

# LOCAL Wicklow Times

**WE DELIVER! - for 34 years**



**DELGANY APPEAL**  
Page 4



**HORROR FILM**  
Page 12



**SUAS**  
Page 13

Delivered to 44,500 homes & businesses

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

Tuesday 1st February 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

## DID WICKLOW GET A FAIR SHARE?

Following the announcement that 58 projects in Wicklow will benefit from funding that's been allocated to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for 2022, Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has hit out against the figures which she claims show that County Wicklow will receive the least amount of funding than any other commuter county. The funding has however been welcomed by Steven Matthews TD and Minister Simon Harris.

The funding to the NTA will go to Wicklow County Council to build, design and improve cycling and pedestrian routes.

Deputy Whitmore said, "Much more funding has been provided for counties Kildare and Meath with each getting over €13.5m for Active Travel Measures. Meanwhile, County

Wicklow receives two-thirds of that amounting to €9m to provide safer routes for walkers and cyclists.

"It's also a shameful amount given the fact that no funding was allocated to Wicklow from TII to improve major road arteries such as the N11 which would've helped facilitate Active Travel

Measures including bus corridors and cyclist lanes. It beggars belief why the Government are actively saying no to measures that will reduce car dependency and providing inadequate levels of funding for Active Travel measures in the meantime.

"There is an awful lot of mixed messaging coming out by



Edel Byrne, Ciara Byre, Aine Byrne, Aisling Morris and Mary Byrne enjoying the return of live music at Paddy Phelan's pub in Aughrim. Pic: Michael Kelly

Government to the priorities for County Wicklow and I believe people in Wicklow deserve clarity on the future of transport measures. It is simply not good enough to turn down funding for road improvements while also failing to provide sufficient funding to get people out of their cars and onto streets and bikes."

Deputy Matthews (Green Party) says that Co. Wicklow has done very well out of this national funding. Projects include the Killinacarrig Village Enhancement Scheme, Enniskerry Pedestrian Improvement Scheme, Kilcoole Road Pedestrian & Cycle Improvements, and support infrastructure for the Safe to Schools Programme.

Deputy Matthews added, "These projects cover the entire county

and will benefit residents from Arklow to Bray and across West Wicklow. Projects such as the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway, phase 2 of the Bray Public Transport Bridge, transport studies for Greystones to support future funding and works in Blessington and Wicklow Town will make roads and footpaths safer, accessible, and attractive to cycle and walk.

"Many people want to cycle but feel the cycle lanes are unsafe so this funding will improve and provide safe segregated cycle lanes and improve those that are in poor condition. The provision of Safe Routes to School has been a long-time priority of mine and this funding will go towards creating safe walking and cycling routes to schools and better pedestrian permeability

through our residential areas and towns.

"This type of invest-

ment is real climate action at local level, providing those that

wish to cycle, walk or scoot to school, work or

*Continued on page 3*



## K&K Windows LTD

WINDOWS • DOORS • CONSERVATORIES  
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL







Our New Virtual Google 360° Showroom.

**CONTACT US NOW FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION**





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

visit us online [www.kkwindows.ie](http://www.kkwindows.ie)

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

f t i y

NO MIDDLE MAN, WE SELL, MANUFACTURE AND INSTALL

## TAKE THE FIRST STEPS TO YOUR FUTURE

# ENROLLING NOW

[WWW.LIBERTIESCOLLEGE.IE](http://WWW.LIBERTIESCOLLEGE.IE)

Our practical courses meet the needs of students and employers and are focused on emerging employment and 3<sup>rd</sup> Level opportunities.

With QQI Level 5 and Level 6 qualifications, our students greatly improve their prospects for a third level qualification.

Our **new** pre-apprenticeship courses in ICT/Networking and Software Development open doors to careers in IT.

**Liberties College**  
Bull Alley Street, Dublin 8  
T: (01) 454 0044  
E: [info@liberties.cdetsb.ie](mailto:info@liberties.cdetsb.ie)  
F: [@libertiescollege](https://www.facebook.com/libertiescollege)  
T: [@libertiescolld8](https://www.tiktok.com/@libertiescolld8)

**CDETB**  
City of Dublin Education and Training Board







Fran Doran at the a recent 'Cars & Coffee' meet-up at Coffee Delights in Bray. Pic: Joe McQuilliam.

## Rathdrum Cancer Support

If you have any unwanted gifts or Hamper baskets Rathdrum Cancer Support would greatly appreciate them for their East Coast Coffee Morning. Gifts and hamper baskets can be left with Bill Porter in Avondale Sports shop, Main Street, Rathdrum.

## Active Retirement Laragh

The Laragh Active Retirement Group will be resuming their weekly Tuesday morning meetings on 8th February for Tea/Coffee, light exercise and a catch up from 11am - 12pm at the Brockagh Centre.

The Active Retirement group meet every Tuesday morning from 11am - 12pm in the Brockagh Centre. So if you fancy a chat, a cuppa and some light exercise, dancing and music come along on Tuesdays.

"We always welcome new members to join our group. This year we'd like to encourage anyone who loves arts & crafts, maybe you've learned new skills over the Covid break and would like the space to practice and share your skills with other members, come along and join us. If anyone would like to offer their services or share their skills with the group please contact the centre. For more information call Denise on 0404 45600, email brockaghoffice@gmail.com or drop in to the centre."

## Get walking with Éire Óg

This is a great chance to get the New Year off to a good start. Walking with Éire Óg Greystones continues on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. It is a 5km walk around Greystones and is part of Operation Transformation and Ireland Lights Up. It takes place on Tuesdays at 6.30 pm and Thursdays at 8pm. All are welcome. Sign up is required at <https://tinyurl.com/ybp37x37>. Please note, no dogs permitted.

## Phishing calls

An Garda Síochána continues to receive reports from the public concerning 'phishing calls' from fraudsters. Please be warned about the dangers of such calls or texts. Avoid providing scammers with personal or financial information. Be very wary of cold calls; just because the number looks Irish does not mean it is. Fraudsters use 'VoIP' and 'spoofed' numbers.

Detective Superintendent Michael Cryan from the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau (GNECB) said: "Anybody can be a victim, regardless of age or where they live. Be wary. Stop and think before you click. Do not give away personal data. If you have been a victim, contact your bank and report the matter to Gardaí. Always ask the caller their name and their phone number. If you are concerned, hang up. Contact your bank / service provider from a number advertised in a phone book. Or on your bill or from an online search."

Further advice is available on Garda.ie here <https://garda.ie/en/crime/cyber-crime>

## GARA coffee mornings

Greystones Active Retirement Association coffee mornings resumed on 28th January and will take place on each last Friday of the month at Kilian House Family Centre from 10.30am to 11.30am. All activities take place in Kilian House Family Centre, beside Holy Rosary Church. Details about GARA are available each Tuesday at Kilian House Family Centre from 10.30am to 11.30am. The group is for those aged over 50 living in Greystones Municipal District. New members are always warmly welcomed. Don't be shy, come along GARA looks forward to seeing you.

# Annual fundraiser Walk For Autism set to return for a fifth year

The team at Autism Initiatives are dusting off their trainers once more for its annual fundraising campaign Walk for Autism, which returns this coming March.

The charity hopes to make it the biggest one yet in its five-year history when participants from up and down the country walk 10,000 steps per day for the eight days between March 26th and World Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd. Last year, the campaign's participants collectively walked over an impressive 194 million steps and raised more than £621,000, making it their most successful year to date.

The money raised goes towards helping individuals with autism while supporting autism projects in the UK & Ireland that encourage the pursuit of specialist interests, promote physical activity and help autistic adults and children learn and develop every single day. Walk for Autism Fundraising Manager Liz Oakley said: "This campaign is especially important to us as we have seen first-hand how much it can improve people's lives; not just with the money raised but for all those who take part. Our aim is to create a wonderful

community of likeminded people who are passionate about autism and believe they can make a difference.

"These past two years have been tough for everyone, and walking has been proven to help with mental wellbeing, which is just another positive reason to get involved. Walkers can complete their steps at any time and in whatever way suits them; whether it's walking the dog, stepping on the treadmill or conquering a long-distance hike.

"It's important to remember that each and every step counts so even if you can't get out and about steps around the garden or even around your home will all contribute. You can track your steps easily using a pedometer or smart phone apps to make sure you're hitting your target. The concept is simple, but the rewards are huge."

For this year's theme of 'We Walk for Autism', Walk for Autism is encouraging people to do their walking with friends and family. Walkers

can sign up on the charity's website and begin their fundraising straight away, with the charity providing helpful tips on the fun and varied ways to raise money. Those who sign up and pledge an upfront £20 will get a Walk for Autism t-shirt to assist in their fundraising, as well as a tutorial on how to create their very own homemade confetti canon using household items to celebrate their completion of the challenge.

Liz added: "Autism affects more than 700,000 people in the UK and Ireland each year and it's vital that we continue to help as many of those people as possible through our fundraising efforts."

Walk for Autism is a campaign led by charity Autism Initiatives Group who have been working to improve the lives of autistic people and their families across the UK and Ireland for almost 50 years. You can get involved by visiting their website <https://www.walkforautism.co.uk/register/walk-for-autism-2022/registration>



Walk for Autism returns in March

## A new dawn in Bray for Luisne

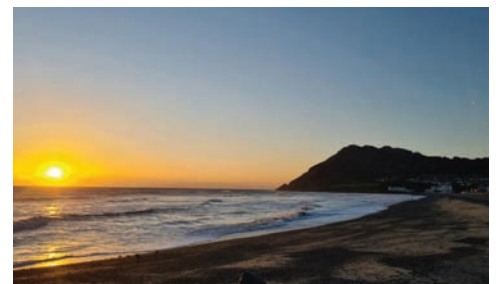
Luisne will finally open its doors on Monday, February 14th at its new location, The Egan Business Centre in Bray.

New and returning tutors are offering a wide variety of courses/events. These fall under the general headings of Mindfulness/Meditation, Reflective Activities, Personal Healing/Transformation, the Arts and Natural Season Celebrations.

Luisne's purpose since its foundation in 2004 is to facilitate the dawn of a new awareness of their interconnectedness with all creation and so enrich respect and responsibility for all life, human and other than human. This begins with a sense of respect and responsibility for oneself at every level - physical, spiritual and mental.

"We are delighted to open our doors again after a two-year break due to Covid and our need to re-locate."

NOTE: Rooms are available at reasonable rates to



tutors and therapists who specialise in courses which enhance well-being. Luisne also welcomes volunteers to help with minor tasks e.g. meet and greet attendees. For details on events and courses view on their website at [www.luisne.ie](http://www.luisne.ie) You are encouraged to BOOK NOW for their programmes.

Booking details are on the website.

**BRAY**  
**ACMEblinds** Vevay Rd, Bray

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

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

**CORKE LODGE GARDENS**  
[www.corkelodge.com](http://www.corkelodge.com)

**WILL BE OPEN**

June 21st to September 8th 2022  
Tuesdays to Saturdays  
And the two Sundays of Heritage Week: August 14th & 21st  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Admission: €8.00  
Any other times by appointment only  
[cochranealfred7@gmail.com](mailto:cochranealfred7@gmail.com)

**WICKLOW**  
**Times**

Shay Fitzmaurice, Managing Editor - [shay@localtimes.ie](mailto:shay@localtimes.ie)  
Ian Colgan, News Editor - [ian@localtimes.ie](mailto:ian@localtimes.ie)  
Sales / General enquiries - [info@localtimes.ie](mailto:info@localtimes.ie)

is published by Wicklow Times,  
First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01-2869111



# CONCERN OVER DRINKING WATER REPORT

An EPA drinking water report has revealed seven water supplies in Co. Wicklow, affecting 10 areas, to be 'at risk'.

The report reveals that more than one million people around the country were relying on vulnerable water supplies at the end of last year, while more than 15,500 people were on a boil water notice for over a month. "While these statistics are from 2020, the report still presents a stark picture of our water infrastructure for Wicklow," said Jennifer Whitmore TD. The local 'at risk' supplies are affecting areas including Bray, Enniskerry, Kilmacanogue, Greystones Windgates/Templecarrig and Newtownmountkennedy, Newcastle, Kilcoole, Aughrim, Annacurra and Wicklow Town. "In these areas, there were elevated levels of Trihalomethanes (THMs) which can be formed as a result of adding chlorine to water containing high levels of organic material," said Deputy Whitmore.

"While in the short-term, health effects of THMs in water are rare, they have been classified as 'possibly carcinogenic' according to the HSE. There were also treatment and management issues observed in these areas.

"What is concerning is that Wicklow has some of the highest concentrations of water supply concerns in the country however, it may be the case that some of these water supplies have been upgraded since 2020 which this report focuses on.

"Just recently however, north Wicklow was issued a Boil Water Notice for a week, which reveals there are still concerns with water quality in the area so it's still a concern and needs to be addressed

urgently. I will be seeking updated information from Irish Water on water quality issues in these areas to get a clear picture of what will be needed to bring water supplies up to standard."

Irish Water, meanwhile, said that the report highlights the "continuing high quality of public drinking water supplied by Irish Water in Wicklow": "Since 2014, Irish Water has been working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, to address water quality issues across the county. We have built new drinking water infrastructure in towns and villages across Wicklow, improving water quality and benefitting local communities. By building this new infrastructure we have improved drinking water for over 48,000 people and facilitated the removal of 7 water supplies from the EPA's Remedial Action List. "Irish Water also recently completed construction on a new, state-of-the-art water treatment plant in Vartry which forms part of an overall investment of over €150 million in the upgrade of the Vartry Water Supply Scheme, ensuring a safe and sustainable water supply for more than 200,000 people in Bray, Wicklow Town, Enniskerry, Greystones and South Dublin now and into the future.

"The scale of investment, the level of national planning and the ongoing delivery of projects and programmes by Irish Water is demonstrated in the EPA report. "Key programmes such as the National Disinfection Programme, and the

removal of the risk of THMs (Trihalomethanes) and Cryptosporidium in water supplies are ongoing and are vital to ensuring clean, safe drinking water throughout the country. In 2020, Irish Water invested €450m in building or upgrading 58 Water Treatment Plants (WTP) including significant upgrades to the Lough Talt and Staleen WTPs which collectively addressed long running water quality risks for THMs and Cryptosporidium.

"In relation to THMs the report notes the continuing work being undertaken by Irish Water to reduce the amount of supplies that are at risk for THM formation. To put it into context, at the end of 2016 there were 71 supplies on the RAL for THMs, impacting 464,791 customers. As of November 2021, this figure is now down to 23 supplies (impacting c. 222,000 customers). "By the end of 2021, Irish Water anticipates a further 7 supplies being removed from the RAL for THMs (which are served by the new Vartry WTP), benefiting over 120,000 customers. Subject to no further supplies being added to the RAL for THMs, this would leave 16 supplies remaining on the RAL for THMs impacting 95,160 customers. This would mean that almost 80% of customers previously at risk of elevated THMs in their water supply, will have safe, clean drinking water by the end of 2021. "Further progress has been made in 2021 with significant upgrades completed at Leixlip Water Treatment Plant, at Stillorgan

Reservoir, and at Vartry Water Treatment plant. These works will ensure over 1 million customers will receive a safe and secure supply into the future."



Adam Rochford, Daniel O'Hare, and Diarmuid Whelan enjoying the return of live music at Paddy Phelan's pub in Aughrim.



## SAVE €40!

See in-store for these great offers with lots of fresh savings for you!



# HELLO WICKLOW!

**YOUR NEW LIDL STORE OPENS AT 8AM ON 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

**Use your exclusive Lidl vouchers in-store to scoop even more savings on everything you need, want & can't live without!**

On top of everyday low prices, top quality fresh food, amazing offers and wonderful produce delivered daily from across Ireland, we've got some extra offers in-store that can't be missed!

## DID WICKLOW GET A FAIR SHARE?

*Continued from page 1*

the shops with safe and attractive routes and road space allocations to achieve that safely and enjoyably. Reducing car dependency, congestion and noise and improving air quality is good for all of us but especially for our children and future generations."

Minister Simon Harris welcomed the funding, saying "I am delighted to confirm additional funding for the development of Wicklow's cycle routes and footpaths. The Active Travel Grants announced will benefit 58 different projects across county Wicklow including safe pathways

and routes to local train stations. Improvements in footpath access within and to our rural villages.

"The funding announced is particularly geared towards rural communities to ensure people have safe means of making short journeys by foot or by bicycle rather than being forced to use their car. The Safe Routes to School Programme is also included within this year's Active Travel allocation. This Programme commenced last year and aims to create new and safer walking and cycling routes for pupils attending local schools within their community."

**Download the Lidl Plus App now!**



## FLASH SALE

**Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Feb**  
See in-store for full details



Rathnew Road, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow

Check out [www.lidl.ie](http://www.lidl.ie)



# Appeals lodged with ABP against plans for Carmelite lands

Delgany Community Council and other Delgany residents have lodged appeals with An Bord Pleanála against plans by Drumakilla Limited for a residential development on the former Carmelite Monastery Lands in Delgany. The developer lodged two separate planning applications at the site for a total of 155 residential units, and now separate appeals have also been lodged.



Gavin Byrne enjoying the return of live music at Paddy Phelan's pub in Aughrim.

The first application was for 99 residential units. The development would consist of 56 houses, 36 duplex units, and four apartments, and would also include a creche, chapel, café, retail unit, GP practice, office unit and 212 parking spaces. A separate application was then lodged for 56 residential units on an adjacent site.

Wicklow County Council gave the green light to the 99-unit development in December, and four appeals have now been lodged against it. The appeals request that ABP impose conditions that would bring the development in line with the Local Area Plan (LAP).

The appellants argue that the Council's decision to grant permission was in conflict with the LAP which states that the maximum density of the site should be 22 units per hectare "to preserve and protect residential amenity", which would limit the number of residential units on the



site to approximately 90. The LAP states that this is to ensure that a development conforms to "the proper planning and sustainable development" of the area.

Local residents wishing to see the number of housing units reduced are also concerned about the impact on traffic, the environment and the availability of services and school places.

The third-party appeals were lodged with ABP on 12th January. Appeals were also lodged with ABP on the same day against the proposed development on the adjacent site at Bellevue Hill, which would see the construction of 44 houses and 12 duplex units. ABP is due to make a decision on both cases by 17th May.

Regarding the Bellevue Hill site, appellants have raised concerns about - among other things - density, environmental impact and the impact on the road network, arguing that the village lacks the appropriate road and transport infrastructure and will be unable to safely handle the increased traffic.

Planning permission was granted by ABP for a Strategic Housing Development of 230 units at the Carmelite site in February 2021. 167 objections were lodged by local residents, and Delgany Community Council made a substantial submission with input from a range of locals who had relevant expertise.

A group of Delgany residents sought a written

legal opinion and were advised that there was strong grounds on which the community could challenge the decision via a Judicial Review.

"Delgany village does not have the local infrastructure such as roads, village amenities, public transport etc. to support a development like this," Delgany Community Council said at the time.

Cllr Jodie Neary stated in December 2021 that residents needed clarity following the Council's decision to give the go-ahead for the 99 units.

"The Council contested the larger application sent to An Bord Pleanála citing concerns around density and lack of sufficient infrastructure to cater to the large development," she said.

"The same developer

has an application to An Bord Pleanála for double the number of houses, which is currently being contested by the Delgany Judicial Review group who are still waiting on a decision. This is a very frustrating situation for Delgany as it remains unclear if this Decision will be appealed which means it could go back to An Bord Pleanála. Meanwhile the existing Judicial Review could be decided on and if the larger development gets the green light despite the review, it is unclear if the developer can then give the larger application priority. There's clearly a double process going on here that is affecting local communities, giving very little certainty and causing a lot of confusion for people living nearby."

## Ashford Ballinahinch footpath project receives funding

Minister Simon Harris TD has welcomed the news that Wicklow County Council is to fund a new footpath between Ballinahinch and Ashford Village.

Minister Harris said: "I am delighted to learn that Wicklow County Council has secured funding for a new footpath to link Ballinahinch to Ashford Village. This issue is a serious safety concern for local residents

and again only this week I received reports of accidents at this location".

Wicklow County Council has successfully applied to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for funding for the con-

struction of a two-metre wide footpath linking the section of footpath currently being constructed by the developer to the Main Street. The NTA has now provided the Council with an allocation of €250,000 for the associated works.

The Council's NTA project team are in regular communication with NTA on this and other

funded projects and have identified that some initial works will now be required in relation to land access and/or transfer of lands before construction works can commence.

"I am delighted there has been significant progress and this safety measure for the residents of Ashford remains a priority for me," Minister Harris concluded.

## Funding for safety improvements in Sidminton Park area welcomed

Green Party councillor Erika Doyle has welcomed funding to address the dangerous areas around Sidminton Park in Bray. Cllr Doyle had raised the issues several times with council engineers.

The funding, part of the Active Travel Investment Grants, will address blind bends and narrow footpaths near the park in an attempt to make it safer for pedestrians, particularly the vast numbers of children who use the park daily.

Cllr Doyle said, "This active travel funding for Bray is hugely welcome. Almost weekly, people ask me about the area around Sidminton Park and how it can be made safer. With footpaths in the vicinity narrow and in disrepair, and no footpaths at all parkside, as well as the blind bend coming from Novara Avenue, the park can be difficult to access for families and children. It is the hub of our community in this area and heavily used all throughout the year. I'm delighted the council has listened to my requests to address the issues and that funding has been agreed by Minister Eamon Ryan's department.

"A huge part of my commitment to the community as a public representative centres around the livability of our streets and neighborhoods. People, particularly young people, should be able to choose walking or cycling as a means of getting around within their neighborhood, and should be able to do so safely. With huge funding for active travel available from central government, our local authorities are well placed to address zones that are in high use and require safety improvements, such as the area around Sidminton Park."



Cllr Erika Doyle

**Benville Robinson LLP** STATE SOLICITORS

Riverview House  
Seapoint Road,  
Bray, Co. Wicklow

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

### Personal Injury Lawyers\*

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

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

**Benville Robinson LLP** STATE SOLICITORS

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

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



COVID-19: Reframing the challenge

Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
National  
Programme

# Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting

Once again, a collective effort from the Irish people has brought us to a better place. Over recent weeks people socialised less and were more careful when they did. That effort combined with the vaccination and booster programme has made a huge difference to the public health situation.

We can now change how we live with COVID-19 and remove many of the public health measures in place:

## Frequently Asked Questions



### Do I still need to wear a mask?

Yes, Masks should continue to be worn on public transport and in other appropriate settings.



### Can I go back to the office?

From 24 January 2022 a return to attendance can commence on a phased basis. Your employer will advise.



### Can I go to a restaurant or pub – and for how long?

Yes. The restrictions on opening times and capacity limits for all hospitality and cultural events will be removed with effect from 22 January 2022 (including weddings).



### Are more people allowed at concerts, theatres, sporting events?

Yes, all capacity restrictions will be removed with effect from 22 January 2022 for both indoor and outdoor events.



### Can I have people in my house?

Yes, all restrictions will be removed with effect from 22 January 2022.



### Can I go abroad on holiday?

Yes, but current measures regarding travel still apply including completion of a PLF and proof of vaccination/recovery or a negative PCR test for return to the State. In some countries you will need it for access to amenities too – check the rules before you go.



### What about schools and early learning and care?

The protective measures in schools and early learning and care facilities will remain until 28 February 2022.



### What if I have symptoms, positive test or am a close contact?

You still need to follow the guidance at [HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie).



### What about business and income supports?

There are some further changes to business and income supports go to [gov.ie/recovery](https://gov.ie/recovery) for more information.



The best way to keep yourself, your family and your community safe is to be fully vaccinated. So, please, get vaccinated and get your booster. (See [HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie) for details)



You may still have concerns about yourself or your family members. You should continue to assess your individual situation. There are ways to reduce risk, especially for those who may be more vulnerable. For further guidance go to [gov.ie/riskaware](https://gov.ie/riskaware).

The behaviour of the virus in Ireland and around the world will continue to be closely monitored. The priority of Government will always be the health and wellbeing of our people.

For the full details of the changes go to [gov.ie/recovery](https://gov.ie/recovery)



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland





Pictured at the cheque presentation was Enrico de Luca, Maxi Zoo Country Manager, along with Edelle Doherty of SARDA.

## Maxi Zoo's campaign provides critical funding to allow Search and Rescue Dog Association

Ireland's Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) has welcomed its biggest ever donation through Maxi Zoo giving it a vital lifeline to enable it to continue its important emergency support for missing persons across the country.

The over €28,000 which was raised by Maxi Zoo, Ireland's largest pet retailer, through its Friendship Connects campaign, is more than the charity could ever have expected to raise to fund the specialist training and essential equipment it needs for its dogs in training.

SARDA is a voluntary emergency organisation that trains and deploys Air Scenting Search and Rescue Dogs to search for missing persons. The charity's dog teams, which consist of a handler and their dog, are tasked by An Garda Síochána, the Civil Defence, Irish Mountain Rescue, Red Cross, Coast Guard etc. to search mountains, woodlands, rural and urban areas, waterways as well as the seashore to locate accident or disaster victims.

Edelle Doherty of SARDA explained what the significant donation from Maxi Zoo means to the charity: "We are immensely grateful for the support Maxi Zoo has provided us - this funding will allow us to do more training, upgrade our equipment, which we wouldn't have been able to do this year without it," she stated.

"It will also allow us to expand our charity over the coming years which is incredible."

Noelle Long from Maxi Zoo added: "Maxi Zoo is committed to supporting the work of animal charities. We are very proud that our Friendship Connects, Together for Pets campaign, which is supported by our wonderfully generous customers, will make such a difference to not just SARDA but the people and families that are supported by the incredible emergency service the charity provides.

Rescue dogs come from a wide range of breeds and are trained in a variety of behaviours. Just one dog can do the work of 50 human searchers. Search and Rescue Dogs play a vital role in search and rescue missions and are invaluable when it comes to finding lost and trapped victims.

Funding is hugely important to ensuring adequate training is acquired for the SAR dog and their handler. A proficient SAR dog needs lots of training, starting with basic obedience skills. Then SAR dogs learn how to hunt for human scent, signal their handlers, and behave appropriately in stressful situations.

For more information visit [maxizoo.ie](http://maxizoo.ie)

## Wicklow RNLI tow motor cruiser with three on board to safety

RNLI all-weather lifeboat Johanna and Henry Williams under the command of Alan Goucher on his first 'Shout' as Coxswain, towed an eight-metre motor cruiser with three people on board to safety on the afternoon of Sunday 23rd January after the vessel developed mechanical problems.



Coxswain Alan Goucher

The volunteer crew were paged just before 3pm after the Coast Guard received a call from the owner of the motor cruiser, to say their vessel had suffered mechanical failure and they were drifting north of Brittas Bay.

Wicklow lifeboat slipped its moorings at the South quay shortly after 3pm and proceeded south to the vessel's last reported position.

The lifeboat was alongside the motor cruiser at 3:30pm about four miles off Jack's Hole near Brittas Bay.

Coxswain Goucher carried out a risk assessment and a towline was quickly established with the motor cruiser.

Speaking after the callout, Coxswain Goucher said: "For the first hour the tow was slow due to the tide and swell, but as we got closer to Wicklow head, conditions improved, and we were able to increase the speed."

The motor cruiser and its three occupants were landed safely ashore at the East pier as darkness fell shortly before 5:30pm. Alan Goucher joined Wicklow RNLI in 2011 and was appointed a Coxswain in April 2021 after completing rigorous training. This was his first callout as Coxswain on the all-weather lifeboat. "We are all very proud of his commitment to saving lives at sea," the RNLI said. The crew on the callout were Coxswain Alan Goucher, Mechanic Brendan Copeland, Lisa O' Leary, Dean Mulvihill, John Stapleton and Stephen Kenny.

# Responsibilities of dog owners highlighted this lambing season

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue TD, have reminded dog owners of their responsibilities and the vulnerability of sheep to dog attacks, as lambing season approaches.

The two Ministers said the issue is one of grave concern to the farming community and that attacks on sheep are happening far too often in the rural countryside.

The latest figures compiled by local authorities show that there were 240 incidences of 'Livestock Worrying' in 2020 - with a similar number expected when the 2021 returns are completed.

Dog attacks cause serious injury or death to sheep and can cause serious distress and financial loss for farm families.

Minister Humphreys and McConalogue recently visited Donnie Anderson's Farm in West Dublin where they announced the start of an awareness campaign that will run over lambing season.

Minister Humphreys said: "Attacks on sheep

can have a devastating impact on farmers, their business, and their families. I'm a dog owner myself and I know the vast majority of dog owners are extremely responsible. But the latest figures show that in 2020, there were 240 incidents of 'Livestock Worrying' reported to local authorities.

"As the lambing season begins, we are hearing more and more reports of incidents in Rural Ireland. Some 2.5 million lambs will be born on farms all over Ireland this springtime. Sheep flocks are very vulnerable to dog attacks at this critical time, and especially during the night.

"Our farmers are the backbone of our community and any incident that puts their livestock at risk can have a detrimental impact on the animals and

the farmer in question. So I'm appealing to dog owners today, particularly in rural areas, to please keep your dogs on the leash and be vigilante at all times."

Minister McConalogue added: "Sheep worrying causes immense and unnecessary stress for farmers, and serious animal welfare issues for sheep and new-born lambs. Uncontrolled pets can decimate a flock within minutes, with reports suggesting that up to 4,000 sheep are killed or seriously injured in dog attacks every year.

"Dog owners must take responsibility for their pets, which must be under control at all times - remember, even the gentlest family pet can kill or maim sheep and lambs. Never let your dog out unsupervised, especially at night."

The Minister added that

responsible pet ownership is a priority for his Department and advised that all dogs must be microchipped under the law.

"By law, every dog must be microchipped and the possession, movement, sale or supply of an unchipped dog is an offence. I am committed to working with Minister Humphreys to ensure sheep-worrying by dogs becomes a thing of the past, and our officials are working together to improve enforcement of the laws applicable to dogs."

Finally, the Minister reminded anyone concerned about incidents of animal neglect or cruelty that they can contact the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine helpline by phone or on the dedicated email address.

## Calls to prioritise safety when legislating for e-scooter use

NCBI, the Irish Wheelchair Association and Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind will present their concerns regarding the use of e-scooters in Ireland to the Oireachtas Committee on Transport.



usage is increasing daily and it is vital that the correct legal frameworks and infrastructure is in place to ensure the safety of disabled pedestrians.

"In a recent NCBI survey, 57% of our service users reported e-scooters reduced their confidence to walk or access the community. It is imperative the legislation introduces lower speed limits and requires the installation of an audio system to guarantee pedestrian safety as already there have been too many near misses or accidents."

John Fulham, Public Engagement Manager, Irish Wheelchair Association said; "The introduction of E-Scooters in Ireland has generated valid concerns amongst the disabled community regarding the continuing safety of people with disabilities. It is important the infrastructure introduced does not place disabled people in a vulnerable position and we welcome the opportunity to present to the committee regarding these issues."

Léan Kennedy, Advocacy and Policy Officer, Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind said; "In a recent survey, 89% of our clients are concerned about the use of e-scooters in relation to their safety and therefore we welcome the opportunity to present to the Committee on this important issue. We are calling for specific amendments to be made to the Bill to safeguard people with vision impairment and children with autism so they can move independently in their communities."

The organisations have called on Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan TD, to ensure the voices and experiences of disabled pedestrians and those with mobility needs are heard and their concerns addressed in the Road Traffic and Roads Bill 2021.

The three organisations, who published a joint position paper in advance of the Dáil debate on the Bill in November last year will be asking the Committee to propose and support amendments to the legislation to ensure:

- E-scooters will be prohibited from use on footpaths and in shared spaces;
- A universal sound solution, which is robustly tested and researched, is installed to allow pedestrians to hear them approaching;
- Maximum speed limits of 12 kph will apply with lower speed limits of 6 kph in certain areas; and
- There is designated parking infrastructure.

June Tinsley, NCBI Head of Advocacy and Communications, said "The volume of E-scooter



## COVID-19 Vaccines



**COVID-19  
VACCINE**  
Public Health  
Advice

# EVERYONE NEEDS A BOOST.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY.

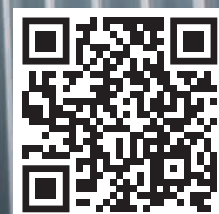
If you're 16 and over, and it's been 3 months since your last COVID-19 vaccine, you can make a booster appointment at [hse.ie](https://hse.ie).

Current research shows that 2 weeks after your booster, your protection against severe illness should go back up to 90%.

If you've had COVID-19 since you were last vaccinated, please wait 3 months before booking your booster.

You can book your booster at a HSE vaccination centre or a participating pharmacy.

For a vaccination centre appointment at a time and day that suits you, book online at [hse.ie/book](https://hse.ie/book)



**#ForUsAll**

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



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland





Avonmore Musical Society Chairman Thomas Byrne and Ray Carter with the winner of the Avonmore Car Draw Cathy Quirke at Avon Motors in Rathdrum.

# Start your own business - with a focus on greenways and blueways

**Do you have a business idea that capitalises on the Greenway or Blueway projects in County Wicklow?**

LEO Wicklow recognises the opportunity present within the tourism industry as a significant opportunity to build a business due to the increasing numbers of Irish and International tourists visiting Wicklow for its natural beauty and has organised a Start Your Own Business programme for potential new businesses in the tourism, recreation and hospitality sectors, with a focus on Greenways and Blueways.

Greenways are planned for Blessington, Arklow to Shillelagh, Wicklow to Greystones with other routes under consideration.

The proposed County Wicklow Bright-light Blueway will create five Blueway nodes which will lead participation in coastal outdoor recreation in the County. Each node will have a defined access point to the sea, a supporting trailhead, signage and interpretation information. The proposed nodes are Arklow and surrounding beaches/harbour, Wicklow, Kilcoole, Greystones and Bray.

This Start Your Own Business course will cover all of the core topics from ideation through to business planning. It will focus on giving you the skills, knowledge and attitude to determine if

Entrepreneurship is right for you, and if so how to launch a business for success.

What will make it different, is that this programme will be specific to those with an interest in seizing the opportunity present within the tourism industry.

The sessions will focus on the key elements of starting a business, but the unique slant of each session will be on the opportunities in the eco-tourism area, with specific case studies from this sector and guest speakers from the industry to share their knowledge and resources available. Additionally, issues of seasonal/tourism impact on planning, insurance issues for high-risk activities and other topics specific to this type

of business will be addressed.

The programme will create an ongoing peer support network and cluster of SMEs who are focused on projects within the same sector. There is the added possibility of collaboration in terms of new product or service development as you explore the ideation process. Participants may also support each other in the early years of business through referrals and other sales and marketing collaboration.

The 10-week programme will be delivered online commencing Tuesday 1st March to Tuesday 3rd May 7pm to 10pm. For more information or to book your place please see [localenterprise.ie](http://localenterprise.ie)

## A stepping stone to third level

**Liberties College is a stepping stone to third level education. Over the past 50 years, Liberties College has become synonymous with further education and training.**

The college offers students the opportunity to achieve their potential in a supportive environment, with QQI Level 5 and 6 courses for school leavers, experienced people who wish to up-skill or re-skill, as well as those returning to education. Liberties College facilitates students in their first steps towards a career in industries such as healthcare, information technology, childcare, tourism, creative arts, social studies and youth work. The Liberal Arts and Trinity Access Courses focus entirely on preparing students for university. On successful completion, many graduates proceed to degree courses in a range of universities.

In preparation for higher education and the world of work, the college attracts students from a diverse range of nationalities, ages, backgrounds and experiences, making for an exciting culture and atmosphere. In addition to the academic schedule, students engage in a variety of extracurricular activities, including practical workshops, seminars, educational and cultural trips, visits and shows.

Recently, Liberties College has launched three new courses taught by experienced teachers and industry professionals, which include a pre-apprenticeship in software development, a textiles course in heritage crafts revival, a national tour guiding award with business option and an arts and culture events management course.

## US TV show showcasing Wicklow to audiences of 155 million

**The US TV travel show 'Ireland with Michael' is set to showcase Wicklow and Kildare as holiday destinations to audiences of 155 million people across the USA and Canada.**

Michael Londra, the Emmy nominated, Irish singer-producer is originally from Wexford town and is now a resident of the US. Michael hosts the travel show which airs across the PBS network in the US and Canada. In each episode, he takes viewers on an intriguing journey to the popular and some of the lesser-known Irish destinations to learn about Irish history, meets local artisans, experience small-town pubs and food, and enjoy unique musical and cultural experiences. He combines glorious video footage of Ireland's storied landscapes, destinations, exciting cultural experiences, and performances from Irish stars.

In summer 2021 the host and crew travelled to Wicklow and Kildare to film a full episode in the counties.

The episode begins with a tour of the Kilruddery Estate where the Lord Ardee of Meath himself hosts the crew. He shows Michael his home, which has been in his family for 400 years and highlights how the estate is thriving.

Michael then heads to one of his favourite spots from his tours around Ireland, the National Stud, where world-class horses are bred and trained. He tours the connected exquisite Japanese gardens and meets with his friend Aileen Mythen and sings an old Dubliners song with her.

Onwards down the road to Powerscourt House and gardens, Michael stops by to visit the walled gardens, with ornate fountains and statues and stops to taste Fercullen Whiskey distilled in the mill house on-site. He ends the day at Glendalough, the peaceful monastic valley with a performance from Valda Chamber Choir.

Speaking of the new series release Michael says, "We are delighted to release Season 2 of 'Ireland with Michael', the show has been such a huge hit in Season 1



Michael Londra, the Emmy nominated, Irish singer-producer

with a viewership of 75% of all U.S. households.

It is an honour to highlight our greatest asset. Be they singers, dancers, poets, artisans or storytellers, our creators share their Ireland, in every episode of the show. I'm so proud of the country and the people in it, it is a joy to be able to share that around the world.

Pre-pandemic North America has been the fastest-growing vacation market for Irish tourism, accounting for 33% of foreign earnings, I am very glad to be able to support the Irish arts, tourism and hospitality sectors and I very much hope that the show assists the international tourism recovery for Ireland post-

pandemic."

Aer Lingus, Tourism Ireland and CIE Tours sponsor the 'Ireland with Michael' series. Upcoming for 2023 is a new Ireland With Michael series 3, which will be released in January 2023, and filming of these episodes will commence in March 2022.

At present, the crew are scouting locations and ideas across the country, so if you think that you or your town should be featured in series three send your idea and contact details to [info@irelandwithmichael.com](mailto:info@irelandwithmichael.com). The 'Ireland with Michael' series is aired across PBS stations and can also be viewed internationally online via [www.irelandwithmichael.com](http://www.irelandwithmichael.com)

**Marrakesh**

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

**EPA LICENCED FACILITY • ALL TRUCKS CARRY WASTE PERMITS**

**Recycled:**

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

Also available:

- Granite • Pebble • Sand

**Tel: 01 286 8119 Mobile: 087 664 1866**  
**[www.marrakesh ltd.com](http://www.marrakesh ltd.com)**

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

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



# Dept of Education called on to expedite planning permission for Greystones Community College

Deputy Jennifer Whitmore has written to the Minister for Education, Norman Foley seeking a timeline on when planning permission will be submitted by the Department of Education to Wicklow County Council.

Deputy Whitmore says "the school has been waiting for a permanent build for a number of years and is currently situated in temporary accommodation at the Éire Óg site in Greystones. While the Principal, staff, teachers and students are doing their best to create a safe and supportive learning environment, nothing compares to have a permanent school build of their own.

"The school is eagerly anticipating a planning application to be lodged by the Department of

Education to get the project off the ground. This would provide a huge amount of certainty for the school community and bring much relief to the school community.

"I have corresponded with the Minister's office on a number of occasions in recent weeks and months on this issue. The latest response I received suggested the Department were expediting the planning application process, however there have been no indications of this happening any time soon.

"These processes can take a long time and

while it's not possible at this stage to have a timeline, timing will be very important. Acquiring planning permission is one of the hardest hurdles when building a new school which is why it's important the school gets reassurance at this juncture that everything is on track. Once planning permission is granted, the

Department of Education can then begin focusing on important aspects of the building including sourcing various materials and other permissions to begin construction as soon as possible.

"I am now urging the Department to do what it can to prevent any unnecessary delays," concluded Deputy Whitmore.



Deputy Whitmore speaking with GCC Principal Ruairí Farrell

## Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath says 'Yes' to languages!

Over 100 pupils in fifth and sixth class from Gaelscoil na Cloch Liath are taking part in the new Primary Language Sampler starting on February 8th. The sampler module is a means for raising awareness among pupils of the range of languages used by their peers, in their schools and community.

Over 500 schools nationwide are taking part and offering modules in a range of modern foreign languages and Irish Sign Language. The module will introduce the pupils to Spanish and be taught over a 6-week period during the normal school timetable.

Jackie Durbin is delighted to be involved in sharing her language and experience with the pupils, having gained the skills while studying and working with Spanish for many years.

"I appreciate the importance of languages as a life skill, an opportunity for the pupils to think in a different way and build opportunities for the future," says Rita Ní Thuathail, Príomhoide, Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath.

"While many of our children come from English-speaking families, Irish is the language of our school, and the children are immersed in it from day one. Now with Irish and Spanish being used by the pupils and staff at our school, this module really helps to build awareness and celebrate the diversity within our school and within our wider community."

Greystones and the surrounding area already has strong links with Spain and the language due to many families in the area hosting Spanish students for many years now, and the location of SEK International School in the Windgates are of Greystones.

The module is being rolled out over three terms, with the support of Languages Connect and PPLI (Post-Primary Languages Ireland), a unit of the Department of Education.

A suite of resources has been produced including lesson plans for teachers and tutors and 'Language Passports' for all participating pupils to show their family and friends. Packs have been sent to participating schools to help support both the teaching and learning, but also awareness raising objectives of the module. More information regarding the modules, tutor expression of interest and supports are available at [www.languagesconnect.ie/primary](http://www.languagesconnect.ie/primary).

Languages Connect promotes the personal, social, professional and economic benefits of foreign language skills to principals, teachers, guidance counsellors, parents and students. Funded by the Department of Education and facilitated by Post Primary Languages Ireland, as a key objective of the Languages Connect - Ireland's for Foreign Languages in Education 2017 - 2026.

## bife BRAY INSTITUTE OF FURTHER EDUCATION Dedicated, Professional, Passionate

- THE SOUTH EAST'S LARGEST COLLEGE OF FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION -

# Save the Date!

# Grand, in-person

# OPEN DAY

## Tuesday 8th March, 10am to 4pm



### ART & DESIGN

Art Portfolio Preparation Course  
Art, Craft & Design  
Fine Art Practice  
Architectural Design & Technology  
Graphic Design HND  
Fashion & Textiles HNC  
Garden Design  
Furniture Design & Manu. Level 5  
Furniture Design & Cabinet M. Level 6  
Jewellery Making & design

### BODY THERAPIES & HOLISTIC HEALTH

Beauty & Body Therapy  
Nail Technician & Salon Administration  
Hairdressing Junior Stylist  
Hairdressing Senior Stylist  
Barbering  
Fashion Theatre and Media Make-Up  
Holistic & Wellbeing Studies  
Professional Makeup & Hairdressing

### ADULT LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Adult Leaving Certificate

### NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

Nursing & Midwifery Studies - Pre-University  
Pharmacy Assistant  
Pharmacy Technician  
Emergency Care Services  
Healthcare Assistant  
Occupational Therapy Assistant

### MUSIC & COMPUTER GAMING

3D Game Design  
Games Development  
Music Production HND  
Music Performance HND  
Traditional Irish & Folk Music Performance  
Sound Engineering  
DJ Techniques & Music Production

### SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & COMPUTING

Animal Care & Management  
Animal Care  
Animal Science Advanced  
Equine Studies  
Science - Pre University  
Dietetics, Nutrition & Food Science  
Brewing & Distilling Techniques  
Forensics - Applied Science  
Applied Ecology & Biodiversity Studies  
Engineering Pre-University  
Computer Software Development  
Computer Science Level 5  
Computer Networks & Cyber Security Level 6

### ACTING & DANCE

Acting for Theatre & Film  
Acting-Advanced for Stage & Screen  
Dance Technique, Performance & Chor. ND  
Dance Technique, Performance & Chor. HND

### FILM

TV & Film Production  
TV & Film (Moving Image) HND  
Film Special Effects

### TOURISM & HOSPITALITY

Tourism, Reception & Event Management  
Restaurant & Bar Management  
Professional Cookery  
Professional Cookery Advanced  
Barista, Pastry & Baking  
Tourism with Airline Studies

### SPORT

Sports, Exercise & Fitness Instruction  
Personal Trainer, Strength & Conditioning  
Soccer Coaching & Fitness studies  
Sports Injury & Massage Therapy /Pre-University Physiotherapy

### SOCIAL STUDIES & APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

Social Studies & Community Care  
Applied Health & Social Care HND  
Applied Psychology  
Early Learning & Care / Childcare Supervision  
in Early Childhood Care & Education  
Special Needs Assistant  
Healthcare Practice

### BUSINESS

Business Management & Administration  
Business Management - Advanced Cert  
Accounting Technician  
Business Tourism & Event Management  
Legal Administration  
IT & Office Administration  
Medical Administration  
Security Studies & Pre-Garda



Apply NOW online at [www.bife.ie](http://www.bife.ie)

**01 2829668**  
[bifeenquiries@wicklowvec.ie](mailto:bifeenquiries@wicklowvec.ie)





A hedgerow that was severely cut and grubbed in County Tipperary in 2020. The length of hedgerow affected was approximately 640m (152m of which were situated along the road), spread over three fields. A small section, of approximately 12m of hedgerow was removed. The work took place in August 2020. NPWS investigated following receipt of a report from a member of the public. In court in January 2021, the landowner pleaded guilty and was convicted and fined €1000. The Judge took into account his early guilty plea and the fact that he showed receipts and pictures showing that 400 hawthorn whips had been planted on the site. In addition, the landowner received a 5% reduction in his Basic Farm Payment on foot of a Cross Compliance Report issued to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and the Marine.

## Reminder on hedge cutting and the law

**The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is reminding the public the cutting, grubbing, burning or other destruction of 'vegetation growing in any hedge or ditch' between 1st March and 31st August is prohibited.**

The prohibition is contained in section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976. Suspected breaches are investigated by the NPWS and An Garda Síochána. The NPWS took 31 section 40 prosecution cases in 2021 and it hopes that fewer will be necessary this year.

In Ireland, our relatively low cover of native woodland makes our hedgerows exceptionally important for biodiversity. Hedgerows provide botanical diversity as well as food and shelter for animals, most notably birds. They also act as corridors connecting habitats. Untrimmed, thorny hedges are favoured by birds, but birds may nest in any hedge.

The prohibition outlined above does not apply (unless done by burning) in a number of circumstances set out in the Act. For businesses, landowners and the general public the most notable of these exemptions are:

- \* The destruction, in the ordinary course of agriculture or forestry, of any vegetation growing on or in any hedge or ditch. In the Act, "agriculture" is defined as including horticulture. Since horticulture includes gardening, the summertime trimming of hedges in the ordinary course of gardening falls under this exemption

- \* The clearance of vegetation in the course of road or other construction works or in the development or preparation of sites on which any building or other structure is intended to be provided.

- \* The felling, cutting, lopping, trimming or removal of a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation pursuant to section 70 of the Roads Act 1993.

Section 70(2) (a) of the Roads Act 1993 provides that "The owner or occupier of land shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation on the land is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road". NPWS recommends that such "reasonable steps" are taken between 1 September and 28 February, where possible.

It should also be noted that it is an offence under Section 22 of the Wildlife Act 1976 to wilfully destroy, injure, or mutilate the eggs or nest of a wild bird or to wilfully disturb a wild bird on or near a nest containing eggs or un-flown young birds at any time of the year.

NPWS said, "If you see what you suspect to be a hedge-cutting offence you can report it to your local NPWS office (see [www.npws.ie/contact-us](http://www.npws.ie/contact-us)) or your local Garda station. Since enforcement staff might not be able to respond immediately, you should take a note of the date and time, and note any vehicle registration numbers involved. Photographs (especially of vehicle number plates) can also be helpful, but there is no need to send them to the NPWS or the Gardaí when reporting."

# Irish Water seeks feedback on draft Regional Water Resources Plan

Irish Water's statutory public consultation on its draft Regional Water Resources Plan for the Eastern and Midlands (RWRP-EM) Region will continue to run until 14th March. The three-month public consultation began on 14th December 2021 and sets out the options for providing a more secure, reliable and sustainable water supply for 2.5 million customers in the Eastern and Midlands region over the next 25 years.

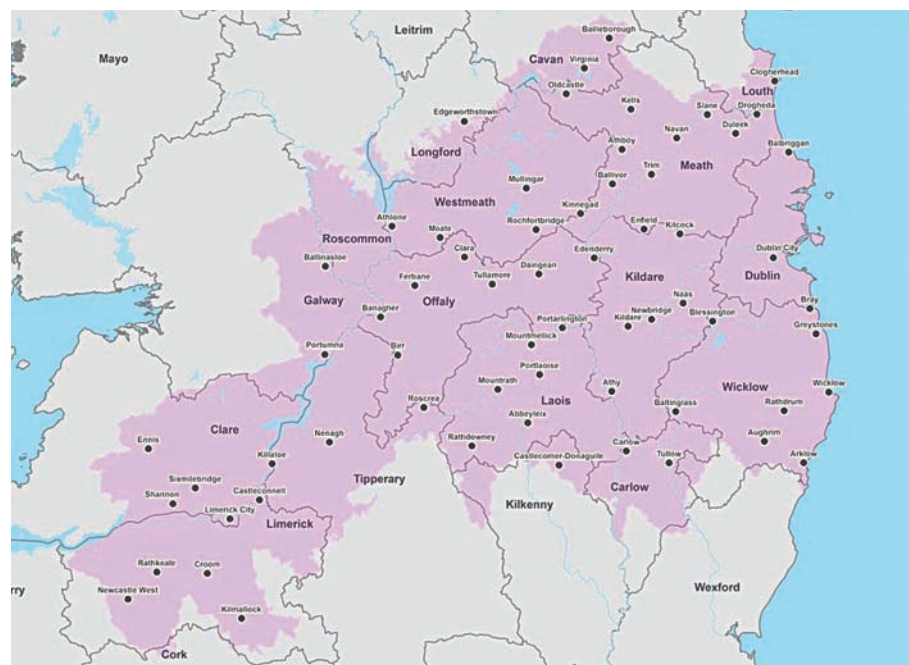
This public consultation is everyone's opportunity to feed into the process of how Irish Water identifies the water supply issues in the region and determines what the options are to provide a more resilient water supply to customers.

Public webinars will be held on February 2nd, 3rd, 7th and 8th. These webinars will provide information on the draft Regional Water Resources Plan Eastern and Midlands and allow opportunities to pose questions to inform submissions. If you would like to be part of an online public webinar on the draft Regional Water Resources Plan Eastern and Midlands and associated environmental reports, you can provide an expression of interest on [www.water.ie/rwrp/easternmidlands](http://www.water.ie/rwrp/easternmidlands).

Irish Water's National Water Resources Plan will be the first resources plan for the entire public water supply in Ireland. It is split into four regions and the first regional plan to be developed is the draft Regional Plan for the Eastern and Midlands Region.

There are 201 Water Treatment Plants in the Eastern and Midlands Region, which collectively serve 2.48 million people or 60% of the population of Ireland, via approximately 19,000 kilometres of distribution network and 134 Water Resource Zones. These treatment plants also serve 76,000 businesses. The region itself covers approximately 20,900 square kilometres extending from the Shannon Estuary in the south west, towards the large River Boyne catchment and Greater Dublin Area (GDA) in the north east.

The draft plan describes the Eastern and Midland Region and the current challenges faced now and into the future in terms of delivering a safe, secure and



Map showing the area which is covered by the Regional Water Resources Plan for the Eastern and Midlands Region

resilient water supply.

Speaking about the public consultation on the draft plan, Angela Ryan, Water Resource Strategy Specialist for Irish Water said, "Public consultation on the draft plan is now underway. Development of the draft plan will allow Irish Water for the first time to review water supply needs collectively across the entire Eastern and Midlands Region covering a broad spectrum of risk including quality, quantity, reliability and sustainability. It will allow us to consider local options to resolve these needs and larger regional options that can address multiple supplies.

"The draft Regional Plan will also offer key benefits in terms of transformation of our supplies,

including the ability to cater for growth and economic development in a sustainable way, improved interconnectivity between our supplies to ensure balanced regional development, and new sustainable water sources that are adaptable to climate change such as the new Shannon source which is coming from the largest catchment in Ireland.

"If people are interested in our plans for the Eastern and Midlands Region, they are welcome to join one of our public webinars in February and hear more from our team," explained Angela.

Irish Water is now seeking feedback on the public consultation for the draft RWRP: EM and associated SEA Environmental

Report and Natura Impact Statement.

The documents are available to view on our website at [www.water.ie/rwrp/easternmidlands](http://www.water.ie/rwrp/easternmidlands)

A 13-week statutory public consultation will continue to run until 14 March 2022.

Submissions can be made by post or email by 14 March 2022. Email [nwrp@water.ie](mailto:nwrp@water.ie).

Alternatively you can post to National Water Resources Plan, Irish Water, PO Box 13216, Glenageary, Co. Dublin

All submissions will be taken into consideration and responses to the issues raised will be summarised in a Consultation Report which will be published on [www.water.ie/nwrp](http://www.water.ie/nwrp).

## ECO-Unesco launches academy to give young people access to environmental education

**In celebration of World Education Day 2022, ECO-UNESCO has launched an ECO Academy to give young people access to environmental education anywhere and at any time.**

ECO-UNESCO, Ireland's leading environmental education and youth organisation has launched ECO Academy following a youth survey they conducted in which 93% of young people want climate action to become a bigger part of their school life.

The online portal will

give young people access to accredited environmental education including TY Modules and QQI Certifications. The courses focus on topics including Fast Fashion, Climate Justice, Sustainable Development and '6 Steps to Success'.

Elaine Nevin, National Director of ECO-

UNESCO commented: "ECO-UNESCO works with over 10,000 young people each year and as a result of the pandemic, we have seen just how passionate young people are about taking climate action. Young people have continued to work on action projects and get involved in our pro-

grammes while at home. Because of this, we saw an opportunity to create an online portal to develop further access to environmental education online.

"In a recent survey by ECO-UNESCO, 88% of young people are either involved or want to get involved with climate

action with 52% of respondents saying they would like more opportunities to be involved in climate action projects. Young people are clearly eager to learn more about the solutions to our climate issues and these courses will be the perfect opportunity for them to get involved and take action."

ECO-UNESCO are now encouraging young people to enrol in their free 'YEA 6 steps to Success' course ahead of their National Young Environmental Awards (YEA) programme taking place in May. The course will equip young people with essential skills and helpful techniques to carry out their climate action projects. To get involved or to hear more about the ECO Academy, please go to [ECO-UNESCO-ECO-UNESCO Learning Portal \(ecounesco.ie\)](http://ECO-UNESCO-ECO-UNESCO Learning Portal (ecounesco.ie))







It's that time of year again! Just as we settle into the new year the day devoted to love of all kinds rears its head, to the delight (or dismay!) of people everywhere. Not even children or pets escape Valentine's Day, with cards available for all walks of life. Single or attached it arrives like clockwork on February 14th every year.



Although it is mainly focused on loved up couples, there is no need for the day of love to just appeal to those with a partner. Love can be celebrated in many forms and in many types of relationships, the days of needing to be one half of a traditional couple to celebrate Valentine's Day are long gone.

Valentine's Day, also known as the Feats of St Valentine is celebrated in many countries, although is not a public holiday in most, Ireland included. The day began as a celebration of an early Christian saint named Valentinus.

It is said that Saint Valentine of Rome was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who

## Valentine's Day Superstitions & Traditions

There are many other traditions and superstitions associated with romance activities on Valentine's Day including:

Traditionally, spring begins on St Valentine's Day (February 14th), the day on which birds chose their mates. In parts of England, Valentine's Day was called 'the Birds' Wedding Day'.

The first man an unmarried woman saw on 14th February would be her future husband;

If the names of all a girl's suitors were written on paper and wrapped in clay and the clay put into water, the piece that rose to the surface first would contain the name of her husband-to-be.

Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week.

In Wales wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts on February 14th. Hearts, keys and key-holes were favourite decorations on the spoons. The decoration meant, "You unlock my heart!"



Dublin Zoo invites visitors to 'Woo At The Zoo' with their beloved, for an unforgettable date on the most romantic weekend of the year! On Saturday February 12th and Sunday February 13th at 8:30am, Dublin Zoo will exclusively open its doors early to a very limited number of couples for what will surely be a memorable and magical morning. Tickets for this exclusive Valentine's experience can be purchased online by visiting <https://www.dublinzoo.ie/event/woo-at-the-zoo/>. For more information, visit the Dublin Zoo website.

## Valentine's Day Facts

- ♥ The most fantastic gift of love is the Taj Mahal in India. It was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan as a memorial to his wife.
- ♥ Cupid is a symbol of Valentine's Day. Cupid was associated with Valentine's Day because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty.
- ♥ The Roman Lupercalia, a celebration of fertility began on February 14th. The date was later borrowed by the early Christians to celebrate a martyr by the name of Valentine.
- ♥ Ancient Romans believe that birds mated on February 14th.
- ♥ In the middle Ages, people believed that the first unmarried person of the opposite sex you met on the morning of St. Valentine's Day would become your spouse.
- ♥ A single perfect red rose framed with baby's breath is named by some florists as a "signature rose," and is the preferred choice for most for giving on Valentine's Day, anniversaries and birthdays. The red rose was the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love.
- ♥ The oldest surviving love poem till date is written in a clay tablet from the times of the Sumerians, inventors of writing, around 3500 B.C.
- ♥ Verona, the Italian city where Shakespeare's play lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters every year sent to Juliet on Valentine's Day.
- ♥ Amongst the earliest Valentine's Day gifts were candies. The most common were chocolates in heart shaped boxes.
- ♥ In America, the pilgrims used to send confections, such as sugar wafers, marzipan, sweetmeats and sug-arplums, to their lovers. They all contained sugar which was a rare commodity.
- ♥ Every year around 1 billion Valentine cards are sent around the world. After Christmas it's a single largest seasonal card-sending occasion.
- ♥ King Henry VIII declared February 14th a holiday in 1537 for the first time.
- ♥ Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, on the Valentine's Day, 1876.
- ♥ On February 14, 1779, the natives of Hawaii murdered Captain James Cook the great English explorer and navigator.
- ♥ Casanova, well known as "The World's Greatest Lover," ate chocolate to make him virile.
- ♥ Physicians of the 1800's commonly advised their patients to eat chocolate to calm their pining for lost love.
- ♥ Richard Cadbury produced the first box of chocolates for Valentine's Day in the late 1800's.

were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians, who were persecuted under the Roman Empire.

The day first became associated with romantic love in the High Middle Ages, when the idea of courtly love flourished. In 18th century England it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for one another by presenting flowers, offering confectionery and sending greeting cards, known as Valentines, all traditions that remain today in 21st century Ireland.

One of the main features of Valentine's Day is a romantic meal. Many restaurants tailor their menus for this night and it is worth booking a table in advance as demand is high. Similarly with trips away, hotel rooms tend to be booked up at this time of year, particularly the

more romantic destinations.

There are some great offers to be had, incorporating little treats, such as champagne on arrival and scattered rose petals, so be sure to check hotel websites and facebook pages for special deals.

Of course you don't need to be part of a couple to celebrate Valentine's Day. Groups of friends or parents with children can all take part in their own way whether it's a thoughtful home made gesture or an evening bowling, simply spending quality time with those you love is a rewarding way to spend February 14th.

Wicklow has much to offer when it comes to celebrating this special day, with locations and activities for all ages and tastes, outdoors and indoors, relaxed or adventurous.

**indian spice**

GOOD FOOD TO GO

NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY

Let's make it more exciting - the 14th order will get 50% off! Are you the lucky one?

01 201 1511

indianspicenewtown@gmail.com

**VALENTINE SPECIAL MEAL FOR TWO**

**€35**

only

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Select any 2 starters, 2 mains + 2 rice or naans from our menu



**ETERNITY Jewellery**

Happy Valentines Day to all our customers

Unit 2, Mount View, Church Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01 255 7640





The Community Time Machine was first launched across eight communities in Wicklow in January 2021 and has since been rolled out to ten other counties. Image by Madeline Mulqueen

## €175,161 in 2022 for Creative Ireland projects in Wicklow

**The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD, and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, announced a funding allocation of €175,161 for the implementation of Creative Ireland initiatives in Wicklow.**

Since the Creative Ireland Programme was launched in 2017, it has received investment of €21 million from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This has enabled local authorities to deliver over 5,700 community-led creative projects to support their respective Culture and Creativity Strategies 2018-2022 along with the flagship Cruinniú na nOg - the national day of free creativity for children and young people that takes place in June.

This funding is part of a €6.6 million investment in local authorities throughout the country that will support creative projects that will connect people, creativity and well-being in 2022. The Creative Ireland Programme is committed to the vision that every person in their community should have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential.

During 2021 in Wicklow, the Creative Ireland Culture and Creativity Team delivered 23 projects.

In 2021 Creative Ireland supported an oral history project and the publication of information about the Rathgall Hillfort, an archaeological site of exceptional importance located in south west County Wicklow. Excavations began at Rathgall by the late Professor Rafferty from 1969-75 and again in 1979, and proved monumental in many ways, not least because of the sheer scale of discoveries. There were over 3000 Bronze Age artefacts discovered, and 10,000 finds in total, which is more than any other site in Ireland before or since.

The 'Community Time Machine' is an age friendly, cross generational neighbourhood time capsule project which connects communities across the country. The projects connects young people and senior citizens who live in the same area. Facilitated interviews are conducted between the pair and their recorded responses, art works and photos create an image of how the community looks now and how it did in the past.

The Community Time Machine was first launched across eight communities in Wicklow in January 2021 and has since been rolled out to ten other counties with support from Creative Ireland, Age Friendly Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Minister Martin said "I am very pleased to continue to support the excellent work undertaken by local authorities on behalf of the Creative Ireland Programme. Every Creative Ireland project delivered by our local authority teams harnesses the creative potential of our people and their communities. Their work is the cornerstone of the Creative Ireland Programme and brings together local expertise in arts, heritage, libraries, enterprise and community engagement in a meaningful and inspired way. As we emerge from the last two years, I know that they will once again deliver creative programmes that can build resilience, foster personal confidence and sustain their communities".

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, added: "Local authorities have extensive expertise across heritage, arts, libraries as well as

vital local relationships. I firmly believe that culture plays a key role in local government's work in creating great places to live and work. Creative Communities takes this a step further. Culture and creativity can be part of responses to social isolation, to creating a sense of place and to integrating new communities."

Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Peter Burke, TD, said: "Our Local Authorities are the closest arm of the State to our citizens and are well placed to engage directly with local artists and community groups. Through the PPN and other statutory committees and vehicles, they are linked in with our older people, members of the traveller community, community and voluntary groups and key stakeholders in every locality in the country. This scheme is wide reaching, and as a Government we want all members of society to have equal access cultural and creative opportunities."

The vision for Wicklow's Creative Ireland Programme, according to Wicklow's Culture and Creativity Strategy document for 2018-2022, is "to embed creativity into the heart of communities across the county; increasing the capacity and confidence of all to bring creativity and innovation to their lives, thus enriching the social, economic and cultural life of County Wicklow. This programme will support creativity in the community by forging links and collaborations between heritage and arts, in both non-professional and professional capacities."

Wicklow's culture and Creativity Strategy is underpinned by the following values: Collaboration; Communication; Community; Participation; Inclusivity; Empowerment.

For an overview of Creative Ireland projects in Wicklow see creativeireland.gov.ie/en/wicklow/

# Bray filmmaker crowdfunding for 80s inspired horror film

*"In the dark mysterious woods there is a force of unearthly evil lurking. And it is hungry..."*

A young filmmaker from Bray is fundraising for a new short horror film which he's written and plans to shoot in North Wicklow in March.

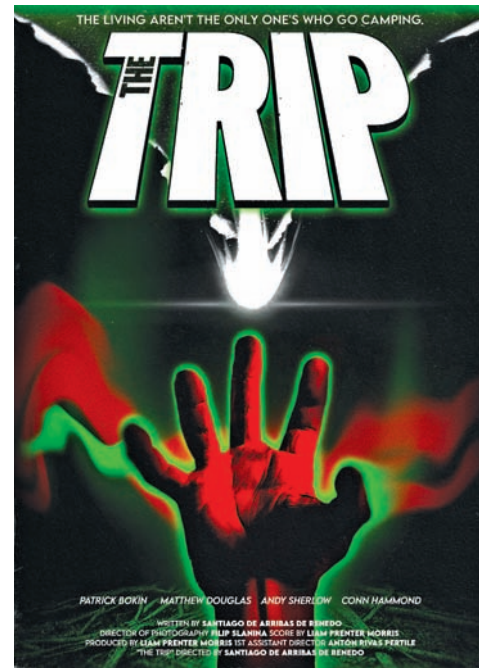
Santiago de Arribas de Renedo has assembled the cast and crew for 'The Trip', which he says will pay homage to classic horror films of the 70s and 80s such as John Carpenter's *The Thing* (1982) and George A. Romero's *Dawn of the Dead* (1978).

The story follows three friends whose camping trip goes horribly wrong when it's interrupted by something unexpected and terrifying.

Speaking with *Wicklow Times*, Santiago says he's been scouting for possible locations and has a few in mind such as Djouce Woods, Bray Head, and Rathmichael.

Santiago studied computer science in college but has a passion for film and making films. He has previously collaborated with his friend Liam Prenter Morris on a number of short films, including two that were finalists in the 2017/18 Fresh Films Festival as well as an Audience Award.

Together they've been making films for eight years and The Trip sees them team up again, with Liam as Producer and also composer of the film's score. Liam is currently studying Sound in IADT.



Poster design for The Trip

Antón Rivas Pertile, who's ran UCD's Media Production Society for two years, has come on board as 1st Assistant Director. Filip Slanina, currently in IADT studying Cinematography, and who also has a background in making short films and music videos, is the Director of Photography. Alice Jordan will be the Chief Lighting Technician and Roisin Murphy will be doing the SFX make-up. The cast consists of

Andy Sherlow, Matthew Douglas, Patrick Bokin and Conn Hammond.

Two fundraising pages have been set up for the project, at FundIt and IndieGogo: <https://fundit.ie/project/the-trip-short-horror-film/> and <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/the-trip-80s-inspired-horror-short-film/x/28277477#/>

Santiago is trying to raise €8,000 across the two platforms to make the film. The fundraiser

will end in mid-February. Like the horror films of the time period that The Trip will pay tribute to, he says the film will have a lot of practical effects, as well as props and miniatures. Lighting will also be critical for achieving the intended look, so high-quality lighting equipment will be needed for the night shoots.

The money raised will help to make these things possible and will help Santiago achieve the 80s-aesthetic and atmospheric vision he has for the film.

As part of the crowdfunding campaign, a number of perks are available depending on the amount you contribute. Whether you donate €10 or over €100, you're guaranteed a perk (see side-bar).

You can also keep up to date with the project on Facebook and Instagram (@thetrip-short).



Scan the QR code to see the fundraising page for The Trip

## Perks for backers

### Fund €10+

Credited in the short film as a BACKER.  
Early access link to the short film.

### Fund €15+

Digital Poster of the short film. Link to digital Q&A and Screening. (Includes previous perks)

### Fund €30+

Digital bundle (HD copy of the film, Digital copy of the script, Digital copy of the full soundtrack. (Includes previous perks)

### Fund €50+

Custom T-Shirt featuring film artwork (Includes previous perks) \*postage not covered.

### Fund €60+

Ticket to in-person Screening + Q&A. (Includes previous perks)

### Fund €80+

Physical bundle (DVD copy of the film, Signed copy of film poster). (Includes previous perks.) \*Postage not covered.

### Fund €100

Personal video message from the director and producer thanking you for your contribution. (Includes previous perks.)



Santiago de Arribas de Renedo



# SUAS project featured on popular signpost web series

The SUAS Pilot Project recently featured on the popular Teagasc 'Signpost Series', a free online event series created during the Covid lockdown of 2020.

Titled 'The Future Of Uplands Management - Lessons From SUAS', Declan Byrne, Project Manager of the SUAS Pilot Project delivered the informative presentation followed by a lengthy questions and answers session afterwards, all centered on the innovative project currently taking place on multiple locations across the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands.

Launched in 2018 by Wicklow Uplands Council, the 'Sustainable Uplands Agriculture-environment Scheme (SUAS) Pilot Project was designed to address some of the complex challenges associated with the land management of commonages and hill farms in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.

The wide-reaching project was successful in receiving a funding allocation under the first round of

European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture, Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) scheme. Administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, it focuses on working with localised operational groups made up of farmers, scientists and other experts who collaborate together to develop new practices that are environmentally friendly and economically sustainable.

Now in its final year of operation, some of the many findings of the 5-year project are proving to be of great interest as its work with both commonage groups and individual hill farmers across the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands focuses on the sustainable management of the unique, natural habitats the area is renowned for.

Introducing the Signpost Series

event to over 400 participants, Pat Murphy, Head of Environment Knowledge Transfer Department at Teagasc, said: "one of the big environmental challenges we have, is trying to protect the uplands and to have them managed in a way that's environmentally sustainable in the long-term".

Streamed live on January 14th, the episode managed to cover quite a range of topics and received a considerable number of questions, ensuring that many of the lessons and valuable insights gained through the delivery of the project, were discussed thoroughly with the audience who tuned in from far and wide.

Speaking before of the event, Declan Byrne said "We are very excited to be able to share and discuss the many insights discovered through the implementation of the SUAS project to the diverse audience of the Signpost Series. Featuring on the series offers a great opportunity to present some of the project's findings to those who share an interest in hill farming management practices, commonage groups and the preservation of upland habitats and its sensitive ecosystems".

Since its first episode in the early days of the first lockdown in April 2020, the weekly 'Signpost Series' has gone from strength to strength, regularly attracting over 400 participants. Broadcasting episodes every Friday morning from 9.30-10.30, the series explores environmental topics such as climate change, biodiversity, soil health, nutrient management and water quality.

The Teagasc "Signpost Series" is presented in association with Dairy Sustainability Ireland, Food Drink Ireland Skillnet and the National Rural Network.

For anyone who missed the live event, the full episode is now available to view on the Teagasc Youtube Channel.



Declan Byrne giving a presentation on the slopes Granamore Commonage during National Heritage Week in 2019

## Heritage and climate action in Wicklow explored in new webinar and exhibition

A webinar series on Climate and Heritage and an exhibition and talk on Climate Change & Coastal Heritage in Arklow Library have been organised for the public by Wicklow County Council.

The Local Authority Heritage Officers Network is inviting people to a new series of Climate Action webinars. There will be three one-hour weekly session with the next taking place via Zoom on Thursday next, 3rd February, at 9.30am.

"Through the webinars you will hear about positive actions for climate from across the heritage sector nationally, including a presentation on our own Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project" stated Deirdre Burns, Wicklow Heritage Officer.

Officially launched by Malcom Noonan, Minister for State for Heritage on Thursday last, the next topics will include nature-based solutions, adaptation of heritage structures, risk assessment and will focus on how we can best ignite action for climate right across the country.

For more information see [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) or [www.heritage.wicklowheritage.org](http://www.heritage.wicklowheritage.org) under latest news or drop an e mail to [dburns@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:dburns@wicklowcoco.ie).

Arklow Library is hosting an exhibition on Climate Change & Coastal Heritage running from 1st to 27th February. The display charts the work of CHERISH a team of archaeologists, geologists and geographers studying the effects of climate change on coastal and maritime heritage in Ireland and Wales.

From the skies, at the coast edge, and beneath the waves, CHERISH are using the latest technologies including planes, drones and sonar to carry out research on archaeological sites, shipwrecks, promontory forts, wetlands and sand dunes. Sean Cullen, Head of the Marine and Coastal Unit, Geological Survey of Ireland, will present an in-person lecture on Thursday, 3rd February 2022 at 7pm in Arklow Library. No booking is needed for this event.

For more on Wicklow County Councils Climate and Biodiversity activities visit: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Climate-Action-and-Biodiversity>



A postcard, from Arthur Griffith to his son Nevin, written from Gloucester Prison, 3rd March 1919. Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland

## Stories of activism, love and loss highlighted by new campaign from National Library of Ireland

Revealing Histories marks 100 years since the formation of the Irish Government

The National Library of Ireland (NLI) holds over ten million items that tell the stories of public and private life in Ireland - politics and passion, love and loss, family and fate - and for a number of years has been digitising primary source material for the revolutionary period, with funding from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media.

In a new digital campaign, the NLI is highlighting the riches revealed through this digitisation by focusing on four individuals who played important roles in 1922. Letters, photographs, diaries, political posters and much more show us the life and times of Kathleen Clarke, Arthur Griffith, Hanna Sheehy Skeffington and Austin Stack, and allow us to experience the Ireland of their day through their eyes.

As well as exploring the political and social upheaval of 1922, 'Revealing Histories' highlights key personal stories of these four people through the decades, including:

- Arthur Griffith's letters to and from his children and wife, as he was negotiating the Treaty.
- Photographs of Kathleen Clarke's sons, and her struggle to raise them as a widow after her husband was executed in 1916.
- Austin Stack's love story with republican activist Winifred Úna Gordon, the widow of an RIC officer.
- Hanna Sheehy Skeffington's determination to survive personal tragedy and to change the world for women.

The 'Revealing Histories' campaign shows different ways that this content can be used to bring the period to life for a range of audiences. With all this material freely available online, a bite-sized animation demonstrates how to explore the NLI's online catalogue; four short captioned videos introduce key records that tell the story of Clarke, Griffith, Sheehy Skeffington and Stack; and easily downloadable resources on the NLI's website explore their lives in much greater detail.



Photographic image of Austin Stack from Election flyer, 1918. Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.

Commenting, National Library Deputy Director and Head of Exhibitions, Learning and Programming

Katherine McSharry said: "The events of 1922 shaped Ireland forever, and the letters, diaries and photographs of those who lived through those days show us a changing world unfolding. 'Revealing Histories' emphasizes the value of digitizing the national memory, both to show us major moments in our history, and as a reminder that all the individuals involved had personal dramas, losses and joys alongside their politics and activism. We invite everyone to explore this freely available material, in order to deepen and extend their insights into those associated with the early days of the Irish State."



Image of Kathleen Clarke as Lord Mayor. Also includes Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington, Seán MacBride and others. 1941. Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland





Wicklow Rotary President Peter Byrne pictured with the regional finalists of the Rotary Club's 'Youth Leadership Development' competition; Lottie Lulu Smith from the Dublin Central Rotary Club, Aidrin O'Mana from Wicklow Rotary Club and Grainne Ni Ailin from the Wexford Rotary Club.

## Wicklow schools invited to join new initiative that fosters empathy, kindness and connection

Schools in Wicklow are being invited to join a new national award scheme aimed at recognising and celebrating post-primary schools that promote empathy, kindness and connection among students and staff.

The initiative, launching last week, is being rolled out to schools across the country by Narrative 4 Ireland, a Limerick-based empathy education organisation that has trained hundreds of teachers and youth workers to deliver an evidence-based teaching method that fosters connection, empathy and encourages positive relationships in the classroom.

"I think we can all see why something like this is so timely. The world is very fractured at the moment, barriers are being reinforced and hate crimes and online bullying are rising. We need to dig deeper when it comes to bringing people back together" says TG4 presenter and awards ambassador Louise Cantillon.

She says "Empathy education cultivates vital life skills in young people. It increases awareness of diversity, improves social skills, and gives young people a sense of belonging and connection. The pandemic has been extremely difficult for young people and their teachers. It has isolated and separated us in different ways and stripped away important ways to connect, learn and grow together. Thankfully people are responding to these challenges, not least teachers and students out there cultivating a culture of kindness and connection that reminds us of our humanity. This new award initiative is about encouraging and celebrat-

ing this work and we're looking forward to schools in Wicklow and beyond being part of it all."

The Narrative 4 Empathy School Award follows the format of having three levels of recognition for schools: gold, silver and bronze. The Gold Award requires at least 10 teachers to be trained in Narrative 4's Empathy Education Online CPD as part of their continued professional development. Other requirements include a School Empathy Charter, a 'Walk and Talk' Empathy Challenge, and a series of modules for both students and staff. The silver and bronze options have similar components, albeit with less time commitments.

Narrative 4 was co-founded in 2012 by New York-based Irish author Colum McCann, who went on to bring it to Ireland in 2016. Narrative 4 is a registered Irish charity and has its Irish base in Limerick city. Its empathy education programme has won several awards and praise from students, parents, teachers and beyond. Narrative 4 has received recognition and support from organisations such as Rethink Ireland, the JP McManus Fund, the Ireland Funds, and Creative Ireland.

McCann says the work that the organisation does offers benefits across society.

"This is about embedding empathy work into our schools. So many schools are doing



Louise Cantillon

amazing work, but it's clear there's potential to do so much more. We're at a real turning point in our world, and I think this can be a transformative moment for the better. Change starts with education, and by giving our young people the right opportunities. That's why we developed this award. Our hope is that it provides a valuable and timely offering for schools. I've seen first-hand how this work brings benefits to staff, students and, in fact, entire school cultures. This ripples into our homes and into society, creating a kinder and more nuanced world, something that is very much needed right now."

Narrative 4 Ireland Director Dr James Lawlor says the popularity of the programme is largely due to its accessibility and wide variety of practical applications.

"It creates space for young people to connect and share their own stories and those of their classmates and others. This helps them to see the world from another's perspective and so that they can understand themselves and other people better. I am continually filled with hope for the future when I meet the young people and educators involved with Narrative 4. They have the humanity and the skills to shape and make this world a kinder, more empathic place. They are committed to addressing prejudices, particularly the stigma around mental health concerns, as well as issues of racism and isolation caused by Covid-19. In this way, they help heal divisions through the power of dialogue, connection and empathy."



## Research finds public strongly values locally based small charities like those in Wicklow

Research findings highlighted by We Act show that people greatly value the work of smaller and local charities and community groups, with 71% of those surveyed agreeing that locally based organizations have a strong understanding of their needs, while 60% agreed that being local to where they live is important to them.

There are 936 charities in Wicklow including local voluntary supports, such as disability services, sports clubs, and family resource centres. Respondents believe that these charities have a strong impact on their community and that the charity and community sector is more responsive and flexible than statutory services during times of crisis.

We Act spokesperson Sarah Monaghan said: "We know that most charity and community groups are set up in response to a need or a personal crisis - this need is often local or one that an individual, family or group has direct experience of. For example, in Wicklow, Purple House Cancer Support in Bray provides both emotional and practical support services for individuals and families experiencing the impacts of cancer."

There are 34,000 organisations in the sector, employing almost 165,000

people with a further 1 million volunteers. The combined turnover of the sector is approximately €13.9 billion. Over 93,000 people serve on the boards of Irish nonprofits and charities.

Ms Monaghan continued, "The size of the charity and community sector can often surprise people. The sector employs a similar amount of people as the construction industry."

"But the true value of the sector really becomes apparent during times of crisis. The pandemic demonstrated that - in times of real crisis - charities and community groups are at the forefront of our national and local response."

The survey of 1,000 people in Ireland conducted on behalf of the We Act campaign found:

- 71% agree that small charity and community organisations understand their needs.
- 60% agree that being

local to where they live is important.

- 62% think charities are more likely to be responsive in their services than statutory services.

- 66% think charities are more likely to be flexible in their services than statutory services.

- 69% think charities are more likely to be personal in their services than statutory services.

- 75% say that, if charities disappeared overnight, the lives of vulnerable people would be impacted.

- 77% think that the charity and community sector need to play a role in advocating for those who are vulnerable.

Irish charities and community groups joined forces late last year to launch We Act, a national campaign that will build on the huge upswell of community activity during the Covid-19 pandemic and help drive the post-pandemic recovery.

## People in Wicklow donated over 35,000 COVID-19 vaccines to world's poorest countries at Christmas

UNICEF Ireland has revealed that people in Wicklow donated over 35,000 COVID-19 vaccines to the world's poorest countries at Christmas. The festive surge in donations brings the county's total donations to UNICEF Ireland's Get a Vaccine, Give a Vaccine campaign to 105,000 vaccine deliveries.

UNICEF is leading the procurement and delivery of life-saving COVID-19 vaccines, as part of the global COVAX initiative. Since March, UNICEF has delivered more than one billion vaccine doses to over 140 countries. The international rollout began in March 2021, and continues to gather pace.

Heralding the support of people in Wicklow, UNICEF Ireland Executive Director Peter Power said: "It has been a privilege to witness the generosity from people across Ireland. This Christmas we saw donations from every single county, including Wicklow, and they keep coming. It started out with a simple idea. When you get a vaccine, you can give one to people in some of the world's poorest countries. The response has been incredible. People in Ireland understand that we are all in this together, and that there should be fair access to these life-saving vaccines. Ireland's nationwide total for donations to UNICEF is now over three million vaccine deliveries. It is remarkable and we are so grateful," he said.

According to UNICEF, the global vaccine rollout reached the significant milestone of one billion doses delivered on January 17th, but the UN children's agency said they would not stop there, with vaccination rates in low income countries still as low as 9%. "UNICEF is proud to be playing such a critical role in this historic achievement. As the largest purchaser and distributor of vaccines in the world for many years, our systems were made for this operation. Before the pandemic, UNICEF procured and delivered over 2 billion vaccines for children throughout the world each year, and we have now doubled that capacity for the COVID-19 response."

"Our efforts mean that millions of healthcare workers and vulnerable people in some of the world's least developed countries have received the protection they need. However, we all know there are so many more people we need to reach. This is a global effort, and it is not right that in low income countries just 9% of people have received their first dose. Everyone should have access to vaccines, no matter where they live. Our aim for 2022 is to reach 3 billion vaccines. That's why we asked people in Wicklow to help us make a difference this Christmas, and why we are now encouraging everyone to stay with us on this historic mission to end the pandemic and ensure everyone, everywhere is vaccinated against COVID-19," said Mr Power.

UNICEF Ireland is urging people and companies in Wicklow to continue their support for UNICEF's COVID-19 vaccine campaign by donating today at [www.unicef.ie](http://www.unicef.ie)



# Parents in Wicklow urged to take part in school transport survey

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called on parents to take part in a survey on school transport by the Department of Education. The Department is currently in the process of conducting a review of the School Transport Scheme including for children with special educational need, primary and post-primary school transport schemes.

Speaking on the review, Deputy Whitmore says, "If you are a parent of a school-aged child, now is a good time to make your voices heard, whether your child currently does or does not get a bus to school. This is an opportunity for you to raise your child's transport needs in relation to schools and to see if the School Transport Scheme can better respond to what families are looking for."

"I know that school traffic is a huge issue for schools across Wicklow and that parents want to see less cars and less traffic in these areas. We

also need to reduce our dependence on cars to reduce carbon emissions and the harmful effects of air pollution caused by car use near schools.

"I recently introduced a Bill banning the idling of cars near schools to help address the issue of localise pollution but one way which could reduce car emissions overall is to expand the School Transport Scheme to make it more effective and sustainable, responding both to the needs of parents and their children, as well as to our environmental obligations."

"More children should

be able to get a bus to school and is something I have been advocating for including a looped Local Link bus route which could drop children off near most local schools in the mornings and afternoons. This would be safe for younger children as well as it would be a short bus loop."

"There are also some schools with a large percentage of children commuting from rural areas in Wicklow. This is both a reflection of the lack of local school places but also the lack of bus infrastructure for school going children."

"The scheme must

take this into consideration."

"Parents and guardians are being invited to complete a survey, which is accessible on gov.ie at gov.ie/schooltransportreview."

"Post-primary students are also being invited to complete a survey which is accessible via <https://dessurveys.education.gov.ie/surveys/Post-Primary-Pupils-School-Transport-Survey> and on gov.ie at gov.ie/schooltransportreview. The closing date for completing these surveys is Thursday 10th February 2022," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

## Matthews encourages Wicklow schools to take up the Big Travel Challenge

The Big Travel Challenge is an initiative organised by Green-Schools Ireland to promote active travel on routes to school. Schools will be asked to promote one form of sustainable transport (walking, cycling, scooting or bus) and measure the increase in students using this mode of transport over any ten-day period in February.

All entrants will have the chance to win a €1,000 cash prize to be used for their Green-Schools Travel Programme.

Discussing the challenge, Deputy Matthews said: "I would encourage all eligible schools to take part in the 'The Big Travel Challenge 2022', which presents an enjoyable and engaging opportunity for children and parents to discover and embrace more sustainable ways of travelling to school. Switching from car-dependency to active transport will reduce air pollution around schools and promote healthier lifestyles for children. I hope that as many people as possible take up the initiative and if your school isn't taking part -

maybe ask them to consider it."

"I fully accept that completing the entire journey by bike, bus or on foot may not be possible for some students and families, particularly those living in rural areas, but it may be possible to change part of the journey. Maybe the last leg of the journey could be walked or part of it could be by bus but regardless of the circumstances, I hope that people can think creatively and participate if at all possible."

"This is a brilliant and fun way for schools to promote healthier and more active choices when it comes to the school commute and I hope that it will break the habit of hopping in the car in the morning for

many people. This 10-day challenge is a great initiative, and it has my full support but it's about the long-term changes that people make and I hope that this will be the push that many parents and students need to make the change to more environmentally sustainable choices for the school run."

"Transitioning to active modes of travel is a key commitment of the Programme for Government and it will support us in achieving the 51% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 as required under the new climate law. As a Green TD for Wicklow, I will continue to advocate for greater investment in sustainable modes of active transport and public transport that will decrease our car dependency, greenhouse gas emissions and create better and easier transport options for Wicklow and rural areas of the county in particular," concluded Deputy Matthews.



BIFE Principal Ray Tedders (right) and Deputy Principal Gabriel Allen presenting the Student of the Year Award to Aoife Lewis from the Nursing & Midwifery Course.

## Record number of people register as apprentices

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD has welcomed a record year for apprenticeship registration in Ireland.

Figures show the apprenticeship population has increased to 24,212 with a record 8,607 new registrations in 2021.

Minister Harris said: "Since this Department was established, we have placed a real focus on apprenticeships and we are starting to see the

impact of that focus in these figures."

"Under the Apprenticeship Action Plan, we set ourselves a target of 10,000 new apprentices every year by 2025. In 2021, we registered over 8,600."

"Crucially, we are starting to see an increase in the number of female apprentices. When I was first appointed, there were 706 apprentices. Today, that figure is 1,535."

"That is still a fraction of our apprentice population but it is important to see the numbers continuing to increase. This year we will be working to increase participation amongst traditionally under-represented groups, including females."

"In a further support measure this year, we have introduced an employer grant of €2,000 for employers of apprentices on consortia-led programmes to help level up the supports which other categories of employers receive."

"We have much more we want to achieve including developing more apprenticeship pro-

grammes. 6,955 of our new apprenticeships are in craft apprentices and they are badly needed. But we have much more to offer including hairdressing, ICT, accounting, insurance among others."

Minister of State for Skills Niall Collins TD said: "This is really exciting to see. Apprenticeship is third level education. It is an opportunity to earn and learn. It is an opportunity to get on-the-job training. We need much more apprentices, but this is a really important start."

Mary-Liz Trant, Director of the new National Apprenticeship Office, said: "Apprenticeship is now growing fast as an 'earn as you learn' skills and career option for people of all ages and backgrounds, and as a way for employers to find and retain talent."

"New apprenticeship programmes will be added this year, in more industries, soon there will be an apprenticeship route on offer within every 21st century industry in Ireland."



Minister Simon Harris TD pictured during his recent visit to Loreto Bray. Minister Harris visited with students to discuss their options for apprenticeships, further and higher education after they complete their Leaving Certificate this summer.





## Seamus McGuire, Niamh Varian Barry & Gerry O'Beirne

*Courthouse Arts Centre, Sunday 6th February €16/€14  
8.30pm Doors 8pm*

The Courthouse Arts Centre has announced that the first concert of 2022 is an Irish traditional music collaboration featuring Seamus McGuire (viola/fiddle), Niamh Varian Barry (viola/fiddle/voice), and Gerry O'Beirne (voice/guitar), brought together by Music Network.

Featuring the rich, mellow sound of two violas, this Music Network tour offers a fresh perspective on traditional music from a trio of world-class musicians. Curiosity, virtuosity and a deep understanding of the Irish tradition are just some of the things that unite this group. Hot on the heels of his critically acclaimed *An Irish Viola/ Vióla Gaelach* album release with Steve Cooney, Sligo fiddle player Seamus McGuire brings the warmth and richness of the viola to the fore in this collaboration. Joining him on viola is Niamh Varian Barry, a highly accomplished singer, composer and multi-instrumentalist and one of a select few who can move between classical and folk music with ease.

Completing the line-up, Gerry O'Beirne is the go-to guitarist for many musicians, and brings his glorious voice as well as his massive breadth of expertise across many genres to the trio.

Audiences can look forward to hearing captivating arrangements of songs and instrumentals as well as a brand new Music Network commission. The programme will explore traditional grooves, great melody and the beautiful sonority of the viola.

## Wall Flowers: An exhibition by Karen Hickey

*Signal Arts Centre, Monday, February 14th to Sunday, February 27th*

**Karen Hickey is based in Celbridge. Throughout the last 16 years she has attended many workshops and courses mostly in portraiture, attending at NCAD studying Life Drawing and Painting in 2016/17. She has been working professionally since 2016.**

Interested in people, their histories and back-stories, she endeavours to capture the essence of her subjects through the bold use of colour, shapes and lines. Her visual style is expressive and instinctive.

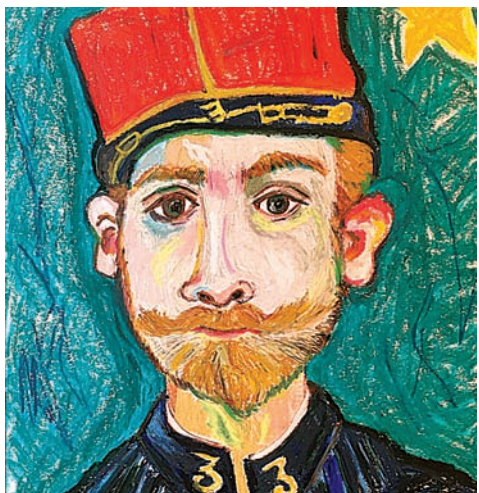
Karen's work featured at the Electric Picnic Festival in 2017 and at the Waterford Walls Festival in 2018 she also hosted a solo exhibition at the Signal Arts Centre in 2018. She has displayed work at Art Source in the RDS in 2018, 2019 and 2021. During the Covid

pandemic Karen continued to work from her home studio where she produced many portrait commissions and also experimented with still life works.

The artist's new exhibition entitled "Wall Flowers" will run at the Signal Arts Centre from 14 February for two weeks. Wallflowers are the unnoticed personalities lingering on the fringes of gatherings.

They often have a lot to contribute but for many reasons don't. These mysterious characters often have more to say in the way that they don't speak. It could be through their facial expressions or clothing but they notice everything in the room. What are they hiding and can we get to know who they really are.

Karen also communicates with clients regarding commissions and sales online via her website and email.



# Celebrating 100 years of Ulysses

*James Joyce and Ulysses comes to Whale Theatre, 4th February*

**Have you ever read a book that included a toilet visitation, a bar room brawl, an act of seduction, naughty shenanigans on a beach, lewd thoughts, adultery, a drunken orgy, and a detailed description of urinating in a back garden? And all of this happening in just one day! If you haven't, then you haven't read James Joyce's Ulysses!**

Ulysses is considered to be one of the greatest, if not the greatest, novel ever written, and this year it turns 100 years old. It was first published on February 2nd 1922.

But how many people have ever read it? Very few, by all accounts. Have you ever wondered what it's all about and why it's so celebrated? And why it's such a difficult book to read? Now is your chance to find out, and have a great evening's fun and entertainment at the same time, because James Joyce and Ulysses is coming to the Whale Theatre in Greystones! To honour this important birthday Robert Gogan, the writer, actor and Joycean enthusiast will be performing his celebrated one-man show *Strolling Through Ulysses!* at the Whale Theatre for one performance only, on February 4th.

Gogan is a publisher and playwright who's been reading Ulysses since his teens. *Strolling Through Ulysses!* tells the fun-filled story of Bloomsday - June 16th 1904 - the iconic day on which James Joyce's Ulysses is based.

"When I started performing the show first I had no idea if people would be interested," says Gogan, "but I've discovered that they certainly are! I suppose one of the reasons is that the show is aimed at people who have never read Ulysses, or have tried to read it and failed. The show, just like the book, has its bawdy and irreverent moments but it's also great fun! I have a life-long interest in Joyce's work, particularly Ulysses. I love standing up in front of people and telling them all about the book and portraying some of the quirky characters and presenting some of the hilarious scenes, without compromising in any way the integrity of the great novel.

"To most people's surprise Ulysses is a very funny book and Joyce wrote it with the full intention of making people laugh. He once famously declared, 'there is not one serious line in it', and I think that *Strolling Through Ulysses!* certainly proves that! The feedback from audiences to date has

been amazing and very positive. The main comment I hear after shows is 'I never knew that Ulysses was like that!'

*Strolling Through Ulysses!* is branded 'over

16's' by Gogan. "I'm being a bit cautious here", he says, "because there are several events in the book where Joyce reduces some bodily functions of the characters to a very

basic and amusing level. I don't sensationalise these instances, and neither does Joyce in the book, but I do include some of them in the show. I don't want to upset any parents who might not like to expose their children to any such matters".

Gogan was awarded the Best Actor honour at the Galway Fringe Festival in 2019 for his performance in *Strolling Through Ulysses!*

He has also edited a new edition of Ulysses, which he calls Ulysses Remastered Centenary Edition. This new edition includes some additional punctuation to help the reader to understand, and enjoy, the great novel. The book will be available in the Whale Theatre after the show.

So join in the centenary celebrations and take a stroll through Ulysses with Robert Gogan in the Whale Theatre on Friday 4th February at 8pm (subject to Covid regulations). Admission: €20/18 (concession). To book, contact [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie)



*Robert Gogan Strolling Through Ulysses!*

## THE BIRTH OF A MASTERPIECE

*By Robert Gogan*

It is Thursday, February 2nd 1922. The Dijon - Paris express train is hurrying through the French countryside and is due to arrive in Paris at 7am. A 34 year old young American woman is waiting at the Gare de Lyons for the train to arrive. She is the owner of a literary bookshop on the Rue de l'Odéon, selling mainly English books. She is waiting anxiously to collect a parcel from the train's conductor: a parcel entrusted to him the previous evening in Dijon by the printer, Maurice Darantière.

"The parcel is very important. Keep it safe. Give it to the young woman who'll be waiting on the platform at Gare de Lyons."

The train arrives; the conductor alights, demonstrably holding the parcel; the woman approaches.

"Mamselle Beach?"

"Yes."

"I believe that this package is for you. It was entrusted to me by Maurice Darantière for safe delivery to you and I'm happy to have fulfilled my obligation."

"Thank you."

It is with great relief that the woman collects the parcel. It contains two copies of a new novel; the first novel she had ever published. And it was oh so important that the books arrive on February 2nd, for it is the 40th birthday of its author and he considers it to be an important omen.

From the moment she had suggested publishing the novel back in April 1921 the young woman's life had been turned upside down. It had been a very stressful time, constantly trying to appease the whims of the author who insisted on making extensive alterations and additions to the printing proofs, right up to the end of January 1922; then trying to appease the printer who had been growing more and more frustrated at the author's unreasonable demands. She had been taxed to her limit. But the printer had been accommodating in the end. The additional payment he demanded was a welcome bonus but could hardly compensate for the disruption, pressure and frustration which the author had caused him.

The woman takes a taxi to the residence of the author. He is waiting patiently for her arrival. It has taken him seven years to write this novel and the fateful day has at last arrived. She gives one copy of the novel to him and hurries to her bookshop with the other. She carefully places the novel in the centre of the bookshop window and allows herself a triumphant smile as the admiring public file into the shop to have a look at the book.

The bookshop is Shakespeare & Company; the woman is Sylvia Beach; the author is James Joyce; and the novel is 'Ulysses'.

A masterpiece is born.



# Wicklow winners in 'Someone Like Me' art competition announced

Marino Community Special School and Wicklow Primary Montessori School are celebrating being named Junior and Senior County Winners respectively of the prestigious national art competition, *Someone Like Me*, which will see them join over 40 other schools to compete for the much sought-after national title at an online national awards ceremony to be held on Thursday 3rd February January 2022.

*Someone Like Me*, which is organised by the National Disability Authority, attracted more than 1,800 entries from national schools across the length and breadth of the country. The competition has been designed to be a national celebration of the things that unite children of all abilities and, over its six-year history, more than 8,000 children have taken part, creating a tangible contribution to developing more positive attitudes towards persons with disabilities.

During the last school term of 2021 teachers and their pupils right across Ireland worked through special lesson plans which challenged them to respond artistically and creatively to the theme of *Someone Like Me*, while, at the same time, appreciating and respecting similarities and differences in people.

The judges were particularly impressed with the submissions from pupils and teachers at Marino Community Special School and Wicklow Primary Montessori School, selecting them as County Winners based on their insightful and inspirational responses to the theme.

Congratulating Marino Community Special School and Wicklow Primary Montessori School on being named County Winners, Minister of State with special responsibility for disability, Anne Rabbitte T.D. said that she was hugely encouraged by the growing interest in the competition which is helping to develop a



Wicklow Primary Montessori School 's entry

shared understanding of how we should treat others in a caring, sensitive and inclusive way, and promoting a sense of belonging and connectedness.

"We are exceptionally pleased with the response to this year's

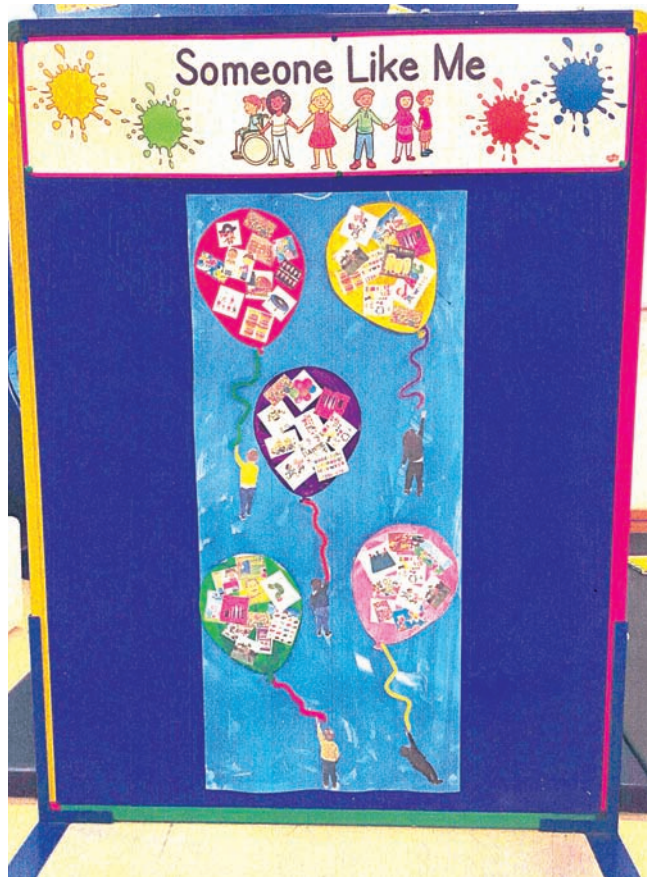
competition which took place during challenging times not just in our schools, but right across our communities, due to the ongoing global pandemic," she said.

"I am so impressed by the standard of entry and the obvious thought that has gone into each creative submission. Once again, our primary school teachers and pupils have shown their commitment to putting 'ability' under the spotlight helping to build a more inclusive society."

"While I know it will be an anxious wait for the pupils and teachers to hear which of the 48 county winners will be awarded the national title, every entry is a winner when it comes to enabling each and every single person in Ireland to feel a valued member of society."

Marino Community Special School and Wicklow Primary Montessori School will now go on to compete with more than 40 other schools from around the country for the overall national *Someone Like Me* award which will be announced at an online ceremony to be held on Thursday 3rd February 2022.

The competition, which offers a range of prizes up to the value of €750, was open to all primary school pupils from junior infants to sixth class and more than 1,800 entries were received from individual pupils, class groups and whole schools right across Ireland. Entries ranged from posters and collages to large sculptural installations and multi-media pieces.



Marino Community Special School's entry

## Coming up at Whale Theatre Joe the Magician LIVE

Sunday 6th February  
12pm (doors 11.30am)  
and 3pm (doors 2.30pm)  
– Tickets €14

Joe the Magician is Back! Hot of the set of his brand new show 'Dizzy Deliveries' on RTÉjr and 'AbraKIDabra' also on RTÉjr! Joe's new magic and illusion show is back on a nationwide tour and Joe is thrilled to be back in his favourite Venue, The Whale Theatre for two shows! Strap yourself in for this high energy whirlwind magic and illusion show that kids of all ages will adore! Joe also incorporates the use of 'Lámh' into parts of his show. "He will amaze and baffle you" Marty Whelan...RTÉ "Ireland's leading Magician Joe Daly"...The Irish Times "Joe Daly is just brilliant" John McColgan producer/director Riverdance

This programme is supported by The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media through the Live Performance Support Scheme.

[www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550



## Chris Kent - Christy Doesn't Live Here

Friday 11th February 8pm (doors 7pm) – Tickets €18

Cork comedian Chris Kent is back with another show, with more kids, stories and a keep cup to compensate for his guilt about over population. Chris tries to come to terms with being called "well trained" for carrying out basic tasks. Chris also gets deep and talks about his favourite clothes horse or "garment donkey" if you're a maniac...

The Mirror said of the show: 'Originally hilarious material...Among the best acts I've seen'.  
[www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550



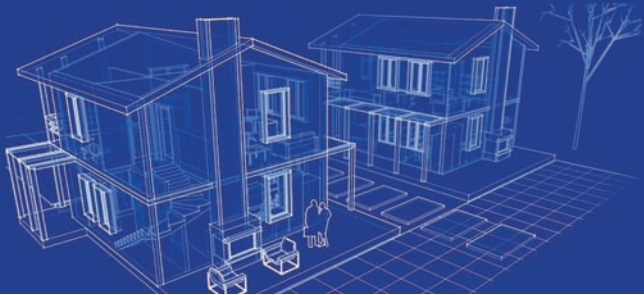




Michael Evesson and Eugene O'Brien enjoying the return of live music at Paddy Phelan's pub in Aughrim.

## ATTENTION Architects, Planners & Builders

Reach the widest readership for your planning notices in County Wicklow with Wicklow Times  
Call **01 286 9111** or email  
**pauline@localtimes.ie**



## RECRUITMENT



### COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

#### • ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER – GRADE IV PERMANENT

REF: 02/2022 Salary €29,253 – €46,965  
gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

#### • EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTANT – GRADE VII ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER - PERMANENT

REF: 03/2022 Salary €51,340 – €66,743  
gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF  
COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS  
12 NOON ON THURSDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2022 SHARP.**

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

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

Wicklow County Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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

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

# Codling Wind Park appoints dedicated Supply Chain Manager



Cian Conroy

As Codling Wind Park progresses towards becoming one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade, the project has taken a major step to support local companies by appointing a full-time, dedicated Supply Chain Manager.

Cian Conroy, a Galway native now based in Dublin, joined the team in December and brings over 14 years' experience working in a variety of business and supply chain development roles in the global offshore wind and renewables industry.

"I was fortunate to become involved in offshore wind in the UK at a really exciting time – when the industry was really beginning to take off. There was huge interest among UK businesses, of all sizes, to become involved in offshore wind, but they needed support. Many had relevant skills and experience

from the oil and gas industry, while others were completely new to the energy sector. In all instances, a partnership approach – between projects, support agencies and the businesses themselves – delivered the best results," said Cian.

Any supplier with an interest in discussing opportunities with Codling Wind Park, is

encouraged to register their details on the website at [SupplyChain-CodlingWindPark.ie](http://SupplyChain-CodlingWindPark.ie) or contact Cian at [supply-chain@codlingwindpark.ie](mailto:supply-chain@codlingwindpark.ie).

#### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Jonathan Taylor seeks Permission for 'proposed single storey extension to front of dwelling to accommodate additional kitchen space and single storey extension to side of existing dwelling to accommodate a bedroom, loft conversion to accommodate a bedroom with dormer roof extension to front of dwelling, & elevational changes to window openings'. At Cactus Cornagower East Brittas Bay. 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.



## Lecture from The Old Dublin Society

On Wednesday February 2nd, author and historian Dr. Séamus Ó Maitiú will present his lecture 'Mapping Rathmines Township for the Irish Historic Towns Atlas' at 7.30 p.m. on Zoom as the first lecture in the Society's Spring 2022 programme. This lecture is free but for reasons of security and control, registration is required for this Zoom lecture by no later than 2 p.m. Wednesday February 2nd. Shortly before this lecture an invitation to join the Zoom meeting will be issued to all those all who have registered to receive it. Please email registration requests to [registerwitholddublinsociety@gmail.com](mailto:registerwitholddublinsociety@gmail.com) ONLY.

### Part time locum

## DENTAL NURSE REQUIRED

Quinsboro Road, Bray.

Immediate start, experience not essential, training provided.

Please sent c.v. to

[jonathandentalfisher@outlook.com](mailto:jonathandentalfisher@outlook.com)  
or call **01 2862137** for further info.



Dargle Valley  
NURSING HOME

Bluebell Care Ltd, a family orientated 30 bedded Nursing Home, is looking for

## PERMANENT HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT STAFF

in Dargle Valley Nursing Home, Cookstown Rd, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow for 39 hours a week night/day Monday - Sunday.

Min annual remuneration € 27,000 p.a.

Please send your CV to:  
[darglevalleynh@gmail.com](mailto:darglevalleynh@gmail.com)  
FOA Nicola Kirk DON.

#### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Brendan King of Mobile Motor Services Ltd. t/a Kings 4x4 seeks Permission for continuation of use of existing motor garage business permitted by reference to Wicklow Town Council PRR 11/3433 on 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

I, Lynda Behan, seeks permission for development of a split level dwelling comprising part bungalow single storey with attached garage to front and part two-storey return to rear together with bored well, septic tank and percolation area, new public road entrance and associated site works at Ballymaghroe, Knockananna, 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 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

Name: Mr Thomas Mackey Jnr  
Address: Moanavawn, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow. W91 P522  
Details: Planning permission is sought to change of use (removal of condition 2 of Wicklow County Council Planning Decision 03/8818) from restricted use as a dwelling to use by all classes of persons. 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.



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA  
CHILL DARA AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN  
KILDARE AND WICKLOW  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR EXTERNAL MEMBER TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board invites expressions of interest for persons willing to serve as an external member to the Finance Committee.

Experience and/or knowledge of financial practices, audit, corporate governance and public sector is desirable. A modest fee may be payable.

Please refer to [www.kwetb.ie](http://www.kwetb.ie) for further information and details.

Closing date for expressions of interest is **Friday 4th February 2022.**

**LOOKING FOR  
NEW STAFF ?**

**call us on:  
01 286 9111**



**LOCAL BUSINESS**  
**LOCAL BUSINESS**  
**LOCAL BUSINESS**  
**LOCAL BUSINESS**

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

**Get Golfing In 2022!**

- Improve your game with 1-to-1 lessons
- Beginner courses for women
- Junior spring classes

Go to the best!  
**Louise D'Arcy**  
PGA coach for 30 years!  
Call 087 7510 727 to inquire

**ALLSHADES BLINDS**

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

**Tel: 087 2201600**  
FACTORY: Unit 10, Block 1, Broomhall Business Park, Rathnew. Tel: 0404 20344

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

**Chop & Top Tree Service**

**William Byrne**  
C/O Chop & Top

Telephone: **087 7531411**

**Lynk Bray TAXI SERVICE**

Wheelchair Friendly Vehicles Available  
**BOOK BY PHONE OR ON THE LYNK TAXI APP**

"Always a friendly person on the phone to take your call"

When booking a taxi always advise design of wheelchair and passenger numbers

**BRAY: 01 28 63 633 24**  
**Dublin: 01 29 57 777** Hour service  
**Southside: 01 29 57 777**

**wicklow print solutions**

**PRINT • SIGNS • VEHICLE GRAPHICS**  
✓ Quality ✓ Price  
**T: 0404 25645**

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
**CLASSIFIEDS**  
**CLASSIFIEDS**

**THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER**

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

K.H.

**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.D.

**alh Affordable Live-In Homecare**

Carer duties:  
Housekeeping  
Meal preparation  
Companionship  
Personal care, if required  
Night only care also available

All our carers are Garda vetted and provided with ongoing training and support.

Three week trial period Nationwide Service!

**Affordable Live-in Homecare Night and/or Daytime Care Available**

For less than the Cost of a Nursing Home or Private Visiting Care Service

**Nationwide Enquiry Line: 087 744 0729**

Eileen: 087 991 6791 or Tom: 087 744 0729  
**www.alhhomecare.ie**

**DO YOU NEED OFFICE SPACE?**

Wicklow Office Suites offers contemporary, professional fully serviced own door office cubicles on flexible terms in Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow.

**WICKLOW OFFICE SUITES**

**01 2811 958** | **Info@wicklowofficesuites.ie**

**10% ANY Membership when you show OFF this ad.**  
T's & C's Apply

**WE ARE HERE!**  
**Restart your fitness journey with us.**  
Book your times to train or swim in a safe, comfortable environment.

**THE BAY HEALTH & LEISURE CLUB**

**0402 32401**  
**thebayhealthandleisure@arklowbay.com**  
**The Bay Health & Leisure Club**

**ANTO'S TREE SERVICES**

Fully Insured Tree Surgeon

Pruning, Reductions and Removal

All Aspects of Tree Surgery

**Tel: 087 610 9128**

**O'BRIENS ROOFING & GUTTERING**

Gutters Cleaned & Sealed **From €49** Roof Repairs **From €199**

Call Richard: 087 348 8516  
**www.obriensroofingandguttering.ie**

**AtticWaterTankCleaning**

Attic Water Tank Cleaning is a professional service in removing residues and bacteria from your attic water tank

**ATTIC TANK LIDS SUPPLIED AND FITTED**  
Secure your tank with a fitted lid and avoid unwanted contamination

**Call: 087 673 7357**  
**www.atticwatertankcleaning.ie**

**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.

A.S.

**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.D.

**Mark 4:1-20 GOSPEL**

Jesus began to teach by the lakeside, but such a huge crowd gathered round him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there. The people were all along the shore, at the water's edge. He taught them many things in parables, and in the course of his teaching he said to them, 'Listen! Imagine a sower going out to sow. Now it happened that, as he sowed, some of the seed fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground where it found little soil and sprang up straightaway, because there was no depth of earth; and when the sun came up it was scorched and, not having any roots, it withered away. Some seed fell into thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it produced no crop. And some seeds fell into rich soil and, growing tall and strong, produced crop; and yielded thirty, sixty, even a hundredfold.' And he said, 'Listen, anyone who has ears to hear!'

When he was alone, the Twelve, together with the others who formed his company, asked what the parables meant. He told them, 'the secret of the kingdom of God is given to you, but to those who are outside everything comes in parables, so that they may see and see again, but not perceive; may hear and hear again, but not understand; otherwise they might be converted and be forgiven.'

He said to them, 'Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand any of the parables? What the sower is sowing is the word. Those on the edge of the path where the word is sown are people who have no sooner heard it than Satan comes and carries away the word that was sown in them. Similarly, those who receive the seeds on patches of rock are people who, when first they hear the word, welcome it at once with joy. But they have no root in them, they do not last; should some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, they fall away at once. Then there are others who received the seed in thorns. These have heard the word, but the worries of this world, the lure of riches and all the other passions come in to choke the word, and so it produces nothing. And there are those who have received the seed in rich soil; they hear the word and accept it and yield a harvest, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.'

C.J.

If you need to reach **NEW CUSTOMERS...** call us on: **01 286 9111**

**Reach the MOST people for the LEAST money with Wicklow Times**  
**Call 01 286 9111 for Local Business**  
**Email pauline@localtimes.ie for Planning / Classifieds**

MasterCard VISA





# Flanagan Kerins®

Furniture for Life

## ***THE FURNITURE SALE NOW!***



**HOLLY 2.0M CROSS LEG DINING TABLE**  
**WAS €2095    NOW €1445**



**VINTAGE LEATHER LEISURE CHAIR**  
**WAS €1049    NOW €895**  
**VINTAGE LEATHER 2 SEATER**  
**WAS €1595    NOW €1375**



**HARLEY 3 SEATER**  
**WAS €1325    NOW €1065**



Luxury orthopedic,  
 Pocket sprung, Irish  
 made Mattress, Free  
 Recycling, Limited  
 Stock available  
 EG 5ft

**WAS**  
**€995**  
**NOW**  
**€495**

**Free Parking, Free recycling of your replaced bed/mattress**

Bray Retail Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Mon-Sat: 10am - 6pm

Ph: (01) 281 3338    [www.flanagankerins.ie](http://www.flanagankerins.ie)