



DUTCH DELEGATION
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LAMBING SEASON
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50 SHADES GREENER
Page 14

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Tuesday 29th March 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

'WE'RE ON THE WRONG ROAD'

The contentious elements in the Blessington Greenway project could be allowed to remain after councillors voted against seeking to withdraw the plans from An Bord Pleanala.

Fifteen councillors abstained from the vote to withdraw the plan at last week's Special Meeting. The motion needed only a third of councillors to support it for it to be carried.

The special meeting was held to debate a Section 140 motion, spearheaded by West Wicklow Independent councillor Gerry O'Neill, directing Chief Executive Brian Gleeson to withdraw the plans so that elements which would cause "serious negative

impacts on the lives of people living in the areas surrounding the Blessington Lakes" could be removed.

These include the installation of traffic lights on the Knockeiran, Baltyboys and Vallemount Bridges, and the proposed new parking restrictions on Blessington Main Street, which Cllr O'Neill says will "wipe out" 14 businesses.

The outcome of last week's vote (only five councillors voted to pro-

ceed with the Section 140 motion) means that the Council has put its faith in An Bord Pleanala to iron out these issues.

Councillors were warned by Council officials that halting the project could result in losing the €15 million in funding. They were also warned of the "detrimental effect to the Council's reputation with the Department". They were told that seeking to withdraw the plans would pose a risk to the Department's con-



Members of the Wicklow Lions Club pictured with Dominican College student Emma Lyons after celebrating their successful breaking of the world record for most people dressed as lions gathered in one place. The event took place on the grounds of Dominican College, where 252 lions gathered to help break the record. Pic: Michael Kelly

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NO MIDDLE MAN, WE SELL, MANUFACTURE AND INSTALL

fidence in the Council's ability to deliver a major greenway scheme and that this could impact on all schemes in the county. They were also reminded that expenditure on the project to date was in the region of €1m and that the Department might seek monies claimed to be returned.

Cllr John Snell (Ind), one of the five who supported the motion, accused the Council of 'scaremongering'.

Chief Executive of the Council Brian Gleeson said that seeking to withdraw the plans could leave the Council open to a judicial review. The Council obtained three separate legal opinions which all concurred that the Section 140 was invalid and unlawful and could not be enacted because a Section 140 can't be issued on a planning matter.

Correspondence between Cllr O'Neill and An Bord Pleanala (ABP) however revealed that it was the view of ABP that the Council could withdraw the plans at any stage of the process. Cllr Joe Behan said in his view the original full legal advice from the Council's law agent was not black and white.

The legal advice had stated that it could be seen as a Roads matter rather than a planning matter: "It could be argued that the functions of the council in the present case in submitting the application for development consent to the board for approval is not a function being carried out by the council in respect of its functions as a planning authority".

Speaking at last week's meeting, Cllr O'Neill said "I really want to see this

Greenway working but I think a mess has been made of it and we're on

the wrong road completely.

"This is not fair to the

people of the area. It's absolutely wrong to

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Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil

Local Enterprise Office

Check out Your Local Enterprise Office Wicklow for the following training courses for small businesses & the self-employed in Co. Wicklow!

- ❖ **Bookkeeping Using Excel - 7th April**
- ❖ **Effective Use of Social Media For Your Business - Intermediate Level - 27th April**
- ❖ **Start Your Own Business Course - commencing 5th May**
- ❖ **Driving Your Own PR Campaign - 10th May**
- ❖ **Public Procurement for SMEs: Introduction to Tendering Workshop - 11th May**

For further details or to book GO TO:
www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings

Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow
Phone: 0404 30800 Email: enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie



Emily McEvoy and Freya Fitzpatrick at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Wicklow Town.

Raise Your Voices for Ukraine

Bray Choral Society are inviting all singers, Choirs, Choral Societies, Church Choirs and anyone who likes to sing, to come along and sing with them for Ukraine. All donations will go to the Red Cross Ukrainian appeal. "We will sing John Rutter's arrangement of a Ukrainian Prayer Our Musical Director Mr. Frank Kelly will guide us through the music before we all sing it as a performance."

The venue is the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, Bray. The starting time is 2pm. There will be Red Cross Boxes at the entrance of the church, and all donations are gratefully received. Download music at: <https://johnrutter.com/news-features/prayer-for-ukraine>

My Open Library

Would you like to do more study? Would you like to use the library even when it is closed? If the answer is 'YES' then why not join My Open Library at Wicklow Library Branch.

My Open Library (MOL) will go live on Monday 4th April. MOL is an unstaffed, self-service library, which will be available at Wicklow library every day of the year between 8am and 10pm. Current normal staffed opening hours remain unchanged.

MOL membership is available to patrons aged 16 and over. In order to be granted MOL access, patrons must attend a brief health and safety walk-through with a member of staff. These sessions are held Mondays to Saturdays at 4pm and Tuesdays/Thursdays at 7pm.

There is no need to book these sessions, but please bring along your library card and some photo ID. Patrons aged 16/17 must bring a parent/guardian and original, valid age ID (passport, age card etc.).

Contact the branch for further details: Email wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie or Phone 0404 67025

Alzheimer's Tea Day

After two long years, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI) is inviting everyone to come together again for a cup of tea, a chat and maybe a treat or two on May 5th to help raise funds for vital dementia supports and services. The ASI is asking the people of Wicklow to get involved with local Tea Day events in their homes, gardens, workplaces, schools, local community centres or somewhere special.

The traditional Alzheimer's Tea Day was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19, and the event had to be moved online. By supporting Tea Day, you can make an incredible difference: €10 provides an hour at an Alzheimer's cafe for a person with dementia; €35 provides one hour of Cognitive Stimulation Therapy; €70 provides a session of Musical Therapy; €150 runs a Social club for one day. For more information or to register for your pack go to teaday.ie

St. Kevin's Way Annual Pilgrimage Walk

A walk has been organised to take place on St Kevin's Way on this year's Easter Saturday, the 16th of April to coincide with Annual Pilgrimage Week. Joining the pilgrimage route of St Kevin's Way, the 12km walk will follow the historic trail that connects the 6th century monastic settlement of Glendalough, with the villages of Hollywood, and more recently, Vallemount. Booking in advance is required with more details available on www.pilgrimpath.ie and on their Facebook page Glendalough Pilgrimage.

The trail has recently benefited from remedial work and a rerouting to enhance the experience under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS).

Bray Credit Union welcoming new members

Bray Credit Union held a special open day on Saturday 26th March for all customers in particular Ulster Bank customers who would like to open a Current Account with a debit Mastercard. Bray Credit Union is welcoming new customers and encouraging them to join and to bring: 1.) PPS Number; 2.) Proof of address; 3.) Photo ID. Further details are available at <https://www.braycu.ie/> Current-Accounts.

Signal Arts Centre 30th Anniversary Gala

The Signal Arts Centre's 30th Anniversary Gala will be held on April 9th in the Parkview Hotel in Newtownmountkennedy. There will be music by the band 4till6, with DJ Ger Fitz on till late.

The drinks reception will be at 6pm on arrival and dinner will be at 7pm. Tickets are €50 per person, available from the Signal Arts Centre, or online at www.signalartscentre.ie.

VOUCHERS FOR UKRAINIANS

Trucks full of clothing, medical supplies & baby equipment have been sent from Wicklow to the Ukrainian boarder where it is currently being distributed, and meanwhile a new initiative called Vouchers for Ukraine is aiming to help the Ukrainians in North Wicklow.

Support is now also needed for those Ukrainian refugees who are arriving into North Wicklow and who will be making our communities their communities, either in the short-term or maybe a little longer.

Ukrainian refugees staying in local hotels or with host families have no financial means to go into the local shops and buy supplies for themselves as it will take a number of weeks for their bank accounts to be operational.

This realisation led to Orla Finn, Sheila Sexton and Tanja O'Riordain to launch a new initiative called Vouchers for Ukraine.

"We are asking our Community to join with us in providing Vouchers for Ukrainians/Host



Orla Finn

Families living in North Wicklow," they say.

"These Vouchers will be used in local shops, cafés, restaurants, etc. so that the Ukrainian refugees living here can choose what they would like to buy for

themselves while at the same time giving them a chance to go out into our Community and discover our local area.

"As you know, there is a dignity in being able to buy products for oneself. This initiative will also support local businesses which is very important to us.

"In just one week almost €5,000 worth of Vouchers has been donated both by local people and local businesses. We are absolutely delighted with all of the support we have received.

"We are still collecting Vouchers and all info is on our Facebook page: facebook.com/Vouchers-For-Ukraine-North-Wicklow-100201865-972883/."

Day in aid of Ukraine

Powerscourt Gardens and Waterfall will support the Irish Red cross and its life saving work in Ukraine by donating all proceeds from admission tickets to the gardens and waterfall on Saturday the 2nd of April directly to the Irish Red Cross.

The public are encouraged to visit Powerscourt Gardens or Powerscourt Waterfall on Saturday the 2nd of April to show their support for those who are most vulnerable living in conflict zones.

Powerscourt Gardens in County Wicklow is ranked no. 3 in the World's Top 10 Gardens by the National Geographic, second only to the Palace of Versailles and Q Gardens in London. Powerscourt Waterfall is Ireland's highest Waterfall and towers at 121 metres in the Wicklow countryside surrounded by native Irish woodland.

The Day in Aid of Ukraine is an opportunity for people to support an urgent appeal from the Irish Red Cross and the work they are doing in Ukraine. To spend quality time with family and friends out in nature and support an important cause.

The "Day in aid of Ukraine" will take place on Saturday 2nd April 2022. The public are encouraged to bring friends and family and experience Powerscourt Gardens or Waterfall while supporting the Irish Red Cross.



Experience the 3rd best Garden in the World as ranked by National Geographic, explore 47 acres of formal landscaped Gardens, and relax with friends on the Avoca terrace Cafe and take in one of Ireland's most iconic views. Enjoy and explore Ireland's highest Waterfall at 121 metres surrounded by ancient native woodlands.

All proceeds from admission tickets on the day will go directly to the Irish Red Cross towards the urgent appeal for Ukraine. For admission prices please view Powerscourt website.

There will be no change to normal business or opening times on the day: Opening times for the Gardens - 9.30 am - 5.30 pm. Opening times for the Waterfall - 10.30 am - 5.30 pm



Once again, a delegation from Holyhead travelled to Greystones, their twinning partners, for St. Patrick's Day. The delegation enjoyed their stay in our town, despite there being no parade. They attended the parade in Newtownmountkennedy this year and received a warm welcome. The group was very impressed with the concert event at the Carraig Eden Rise & Shine Café. Plans were put in place for future twinning events. These include a Holyhead football team coming to Greystones in July, and the Holyhead Festival at the end of July. Mayor of Holyhead Richard Parry, who was part of the group, said: "It is always a pleasure to come to your wonderful town. Greystones people are very generous and have so much to offer. Greystones and Holyhead are always learning from each other." Pictured are Sue Williams, HH Mayor Richard Parry, Nia Roberts. Ross McParland from the Whale Theatre, Deputy HH Mayor Adrienne Williams, HH Santa Richard Burnell, Hywel Williams, Cllr. Derek Mitchell, Cllr. Gerry Walsh, and Trish Walsh.

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'Wicklow's Government TDs need to step up to the mark to help Arklow fisherman'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has outlined his frustration and anger at the lack of effort to resolve the plight of Arklow fisherman CJ Gaffney.

Deputy Brady said Wicklow's three Government TDs have failed to acknowledge an attempt to secure their support and cooperation for the arrangement of a meeting with Ministers Eamon Ryan, and Charlie McConalogue to attempt to bring a resolution to the ongoing saga forced upon the Gaffney family.

Deputy Brady criticised the continuing failure of government Ministers to take on board the recommendations of the EU Commission to allow CJ Gaffney to be compensated from EU funds for the costs incurred as a result of investment in a category of fishing trawler that has since found to be faulty across Europe.

Deputy Brady said: "I find the whole situation regarding this issue both appalling, and to be honest difficult to comprehend. We have a local fisherman here in Wicklow, who through no fault of his own, has been financially devastated following investment in a trawler that was passed as sound but was later found to have significant faults. Compensation is available. The EU Commission has given its permission for the government to draw the compensation down. Yet the government is putting in place

roadblock after roadblock to prevent any movement on this issue.

"I have written to each of the five Wicklow TDs on a number of occasions in recent weeks, asking them to put their name to a letter seeking a meeting with Ministers Ryan, and McConalogue, whose departments have been busy passing the buck between each other in order to avoid dealing with the issue, to establish which if any of their two departments was prepared to accept responsibility for the implementation of the solution offered by the EU Commission.

"None of the three TDs concerned - Simon Harris, Stephen Donnelly and Steven Matthews - two of whom are senior Ministers, deemed the issue important enough to reply. This is simply not good enough. These are all members of the government. They are three individuals with the ability to reach out to party colleagues to ask for their help in securing a solution that is both right and just - and proposed by the EU Commission yet refuse to do so.

"There are times when we all need to put politics aside. Sometimes we just need to pull on the county jersey and pull together for the common good. I want to again, use this opportunity to appeal to Wicklow's three government TDs to stand up for CJ Gaffney, to stand up for Wicklow, and to do the right thing here."



Anne Kiely and Anne Byrne of the Bray Guild at the Wicklow Federation ICA's 70th birthday celebrations which took place in Lynham's of Laragh

‘Greystones district not getting fair share’

CLlr Derek Mitchell has complained that Greystones Municipal District is getting far less funding than other Municipal Districts under the Council's Three-Year Capital Programme for 2022 to 2024.

CLlr Mitchell said "What's happening is that the highest amount of money is being allocated to the Baltinglass area, €41 million. The rest of the areas, Arklow, Wicklow, and Bray, are getting between €30m and €30m, and Greystones is €8m.

"It's simply not acceptable to me in view of the startling growth in the Greystones area. The investment is not being made to cope with all these people who are coming, and these houses are being built right now. You can see at least 800 houses being built right now around Greystones. There's another 800 in the pipeline after that.

"Some people seem to think that Greystones Municipal District has everything, but we do not. Twenty years ago, An Bord Pleanála refused permission for a Kilcoole industrial estate to expand. Since then, the council has done nothing about that, preventing the expansion of that industrial estate.

"There is considerable demand for industrial estates in Kilcoole. And the people who live in those areas are plagued with trucks all over the place in the middle of Kilcoole and various little roads. There are also footpaths and other things needed to cope with all these people."

‘WE’RE ON THE WRONG ROAD’

Continued from Page 1

infract this hardship on people. I couldn't sleep in bed at night to think there's 14 businesses that would be wiped out. That's wrong."

CLlr Behan said it was "Rubbish that legal advisors are telling us that we can't do it when the very body dealing with it has sent an email to a councillor saying we can withdraw it. If that's not good enough for members, I don't know how else they can be convinced."

The Chief Executive said that "the legal advice investigated all angles of the issue and then decided on balance that the motion was void" and would leave the council open to a judicial review and "significant cost implications".

Cathaoirleach of the Baltinglass Municipal District Avril Cronin abstained from the vote. She stated "This exciting project that will transform the whole of west Wicklow has caused frustration and a lot of anger and we're now in this difficult position. We cannot deny communication could have been better, consultation could have been improved, but we are where we are, and we must move forward to address these issues rather than dwell on the past. I've been told on numerous occasions the engineers of the council are working on these issues and they're looking for solutions and I am putting my trust in them. I cannot ignore the legal advice given on this occasion and I cannot go against my moral obligations and take part in a vote that is

unlawful, invalid, and illegal."

CLlr Edward Timmins said it was "outrageous" that plans were made to remove the parking spaces on the main street without consultation with the businesses. He acknowledged the issues and said "It's caused a lot of bitter feeling." However, he added: "It's clear from the legal advice that this Section 140 is void and not legal so we can't vote on it. There's no point in voting on it. The Council didn't consult with the public or with elected members in the Baltinglass Municipal District, so the onus is on the Council to come up with a satisfactory proposal that can give us comfort that these matters will be dealt with properly and the people's views will be taken on board."



Dominican College students pictured during their successful breaking of the world record for most people dressed as lions gathered in one place. The event, organised by Wicklow Lions Club, took place on the grounds of Dominican College, where 252 lions gathered to help break the record. Pic: Michael Kelly

The Kings Quarters Restaurant at The Castle Inn

Starters	
Castles Soup of the Day Served with home-made brown bread with sesame seed crust and crunchy french stick	€6.90
Creamy Tomato & Fennel Seafood Chowder Filled with Salmon, Hake & Atlantic Prawns Topped with Puff Pastry Crust (and the Castle twist)	€12.90
Irish Oak-Soaked Salmon Salad With Red Onion & Sliced Peppers tossed in Mixed Leaves with Saffron Wholegrain Mustard & Honey Dressing	€11.90
Home-Made Chicken Liver Pate With Tossed Rocket & Sun-Dried Tomatoes & Toasted Rustic Bread	€9.90
Oven Baked Goats Cheese Puff Pastry Parcel With Balsamic Reduction Drizzle & Baby Leaf Salad	€11.90
Coquilles Dublin Bay Prawns Dublin Bay Prawns cooked in lemon Butter served on a Scallop Shell with Mash Potato top & a Garlic Cream Sauce	€14.90
Pan Fried Crab Claws Jumbo Crab Claws tossed in Garlic & Herb Butter served with a thimble of Turmeric Rice	Priced to Market
Desserts	
Wild Berry Crumble Served with Vanilla Ice-cream and a mango coulis	€7.90
Luxurious Death by Chocolate Served with whipped cream and caramel sauce	€7.90
Fresh Fruit Salad With Mango coulis and vanilla ice-cream	€7.90
Classic Eton Mess Meringue, fresh strawberries and whipped cream with strawberry & mango coulis	€7.90
Selection of Ice-cream Mint, Chocolate, Strawberry & Vanilla	€7.90
Mains	
Castle Surf 'n' Turf 10oz 28 Day Dry Aged Sirloin of Beef with Tempura of Atlantic Prawns Grilled tomato and our house peppercorn & brandy sauce	€34.90
10oz 28 Day Dry Aged Sirloin Steak With battered onion rings, grilled tomato and house pink peppercorn & brandy sauce. Served with fries	€29.90
Oven Baked Hake Fillet Served on a chive mash with pan fried Atlantic Prawns in a lemon and butter herb sauce	€25.90
Crispy Boneless Half Roast Duck Served on creamed potatoes with a garlic & star anise sauce	€27.90
Roast Chicken Supreme With a Black Pudding and herb stuffing. Served with a Whiskey cream sauce topped with crispy Pancetta	€24.90
Pan Fried Monk Fish Fillet With shallot, dill and tomato cream sauce, tossed with fried samphire	€29.90
Grilled Plaice Fillet Grilled with fresh lemon and herb butter and baby capers & spring onion	€24.90
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On St. Patrick's Day, more aid was packed up for the long journey from Greystones to Poland, destined for a refugee camp near the Ukrainian border. Community Organiser Colette Talbot has now coordinated two aid runs and this time she's made the journey herself as one of 10 volunteers. Five vans packed full of donations of baby food, medical items, and much needed supplies set off for Kro_cienko. The first van carrying donations left on 1st March, followed by the second on 5th March.

Wicklow man Graham Hill flew to Poland on 5th March and has been helping to feed people at a refugee centre, sending updates and donation requests for what's most needed on the ground. Pictured are Harold Cranston, Stephen Flynn, David Flynn, Mick Cannon and David Rooney.

'Open House' event announced for Delgany Public Realm Project

Delgany Community Council (DCC) has announced that a Public Open House weekend is to be held in the Old Schoolhouse in Delgany village on Saturday, April 2nd from 2:30-6:30pm and Sunday, April 3rd from 2-5pm.

The Open House is being hosted by members of the DCC and the Paul Hogarth Group to present the findings of the Public Realm project to date, and to invite public comment and participation on the draft plan. Locals are invited to drop in at any time over the two afternoons.

The Delgany Village Public Realm Project was officially launched in 2021 with the participation of local representative groups and the Hogarth Group. This project is funded by a grant from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Paul Armstrong, DCC Chairperson, explains just how important this plan is for the village: "Delgany village is experiencing huge changes at present and we are welcoming new families and businesses to our community on a regular basis. This is a pivotal time for the area and we want to make sure that local residents have a real say in how our village changes so that it can meet

the needs of the growing population while also retaining its own special identity.

"Covid taught us all a lot, most importantly the value of community, connection and also a new appreciation of our natural and built heritage. This is part of what makes Delgany unique. We hope to see as many residents as possible at our event over the first weekend in April and we really want their input before we take this project to the next stage."

Patti Shields, spokesperson for the Delgany Village Business Alliance, echoes Paul's comments: "In our capacities as representative groups (DCC/DVBA) we have worked together in an unprecedented manner to align on the priorities of our growing village and have actively communicated those needs to both the representation from Wicklow County Council and our elected officials. The safety issues presented by the poor condition of footpaths, illegal parking and the speed and volume of through traffic cannot be ignored, and must be addressed

immediately."

The draft plan includes proposals such as more outdoor seating in the village, biodiversity trails and developing a more recognisable identity for the village. Residents and village customers of all ages are encouraged to attend the Open House in person or the virtual equivalent online and fill out the survey which will be available from April 2nd. The feedback from this public consultation will be used to help the community council to apply for grants to realise some of the ideas which appeal most to local residents.

There will also be an art competition for the youngest members of the community and DCC is looking forward to their shared insight on their favourite parts of Delgany Village: Past, Present, or Future.

Prizes will be available on the weekend of the Open House for all Young Resident submissions. The Virtual Open House and survey will launch on April 2nd, 2022 at www.delgany.online.

First premises in Kilcoole connected under Broadband Plan

National Broadband Ireland (NBI), the company delivering the new future-proofed, high-speed Fibre-to-the-Home network under the National Broadband Plan (NBP) on behalf of the Government, has announced that the first premises in the Kilcoole Deployment Area have been successfully connected. Townlands in the Kicooole Deployment Area include Calary, Delgany, Greystones, and Powerscourt among others.

Up to 15,781 premises in County Wicklow are included in the State's Intervention Area, which will see NBI deliver minimum speeds of 500 megabits per second to homes, businesses, farms and schools.

As a wholesale network operator, NBI does not sell fibre broadband directly to end users,

rather it enables services from a range of broadband providers or Retail Service Providers (RSPs). As a wholesale provider, NBI will make the new Fibre-to-the-Home network available to all RSPs operating in the Intervention Area.

Peter Hendrick, CEO of National Broadband Ireland, said: "National

Broadband Ireland is delighted to be able to say that we have now commenced our first connections in Kilcoole, which will enable users to experience the life-changing benefits that high-speed broadband provides. This is a key milestone for this intervention area. As an increasing number of

homes and businesses are being connected, we are confident that the rollout will continue to gather pace as we look to connect thousands more homes and businesses. We are acutely aware that people want access to high-speed broadband and our goal is to deliver that as quickly as possible."

Deputy Steven Matthews, Green Party TD said: "I welcome this milestone of the first connections made to premises in Kilcoole under the National Broadband Plan. This is a key development for the digital footprint of the area, that will enable small businesses to operate online efficiently and ensure the people of Kilcoole have access to fit-for-purpose broadband. This is an important step towards ensuring that communities, homes, schools and businesses across County Wicklow have access to high-speed fibre broadband. I look forward to engaging further with NBI as the provision of this vital service is rolled out across the county."

Conor Dardis, Head of Sales with Regional Broadband, said: "The new connection to high-speed fibre broadband under the National Broadband Plan is going to bring incredible benefits to the people of Kilcoole. We are delighted to work with NBI to connect our customers as part of the National Broadband Plan. We are



Deputy Steven Matthews, Green Party TD for Wicklow; Conor Dardis, Head of Sales with Regional Broadband; Fergal Mulligan, Programme Director of the National Broadband Plan at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications; Louise Barrett with her husband Chris Cohen and their children Olive (8) and Flynn (6); Tara Collins, Chief Marketing Officer of National Broadband Ireland and Seamus Doyle, Head of ICT with Wicklow County Council.

already receiving really positive feedback from our customers in Kilcoole, who are now experiencing some of the substantial benefits of high-speed fibre broadband."

Seamus Doyle, Head of ICT with Wicklow County Council said "Wicklow County Council is delighted to see how local people and businesses are benefitting through a connection to high speed broadband via the National Broadband Plan. This development will bring a variety of new and exciting opportunities to people in the area".

Fergal Mulligan, Programme Director of the National Broadband Plan at the Department of the Environment, Climate

and Communications (DECC) commented: "The availability of high speed broadband for homes and businesses around the Kilcoole deployment area in townlands such as Newtown, Calary, Ballinastoe, Greystones, Kilmacanogue is a positive development in the roll out of the National Broadband Plan. As more and more homes and businesses come online, people across Ireland are getting to experience the wide array of benefits provided by access to reliable high speed fibre broadband, through the National Broadband Plan. As part of the Government's €59m investment in the NBP in County Wicklow over

15,000 premises will benefit from high-speed broadband connectivity. Over 2,500 premises in the county can place orders for services today."

NBI contractors have been on the ground since January 2020 surveying townlands across the county. This involves physically walking the routes and documenting images, notes and measurements of the poles, cables and underground ducts in each area, and enables design solutions for the provision of the fibre network.

In advance of the Fibre-to-the-Home roll out, the NBP provides for the delivery of Broadband Connection Points (BCP's) nationwide. 527 of these sites

are now 'live' and have both internal and external broadband access. These facilities - which include sports clubs, community centres and tourist sites - will provide free public access to high-speed internet in the rollout area.

An example of some of the locations of Broadband Connection Points in Wicklow include Wicklow GAA Centre of Excellence, the Brockagh Resource Centre, Ballinacor GAA Club, Arklow Business Enterprise Centre, Ballycooge Community Hall, and Crossbridge Community Hall. Primary schools in the Intervention Area are also being connected for educational access as part of the NBP.

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NEW

NEW

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Dutch Ambassador is welcomed to Wicklow

Wicklow County Council welcomed the Dutch Ambassador, His Excellency, Adriaan Palm, to Wicklow town last Tuesday 22nd March.



Leas Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Tommy Annesley, Christine Flood, Dutch Ambassador His Excellency Willem Adriaan Palm, Vibeke Delahunt - Head of Enterprise at Wicklow LEO, and Chef Paul Smith with a delegation from Netherlands, pictured at Tinakilly House, Rathnew

The visit by the Ambassador was in conjunction with a trade delegation of leading Dutch maritime companies who are visiting Ireland in order to identify trade, investment and collaboration opportunities within the Irish offshore wind sector.

The delegation has a particular focus on bottom-fixed offshore wind and port development, making County Wicklow an ideal location for their visit.

The Dutch delegation consists of 14 companies and was led by Arjen Schutten, Managing Director, Holland Home of Wind Energy, and Kees Mokveld, Advisor, International Clean Energy Partnership (ICEP), at Netherlands Enterprise Agency.



Leas Cathaoirleach Tommy Annesley with Dutch Ambassador His Excellency, Adriaan Palm, Vibeke Delahunt - Head of Enterprise at Wicklow LEO, and County Manager Brian Gleeson.

The Ambassador was welcomed to Wicklow by the Leas-Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley who described "the honour of showcasing County Wicklow to our European neighbours".

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, advised the delegation on the "growth of offshore wind developments off

the coast of County Wicklow which places Wicklow firmly on the map as a leader in the renewable energy sector".

The Ambassador was surprised and delighted when Ms Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, Wicklow LEO, welcomed him to Wicklow County Council in their shared native tongue.

The delegation

received a number of presentations in Wicklow County Council focusing on a case study of Codling Windpark and the Transformation Wicklow Port before departing for Tinakilly House Hotel where they were treated to a Wicklow Naturally drinks reception, with all refreshments prepared using locally produced food and beverages.

Council delegation visits Tourism Ireland in New York

Representatives of Wicklow County Council, who were in New York for the St Patrick's Day period, met with senior executives from Tourism Ireland last week. They were briefed on Tourism Ireland's extensive promotional programme in the United States for 2022, which is in full swing right now.

This year, Tourism Ireland is rolling out its biggest ever programme of promotions in the United States, to restart overseas tourism to Ireland. Following a devastating two years for the tourism and travel sector, the programme will allow Tourism Ireland to upweight its campaigns, punch through the noise and convert 'lookers' to 'bookers', in order to save businesses and create jobs.

Tourism Ireland's message is that Ireland is open for business again and we cannot wait to welcome back our American visitors.

Alison Metcalfe, Tourism Ireland's Head of North America, said: "We were delighted to meet with the representatives of Wicklow County Council and to have the opportunity to brief them about the extensive promotional programme we are undertaking in the United States this year. We are rolling out our Green Button campaign right now - urging American travellers to 'press the Green Button' and book their trip to Ireland this year. Our extensive

programme of high impact campaigns and promotions is targeting those consumers with the greatest potential to travel to Ireland. Our message is very simple: Ireland is open for business again and we cannot wait to welcome back visitors from the United States.

"Our St Patrick's Day programme this year included an extensive programme of trade, media and consumer activity to restart overseas tourism. Our aim was to remind American holiday-makers that Ireland offers the warmest of welcomes and great fun, as well as wonderful scenery and heritage. We've been taking every opportunity to capitalise on Ireland's heightened profile around this St Patrick's Day period."

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Geraldine Egan, Tourism Ireland; Wicklow Cathaoirleach Cllr Shay Cullen and County Manager Brian Gleeson, ; and Paul McDonagh, Tourism Ireland, in the Tourism Ireland office in New York.

BIFE management outline the college's future plans to Minister Harris

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Simon Harris TD met with the management team of Bray Institute of Further Education last Friday to discuss their plans for the further development of the college and to receive a copy of their prospectus for the coming year.

BIFE Principal Ray Tedders outlined the college's plans to become a FET College of the Future and to develop more training and apprenticeship opportunities and perhaps even develop student accommodation on the campus.

Ray Tedders said "Minister Harris expressed his desire to see the BIFE campus developed to meet the Further Education and Training needs of the Wicklow region. Bray Institute of Further

Education is ideally located to meet the fast-changing FET sector needs and to respond to the further education, training and apprenticeship requirements for Wicklow.

He stated that "BIFE has over 80 Further Education courses currently on offer and also has three apprenticeship courses in Accounting, Hairdressing and Culinary Arts.

"The BIFE Campus has the capacity to accommodate this growing sector

for both Further and Higher Education and training. It is well positioned to be responsive to the Further Education, Training, Apprenticeships and changing skills needs of the area.

"Minister Harris expressed his support for the expansion and development of a new FET College of Future at BIFE which will enhance the current offering at BIFE and allow further development in the areas of Further Education,

Training and Apprenticeships. It is an exciting development for the FET sector and for BIFE and Wicklow."

Minister Harris said: "I am excited about the work BIFE is undertaking in our community and was delighted to meet with Ray Tedders, Principal and the leadership team in BIFE to discuss their work and my plans as Minister to grow and support further education and training and apprenticeship opportunities."



Pictured last Friday at Bray Institute for Further and Higher Education (Bife) were Paddy McNulty (Deputy Principal), Councillor Tom Fortune (Bife & KWETB Board member); Ray Tedders, (Principal Bife); Minister for Further & Higher Education, Simon Harris TD; Louise Fortune (Deputy Principal) and Gabriel Allen (Deputy Principal).

Whitmore welcomes new role as Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on International Surrogacy



Jennifer Whitmore TD

Deputy Jennifer Whitmore, Social Democrats TD has welcomed her new role as Chair of the newly established Joint Oireachtas Committee on International Surrogacy.

The new Committee is due to begin meeting next week and will be tasked with considering and making recommendations on measures to address issues arising from international surrogacy.

Speaking on the appointment, Deputy Whitmore says "I'm delighted to be offered this incredible opportunity to Chair this important Committee. The Committee will run for three months and I look forward to working with my colleagues and with stakeholders on the issue of international surrogacy. There have been a lot of developments in the area of international surrogacy which affect families here in Ireland and so our work will be an important piece of understanding and discovering the implications as well as new developments in this area.

"It is intended that the results of our meetings will help inform the recently published Assisted Human Reproduction Bill which addresses other aspects of surrogacy and fertility.

"I look forward to working as Chair of this committee and ensuring all voices are listened to as we work through this very complex area."

'Clarity needed on future home for North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School'

Minister Simon Harris TD has with his Wicklow Oireachtas colleagues, has sought clarification from the Department of Education as to when a permanent site is to be identified for North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School.

Minister Harris said: "Wicklow Oireachtas members met with the management of the Department of Education's Site Acquisition's Unit seeking clarity as to when the Department will conclude their site identification exercise for North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School (NWETSS) to allow the school expand to a 1,000 pupil secondary school.

"The Department of Education have now confirmed that they are examining two potential sites for the school in the greater Bray area but for reasons of commercial sensitivity they will not identify the lands in question. The Wicklow TDs are working with the school and met the school to update them on their engagement with the Department of Education.

"All the TDs are working together on a cross party basis to put the maximum pressure on the Department of Education to conclude their technical assessment of the sites and advise whether they are suitable for a permanent home for NWETSS. The Department of Education are to update the Wicklow deputies on the completion of their technical examination in the next month and the Wicklow TDs will again meet with the school and their patron".





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People attending the ceremony of commemoration and remembrance at Bray Library to reflect on the lives lost during the Covid 19 pandemic. Pic: Joe McQuillan

Appeal for responsible dog ownership during the lambing season

Dog owners are being reminded by Wicklow County Council of their responsibilities and the vulnerability of sheep to dog attacks during lambing season. The Council is working in partnership with the IFA, Wicklow Uplands Council and Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee to raise awareness of this issue.

Mr Tom Byrne, Wicklow IFA Chairman, welcomed the collaboration with the various parties, stating: "This is a critical time of year on sheep farms as lambing season is now upon us. It is the time that sheep flocks are at their most vulnerable to incidences of worrying and attacks by dogs and where dog attacks are causing unimaginable suffering for sheep and lambs and huge economic losses for farmers."

The IFA launched a 'No Dogs Allowed' campaign last year to highlight the issue of dog attacks on sheep and believe there is an urgent need to strengthen the legislation, include appropriate sanctions and develop a single national database identifying dogs and their owners.

As recreational use of the Wicklow Uplands increases, the presence of dogs close to farmland areas and the hills used for sheep farming, requires a greater awareness of responsible dog control, according to Brian Dunne of Wicklow Uplands Council, who further noted "It is also an important breeding season for ground-nesting birds and wildlife which along with sheep, can become startled by the presence of dogs".

Carol Coad, Rural Recreation Officer, Wicklow Partnership, in acknowledging that outdoor recreation enhances daily life and improves physical and mental health, reiterated the need for environmental and community awareness, stating that "Respect for the rural community is a core principle of the Wicklow Outdoor

Recreation Strategy and all participants are asked to be responsible when accompanied by their canine friends."

Cllr Tommy Annesley, Leas Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, also welcomed the partnership approach and stated: "This awareness campaign is highlighting the role that all dog owners must play in tackling this serious issue" and asked that "dog owners be vigilant in keeping dogs under control and knowing where their dogs are at all times, especially at night when most attacks occur."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Brian Gleeson, commended the interagency approach to the awareness campaign and asked that all dog owners and dog walkers responsibly comply with the guidelines for visiting farmland areas.

The following guidelines should be followed by all dog owners living or visiting farmland areas to ensure that they continue to play a crucial role in making them a safer place for all to enjoy:

- Please observe and respect local signage and leave dogs at home if accessing land where livestock are present or close by. Some landowners forbid dogs entirely, whereas others including the state, may request the use of leads.
- In situations outside of the home, dog owners must legally ensure that their dogs are under 'effectual' control at all times. Attacks on sheep can result in financial loss-



John Byrne (Dog Warden), Peter Behan (Vice Chairperson of the Wicklow Chiviot Sheep Owners), Noel Hayes (Dog Warden), Cllr Tommy Annesley (Leas Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council), Selena K McKenzie (Wicklow IFA representative), Tom Byrne (Chairperson of Wicklow IFA), Ruth Daunt (Council Vet), Brian Dunne (Chairperson of Wicklow Uplands Council), and Carol Coad (Rural Recreation Officer), at Spring Farm, Redcross.

es to the farmer, for which the dog owner can be held liable.

- The presence of dogs, even with playful intent, can cause great anxiety within a flock of sheep. During the winter months this can prevent ewes from coming into season. In lambing season it is the main cause of stillbirths and miscarriages, which can occur 2-3 days after contact with dogs.
- Please respect and be aware of wildlife as the presence of dogs can disturb ground-nesting birds and other animals during the breeding season.
- Know where your dogs are at all times - attacks often occur at night
- Report wandering dogs and suspicious sights to your local authorities.
- Make sure that your dog(s) are registered and microchipped and that a current licence is in place for

each of them - this is now a legal requirement for ALL dogs.

- Dog fouling is the responsibility of the owner. Please collect and dispose of all faeces in an appropriate manner - this includes plastic bags used in the process. Failure to clean up is a public health concern and is an offence under section 22 of the Litter Pollution Acts.
- Share this advice with others.
- Enjoy and experience nature responsibly and respectfully.

If anyone witnesses an incident of sheep worrying or damage to livestock in Wicklow, please report it immediately to Wicklow County Council. It is important that all incidents be reported as soon as possible following the incident. Please contact: 0404 -20236 or env@wicklowcoco.ie

Check it Fits Service is back on the road and coming to Wicklow

Over half of child car seats (56%) incorrectly fitted nationwide according to Road Safety Authority

Over half of child car seats (56%) checked by the Road Safety Authority's Check it Fits service were incorrectly fitted and needed some type of adjustment to make them a safe fit. If a child's car seat isn't fitted correctly, it could lead to a serious or fatal injury in the event of a collision.

The RSA has announced that their face-to-face child car seat checking service - Check it Fits - is back on the road visiting locations around the country after a two-year absence due to the Covid 19 pandemic and is coming to Wicklow this week.

Car seats may seem simple to install, but the installation is often easy to get wrong. The RSA have found that almost a third of seats fitted incorrectly needed major adjustments. Parents are not intentionally putting children in danger and it is an education issue. To help address this

problem, the RSA Check it Fits service will be visiting County Wicklow, to help parents and ensure car seats and restraints are correctly fitted.

Aisling Sloyan, Senior Road Safety Promotion Officer for the RSA commented: "While the RSA's experience with its Check

it Fits service shows that half of child car seats are fitted incorrectly, worryingly, it found that 30% of these needed a major adjustment to fix them. For example, the seat being excessively loose so as to make the fitting almost ineffective. 67% were minor adjustments, for example, the fitting being loose or a twisted seatbelt. Having a correctly fitted car seat is a simple measure parents, grandparents and guardians can take to

ensure children are safe while travelling by car. I would encourage people to visit the Check it Fits service when it comes to County Wicklow and give yourself the peace of mind that your children are travelling safely."

The service takes between 10-15 minutes and runs from 10.00am - 5.30pm, it is free of charge and offers parents and guardians reassurance that their child is safe while travelling in the car.

It is important to use your child car seat correctly every single time during a car journey so parents should regularly check the fitting of your child car seat or get it rechecked at a Check it Fits service. For example, if you got your child car seat fitted in winter now coming into the summer months you may need to tighten the harness as your children are wearing lighter clothes. If your child's car seat or restraint

is incorrectly fitted, the Check it Fits experts will advise on how to fix the problem, demonstrate how to fit the restraint correctly and answer any queries participants might have to avoid potential serious or fatal injury in the event of a collision.

For more information on Check it Fits and to book a Check it Fits appointment visit www.checkitfits.ie. Walk-ins are also facilitated on the day but there may be a

wait depending on number of appointments pre-booked.

The service will be visiting:

SuperValue, Castle Street, Bray: Tuesday 29th March, 10am-5:30pm.
BabyCare International, Seafront, Wicklow Town: Wednesday 30th March, 10am-5:30pm.
SuperValu, Charlesland, Greystones, Sunday 3rd April, 10am-5:30pm.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2022

As part of its commitment to supporting local community development, Wicklow County Council operates an annual Community Award Scheme. The fund for 2022 will be available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area.

COMMUNITY GRANTS (Maximum grant €500 per organisation) for small projects and group running costs. Only one application per organisation will be considered.

The application form is available on Wicklow County Council's website www.Wicklow.ie.

Any queries should be made to the Office of Community, Cultural & Social Development, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow at 0404 20208 or ccsdadmin@wicklowcoco.ie.

The closing date for submission of applications is **4.00 p.m. on Friday 29th April, 2022.**

Late applications will not be considered.

Applications open for Deer Hunting Season

The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has announced that application forms and guidance notes for the 2022/2023 deer hunting season are now available on the NPWS website at www.npws.ie.

This season will see the introduction of mandatory certification training for first time hunters. The Department through NPWS has been committed to the introduction of this certification training and Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan, T.D., said:

"I am delighted that we have now introduced mandatory certification training for first time hunters. This is a vital addition to the deer hunting licencing process and I know these training courses will be delivered to a high and professional standard. The addition of this certification will further enhance safety throughout the countryside and ensure first time hunters are provided with essen-

tial knowledge in deer stalking."

Currently there are three courses approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage through NPWS. The Deer Alliance Hunter Competence Assessment Programme (HCAP); Country Sports Ireland's Deer Stalking Training Course and NARGC's Deer Stalking Certificate and links to the relevant courses can be found on www.npws.ie or through the outlets' own websites. Further courses may be approved by the Department as they become available.

The Department continues to modernise the deer hunting licencing process with the introduction of mandatory certification

training and work is in train on the development of an eLicencing application system.

Despite the challenges of the past two years, the Department strived to ensure all applications were dealt with in a timely manner and last season, for the first time, over 6,000 licences were issued.

Under the Wildlife Acts, annual

licences are required to hunt deer during the Open Season, which is the period during which deer can be legally shot. The Open Season for deer operates generally from 1 September in a given year to 28 February the following year, depending on the species and gender of deer. Over 6,000 deer hunting licences were issued last season.



Trees removed from Barnaslingan Wood

Coillte began removing a number of trees from Barnaslingan Wood, on the eastern slope of The Scalp last week during National Tree Week, as part of a 'Thinning' programme to help regeneration.

A Coillte spokesperson told *Wicklow Times* "Coillte's Barnaslingan forest is part of Dublin Mountains Makeover project which covers an area of over 900 hectares across nine Coillte forests. These forests are among the most highly visited forests by the public and Coillte is now transitioning away from management aimed primarily for timber production towards prioritising these forests for people and nature.

"At Barnaslingan Coillte are managing this mixed woodland through Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) practices. Using Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) management, a permanent forest cover is kept at all times, but the forest is thinned regularly, by removing individual trees, to gradually create a more diverse, multi-structural and multi-aged forest that will last into the future.

Without removal of selected canopy trees there is little opportunity for the forest to regenerate itself.

"Specific trees are selected for removal and are identified with a pink slash - to allow more light through the canopy and encourage new trees and vegetation to grow on the forest floor. In some of these areas we will plant groups of native saplings to speed up the regeneration process.

CCF thinning is also used to create space for specific trees already growing in the canopy, and in this case we will favour mature native species.

"The approach will result in a more diverse forest in terms of structure, as well as in the age and species of trees growing there. This is better for wildlife and makes the forest more resilient to pressures such as pests or a changing climate.

"Barnaslingan Forest is a Coillte biodiversity area and a Biodiversity Management Plan has been prepared for the site. Biodiversity monitoring plots have been established on the forest floor to monitor the changes and recruitment of new native tree species which will regenerate the forest for years to come.

"Coillte respectfully request the public to follow any safety signage and instructions from staff on the ground."



Barnaslingan Wood

Irish Water extends public consultation of the draft Regional Water Resource Plan Eastern and Midlands

Irish Water has extended the statutory consultation period of the draft Regional Water Resource Plan Eastern and Midlands (RWRP-EM) and associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement (NIS). Irish Water is now inviting feedback on the Plan and associated environmental documents, which was published for statutory consultation on Tuesday 14 December, until Friday 8th April.

The RWRP-EM is Irish Water's plan to identify how they will provide a safe, sustainable, secure and reliable water supply for now and into the future whilst safeguarding the environment.

"The RWRP-EM will set out how we will balance the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term in the Eastern and Midlands region. It is a 25-year strategy to ensure we have a safe, sustainable, secure and reliable drinking water supply for everyone," said Irish Water.

"This is an opportunity to feed into the process of how Irish Water identifies the issues and opportunities for the water supply in your area and how solutions are found, before they are applied to your Region. The draft RWRP-EM and associated environmental reports can be viewed and downloaded at www.water.ie/rwrp/easternmidlands, or at your local authority's planning office during office hours. If you have any questions in relation to the RWRP-EM, you can contact our project team at nwpr@water.ie."

Council seeking to overturn decision on Swan River Greenway project

At a recent meeting of Bray Municipal District a proposal to halt the proposed Swan River Greenway project which would run from the Killarney road to the Boghall road was supported in a 7-1 vote by local Councillors.

A very comprehensive and robust discussion was held at the meeting which ultimately resulted in a call to not pursue this proposal any further. It has since emerged that Wicklow County Council will seek to overturn that decision and plough ahead with this proposal.

According to Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien, "This decision was arrived at following a very thorough discussion and it has to be said that the two biggest emerging issues were the threat to the biodiversity and ecosystem of the proposed route and the impact on people who live in close proximity to the proposed route. Only 10% of the people I surveyed on this were in favour of this. A shortcut may have been a good idea decades ago when estates had not been built and a natural thoroughway was identified but there is absolutely no credible rationale for pursuing this project any further.

"We now find ourselves in a



Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien

position where a decision that was applauded by local people who felt that their genuine engagement and their concerns about the environment were considered worthy of a vote to stop the project is now at risk of being overturned. What message are we sending about local democracy when unelected officials can wield such power as to be able

to overturn a decision made by elected Councillors who have a mandate to work on behalf of the people?!

"We will rigorously oppose any attempt by the unelected council officials to undermine the democratic decision of the elected members of the council, by trying to push this unwanted plan forward."

Cllr Grace McManus added "There are other community groups, clubs, businesses and residents from the wider town who have been and are watching this story unfold. I would worry about what impact this situation would have on their trust in future public consultation processes. We need people to engage and for their voices to be heard and respected, after all they are the whole reason we are there as a council- to serve them. I don't see how this decision being overturned will be in any way healthy for building people's want to engage in the future."



Mary Doyle, Una Doyle, Marie Togher, Una McGowran and May Kenna at the Wicklow Federation ICA's 70th birthday celebration which was held in Lynham's of Laragh.

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Richard and Sophie Tyrell at the Arklow St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Lucy's Erasmus+ experience with BIFE

BIFE student Lucy Claire recently traveled to Finland as part of the Erasmus programme and writes about her experience

My name is Lucy and I am currently studying to become a personal trainer at Bray Institute of Further Education. I applied and was lucky enough to be selected to go on Erasmus to Finland for 3 weeks.

The Erasmus programme was founded by the European Commission and it gives EU students the chance to study or work abroad with all expenses paid for! I never thought I would be able to go on Erasmus as I had a misconception that PLC courses didn't offer this opportunity.

I was situated in Kisakallio Sports Institute in Finland where I got the chance to live alone and be a student! Throughout my time in Finland, I got to try many new things: Ice skating, skiing, snowshoeing and even going to the saunas and then getting straight into a frozen lake!

I got an insight into different training methods from taking part and observing classes, I got to learn some of the beautiful language, and I made friends for life. This experience has given me so much more confidence in both my teaching ability and in my personal life, it was genuinely a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will never forget.

I made a series of educational videos in Finland about my trip, and I also made some personal vlogs including my 21st birthday vlog! If you would like to see a snippet of my experience, you can check out my YouTube channel 'Lucy Claire'.



Lucy in Finland

New Information Officer at Arklow Citizens Information Centre



Ashley Morgan

Arklow Citizens Information Centre is pleased to welcome Ashley Morgan to our team. With a background in nursing, Ashley has always been interested in helping and empowering people who need support at different stages in their lives.

Ashely previously worked in an information environment where he provided information and advice to people living with and affected by dementia. This experience has left Ashley with a strong passion for assisting people with their rights and entitlements and his experience during the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted how important this work is.

Ashley spent five years working with Age UK in London where he specialised in issues that concern older people such as organising, accessing and paying for social care, ensuring that

older people were aware of their full range of entitlements and identifying suitable options for older people in the later stages of life.

While based in Dublin, Ashley has spent much leisure time exploring the beautiful county of Wicklow and enjoys travelling to work every day. However, he is considering moving nearer to work and is considering a move to the south east of the county.

Ashley enthuses "I have received such a warm welcome from my colleagues and the clients whom I have met over the past few days and I am

very much looking forward to assisting the people of Arklow and beyond".

Funded by the Citizens Information Board, the range of areas covered by the Citizens Information Service (CIS) are extremely wide including social welfare rights and entitlements and other social issues such as employment, health services, housing, education, family matters and consumer rights on which people need access to information.

A growing number of customers require in-depth assistance and CIS plays an important role in providing advocacy with, or on behalf of, those people who need it, including people with disabilities, migrants, refugees, lone parents, the Travelling Community, prisoners, geographically isolated people and those who may not have access to digital resources.

Basically anyone working or living County Wicklow who has an issue that needs addressing or is at a crossroads in their lives.

For anyone needing impartial, confidential, non-judgemental and informed advice and support the CIS is here to help. There are many ways to access our services. Their website www.citizensinformation.ie is packed full of helpful information.

To find out their opening hours or if you would like them to address a specific query or to book an appointment with a member of their team please contact your local Citizens Information Centre in Bray CIC on 0818 07 6780. They are available from Monday to Friday and their services are free and confidential. Arklow CIC can be contacted on 0818 07 6750.

Arklow RNLI comes to assistance of 12 metre Vessel

Arklow RNLI launched on 21st March at approximately 3.45pm to a Coast Guard Pager request to assist a vessel which had lost propulsion.

The volunteer crew made their way to the lifeboat station and within minutes of the request were aboard RNLB Ger Tighelearr and enroute to the reported location some 5 miles South of Arklow.

The All-weather Trent Class lifeboat made its way to the reported position and was on scene a short time later. A crew transfer vessel from the local offshore wind-farm were also enroute to render assistance.

Once on scene, the casualty vessel with two persons aboard was located and it was confirmed that the vessel had suffered engine failure. A tow line was set up and the casualty vessel was towed back to Arklow where all hands came ashore safely.

Arklow RNLI's crew on this shout were Coxswain Ned Dillon, James Russell, Jimmy Myler, Sinead Myler, Craig O'Reilly.

Following the callout, Mark Corcoran, Volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer at Arklow RNLI said: "Thanks once again to our volunteer crew, who at a moments notice go to sea to assist others, whether day or night, please remember to respect the water."



The vessel being towed back to Arklow harbour. Photo courtesy of Arklow RNLI

Irish Water continues to upgrade and improve the water supply in Greystones

Irish Water last week began a further programme of works in Greystones to drive down leakage and improve water quality and supply to homes and businesses. The works continue to be carried out as part of Irish Water's national Leakage Reduction Programme.

Working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, Irish Water has recently replaced over 1km of old and broken, cast iron water mains in the Trafalgar Road and Cliff Road areas of the town with customers already enjoying a more reliable water supply and improved water quality.

These old cast iron mains were replaced with new, modern pipework which has significantly reduced the number of bursts and water outages that were impacting customers.

The latest upgrade project involves the replacement of 500 meters of aged cast iron water mains with new modern pipes along

the R761 and laying new water service connections from the public water main in the road to customers' property boundaries and connecting it to the customer's water supply.

Speaking about the project Joe Carroll, Leakage Reduction Programme Regional Lead with Irish Water said: "The size and scale of the leakage challenge nationally is well documented. Replacing these old and damaged pipes in Greystones which have a history of bursting, along with the works already undertaken, will not only reduce the amount of drinking water lost to leakage, it will also improve water quality for the local community."

"We understand that road works can be inconvenient, but our crews will make every effort to minimise disruption to the local community as we continue to improve the water supply in Greystones and progress the national Leakage Reduction Programme across Wicklow."

"To minimise the impact on customers, areas of work will be limited to short sections and some traffic management will be necessary, however, local and emergency access will be maintained."

"The works may involve some short-term supply interruptions which we understand may cause inconvenience, however,



the project team will ensure that customers are given a minimum of 48 hours' notice prior to any planned water interruptions. The works will be carried out on behalf of Irish Water by Ward & Burke Construction and expected to be completed by the end of April.

"Fixing leaks can be

complicated but we are making progress. In 2018 the rate of leakage nationally was 46%, by the end of 2021 it was reduced to 38%. We are on track to achieve a national leakage rate of 32% by the end of 2024.

For more information, please visit www.water.ie/reducingleaks."

One Book One Community launched in Dunlavin

An initiative called 'One Book, One Community' has been launched in Dunlavin by Wicklow County Council Library Service.

The aim is to encourage a community to come together and share the experience of reading the same book. Everyone is included, from children to parents, grandparents, friends, teachers and family - the entire community. The chosen book is 'A Place Called Perfect' by Kilkenny author Helena



Librarian Maura Greene pictured with St Kevin's Community College students, Cian Bruce and Dylan Miley

Duggan. Published in 2017, this book is the first in a series by the author. It has won numerous awards and is bound to be enjoyed by young people and also by anyone who decides to give it a go.

Wicklow County Council Library Service has purchased numerous copies of 'A Place Called Perfect' and these are available for borrowing at Dunlavin Library. Maura Greene, Dunlavin branch librarian, is delighted to see the increased activity around the library and she looks forward to meeting lots of new readers and users. Maura can be contacted at Dunlavin Library on 045 401100 for further information.

Commenting on the initiative, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson, said: "I can imagine that when a whole school community reads the same book, the



Librarian Maura Greene pictured with St Kevin's Community College students Aibhinn Mulvihill and Alix Foley Doran

interest builds and filters into the community at large. It is an intergenerational activity with no major challenges involved; everyone can read the book and share in the conversation"

Ms Helen Whyte, St Kevin's Home School Community Liaison Coordinator, stated: "This is the third time we have run this initiative in St Kevin's Community College but the first time we have linked with Dunlavin Library.

Choosing the right book to anchor this initiative was very important to us as an English Department and we found great support within Wicklow County Council Library Service in doing so. We wanted to get young people reading and keep them reading. As soon as we read the novel we knew the scope for fun and creativity was immense and we could feel ourselves getting excited about the opportunities it would

present for us in the classroom."

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, welcomed this community initiative saying: "This is a light-hearted literacy initiative that will see the community exploring and enjoying the same title and is a welcome activity following the challenges that Covid has presented the teaching and learning environment over the past two years."

Wicklow students are set for national entrepreneurship final

Local Enterprise Office Wicklow have announced that winning teenager entrepreneurs from Dominican College, Coláiste Chraobh Abhann and Loreto Secondary School will represent Wicklow at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Finals on Wednesday 18th May. The Finals return to a physical event this year at The Helix in Dublin having been held online in 2020 and 2021.

The students all took part in the Wicklow Final on 22nd of March, which was a virtual ceremony. An estimated 865 students from 16 schools took part in the annual programme locally.

The enterprise education initiative, funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland and delivered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities throughout the country, saw over 24,000 students from just under 500 secondary schools across the country take part in 2020 / 2021. The programme supports students to create, design and market their own business, all with the hope of reaching the National Finals.

In the Junior Category, the students representing Wicklow at the National Finals are: Quillan Byrne, John Turley and Sebastian Anton from the "Ornaments Galore" team at Coláiste Chraobh Abhann.

In the Senior Category of the competition Wicklow will be represented on May 18th by Hannah Traynor, Isabella Ledesma, Clara Roldan and Clara Dunne from "Wood on Fire" at Dominican College.

While in the "Most Creative Business Idea" section open to senior students, Erica Conroy, Melanie Salmon, Sinéad Ivory, Eimear Hardiman of the "Wacky Wires" team from Loreto Secondary School came out on top.

Special guests at the Wicklow Final included Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive and Shay Cullen Cathaoirleach Wicklow County Council, Caoimhe Doyle, Foley Artist and local entrepreneur and Annette Rowsome. Senior Development Officer LEO Wicklow. There were also goodwill messages from singer Bobbi Arlo and Leinster rugby coach Leo Cullen.

Wicklow has had success over the years with "Headphone Helpers" from Coláiste Craobh Abhann, Kilcoole, and "Irish Baubles" from St David's Secondary School in Greystones going on to win the National Award at senior level and "Scott Engine Tables" from Coláiste Chill Mhantain, Rathnew, winning the national award at intermediate level.

Speaking at the county final, Vibeke Delahunt Head of Enterprise of Local Enterprise Office Wicklow congratulated the students, saying "We have a very successful student enterprise programme here in Wicklow with over 865 students from 16 local schools taking part this year. Our national finalists are excellent ambassadors for the programme and we wish them the very best of luck on Friday 18th, and we will all hope to be there to support them. In what has been a particularly challenging couple of years for

students the programme has offered them an outlet outside of the usual school demands. What our students are learning from the programme is that with the right supports and encouragement, they can take an idea from the classroom and develop it into a real-life business. The skills they learn along the way, such as business

planning, market research, selling and team-work, will help them become more entrepreneurial throughout their future careers".

The local students will be competing against hundreds of other student entrepreneurs from all over Ireland at the Student Enterprise Programme National Finals, taking place at the Helix in Dublin on the 18th May.

Since the Student Enterprise Programme began in 2003, over 300,000 students have taken part, learning key skills on how to create a business idea, start a business and grow a business. The Student Enterprise Programme also has new range of online resources for 2021 / 2022 at www.StudentEnterprise.ie, which will feature regular blogs and houses a full range of Student Enterprise resources for students and teachers.

Further information around the Student Enterprise Programme is available from www.studententerprise.ie and by searching #studententerprise on social media.

Food and drink producers in Wicklow invited to join Food Academy

Local Enterprise Office Wicklow is inviting food and drink producers from the county to join the hugely successful Food Academy programme and follow in the footsteps of local companies, such as Janet's Just Delicious, The Birds and the Teas, Wicklow Rapeseed Oil, which have previously taken part.

Now in its ninth-year, Food Academy is a unique food business development programme between the 31 Local Enterprise Offices, including Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, SuperValu and Bord Bia. Participants in the programme receive training in food safety, market research and branding, marketing, finance, sustainability and business development.

The Food Academy programme supports 1,500 jobs in local communities nationwide and local producers are now being encouraged to apply through their Local Enterprise Office for the 2022 programme before Friday, April 8th.

Welcoming the increase in Food Academy sales through SuperValu in 2021, Head of Enterprise, Vibeke Delahunt with Local Enterprise Office

Wicklow said: "Since it was started up nine years ago by the Local Enterprise Offices, SuperValu and Bord Bia, the Food Academy programme has been hugely successful, going from strength to strength. It has helped hundreds of up-and-coming food and drink producers, like The Cake Creator based in Arklow, Wicklow Brewery based in Redcross, Wicklow Rapeseed Oil based in Wicklow to name a few to get their products market-ready, giving them an opportunity to sell to a nationwide audience."

She added: "The Food Academy is part of a suite of Local Enterprise Office supports designed for food and drink entrepreneurs in Ireland, such as the Digital School of Food and Food Starter programmes, both aimed at getting those with food ideas off the ground. As local food and drink producers grow their sales through these programmes, Local Enterprise Office Wicklow is on hand to support their expansion plans through further training, mentoring and financial assistance."

The Food Academy Programme is now open for applications until Friday 15th April 2022.

To apply, interested food and drink producers from Wicklow should visit www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Wicklow/Training-Events/Programmes/Food-Academy-Programme/Food-Academy-START.html



Signal Arts Centre represneted in the Bray St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Wicklow answers the call for disability aids for Ukraine

Dr Margaret Kennedy (age 69) from Greystones recently put the call out for donations of disability aids and medical equipment for the people of Ukraine and said she's amazed at the amount that's been collected.

Dr Kennedy has a rare neuromuscular disease, as has her twin Ann, and both use wheelchairs.

Margaret decided she had to raise the plight of disabled people, older

people, and sick people in Ukraine and set up a campaign in Co Wicklow to collect disability aids, appliances and medical supplies, PPE etc. for disabled Ukrainians.

"I could not bear to think about their plight - I had to do something," she says. "My PA heard on radio about 'Medical Help Ukraine' and I asked Brennanstown Riding

school to act as hub for collection and storage. They agreed. Then I put it up on all the facebook forums, told the Church of Ireland office, and hey presto, news got out and equipment came in."

Most were donated by people from Shankill, Bray, and Greystones and the surrounding areas. Brennanstown Riding school owner Jane Kennedy and her son Brian Bloomer (manager) were delighted to help by acting as the collection 'hub' and storing donations.

In a 10 day period 250 pairs of crutches were donated, 20 wheelchairs, 40 walking sticks, 24 rolators, 40 zimmer frames and the list went on and on...bags of dressings, PPE, incontinant wear, braces, orthopaedic boots and splints, colostomy bags, urinary catheters - so much a full van was filled.

Margaret thanks everyone, particularly the staff of Brennanstown Riding School, Hollybrook, near



Dr Margaret Kennedy with the donated wheelchairs

Bray, who first stored it and then helped load it into the vans.

The day before pick up Margaret with Mary, Deirdre and Catriona, Jane Kennedy and Brennanstown staff checked all equipment for broken or damaged parts and tagged (only about 10

items needed small repairs). Crutches were paired and tied together.

All moveable parts were affixed to its body in case of loss, and donations of dressings, PPE, colostomy bags, urinary catheters, incontinence wear, leg braces, foot 'boot' splints were bagged

in clear plastic bags for easy identification.

Medical Help Ukraine picked up all supplies on 23rd March for departure. The loading up was done by Brian Bloomer (Brennanstown RS), Catriona (Margaret's PA), Brennanstown staff Natalia and Rodrigo, and

Nicolau Todoriko driver for Ryan Meats. The company Ryan Meats kindly offered their logistical infrastructure, network and their fleet and drivers to facilitate the volunteers and their collections and transportation for Medical Help Ukraine.



Nicolau Todoriko of Ryan Meats and Sergio from Brennanstown riding stables loading the medical equipment into the van.

Inclusion Ireland report highlights lack of therapeutic interventions in children's disability services

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has welcomed an Inclusion Ireland report that confirms, once again, that the government is not coming close to fulfilling its legal obligations to protect children's right to access therapeutic interventions.

Deputy Brady said: "This report confirms that the government is not coming close to fulfilling its legal obligations to protect children's rights in respect to access to therapeutic interventions.

"AsIAM and Down Syndrome Ireland have both published similar findings, highlighting confusion and frustration surrounding the new assessments of need process, and the lack of access to follow-on therapeutic interventions.

"Inclusion Ireland highlight the frustration felt by families in respect to the right to an assessment under the Disability Act, and the introduction of a short screening assessment by the HSE, which does not entail a diagnosis.

"Parents expressed anger at these short screenings as they do not provide a diagnosis, which is a requirement to get a child into a special school or class.

"The introduction of the short screening assessment by the HSE was an attempt to hide the true extent of assessments of need waiting lists.

"Once a child has completed this short assess-



John Brady TD at the protest outside the Dáil demanding rights for children with disabilities

ment, they move to another waiting list for further assessment from which, unlike previously, there is no legal obligation on the HSE to complete within a specific timeframe.

"Inclusion Ireland state that 'having waited for an assessment of need [children] should not have to be waitlisted a second time to receive diagnosis with further waitlisting for intervention'.

"This is a cynical act by

the government to avoid their legal responsibility to ensure children receive appropriate, comprehensive, clinically ethical and timely assessments of need.

"The report also states that 'the source of most distress is the wait for assessment followed by the long wait for intervention'.

"50% percent of responses convey that they 'are not in receipt of any

service' with 85% reporting that their children 'have waited or continue to wait for more than a year'.

"Families detailed the distress they felt at being told the interventions needed for their child, only to be told that the scheduled date for intervention would be in two years' time.

"These and other issues relayed in this report, and previous reports from AsIAM and Down Syndrome Ireland, were integral to the Sinn Féin motion put forward in the Dáil.

"I welcome that the government did not oppose the motion, but this cannot amount to yet further false promises which are not followed by action. Families need more than rhetoric; they need to see real delivery that makes a genuine difference in their children's lives.

"Sinn Féin spokesperson on Disability and Carers, teachta Pauline Tully, will be seeking an urgent meeting with the relevant ministers to discuss how we can now act on my motion to ensure that these changes happen without delay."

Hike for Ukraine event in Wicklow Mountains to raise funds for SOS Children's Villages

Donation-based hike takes place on Sunday, April 10th

The Wicklow Escape, the lodge for food lovers nestled in the heart of the Wicklow mountains, will host a restorative charity walk in April to raise funds in support of the people of Ukraine. Taking place on Sunday, 10th April at 10.30am, there are two hikes available, suitable for all levels. One will head west on the Wicklow Sugar Loaf (2 hours duration) and a second gentler walk will take place through the forest (40 minutes duration). Both hikes will be fully guided with unlimited spaces available.

Tickets are available now priced at €25 and 100% of the ticket price and any additional donations made will support SOS Children's Villages in Poland, a charity providing direct help to abandoned children and foster families from Ukraine. Both hikes will finish at The Wicklow Escape and the ticket price includes tea, coffee, scones and pastries served in the outdoor dining area of the venue. For those craving a hearty meal a woodfired lunch will also be available from €15pp with profits donated to the chosen charity.

Lisa Wilkinson, founder of The Wicklow Escape, comments: "Thousands of Ukrainian orphans have arrived in Poland in recent weeks, and our hearts are being torn apart hearing traumatising accounts from our colleague's friends who are volunteering at the Polish border and in SOS Children's Villages in Poland. The current armed conflict directly affects the most vulnerable - abandoned and orphaned children, whose caregivers left them to fight at the front or to evacuate with their own families. Like many others, we felt compelled to do something small to help. We hope this hike in our beautiful back garden in Wicklow will attract other like-minded people just as shocked at the scale of the suffering brought about by this conflict as we are."

Booking: €25 per person at <https://buy.stripe.com/dR601W8eQ8Mr7Yc4hk>. Additional donations can be made on the day after the hike if desired.

Meeting place: Balinacleigh car park located 300m from The Wicklow Escape. Approaching from Dublin, a black and yellow gate can be seen on the left 300m before The Wicklow Escape entrance.

It will be immersive mindful walk up the Sugar Loaf. There will be moments to pause along to walk, to engage your senses with what you can hear, smell, see, and feel. From the summit, on a clear day you can see

panoramic views across the mountainous landscape, Dublin city and over the Irish sea. The forest journey will be completed at the back gardens of The Wicklow Escape.

Duration: 2 hours (full walk) or 40 minutes (shorter option). The walk is suitable for hikers with all levels of experience.

One-hundred percent of your donation will support SOS Children's Villages in Poland providing direct help to abandoned children and foster families from Ukraine. For more information on their work please visit: <https://pomagam3.wioskisos.org/en/>. SOS Children's Villages in Poland is part of the international organisation SOS Children's Villages. It is supporting around 16,000 Ukrainian children in foster care and institutional custody by finding them a haven, organising transport, food, medical and psychological assistance.



SSE to apply for Marine Area Consent for Arklow Bank Wind Park

SSE Renewables has confirmed its intention to apply for a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) for its Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 project under the new consenting regime announced last week by Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD.

The decision by SSE Renewables to transfer Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind Park from the current route of delivery via the Foreshore Act into the MAC regime has been notified to both the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications and to the Minister for Planning.

The company's offshore wind energy project will now progress through the MAC regime alongside other qualified Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) projects in the Irish Sea and off the west coast of the island.

SSE Renewables had been actively engaged in developing Arklow Bank Wind Park early, via the Foreshore Act. With the introduction by Government of the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act in December 2021, SSE Renewables will now progress the project via the newly introduced marine planning process. Although proceeding via the MAP process will mean delivery of the project will be later than the timescale initially envisaged under the Foreshore Act, it will unlock a substantial increase in capacity at the site.

Transferring Arklow

Bank Wind Park Phase 2 to the MAP process allows SSE Renewables to revise the project and substantially increase the power generation output from the site to 800MW. This means the project will be able to make an even more significant contribution to Ireland's climate action target of at least 5GW by 2030, and to Ireland's national and local economy.

The revised project will now be capable of powering almost 850,000 homes each year, almost double the number of homes targeted by the initial iteration of the project, and offsetting around 830 billion kilos of harmful carbon emissions annually.

The upscaled offshore wind energy project is expected to require an investment of up to €2.5 billion and, under current planning timelines, is expected to deliver in 2028, subject to a final investment decision.

The project's operations and maintenance base will continue to be located at Arklow Harbour's South Dock, where 80 people will be employed to support the wind farm over its operational lifetime. Furthermore, the proposed onshore underground cable route and

the location of the substation at the Avoca River Business Park remain unchanged.

Once operational the wind farm will also deliver a multi-million-euro annual community fund which will now grow in line with the increased level of MWs generated.

Barry Kilcline, Director of Offshore Development Ireland at SSE Renewables said: "SSE Renewables is totally committed to Arklow, to County Wicklow and north Wexford, and to the Arklow Bank Wind Park project. We expect to be able to invest around €2.5 billion in the revised project to deliver a new 800MW offshore wind farm by 2028 which will produce substantially greater power generation output at Arklow Bank than under our previous plans.

"As a result, the project will make an even more significant contribution to Ireland's climate action targets and our economy, both nationally as well as locally. The increased offshore energy output will also greatly enhance the annual value of the community fund investment that we can deliver to communities in south

Wicklow and north Wexford."

Under the new process SSE Renewables will be required to prepare a new Environmental Impact Assessment for the wind park's offshore infrastructure. The company intends to commence a draft of this report later this year as part of the project's ongoing development.

In December 2021, the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act was introduced by the Government to regulate Ireland's maritime area for various uses including offshore wind energy development. Under Ireland's new offshore consenting process, developers must have a Maritime Area Consent to make an application for permission, to include environmental assessments, to An Bord Pleanála.

MAC applicants will be assessed in key areas, including financial and technical competency. The assessments will be made by the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications and the first MACs are expected to be issued in the second half of 2022. This will enable the first Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (ORESS) to open in Q4 2022.



Deputy Whitmore, Minister Simon Harris and Cllr Jodie Neary with members of Greystones Cancer Support Group

'Taking back from cancer' on Daffodil Day

Deputy Jennifer Whitmore and Minister Simon Harris met with the Greystones Cancer Support in conjunction with Greystones Active Retirement Association, on Daffodil Day, 25th March.

Deputy Whitmore said, "It was wonderful to meet key community groups which are so active on the issue of cancer. Cancer affects so many of our families in Wicklow and supporting those affected by it has been at the centre of Greystones Cancer Support and the Greystones Active Retirement Association.

"The theme this year is 'Cancer takes so much from so many, this Daffodil Day we are taking back from cancer'. I think this is a very timely theme given the challenges for those facing cancer with inflation on the horizon. The Social Democrats recently had a motion in the Dáil on the cost of cancer and how this journey really challenges people and their families financially, when really all they should have to think about is getting better.

"Unfortunately, the costs are still too high including hospital fees, unemployment, parking fees, etc., all of which these organisations are aware of. Greystones Cancer Support and the Greystones Active Retirement Group have provided huge support to people in Greystones and surrounding areas when facing these challenges and I think today is a day to acknowledge the huge work they are doing.

"However, it is time that the Government really looks seriously into reducing the financial burden on families facing cancer especially with rising fuel prices and the rising cost of living. It is time that we take back from cancer."

Minister Harris said: "Daffodil Day is such an important fundraiser and it is great to see the community coming together to support cancer research and families affected by cancer. The last two years have been very difficult for charities hosting fundraising campaigns and I want to commend the Greystones Active Retired for today's coffee morning in Kilian House in conjunction with Greystones Cancer Support. Cancer affects every family in Ireland in some way and it is important the community gets behind Daffodil Day and shows their support".

Matthews welcomes solar energy payments for homes

Green Party TD, Steven Matthews has welcomed the announcement of the long-awaited 'Micro-generation Support Scheme' that enables householders to get paid for extra energy they produce.

If someone chooses to put solar panels in their home as part of an energy upgrade or new build, they can now get paid for every unused unit of power they put back onto the grid. Solar power has massive potential in Ireland for commercial scale energy production but every roof top in Ireland, in every home, school, farm building or community centre can play a part in our clean green energy revolution and get paid for it. The payments for those who have registered will begin to be paid at the latest from July 1st depending on customers' billing cycles. The payment is known as the Clean Export Guarantee (CEG).

Some householders who have registered are already accruing financial credit for the electricity they've exported to the grid since February 15th, when the regulations were signed, and they will receive back payments once the CEG begins being paid.

Discussing the progress, Deputy Matthews said: "This was a key Green Party commitment in the Programme for Government, as were improved grants for energy retrofits and a much more ambitious target for offshore renewable energy development. Ireland has an abundance of wind energy potential and very good solar energy generation capability. Last month, Minister Eamon Ryan brought in one of the best home energy retrofit grant



Steven Matthews TD

schemes in Europe, we have recently passed legislation for a plan led major investment in offshore wind and now we are helping home owners to generate their own power and to sell back any excess to the national grid. This is the Green Party ambition in action, to eliminate fossil fuels and decarbonise our country whilst providing clean, reliable, and affordable energy. We are creating thousands of well-paid jobs as we retrofit and electrify our home heating and transport systems and above all tackle climate chaos to protect our children and future generations. This is the work of a Government that thinks ahead whilst acting on the greatest threat we face in climate breakdown.

"The announcement comes at a time when millions are suffering

from a war in Europe in which fossil fuel oil, gas and coal is being used as a lever by a war criminal whilst inflicting horrors on innocent Ukrainian people.

"Our future and the safety and security of our children is in a country with large scale renewable energy which we will export from our homes and from our windfarms to a pan-European interconnected grid.

"All homes across Europe are facing unprecedentedly high energy costs and while Government initiatives are in place to tackle the short-term implications, the longer-term plan and future is in wind, solar and hydrogen energy production and we are making rapid progress now.

"And finally, we are also amending the planning rules so that you won't need to apply for planning permission to erect solar panels. We are doing our best to make this cost efficient right now through supports, grants and payment for excess energy and with a future where fossil fuels prices are volatile and only likely to increase, it is clear that energy efficiency and clean, home produced renewable energy makes perfect sense. I would be happy to advise and help anyone, if they wish to get in contact, on the range of energy upgrade grants, solar grants and home energy efficiency measures for short term and longer term savings", concluded Deputy Matthews.



Aoife and Lily Doyle at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Wicklow Town



Lorcan O'Brien, Gillian O'Brien and Gerard O'Brien of the Woodenbridge Hotel with their certificate of completion of the KWETB 50 Shades Greener Programme.

Woodenbridge Hotel and Lodge turns 50 Shades Greener

Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) in collaboration with 50 Shades Greener recently presented Gillian O'Brien (Green Manager) and Gerard O'Brien (Proprietor) and Lorcan O'Brien (Manager) of Woodenbridge Hotel & Lodge with their certificate of completion of the 50 Shades Greener Programme.

This programme is the first national state funded training programme to 'green' the Hospitality & Tourism industry and reduce Ireland's carbon footprint.

Eileen Cullen, Training Services Manager, KWETB, is extremely proud that The Woodenbridge Hotel & Lodge are the first Hotel from Co Wicklow to complete this programme and receive their digital badge. Building on our partnership this training has allowed them to embed green skills and carbon emission reductions into their long-established landmark Hotel & Lodge.

"We are really delighted to receive the 50 shades greener award," says Gillian O'Brien. "The programme begins by establishing a green team within the hotel made up of representatives from each department, who then use the tools and training provided to really critically analyse a whole range of areas from waste, to water and utilities. We've made significant changes to the hotel operations as a result and the final award is a testament to the work done by all the team here at the Woodenbridge Hotel and lodge."

"The reduction in carbon emis-

sions, we achieved from the 50 shades greener programme, led to us making some real cost savings, but more importantly it marked the first stage by us on our journey to carbon neutrality. We took another major step this week with the installation of 74 solar panels and we're hoping to do a lot more in the months and years to come."

KWETB are proud to lead and collaborate with our partner ETBs in the national rollout of the 50 Shades Greener initiative. For further information on the programme, please visit www.kwetb-marinehouse.ie/sustainability

€140,000 funding and support available for people with ideas to solve social problems

A lifesaving blood donation campaign (the Vampire Cup), a nature-based experiential education initiative (Seed Scholars) and the first ethnic minority interest and multilingual community radio station in Ireland (GOCOM Radio) are among the projects being supported by Social Entrepreneurs Ireland (SEI) across the country.

SEI is now encouraging anyone who has an innovative idea to solve a particular social problem to apply for a place on its Ideas Academy – aimed at those with an early-stage idea to solve a social problem or Impact Programme – aimed at high-potential social entrepreneurs looking to grow the impact of their organisation. SEI has up to 50 programme

places and €140,000 funding available.

Since its foundation in 2004, SEI has supported more than 500 social entrepreneurs all around Ireland who are championing and driving solutions in areas such as mental health, housing, the environment and education.

One recent graduate of SEI's Ideas Academy is the Vampire Cup, founded by UCC medical student

Glenn Curtin. The Vampire Cup is a national blood donor recruitment strategy in the form of an intervarsity competition that pits colleges and universities against each other to see who can donate the most blood and save lives across the country. In the next Academic Year, 16 colleges from across the country representing over 200,000 students and staff will undertake the Vampire Cup challenge and become blood donation advocates.

Other social enterprises currently being supported by SEI include Seed Scholars, founded by Eliya Lavine, an immersive environmental education programme for primary school children, and

GOCOM Radio, founded by Islammiyah Saudique Kadejo, the first ethnic minority interest and multilingual community radio station in Ireland that is providing ethnic representation opportunities, bridging language barriers and promoting migrant skills.

Commenting, CEO of Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, Tim Griffiths said: "Social entrepreneurs are society's problem solvers. They are people who see a problem, develop a solution and take action. At SEI, our vision is an Ireland where people solve all social problems and our mission is to find and support people with solutions to social problems on every step of their journey. We are very

proud of the social entrepreneurs and organisations we have supported over the past 18 years who have directly impacted the lives of millions of people throughout Ireland and have contributed significantly to creating employment opportunities. Now we're inviting anyone across the island of Ireland who has an idea they want to put into action, or an idea that needs support to take to the next level, to apply to SEI for support. We know that with the right people alongside you, everything is possible."

There are up to 45 places available on SEI's Ideas Academy for people with innovative early-stage ideas to solve social



Johanna and Arthur Widmann at the announcement of the opening of applications for SEI's Ideas Academy

problems. The three-month programme aims to support a new generation of social entrepreneurs by providing participants with the training and direction they need as they take the first steps

from idea to action. Participants also have the opportunity to pitch for a portion of a €40,000 seed fund at the end of the programme to pilot their idea.

SEI has a further €100,000 available

through its prestigious Impact Programme, aimed at high-potential social entrepreneurs. Up to five Awardees will join a nine-month accelerator programme, where they will receive mentorship, training, and consultancy in areas such as leadership development, fundraising, governance, strategic planning, and communications. Awardees each receive €20,000 in direct funding, pro-bono support from partner organisations and access to a network of fellow social entrepreneurs and business experts.

DCC plc, the international sales, marketing and support services group, is the flagship supporter of SEI's national call for applications. Applications for the Ideas Academy and Impact Programme are open until midnight on Tuesday, 5th April. Interested candidates can apply or find out more at

Harris discusses future of Greystones Community College

Greystones Community College hosted a ministerial visit from Simon Harris TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science earlier this month. Minister Harris had the opportunity to meet with students and teachers and to discuss the exciting plans for the school's future.

Minister Harris commented "Greystones Community College is an incredible school that had a very difficult beginning in 2020/21 when the school had to open without appropriate temporary accommodation in place. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and determination from everyone in the Greystones Community College School Community over the past two years to get progress on the design and planning permission for GCC's permanent home. I look forward to supporting the school on this important project and working with the school community in the years ahead".

During the Minister's visit to the College, the GCC Student Ambassador Team facilitated a 'meet and greet' with different first year classes followed by a gathering of the second year students, where those assembled heard from students Jenna Rice and Matthew Smirnov about their positive experiences since starting secondary school. The schools choir performed with a special

recitals from Ena Dowling on violin.

Cllr Lourda Scott as Chairperson of the Board of Management also addressed the students and staff. "As Chairperson of Greystones Community College, I was delighted to hear confirmation from the Department of Education that the planning permission application for the permanent building has been lodged with Wicklow County Council. This is a big step for the Community and one we have been working towards for some time. Thanks to Principal Ruairi Farrell, the Board of Management and Parent Leadership team who have worked hard, supported by our elected representatives, in getting us to this point," commented Cllr Scott.

Along with members of the Student Leadership Team, Cllr Scott had a meeting with Minister Harris to discuss the plans for the permanent school building and the exciting journey that lies ahead as the school grows and develops.

Concluding proceedings, Principal of the College Ruairi Farrell acknowledged a sense of pride in seeing the journey the school has been on in the past two years, and the strong focus placed by teachers and students on achieving academic excellence and leaving no stone unturned in the building of relationships that make our school so special.

"We have quickly earned the confidence of the local community in developing a vibrant, dynamic and inclusive school where all our students are supported to reach their full potential," he said.



Minister Harris with Haylie Foley (Student Leadership Team), Cllr Lourda Scott (Chairperson Board of Management) and Jayden Astbury (Student Leadership Team)

Saint Joseph's Shankill turning heads in Leinster House

On Tuesday March 8th the team at Saint Joseph's Shankill had the honour of bringing their European colleagues from the Erasmus + project 'Dementia Right', to Leinster house to attend a political briefing on brain health and dementia, which informed the Seanad Éireann debate held the following afternoon.

The briefing brought a message of hope from the gathered experts to the full auditorium in Leinster House's AV room.

A Lancet study in 2020 identified 12 modifiable risk factors that could account for 40% of dementia world-wide and we are highlighting a number of these factors, creating awareness of the link with dementia and how people in their midlife can reduce their risk.

Proactive steps people can take include:

- Being physically active
- Eating a healthy balanced diet
- Quitting smoking
- Managing blood pressure
- Making time for social connection and interaction

Improving brain health to reduce the risk of Dementia by adopting these habits anytime in adulthood, but the earlier the better; can play an important part in reducing risk, as well as developing good healthy routines for life.

The Saint Joseph's team were joined representatives from Alzheimer Portugal, Alzheimer's Hellas, Greece, delegates from the University of Oviedo, Spain, and colleagues from Saint John of God

organisation in Portugal.

A special thank you to the Chair of the All-party Oireachtas Dementia group, Senator Fiona O'Loughlin, was extended by the Saint Joseph's team, for inviting and hosting the Saint Joseph's delegation to this emotional and inspiring afternoon.

The team praised the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland for gathering the expert panel together with Fiona, which included Kevin Quaid member of the Irish Dementia Working Group and chair of the European Working Group of People with Dementia, Professor Iracema Leroy; Associate Professor of Geriatric Psychiatry Trinity College Dublin & Faculty, GBHI, Professor Sean Kennelly; MB PhD FRCPI, Consultant Physician in Geriatric and Stroke Medicine and Director of Cognitive Clinical Trials Unit & Memory Service at TUH.

Also speaking was Professor Mary McCarron; PhD RNID, RGN, BNS, F.T.C.D, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, and Chair of Ageing and Intellectual Disability at Trinity College Dublin and Samantha Taylor Head of Risk, Compliance & Dementia Advisory Services at The Alzheimer Society of Ireland.



Joanna Falegka, and Maria Aivazoglov from Alzheimer's Hellas (Greece), Elaine Byrne, Norma Sheehan and Siobhan Grant from Saint Joseph's Shankill, with Kevin Quaid and Helen Rochford-Brennan representing the Irish Dementia Working group from Alzheimer's Society of Ireland (ASI) and Samantha Taylor and Siobhan O'Connor from ASI and also Marta Melo and Nuno Antunes from Alzheimer's Portugal.

Organising homecare for a loved one? Here's five things you should consider...

We spoke to Tom Quinlan, Managing Director of Affordable Live-in Homecare Limited (ALHomecare, for short) and he suggested the following checklist when choosing homecare for a loved one:

1. Is the carer properly vetted and checked out?

Tom Quinlan says, "By availing of a professional homecare agency, like ALHomecare, you know that the carer has been Garda-vetted and reference-checked and because ALHomecare has more than 8 years experience placing live-in carers, we have become very experienced at selecting the best calibre of carer which ensures a much better homecare solution for the client."

2. Will the care be consistent and reliable?

According to Tom Quinlan, consistent and reliable care is vitally important because elderly people can become very unsettled if there is a lot of chopping and changing of care staff. Tom Quinlan's company specialises in live-in care for the elderly. A carer is carefully matched to a client's needs and personality and that carer comes and lives with the client on an ongoing basis. This means that the care

is consistent and reliable...and the client feels well-supported and at ease.

3. Will your relative be satisfied with the care provided?

Tom Quinlan tells us that live-in care naturally delivers a much higher level of satisfaction for the client than a visiting care service can. He says that because the carer is live-in, she/he is able to adjust and adapt to the client's needs. The live-in carer is not tied into a tight schedule of multiple visits. She/he is there for that client and that client alone.

4. Is there ongoing support to ensure the care solution is successful?

Here again, the support of a professional care agency is very beneficial. If you try to hire a carer yourself and try to manage that employment relationship all by yourself, then you could quickly find yourself spending a lot of time problem-solving. Tom Quinlan says that his agency brings the carer and the family together in a mutually beneficial relationship. Both the carer and the family feel reassured knowing that there is an experienced and professional agency supporting them.

5. Is the service ethical, equitable and fairly priced?

Tom Quinlan says that he is very proud of the "Win-Win" Homecare Solution his agency offers. The carer works directly for the family and the family pays the carer directly for her/his work. Therefore the family have the satisfaction and reassurance of knowing that their carer has good working conditions and the carer is happy that she/he is treated fairly and equitably by both the family and ALHomecare.

ALHomecare's live-in homecare service costs from €485 per week with free accommodation and food for the carer. To find out more, visit www.alhomecare.ie or call Tom Quinlan directly at 087 744 0729.



Tom Quinlan, Managing Director of ALHomecare

Wicklow FRS network team join €20,000 donation towards victims of Ukraine conflict

The FRS Network team in Wicklow has joined with their counterparts around the country to provide a €20,000 donation to the victims of the conflict in Ukraine.

The donation was made via Irish Red Cross who are delivering life-saving food and hygiene supplies to families who are impacted, supporting health facilities and working to repair vital infrastructure.

FRS Network said the donation was made in light of the unfolding humanitarian crisis and in the name of the many Ukrainians who have worked with the organisation over the years.

The organisation currently has several Ukrainian team members based in that country who are working with Herdwatch. FRS Network's panel for farm relief support also includes a number of workers who originally came from Ukraine, while their recruitment business, FRS Recruitment, has placed a number of Ukrainian candidates into employment.

Reacting to the donation, Pat Carey, Chair of the Irish Red Cross said, "We are grateful to have received this significant donation from FRS Network - a donation which is needed given the developing situation in Ukraine. We have been greatly humbled by the level of generosity shown by the Irish people since the outset of this crisis. All of the dona-

tions are helping us to support the delivery of essentials to families and individuals who are facing massive upheaval, fear and loss on a daily basis. As the conflict escalates the human impact will intensify and we are appealing for more donations to help us help the people of Ukraine," Mr. Carey added.

His remarks were echoed by Kathleen Wynne, FRS Farm Relief Manager in Wicklow who said, "All our team here in Wicklow have been greatly moved by the events in Ukraine. It is heart-breaking to see what is happening and our thoughts go out to all the people who are being impacted by this crisis. Our team in Wicklow wanted to show support to our colleagues and connections in Ukraine - and from Ukraine. We hope that this contribution will help those who may need it over the coming weeks," he added.

"What is happening in Ukraine is devastating," said Colin Donnery, Group CEO of FRS Network. "This is an unfolding humanitarian crisis which is going to be felt throughout Ukraine and far beyond. We are already seeing that first hand in FRS with several of our colleagues and friends being based in Ukraine and

others having come to Ireland from that part of the world.

"In light of the unfolding crisis and the direct connection our organisation has to Ukraine, we wanted to try to help in some way. By working with the Irish Red Cross we hope this donation will help some of those who have been impacted by this crisis to get the food, medicine, shelter and water they need. We are also continuing to liaise directly with our team members on the ground to see what other assistance we may be able to provide.

"The way events are unfolding it does seem like a huge level of support will be needed for the people of Ukraine and obviously this is a situation we are following closely. We will be working with our teams across the country and in Ukraine to see what other help we can provide as this crisis continues - while hoping a peaceful and immediate resolution is found," Mr. Donnery concluded.

Irish Red Cross is continuing to collect donations to assist the people of Ukraine. Anyone who would like to make a donation is encouraged to do so by visiting their website on www.redcross.ie



Shouty Snow Echo

Mermaid Arts Centre, 19th March - 30th April

In Shouty Snow Echo, Wicklow artist Laura Kelly uses an experimental approach to drawing to evoke imaginary snow-covered, transient and uncertain landscapes.

In the exhibition, she employs assemblages of materials in a large drawing installation which combines both abstract and representational elements. Aspects of the pictorial landscape tradition - for example the horizon line, vignettes, panoramas and vistas - feature in work that alludes to snow-cover and its role in creating ambiguity in our perception of a landscape.

This work is the culmination of research in expansive snow-covered landscapes during Winter Residency Awards at the Banff Centre, Canada (2016) and Vermont Studio Center, USA (2018).

A number of elements come into play. A drifting point of view; shifts in scale from large to small, near and far; the use of ephemeral materials; a fragile sense of attachment; and drawing that crosses two spatial systems -

the wall surface and the surface of objects attached to the wall.

The artist invites us to reconsider the experience of landscape as something elusive and uncontainable. Framing is discarded. In contrast to our world of digital devices and their rectangular viewing formats, her work ruptures the conventional way of looking and spills beyond any attempt at proposing boundaries in much the same way that Nature defies containment. Kelly's use of fragments of fluorescent colour alludes to both human intrusion in the wilderness as well as visual perceptual processes in expansive landscapes - a hierarchy of seeing that prioritises colour, form and motion in that order.

The exhibition also includes a series of short experimental animations

exploring transience and perceptual ambiguity. Made using a hand-drawn aesthetic, they defy immediate comprehension of place and offer no fixed point of view.

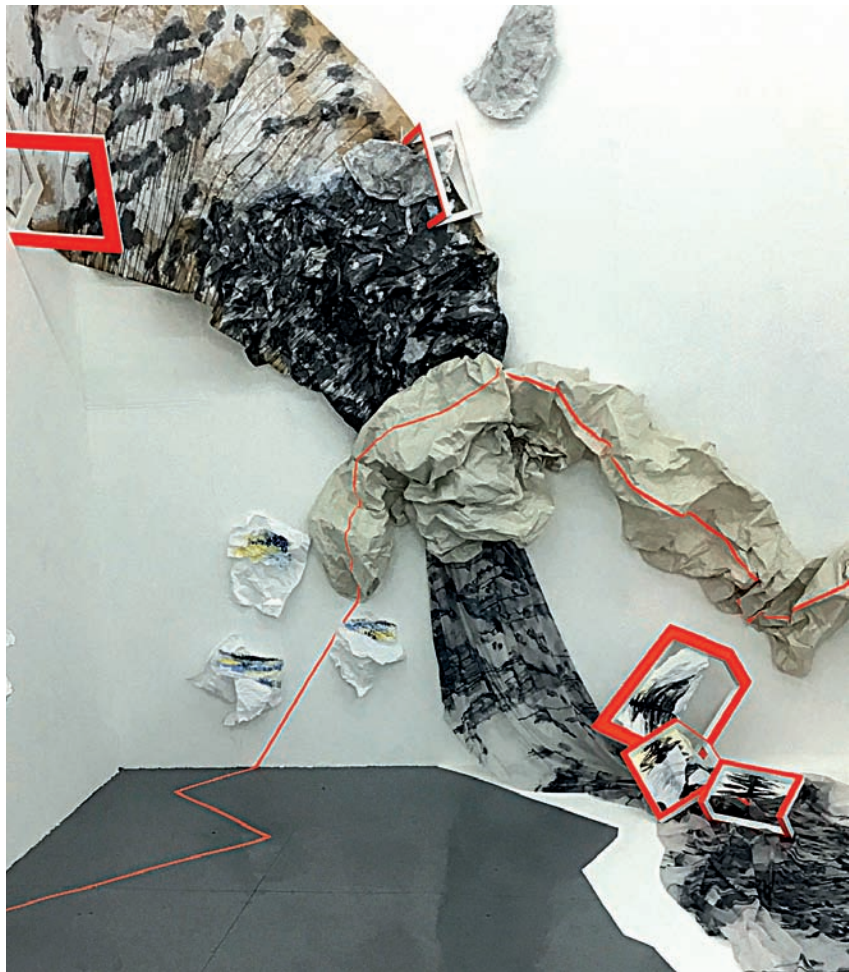
A text by Wicklow native James Merrigan has been commissioned to accompany the exhibition. Reflecting on the installed work, this will be published online and as a free gallery handout before the end of April.

Laura Kelly has a BA in Fine Art (Painting) NCAD, MA in Visual Arts Practice (IADT) and MA in Image Synthesis & Computer Animation (Middlesex University, UK). She also holds a BA in Natural Sciences from TCD.

Solo exhibitions include 'Fleeting', 126 Gallery, Galway (2017); 'Prospect', Limerick City Gallery (2012); 'Prospect II', The Drawing

Project, IADT, Dun Laoghaire (2012); and 'A Point Faraway', Talbot Gallery Dublin (2008). She has participated in numerous group exhibitions in Ireland and the UK. Her work is held in the collections of the OPW, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council, Wicklow County Council, Tallaght Hospital and in private collections in Ireland and the UK.

Kelly is the recipient of numerous awards and residencies including Vermont Studio Center (2018) The Banff Centre for Creativity, Canada, (2016) and Fire Station Artist Studios Sculpture Award, (2018). Grant awards include the Arts Council Agility Award (2021); Arts Council Covid Award (2020), Arts Council Travel & Training Awards 2018 and 2016 and Wicklow County Council Artist Bursaries (2018, 2015).



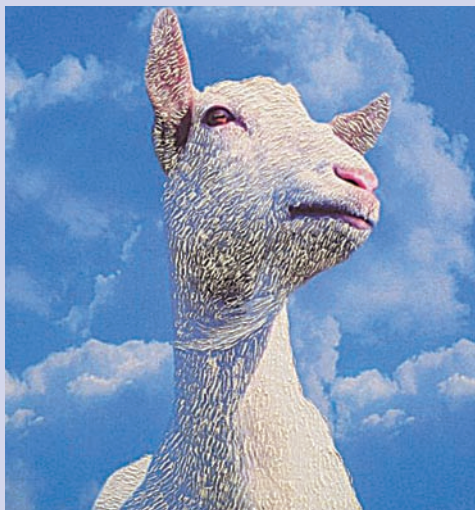
Signal Arts Society's 2022 Members' Exhibition

Signal Arts Centre, Monday 28th March to Sunday 10th April

Signal Arts Centre will present the 22nd Annual Exhibition of works by members of the Signal Arts Society. This exhibition is a showcase for members of the Signal Arts Society and, being a group show, includes a diverse range of content, a varied selection of mediums and always something to delight even the most discerning of palettes.

The Signal Arts Society was launched in 2001 and is affiliated with Signal Arts Centre. The Society consists of artists working in many different arts practices, however membership is not exclusive to artists - anybody with an interest in the arts can join.

The Society offers a range of facilities and discounts to members. For more information on Signal Arts Society go to www.signalartscentre.ie and click on the Society's tab. Alternatively the Society may be contacted through Signal Arts Centre.



Séamus, by Kelly Hood

Arklow singer-songwriter to make drama debut in Netflix series

Arklow singer-songwriter Roisin Murphy will make her drama debut in the upcoming Netflix series 'Half Bad'.

Half Bad stars Jay Lycurgo (Titans, The Batman, I May Destroy You), and Nadia Parkes (Domina, Starstruck) and Emilien Vekemans (Transferts) in the new eight-part drama series based on the trilogy of books from Sally Green.

Sixteen-year-old Nathan (Jay Lycurgo) is the illegitimate son of the world's most dangerous witch. Fearing he will follow in his father's footsteps, Nathan is constantly monitored. But as the boundaries between 'good' and 'bad' fray, Nathan - along with mischievous Annalise and charismatic Gabriel - will soon discover who he truly is. Half Bad is a darkly humorous, romantic, roller-coaster ride of a young adult show. It's a story about the indomitable will to survive and defy the odds. The series is based on the Half Bad trilogy of books written by Sally Green.

Lycurgo and Parkes are joined by an exciting mixture of new and familiar faces including Isobel Jesper Jones, Paul Ready (Motherland, The Terror), David Gyasi (Carnival Row, Troy: Fall of a City), Kerry Fox (Conversations with Friends, Last Tango in Halifax) and Liz White (Unforgotten, Brexit: The Uncivil War), Karen Connell (Vikings), Fehinti Balogun (I May Destroy You, Dune), Misha Butler (Kiss Me First) as well as multiple Brit Award and Mercury Music Prize



First look at the new Netflix show Half Bad

nominee Roisín Murphy playing the role of Mercury.

Half Bad is written by acclaimed British screenwriter, Joe Barton, with additional writing by Ryan J Brown, Dionne Edwards, Helen Kingston, and Emer Kenny, and produced for Netflix by The Imaginarium, the production company co-founded by Andy Serkis and Jonathan Cavendish.

"It's been a complete joy getting the chance to adapt and expand the world of Half Bad," says Joe Barton. "I love the characters that Sally created and am extremely excited that we have such a brilliant cast and crew on hand to breathe life into them and set them off on their many adventures."

€538,284 in capital grants announced for key arts and culture organisations

The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD, today announced capital grants of almost €540,000 for 25 arts and culture organisations to upgrade and develop their facilities.

This funding is provided under Stream A of the Cultural Capital Scheme 2019-2022, which offers grants of up to €50,000. It is part of an overall €4.7m capital investment scheme in artistic and cultural institutions around the country. The funding is being made available under the National Development Plan, Project Ireland 2040. Investing in our Culture, Language & Heritage 2018-2027 sets out the Government's objectives for capital investment in Ireland's culture, language and heritage.

The Cultural Capital Scheme 2019-2022 aims to enhance the existing stock of arts and culture centres throughout the country. In line with

the Government's action on climate change, this scheme prioritises projects that reduce an organisation's carbon footprint and make a real and positive impact on the environment. Projects that provide additional capacity for artists and artistic production, particularly in arts centres, will also be favoured. This new Scheme, which has four separate streams of funding, builds on the success of the former Arts and Culture Capital Scheme 2016-2018.

Minister Martin said: "This capital scheme prioritises projects that reduce an organisation's carbon footprint. This investment at a range of different facilities, including arts centres, theatres, galleries, museums, as

well as artists' studios and creative spaces, aims to improve the audience and creative experience.

This overall funding package will ensure past investment in these arts and cultural centres is protected and sustained. Today's funding announcement is in addition to my earlier allocations of funding under this Scheme in December 2020, and August 2021, together with funding to visual artist workspaces and Stream D funding which is specifically for capital adaptations or equipment necessary to assist arts organisations in re-opening safely after COVID-19. While some of the allocations are modest, they will make a huge difference to some smaller organisations. Today's announcement will bring the total awarded under this Scheme to date to almost €3.4m. I wish these arts and culture facilities continued success in the future."



Members of the Coolgraney Amateur Dramatic Society at the opening of the South Wicklow Drama Festival in Carnew.. The festival ran from March 20th to 26th.

St. Patrick's Dramatic Society presents: The Long Road

The Long Road, Shelagh Stephenson's moving play about knife crime and its effect on a previously close-knit family, will be staged by St Patrick's Dramatic Society at The Studio in the Lexicon, Dún Laoghaire next month (6th – 9th April).



Len Nealon from Wicklow Town and Clare Cresswell Bray play the roles of John and Mary in *The Long Road*

When eighteen-year-old Danny is fatally stabbed in a random attack his family struggles to find meaning and forgiveness. His mother's determination to understand the atrocity brings her face to face with his young killer and forces the family to confront the bitter senselessness of their loss.

Directed by Judith Elmes, the cast features two Wicklow residents Clare Cresswell in the role of Mary, Danny's mother and Len Nealon as John, his father. This powerful but sadly topical play has a running time of 90 minutes with no interval.

The Long Road will run nightly at 8pm sharp at The Studio in the DLR Lexicon (Lower Ground Floor), Moran Park, Dún Laoghaire from Wednesday 6th to Saturday 9th April, 2022 inclusive. Tickets (€18) are available on line at www.eventbrite.ie (search for The Long Road) or phone 01 280 7185.



Ciaran McCauley, Mary Doran, and Mick Byrne at the opening of the South Wicklow Drama Festival, which ran in Carnew last week.

A welcome return to The Courthouse Arts Centre for Eleanor McEvoy

Friday 1st April, 8.30pm €24/25

Having released her 16th album "Gimme Some Wine" to rave review at the end of 2021, Eleanor is now back on the road following the release of her latest riveting single "South Anne Street".

Her live show showcases her talents, playing electric and acoustic guitars, violin and piano. She is the composer, co-performer and producer of "A Woman's Heart", the title track for the best selling Irish album in Irish history.

Her song "Sophie" was described by The Guardian's David Smith as "an anthem that is touching, inspiring and consoling thousands of anorexic girls around the world". It is used internationally in treatment centres to treat patients with eating disorders.

In February 2020, Eleanor McEvoy completed four sold out concerts at the National Concert Hall and National Opera House where she performed with the RTE Concert Orchestra alongside Wallis Bird and Maura O'Connell for "A Woman's Heart Orchestrated".

Inspired by this she wrote "Scarlet Angels" and performed it with Maura O'Connell and Wallis Bird, with the RTE Concert Orchestra. She also co-wrote "Found Out By Fate" with Paul Brady,

a savage indictment on a cheating partner. As she



Eleanor McEvoy

puts it herself, "Think twice before cheating on a songwriter".

Her most recent single "South Anne Street" sets the scene for a song about meeting an ex at the corner of South Anne St and Grafton Street on a Tuesday afternoon and ending up in McDaid's Pub.

A song anchored to a specific location in Dublin but universal in its theme. Through this fusion of bygone and model, eatables and innovative, McEvoy creates something totally fresh but with a taste of the familiar.

Greystones to get its own comedy club on April Fools Day!



Paul Marsh

Some much needed comedy is heading your way on April 1st, at the Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones.

Yes - that's April Fools day! MC for the night, Mr Paul Marsh has been running craic comedy nights all around the country and puts on a great mix of comedy styles bringing that 'comedy club' feel to these fun-filled nights

On April 1st, the line-up will combine some top performers on the comedy club circuit as well as some of our best up and coming stand-up comedians

Tickets €10/€12 Online www.thehotspot.ie/tickets By phone with credit card 087 291 7519. Also available on door if not sold out.

Coming up at Whale Theatre...

Deirdre O' Kane - Demented

Saturday 2nd April 2022, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €25



There's a point beyond burnout where all you can do is laugh, and funnywoman Deirdre O'Kane has well and truly reached it. Catch her brilliant new stand-up show, *Demented*, at The Whale Theatre. Over 18's

Danny O' Brien: The God of All Things Bad

Friday 8th April @ 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €20

After a complete sell-out nationwide run with his show 'Reformer' in early 2020 O' Brien is back in Greystones with his biggest solo show to date! The award-winning Wicklow comic has stayed busier than ever over the last 18 months! From making one of the highest viewed stand-up specials in Irish television history (Recorded outdoors in a block of Dublin council flats during the first lockdown!) to somehow spending 3 months stranded in Central America. Along the way, he starred in a viral Spanish comedy sketch video in Costa Rica (a language he still has-



n't been able to learn and definitely still can't speak!) amongst other things. This show follows his ridiculous journey over land and water to meet the highly worshipped Mayan deity that is 'Maximón' in Guatemala.. (and gives this show its name!) He also now has a dog daughter and trust issues with drinking water and Zoom.

*WARNING: This show contains strong descriptions of psychedelic drug misuse, parasites, and goat milking.

To a Child Dancing in the Wind" - Trio Táin and Catherine Redding

Sunday 10th April 2022 @ 4pm (doors 3pm). Tickets €18/€16

In February 1894, in a little room at the top of a tenement house in Paris, a young W.B. Yeats met the inimitable Paul Verlaine. This singular meeting of these two remarkable poets is the inspiration behind Trio Tain's programme of works by Tavener, Debussy and Faure. In Verlaine's poetry, Impressionism found its poetic embodiment and he was hailed the originator of symbolism; a pillar of 19th century French poetry. WB Yeats is widely regarded as one of the greatest poets of the 20th century and was awarded the Nobel prize "for his always inspired poetry, which in a highly artistic form gives expression to the spirit of a whole nation".

The song cycle 'To a Child Dancing In the Wind' represents a rare departure from John Tavener's choral, liturgical works which formed the bulk of his prolific output. In Tavener's own words; "the frailty, tenderness, and spiritual transparency of Yeats' poetry" inspired him to compose it.



Trio Tain is a new trio consisting of Wicklow based harpist Aisling Ennis with flautist Vourneen Ryan and violist Robin Panter. They are proud to collaborate with Wicklow based soprano, Catherine Redding to realise this exquisite programme.

The concert will explore settings of Yeats and Verlaine's poetry in new arrangements for Soprano, Flute, Viola and Harp.

The Story Of Swing: Prohibition Edition

Saturday 9th April @ 8pm (doors 7pm). SOLD OUT - Register for returns at www.whaletheatre.ie

Join Ireland's King Of Swing Luke Thomas and his band The Swing Cats as they perform a very special PROHIBITION EDITION of their hit show The Story Of Swing. A musical timeline of SWING classics from the 1920's to the modern day!! Featuring all your favourite SWING and Big Band songs like Sing Sing Sing, Puttin On The Ritz, Mack The Knife to Crooning classics like Mr. Bojangles and Fly Me To The Moon. An absolute must for all SWING music fans.

Tickets available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550

Wicklow winner of inaugural SEAI Electric Vehicle Dealership Awards announced

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) has announced the winners of its inaugural EV Dealership Awards. These awards recognise and reward excellence in the promotion and sales of electric vehicles (EV) in Ireland.

Avon Motors made the shortlist for the National Award to be announced at SEAI Energy Show.

Car dealerships are a vital part of the transition to clean and efficient transport. SEAI wants to recognise and award those dealerships who are working to increase consumers' understanding and experience of

EVs and their uptake on Irish roads.

Commenting on today's announcement Declan Meally, Director of Business, Public Sector and Transport at SEAI said: "SEAI recognises that EV car dealerships and their staff are a key set of enablers to EV uptake. I congratulate this year's

winners whose commitment and dedication are hugely inspiring. I would also like to thank those Dealerships for supporting the awards in such large numbers. Engaging and supporting EV dealers will help influence Ireland's transition to EVs. These new SEAI Dealership Awards provide additional incentives and opportunities to build capacity and competence in the supply chain and help to improve the overall public customer experience."

There were 116 applications across 25 counties. Car dealers competed through a mystery shopping exercise where they were scored on a number of factors including how visible EVs were in the showroom, how knowledgeable their salespeople were on EVs, and their sales approach. Other evaluation areas included EV training, sales trends and the dealership's website.

The winners announced are now on the shortlist for the national award which will be announced at this year's SEAI Energy Show taking place in the RDS, Dublin on March 30th and 31st.

RECRUITMENT

bba architecture

ARE HIRING

Job Description:

Architects/Architectural Technician for a busy practice based in Delgany, Co. Wicklow. We are seeking an enthusiastic and highly motivated architectural technologist for a variety of project types. Work will involve a range of projects from mid to large scale private residential.

Job Requirements:

Site experience, a clean driving license and proficiency in ACAD, Revit, Sketchup and Photoshop is an advantage. The successful applicant should also possess a solid knowledge of construction detailing, Irish planning and Building Regulations and be able to work individually or as part of a team. Applications to reception@bba.ie

CLASSIFIEDS

CALL 01 2869111

EMAIL: pauline@localtimes.ie

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



THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

M.C.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

M.D.

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.

L.D.

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.

B.W.

GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained, 'this man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, 'How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.' So he left the place and went back to his father. 'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it, we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life, he was lost and is found.' And they began to celebrate. 'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. 'Your brother has come' replied the servant 'and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.' He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, 'Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening.' The father said, 'My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life, he was lost and is found.'

C.J.

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Racing news

Philip Rothwell sent out Lawlor's Choice to win the hunters' chase at Down Royal on St Patrick's Day. The outsider of the five-runner field at odds of 50/1, the eight-year-old led before the second last fence and battled well under amateur Tiernan Power Roche to win by a neck from the David Christie-trained 11/4 shot Ask D'Man. Lawlor's Choice was a winner at Tinahely point-to-point in February 2020 and County Wexford amateur Power Roche said, "The plan was to finish as close as we could and she couldn't have finished any closer!"

Farmers Market

The Glendalough Farmers Market will be on the 2nd Sunday of each month along with the Brockagh Market and Car Boot for the next few months and not every Sunday. The farmers market takes place every 2nd Sunday of the month from 11am to 4pm in the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh. For more details contact Sean Mcardle email sean-davidmcardle@gmail.com or on mobile 087 6115016.

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Education and Training Board

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the following position in the Further Education and Training Service within **Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board**.

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Permanent Post
REF: 2022MAR229

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Completed application forms should be submitted no later than 12 noon on Monday, 4 April 2022.

Late applications will not be accepted.
Shortlisting will apply.

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Flexible Peugeot 5008

SUVs popularity continues to grow in Ireland - highlighted by the fact that the Hyundai Tuscon is, by far, the best-selling car in Ireland this year.

Every volume car manufacturer now has at least one SUV in its line-up - but this is a space where Peugeot can claim unparalleled experience, having offered the first 7 seater 60 years ago with their pioneering 404 Familiale.

So today it's no surprise that its descendant, the 5008 is a master in this class of vehicle.

The latest generation 5008 was launched last year and after selling over 500 units countrywide a clear pattern is emerging. The two main ones are that diesel is favoured by 90% of buyers and the 6 speed manual gearbox is selected by 80% of 5008 buyers in Ireland.

It's not that the 1.2 turbo petrol option is a

bad engine - it's not - but the Peugeot 1.6 HDI diesel is an exceptionally efficient and tractable unit. It is immensely economical with low emissions and hence a road tax of just €200. SUVs are all about being adaptable and being able to do many different duties. When not in 7 seat mode, there is a huge boot space which

By Martin McCarthy

will comfortably take two sets of golf clubs and trolleys - all beneath the cover screen. When not in use, the 6th and 7th seats fold totally flat.

I took the 5008 on an upcountry route via Blessington, Dunlavin and West Wicklow before returning over the Sally Gap to Bray.

Even though it is a large SUV, it is very man-

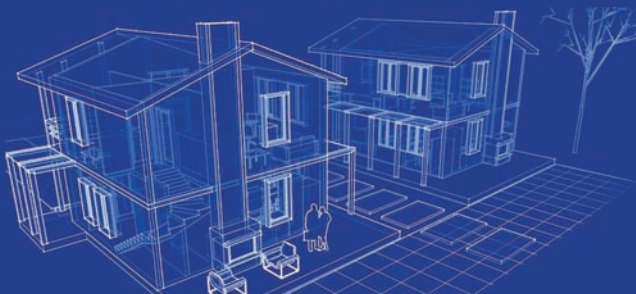
ageable on these roads, with superb over the shoulder vision - helped by the elevated seating which is the hallmark of SUVs in general. It is not excessively wide, so even on these roads built to get troop platoons into the heart of the Wild Wicklow Way, the 5008 and another vehicle can pass safely.

The 5008 Active base model starts at €42,335 RRP and the premium for the HDI Diesel is just €1,000 more - so no wonder the vast majority of Irish buyers opt for it. The Active version is very well equipped with the latest electronic safety, entertainment, guidance and communication systems. There is a voice activation so you can keep two hands on the steering wheel at all times.

At the top end of the 5008 GT line there is 2 litre, 180bhp diesel option for those who will do a lot of heavy lifting or towing.

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PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

David Eccles seeks planning permission for revised bay window with stone cladding to front, alteration to window in front facade, 4.9m² single storey extension to side of house with flat roof and stone cladding and 127.2m² two storey extension to rear of existing 69.8m² 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

Ger Devlin Haulage & Plant Hire Ltd intends to apply for permission for development comprising the importation and deposition of inert subsoil and topsoil for land profiling and recontouring purposes at an existing agricultural holding and all ancillary site works. The purpose of this work is to improve the site for agriculture. A Certificate of Registration under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration Regulations) SI 821 of 2007 as amended is required for this development. Permission is also sought for temporary site entrance to facilitate the development, all at this site at Boleynass Lower and Tomcoyle Upper, Newcastle, 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 the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Kevin McGillycuddy, seek permission for the full renovation and extension of existing single dwelling two-storey stone farm house at Threecastles, Manor Kilbride, Blessington, Co. Wicklow. Works are to include a new two-storey extension on rear return of 36 sq.m, rebuilding of adjoining shed into 80 sq.m single-storey extension, alterations to rear and side facades, demolition of adjacent sheds of 121 sq.m, new waste treatment and percolation area to EPA standards, adjustments to vehicular entrance, and all ancillary site works. 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

We, Mr & Mrs Sean & Sally Clifford, seek Permission for revisions to approved applications 15/1225, ABP PL.27.246716 & 21/143 [a house (two storey at front & single storey at rear), provision of double vehicular entrance, connection to public mains & all associated site works]. The revisions consist of an additional Bedroom at 1st floor level, all within the approved floor plan, exclusion of front door canopy, obscured glass block windows replaced with obscured glass windows, and alterations to the bay windows at Ground & 1st floor levels, all at the rear of Koatkeo, Herbert Rise, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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