

# LOCAL Wicklow Times

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Tuesday 14th December 2021 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

## €1 MILLION FOR WICKLOW HOSPICE

The Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, has welcomed an additional €1million in funding for Wicklow Hospice. It comes as part of a €1.5 million payment to the Our Lady's Hospice group of which Wicklow Hospice is a part.

The payment is expected to be used to substantially reduce the Hospice's mortgage and will give the organisation a greater level of financial freedom.

Chief Executive Officer of Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, Audrey Houlihan said: "We are grateful to the HSE who meet the operating costs of Wicklow Hospice. However, we also rely on the ongoing and generous support of the people of Wicklow to help us to fund the bank loan

of €2.75 million that was required to finish the recent building work. We are truly delighted to receive funding of €1million to support our loan repayment."

In November last year Minister Donnelly announced €10 million in once-off funding for palliative and end-of-life care of which Wicklow received €620,000. The funding was to support the voluntary palliative care sector to maintain critical and ongoing care services for adults and

children in the context of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Announcing the latest round of funding Minister Donnelly praised the work being done by Wicklow Hospice and the wider hospice sector.

Minister Donnelly said: "The work being done by our voluntary hospice sector is incredibly important as they provide immense care and support to their patients and families at a time when it is needed the most.



Sarah Armstrong, Tess Wiley, Holyanne Armstrong and Brooke Molloy at the turning on of the Christmas tree lights in Ashford. Pic: Michael Kelly

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Healthy & Happy 2022*

### DID YOU KNOW...?

**96%**

are in favour of pharmacies providing a minor ailment scheme

**98%**

of the public trust the advice and patient care they receive from the pharmacist

**92%**

are in favour of pharmacies providing services to improve patient adherence to medicines

With 1.5 MILLION visits to pharmacies every week, community pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare profession.

The future of the healthcare system rests in the enhancement of pharmacists' roles and the expansion of services made available to the public.

Behaviour & Attitudes market research, April 2020



Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly

"I've seen first-hand the tremendous work done by Wicklow Hospice and know how they along with the support of the local community have managed to build a world class facility.

"It has been an extremely challenging time for the entire sector as they have had to deal with

COVID-19 but their response has been fantastic."

Minister Donnelly added: "The recurring nature of the €10.68m allocation reflects a long-term commitment by the Government to this vital service and my own views of the value and unique role that voluntary hospices play and will continue to play in Irish society.

"The additional funding is designed to take account of the potential impact of the loss of fundraising income during the public health emergency, but most importantly, ensures when such activity gets back on track it can be used to enhance and improve services," concluded Minister Donnelly.

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Claire Lawless (Arklow Municipal District), Isabella Byrne (Winner of the Christmas decoration competition), Mia Flusk (runner-up in the competition), and Catherine Murphy (Arklow Christmas Festival) at the Christmas Decoration prize giving at Arklow Library.

# Maxi Zoo's Shelter Wishes ensures that animals less fortunate are not forgotten

Ireland's largest pet retailer, Maxi Zoo will make Christmas extra special, not only for pampered pets but also for less fortunate animals that are without a home. Maxi Zoo is inviting the public to drop into their local Maxi Zoo store throughout the month of December and support their Shelter Wishes charity campaign.

Each of Maxi Zoo's 22 stores around Ireland has selected its own Shelter Wishes animal charity which has compiled a wish list for the animals in its care. Generous animal lovers and Maxi Zoo customers can support the campaign by choosing which gift to donate and place under the store's Shelter Wishes Christmas Tree.

Charities that will benefit from Maxi Zoo's Shelter Wishes campaign this year include: Bears Paw it Forward, DAWG, Limerick Feral Cats, Fairyglens Community Animal Sanctuary, Dogs Angels, North Dublin Cat Rescue, Cara Dog Rescue, Great Hounds, My Lovely Horse, Lucky's cat Rescue, KWSPCA, Fingal SPCA, Hug, WildLife West Rescue and Sera Husky & Animal Rescue.

Each charity involved will collect the donated gifts from Maxi Zoo stores on Christmas Eve, ensuring that animals less fortunate are not forgotten this Christmas.

Anthony Cremin, Marketing Manager at Maxi Zoo said: "Everyone - people and animals alike deserve a special treat at Christmas and at Maxi Zoo we are conscious that there are many animals out there that sadly don't have a home to enjoy and share in the warmth, love and happiness that Christmas brings. Our Shelter Wishes campaign spares a thought for these animals and is our way to help 'pay it forward' during this special time of giving."

For further information about Maxi Zoo's Shelter Wishes campaign, chat to the pet experts at any of the Maxi Zoo stores nationwide, or visit or [www.maxizoo.ie](http://www.maxizoo.ie).



Make it a special Christmas for all animals this year through Maxi Zoo's Charity Campaign. Pictured at the launch is Layla Byrne with her pet dog Gabby. Pic: Julien Behal photography

## The Book of Tomnafinnoge

Inspired by Tomnafinnoge Wood and with new writing by local authors, The Book of Tomnafinnoge is now also available in Chamber's Tinahely, Pop Up Shop at Old Combi, Murphy's Butchers, The Farm Shop, SVP, Tinahely Post Office, Walkers Shillelagh and Shillelagh Post Office. Price: €5. Edited by Sylvia Cullen, photographs by Terence White. The book will have an online launch by Liam O'Maonlaoi on Wednesday, December 8th at 7.30pm on the Courthouse Facebook page and our Youtube Channel. Funded by the Arts Council Ireland under their Literature Project Awards, with additional funding from the Courthouse Arts Centre.

## Wicklow Willow Workshops

Why not try something new and creative in 2022! All courses are full day (9 am to 5 pm) and take place in the Brockagh Centre. They include materials, tuition, tea/coffee and lunch (with cake)! Places are limited, so please book early to get the dates you want. For more information, contact local basket maker and artist, Aoife Patterson, on 087-9773622, email [info@wicklowwillow.ie](mailto:info@wicklowwillow.ie) or visit [www.wicklowwillow.ie](http://www.wicklowwillow.ie)

## Carol singing in Delgany

The annual Christmas Carol Singing in Delgany will take place on Thursday 16th at 7pm outside The Wicklow Arms in Delgany village. Christmas jumpers and Santa hats are very welcome. "We hope that some of you will be able to come along as we all feel the need for a little bit of Christmas cheer!" said Delgany Community Council. "We know that you will join with us in wishing the Wicklow Arms the best of luck in opening up again and joining our great Delgany business community."

## Brockagh Resource Centre

The Centre will close on Mon 20th December and will re-open at 9 am on Tuesday 4th January 2022. For details of our ongoing activities see [www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie/events](http://www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie/events).

## Community Activities Fund

A special fund of €282,686 will be made available to support community groups impacted by COVID-19. Enquiries may be addressed to [cep@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:cep@wicklowcoco.ie).

## Wicklow Racing News

Joupe came from last to first to win the opening division of the 10-furlong handicap at Dundalk on Friday 3rd December for Donard owner/trainer Peter Lawlor. A second winner on the night for Ben Coen, the 2/1 favourite beat the Jimmy Mangan-trained No Show by a length and a half as she added to the previous week's success over seven furlongs. Lawlor said, "The handicapper gave her 12lbs for winning last week and he's probably been proven right, although hopefully he's not too hard on her now. She was trying ten furlongs for the first time, we kind of knew that she'd stay but you don't really know until you try it. She'll probably come back here on December 17 and we'll give her a break after that. Ben gave her a great ride; he was in last place the whole way around and then came with the run. He rode her perfectly."

# Thanks from the Lions

It's Food Appeal time for Wicklow & District Lions Club and collections will continue for the next two weeks throughout the area.

The purpose of this food and cash collection is to help out so many families and individuals during the difficult Christmas period.

The President and members would like to sincerely thank all the shoppers who have given so generously so far this month. The first collection took place at Centra Ashford where the new "Feed the Lion" food collection box was introduced for the first time.

Over last weekend Wicklow Lions were represented by the Friends of the Community group in Arklow. The collection took place at Dunnes Stores all weekend and it was one of the most successful ever. Thanks again to the generosity of the many shoppers and the management and staff.

On December 17th, 18th and 19th the big collection will take place at SuperValu Wicklow thanks to Kevin and Robbie and staff. Come and say hello to the new Lion in Wicklow as well as the older favourites!

All food collected will be donated to St Vincent De Paul by Wicklow Lions. Online donations are now available at [iDonate.ie](http://iDonate.ie) (wicklow & district lions club).



Sean Olohan from Wicklow Lions launching the Lions Food Appeal, with Santa and his elves.

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# 'WICKLOW WILL LOSE MILLIONS'

Wicklow stands to lose control over the management of community benefit funds from offshore wind farm projects under new proposals contained in the Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (Offshore RESS) Draft terms. This could result in a loss of up to €10 million to communities in Wicklow each year, John Brady TD has warned.

Wicklow County Council and elected representatives have communicated the need to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications for Wicklow to have local control over the fund. Under the new Offshore RESS Draft Terms the community benefit fund from offshore wind farms will be redirected to a central management system through a combined single fund and will not be managed by the Local Authority.

Deputy Brady said: "There are two very significant Offshore Wind projects planned for development off the Wicklow coast in the coming years, the Arklow Bank Wind Park, and the Codling Wind Park. The Codling Wind Park which will be the largest in Ireland could see up to 140 turbines across a 125 square km site and the Arklow Bank Wind Park may see up to 62 turbines across a 67

square km site.

"The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (Offshore RESS) Draft Terms stipulates that all Offshore Wind Farms, developed under the scheme, must have a Community Fund associated which I fully support. However, the Department has proposed that Offshore Community Benefit Funds be managed centrally, on a national level, through a combined single fund rather than locally on an individual project basis. This is very different to the approach taken by the Department for onshore community benefit.

"It is estimated that the Community Benefit fund annually between the Codling Wind Park and the Arklow Bank project could be as much as €10 million a year. If the Government proposals are put in place, Wicklow would lose out considerably, as unlike the scheme for Onshore projects the

funds will not be ring fenced for communities in Wicklow.

"The community dividend from these developments belongs to Wicklow. The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications are holding a public consultation on the Draft terms and conditions for the scheme. The existing system for onshore community benefit under RESS allows for a third-party administrator to take responsibility for the administration of the community fund, in accordance with the Good Practice Principles Handbook.

"I call upon the Government TDs in the county to add their weight to the opposition of this change to an existing scheme that works. This is a scheme designed to make the idea of renewable energy schemes more attractive to our communities. I cannot see why the Government

should be allowed to take this dividend from the people of Wicklow."

In her submission to the public consultation process carried out by the Department of Environment, Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has also stressed the need for a locally managed Community Benefit Fund. Speaking on her submission, Deputy Whitmore said, "Wicklow will be at the frontline of a scale of offshore wind projects not seen in this country every before and so it's important that benefits to local communities are maximised, that funding is managed at the highest standard and that decision-making remains at the heart of communities. In my submission I made it clear that the Fund should be locally managed by a trusted and competent, independent third party.

"This entity must be able to provide a needs-based, community cen-



Tara McDonald with Loretta and Eimear Mutton celebrating after Knockananna's win over Drumraney of Westmeath in the AIB Leinster Club Championship Junior B Camogie Final at the National GAA Development Centre in Abbotstown, Co. Dublin. Knockananna won the match 2-12 to 1-04. Pic: Michael Kelly

tred approach to funding community projects with a strong governance framework. Communities across Wicklow will have a huge opportunity here, but it will require local knowledge and consultation with other stakeholders including the local authority, elected representatives, residents and other community groups, to maximise the benefits. If managed by a central government body, the lack of local knowledge could lead to dupli-

cation and not the best use of funds across the community. It will also be important to help managed the various number of offshore wind farms and stakeholders in that sector. Equally important is that during the development of these offshore wind farms, that community and environmental needs cannot be forgotten.

"There is an opportunity for this fund to help local communities adapt to climate change and

assist projects that further our climate action goals. Also speaking on the matter, Fine Gael councillor Derek Mitchell said "Greystones will be 'Wind Farm Central' with the Codling Bank and the Dublin Array ones meeting offshore, the largest windfarms in Ireland. It is vital that this benefits the town and residents feel connected to it. It is important that the Community Benefit Fund from each wind farm is seen to be spent locally,

in those areas that see the turbines.

"Consultation on this closed last week and I lobbied to get this fund kept local rather than National which was originally proposed. I want to see this fund spent on Visitors Centres, local sports and club facilities, cultural centres, public realm facilities on the seafront etc. and a local fund, from each large wind farm, will benefit the area more than a national pool."

COVID-19 Vaccines

## BOOST YOUR PROTECTION



You should get a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose if it's been 5 months since your last COVID-19 vaccine and you are:

- aged 50+
- a healthcare worker
- aged 16+ with a high risk condition

50+

COVID-19 cases in the community are high. It is very important to get your COVID-19 vaccine booster when it is due.

Without a booster, you are more at risk of serious illness if you get COVID-19.

### How will I get my booster dose?

If you're in one of these groups:

- Go to a walk-in vaccination clinic. Visit [hse.ie/covid19vaccine](https://hse.ie/covid19vaccine) for clinic times and locations.
- You'll get an appointment by text message from the HSE. If it doesn't suit you can reschedule or go to a walk-in clinic.
- Contact a participating pharmacy or GP. Visit [hse.ie/covid19vaccine](https://hse.ie/covid19vaccine) for a list of pharmacies in your area.

### When should I get my booster?

You need to wait at least 5 months after your last vaccine dose. If you had the Janssen vaccine, you need to wait at least 3 months but you may need to wait longer.



### Walk-in clinics from December 20th

HSE Vaccination Centres will be running extra walk-in clinics during the week of December 20<sup>th</sup>. Get your vaccine wrapped up before Christmas, and check [hse.ie](https://hse.ie) or HSE social media for clinic times and updates.

### #ForUsAll

For more information visit [hse.ie](https://hse.ie) or freephone 1800 700 700



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Santa with Oscar Carton at the turning on of the Christmas Lights event in Ashford.

## 'Funding needed for flood relief works at the Breaches'

Minister Simon Harris TD has called on Wicklow County Council to apply for funding for flood prevention measures under the Office of Public Works' Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme.

Minister Harris said "In July I brought my colleague the Minister for Public Works Patrick O'Donovan TD to meet residents at the Breaches to examine the flood threat and see first-hand the hazard posed to homes and local businesses.

"In recent weeks I have been in contact with the Council Management including Chief Executive to set out the urgency of the situation and that the OPW is awaiting a funding application from the Council. The arrival of Storm Barra highlights the urgency of the situation."

Minister Harris also thanked Irish Rail for their assistance in recent weeks to keep the Breaches clear: I would also like to thank the team at Irish Rail who responded to a number of requests from me to clear blockages at the coastline including this week with the onset of Storm Barra.

"While Irish Rail had traditionally kept the Breaches clear, their responsibility for this shifted to the local authority and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in recent years. I am very grateful for the support that Irish Rail has provided the community to date, but it is unfair that the community must rely one off discretionary assistance of Irish Rail to clear blockages and I have urged the council to finally resolve the matter by applying to the Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme."



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# Round Ireland Race 2022 open to entries from January

Wicklow Sailing Club has confirmed that entry for the next edition of the SSE Renewables Round Ireland Race, the 704-nautical miles will open at midday on Monday, 24th of January 2022. The race has been described as the Kilimanjaro of Sailing. The event will commence on Saturday, 18th of June 2022.

The classic biennial offshore event which was cancelled in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic is being planned with relevant precautions in place to ensure a safe experience. The course follows the traditional route first contested in 1980 that states - leave Ireland and its islands to starboard - while starting and finishing at the scenic port of Wicklow on the East coast of Ireland. Berthing facilities at the pier and quays close to Wicklow Sailing Club's base will be available, plus marina options at Greystones and Dun Laoghaire to the north for big boat entries.

The race will offer both competition and personal achievement for boat owners and crews alike. Over the past year, sail training centres across the country have experienced a growth in demand and popularity. This has directly resulted in pre-entry enquiries to Round Ireland Race 2022.

The event is well-timed to allow completion of the race to arrive in Crosshaven for the biennial Cork Week and special celebrations of the 300th anniversary of the Royal Cork YC, the world's oldest yacht club.

Kyran O'Grady, Commodore of Wicklow Sailing Club said: "We were anticipating a fleet of close to 80 boats when we had to cancel our 2020 plans. Now that we are learning how to live with Covid-19, there is pent-up demand on top of a surge of interest in offshore racing so a strong turn-out is on the cards."

Leading renewable energy developer, owner and operator SSE Renewables came on board as title sponsor ahead of the planned 2020 event.

The partnership with Wicklow Sailing Club continues as the company works to develop Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind Park off the coast of Arklow, Co. Wicklow and to expand its offshore wind portfolio with projects off the coasts of Louth and Waterford before the end of the decade.

Maria Ryan, Director of Development, SSE Renewables said: We are delighted to once again partner with Wicklow Sailing Club to deliver an eagerly anticipated event which we hope will offer the domestic and international sailing community an exciting competition and something to look forward to as we hopefully emerge from the pandemic. This event reflects the potential that Irish waters offer and we look forward to seeing competitors sail past our proposed development sites at the Arklow Bank in Wicklow and off the coasts of Louth and Waterford where we hope to develop Braymore Wind Park and Celtic Sea Array."

Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council said: "I welcome the partnership between SSE Renewables and Wicklow

Sailing Club as they work to deliver the country's premier sailing competition and indeed one of County Wicklow's most popular summer events. The economic benefits that the Round Ireland Race brings with it are significant and it is positive to see organisers and sponsors committing to popular events such as this for next year."

Race-winning navigator from 2018 and 2004, Ian Moore has described the SSE Renewables Round Ireland Race as the "Mount Kilimanjaro of Sailing" - a bucket-list opportunity and one of the few full circumnavigation voyages of a significant but achievable duration in the world.

Michael Boyd, a regular competitor and past-Commodore of the Royal Ocean Racing Club said: "This is a unique race and special in many ways. It is like a series of races within a race and

always a twist or two. Aside from the racing, the course itself sails past spectacular coastlines as well as stages into the Atlantic before turning for inshore waters heading to the finishing-line."

Entry will be open to IRC-rated yachts of at least 9.15m/30 feet overall and MOCRA-rated multihulls of 9.0m/29.53 feet with prizes awarded in a variety of categories including Overall winner under IRC along with line honours trophies for first monohull and first multihull. Two-handed entries, Sailing school and Services entries will also be amongst the prizes.

Early bird entries will be accepted from 24 January to March 31, 2022. Full details will be included in the official Notice of Race document that will be published mid-December. Visit [www.roundireland.ie](http://www.roundireland.ie) for updates.



SSE Renewables Director of Development Maria Ryan, Cllr Shay Cullen Cathaoirleach Wicklow County Council and Kyran O'Grady Commodore Wicklow Sailing Club at the announcement of SSE Renewables as title sponsor for Round Ireland Race 2022 and the opening of early bird registration.

## Chatterboxes changing children's lives

A local initiative with a novel approach to supporting children's speech, language and communication has made a real difference in the lives of children and families in the Bray and North Wicklow areas.

That's according to a recent report on Chatterboxes, a collaborative project of the HSE Primary Care in Wicklow and Bray Area Partnership's SPECS project. The report, Sustainability Through Collaboration, highlights the success of this new model, which works closely with key adults in children's lives to help them support children's speech, language and communication needs.

Since 2018, Chatterboxes has upskilled over 60 professionals from local early years services and primary schools, impacting the lives of over 700 children, with an impact on educational attainment and outcomes and improved participation in their communities. The initiative also aligns closely with Sláintecare Principles of the "right care, right place, right time".

Minister of Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, on launching the report said: "I am delighted to launch the interim report of the

Chatterboxes initiative. I wish to congratulate the HSE Management team in Wicklow and Bray Area Partnership on this successful initiative supported by Tusla's Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme and

Supporting Parents and Childhood Services (SPECS) and my colleague Roderic O'Gorman TD, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. By taking a prevention and early intervention

approach to speech, language and communication needs, this initiative is changing the lives of children and their families."

To find out more about Chatterboxes and read the report, see [www.brayarea-partnership.ie](http://www.brayarea-partnership.ie).

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# Sunbeam House Services (SHS) get ready for Xmas Celebrations

**A**t this time each year the clients and staff at each of the SHS Centres work together in decorating their facilities and preparing for Xmas. It is an exciting and joyous time for everyone involved. In this article we give you an insight into the activities and preparation at some of our centres.

## A Xmas story from Valley View Centre, Rathdrum

*“Daphne's Uniqueness shines bright”*

Christien Van Bussel of the Turning Thistle studio facilitated a pottery workshop for the residents in Valley View in time for them to make their Christmas decorations and nativity houses.

One of our residents, Daphne, was very excited to take part in this Ceramic pottery class, as she has a keen interest in arts and crafts. Daphne's creative side really shone during the workshop from the instruments she used, to the shapes she made, down to the colours Daphne picked. This really gave Daphne an opportunity to show off her individuality and spontaneity. During the workshop the physical and therapeutic benefits were seen greatly as a form of self-expression. The sense of accomplishment on Daphne's face when she was showing off her Nativity house and decorations was unbelievable and the ideal Xmas present for all of us. Daphne is looking forward to taking part in more creativity classes. Happy Xmas everyone from all of us in Valley View.

Written on behalf of Daphne by Michelle Cushe.



Daphne with her master piece



Daphne moulding her clay

## Christmas in START

The frontline staff in the START Centre, based in Bray have told us that this is 'their favourite time of the year'. It is the month we all have been waiting for, as clients gather their hats and scarfs. Plans are now being made for the arrival of Santa and the polar express awaits all at our centre in Bray. We commenced the festive cheer with trips to Dublin City, where we tackled the cold air with a Butler's hot chocolate. Our clients walked Grafton Street while listening to the festive cheers and got some ideas for the Christmas shopping lists!!

The action plan began for the staff team in late November, with a trip to Dundrum Shopping Centre. And as a result, parents will be thrilled to hear that they will be receiving a Christmas present under our tree from their sons this year.

We also had a great time at the 'Little Mermaid' live on stage in the Gaiety Panto, OH NO WE DIDN'T, Yes, we did! And we will be getting to see the outdoor Wild Lights in Dublin Zoo later this month.

Finally, we have Kris Kindle arranged - and we will be having our favourite take-away (secret) for lunch for the final week of the festive celebrations, before finishing up for the Christmas break.



Shopping done, left Richard Bond, Oisín Smyth, (Middle) Tommy Robinson and David Lawless (Right)



Out and about, Richard Bond (Left) Tommy Robinson (Middle) David Lawless (Middle) and Oisín Smyth (Right)

## Ard Na Mara Centre, Arklow

The clients in Ard Na Mara are all looking forward to their favorite time of year. All our clients are busy doing their Christmas Shopping for their friends and families. Desmond Brehony did a great job decorating the house for Christmas supported by staff. He 'really enjoyed' decorating the house with the help of Robert Fahy.

All our clients are very excited about the Xmas celebrations. “I cannot wait to go to my brother's house for Christmas, and to eat Turkey and Ham” - Desmond Brehony told us. “I am looking forward to Christmas with my family”, said Robert Fahy. “I love Christmas” - Rosie Walsh said. Pat McEvoy also said he is 'looking forward to Christmas with his sister Mary McEvoy'.

And Rosie Walsh has also been very busy doing a Wicker Weaving Class with her friend Sinead Conway; both ladies have been making beautiful Christmas decorations.

All clients are getting into the Christmas spirit with lots of outings to see the lights around the town and also a planned trip to the Zoo Lights in Dublin. And Desmond our resident DJ will be playing all the Christmas Songs throughout December. All of us at Ard na Mara are so looking forward to Christmas this year. Happy Xmas everyone.



Robert Fahy and Desmond Brehony with their home decorated for Christmas



Robert Fahy and Rosie Walsh enjoying a Christmas outing

**Joe Lynch, Chief Executive and Dawn Leane, Chairperson Sunbeam House Services wish all our clients, families and staff a very Happy Xmas.**

## The CORE Centre, Arklow

The CORE in Arklow began as a training service for school leavers on the 5th November 2020 when it welcomed Laura Murphy and Aisling Kelly. 'Both these women have shown such resilience throughout the past year and achieved so much, despite the restrictions' - a staff member at CORE told us.

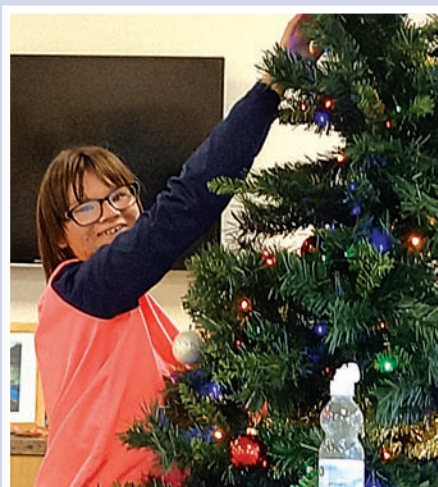
A year later, we welcomed our new school leavers James Gammell and Olivia Goldyn to the team. All of us are fully embracing the festive spirit, decorating the day service, making their own decorations while recycling, upcycling and exploring our personal creativity.

James and Laura have submitted Christmas card designs for the TILDA Christmas card design competition to Trinity College. Many of our activities are accompanied by a daily Christmas sing-along and a dance, just to get us into the festive spirit. The excitement is already growing here for our in-house Christmas dinner, the Sunbeam Christmas jumper Day and the best dressed Christmas Tree competition. To quote James recently - “It's the best time of the year”.

Happy Christmas from all of us at CORE and stay safe during all the festivities.



Left James Gammell, middle Olivia Goldyn and right Laura Murphy



Olivia Goldyn, decorating our tree





Rachel Saint Sevin

## Wicklow woman shortlisted for Clean Coast's Ocean Hero Awards 2021

Wicklow woman Rachel Saint Sevin - who frequently attends clean-ups with local Wexford Clean-up group Arklow Coast Care - was shortlisted for the Individual of the Year category in Clean Coasts Ocean Hero Awards 2021.

Over the past two weeks Clean Coasts have honoured winning groups, individuals, communities and businesses who have won an Ocean Hero Award for outstanding work and commitment to their coastlines and areas.

Each year, the Ocean Hero Awards honour the invaluable contribution Clean Coasts volunteers, groups and communities have made towards conserving our spectacular coastline.

The awards, originally called the 'Clean Coasts Merit Awards', were conceived in 2006. Being Ireland's foremost community-based coastal education programme, the Clean Coasts programme can count on the work of over 1,800 volunteer groups and over 37,000 volunteers.

The involvement and support of the whole community are essential to the work of Clean Coasts and the Ocean Hero Awards is an award thought to recognise the invaluable contribution volunteers, groups and communities have made towards conserving the Irish coastline.

It has been an unusual year, and, like everyone, Clean Coasts and their volunteers have had to adapt. The continued support, engagement, and interest from the many Clean Coasts volunteers around the country has been outstanding, showing dedication and resilience through these testing times.

Clean Coasts understands that it was not possible for everybody to take part in clean-up activities this year and for some it was incredibly frustrating not to be able to get out to those places that they love and normally care for. Nonetheless, there is great value in sharing examples of the creative solutions that groups have come up with to inspire us all to look ahead to the new year.

When discussing her clean-up efforts Rachel said: "I really enjoy meeting new volunteers and maintaining my relationship with current members each week through the clean-up events. Arklow South Beach is a popular location and keeping it tidy for the community/wildlife is important."

"During the lockdown more people came out to their local area and showed the importance of the work we did as the beach was popular in use daily. I really enjoy going down on a Thursdays with my little dog Daisy to meet with everyone and do my bit."

The Individual of the year Award acknowledges those individuals who initiate change and inspire others to do more to protect and conserve their coastline. All shortlisted nominees were sent a congratulatory gift package to thank them for their contribution to coasts across Ireland despite the various challenges that 2021 brought.

Sinead McCoy, Clean Coasts Manager said: "I would like to congratulate all of the Ocean Hero Awardee, our shortlist and winners are incredibly inspiring volunteers, groups and communities that have made an outstanding contribution to protecting Ireland's coastal environment."

"The Clean Coasts programme's Ocean Hero Awards have been celebrating the incredible efforts of volunteers around the Irish Coastline since 2006. Although 2021 has been challenging at times it has been an incredible year for Clean Coasts and our network has grown so much and shown an incredible amount of dedication and care for our beaches, coastline, marine life and oceans."

"We were delighted to have received so many inspirational nominations that show not only the true dedication of these coastal custodians, but also that their efforts don't go unnoticed by the community."

# Greystones wins international liveable communities award

Following a highly competitive process, Greystones has once again been awarded first place in the International Awards for Liveable Communities/Livcom Awards 2021.

Having first won this prestigious award back in 2008, this year's presentation was led by Dermot Dwyer, Chair of Greystones Town Team, Greystones & District Manager Michael Nicholson, and Councillor Mags Crean who presented to the adjudicating panel on Monday 6th December.

The International Awards for Liveable Communities ('LivCom') was launched in 1997 and is the only global awards competition focussing on international best practice for the management of the local environment and improving the quality of life of individual citizens through the creation of liveable communities.

There were 160 entries across seven categories. Greystones was shortlisted as one of five alongside communities in Bulgaria, South Africa, Estonia and Malaysia in the Gold A category for towns of up to 20,000 in population.

The 2021 event was hosted in Cairo, Egypt, with presentations delivered remotely due to COVID restrictions.

The initiative was championed by Cllr Crean and supported by the Greystones Town Team subcommittee of Marlena Murphy, Ross McParland, Richie Power, Tom O'Mahony, Colum O'Broin and Ken Murphy. The Greystones team presented for an hour and fielded a range of detailed and comprehensive questions from a panel of renowned international adjudicators.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Frank Curran, congratulated Greystones on winning this award saying: "It is testament to the Municipal District staff that they are to the forefront of best practice and an example of what can be achieved through focussed engagement and collaboration. It is a fantastic achievement and well done to all involved."

Town Manager and Director of Services, Michael Nicholson, paid tribute to Cllr Mags Crean who spearheaded the application and led the Town Team through the process. "Cllr Crean was exemplary in her vision of Greystones and put together

an award-winning application. Congratulations also to the Town Team who supported Mags throughout the process and who played a pivotal role in the final presentation."

Joining the Chief Executive in congratulating the Greystones team, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, stated that this collaboration between the Town Team and the Council afforded a wonderful opportunity to present Greystones and its community to a worldwide audience.

Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, Cllr Lourda Scott, in adding her congratulations to everyone involved in the competition said: "This achievement under-

scores the importance of building on the culture of inclusivity in the town and encourages us all to place community at the heart of everything we do."

With Greystones having just been announced as the winner, the Whale Theatre is hosting 2 very special screenings of the full presentation video which features stunning video footage of the town. These screenings will take place on Monday 13th December at 7pm and 9.30pm. Doors will open 30 minutes before the event begins, and the screening will run for approximately 1 hour. This is a free event, however tickets MUST be booked in advance and will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.



Michael Nicholson, Town Manager and Director of Services, with Cllr Mags Crean and Dermot Dwyer, Chair of Greystones Town Team

## Councillors say 'Thanks to Frank' at CE's last meeting

Councillors last week paid tribute to outgoing Chief Executive of the Council Frank Curran at his last Council meeting.

Mr Curran will be resigning from his position as Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council to take up the position of Chief Executive of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in January 2022.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow, Cllr Shay Cullen, said "For me this is a disappointing day for Wicklow County Council and indeed Wicklow as a county. Frank has been in Wicklow County Council for just over four years and in that time he has brought structure and a vision to the Council that, in my view, hadn't previously existed. His leadership qualities are evident and can be seen in every department of the council."

Outlining some of the major achievements under Mr Curran's leadership, Cllr Cullen cited public amenity aspects of Greystones marina, upgrades in Arklow and Wicklow Harbour, the progress of the Blessington Greenway, The development of the Wicklow Tourism Strategy,

The Glendalough & Wicklow Mountains Masterplan and Visitor Orientation Plan, and The further development of the Clermont Content Creation Enterprise Hub.

"Frank is a leader of people and he has proven this by how he works with council management and staff and indeed his relationship with councillors," Cllr Cullen continued. "Respect works both ways and Frank is respectful of everyone and gains the respect of everyone. I suppose the positive that I can take out of Frank's departure is that he is leaving Wicklow and Wicklow County Council on a very strong footing going forward."

Green Party TD Steven Matthews sent a written message for last week's meeting to convey his congratulations and best wishes. "Frank has done great work leading the team well over the past few years, and has achieved much for Wicklow in that time and laid the ground-



Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran

work for many future projects. It's been a pleasure working with him, and I look forward to continuing doing this work with Frank in his new role in the many cross-boundary objectives shared between Wicklow and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Councils."

Addressing councillors, Frank Curran said "I very much appre-

ciate all the comments. The role of Chief Executive is a very privileged one, and I've enjoyed every day of it, and I particularly enjoyed working with the elected members. What I see when I look out from the top table are genuine community people doing their best for the community and the county as a whole. I've tried to put myself in your boots and see what you do, and it is really amazing the amount of work and support that you give the executive. I've been very lucky also to have a great support team. There is a huge amount happening in housing, infrastructure, tourism, customer service, and more."

"You achieve very little on your own. It's people working together: it's the elected members, the outdoor and indoor staff, the management and different stakeholders. That's how we make things happen. I think Co. Wicklow has a bright future. Luckily for me, I can continue to live in County Wicklow. It is a beautiful county with great people, a lot happening, and great quality of life."



# BLESSINGTON GETS FUNDING TO DEVELOP MASTER PLAN

Blessington has been awarded funding to develop a Master Plan for the town. This will also allow plans for projects identified as part of the drive to become e-greenway ready to be advanced.

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced €2.6m in funding to deliver the Town Centre First Plans which will be key to tackling dereliction and revitalising town centres.

It is expected that more Wicklow Towns will receive similar support in the coming years as this initiative progresses.

As part of the initiative, Blessington will be provided with €100,000 to support the development of its own unique Master Plan.

Wicklow County Council had nominated three towns for the scheme: Blessington, Rathdrum and Newtownmountkennedy. Eligible towns are those with a maximum population of 10,000.

The towns nominated had to be in a position to immediately engage with the Town Centre First process and act as demonstrators for other areas.

Nominated towns were required to have a Town Team or similar group in place and have already completed a background analysis phase such as a town centre health check and to be in a position to proceed to develop a Masterplan.

This initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future - the Government's ambitious five-year strategy designed to reimagine and revitalise Rural Ireland. It is also linked to the Government's 'Housing for All' strategy and the forthcoming 'Town Centre First Policy' which will be announced in the coming weeks.

Wicklow County Council will now work closely with local commu-

nity groups, retailers and members of the Town Team in devising and delivering on the objectives of the Masterplan building on the very comprehensive Health Check carried out by Future Analytics.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, said he was delighted to see community engagement paying off stating: "There is a fantastic community and voluntary effort in our County and people have given their time to engage in a range of activities and projects from clean ups to place-making aimed at enhancing their local areas."

Welcoming the news, the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Frank Curran, said he looked forward to the rollout of this project in Blessington as a demonstration project and to the rollout of the Town Centre First policy which will help regenerate and revitalise Wicklow's Towns.

Cllr Avril Cronin, Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District, said she was delighted to learn the news that Blessington had been awarded the funding by the Minister.

Green Party TD Steven Matthews said "I am delighted that Blessington has been selected as one of the 26 towns across the country to receive this funding to support a Town Centres First Plan. This has been a core policy of the Green Party for many years, and we worked extremely hard during the Programme for Government negotiations to ensure that it was included.

"The basic premise of a Town Centres First approach is ensuring our towns have the right plan in place to tackle the issues of dereliction, vacant properties, and above all, to bring life back into towns so that they become better places to live, visit, work and run a business. It's incredibly important that local groups such as business owners, residents and tidy towns groups amongst others can feed into this policy as they have the local knowledge to ensure the plan is successful. No one size fits all policy will work.

"In recent months I have had the opportunity to meet with the Blessington Tidy Towns group and the Blessington Town Team to discuss how we can create a more attractive, safe, and inviting town centre. Separately, I'm continuing my work to progress the Blessington inner relief road to reduce through traffic on Main Street which is one key aspect in creating a safer and more enjoyable town centre.

"A key aspect of the plan will be about making it easier to return vacant shop units either back into commercial use or convert them into residential use. There are countless underutilised spaces across Wicklow above shops, cafés, and pubs that in years gone by had been homes. These are the sort of practical steps that will breathe life back into towns but also help to alleviate the housing crisis in relatively inexpensive, environmentally sustainable way. There were two comprehensive studies carried out last year in Blessington, the Town Centre Health Check and

the Blessington Accessibility Study. These studies, working in conjunction with the Town Centres First master plan funding will transform Blessington for all residents and visitors to enjoy. I look forward to the opportunity to work with Wicklow County Council and other local stakeholders in Blessington in the new year to ensure the success of this project.

"The funding announced for Blessington will form part of the Government's wider Town Centre First Policy which will be published in the coming weeks and I will continue to push for other towns from across Wicklow to be included in future funding announcements," concluded Deputy Matthews.

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris said: "Blessington has grown significantly in recent years and it is essential there is long-term plan in place to govern its development and ensure it has the necessary amenities and infrastructure in place to make it a vibrant place to work and live in.

"I would like to pay tribute to the Blessington Town Team and their work. The Town Health Check has already provided good background analysis of Blessington's needs and provides a strong basis to develop a Masterplan for the Blessington. This announcement is part of the government's five year strategy to revitalise rural Ireland - Our Rural Future and there will be further announcements in coming weeks as to how this ambitious plan will impact rural Wicklow in the years ahead".



Christina Clarke and Jean Evans of the Network Ireland Wicklow Branch, make a donation of €1,250 to Jackie Lennon and Veronica O'Leary of Purple House Cancer Support.

## LET'S STEP UP TOGETHER

For us 2,000 steps is a walk, a hike, a stroll. But for many in the developing world it takes thousands of steps to simply get water, get to school or even reach a hospital.

This Christmas support the GOAL Mile. Register for your local event at [goalmile.org](http://goalmile.org)



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## Backlog of Safeguarding Plan reviews for vulnerable West Wicklow adults

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has revealed that a backlog exists in review of Safeguarding Plans by the HSE in the Kildare and West Wicklow HSE region. Figures were provided by Social Democrats co-leader Deputy Catherine Murphy, who represents Kildare and who posed the question to the HSE.

Speaking on the issue, Deputy Whitmore said, "When an adult presents as vulnerable in a residential setting, a Safeguarding preliminary screening is submitted by a designated officer to the HSE safeguarding and Protection team. For the case of West Wicklow this would take place as part of the Community Health Care Area (or CHO7) which includes Kildare. Where required, the CHO service submits

a safeguarding plan which is then also reviewed by the HSE Safeguarding Team.

"These are dealt with on a priority basis. Currently the CHO7 which includes Kildare and West Wicklow, is dealing with a backlog of safeguarding plans that need to be reviewed by the HSE Safeguarding Team. In fact, there are 499 of them, which is an astonishing number. There is no breakdown



Jennifer Whitmore TD

provided for West Wicklow as part of the CHO7 area however, we can safely assume that this backlog is affecting some vulnerable adults in residential settings in West Wicklow.

"One pending review of a Safeguarding plan goes as far back as March

of last year, 2020. While the HSE acknowledged this issue, they have also confirmed CHO7 is the only health area that is experiencing a backlog which raises serious questions as to the capacity of this health service to protect vulnerable adults. The HSE did indicate that the service is currently working to address the backlog and that additional resource have been allocated to assist with this.

"I will be working closely with my colleague Deputy Catherine Murphy to ensure that this backlog is addressed as a matter of urgency so that no vulnerable adult is left behind," concluded Deputy Whitmore.





Kate, Sarah and Jill Vickers at the launch of the Wicklow County Council 'Light Up Your Bike' campaign which was held at Wicklow Campus, Rathnew.

# Council owed €550,000 in Vacant Site Levies

Wicklow County Council is owed over €550,000 in Vacant Site Levies according to reports obtained through the Freedom of Information Act by Labour Senator Rebecca Moynihan.

The matter was raised by Independent Cllr Joe Behan at the Council's recent Budget meeting. "Half a million euro extra in the coffers would do a lot," he said. "It might even have averted an increase in the Property Tax".

The Council collected €180,000 in Vacant Site Levies in 2019 and 2021, and none at all in 2020. This was due largely to the Pandemic, explained Director of Services Breege Kilkenney. She said some levies are collected on a phased basis and levies owed build up over a number of years, which was the reason for the large sum owed.

"2020 was the start of the COVID pandemic and the priority during the period of national crisis was ensuring that there was a continuation of the delivery of essential services to the citizens and to give cognisance to the many financial difficulties experienced by the public at the time," Ms Kilkenney said.

"Also due to the pandemic there was a backlog of court hearings inhibiting the prosecution for non-payment of the levies.

"The council continues to liaise with the landowners where the levies are outstanding and where financial difficulties are occurring we offer a phased payment.

So in relation to the current year, a further seven cases are being prepared for legal action which could realise a further collection of €188,000."

Each local authority has responsibility for registering derelict sites in its area, communicating with owners and collecting levies.

As of 26th November there are 24 sites on Wicklow's Vacant Sites Register, some of which have been on it since 2017.

A vacant site is defined as residential land (more than 0.05 hectares) where there is a need for housing in the area, where the site is suitable for housing and the majority of the site

has not been in use for an extended period of time. Vacant sites can also be regeneration land (other than residential land) where the majority of the site has not been in use for an extended period of time, or where the site is having a negative impact on existing amenities or on the character of the area.

The vacant sites levy is paid to the local authority each year until the site is removed from the register. The levy is paid in arrears each year, this means that the levy for 2021 will be charged in January 2022. Since 2019, the levy is 7% of the market value of the land. Previously it was 3%.

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## 'Lack of Council staff in Greystones must be resolved'

Greystones councillors have complained to Wicklow County Council about a shortage of Council staff in their Municipal District.

Cllr Mitchell voted against the 2022 Budget for this reason, citing the lack of staff as well as the lack of funding. Greystones receives only half the funding of other Districts, he said, and this funding shortfall "has led to the ludicrous situation of an expensive street sweeper left sitting idle in a shed for almost 5 years because there is no one to drive it."

The Council has agreed to recruit for two vacant posts and carry out a study of the staffing needs for each Municipal District.

"There was no commitment to extra staff however, so I voted against the Budget for the first time," Cllr Mitchell explained. "I hope this pressure will result in more staff over the next few years."

Cllr Jodie Neary said "We are in dire need of outdoor staff in Greystones. Greystones Tidy Towns has been doing a huge amount of work during the pandemic with extra litter and foot traffic, but they are under a lot of pressure. They really need the access to council staff and the supports of the outdoor team. So I would urge that work be carried out immediately to address the vacancies that are there in the Greystones district."

Cllr Gerry Walsh said "The staffing levels in Greystones are way below what they should be, two immediate replacements are required. I accept the Chief Executive's commitments to have those things addressed via the workforce plan. But it seems to be taking an inordinate amount of time to fill these vacancies. I welcome that that a review is going to be carried out across all districts."



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## Formal process begins to transfer old Bray Courthouse to Council

Wicklow Sinn Féin public representatives have welcomed the significant progress that has been made in transferring the Old Bray Courthouse on the Boghall Road in Bray into community ownership. A formal request has recently been made by Wicklow County Council to the Courts Service for the former courthouse and the process has now commenced.

Speaking after receiving confirmation that the transfer process of the old courthouse to Wicklow County Council has formally commenced Deputy John Brady said "Over the last 18 months my colleagues Cllrs Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien, Grace McManus and I have been engaged in a campaign to have the former Bray District Courthouse on the Boghall Road in Bray handed over to Wicklow County Council for community use. After a lengthy process I'm delighted that the transfer of the vacant premises has now commenced after the council lodged a formal request to the Courts Service for the premises."

"The building on the Boghall Road in Bray has been vacant since 2006, when court sittings and services were relocated to the town center. In October 2020 the Courts Service informed me that the old Bray Court House was sur-

plus to their requirements and that they were willing to transfer it to Wicklow County Council."

"Following the recent formal request from Wicklow County Council the transfer process has now commenced. A structural survey and a cost analysis for carrying out upgrade works to the premises have been undertaken by Wicklow County Council this year. The next stage in the process is to start looking at what way the building can be used by the community. Since we started our campaign we have been inundated with ideas and requests from community groups and organisations about the premises. If there are any more community groups or organisations that have any ideas, I'd be delighted to hear from them."

"Our campaign has been very successful to date, however total success will only come when the vacant premises are being used by

the community, thankfully that has now come one huge step closer."

Cllr McManus added "The need for more community spaces for the vibrant groups that are the life force of our town is evident. I love hearing from volunteers and organizers about the amazing work they do, but it is frustrating and disappointing when we also hear that they don't have the space they need to continue to thrive. That's why this news is so welcome, and I'm looking forward to supporting this process as it enters the next phase"

Cllr O'Brien commented, "we must match the population growth in the town with the development of community facilities. There are currently not enough and it's frustrating for groups who are competing for limited space. A proactive approach which responds to emerging needs and is sustainable into the future should be our priority in Wicklow County Council."



Deputy John Brady and Councillors Dermot O'Brien and Grace McManus at the old Bray courthouse on the Boghall Road



# 'Why was Wicklow on status yellow?'

*Confused messaging from authorities during Storm Barra*

While reports from around County Wicklow illustrated the extent of the threat to safety that storm Barra continued to pose last Wednesday, mixed messaging circulating from authorities led to some schools in Wicklow remaining open in the face of dangerous weather conditions while others took the decision to close.

Expressing his alarm at the confusion last Wednesday, Sinn Féin TD John Brady said "Dublin and Wexford were given a status orange warning, while Wicklow remained on a status yellow alert. So, we were led to believe that Storm Barra was somehow capable of circumventing Wicklow, while simultaneously hammering the two coastal counties either side!

"This is simply ridiculous and speaks to a singular failure in the co-ordination of the management of the storm response on the East Coast. Particularly when decisions relating to the safety of our children are being forced on school principals who are left to decide on an individual basis whether to close their schools or not, while schools in Dublin and Wexford received clear instruction to close.

"I was contacted by parents in a state of confusion across the county in relation to the issue of school closures on Wednesday. One parent living in the Co.Dublin part of Bray, whose children attend school

in the Co. Wicklow part of Bray, found themselves living in an area where schools are closed for safety reasons, yet their children's school just down the road was instructed to remain open. It was the same situation in Arklow, where families live in North Wexford but attend school in Arklow.

"Meanwhile, we were hearing reports from across County Wicklow of electricity cables down, trees down, and dangerous branches obstructing traffic. It was abundantly clear that Storm Barra led to dangerous weather conditions across Wicklow.

"Some principals turned up at schools on Wednesday to discover that there was no power, which meant that the schools had to close, but without power they were without the means to send out notifications to parents.

"There was significant cross winds on major roads, which made driving conditions dangerous. Commuters should have been made aware of the threat that the

weather posed to them to allow them to either cancel unnecessary journeys or to take the appropriate precautions for their journey.

"The purpose of having a graded weather warning system is to allow areas to develop a suitable response to the level of threat which has been identified. Normally this works quite well, and there is no doubt that in the past this has helped prevent the loss of life during extreme weather events. But what we have witnessed during Storm Barra has been a failure of this system.

"We need to see a proper explanation as to how this occurred. Measures need to be taken to ensure that this does not happen again. Schools in Wicklow should not have been open on Wednesday. Unfortunately, as climate change continues to bite, we will face more frequent extreme weather events. The authorities need to ensure that the confusion that surrounded Storm Barra does not occur again."

## Wicklow students receive €20,000 Naughton Foundation scholarship award

Supporting academic and innovative excellence in Irish students, the Naughton Foundation Scholarship Awards are an investment in the future of Ireland's reputation as a country with outstanding graduates promoting the study of engineering, science and technology at third level.

Founding patrons, Dr Martin Naughton and his wife Carmel recently announced the winners of the 2021 awards with Wicklow Students, Ella Shanley and Sarah Little, both receiving a scholarship worth €20,000.

Since its establishment in 2008, scholarships worth over €4 million have been awarded to over 330 students. The scheme started in three counties and has continued to expand annually to become a nationwide scheme in 2016. There is one guaranteed scholarship (€20,000) for each participating county, with some counties awarded more than one scholarship. Each scholarship is worth €5,000 per annum for each year of a student's three or four year undergraduate degree.

Traditionally the awards are presented by, Dr Martin Naughton and his wife Carmel at a ceremony with the students' schools and families in attendance but as a result of current restrictions this event was unfortunately deferred again for this year.

A former student of Temple Carrig School, Greystones, Ella has accepted a place in Trinity College Dublin Chemical Science. Sarah Little has received a place in University College Dublin, where she will study Engineering, after graduating from her former secondary school, Loreto Secondary School, Bray. They join 37 exceptional Irish students who were awarded third level scholarships towards their studies in the areas of engineering, science, technology and maths.

More than 200 schools have also benefited from this prize to date with some schools receiving it on more than one occasion. Both prize winner's former secondary schools have received a prize of €1,000 each towards their school's science facilities, for their support of these students.

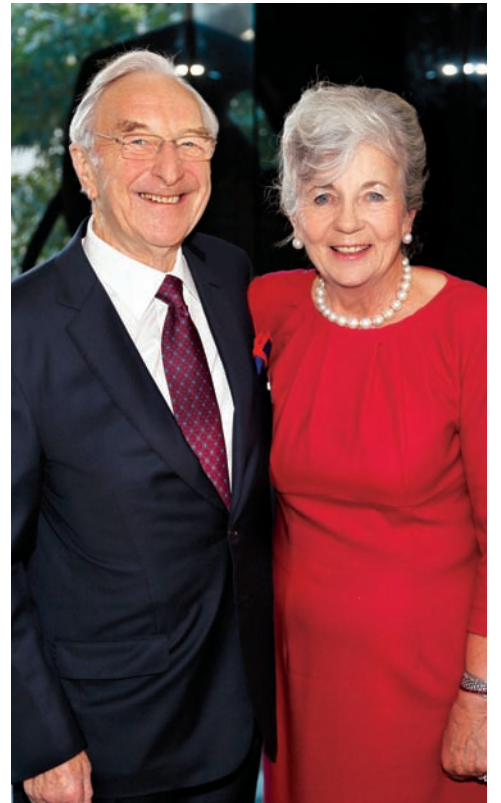
Speaking about the growth of the programme over the past twelve years, Dr. Martin Naughton commented:

"We have been awarding scholarships to encourage and reward students for their undergraduate studies in the STEM area since 2008. After the difficult academic year

that 2021 was, we are particularly delighted to announce this year's scholarship winners and their schools. We are both really looking forward to celebrating with them in person in the future and welcoming them to our growing community of Scholars and Alumni."

The Naughton Foundation are continuing to support a number of programs that promote STEM education to students of all ages in Ireland.

Full details on The Naughton Foundation Scholarships are available on [www.thenaughtonfoundation.ie](http://www.thenaughtonfoundation.ie) 2022 application form available for completion on the Foundation's website from February 2022.



Dr Martin Naughton and his wife Carmel



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### COMMUNITY MONUMENTS FUND 2022

Wicklow County Council invites applications to the Community Monuments Fund 2021, as operated by the Department of Housing Heritage and Local Government.

**The closing date for applications is 5pm on 15th February 2022.**

The core aims of this fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local monuments and archaeological sites. Local authorities, private owners, community groups and custodians of monuments are eligible to apply under the following 3 streams;

- Stream 1** will offer grants up to €85,000 aimed at essential repairs and capital works for the conservation and repair of archaeological monuments.
- Stream 2** will offer grants of up to €30,000 for development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports that are aimed at identifying measures for conservation of archaeological monuments and improving public access.
- Stream 3** will offer grants of up to €30,000 for enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation (including virtual/online) at archaeological monuments (including COVID 19 public health measures).

Application forms and information is available at [www.wicklow.ie/](http://www.wicklow.ie/) latest news. Applicants should read the CMF guidance circular carefully and ensure that method statements and relevant consents are included with the application. Applications should be returned by e mail to [wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie) or by post, clearly marked 'Community Monument Fund Application' c/o Heritage Office, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town by no later than **5 pm on 15th February 2022**. All queries and requests for hard copy application forms to above e mail or by telephone to Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council Tel: 0404 20100.



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



## Bray Meals-On-Wheels

Due to ongoing difficulties associated with covid-19 Bray meals-on-wheels committee thought it prudent not to carry out our annual door to door collection. This is the second year we have had to make this decision in the interest of public health safety.

Since the first lockdown 2 years ago now, demand for our meals-on-wheels service has grown threefold and we are now delivering 2500 nourishing hot dinners every month (and growing) to those within our community who need our service. Along with the growth in output our costs and overheads have grown exponentially and although the loss of income from door to door collection is a serious blow we have managed with the help of our excellent staff volunteers and support of our friends in the H.S.E. to maintain a very high standard of service and quality food prepared in our kitchen each day using only fresh ingredients sourced locally.

Hopefully this pandemic will end soon and we can all get back to normal living and enable us to knock on your doors once more in Bray asking for your help as heretofore.

**Wishing all the people in Bray a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year and if you have any aul cash lying around we would love to have it.**

**Our account is (IBAN:- IE53 BOFI 9010 3622 9093 89)**

**or you can help out by volunteering a couple of hours one or two mornings a week.**



Bill Hannon, Trustee/treasurer  
BOFA/Meals-on-Wheels

Bray Old Folks Association  
Bray Primary Care Centre, Killarney Road  
Bray, County Wicklow, A98 KW13. Tel: 01 286 7835





MS Ireland's East Wicklow Branch Person of the Year Mairin Harris is pictured at the MS Ireland East Wicklow Branch end of year awards in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

## Brady reiterates call for funding for citizens information service

**Sinn Féin TD John Brady has expressed serious concerns again about the future of the Citizen Information Service in Wicklow Town.**

At the request of the Citizens Information Board another Safety Risk Assessment was carried out on the old premises in Wicklow Town, this assessment has again identified serious health and safety issues. This new assessment again results in the inability of the service to safely reopen.

Deputy Brady said: "At the request from the Citizen Information Board (CIB) another risk assessment has been carried out on the old Citizen Information Service (CIS) premises in Wicklow Town. The premises has however once again failed the Health and Safety Risk Assessment, as a result the service will remain closed in Wicklow Town.

"I am deeply concerned at this development; however, I'm not surprised. The service closed due to these health and safety concerns and an

alternative premises was identified within the town. A considerable amount of work was done to secure the new building, including obtaining planning permission. This was all done with the approval of the Citizens Information Board. Unfortunately, at the last moment funding was pulled for the move, this has resulted in the service remaining closed.

"The CIS provides a vital and badly needed service to the Wicklow public. And there is also the fact that the Money and Budgeting Service (MABS), and Women's refuge were also set to operate out of the Wicklow CIS office.

"It's vital for the people of Wicklow Town that this service reopens as soon as possible. Now that the old premises has failed another Safety Risk Assessment I have written to the CIB and the Minister again to express my anger and frustration at their handling of this situation. Their decision to pull funding from the project when it was at an advanced stage is nothing short of reckless and it is a decision that needs to be immediately reversed."

## Six Wicklow social enterprises to receive funding

**Six Wicklow Social Enterprises are to receive funding under the Department of Rural and Community Development's Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme.**

The Social Enterprises to receive support are: The Glencree Peace & Reconciliation Centre; Bray Lakers; Tinahely Community Recycling Centre; Bray Area Partnership; Signal Arts Centre; Bee Sanctuary. The six Social Enterprises will receive funding totalling €24,000.

Congratulating them, Minister Simon Harris said, "Social Enterprises Capital Grants Scheme will provide small grants to Social Enterprises to assist them in carrying out renovations or repairs to their premises. Like many community organisations it has been very challenging the past 20 months.

"Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise is a key priority for Fine Gael. Supporting social enterprise is one of the main objectives in 'Our Rural Future', the Government's ambitious five-year strategy for Rural Ireland. Many of these social enterprises are at the heart of our rural communities and I look forward to further working with Social Enterprises to deliver on the promise of 'Our Rural Future'."

# ReWild Wicklow group start cleanups of county's wild places

**On Sunday 5th December, volunteers from the group ReWild Wicklow, in partnership with the Pure Project and the Pure Mile, did a cleanup in the Ballygannon Woods near Rathdrum.**

Over 20 volunteers, of all ages, took part and a surprising 25 bags of rubbish were taken out of the popular walking place.

"The mission of our new group is to restore and increase native habitats in Wicklow, so that we might help locally in the face of a nationwide biodiversity crisis," said Simon Alvey, co-founder of the group and organiser of this cleanup.

"But that begins by taking better care of the many beautiful wild places we already have here in Wicklow. Thank you to the Pure Mile project for facilitating this cleanup and bag collection - they do fantastic work across the county."

Next year the conservation group hope to organise monthly cleanups of some of the more wilder places in the county that are often overlooked when it comes to maintenance.

If you would like to volunteer or if there's a wood, river or wild place near you that needs some help then get in touch with the group at [rewildwicklow@gmail.com](mailto:rewildwicklow@gmail.com) or [facebook.com/rewildwicklow](https://facebook.com/rewildwicklow)



Lori and Reid Norton and Teagan Alvey helping out at the cleanup.

## Bray Soroptimists 'orange the world' during 16 days of activism

**The 25th November marked the UN International Day of the Elimination of Violence against Women, and the start of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, which ended on Friday 10th December (Human Rights Day).**



Clare Comerford with Deputy Jennifer Whitmore at Greystones DART Station

Members of the Soroptimists Ireland Bray & District branch joined other Soroptimists across the world taking action and calling for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

SI Bray's Campaign was launched by their President, Tanja Haak O'Riordan, Clare Comerford and Orla Finn, in Bray at the Town Hall, where they were joined by Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy and Cllr Melanie Corrigan to promote the campaign and distribute the 'Safe Ireland' bookmarks to members of the public.

On the 9th day of the campaign members visited Greystones Dart Station where they were joined by Jennifer Whitmore TD and Cllr Jodie Neary, and were impressed by the interest shown by passers-by hurrying to and from the station.

The worldwide problem of gender-based violence has been exacerbated by the Pandemic. On a local

level, SI Bray has been supporting Bray Women's Refuge over a number of years, by organising fundraiser events such as lunches, table quizzes, coffee mornings, raffles, etc., and each Christmas members prepare 'Christmas Boxes' for the women and children arriving at the Refuge with virtually nothing.

It is hoped that these boxes will make a small difference to these women and children at a very sad and difficult time in their lives, and SI Bray would like to thank all those who have contributed this year.

Deputy Whitmore said "Last week I met with Bray Soroptimists at their stand outside Greystones Dart Station to show my support for their campaign and the global campaign Orange the World. Domestic violence in Ireland has been on the increase since the pandemic and demand for refuge services and hot-lines is surging. Raising

awareness of the plight of women facing domestic abuse and their children is crucial to combating it.

"Alongside my support for the Bray Soroptimists' campaign, I have been working on a Christmas Appeal for shopping vouchers to support Bray Women's Refuge and their service users. Christmas is a costly time and it can be a dangerous time for

women and their children experiencing domestic violence. Bray Women's Refuge does incredible work locally and all across "Wicklow for women and their children impacted by domestic violence. Not only do they provide refuge but they do incredible work raising awareness and advocating for supports for vulnerable women and their children.

"I would encourage people in Wicklow to do what they can to support the Orange the World campaign in raising awareness and if they can, to help with Bray Women's Refuge Christmas Appeal for shopping vouchers. If you'd like to donate do get in touch with my office or drop off the voucher at 3 Hillside Road, Greystones."

An Garda Síochána also supported the 16 Days of Activism.

The Gardaí stated "We in An Garda Síochána,

the Irish Police Service, take domestic and sexual abuse very seriously and are here to help. Domestic abuse can take a variety of forms such as physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and financial abuse. Domestic abuse is a high volume, high impact crime and we know that if you are experiencing domestic abuse you can feel isolated and alone. You do not know who to trust or who you can confide in. An Garda Síochána are here to listen, we are here to help."

Soroptimist International is a leading global women's voluntary organisation. It has close to 80,000 members in more than 3,000 Clubs in over 100 countries around the world. The Federation of Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) has members in 270 clubs in 18 countries in the British Isles, Asia, the Caribbean and Malta.



Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Tanja Haak O'Riordan, Cllr Melanie Corrigan and Clare Comerford at Bray Town Hall.



## BATHROOMS • STOVES • HEATING • RENEWABLE ENERGY



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MS Ireland East Wicklow Branch Carer of the Year Helen Binions with her husband Clinton in the Arklow Bay Hotel at the MS Ireland East Wicklow Branch end of year awards.

## Buildings and monuments turn purple for International Day of Persons With Disabilities

Wicklow County Council celebrated International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Friday December 3rd by lighting up civic buildings, including Bray Municipal District Office, Greystones Municipal District Office, the 19 Arches Bridge in Arklow and St. Patrick's Church Wicklow Town.

Also, Wicklow County Council announced the roll out of the A-D (Able-Disabled) Caller Initiative in conjunction with International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The A-D Caller Initiative is a way for a person with a disability to identify as an AD Caller to a business or organisation when they phone in.

In turn the business or organisation recognises that the caller may need extra time or assistance and guidance or may need to treat the call as a priority call.

The AD Caller initiative is of benefit both to the caller and the business and at no cost to either. Knowing they don't have to explain themselves every time they pick up a phone, this initiative alleviates so much anxiety and stress from the person with a disability.

Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, said, "This is a vital campaign that supports and ensures our vulnerable people are looked after in our communities".

Wicklow County Council Customer Services teams have completed comprehensive Disability Awareness Training and are fully committed to the A-D Caller Initiative."

Chief Executive, Frank Curran, added: "The A-D Caller campaign is a simple but very valuable initiative to support and help people with different abilities live independently, are we are delighted to support this.



The Billy Byrne Monument in Market Square, Wicklow Town



The 19 Arches Bridge in Arklow

## Increasing evictions lead to renewed calls for Homeless Outreach services

An escalation of people in Wicklow receiving eviction notices from their landlords and presenting as homeless to Wicklow County Council have led to renewed calls for the provision of homeless outreach services.

Speaking about the issue, Sinn Féin TD John Brady stated "Unfortunately there has been a huge increase of tenants receiving eviction notices from their landlords since the lifting of the eviction ban by the Government. Currently people in Wicklow in this situation who are at risk of homelessness or who are presenting as homeless must go to the County Council offices in Wicklow Town. There is a real necessity for the council to put in place a homeless outreach service in Bray, Arklow and West Wicklow to ensure that vulnerable people can get the support they need in their locality without having to try to get to Wicklow Town."

Cllr Grace McManus said "A council motion Sinn Féin tabled in 2020 called for a homeless outreach service in Bray was support-

ed by all eight Bray Cllr's. It's not hard to imagine the financial cost and logistical difficulties for people and families experiencing homelessness who currently need to travel to Wicklow town to present to the council as homeless.

"There is no doubt that if they could present for support in the Bray Municipal District offices or other Municipal offices in the County it would alleviate some of the stress involved in that scenario. The council has been working in the background to provide this service, and at Monday's meeting we got confirmation that council officials are in contact with the Simon Community in order to progress this in Bray. We believe a change in this service provision would make a huge positive impact for some of the most vulnerable in our society."

Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien who is a member of the Bray Homeless Forum added "The sad reality is that we are facing another winter of struggle for those who find themselves in a position where their housing status is insecure. The data is telling us that there is a need for this service, the people are telling us that there is a need for this service, the urgency cannot be understated so I sincerely hope that we can deliver this as soon as possible."

Deputy Brady concluded "My colleagues and I have continued to work with the council on this critical issue and I'm glad to see that some progress is being made and they are working on the issue with the Simon Community. Once there is agreement on the service, I hope that it can be rolled out as quickly as possible across the county."

## Wicklow named second most generous county

**ActionAid Ireland, which focuses on the human rights of the poorest and most marginalised women and children, has announced that Wicklow is the second most generous county in Ireland per percentage of the population for both donations and new supporters in 2021.**

In 2020, Wicklow was also second in terms of donations and was number one for new supporters. Kerry is the most generous county in Ireland per percentage of the population for the sixth year in a row, while Louth is the most generous when it came to people newly signing-up to become supporters.

The findings of a survey announced by PayPal last week also revealed that Wicklow is the second in Ireland for donating money to charity, with an average of €106 per year. The average Irish person donates €87 per year. Based on donations during the average year, the most generous givers are from Carlow (€178), Wicklow (€106), Sligo (€103), Meath (€102) and Wexford (€100).

Karol Balfe, CEO of ActionAid Ireland, said: "This was another very tough year, for everyone, but we are blown away by the continued generosity of the Irish people, especially people in Wicklow, where people not only stuck with us but many began supporting us for the first time. Many of the countries that we work in

have not had widespread access to vaccines and do not have enough nurses and doctors. This highlights how global inequalities in access to vaccines, but also in terms of economic inequalities between the Global North and South have a huge impact on people's lives. We are expecting 2022 to continue to be difficult for the communities that we work with, as the effects of the pandemic on education, health and women's rights continue to worsen. Thank you to the people of Wicklow for continuing to care about these global issues and for all of those who began supporting our work this year. Now, more than ever, it is vital to support women's rights. As well as the generous donations of individuals in Wicklow and across the country, ActionAid Ireland has a Women's Rights Programme, funded by taxpayers through Irish Aid, which is implemented in three countries, Ethiopia, Kenya and Nepal."

Speaking about the findings, Maeve Dorman, Senior Vice President at PayPal, commented: "It's that magical time of the year when people want to give back to their loved ones and their communities. After all, being generous to others makes us feel good and – something that is ever more important these days – helps us stay connected. Irish people in particular are known for their generosity and thoughtfulness, so it's not surprising that they are going above and beyond this year when it comes to buying gifts for family and friends, and making donations to causes they care about."

## Support for bereaved parents in Wicklow this Christmas

**As 2021 comes to a close and Christmas approaches, bereaved parents are forefront of the minds of those working in the charity, Anam Cara. Throughout the month of December, they will continue to hold their face to face meetings nationwide.**

On Monday 20th December, Anam Cara will hold their support meeting in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy at 7:15pm. Regardless of the age of the child or circumstances of death, Anam Cara offers these peer support meetings monthly, free of charge. Each Anam Cara group is co-facilitated by an Anam Cara volunteer parent and a professional facilitator.

Anam Cara CEO, Sharon Vard remarked that "2021 has been one of the toughest years since our inception back in 2008, but we feel proud and honoured that we were in a position to continue our support of bereaved parents throughout the year. This was down to the hard work of our group professional facilitators, volunteer support and administration staff, who ensured no bereaved parent were without the support they desperately needed. I also want to acknowledge the strength of bereaved parents who reached out for support, they inspire me each and every day".

Registration is required to attend the meeting on Monday 20th December. Anam Cara would welcome any bereaved parent in the Wicklow area and surrounds to contact them to register for this free event. Anam Cara can be contacted on 01 4045378 or by email [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)



# New club to keep Bray Wanderers name

The new First Division football side formed from the merger between Bray Wanderers and Cabinteely FC will retain the name of the Co. Wicklow club, it's been confirmed.

The new club will also play in Bray's traditional green and white kit and will play in the Carlisle Grounds.

Wicklow Councillors aired their fears over the future of the Carlisle Grounds at a Council meeting on 29th November after learning that Bray Wanderers and Cabinteely FC are to merge into one club. Independent councillor Joe Behan called a Suspension of Standing Orders at the meeting

to discuss the matter.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran said that the Council is seeking legal advice on the merger and its implications as Bray Wanderers' home grounds is subject to a sporting lease with the Council.

The two clubs announced they are to merge into one, with Cabinteely FC having acquired a majority stake in the Co.

Wicklow club. They are to apply to play in the SSE Airtricity First Division as soon as next season.

Cabinteely FC's Chairman Tony Richardson will be the new club's Chairman, with Bray Wanderers Chairman Niall O'Driscoll retiring. The Director of Football is to be Pat Devlin, who has strong ties to Bray Wanderers having had several managerial spells at the club.

Speaking at the Council meet-

ing, Sinn Féin councillor Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien said he was concerned that both the Council and Bray Wanderers' supporters were left out of the conversation about the merger.

Labour councillor Paul O'Brien, former National President of the Irish Soccer Referees Society said "The League of Ireland are on their knees, I want to see Bray Wanderers thrive, and if this is

## Funding available for sports clubs

Former Irish rugby international and well-known broadcaster, Donncha O'Callaghan has issued a note of encouragement to Irish sports clubs not to 'miss your opportunity' when it comes to raising vital revenue that, due to current circumstances, cannot be guaranteed through membership and gate receipts.



Speaking about the forthcoming Texaco Support for Sport initiative now open for applications, O'Callaghan said "In this case, an incredible fund of €130,000 is available for distribution in equal amounts of €5,000 on a county-by-county basis - to one lucky sports club in each county making an application under the scheme.

"The benefit of the scheme to our amazing clubs throughout Ireland is that it provides rare access to funds which are not linked to the popularity, membership size or success of any club."

"More important is the merit of each application, the value it will bring to the club and the contribution it will make to life within each of our local communities," he added.

Exclusively responsible for choosing the twenty-six winning applications, O'Callaghan noted that the spread of successful entries last year ranged from the popular sports of Gaelic football, hurling and soccer to niche sports such as climbing, cricket, basketball and handball.

## Dunlavin man receives Katie Taylor Bursary

Alan Miley, an athletics champion from Dunlavin has been selected as the 2021 Katie Taylor bursary award winner.

The Bursary aims to support athletes while they are training at elite level and continuing in Third Level education. The calibre of applicants this year was extremely high which reflects the depth of sports talent in Wicklow.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, joined Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, in congratulating Alan on his numerous sporting achievements and wishing

him continued success with his training in the University of Limerick.

Alan is a former student of St Kevin's Community College, Dunlavin, and is now studying and training in University Limerick.

Alan has a distinguished sporting career to date, including:

- Leinster and All-Ireland titles both indoor and outdoor
- All Ireland Bronze medal in the Senior 400m hurdles and 4X4 relay

- Seven international medals
- Leinster and Irish records at U20
- Irish U18 Athlete of the year
- Garda Youth Award winner

Mr Michael Nicholson, Director of Service, Community Cultural and Social Development, referenced the calibre of athletes that have been past winners of the award and congratulated Alan and his coaches on his achievements to date.

The Katie Taylor bursary award opens for applications from first year college students from Wicklow and is administered by Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership.



Pictured were Archie Age 4 and Alfie age 5 Canavan at the Iarnród Éireann Team Wellbeing Charity Challenge which saw over 500 colleagues taking over a million minutes of activity during the four weeks challenge and resulting in €10,000 for charities Heart Children, Arklow RNLI and Marine Watch Ireland. Picture: Jason Clarke

## Wicklow and Wexford reign supreme in Iarnród Éireann Team Wellbeing Charity Challenge

Teams from Wicklow and Wexford stormed to victory in Iarnród Éireann's recent Team Wellbeing Charity Challenge.

The challenge saw teams from right around Ireland compete to clock up as many minutes of activity as possible over four weeks. Competing in teams of 3-6 people, the challenge saw more than 500 employees in over 100 teams walking, running, hiking, swimming and much more in a bid to be crowned champions and more importantly raise money for their chosen charities. The teams managed to hit 1,132,647 minutes over the course of the challenge

The challenge was part of a wellbeing initiative created by Iarnród Éireann's Wellbeing Programme Manager, Sharon Daly, who is aiming to get employees heart healthy and happy.

Commenting on the initiative, Sharon said, "It was fantastic to see such huge interest in the first year of the Team Wellbeing Charity Challenge with over 500 employees across the organisation taking part. The level of enthusiasm has been great, but more than that is the commitment from people to look after their health and wellbeing and really push themselves out of their comfort zone. And to know that four great charities are going to benefit from this initiative is fantastic."

The winning team, Division 29 Enniscorthy, clocked up 7,273 mins of activity per person on average over the four weeks on their quest for victory. Team captain Vincent Quirke said, "Our team was delighted to take part in the challenge. It was great to see so much activity across the country. We were all motivated by the generous amount to be given charity and are delighted to be able to donate to Heart Children Ireland and Wexford Marine Watch." The winning team consisted of Vincent Quirke: Inspector A class panel; Philip O Connor, Mobile Ganger Div 29; Stephen Kavanagh, Mobile Ganger Div 29 and Des Russell, Mobile Ganger Div 29, who work on the network inspecting and maintaining the line in Co Wexford.

The winning team have chosen Heart Children Ireland and Marine Watch Ireland as their chosen charities and today handed over a cheque to each for €2,500.

Not far behind in 2nd place was the team dubbed the South East Patrollers and Pen-Pushers. Led by John Redmond CCE Safety Executive, Dublin South they were pipped to the post with a total activity of 6,698 mins on average per person throughout the competition.

The team - also part of the "Per Way" division which inspects the line - is made up of Tom Roche, Patrol Ganger, Division 7, Wicklow; Joe Long, Patrol Ganger, Division 7, Wicklow; and Martin Kavanagh, Patrol Ganger, Division 8 Wexford, have chosen Arklow RNLI as their charity of choice. They received a cheque for €3,000.

Speaking on behalf of the team John said, "We were delighted to take part in a challenge that benefitted so many of our colleagues both physically and mentally, and also very proud that our endeavours provided some much needed funding to the Arklow RNLI".

Third place winners, Loco About Fitness based at Colbert Station, Limerick and led by Gareth Howard, CSO, donated to Cliona's Charity later in the week bringing the overall charitable donation to €10,000.



Pictured is the Knockananna side who beat Drumraney of Westmeath in the AIB Senior Camogie Championship Junior B Final which was played at the National GAA Development Centre in Abbotstown, Co. Dublin. The final score was 2-12 to 1-04. Pic: Michael Kelly





Minister Harris meeting with students and staff in Presentation College Bray

## Harris meets with 6th Year students to discuss career and education opportunities in 2022

Minister for Further and Higher Education Simon Harris recently met with 6th year students in Presentation College in Bray and Colaiste Croabh Abhainn in Kilcoole.

Minister Harris visited Presentation College as part of the celebrations of the school's centenary year.

Speaking at Presentation College Minister Harris said "The world is full of possibilities and you can achieve whatever you wish in life. My job as Minister for Further and Higher Education is to ensure there are multiple pathways in which you can achieve your goals."

"That is why I am here. We are making important changes to the CAO, to ensure that when the times comes for you to complete your application, you will see all of your options, including apprenticeship, further education and training options. There is no one right way of learning."

Minister Harris later called to Colaiste Croabh Abhainn where he visited the new modular accommodation nearing completion to facilitate its growth in student population.

Speaking to 6th year students Minister Harris said "Did you know as an apprentice you could be working in an Insurance Company with one day a week online learning with Sligo Institute of Technology? That, will get you a degree level qualification after four years."

"The Kildare/Wicklow Education and Training Board offer a wide range of Further Education options in addition to strong links with employers in local industry providing apprenticeship opportunities."

"Further Education colleges have developed strong progression routes for its graduates to Higher Education with many memorandums of understanding between Further Education Colleges and Universities across the country."

"In Wicklow the Bray Institute for Further Education not only offers a wide variety of



The Green Flag being raised at Colaiste Croabh Abhainn in Kilcoole.

courses from Graphic Design to Music Production, but also Pre-University Science and Pre Nursing Courses."

Minister Harris also raised Colaiste Croabh

Abhainn's Green Flag to celebrate the school's success in the Green Schools environmental management and education programme.

He concluded "I was greatly encouraged by the engagement and discussion with students. It is important we change to conversation around the kitchen table from 'what college do you want to go to?' to 'what do you want to do?'"

"As I emphasised to the students in Colaiste Croabh Abhainn and Presentation College today, visit [cao.ie/options](https://www.cao.ie/options). Take your time, consider all of the options in front of you and make the best decision for you and nobody else."



Minister Harris speaking in Colaiste Croabh Abhainn

# Five school building projects going to tender

Minister for Education Norma Foley TD has confirmed that five Co. Wicklow school building projects, being managed and delivered on a devolved basis by the National Development Finance Agency (NDFA) on behalf of the Department, are expected to progress to tender stage.

Subject to the timelines for obtaining planning permissions, it is envisaged that these projects will proceed to tender and ultimately construction over the course of 2022 and 2023.

Colaiste Chraobh Abhainn in Kilcoole and St Kevin's Community College in Dunlavin will get extensions including a 4 classroom base for children with special educational needs. Avondale Community College in Rathdrum both an extension and refurbishment of the existing school including a 4 classroom base for children with special educational needs. Coláiste Bhríde in Carnew will get a new build replacement school including a 4 classroom base for children with special educational needs. The long-term projected enrolment numbers of these schools will be 1,000 pupils. Arklow CBS will also see a new build replacement school including a 2 classroom base for children with special educational needs, bringing the enrolment number up to 500.

The contractors and/or Joint Ventures (JVs) invited to tender are: BAM Building Ltd; Farrans Construction; JJ Rhatigan & Company/ABM Design & Build Ltd (JV); John Sisk & Sons (Holdings) Ltd; Obrascón Huarte

Lain/Ganson Building & Civil Engineering Contractors Ltd.

The Minister confirmed that the first phase of the process for the procurement of design and build (D&B) contractors for the ambitious programme has been completed through the selection of five D&B contractors.

The second phase of the procurement process will involve the tendering of the first bundle of projects by these D&B contractors and the establishment of a contractor framework to tender for each subsequent bundle of projects as they become ready (design work completed and planning permission etc. obtained).

Project management and design team consultants have already been appointed for all projects within the programme. Each project bundle is currently progressing through a different stage of the design development process and, once they have completed the statutory approvals process, they can all then be expected to proceed to tender to the contractor framework.

In total, 20 school building projects around the country will be completed under the programme.

Minister Foley said: "The roll-out of these projects to tender and construction is an important aspect of the Department's overall

delivery under the Government's National Development Plan 2021 to 2030. They will assist in delivering on the provision of modern and sustainable infrastructure for the schools sector.

"I would also like to acknowledge the work of all the school communities, stakeholders and particularly the NDFA in driving forward with this major programme of school building projects. The NDFA is an important strategic delivery partner for the Department and I look forward to continuing to build on this relationship in the future with the rollout of further programmes."

Welcoming this announcement Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion Josepha Madigan said: "I am pleased that this programme will provide significant additional provision for children with special education needs at post-primary level and in special schools. This will be an important feature for post-primary school projects generally given the need to enhance our capacity to deliver provision for children with special educational needs at post-primary level."

"As a Government we are committed to providing state-of-the-art facilities for our students and I look forward to seeing these projects continuing to progress."

## Planning application for Greystones Community College expected in coming weeks

A planning application for Greystones Community College's permanent buildings in Charlesland is to be submitted to Wicklow County Council in the coming weeks.

Minister Simon Harris was advised by the Department of Education on the matter.

Speaking last week, Minister Harris said "Greystones Community College is an incredible school that had a very difficult beginning in 2020/21 when the school had to open without appropriate temporary accommodation in place."

"The team at Greystones Community College including Principal Ruairi Farrell,

the staff and parents' association have worked enormously hard to bring the school to the point where it is now and it is only right that the school's permanent buildings now receive the priority it deserves."

Minister Harris received the following update from the Department of Education regarding their forthcoming application for planning permission for Greystones Community College's permanent school campus in Charlesland: "The project

for Greystones Community College is in the early architectural planning stage which involves site surveys, school design stages and the preparation of Planning Permission. As part of the conditions of sale, the lodgement of planning permission is under the remit of the vendor. The Department has been working closely with the vendor to expedite a planning application for the new school."

'As with all school building projects, pre-plan-

ning meetings are required with the Local Authority in advance of preparing a Planning Application. This is to ensure the highest probability of a successful planning application in the shortest time possible. A considerable amount of work is required following the pre-planning meeting to prepare a suitably detailed application which is ongoing. It is anticipated that the planning application for Greystones CC will be lodged in the coming weeks."

## Problem gambling workshops for schools

Local addictions charity Extern is highlighting the dangers of problem gambling among young people as part of a new series of workshops being delivered to schools in the Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow areas.

The Extern Problem Gambling project supports people who have been negatively impacted by problem gambling. The project also advocates on behalf of those suffering the consequences of problem gambling, and highlights gambling-related issues in the media.

Over the next six months the project will be delivering workshops to students at secondary schools across the area to highlight the impact which problem gambling can have on individuals, families and communities. Funding for the workshops has been provided through the HSE National Lottery Grants scheme.

The legal age for gambling in Ireland is currently 18. However, recent statistics have shown that the problem gambling rate among teenage boys in Ireland has more than doubled in the last 4-5 years, and that just over 3,400 Irish schoolchildren aged 15-16 may be gambling either problematically or excessively.

Barry Grant, manager of the Extern Problem Gambling project, said: "Young people in our communities are exposed to messages on a daily basis about gambling. This can often lead to issues with gambling in later life. Indeed, many of the people we counsel as adults will have begun gambling during adolescence. These schools-based sessions offer an opportunity for us to engage with young people, in a completely non-judgmental way, about these issues and encourage them to reflect on how they may be impacted by gambling, even if they are not aware of it."

Sessions will be delivered by Barry's colleague Tony O'Reilly, who will be speaking of his own high-profile issues with problem gambling. For further details on Extern's Problem Gambling project, including the weekly podcast series, please visit <https://www.problemgambling.ie/podcast.html>



# Screen Ireland is back and is on the lookout for fresh and fearless filmmakers

*Prize fund of €200,000 to support emerging and established Irish talent*

Virgin Media Discovers 2022, a short film Competition in association with Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland, is back and is now open for submissions. This year's competition is on the lookout for fresh and fearless Irish filmmakers.

Virgin Media and Screen Ireland are committed to discovering different voices in film, and we are calling for ideas that bring diverse tales, voices and stories to life. This year our theme focuses on diversity and inclusion and we're looking for unique takes on this theme.

With a prize fund of €200,000, we will be awarding 10 filmmakers the chance to win €6,000 to develop and invest in a script and then 3 scripts will be awarded €30,000 to bring their script to life on screen with the production of a 10-minute short film. The remaining €50,000 will go towards supporting additional mentoring of the selected projects, PR and advertising support.

This is the third year of the short film competition launched in partnership with the Fís Éireann / Screen Ireland and the winning films will be broadcast on Virgin Media Television, Virgin Media on Demand and as part of



the Virgin Media Dublin International Film Festival programme of events.

Paul Higgins, Vice President of Commercial at Virgin Media said: "It's great to be launching third Virgin Media Discovers Short Film competition in partnership with Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland.

As Ireland's leading connected entertainment provider and commercial broadcasting company, we're always trying to

tant than ever to invest in opportunities that allow new and original stories around inclusion and diversity to be told. It's equally important that we continue to support the wider creative screen industry as a whole, from actors to directors, writers and crew members."

A panel of soon to be announced industry judges will whittle short-list scripts to the 3 final winners selected as part of an online pitch process. Previous judges have included Lenny Abrahamson, Lisa McGee, Niamh Algar, Ursula Rani Sarma, Grainne Humphreys, Bill Malone, Birch Hamilton, Nessa Hardiman and Adrian Dunbar.

Details of how to enter are at: [www.virginmedia.ie/discovers](http://www.virginmedia.ie/discovers).

Last year's winners included talented young filmmakers Allie O'Rourke and Becky Cheatle with their project 'Punch Line' and Rehan Ali with his project 'Water Under The Bridge'.

champion originally storytelling. Competitions such as this can provide an incredible opportunity to both launch and expand writing and directing careers. We can't wait to see what incredible stories are submitted for this year's competition."

Andrew Byrne, Television Project Manager at Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland said: "Screen Ireland is proud to support this competition as it's more impor-



## Christmastime with Classic Harmony at Whale Theatre

*Wednesday 22nd December 2021 @ 8pm. Tickets €20/€18 available from [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550*

Come along and immerse yourself in the atmosphere of Christmas past and present and enjoy festive music old and new from favourites like 'Ding Dong merrily on High' to new Christmas gems like The Pentatonix 'That's Christmas to me!' Start your holiday with a combination of Carols and Christmas Songs to delight all the family in the rich vocal harmonies of the award-winning and Wicklow-based vocal ensemble - Classic Harmony.

## Film at Mermaid: It's A Wonderful Life (Cert: G)

*MONDAY 20th December | 8pm  
€9/7 | Duration: 130 minutes*

**For many of us, no Christmas is complete without a viewing of this beloved and timeless classic, and what better way to revisit this heartwarming masterpiece or introduce it to someone who hasn't seen it, than on the big screen.**

Generations of audiences have been moved by Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946), which reminds us all that "no man is a failure who has friends".

George Bailey (James Stewart) is a young man with big dreams of escaping from his small home town of Bedford Falls, seeing the world and making something of himself. A number of setbacks and

being saddled with mounting responsibilities however prevent George from following his dreams.

He takes over his father's Building & Loan company and makes a happy life for himself when he settles down and raises a family with Mary (Donna Reed).

George gives and gives of himself, struggling to prevent the villainous and miserly bank owner Henry Potter (Lionel Barrymore) from owning the whole town.

Christmas Eve however finds George's business in critical financial peril. This, on top of a lifetime of frustrations, brings George to the brink of suicide, and it's then that his Guardian Angel Clarence (Henry Travers) appears...



## Coming to Signal Arts Centre...



## Transition: An Exhibition by Lenore Collins

*Monday 28th February to Sunday 13th March 2022*

Lenore Collins is an artist and graphic designer. She was born in Massachusetts, US and educated at the Rhode Island School of Design with a bachelors degree in Graphic Design. She has lived in Ireland since 1998 in Dun Laoghaire.

The name of the show is called Transition and relates to her process of moving from a realist painter to an abstract one. This show represents the first several years of this process.

When she wasn't getting the same fulfillment out of her realistic work she felt restless. After a collaboration project with an abstract artist where she had to think out of her comfort zone, she found an excitement and a new sense of purpose in the new work.

As she went forward down this path of developing abstract pieces she realized that she felt more centered. The reason for this was that she had melded her graphic design sensibilities and her fine art sensibilities into one.

This show is the result of this process.

Opening Reception: Thursday 3rd March 2022 7pm - 9pm





**Notice of the Confirmation by Irish Water of a Compulsory Purchase Order made under The Water Services Acts, 2007 to 2013 (and, in particular, Section 7 of the Water Services (No. 2) Act, 2013 and Parts 2 and Sections 31 & 32 and Part 7 and Section 93 of the Water Services Act, 2007, as amended), The Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2014 (and, in particular Part XIV and Sections 213 and 217 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000), Section 184(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, Section 10 of the Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960 (as substituted by Section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966 and as amended by Section 6 and the Second Schedule of the Roads Act, 1993 and by Section 222 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000), The Housing Act, 1966 (and in particular Part V, Sections 76 and 78 and the Third Schedule), The Lands Clauses Acts, The Acquisition of Land (Assessment of Compensation) Act, 1919**

**AS RESPECTS ALL OR PART OF THE LAND TO WHICH THIS COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER RELATES**

**PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 78(1) OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1966, AS AMENDED BY THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS, 2000 – 2014.**

## Compulsory Acquisition of Land

### Irish Water Compulsory Purchase (Old Connaught Wastewater Project) Order, 2021

Irish Water (hereinafter referred to as "the Company"), a Water Services Authority for the purposes of the Water Services Act, 2007, proposes for the purposes of the Water Services Acts, 2007 to 2013 and in exercise of its powers under Sections 32 and 93 of the Water Services Act, 2007 to acquire compulsorily the lands and rights over land hereinafter described and has made an Order entitled as above which Order is dated 28 June 2021 and which Order was submitted to An Bord Pleanála (hereinafter "the Board"). Irish Water has, on the 30th day of November, 2021, made a Confirmation Order confirming the above named Compulsory Purchase Order as respects the land described in the Schedule hereto. The said Order, as so confirmed, authorises Irish Water to acquire the said land compulsorily for the purposes of the Housing Act, 1966.

The Order, as so confirmed, will become operative from the date of publication of this Notice.

A copy of the Order as so confirmed and of the drawings referred to in it may be seen at the following location:-

- (a) Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26, Talbot Street, Dublin 1 between 9:00-17:00hrs; and
- (a) Bray Municipal District, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow between 9:00-17:00hrs.

An application for judicial review of the decision of the Company under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (Judicial Review) 2011 (S.I. No. 691 of 2011) may be made to the High Court within eight weeks beginning on the date of the publication of this Notice in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as substituted by Section 13 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act, 2006.

#### SCHEDULE

##### PART 1 – LAND ACQUISITION

Not Applicable

##### PART 2 – PERMANENT WAYLEAVE

###### Sub-Part A – Description of Wayleave

The right for the Company, its successors in title, assigns, tenants, servants or agents, contractors or other licensees:

- (i) to construct, lay, keep, operate, maintain, renew, repair and inspect waste water works as defined in the Water Services Act, 2007 and all associated pipelines and all other associated physical elements used for collection, storage or treatment of waste water and such other works, services, facilities and other things as are necessary or expedient in relation thereto or are ancillary thereto or form part of such waste water works, in, on or under the land specified in Sub-Part B below, together with the right,
- (ii) to enter with all necessary vehicles, plant and machinery upon the said land at all times for any of the said purposes.

###### Sub-Part B – Description of Land

Plot Number coloured yellow on the drawing deposited at: Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1 And Bray Municipal District, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Drawing No.	Quantity, Situation and Description of the Land			Owners or Reputed Owners	Lessees or Reputed Lessees	Occupiers
		Area in Hectares	Location	Description of Property			
001	IW/10013372/CPO/OC01	0.1188	Ravenswell and Bray Commons	Open space	Pizarro Developments Limited, 61 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2	N/A	N/A
003	IW/10013372/CPO/OC01	0.1931	Ravenswell and Bray Commons	Open space and Roadway	Pizarro Developments Limited, 61 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2	N/A	Department of Education c/o Attention: David Donnelly, NDFA, Treasury Building, Grand Canal Street, Dublin 2, D02XN96
004	IW/10013372/CPO/OC01	0.0028	Bray Commons	Pathway	Bray Town Council, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, County Wicklow	N/A	N/A

##### PART 3 – PERMANENT RIGHT OF WAY

Not applicable

##### PART 4 – TEMPORARY WORKING AREA

###### Sub-Part A – Description of Rights

The temporary right for the Company,, assigns, tenants, licensees, servants or agents, contractors and workmen in common with all others who have the like right to use the land specified in Sub-Part B below to enter with all necessary vehicles, plant and machinery upon the said lands and to use the land to pass and re-pass over same for the purpose of ingress and egress to and from the public road at all times, for all purposes of and by all means in connection with the use and occupation by the Company its successors in title, assigns, tenants, licensees, servants or agents, contractors and workmen in common with all others who have the like right of lands and rights over land acquired by it for the purposes of the OLD CONNAUGHT WASTEWATER PROJECT. Such rights include the right to do anything reasonably necessary for or ancillary or incidental to the construction of the structures and the waste water works as defined in the Water Services Act, 2007 to be laid, erected, or constructed on the lands described in Part 1 of this Schedule and the wayleaves described in Part 2 of this Schedule in, on, under or over the lands specified in Sub-Part B below.



Compulsory Acquisition of Land

Irish Water Compulsory Purchase (Old Connaught Wastewater Project) Order, 2021



PART 4 – TEMPORARY WORKING AREA (Continued)  
Sub-Part B – Description of Lands

Plot Number coloured green on the drawing deposited at: Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1 And Bray Municipal District, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow	Drawing No.	Quantity, Situation and Description of the Land			Owners or Reputed Owners	Lessees or Reputed Lessees	Occupiers
		Area in Hectares	Location	Description of Property			
002	IW/10013372/CPO/OC01	0.2452	Ravenswell and Bray Commons	Open space and Roadway	Pizarro Developments Limited, 61 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2	N/A	Department of Education c/o Attention: David Donnelly, NDFA, Treasury Building, Grand Canal Street, Dublin 2, D02XN96
005	IW/10013372/CPO/OC01	0.0028	Bray Commons	Pathway	Bray Town Council, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, County Wicklow	N/A	N/A
006	IW/10013372/CPO/OC01	0.4015	Ravenswell and Bray Commons	Open space	Pizarro Developments Limited, 61 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2	N/A	Municipal District of Bray, Wicklow County Council, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, County Wicklow
007	IW/10013372/CPO/OC01	0.4574	Ravenswell and Bray Commons	Open space	Pizarro Developments Limited, 61 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2	N/A	N/A

Dated this 30th day of November, 2021. Liam O’Riordan, Company Secretary, Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.

Second round of Little Library bags being distributed by Council

Wicklow County Council Library service is again linking with almost 150 pre-schools, playschools, Naonraí and registered child-minders across the county with the distribution of a second round of First5 Little Library Bags.

The Little Library Initiative aims to develop an ongoing link between early learning and care service and their local library to encourage a love of books and reading among young children. The First 5 Little Library Initiative will:

- Distribute a selection of books and resources to all early learning and care services, from your local library
- Ensure that the same collection of books is also held in libraries which can be loaned out to young children and their families



- Encourage membership and use of libraries among early learning and care services and among young children and their families
  - Encourage ongoing collaboration between the early learning and care services and libraries and support families in establishing or developing the practice of reading
- This significant initiative was launched in June this year with the first rollout of library bags to all services. These bags of books were collected from their local library by Pre-school professionals and laid the foundation for a meaningful link between early learning and child minding services in County Wicklow and all 13 libraries around the county.

Wicklow County Council Library Service is encouraging all ELCs to get a group library card which will allow up to 30 items to be borrowed at a time. Library staff are keen to see children with their own library cards. Director of Services with Wicklow County Council, Michael Nicholson, said: "Children aged from new-born can get their My First Library Card which has been created by children's author and illustrator, Chris Judge when they become library members for the first time. All libraries have a phenomenal collection of children's picture books and each child may borrow 12 books at a time, ensuring a plentiful supply of reading material in these important early years".

This second tranche of First5 library bags will each contain five story books and other reading resources for children. All items have been selected by the national library service. Naonraí will receive five Irish titles and each general ELC will receive four English titles and one Irish title. After school services will receive picture books more suited to the older child.

Please contact your local library or call 01 2866566 for further information.

Community Monuments Fund open for applications

Wicklow County Council is pleased to invite applications to the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2022. The closing date is February 15th 2022.

The Community Monuments Fund (CMF) was first established by the Department of Housing Heritage and Local Government in 2020 to provide investment in Ireland's archaeological heritage. Part of the funding is prioritised for local authorities, private owners and custodians and community groups for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments and the provision of required measures to enhance access.

The core aims of this fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local monuments and archaeological sites. There are three funding streams aimed at enabling conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support; encouraging access to monuments and improve their presentation and also to build resilience in monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

The Department also encourages project promoters to incorporate a traditional skills training element in projects.

The Community Monuments Fund provides up to 100 per cent funding under three Streams:

- Stream 1 will offer grants up to €85,000 aimed at essential repairs and capital works for the conservation and repair of archaeological monuments.
- Stream 2 will offer grants of up to €30,000 for development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports that are aimed at identifying measures for conservation of archaeological monuments and improving public access.
- Stream 3 will offer grants of up to €30,000 for enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation (including virtual/online) at archaeological monuments.

The scheme is co-ordinated in County Wicklow by Heritage Officer Deirdre Burns, who stated: "In 2021 our seven successful projects under the Community Monuments fund in County Wicklow resulted in the compilation of conservation reports, statements of significance and considerable access improvements for several of our archaeological sites. We are hopeful that in 2022 we will be able to continue this positive work and address specific conservation issues that we have identified."

Private applicants or community groups who are the owners or custodians of monuments may apply, see [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) under 'latest news' for full details. Applicants should read the CMF guidance circular carefully and ensure that method statements and landowner or other consents are included if relevant with the application.

Applications should be returned by email to [wicklowheritag@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowheritag@wicklowcoco.ie) or by post, clearly marked 'Community Monument Fund Application' c/o Heritage Office, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town, by no later than 5 pm on 15th February.

For more information on eligible monuments visit [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie). All queries may be directed to Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council, via [dburns@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:dburns@wicklowcoco.ie).



Kilbride Graveyard in Arklow was one of the sites which received funding through the Community Monuments Fund this year.

PLANNING PLANNING PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning permission sought for development consisting of the demolition of an existing single story flat roofed extension and a conservatory and the construction of a new single story extension to side and rear of existing cottage style dwelling house at Mullanacranna Rathdangan Baltinglass. Co Wicklow W91Y6X9. For Stephen Corrigan.

The planning application can be inspected or purchased from Wicklow County Council at County Buildings Wicklow, during opening hours.

A submission or observation in relation to the Application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of a fee of €20, within the period of 5 weeks, beginning on the date of receipt by Wicklow County Council 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

Significant Information/ Revised Plans

I hereby give notice for the submission of significant further information to Wicklow County Council in relation to planning application ref no: 21/971 for Sinead Leahy who is applying for permission at Ballinastoe, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow for a new dwelling, garage, upgrading existing entrance on to lane, wastewater treatment unit, soil polishing filter, new well and associate works. Significant further information/ revised plans have been furnished to the planning authority in respect of the proposed development and are available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the further information or revised plans may be made in writing to the planning authority within the period of 2 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the revised notices. A submission or observation must be accompanied by the prescribed fee except in the case of a person or body who have already made a submission or observation.



# BMW's first big all electric SUV, iX - arrives and impresses

Five years ago, BMW announced their commitment to an electric future with the design and construction of their own battery plant and electric drivetrain facility.

This was after the petrol engine, just in Munich carmaker's first case.... Not too long toe in the electric water into production, the with the little i3 - which petrol engine was had a 250 cc back up dropped - thus clearing

the way for i3 to become BMW's first electric car.

Since then, BMW have ramped up production of hybrid, plus in hybrid and electric versions of their models - but all based around the chassis and general layout of the petrol or diesel driven model.

Concurrently, another design team were working on a brand new car architecture solely for electric production and to maximize the benefits that can be derived from that - such as the fully flat floor with no transmission tunnel in the middle.

But lots of the advances in the first of the all-electric BMW big beasts - the iX - are in the software and control systems which lurk behind the stunning panoramic dashboard.

These integrate live charge point information and traffic congestion data to take over, as best

By Martin McCarthy

they can, the range anxiety function from the driver. But with a range of 500km in even the smaller battery pack version, that should not be an issue for Irish drivers.

The new iX is essentially for X5 drivers who worry about the planet - and/or enjoy the quiet, smooth, sophisticated electric driving experience - not to mention the lightening acceleration which goes 0-100kph in 4.4seconds - or in 3.9 seconds with the bigger battery pack. That's quick.

Last week myself and a colleague drove the iX from Sandford, through Blessington and West Wicklow and over to Burtown House and Garden Centre in Kildare, near Athy. As the last of the Autumn leaves were shedding, West Wicklow never



The BMW iX in an autumnal West Wicklow

looked so beautiful.

The return journey was using mainly M9 and M7 and onto the trusty (sometimes) M50, back to Sandford. The Wow value of the iX is undoubtedly the latest generation information system which works out the "what ifs" to ensure you stay within range - and can relax and enjoy the experience. The lucky owners 12-year-old son or daughter will

love exploring the Info system and configuring it to suit their, sorry, your, needs and wants.

BMW clearly have the Tesla Model X in its sights. The beautiful interior design, phenomenal build quality and

strong band loyalty which BMW have built up in Ireland since the first cars arrived here in the 1960s, will all make iX the preferred choice for the lucky few.

Prices start at €89,585, now. As time

goes on and electric becomes mainstream, the iX will spawn smaller and cheaper cousins to fulfilling the needs and wants of a broader population. Early adopters and sure to love their iX - and spread the faith.

## RECRUITMENT

We are currently recruiting an

## ACCOUNTS/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

to work full time in our busy office

- Accounts experience desirable
- Salary will be commensurate with experience

Please apply in strictest confidence with CV to Augustus Cullen Law, 7 Wentworth Place, Wicklow

## Vacancy: Community Employment Supervisor

West Wicklow Community Employment CLG.  
(20 hours per week excluding lunch breaks)

A vacancy exists for the post of CE Supervisor in West Wicklow Community Employment CLG, The Green, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow. Ref:#CES2204734

This is a job share post for 20 hours per week. You will be based between the Kiltegan & Baltinglass offices of WWCE. The areas covered by the project are Knockananna, Rathdangan, High Park, Kiltegan & Baltinglass. The post and project is funded by the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection.

Further details and job description can be found at :  
<https://jobsireland.ie/en-US/job-Details?id=2204734>

Shortlisting will apply.

Applications (CV and Cover Letter) to  
[westwicklowce@outlook.com](mailto:westwicklowce@outlook.com)

or by post to

The Board Members, West Wicklow Community Employment CLG, The Green, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow.

Closing date for receipt of applications 30th December 2021

## Go Green and save money

Irish Water has partnered with Retail Ireland to offer its members the opportunity to improve their green credentials with bespoke training on how to reduce their water consumption while also driving down operating costs for their businesses.

Irish Water's specialised training for the retail sector provides staff and owners with the knowledge and expertise to lower water consumption and reduce costs while protecting the environment. Small changes such as identifying water being wasted on site, setting a baseline for water use to understand what is normal or average use, raising awareness amongst staff and customers or upgrading to water efficient devices can all help to reduce water use and save money.

The programme is the first of its kind in Ireland and is fully supported by Ibec, Chambers Ireland, SEAI, Origin Green, BIM and Enterprise Ireland.

Retailers interested in getting involved in this free training are asked to register before December 15 at [www.water.ie/stewardship](http://www.water.ie/stewardship).

The programme is funded by Irish Water and the Lean & Green Skillnet with the support of Skillnet Ireland and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

## GOSPEL Luke 7:19-23

John, summoning two of his disciples, sent them to the Lord to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?' When the men reached Jesus they said, 'John the Baptist has sent us to you, to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come or have we to wait for someone else?' It was just then that he cured many people of diseases and afflictions and of evil spirits, and gave the gift of sight to many who were blind. Then he gave the messengers their answer, 'Go back and tell John what you have seen and heard; the blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, the Good news is proclaimed to the poor and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

C.J.

## CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS

CALL: 01 2869111 EMAIL: [pauline@localtimes.ie](mailto:pauline@localtimes.ie)

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS  
AND APPOINTMENTS IS 12 NOON FRIDAY





# Chambers Ireland welcomes extended business supports

Chambers Ireland has welcomed the announcement from Ministers Donohoe and McGrath on the extension of enhanced supports for businesses who qualify for the EWSS and the CRSS but urges Government to provide greater clarity for businesses.

Chambers Ireland Chief Executive Ian Talbot, said: "The announcement is an important assurance for many of our members across the country. By maintaining the enhanced rates of subsidy under the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) for a further two months and extending the end-date of the Covid Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS) to 31 January, this will provide many businesses with essential financial assistance as we face into a further uncertain period of trading as a result of rising Covid-19 case numbers.

"While we recognise the significance of this support in the immediate short-term, we urge Government to further consider the extension of these supports in the medium-to long-term should public health conditions deteriorate following the busy Christmas period.

"A more appropriate and effective system of supporting businesses in the longer term will need to be devised early in the new year to provide this clarity that business owners desperately require. The rolling threat of a cliff-

edge cut-off to supports in place for employers must end in 2022.

"We continue to call on government to introduce multiple, realistic scenario contingency planning. Businesses need to have foresight of what the Government responses will be should our Covid-19 levels not improve, and also what to expect if they disimprove. "The pandemic and its consequences are still very much with us and the detection of new strains of this virus continues to pose threats to the disruption of business activities across many sectors.

"The Government needs to provide a detailed path forward for 2022, covering a myriad of possible restrictions, so that businesses can adequately plan for the months ahead."

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Elves Jingle and Sparky at Santa's Grotto at Coffee Delights in Bray. Pic: Joe McQuillan

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