Football, Soccer, Rugby, Hurling, Basketball, Golf, Debating, Dísospóireachtaí Gael Linn, Ciorcal Cainte, Homework club, Film club, Library Club, Chess Club

## Head & Vice Head Boy

This year the Head Boy is Gavin Walker and the Vice Head Boy is Adam Shanley. They were elected by their peers at the start of the school year and will act as role models for the rest of the school community.

## IClassCMS

This is an app which parents can download onto



One of the Sensory Areas at Arklow C.B.S.

their phone from iTunes or Google Play. It contains all the up to the minute school news and school calendar. Parents can also communicate with the school via the app.

## New School Campus

The Board of Management and the staff of Arklow C.B.S. are delighted to announce that the new school campus will be completed and ready for students in

2024!. The new school campus will be a state-of-the-art facility and will have a total floor area of 6913 M2. It will consist of the following rooms: 19 General Classrooms; Specialist Music Room; Specialist Information Technology room; 2 Specialist Design & Communication Graphics Rooms; Specialist Textile Room; 4 Science Laboratories; 2 Science Preparation Rooms; Home Economics Room; Arts & Crafts Room; Engineering Room; Construction Room; Technology Room; Technology Preparation Room; Library; Full Size PE Hall with Fitness Gym; PE Equipment Store; Cleaning Equipment store; 4 Outside Playing Courts; External Store; 13 Standard Offices; 3 Mediation, General Office & Meeting Rooms; Staffroom; Photocopy

room; 2 Project Storage Areas; General Purpose Dining Area; Catering Area; General Purpose store; Student Social Area; Student Locker Area.

The Special Education Needs Suite includes a Central Activities Space; 2 Base Classrooms; 2 Withdrawal Rooms; Multisensory Room; Para Education Room; Practical Activities Room; Daily Living Skills Room; Storage Areas; Office.

## Social Media

You can keep up to date with all that is happening in Arklow CBS through Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

To enrol your son please complete the Enrolment Expression of Interest Form which can be found on [www.arklowcbs.ie](http://www.arklowcbs.ie). Or contact the school office on 0402 32564 with any queries you may have.



Basketball training in the PE Hall



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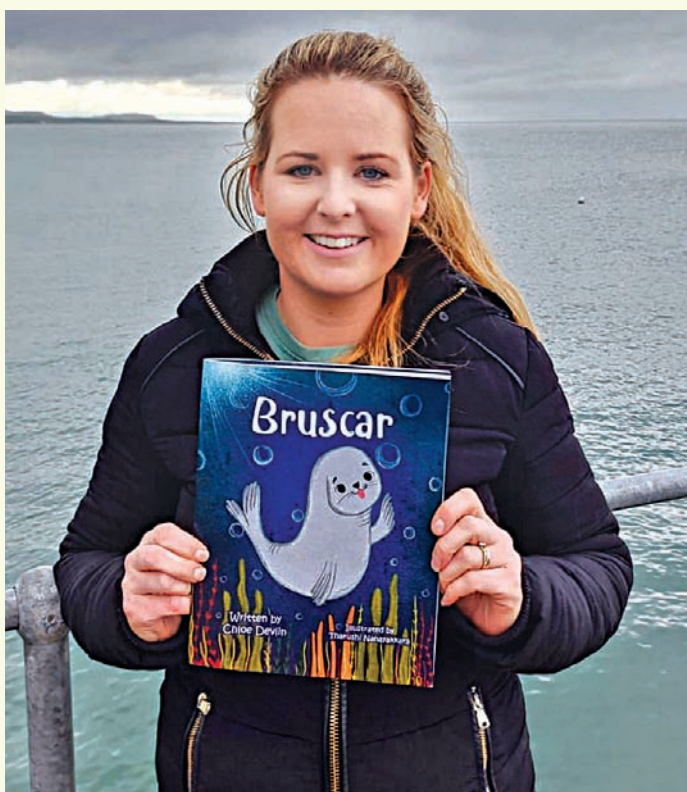
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Dr. Chloe Devlin with her first Children's book titled Bruscar

## Wicklow woman publishes children's book highlighting problem of marine litter

On Thursday 11th November, Dr. Chloe Devlin launched her first Children's book titled Bruscar.

Growing up in Wicklow, Chloe has always had a deep connection with the sea. Throughout her career, she has worked with children educating them on topics such as marine biology, oceanography, and sustainability.

"Children adore learning about sea creatures and how the oceans work. Now there is a real appetite amongst students to learn about climate change and protecting the planet," says Chloe. "My knowledge, along with my two son's love of books, inspired me to write my first children's book 'Bruscar'."

This is a story about Sammy the Seal who sets off on an adventure with his friends to find an infamous sea monster called Bruscar. However, all is not what it seems, and Sammy makes an unexpected discovery. The book talks about the problem of marine litter and the harm it can have on marine life. The story encourages children to recognise the importance of our oceans and to play their part in protecting them.

This 28-page picture book has been written for children aged approximately 2-8 years old. The book was printed in Co. Louth on Shiro Echo paper, which is recyclable, biodegradable, and FSCm certified. The CO2 emissions generated from the paper are fully offset.

Dr Chloe Devlin lives in Wicklow town and



has always been fascinated by the sea and the natural world. She has a PhD from University College Dublin where she investigated the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems. She has worked in marine education for over 10 years with students ranging in age from infants to post-graduate level. She has two sons, age one and three, and wrote this book with them in mind. Chloe and her family are registered as a Clean Coasts Group and regularly complete beach cleans along the Murrough in Wicklow town. Chloe also runs an educational Instagram account called @happy\_sea\_ire where you can learn about marine biology and how to live a more sustainable life.

The term "marine litter" or covers a range of materials which have been deliberately discarded, or accidentally lost on shore or at sea, and it includes materials that are carried out to sea from land, rivers,

drainage and sewerage systems, or the wind. Over 70% of this litter is plastic, which never breaks down. Marine litter enters the water by blowing in from towns and cities, it passes through our wastewater systems or can be lost or discarded at sea (e.g., fishing gear). Marine litter poses a huge threat for marine life.

It can harm marine animals by entangling and choking them, can be ingested and poison them, and can contribute to the spread of invasive species. Marine litter can also impact us, and our communities, by contaminating beaches, damaging boats, and fishing gear and entering the human food chain (i.e., microplastics).

Bruscar is now on sale in Bridge Street Books, Wicklow town, from AnniePoo's online shop, from Jiminy Eco Toys online store ([www.jiminy.ie](http://www.jiminy.ie)) as well as through Chloe's 'Happy Sea' Instagram page (@happy\_sea\_ire).

# Roadmap to radically transform the electricity grid is unveiled

EirGrid Chief Executive, Mark Foley and Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport, have unveiled the Shaping Our Electricity Future roadmap, a blueprint for radically transforming the country's electricity grid.

EirGrid was asked by the Government to transform the electricity system in anticipation of a future without coal, oil, peat and ultimately one with net zero emissions. Specifically, EirGrid must redevelop the grid to manage the vast majority of Ireland's electricity coming from renewable sources by 2030.

The Shaping Our Electricity Future roadmap is the result of a comprehensive 14-week consultation across all sectors of society and two years of research by industry experts and tens of millions of technical simulations.

It provides an outline of the key developments needed from a networks, engagement, operations and market perspective to support a secure transition to at least 70% renewables on the electricity grid by 2030. This is an important step on the journey towards 80% renewables, which will present opportunities for further renewable generators, and ultimately, net zero by 2050.

EirGrid consulted on four different approaches to developing the grid and the final roadmap contains a blended approach that looks at grid development from an economic, technical, social acceptance and deliverability perspective and seeks to minimise the impact on communities while still delivering on the renewable ambitions. It also takes account of

available capacity and network development synergies and is aligned with policy.

The plan comprises 40 new grid infrastructure projects, representing a total investment of over €1 billion. This is on top of an existing €2.2 billion programme of grid infrastructure projects which we have already engaged with communities on and which we have funding for.

Some of this additional investment will be seen in Wicklow through the upgrading of existing lines to take on significant quantities of off-shore wind generation along the east coast.

Under the Shaping Our Electricity Roadmap, there will be greater control over where future generation and demand is located, maximising the utilisation of the existing infrastructure while minimising the need for the development of new electricity lines. Most of the new projects identified in the blueprint are upgrades to existing infrastructure.

Minister Ryan said: "We must radically reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and make the transition to cleaner, indigenous renewable energy. Increased renewable energy will insulate Ireland from the volatility of international gas and carbon prices, which are near an all-time high.

"Shaping Our Electricity Future shows a clear path to delivery

on our commitments to decarbonise our electricity grid, harness our natural resources and bring renewable energy into the heart of our communities. It will also enable us meet the projected increase demand for electricity over the coming years."

For fourteen weeks from March 8th, EirGrid held a series of workshops, meetings and fora across the country to inform people and gather feedback that directly influenced the final roadmap.

The consultation was supported by a range of traditional and innovative engagement and participation activities. These included a Deliberative Dialogue

(modelled on Ireland's Citizens Assembly), complemented by national fora involving industry, civil society and youth. In addition to this, EirGrid engaged at grassroots level with rural communities, local businesses and young people.

There were numerous engagements across Wicklow as part of the consultation, including political briefings and an Irish Rural Link Workshop.

In response, there were 492 submissions from members of the general public and 80 industry submissions.

Mark Foley, EirGrid Chief Executive, said: "Shaping Our Electricity Future will secure the

transition to a clean energy future that will be delivered in line with government policy and with the support of the regulator. The grid requires unprecedented change in the next ten years. This transition to clean electricity will affect everyone in Ireland and will unquestionably be difficult, however the benefits will be truly transformative at both a societal and an economic level. This is why our 14-week consultation was so focused on reaching every group in society, as well as our industry colleagues. It is imperative that we find an agreed approach to reach the 2030 renewable targets."



Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport, EirGrid Chief Executive, Mark Foley and Liam Ryan, EirGrid Chief Innovation and Planning Officer unveiled at COP26 the Shaping Our Electricity Future roadmap, a blueprint for radically transforming the country's electricity grid.

## Group highlights social and environmental crisis in forestry sector

**Private forestry group SEEFA - the Social, Economic, Environmental Forestry Association of Ireland - recently staged a series of social media protests targeting local Government TDs in an effort to highlight the ongoing crisis in the forestry sector. Simon Harris's office in Bray was one of the chosen locations for a protest.**

SEEFA is an alliance of private industry professionals who are lobbying for the Government to fulfil its obligations to maintain employment for more than 12,000 people in the sector which has been devastated by a backlog in the granting of afforestation & felling licenses. SEEFA is seeking direct intervention from the Department of the Taoiseach.

Responding to the issue, Jackie Cahill, TD and Chair of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine said, "We have seriously missed our targets in the programme for Government on afforestation. We are 15,000 behind target on afforestation in the last five years and if those trees had to be planted in their lifetime they would have sequestered 5.4 million tonnes of carbon. We have really missed an opportunity to benefit the rural economy and in our fight against climate change. Our failure to issue licenses

and our failure to plant trees for afforestation is haunting us and will continue to haunt us in the years ahead because we can't reclaim that lost time."

With over 1,000 afforestation applications and thousands of felling and road licence applications still awaiting a decision, SEEFA is highlighting the severe social, economic and environmental impact of this crisis. Forest owners cannot plant their land, manage their forests or sell their timber.

Teige Ryan, None So Hardy Forestry said, "If the industry cannot get the required amount of licences, nurseries cannot sell their stock, foresters cannot plant or maintain forests, and harvesting companies cannot supply timber to the sawmills."

Ireland is currently at its lowest ever rate of tree planting, while a massive carbon footprint has also been created through importing timber. Paddy Bruton, Forestry Services

Limited and Euroforest Ireland said "Afforestation is clearly the largest opportunity in the land use sector to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Government afforestation targets are not being reached and in 2020 only 2,300 hectares were planted of an 8,000 hectare target. In the last 5 years, afforestation targets have been missed by over 15,000 hectares in total or the equivalent of 40 million trees. Had this area been afforested, it had the potential to remove 5.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere over the lifetime of those forests."

Imelda Connolly, Greenbelt, added "The department also urgently needs to introduce a viable Ash dieback scheme, so landowners can remove the dead and dying Ash trees and replant these areas with new forests. We believe that a sustainable forestry sector that can achieve commercial, climate and biodiversity goals is ready to flourish and deliver for rural Ireland but in order to achieve it we need to see a reduction in the volume of imported timber, and improvements to the current licensing system which are holding back the potential of the industry."



# Wicklow's local volunteer heroes

County Wicklow Volunteer centre recently announced the 12 winners of the first ever Wicklow Volunteer Awards.



Arklow's local hero P.J. Busher

Against tough competition the five (5) winners in the local hero awards by municipal district are in Arklow MD, **P.J. Busher**, a stalwart member of Arklow Community Action Resource Centre, a man willing to go the extra mile for anyone in need in his community. **Deirdre McCormack** in Baltinglass MD, well known for her determination to get a pool for West Wicklow, probably not as well known for the many positive community actions and campaigns she helped to organise during the worst of the

COVID-19 months. In Bray MD, **Eleanor Murphy** of Bray Meals on Wheels, the rock who with her team of cooks and drivers has ensured that 2,700 meals a month are delivered to those in need in the Bray area. **Marie McCooley**, the woman whose passion for Greystones has driven the efforts of Greystones Tidy Towns to the benefit of all living there, and finally **Rachel Harper** in the Wicklow MD whose work with both Tiglin Challenge and the Dublin Christian Mission has helped many people to find new and fulfilling

role in life.

"We are very grateful to SSE Renewables for sponsoring the Wicklow and Arklow local hero awards," said Wicklow Volunteer Centre.

SSE also sponsored the Covid-19 Special Projects which was won by **Aisling Grace** who was nominated by Dunlavin and District Forum for her tremendous work in the area. When the first Covid 19 lockdown happened, the over 70s and the vulnerable were advised to cocoon. This was when Aisling's talents really came to the fore. She knew what was required, she rallied all the partners and organised everything from PPE, a mail drop to every house informing of the service, a delivery team, the phone a collect system etc. In a couple of days, the delivery service was up and running.

**Liz Mc Mahon** was nominated by Cheshire Ireland for the Virtual Volunteering Award. Her virtual tours enhanced the life of those who could not get out. One of the people Liz volunteers with is an elderly gentleman from Enniskerry. Liz brings him on meaningful virtual tours where he gets to meet people he knew in the village, creating great joy to his life. Takeda sponsored this award and the Award for a volunteer from the Migrant, Refugee, Asylum Seeker Community which was won by Sibangilizwe Ncube who despite living

in a temporary direct provision centre has volunteered in the Shoreline, Greystones Centralised Vaccination Centre. It would not be an exaggeration to say that he is a key member of the volunteering team.

**Kasha Huse-Byrne** was nominated by Bray Citizens Information Centre (CIC) for her initiative in providing services to vulnerable clients during the pandemic. Kasha's support during the pandemic enabled Bray CIC to provide an application form filling service which was essential for vulnerable



Eleanor Murphy of Bray Meals on Wheels - Bray's Local Hero award winner

clients who could not be assisted over the telephone. This frontline work was a lifeline for those who needed assistance. While doing this Kasha noticed that her clients on the autistic spectrum were comfortable dropping into Bray CIC, because was by appointment only, meaning no queues at reception! Recognising the need of autistic clients for a clean, quiet and uncrowded place Sasha approached the manager about making Bray CIC an autism-friendly centre which would be the first CIC in the country to do this!

Young caring people are our future of our planet and **Sean Legaspi** who volunteers with Bray Tidy Towns (BTT) is a shining example of someone young who knows the value of his environment and our need to preserve it. Sean joined BTT to complete his Gaisce Award. From the beginning of his volunteering it was difficult to plan anything because of COVID restrictions.



Deirdre McCormack from the Pool for West Wicklow campaign, was the Baltinglass Local Hero Award winner

However, Sean and one other volunteer working together outdoors worked on tough projects, including digging up hard areas of the Station garden, together with one other

has supported the work of the INHA by helping us develop a suite of NICU Milestone Card to help parents of premature babies track their babies journey through the neonatal intensive care unit. 25 cards in total are now available for free to every parent of a premature baby in Ireland thanks to Ailbhes support. The cards are a meaningful way of making memories for families as they navigate a very difficult journey with their sick child. Ailbhe has also supported us in developing Pledge Cards for families and friends to offer assistance to families with sick babies in the NICU i.e. shopping, childminding, gardening, etc. The cards are now also being used internationally in Hungarian NICUs and helping families there also.

County Wicklow Volunteer Centre would like to thank the Department of Rural and Community Development and Wicklow County Council for their ongoing support.

## The 12 Winners were as follows:

1. East Coast Samaritans – Team Award.
2. P.J. Busher, Arklow Community Action Resource Centre – Arklow Local Hero Award
3. Deirdre McCormack, Pool for West Wicklow and lots more - Baltinglass Local Hero Award
4. Eleanor Murphy, Bray Meals on Wheels and Bray Old Folks Association – Bray Local Hero Award
5. Marie McCooley, Greystones Tidy Towns – Greystones Local Hero
6. Rachel Harper, Tiglin Centre and much more – Wicklow Local Hero Award.
7. Aisling Grace, Dunlavin and District Forum - Covid-19 Special Projects Award
8. Liz McMahon, Cheshire Ireland - Virtual Volunteering Award
9. Kasha Huse-Byrne, Bray Citizens Information Centre – Innovative Community Volunteering Award
10. Sibangilizwe Ncube, Shoreline, Greystones, Centralised Vaccination Centre – Migrant, Asylum Seeker, Refugee Volunteer Award
11. Sean Legaspi, Bray Tidy Towns – Under 18 Volunteer Award.
12. Ailbhe O'Brien, WaterWipes – Corporate Volunteering Award



Wicklow's Local Hero Award winner Rachel Harper



Virtual Volunteering Award winner Liz McMahon with Paddy Burton





## Home - an exhibition by Brigid O'Brien

Thursday 18th November at 6pm in Mermaid Art Centre's Gallery for the official opening of this exhibition

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 drawings rendered in pastel 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.

About the artist: Brigid O'Brien has

exhibited widely in group shows in Dublin, Wicklow and London. She has worked with other artists and people with disabilities, designing gardens and painting murals in places of long-term care. As an artist, drawings are her specialty, she has a unique quirky view of life which she portrays in her work.

The exhibition will run until Saturday 8th January 2022. Admission is free.

\*Proof of full vaccination or else a recovery from COVID-19 certificate in the past 6 months is mandatory access to the gallery. A valid form of ID is required to check certificates.

The exhibition will be opened by Fr. Peter McVerry.

## Bray singer releases new single

Clara Byrne, a socialist singer songwriter from Bray (newly settled in Dundalk), has released her new single.

"What Have We?" is the third single from her upcoming debut album Handstitched. The song was recorded by Eoin Whitfield (The Enemies) and produced by Alan Dooley (Thumper) who both played on the track. Her previous two singles were met with great reception that included airplay on RTE Radio 1 and 98fm. English reviewer "Get In Her Ears" described the singles as having "sincere lyrics and rich vocals", while "Indie Buddie" declared her "as a proficient up and coming songwriter".

Clara has been fortunate enough to support a wealth of Irish talent including Wallis Bird, Mick Pyro (Republic Of Loose), Cathy Davey and Neil Hannon (Divine Comedy). She seeks her lyrical inspiration in the world around her and seeks solitude from that world in the music she creates.

"This single was born out of frustration and anger," says Clara. "Watching closely as things have become more polarized, I collected each line and stitched it together with a hunger for better. We have our work taking from our bones while we try keeping our humanity. We're pitted against one another as we desperately devour the scraps and yet we're encouraged to feel lucky. Lucky in the choice of what we have to consume, lucky we're not one of the inconceivably many who have less, lucky in vast forms of escapisms provided to keep us subdued."

"We're encouraged to worship our products as everything around us is commodified and then heavily pushed back on us for consumption. It's difficult to fight off complacency as slight variations of the same message is forced on us; be grateful for what we have, don't expect more and most importantly don't change a thing."

# Coming up at Whale Theatre... Iron Annie Cabaret

Set to thrill audiences with a unique mix of theatre, original live music and literature

Friday 26th November @ 8pm. Tickets €20  
at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550

Based on Luke Cassidy's critically acclaimed debut novel, 15 live shows are scheduled to delight audiences across the country this autumn, with a further 10 shows booked in Spring 2022.

With the long awaited and welcome return of live entertainment, an exciting event like no other is on its way to venues across the country. The Iron Annie Cabaret will be travelling the country in style, with an impressive 15 dates scheduled this autumn across every province in Ireland. A second leg of the tour will take place in March 2022, with a further 10 dates in Dublin, Cork & Belfast. An experience unlike anything the theatre has ever seen, it will appeal to music fans as much as to book lovers and theatre goers.

The Irish Independent described the book Iron Annie as "probably the most ambitious and well-written debut this year". Now, as producer, Luke Cassidy is bringing the same story to the stage.

The Iron Annie Cabaret tells the story of Aoife, and her doomed relationship with the beautiful but capricious Annie. Set against the backdrop of a

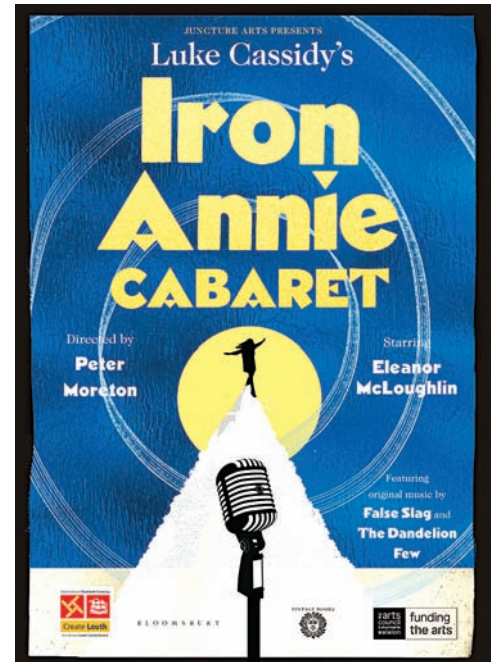
larger-than-life criminal underworld of Dundalk, their adventures also take them on a whirlwind road trip across the Irish Sea to offload ten kilos of cocaine swiped from a rival.

Author and producer Luke Cassidy is bringing the page to the stage with the Iron Annie Cabaret. A Juncture Arts production, the Iron Annie Cabaret stars actor Eleanor McLoughlin as the inimitable Aoife, and is directed by Peter Moreton, artistic director of Applegarth Arts Centre, London. Musical performances feature original material inspired by the book, written and performed by folk duo the Dandelion Few, and newly-formed border punk band False Slag. False Slag describe themselves as a collective incarnation of the atmosphere of the Irish border banditry, in keeping with the theme of the book and the production.

Published by the

Bloomsbury Books in Ireland and the UK, and Vintage Books in the US & Canada, Sarah Moss described it in the Irish Times as "a queer underworld Thelma and Louise with better jokes and just as much chance of a happy ending." The Irish Examiner called the book "absolutely brilliant", saying it "fizzes with energy, and with raunchiness, colour, beauty and insight." The book has also just been optioned as a series for World Productions, with Luke Cassidy on board to adapt the screenplay. World Productions have been behind some of the most popular shows on the small screen, including Line of Duty, and The Bodyguard. Iron Annie has also been selected as the Easo Book Club of the Month on the Pat Kenny Show on Newstalk.

The Iron Annie Cabaret promises to be a rollicking adventure to hit stages nationwide. According to the author Luke Cassidy,



"I am really excited to bring my characters to life in this one-of-a-kind live stage show, especially when live events have been absent for so long. I think audiences are in for a real treat. Think Reservoir Dogs meets Thelma and Louise and the Rocky Picture Show, and that's just for

starters!" The Iron Annie Cabaret is a brand-new platform to promote live Irish culture, literature and home-grown talent. A must see! The production has been successful in achieving full support from the Arts Council of Ireland and Louth County Council.

## A Journey Through Time : A Clap 'n Load Studios Showcase

Sunday 28th November @ 4pm. Tickets €12 at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie)  
or call the booking office on 01 2010550

Take a journey through time with Clap 'n Load Studios, a Wicklow-based film production company established and run by local filmmaker John Kelly.

After studying in Pulse College and working for 5+ years in the film industry, John established his own company to pursue directing and to create ambitious projects that are otherwise not being attempted in Ireland's short film market. Clap 'n Load Studios is proud to present its first three films: Masquerade: a Period Drama set in 1916 England Visionaries: a Documentary on vision impairment and music Nevermore: Ireland's first truly indigenous Science-Fiction short set in the 25th century

Masquerade: As tensions rise with the Irish Rising brewing to the east and the first World War raging to the west, knowing who to trust is more important than ever. Friend and foe may wear the same face. But for Duke Kenneth Wright, what happens when family become foe, and the sharks begin to smell blood?

Visionaries: How do we adapt when deprived of one of our most vital senses? How can we learn to achieve our goals and thrive with little or no sight? This documentary follows the inspiring stories of three visually impaired musicians - Frank Kelly, Audrey Tormey and Conor Maguire - and how they have achieved what may seem to be the impossible, and the important role music has played in their lives. There is much more than meets the eye, and sight loss is never black or white.

Nevermore: It is the year 2400, long after the Interstellar War has ended. A group of mercenaries fly from planet to space station taking whatever jobs will get them paid. The crew of the Nevermore skirt the line of legality to survive. One such job sees them wrapped up in a fight between the Empire, and a young girl named Beth.





# YARN Storytelling Festival returns to Bray

November is here and with it come the stories! Mermaid Arts Centre is bringing YARN Storytelling Festival Bray for the twelfth year from 13th – 22nd November. YARN is a community based non-profit making festival that strives to bring the art-form of storytelling to as many people of all ages in the community as possible.

Despite the challenges the pandemic has brought, this year Mermaid are bringing YARN to live audiences in Mermaid Arts Centre with some events in schools and community groups. "We are welcoming back some firm YARN favourites," said Mermaid. "It has been a tough couple of years for us all and we are very much looking forward to storytelling magic to add a little joy and hope to our autumn."

The festival kicked off on Saturday 13th November with a storytelling workshop for children ages 9 to 11 years in Mermaid with artist Shive R. Joyce.

On Monday evening, 15th November, Friends of BLB present a screening of Every Kinda People - Bray Local Broadcasting. The unique story of the birth of broadcasting in Bray directed by Mark Quinn. Brian White from Bray Cualann Historical Society brings you a talk on Victorian Bray – both

live in Mermaid and livestreamed into your sitting rooms on Tuesday 16th November. On Wednesday 17th Turkish storyteller Senem Donaten Mohan presents Tales From The Orient: The Fertile Crescent in Mermaid and Little John Nee brings us his brand new show "All the Small Ocean" on Thursday 18th (this will also be livestreamed).

On Friday 19th November Mermaid Arts Centre will welcome Oein DeBhairduin, author of Why the moon travels, for an evening in conversation with storyteller and actor Nuala Hayes. Why the moon travels is a haunting collection of twenty tales rooted in the oral tradition of the Irish Traveller community. Galway-based teller Orla Mc Govern takes to the stage at 3pm on Saturday 20th with Tales of Mischief and Magic, followed that evening by folk singer and storyteller Colum Sands at 8pm. On Sunday 21st

The Speks will bring their foot stamping traditional music and nursery rhymes family show. Orla Mc Govern will also be in Mermaid facilitating Casting The Net - A Storytelling and Improvisation Workshop.

YARN Storytelling Festival Bray will conclude on Monday 22nd November with a screening of the highly-acclaimed film Arracht. This film will be preceded by Broken Sleep – a short film by Bray-based filmmaker David Stephenson.

As part of YARN Storytelling Festival 2021, artist Paul Timoney is our Storyteller in Residence at St. Kieran's School in Bray. Paul has facilitated a series of workshops over a six week period with 5th and 6th class pupils, the results of which is a stunning publication available to view shortly on Mermaid's website.

Artist Brigid O'Brien is bringing her striking exhibition HOME to

Mermaid's Gallery and the opening also takes place during YARN.... "Join us in Mermaid's gallery on Thursday 18th November at 6pm for this opening event. In her exhibition Brigid 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'. Admission to the gallery is free.

Please note for all events at Mermaid proof of full vaccination or else a recovery from COVID-19 certificate in the past 6 months is mandatory. A valid form of ID is required to check certificates.

Full information can be found on Mermaid's website at [www.mermaidartscentre.ie](http://www.mermaidartscentre.ie) or by calling box office on 01-2724030.



Artist Ann McKenna with Senator Pat Casey and Sonya Shortt at the launch of the Arklow Visual Arts Gallery Arts Expo, in Adrian O'Brien's, Main Street, Arklow.

## Bray husband and wife launch new books simultaneously

**Bray-based husband and wife David Butler and Tanya Farrelly are both launching their latest books together this month - David's book Fugitive and Tanya's book Nobody Needs to Know.**

Both books are published by Arlen House, Ireland's leading feminist press.

David and Tanya met through their writing careers in 2014, got married in 2016, and have published ten books between them in that time.

David Butler is an award-winning novelist, poet, short story writer and playwright. His third novel City of Dis (New Island) was shortlisted for the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year 2015. Fugitive (Arlen House 2021) is his second short story collection. Butler's eleven-poem cycle, Blackrock Sequence, a per cent literary arts commission illustrated by his brother Jim, which won the World Illustrators award in 2018, is the basis of his third poetry collection: Liffey Sequence (Doire Press 2021). Literary prizes for the short story include the Benedict Kiely, the Maria Edgeworth (twice), ITT Red Line and Fish International Awards. David tutors regularly at the Irish Writers Centre, Dublin, and is married to author Tanya Farrelly.

Tanya Farrelly is the author of four books. Her debut: When Black Dogs Sing (Arlen House 2016), a short fiction collection, which was longlisted for the Edge Hill Short Story Prize and won the Kate O'Brien Award (2017), and two novels The Girl Behind the Lens (Harper Collins 2016) and When Your Eyes Close (Harper Collins 2018). In 2020, she curated and edited The Music of What Happens, an anthology of Irish writing in aid of Purple House Cancer Support Centre (New Island). She holds a PhD in Creative and Critical Writing from Bangor University, Wales and teaches at numerous institutions including the Irish Writers Centre, Dublin, and The People's College. She is the founder and director of Bray Literary Festival, and was appointed Writer-in-Residence at NUI Galway in 2021. Nobody Needs to Know (Arlen House 2021) is her second short story collection.

### Fugitive by David Butler

A Lebanese student has had enough of a lecturer's inappropriate advances; a frustrated author takes her revenge on a publisher; a petty dispute over a land boundary escalates wildly; a woman has

had enough of her property flooding; a bankrupt developer takes his children to an uninhabited lake isle. In these dark, witty stories, award-winning author David Butler follows the lives of characters who are driven to the edge, and shines a light on the many sides of what it means to be Irish in the twenty-first century.

### Nobody Needs to Know by Tanya Farrelly

Known for tense and often troubling stories in her award-winning debut, When Black Dogs Sing, Farrelly enters darker and murkier places in her second collection. In these stories, a girl witnesses her mother's breakdown following the murder of her sister while backpacking around Europe; a teenage girl befriends a homeless girl with disastrous consequences; an EFL teacher fantasizes about a colleague; a couple fear for their lives when their neighbor begins making threats. Unsettling, often disturbing, these stories follow the lives of characters who, finding themselves in fearful situations, triumph against the odds.







Minister Simon Harris TD visited St Laurence's National School in Greystones where he was questioned by 6th class students on a wide variety of topics. Minister Harris said: "As a past pupil of St Laurence's it is great to see how the school has grown and gone from strength to strength in recent years. I would particularly like to pay tribute to principal Carol Mooney who will retire at the end of this year and has developed the school greatly under her leadership. I have no doubt that Carol will continue to make an immense contribution in the area of education locally. I also want to congratulate the incoming principal Ann Marie Martin and wish her every success. The sixth class pupils showed a keen awareness of the big issues, whether it was climate change or the jobs, courses, careers and training they would like to avail of after they finish secondary school. They quizzed me on vaccines, the need for safe skate parks and amenities and places in local secondary schools. I want to wish everyone in 6th class in St Laurence's the very best for the year ahead."

## Nominations sought from Wicklow for Adult Learning STAR Awards

**AONTAS, the National Adult Learning Organisation is seeking nominations from adult learning projects in Wicklow for the STAR Awards 2022.**

The STAR Awards recognise outstanding work in adult learning and give projects the opportunity to promote their excellent work and bring national recognition to learners, staff and organisations.

To highlight the diverse range of quality adult learning initiatives taking place across the country, AONTAS encourages STAR Award nominations in five categories for 2022:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Learner Voice
- Social Inclusion
- Sustainable Development through Education
- Third-level Access and Engagement

Two Special Awards will be given for Mitigating Educational Disadvantage through Innovation (during COVID-19), and a European Social Fund Special Recognition Award.

Dr Niamh O'Reilly, CEO of AONTAS said: "Adult learning

programmes have been responsive in meeting the needs of learners and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The outstanding level of support that groups have provided to their communities has continued to support participation in adult learning.

"The STAR Awards recognise this innovation and celebrates learners, educators and staff across the sector. As we look to address the educational inequalities that have been exacerbated during COVID-19, it is so important that we have a space to champion the work of adult learning projects across the island of Ireland."

Speaking about the awards, Mick Fortune of the Aiséirí Programme -STAR Award winner in the category of Social Inclusion, March 2021 - said: "Both staff and participants are thrilled to have received this award as a recognition of the hard work of all members of the community at such a

challenging time."

Since its inception in 2007, thousands of adult learning initiatives across a wide variety of areas - including increasing educational access for all including those with a disability, supporting positive mental health and as part of addiction recovery - have been recognised through the STAR Awards.

To nominate an adult learning initiative, please visit: <https://www.aontas.com/community/adult-learners-festival/aontas-star-awards>. The deadline for receipt of nominations is Monday, 22nd November.

Winners will be announced at the STAR Awards ceremony which will take place during the Adult Learners' Festival 2022 taking place from 7th - 11th March 2022.

The STAR Awards are proudly sponsored by the Open University in Ireland, the European Social Fund (ESF), Concern Worldwide, the Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCNNI), Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), Mental Health Ireland and the Teachers' Union of Ireland.

# Wicklow students qualify for Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition

Details of the 550 shortlisted projects to be showcased at BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition in January were announced by BT Ireland last week. Over 1,000 students will represent their schools and communities at the virtual exhibition which runs from Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th January 2022. Among them will be 19 projects from Wicklow students.

The shortlisted entries span 219 schools from 29 counties. The Co. Wicklows taking part are St. Mary's College Arklow (7 projects - ), St. David's Secondary School from Greystones (4 projects), SEK Dublin International School (2 projects), Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School (1 project), Arklow Community College (5 projects).

St. Mary's College: Do Brighter Walls Lead to Brighter Minds; Do We As a Society vilify femininity; Why are we so afraid of something we can't see?; Building Beats - How do pop songs become famous by repeating core beats?; Pandemic Procrastination 'For Another Time; Carbon Captures: Is Seaweed a Silent Superhero in the battle against Climate Change?; A Biological Solution to local pollution.

St. David's: Snapstudy; An Investigation into making a natural alternative to chemical fertilizer by creating a seaweed-based fertilizer, and seeing how effective it is; Can Kombucha be considered a probiotic; Covid killing face mask.

SEK; SignBot; Niceracoon.

Educate Together Secondary School Wicklow: Are plant saponins better at removing stains as commercial laundry detergent.

Arklow Community College: Semi-autonomous solar model plane; What is the difference between boys' mental health in the first lockdown compared to the second lockdown; can the brain get attached to fictional characters; sugar crystals; balloon decibel experiment.

Following the success of the first ever virtual BTYSTE in January, which reached more than 77 countries around the world; this year's finalists will once again compete on a virtual stage to both a national and international audience.

This year, new and adapted technologies featured in a fifth (110) of all project entries across the



Students Anga Singqandu and Sinethemba Masina pictured at Birr Castle. Pic: Chris Bellew

four project categories - Social and Behavioural Science, Technology; Chemical, Physical and Mathematics Science; and Ecological Science. In an ever-increasing digital world, students demonstrated their curiosity and imagination for new technologies and how they can assist in our daily lives, with projects ranging from assisted living devices to apps that help us live more sustainably.

Visitors to the virtual exhibition will have the chance to learn about projects covering a range of topics from diversity, sports performance, agriculture and farming, road safety, to the impact of gaming on brain function. They will also be transported into the wonderful world of science and technology, with mind blowing shows, critical conversations, and an in-depth insight into the future of STEM.

Mari Cahalane, Head of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition said, "Following an incredibly challenging 18 months for schools, teachers and wider communities, I am delighted to see the volume and the quality

of entries coming through for this year's exhibition. The ideas are excellent and the ambition is strong, a testament to the dedication and resilience of schools and students across Ireland.

"The BTYSTE is a hallmark of the school calendar year and alongside the projects, we will have an exciting line-up of events for everyone including teachers, schools, businesses and wider global and local communities to enjoy."

Minister for Education Norma Foley TD said: "I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all students that entered the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2022.

"The exhibition continues to provide a real opportunity to our young people to engage in so many diverse aspects of science and technology. I look forward to learning more about the findings and exciting creative solutions that have been uncovered in our students' work. Supporting the exhibition as a key partner is an important part of the Department's strategy for STEM education.

"Also, in recognition of the Department's priority to contribute to the achievement of the UN's 17 Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) I am delighted to provide, for the first time, a special award for the best Education for Sustainable Development project at the BTYSTE exhibition. I would like to also extend my thanks to BT Ireland and all those involved in the exhibition for the huge effort that is put in each year to organise this event."

The BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition will be delivered across a virtual platform from January 12th - 14th 2022. The finalists will be interviewed by an eminent panel of over 90 judges. This national celebration of science and technology is one of the country's best attended events every year.

For participants, the Exhibition offers a chance to win one of the most coveted awards with a substantial prize fund and the BTYSTE perpetual trophy, as well as over 200 prizes for individuals, groups, and teachers.



Blossom Ireland winners of an AONTAS STAR Award in 2021 for 'My Blossom Channel Assertiveness Course' - Ireland's first online blended learning course for young people with intellectual disabilities



# Wicklow woman celebrated at leadership awards

Wicklow woman, Linda O'Brien, is a finalist in the prestigious LIFT leadership awards, announced by LIFT Ireland.

LIFT Ireland is a social enterprise that works to build positive leadership skills in communities in Wicklow and across Ireland. Its annual awards celebrate everyday leaders at all levels of Irish society across the country.

Those shortlisted are people from across Ireland who have demonstrated great personal leadership, making a difference to the people around them and influencing Ireland for the better. They range from doctors and professors to secondary school students and community volunteers, and include employees from the likes of Permanent TSB, SSE Airtricity, the HSE, Bank of Ireland and the Laura Lynn Children's Hospice.

Linda O'Brien of Tulfarris Hotel and Golf Resort has been nominated in the Respect category.

The winner of each category will be announced at an online awards event on Wednesday, 17th November.

The award categories are taken from the 10 core leadership skills included in the LIFT process, including resilience, determination,

accountability and empathy. From hundreds of nominations, just four people have been shortlisted in each of the 10 categories.

Joanne Hession, Founder of LIFT Ireland, said: "We are delighted to be able to celebrate everyday leaders from Wicklow and across the country again this year. Last year's awards were a great success showcasing the leadership and resilience shown throughout the pandemic. Going online over the past 18 months has allowed us to reach even more participants with over 20,000 people taking part in our Leadership Roundtables, developing their leadership skills at a time when they were most needed.

"The number of nominations we have received is a true testament to the quality of leadership we have in this country. Our promise has always been to recognise and celebrate great leadership and every nominee deserves to be celebrated for the leadership skills they have shown.

"We tend to think of leaders as being people in positions of power. But we are all leaders - in our own families; in

our workplaces; in our communities. At LIFT, we consider leadership a trait that can be developed, lived and emulated - from the kitchen table to the boardroom."

At the awards, organisations that have rolled out the LIFT leadership development process in their workplace will also be recognised with a 'Living LIFT 2021' quality mark. This mark has been created to recognise organisations working to raise the standards of leadership in Ireland.

Joanne Hession, who is a successful entrepreneur and leadership expert with a background in entrepreneurship training, founded LIFT Ireland, along with her brother, David Hession, an education accreditation expert, and Sonya Lennon, broadcaster, designer and social entrepreneur. LIFT - which stands for 'Leading Ireland's Future Together' - provides leadership and facilitation training to individuals and organisations across the country, ranging from multinational corporations to SMEs, NGOs, schools, sports organisations, and individuals from all walks of life.

# Kilmacanogue stylist reaches finals of hairdressing awards

Linda Thornton from Lynda T Hairdressing in Kilmacanogue has been shortlisted for a prestigious GLammies by Great Lengths 2021 award.

Now in its 10th year, the GLammies by Great Lengths recognise the UK and Northern Ireland's most talented extensionists and celebrate the craft, creativity and business of hair extensions. Judged by some of the industry's most respected names, along with editors from the hairdressing press, the 2021 event will be take place on Monday 7th February.

Linda Thornton is nominated in the Captivating Colour category and the Creative Innovation category, two of 16 awards up for grabs on the evening comprised of six creative specialist categories, eight regional awards, Most Charitable Salon of the Year and the most coveted title of the night, the Great Lengths Trophy for Extension Excellence, awarded to an outstanding extensionist.

In addition to a glittering GLammies trophy, winners in each of the sixteen categories will each

receive tickets for a tour of the Great Lengths production factory in Rome, with two nights five-star accommodation, meals and internal transfers for two people. The prize package also includes social media coverage and PR opportunities across both trade and local press, ensuring salons and stylists can publicise their recognition as the best in the industry.

"The GLammies by Great Lengths celebrate the very best extensionists in this amazing industry," says Joscelin McCourt, CEO of HB Collective (the home of Great Lengths). "To be shortlisted for an award, nominees must demonstrate creativity and precision, as well as a talent for their craft which set them apart from the competition. Linda Thornton should feel incredibly proud to be recognised at this level."

"I'm thrilled to have made the finals," says Linda Thornton. "I am passionate about working with extensions and to be recognised alongside such creative stylists is a huge honour. I just hope I've impressed the judges enough to bring the trophy home to Lynda T Hairdressing!"

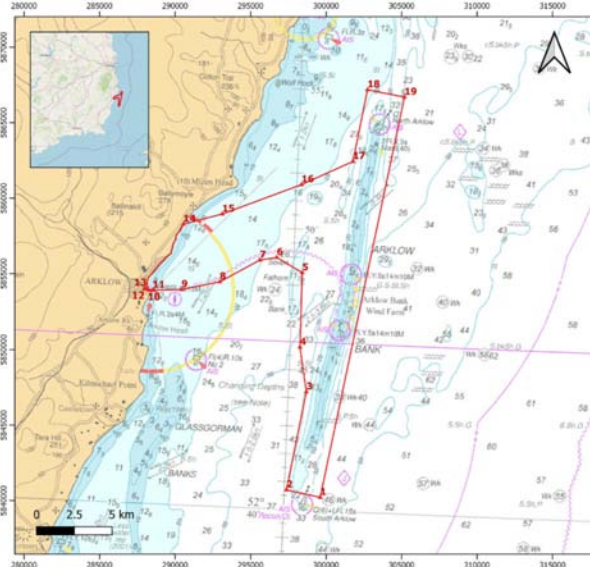


Celebrating Traveller Pride Day at C.E.A.R.T. in Wicklow Town last week were Isobel O'Duffy, Fr. Paul, Fionnuala Curry, Aoibhinn McCloy, Maura Halvey, Helen Howes, and Cllr Joe Behan

## 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 17th November 2021 and 16th 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 17th November 2021 and 16th 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 8am to 6pm 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 17th November 2021 and 16th 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 16th 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>



# Wicklow's businesses take action on exporting with new programme

Six Wicklow businesses recently revealed their export action plans, at a showcase event at the Tulfarris Hotel, Blessington, after completing an intense 3 month Export Development Programme with the Local Enterprise Office and International Marketing Consultancy, HMC Global.

The Export Development Programme is a new initiative from the Local Enterprise Office, designed to give practical support to small businesses to get focused on their export plans and scale

their export potential.

Since the pilot programme commenced last September, 14 companies from Wicklow and Kildare have benefited from access to experienced mentors and practical support for developing their export plans. Six interactive group workshops also provided an online forum where ambitious local entrepreneurs could share their exporting experiences and challenges, learn from each other, get new perspectives, discover potential for collaborations and get



Fergal O'Dwyer presenting a cheque to Sinead Tarmey from the Wicklow Hospice for €1,645 which was raised in O'Dwyers Pharmacy by Fergal running the Berlin Marathon on 26th September.

focused on growth opportunities in international markets.

Local companies participating in the programme saw significant benefits for their businesses.

Peter Baxter, of Rathnew-based Create School, describes the value of the programme to him: "This course was a valuable asset to my business and one of the best investments of my own time and resources, as the returns far outweighed the time invested in the course"

According to another participant, Roisin O'Farrell, "When we began the programme, I said that "We don't know what we don't know". The programme gave us the knowledge of what was involved in exporting and

a framework to implement what we learned.

Barry O'Neill of Kilcoole-based O Brother Brewing Ltd, recommends the Export Development Programme to other small businesses, describing it as, "one of the most well run, challenging, and directly actionable programs I have had the pleasure of working on. A must for any SME starting out, or building, their export journey"

Former engineer and

founder of Mic's Chilli, Michael Wejchert, also see the benefits in "a wonderful programme that has really expanded my skills and opportunities for the future."

To find out more about the new Export Development Programme contact your Local Enterprise Office or book a meeting with an Export Advisor at: [www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/](http://www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/)



Adrian Frese, Local Enterprise Office Kildare, Rita Guinan, Enterprise Ireland, John Haran, HMC Global and Clodagh Whelan, Local Enterprise Office Wicklow

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Mark 13:24-32 GOSPEL

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day, or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no-one but the Father.

C.J.

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# LOCAL BUSINESS

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# Bird feeding can raise Wicklow happiness levels

A new Irish company is on a mission to raise happiness levels in Wicklow by encouraging householders to feed birds the right type of food to ensure they survive winter.

Studies have shown that feeding birds increases people's connection to nature and leads to feelings of wellness.

But birds are now facing into the 'Hungry Gap', the most challenging time of year, when natural food sources are at their lowest.

"The World Economic Forum has published research that the happiest Europeans are those who see the most bird species in their day-to-day life," said Patrick Croke, Technical Officer with

Connecting to Nature.

"Studies have shown that greater bird biodiversity can make people more joyful. Feeding birds is a very good way of feeling closer to nature and bringing wildlife closer to you, and Ireland has a wonderful array of small wild birds that you can feed.

"However, new plants and insects will not begin to emerge until early spring, and the ground is often frozen, which eliminates their access to worms, all of which means that until the middle of March, birds are at an increased threat of starvation."

Connecting to Nature specialises in different types of food depending on the time of year, so that now, as we are heading into winter, Patrick recommends peanut and suet-based products, such as suet covered oat flakes.

"The birds' diet is changing from one that was predominately insects to eating more seeds and fruit as autumn arrived," said Patrick.

"Berries, seeds and grains which are plentiful during the autumn and early winter, have been depleted. Our Hi-Energy No Mess mix is an essential foodstuff during these colder months. It contains both Peanuts and Peeled Sunflower seeds, which means that birds expend no energy removing the shells."

Connecting to Nature is the brainchild of Julie Power, whose family has been in the seed business for six generations.

"You don't have to be in the countryside to connect with nature, all you have to do is create an environment that consistently attracts birds and bees," she said.

"After the experience of Covid lockdowns, we have a new awareness of the mental health benefits



of connecting to nature, a renewed interest in our living world and improving our gardens for the benefit and love of wildlife.

"However, many people are unaware of the correct way to feed birds year-round and how they need different food at different times, or to successfully cultivate a wild garden."

Using their combination of bird and wildflower expertise, Connecting To Nature will enable people to give a gift of wellness to loved ones by creating a

bird feeding oasis and native flowers in spaces as small as an apartment balcony.

Julie's great, great, great grandfather William Power opened his first nursery, florist, and seed merchant business in 1859 and the Power family has operated a successful agricultural seed business since then.

She has already developed a huge following with the Blooming Native wildflower seeds business, which has been the inspiration for combining bird

feed and flower seed.

"Sowing wildflower seeds provides a habitat for pollinators such as bees and butterflies, seeds for wild birds, supports biodiversity, and brings us joy," said Ms Power.

"I have a passion for the environment and I saw this as an opportunity to share how wildflower seeds can play their part in biodiversity and reveal the joy of native wildflowers in our ecosystem.

"I also found that the demand for native wild-

flower seeds continues to outstrip their supply.

"We produce our seeds on our own sites and our mixtures are curated to provide both food for

wildlife and colour throughout the year.

"It is very easy to get this right, with a bit of instruction. Through our platforms we aim to edu-

cate people on how to very simply sow and cultivate the gardens that they want. See [connectingtonature.ie](http://connectingtonature.ie) for more details."

## RECRUITMENT



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

- POST OF PERMANENT PART-TIME AND TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL TRAFFIC WARDENS - BRAY AND ENNISKERRY  
REF: 49/2021

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the filling of the post of Permanent Part-Time School Traffic Warden and Temporary Substitute School Traffic Warden. A panel may be formed from which further vacancies or relief cover may be filled.

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

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

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

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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

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

## PLANNING

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Potters Point Limited intends to apply for permission for development on a site of 0.1 ha approximately, on land owned by Potters Point Limited at Ballinacarrig, Brittas Bay, County Wicklow, A67 RV06. The development consists of the demolition of an existing underground wastewater treatment plant and ancillary structures and the construction of a new and expanded underground wastewater treatment plant. The proposed development includes the provision of: new underground tanks, chambers, pumps and piping; a mechanical screen (2.43 m in height); 4 No. ancillary control kiosks/cabinets (ranging in height from 1.41 m to 2.14 m); an odour control unit (1.6 m in height); the provision of an extension to the 2.4 m high paladin fence and an associated access gate (4 m wide; 2.4 m in height) extending the enclosed area to facilitate the expanded wastewater treatment plant (by 182 sq m); and the provision of additional planting within the extended fencing.

A Natura Impact Statement has been prepared in respect of this planning application.

The planning application and Natura Impact Statement may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours.

A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Barbara and Brian Beckett, seek full planning permission for a two-storey extension (9m2 total) to the front elevation and a single storey porch (2.40m2 total) to the side elevation of the existing semi-detached dwelling house and all associated site works at 122 Hillside, Greystones, 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

Permission sought for subdivision of existing house into 2 dwellings at 44 St Manntan's Park Wicklow. No. 44 will become a terraced house and the new dwelling will be called 44A. The back gardens will be separated by a timber post and infill panels at 1.80m high. A block wall will be built at the doorway between the dwellings to separate the properties. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

**WicklowUplands COUNCIL**

is currently seeking to engage a part-time (10 hours per week)

## COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Full details available from [www.wicklowuplands.ie](http://www.wicklowuplands.ie) under 'Current Vacancies'.

Apply by submitting CV and Cover Letter to [info@wicklowuplands.ie](mailto:info@wicklowuplands.ie) by 5pm Wednesday 1st December

## PART-TIME CLEANER WANTED

for a school in the Enniskerry area. 21 hours per week from 3.15pm Monday to Friday. Applicants must be willing to be Garda vetted.

**If interested, phone 01 2861649 for further information.**

RehabCare is the health and social care division of the Rehab Group. Our aim is to enhance the lives of all of our clients through the provision of high quality, flexible, person centred services. We presently provide and are developing a number of services, including Resource Centres, Residential Services, Respite Care, Supported Accommodation and Home Based Services for people with disabilities.

## We are Now recruiting for a CARE WORKER

Permanent - Part Time , 20 hours per week  
10-2 Monday to Friday

RehabCare, Lean ar Aghaidh, Bray, Co Wicklow

The purpose of the job is to promote and support independent living and community integration personal development and work opportunities for service users. To assist the Manager in the development, implementation and delivery of quality customer focused and cost effective community services to service-Users at an appropriate time and setting. This includes the provision of individual programmes and activities to meet the needs, choices and abilities of service-user

### Minimum Education & Skills Required

- A QQI Level 5 in Health and Social Care or equivalent
- A minimum of one years' experience working in the field of disability
- Experience in the provision of personal care
- To support individuals with independent living skills, develop education and employment opportunities

Find more about this job & how to apply on our careers page at [www.rehab.ie](http://www.rehab.ie) or contact Sharon Newman on 087 9202760 or at [sharon.newman@rehab.ie](mailto:sharon.newman@rehab.ie)

Closing date for receipt of applications is, Friday 26th November 2021.

A commitment to living the organisational values of Team work, Dignity, Justice, Advocacy and Quality

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