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Tuesday 8th March 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# 'KICKED BETWEEN MINISTERS'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has slammed the continuous passing of the buck by the Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan and the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries Charlie McConalogue in relation to the case of local Arklow fisherman, CJ Gaffney. This is despite being offered a solution on a plate by the EU Commission.

Deputy Brady said: "Over the last number of years, I have been working hard to try to get a resolution for local Arklow fisherman CJ Gaffney. However, the failure by both the Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan and the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries Charlie McConalogue to take responsibility for the issue is outrageous. The plight of the Arklow fisherman is being kicked between both Ministers, with neither prepared to do the decent thing and deal with the issue and progress the solution provided by the EU Commission.

"CJ Gaffney is an ordinary individual, who purchased a fishing trawler, the Mary Kate WD30, in 2007 in good faith. It was deemed fit for purpose by several surveys and passed as seaworthy by the Marine Survey Office.

"It was subsequently found to have serious stability issues - tests showed 20 tonnes of unaccounted steel were in the vessel. The family spent considerable funds trying to rectify the serious issues. The funds ultimately were exhausted, leaving the family without a boat or any finances.



Wicklow Hospice hosted its eighth half marathon and 10km road race on 26th February, with 163 participants. Pictured are 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Women's Half Marathon; Vanessa Fenton (centre), Katherine Teelings (right), and Jessica Deely (left). Pic: Michael Kelly

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"This issue was found to be a fault with this particular type of vessel across Europe. The European Commission informed Mr Gaffney that while the issue was outside of their remit, the Irish government would be able to draw down EU funds from the European Fisheries Fund to compensate Mr Gaffney, given the very unique circumstances of his case.

"The Irish government has failed to do this, and what we have witnessed is a case of 'passing the buck' between government departments, as they work to avoid taking responsibility for the matter. In my latest reply from the Green Party Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan, he again refuses to take responsibility for the issue and said that he would 'suggest that the individual concerned should contact

the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine.

"He is yet again attempting to kick it back to Charlie McConalogue, who had kicked it to him. Behind the appalling and shameful game being played between these two Ministers is a man and a family who have lost everything through no fault of their own. A solution has been offered by the EU Commission, all it takes is for one of them to give some respect to the family and show a little leadership and progress the solution.

"I had previously written to the Taoiseach Michael Martin and asked him to intervene and to outline which government department is the competent department to deal with the case. Unfortunately, I am still awaiting a reply. The Taoiseach needs to pull together a cross departmental meeting with CJ

Gaffney and the Wicklow TDs to resolve this scandalous case once

and for all. I am writing to the three Wicklow Government TDs and

asking them to immediately arrange this meeting."

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To coincide with International Women's Day, Cleanmarine was delighted to hand over a number of copies of their *Essential Guide to Female Hormones* to Wicklow Library. The handy guide is full of information and advice from Cleanmarine's expert panel to help educate women about the effects female hormones have on overall wellbeing at each stage of womanhood, from teens all the way through life. Pictured at the handover is Loreto Rose from Wicklow Library with Mary Rose Devereaux from Cleanmarine. Pic: Tim Thornton

## 80's disco Fundraiser for Arklow Baton Twirlers

A GoFundMe campaign has been created by Arklow Baton Twirlers to help support their top athletes.

Since September 2021 Leah Walker Moore, Alex Murphy, Niamh Dowling and Ciara Kelly have been traveling to Dublin (following all government covid guidelines) to train with athletes from across Ireland as part of the Ireland Baton Twirling squad who will compete at the European Cup in Blanes Spain in July representing Ireland.

Over the last 2 years the club's fundraising events have completely stopped due to the covid pandemic. They have therefore set up this GoFundMe page to help support the cost of travel and accommodation for the girls as well as hosting an 80's Disco Fundraiser in **The Royal Hotel Arklow on Friday 25th March**. Doors open at 8.30pm and entry is €10. Fancy dress optional - should be a great night. If you can't make the night itself but would like to support the fundraiser however big or small - all donations would be gratefully appreciated. See <https://www.gofundme.com/f/arklow-baton-twirlers>

## Bray Arts is back

Bray Arts is back again on Monday 7th March in the Martello Hotel. This event will feature a selection of traditional Irish music from Comhaltas Bhre; Local SAean-nos singer Eileen O; A book launch from Bray Arts Journal editor Michael O'Reilly, Contemporary local poet Phil Lynch, and Ceili with Carmel Kearns, Bean on Ti. Admission is €5.

## Brockagh Market

The Brockagh Market & Car Boot is on Sunday 13th of March. Open to the public from 10am to 4pm. Tea, coffee and food snacks are available. Indoor and outdoor market is now alongside the

new Glendalough Farmers Market (every 2nd Sunday, to book Irish Farmers Market contact Sean Mcardle, email [seandavidmcardle@gmail.com](mailto:seandavidmcardle@gmail.com) or mobile 087 6115016).

The barrier will be locked from 6pm Saturday evening until 8am Sunday morning. You can contact us by phone 0404 45600 (Wed-Fri 9am to 2pm) or email [carbootbrockagh@gmail.com](mailto:carbootbrockagh@gmail.com).

Social distancing and masks must be worn when using the toilet facilities in accordance with government guidelines.

## Soup & Sandwiches returns

After 2 years the Soup and Sandwiches Lunch is resuming on Tuesday, 15th March in the Swann Hall in St. Patrick's Church, Greystones from 12.30 until 2.00. Everyone welcome. Suggested donation of 5 euro.

## Glendalough Farmers Market New Dates

The Glendalough Farmers Market will now be on the 2nd Sunday of the month along with the Brockagh Market and Car Boot for the next few months and not every Sunday.

"We look forward to having the weekly Glendalough Farmers Market back soon. Every 2nd, Sunday of the month from 11 am to 4 pm in the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh."

For more details contact Sean Mcardle email [seandavidmcardle@gmail.com](mailto:seandavidmcardle@gmail.com) or mobile 087 6115016.

## Volunteers needed for Bray Tidy Towns clean-up

Bray Tidy Towns are looking for volunteers for their clean-ups on March 19th and 26th, and also April 2nd. The group will be cleaning up the Ravenswell Road walkway, clearing beds and putting down pollinator plants. The meeting time is 10:30am.

## Outdoor taster sessions

If you've ever wanted to try out yoga, dance or fitness classes, get yourself down to Bray seafront this March for some free taster sessions by the sea. The sessions will take place every Wednesday morning from 10-11am for four weeks, starting on 8th March. All fitness levels are welcome and you'll get a free Sports Partnership tee-shirt.

The taster sessions are being put on by Bray Area Partnership's Social Prescribing for Bray and North Wicklow initiative, in collaboration with Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership.

Places will be limited so book now by calling the partnership on 01 286 8266 or email [alex@brayareapartnership.ie](mailto:alex@brayareapartnership.ie). For more information see [www.brayareapartnership.ie](http://www.brayareapartnership.ie).

# Library service celebrating International Women's Day

Wicklow County Council Library Service has planned some interesting and engaging events to celebrate International Women's Day this week.

Join Wicklow Historian, Joan Kavanagh, in Wicklow Town Library to mark International Women's Day 2022 as she tells the story of Eliza Davis who was transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1845 for the crime of infanticide. This talk will take place in the Exhibition Space in Wicklow Library on 8th March from 7pm to 8pm.

Also, in Wicklow Town Library on Thursday, 10th March, Wicklow's own unsung heroine Sara Phillips will be in conversation with Mary Millett from County Wicklow Partnership. Sara is on the board of the National

Women's Council and is also chairperson of the Transgender Equality Network. Sara and Mary will chat about various issues that affect transgender women and will also be inviting contributions from the audience.

To book either of these Wicklow Town library events, please contact Wicklow library on 0404 67025 or [wicklilb@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklilb@wicklowcoco.ie)

Blessington Library will mark International Women's Day with a celebration of women's poetry. This will be facilitated by Paul O'Connor of PoulaPoetry. Attendees are invited to bring along a

poem that they love; the poem must be penned by a woman poet but can be submitted or read by a man or a woman. There will be conversation and reflection about the poems. Please call 045 891740 or email [blessingtonlib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:blessingtonlib@wicklowcoco.ie) for further information.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson said: "I am delighted Wicklow County Council Library Service can host in-person events this year for International Women's Day. This is a day to celebrate women, to highlight past struggles while also empowering women and

men to embrace any opportunity that can build on achievements to date and improve the lives of women and girls in Wicklow and beyond".

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, recognising the significance of this event, said: "It is important that we mark International Women's Day and pay tribute to the significant role women play in our community."

Wicklow County Council Library Service is delighted to facilitate these events and look forward to welcoming people back into the comfort of their library spaces.

# Walk with the Wicklow Lions!

'Sing with the Lions' composed by Lion Sean Olohan has proven to be one of the most popular "Lions" songs of all time throughout the world. Now it's time to 'Walk with the Lions'.

Wicklow Lions are all set to smash the Guinness World Record for the "Largest Gathering of People Dressed as Lions" in mid March.

The latest news is that the local Dominican college has come onboard to help out thanks to Principal Lorraine Mynes and all the girls who will be taking part.

Over 250 students will wear the official Lions costumes on March 15 which will be filmed and photographed. The result of this will be submitted to the Guinness World Record office in the UK.

Then on March 17 everyone is very welcome to come along (with or without costumes) for a



Lions Pride Walk through the streets of Wicklow in the St Patrick's Parade to celebrate this wonderful achievement. There will also be representatives

from various Lions clubs from different parts of Ireland. Both events will be a once in a lifetime spectacle which will be covered by TV and Press

and will receive worldwide promotion.

Exciting times for the Wicklow club, for Lions Clubs Ireland, and Lions International.



For the first time since 2019 the Tinahely Darkness into Light walk/run will take place on May 7th 2022. The committee have already met and begun the preparations for this event. The walk/run will again commence at Tinahely Community Centre going out the road towards The Togher and returning through the forest towards the railway car park. Registering is done online, but there will be an opportunity to register in the Courthouse on Sat 9th April from 10-1. Details of a colouring competition will be forwarded to local Primary schools in the coming weeks. Further updates will be provided over the coming weeks on Tinahely DIL facebook page.

WICKLOW  
Times

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is published by Wicklow Times,

First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01-2869111

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# Wicklow ready to capitalise on opportunities in new Mid-East Regional Plan

Wicklow will capitalise on the strengths and opportunities presented by the new Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan which was launched in Wicklow last Thursday by Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English.

Among the projects for Wicklow are: The development of an incubation food development hub in County Wicklow; Develop and operate a Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew; Establish Crew Development Hubs to develop and nurture new and diverse talent from across the region; Implement the Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy to lead to the growth of the industry across the region; Enterprise Hub for specialised and customised, sector specific business supports for the Irish screen content creation sector.

Almost €9 million is to be spent on projects across the region, including €1.4m for Clermont Enterprise Hub.

Speaking at the event in County Buildings, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen said he was delighted to join Minister English in the launch of "this very ambitious enterprise plan which sets out our economic development plans throughout the region. The Plan is the culmination of an intensive period of consultation over the past numbers of month with the various stakeholders within the Mid-East Enterprise Steering Committee."

He added: "There was considerable engagement between the respective local authorities and the various stakeholders through the Steering Committee, which is chaired by Owen Brennan, Executive Chairman of Devenish, and has resulted in the publication of an ambitious plan which consists of five strategic objectives for the region that will be met through the delivery of a number of defined actions up to the end of 2024."

At local level in Wicklow he said "we look

forward to driving these actions and seizing the various opportunities for the local economy, and position the Mid-East region as a desirable location to live, work invest and continue to learn."

The Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson stated: "The new Regional Enterprise Plan has been an excellent framework for regional co-operation at local authority level through Wicklow, Kildare and Meath County Councils and at an enterprise level between the public sector and private enterprise. With continued regional collaboration, knowledge sharing and a solution mindset, I am confident that the actions within the plan will facilitate the continued economic development, especially by reversing commuting through remote working solutions through a network of remote working hubs."

He said they would be supporting transition to a climate neutral economy through renewable energy and green technology opportunities such as the offshore wind parks adding: "We will build on the development of a maritime enterprise cluster and training facility together with our training and industry partners."

"We intend to continue to capitalise on the strengths of the Mid East region, and I'm particularly thinking of the consolidation of the thriving screen and content creation cluster that is responding to the global demand for content and also the related training and skills development. In addition, through Wicklow Naturally we will highlight and promote our top quality local food producers and move to realise a food incubation Hub."

Minister English said the Mid-East Plan, covering counties Kildare, Meath and Wicklow was

one of nine new enterprise plans throughout the country which will be funded by up to €180m. This funding will drive the implementation of the plans which will develop and implement collaborative and innovation enterprise projects in the regions and support sustainable jobs.

The REPs have been developed using a 'bottom up' approach by people who have a real stake in their community. This model made the Plan unique and responsive to the opportunities and needs of the region, with a focus on regional collaboration.

Minister English stated: "Across counties Meath, Wicklow and Kildare an enormous effort was made by our Enterprise Agencies, Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland, the Local Enterprise Offices, Local Authorities, Regional Assemblies, higher and further education bodies and the private sector in delivering this new Regional Enterprise Plan for the Mid-East."

"Throughout 2021, I had the pleasure of working with the entire Mid-East Committee during the development of the plan. I want to congratulate and thank Owen Brennan, Chair of the Mid-East Steering Committee, Eamonn Sinnott, Chair before him, Conor Sweeney, Mid-East Programme Manager, and everyone involved across the three counties for their work in producing this new and ambitious plan to help develop and grow enterprise across the region."

"The Mid-East Plan contains five agreed 'Strategic Objectives' for enterprise development, accompanied by time-bound actions that deliver the objectives. The objectives focus on the regions areas of strength including on agri-food, screen content creation, equine

sector, the regions acceleration to low-carbon and ensuring the enterprise ecosystem in the region is strong.

"The competitive funding available will allow the region to pursue their ambitious plan and I look forward to working with Owen and the Steering Committee through to 2024 in delivering growth in this thriving region."

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Mr Simon Harris, also welcomed the plan, saying: "The Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan will help to drive regional growth and create new opportunities for people and businesses right across this region. Importantly, these Plans will build on the successes already created and ensure they go from strength to strength."

"From my Department's perspective, our skills agenda will act as a key driver and enabler for growth in the region. I am pleased to see the Regional Skills Forum has been at the heart of bringing this plan to completion."

Mr Owen Brennan, Chair of the Mid-East Regional Steering Committee, commented: "I am really pleased that Minister English is here today to launch the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan. By focusing on the five strategic objectives across agri-food, screen content, equine, a low carbon economy and a positive enterprise ecosystem, the steering committee are putting in place projects and initiatives that ensures the Mid-East realise that sustained growth and employment creation for the longer-term. We believe these objectives will act as key differentiators for the region."

Minister Simon Harris TD, said: "I am delighted to be here today in my own constituency to sup-



CEO of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson, with Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Shay Cullen, and Minister of State Damien English outside County Buildings in Wicklow Town during the Minister's visit last Thursday.

port the launch of the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan. These plans will help drive regional growth and create new opportunities for people and businesses right across the Mid-East."

"Importantly, they will build on the successes already created and ensure they go from strength to strength. From my Department's perspective, our skills agenda will act as a key driver and enabler for growth in the region. I am pleased to see the Regional Skills Forum has been at the heart of bringing this plan to completion."

Owen Brennan, Chair of the Mid-East Regional Steering Committee said: "I am really pleased that Minister English and Minister Harris are here today to launch the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan. By focusing on the five strategic objectives across agri food, screen content, equine, a low carbon economy and a positive enterprise ecosystem, the steering committee are putting in place projects and initiatives that ensures the Mid-East realise sustained growth and employment creation for the longer-term. We believe these objectives will act as key differentiators for the region."

Each of the five strategic objectives of the plan

contain a number of actions. The attempt to position the Mid-East as the primary location for the development of the agri food hubs, will see: The completion of the Boyne Valley Food Hub (Phase 1) and the development of the Digital Innovation Smart Agri Hub (Phase 2); The development of the Athlone Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub; The development of an incubation food development hub in County Wicklow;

The creation of the Boyne Valley Culinary Centre of Excellence.

The strategic objective to develop the Mid-East as a hub for the screen content creation sector will see the development of a Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew; The establishment of Crew Development Hubs to develop and nurture new and diverse talent from across the region; and the implementation of the

Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy to lead to the growth of the industry across the region.

In order to develop and expand equine businesses across the Mid-East, the first National Equine Innovation Centre in Ireland will be established. There will be programmes and training for the growth of the equine sector and a feasibility study will be carried out to examine the expansion of the National Equine Innovation Centre.

Mermaid Arts Centre and Once Off Productions present

## LOOKING FOR AMÉRICA

By Federico Julián González and Janet Moran

*Sometimes the idea of home has to be remade. And remade. And remade.*

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# Sign up to largest anti-litter initiative in the country

Registrations are now open for National Spring Clean 2022, calling all communities in county Wicklow to register for Ireland's largest and longest anti-litter campaign and make a tangible impact on our environment.

National Spring Clean is operated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce in partnership with Local Authorities and supported by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Mars Wrigley Ireland.

The National Spring Clean traditionally takes part in the month of April. For the past 23 years 85,000 clean-ups have been organised with

volunteers dedicating a total of 12 million hours to remove around 42,000 tonnes of litter across the country. National Spring Clean 2021 was the biggest and the longest campaign so far, taking place between March and August, and despite the current situation and restrictions at the start of the year, 5,543 groups registered to carry out clean-ups throughout the country and collected an estimated 3,000 tonnes of

litter around Ireland.

In 2021 2,500 Wicklow volunteers participated in organised clean-ups to show their support to the National Spring Clean. This year, building on the success of previous years, the hope is to make the National Spring Clean campaign the biggest yet.

The National Spring Clean is also an opportunity for volunteers to take local actions to make a change at a glob-

al scale. As a matter of fact, over the last couple of years, the National Spring Clean has also been trying to raise awareness about another crucial issue: the link between litter and climate change - the biggest environmental challenge of our time - and highlight how combined local actions can have a global effect. Our consumption patterns and how we dispose and treat our waste has a substantial impact on the levels of emissions of several greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change.

Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD, said: "An Taisce's National Spring Clean is a real testament to the work of



Members of Rathdrum Tidy Towns and Rathdrum Trout Anglers at a clean-up.

volunteers all over the country. These volunteers continue to organise local clean-ups every year. The past two years have proven difficult because of the necessary Covid restrictions, but this year represents a real opportunity for people to get together and help clean up our countryside. I would urge people to get involved and I would like to acknowledge the key role played by An Taisce in overseeing the campaign. My Department will continue to provide

support to the campaign and I look forward to the many events that will be held countrywide."

National Spring Clean, Chairperson, Michael John O'Mahony, commented: "We have all been through some unprecedented times over the last two years. We all became more aware than ever before of our local areas. Participants continued to undertake great work for National Spring Clean in family bubbles or as individuals during these times. However, we

can now look forward to working together again as larger groups and communities and celebrate the success together."

The National Spring Clean programme is inviting people to visit the website at [www.nationalspringclean.org](http://www.nationalspringclean.org) to request a free clean-up kit.

While waiting for the National Spring Clean to officially kick off, the programme is also inviting communities around Ireland to join other ini-

tiatives. For example, volunteers are invited to take part in the #2minutestreetclean campaign and join the conversation on social media (details in the editor's note). Furthermore, to celebrate Women's Day, the National Spring Clean programme will be sharing on social media stories of women who have made a positive impact on our environment and is calling people in county Wicklow to share their own stories about women volunteers.



Members of Rathdrum Tidy Towns and Rathdrum Trout Anglers

## Council building path to Archers Wood new houses

Works have begun to provide a footpath and lights on Priory Road, Delgany, from the Archers Wood new houses to Eden Gate Shops, connecting to the rest of the town footpaths.

The works began on 23rd February. Welcoming the news, Cllr Derek Mitchell said "The work should take a month to complete. About a 100 houses are occupied with another 350 to be built. When finished there will be two more paths to the estate but this could take some time. I have been concerned that there is no safe walking access now, so the Council is using the Development Levies to provide it."

## CLÁR funding to help revitalise local rural communities

Wicklow groups can apply now for CLÁR funding to help revitalise local rural communities.

Minister Simon Harris said, "Fine Gael is working to create stronger safer communities and in Government we are prioritising programmes like the CLÁR Programme to achieve this. My colleague Minister Heather Humphreys today announced €7 million nationally for the 2022 CLÁR Programme. This is significant funding for rural communities and it represents an increase of 25% on last year's allocation.

"Wicklow groups can apply now for CLÁR funding which supports small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have experienced significant levels of population decline. The funding is for the development of local facilities and amenities in rural areas."

The Programme covers projects to enhance or develop the following facilities: Multi-Use Gaming Areas (MUGAs)/Astro-Turf Facilities; Skateboard

Parks; Playgrounds; Handball Alleys; Tennis Courts; Basketball Courts; Community Gyms; Community Cinemas; Sensory Gardens; Community Gardens; Outdoor Bowling Areas; Walking / Running Tracks; Outdoor Toilet Facilities; Car Parking; Public Lighting.

"Voluntary organisations in Wicklow will be able to apply for funding to acquire wheelchair accessible vehicles under this fund. This will facilitate free transport services to day-care and medical services for people with mobility issues

and for those attending cancer treatment centres.

"For the first time, Community First Responder Organisations, as well as Voluntary Search and Rescue Organisations, can also apply for funding through CLÁR.

"CLÁR provides small grants which can make a big difference and I am encouraging local community groups, youth clubs, men and women sheds and sports clubs to apply via their Local Authority if they have an idea for a project which could make a difference in their area."

## Ballinaclash Community Hall awarded €63,000 under Town & Village Renewal Scheme

There was great excitement in Ballinaclash over the past days with the announcement that they were being awarded €63,000 for the renovation of Ballinaclash Community Hall.

The works will provide remote working facilities and community hub for the area. The project will start with facilities for four remote working spaces including kitchen and toilet facilities. In addition, there will be accessible meeting room facilities.

Chairman of the Ballinaclash Community Association, Andy Byrne, said he was overwhelmed with the announcement. "The committee over the past number of years have put a huge effort into brining the hall up to a modern standard and this announcement is just the icing on the cake and will bring the works to a conclusion."

Andy went on to say "I want to thank the committee for their time and dedication to the community. I also want to thank Wicklow County Council for working with us here in Ballinaclash and also to Cllr. Pat Kennedy for his commitment to Ballinaclash and his work in the community.

"The Community Hall is much used in Ballinaclash and provides a space for card playing, the youth club, and local meetings. The proposed working facilities will bring a new facet to the community hall going forward."



Pictured outside Ballinaclash Community Hall are (Front Row from left): Cllr Pat Kennedy and Andy Byrne (Chairman of the Ballinaclash Community Association), and (Back Row from left); Aisling Cullen, Breda Byrne, and Winnie O'Hanlon

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# Ray of Sunshine have opened their brand new state of the art Full Day Care Service in Rathnew

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- Our transport department offers a collect & drop home service including activity drops & collections.

## National Childcare Scheme

NCS is a huge incentive for all families from working families to families returning to studying. All families in Ireland who apply will be given 50cents off per hours awarded from September. Apply now to avail before September. NCS can be used for school term and outside of school term i.e Mid terms and Camps. Another bonus to NCS it can go towards your childcare transport needs. Go to [ncs.gov.ie](http://ncs.gov.ie) or call NCS Parent Support Centre on 01 906 8530.

## Tender for Primary schools in Co.Wicklow

Ray of Sunshine morning and after school services is a 7 time award winning service since 2014. We are department of education registered and Tusla certified. We would like to invite primary schools in the Wicklow area who may be interested in having an onsite facility for their families and staff to utilise outside of school hours to contact our head office on **087 2724881** or email **Lros.wicklow@gmail.com** for a business proposal.





# BRAY POPE PASSES

*The death has occurred of Bray's long time 'Spiritual Father', the Very Rev. Monsignor John O'Connell, DD, PE, of Most Holy Redeemer Parish.*

**Having served the people of Bray since 1974 as curate, parish priest and pastor emeritus in the Parish of the Most Holy Redeemer, Fr John has died in his 90th year.**

A proud Kerry man, Fr John was one of the most respected clerics of the Dublin Archdiocese, and was considered for the role of Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland. Fr John introduced many progressive practices to Bray that have come to be embraced as usual across the Irish Church. In 1981, following a consultation process of Dublin clergy amongst deaneries, and regional assemblies of priests, Fr John was rumoured to be a likely Auxiliary Bishop in the Dublin Archdiocese. In 1984, with the departure of Archbishop Dermot Ryan from the See of Dublin to Rome, Fr John together with the eventual appointment, Most Rev. Dr. Kevin McNamara, Bishop of Kerry, were mentioned as likely successors. With the appointment of Bishop Kevin McNamara as Archbishop of Dublin, Fr. John was in 1985 appointed a Vicar General of the Dublin Archdiocese with the title Monsignor. Very conscious of his Sliabh Luachra heritage and traditions, Fr John was a keen enthusiast in Gaelic Games, Gaelic culture and ultimate pride in Kerry, as

well as being a keen Gaeilgeoir. Bray parishioners have variously described Fr John as "Friend", "Our Spiritual Father" and "Bray's Pope." His pastoral life was marked by service to the people of Bray. In April 1980 he attended the scene of the tragic deaths of Carl McAuley (14) and John McCreddin (13) following the collapse of a derelict house on Killarney Road, Bray. This had a lasting impact on his outreach to children and young people of the parish, especially through the schools as well as through an active folk group in the parish.

Fr John was born on New Year's Day, 1933 to small dairy farmers Hugh O'Connell and Hanna O'Brien in Counguilla, Scartaglin, Castleisland, Co. Kerry in the Sliabh Luachra area of Munster. Having attended St Brendan's College, Killarney, where he distinguished himself both academically and on the Gaelic football field, he entered the Dublin archdiocesan seminary of Holy Cross College, Clonliffe, studying at University College Dublin. Following his ordination for the

Dublin archdiocese in 1957, Fr John was sent to study in Rome by Archbishop John Charles McQuaid at the Pontifical Teutonic College, Rome (when fellow Kerry man Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, the WWII 'Pimpnel of the Vatican' was in residence) as well as earning a Doctorate in Divinity from the Jesuit founded Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome where Latin continued to be the principal language of instruction for lectures and examinations, and which boasts 17 popes, 24 saints and 50 beato as graduates.

Upon his return to Dublin in 1961, the then Rev. Dr. John O'Connell joined the staff of the archdiocesan seminary of Holy Cross College, Clonliffe, where he lectured in Fundamental and Sacramental Theology. At the same time he served as Chaplain to Mountjoy Prison where he had to prepare a number of prisoners for execution and was fortunate for all that in each case the sentence of death was commuted.

Coming to Bray in 1974, he served as curate to the Very Rev. John



Fr John O'Connell

Canon Pigott, Parish Priest of Bray from 1964 to 1981. Canon Pigott was a personal friend of General Michael Collins and administered the Last Rites to Liam Mellows. Succeeding Canon Pigott, Fr John became Parish Priest of Bray in 1981. Through the endeavours of

Fr John, Bray was the first parish in Ireland to administer Holy Communion to the hand. In 1980 he introduced a simple form of Confession for those who found it a

severe ordeal, saying that those that came to Confession need only say "I am sorry for my sins and I want forgiveness." By the early 1980s this had developed in to a Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation which attracted as many as 1,000 penitents and was continued on a regular basis by Fr John, particularly in preparation for each Easter and Christmas. Fr John was an early adopter of lay Ministers of the Eucharist, both at Mass and in the wider community bearing in mind those who were sick and the large number of nursing homes in Bray. In the early 1980s, Fr John introduced a Parish Renewal weekend discussion programme. From this developed in 1983 a new style of Redemptorist Parish Mission conducted in parishioner's homes. The parish of approximately 2,000 homes was divided into 60 subdivisions of approximately 25 Catholic families, members of which were invited to a neighbour's home for a weekly get-together, with tea and coffee facilitated by both parish and Redemptorist clergy with lay-mission leaders such as Frank Daly and Dermot Quigley. The Mission was undertaken over a number of weeks largely concentrated on down to earth discussions of issues relevant to Irish families and the modern

Church concluding on the final night with a Station Mass in someone's home. In 1984 the parish became the first in Ireland to elect a Parish Pastoral Council, made up of Paddy O'Riordan, R. McGuire, Joan Buckley and Deirdre Duddy. In 1985 Fr John oversaw the building of the new presbytery by Tom Dodd of Dodd Engineering Ltd. funded by a bequest and additional fundraising undertaken by Joe Duggan. Following on one of the first recommendations of the Parish Pastoral Council was to provide a Parish Community Centre. The conversion of the Victorian presbytery on Herbert Road into a Parish Community Centre became one of Fr John's enduring achievements, providing community space to both parish and outside groups, the continued closure of which caused him great disappointment.

Fr John was active in founding Open Door in 1983, and was instrumental in The Legion of Mary making Fatima House available in 1985. Olive Quinn, Mary Hackett and Paraigin Hughes were the driving forces. With the kind assistance of the Loreto Nuns, the Vevay Road site was made available to Open Door in the 1990s.

Under Fr John, in 1992 Most Holy Redeemer Parish celebrated the bicentenary year of the 'Big Church' on Main Street since the building of a penal chapel within the town. Pat Hunt organised a memorable lecture by Prof. Brendan Kennelly FTCD on the poet Patrick Kavanagh. A Time capsule and Wicklow slate plaque was inserted into the wall above the belfry door was organised by Frank Loughrey. Handel's Messiah was performed in the church by Bray Coral Society. In February a special Mass with Cardinal Connell, Archbishop of Dublin as chief-celebrant was co-concelebrated with local clergy, all priests who had served in Bray over the past and all priests who were born in Bray. A significant aspect of this Mass was the presence of altar-servers from each of the town's schools, both girls and boys.

The Mass was followed by the official opening of the refurbished Little Flower Hall by the Archbishop, undertaken by Tom Dodd of Dodd Engineering Ltd. In the summer, amid an exhibition of parish artefacts including vestments and sodality banners, Irish Times journalist and historian Brendan Ó Cathaoir published a history Most Holy Redeemer 1792-1992: A Bray Parish. Joe Duggan organised a summer festival in the grounds of St Thomas' Community College. The bicentenary year celebrations concluded with an Ecumenical Harvest Flower Festival in

the church with many aspects of our Church and community life were portrayed in numerous flower displays under the direction of Carol Bone. To mark the formal closing of the flower festival an ecumenical prayers here held in the church with a combined Most Holy Redeemer Church/Christ Church choir with Church of Ireland minister the Rev. Ginie Kennerley as preacher.

In 1992 to cut the expense of First Holy Communion and Confirmation clothes on families, as well as trying to stop 'a best dressed competition' amongst the children, Fr John steered the adoption of specially made white albs to be hired out for children receiving the sacraments. Initially adopted by a number of Bray parishes, the adoption of the white albs has spread to many other parishes. From 1996, the preparation of the sacraments through the parish was emphasised, cooperating with the schools and bringing sacramental preparation into the family setting, at the heart of the parish.

Following the tragic and horrific Omagh Bombing in August 1998, Fr John led the people of Bray in specially organised ecumenical prayers for peace. The afternoon liturgy held in Most Holy Redeemer Church was packed to overflowing, and included the participation of all the clergy of the town, of every denomination. Fr John was active in ecumenical relations, particularly the local Bray Churches Together. In 1983 the four Bray Catholic parishes and the Church of Ireland parish jointly participated in a charity fundraising campaign with the winner having the privilege to name a Charity Lord Mayor of Bray.

This campaign helped to bring the Catholic and Protestant communities very close together in Bray. On a number of occasions Fr John fundraised in aid of repairs to the roof of Christ Church, Bray: on the first occasion in February 1984 by running a very successful cake sale and sale of work from the Little Flower Hall.

Fr John presented the cheque to the Rev. Richard Large, Rector of Christ Church, reinforcing the already strong relations between the two denominations in Bray. In 2000 a further collection was made at Masses in aid of the Christ Church's roof.

In 2007, having celebrated his Golden Jubilee of his ordination in 1957 and with retirement as parish priest in sight, Fr John undertook the funding and building of a new purpose built Youth Centre beside the Parish Community Centre on Herbert Road. When Fr John first came to Bray, the parish sponsored Bray Summer Project annually

attracted 750 children participating. The new Youth Centre was built as a legacy for all the young people of Bray and surrounding areas, it was blessed by Fr John and opened in August 2008 with a dedicated youth worker employed.

In retirement as parish priest, Fr John continued to minister as pastor emeritus to Most Holy Redeemer Parish. He continued to celebrate Mass until very recently. His greatest love, for the People of God was epitomised by his discreet attendance at Mass, when he would sit in the body of the congregation. As pastor emeritus he remained active in the parish undertaking such programmes as a series of Lenten talks each year.

Always a very proud Kerry man, his heart was raised by the sight of a Kerry jersey in the congregation at Mass, especially on All Ireland Sunday. Impartiality was set aside when he would invoke God's blessings on the Kerry Team and lead prayers for a Kerry victory. Conscious of his Sliabh Luachra heritage, he was a keen Gaeilgeoir who gently used the language at any and every opportunity if introduced to a fellow enthusiast. In 1970 Fr John was elected President of the Dublin branch of the Past Pupil Union of St Brendan's College, Killarney. A great supporter of the GAA, he remained an active supporter of his home club Scartaglin GAA and its senior divisional Gaelic football team St Kieran's, while actively promoting Bray Emmets GAA Club, serving as its President for many years.

Supported by a wonderful family of siblings, nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, Fr John would return annually, often four times a year, including over Christmas, after Easter and mid-summer, to his home place of Counguilla, Scartaglin, Castleisland, Co. Kerry, where he was welcomed and loved. In death, it is to Scartaglin that he returns, to lie with his late parents at Kilsarcon cemetery, in the largess of Kerry, tended by an extended loving family who have him again following their gifting of him to Bray, the Dublin archdiocese and the Church.

Fr John was chosen by a team of adjudicators chaired by Lady Valerie Goulding in 1980 as the Bray Endeavour Award Man of the Year Award presented by Bray Chamber of Commerce.

In the award's citation Fr John was recognised "for his pastoral work in an area 'of unprecedented population growth', praising his "vision of practical and daily Christianity."

With the death of Fr John, Bray indeed sees the end of an era. Ceol na n-aingéal go gcoise sé agus leaba i measc na naomh na hÉireann go raibh aige



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## COVID-19 vaccine booster for 12 to 15 year olds

**All children aged 12 to 15 are being offered a COVID-19 vaccine booster.**

### Why is this age group being offered a booster dose?

The protection that your child has from their initial COVID-19 vaccines may weaken over time. Their booster dose should give them better protection and reduce their chances of getting seriously ill.

It is especially important for children with high risk health conditions, or if a family member is more at risk. COVID-19 usually causes mild illness or no symptoms in children this age, but it can cause more severe illness.

### How long to wait before getting a booster

Most children can get their booster six months after their last COVID-19 vaccine. If they had COVID-19 since their last vaccine, they will need to wait six months after diagnosis before they get their booster.

### Appointments and consent

You can book an appointment at a HSE vaccination centre on a day and time that suits you at [hse.ie/book](https://hse.ie/book)

You can also attend a HSE walk-in vaccine clinic without an appointment. Find clinic times and locations near you at [hse.ie](https://hse.ie)

A parent or legal guardian must attend the appointment to give consent. If this isn't possible, you can call our team in HSELive on **1800 700 700**.

**If you have questions about your child's COVID-19 vaccine, we have answers you can trust on [hse.ie](https://hse.ie)**



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Wicklow Hospice hosted its eighth half marathon and 10km road race on Saturday 26th February, with 163 people taking part. The looped route began at The Beehive Inn. Wicklow Hospice ambassador and Olympian Fionnuala McCormack (pictured) was there on the day with words of encouragement for runners. A full list of race times is available from myrunresults.com.

## Haul of trophies for Bray Baton Twirlers



Bray Modernettes Baton Twirlers attended the BSAI (Baton Twirling Association of Ireland) National Championships on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th February in the National Sports Arena in Blanchardstown, and brought back a haul of trophies and medals.

There were many clubs from all over Dublin, Wicklow and Cavan competing. After a long two years of training outdoors and in pods, etc, children and young adults of the club performed on both days amazingly to bring back to Bray a haul of 2nd places, 3rd places and 4th places on championship levels.

The club's coach Sinead Flanagan said, "I'd like to thank the parents and all the children for their commitment throughout the last few months and training very hard. They train on a Monday from 5-8pm and Friday evening from 6-8pm.

We have very talented children and young adults in our club and are very dedicated bray should be very proud of them."

## New programme to upskill workers in Dementia Care

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD launched a new programme to upskill healthcare workers in Dementia Care on Friday.

The programme, the first of its kind in Ireland, is designed for healthcare workers to enhance their skills and deepen their understanding of this specialist area.

Minister Harris said: "There are over 64,000 people in Ireland currently living with dementia with the numbers predicted to rise to 150,000 by 2050.

"The rapid aging of the population is a challenge faced by many countries, and Ireland is no exception. As the population ages, the number of people affected by dementia will increase significantly.

"This upskilling programme is accredited by Quality and Qualifications Ireland, which is the agency responsible for the quality, integrity and reputation of Ireland's further and higher education system.

"It will be led by those with experience of dementia care. I believe this could be an invaluable tool in assisting healthcare workers across the healthcare family."

The programme, developed by Skillnet Ireland, was specifically developed to address a skills gap in a growing area of care, so that people living with dementia across all settings will benefit from enhanced care.

With 64,000 people in Ireland currently living



Minister Harris launching the new programme to upskill healthcare workers.

with dementia - predicted to rise to 150,000 by 2050 - this programme launch is a key step in the addressing the immediate and long-term needs of Ireland's healthcare sector, providing enhanced skills in dementia care across acute care, long term residential care, nursing homes and homecare.

Competency in dementia care is a key requirement for healthcare providers working in this area, and the programmes launch will support The Irish National Dementia Strategy (2019) which states that all staff caring or interacting with those with dementia should receive on-going training to ensure they have the skills to provide high quality care.

Tracey Donnelly, Executive Director, Skillnet Ireland said,

"Leading Healthcare Providers Skillnet has an excellent track record in engaging with businesses within the healthcare sector to identify their business needs and developing new accredited programmes to meet their talent and skills challenges. This new Certificate in Dementia Care offers a further learning pathway in dementia care for healthcare assistants and is an excellent solution to help this sector better support people living with dementia and their families, across acute, residential, nursing home and home care settings."

The first eight-week programme takes place in March and is fully booked. The next intake for the Dementia Care Programme in April is open to healthcare workers across the country.

## Temporary closure of Avondale Forest Park

Coillte has announced that Avondale Forest Park will be closed to visitors on weekdays (Monday-Friday) from Monday, 14th March until early May of this year to ensure the health and safety of all visitors while construction works are underway on the site. The park will remain open at weekends and public holidays during this period.

The highly anticipated next chapter of Avondale House & Forest Park will unfold in early summer 2022 with the opening of 'Beyond the Trees Avondale', an exciting new visitor destination in Ireland's Ancient East following a €16 million development project by Coillte in partnership with Fáilte Ireland and EAK Ireland.

Works are currently ongoing at the forest park to develop: A new 38 metre (c12 storey high) wooden viewing tower, offering visitors spectacular 360-degree views of Coillte's Avondale Forest Park; A unique 1.2km Tree Top Walkway with breathtaking views of Avondale's diverse forests; A Visitor Orientation Hub with a new café and renovated courtyard buildings and walled garden.

Deborah Meghan, Stewardship, Risk & Advocacy Director, Coillte said, "The health and safety of all visitors to Avondale Forest Park is our absolute priority. We've done everything we can to keep the park open for as long as possible but as works near completion, the level of construction on site has increased. We regret having to close the park on weekdays from Monday, 14th March, but it is necessary to ensure the safety of all visitors and workers on site. We apologise of any inconvenience caused and remind people that the park will remain open at weekends and public holidays during this period."

Construction works on site are expected to take up to 10 weeks after which the park is expected to open to the public. People are asked to please adhere to all safety signage on site while works are underway.

Alternative and nearby forest walks are available at Coillte's Ballygannon Wood, on the Laragh Road just 1km outside Rathdrum, the Avonmore Way and Jubilee Walk in and around Rathdrum.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 2 OF 2022 2 Lakeview Grove, 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)
22/06/15/100 Wicklow County Council – Compulsory Purchase Order No 2 of 2022	Dwelling house and land of 150 m <sup>2</sup>	Barbara Jones (ors Bobbi Jones) – deceased 2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow	None (vacant house)	None (vacant house)

Dated this 7th of March 2022.  
Joe Lane, Director of Services.



# Funding secured for Albert Avenue pedestrian crossing

Green Party Councillor Erika Doyle has secured funding for a new pedestrian crossing at Albert Avenue in Bray. The funding comes directly from seafront parking charges, which were ringfenced last year for public realm improvements in the Bray district.



Cllr Erika Doyle

Councillor Doyle commented, "I'm very pleased and relieved to have gotten agreement from the council to install a crossing at this location. Albert Avenue is one of the busiest areas in the town, particularly during the summer months. As Albert Walk is the main route to the train station, huge numbers of people making the way to and from the station every day. There is also a popular newsagent here used by many in the area. Crossing at this location is extremely difficult as cars are fed down the avenue from three nearby roads and parking dominates one side. The kerbs are high and the dropped kerb is always blocked by parked cars. As difficult as it is to cross as an able-

bodied person, anybody with a disability, a visual impairment or pushing a pram finds it extremely risky.

"I'm happy to see some of our parking revenue used to make this area safer and easier to navigate. It is useful to be able to highlight exactly where the money is spent and most people are happy to know they are contributing towards improvements in their own communities. I will continue to work towards improving the liveability of our town by pushing for improvements that make it a safer and more pleasant place to live and work. A huge part of that is ensuring that the way we move around our streets is safe for all users," concluded Cllr Doyle.

## Commercial Vacancy Rate rises to 12.7%

The commercial vacancy rate in Wicklow increased to 12.7% in the year to Q4 2021 according to the latest GeoDirectory Commercial Vacancy Rates Report, published last week.

This report examined the commercial vacancy rates among a sample of 80 towns located across the state. Of the towns in Wicklow surveyed, Arklow had the highest commercial vacancy rate (15.9%), while Greystones had the lowest (7.9%).

Gorey, Co. Wexford, at 7.8%, was the town with the lowest commercial vacancy rate in the country. Greystones, Co. Wicklow (7.9%) was the town with the second lowest rate, while Carrigaline, Co. Cork (8.5%) had the third lowest. In the capital, Dublin 2 recorded the largest year-on-year increase in vacancy, with a 3.1pp increase to reach a vacan-

cy rate of 16.8%, the highest across Dublin's postal districts. The Dublin postcode with the lowest vacancy rate was Dublin 16, at 6.8%. A total of 16 postal districts recorded an increase in their vacancy rates since Q4 2020.

Nationally, the commercial vacancy rate was 13.9% in Q4 2021, the highest level of commercial vacancy recorded by GeoDirectory since the report began in 2013. The report, prepared by EY, found that commercial vacancies increased in 15 out of 26 counties. The highest commercial vacancy rates were recorded in the west of the country, continuing the trend observed in previous reports. Sligo, at 20.0%, was the county with the highest commercial vacancy rate, followed by Leitrim and Roscommon, both at 17.1%. In Q4 2021, the average commercial vacancy rate for Connacht was 17.3%.



Eala and Jem O'Laimhigin from the Arklow Sea Scouts Tiller Group who took part in an Emergency Skills Course at Arklow Sea Scouts Hall

## Electric charger for Enniskerry

Cllr Rory O'Connor has secured a new electric charging point for Enniskerry. This is the first public electric charging point in the village.

Speaking on the matter Cllr O'Connor said "The Government wants almost 1 million electric cars on the road by 2030. I believe this council needs to prepare for this and expand our electric charger infrastructure across Wicklow.

"This was a priority for me when I decided to run in the elections. I'm delighted that people locally will be able to benefit from this new service."

The location of the planned electric charger will be in the car park of the bog meadow.

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# The King's Quarters

## King's Quarters brings fine dining to Newcastle

The Castle Inn, nestled in the heart of Newcastle village, has long been a hub for the local community. A landmark in the area, it's a place where locals and those travelling through drop in to soak up the pleasant welcoming atmosphere, while away a cosy afternoon or evening by the fire, watch sports or enjoy some hearty bar food. Until now it hasn't been associated with 'fine dining', but that's about to change.



Under the new ownership of Christy Keatley and the management of Janet Browne, The Castle Inn isn't undergoing a radical change but more of an image and reputational upgrade from a mere 'village pub'. With the opening of its new King's Quarters restaurant next door, specializing in fish and flambéing, its dining reputation is set to grow.

Christy took over the Castle Inn in 2021 after decades of experience in the restaurant industry. In 1975 he began his career as Commis de Rang in the Bailey restaurant on Duke Street in Dublin. In 1984 he opened The Copper Kettle restaurant in Dun Laoghaire and in



Castle Inn Staff members Shay, Fintan, Paddy, Paresh Naik (Head Chef), Elva, Stephen Moran (Executive Chef), Laurie (Floor Supervisor), Jackie (Floor Manager), Rachel, Terry, Lily, Tony and Greg.

1989 opened Oscar Taylor's Restaurant in Malahide. That was the year that he was catering

consultant for Dave Lavin of the Orchard restaurant in Stillorgan and Rahfarnaham. The 1990s

saw Christy open Lavin's Thatch Restaurant next to the Orchard, and also set up the catering opera-

tion in Druid's Glen Golf Club. It was here that Christy stayed for the next 26 years before taking over The Castle Inn.

Helping Christy in his new endeavour is Janet Browne, who has worked for Christy for five years, having previously managed the bar and clubhouse in Druid's Glen. Janet was also manager at The Golden Ball pub in Kiltarnan, and is now General Manager at The Castle Inn.

Most of the staff joining Christy, in fact, are

people who previously worked with him. Executive Chef Steven Moran has worked alongside Christy for the last 16 years. Heading up the Bar Food section is Newcastle local Paresh, who also worked in Druids Glen. Also part of the team is Tom Horn, who led the food operation in the Burnaby in Greystones. Tony, who has worked with Christy for 24 years, is also part of the restaurant team and will be helping to Flambe.



General Manager Janet Browne and owner Christy Keatley in the King's Quarters Restaurant

Wishing Christy and his Team every success for the new Restaurant; The Kings Quarters, Castle Inn, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow



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Wishing Christy and team every success

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Wishing Christy and the Team every success at the Castle Inn and the launch of The Kings Quarters



# The King's Quarters



Recognising The Castle Inn's deep roots in the community, Christy is maintaining the local links as much as possible when it comes to his sup-

pliers, too, doing business with Wicklow Wolf Brewing Company, Nicky's Fruit & Veg, Nicky Cox Shop Equipment, John Martin

Solid Fuels, and Freddie Hamilton wholesales to name but a few.

The opening of the King's Quarters is about to greatly expand the

range of dining options in Newcastle, making fine restaurant dining available in the locality as well as the high-quality bar food. Between the bar and the

new restaurant everyone is catered for, from those who might be passing through the village in search of a hearty lunch, to those looking for a more high-end evening dining experience with a tableside gueridon service, and with the convenient midway location between Wicklow Town and Greystones the new restaurant will surely attract people from all over the district.

Fish and Flambé are the focus of the new venture. The King's Quarters' Specials menu offers up a variety of flambé options, including Flambé Dublin Bay Prawns and Flambé Fillet Steak AuPoivre, as well as Flambé Strawberries and Flambé Coffee.

The Specials will be changing frequently,



Christy promises, while the Mains Menu - as well as duck, steak, and chicken dishes - is very much centered around fish, with oven baked hake fillet, grilled plaice fillet, monk fish fillet, and Seafood Specials of the Day. The Surf n' Turf option consists of Atlantic Prawns and Sirloin Beef, and Christy travels to and

from Howth several times a week to collect the catch prawns personally to ensure they're always fresh. The bar food menu is also getting a makeover with more fish options being added.

Located right beside the main Castle Inn pub, The King's Quarters - formally an under-utilized section of the building -

has been undergoing a transformation since early January. It's now being given a soft opening (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays for the time being), and booking to make a reservation is advised. Ideal for birthdays, Christenings and small weddings, it can accommodate upwards of 50 people for such events.



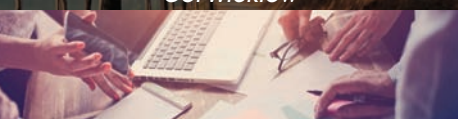
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*Wishing Christy and his team every success with the launch of their new restaurant The Kings Quarters Castle Inn Newcastle*

Wishing Christy and the Team all the best with their new restaurant 'The Kings Quarters' @ The Castle Inn, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow



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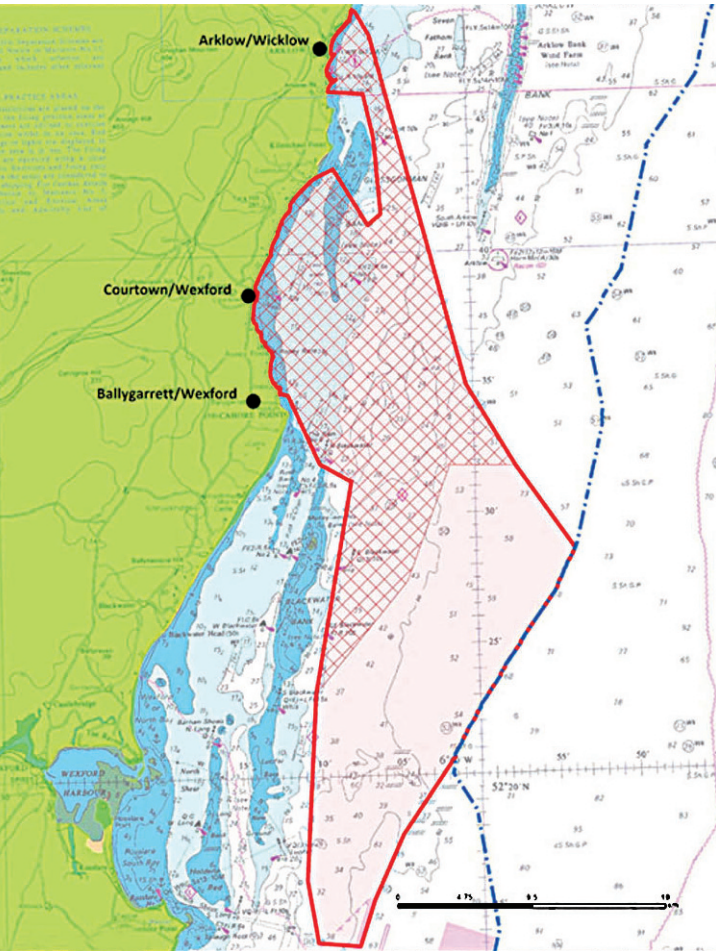
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# Plans for offshore wind farm to be presented at online Public Information Evening

DP Energy, developers of renewable energy projects, and global energy leader Iberdrola will present plans for an offshore wind farm off the coast of Wicklow and Wexford at an online Public Information Evening on Thursday 10th March, from 7pm to 8pm.



Map showing the area where the wind farm would be located

The area currently under exploration for the Shelmalere Wind Farm lies offshore broadly from Arklow, Co. Wicklow to Rosslare Harbour, Co. Wexford. The project plans to use wind turbines mounted on fixed-bottom foundations due to the shallow water depths across the planned site, which will be between 8.5km and 12km from shore.

DP Energy entered into a Joint Venture with Iberdrola in February 2021 for a 3GW pipeline of offshore wind projects. As one of the world's largest renewable energy producers, Iberdrola has substantial experience in offshore wind development and, importantly, shares DP Energy's commitment to a sustainable and ethical approach to development.

The online Public Information Evening is taking place from 7pm to 8pm on Thursday 10th March, and those interested in attending should register. The panel will be led by Yvonne Cronin, DP Energy's Community

and Stakeholder Liaison Manager, and will also feature key members of the DP Energy team who will share information with the local community about the proposed Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm.

Yvonne Cronin, Community and Stakeholder Liaison Manager with DP Energy, says: "We're delighted to be able to continue our engagement with the local community and update them on our proposed plans for the Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm, an exciting development for renewable energy off the east coast of Ireland.

"We are very keen to hear feedback from the local about the project. Every step of the application and development process will include public engagement, and open and channels through which to feed-back to DP Energy.

"These dialogues with local communities are crucial as we build towards a more renewable and sustainable society across Ireland. The creation of green



Lisa Enright, Community Liaison Officer with DP Energy (left), with Yvonne Cronin, Community and Stakeholder Liaison Manager

energy is the core mission for DP Energy, and we're delighted that this project will increase the availability of low-cost green electricity for homes and businesses across Ireland and take us closer to helping achieve Ireland's ambitious Net Zero targets. The Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm is one of our most ambitious projects yet and we look forward to hearing the feedback from the local community in the process."

If you would like to attend, please contact Yvonne at [shelmalere@dpenergy.com](mailto:shelmalere@dpenergy.com) and for more information on the project go to [www.shelmalereoffshorewindfarm.com](http://www.shelmalereoffshorewindfarm.com).

## New strategy for the protection of Wicklow's heritage

Heritage Ireland 2030 sets out a joined-up approach across Government, stakeholders and local communities.

The Government last week approved Heritage Ireland 2030, a cross-Government Strategic Policy for Heritage that sets out a framework for the protection, conservation, promotion and management of Ireland's heritage for the next decade and beyond. The Strategy lays out a roadmap for the best possible future for Irish heritage with a joined up approach at government, stakeholder and community levels. A comprehensive implementation plan is now being developed to deliver on its actions.

Wicklow County Council is tasked with the care and management of heritage assets in their ownership such as monuments, protected structures, county archives, museum collections, heritage gardens and parks. Heritage Ireland 2030 will aim to strengthen the role of Wicklow County Council in the management, care and promotion of Ireland's heritage and establish policies to underpin their work as custodians of many heritage resources.

The principal themes of the strategy are communities, leadership and partnerships, reflecting the importance of ongoing collaboration between government, communities, stakeholders, citizens and local authorities in delivering upon the objectives of this strategy. The proposed framework sets out structures through which all of these groups can come together to advance the protection of Ireland's heritage. Recognising that responsibilities for Ireland's heritage rest right across government, this structured framework will also enable the integration of heritage policy principles into decision-making across the whole of government.

Heritage Ireland 2030 contains over 150 actions, each of which will be built upon and delivered within working groups. An Implementation Plan assigning actions and timeframes to responsible parties will be developed within six months of the launch of Heritage Ireland 2030, elaborating on the formation of delivery structures and providing a clear roadmap for implementing actions.

Launching Heritage Ireland 2030, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform Malcolm Noonan T.D. said: "Government has today approved a plan that represents a major step forward for structured engagement around heritage. The actions in this strategy reflect the huge challenges facing Ireland's heritage, particularly for nature and biodiversity loss. We have ambitious programmes underway in the area of peatland rehabilitation and nature recovery and the framework set out in this strategy, along with the structured delivery model, will bring cohesion to our efforts, including consultation with the Northern Ireland Executive on areas we might approach on an all-island basis.

"We were heartened over the past two years to see people access our national parks, monuments, nature reserves and historic properties during public health restrictions, and know that this has strengthened people's appreciation of our heritage. It is more important than ever that our heritage is protected, conserved and restored to ensure that the people of Ireland continue to benefit from the value and well-being that it provides."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 1 OF 2022 25 St. John's Villas, Arklow, 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)
22/06/16/100 Wicklow County Council – Compulsory Purchase Order No 1 of 2022	Dwelling house and land of 312 m <sup>2</sup>	Emily Cox of The Old Schoolhouse, Scratnagh, Ballymoyle, Arklow, Co Wicklow	None (vacant house)	None (vacant house)

Dated this 7th of March 2022.  
Joe Lane, Director of Services.





The fireplace has been a focus-point of the home for many generations and everyone loves the comfort and warmth provided by a traditional fire. However, open fires and chimneys are major sources of heat loss.

An open fire is approximately 30% efficient, whereas a modern stove can reach efficiencies of 80% or more. SKC supplies an extensive range of stoves, which are on display in our Wicklow showrooms.



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John Brady TD with the Ukrainian ambassador to Ireland Larysa Gerasko

# Brady launches humanitarian appeal to raise funds for Ukraine

Following a meeting with the Ukrainian Ambassador to Ireland, Sinn Féin TD John Brady last week launched a Humanitarian Appeal to raise funds to send to Ukraine.

Due to the challenges in transporting goods, Irish NGOs have appealed for the public to donate cash, which can be donated at the John Brady's constituency offices, and which will then be handed directly to the Red Cross.

Brady said: "Today I met again with the Ukrainian ambassador to Ireland Larysa Gerasko. I offered again my solidarity and that of the Irish people to the Ukrainian people in these horrific times.

"The Russian invasion of Ukraine is an affront to the UN Charter, democracy, decency and international law. An estimated 875,000 Ukrainian's have fled according to the UN. It is expected that a further 4 million people, the majority women and chil-

dren, will flee in the days and weeks ahead.

"What the Ukrainian people need at this time is the support of people from across the world and humanitarian aid.

"Due to logistical challenges and the need to deliver aid immediately, the humanitarian groups on the ground have asked for cash rather than physical items. This will allow them to source items locally, ensuring quality and quick delivery to those that need them.

"I have started to collect donations in my Bray and Arklow constituency offices. This money will be given directly to the Red Cross to help with the humanitarian crisis that is quickly unfolding. Any donations welcome and please spread the word."

## Donate to Red Cross or UNICEF at any post office

Financial donations for the UNICEF and Red Cross Ukrainian crisis appeals may be made at any post office, Monday to Friday and on Saturday mornings. An Post and Postmasters have waived the fees normally payable for such transactions so the entirety of donations will go to the two charities.

An Post is also making arrangements to provide any displaced Ukrainian citizens who come to Ireland with an An Post Current Account to enable their everyday banking, as well as access to its Address Point service which provides a secure, personal address to people who are homeless or living in temporary accommodation.

An Post and the Communications Workers Union have also put a truck and drivers at the disposal of the Irish Red Cross, should they require such transport for goods to Ukraine or a neighbouring country in the future. For now, however, the focus is on encouraging cash donations which can be used to buy specific emergency medical, food and personal supplies closer to where they are most needed.

# From Ireland with love: A story that connected two worlds

By Sneha Saloni and the Rotary Action Group for Family and AIDS Prevention

When Dessie Mullen from the Bray Wanderers Football Club in Ireland, got in touch with Gina Miltiadou and John Mullins from the Zahra Media Group, about donating some sports equipment, little did they know the scale of the impact they were going to make.

"There was a change in the logo design on our jerseys and as a result, a lot of sports equipment was to be discarded. I have known Gina and John for many years. Their office is right across the football ground. I knew they were going to travel to South Africa around Christmas, so I called them up and asked if they would like to take our stuff for donation purposes," said Dessie Mullen, Grounds Manager, Bray Wanderer Football Club.

"Dessie informed us about this box of new, unused sportswear he had and since he knows that we are actively involved in a lot of charity work through our foundation, Zahra Helps, he thought it would be a good idea if we could take it to South Africa. We were delighted with the idea. We collected around 30 kg of sportswear from Dessie, sorted it all into individual kits, and packed them in our suitcases," shared Gina Miltiadou, Managing Director, Zahra Media Group.

And now it was time to identify the perfect club/organization who could make good use of all this equipment. Gina got in touch with

Rotarians Wilma Lig and Sue Paget (CEO, RFHA), who immediately connected with Rotarian Annemarie Mosterat from the Rotary E Club of Southern Africa 9400. So, Rotary Action Group for Family Health & AIDS Prevention (RFHA) and Rotary E club came together to organize an event to handover the equipment to the kids at a local football club.

"Luckily, we have two new members in our club

who run the East Rand Excellent Soccer Academy (Eresa), which is a football academy in Johannesburg where children from the local community areas are given football training. When I received a call from Sue informing me about Gina and John bringing all that sports kit, I immediately decided to sign up for this opportunity. I decided to meet up with them and what a privilege it was," said Annemarie.

Eresa is a small football academy in the Daveyton township that focuses on social development of kids through sports. "The handover of the sports equipment was such a beautiful sight to see. Some of these kids did not even have proper footwear and most of them had never touched a brand new item. When they received the sportswear with fresh tags, one

couldn't help but notice the smile on their tiny faces and appreciation in their hearts," shared Annemarie.

"Another great thing was that these kids also realize the importance of staying active and healthy. When I discussed with them about RFHA, the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and exercising, these little kids connected well to the topic and understood the importance of RFHA's work. I feel this is really important as these little people will grow up to become sensitized and responsible beings," she added.

There are many heroes in this story but the real heroes are those little footballers whose dreams just found new wings.



Children from the East Rand Excellent Soccer Academy (Eresa) with their new jerseys.

Behle Bukhali, who plays in the under-15 Boys team, was beaming with joy when he received his brand new sports clothes. "I am extremely thankful to everyone who came together to bring us these wonderful gifts. My dream is to play internationally one day and all this equipment is going to help us with our training."

Not just boys, the girls' team was also seen sporting their new jerseys and practicing on the field. Zukile, the football director of Eresa, who is also a Rotarian, said that when he first heard about it, he

couldn't believe the news. "We were struggling with sports equipment and we had knocked on so many doors for help but we had never imagined that the help would come from Ireland," he said.

Not just boys, the girls' team was also seen sporting their new jerseys and practicing on the field. Zukile, the football director of Eresa, who is also a Rotarian, said that when he first heard about it, he couldn't believe the news. "We were struggling with sports equipment and we had knocked on so many doors for help but we had

never imagined that the help would come from Ireland," he said.

"We have 120 kids in our academy. Our goal is to give them hope through sports, especially through soccer. We also have a girls team in our organization and the idea behind this was to shift focus on women in sports and make them self-sufficient. We are so grateful to Bray Wanderers, John, Gina and everyone else who made it possible for our kids to play and practice football in a better way," added Zukile.

"Sometimes we can't

see the bigger impacts our small actions can make. One small step has the power to change someone's life," added Annemarie.

These kids will soon be playing for the Gauteng Development League (GDL) and they are already beaming with confidence as the new equipment is helping them practice better. This chain of kindness that started in Ireland will play a small part in inspiring a social change, strengthening young people and rippling it back to their communities.



# Wicklow rallies to support Ukraine

The generosity of the people of North Wicklow reached a record high last week as communities rallied to provide much-needed support for the people of Ukraine.

By Amy Lynch



Boxes being sorted for Ukraine refugees

"The people of Wicklow are amazing," commented Colette Talbot, who's been collecting donations for Ukraine for the last week.

Donations flooded in at Greystones Tennis Club, which soon reached capacity. Two rooms in Shoreline Leisure Centre Charlesland Greystones were then used to store the donated medical supplies, baby powder, dog food, blankets, food, hygiene supplies, and sleeping mats.

"A never-ending stream of donations is coming in from businesses and regular people, every single person wants to help. I'm Blown away. It's absolutely insane," Colette commented. "I've never witnessed anything like the level of support for this."

On Tuesday 1st March, the first truck, kindly supplied free of charge by Zabex Polska left Ireland, full to the brim. This has now reached Kroscienko, Poland, close to the Ukrainian border where people continue to flee in their thousands.

The second 20-tonne truck left Greystones for Poland on Saturday 5th March. Colette has connected with a local Polish charity who told her of the many orphaned children at Kroscienko, many of them abandoned at the border, injured and

frightened. Kilcoole man Graham Hill travelled to Poland on 5th March to volunteer with the refugees and will report back what supplies are most needed.

Collette Talbot and Nicole Brown will join Graham in the coming weeks. Although Colette has 30 years of experience working with children, is First Aid trained, and has been volunteering with Together for Homeless for 6 years, she expects the journey to be harrowing.

"They need people on the ground over there," she explained to Declan Meehan on the East Coast FM morning show last week. "I can't sit here and do nothing."

Colette has never faced anything like the refugee camps before but commented that she will "deal with it and learn to park it so I can do the work."



Wicklow Hospice hosted its eighth half marathon and 10km road race on Saturday 26th February with 163 participants taking on a looped route from the Beehive Inn. Pictured are Michele Geoghegan and legendary Wicklow runner Mary Nolan Hickey, who famously completed a 'Lap of the Map' in 2018, running around the coastline of Ireland to raise funds for the RNLI.

## Irish charities unite to respond to Ukraine crisis

Seven of Ireland's leading international aid charities are teaming up to provide urgently needed supplies and support to families fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

The Irish Emergency Alliance has launched an appeal to jointly raise money from the Irish public and working through local partners will support relief efforts in Ukraine and neighbouring countries by providing food, water, blankets, shelter and medical supplies as well as emotional support.

Over the past week, more than a million people have fled Ukraine to escape the violence and hundreds of thousands more are estimated to be displaced inside Ukraine. Most of those fleeing Ukraine are women and children who are arriving at the border with only what they can carry. At many border crossings people have faced long waits and freezing night-time temperatures.

Brian Casey, Executive Director of the Irish Emergency Alliance, said: "We have all been shocked by the terrible images of war on our television screens over the past week. It's easy to feel helpless when confronted by the scale of the

suffering but at times like this donating money to charities responding to the crisis will make a huge difference to people desperately in need of support."

The Irish Emergency Alliance is made up of ActionAid, Christian Aid, Plan International, Self Help Africa, Tearfund, Trócaire and World Vision. Between them the seven Irish aid agencies have programmes in 85 different countries, giving the Irish Emergency

Alliance the global presence, expertise and experience required to respond quickly to this and future crises. By working together, the Irish Emergency Alliance can reduce fundraising costs to make donations stretch even further.

Please donate at [www.irishemergencyalliance.org](http://www.irishemergencyalliance.org) or by calling 1 800 939 979 or by texting IEA to 50300 to give €4.

Stay up to date with developments in Ukraine, the emergency response and the fundraising efforts with the Irish Emergency Alliance on Twitter, Facebook or on Instagram



## GOAL appeals for support with Ukrainian Conflict Response

**Irish humanitarian aid organisation, GOAL, has launched a Ukraine Response Appeal to support its humanitarian response and are calling on people in Wicklow to donate to help those most affected by the conflict, which is now entering its second week.**

The United Nations (UN) estimates that the conflict has already seen over 1 million people flee Ukraine to neighbouring countries, while over 100,000 people have been internally displaced. Real figures are thought to be considerably higher. The UN further estimates that as many as five million people could be forced to flee the conflict.

Members of GOAL's Emergency Response Unit travelled to Poland's border with Ukraine last week and are delivering humanitarian aid and assistance to those displaced by the conflict.

Dr. Georgina Jordan, who leads GOAL's Emergency Response Unit and is in Poland, highlights the needs of displaced people that the aid organisation will meet: "It is the already vulnerable who are most at risk, the very old, the very young and those with special needs. Refugees, including small children, report queues of up to 10 hours in the bitter cold, often overnight, at the Polish border with Ukraine. They are arriving hungry, cold and exhausted. Immediate needs include food,

water, temporary shelter, clothes and blankets and medical items".

She added: "GOAL is working with local partners to deliver lifesaving humanitarian aid to address people's urgent needs, including the provision of food and non-food items (NFIs), such as blankets, waterproof plastic sheeting, hygiene and sanitary products."

"In addition, GOAL is working to establish appropriate cash and voucher distributions - one of the most effective ways to ensure displaced people and refugees can access the items they need the most."

GOAL was previously operational in Eastern Ukraine from 2015 - 2017 and assisted thousands of displaced people in the Donbas region with food and financial assistance.

The Emergency Response Team is also assessing border needs in Moldova and Hungary in the coming days.

Siobhan Walsh, GOAL CEO said: "GOAL has already received great support from the Irish public and Irish businesses who are all stepping up and going the extra mile. We are especially grateful to AIB for their leadership and generosity in being a key partner in GOAL's response."

For more information on GOAL's Ukraine Appeal and to donate, visit: <https://www.goalglobal.org/ukraine/>





## Brian Kennedy comes to Courthouse Arts Centre

Saturday 12th March, 8pm. €25

Postponed from June 2020 Brian Kennedy finally gets to play in The Courthouse Arts Centre in Tinahely.

Brian Kennedy is one of Ireland's most inspired and revered ambassadors of music. Originally from Belfast, Brian remains one of Ireland's most popular singing stars. From harmonising with ambulance sirens as a child to overcoming stage fright to be discovered by the now legendary Svengali Simon Fuller, Brian's story is one of talent, resilience, and bravery. With Van Morrison on the epic "Blues & Soul Revue" tour, he shared the stage with Van Morrison and a breathtaking cast of some of the greatest artists in history: Jonie Mitchell, Bob Dylan, Ray Charles and John Lee Hooker. Brian has sung with Stevie Wonder at Ronnie Scott's & incredibly proudly; he is one of only a few to have sung with the late legendary Jeff Buckley.

Throughout the relentless touring with Van Morrison, Brian somehow managed to maintain a stream of chart-making albums. 'A Better Man' and 'Now That I know What I Want' both went platinum at No 1. In June 2019 Brian completed a five month chemotherapy chapter and was given the all clear. His journey with cancer resulted in him producing a new EP entitled 'Recovery'. In 2020 Brian celebrated the 30th anniversary of the 'Great War of the Words'.

A true warrior and survivor he is now part of Counter Attack having had quadruple bypass surgery after suffering a heart attack in 2021.

## New gig line-up at Hot Spot Music Club

Lots of new and re-scheduled shows are coming up in March and April at the Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones, crossing all genres. There will be jazz, blues, blues-rock, folk and even a comedy club! Check out [www.thehotspot.ie](http://www.thehotspot.ie) for the lowdown. Almost all tickets are sold at a discounted rate if you purchase early!

**MARCH**  
**SUN 13th** - Richie Buckley Quartet Doors - 4pm/Show 5pm  
**SUN 27th** - Resident jazz & blues legend - Mary Coughlan & band 4pm/Show 5pm

**PADDY'S WEEKEND**  
**THURS 17th** - Irish Folk & Trad Session  
**SAT 18th** - Wicklow jazz man - Nigel Mooney & the Johnny Taylor Trio  
**SAT 19th** - Thinner Lizzy rocks it, with support from Faux Fighters tribute band

**SUN 20th** - Multi talented local musician, Oisín Walsh Peelo & Band 4pm/Show 5pm  
**SAT 26th** - Mack Fleetwood

**APRIL**  
**FRI 1st** LOL Laugh Out Loud @ the Hot Spot  
**COMEDY CLUB** on April Fool's Day  
**FRI 8th** TBC Crest of a Wave - Rory Gallagher Tribute  
**FRI 15th** Up and coming Folk Legend - Daorí Farrell  
**FRI 22nd** Aoife Doyle, jazz & blues singer originally from Bray, launches her long awaited new album  
**FRI 29th** Rob Strong

band - still alive and rockin!

Tickets available online - [www.thehotspot.ie/tickets](http://www.thehotspot.ie/tickets), 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](http://www.thehotspot.ie). Note: Early ticket purchase usually gets best ticket price  
Hot Spot Music Club is also available for Private Events Hire. Seasonal Party options available for small and large groups.

# Coming up at Whale Theatre

## Greystones Film Club presents: Limbo

Thursday 8th March 2022 @ 8pm. Tickets €10 at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550

Making a welcome return to new releases, the Greystones Film Club presents one of the best reviewed films of 2021.

And it doesn't take long to see why critics and audiences have fallen for Limbo

Hitting you hard in the sweets, this bittersweet comedy makes the bitter cruelty that many Syrian refugees face when trying to start a new life in a new land all the more palpable.

Especially when that land doesn't really want them there.

Set on a remote Scottish island - where

there is "an unlimited supply of nothingness" - *Limbo* (UK/PG12/103mins) concentrates largely on Omar, a young Syrian musician, sitting in limbo as he and his three fellow housemates await to hear of their asylum fate. In the meantime, when not attending cultural awareness classes or arguing over Ross and Rachel's future, Omar carries around his grandfather's oud in its case, like a coffin holding his past, happy life back home, where his brother has decided to stay and fight.



Hitting a sweet spot somewhere between Bill Forsyth (Gregory's Girl, Local Hero) and Ken Loach, Limbo is the sort

of feature film Ricky Gervais might make when he grows up. Hilarious, warm and heartbreaking, it'll make you appreciate

the joy of being truly home. Screening on Thursday, March 10th at 8pm, this is a film not to be missed.

## Tiglin Fundraiser event - Social Fabric LIVE with Aubrey McCarthy

Friday 11th March 2022 @ 8pm. Tickets €10 at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550

In this very special charity fundraiser, Tiglin's founder and chairman Aubrey McCarthy steps into the hot seat for a 60 minute live interview with Social Fabric's Andrea Splendori. All proceeds for the night will go towards supporting the work of Tiglin. Tiglin's site at Carraig Eden in Greystones will be known to many, and the

facility recently won two National Social Housing Awards. Its newest addition, the much loved "Rise at the Cove" social enterprise cafe, has also brought a new energy to the iconic location and the cafe is fast becoming a favourite of the town's early morning swimmers! With other locations in Arklow, Brittas Bay and Ashford, Tiglin

provides valuable opportunities, housing, rehabilitation and other supports to those affected by homelessness and addiction. Its founder,

Aubrey McCarthy has also recently announced his intention to run for the Seanad and so it's about time we got to know him a bit better! In true Social Fabric fashion, there will be a mixture of chat, music and video clips, and the opportunity for audiences to ask their own

questions. Don't miss your chance to contribute to this amazing charity, and to learn more about it from the man who brought it to life. In his own words... "In 2008, I founded Tiglin, a charity that helps people overcome addiction and homelessness. We have assisted hundreds of people and their families to improve their lives. We believe in each person's potential. We get results that benefit the whole of society."



## David Kitt Live

Friday 18th March @ 8pm. Tickets €25 at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550

David Kitt returns to The Whale Theatre for a brand new solo live performance, a dynamic show equal parts intimate acoustic, box-fresh electronic and shredding electric. Drawing material from his recent Top Ten release '20' which featured 20 songs spanning his 20-year back catalogue dating back to his debut 'Small Moments' on Rough Trade and brand new material from his next record due out in summer 2022 there's something for fans new and old. Don't miss this opportunity to see a musician at the peak of his powers in the intimate setting of the Whale Theatre.



## Journey through the senses

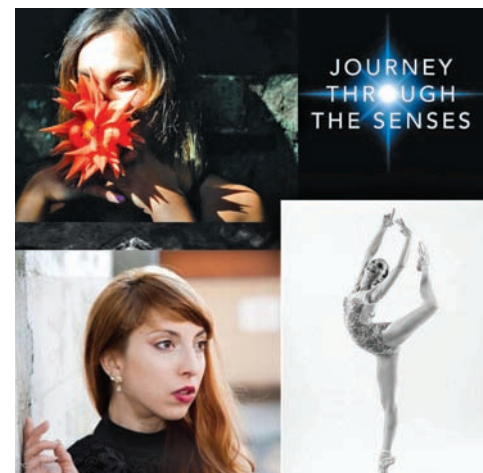
Sunday 20th March 2022 @ 4pm. Tickets €18/€15 at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550

In this Piano, Choreography & Lights Concert we explore the nature of Synaesthesia, blending senses and perceptions, when music & sound is reflected in gestures, movements and coloured lights. We embrace diversity of perceptions and creativity. Neuroscientists Ramachandran & Hubbard consider Synaesthesia a "window into perception, thought and language", it helps us understand how senses interact and influence our perception and emotions. Zoe Marinello-Kohn is a professional ballet dancer from San Diego, US, choreographer, actor, artist and dance instructor. She is a poly synesthete, experiencing multiple types of synesthesia and her unique perceptions often influence her creative work. Zoe's art is inspired by self exploration and a drive to understand the

reaches of consciousness. "As If Dancing Through Watercolors". Dr Svetlana Rudenko [www.svetlana-rudenko.com](http://www.svetlana-rudenko.com) is a concert pianist and researcher on Synaesthesia and Multisensory design for AR & VR, Technological University Dublin. Sterling Baldwin is an lighting engineer and programmer, who worked with software on Climate change research, US. With support from LA JTTS <https://www.journeythroughthesenses.org>

### Programme:

1. Satie - 6 Gnossiennes
2. Scriabin - Two Poems Op. 71/ Lights Solo/ Scriabin's Synaesthesia
3. Scriabin - Sonata No. 4 in F-sharp minor, Op.30





# Winners announced at 66th ICA Wicklow Federation Drama Festival

Two great nights of drama were enjoyed by large audiences at the 66th ICA Wicklow Federation Drama Festival in Glenealy Village Hall.

The Premier Award for Best Group was won by Square One Drama Group with their One Act Play "Burds of a Feather" by Roy Beatty. This was a world premier as it not been staged before! Miriam Maganety won Best Director. Square One also won the Norah Ferns Trophy for Most Appropriate Costume. Ashford ICA were Runner Up Group with "Museum Pieces" One Act Play by Joan Greening.

Ashford won the Gloria Mullally Trophy for Best Moment of Theatre. The adjudicator's Gráinne Mc Guinness from Square One won Best Actress and Brigid Cahill from Ashford ICA was Runner Up Actress. The Adjudicator's Award went to Aileen Byrne director of Delgany ICA's One Act Play "Afternoon Theatre" for taking on the roll of Sybil when that cast member was unable to take part. The adjudicator's actress award went to Beth Holmes from Delgany ICA and Delgany won the May Condon Cup for an ICA group. Merit Awards went to Brigid O'Grady Avoca ICA for her sketch "Nursery Going Home Time by Joyce Grenfell and Nick Russell Square One Drama Group for his

part in "The Burds."

In the sketch section Bernadette Flynn won Best Performance and Brigid Cahill won Runner Up Performance and Ashford ICA won the Terri Connolly Cup for Best Sketch with "On the Bus" by Bernadette Flynn. Congratulations to all the groups who provided great live drama over the two nights.



## Luisne Art Group Exhibition

Monday, March 14th to Sunday, March 27th

The Luisne Art Group is a unique style of class that began 9 years ago in the Luisne centre in Kilcoole (meaning first blush of light before dawn.) All those participating are encouraged in their freedom to engage with a variety of sources of inspiration and mixed media.

The style of teaching is more of facilitation and calling forth – as opposed to demonstrating methods. In this way each individual has the opportunity to explore and discover what fits their own niche of self-expression. This original approach allows for people being at different levels of fluency with forms. In this way participants also serve to support the unfolding creativity of others in the group.

Visits to different art galleries and exhibitions, both locally and in Dublin, bring a social aspect to the group. The impact of including those events not only

supports learning and development, it also gives an added bonus of building a sense of community among the group with humour, light-heartedness and inclusivity.

Since 2017 the class has submitted artwork for the "Incognito" Jack & Jill Foundation fundraiser each year. In the last two years the Greystones Library has held an exhibition of work created by the group.



Jennifer Stumm

## March events at Mermaid

Emily Gillmor Murphy Presents:  
Bliss - An Audio Walking Experience on Bray Seafront

MONDAY 28 March - MONDAY 18 April. For streaming on demand any time €10

BLISS' is an audio storytelling experience that will guide you through the life and memories of Mary. By journeying into her past; Revisiting the places and moments that make her who she is, Mary must decide what her future holds and decide who she could be.

Written by Wicklow local Emily Gillmor Murphy, and voiced by some of Ireland's finest acting talent, this audio experience is designed to be listened to while walking on Bray Seafront. The story lasts for 90mins, and with two interval breaks within the story, you will have the freedom to live Mary's story how you choose. All you need is a smart device, headphones and a willingness to listen.

This unique event can be experienced from the 28th March until 18th April. Tickets available from Mermaid Arts Centre. There is no set performance time, though audience members are encouraged to listen within daylight hours for best experience.



## Music Network Presents: Jennifer Stumm - An Imperfect Instrument

TUESDAY 29th March 8pm €18/16

If the violin is a pop star, full of sparkle and pyrotechnics, the viola is a jazz singer who speaks to your heart when it's breaking, who whispers secrets, and tells lies. The viola might be called the middle child of the string family, often overlooked in favour of its more famous relatives the violin and cello. It's a chameleon, a character actor, an instrument with imperfect acoustics and a spectrum of

frequencies closest to the human voice. Composers throughout history have been drawn to its unique ability to convey deep expression, often writing their late (or their last) works for viola. Weaving songs on her 16th century viola from Bach all the way to Sting, in a mix of talk and performance, the acclaimed violist Jennifer Stumm tells a musical story of how imperfection can be the very

thing that gives us our voice.

Additionally, composer Jonathan Nangle has written a piece especially for Jennifer and the world premiere of the piece will happen at Mermaid. Jonathan will give a brief 5-min (approx.) introduction and share some insight about the piece directly before the performance of it. It'll be a lovely opportunity for the audience to hear directly from the composer.



## Brokentalkers: The Examination

THURSDAY 31st March & FRIDAY 1st April 8pm €18/16

The Examination is the award-winning production by Brokentalkers exploring mental health and human rights in the prison system. Performed by Brokentalkers' Gary Keegan and stand-up comedian and former prisoner Willie White.

Featuring Brokentalkers' distinctive blend of biography, socio-political discourse and breath taking theatricality, The Examination draws on historical research and testimony from current and former prisoners. With powerful imagery and a visceral sound scape, The Examination is an uncompromising and revelatory interrogation of an aspect of society too often ignored.

The Examination is the outcome of a 12-month research period, that saw Brokentalkers' directors Gary Keegan and Feidlim Cannon hold theatre workshops and interviews with life sentence prisoners and former prisoners in various settings including Mountjoy Prison and PACE Training and Education Services. They have also drawn on wider historical analysis undertaken by Associate Professor Catherine Cox (UCD), with Professor Hilary Marland and Dr Rachel Bennett (University of Warwick).



# PLANNING • PLANNING

## Waste Management Act, 1996

### AFF Logistics, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.

*We are required to accept on these premises, free of charge, for the purpose of recovery, packaging waste (Cardboard/Plastic) similar in nature to that supplied at our premises. The products or packaging in question need not necessarily have been purchased from AFF Logistics.*

## WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT 1996

### (Nypro Ltd. trading as Jabil)

#### (Corke Abbey, Bray)

We are required to accept at (Corke Abbey, Bray), free of charge, for the purpose of recovery, packaging waste of the following categories (Plastic and cardboard). The products or packaging in question need not necessarily have been purchased from (Nypro/Jabil).

# IMPACT Meet and Greet held in Bray

60 people attended a recent Meet and Greet event in Bray to find out more about the new IMPACT employment initiative for people with disabilities.

The event was hosted by Lakers Social & Recreational Club in Bray and the IMPACT team were on hand to chat with people over a cuppa and explain what they can offer.

"There was a great

buzz about the place", says IMPACT Co-ordinator Orla Butler, "We're grateful to Lakers for providing their beautiful centre. It was really great to chat to so many local people about our new service."

IMPACT provides support to people with disabilities to upskill, find secure paid employment, advance in their careers or set up their own business. The service is open to people aged 18 and over living in Bray or

North Wicklow and in receipt of a Disability Allowance.

As well as one-to-one support, they have a series of free online workshops coming up - the next is Interview Techniques on 13th April.

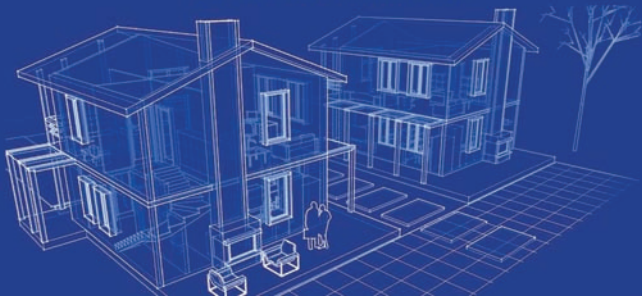
Local employers can also benefit from the service, with supports available to help them make their workforce more inclusive.

IMPACT is run by a consortium of local organisations, led by Bray Area Partnership, with funding under the Measure to Support the Employment of People with Disabilities - a Department of Social Protection programme resourced by the Dormant Accounts Fund.

To find out more call 01 963 3342, email [orlabutler@brayareapartnership.ie](mailto:orlabutler@brayareapartnership.ie) or see [www.brayareapartnership.ie](http://www.brayareapartnership.ie).

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Call 01 286 9111 or email [pauline@localtimes.ie](mailto:pauline@localtimes.ie)



### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

David Eccles seeks planning permission for revised bay window with stone cladding to front, alteration to window in front façade, 4.9m<sup>2</sup> single storey extension to side of house with flat roof and stone cladding and 127.2m<sup>2</sup> two storey extension to rear of existing 69.8m<sup>2</sup> house at 129 Beachdale, Meadowbrook, 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.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Andrew Byrne seeks planning permission for a dormer bungalow dwelling, at 1 Archvillas, Greystones County Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Tudor Violet Hill Management company seek to apply for planning permission for the installation of electric gates at the entrance of Violet Hill, Herbert Road, Bray in the curtilage of a protected structure. 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

Arklow Sea Scouts seek planning permission to complete planning application 13610019. The construction of external door entrances with stairs and associated site works to existing Scout Den, Harbour Road, Arklow. 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.

## RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT



### COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

#### • PERMANENT ASSISTANT ENGINEER

REF: 06/2022 Salary €40,422 – €63,365 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

#### • PERMANENT ASSISTANT PLANNER

REF: 07/2022 Salary €40,422 – €63,365 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

#### • PERMANENT CLERK OF WORKS

REF: 08/2022 Salary €49,530 – €60,512 gross per annum (includes 2nd LSI)

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 31ST MARCH 2022 SHARP.

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

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

Wicklow County Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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

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

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Practise sectioning hair for blow drying; Gain confidence and meet others.

**Gardening:** Spring is here and it is time to get out in the garden again! Get lots of practical gar-

dening tips; gain confidence in your skills; meet new people; have fun!

For more details on these courses, please contact Annette: 0596482642 or 0868462771 or email [abebaltinglass@kweb.ie](mailto:abebaltinglass@kweb.ie)

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Candidates must possess

\*QQI Level 5 in Healthcare or equivalent.

Job Type: Full time, 39 hours per week

Salary: €27,000 per annum

Location: Kilcoole Lodge Nursing Home, Lott Ln, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow

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[recruitment@mowlamhealthcare.com](mailto:recruitment@mowlamhealthcare.com)



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## Wicklow librarians reveal their top 25 must-read dementia books

**A collection of Top 25 Dementia Books, as compiled by Ireland's librarians, has been revealed. The development of the specially curated selection offers a range of perspectives on life with the disease and follows on a need identified by people with dementia and their loved ones for greater information and support. It has been created in partnership with colleagues from the Dementia Services Information and Development Centre, Dublin (DSIDC).**

Through an initiative of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme, and supported by the Dementia: Understand Together campaign, led by the HSE, the books are now available in libraries across Wicklow, including Arklow, Aughrim, Ballywaltrim, Baltinglass, Blessington, Bray, Carnew, Dunlavin, Enniskerry, Greystones, Rathdrum, Tinahely and Wicklow town.

brain health, from first-hand accounts of people living with dementia to ways to improve life through nutrition, music, the arts, and more.

The introduction of the collection has been supported by the delivery of dementia awareness training. The training, delivered by the DSIDC, provided information on the different types of dementia and their symptoms. It also gave information and advice on creating a supportive environment and how best to assist and communicate with the person with dementia when visiting the library.

On behalf of public libraries, Colette Byrne, Chair of the Libraries Development Committee of the Local Government Management Agency, said: "We are delighted to announce details of this list of Top 25 Dementia Books which we hope readers will find both useful and engaging. It wasn't easy to settle on our final 25 and, with new books arriving all the time, we will continue to review and add to our listing as appropriate. These books speak to the experiences not only of doctors, psychologists, carers, but, most importantly, of people with

dementia. We look forward to sharing our insights on the different books and to pointing readers in the right direction of the most suitable titles depending on the particular interest they might have.

"It's all part of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme which is about providing enhanced health and well-being book collections, and a range of programmes and events, to support people in managing their own health."

Information is Power  
For Fiona Foley,  
National Co-ordinator,  
Dementia: Understand  
Together in the  
Communities, libraries  
offer a key resource in  
supporting people with  
dementia to live full and  
active lives: "If the pan-  
demic has taught us one  
thing, it is that we are  
social creatures and that

social interaction is a vital part of our health and well-being. It is no different for people with dementia. Unfortunately, people with the condition may experience stigma and retreat from social interaction as a result of this. This can lead to isolation and feelings of loneliness for the person with dementia, their families and supporters. While this predates the pandemic, it is nowadays a feeling that we can all perhaps relate to. That is why this new initiative by Ireland's libraries is so fantastic in extending a warm welcome to people with dementia to their local library as part of an inclusive community, and in providing training to staff to make the service as supportive and accessible as possible.

"Finding out as much as possible about dementia, the supports available, the importance of staying socially active and keeping your brain exercised, can all help your health, well-being, and quality of life. The development of this Top 25 Dementia Book listing offers people who want to find out more about dementia a treasure trove



# CLASSIFIEDS

## *Top 5 Dementia Books, as collated by Ireland's Librarians and DSIDC*

- 1. 100 Days to a Younger Brain by Dr Sabina Brennan:** features details of 100 programmes aimed at improving brain health, including information needed to empower you to make informed choices every day about your sleeping, eating and lifestyle habits.
- 2. A Pocket Guide to Understanding Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias by Dr James Warner and Dr Nori Graham:** this book helps to demystify these conditions and gives practical advice on how those with dementia and those supporting them can be better placed to cope.
- 3. Adaptive Interaction and Dementia by Dr Maggie Ellis and Prof. Arlene Astell:** how non-verbal techniques can help the person with dementia to remain in touch with the 'social world'.
- 4. And Still the Music Plays - Stories of People with Dementia, by Graham Stokes:** featuring 22 compelling stories, this book draws on his memories of people with dementia whom he has met in his work as a clinical psychologist to bring us all a greater understanding of the condition and why some behave in the way that they do.
- 5. The Caregiver's Encyclopedia by Muriel R Gillick:** provides the reader with all of the information needed to take the best care of the person you support, from making major medical decisions to making sure you don't burn out.

*For details of the full list of Top 25 Dementia Books, as well as information on supports available, including a county-by-county service-finder, visit [www.understandtogether.ie](http://www.understandtogether.ie).*

## THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

K.H.

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M.O'R

## Luke 4:1-13 GOSPEL

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time, he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple, 'If you are the Son of God,' he said to him, 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone' but Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time

C.J.

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