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Page 6



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Page 13



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Page 14

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Tuesday 22nd February 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

'MONEY'S TOO TIGHT TO MENTION'

More and more families in Wicklow are coming under serious financial strain as the cost of living increases, with energy prices soaring and fuel and household bills becoming unmanageable for many. This is happening at the same time as homelessness continues to rise in County Wicklow, causing elected representatives to express alarm. Everyday people are being forced to make the tough decision 'Food or Fuel?'

"There has been a massive increase across the board in the cost of living that is obviously adding to pressures on families in a very dramatic way," said Independent councillor Tom Fortune at this month's meeting of Wicklow County Council.

"The pressure points have always been there, but I think they are in an

even worse situation now, with rents and the HAP payments. Regarding the issue of homelessness, I am certainly getting a lot more calls than I used to from people who are under pressure."

Cllr Fortune has asked the Council to look for flexibility in allowing people to build accommodation in their back gardens.

"The council's housing section does a super job with the resources it gets from the Government, but we need to react and I am just wondering, from a planning perspective, can there be some sort of dialogue between the planning and housing sections to allow some flexibility for people looking to build in their back garden. Some



Mary Doyle and Ian Fleming look out over the heart-shaped lake, Lough Ouler, in the Wicklow Mountains. Pic: Michael Kelly

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people would have room to build a home."

Director of Services in the Council's Housing Department Joe Lane said he would look into this possibility. Mr Lane said the council currently has 59 Part V agreements - which provide for social and affordable housing obligations for developers - scheduled for this year. Meanwhile the Council is using the Homeless HAP Place finder scheme and a family homelessness hub has opened in Wicklow Town. The Council will also soon add seven new staff members to the Housing Section.

Labour councillor, Paul O'Brien said he'd been contacted by a family "who are going to be made homeless tomorrow. There are some sad cases. I have to praise the council staff at the moment. They are doing their

best and we need more resources on housing. I understand there are family houses coming on stream, and I want to welcome the family hub, but we are not getting the houses out quick enough. It's no criticism of the staff at the moment, they are just being overwhelmed. I think we need to prioritise housing for the next year until we get a grasp on it."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has backed calls by the Party's spokesperson on Finance, Pearse Doherty TD, for the government to introduce a Cost of Living Cash Payment to help workers and families with the increasing cost of living.

Deputy Brady said: "For months now, we in Sinn Féin have been warning the government about the increasing cost of living. Instead of taking decisive action,

the government have put their heads in the sand, ignored warnings from

Pearse Doherty, and have allowed rents, childcare costs and ener-

gy costs to spiral out of control.

Continued on page 8

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Daniel Connolly, with Liadan Kelly and Fiadh Kelly ahead of this year's Primary Science Fair, a highlight of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition for primary school students from 3rd to 6th class. See page 10 for details.

Arklow Visual Arts exhibition

Arklow Visual Arts is delighted to host an exhibition from March 1st-5th, in collaboration with Arklow Library, who is kindly providing a free space where local artists can exhibit their works for all in the community to see. This exhibition is enabling a collective of established and up-and-coming artists to showcase their work. The launch takes place on Tuesday 1st March at 7pm in Arklow Library, Main Street Arklow, with guest speaker Cllr Pier Leonard. If this is something you are interested in please don't hesitate to contact Laura Larkin, Executive Librarian at llarkin@wicklowcoco.ie or the team at arklowvisualarts@gmail.com. The event is free and all are welcome.

Djouce Hike

In conjunction with 'Climb with Charlie Walk' Roundwood Hillwalkers will be climbing Djouce Mountain on Saturday 2nd April. Assembling at Roundwood Parish Hall at 10am. This event is open to all members of the public. For enquiries call 086 373 3390 or 087 206 7607.

Eliza Davis talk for International Women's Day

Nearly 4,000 Irish women were transported to the penal colony of Van Diemen's Land between 1788 and 1868. One of these was Wicklow woman Eliza Davis transported from Wicklow Gaol to serve a life sentence for the crime of infanticide. To celebrate International Women's Day on the 8th of March, historian Joan Kavanagh will give a fascinating talk on the reality of transportation and survival for women like Eliza, and

the rich legacy they left behind in Australia and beyond. The talk will take place in the Exhibition Space in Wicklow Library on Tuesday 8th of March from 7pm to 8pm.

For booking please contact Wicklow library on 0404 67025 or wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie

First Saturday Book Sale

The March First Saturday Book Sale will take place in the Shankill Day Care Centre, Lower Road, Shankill, on Saturday March 5th between 10am and 1pm. The First Saturday Book Sale continues to adhere to strict safety guidelines with all precautionary health measures in place. Only a few people will be allowed in at a time and will be allowed 20 minutes to browse and select their books. The telephone and email book order service previously available has now been discontinued and is no longer available.

Greystones Active Retirement Association

Greystones Active Retirement Association (GARA) members are looking forward to the return of activities, classes and workshops as most restrictions are now removed: Art - Mondays 2.30 to 4.30pm; Short Mat Bowling - Tuesdays 10.45 to 12.45; Bingo - Thursdays 2.30 to 4.30pm.

New for 2022: A series of workshops on Cardmaking is planned for the following Friday mornings at 10am to 11.30am: March: 4th and 11th; April: 1st, 8th and 22nd; May: 6th, 13th and 20th. Do come along to Kilian House Family Centre for this interesting and fun activity. Create cards for special occasions for your loved ones. They are sure to be impressed! Fee: €4 per session. All materials and equipment will be supplied.

The next Coffee Morning takes place Friday 25th February at 10.30am. The G.A.R.A. office will be open at Kilian House Family Centre on the first Tuesday of the month at 10.30 to 11.30am, to welcome new members and for reregistration of existing members.

Victorian Dun Laoghaire

On Wednesday February 23rd author and historian Tom Conlon will present his lecture 'Victorian Dún Laoghaire [Kingstown] at 7.30 p.m. on Zoom as the second lecture in the Society's Spring 2022 programme. Kingstown [renamed Dun Laoghaire in 1920] was the youngest town in the United Kingdom and was less than 20 years old when Queen Victoria ascended to the throne. Virtually all of its inhabitants were 'blow-ins' and it became a town where immense wealth and dire poverty lived side by side. This lecture is free but for reasons of security and control, registration is required for this Zoom lecture by no later than 2pm on Wednesday February 23rd. Shortly before this lecture an invitation to join the Zoom meeting will be issued to all those have registered to receive it.

Please email registration requests to registerwith-oldubainsociety@gmail.com ONLY.

'Take part and take back' as Daffodil Day returns to the streets for the first time in three years

RTÉ presenter and Bray resident Claire Byrne joined cancer survivor and mum-of-two, Donna Marie Cullen, to celebrate the return of Daffodil Day to communities around Ireland for the first time in three years.

As the flagship fundraising day returns to the streets of Ireland for the first time since 2019, the Irish Cancer Society is calling on the public to take part in any way they can to show solidarity and support for anyone affected by cancer.

Every day cancer takes so much from so many families and Daffodil Day is a chance to come together and take something back, giving hope and raising funds so that one day cancer will take no more.

Claire said, "I am proud to support Daffodil Day 2022. Cancer affects every family in Ireland in some way, and we know that this year alone, almost 45,000 people will hear the words 'you have cancer'.

"Daffodil Day has such an important place in the calendar each year and I'm delighted that it will be back on our streets on March 25th.

"I look forward to once again seeing communities come together united with a single purpose, to raise funds and take back from cancer."

Claire was joined by mother-of-two Donna-Marie Cullen from Lucan, Dublin who experienced a cancer diagnosis during the pandemic, which she says was "horrific" due to the amount of time she spent in hospital away from her family with no visitors due to restrictions.

In September of 2020, the 36-year-old was diagnosed with a very rare and aggressive form of cancer called Ewing Sarcoma. She began her treatment immediately, which included extensive chemotherapy, surgery and 30 sessions of radiotherapy.

Donna-Marie finished up her surgery and treatment in summer 2021 and she still has some reconstructive surgeries ahead of her.

She said, "From day one, the Irish Cancer Society have been there with me and they've been with my family. They provided relevant information, they were sincere, empathetic and they just understood. All of my family engaged in the counselling



Claire Byrne

we've been so lucky that people have found innovative ways to support us but we are looking forward to seeing Ireland turn yellow once again on March 25th.

"The pandemic showed us how we can achieve incredible things when we come together with a purpose. Now we must focus this effort on making sure we don't go backwards on the progress made in saving lives from cancer.

"Daffodil Day is our most important fundraising event of the year and the money raised goes directly to funding crucial supports including our Support Line, free counselling, our Night Nurses to provide end of life care, and financial support for families of children affected by cancer. Along with these services, the money raised on Daffodil Day allows us to support life-changing cancer research."

People are being asked to take part and take back from cancer in any way they can this Daffodil Day. As well as donating at Cancer.ie and volunteering to help fundraise, they can purchase items from the Daffodil Day online shop and take part in a steps challenge.

For more information about Daffodil Day visit Cancer.ie/DaffodilDay.

services, including my 12-year-old son Seán.

"The Irish Cancer Society were there for me throughout my treatment, because I was alone for one week out of three in the hospital. I'm forever grateful for what they've done for me. They've helped me and so many families in this country, and it's because of people who have donated to the Irish Cancer Society, especially on Daffodil Day."

Averil Power, CEO of the Irish Cancer Society, said, "We are so excited to be able to get out on the streets again to see the amazing support the people of Ireland show to anyone affected by cancer. Daffodil Day is such a special and hopeful day for our entire community. Throughout the pandemic



Donna-Marie Cullen Max Cullen O'Dwyer

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Wicklow households to benefit from massive home energy upgrade scheme

Homes in County Wicklow will be supported in becoming warmer, cutting their heating bills and lowering carbon emissions under the biggest home energy upgrade scheme in the history of the state, said Green Party TD Steven Matthews.

The scheme will see almost half the cost of a deep retrofit covered by the state, with options for 80% grants for smaller works such as insulating attics or cavity walls. Households in Wicklow most at risk of energy poverty will be eligible for a Free Energy Upgrade Scheme.

"This retrofitting scheme is a win for everybody, said Deputy Steven Matthews. "It will help reduce carbon emissions while addressing fuel poverty. For example, almost half the homes in the country require upgraded insulation in their attics. Homeowners could receive up to 80% grant for this work and save between €400 and €500 each year on heating bills.

"This is also great news for the Green Economy and workers and school leavers. There will be massive opportunities here for work in the next decade.

"In terms of how people access these grants, for ease of use, we have set up One Stop Shops that will handle all the work. Contractors can still be used for smaller jobs, but the one stop shops have the expertise for deeper retrofits.



Steven Matthews TD

"It's important to note that homeowners will not have to stump up for the full cost of the works themselves. The one stop shop receives the grant directly and so people will only have to pay the net cost.

"Later this year there will be a State backed system of low cost loans. Between low interest rates

and the size of the grants on offer, the repayments will effectively be covered by savings made on heating bills.

"Homeowners on low incomes in Wicklow are front and centre of energy supports. More than €109m has been allocated nationally to the Warmer Homes Scheme which provides free energy upgrades to people who are in receipt of certain social welfare payments. Grants of up to 80% are also available for buildings within housing associations and local authorities and rental properties.

"Overall, €8 billion has been allocated to retrofitting up to the year 2030. This is a significant step towards meeting our Programme for Government commitments and illustrates yet again how as a Green Party TD for Wicklow in government I have been working towards meeting our climate targets while ensuring nobody gets left behind.

"This retrofitting scheme is a massive step towards supporting people in their green choices, improving their homes, saving money on bills, and keeping them warm in winter," concluded Deputy Steven Matthews.



Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD and Minister for Defence and Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney TD last Thursday announced €2.4 million in funding to develop disruptive solutions to challenges facing the Irish Defence Forces. Ten research teams have been shortlisted for the SFI-Defence Organisation Innovation Challenge. These teams will collaborate with the Defence Forces and compete for funding to develop disruptive solutions to a number of challenges identified by the Defence Organisation that are of broad relevance to society. Pictured were Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris, and Minister for Defence and Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney, with Prof Rozenn Dahyot, Maynooth University. Picture Jason Clarke

Man and woman released without charge following Shillelagh assault

The female and male arrested as part of the investigation into the fatal assault of a male that occurred at a house in Ballyconnell, Shillelagh, on Thursday, 10th February were released without charge and files are being prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Investigations are ongoing. Gardai in Baltinglass are continuing to appeal to any person who may have information in relation to this incident to contact them. Any person with any information which may be relevant to the Garda investigation should contact Baltinglass Garda Station on 059 648 2610, the Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111, or any Garda station.

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Public consultation on Irish Water's draft Regional Water Resources Plan for the Eastern and Midlands Region continues

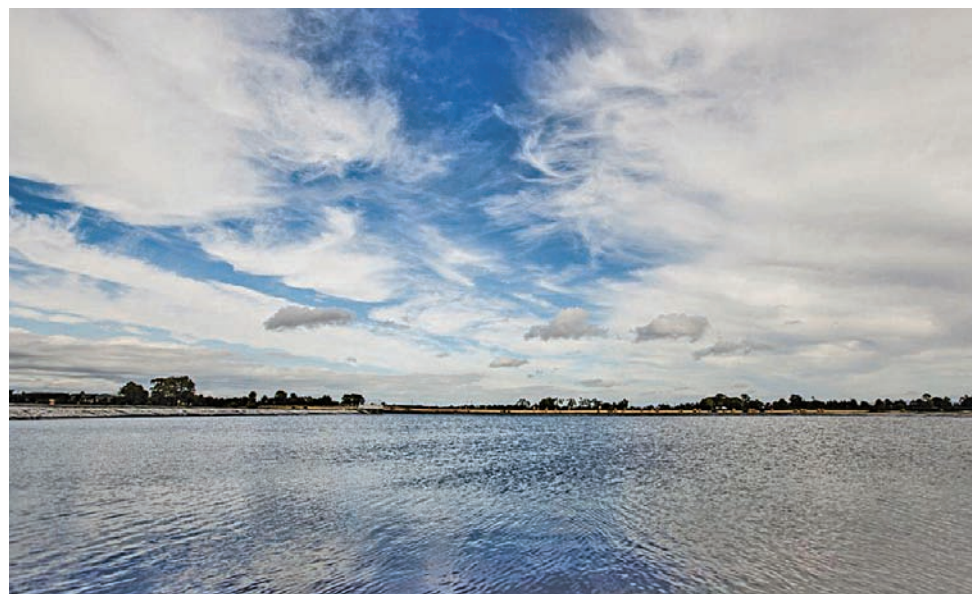
The statutory public consultation on Irish Water's draft Regional Water Resources Plan for the Eastern and Midlands (RWRP-EM) Region continues until 14th March 2022. New evening webinars have been added to give people more opportunities to meet our team, hear what they have to say and send us their feedback. The next evening webinars will take place on Wednesday, February 23 at 7:30pm.



The three-month public consultation began on 14 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 what the options are to provide a more resilient water supply to customers.

Public webinars were held by day on February 2, 3, 7 and 8. In response to requests for webinars to be held outside of working hours, two additional evening webinars were added for February 16th and 23rd. The webinars 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 the next 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. Speaking about the



public consultation on the draft plan, Angela Ryan, Water Resource Strategy Specialist for Irish Water said, "We have had really good engagement at our webinars so far. We hope to facilitate more engagement by adding two extra evening webinars. We would encourage everybody to get involved and have their say on the draft plan."

"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 evening webinars 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.

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. Post: 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.

To reserve a place on the public webinar, go to: <https://freebusy.io/nwrp.irishwater@gmail.com/rwrp>

New signage to be installed in Arklow following review of traffic management plan

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has welcomed the completion of a review of the traffic management signage that is in place in Arklow to notify motorists of the temporary one-way system that has been implemented to facilitate the works at the Parade Ground. Following the completion of the review new signage is to be installed.

"Monday 7th February was the first day of the works at the Parade Ground on Arklow Main Street, to facilitate the works a traffic management plan had been put in place. Unfortunately, the signage that was erected notifying motorists of the temporary one-way system was inadequate and it resulted in chaos in the town," said Deputy Brady.

"I have been in contact with the contractor and Wicklow County Council and I asked for a review of the signage to be carried out. Thankfully that review has now been completed and as a result of the review new larger signage is to be erected at the Bridge St/Main St Junction.

"The signage should be in early in the week. Once the new signage is in place hopefully no more cars will be turning right onto Main St from Bridge St and it will be safer for everyone."

Plans to bring portable swimming pool to West Wickow for 12 weeks

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore met with Swim Ireland recently to speak with them about a number of issues concerning swimming in Wicklow. One of these issues includes a project that the Community Pool for West Wickow campaign are currently working on with Swim Ireland to bring a portable swimming pool to West Wickow for a period of 12 weeks before the end of the year.

Deputy Whitmore says "I'm delighted to see Swim Ireland working very hard with the Community Pool for West Wickow campaign on an exciting project that will be a great opportunity for the community here in West Wickow.

"The project, if given the go ahead, will entail bringing a 12-4m portable swimming pool to Blessington to allow for school kids from across the Municipal District and the general public, to go swimming during the week and weekends. The pool is currently doing the rounds at various locations in Dublin for a period of 12 weeks at a time. It offers affordable access to swimming for people living in areas where there are no leisure facilities or open water swimming available.

"Swim Ireland and the Campaign for a Community Pool for West Wickow will be presenting to the Baltinglass MD on Feb 28th to try push the project forward and I hope it gathers support from the Council.

"Swim Ireland reiterate their huge concern around children lacking experience in swimming because of the pandemic having shut down many pools over the course of two years.

"This temporary swimming pool will be hugely important in developing children's ability to swim safely and confidently, especially in West Wickow where there aren't many water sources for children to gain practice in.

"The presence of the portable pool in



Deputy Jennifer Whitmore and Cllr Jodie Neary speaking with Ashley Hunter and Mary McMorrow of Swim Ireland

West Wickow will also clearly demonstrate the increase in participation in sport that having an amenity such as a swimming pool has when located in a community. This will be of huge benefit for future funding applications for the permanent swimming pool and sports complex proposed for West Wickow.

"I also discussed the overall lack of investment in swimming infrastructure and

an ageing indoor swimming facilities. Outdoor facilities such as changing rooms, lifeguards, marker bouys are in need across the country and are huge pillars in terms of water safety.

"It is something that Wickow could benefit from an upgrade on existing infrastructure to provide safer swimming areas now that the activity has gained huge interest over Covid," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

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€13 million for Wicklow roads

Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan TD, last week announced details of a €597 million investment programme for 2022 for regional and local roads, €13.3m of which will be going to Wicklow County Council.

Overall funding will increase by over 4% this year. The funding package will allow approximately 3,100kms of roads around the country to be maintained and 2,550kms to be strengthened.

€370,000 from Wicklow's allocation will go towards climate change adaptation and resilience works. These include schemes such as improved drainage on Arklow coast road; Improve river channel and install bridge protection measures at Carrigmore bridge; earth retention works at Cliff Road, Greystones; and edge protection works at the Wicklow Gap.

€190,000 will go towards specific

improvement grants such as a safety scheme at Cunningham's Corner, and works at Glendalough and Ballinacash Rathdrum, while €300,000 will go towards the Knockmore to Kish road. €440,700 will go towards bridge rehabilitation works, with funding allocated to 18 bridges including Bray Bridge; Knocksink Bridge; Enniskerry; Croneyhorn Bridge; Carnew; Little Bridge and Ballytiege Bridge, Askinagap; and Corballis Culvert, Rathdrum.

€378,850 will go towards safety improvement works on roads such as the R747 between Woodenbridge and Aughrim and Aughrim Road, Lugduff

/ Churchlands, Tinahely; R410 Naas road Blessington between junction with N81 and L-8364 Kilmalum Road; The R760 at the Tinahely Bridge; the entrance to Kirakee village, Glenmalure; On regional road between Ballinacash and Rathdrum; Between Barndarrig Village and Barndarrig national School; Scheme to located on L-4321 Knockanarrigan, Glen of Imaal; the R-756 at Glendalough; the L-4321 at Castleruddery, Glen of Imaal; the L-1028 at the junction with the L5028; the R752 at Glenealy/Barnbawn; and L77479/L77482/L97479 at Deerpark, Baltinglass.

Welcoming the fund-

ing, Minister Simon Harris said "I welcome the allocation of over €13 million in investment by the Department of Transport in Wicklow Roads. The funds announced today will fund the maintenance and renewal of Wicklow's existing regional and local road network. The funds will support a range of schemes from safety works on junctions and bridges to climate change adaption measures. This year's local and regional road grant allocation has been increased by 4% nationally and now includes a climate change adaptation grant for works on roads at risk due to the impact of climate change

and severe weather events."

Minister Ryan stated: "The main priority in 2022 continues to be the protection and renewal of the existing regional and local road network. Last year I introduced a climate change adaptation grant for works on roads at risk due to the impact of climate change and severe weather events. I am pleased to say that this funding will continue in 2022 with €15 million being allocated for 355 climate change adaptation projects."

Minister Ryan also added: "Specific provision of €4 million has been made to assist Wexford County Council with road repair works arising from the flooding event that occurred in Wexford on Christmas Day."

Minister of State Naughton commented: "This year we will spend over €26 million more than last year on our local and regional roads, demonstrating Government's commitment to ensure a strong, safe and sustainable roads network. I am particularly happy to see continued investment of some €55 million, and good progress, on new strategic regional and local roads projects right across the country.



Funding has been allocated for works at Knocksink Bridge in Enniskerry

Separately, €12 million is being allocated to road safety schemes that target remedial measures to improve road safety for vulnerable road users and vehicular traffic. This funding will allow in excess of 300 safety projects to be carried out. This also includes provision for funding to continue a signage programme which includes signage to support lower speed limits in housing areas, rural speed limit signage and a "safe passing" cycle sign."

Minister Ryan also confirmed that a new two year work pro-

gramme under the Community Involvement Scheme is starting this year with €15 million being allocated to the Scheme in 2022.

Funding of €16 million is being allocated for 350 bridge rehabilitation schemes to be progressed. Bridge rehabilitation work is consistently required to maintain and renew an old bridge stock which is made up of approximately 80% masonry arch structures.

Provision has been made for a limited programme of strategic road improvement projects. 12 regional and local

road improvement projects were identified for development, subject to necessary approvals, in the original 2018-2027 National Development Plan. Six of these projects have been completed and construction will be underway in 2022 on a further four.

Minister Ryan noted: "I would also explain that these grants supplement local authorities' own resources expenditure on regional and local road projects and do not represent the total investment in regional and local roads for this year."

Application lodged for Roundwood athletic facility

Roundwood & District Athletic Club has lodged a planning application with Wicklow County Council for an athletic facility at Togher More in Roundwood incorporating a new 1,350 sqft clubhouse.

The development includes a running track and vaulting areas around the perimeter including long jump areas, training areas, floodlighting, new perimeter fencing and boundaries, and new vehicular entrance and parking.

The application also includes provision for a new playground which will form part of works to be carried out later by Wicklow County Council separately. The Council is due to make a decision by 7th April.



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Matthews achieves train fare reductions for Greystones

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has received a commitment from the NTA to rezone DART journeys from Greystones, effectively slashing the fare by 20%.

Deputy Matthews commented, "Following my research into route distances and zoning and comparing Greystones to the North and West suburban lines I made a strong case to the NTA to reclassify Greystones. Train commuters will now be classed as zone 5 for all journeys to city centre whereas previously they were classed as zone 6. In monetary terms this will mean a reduction of €1.10 for those travelling from Greystones to the city centre. This is on top of the 20% reduction agreed by Government last week.

"Following on from contact with a number of residents when Greystones was excluded from the TFI 90 promotional fare due to its zone category, I measured routes and fares to similar locations such as Skerries and Maynooth and discovered the anomaly.

"I have been liaising with the NTA and made the case that Greystones to city centre should be zone 5. They have agreed with my analysis and will now rectify the issue.

"This work continues my commitment to the people of Wicklow to push for affordable, sustainable transport options in the county. I will continue to work behind the scenes to implement further measures that will benefit my constituents, particularly my ongoing work to extend the DART to Wicklow Town."



Steven Matthews TD at Greystones Train Station

CAREER DAY

Tuesday 8th March 2022
10am-3pm

- LECTURES ON CAREERS
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- DEMONSTRATIONS
- MEET THE TEACHERS
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Mick Haney and Philip Ryan with Ellis Traves, Black & White photographer of the year, at the Bray Camera Club's 50th anniversary exhibition in Signal Arts Centre. Pic: Joe McQuillan

Dangerous tree removal taking place along Arklow to Woodenbridge road

Coillte has been requested by Wicklow County Council to remove dangerous branches and overhanging trees along the Arklow to Woodenbridge road, the R747.

The works will commence on Monday, 21st February and will run until Friday 25th February. The road will be closed from Woodenbridge to Kilcara and detours will be in place. Traffic will be directed towards Avoca and access to Arklow will be from the Avoca Road.

Dangerous trees and overhanging branches have been identified along this road. These trees and branches may pose a risk to road users, especially during, and immediately after, periods of high winds. Wicklow County Council has requested that Coillte carry out essential tree surgery works to ensure road-user safety which is of paramount concern.

Coillte has carried out a detailed ecologist assessment of the area in advance and works are being completed before the bird nesting season begins. Only those trees and branches identified as dangerous will be removed. All work will be carried out manually by fully qualified operatives.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service, Wicklow County Council, the Gardaí, and local residents have all been informed of these works. Coillte respectfully requests the public to please adhere to all safety signage and apologises for any inconvenience caused by these necessary works.

‘No more Nphet’

"The news that Nphet is coming to an end is the best news so far in 2022," Independent councillor Joe Behan stated last week. "It is a sign that the worst of Covid-19 is over and that life is coming back to normal which is very welcome indeed. It is also an end to the slavish Government obedience to its dictats, many of which have caused severe damage to the health, welfare and lives of many of our people."

"The savage restrictions imposed on people from the beginnings of Nphet's existence have caused many new problems and future challenges for people from delayed diagnosis of serious diseases such as cancer, heart disease and mental ill health to unforgiveable waiting times for assessments of need for young children with special educational needs, intolerable shortages of carers for older people and trauma caused by the non-stop warnings to reduce every form of human contact for the past two years.

"The inhumane treatment of people who died in hospital during the past two years and the severe distress caused to their families unable to comfort them in their final hours will never be forgotten. The refusal to allow people to comfort bereaved families because of restrictions on attendance at funerals added to the sense of loss felt by so many. The continuing barbaric treatment of some hospital patients and their families is a major concern to me and should be to everyone who has any responsibility for these institutions.

"While many will argue with me that Nphet had a job to do which was to keep people safe, I would contend that insufficient care was taken to consider all the negative consequences of many restrictions. I believe that it is only now that we will begin to see the damage to people's physical and mental health caused by the Government accepting Nphet's advice. It is sadly likely that there will be many deaths caused by delays in diagnosis of serious disease, such as cancer, as a result of the orders not to attend hospitals due to the risk of overwhelming them and the absence of cancer screenings for relevant age groups. There will be long term mental health consequences for many people because of isolation, depression and



Cllr Joe Behan

stress and the impact on a child's lifetime potential caused by delays in diagnosis of educational needs could be devastating.

"While Nphet should have been an advisory body, the senior politicians in Government and the vast majority of the Opposition, failed completely to take into account all of the possible damage which was likely if Nphet's advice was followed. The Government and Opposition were unwilling to interrogate the Nphet position because of the potential public backlash and because of the usual bending of the knee to '... the advice of experts'. The Nphet 'experts' were wrong on many issues such as the risk of getting the virus by touching surfaces, the early rejection of loss of taste and smell as symptoms, the early advice not to wear masks, the many u-turns on the use of antigen testing as well as the premature closure of schools, the collapse of health screening and the widespread reductions in all public ser-

vices due to orders to employees to work from home. Politicians who are elected to serve the people have a duty to act in the people's best interests and with the exception of a small number of TDs, most of them failed to do their duty. They did not question Nphet advice and Government decisions on restrictions in any meaningful or consistent manner and in fact some of them would have imposed even greater restrictions causing even more damage.

"I believe also that RTE, the national, taxpayer funded broadcaster, severely failed the people of this country. RTE consistently parroted the Government/Nphet line on every issue. They failed miserably in their mission to hold Government to account. It is difficult to see how continued or increased funding of RTE by the taxpayers of this country could be justified given their failure to question Government decisions which will have such damaging consequences for many years to come.

"An enquiry into the handling of Covid-19 in this country has been promised by Government. I welcome that. However, I do not agree with the Taoiseach when he states that the purpose of the enquiry should only be about what we have learned for the future. This is essentially seeking to avoid accountability for the decisions and actions by Government. If we are to learn the lessons from the past two years we must insist that those who used the extraordinary powers they awarded themselves through emergency legislation are required to face up to the consequences of their actions on the health and welfare of all the people. Otherwise, we are doomed to make the same mistakes again if and when we have to deal with another national health emergency in the future."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 1 OF 2022 18 Delgany Glen, Greystones, Co Wicklow

Wicklow County Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Housing Authority") in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Section 76 of the Housing Act 1966, and the Third Schedule thereto (as amended by the Planning and Development Act 2000) have made an order entitled as above which is about to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for confirmation. If confirmed, the order will authorise the Housing Authority to acquire compulsorily the land described in the Schedule for the purposes of the Housing Act, 1966.

A copy of the order and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow.

Owners, lessees and occupiers of the land described in the Schedule will receive individual written notice.

The Housing Act 1966, as amended, provides that An Bord Pleanála cannot confirm the order in respect of the land if an objection is made in respect of the acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the land, and not withdrawn, until it has held an oral hearing into the objection and until it has considered the objection and the report of the person who held the oral hearing.

SCHEDULE

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
21/06/78/100 18 Delgany Glen, Greystones, Co Wicklow	Dwelling house and land of 216 m ²	Paul Hayden and Shoshanna Hayden, 18 Delgany Glen, Greystones, Co Wicklow	None (vacant house)	None (vacant house)

Dated this 14th day of February 2022

Joe Lane, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Estate

‘MONEY’S TOO TIGHT TO MENTION’

Continued from page 1

"The electricity credit per household is better than nothing, but it is simply not enough to meet the challenge that households are facing."

Deputy Brady recently called for the carbon tax hike to be scrapped. With energy and fuel costs going through the roof, the cost of rent and house purchases are driving young people from the market, he said. "This government is absolutely and utterly out of touch. They are clueless to the challenges that ordinary people are facing on a daily basis. With many being forced to choose between food or fuel. Inflation is now running at a twenty-year high.

Despite the escalating cost of fuel and energy the government plans on hiking up the Carbon Tax again in May. This will only serve to pile more hardships on families already struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

"A Sinn Féin survey conducted just prior to Christmas, with over 14,000 respondents found that more than three quarters of the people of this country believe that their mental health is being impacted by the outrageous increase in the cost of living. People are afraid to open utility bills for fear of being unable to pay them. The levels of anxiety and fear experienced by householders is having a

serious impact on health."

Family Carers Ireland has also spoken out against the rising cost of living, and has called on the Government to provide additional supports to help family carers.

Catherine Cox, Head of Communications and Policy, Family Carers Ireland said: "Family carers often face higher bills, particularly energy, health and transport bills, than the wider population when caring for someone ill or frail and desperately need targeted support to ensure they can make ends meet over the coming months.

"We are seeing unprecedented levels of stress and financial worries piled on family carers. Many were already struggling to manage and the increases in energy bills and cost of living could push them into financial difficulty leaving some facing extremely difficult decisions.

"It is absolutely vital that the Government acts urgently to ensure that family carers are supported. Family carers were ignored when it came to the Covid bonus payment and they were left behind during the pandemic when it came to the provision of PPE, priority testing and vaccination. The Government now needs to recognise the hardship that so many families are experiencing in looking after their loved ones."



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Daniel Connolly, with Liadan Kelly and Fiadh Kelly ahead of this year's Primary Science Fair, a highlight of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition for primary school students from 3rd to 6th class.

Primary science fair seeks projects from budding scientists

BT has announced that entries are now open for the Primary Science Fair 2022, which will take place virtually in schools across the country on the 29th and 30th March.

Since 2001, the Primary Science Fair has been an integral part of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE), allowing younger students, from 3rd to 6th class, to develop their interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) in a non-competitive environment and encouraging them to become future participants in the overall exhibition. Following on from the brilliant success of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition in January of this year, the Primary Science Fair is now seeking project entries from primary school students from 3rd to 6th class before the closing date of Friday, February 25th 2022. Organisers hope that engaging in the Primary Science Fair will open the world of science to younger students and ignite a lifelong interest in all things STEM-related. The projects will be showcased and presented to past winners, judges, and BTYSTE alumni during the two-day virtual event, exploring exciting new ideas and fascinating topics in the areas of STEM. The class projects this year will cover a wide range of topics ranging from living things to environmental awareness and care, energy forces and materials. To enter the Primary Science Fair, please fill out this form here. The deadline for entries is February 25th and entry is free to all students this year. For more information, please visit The Primary Science Fair @BTYSTE - BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition.

Two Wicklow schools taking part in childhood reading initiative

Two Wicklow schools will from today take part in a childhood reading initiative from Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Children's Books Ireland. The initiative will see more than 1,900 copies of *Why the Moon Travels* by Oein DeBhairduin donated to children at 64 schools across Ireland and was marked by an event in Tralee attended by Minister for Education Norma Foley.

In Wicklow, St Mary's and St Gerard's National School in Enniskerry and Wicklow Educate Together are taking part. The donation is part of Enterprise's ROAD (Respect, Opportunity, Achievement and Diversity) Forward programme, which is a \$55 million global initiative funded by Enterprise's philanthropic arm, the Enterprise Holdings Foundation, to promote early childhood development, youth health and wellness, and career and college preparation. Through the ROAD Forward initiative, more than 1,900 sixth class pupils from across Ireland will receive their own copy of *Why the Moon Travels*, a collection of folk tales rooted in the oral tradition of the Irish Traveller community collected by Oein DeBhairduin and beautifully illustrated by Leanne McDonagh. Students at Caherleaheen National School in Tralee, Co Kerry were among the first pupils to receive copies of the book through the programme at a special event attended by Minister Foley. Speaking at the launch, Minister Foley said, "I am delighted to be launching the ROAD Forward initiative here in Tralee. Introducing children to reading at a young age is crucial and initiatives like this go a long way to fostering an appetite for reading in our schools. It is said that books are uniquely portable magic and this initiative will transport a myriad of Irish children and young people into a world of Irish folk and fantasy through the power of reading. "*Why the Moon Travels* which preserves and showcases the wonderful oral tradition of the Irish Traveller community. I hope all the pupils receiving a copy of this book enjoy it and share with their friends and families the unique tales it captures."

Speaking of the initiative, Enterprise's Managing Director for Ireland, Brendan Grieve, said: "Enterprise has a long-standing relationship with communities across Ireland and we continue to support this through initiatives such as ROAD Forward, which stands for Respect, Opportunity, Achievement and Diversity. These are values that are central to everything we do at Enterprise. "We're incredibly proud to partner with Children's Books Ireland and are grateful to Norma Foley for supporting today's launch. It's a brilliant book, which I hope will give a lot to the pupils. As a father of four, I understand the positive impact that a love of reading can have on children and the opportunities that it can bring as both a source of pleasure and empowerment. I hope the children enjoy *Why the Moon Travels* and that it helps to foster a life-long love of the written word." Elaina Ryan, CEO, Children's Books Ireland said, "What a gift the Enterprise ROAD Forward programme will be for almost 2,000 sixth class students all over Ireland. 'Why The Moon Travels' won the Judges' Special Award and the Eilís Dillon Award at our 2021 KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards, and we are sure that it will captivate young readers' attention as much as it did ours. With Enterprise's support, we will ensure that children have access to excellent stories from diverse perspectives and support wonderful Irish-published work in the process." Enterprise Holdings first announced its ROAD Forward programme in November 2020 through its philanthropic arm, the Enterprise Holdings Foundation. The \$55 million, global initiative focuses on promoting Respect, Opportunity, Achievement and Diversity (ROAD) for youth and families by addressing three areas in need of urgent attention: early childhood development, youth health and wellness, and career and college preparation.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 10 OF 2021 88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow

Wicklow County Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Housing Authority") in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Section 76 of the Housing Act 1966, and the Third Schedule thereto (as amended by the Planning and Development Act 2000) have made an order entitled as above which is about to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for confirmation. If confirmed, the order will authorise the Housing Authority to acquire compulsorily the land described in the Schedule for the purposes of the Housing Act, 1966.

A copy of the order and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow.

Owners, lessees and occupiers of the land described in the Schedule will receive individual written notice.

The Housing Act 1966, as amended, provides that An Bord Pleanála cannot confirm the order in respect of the land if an objection is made in respect of the acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the land, and not withdrawn, until it has held an oral hearing into the objection and until it has considered the objection and the report of the person who held the oral hearing.

SCHEDULE

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
21/06/74/100 88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow	Dwelling house and land of 232 m ²	David Coughlan and Lisa Coughlan, 88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow	None (vacant house)	None (vacant house)

Dated this 14th day of February 2022

Joe Lane, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Estate



Owner of the Egan Business Centre in Bray, Donal Egan hands over the keys for Luisne's new premises to Sr Miriam. Luisne opened its doors in its new location on 14th February and welcomed tutors, volunteers and participants for a new term.

'Stop the foot dragging and progress plans for a new school for NWETSS'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called on the Minister for Education and her officials in the Department to "stop the foot dragging" and immediately progress plans for a new school for North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School (NWETSS).

"Since the North Wicklow Educate Together School in Bray opened in August 2016, they have been treated appallingly by the Dept of Education and Skills," said Deputy Brady.

"The school has been caught in the middle of a complete fiasco, not of their making. They had been told by the Department that a site had been identified for their new school on Novara Avenue on the grounds of Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE). How that site was selected is questionable and needs to be fully investigated.

"Since that time however the school have moved from their temporary accommodation in the old Presentation College School on Putland Road to the old Ravenswell School on the Dublin Road, whilst the Department figured out what way to move forward with the needs of the school.

"Up until late last year officials in the Department were telling me and NWETSS that they were still developing a Master Plan to co-locate BIFE and North Wicklow on the Novara Avenue site. Then late last year they were saying that they were in the process of trying to identify alternative sites in the North Wicklow area, whilst also site developing a Master Plan for Novara Rd.



John Brady TD

"The officials have now identified an alternative site and are in discussions with the owners. The Minister and her officials must immediately state what their

intentions are. Have they given up on trying to Co-locate NWETSS and BIFE on Novara Ave and are they now committed to an alternative location?

"This foot dragging has unfortunately not served the pupils, teachers or indeed the taxpayer well over the last few years. Millions of Euros have now been spent on renting and refurbishing temporary accommodation and allowing the old Presentation school site to be sold, I believe that was an ideal site for a new school. However, the Department said that they weren't interested in purchasing it as they were committed to developing the BIFE site.

"On Friday along with some other public representatives I met with staff, parents and students from NWETSS. It is critically important that their needs are met as quickly as possible. The Department and the Minister must prioritise the development of the long-awaited school and make their intentions known and map out a plan and timeframe to deliver the school to cater for the needs of all. It is important that the officials engage with the school, myself and others representatives as quickly as possible to move it forward," concluded Deputy Brady.



Gabriel Allen, Deputy Principal of BIFE, presenting Jacinta Ryan with the Student Of The Year award for the Health Care Assistant course.

Greystones Community College submit planning application

A planning application for the Greystones Community College building has been submitted to Wicklow County Council.



Minister Stephen Donnelly

All documents relating to the 1,000 person school were submitted on Friday 18th February.

Council officials now have two weeks to go through the plans to make sure everything is in order before accepting them and then have a further eight weeks to give a decision. But as a number of pre-planning meetings have already taken place it is expected the project will be given the green light.

Once permission is granted it is expected the project could be completed

ed within 18 months from the first sod being turned. It is expected building work could begin by the end of the year with the school opening its doors in September 2024.

The news is a massive boost for the school which has faced a series of serious challenges over the past two years.

Staff had to cope with teaching from a temporary home in the Greystones Tennis Club after the delay in opening Greystones Community National School.

GCC now shares a temporary campus across the rugby club and Eire Og grounds until the permanent school is built.

Minister Stephen Donnelly said: "I'm absolutely delighted to see the planning application for Greystones Community College being submitted. The parents, staff and students have had a tumultuous couple of years trying to get the school adequate temporary accommodation.

"But despite the challenges they have managed to do a fantastic job in setting up a fun and exciting learning environment for the pupils."

The Minister added: "I will continue to help in any way I can to make sure the school continues to have a bright future. The focus now is on making sure there are no unnecessary delays in getting their new building."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 11 OF 2021 114 Hillside, Greystones, Co Wicklow

Wicklow County Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Housing Authority") in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Section 76 of the Housing Act 1966, and the Third Schedule thereto (as amended by the Planning and Development Act 2000) have made an order entitled as above which is about to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for confirmation. If confirmed, the order will authorise the Housing Authority to acquire compulsorily the land described in the Schedule for the purposes of the Housing Act, 1966.

A copy of the order and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow.

Owners, lessees and occupiers of the land described in the Schedule will receive individual written notice.

The Housing Act 1966, as amended, provides that An Bord Pleanála cannot confirm the order in respect of the land if an objection is made in respect of the acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the land, and not withdrawn, until it has held an oral hearing into the objection and until it has considered the objection and the report of the person who held the oral hearing.

SCHEDULE

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
21/06/69/100 114 Hillside, Greystones, Co Wicklow	Dwelling house and land of 189 m ²	Maurice Kenny, 2 Albert Park, Sandycove, Dún Laoghaire, Co Dublin	None (vacant house)	None (vacant house)

Dated this 14th day of February 2022

Joe Lane, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Estate

Nurse who inspired setting up of Jack & Jill Children's Foundation passes away

The nurse who inspired the setting up of the Jack & Jill Children's Foundation, Baltinglass woman Imelda Whelan, passed away on 4th February.

The Jack & Jill Children's Foundation is a charity that funds and provides home nursing care for sick children in communities across Ireland, including 13 families currently in Wicklow. The charity is 25 years old this year, and Imelda was the nurse who inspired the organisation, which was set up by Jonathan Irwin and Mary Ann O'Brien in memory of their son Jack, who also sadly passed away earlier this month.

Speaking about Imelda

and the origins of the Jack & Jill Children's Foundation, Mary Ann O'Brien says Imelda was "A great and loving wife to Christy and a brilliant mother to her three sons Conor, David and John. They will miss her forever but her beautiful spirit will never be far from her four lads."

"In 1996 with three young children at home, Imelda was working in the busy ER in Naas Hospital. Through the community nurse she heard of us, Jonathan Irwin and Mary Ann O'Brien, and our very sick baby Jack, whom we were attempting to care for at home."

"To put it mildly we were struggling. She came to our house in Balitore, arriving at the door with a big, beautiful smile and offered to mind Jack for us three or so nights a week, to give us some sleep and a breather."



Imelda Whelan (24th July 1961 - 4th February 2022)



Imelda participating in a recent Up the Hill for Jack & Jill fundraiser.

"I honestly thought an angel had arrived at our door. Jack was profoundly brain damaged and needed round-the-clock medical care to manage his 18-20 hour per day tube feeding schedule and management of his severe epilepsy."

"Imelda transformed our lives with her time, her advice, her expert nursing and her warm

friendship. The whole house just loved her from the first day."

"Imelda was our inspiration to start the Jack and Jill Children's Foundation, a charity that has provided nursing and care for over 2,700 sick children in their own homes since 1997 and raising over €65 million to do so. We will always be indebted to Imelda, and I honestly do

believe she was an angel sent to us."

"Jack and Jill is a charity that always remained close to Imelda's heart. As an avid hiker she recently completed an 'Up the Hill for Jack & Jill' challenge, helping to raise money for the charity."

"Imelda will always be loved and never forgotten by anyone that was fortunate enough to meet her."

New handbook helps sports clubs set up groups for people with dementia

A new Sporting Memories Handbook has been developed to support local sports organisations in setting up Sporting Memories groups. An initiative of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Sporting Memories groups are intended to provide a forum for people with dementia, families, supporters and friends to reminisce and talk about bygone sporting days as well as encourage participation in physical activity. The booklet, which is supported by the Dementia: Understand Together campaign, aims to help improve the health and well-being of people with dementia, as well as older people in general.

The handbook is part of the wider rollout of the Sporting Memories programme in communities across Ireland. The initiative hopes to inspire and encourage local sporting clubs and organisations to organise regular Sporting Memories groups within their localities. The groups bring people together to reminisce about their lives through the medium of sport, using images, video footage, memorabilia, quizzes, and guest talks to spark memories and encourage social engagement. By using sporting cues, the purpose is to stimulate memory, improve communication and social skills, as well as create a sense of camaraderie and belonging.

The ultimate objective of the programme is to tackle dementia, depression, and loneliness through safe, friendly sessions, led by people with a passion for sport and a desire to help people stay engaged in their communities.

The booklet is a "how-to" guide for the development of Sporting Memories groups, and includes information on dementia, how to set up groups and organise different activities, as well as offering communication tips, ways to create a supportive environment, and details

of how to access group resources. By meeting at the local sports grounds, or visiting a clubhouse, groups can help to conjure up fantastic memories of past experiences and events. Physical activity is also a key part of the programme with light exercises built into each session.

There are an estimated 1,838 people living with dementia in WICKLOW and each year more than 11,000 people develop the disease across the country - that's approximately 30 people every day. There are many forms of dementia, with the most common being Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, mixed Alzheimer's Disease/vascular dementia, frontotemporal dementia and Lewy body disease.

For more information on the Sporting Memories programme, or to access the handbook, visit www.alzheimer.ie or www.understandtogether.ie. To order a copy of the handbook, go to www.healthpromotion.ie.

Golden Sporting Moments Speaking about the publication of the new handbook, Donal Murphy, Operations Project Manager, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, said: "We know that sport

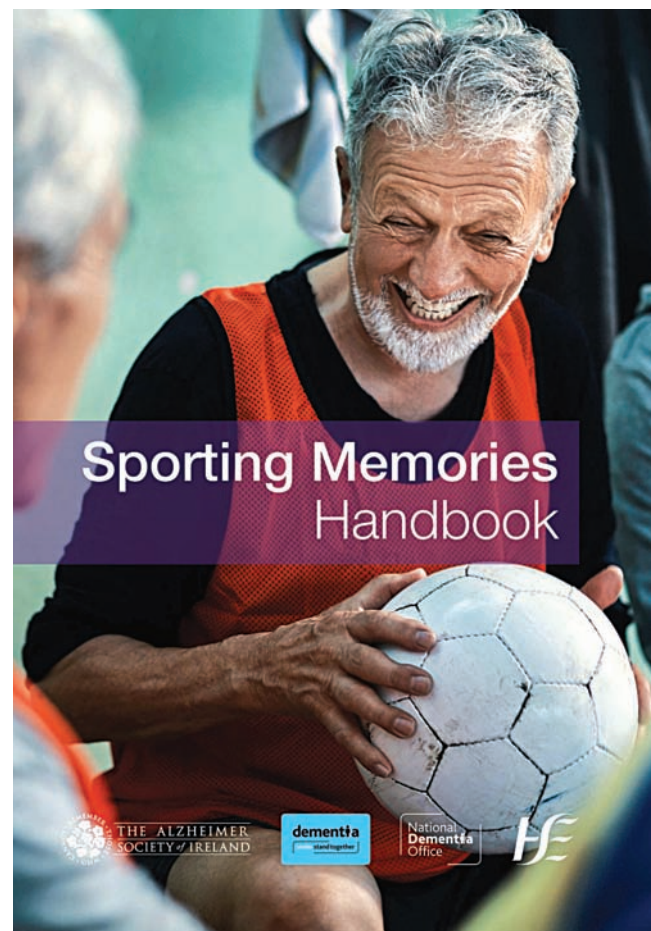
plays a key part in the lives of many people. From GAA to rugby, football to golf, people are immersed in sport from an early age as players, as club members, and as spectators. Sport gives us so much pleasure and often punctuates our lives with golden sporting moments of joy and ecstasy. Allegiance to club, county, and country, gives us a sense of identity that binds us together like nothing else, creating memories that last a lifetime."

"We also know that for people with dementia, remembering past events often comes more readily than recent events. Through this programme, we want to use the power of sport to help bring people together, and to re-establish that connection between people with dementia and the communities in which they live. By wearing the county jersey or team colours, and by using memorabilia such as match programmes, posters, and tickets, we want to be able to trigger exciting memories and take people on a trip down memory lane. With it, we hope to evoke stories of chance encounters with childhood sporting heroes, of flasks of tea and packed sandwiches on match days, of lining the streets to welcome home sporting champions."

Leaving No one Behind_Fiona Foley, National Coordinator, Dementia: Understand Together in Communities, added: "The Dementia: Understand Together campaign is all about encouraging people to see the person with dementia for who they are and how, with the appropriate supports, they can live active and fulfilling lives. Human beings are social creatures, and this is no different for people with dementia. They just sometimes need that little bit of extra support to be involved."

"The Sporting Memories programme is a wonderful example of this objective in action. It helps to build social connection by bringing families, friends, neighbours and supporters together. It provides people with an opportunity to keep their brains engaged by revisiting memories of yesteryear. And it offers people the chance to undertake some physical activity too in keeping active. I would really urge sporting clubs across county Wicklow to consider signing up for the programme. It will be a genuine demonstration of their commitment to being a club for the entire community and to ensuring that no one gets left behind."

John McGouran, Community Officer, Shelbourne Football Club, said: "Shelbourne FC launched its 'Football Memories' programme in June 2021, and with the support of the Community Engagement team of ASI, the Club have delivered a number of events both virtually and in person that have helped people living with dementia to reminisce



of great moments in Irish football history. The engagement and participation of those in attendance has been a delight to see, and shows the power that sport has to connect with people on their dementia journey. Shelbourne FC is looking forward to developing the 'Football Memories' programme further during 2022."

The development of the Sporting Memories Handbook was inspired by Sporting Heritage, a comprehen-

sive guide for Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It has been supported by the Dementia: Understand Together campaign, led by the HSE. The campaign aims to help create communities that actively embrace and include those living with dementia and their families. For support or advice, people can also contact The Alzheimer Society of Ireland on Freephone 1800 341 341 (Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm).

Wicklow Hospice Half Marathon & 10km road race returns

Wicklow Hospice is hosting its eighth half marathon and 10km race on Saturday 26th February, starting at Beehive, just off the N11.



Fionnuala McCormack with her two-year-old daughter Isla launching the eighth Wicklow Hospice Half Marathon. Pic: Michael Kelly

Speaking about the event, Eleanor Flew, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services Director of Fundraising and Communications said, "We're delighted to bring this race back as it was very well supported by the community for many years and we hope to see old friends and welcome new faces. We're hopeful that eased restrictions will encourage people to put on their runners and take to the road to jog/run this looped course. We also have a virtual option for those who can't make it on the day or would prefer to do this challenge in a way that suits them."

"We encourage all participants to raise a minimum of €100 in sponsorship. The fundraising team can help with sponsorship cards, setting up an online fundraising page and other advice. If you can't take part perhaps you could sponsor a friend or help us spread the word about this event. Money raised will fund the outstanding bank loan, on-going enhancements to the Hospice and the purchasing of specialised equipment," she explained.

Wicklow Hospice ambassador and Olympian Fionnuala McCormack will be there on the day with words of encouragement for runners.

"I'd encourage starters and serious runners to talk part in this race to support a great cause close to our hearts. It's an enjoyable route on quiet roads and I look forward to seeing many of you on the day."



Pictured launching the Wicklow Hospice Half Marathon and 10km race taking place on 26th February were Ann Marie O'Sullivan from Arklow, Wicklow Hospice Ambassador Fionnuala McCormack, and local running legend Mary Nolan Hickey. Pic: Michael Kelly

To sign up, see the route and get full details visit myrunresults.com (exact link below) The entry fee is €20 for the 10km race and €35 for half and entry is open to individuals and club members of all ages. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an

adult and are not permitted to enter the half marathon. Thanks to generous support from the Coillte there will be prize vouchers for Avondale Sports, Rathdrum for the top three men and women finishers and medals for all participants.

Our Lady's Hospice &

Care Services provides specialist care for a catchment of over one million people with a wide range of needs, from residential rehabilitation to end-of-life care, from its bases in Harold's Cross, Blackrock and Wicklow. Last year, its 640 staff and 400 volun-

teers cared for more than 4,629 people. Staff also made over 10,226 specialist palliative care visits to provide care for people in their homes across south Dublin and Wicklow and 6,731 clinical interventions were delivered by phone or video call.

Annual GOAL Mile raises over €400,000

GOAL and AIB have thanked the hundreds of people in Wicklow who took part in the GOAL Mile over the Christmas period, with over €400,000 being donated to the humanitarian aid agency at fundraising events in Ireland and abroad.

The Christmas tradition of running, jogging or walking a Mile in support of GOAL's work has taken place since the 1980's. With the support of AIB for the first time, this was the biggest event yet. Funds raised at annual nationwide and international events support the agency's emergency response and humanitarian work in 14 countries in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

GOAL Miles were organised at four locations across the county over the Christmas period, in Aughrim, Bray, Blessington and Glenealy.

GOAL's Chief Executive Officer, Siobhan Walsh, has thanked participants and highlights how the GOAL Mile is essential to GOAL's mission to fight poverty.

"This year's GOAL Mile has been truly exceptional. It was inspiring to see how eager people were, not just to support GOAL's work, but to get out and re-connect with each other."



Members of the Defence Forces doing the GOAL Mile in Syria

We want to thank everyone for organising, helping out and turning up to their local GOAL Mile this Christmas. There were events in 28 counties across Ireland, as well as GOAL Miles on every continent around the globe. By showing up and

donating, you have made a difference in someone's life."

She added "While normality is closer to being restored here in Ireland, the impact of Covid-19 in the global south is still profound. The support of thousands of people for the GOAL Mile helps us continue to work with vulnerable communities, to enable them to weather the impact of shocks like Covid, conflict and climate change."

Ms Walsh is already looking towards the 2022 GOAL Mile, which she says will be a landmark event.

"The results speak for themselves and demonstrate the power of partnership. We already look forward to working with Colin and his colleagues for the 2022 event which will be the 40th anniversary of the GOAL mile. GOAL invites all who took part in the GOAL Mile to stay engaged throughout the year, to see the impact of their support across the globe."



Jamie, Paul, Oonagh and Louis O'Reilly doing the GOAL Mile in Irishtown

Fundraising walk for autism

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

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.

For this year's theme of 'We Walk for Autism', Walk for Autism is encouraging people to

do their walking with friends and family.

You can get involved by visiting their website www.walk-forautism.co.uk/register/walk-for-autism-2022/registrationform



Calling all challengers for NCBI's virtual Move Into The Light event

NCBI (National Council for the Blind of Ireland) is calling on all challengers who are interested in participating in our Move Into The Light event this March.

Move Into The Light runs over 30 days in March and we're asking participants to complete 30 minutes of exercise over the course of each day.

What exercise do you have to do? Whatever you want! Walk, run, cycle or swim - the world is your oyster! The 30-day challenge offers the perfect opportunity to fundraise for NCBI to enable us to provide vital services and supports to the 55,000 people spread across Ireland who are living with sight loss.

Every person who signs up will receive a free Move Into The Light t-shirt, along with a dedicated sponsorship pack.

Joanne McCarney, NCBI Fundraising Executive, said: "We can't wait to kick off Move Into The Light this March alongside all of our lovely participants who

can register right now.

"By taking part you are not only setting aside a chunk of time to reflect on life, but you're ticking off your good deed each day by directly helping to fund NCBI's life changing services for people who are blind or vision impaired. We look forward to keeping an eye on everyone's progress and we'll see you all at the finish line!"

June Tinsley, Head of Advocacy and Communications, added: "We love the idea of engaging the public through events like Move Into The Light. NCBI's essential services depend on the generosity of people all over Ireland and through this event we hope to be able to offer a moment of fun in return. We look forward to seeing the pictures, videos and more from everyone taking part."

Those who wish to sign up for Move Into The Light can do so on: NCBI's website here: <https://www.ncbi.ie/move-into-the-light/> Or by email to: fundraising@ncbi.ie



Inland Fisheries Ireland, the State agency responsible for the protection, conservation, development and promotion of inland fisheries and sea angling, has launched a recruitment drive to hire new Seasonal Fisheries Officers. There will be 49 new posts in total, five of which will be in Wexford in the South-Eastern River Basin district and 3 in Dublin in the Eastern River Basin District. The deadline to apply is this week on 21st February. Pictured are fisheries officers Jose Perez, Maureen Byrne, Andrew Crosbie and Christine Meehan. Pic: Peter Grogan, Emagine.

Additional staff for birth cert office in Wicklow

The HSE intends to expand capacity at the HSE office for birth, death and marriage registrations in Wicklow Town.

In response to Deputy Jennifer Whitmore's latest query to the HSE, it was confirmed that more staff will be deployed at the end of the month to the HSE civil registration office in Wicklow Town to deal with capacity issues.

Speaking on the announcement, Deputy

Whitmore says, "for the past 6 months I have been raising the inability for people to register births, deaths and marriages in Co. Wicklow and repeatedly asked that the HSE increase capacity to deal with the current backlog. This included repeated requests for walk-in

clinics, increased number of staff as well as an online facility for certs.

"Much of the backlog was blamed on the HSE cyberattack and the usual interruption caused by Covid, however I believed it was urgent that more resources were put in place to deal with people's requests for certs.

"Parents were unable to claim Child Benefit

without a cert or get a passport for their child. It was really causing a lot of difficulties for families in the county.

"In my last correspondence to the HSE, I requested a detailed report of how capacity was to be increased to deal with the backlog and was delighted to see that Grade IV staff are currently in training prior to their deployment to the Wicklow office

and will be in post by the end of the month.

"Furthermore, to help increase capacity, an additional room for appointments has been secured on the Glenside Road which is currently being prepared for use. However, the service is not in a position to offer walk-in appointments at this time which I will be following up on with the HSE in due course" concludes Whitmore.

Unavailability of staff a major challenge to tourism recovery plans

Fáilte Ireland has unveiled its priorities for 2022 to support the recovery of the tourism industry at a special in-person event attended by over 800 representatives from tourism and hospitality at the Convention Centre Dublin.

Among the plans outlined at the event, entitled 'From Survival to Recovery', is a doubling of the domestic marketing investment to drive short breaks year-round; further investment in the digital presence of tourism businesses; four Regional Tourism Strategies for Ireland's Ancient East, Hidden Heartlands, Dublin and Wild Atlantic Way; 27 local Destination Development Plans which will be critical to driving the long-term recovery of tourism across Ireland; and plans to reduce tourism's carbon footprint.

Fáilte Ireland has also presented its largest and most robust research undertaken to date on staffing and skills in the tourism and hospitality sector.

With 30% of businesses surveyed saying their business could face closure if recruitment challenges aren't resolved, Fáilte Ireland's CEO Paul

Kelly warned that "staffing and competitiveness are the two most significant challenges facing the recovery of tourism in 2022. The pandemic has had a profound impact on the industry's skill base, with a mass exodus of workers into other industries that reopened earlier." Outlining Fáilte Ireland's plans to drive recovery of the sector in 2022 Paul Kelly continued: "Today marks what we hope will be the transition from survival to a sustained and sustainable recovery. Tourism is a building block for regional balance and a critical contributor to social cohesion. It is essential for creating sustainable communities and a significant generator of jobs in regional and rural Ireland. As a critical part of the national economy, only when tourism recovers can there be a nationwide recovery.

"The plans we have set out today aim to continue to drive domestic demand

with a €10million domestic marketing investment to drive short breaks year-round. Looking to the season ahead, we expect a strong recovery in inbound tourism with forecasts indicating that we will regain 83% of 2019's air passenger capacity by the end of the year. Fáilte Ireland will support the industry to capitalise on this growth through the implementation of our 4 regional brand tourism strategies and more localised Destination Development Plans."

A major element of Fáilte Ireland's work plan for 2022 is a multifaceted tourism careers strategy to address the staffing and skills crisis in tourism and hospitality including the first ever Excellent Employer Programme.

Jenny De Saulles, Fáilte Ireland's Director of Sector Development, outlines Fáilte Ireland's response to the acute staffing and skills crisis: "As the economy fully reopens, competition for skilled workers is at an all-time high so our industry needs to drive immediate changes to retain existing

and to attract new staff. There are three key action areas where Fáilte Ireland will support industry. Fundamentally they are about getting the people, keeping the people and upskilling the people - and each of these go hand in hand. If you have good retention and development programmes, people are more likely to want to work for you. Staff shortages existed pre-Covid but the pandemic and its impact on the stability of the sector along with the universal changes in working patterns has compounded the issue.

"The package of supports announced today will help businesses in their immediate recruitment efforts and help them to commit to driving long-term change to make the industry an appealing and rewarding workplace that can attract and retain talent. Our new Excellent Employer Programme will support businesses to do that, and ultimately give the wider industry a platform to build back bigger and stronger, creating a fundamental shift in employee perception that will support the long-term



Ruth Andrews, Chairperson of ITIC, Paul Kenny, CEO of Fáilte Ireland, and Jenny De Saulles, Director of Sector Development, Fáilte Ireland.

repositioning of the tourism and hospitality industry and ensure a future pipeline of talent."

Fáilte Ireland detailed a range of initiatives to address the industry's immediate recruitment efforts including support focused on accessing local and international talent pools; practical supports on implementing a comprehensive recruitment strategy including how to advertise roles effectively and successful interviewing in a competitive market; onboarding for the long term with one in three employees now new to the sector.

Central to the plans is a new Excellent Employer Programme to support tourism and hospitality businesses to demonstrate their commitment to being rewarding and appealing workplaces, that can compete for and retain skilled employees. Through the programme, businesses will have access to HR and people management training, and the opportunity to become certified as a top employer through an employee survey.

Fáilte Ireland will also provide participating businesses with tailored supports to action the key development areas highlighted in the staff survey. The aim is to support businesses to continuously improve their workplace and enhance their appeal to existing and potential employees.

Further priorities to support the recovery of the tourism industry outlined today by Fáilte Ireland include:

- Driving demand through a €10million investment in domestic marketing including sponsorship of the RTE weather, to encourage people to take additional short breaks in Ireland.
- Enhancing the digital capabilities of over 400 tourism businesses through Fáilte Ireland's Digital that Delivers programme.
- Digital audit of over 800 hotels to be conducted and a suite of digital supports

to ensure businesses are visible, searchable, and most importantly, bookable.

- Leading the drive towards a more sustainable tourism sector by developing a carbon reporting framework to benchmark the performance of Irish tourism businesses and carbon calculators and supports to help businesses reduce their carbon footprint.

- Development and implementation of four Regional Tourism Strategies in Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Dublin and 27 localised Destination Development Plans which will be critical to driving the long-term recovery of tourism across Ireland.

- Administering €50million through further phases of the Tourism Business Continuity Programme of funding which will help sustain strategic tourism businesses in 2022 and drive the sustainable recovery of the sector.

Welcoming Fáilte Ireland's plans Minister Catherine Martin said: "The significant lifting of restrictions announced by An Taoiseach was the start of a new beginning for tourism and hospitality. With a more positive outlook for inbound tourism, there is hope that in 2022, we will see real recovery for the sector.

"The Government remains committed to sup-

porting the tourism sector as we move from the survival phase towards recovery. The comprehensive plans for tourism recovery in 2022 announced by Fáilte Ireland today focus on supporting tourism businesses through both financial and practical supports, driving domestic and international demand in a globally competitive market, developing destination experiences across the country and addressing the staff and skills shortage in the industry."

Commenting on the Fáilte Ireland research Ruth Andrews, Chairperson of the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation (ITIC), said "Labour supply is a critical issue for Irish tourism businesses and a multi-faceted strategy will be needed to support the industry rebuild and fully recovery.

As demand increases from both the domestic market and international tourist, it is vital that the retention and recruitment of staff remains a number one priority, and in this context Fáilte Ireland has a vital role to play alongside industry."

Andrews also added that tourism was Ireland's largest indigenous industry and biggest regional employer and said, "No other industry can provide regional economic balance as tourism can and sustainability and competitiveness will be central to recovery".



Alison Banton, CEO of Brooke and Shoals

Women's Networking Event for International Women's Day

Wicklow's Local Enterprise Office last week announced the first in-person women's networking event since before the pandemic.

Their Network of Entrepreneurial Women (NEW) is meeting from 7pm on Wednesday, 9th March in the Glenview Hotel.

Wicklow based Alison Banton, CEO of Brooke and Shoals Fragrances will talk to us on the night about her business success to date. The event is free of charge with no need to register and is open to female entrepreneurs with a business based in Wicklow.

"We are so excited to firstly be meeting in person again, after two years of meeting online via Zoom. But, also to be joined on the night by the inspirational Alison Banton," says Jill Lush, facilitator of LEO Wicklow NEW group. "I'm looking forward to meeting new and old members of NEW. The event is free and will provide a relaxed atmosphere for female business owners to network."

The event falls during Local Enterprise Office week and the day after International Women's Day.

- Arrive from 7pm for tea/coffee
- Guest speaker at 7.30pm
- Followed by a Q&A session and informal networking

This networking event takes place in the Glenview Hotel, no registration required and is free of charge. For more information contact Jill Lush at womenin-business@leo.wicklowcoco.ie

Survey on the future of Baltinglass

Do you live in Baltinglass or the surrounding area? If so, Wicklow County Arts Office wants to hear from you.

Wicklow County Council is currently preparing an application to the Arts Council's "Creative Places" scheme which could result in funding of up to €450,000 over a three-year period for the county.

Baltinglass has been identified by Wicklow County Arts Office as the area around which the application will be based and is currently undertaking an initial research and engagement phase to support the application.

The Arts Office is already meeting with the West Wicklow Interagency Group and engaging with focus groups, local artists, local groups and organisations around the idea of "My Future Baltinglass".

As part of this research phase, Wicklow County Arts Office is

seeking responses to an online survey, which aims to capture the views and ideas of a broad range of people who may not previously have engaged in the arts or might not feel that cultural activity is for them, as well as creative enthusiasts.

A wealth of local knowledge, ideas, insights and resources will be applied to how the project will run if successful, ensuring that the outcomes are deeply rooted and shaped by the community and the surrounding areas. To complete the survey, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MyFutureBaltinglass2022>, log on to www.wicklow.ie, or follow Wicklow County Arts Office on Facebook. For further information about this project, please contact

wao@wicklowcoco.ie. The deadline for responses is Sunday 6th March 2022.

"Creative Places" is an opportunity for places which had not benefited from sustained arts investment in the past to build local arts programmes which will benefit the people who live in these places.

Each programme will have a coordinator or researcher who will begin local conversations to discuss and plan a range of brilliant creative and participatory projects for local people to take part in and enjoy.

The approach is inclusive and diverse and rooted in socially engaged practice and community development principles.

It builds on existing cultural strengths and is led by community participation and ideas and supported by artists.



Alan Rudden, gold medal winner in the Large Garden award category at Bord Bia Bloom in 2019

Bord Bia Bloom set to return to the Phoenix Park

Calling Wicklow gardening and community groups to apply for the popular Postcard Gardens

Commenting on this year's festival, Bord Bia CEO Tara McCarthy said, "I am so delighted to share that Bord Bia Bloom will be back in the Phoenix Park this June. The festival is the perfect opportunity for the public to experience and sample the very best of Irish horticulture, food and drink directly from our world-class designers, suppliers and growers, as well as engage with important topics like sustainability, biodiversity, and mental health through beautiful floral design, expert talks and family-friendly exhibits. The entire team is looking forward to welcoming both new and returning visitors back to the Park for the first time in two years!"

With consumer spend on gardening reaching a record €1.2bn in 2020, Bord Bia Bloom is a fantastic opportunity for the Irish horticultural industry to continue to engage with both new and experienced gardeners who embraced green spaces and gardening during successive lockdowns.

Commenting on this opportunity, Mike Neary, Director of Horticulture at Bord Bia said, "New gardening enthusiasts have emerged over the past two years as many people discovered the mental and physical benefits of gardening for the first time during Covid-19. With restrictions now lifted, the sector will continue to harness this increased consumer interest in gardening and what better place to do so than in the magnifi-

cent surrounds of the show gardens and horticultural features in the Phoenix Park."

Bord Bia has also announced that entries are now open to gardening and community groups from all over Wicklow to apply for the popular Postcard Gardens category at Bord Bia Bloom. The Postcard Gardens are small but perfectly formed 3m x 2m plots that can be used to represent a club, locality, or special person from a community.

Gardening clubs, community groups, schools and resource centres can all apply to enter a Postcard Garden and each year a wide range of themes, including mental health, climate change and children's literature to name a few, are brought to life through the use of

plants, creative design and woodwork.

Kerrie Gardiner, Bord Bia Bloom Show Garden Manager said, "The Postcard Gardens are a personal favourite of mine! They offer aspiring gardening groups who may have honed their skills during lockdown a chance to demonstrate their talents, while also inspiring the public to get involved and experience the many benefits of gardening".

For more information on the Postcard Gardens and to download an application form, visit BordBiaBloom.com. The closing date for applications is March 2nd, 2022.

Early bird tickets are now available to buy from bordbiabloom.com until March 27th, 2022. Providing a discount of 28% for a full price

adult ticket, early bird prices range from €15 to €18 and don't forget - two children under 16 can attend for free with each ticket!

To ensure people enjoy the Bord Bia Bloom experience they know and love in a safe environment, even more event features will be outdoors in 2022 and the expected daily number of visitors to the festival will be capped. Bord Bia is encouraging the public to purchase tickets in advance to avoid disappointment and guarantee attendance on their preferred day over the June Bank Holiday weekend.

To stay up to date with #BordBiaBloom2022 news, sign up to the Bloom Ezine at bordbiabloom.com and follow us on social media - @BordBiaBloom on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Book collections of significance to the Republic of Ireland feature in Mallams' Oxford Library sale

Books and manuscripts with significance to the Republic of Ireland are coming under the hammer at Mallams' Oxford Library Sale on 23rd and 24th February.

These come to Mallams as part of the estate of Patrick Dockar-Drysdale (1929-2020) an Oxford graduate and a Canadian linguistics expert, who resided at Wick Hall, Radley, near Abingdon. His estate includes two libraries inherited from his mother's Irish relatives - one from his grandfather T.W. Rolleston, and one from his great grandfather, the Reverend Stopford Brooke.

Thomas William Hazen Rolleston (1857-1920) was an Irish writer, poet and literary figure who lived at various times in Killiney in County Dublin, Germany, London and County Wicklow.

The Reverend Stopford Augustus Brooke (1832-1916) was an Irish churchman and writer, born in the rectory of Glendone, near Letterkenny in Donegal. In 1890 he spear-headed a fundraising campaign to purchase Dove Cottage, William Wordsworth's for-



Pictured above and below: Calendar of the Saints, from the estate of Patrick Dockar-Drysdale

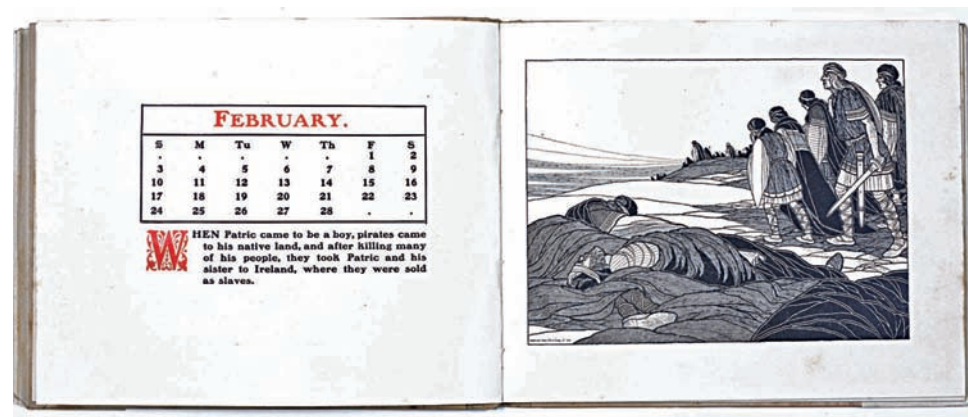
mer Grasmere home, in order to preserve it "for the eternal possession of those who love English poetry all over the world" (see lot 413). In March 1893 he gave the inaugural lecture to the Irish Literary Society (founded in London by T.W. Rolleston, amongst others) on "The Need and

Use of Getting Irish Literature into the English Tongue" (see lot 412).

Apart from being intellectuals, avid readers and writers, both men were serious collectors of books and their libraries contained a number of important titles - Mallams' is delighted to be offering

these collections at auction. To see the full catalogue for this sale go to <https://www.mallams.co.uk/sales/oxford/the-oxford-library-sale-day-one/?p=1&s=100&v=list>

For further information on these collections, please email benjaminlloyd@mallams.co.uk



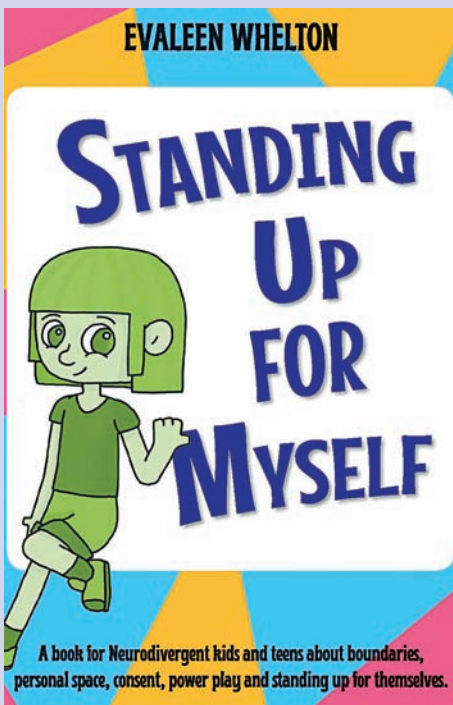
President Michael D Higgins & Sabina Higgins at Bord Bia Bloom 2019

New empowering book for autistic children

This beautifully empowering book was created by Evaleen Whelton, founder of AUsome Training and Konfident Kidz. She is proudly Autistic and is a passionate educator on all things Autistic. Evaleen has worked with children and young adults for over 20 years in her career as a Speech and Drama Teacher.

In her latest book she addresses important areas of social interaction that are often overlooked for autistic children. The focus of the book is empowering Neurodivergent kids and teens to understand themselves, establish healthy boundaries, advocate for themselves and to develop an appreciation for their way of being.

'Standing Up for Myself' is geared towards people from 9 to 15 years, or thereabouts.



Evaleen Whelton

The book is full of informative insight and has lots of space for exploratory exercises as well so that the reader can work through each section and learn the best strategies for dealing with conflict, bullying and general aspects of non-autistic communication.

Evaleen beautifully breaks down power play and the differences in the way Autistic Culture differs from the social hierarchy in a way that is very helpful to young readers. She writes with great compassion and empathy, unfortunately something missing when approaching Autistic children and teens.

Evaleen found out she was Autistic at the age of 37 and has written this book for her young self and every other child like her.

"This is a book I wish I had when I was a kid," she says. "It's full of positive messages and really helpful tips and advice for Autistic kids and teens."

See ausometraining.com to find out more.

March at Mermaid

Louise White Performance Presents
Privilege: The Musical

2nd - 5th March, 8pm, €18/16/15

Privilege: The Musical! is a glittering, soul searching look at power and inequality, the most ambitious show to date from award-winning theatre maker Louise White.

Starring a gender bending, intersectional, fire-cracking cast of Jade O'Connor, Venus Patel, Stephen Quinn, & Ashley Xie, with musical composition from Matt Regan and cello performance by Lioba Petrie, audiences can expect expect gaslighting show tunes, snowflake earnestness, and theatre tropes aplenty when the piece premieres with performances on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th of March at Mermaid Arts Centre.



A Staging of James Joyce's 'THE DEAD'
Falling Through The Universe

THURSDAY 10th March, 8pm, €16/14



On a Winter's night in 1982, a young Irish emigrant borrows an English language book from a library in Munich. He reads it over one evening. The course of his life is changed.... Forty years later, he walks onto a stage to recreate the magic of that night and perform one of the greatest short stories ever written in the English language.

Renowned writer, performer and interpreter of Joyce, Declan Gorman ("The

Dubliners Dilemma"; "Performing Dubliners") mixes memoir and the magic of live theatre to bring to life James Joyce's much-loved classic, "The Dead" in this warm and moving performance. As the world celebrates the centenary of his great masterpiece, "Ulysses" we are proud to present this early, accessible and universal story by the emerging genius that was James Joyce! Age suitability - Adults (13+)

Len Graham, Theo Dorgan & Jack Lynch
Rhyme, Rant & Rann

FRIDAY 18th March, 8pm, €16/14



Ten years on from their much acclaimed tour of Ireland, and in celebration of World Storytelling Day, we are delighted to bring Len Graham, Theo Dorgan and Jack Lynch back to the stage at Mermaid with Rhyme, Rant & Rann.

This vibrant trio will be exploring the theme "Lost & Found" and what better way to celebrate both St. Patrick's weekend and World Storytelling Day than with this unique fusion of Ireland's oral traditions of poetry, storytelling and songs.

Aoife Doyle

SATURDAY 19th March, 8pm,
€18/16

Aoife Doyle will return for a performance with her band of stellar musicians; pianist Greg Felton, bassist Andrew Csibi and drummer Dominic Mullan. Aoife will be showcasing music from her brand new album 'Infinitely Clear' a soothing, soulful mix of jazz, folk, soul and blues which has garnered much praise across the airwaves;

Aoife is originally from Bray, and is now living in Co. Clare. While she has been performing for many years, it was upon moving to the West Coast of Ireland that she found her songwriting voice.



Funding clinic and artist support measures delivered by Wicklow County Arts Office

Wicklow County Arts Office is presenting three measures to support artists access funding and identify their needs for 2022.

This follows a successful pilot in 2021 on this triad of supports which are now being offered again. These include a Funding Clinic for Artists on the 23rd of February; Individual Funding Advice Clinics for up to 20 artists and Coaching Sessions for up to 20 artists.

Artists are invited to join the Funding Clinic session on February 23rd from 10am-12pm on Zoom for a bespoke service with hints and tips on putting your best foot forward in making funding applications.

The session will be chaired by Paul Johnson, former CEO of Dance Ireland, and Board Member of Theatre Forum. Paul also previously worked in the Arts Council and currently works in a freelance capacity supporting artists and organisations in their strategic development

and achieving their goals.

The workshop will also feature the voice of the artist. Anna Newell will share hints and tips on preparing funding applications from her experience. Anna has been based in Bray for the last number of years and is one of Ireland's leading theatre makers for young audiences, creating unique theatre adventures for babies, early years, and children/young people with complex needs.

Sinead O'Reilly, Head of Local Arts Development in the Arts Council, will deliver a presentation on the current Arts Council funding schemes and deadlines as well as offering advice on how to connect with staff and advisors.

Artists can apply to receive two workshops from Paul Johnson and Helen Meany, independent arts managers, curators,

and strategists to support the preparation of funding applications.

Following on from the group clinic these are additional supports for artists: each artist will receive two sessions individually delivered and tailored to their own need from either Paul or Helen. The advice clinics will take place via Zoom and artists interested in applying can express interest via the short application on the www.wicklow.ie website under Arts Office - Artist Supports.

Applicant artists should have identified a body of work and funding goals for 2022 to workshop with the advisors. If successful two sessions for each artist will be offered via zoom. The Arts Office will connect successful candidates with the advisors. In the event of oversubscription, shortlisting may apply.

As part of its suite of clinics and development opportunities in 2022, the Arts Office is offering coaching/mentoring sessions with experienced coaches and expert consultants from the arts sector.

It is hoped that this opportunity will support people's resilience and planning in 2022. The objective is to build the confidence and capacity of artists and arts professionals to be at their best in 2022. Artists will express interest via an online application process and if successful will receive two coaching sessions from one of the coaching panels.

The coaches facilitating this opportunity are Katherine Zesserson, Susan Coughlan, Paul Johnson, and Helen Meany. Apply now on www.wicklow.ie via the Arts Office pages. In the event of oversubscription shortlisting may apply.

Phelim & The Drew House Band - Remembering Ronnie & The Dubliners at Whale Theatre

Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th March @ 8pm. Tickets €28 available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550



Phelim Drew

"Growing up I was always struck by the electricity generated by a concert given by The Dubliners," say Phelim Drew. "Looking back I can see clearly that the group was exceptional not only because of the individual strength of the performers but that combined they were a force of nature. That energy and excitement coupled with the unbridled joy of a Dubliner's audience made for a nights entertainment that felt more like a party in full swing where the hosts and guests were in perfect harmony."

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

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

Letting Go

Whale Theatre, Saturday 5th March | 8pm

A story of love, sacrifice and trust, "Letting Go" is a play which follows the relationship of Marie Fleming and Tom Curran; their everlasting love and sacrifices in their fight for Marie's dignity to fulfil her dying wish. This is a love story, which poignantly highlights what it truly means to sacrifice your own want for someone else.

Throughout their 25 year relationship they shared both sorrow, joy and endless love which is depicted in this play through stellar cast Fair City's Pat Nolan, Tina Brown and Mary Pat Moloney. Written and directed by KathyAnn Murphy alongside Tom Curran, this powerful depiction brings the audience on a journey of captivating experiences, showing the true devotion of this couple.

This play was first developed as part of the MA Theatre Practise at UCD and The Gaiety School of Acting and was later developed and extended for the point of touring. The play was first performed in Boys School in Smock Alley Theatre in June 2019.



Antelope Productions presents: MOTHERLAND Songs of 20th Century Women

Dublin born actor & singer Edel Murphy brings her new show to the Whale Theatre, Greystones for a special afternoon performance to mark International Women's Day, 2022, on Sun Mar 6th, 4pm.

It's performed by Edel Murphy (Celtic Woman, Riverdance) & live band. Featuring evocative projected images alongside thought-provoking spoken word, Edel Murphy performs iconic songs of struggle and celebration from such songwriting greats as Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Nina Simone, Kate Bush, Nanci Griffith, Dolly Parton, and The Beatles.

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

Carl Corcoran, of RTÉ Lyric FM, described the show as "A poignant and socially relevant journey over a century of music. Edel Murphy owns these songs and the stage. It was a very moving experience and the musical arrangements are masterful."

See www.motherlandsongs.com for tickets, tour dates and mailing list



Edel Murphy



REMINDER FOR SCHOOLS TO ENTER COMPETITION

Wicklow teachers in primary and second level schools, whose pupils take part in the annual Texaco Children's Art Competition, are reminded that the closing date for receipt of entries this year is Monday, 28th February next. Last year over 400 pupils from schools in Co. Wicklow submitted entries to the Competition. Now in its 68th year, the Texaco Children's Art Competition is widely acknowledged as the longest running arts sponsorship in Ireland.

Transition: An exhibition by Lenore Collins

Signal Arts Centre, Monday 28th February to Sunday 13th March

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

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

When she wasn't getting the same fulfillment out of her realistic work she felt restless. After a collaboration project with an abstract artist where she had to think out of her comfort zone, she found an excitement and a new sense of purpose in the new work. As she went forward down this path of developing abstract pieces she realized that she felt more centered. The reason for this was that she had melded her graphic design sensibilities and her fine art sensibilities into one. This show is the result of this process.

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



Hot Spot Music Club

Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones is finally back up and running again. To kick things off they're bringing back some of the usual musical suspects by popular demand, and planning some new additions, including a comedy club on April Fools Day.

Evening GIGS:

Mar 19th - Thinner Lizzy + support (faux fighters trib)

Mar 26th - Mack Fleetwood

April 15th - Daoiri Farrell

May 14th - Van Morrison Songbook (Celtic Soul)

Visit www.thehotspot.ie/tickets to book your tickets. Remember - Early bookers get a better price!

Tickets available for all gigs ONLINE by phone 087 291 7519 with Credit Card, or in person at venue during opening hours - Located above Beach House Pub, Greystones Harbour. For Gig listings visit www.thehotspot.ie Hot Spot Music Club is also available for Private Events Hire.

Wicklow Federation Drama Festival

Glenealy Village Hall, Saturday 26th Sunday 27th
February Curtain up at 8pm

Saturday 26th February

Delgany ICA: 'Afternoon Theatre' One Act Play by Beatrix Carter Ashford

ICA: 'On the Bus' Sketch by Bernadette Flynn

Lilliput Players Present 'Still Growing Old Disgracefully' by Lua Mc Ilraith with Lua Mc Ilraith and accompanist Pauline Lennon

Sunday 27th February

Ashford ICA: 'Museum Pieces' One Act Play by Joan Greening Avoca ICA:

'Nursery School Going Home Time' Sketch by Joyce Grenville Square One

Drama Group: 'Burds of a Feather' One Act Play by Roy Beatty

Tickets €10 at the door or contact 087 9833935

Kildare and Wicklow ETB looks to the future with launch of national research

Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) have released new market research which shows strong public support for education and training programmes delivered by ETBs nationwide, including Kildare and Wicklow ETB.

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The findings reveal over a third of people want education and training options that are free, co-educational, multi-denominational, and located close to their home.

The release of the research coincides with the official launch of the organisation's strategy statement – which outlines their ambitions for the coming three years. On Thursday, 17th February, representatives from Kildare and Wicklow ETB attended an online event, 'Stronger Together: ETBs for the Future', which explored the opportunities and challenges for the ETB sector in the delivery of education and training programmes.

Commenting, Paddy Lavelle, General

Secretary of ETBI, said: "Our research findings show the public's preference for education provision that is community-based, free and co-ed – and that's exactly what Kildare and Wicklow ETB offers, as well as all other ETBs nationwide. We operate in every county in the Republic of Ireland, providing education across multiple levels from primary school provision to night classes.

"Despite the extent of our education provision, many people are unaware of the scale of services we provide. This has come through in the survey also – while almost half of people recognise that ETBs are regional education and training bodies, much fewer realise the extent to which ETBs, for example, run primary and post-primary schools; provide youth services and apprenticeships; or operate Further Education and Training centres.

"We have some progress to make on awareness of the work and ethos of ETBs, and the time is ripe for that. With the Government target of 400 multid denominational schools by 2030, ETBs are well positioned to run many of these new schools. Our schools are multid denominational, co-educational and State-run, and it will be important – in the coming years – for us to ensure parents and students nationwide are aware of this."

Wider work of ETBs

The findings released by ETBI are based on research undertaken by B&A in January 2022, focusing on the characteristics that parents, families, and individuals prioritise when selecting



RTÉ newsreader and ETB graduate Sharon Tobin; Paddy Lavelle, General Secretary of ETBI and City of Dublin ETB learner, Carly Williams at the 'Stronger Together: ETBs for the Future' event. Photo credit: Marc O'Sullivan Photography

education and training providers at all levels. A survey was conducted with a nationally representative sample of 1,001 adults, aged 16+.

Key findings include:

- When deciding on education and training options for themselves and their families, respondents placed the most importance on free provision (68%), followed by proximity to their home (63%), the availability of primary and secondary school options that share the same ethos and values (54%), co-education (53%), multi-denominational (39%), State-run (33%), and Irish-language provision (26%).
- For Further Education and Training (FET) provision specifically, respondents prioritised: a recognised qualification / accreditation (79%) followed by easily accessible information on the course (73%) and the provision of skills to aid in the development of careers (72%).
- 16% of those surveyed said either they themselves or a family member had participated in

an education or training course with an ETB.

- Of those, the vast majority (73%) had participated in FET provision, including apprenticeships.
- 33% had attended an ETB-run school at either primary (13%) or secondary (20%) levels.
- 6% had participated in a youth service provided by an ETB (ETB youth service provision covers 10 to 24-year-olds).
- Those who participated in education or training with an ETB rated it highly. 84% of participants gave their experience a rating of 5 out of 7 or higher, with particularly positive feedback on ETB FET provision, including apprenticeships.

PLANNING • PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

H.T. Carroll Limited seeks Planning Permission for: The demolition of the existing warehouse building, while retaining the existing south western boundary wall adjacent to the rear of Belton Terrace, and the construction of a two storey apartment building of 4 No. Two Bedroom Units, with associated private open spaces, landscaping and drainage works, and 3 No. car parking spaces at the corner of Burkes Lane / Dwyer Park, Ravenswell, Bray, 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

Michael Duffy seeks Planning Permission for the construction of 1 no. detached dwelling (Total Floor Area 138sqm), sharing existing Rockchapel House access onto Lott Lane, and all associated site works and services at Lott Lane, Kilcoole, 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.



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:

• ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OFFICER PERMANENT

REF: 04/2022 Salary €49,530 – €60,512 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

• ASSISTANT ARCHITECT PERMANENT

REF: 05/2022 Salary €40,422 – €63,365 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2022 SHARP.

Application Forms and further details may be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20159 or by emailing recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie and on the Wicklow County Council website 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
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PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS AND APPOINTMENTS IS 12 NOON FRIDAY



Still time for Wicklow second-level students to enter EPA competition

Further details of finale event for The Story of Your Stuff competition also announced

Students from Wicklow still have time to enter this year's EPA The Story of Your Stuff competition and be in the running for the top prize – €500 for themselves and €500 for their school – as details of the virtual finale event were announced last week.

CLASSIFIEDS

Luke 6:27-38 GOSPEL

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

C.J.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

S.W.

Stephen Fennell, EPA Programme Manager, said:

"The finale of The Story of Your Stuff is an opportunity to highlight the creativity of Ireland's environmentally-minded young people, who have put so much effort into their competition entries. It is a showcase of their creativity and a chance for us to understand some of their most pressing environmental concerns."

There is still plenty of time to submit an entry, and I would urge students and teachers across Wicklow to participate in this year's competition. Entering is as simple as picking an everyday object or activity, researching its environ-

mental impact and telling its story in a creative way."

The virtual event is scheduled for Wednesday, 6th April 2022, with shortlisted students at the heart of the competition's finale event. Students will have the chance to hear from competition ambassador and candidate-astronaut, Dr Norah Patten and submit their own questions to her. Shortlisted entries will be showcased at the event and the students will get a great opportunity to tell us more about their entry and why it was close to their hearts. The event will culminate with the announcement of the recipient of the Irish-language prize, the Climate Topic prize, and the overall winner of the top prize.

Now it's sixth year, The Story of Your Stuff has the empowerment of students at its core, encouraging young people to realise the influence they can have on their friends and family when it comes to making environmentally responsible consumer choices. With its focus on sustainability, waste management, climate action and



Overall winner of the 2021 'Story of Your Stuff' competition, Robert Urquhart of Presentation College, Athenry.

environmental protection, the competition asks young people to think, talk and make small changes that can have far-reaching impacts.

Full competition guidelines and tips are available at <https://www.thestoryofyourstuff.ie/>. Entrants are encouraged to use the EPA's Ireland's

Environment web resource, www.IrelandsEnvironment.ie when researching their project. The deadline for entries is Monday, 7th March 2022.

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