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Monday 20th December 2021 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# 'NOBODY WANTS THIS MAST'

**An Bord Pleanála has overruled Wicklow County Council by granting permission for a 24-metre high (7-storey) telecommunications tower at Brittas Bay despite ABP's own Inspector's Report recommending refusal and Comreg claiming they could not see the need for it. Locals are now considering an appeal to the High Court.**

Vantage Towers Ltd, a wholly owned entity of the Vodafone Group, appealed to ABP after the Council refused permission for the development in March of this year. The tower will be erected at Rock Farm, just over a kilometre from Brittas Bay beach. The site is located within an elevated landscaped area defined in the County Development Plan as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Council refused permission for two main reasons: That the development "would represent consolidation of un-authorised development" on the site, and that the site is elevated, exposed, and in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Council argued that the development would unduly impact on the amenities of the area and of adjoining properties, would undermine the planning regulations, and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development in the area because of the 'unecessary serious deterioration of the landscape quality' that it would cause. Numerous objections



**Eddie Drew with Deermuid, the star of the new SuperValue Christmas ad, at Copsewood Aviaries in Kilmacanogue. Pic: Michael Kelly**

were also lodged by local residents who complained about the adverse visual impact of the mast, which will be in clear view from their properties. They also objected on the grounds of the potential health impact and the impact on birds and wildlife and 'inadequate justification' for the development.

ABP's Inspector's Report, recommending refusal, noted that because of "the nature and scale of the proposed development prominently sited in a scenic elevated coastal setting and in an Area of Outstanding National Natural Beauty, it is considered that the proposed development by itself and cumulatively with the existing wind turbine on site would be a visually prominent and incongruous feature and would seriously injure the visual amenities and landscape character of the Southern Coastline." The report also said that "this level of intrusion in this location" is not sufficiently justified. "The proposed development would not be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area," the report said.

However, going against its own Inspector's Report, ABP said it was satisfied that the proposed development would not seriously injure the visual amenities and landscape character of the coastline. The Board also stated that the proposed development was located in a highly suitable and appropriate location for the purpose of providing 2G, 3G and 4G coverage in the area. "Furthermore, the board noted availability of the proposed mast for co-location in the future in accordance with National Policy," ABP said.

In its appeal against the Council's decision, Vantage justified the development on the basis of 'blackspots' in

*Continued on page 3*

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## Season's Greetings from the Glenview Hotel and Leisure Club

This Christmas, the team at the Glenview Hotel and Leisure Club would like to extend our warmest wishes to you and your families.

As 2021 comes to a close, we take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our guests, members, local community, suppliers, and colleagues for their kindness, support and loyalty throughout the year.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to the Glenview Hotel and Leisure Club in the near future.

From all the team -

We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas. Sending you every good wish for a New Year filled with health, happiness and prosperity!



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Lizzie and Nell Flanagan at the turning on of the Christmas Lights in Ashford.

## 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.

## Free parking

Local shoppers can avail of two hours free parking:

Wicklow Town - Two hours free Christmas parking in all Pay and Display Parking areas in Wicklow town until Saturday, 1st January 2022.

Arklow - Two hours Free Christmas parking in Council owned car parks in Arklow town for the Christmas period - running from Wednesday 1st December to Monday 3rd January 2022 inclusive. Free all-day parking will continue as usual at the weekend. Pay and display will remain as normal in Main Street, Lower Main Street, Upper Main Street and the Wexford Road.

## Greystones you are ...

A collection of poems about Greystones and the surrounding area, written by its residents, has been compiled by poet Frances Browner. The anthology, entitled 'Greystones You Are...', features over 50 poems, some of which were included in Poets' Wall 2020 and Poetry Trail 2021. There are also contributions from local schools and nurseries. Books are priced at €10 and proceeds will go to Greystones Cancer Support. Copies are available from: GCS Centre on La Touche Place; Village Bookshop; Halfway Up The Stairs Bookshop; Fiona Roche Pharmacy Blacklion; Bear Paw Delicatessen on Theatre Lane; Whale Theatre; Fisher's in Newtownmountkenedy;

Brady's Homecare on Victoria Road. This lovely anthology makes a wonderful Christmas present.

Especially for family and friends abroad!! Easy and inexpensive to post.

## LEO Courses

Wicklow's Local Enterprise Office is offering a wide range of courses and workshops. Here are the latest offerings: Look for Local, supporting local businesses; Tourism Business Continuity Scheme; Social Media Training for Wicklow Food and Tourism Businesses 2022. Full details from: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/>

# Rotary makes history as Remembrance Tree moves to Fitzwilliam Square

*First time in living memory to have Christmas Tree in the renovated square as Rotary raises funds for local charities*

The Rotary Club of Wicklow has erected its annual Remembrance Tree for the 16th year to raise funds for local charities. This year the location of the tree has changed from the Church Street car park to the newly renovated Fitzwilliam Square. This is the first time anyone on Wicklow can remember a large scale – 25ft – Christmas tree in the centre of the town.

"It looks magnificent and is a credit to Rotary and our helpers who installed the tree," said Peter Byrne, President of Wicklow Rotary. "It was a team effort from start to finish involving Ballyfree Garden Sheds, Wicklow Co. Council, Smiths Electric and our members." The Remembrance Tree, which has raised over €125,000 for local charities since 2006, is a major event in the Rotary fund raising calendar. This year, the main beneficiary will be Wicklow Cancer Support group while Wicklow Dementia Support will also receive funding.

"These are voluntary organisations, set up and run locally by dedicated people to provide emotional and practical support," said Donal Magner, Rotary PRO. "In addition to a change of venue this year, we are returning to signing ribbons as this was popular during the early days of the Remembrance Tree." Rotary is encouraging the public to write their messages on these ribbons to remember departed loved ones and these will then be secured to the tree. Apart from raising funds the tree is now a popular meeting place leading up to Christmas where Wicklow people and visitors to the town can also sign the Book of Remembrance.

President Byrne thanked the Rotary committee led by Michael J. Connolly

"who coordinated the project with clockwork precision," from the outset. "I would like to thank the many volunteers who helped in realising project Remembrance Tree," he said. "Special mention to Noel Heatley, Craig Bradshaw and Charlie Kelly of Ballyfree Garden Sheds, Colm Smith of Smith's Electric and Jim Hurley of Euroforest. Sincere thanks to Seamus Parle of Cooney Parle Accountants and Registered Auditors for sponsoring the magnificent tree."

The Rotary President also acknowledged the input of Wicklow County Council CEO Frank Curran and his staff including Alan Martin, and Aileen Russell for their support.

"Rotary members would be delighted to meet the public and discuss our work which involves funding charities in Wicklow and abroad as well as supporting youth group initiatives in the community," said Michael J. Connolly, chairperson of the Remembrance Tree Committee.

The Remembrance Tree will be manned by members of Wicklow Rotary and representatives of Wicklow Cancer Support from Wednesday 15th December up to Christmas Eve.

Donations can be made at Remembrance Tree shed in Fitzwilliam Square by cash or by credit card. You can now donate at the Wicklow



Rotary Club of Wicklow members Donal Magner, Theo Phelan, Tom Mulvihill, Michael J. Connolly and Seamus Parle.

Rotary page on [idonate.ie](http://idonate.ie) or by QR Code (scan QR at any of the Remembrance Tree signs or posters around town).

The Remembrance Tree is an important event in the club's annual programme, which supports international charities but most of Rotary's work is community based including two projects aimed at young people: the Youth Leadership Development Competition and Foróige, – the Way Project. The Youth Leadership project is well

underway and rewards young people with leadership potential based on their extra-curricular activities. The Way Project supports youths at the opposite end of the educational and social spectrum who have problems with mental health, substance abuse and other social and domestic issues.

The club has also supported the Samaritans and has a major upcoming environment and recreation project. Details will be announced in the new year.



The Rotary Club of Wicklow's annual Remembrance Tree will raise funds this year for Wicklow Cancer Support and Wicklow Dementia Support.

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



# CAB seize drugs and guns from Wicklow premises

The Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) with the assistance of the Garda Emergency Response Unit (ERU), the Garda Dog Unit and the Customs Revenue Dog Unit, seized drugs and guns during a search operation in County Wicklow on the morning of Tuesday 14th December.

A total of sixteen premises were searched, consisting of eight residential, two business and six professional premises. All searches were conducted under CAB Warrants, Section 14 of the Criminal Assets Bureau Act 1996, as amended.

The following was seized during the course of the searches: Cocaine with an estimate value of €9,800; Cannabis Herb with an estimate value of €900; Lidocaine with an estimate value of €50; Steroids with an estimate value of €100; Two Airsoft Rifles; €9,100 in cash; Documentation in relation to Financial Accounts and Property Ownership; Mobile Phones; Electronic

Storage Devices.

A man aged 30 years, was arrested for offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977/84. This male was detained at Wicklow Garda Station under the provisions of Section 2 of the Criminal Justice Drug Trafficking Act 1996. He has since been released without charge and a file is being prepared for submission to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

This search operation marks a significant development in the CAB investigation into the assets and activities of an individual believed to be involved in organised criminal activity.



Members of Arklow Fire Service and Arklow Sea Scouts celebrating the Christmas season in Arklow, with Santa Claus and one of his elves.

## 'NOBODY WANTS THIS MAST'

From page 1

the area for Vodafone following the removal of the transmission equipment at McDaniel's premises. Vantage said that the high-speed broadband map showed a dearth in coverage in the area surrounding Brittas Bay.

Reacting to ABP's decision, Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said "I am very disappointed with this decision which will see a prominent tower erected at the top of a hill in the middle of this area of natural beauty. I am

very concerned about the impact this mast would have on the surrounding environment as this area includes a Special Area of Conservation status and where delicate ecosystems exist and continue to be at risk. The last thing this area needs is construction of this kind of infrastructure.

development have been refused and curtailed because of this designation in the past which leads to the question as to why An Bord Pleanála has given permission for this now."

Meanwhile last week RTE reported that An Bord Pleanála's rulings were successfully challenged in 63% of High Court cases last year, according to the planning body's annual report. There were 51 legal cases decided last year and the board lost 32. In 19 cases the High Court quashed the planning permission while in 13 cases the board admitted to defects in its decision-making process. Only 11 decisions were upheld while another eight were discontinued or withdrawn.



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

### CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Christmas Eve: 9am to 2 pm  
Christmas Day: Closed  
St Stephen's Day: Closed  
27th & 28th Dec: 10 am to 12 noon  
29th, 30th, & 31st: 10am to 4pm  
1st & 2nd Jan: Closed  
3rd January: 10am to 12 noon

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





# Three Wicklow RNLI lifeboat volunteers take on new lifesaving roles

Wicklow RNLI have passed out three volunteer lifeboat crew into new lifesaving roles at the station, as this Christmas the charity remains on call to save lives at sea. Graham Fitzgerald is a new station coxswain, Paul Sillery is a new helm on the station's inshore lifeboat and John Stapleton is a new mechanic on the All-Weather Shannon class lifeboat.

The three-volunteer lifeboat crew with Wicklow RNLI are helping the charity launch its Christmas appeal and are calling on the public to support the RNLI's life-saving work this Christmas, as they remain on call and ready to launch. With over 1,500 lifeboat volunteers in Ireland, each RNLI crew member signs up to save every one from drowning - the charity's mission since 1824. This Christmas many will leave loved ones behind to answer the call, each time hoping to reunite another family, and see those in trouble at sea safely returned.

Graham Fitzgerald has been a volunteer lifeboat crewmember since 2009, becoming a Helm on the inshore lifeboat back in 2013. He has a strong family connection to the station, with his grandfather Billy Kilbride a former lifeboat volunteer. From a strong seafaring background and working in Dublin Port, the sea is in his veins, and he was involved in the rescue of two children who were blown out to sea on an inflatable earlier this year.

Commenting on the importance of the support of the public for the work of the charity Graham said, "I'm very proud to be involved with the

RNLI. I like the challenge of going out on a rescue and not knowing what we may face, I've been on a few challenging ones and it's so rewarding to bring people home safe, something that sadly not every family have experienced. As a Helm and now a Coxswain, I feel a huge responsibility to the crew and the station, thanks to the support of the public we have the kit and the equipment to ensure we can save lives at sea whenever and wherever we are needed."

Paul Sillery joined the lifeboat crew back in 2009 and has recently passed out as a Helm on the station's D class lifeboat. Paul has a strong lifeboating tradition in his family. His great uncle Parker Keogh was Coxswain, and his uncle David Sillery was a crew member. He is supporting the RNLI's Christmas appeal as while the recent pandemic has meant fewer visitors to the station there has been no less a demand for the rescue service.

Talking about why he volunteers with Wicklow RNLI Paul said, "I knew I was always going to join the lifeboat crew and the minute I turned 17 I was at the door of the station. People recognise

the crew in the street as they see us going out to train and see us leaving for a shout. It's so humbling to have that kind of community support behind us. I've been passed out as Helm this year and it's been an incredible journey. It's a very different mindset when you are in command of the lifeboat. You are monitoring everything and thinking of everyone's safety. Looking at the support we get locally and the interest from people in the work of the RNLI, I can see our future crew already around the town."

John Stapleton has been recently passed out as a mechanic on the All-Weather lifeboat. Born and raised in Dublin, John moved to Wicklow eleven years ago. Having a huge interest in mechanics, John ran a vehicle recovery business for years and has a passion for doing up vintage cars. With no family background in the RNLI, he was unsure how to go about joining the lifeboat crew, but he met one of the crew in the town and they suggested he join. That was six years ago and since then John has moved job to Wicklow town and is a caretaker at the Dominican College, with special permission

from Principal Lorraine Mynes to go out on a rescue if the pager goes off. Something he has had to do on several occasions.

He is proud to be a volunteer with the RNLI and to help launch the Christmas appeal locally to raise funds for the charity. John said, "I started my training for the mechanic role on the last Tyne lifeboat in the RNLI. I wanted to learn everything I could for the arrival of the new Shannon class lifeboat with its advanced technology and systems. There is a role for everyone in the RNLI and if you have an interest in something you can develop it and train up. We have navigators, launching authorities and shore crew, everyone does the role that suits them, and it all works together. The resources the RNLI puts into the training and the kit is incredible.

"We know that every time our crews go out, they hope for a good outcome, but sadly this sometimes isn't the case. Through people supporting this year's Christmas appeal, with their help we can get so much closer to our goal of saving every one."

To donate to the RNLI's Christmas Appeal, visit: [RNLI.org/Xmas](http://RNLI.org/Xmas)



Karl and Maria Mohan with Rosie, Lizze, Karl, Maria and Dynah visiting Santa's Grotto at Coffee Delights in Bray. Pic: Joe McQuillan

## Seven new housing posts approved for Wicklow County Council

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD has approved seven new posts for Wicklow County Council's housing delivery team which will assist the local authority in delivering their social housing targets.

Housing for All, the Government's new housing Plan, commits to strengthening the capacity of Local Authorities to initiate, design, plan, develop and manage housing projects. The Plan acknowledges that this requires the resourcing of housing delivery teams and the posts being announced today include both technical and administrative positions.

Commenting Minister O'Brien said, "In September this year, the Government published our new housing strategy, 'Housing for All'. It is the most comprehensive housing plan in the history of the State backed by an unprecedented €4bn per year. Under 'Housing for All', we will deliver nearly 90,000 new build social homes by 2030 and we have put a very clear focus on the delivery of new build projects.

"My Department has been working with the Housing Delivery Coordination Office (HDCO) and the County and City Management Association (CCMA) to identify capacity limitations and additional staffing resources required to deliver our objectives. With the approval of these new posts, we are ensuring that Wicklow County Council have the capacity to deliver the scale of social housing required," he concluded.

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Paul Sillery (Helm) Graham Fitzgerald (Coxswain) and John Stapleton (Mechanic) who were all appointed at RNLI Wicklow this year. Photo courtesy of Wicklow RNLI



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## Your Environment – Your Community – Your Heritage

Pure is a partnership project and the first of its kind in Ireland which incorporates statutory and non-statutory organisations, including Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council. Funded by The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Pure was established to combat illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.



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Rachel Tracey and Amy Roche at the turning on of the Christmas Lights in Knockananna.

# 'He was the most effective public representative in the history of Wicklow'

Last week saw the sad passing of a giant of Wicklow politics, Liam Kavanagh, at the age of 87. Liam Kavanagh was a towering figure in local politics and the Labour Party and he served his constituents at local, national and European level.

First running for the Dáil in the 1968 by-election after the death of his uncle, Labour TD Jim Everett, Liam polled a very strong 21.9%, but was unsuccessful. He reclaimed the Labour seat in the 1969 general election and went on to hold it through a further eight general elections, until narrowly missing out in 1997.

Liam also served three times as an MEP, being appointed in 1973 and 1977, and winning election from Leinster in 1979, in what was a massive victory for the Party nationally when Labour won four seats.

Liam's Ministerial service began in 1981 when he was appointed Minister for Labour and the Public Service, and he took over as Minister for the Environment in 1983 remaining in that office until 1986. He also served as a member of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly, was Chair of the Semi-State Bodies Commission from 1995 to 1997, and was a member of the Standards in Public Office Commission after it was set up in 2001, showing the depth of his interests and deep commitment to public service.

Labour Party Leader Alan Kelly TD has extended his sympathy to the family, friends and supporters of Liam Kavanagh, saying "I was saddened to hear of the passing of our former TD and Minister Liam Kavanagh who was a giant of Wicklow politics over many decades. Liam made a huge contribution both locally and nationally during his time as a Councillor, TD, MEP and Minister, and was viewed as a quiet kingmaker within the Labour Parliamentary Party.

"One of Liam's great legacies is the thousands of council homes he built during his tenure as Minister for the Environment in the 1980's. In the worst of economic times, Liam ensured a comprehensive building programme was put in place and delivered on. His example is one that shows what the State can do when the political will is there to deliver public housing.

"Throughout his career, Liam was dedicated to the values of the Labour Party, serving his community and the people he represented with determination, honesty, and integrity, and he continued the proud tradition of Labour in Wicklow. His son Conal followed in his stead, serving as a Councillor from 2004 until 2014, and we were all shocked when he died suddenly in 2017. His niece Breeda Bonner also served as a Councillor in Clondalkin from 2011 to 2019.

"On behalf of the Labour Party I want to extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Margaret, daughter Rosemary, grandchildren Áine and Ríán, brother Jimmy and sister Therese, the extended Kavanagh family, friends, supporters and the community he served so diligently."

Current Wicklow Labour councillor Paul O'Brien said "It's with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Liam Kavanagh. Anyone that I ever spoke to about Liam around the County would always say the same thing, that he was a great TD, Minister and colleague, who did so much for so many. I think one of his greatest accomplishments as Minister for the Environment was when he eradicated the housing list because he built so many houses in the 1980s.

At the back of it all though Liam was a very quiet reserved decent man who was respected by all. He was a great mentor to have and someone that I've always looked up to and aspired to be like. My sincere condolences to his wife Margaret, his daughter Rosemary & all the Kavanagh family. May he rest in peace."

Minister Simon Harris said "I want to express my deepest sympathies to the Kavanagh family on the sad passing of Liam Kavanagh - a giant in Wicklow politics. Liam epitomised public service & decency in public



Liam Kavanagh

life. His reputation as a hard working, tenacious, dedicated and effective T.D for Wicklow is well known and much appreciated. I regularly meet constituents who talk with great fondness about Liam and how he helped them or a family member or a community group across our county.

"At a national level, Liam also served our country with distinction as a Cabinet Minister across a number of Government Departments and, of course, also serving in the European Parliament. His time in the Department of the Environment will always be remembered for the huge investment in social housing.

"Wicklow has lost an iconic figure who served our county and country with distinction. My family and I send ourselves thoughts and prayers to Liam's wife Margaret, his daughter Rosemary, his grandchildren, siblings and extended family. A life of service delivered with great integrity. Rest in peace, Liam."

Tommy Cullen, former Labour councillor and long-time friend and ally of Liam Kavanagh, said "Liam was the most effective public representative in the history of County Wicklow since the state was formed. During his time in office he commenced the building of the N11. He oversaw as Minister a massive infrastructure investment throughout the county from Blessington to Greystones, from Wicklow to Bray and Arklow to West Wicklow. He secured funding for new water and sewage plants throughout the county and upgraded many more. County road funding to upgrade many county roads was secured.

"However, his record of house building throughout the county was, I believe, his greatest achievement. He had built three and a half thousand council houses a year in county Wicklow alone and almost forty thousand houses per year nationally during his years as Minister. No politician before or since has even come close to Liam Kavanagh's record of achievement on housing despite him doing so in far more stringent economic times.

"When Liam left office as Minister there was no family on the housing waiting lists in Wicklow, in fact the council had a surplus of housing. Kavanagh showed it could be done if there was the political will to do so. Sadly, that political will is no longer present in the current political landscape of Wicklow.

"As Minister for Environment he reformed the controversial arena of planning. He sacked the entire board of An Bord Pleanála. His pursuit of integrity in public administration was widely admired and his honesty admired by friend and foe alike. He never accepted low

standards in high places in Wicklow or elsewhere.

"The tragic loss of his son Conal was a difficult blow for Liam and his beloved family. He carried on the banner of the Labour movement from his late uncle James Everett T.D. His politics were those of the traditional Labour Party: standing up for the rights and justice for ordinary people. He resigned from government rather than agree to the cuts in welfare payments to the unemployed, sick and pensioners and tax increases on workers. He always stood for the real principles and cause of the Labour Movement. I was proud to share those views and have his friendship in that cause.

"I will miss Liam's wisdom on issues, his dedication to integrity in public office and his unshakeable belief in the rights of justice and equality for all men and women and access to health and education as a human right for all. Liam was a gentleman, to me a dear friend whom I shall always remember with fondness."

Liz Mcmanus who served with Liam Kavanagh as a councillor and was subsequently a Labour TD and Minister said "Liam Kavanagh was a fine public representative. Whether as Government Minister, MEP, TD and county councillor he always had the interests of working people at heart, particularly those of the people of County Wicklow. In particular his extraordinary record in providing social housing in county will be remembered.

"It was a pleasure to work alongside him as a colleague and a friend. He was a man of intelligence, great warmth and a mischievous sense of humour. Margaret, his beloved wife, made her contribution to county Wicklow too, quietly and often out of the spotlight. I want to extend my deepest sympathy to her and to their daughter Rosemary at this sad time. Liam will be remembered by many people with affection and with pride to have known him."

Condolences came pouring in following the news of Liam Kavanagh's passing.

"Liam was a gentleman who loved his family, his town, county and country and always did his best for them," said Cllr Irene Winters.

Former TD Billy Timmins said "He lived a life of honour, commitment and integrity. His family can be very proud of him."

Brendan Howlin TD said "Labour has lost a champion whose record of service will live long in the memory of his many comrades."

Former TD Joe Jacob said "Liam was a decent family man of the utmost integrity. His superb political record speaks for itself and he achieved much for his constituency and his country. His family and friends, his party and his supporters can forever remember him with great pride."

Cllr Tom Fortune said "My condolences and deepest sympathy to Margaret, Rosemary, Kiara, Jimmy Therese and Liam's extended family on his sad passing. May he rest in peace."

In 2004 The Labour Party held an event in the Grand Hotel to mark the contribution made by Liam Kavanagh to public life. The event was organised by Marie Mates, Conal Kavanagh and the public representatives of the Labour Party in Co Wicklow and was a sell-out with members attending from every part of the county.

In his speech on the night, Liam Kavanagh said "I want to record my great personal and political debt to Jim Everett, the first Labour Party T.D. for Co Wicklow. I want in particular to thank Margaret and my family and pay tribute to Marie Mates.

"When I was elected to four positions MEP, TD, County Councillor and Urban Councillor, my wife was very busy indeed. I have been honoured to serve the Labour Party and the people of Wicklow."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

## MOTOR TAX OFFICES WICKLOW, BRAY & BLESSINGTON

Motor tax can be renewed online at [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie)

### Wicklow Motor Tax Office Christmas Opening Times

Monday 20th Dec	09.30 – 12.30 and 14.00 – 15.30
Tuesday 21st Dec	09.30 – 12.30 and 14.00 – 15.30
Wednesday 22nd Dec	09.30 – 12.30 and 14.00 – 15.30
Thursday 23rd Dec	09.30 – 12.30 and 14.00 – 15.30
Friday 24th Dec	Closed
Monday 27th Dec	Closed
Tuesday 28th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 29th Dec	Closed
Thursday 30th Dec	09.30 – 12.30 and 14.00 – 15.30
Friday 31st Dec	Closed
Monday 4th Dec	Closed

Normal office hours (9.30am to 12.30pm and 2.00pm to 3.30pm) will resume on Tuesday 5th January 2022.

### Bray Motor Tax Office Christmas Opening Times

Tuesday 21st Dec	10.00 – 12.00 and 14.00 – 15.00
Wednesday 22nd Dec	10.00 – 12.00 and 14.00 – 15.00
Thursday 23rd Dec	10.00 – 12.00 and 14.00 – 15.00
Tuesday 28th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 29th Dec	Closed
Thursday 30th Dec	10.00 – 12.00 and 14.00 – 15.00

Normal office hours (10.00 – 12.00 and 14.00-15.00) will resume on Tuesday 5th January 2022.

### Blessington Motor tax office Christmas Opening Times

Tuesday 21st Dec	09.30 – 12.30 and 14.00 – 15.30
Tuesday 28th Dec	Closed

Normal office hours (09.30 – 12.30 and 14.00 – 15.30) will resume on Tuesday 5th January 2022.

Wicklow County Council regrets any inconvenience caused.



# GREEN CHRISTMAS

## RECYCLING IN DECEMBER/JANUARY



### CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING JANUARY 2022

Bring your Christmas Tree to any of the collection points below.  
They will be shredded, composted and used again!

**No wreaths, plastic trees or decorations please.**

	LOCATION	DATE
Arklow	Arklow Recycling Centre, Croghan Industrial Estate	4th -17th January
Aughrim	Tidy Towns, The Pavillion, Rednagh Road	4th -17th January
Avoca	Avoca Recycling Centre, Ballymurtagh, Avoca	4th -17th January
Baltinglass	Rampere Recycling Centre, Rampere, Baltinglass	4th -17th January
Blessington	County Council Yard, Naas Road	4th -17th January
Bray	Bray Recycling Centre, Beechwood Close, Boghall Road	4th -17th January
Bray	Lidl, Boghall Road	4th -17th January
Greystones,	Carpark in front of the Wicklow County Council Offices on Mill Road near to the bottle banks	4th -17th January
Hollywood	Church Carpark, Hollywood	8th January only Donations in aid of Tidy Towns 10am - 12pm
Wicklow	The Murrough Recycling Centre, Wicklow	4th -17th January
Wicklow	Green King, Coolbeg (Road opp. Beehive)	4th -17th January

## YOUR COUNTY. YOUR WASTE?

Dumping waste is a crime. Let's all take responsibility.  
**#StopIllegalDumping**



### COUNTY WICKLOW RECYCLING CENTRES

#### Christmas Opening & Closing Times

Centre	Date	Time	
Arklow	Tuesday 23rd Dec	9am-1.45pm	
	Christmas Eve	Closed	
	Christmas Day	Closed	
	Monday 27th Dec	Closed	
	Tuesday 28th Dec	Closed	
	Wednesday 29th Dec	Closed	
	Thursday 30th Dec	9am-1.45pm	
	New Year's Eve	9am-1.45pm	
	New Year's Day	Closed	
	Sunday 2nd Jan	Closed	
Avoca	Monday 3rd Jan	Closed	
	Tuesday 4th Jan	9am-4.30pm	
	Bray	Tuesday 23rd Dec	9am-1.45pm
		Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day		Closed	
Monday 27th Dec		Closed	
Tuesday 28th Dec		Closed	
Wednesday 29th Dec		Closed	
Thursday 30th Dec		9.30am-1.45pm	
New Year's Eve		9.30am - 1.45pm	
New Year's Day		Closed	
Sunday 2nd Jan		Closed	
The Murrough	Monday 3rd Jan	Closed	
	Tuesday 4th Jan	9.30am-4.30pm	
Rampere Baltinglass	Tuesday 23rd Dec	8.30am-1pm	
	Christmas Eve	Closed	
	Christmas Day	Closed	
	Monday 27th Dec	Closed	
	Tuesday 28th Dec	Closed	
	Wednesday 29th Dec	Closed	
	Thursday 30th Dec	8.30am-1pm	
	New Year's Eve	8.30am-1pm	
	New Year's Day	Closed	
	Sunday 2nd Jan	Closed	
The Murrough	Monday 3rd Jan	Closed	
	Tuesday 4th Jan	8.30am-4pm	



### Stop Food Waste for Christmas

One third of the food we buy goes into the bin with twice as much waste over Christmas. Try to plan your shopping better, store the food more carefully, cook a bit less for the main meal and parties and save the leftovers by freezing. All help to reduce food waste.

Check out the 12 days of Christmas recipe book for leftovers on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) or ask for a copy from [eao@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:eao@wicklowcoco.ie) or **Locall 1890 222276**

For more tips on avoiding food waste visit [www.stopfoodwaste.ie](http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie)

Composting at home is great for the environment but don't forget to ask your bin collector to provide you with a brown bin for food waste which will result in lower bin charges.





## LET'S HAVE A GREEN CHRISTMAS.







The Thornton family with Santa at the switching on of the Christmas lights in Ashford

# Order placed for new large scale DART fleet

The largest and most sustainable ever order of electric carriages for Ireland's railway network has been made. An initial 95 carriage order has been placed for the electric units which includes battery electric trains and up to 750 carriages over the next ten years.

They are due for delivery from mid-2024, entering service in 2025, and will include a number of Battery Electric powered trains, which will deliver more capacity for commuters in advance of electrification of the lines upon which they will operate.

Welcoming the announcement, Green Party Steven Matthews TD said: "The inclusion of Battery Electric units is significant for Wicklow as these units can be deployed to routes prior to extending the overhead wires. With my proposal for the DART extension to Wicklow Town now included in the NTA transport strategy it makes sense to deploy battery electric trains to the Wicklow route in advance of the constructing the overhead wires."

"Breaking it down technically,

the battery trains have approximately an 80km return trip capacity on a full charge so the service could extend beyond Wicklow Town. The way the batteries work is that charge as they run under the overheadwires, their regenerative braking system adds further charge, and they can also be fast charged at a suitable plug-in point along the line.

"The improvement in public transport is a priority for me for Wicklow residents and we are seeing that being delivered now through new rail carriages, electrification of the line to Wicklow Town and the roll out of many new bus routes across rural Wicklow under the Connecting Ireland scheme. Public transport is a key priority for me as a Green Party TD and we want to provide more routes; we want to provide

higher frequency and to give people that alternative to move away from car reliance. The announcement of 95 units is a vital step in the right direction.

"Wicklow has long been neglected in terms of public transport resulting in huge commuter congestion and traffic misery on the N11 and N81 and a lack of transport options for students and those trying to access public services or even recreational opportunities. I am determined to see Wicklow and its residents get the public transport systems they deserve and will continue my work with our Green Party Transport Minister Eamon Ryan to see that delivered as soon as possible across urban and rural Wicklow," concluded Deputy Matthews.

Cllr Derek Mitchell (FG) said

"I welcome Irish Rail ordering the new DART carriages. 30 will be electric power only, and will be used to provide extra capacity on existing lines, including to Greystones. 65 are to be battery/electric to serve Drogheda until wires are put up for full electrification. They cost over €2m each and should be in service in 2025. With wide access between carriages they will provide CCTV, better access for wheelchairs and cycles. They will be in 5s, the same length as present 4s. Also two sets can be joined to carry 1,100 people. The present carriages are in service for 37 years, the Greystones ones have been in service for over 20 years, but have been kept well. Up to 750 carriages will be ordered eventually some of which will replace the older carriages."



The new electric DART carriages that have been ordered

## Progress on Bray Dart Station Interchange Project

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has welcomed a progress update from Irish Rail on the long awaited Bray Dart Station Interchange Project.

Public Consultation was carried out on the project at the end of 2018 with the project currently in the final stages of design.

"I had originally approached Irish Rail about the degraded access ramp and an ESB box which was obstructing

the pedestrian walkway across the road. This meant very little disability access which is important given there is an older residential setting, Fáilte Park, nearby.

"In the course of Irish Rail's response to my query they indicated that the Interchange Project

being developed by the NTA and Wicklow County Council to improve the public realm in the vicinity of Bray Dart Station will commence in 2022. The project is in the final design stage and construction will be after that process is finalised.

"This will be a much welcomed development that aims to create a safe and welcoming space for public transport users in which pedestrians and

cyclists can easily access the area and change between different modes of transport, including those with mobility issues. There will be improved cyclist parking, set down facilities, bus layover areas and a formalised taxi rank within direct line of sight from the main station access point.

"Bray will certainly benefit from a much more engaging, friendly and safer space for public

transport users particularly women who can feel vulnerable using the Dart at night or people with limited mobility.

"However, in the meantime, I have asked if the existing pedestrian crossing can be made more visible until construction commences as delays are inevitable especially due to Covid, and people will continue to use the existing area for their public transport needs."



## WICKLOW TRAVELLERS' GROUP

Wicklow Travellers Group is a community development organisation of Travellers and settled people working together to promote human rights for Travellers and create a society in which we are different, equal, confident and valued. We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

### Part-time Administrator - Primary Healthcare Project (7 hours per week)

Wicklow Travellers' Group, CLG

The successful candidate will:

- Have experience of data entry, recording and reporting
- Have good experience using Microsoft Office
- Have good communication and interpersonal skills
- Have an understanding of Traveller issues and Cultural diversity
- Have the ability to work as part of a team but also on own initiative
- Be willing to get involved in all aspects of the work of the project

Further details on the post are available in the Job Description

#### APPLICATION PROCESS:

Please submit covering letter and application form to; [phccoordinator@wicklowtg.ie](mailto:phccoordinator@wicklowtg.ie) or by post to PHC Co-ordinator, C.E.A.R.T, Wicklow Travellers' Group, Crinion Park, Wicklow town, Co. Wicklow

### Community Development Youth Worker Part-Time, Maternity Cover (20 hours per week)

Wicklow Travellers' Group, CLG

The successful candidate will:

- Hold a minimum of a QQI Level 7 qualification in a health science, social care, youth work, addiction or related subject
- Experience of working with socio-economic disadvantage, marginalisation and/or exclusion in society
- Proven knowledge and skills in funding applications, planning, delivery, evaluation and reporting of key strategic initiatives
- Have a high level of communication, relationship-building and interpersonal skills
- Have a clear understanding of Traveller issues and the cultural identity of this community

Further details on the post are available in the Job Description

#### APPLICATION PROCESS:

Please submit covering letter and application form to; [coordinator@wicklowtg.ie](mailto:coordinator@wicklowtg.ie) or by post to The Co-ordinator, C.E.A.R.T, Wicklow Travellers' Group, Crinion Park, Wicklow

Closing date for both positions: 5.00pm on the 4th January 2022

### Personal Assistant required to assist a woman to live an Independent Life

- PART TIME POSITION
  - 10 - 15 HOURS PER WEEK
- GREYSTONES AREA CO. WICKLOW

**Role:** To support a woman with a physical disability both in her home and in the community, Social Care or Health Care Background required Knowledge and experience of working with people with disabilities and Independent Living Philosophy.

Competitive Rates of pay depending on experience. For full job description or to apply please email your CV to:

[mary@theatnetwork.com](mailto:mary@theatnetwork.com)

Closing date 5pm the 23rd Jan 2022



**kcetb**

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
Chill Chainnigh agus Cheatharlach  
Kilkenny and Carlow  
Education and Training Board

### PART-TIME CLEANER

Coláiste Eoin, Hacketstown  
Fixed Term Contract – 10 hours per week

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

Please refer to: [www.kcetb.ie](http://www.kcetb.ie) for job application form and further details.

Closing Date: **Monday, 10 January 2022 (12 noon)**

Shortlisting may apply. Kilkenny and Carlow ETB is an equal opportunities employer.





# Saint John of God Community Services

## Dublin South East



# We're Hiring

Instructors • Programme Assistants • Social Care Workers • Nurses

## What's Great About Us?

- Welcoming & Supportive Colleagues
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- Newly Qualified or Experienced Applicants Welcome
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## Tell Us What's Great About You

GET IN TOUCH BY SENDING YOUR CV TO  
**DSERecruitment@sjog.ie** quoting Ref WW21

[www.sjogdse.ie](http://www.sjogdse.ie)    @sjogdse







# Christmas Greetings from your local businesses

*Seasons Greetings  
from all of us at*

**FELTON McKNIGHT  
SOLICITORS LLP**

Our offices will close for Christmas at  
lunchtime on **Thursday 23rd Dec** at  
2pm, reopening at 9am on  
**Tuesday 4th Jan 2022**

**Text or call 087 686 2139**

**Church Road, Greystones  
[www.feltonmcknight.ie](http://www.feltonmcknight.ie)**

**@info@feltonmcknight.ie 01 287 4341**


**A TRADITION OF LEGAL EXCELLENCE**

***Wishing you all  
a very Happy  
Christmas***

**Benville Robinson  
LLP STATE SOLICITORS**

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Bray, Co. Wicklow  
Tel: 01 276 1330 Fax: 01 276 1336  
Web: [www.benvilleroobinson.ie](http://www.benvilleroobinson.ie)  
E-mail: [info@benvilleroobinson.ie](mailto:info@benvilleroobinson.ie)

 **Nollaig Shona  
daoibh go léir**

**Wishing all a happy,  
safe and peaceful  
Christmas** 

Offices close lunchtime on  
23rd December and re-open  
**Tuesday 4th January**

*Thank you to all our customers  
for your loyalty and support  
throughout the last two years.  
Have a Happy Christmas*

**THE  
ROUNDWOOD INN**

Roundwood,  
Co. Wicklow  
Ph: 01 281 8107  
or 01 281 8144



**SECURELINK**  
INTELLIGENT PROTECTION

**Merry Christmas to all our Customers  
and thank you for your support in 2021**

**[www.securelink.ie](http://www.securelink.ie) 01 9060607**

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**Tel: 2011687**

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**[www.huntsecurity.com](http://www.huntsecurity.com)**

*Happy Christmas to all our customers*

*Happy Christmas & New Year to All*

**Centra**  
Arklow

Unit 2, Ferrybank, Arklow

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
from  
**John McEvoy  
& family**



*Christmas Greetings to all our Customers & Friends*

**PRICE'S GARAGE**

Serving the people of Wicklow for over 30 years

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Garage: 01 281 8128  
Mobile: 086 8382677

**WISHING ALL OUR CUSTOMERS  
AND FRIENDS A VERY MERRY  
CHRISTMAS FROM**

**KEELEYS  
HARDWARE**

Please visit us and see  
our selection of Lights  
and Decorations

**Main St, Roundwood. Tel: 01 2818021**





SENATOR  
**Pat Casey**  
FIANNA Fáil  
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

*Wishing all in Co. Wicklow a very Merry Christmas and all the best for a Safe & Peaceful New Year*



Seanad Éireann, Leinster House  
Kildare Street, Dublin 2. ☎ 01 618 3516  
The Bluebell, 13 Main Street,  
Arklow, Co. Wicklow.  
☎ 0402 42105 📠 086 264 9483  
@ pat.casey@oireachtas.ie  
www.patcasey.ie

John  
**BRADY TD**

*Nollaig Shona agus Athbhláin Faoi Mhaise*



**Sinn Féin**

Sinn Féin Office  
1st Floor, 27 Main Street, Bray,  
Tel: 01-276 2623 Mon-Fri 10am-3pm  
\* Accessibility needs accommodated by request.

Sinn Féin Office  
18a Upper Main, Street, Arklow  
Tel: 0402-41853.  
Tues-Thurs 10am-3pm

Email: [john.bradyn@oireachtas.ie](mailto:john.bradyn@oireachtas.ie)

**Wishing everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Safe & Healthy New Year**




Grace McManus  
T: 083 068 0654  
E: [gracemcmanuss@gmail.com](mailto:gracemcmanuss@gmail.com)

Dermot O'Brien  
T: 086 063 5195  
E: [dermotobriensf@gmail.com](mailto:dermotobriensf@gmail.com)

**Sinn Féin**

*Wishing Everyone a Safe & Peaceful Christmas*



**FINE GAEL**

**Cllr Irene Winters**

23 Wicklow Heights Court, Wicklow Town  
087 244 3610  
[IWinters@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:IWinters@wicklowcoco.ie)

**Councillor Edward Timmins**

*Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year*



**FINE GAEL**

*Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year*

**We are here to help**  
Please contact my constituency office

Tel: (01) 201 7300  
Email: [stephen.donnelly@oireachtas.ie](mailto:stephen.donnelly@oireachtas.ie)

Minister Stephen  
**Donnelly TD**  
Minister for Health & TD for Wicklow

**FIANNA Fáil**  
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

**Happy Christmas to all**

**Cllr. Shay CULLEN**



**FINE GAEL**

Tel: 086 7275000 [shaycullen2014@gmail.com](mailto:shaycullen2014@gmail.com)

**Wishing everybody a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Healthy New Year**

**Cllr. RORY O'CONNOR**



**INDEPENDENT** Tel: 083 461 0357

**Season's Greetings**  
from your  
Local Representatives

**Jennifer Whitmore TD**  
Working for Wicklow

*Wishing you and your families a very Happy Christmas and safe New Year*



3 Hillside Rd, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 NT27  
[jennifer.whitmore@oireachtas.ie](mailto:jennifer.whitmore@oireachtas.ie)  
085 173 8804  
@WhitmoreJen  
[www.facebook.com/whitmore.jennifer](https://www.facebook.com/whitmore.jennifer)

**Social Democrats**



*Nollaig Shona!*  
*My priorities for 2022*



**Seán KELLY MEP**  
YOUR VOICE IN THE EU

*Wishing you all the best for the New Year!*

- As First Vice-Chair of the EU-UK Parliamentary Partnership Assembly**, I will continue to work to foster a positive EU-UK relationship for the benefit of both sides of the border that will have enormous ramifications to our all island economy.
- The **Conference on the Future of Europe** is a project to bridge the distance between citizens and EU decision makers. We want you to have your say on the EU's priorities moving forward. See [futureofeuropa.eu](https://futureofeuropa.eu) for details on how to get involved.
- The EU has committed to **reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030**. This ambitious target can be achieved with actions like significantly increasing renewable energy production and addressing the energy performance of our buildings stock.

[seankelly.eu](https://seankelly.eu)  
[@seankellymep](https://sean.kellymep)

[eppgroup.eu](https://eppgroup.eu)  
EPPGroup  
[@EPPGroup](https://@EPPGroup)

**epp**  
in the european parliament

**FINE GAEL**





Patsy Tracey, Cllr Pat Kennedy, and Phil Fox are pictured at the turning on of the Christmas Lights in Knockananna.

## Help respond to world's largest hunger crisis

Wicklow people are being asked to support a new fundraising appeal to help Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide in its response to the world's largest hunger crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

A grandmother has told how the aid organisation helped save her baby grandson from starving to death in the DRC where 27 million people are caught in the devastating crisis.

Caustasia Kisoke Mukala (61) said Concern helped keep her grandson Emmanuel (20 months) alive after she brought him to a health centre they support weighing just 3kg and in an emaciated state.

"He was so weak and underweight that he did not play or move around like other children his age," said Caustasia, who lives in a small one room hut made of mud and straw in the Kiambi village in south-east DRC, Central Africa.

"The doctors told me he was malnourished. I was extremely worried. For about a month he refused food and the

medicine the doctor gave him, but eventually he started to take them. His weight is now back to normal and he has healed and I am incredibly grateful."

The impoverished grandmother, who earns as little as €1 a day ploughing fields, explained that she has been caring for Emmanuel and his four-year-old sister since their mother died weeks after giving birth. Their father is working in a faraway mine to repay family debts.

Things were much better for her family until a few years ago when they were forced to flee their home village where they owned land and sold fish.

"We led a normal life, but then suddenly our village was attacked. We either stayed and died or ran. The fear kept us alive," said Caustasia,



Caustasia kisses her grandson Emmanuel

whose husband was killed by arrows during the onslaught.

Concern said an estimated 3.4 million children under-five in the DRC are acutely malnourished, which is fatal if not treated, and that they need donations to help save as many of them as they can.

The aid agency has launched a fundraising

campaign that will continue over the Christmas period to provide funds for therapeutic food, like a highly nutritious peanut-based paste and other supports and training to help malnourished children.

Anyone who would like to support Concern's Christmas appeal can go to [concern.net](http://concern.net) or call 0818 410 510.

# STAY SAFE THIS CHRISTMAS

From the Irish Cancer Society to the Gardai, everyone is getting out the message to 'Stay Safe' as we enter into the second Christmas of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Be Covid safe

The Irish Cancer Society is urging people to take the simple steps that can keep vulnerable cancer patients safe this Christmas amid concerns over the Omicron variant.

Commenting on the upcoming festive period, Dr Robert O'Connor, Director of Research, Irish Cancer Society said: "We are hearing the distress from cancer patients who want to have a meaningful Christmas after almost two incredibly difficult years but are worried about the risks as families gather, and understandably so given the further uncertainty over the Omicron variant."

"It is important to remember that we are not dealing with the same COVID-19 variant that we were in December 2020. The Delta variant was much more transmissible and, unfortunately, there are already strong indications that the newer Omicron variant spreads even easier again."

"Now more than ever, it is vital to take all possible steps to protect those in your life who have a weak immune system, including cancer patients."

"A cancer doctor will usually explain if a patient has a weak immune system. Those who are currently undergoing active cancer treatment such as some types of chemotherapy and those with blood cancers should be particularly careful during the Christmas period."

"These conditions can mean that the immune system doesn't work as well, making patients more vulnerable to illness and infection."

"The benefits of vaccination for this group can also be reduced. A positive COVID-19 diagnosis or close contact may also greatly delay the start of cancer treatment, and infection can have profound consequences for patients' health," Dr O'Connor added.

The best ways to protect loved ones with cancer from COVID-19 include: Vaccination and Booster Doses; Reducing Contacts; FFP2 or FFP3 Face Masks; PCR and Antigen Testing; Being symptom aware; Avoiding confined or crowded methods of travel.

### On the roads

An Garda Síochána and The Road Safety Authority (RSA) have called on drivers to act responsibly and to not be tempted to drink and drive this Christmas and New Year period. Launching today at An Garda Síochána Headquarters in Dublin, this year's Christmas and New Year road safety appeal focuses on the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and the devastating loss of life and serious injuries it can cause.

Research published by An Garda Síochána and the RSA showed that over the last five years there were 83 fatalities and 709 serious injuries over the Christmas and New Year period. This means that an average of 17 people die and 142 are seriously injured each year at this time. Almost seven out of ten fatalities were male, while almost two thirds of serious injuries were male. The time period 4pm to 8pm was highlighted as the highest risk for fatalities. Serious injuries tended to occur predominant-

ly late afternoon/evening, with over half (51%) occurring from 12pm through to 8pm.

Deputy Commissioner, Ann Marie McMahon said "An Garda Síochána said: "An Garda Síochána will be conducting Mandatory Intoxicant Testing checkpoints around the country, to detect irresponsible drivers who drive under the influence of either alcohol or drugs or a combination of both. We will also be targeting other lifesaver offences including speeding, not wearing seat belts and mobile phone use by drivers. Members of An Garda Síochána will also focus on unaccompanied driving by learner drivers."

### Don't take risks with electricity

ESB Networks is reminding all electricity customers to never take risks with electricity during the festive period.

As always, never use ESB Networks poles to hang outdoor Christmas lights as the electricity wires overhead are live and extremely dangerous. You must always keep a safe distance because electricity is very powerful and can jump gaps.

While in and around the home, make sure your electrical equipment is in good condition.

At this time of year, storms and strong winds can cause damage to electricity wires and poles, bringing wires to the ground, always be alert and keep your distance.

Remember: fallen electricity wires are live and therefore dangerous to approach.

Please report any damage immediately to ESB Networks by contacting our emergency phone number: 1800 372 999/021 238 2410 (24 hours/7 days).

Wicklow's Fire Service has the following advice for preventing fires: "Remember most fires in home start in the living room and bedroom at night when we are sleeping. Always use a proper fitting spark-guard in front of open fires especially when you are going out of going to bed. Don't use an open fire to air clothes as this is a major fire risk. Clean your chimney. Don't store items like papers, magazines, clothing or combustible items near a fire. Be Careful how you dispose of hot ashes. Don't place them in a plastic bin. Never leave lit candles unattended and ensure candles are in proper holders. Position candles away from draughts. Ensure candles are not near items that may catch fire such as curtains. Avoid moving a lit candle. Ensure all candles are properly extinguished before you leave the room."

Also, remember before you go to bed to ensure spark guards are in front of open fires. Switch off and unplug all electrical items.

Don't overload sockets or use of double adapters. If electrical cables or plugs are damaged, worn or frayed, contact an electrician."

### In the Water

Irish Water Safety is concerned that many people planning to take a dip over the Christmas period may

take chances beyond what is acceptably safe and are cautioning the public to minimize the length of time they remain in water due to the risk of hypothermia as water temperature is approximately 11° Celsius at sea and 5° Celsius in freshwater.

"Cold water immersion" and hypothermia can overwhelm the fittest of swimmers but steps can be taken to remain safe. Cold water cools muscles faster than during warmer summer swims and may cause an increased heart rate, dizziness, cramp and panic. Take great care walking down slipways, jetties, piers and over rocks as they may be slippery and cause you to fall.

Swimmers should "Get In, Get Out and Warm Up", avoiding extended periods of exposure. Before entering the water throw some water down the back of your neck to allow your body prepare for cold water immersion. Alcohol should be avoided before swimming as it impairs judgment and increases the risk of cold water immersion and hypothermia. Ensure that you have safe access and egress with appropriate shallow shelving, steps or ladders. Less agile people should be mindful that steps leading into the water might be dangerous due to the possible growth of algae.

### In the Hills

Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team has issued advice for staying safe if going for hillwalks: "wrap up well; the higher you go, the colder and windier it gets, but remember that you'll warm up with exercise. Lots of thin layers are better than one thick layer, as you can add or remove them easily to balance your temperature. Bring a waterproof jacket and trousers even if the forecast is dry, the weather can change quickly in the hills. It's better to have them and not use them, than get caught out by a sudden shower."

Carry some spare warm layers in case you get unexpectedly delayed. A survival bag - a large, orange plastic bag which can be purchased in most good outdoor shops - is a very useful addition to your kit. It's a good idea to carry some spare food too - chocolate, nuts, dried fruit, or jellies are good choices.

Don't get cold; hypothermia is dangerous, but avoidable. Put on an extra layer when you stop for a break, and try to stay out of the wind. If you, or one of your party, is cold the best remedy is to eat something sugary and get moving. Warm drinks are helpful, but to stay warm you must keep moving. If you need assistance, call 999 or 112 and ask for mountain rescue.

Emergency calls (999/112) use any network available to your phone, not just the one you're on, so you should be able to make an emergency call if your phone has no coverage. If you find that you're still unable to make an emergency call, consider sending a member of your group to higher ground to pick up a better signal. You should be careful not to put anyone at risk by asking them to climb to higher ground.

## Childline is here for every child in Wicklow this Christmas

Childline volunteers are preparing to give their time this Christmas Day and every day of the Christmas holiday period to ensure every child and young person in Wicklow and across Ireland has somewhere they can turn.

Topics children and young people speak about most often with Childline at Christmastime include loneliness, anxiety, strains in family relationships, bereavement, bullying and more.

Support from individuals, communities and corporates in Wicklow and across Ireland plays a vital role in helping to keep Childline listening 24 hours a day, every day.

National Childline Manager Emma McCluskey said: "From working with children and young people, we know that the love and warmth of the season is not felt in every home - for a wide variety of reasons. Childline is always here to listen, no matter what."

"Any child or young person in Wicklow or across Ireland can contact Childline for free and in confidence at any time of the day or night, to talk about any

issue which might be on their mind. They won't be judged or told what to do. Instead, our dedicated volunteers will empower them to find what works best for them.

"While children and young people have continued to face challenges over the past two years, so too has Childline's ability to raise funds. We rely on donations for 75 per cent of our funding, so it is with thanks to the generosity of the public that we are here. We have always been fortunate to receive significant generosity from the people of Wicklow and we are extremely grateful for this."

"Every euro raised goes to help ensure our volunteers are always here and ready to support every child and young person - whether they are going through their darkest hour or simply wish to talk. Individuals can help to support Childline this Christmas by visiting [www.ispcc.ie/christmas](http://www.ispcc.ie/christmas)."

The service can be reached in the following ways:

Chat online: Childline.ie

Call: 1800 66 66 66

Text: 50101



# 34,000 people receive Christmas Bonus

A 100% Christmas Bonus is being paid this year to 34,000 people in Wicklow, according to Minister Simon Harris TD.

The Christmas Bonus is paid to long-term social welfare recipients such as pensioners, carers, people with disabilities and lone parents. This year, Social Protection Minister Heather Humphreys announced changes to the criteria, meaning more people will benefit.

For example, the qualifying period for people in receipt of an eligible Jobseeker's payment was

reduced to 12 months from 15 months.

In addition, long-term recipients of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) are receiving this year's Christmas Bonus.

And time spent on the PUP by customers who have since moved to a Jobseeker's payment will count towards reaching the 12-month requirement.

Minister Harris said: "We all know that the Christmas period can be a very expensive time of year for families.

"I therefore really welcome the fact that we are once again in a position to provide a 100% Christmas Bonus this year.

"The Christmas Bonus is an important support that benefits the likes of our carers, pensioners,

lone parents, people with disabilities and people in receipt of long-term Jobseeker's payments.

"It is being paid into people's bank accounts or their post offices this month, depending on the type of payment they receive.

"The change in the qualifying period this year will ensure more people can receive this support this year."

## Close call for Arklow man

An Arklow man is sharing the story of his heart attack in the hopes that it might help to save other people's lives.



Tom Kavanagh pictured in Arklow Cemetery

Tom Kavanagh, 73, who lives alone in his house in Fernhill in Arklow, had a brush with death recently when he suffered a heart attack while home alone.

Mr Kavanagh's ordeal began when he awoke with chest pains at about 2am on Sunday 21st November, and when they hadn't gone away by 1pm that afternoon he rang CareDoc, the out of hours service for urgent medical problems.

Tom says he was then on hold for 45 mins waiting on the line to speak to someone, before he was eventually put through to someone and was advised to call 999.

Tom did so, and an ambulance was dispatched and arrived in 30 mins to take him to St. James's for emergency lifesaving surgery.

"I didn't know at the time that I was having a heart attack," Tom says. "I told the paramedics that I had been in two minds about whether to call anyone and that I might have waited until Monday to call my GP. They told me that I wouldn't have been able to ring anybody on Monday because I would have been dead."

Tom is now advising people in similar situations, instead of ringing CareDoc to just ring 999 straight away.



Pictured promoting the Bray Lions Club New Year's Day Charity Sea Swim are (from left) Norman Heagney, Helen Heagney and Joe Codyre, President of Bray Lions Club.

## Bray Lions Charity Sea Swim is Back

The Bray Lions Club annual Charity Sea Swim returns on New Year's Day 2022, subject to prevailing health advice.

The Charity Swim, which has been part of the New Year tradition in Bray since 1984, was cancelled last year, but Bray Lions have decided to go ahead on New Year's Day with modifications designed to ensure the health and safety of swimmers and spectators.

Swimmers will not receive Sponsorship Cards this year but will be able to pass on donations at the new Registration Desk which will be located close to the Esplanade Hotel. Covid restrictions also dictate that indoor changing facilities cannot be used. The Fancy Dress element of the swim has also been cancelled this year.

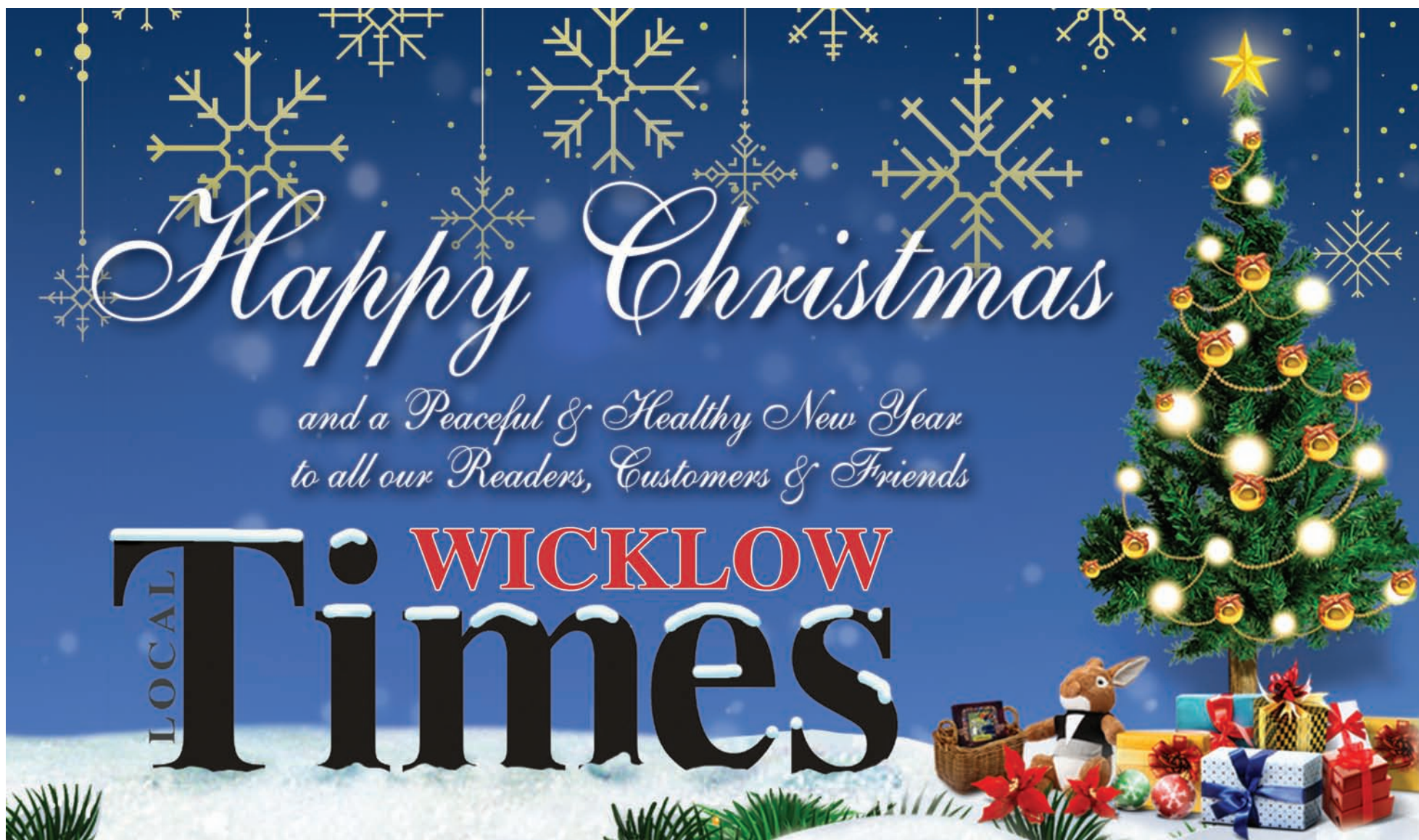
A new wider swimming area will be allocated and both swimmers and spectators will be encour-

aged to observe social distancing.

A team of Bray Lions will provide stewarding, communications and safety services and Lions will also take up a bucket collection on the seafront.

Set up 37 years ago for the dual purposes of having some fun and raising funds for local charities, this yearly event has to date realised €354,614 for a long list of worthy local causes. Funds raised this year will be devoted to Homelessness, Drug Intervention, Cancer Support and Bray Lions Club projects.

Bray Lions President Joe Codyre said "We are delighted to be able to host the Charity Sea Swim again this year, despite the continuing impact of Covid 19. We are confident of the good turn-out of swimmers and spectators and we look forward to the traditionally generous response of the people of Bray to our fund-raising on the day."





# The new epicentre of Wicklow's film industry

Constructed in the 18th Century as a private country home, Clermont House in Rathnew has established itself as a place of 'architectural, artistic and social interest' through its many incarnations over the years; As a prestigious girls boarding school in the 1950s, and then, after the Council purchased it in 2005, as the base for Wicklow's Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and a campus for IT Carlow. Soon, Clermont will serve yet another purpose as the home of Wicklow's 'Content Creation Enterprise Hub', the new nerve centre for the county's film & television industry.



By Ian Colgan

Ardmore and Ashford studios have already made the film sector vital to Wicklow's economy and a key part of its cultural identity; the new look Clermont aims to further enhance Wicklow's reputation as the country's Film Capital and position it to take full advantage of the growing demand for studio space that's being put on Ireland and the UK. The considerable expansions of Ardmore and Ashford, as well as the forthcoming Greystones Media Campus and Tara Studios south of Arklow, means that the cluster is about to expand by

about 40 stages and a million sq.ft of studio space.

As a key cog in the five-year 'Screen Wicklow' development strategy, the new hub aims to link all of these entities together into a cohesive and thriving 'film ecosystem', maximising the county's contribution to the content creation boom and reaping its benefits - creating jobs, developing skills, and facilitating collaboration across the different branches.

"The sector really needs a home," says Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise at LEO Wicklow. "It needs an

enterprise, Trade & Employment's Regional Enterprise Development Fund, administered by Enterprise Ireland, the new hub will provide 10,000sq ft of private and co-working spaces and aims to boost job creation both in the film sector and the offshoot industries which feed into it.

The funding application for the project was made in 2018, and construction finally began at Clermont three months ago. The most significant structural changes are happening at the courtyard buildings, where a new two-floor extension is being added that will house new offices, meeting rooms and training rooms. "We are hoping that it will blend in very nicely with the historical character of the place," says Vibeke.

The second floor of the main campus building is also being refurbished, while the Main Hall will become the new Conference Centre, a place for seminars and a venue for international speakers, addressing the need for 'networking' which was identified in a survey among freelancers and production companies as being to the fore of the local needs and challenges. Already on the campus there's a Foley Suite (where sound effects are added in post-production) and several businesses which dovetail

Supported by €1.43 million under the Department of Ent-



Construction underway at Clermont

with the plans for the Courtyard. There's also funding in place for a 'Hub Manager'.

"We will be looking to recruit for that position early next year," says Vibeke. "This is going to be a vital role,

grammes and work with all of the different partners."

Another component will be the East Coast Crew Development Hub, which will coordinate and train additional crew for forthcoming produc-

on attracting next generation talent with a strong diversity agenda.

"Ireland's creative screen industry is experiencing record levels of production activity and there is huge demand for talent across all depart-

ment lands. That is only going to continue to grow as the infrastructure expands and more productions will come here, which is something to definitely plan for to ensure there's adequate resources to facilitate



An artist's drawing of the completed Courtyard

because that particular person will have to have good links in the industry and know the industry backwards, and will also have to look after the tenants' needs, roll out business skills pro-

grams to ensure that the local talent pool can keep up with the growing demand.

"There will be a really strong focus on bringing young people into the industry, and helping people move into the industry and diversify from previous careers," says Vibeke. "A lot of experience and talents that people have developed over the years in different sectors can easily be applied within the screen sector. As part of the €300,000 funding that we have for the Crew Development Hub there will be a strong focus on bridging courses for people coming out of BIFE, so that they're workplace-ready and can get a placement on one of the productions."

Similar crew hubs are to be established in Galway and Limerick, and according to Screen Ireland will be focused

ments within film, television, documentary and animation," says Screen Ireland Chief Executive, Desiree Finnegan. "We are building and investing in a national network of talent academies across the country to develop the next generation of screen industry professionals from all backgrounds. Our aim is to support creative collaboration, developing the skills and opportunities to create powerful films and television series. It is vital that we ensure Ireland has the necessary skills base to respond to the current demand and continue to grow our creative screen sector."

Despite Covid, the Wicklow Film Office has gotten busier over the last two years, says Vibeke: "We have seen a huge increase in the volume of requests and enquiries to film on pub-

them and to continue to bring them in. We must also make sure that any pressure on the locations is spread evenly around the county so that the economic footprint reaches all corners of the county."

One of the most recent large-scale productions, Disney's *Disenchanted*, brought an economic net benefit of about €20 million to the local economy.

"The economic footprint of the film industry is substantial," Vibeke continues. "It's growing all the time and provides for very sustainable highly paid jobs at all different levels. It's a good and clean industry that's at the forefront of reducing the carbon footprint. It's the kind of industry that fits in very well with County Wicklow and what we are trying to achieve."



# Wicklow woman helps launch new free helpline to support families affected by sudden cardiac death

CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) Ireland has launched an all-island freephone helpline to support families grieving the loss of someone due to sudden cardiac death (SCD). The Helpline also supports those living with a lifestyle change because of a diagnosis of an inherited cardiac condition. Supporting the helpline is Ireland's Rugby 7's Captain and CRY Ambassador Lucy Mulhall.



Rugby 7's Captain and CRY Ambassador Lucy Mulhall

CRY Ireland creates awareness of SCD, inherited cardiac conditions and supports those who have been affected by these conditions through the free access to cardiac assessments, bereavement counselling and family support programmes.

Lucia Ebbs, CEO of CRY said "Many of us here at CRY, including our team of trained helpline volunteers have experienced the loss of a loved one to sudden cardiac death and we truly understand the significance of having a listening ear and team of support around you, when coping with this loss. Grief has no limits and it shouldn't be dealt with alone. If you need someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to The CRY Helpline from any of the 32 counties across Ireland."

Captain of the Irish Rugby 7s team, Lucy Mulhall commented "It is a privilege to help launch CRY's freephone service. Sudden Cardiac Death is a condition that can affect anyone, even the fittest of athletes. The CRY Helpline will be a huge support to those that have lost someone to the condition or who have been affected by a diagnosis of a cardiac condition. Having a listening ear and a team of support around you makes all the difference. I would encourage anyone who has been affected, to give CRY a call. They truly understand what you are going through."

The CRY Helpline service is available between the hours of 7-9pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am to 12 noon on Wednesdays and 4-6pm on Sundays.

To call The CRY Helpline please call either of the following freephone numbers:

Republic of Ireland - 1800 714 080, Northern Ireland/UK - 00 44 80 0640 6280. For more information, please visit [cry.ie](http://cry.ie)

## Bray rower nearly halfway across the Atlantic

Andy O'Reilly of Bray Rowing Club is currently over 1,000km into an incredible challenge to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Andy and an international crew left the Canary Islands on December 5th and are trying to row across the Atlantic to Antigua in the Caribbean.

Andy is taking on the once-in-a-lifetime challenge to raise funds for the Bray Rowing Club and Purple House Cancer Support.

Andy shared this update from the boat on Saturday (11th December): "It is really full on. We have had a good amount of wind and waves all the time. The crew have all now recovered from the seasickness and all are now eating

normally. We did 74 nautical miles in the last 24 hours and a whopping 93 nautical miles in the 24 hours previous to that. Morale is good - lots of chatting whilst rowing. We have been using the waves and wind to our advantage but are aware that we are likely to have a period of reduced winds next week. My fundraiser has passed the €6,000 mark and I'm so grate-

ful to everyone who has donated with all funds going to two worthy causes!"

Anyone can track the exact location of Andy's boat 'Roxy' as he continues this mammoth challenge at [rannochadventure.com](http://rannochadventure.com). And donations very welcome to help Andy reach his target of €10,000 at [gofundme.com/andys-atlantic-rowing-challenge](http://gofundme.com/andys-atlantic-rowing-challenge).



Andy O'Reilly rowing across the Atlantic



Ann Thompson, Paddy Casey and Gavin Murphy at the Street Sleep event for Tiglin in Greystones

## Street Sleep and concert for Tiglin

For 7 years now the cloud based software company Salesforce have supported Tiglin through an act of solidarity with those whom Tiglin reach out to; the homeless and those effected by addiction.

This motion of togetherness resulted in an annual street sleep event which was forced to evolve due to the implementations of COVID restrictions last year. This year, while the COVID climate has changed somewhat the process of evolution in fundraising events continued.

All sponsorship this year is being matched by Salesforce, who held an outdoor concert in Greystones in the grounds of Tiglin's new social enterprise cafe 'Rise at the Cove' on 14th December. On the night there was a range of special guests including Paddy Casey, Ronan O'Snodaigh, Dylan Crampton and Cormac Breatnach.

"We also heard from some of the residents and graduates of the Tiglin programmes about their inspirational journeys and these stories unfolded with the help of Andrea Splendori from the pod cast 'The Social Fabric'." Salesforce said. "Also making a guest appearance on the night was Bressie who popped by to lend his support."

Last year the sleep out raised a whopping €54k and this year the aim is to top that! "Rarely does an opportunity come along where each €50 raised is matched by a corporate donor such as Salesforce, but here we have the opportunity to double each donation which will have a seriously positive impact for Tiglin and the people we support," said CEO of Tiglin, Phil Thompson.

If you would like to support this vitally needed local Wicklow based charity, please go to the GoFundMe page: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/tech-for-tiglin>

## Children's Books Ireland and KPMG to gift 4,500 books to children in need this Christmas

Children's Books Ireland and KPMG are delivering the joy of reading this Christmas by gifting 4,500 books to children in Ireland who are experiencing hardship. With the help of charity partners - including Barnardos, Children in Hospital, The Peter McVerry Trust and St. Vincent de Paul -, the books will be delivered to 33 locations across Ireland. These gifts will reach children and families in homelessness services, hospitals, Direct Provision centres and Traveller communities just in time for Christmas.

As we face into another uncertain Christmas, these books will bring comfort and joy to children who may not have a book of their own to read, or a present for them under the tree.

With reading for just six minutes a day shown to reduce stress levels by 68% (300% more than going for a walk), a book is the perfect present for children living in difficult circumstances or experiencing illness.

This book-gifting project follows another successful year of partnership between Children's Books Ireland and KPMG, with whom Children's Books Ireland launched 'Free To Be Me: The Diversity, Inclusion and Representation Project' in September. Many of the books gifted to children this Christmas are included in the Free To Be Me

reading guide, which allows children to see characters like themselves represented in books and to develop empathy and solidarity with those whose stories differ from their own.

Elaina Ryan, CEO of Children's Books Ireland

said: "Last Christmas we saw the joy felt by thousands of children when we gave them a book of their own. In some cases, it was the only book they had. 2021 has been equally tough on many families. These books will lift children's spirits at

Christmastime and give them a gift they can come back to over and over. We are so grateful to KPMG for their ongoing commitment to supporting children's reading, which helps us work towards our vision: every child a reader."







'Colourful Houses' by Eva Ruixin Chen, from Ravenswell Primary School

## Wicklow students' artworks feature in calendar

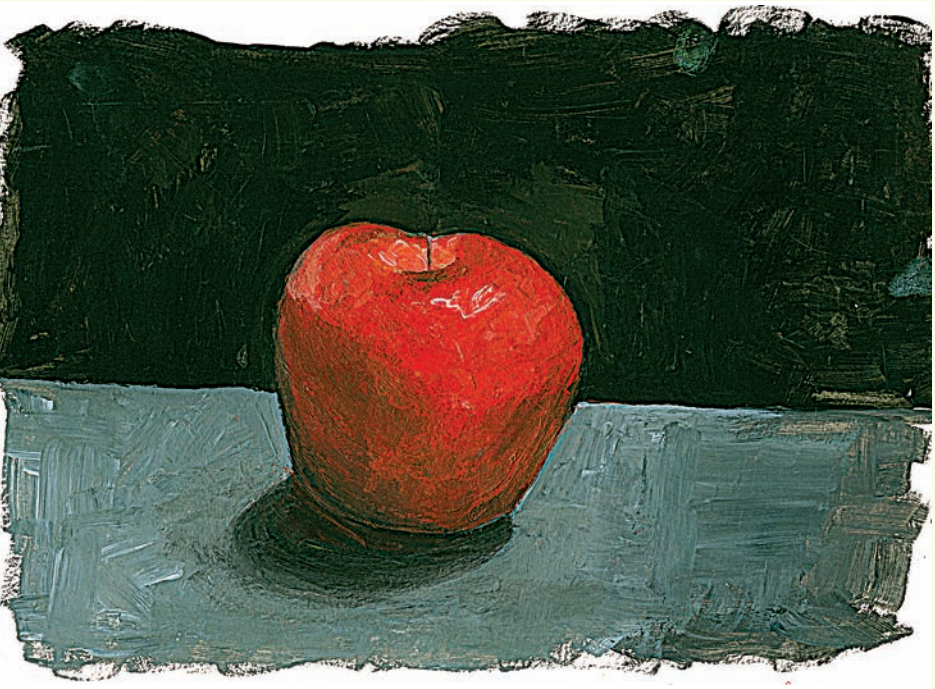
A prizewinning artwork by 11-year old Wicklow student Eva Ruixin Chen, from Ravenswell Primary School, Bray, and another by Ella Kelly (8) from Saints Michael and Peter Junior School, Arklow, have been chosen to illustrate the 2022 Texaco Children's Art Competition Calendar just published.

Eva's piece, entitled 'Colourful Houses', will appear during the month of May and Ella's entitled 'Red Apple' will feature in October. Both will be seen in thousands of homes throughout Ireland during the coming year.

Ella won first prize in the 7-8 years age category of the 2021 competition and Eva won a Special Merit Award. Both artworks were two of a number said by a competition adjudicator to illustrate perfectly the outstanding talent, creativity and imagination that many of our young artists possess and the important role schools have in encouraging and inspiring their students through art education.

No stranger to the Competition, Ella won a Special Merit Award in 2020.

Calendars are currently available through a select number of Texaco service stations and Texaco branded distributors countrywide and through Texoil, Valero's own home heating oil division.



'Red Apple' by Ella Kelly from Saints Michael and Peter Junior School



## Christmas Fair at Signal Arts Centre

Running until Friday 24th December, 10am - 5pm

The Signal Arts Centre's Christmas Fair is the perfect place to pick up that thoughtful and unique gift for friend or loved one.

Running from now until Christmas Eve, (10am-5pm daily), it's well worth dropping in to find that special gift and to support local crafters at the same time.

This year's Signal Christmas Fair features beautiful handmade ornaments and decorations as well as paintings, jewellery and more.

Feel free to stop by and have a look around.

# Remembering Ronnie & The Dubliners

Whale Theatre, Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th December @ 8pm. **SOLD OUT.** Register on waiting list at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550

"Growing up I was always struck by the electricity generated by a concert given by The Dubliners. Looking back I can see clearly that the group was exceptional not only because of the individual strength of the performers but that combined they were a force of nature," says Phelim Drew.

That energy and excitement coupled with the unbridled joy of a Dubliner's audience made for a nights entertainment that felt more like a party in full swing where the hosts and guests were in perfect harmony.

My ambitions as a singer have always been modest as a result! Along the road music has always played a big part in my tool box as an actor in shows like The Abbey Theatre production of The Risen People or Landmark/Olympia production of Once and, over the years, the enjoyment of playing small venues with friends. In the years since my father passed away I've come to enjoy listening back over his musical legacy and the wealth of material has reawakened not only a sense of pride but also deep appreciation.

With the upcoming shows I'll be telling a few yarns and singing some of the songs made famous by Ronnie, Luke, Barney, Ciaran and John. Joined by Anto Drennan on guitar and Bernard Kavanagh on bass the night will be made by a mix of folk and other musical influences that will go towards creating a performance that hopefully the audience can enjoy as much as we will.



Phelim Drew

## 'Tall Tales and True Stories - Anecdotes of the East Coast'

A new book by Stan J. O' Reilly of Wicklow Historical Society looks at tales and stories from north Bray to Wexford and deals with landmarks, people, places, events and matters which shaped and influenced the county of Wicklow.

'Tall Tales and True Stories - Anecdotes of the East Coast', doesn't just focus on Wicklow's coast but also towns and villages as far inland as Baltinglass.

In this book, Stan combines the history, heritage and folklore of these places and explores the county through the eyes of old newspapers, which makes for a very interesting read.

Pagan Innisboheen, the Dun Laoghaire Lifeboat Disaster, Newcastle village as a large town, the tale of John Waters of Rathnew,

Rail tragedies at Bray, tales of Wicklow Gaol and Gallows Lane are all featured in this fascinating collection.

From a look at Roundwood in the 19th century, to a chapter on Law and Order featuring court cases both humorous and serious, there is truly something here to interest everyone.

Shipwrecks on the east coast, including the Roman burials at Bray, are examined, as well as county businesses. A section on

Sports and Animal Antics includes the menace of the General at Arklow Quarry. The fighting priest of Kilquaid, The gunrunning at Kilcoole, and characters such as Bray carman 'Bit O' Cake', Mother Kevin of Arklow and John Murphy of Knockrobbin.

In the Folklore chapter there is a section on 'The Thing' which made an appearance in Baltinglass, as well as details on the sightings of what was believed to be the noted 'Kathleen' who stalked the

famed Saint Kevin at Glendalough. She appeared in several different visitor's photographs. Also featured in this section is the Glenealy Giant, said to be 45ft tall and weighing three quarters of a ton. There is also a chapter on Mad Ads featuring the 'girl wanted for fast food'.

All this and more can be found in the pages of Tall Tales and True Stories.

The book is on sale now, priced €15, and is available at the usual outlets.



Stan O'Reilly, with Terri Rafferty, Joe Rafferty, and Maeve O'Reilly, at the launch of Stan's book 'Tall Tales and True Stories' in St. Brigid's Hall in Rathnew.



# Motherland: Songs of 20th Century Women

*Performed by Edel Murphy (Celtic Woman, Riverdance) & live band*  
**Mermaid Arts Centre, Thursday 29th January, 8pm**

Dublin born actor and singer Edel Murphy brings her new show to the Mermaid Theatre in Bray in January.



Joan Baez with Bob Dylan

Featuring evocative projected images alongside thought-provoking spoken word, Edel Murphy performs iconic songs of struggle and celebration from such song-writing greats as Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Nina Simone, Kate Bush, Nanci Griffith, Dolly Parton, and The Beatles.

Following extensive tours with Grammy winning shows Celtic Woman and Riverdance, Edel Murphy and live band bring you through the Dustbowl of the Great Depression, into the homes of 1950s urban desperation, down streets of protest in the 1960s and into the tumult of the 21st Century.

Critics have been singing the praises of the show, with Carl Corcoran of Lyric FM calling it "A poignant and socially relevant journey over a century of music. Edel Murphy owns these songs and the stage. It was a very moving experience and the musical arrangements are masterful."

See [www.motherland-songs.com](http://www.motherland-songs.com) for tickets, tour dates and mailing list



Edel Murphy

## Ballet Ireland's Nutcracker Sweeties

*Mermaid Arts Centre, WEDNESDAY 22nd December | 4pm & 8pm + THURSDAY 23rd December | 4pm €30/25 | €100 (Family of 4)*



It's a magical Christmas Eve. Ciara and her brother Fionn are on a shopping trip to a famous department store in Dublin. They wander off from their parents and the magic of Nutcracker and Christmas begins...

The two are rescued by the Nutcracker doll who comes to life before Ciara shakes a snow globe creating a glorious blizzard of snowflakes. The Sugar Plum fairy greets them leading Ciara into the kingdom of the sweets where the beautiful Christmas windows come to life.

This holiday season, the curtain rises on Ballet Ireland's Nutcracker Sweeties, a new production of one of the world's favourite ballets.

Choreographed by Morgann Runacre-Temple, this exciting new Irish presentation of the festive classic performed by a cast of world-class dancers will appeal to audiences of all ages with its fairy-tale magic, beautiful costumes and a re-imagined Tchaikovsky score. A tale of wondrous adventure that combines to form one of the most delectable Christmas confections imaginable.

Gather with friends and family to experience the beauty and magic of ballet live on stage. After all, Christmas only begins once you've seen Ballet Ireland's Nutcracker Sweeties!



Aughrim based artist Eoin O'Connor with Suzie O'Neill in his new shop in Gorey.

## Bray Camera Club 'Celebrating 50 Years' with new exhibition

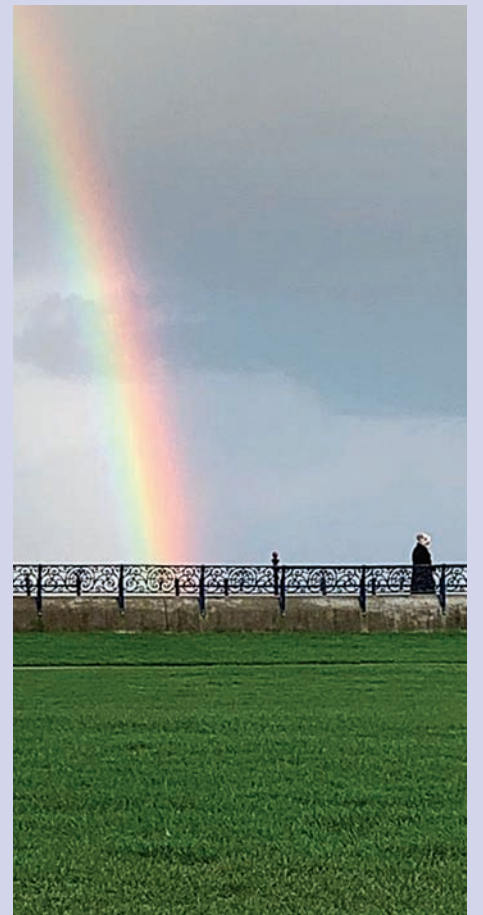
**Bray Camera Club celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2021 and are delighted to announce an exhibition of their members' photographs in the Signal Arts Centre running for two weeks beginning on January 31st, 2022.**

Since their humble beginning on the steps of "An Lár" on the Lower Dargle Road, BCC has provided the local community with a welcoming forum for photographers of every ability and throughout the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, they have remained stalwart in their drive to celebrate and share their passion for photography with a busy schedule of online activities and social interaction.

The members comprise of an eclectic mix of amateurs, competition winners and professionals and it is the mission of BCC to learn from and support one another in improving each member's photographic creativity and skills in the use of all sorts of cameras.

BCC's work features all mainstream photographic genres including landscape, wildlife, abstract, street, macro and studio photography. Thus, when the Club presents its work to the public, a wide variety of photographic styles is guaranteed.

This exhibition will be sure to appeal to anyone with a curious eye, an interest in photography or who may have a view to joining the club for the simple pleasure of taking and sharing photographs.





# 'Shop in Wicklow this Christmas and support local Jobs'

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD has called on people to shop local this Christmas. Minister Harris was speaking after publication of the number of Wicklow Jobs and Businesses that are being supported by the government's Covid-19 financial supports.

Minister Harris said: "New data provided to me by the Department of Finance shows 730 employers and 5885 employees are currently being supported by the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) in Wicklow."

"The number is based on payrolls filed with Revenue by employers for November 2021, the most recent month for which complete data exists. 5885 employees and 730 businesses in Wicklow have been supported by EWSS. "The EWSS represents a substantial and key part of this Government's response to the current crisis. The scheme has

played a central role in supporting businesses, encouraging employment and helping to maintain the link between employers and employees."

Minister Harris added "We have all learned in the past two years of local businesses we may have overlooked previously that we now value highly, and it is important we continue to support these businesses in the months and years ahead."

"Local spending boost would be great for the Wicklow economy, many of these businesses have a full range of online shopping and ordering services and caters for gifts for all ages and tastes".



Minister Simon Harris

Minister Harris said Fine Gael in Government has prioritised targeted supports for workers and businesses since the pandemic began, and that is reflected in the numbers availing of the Employment Wage

Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) the COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS) and Business Resumption Support Scheme (BRSS) in Wicklow.

Minister Harris continued: "Last week Minister Donohoe announced that he is maintaining the enhanced rates of subsidy under the EWSS for a further two months until the end of January to support businesses affected by new Covid restrictions which came into effect last week."

"The end-date of the CRSS is now extended to 31 January 2022 to align with the Public Health measures in force until January 9th."



Getting in the Christmas spirit, and hoping that Santa delivers lots of customers, is Rachel Von Metzradt, manager of the Jack & Jill charity boutique in Wicklow town. The Jack & Jill Children's Foundation is calling on the public to support local and buy local this Christmas, with money raised going to support the 11 children with highly complex medical conditions it cares for in County Wicklow.

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# LOCAL BUSINESS

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# ‘No one should go through depression alone’

Mental health charity Aware, which provides vital supports to people impacted by depression and bipolar disorder, has launched its Christmas fundraising appeal. They are calling on the public to support their free vital services and ensure that no one has to go through these serious conditions alone.

In 2020, more than 30,000 people directly benefited from Aware’s services, and a further 6,000 adults took part in mental health education programmes facilitated by the charity. The Covid-19 pandemic has further fuelled the need for such supports, with Aware expecting sustained high levels of demand to continue during 2022.

Recent research carried out by the charity and University College Dublin analysing Irish people’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic revealed a widespread negative view of ourselves, the world, and other people during the peak of the lockdown. However, it also highlighted that positive thoughts and emotions,

such as empathy, compassion and gratitude, were protective of mental health. Aware aims to ensure that individuals and their families across Ireland affected by depression, bipolar disorder and mood related conditions are not alone, are understood and supported free from stigma, and are encouraged to access

appropriate therapies. They are inviting the public to make a donation this Christmas to help ensure that everyone impacted by depression and bipolar disorder in Ireland has access to free services and support. Dr. Claire Hayes, Clinical Director at Aware says, “We’re almost 2 years into a pandemic and a lot of people have faced sig-

nificant challenges, which has fuelled increased demand for our services. We expect this to continue into 2022. No one should have to go through depression alone, which is why we offer our free services 365 days of the year.

“We’re incredibly grateful to the public who have given so generously over the years, as we rely heavily on corporate and public funding. By donating to Aware this Christmas, you can help us to be there for another person. Every single euro counts”

Aware, which was established in 1985, is the national organisation providing free support, education, and information for people impacted by depression, bipolar disorder, and related mood conditions 365

days of the year. Aware also delivers a range of wellbeing programmes designed to empower adults and senior cycle students with the knowledge and skills to build resilience and protect

their mental health. Since its inception over 35 years ago, Aware’s message has been one of hope and its impact on many who avail of its services is reflective of this message.

If you are impacted by depression, bipolar disorder, or other mood related conditions, you can contact Aware’s free support line 7 days a week from 10am to 10pm on 1800 80 48 48.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Matthew 1:18-24 GOSPEL

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they came to live together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.'

Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

C.J.

### THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

M.C.

#### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Brendan King of Mobile Motor Services Ltd. t/a Kings 4x4 seeks Permission for Retention at Greenhill Road, Wicklow Town A67 Y720. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

#### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Philip and Caroline Rice are seeking planning permission for the erection of a shed structure for use as a personal gym at Robin's Rest, The Red Road, Ballygahan Lower, Avoca, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

#### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning permission is being sought by Stevens Martin Management Contracting Limited for the demolition of the existing retail unit and ancillary storage, the change of use from retail to residential and the development of 2no. 2-storey semi-detached 3 Bedroom dwellings at 22-25 Harbour Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

#### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Gary Egan and Sandra Kiely seeks Planning Permission for upgrade of existing septic tank and all associated and ancillary site works at Kelshamore, Davidstown, Donard, County Wicklow. The Planning Application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

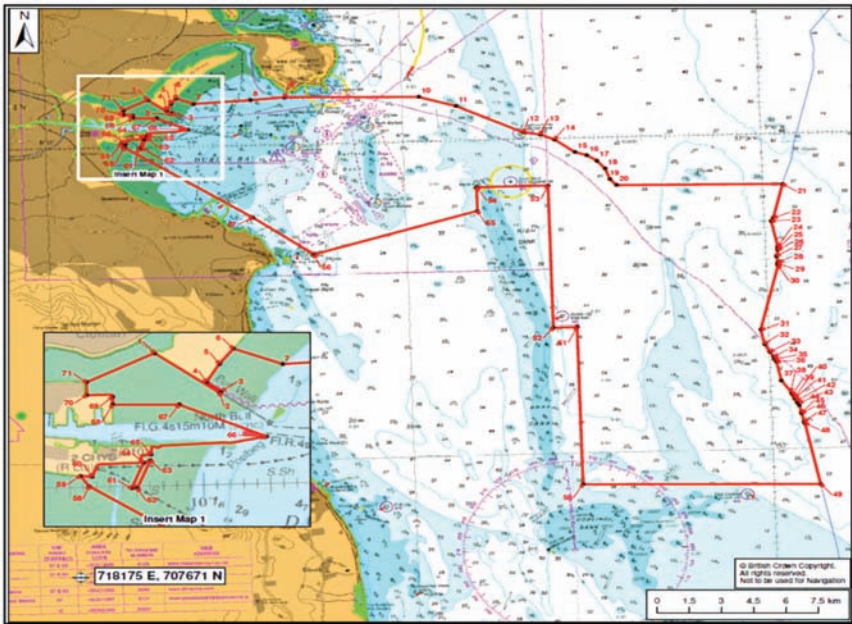
## PUBLIC NOTICE: APPLICATION FOR A FORESHORE LICENCE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 19 of the Foreshore Act, 1933 that ESB Wind Development Limited, has applied to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a Foreshore Licence under Section 3 of the said Act. This application has been sought to undertake marine site investigations to inform feasibility assessments and design relating to

the Sea Stacks Offshore Wind project. Surveys will be undertaken in an area under consideration for development of an offshore wind farm array (to the east of County Dublin and County Wicklow) and along potential export cable corridors from the array area back to the shore and at potential cable landfall areas. These site investigation works include

Geophysical surveys, Geotechnical surveys, Oceanographic and Metocean surveys, Environmental/ Ecological and Archaeological surveys.

The Foreshore Licence application area where marine surveys are proposed to be undertaken is shown in the map below. The key coordinates are provided in the table below.



ID	Easting (ITM)	Northing (ITM)	ID	Easting (ITM)	Northing (ITM)	ID	Easting (ITM)	Northing (ITM)	ID	Easting (ITM)	Northing (ITM)
1	721285.53	735775.22	19	742840.65	731105.06	37	750829.06	719288.07	55	736655.57	729237.16
2	722370.29	734941.36	20	743133.75	730756.01	38	751316.53	718533.41	56	729042.71	726672.6
3	722402.68	734977.74	21	750880.94	730829.53	39	751336.28	718437.43	57	726186.06	728847.25
4	722152.12	735164.29	22	750450.4	728813.17	40	751441.43	718275.2	58	720197.86	732968.9
5	722365.96	735548.69	23	750345.5	728646.42	41	751451.45	718226.56	59	720048.55	733192.13
6	722598.64	735869.46	24	750659.3	727120.37	42	751544.93	718082.3	60	720250.14	733169.72
7	723420.42	735543.23	25	750661.95	727022.3	43	751564.57	717986.99	61	720904.67	732922.12
8	726076.11	735760.82	26	750664.59	726924.23	44	751669.86	717824.53	62	720997.38	732922.6
9	727665.54	735935.87	27	750597.74	726576.44	45	751764.83	717363.09	63	721214.96	733516.22
10	733910.31	735951.03	28	750665.2	726210.66	46	751781.42	717337.51	64	721105.48	733468.26
11	735650.35	735418.91	29	750648.62	726133.05	47	751885.89	716830.05	65	721231.97	733638.17
12	738801.99	733859.88	30	750670.49	726014.53	48	751923.32	716759.36	66	723153.88	734020.36
13	739575.14	733740.27	31	749869.33	722262.14	49	752657.46	713174.39	67	721696.16	734688.44
14	740242.34	733452.5	32	750040.61	721429.26	50	741579.63	713147.77	68	720589.33	734688.06
15	741192.92	732701.79	33	750280.56	720962.76	51	741305.29	722418.48	69	720587.13	734852.92
16	741740.01	732525.36	34	750473	720665.83	52	740192.79	722385.67	70	720154.78	734892.14
17	742217.63	732205.81	35	750502.1	720524.32	53	739947.58	730729.42	71	720153.12	735158.96
18	742604.92	731729.4	36	750598.68	720375.32	54	736615.48	730631.95			

The documentation is available on the Department's website at the following URL: <https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/9815d-esb-wind-development-limited-site-investigations-at-sea-stacks-offshore-wind-off-dublin-and-wicklow>

A copy of the application, and the relevant documents, maps, plans, and drawings, are available for inspection, between 23rd December 2021 and 30th January 2022, free of charge at:

**Fingal County Council, Planning Department**, County Hall, Main Street, Swords, Fingal, Co. Dublin. K67 X8Y2  
By appointment only. Monday to Thursday: 09:00 to 17:00. Friday: 09:00 to 16:30.  
Phone: (01) 8905000; Email [planning@fingal.ie](mailto:planning@fingal.ie)  
**Dublin City Council, Planning Department**, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, D08 RF3F  
By appointment only. Monday to Friday: 09:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 16:30.  
Phone: (01) 2223114; Email [planning@dublincity.ie](mailto:planning@dublincity.ie)  
**Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council**, Planning Department, County Hall, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, A96 K6C9  
Monday to Friday: 10:00 to 16:00. Phone: (01) 2054700; Email [info@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:info@dlrcoco.ie)

**Wicklow County Council, Planning Department**, County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96  
Monday to Friday: 09:30 to 12:30 and 14:00 to 16:00. Phone: (0404) 20100; Email [plandev@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:plandev@wicklowcoco.ie)  
**Howth Garda Station**, 8 Dunbo Hill, Howth, Co. Dublin, D13 YR70  
**Irishtown Garda Station**, 57A Irishtown Road, Irishtown, Dublin 4, D04 YE33  
**Dun Laoghaire Garda Station**, 34/35 Corrig Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, A96 N299  
**Bray Garda Station**, Convent Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 E093.

Any person who wishes to make an objection to, or a representation in respect of the grant of the Licence sought as part of this public consultation should do so in writing, giving reasons, between 23rd December 2021 and 30th January 2022 (quoting ref: FS007134) to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Foreshore

Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or [foreshoreORE@housing.gov.ie](mailto:foreshoreORE@housing.gov.ie). The closing date for submissions is close of business (17:30) on 30th January 2022.

All objections and representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment prior to any decision being made in the matter. Material upon which the Minister shall determine this application may be published in the Department's website. In this regard the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at:

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

Dated this 20th December 2021



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