

# LOCAL Wicklow Times

**WE DELIVER! - for 34 years**



**RATHDRUM LIBRARY**  
Page 4



**NEW FILM STUDIOS**  
Page 8



**UPLANDS FIRES**  
Page 10

Delivered to 44,500  
homes & businesses

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

Tuesday 12th April 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: [wicklowed@localtimes.ie](mailto:wicklowed@localtimes.ie) [www.wicklowtimes.net](http://www.wicklowtimes.net)

# CALLS TO SCRAP CARBON TAX

Wicklow's three Government TDs are being urged to "wake up to the cost-of-living crisis" by Sinn Féin TD John Brady, who called on them to state publicly if they support scrapping the Carbon Tax hike on home heating fuels and energy that is due to come into effect in May. Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore, meanwhile, said that in the middle of an unprecedented cost-of-living crisis, the Government has the power to do more than offer "arrogant advice".

"If the government has run out of ideas on how to tackle the cost-of-living crisis, it is welcome to adopt proposals that the Social Democrats have long advocated," said Deputy Whitmore, the Party's Climate Spokesperson. "In recent days, Climate Minister Eamon Ryan has issued a range of patronising advice on how workers and families can cut costs, including taking shorter showers and cutting out car journeys. 'The Minister has nine special advisors. Is this the best they can come up with? Advice that could easily be gleaned from the Green Schools Programme in primary schools? 'What people really want to hear from the Minister are serious proposals about how soaring costs can be tackled. It is especially important that measures are targeted, so that those at the coal face of the cost-of-living crisis are provided with vital support. 'If the Minister is short of ideas, then he is welcome to adopt proposals that the Social Democrats have long



Leyna and Emily Byrne with the Easter Bunny at Clissman's family farm in Cronybyrne, Rathdrum. Clissman's family farm launched a spEgg-tacular new outdoor Easter adventure and Egg Hunt for all the family. See page 18. Photo by Michael Kelly

## K&K Windows LTD

WINDOWS • DOORS • CONSERVATORIES  
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Our New Virtual Google 360° Showroom.

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

K&K Windows Ltd, Craanford, Gorey, Co. Wexford, Ireland  
visit us online [WWW.KKWINDOWS.IE](http://WWW.KKWINDOWS.IE) Freephone: 1800 250 260  
Phone: 053 9383526  
Post Code: Y25 N2T7  
Email: [info@kkwindows.ie](mailto:info@kkwindows.ie)

NO MIDDLE MAN, WE SELL, MANUFACTURE AND INSTALL

advocated. These include putting €300 back in the pockets of workers earning €50,000 or less via a refundable tax credit; reducing VAT on energy; increasing core social welfare rates by €5 and extending and expanding the fuel allowance, which is due to expire imminently. "The government can introduce measures that

provide essential support for workers and families. The government has delayed long enough in introducing a package of serious measures. It must now act." Deputy Brady has also accused the government of failing to respond adequately to home energy cost increases, and described recent statements by Minister Ryan as "ridiculous and

condescending".

"Eamon Ryan is able to stand up in the Dáil

chamber and inform the Irish electorate that rising energy costs repre-

sent an existential threat to ordinary workers  
*Continued on Page 5*

## EASTER HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

The offices of Wicklow Times will be closed from the 11th to 15th of April to facilitate Spring Week holidays for staff.

Please email any editorial or advertising enquiries to [info@localtimes.ie](mailto:info@localtimes.ie) and we will respond when we return.

### 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!**

- ❖ 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](http://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](mailto:enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie)





Ashford Rovers Football Club members and supporters turned out to climb the sugarloaf on Saturday 2nd April, raising lots of money for Climb with Charlie (in aid of Motor Neurone Disease Ireland and Pieta House), and Kicks For Kane, in aid of medical and aftercare costs for Rathnew boy Kane who has cerebral palsy.

## Greystones Coffee Mornings for Ukrainians

Welcome Coffee Mornings are being held in Kilian House Family Centre in Greystones, for Ukrainian refugees. The group would very much like to give the children some fun and games. Donations may be made to any Greystones Folk Group Member.

Or they can be brought to Kilian House Family Centre. Suggestions for donations include new or nearly new jigsaws, Snakes + Ladders, Ludo, Card Games, Lego/Duplo, lots of small cars, Play Doh tubs, Dolls, Action Man type figures, Cards, Puzzle Books, Colouring Books, Pens and craft items such as scissors, Prittstick and stickers. Call Kilian House on 01 201 7896 for more information.

## Friendship Variety Show

A Friendship Variety Show for Ukraine will take place in Whale Theatre in Greystones on 30th April. There is an open call for Ukrainian and Irish performers. All ages and levels welcome. Please contact Rachel Harper, 087 9701063 if you would like to participate.

## Free haircuts for Ukrainians at Sin E

Sin E Hair and Beauty Salon in Charlesland Shopping Centre in Greystones is offering free haircuts for Ukrainians on Monday 11th and 18th April, between 10am and 5:30pm.

## Table Quiz

Scoil Chaoimhin Naofa Parents Association are hosting a table quiz & raffle fundraiser in Lynham's of Laragh at 8pm on Friday 29th April. €40 per table of four people. Contact Sinead 086 222 8188 Danny 086 1942 546 or Laura 087 2842 490 to confirm and secure your table. As numbers are limited, book early to avoid disappointment. All welcome.

## Candlelight Vigil for Ukraine at Wicklow Gaol

A candlelight vigil has been organised for the people of Wicklow Town and environs to come together in solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine. Everybody is welcome to attend. It will be a solemn occasion led by the lone piper Joe Hanlon. It takes place on 14th April. At 7:15pm attendees will be asked to light a candle. There will be a minute's silence. A fundraising event will be held at a later date in Wicklow Gaol/Jailer's Rest, headed by Sean Olohan and the Wicklow Lions Club committee.

## Arklow girl's sponsored haircut for cancer research

Arklow girl Juliet Traveria Wood is doing a sponsored haircut for cancer research.

In 2018, Juliet sadly lost her mother to cancer. Since the beginning of covid, she has been

growing her hair to do a sponsored haircut to raise funds for cancer research to help people going through cancer treatment and their families.

"I want to do a sponsored haircut to help people like my mum and their families," says Juliet. The hair itself will also be donated to Rapunzel Foundation to help those who have lost their hair to Alopecia. Juliet uses the GoFundMe page to write, "I would really appreciate it if you donated a little something to my cause. Every penny will help. My hair appointment is 30th April."

To donate, go to [www.gofundme.com/t/juliet-hair-donation-for-cancer-research](http://www.gofundme.com/t/juliet-hair-donation-for-cancer-research)

# Wicklow Barn Owl Group needs your help

The Wicklow Barn Owl Project is currently underway and is looking for members of the public to get in touch to help improve the prospects for this endangered bird in the county.

The project is a collaboration between Wicklow County Council, National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), Birdwatch Ireland and the Wicklow Raptor Group with additional funding support from The Heritage Council through the County Heritage Plan Fund.

Overall aim is to better understand the owl's distribution in Wicklow and to work with landowners to implement practical protection measures.

The project has two elements: firstly, gathering baseline information on the Barn Owl population in Wicklow through undertaking a county survey, and secondly installing nest boxes in suitable locations to improve the breeding habitat. For both of these elements, the project co-ordinators are seeking engagement from the public in county Wicklow.

Commonly known as the 'Farmers Friend' a Barn owl's diet relies to a large extent on rodents, with one bird estimated to take 2,000 prey items in a single breeding season. The Irish name 'Scrúachóg reilge' relates to its



A barn owl nesting box being fitted

screeching sound at nighttime, traditionally associated with the Banshee, and its habit of nesting in old churches and other ruined buildings.

One practical measure that can be taken to encourage Barn Owls is the installation of specially designed nest boxes to compensate

for the general lack of large trees and old disused buildings in our countryside. The project is seeking to install nesting boxes in suitable locations throughout the county and invites landowners/ homeowners to get in touch if they have seen Barn Owls near them and would like to host a nesting box on their property.

Currently there are very few records of Barn Owls in Wicklow and the project partners are appealing for members of the public to help fill this gap by reporting anecdotal sightings (past or present) either through the dedicated page at: [www.facebook.com/Wicklow-Barn-Owl-Group](http://www.facebook.com/Wicklow-Barn-Owl-Group) or by email to [wicklowbarnowl-group@gmail.com](mailto:wicklowbarnowl-group@gmail.com), or by telephone or text to Oran O Sullivan (county surveyor) at 087 2339280.

The Wicklow Barn Owl project will be one of the features in the upcoming 'Let's get buzzing - Community Action Day' in Roundwood on Saturday, 9th April.

For more information see: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) under latest news or contact Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, on [dburns@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:dburns@wicklowcoco.ie).

## Council aiming to have cliff walk open for summer

Wicklow County Council remains hopeful that the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk will be open in time for summer, Greystones District Manager Michael Nicholson has said.

Updating councillors at last week's Council meeting, Mr Nicholson said that trying to finish the negotiations with the necessary landowners to allow for the route to re-open has been 'frustrating', but that the Council still plan for it to be open by the summer season.

The Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk remains partially closed - it is safe to walk from Bray along the Cliff Walk as far as Windgates steps. From there walkers can take the alternative Bray Head Looped Trail, which can be quite challenging or return on the Cliff Walk back to Bray.

The Greystones side of the Cliff Walk is extremely dangerous and is closed in certain spots. The Council continues to assess and has put in place measures for the short-term protection of the public and are actively pursuing an alternative route for the sections of the walk which are currently closed due to erosion.



The children of 6th class in Roundwood National School held a cake sell to raise money to help the people of Ukraine. The cakes were backed by themselves and were sold only to the children of the other classes. It was a tremendous success and the class were very proud to present a cheque for €1,995.00 to the Irish Red Cross last week.

Pictured presenting the cheque were: Sinead Sharkey (Principal), Alex Moody, Daniel Hanway and Jenny from The Irish Red Cross.

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

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

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



**ShuttleKnit**  
KNITTING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

**Ladies & Men's Knitwear & Homeware Collection**

**SUSTAINABLE • ETHICAL • LOCAL  
IRISH HANDCRAFTED IN WICKLOW TOWN**

We are a Social Enterprise, which is a business that reinvests its profits back into its social mission.  
"Knitting communities together"

CEART, Crinion Park, Wicklow Town,  
County Wicklow. A67 AR20

[www.shuttleknit.ie](http://www.shuttleknit.ie) [sales@shuttleknit.ie](mailto:sales@shuttleknit.ie)  
Call: +353 (0) 404 25641

**WICKLOW**  
**Times**

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

Shay Fitzmaurice, Managing Editor - [shay@localtimes.ie](mailto:shay@localtimes.ie)

Ian Colgan, News Editor - [ian@localtimes.ie](mailto:ian@localtimes.ie)

Sales / General enquiries - [info@localtimes.ie](mailto:info@localtimes.ie)



# Development Plan criticised for 'ignoring national policy'

The Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 has been heavily criticised by Wicklow Planning Alliance (WPA) for its many rezoning proposals from councillors which conflict with "the advice of planners, national guidelines, and climate change ambitions".

The Plan is due to go out on public display in the coming days before councillors vote on the final draft of the plan. WPA is appealing to councillors to withdraw many of their proposals before that final vote.

"In the next couple of months Wicklow County Council will vote again on the final draft of the County Development Plan. This spatial plan, that determines where and how land may be developed, now contains rezoning proposals from

individual councillors which are contrary to the views of the professional planners, are in direct defiance of the Government appointed planning regulator and fly in the face of the nation's ambitions for climate change," Wicklow Planning Alliance stated.

"The first draft of the county plan (before councillors' amendments) included very little rezoning for housing. This was not because it was not cognisant of the need for housing but because pre-

vious plans had zoned for much more houses than the county's needs. Notwithstanding the limited zoning the Government planning regulator wrote to the council pointing out where some sections were still contrary to national policy and guidelines, being surplus to the population targets agreed for the county or outside of existing settlements.

"Consequently, the draft plan, when published, was largely compliant with national strat-

egy aimed at ensuring balanced population growth and carbon reduction targets. This did not sit well with some of our public representatives. Of 70 amendments put forward, 60 proposed further rezoning or loosening controls over urban sprawl into the countryside. When the concerns of the planning regulator and national targets for growth were raised the response was that adopting a development plan was one of the few areas left to councillors and

they should 'ignore outside influences' even when advised that what they wanted was not legally possible.

"How can Ireland achieve balanced growth, create sustainable public transport and meet climate change goals when those responsible for local planning simply ignore national policy? We would appeal to the councillors to heed national policy, think of the long term and withdraw their proposals before the final vote."

## Amendment seeks to stop vulture funds from buying up apartments

An amendment inserted into the Draft County Development Plan seeks to prohibit vulture funds from buying up apartments in Co. Wicklow.

The amendment was proposed by Cllr Joe Behan (Ind) and seconded by Cllr Tom Fortune (Ind).

The amendment makes it an objective of the plan to prohibit the sale of all developments of residential units - houses, geo-complexes and apartments - to investment bodies. Approved Housing Bodies are to be exempt under the amendment. Currently apartments aren't included in legislation to prevent vulture funds from buying properties in bulk.

The purpose of the amendment is to give young people a greater opportunity to buy a house or an apartment of their own, Cllr Behan said.

On March 29th Councillors voted to adopt the Draft County Development Plan 2022-2028. Councillors proposed a total of 70 amendments and the plan will now go out on public display.

Councillors supported the principle of Cllr Behan's amendment, however some doubts were expressed about its enforceability.

Speaking at last week's Council meeting, Cllr Behan said "As we all know, the selling off of entire developments to investment funds has become increasingly frequent over the last couple of years. It denies our constituents, particularly young people starting off trying to buy their first home, the opportunity to actually buy a home of their own - even a starter home or an apartment.

"There is something wrong with the system if we can't put some requirement in our plan that would prevent the selling off wholesale of apartments to investment funds. A lot of people are currently in a situation where they can't



Cllr Joe Behan

house themselves in this county and they are moving down to Wexford and Carlow and other places because they just can't afford to live in their own county anymore."

Agreeing with the proposal, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald said "Something needs to be done, because we have many people who are looking for houses and can't get them. There are a lot of vulture funds. The housing bodies are doing excellent work, so I wouldn't want to see them

interfered with in the situation."

"I am not one-hundred percent sure if this is enforceable, but I do think it's a very good step," said Cllr Mary Kavanagh. "I think it's sending out a very clear message. There might be a better statutory instrument down the line that might make this possible, but I do think it's a very good stop gap measure."

"We can't underestimate the importance of housing need demand assessment at the moment, considering the context we are in, in Europe, where there is an unprecedented movement of people, namely Ukrainians, landing in Ireland," said Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien. "We don't have a really clear sense of what the future might hold for them. I think that should be also a driver for how important it is to do this type of amendment going forward."

Senior Planner Sorchá Walsh said that Cllr Behan's amendment "Would appear to be more of an issue for national legislation rather than a county development plan, because it would significantly impact on property rights and the market and I don't think it's appropriate for Wicklow County Council to try and do a solo run on something like this."

Chief Executive of the Council Brian Gleeson said "I share the frustrations of the members in relation to vulture funds, but as pointed out, there are guidelines and legislation in place, albeit only for the houses and the duplexes. In order to put in the restrictions we are talking about in relation to apartments, the legislation has to be changed. We are restricted at the moment, and it's questionable whether an amendment on this could be legally implemented."



Mary Wood of the Arklow St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee presents Arklow United's Erica Nolan with the Best Marching Group award at the St. Patrick's Day Parade awards

**The Kings Quarters Restaurant**

at

**The Castle Inn**

**CASTLE INN**  
Wed - Sat: 12 noon to 8.30pm  
Sunday noon to 8pm

**KINGS QUARTERS**  
Fri & Sat 6pm-10pm,  
Sunday lunch noon to 5pm

**NEW Opening Times**

**NEW**

**castle.inn.7**

**the\_castle\_inn\_co\_wicklow**

The Castle Inn, Newcastle, Co Wicklow  
castleinnnewcastle@gmail.com

01 281 9232

**TALBOT HOTEL**  
STILLORGAN

## Start your career today!

Full and part time positions now available in bar, restaurant, events, accommodation, reception, maintenance, stores, groundskeeper

Talbot Hotel Stillorgan is located on the N11, easily accessible by bus.

To apply send c.v to: [hr@talbotstillorgan.com](mailto:hr@talbotstillorgan.com)





# Rathdrum Library officially opened

The official opening of the new Rathdrum library took place on Friday 1st April.



The new Library in Rathdrum

Speaking at the event, Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Brian Gleeson, noted that in the first month over 150 new members had joined the library in Rathdrum.

He thanked the elected members of Wicklow County Council for their continued support of library capital projects across the county, including their funding for Rathdrum. He also thanked Director of Services, Michael Nicholson and CCSD library staff for bringing the project to fruition.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, remarked on the array of services which the new library offers, in particular the 12 study spaces along with the availability of public access.

He said he believed the

new library in Rathdrum was the flagship in the standard that should be targeted for libraries in smaller towns. He

thanked Margaret Byrne for her dedicated service from the former library in Gilbert's Row and wished her well in the

new building.

Cllr Cullen also acknowledged the dedication of Cllr Pat Kennedy both regarding the library project and other Rathdrum related activities.

He and Cllr Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach of

Arklow Municipal District, unveiled a plaque marking the event. It was noted that while Arklow library had also opened on April 1st (2016), April Fool's Day had not proven to be a bad omen, with Arklow library growing from strength to strength.



Branch Librarian Margaret Byrne, Cllr Peir Leonard, Cllr Tommy Annesley, County Manager Brian Gleeson, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Shay Cullen, Cllr Pat Kennedy, Steven Matthews TD, Library Assistant Simona Ivers, and Cllr Vincent Blake at the newly opened Rathdrum Library.

## Warm welcome for Indian Ambassador in Arklow



Indian Ambassador His Excellency Mr Akhilesh Mishra, and his wife, Mrs Reeti, with councillors and Arklow Municipal District officials.

The Indian Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Akhilesh Mishra, and his wife, Mrs Reeti, paid a courtesy visit to Arklow on Wednesday 30th March.

The Ambassador met with the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council and Arklow Municipal District, Cllr Shay Cullen and Cllr Miriam Murphy, respectively and Council officials, Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive; Ms Helena Dennehy, Arklow District Manager, and Ms Claire Lawless, District Administrator.

The Cathaoirleach and officials briefed Mr Akhilesh Mishra on the exciting developments in the pipeline for the Arklow District and County Wicklow and its many benefits as both an investment location and as a place to live and work.

The Ambassador spoke about India's close ties with Ireland and the Wicklow area and of his desire to grow those ties further from the ground up into the future.

He also stressed the potential business linkages between India and Wicklow particularly in the tech, pharma-chem and renewable energy sectors where India has been to the forefront in market leadership.

The Ambassador visited the office of Arklow Municipal District where he signed the visitor's book and attend a reception in the Arklow Library. "Col Ceathracha" a traditional Irish Music

Group provided the entertainment on the day.

Cllr Miriam Murphy, speaking on behalf of the Members of Arklow Municipal District, stated: "Ambassador Mr Akhilesh Mishra and his wife Mrs Reeti received a very warm welcome to Arklow and we discussed increased links between our two countries economically, educationally, culturally and socially. It is hoped that we can deepen our relationship with our Indian friends as a result of this visit."

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, presented the Ambassador with a gift of a cheeseboard - made by Asgard Woodturning - topped with local produce available in Orla's Kitchen, a Wicklow Naturally Hamper, and "This is Wicklow", a photographic celebration of the elements that make County Wicklow the Garden of Ireland.

He thanked the Ambassador and his colleagues for visiting Arklow and stressed that he looked forward to "strengthening ties between Arklow and, indeed the whole county of Wicklow, with the Indian Embassy".

**Benville Robinson LLP**

Riverview House  
Seapoint Road,  
Bray, Co. Wicklow

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

### Personal Injury Lawyers\*

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

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

**Benville Robinson LLP**

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

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

## Local heritage sites awarded €75,000

Well-known Wicklow heritage sites, including the Weir Wall (on the Russborough estate beside the N81), St Matthews Church, Newtownmountkennedy, and Greenan More Farmstead, Rathdrum, have been awarded funding to conserve notable historic structures under the Historic Structures Fund 2022.

The three projects are: €40,000 for roof repairs at St. Matthews Church, Newtown; €25,000 for Phase II repair and stabilising of Russborough weir wall to facilitate pedestrian traffic under N81, linking demesne walkways with the extended Blessington Greenway; €10,000 towards the workshop at Grenan Mor farmstead, Rathdrum, a vernacular building, to include masonry repair, roof re-construction and re-instatement of corrugated iron.

A total of €4m was awarded nationwide through the Historic Structures Fund (HSF), administered by the Department of Housing, Local Government and

Heritage in partnership with the 31 Local Authorities. The announcement follows that of €4m in funding under the Department's other built heritage grant scheme, the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, earlier this month.

In addition to supporting owners and custodians of historic and protected structures to safeguard and maintain their properties, this funding will also provide a welcome boost to conservation professionals and tradespeople, including in specialist heritage roles such as thatching and stone work. Following on from the successful introduction of the Historic Shopfront Stream last

year, the HSF has again made funding available for a range of shopfronts including bars and pubs which operate in buildings of historical significance

Through grants of between €15,000 and €200,000, the HSF assists owners of heritage structures - including those on the local authorities' Record of Protected Structures and those in Architectural Conservation Areas - to meet their obligations to care for their properties. The scheme provides assistance to a wide range of heritage structures - this year's HSF includes awards to historic bridges, castles, churches, mills, libraries, shopfronts, an old forge, as well as to private houses.

Announcing the awards, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD, said: "I am delighted to announce another €4m investment in our built heritage.

This year's Historic Structures Fund will assist 78 owners and custodians of historic and protected structures across the country as they carry out hundreds of conservation projects to repair and safeguard our built heritage. I am particularly pleased to announce the awards made to vernacular structures and historic shopfronts following their successful pilot schemes last year.

"These awards celebrate the richness and diversity of our built heritage and help to preserve our connections to past generations, in particular through their support of traditional building skills, which this Government is committed to investing in.

"These actions also help us to deliver on our commitments to built heritage under Heritage Ireland 2030, the national heritage plan which I launched earlier this year."



# Calls for further scrutiny on Council's Re-let Pilot Project

At a recent meeting of Wicklow County Council, a proposed pilot project for Council relets was discussed, following a request from Sinn Féin councillors Grace McManus and Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien, and Independent Cllr Joe Behan.

Re-let works are done by the Council to repair and improve housing units between tenancies. This pilot scheme from the Council proposes that some relet works will not be completed, after review of the property by a technical person.

The Pilot Project has been proposed as a way to deal with the lack of funding for the number of relets required over the coming year, particularly in high density areas such as Bray.

Speaking on the issue, Cllr McManus said "I appreciate from the outset that council officials are constrained by a lack of adequate funding for the number of relets that will occur in the town and county over the coming year. They are under pressure to provide as many units as quickly as possible for those on our social housing waiting list.

"However, at this stage I have several unresolved concerns around the policy in terms of quality, equality and sustainability. How do we ensure adequate

standards for people who will pay us to rent these properties? How do we protect against future issues that may arise from this Pilot Project? What accountability mechanisms and paper trail will be in place for each of the units concerned?

"There are also more questions to be asked of the Department of Housing with regard to funding. Has this been raised with the National Housing Department as an emergency funding situation?

"We are now pursuing a further special meeting of Bray Municipal District elected members and council officials to tease out these issues, to make sure we as public representatives are doing all that we can to ensure the best for the people we represent."

Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien said "This issue has not landed out of the blue. Successive Governments and their policies are at the root of the problems. At local level in my view we should not support or

celebrate a proposal that means downgrading standards of refurbishment in local authority housing without fighting tooth and nail to prevent it.

"If the Government is not providing enough funds to refurbish homes to a proper standard before they are relet then the Government is not committed to resolving the housing crisis.

"If local Cllrs are happy to support this without the most thorough risk assessments and the most comprehensive analysis of the options then we risk kicking the crisis down the road for the sake of what's easy. Look at where that got us with the climate crisis!

"It's easy to say 'people have a choice' when offered a home that hasn't been refurbished up to previous standards but I would argue that people living in some of the circumstances that I come across do not have a choice! People in desperate situations will make sacrifices for themselves and their families. It's on

us to ensure a standard of quality.

"So if we are going to be changing the approach to refurbishing local authority houses before they are given to new tenants we must be able to state explicitly to them what that means and more importantly what our promise is with regard to the standard of the home."



Alan Shortt, Lorraine Gallagher, and Cathaoirleach Cllr Shay Cullen at the Wicklow County Council breakfast briefing in the Druids Glen Hotel

## CALLS TO SCRAP CARBON TAX

Continued from Page 1

and families but has nothing to offer in response to the crisis, other than trite commentary about the need for ordinary people needing to consume less energy, as otherwise they were fuelling the Russian war!" said Deputy Brady. "Something that the government can do immediately, without having to seek the permission of the EU, is to remove the excise duty on home heating oil. The cost of which has doubled in price, to where a fill of oil now costs €1600 here in Wicklow.

"This is urgent, people are freezing in their homes as they simply can't afford to turn on the heating. "Workers and families face increases in the cost of energy and home heating that they simply cannot afford. The cost of electricity, gas and home heating oil has spiralled and the government are failing to respond adequately. People here in Wicklow are really struggling. Instead of supporting households, this out of touch government plan to increase prices by increasing the Carbon Tax on home heating fuels in May. Sinn Féin have been consistent in calling for this Carbon Tax increase to be scrapped.

"The government said they were increasing the Carbon Tax to change people's behaviour. People's behaviour is already changing because of price rises - they are turning off the heating because they simply cannot afford it. Today a member of the Climate Change Advisory Council, Dr. Cara Augustenborg, echoed these views and called for the Carbon Tax hike to be deferred.

"It is time for the government to see sense. Households in Wicklow need support, not further price rises. Sinn Féin have called on the government to scrap the planned Carbon Tax hike and immediately introduce a package of measures to support workers and families. We will continue to hold this government to account until they change their position.

"I am calling on the three government TDs here in Wicklow, Simon Harris, Stephen Donnelly, and Stephen Matthews to state clearly if they will back the scrapping of these unfair Carbon Tax increases.

"They must make it clear whether they support people here in Wicklow struggling with the rising cost of living, or if they will insist on this unfair tax at a time when people are already under huge financial pressure."

"I am calling on the three government TDs here in Wicklow, Simon Harris, Stephen Donnelly, and Stephen Matthews to state clearly if they will back the scrapping of these unfair Carbon Tax increases.

"They must make it clear whether they support people here in Wicklow struggling with the rising cost of living, or if they will insist on this unfair tax at a time when people are already under huge financial pressure."

## Illegal Dumping is a Disgrace. Report Illegal Dumping Today.

pure

To Report Dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands

LoCall 1800 365 123

Check that your waste collector has a valid Waste Collection Permit

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





Sam Wheatley, Enda Leacy, Liadh Fitzmaurice, Ava Brady, Evie Lowe, and Alejo Ruigomez were the raffle winners at the cake sale in aid of Ukraine in Roundwood National School. They are pictured with Mr Byrne.

## Cllrs see tourism potential of Laragh Castle

**Councillors voted to put an amendment into the County Development Plan that they believe will pave the way for Laragh Castle to be opened up for tourism.**

The amendment was proposed by Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen, who said the property could be a "massive tourism attraction".

The amendment was seconded by Cllr John Snell, who said "This is an opportunity to enhance what we already have in the Laragh area, and tourism is vital to the county."

Laragh Castle is in private ownership. The amendment seeks to extend the site boundary so that another house can be accommodated. The parents would then move out of Laragh Castle and into the new house. Councillors believe this will allow Laragh Castle itself to be opened up for tourism.

"It is a unique opportunity in terms of opening up Laragh," said Cllr Pat Kennedy, who supported the amendment. "I can guarantee 99% of the members here today don't know there is a castle there. We will be accommodating a house and an elderly couple, and if Laragh Castle can be opened up to the public going forward, this is what we should be looking at, and tying in with the Master Plan for Glendalough."

The outcome of the vote (23 for, 8 against) went against the advice of the Chief Executive of the Council, Brian Gleeson, who commented that lands within the village boundary, already owned by the landowner, would be able to provide for an official family dwelling.

Green Party councillor Lourda Scott sided with the Chief Executive, saying "I have concerns about the proximity to the Wicklow County Council Special Area of Conservation, which has more importance on compact growth and limiting sprawl. It seems they have sufficient land to provide for the additional dwelling without this rezoning."

# Transport Minister too busy to meet delegation, councillors told

A response to Wicklow County Council from the office of the Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan to a request for him to meet a delegation to discuss the N11, stated that the Minister was too busy to meet with them.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Shay Cullen described the reply as "shocking".

A letter was sent from the Council to Minister Ryan on 14th March asking that he meet with a delegation from the Council regarding the suspension of the N11-M11 Upgrade Scheme.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson informed councillors last week that "We have received a response back, which basically states, on behalf the Minister for Transport, that his diary schedule is hectic."

The communication stated that Officials from the Department of Transport would instead meet the delegation, and the Council is awaiting details on when this

might occur.

"That a Minister is too busy to schedule a meeting with a delegation is absolutely shocking," the Cathaoirleach said.

Also frustrated by the response, Cllr Joe Behan said, "For the Minister to stop the funding on a strategic project for the county and then say he is too busy to discuss it, is not acceptable. We shouldn't give up. We should work together on this. We should write back and say that we are not accepting the answer and it's not good enough."

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore also recently wrote to the Minister for Transport on the issue of growing concerns regarding traffic safety along the N11.

Speaking on the mat-

ter, Deputy Whitmore said "News of the decision not to fund the long-touted upgrade to the N11/M11 road, came as a huge disappointment for constituents in Wicklow. Since the end of Covid restrictions, traffic congestion on the N11 is increasing. The upgrade was focused on expanding public transport to reduce car dependency in the area, something that is much needed."

"Coupled with a lack of adequate public transport, the situation regarding this main route for commuters is worsening. Many constituents are concerned about road safety as drivers but also as pedestrians and bus users. Existing public transport is not meeting demand in the area."

"The decision not to fund the N11/M11 upgrade was short-sighted given the fact that existing public transport infrastructure is at maximum capacity and public transport has not been expanded along the N11 road. There are questions now as to whether there's an opportunity for funding to be found elsewhere to get started on the proposed upgrade as soon as possible."

"I have written to the Minister for Transport requesting a progress update on the N11/M11 project and whether there is any opportunity for funds to be allocated so that car dependency, reducing carbon emissions and prioritising public transport are addressed."

## Women of Wicklow 'gaslighted' over National Maternity Hospital, says Whitmore

**Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has strongly condemned the Minister for Health's stance on the new National Maternity Hospital after Dáil statements on the issue took place the week before last.**

Deputy Whitmore and the Social Democrats have been working alongside campaigners to ensure the €1b hospital remains a publicly owned hospital. Minister Donnelly is due to bring to cabinet details of the legal framework regarding the hospital shortly. Deputy Whitmore also met with campaigners from Wicklow outside Leinster House during the Dáil statements.

Speaking on the issue, Deputy Whitmore said, "Minister Donnelly's performance in the Dáil and record to date on the issue of the new National Maternity Hospital has been deplorable. His response to campaigners, intent on protecting women's healthcare in Ireland, is unacceptable. He is gaslighting women in Wicklow and Ireland by referring to campaigners as 'misinformed' and 'misunderstanding'."

"If the Minister believes campaigners are misinformed, he has the capacity to make all dealings in relation to the Hospital transparent by fully engaging with opposition and the public and outline what exactly the government is agreeing to with St. Vincent's Holdings. The Minister has repeatedly made assurance that measures will be in place to "prevent any undue influence, religious or otherwise", however, there has been no detail as to how the Minister will ensure this is the case."

"Donnelly's Deal is being done behind closed doors. Opposition have not been given access to the necessary information. Little to no information is being provided in the



Deputy Whitmore with campaigner Holly Cairns

public arena and the Opposition will only get access to this once the deal has already been done.

"What's more is that during the Dáil debate on the Hospital, not a single female government TD was present, an insulting response to the women of Wicklow and Ireland who have fought hard to bring to light the list of scandals involving women's healthcare in the past."

"Women simply want a state-owned, independent National Maternity Hospital completely free from religious influence. It comes

from a genuine concern from women in Wicklow, resulting from past and present governments mismanaging healthcare needs and relying on religious institutions to provide maternity healthcare in this country."

"Let's face it, it's not the first-time women have been silenced when it comes to healthcare."

This is a €1bn investment - our National Maternity Hospital must be publicly owned and free from religious ethos at the very minimum," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

**Marrakesh**

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

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

**Recycled:**

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

Also available:

- Granite • Pebble • Sand

**Tel: 01 286 8119 Mobile: 087 664 1866**  
**www.marrakeshltd.com**

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

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



# Joint Committee on International Surrogacy holds its first public meeting

The Joint Committee on International Surrogacy chaired by Deputy Jennifer Whitmore held its first public meeting in Committee Room 1 of Leinster House last Thursday.

The meeting was split into two sessions with the Committee hearing from Officials from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, the Department of Justice and the Department of Health on the current position of surrogacy in Ireland and in Irish and international law in the first session and from the Government Special Rapporteur on Child Protection Professor Conor O'Mahony in the

second session.

The Committee was established to consider and make recommendations on measures to address issues arising from international surrogacy and is scheduled to run for 3 months.

Speaking after the meeting, Committee Cathaoirleach Deputy Jennifer Whitmore said: "I'm delighted to be offered this opportunity to chair this important committee.

"During its tenure this Committee will discuss in-depth the current position of surrogacy in Ireland and in law both in Ireland and abroad with the stakeholders. 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. "The Committee had

good engagement with the Government Special Rapporteur, Professor Conor O'Mahony about his recent report and we are keen to undertake our work programme where we will meet with a variety of stakeholders and consider all issues around surrogacy.

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



The members of the Joint Committee on International Surrogacy; Emer Higgins (FG), Jennifer Murnane O'Connor (FF), Niamh Smith (FF), Committee Chair Jennifer Whitmore (SD), Senator Lynn Ruane (Ind), Senator Mary Seery Kearney (FG), Patrick Costello (GP), and Kathleen Funchion (SF).



Dr Nitheen Kapar Sanyal and Brandon Viner at the Wicklow County Council Breakfast Briefing in the Druids Glen Hotel.

## Progress on dental access for medical card holders

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has welcomed significant progress made by the HSE in relation to access for medical card holders in Wicklow to basic dental services. The Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) is available to medical card holders aged 16 and over.

The update comes from the response to a series of parliamentary questions and submissions made by Deputy Matthews on behalf of constituents who hold medical cards and have been unable to access treatment for several months.

Discussing the progress, Deputy Matthews said: "This is an issue I first raised about 6 months ago on behalf of a series of constituents who wrote to me seeking support in accessing extremely basic dental care such as fillings and teeth cleaning. Each of them held valid medical cards but were finding it impossible to find a dentist that accepted medical card patients and the rare ones that still did had huge waiting lists.

"The update I received this week indicated that in their third round of discussions with the Irish Dental Association, the Minister has given approval for significant fee increas-

es to be paid to contracted dentists across a number of items, including the Dental Examination and Fillings. This is welcome progress and had been a sticking point in the negotiations previously.

"It is expected that following this agreement, a number of dentists that had withdrawn from accepted patients with medical cards, will make arrangements to start accepting them again. The reintroduction of Scale and Polish for medical card patients has also been approved. These new measures are designed to address access problems for patients, and address dentist's concerns about the viability of the DTSS.

"In the initial responses I received from the HSE and Minister for Health before Christmas, they acknowledged the problem but seemed far off reaching a point where the solution would be in place on the ground.

In fairness to the HSE, considering the weight of other issues facing them, to see genuine progress in this area is hugely welcome. I hope and expect the new agreements between the Irish Dental Association and the HSE will allow medical card patients easy and fast access to dental treatment as soon as possible.

"I further welcomed confirmation from the Minister that work on a substantive review of the DTSS Contract will commence by the end of Q2, 2022. I look forward to working with the HSE to ensure the best possible outcome for all dental patients. If any medical card holders continue to encounter problems in getting an appointment with a Wicklow based dentist, I would ask them to get in touch with me and I would be happy to follow up with the HSE on their behalf," concluded Deputy Matthews.

## CPO process confirmed for Chapel Road in Delgany

The Compulsory Purchase Process for Chapel Road has been confirmed.

Speaking on the news, Social Democrats councillor Jodie Neary said "This is a long time coming and will push forward the process to get the much-needed road and cycle upgrade scheme up and running for Chapel Road.

"Road upgrades for the area have been flagged for decades and in recent years has come closer than it has ever been to becoming realised. As part of the upgrade, some land will have to be taken from some front gardens in order to provide for a much-improved road.

"This happens as part of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) which must be signed off by An Bord Pleanála.

"While the scheme was confirmed for the road, the process to progress it was slowed down due to the pandemic. This meant the Compulsory Purchase Order to process was also slowed down.

"In response, the Greystones Cllrs sent correspondence to An Bord Pleanála asking that they move on the CPO process but we were told that due to unprecedented levels of work load at An Bord Pleanála, they could not indicate when they would be able to assess the application to start the CPO process.

"Recent correspondence to the local Greystones Councillors revealed that the CPO has been confirmed. I look forward to hearing more about this scheme and its progress and hope to receive an update shortly.

"Now, more than ever with so much development ongoing in Delgany, a new, safe road through Delgany along Chapel Road will help local residents, cyclists, children going to school, to all feel safer and more included in the local community."

# Scoil San Eoin Redcross




1963

## Closing Date for Admission Applications for Academic Year 22/23

Scoil San Eoin Redcross wish to inform any parent/guardian wishing to enrol their children for the academic year 22/23 that the closing date for applications is **29th April 22.**

If you require any further information please contact the school office on [schoolofficeredcross@gmail.com](mailto:schoolofficeredcross@gmail.com) or **0404-41727**. Thank You [www.scoilsaneoin.ie](http://www.scoilsaneoin.ie)




An Roinn Cosanta  
Department of Defence

### ARMY RIFLE RANGES

## WARNING

If you are walking in the countryside do not walk onto any of the Military Firing Ranges as you could be in **GREAT DANGER** at all times from unexploded shells and other dangerous ammunition **RED FLAGS indicate LIVE FIRING** Watch out for the warning signs **AND TAKE CARE!**



An Roinn Cosanta  
Department of Defence

### RAONTA RAIDHFILÍ AN AIRM

## FOLÁIREAMH

Má bhíonn tú ag siúl faoin tuath, ná siúil isteach i gceann ar bith de na Raonta Lámhaigh Míleata mar d'fhéadfá a bheith i **nDEARG-BHAOL** i gcónaí de bharr sliogáin neamhphléasctha agus armlón contúirteach eile **Is ionann BRATACHA DEARGA agus BEO-LÁMHACH** Bí ag faire do na comharthaí foláirimh **AGUS BÍ AR d'AIRDEALL!**



# Ireland's largest film studio to open in 2024

Hackman Capital Partners and partner Square Mile Capital Management, the group who was behind the acquisition of Ireland's Ardmore Studios and Troy Studios in August 2021, has been selected to develop the new Greystones Media Campus, a planned and shovel-ready state-of-the-art film and television studio campus. The new film studios will be Ireland's largest and most technologically advanced production facility. The Greystones Media Campus, which will produce movies and shows for the global market, will contribute to the creation of 1,500 jobs, with 450 construction staff to be employed during the building phase. The campus is due to open in 2024.

The two-phased development is a joint venture with the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF), Ireland's sovereign development fund and Capwell, a Sisk family investment vehicle. The total investment in the project is estimated at nearly €300 million.

Hackman Capital and Square Mile Capital's affiliate, The MBS Group, will assist in the purpose-built studio design and will also oversee studio operations and provide production services and equipment rentals when the new studio campus opens its doors.

When fully developed, Greystones Media Campus will be Ireland's largest studio complex with more than 670,000 square feet of studio space on 44 acres with sea views, including 14 state-of-the-art sound stages. The first 7 sound stages and associated office, workshop and backlot spaces will be delivered in mid-2024.

The development will double the high-end film and television stage capacity in Ireland to help meet current tenant demand as a growing number of international and domestic productions are vying for existing space.

Minister Simon Harris said, "I welcome the sig-

nificant investment into Wicklow's audio-visual industry through the Greystones Media Campus. The Greystones Media Campus will put Greystones and county Wicklow on the radar for content creators worldwide with the creation of Ireland's most technologically advanced studio facility. The €300 million investment in this development will provide a major boost for Wicklow's creative economic sector and local economy through the creation of 1,500 new jobs. I look forward to following the progress of this development and to sharing our wonderful county with the international film and TV industry".

Minister Stephen Donnelly said: "I'm absolutely delighted to see the deal for the Greystones Media Campus get the green light. It is expected work on the first phase of the project will begin later this year. I have been working with the IDA for several years to bring high value industries to the town. It has taken a bit of time to get all the contracts in place but it's fantastic the project is now happening. Wicklow has become a world leading location for the film industry, and this is only set to continue with the arrival of the country's biggest studio to

Greystones."

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, said: "I'm delighted that this consortium is backing the Greystones Media Campus as the development will result in doubling of film and TV production space in the County. I warmly welcome the creation of 1500 high level jobs for the area which will mean a reduction in the level of commuting to jobs outside the county.

"This announcement is a very strong vote of confidence in the local screen sector. The potential to grow this sector is huge and the region is well placed to meet this demand by maximising the potential of our local talent. This project is also good news for the development of the Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus by Wicklow County Council as a centre of excellence in education, innovation and job creation."

Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council and Chair of Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG, commented: "We welcome this announcement and the development of the lands in Greystones for high quality jobs in this sector. We have

already started preparing for the additional studio space by partnering with Screen Ireland in the development of a Crew Hub for the region. Through the Crew Hub we will address the skills gaps in the industry, attract new talent into the sector, upskill crew already working in the sector and ensure that there is a highly skilled crew to service the productions coming to the studios. We look forward to working with this consortium and all other stakeholders to further consolidate the content creation cluster in County Wicklow.

He added: "Wicklow County Council has a strong relationship with the film industry. It's a crucial economic driver in the county and the demand for content is increasing rapidly. I would like to acknowledge Screen Ireland's financial assistance with the development of the crew hub and the REDF fund for the development of the Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew."

Cllr Derek Mitchell said "I welcome this announcement as the town has the lowest number of local jobs of any place in Wicklow and this will help reduce the need for commuting. The site

is central with good connections to DART, bus, road and cycle lanes. I will be sorry to see the green fields, near the centre of the town go, but they had a good landscape plan as part of the planning permission from 2021. The site was owned by the IDA for 30 years and there were various proposals, including a microchip factory, but these came to nothing."

Paschal Donohoe, Ireland's Minister for Finance, said, "I welcome this significant investment into Ireland's audio-visual industry. This investment is reflective of the positive work done by the industry over the last number of years. It is also indicative of the impact of the long-standing State supports for the expression of Irish and European culture through audio-visual works and the creation of quality employment opportunities for those working within the sector. This joint venture by the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund and its business partners will enhance Ireland's ability to capitalise on the high demand for content by promoting our country as a location for both foreign and domestic producers. On the back of what has been a record-breaking year for spend on TV and Film production in Ireland, this level of investment will serve to enhance Ireland's reputation as a location for high quality production."

"We are grateful to ISIF and Capwell for this exciting opportunity, and we're thrilled to be



The site of the new film studios in Greystones

expanding our footprint in Ireland," said Michael Hackman, Founder and CEO of Hackman Capital Partners. "We see Ireland as a premier destination for content creators across the globe, and we're committed to seeing it grow exponentially. There is enormous talent here, not to mention a stunning landscape and some of the industry's best financial incentives for filmmakers."

Square Mile Capital CEO Craig Solomon added, "The demand for modern, well-run studio facilities in Ireland is very strong and is expected to remain so for the foreseeable future. This opportunity to help meet that demand, and deliver a superior level of operating support to the creative companies that will use the facilities, is very attractive to us. Overall, the world's appetite for high-quality film and TV

content shows no sign of slowing and we believe that the Greystones Media Campus has great potential."

"Ireland has captured the heart of the global film industry, and demand for new studio space is only escalating. Greystones Media Campus will not only be Ireland's largest production facility, but also its most technologically advanced. We're excited to get the development underway this year, and thrilled by the strong, ongoing support of local stakeholders as we continue to build our presence here," said Jason Hariton, Chief Real Estate Officer of The MBS Group.

The MBS-operated Ardmore Studios, also in County Wicklow, puts Dublin-Wicklow at the centre of the Irish movie and TV industry, with such productions as The

Last Duel, The Green Knight, The Winx Series, The Tudors, Penny Dreadful, My Left Foot and Braveheart filmed there.

Will McCabe, Managing Director of Capwell, said, "Greystones Media Campus is an important new chapter in the story of the Irish film industry and will also consolidate Wicklow's position as the traditional heart of television and film production in Ireland. With increasing global demand for content from the likes of Netflix, Amazon and Disney, this development presents a wonderful opportunity for Ireland to continue to make its mark on the global stage. This significant long-term investment will also provide a major economic and cultural boost to the region, which is great news for the local Wicklow community."

## Land disposed for Greystones Primary Care Centre

Councillors last week voted to dispose of 1.33 acres of land on Mill Road, Greystones, to the HSE for the purpose of a Primary Care Centre.

Greystones is currently the only Municipal District in the County without a Primary Care Centre.

The disposal had near unanimous support from councillors however

Cllr Derek Mitchell was opposed to this location for the Centre.

"I don't think it's the best use for the site," he said. "There's two other sites which the Council has in Greystones that are zoned commercial where I think the Primary Care Centre would be more suited. Next to this site we have the largest film studio in Ireland to be built, and I think we need to have integration.

"A hundred-bed hotel, which would get good trade from a film studio, would work a lot better here. To sell half the road frontage of this site before

we have an overall plan for the site is a mistake. I don't think we should be doing it. We should be doing it keeping in mind that Ireland's largest film studio will be next door.

"There will need to be significant car parking on this site for the primary health care centre, there'll be lots of traffic in and out. I think that will be a problem to cope with and there are already problems in the park and ride, which is next to here, with the 500 spaces. It can take people who have already spent an hour on the train 10 minutes to get out."

Cllr Mitchell said that for these reasons it would be 'premature' to dispose of the land before discussing the other two sites with the HSE.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council



Cllr Derek Mitchell

Brian Gleeson said that it was the best site and that other sites were examined by the District Engineer and deemed to be unsuitable.

He said it was decided that it would be "more practical to separate out the 1.33 acres required for the Primary Care Centre rather than hold it up in discussions about development of a hotel, which

is part of a much bigger plan."

Cllr Jodie Neary said she was in favour of going ahead with it at the proposed site, but has concerns regarding the proceeds of the sale of the site and if they'll be retained for spending in the local area. Cllr Lourda Scott also voiced this concern.

"We have been waiting for many years for a Primary Care Centre for Greystones, and I think we really need to start work on it as soon as possible," said Cllr Neary.

The Council is currently negotiating to acquire property in Greystones for a Community Enterprise Centre, and Mr Gleeson said he would be in favour of using the proceeds from the sale of the site towards the enterprise centre.



Becky Harrison from Fishers of Newtownmountkennedy and Emeir O'Connell at the Wicklow County Council Breakfast Briefing which was held in Druid's Glen.





For a cosy, comfortable home, SKC specialise in a wide range of high quality bathrooms, fittings, stoves, underfloor heating and renewable energy solutions. Our Wicklow showrooms are arranged to stimulate your creativity with an extensive range of bathroom fixtures and accessories as well as a comprehensive range of attractive and energy-efficient stoves. All of our products are selected for their quality, reliability, and for their capacity help make your house a home. Visit our Rathnew showrooms or check out...

**[www.skc.ie](http://www.skc.ie)**

Unit 8, Charvey Lane Industrial Estate,  
Charvey Lane, Rathnew. A67 NP66.  
Tel: 0404 20088. Email: [info@skc.ie](mailto:info@skc.ie)

Open: Mon - to Fri: 7:30am - 5pm. Sat: 9am - 1pm.  
FREE PARKING  
FREE DELIVERY SERVICE



# Increased patrols and aerial surveillance in response to illegal fires

Over 300 hectares of natural habitat were damaged and destroyed through illegal fires in the Wicklow Uplands last month. In response, Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD, announced increased patrols and aerial surveillance in National Parks and Reserves to support early detection and deterrence.

Minister Noonan recently visited Wicklow Mountains National Park last week to survey the damage.

"The same scenes have played out in other locations across the country during the latest Met

Eireann Orange High Fire Risk alert," he said.

"These scenes are by no means unfamiliar. We see them every year, including in the State's most valuable natural assets - our National Parks and Nature

Reserves - which provide such enormous benefit to nature, society and the economy. We all remember the devastation that was caused by the vast illegal fire in Killarney National Park last April.

"Let's be clear: these fires do not occur naturally. They're set deliberately, with no concern for the wide-ranging impacts on local people's health and wellbeing, private property, tourism, emergency services, the defence forces and indeed the public purse. That's without mentioning the priceless wildlife and habitats that are brutally scorched and the consequent impact of soil mobilisation and siltation on streams, rivers and lakes.

"I'm mindful that the risk of man-made fire is now a permanent feature of our year. As night follows day, at the first extended period of dry weather, these fires are set. They are all illegal after the 1st of March and invariably they get - or are allowed to get - out of control. The people who set them, and I believe they are known in their communities, are a scourge on society and their activities cost all of us. This mentality



Fire damage at Glendasan, near the Wicklow Gap. Photo by Wicklow Fire Service



Fire in the Wicklow Mountains. Photo by Wicklow Fire Service

must change."

Section 40 of the Wildlife Acts 1976, as amended, prohibits the cutting, grubbing, burning or destruction of vegetation, with certain strict exemptions, from 1 March to 31 August.

"While these crimes are challenging to prevent due to the scale of property involved, the sporadic occurrences of the fires and types of ignition mechanism frequently deployed, people considering breaking the law in this way should be aware that aerial surveillance operations using drones and helicopters have been increased to support early detection and deterrence. As well as this, the National Parks and Wildlife Service maintains increased on-the-ground patrols at all National Parks and Reserves at times of high fire risk. I have increased NPWS's staffing resource considerably since taking

office and growing the organisation further is a key priority for me.

"In my contributions in the Dail on the Commission on the Future of the Defence Forces, I have outlined my views for personnel and equipment to be made available for use by the State in these instances, as is the case in other jurisdictions. Additionally, I will soon be progressing a review of the Wildlife Act, as provided for in the Programme for Government. This will be a vital opportunity to re-examine our legislation around wildlife protection and make it fit for the future.

"I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the staff of NPWS, who bravely and tirelessly face these challenges every year. I'd also like to thank the other organisations that my Department works in close liaison with - the Fire Services, Coillte, and the Gardaí,

who lead on any criminal investigations, and also to the Department of Agriculture, with whom my Department engages on a range of matters related to illegal agricultural fires, including the pursuit of cross compliance, where relevant. I'd also like to pay tribute to Local Authorities, who convene Inter-Agency Gorse Fire Groups that explore issues surrounding such fires with a number of agencies represented, including the Gardaí.

"It's clear that we need to strengthen our approach to this all-too-frequent danger. Along with my colleagues Minister Darragh O'Brien and Minister Peter Burke, I will be engaging with the Minister for Agriculture, Charlie McConalogue TD, and the Minister for the Environment, Eamon Ryan TD, to progress a coordinated response as a matter of urgency.

## SUAS Pilot Project completes tree planting programme

The SUAS Project has recently completed an ambitious two-year programme of native tree planting in locations across the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands. Just in time to celebrate the recent National Tree Week, the extensive operation has now successfully delivered a total of over 6,000 new saplings across 23 of the 25 locations participating in the innovative agri-environment project.

Working closely with hill-farmers across the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands, one of the key pillars of the EIP- agri funded pilot project is to restore upland habitats to a thriving, balanced ecosystem through various initiatives, such as the recent tree planting, bare peat restoration work, vegetation management and other activities.

One of the many locations that's benefited from a sustainable management approach under the scheme, is the Glencap Commonages that surrounds one of Wicklow's most popular outdoor attractions - The Great Sugar Loaf.

Working within the time periods permitted by the Heritage Act 2018, an extensive programme to remove self-seeded invasive and non-native tree species such as sitka spruce, from the natural heathland habitat has taken place over the last few months. Owing to the varied and often

rocky terrain, the complex operation involved both mechanical and hand saws being deployed across the 313 hectare site.

In their place, over the last few weeks native broadleaf trees have been successfully transplanted in clusters across the location by local hill-farmers participating in the SUAS Project. Sourced locally from None-so-Hardy Nurseries near the village of Shillelagh, the oak, rowan, alder, willow and birch will now grow to offer shelter and a welcome food source to wildlife.

Launched in 2018 by Wicklow Uplands Council, the 5 year 'Sustainable Uplands Agriculture-environment Scheme (SUAS) Pilot Project is working with both commonage groups and individual hill farmers across the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands, focusing on the sustainable management of the unique, natural habitats

the area is renowned for. With over 4,500 saplings being transplanted this year alone, many of the other upland sites that were involved in the tree-planting programme, selected to plant alongside the mineral rich soil areas of watercourses and gullies, often in remote and difficult locations. Here, their root systems will assist in stabilising stream banks to prevent erosion, slow the water runoff from the hills and reduce flooding pressure further down in the river and floodplains.

As the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands are home to important freshwater sources, such as the Vartry and Poulaphouca Reservoirs, and rivers such as the Liffey, Dargle, Doodle and Kings River, the value of managing upland watercourses and stabilising the land around them, is integral for numerous reasons.

Declan Byrne, Project Manager of the SUAS Project said: "The corner-



Declan Byrne Project Manager of the SUAS Project recently visiting Glencap Commonages to inspect the tree planting programme

stone of the SUAS project is for upland farmers to collectively agree and implement sustainable management practices to ensure that land and hill-farming practices complement each other to ensure the upland's health for future generations".

Commenting on the long-term impact of the recent tree planting activi-

ties, Declan Byrne said "In time, self-seeding will see further growth of the native species that have been planted and a return to a thriving upland ecosystem made up of a mosaic of diverse habitats."

Brian, Dunne, Coordinator of Wicklow Uplands Council, who founded the SUAS Project

said, "It's an important step to preserving our natural heritage and promoting biodiversity where its impact can be measured and monitored. Healthy upland habitats can increase our resilience to the impacts of climate change so positive intervention measures such as this should continue to form part of our national

response to the climate and biodiversity emergency".

Speaking about the SUAS Project's recent activities, Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity, Pippa Hackett said: "The value of Ireland's various EIP Projects that are addressing vital environmental issues and reversing the decline of biodiversity

across sensitive habitats, is now evident in the many positive actions taking place nationwide.

"I'd like to congratulate the hill-farmers and all involved with the SUAS Project, for taking the decisive steps needed to continue the restoration of one of Ireland's key natural assets, the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands.



# LO-CALL NUMBER TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING HAS CHANGED

Pure is the first project of its kind in Ireland incorporating statutory and non-statutory organisations and stakeholders, including, The Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications, Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council. This unique partnership project was established to combat illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and was officially launched in September 2006.

Pure would like to inform the public that the lo-call phone number for reporting illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands has changed from 1850 365 121 to 1800 365 123.

The Pure Truck is on the road every day, and since the project was established, Pure has collected over 3,690,000kg (3,690 tonnes) of rubbish from over 13,200 illegal dumping sites in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands with the project processing over 14,500 reports. If you were to put all the rubbish that Pure has removed from the uplands into standard household rubbish bags, they would fill over 400,000 bags. If you lined up all these bags on the road, they would stretch all the way from Dublin to Dingle.

Pure has been recording and mapping every location and incident of illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands since 2007 and have built up a baseline-data of all illegal dumping activity in this region, the location of dumping, type of dumping, landowner, and amount of dumping, and for a number of years now they have been record-

ing an annual reduction. The data that Pure collect is valuable information providing indicators into the nature and extent of illegal dumping in Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, and statistical evidence for all illegal dumping incidents in this region.

Pure utilises a multi-disciplined approach in combating illegal dumping, incorporating a number of educational initiatives, environment/community projects – The Pure Mile, public awareness campaigns, regional/national media campaigns, enforcement and preventative measures, GPS/GIS data-base to record all illegal dumping sites, covert CCTV operations, and a dedicated vehicle – The Pure Truck, that removes all illegal dumping from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.

The Pure Project Partnership approach, incorporating statutory, non-statutory organisations, and members of the public, has proven extremely successful in combating illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and over the past five years they have recorded an annual reduction in illegal dumping activity. This reduction in dumping coincides

with the huge increase of Pure Mile groups and areas, with hundreds of miles of roads, mountains, woodlands, valleys, forests, upland amenities, car parks, and beaches, currently being adopted.

Pure is a partnership project and the first of its kind in Ireland which incorporates statutory and non-statutory organisations, including; Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council. Funded by The Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications, Pure is the first regional partnership initiative established in Ireland to combat fly-tipping/illegal dumping and was officially launched in September 2006.

**TO REPORT DUMPERS AND DUMPING IN THE WICKLOW/DUBLIN UPLANDS – LO-CALL 1800 365 123**



**Comfort**  
SINCE 1981  
**BED OUTLET**

All the  
**LEADING BRANDS**  
at  
**OUTLET PRICES...**

**UP TO 70% OFF**

Deposit secures for 8 weeks  
w: [bedoutlet.ie](http://bedoutlet.ie)

**Tallaght Outlet**  
phone: 01-4940200

**Opening Times**  
Mon - Sat (10.00am - 5.00pm)  
Sun & Bank Holidays - Closed  
Unit B7, South City Business Pk, Tallaght, D24

**FREE PARKING**

**Ballybrack Outlet**  
phone: 01-2720788

**Opening Times**  
Mon - Sat (10.00am - 5.30pm) Thurs 7.30 pm  
Sun - Closed (Bank Hols 2.00pm - 5.30pm)  
Church Road, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin

**FREE PARKING**





Kieran Hayes at the male-only Dip in the Nip at Brittas Bay in aid of Wicklow Hospice.

## Volunteers needed to join online network helping Ukrainian refugees

Helpify Community Ukraine is calling on individuals in Wicklow to join its Europe-wide volunteer network to assist those fleeing the war in Ukraine.

The not-for-profit, online platform aims to ease the burden for refugees by connecting those in need of help with a nearby volunteer who can meet their request. This might include travel or legal advice, transport, medical needs, short-term accommodation, translations or pet care. The site is available in English, Ukrainian, Polish, French and Dutch.

Olena Leontieva, a Ukrainian national living in Ireland and Helpify Community Ukraine spokesperson explains, "The Helpify Ukrainians' mission is about holding Ukrainians' hands through every step of their journey - from their homes to the border and onward to their ultimate destination. Like so many people when the war broke out, we felt helpless. There were thousands of asks for help per hour on social media, most of them going unanswered. We wanted to find a way to connect the people who need help with those who can provide it."

"People fleeing their homes don't have the time or headspace to scroll for information on government websites or figure out complicated travel itineraries. Helpify takes the burden off the refugees. All the work is done by volunteers and the only ask of Ukrainians is to raise a mission."

Helpify Community was established in Belgium during the pandemic to connect those in lockdown with volunteers who could help with dog-walking, phar-

macy runs and other needs. When the Ukraine invasion began, Olena Leontieva and her team partnered with Helpify to repurpose the platform for global use and translate it into Ukrainian and Polish. It was active in just five days.

Olena Leontieva added, "Every day, people in Ireland are asking me how they can help. Registering as a volunteer for Helpify Community Ukraine is a way for everyone to do what they can, whether that's driving a family from the airport to their destination, offering advice, providing clothes or short-term accommodation. Over 300 volunteers in Ireland have already joined Helpify but with up to 100,000 Ukrainian nationals expected here, we need all the help we can get."

How it works: The Helpify Community website has two simple options: join as a volunteer from any country in the world, or request for help. Those joining as volunteers complete a simple profile including location and the type of support they can provide.

Volunteers are asked to upload proof of identification which is vetted by the Helpify team to ensure the safety of those using the platform. When someone looking for help logs a "mission," nearby volunteers receive an alert with details of the mission. Those who can help accept the mission and are connected with the person in need.

## Festina Lente gallop ahead to create a new training centre

Ireland's equine stars Rachael Blackmore, Cian O'Connor and Nina Carberry championed support at Dartmouth Square last week to help raise an essential €3 million to secure a new home for Ireland's top equine and horticultural learning charity for those with special needs and a further €20 million to develop it.

Festina Lente currently homed in Bray, needs to urgently raise €3 million to secure the purchase of Belfield House and lands in Kilpeddar in order to ensure its survival and facilitate a move and expansion.

The Charity described as 'World Class' is a leader in the field of equine assisted learning for those with special needs, employs 60 staff and touches the lives of over 40,000 Irish people each year.

Cheltenham Gold Cup Winner and Ambassador to Festina Lente, Rachael Blackmore, championed the appeal "I was lucky to spend time with some of the children at Festina Lente recently. They are all champions, keen to learn and benefit from the special connection horses have with humans. Festina Lente's extensive list of programmes offer a future path in life to those in need. This is why raising the funds to secure their new home

is critical."

Dr. Jill Carey is Ireland's first PhD Holder in Equine Assisted Learning for youths at risk. As CEO of the Charity she has been on a mission to help those with special needs through the beneficial power of the horse and related therapies. Festina Lente was set up in 1988 with just one borrowed horse and one pupil, but quickly developed a worldwide reputation for its equestrian programs.

It provides services to people affected by disability, diverse learning abilities, self-esteem issues and those from socio economic disadvantaged backgrounds. In addition, it is a key provider of educational training programmes to adult learners wishing to deliver these programmes within their own geographical area in Ireland.

Irish show jumping Olympian and Owner of the Karlswood High Performance Centre, Cian O'Connor claims, "Festina Lente works across all the worlds within the Irish horse industry, all disciplines which is something that the Irish horse industry should be very proud of at home and abroad."

Queen of RTE's Dancing With The Stars, Nina Carberry, knows a lot about winning and not just on the racecourse! Nina adds, "Festina Lente's work illustrates that horses benefit all, I'm delighted to lend my support today and hope people will donate and support them in securing their new home."

Dr. Jill Carey explains how horses benefit humans from different

perspectives, she claims, "From therapeutic riding which uses the natural movement of the horse for the physical improvement for people with a physical disability to equine assisted learning, which uses the natural behaviour of the horse to help people develop their self and social awareness, the benefits are immense."

13 year old Rachael Doak from Wicklow is just one of the children who has been attending Festina Lente since the early age of two to help with cerebral palsy in her legs. Rachael explains, 'On a horse you become one, I remember falling in love with 'Beauty' when I was very small ... that horse literally became part of me, my body, the horse was my legs giving me a freedom to be just 'me'. Festina Lente is a second home for me, it was so much more than physiotherapy on a horse, it's part of my story."

Festina Lente's future plan is to build a state-of-the-art National Education Centre to continue their work and take on the skilled and time-consuming process of retrain-

ing and re-purposing racehorses, enabling these animals to have a second career in riding clubs, dressage, show jumping and in certain equine assisted learning programmes. As part of this, Festina Lente will develop an accredited training programme for equestrians wishing to learn how to look after and work with ex-race horses.

Champion trainer Willie Mullins commented, "Festina Lente is recognised for its work not only in Ireland but worldwide and Dr. Jill Carey and her team are the undoubted experts and go to people in this unique field of assisted learning. Faced with ever increasing demands for its services and lengthy waiting lists Festina Lente is rising to the challenges. Its new home will not only accommodate more students but will offer it the opportunity to rehouse and retrain racehorses together with a new course teaching retraining skills."

People can donate to support Festina Lente, directly online on [www.festinalente.ie/a-new-home-for-Festina-Lente/](http://www.festinalente.ie/a-new-home-for-Festina-Lente/)



Trailblazing jockey Rachael Blackmore has become an official ambassador to the Equestrian Centre Charity Festina Lente. Blackmore recently paid a visit to the centre in Bray Co Wicklow to meet with Dr. Jill Carey as well as staff and students

## Blessington-based fundraiser for K9s in Ukraine

Blessington man Mantas Dainys has started a GoFundMe campaign to help the dogs on the frontlines in Ukraine.

His fundraiser will raise money to buy materials for dog collars and harnesses that will assist in serving K9s as part of the conflict.

Mantas uses the GoFundMe page to write, "When disaster strikes, dogs play an essential role in search and rescue and other duties. With all the atrocities that are happening in Ukraine, it is easy to overlook the importance of equipping the dogs with essential life-saving equipment. All the proceeds will go to the local Ukrainian company SOMODOGS who are donating first aid harnesses and collars."

To donate to the campaign, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/serving-k9s-of-ukraine>





# New funding to upgrade South Green Playground

Green Party TD Steven Matthews said he is delighted to welcome the news that €15,162 has been awarded under the Play and Recreation Grant Scheme for works to upgrade South Green Playground, Arklow.

"This follows meetings I had with local groups, after which I submitted a request to Wicklow County Council to renovate and improve the facilities of the playground, said Deputy Matthews. "This investment is much-needed and will provide a safe and fun space for children in Arklow to express themselves through play and recreation."

"It is particularly welcome that the Play and Recreation Grant



Steven Matthews TD

Scheme has prioritised projects that are accessible and inclusive for all children. This funding

announcement comes after the launch of the First 5 My Little Library Initiative, to provide free books to children starting primary school in September. The Green Party is committed to implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in Ireland. I look forward to further engagement with my colleague Minister Roderic O'Gorman on the enhancement of supports for children across all of Wicklow."

# Donnelly checks progress on major Arklow projects

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly was in Arklow on Friday where he checked on the progress of the Arklow wastewater plant and the Primary Care Centre.

Building work on the Primary Care Centre is expected to finish in a matter of weeks and the first services are scheduled to be in place towards the end of the summer.

When it opens the state-of-the art facility will offer a range of services including: GP Practice; GP Out of Hours Caredoc service; Tusla; Staff will be moving from alternative locations and a service will be available to the public from the new PCC; Community Mental Health Services; Children's Disability Network Team. The new PCC will also include a registered Changing Places Facility for the public; Addiction Treatment Services; X Ray and Ultrasound.

Minister Donnelly said: "This state-of-the-art facility will have a transformative effect on healthcare for the entire town. It's also playing a key role in our push to get more care services in our community which will reduce the need for people to go to hospital. When the doors of this new facility open it will change the lives of a lot of people for the better."

The new state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant will bring significant benefits to the area including environmental protection and improved water quality in the River Avoca for angling, water sports and marine life. It will also act as an enabler for housing and support economic growth and development in the town.

Speaking from the site, Minister Donnelly commented, "The Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project demonstrates how Irish Water is delivering infrastructure that is critical for our health, our communities and our economy. The provision of adequate wastewater treatment, in a manner that protects the natural environment and subsequently our health, is essential to the growth and development of this beautiful town."

The Minister was updated on the significant amount of work already undertaken as part of the project as well as the works currently underway on the North and South Quays, which are progressing well and on schedule.



Joe O'Connor and Shelly Hagadon from Ashford Studios at the Wicklow County Council Breakfast Briefing in the Druids Glen Hotel last week.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

## CEANNACH ÉIGEANTA TALÚN

### ORDÚ CEANNACH ÉIGEANTA UIMHIR 10 – 2021 – ORDÚ DAINGNIÚCHÁIN

#### 88 Wicklow Heights, Baile Chill Mhantáin, Co Chill Mhantáin

Ar an 1ú Aibreán 2022, rinne Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Ordú Daingniúcháin a dhaingníonn an Ordú Ceannach Éigeanta ainme thuas, maidir leis an talamh sa Sceideal leis. Ceadáíonn an tOrdú, mar a dhaingnítear, Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin chun an talamh sin a cheannach go héigeanta le haghaidh cuspóirí an Acht um Tithíocht 1966. Rachaidh sé i bhfeidhm trí seachtain ón lá a foilsíodh an fógra seo. Is féidir cóip den ordú mar a daingnítear agus an léarscáil dá dtagrítear ann, a fheiceáil ag gach uair réasúnta ag:

#### An Rannóg Tithíochta, Áras an Chontae, Baile Chill Mhantáin

Is féidir iarratas a dhéanamh ar an Ard Chúirt, maidir le hAithbhreithniú Bhreithiúnach ar chinneadh Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin faoi réir Ordú 84 de Rialacha na hUaschúirteanna, lastigh d'ocht seachtain tar éis dáta foilsíúcháin an bhfógra seo, faoi réir Alt 50 den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000.

Má ndéantar iarratas mar sin, is féidir leis an Chúirt:

- (a) An tOrdú Ceannach Éigeanta mar a dhaingnítear a chur ar ceal, trí mheán ordú eatramhach, i gcoitinne nó go háirithe maidir le h aon bhealach a chuireann sé isteach ar mhaoín an iarrthóra, go dtí go ndéanfaí cinneadh deireannach ar na himeachtaí.
- (b) An tOrdú, mar a dhaingnítear, a neamhniú i gcoitinne nó go háirithe maidir le haon bhealach a chuireann sé isteach ar mhaoín an iarrthóra; má tá an Chúirt sásta tar éis an iarratas a chloisteáil, nach bhfuil an tOrdú Ceannach Éigeanta mar a dhaingnítear, laistigh de chumhachtaí an tAcht um Tithíochta (arna leasú) nó go bhfuil dochar déanta do leasanna an iarrthóra de bharr neamhaird ar aon cheanglas an Acht.

#### SCEIDEAL

Talamh seachas talamh is teach nó tithe atá neamhoiriúnach do dhaoine cónaí ann agus nach féidir ar chostas réasúnach iad a dhéanamh oiriúnach do dhaoine cónaí ann.

Uimhir an léarscáile i dtaisce ag oifig an Údarás Tithíochta	Cainníocht, ainmníocht agus suíomh na talún	Úinéirí nó úinéirí ainme	Léasaithé nó léasaith ainme	Áititheoirí (seachas tionóntaí míosa nó níos lú ná mí
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Ordú Ceannach Éigeanta Uimhir 10 – 2021. 88 Wicklow Heights, Baile Chill Mhantáin, Co. Cill Mhantáin	Teach chónaithe agus talamh 232m <sup>2</sup>	David & Lisa Coughlan of 88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow	Duine ar bith – teach folamh	Duine ar bith – teach folamh

An 1ú Aibreán 2022  
Joe Lane Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí

## COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND

### COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 10 OF 2021 – CONFIRMATION ORDER

#### 88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow

Wicklow County Council has on the 1st day of April 2022, made a confirmation order confirming the above named compulsory purchase order as respects the land described in the Schedule hereto. The said order, as so confirmed, authorises Wicklow County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily for the purposes of the Housing Act 1966. It will become operative three weeks from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the order as so confirmed and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow

An application for judicial review of the decision of Wicklow County Council, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (SI No 15 of 1986) may be made to the High Court within eight weeks of the date of publication of this notice in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

If such an application is made, the court:

- (c) May by interim order suspend the operation of the compulsory order as so confirmed either generally or in so far as it affects any property of the applicant until the final determination of the proceedings;
- (d) If satisfied upon hearing of the application that the compulsory purchase order as so confirmed is not within the powers of the Housing Act 1966 (as amended), or that the interests of the applicant have been substantially prejudiced by any requirement of the Act not having been complied with, may quash the order as so confirmed either generally or in so far only as it affects any property of the applicant.

#### SCHEDULE

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

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
21/06/74/100 Wicklow county Council Compulsory Purchase Order No 10 of 2021 88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow	Dwelling house and land of 232m <sup>2</sup>	David & Lisa Coughlan of 88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow	None (vacant house)	None (vacant house)

Dated this 1st day of April 2022  
Joe Lane, Director Services



# Wicklow's global goal getters congratulated

Work of pupils from Greystones Educate Together National School featured in Our World Irish Aid Awards online magazine.



An eye-catching poster about this year's theme - Wellbeing for People and Planet - created by pupil Flora Goberz

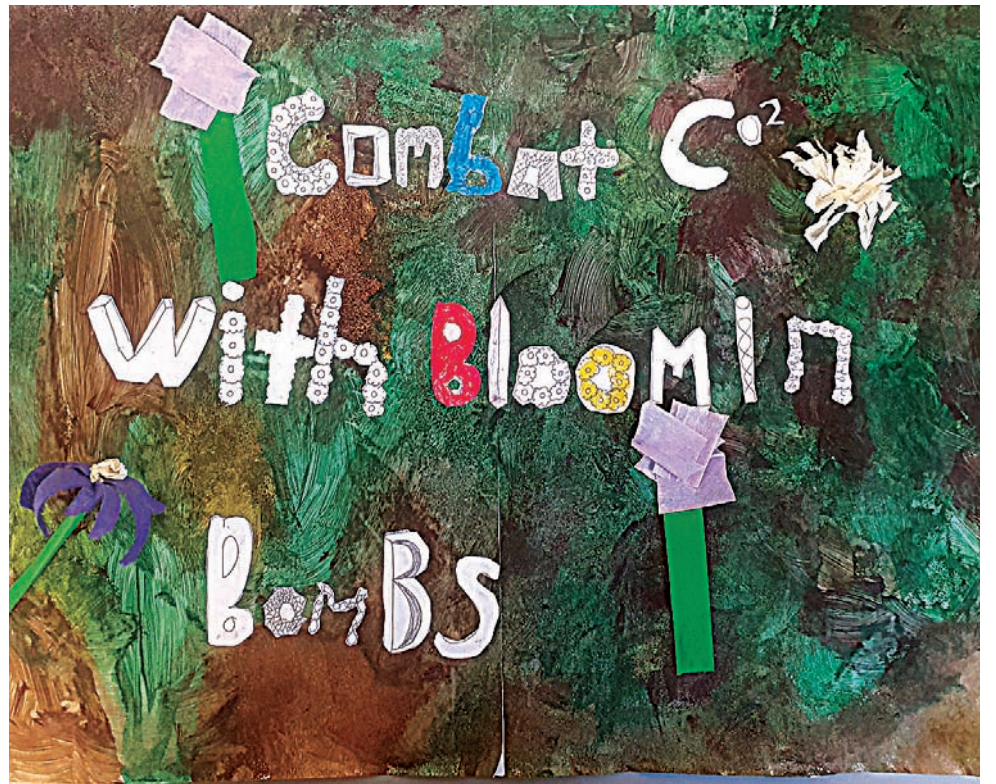
Minister of State for Overseas Development and Diaspora, Colm Brophy T.D., last week launched the first of two 2022 editions of the online magazine Global Goal Getters, featuring the work of primary school pupils across Ireland taking part in this year's Our World Irish Aid Awards, the Department of Foreign Affairs' flagship global citizenship award scheme.

An eye-catching poster about this year's theme - Wellbeing for People and Planet - created by pupil Flora Goberz as well as a poster focusing on the idea that we can plant more plants and flowers to help look after our planet created by 6th Class pupils Rosamund Dorch, Eabha Kelly, and Fintan Jansen have both been selected to feature in the online magazine which is available at [www.ourworldirishaidawards.ie](http://www.ourworldirishaidawards.ie).

Congratulating the pupils and teachers Greystones Educate Together National School, Minister Brophy said: "It is wonderful to see so many primary school pupils in Wicklow and right across Ireland take part in this year's Our World Irish Aid Awards, lending their voices and perspectives to the work being carried out to tackle the big issues facing the world such as climate change and the pandemic."

"The level of commitment to playing a part in making our planet a better home for all shines through in all the submissions, so much so that it is clear that Ireland's reputation for putting its shoulder to the wheel when it comes to making a positive difference to the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves is safe in the hands of the next generation."

Greystones Educate Together National School will compete for a place at the National Final Ceremony and inclusion in a special edition printed annual magazine which will be distributed nationwide.



Artwork by by 6th Class pupils Rosamund Dorch, Eabha Kelly, and Fintan Jansen

## Kilmacanogue National School taking part in 'Imagine the Future' competition

National Broadband Ireland (NBI) has announced that Ryan Tubridy will serve as one of the judges of NBI's 'Imagine the Future' competition for primary schools. Tubridy recently visited Kilmacanogue National School, who are taking part in the competition.

Students in the 679 primary schools located in the intervention area of the National Broadband Plan are eligible to take part in the new art, design and imagination competition.

The 'Imagine the Future' competition aims to highlight and delve into how students perceive the principle of high-speed fibre broadband and the potential opportunities that arise from it. Students have been asked to create a piece of art responding to the simple statement, 'Imagine the Future'.

Entries can take a variety of forms, including a sculpture, a photo, a painting, a song, a short movie or even a dance - making it as accessible as possible for students to participate.

Entries can focus on the following themes:

- Transportation of the future
- School of the future
- Home of the future
- Workplace of the future
- Hospital of the future
- Community of the future

The winners of the competition will be selected by a judging panel including Ryan Tubridy and representatives from National Broadband Ireland; Promethean, the global education technology company; and the SFI IPIC Centre for Photonics Research.

Ryan Tubridy, Judge of the Imagine the Future Schools Competition said:



Ryan Tubridy, Judge of National Broadband Ireland's Imagine the Future competition, at Kilmacanogue National School in Wicklow, with Lauren Cleary from Kilmurray (age 11) and Andrew Connolly from Kilmacanogue (age 11), who are taking part in the competition. Photo by Brian Arthur Photography

"I'm delighted to be involved with the Imagine the Future Schools Competition and can't wait to see all of the tremendous entries from students around the country."

"I think this is a great opportunity for children to let their imaginations run wild and envision all of the great, weird and interesting possibilities that technology is going to unlock for them

in the future." Peter Hendrick, CEO of National Broadband Ireland said "We're very excited to have Ryan on board and are delighted at the response we've seen from schools across the country that have signed up to take part in the Imagine the Future competition. I would like to thank all of the schools that are taking part and I wish all of the students the best of luck in

their projects."

The deadline for the submission of entries to the competition is the 25th of April. To register and find out more about the 'Imagine the Future' competition, please visit [NBISchools.ie](http://NBISchools.ie)

The competition will go through three phases: a school, county and national phase, with the national winners to be announced in June. Participants will have a chance to win a

Promethean ActivPanel - a state of the art interactive flat panel display for their school, as well as a number of other individual student prizes for county and national competition winners.

As the connected hub of the modern classroom, the Promethean ActivPanel creates powerful digital learning experiences which are further enhanced through internet access.



Pictured at the presentation of a cheque to the Irish Red Cross in aid of the people of Ukraine were 6th Class students from Roundwood National School: Rhys Tackett and Tristan Sutton. Pupils from the school raised €1,995 for the Irish Red Cross from a cake sale.. The cakes were backed by themselves and were sold only to the children of the other classes.



# Quest Glendalough returns to Wicklow for the ultimate adventure challenge

Over 1,500 adventurer racers enjoyed breathtaking vistas on Saturday 2nd April to run, cycle and kayak their way around the Wicklow National Park as Quest Glendalough returned to Wicklow.



Winners of the Women's expert race were Laura O'Driscoll and Ellen Vitting

This sell-out event allows participants the opportunity to get outdoors and accept the challenge of Quest Glendalough! The race involved running, cycling and kayaking across up to 60km of the spectacular mountains, valleys and lakes of Wicklow, during the perfect time of year for kayakers to take to the Upper Lake in Glendalough. Winners of the Expert route were Shaun Stewart from Donegal and Laura O'Driscoll from Dundalk. Winners of the Sport route were David Hickey from Mayo and Sinead O'Reilly from Kildare. Winners of the Challenge route were Adrian Bonner from Donegal and Susan Murphy from Cork (see notes for full times and results). Race Organiser Oliver Kirwan says the popularity of the event continues to grow: "We hold a special affection for Glendalough reconfirmed to us each time we come here, and our participants just love this event. We consider ourselves fortunate that this year continues to be a



Pictured are the Men's Winners in the Expert Route: 1st Shaun Stewart, 2nd Sebastien Giraud, and 3rd Luke McMullan

sell-out. As always, participants undertook one of three testing routes: the 21km Challenge, the 43km Sport, and the 59km Expert. A great atmosphere welcomed them home as they crossed the finish line, as well as hot food, fabulous music and a resounding cheer from supporters. Quest Adventure Series will hold three more Quest adventure races this year in Beara Peninsula on 27th August 2022, Lough Derg on 10th September 2022 and Killarney on 1st October 2022. Quest Glendalough and Elite Event Management are grateful for the support for this event from main Quest Adventure Series sponsor Volvo Ireland Cars, official snack partner All Real, event partners Nuasan, MCG Kayaks and Gnarly Peaks. The next Quest Glendalough will take place in 2023, with a provisional date of Saturday 1st April 2023.

## Bray Air Display to return this summer

After a two-year hiatus the Bray Air Display will return this summer on Sunday 24th July, organizers have announced.

The line-up will include the world-famous Red Arrows. The event attracts thousands to the Co. Wicklow seaside town to see the aerobatics.

This year's event will see the Bray Air Display team up with the Irish Air Corps who are celebrating 100 years of Irish military aviation.

Sé Pardy, Bray Air Display Director said, "We are delighted to announce that the 15th Bray Air Display will be back this summer. The 2022 event will be bigger and better than ever - we are thrilled that the masters of the sky, the Red Arrows will be back with us again this year. They always put on a spectacular display so this summer's event really will be one to look forward to."

General Officer Commanding Air Corps, Brigadier General Rory O'Connor stated, "The Irish Air Corps have always enjoyed displaying for the public at the Bray Air Display, however this year will be extra special as we cel-

brate our centenary. We are announcing the return of the Silver Swallows (our PC9M Display team) and several other exciting Air Corps displays. We are also really excited to welcome the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight to Irish skies. Seeing the iconic and historic Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane fly in formation will be very special and unique. The fact that the Irish Air Corps flew both Hurricanes and Spitfires in the past is a fitting tribute to all those who served in the Air Corps throughout the last century."

The line-up will also include regular Bray visitors, the Royal Jordanian Falcons and impressive M-346 Leonardo jet. Pardy concluded, "We know that so many have missed the event over the past two years; suffice to say Bray Air Display will not disappoint this July. We're very excited about the calibre of acts we will have this year and look forward to announcing more acts over the coming months."

More details on the airshow line-up, ground events and activities at this year's Bray Air Display will be released in the coming weeks.



## Economical hybrid takes Suzuki S Cross over 50mpg threshold

Suzuki are making tremendous strides worldwide and in both the UK and Ireland. It was great to see the Milton Keynes based Regional management over in Druid's Glen for the national launch of their 2022 range - which included updated versions of the Vitara, the S Cross and the new estate car, the Swace.

By Martin McCarthy

Last year over 2.6 million Suzuki's were built - half for the Indian market where they are a semi dominant player.

In Europe their Hungarian Plant is working at full tilt to supply EU markets and The UK - where the brand holds an impressive 1.6 % market share. European sales increased jumped 21% last year partially because as fuel prices increase, Suzuki's real world petrol economy became more important.

In official tests, the latest Suzuki S Cross returns 53 mpg - significantly better than its sector rivals and if present trends continue this will influence more and more new car buyers into their fold.

Druids Glen proven the perfect venue for their car launch - with a variety of driving routes on the doorstep - motorway on the M11 and the country lanes down to Newcastle beach and the mountains not far away.

South Wicklow is a beautiful district and it was nice to see Newcastle Airfield open and busy with a wide variety of planes and helicopters being stored there.

The S Cross is a Crossover between a saloon and an SUV - which fits the bill for a lot of

folks. It is powered by a 1.4 turbo petrol engine which offers a wide spread of torque to 235Nm available from 2,000rpm. The 53.3mpg combined cycle fuel consumption is outstanding.

The spec of the new S Cross is comprehensive - including:

- Dual Sensor Brake Support

automated braking, Blind Spot Monitor, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Traffic Sign Recognition and Adaptive Cruise Control included as standard.

- High level of standard specification fitted as standard including Apple CarPlay & Android Auto smartphone link, keyless entry and start, dual-zone auto air conditioning, heated front seats, rear

parking camera, adaptive cruise control, front and rear parking sensors.

- 100 per cent 'Hybrids for all' availability across the full Suzuki passenger car range offering 12V, 48V, Higher Voltage Hybrid and PHEV models.

- Priced at €29,365 for 1.4 Boosterjet Hybrid Motion with manual transmission.



The new Suzuki S Cross at Newcastle Airfield





## The Choice: An exhibition by Biddy Scott

Signal Arts Centre, Monday, April 11th to Sunday, April 24th

This exhibition of pictures, drawn in a variety of medium, is called 'The Choice'.

This choice is about the experience and visualisation of reality; about how we prioritise the significance of fact or fantasy in how we interpret the processes and possibilities of the world around us.

In some of these pictures the materiality of feathers is contrasted with the fantasy of flight. In others stones have faces..What would you choose?



## The Last Cottage

Courthouse Arts Centre, Saturday 7th May, 8pm €8/5

"The Last Cottage" is a new play inspired by J. M Synge, Wicklow and his one act play, "The Shadow of the Glen".

Join the Courthouse's Theatre Artists in Residence on Sat 7th May at 8pm, as they present a work-in-progress- showing of a new play created during their residency.

Written by Cliona O'Connell, performed by Andrea Kelly.

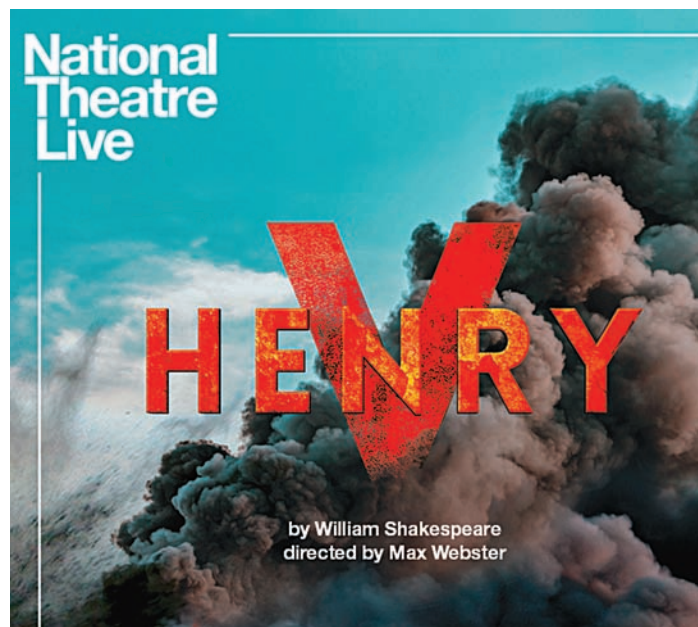
Kindly supported by The Courthouse Arts Centre, Wicklow Arts Office and The Arts Council.

## National Theatre at Whale Theatre: Henry V

Kit Harington (Game of Thrones) plays the title role in Shakespeare's thrilling study of nationalism, war and the psychology of power.

Fresh to the throne, King Henry V launches England into a bloody war with France. When his campaign encounters resistance, this inexperienced new ruler must prove he is fit to guide a country into war. Captured live from the Donmar Warehouse in London, this exciting modern production directed by Max Webster (Life of Pi) explores what it means to be English and our relationship to Europe, asking: do we ever get the leaders we deserve?

Thursday 21st April 2022 @ 7pm (doors 6.30pm). Tickets €17.50 available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550



## Heartstring - A New Play by Ronan Woods

Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd April, 8pm (doors 7pm)



Heartstring is a new play by Ronan Woods with original songs by D. Cullen.

It follows an up and coming pop-rock band starting to make waves in the Irish music scene. However, when tragedy strikes, grief stricken best friends Eoghan and Nel are left to console each other's broken hearts. Through music, fights, laughter and tears they struggle to come to terms with their loss and honour the life and death of their beloved dear friend. The play explores mental health, guilt and obsession, but also the importance of human connection and the relationships in our lives. The themes are expressed through raw dialogue and beautiful acoustic songs (played live onstage) to create a unique and intimate musical experience.

Tickets €16/€14 available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550

## Two of Cuba's greatest exports of the Cuban guitar tradition unite to present 'The Bridge'

Whale Theatre, Sunday 24th April, 4pm (doors open 3pm)

Eduardo Martin, the Grammy nominated and multiple life-time achievement award-winning Cuban guitarist and composer, joins forces with fellow award-winning, London based Cuban musician, Ahmed Dickinson - a guitarist described as a 'true pioneer' by Classic FM - to present 'The Bridge'.

Launching an expansive tour of the UK and Ireland, Martin and Dickinson perform the music of their long-awaited album, 'The Bridge': a carefully curated compilation of Eduardo's most alluring works for two guitars, where rock merges with son montunos; old Yoruba chants, feel-good rumbas and funk- boleros, with cinematic pieces sitting alongside Cuban tumbaos with slap bass. Perfect sound bites exploring the many facets of the guitar tradition from across the Americas. By incorporating the influences of jazz, flamenco, pop, Afro and traditional Cuban melodic and rhythmic intricacies, the music bridges the gap between generations and continents, past and present, uniting teacher and student. Says Dickinson:

"It is a privilege to play with Eduardo. Playing his music gives me a sense of musical sincerity. It is exhilarating to go on stage and convey all these melodies and rhythms that sound fresh, current and honest."

Eduardo Martin explains:



Ahmed Dickinson and Eduardo Martin

"The Bridge alludes precisely to the connections we have established musically, Ahmed and I. Also, the bridge that I establish throughout my compositions, between genres and musical styles that interest me. Finally, it is the connection with the audiences who enjoy our work."

Having first met as student and teacher at the Superior Institute of Art in Havana, the venerable

musician and composer Martin instantly recognised in Dickinson a young man who knew the musical path he wanted to travel. The composer keenly followed Dickinson's career over the years and a strong musical friendship developed. The pair first began to work together in 2014, when Dickinson invited Martin to London to perform a concert of his works at the Bolivar Hall. Since that performance, their musical

partnership has flourished, pausing only for the time of the pandemic. Both artists are hugely in demand as solo performers, so to see them perform together in this project is one not to be missed.

This is a rare opportunity to catch guitar master, Eduardo Martin, on these shores. The collaboration with Ahmed Dickinson shares their rich culture and heritage, through the duo's much celebrated

artistry. Martin tells us, "This will be the first time we have been able to travel together since the pandemic. Playing live again fills me with a very great emotion. We have waited a long time and the feeling of anticipation and excitement to perform together again has only increased."

Tickets €20/€18 available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550



# Niamh Regan

*Mermaid Arts Centre, Thursday 21st April, 8pm €18/16*

Niamh is a critically acclaimed songwriter and Choice Music Prize nominee from Galway. A natural storyteller, Regan's songs are windows into her world, snapshots of the intimacy of everyday life.



Niamh Regan

Niamh Regan is a critically acclaimed songwriter from county Galway. Released in the midst of the lockdown in 2020, her debut album *Hemet* announced her arrival as one of the most distinctive songwriters in Ireland today. Earning nominations for both the RTE Folk Awards and the Choice Awards album of the year, the album received soaring praise, and led to performances on *The Late Late Show*, *Other Voices*, and *La Blogothèque*.

Following her studies in flute and guitar in the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, Regan honed her craft as a songwriter by travelling between Ireland and California, writing about her experiences along the way. As a result, her songs seamlessly weave the intimacy of the Irish lyrical tradition with the expansive breadth of American songwriters such as Karen Dalton, Stevie Nicks and Joni Mitchell, but the resulting sound is entirely her own.

A natural storyteller, Regan's songs are windows into her world, snapshots of the intimacy of everyday life. This is evident on her upcoming EP, *In the Meantime*, which was generously supported by the Galway International Arts Festival Elevate Bursary. The EP is a collection of songs written during the challenges of the pandemic, exploring themes of acceptance, uncertainty, independence, family guilt, silence, and ordinary acts of love. With her singular mastery, Regan's songwriting draws us into the intricate details of everyday life and elevates them into something universal.



Seán Kissane, holding one of the entries received from Co. Wicklow



Originally from Bray, the band *Wyvern Lingo* performed on the shore of the Upper Lake at Glendalough in the middle of the amazing settings of the National Park as part of the popular international TV show "Ireland in Music" Part 2. It will be aired in Ireland on Easter Monday, 18th April on RTE, and then is set to air throughout the world and feature two County Wicklow-based performances featured in the show. This highly acclaimed national and international TV show is celebrating music with strong heritage links to Irish Culture.

## Wicklow student competes for Texaco children's art competition award

Following in the footsteps of leading Irish artists who took part during their early lives - renowned figures such as Graham Knuttel, Robert Ballagh, Dorothy Cross and Bernadette Madden - young artists who submitted entries to this year's Texaco Children's Art Competition, including a number from Co. Wicklow, are currently having their works evaluated as the judging process gets underway.

Pictured left is adjudicator, Seán Kissane, holding one of the entries received from Co. Wicklow this year - a portrait of David Attenborough entitled 'We Have Been Warned', by a pupil from Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew.

Winners in the seven age categories, including one exclusively for artworks by young artists with special needs, will be announced in late May.

Currently in its 68th year, the Texaco Children's Art Competition is the longest-running art sponsorship in Ireland. First held in 1955, it is hosted by Valero Energy (Ireland) limited - the company that markets fuel in Ireland under the Texaco.

## NASC: Tara Breen, Padraig Rynne, Jim Murray & Donal Lunny

*Mermaid Arts Centre, Thursday 14th April, 8pm. Tickets €20/18*

Nasc is the new album from Co. Clare musicians Tara Breen and Pádraig Rynne. The duo have been performing regularly since 2009 and had always planned on releasing a duet album.

2020 offered the perfect opportunity to enter the studio with long time collaborators Dónal Lunny and Jim Murray with Pádraig at the steering wheel on production. In December 2020 they travelled to Malbay studios in Midtown Malbay spending four days recording. What followed was a nine-track album of mostly Irish traditional music with a sprinkle of Scottish, Asturian and Breton melodies as well as self-composed pieces by Pádraig, Jim and Dónal.

Embark on an odyssey of wonder, joyfulness and upbeat music as four incredibly talented and creative folk musicians shape melodies from past and present into something dynamic and irresistible. A quartet comprising of musicians at the fore of our tradition, expect a performance from the gentle to the rhythmical and all the in-betweens.

Tara Breen has numerous All Ireland titles on the fiddle and tours regularly with The Chieftains, Stockton's wing and as a solo performer. Pádraig Rynne is considered a leading figure in Irish music and is founding member of well-known bands such as NOTIFY, Atlantic Arc and Guidewires. Both Tara and Pádraig have worked regularly with Dónal over the past decade while Jim and Pádraig have been long-time friends first meeting on the Galway scene

when Jim began working with Sharon Shannon.

Described as "one of the freshest sounds in Irish music" by fRoots, Pádraig Rynne is a virtuoso musician, prolific composer and is regarded as the finest concertina player in Irish music today. With an MA in Music Technology and with a passion for experimenting in diverse genres Pádraig is recognized for his refreshing explorations into the Irish tradition and for his ground-breaking band NOTIFY, described by the New York Echo as "cinematic in scope".

A worthy description as "a musical wizard" by Music Network, Tara Breen is the fiddler with the legendary band, The Chieftains. She is an all-round extraordinary musician who has 11 solo All-Ireland titles. Tara is also the winner of both the coveted Fiddler of Dooney and Michael Coleman Fiddle competitions and was invited to perform at Dublin Castle for the Queen of England during her State visit to Ireland. Tara has numerous recording credits to her name and regularly guests with artists such as Carlos Nunez, Stockton's wing and the Tri Tones.

A gifted guitar and bouzouki player, composer and producer, Dónal Lunny is a figurehead of Irish traditional music and a household name in the Celtic



music scene. He has been at the forefront of the evolution of the tradition for more than 35 years and is popularly regarded as having spearheaded its renaissance over the last three decades. Since the seventies, Dónal has founded legendary seminal Irish bands Planxty, The Bothy Band, Moving Hearts, Coolfin; and at present plays with Mozaik, Triad, ZoDoMo, and Atlantic Arc. Much sought after in studio, he has worked with artists such as Kate Bush, Baaba Maal, Paul Brady, Elvis Costello, Mark Knopfler, Indigo Girls and Clannad.

Jim Murray has been touring the world full time as a professional musician since the age of eighteen.

Jim is considered Sharon Shannon's "right hand man" having recorded and toured with her over five continents. He also released two critically acclaimed albums with long term partner Seamus Begley in 2001 and 2008 which collectively scooped many prestigious awards such as The Irish Times and Hot Press Traditional Irish Music Album of the Year.

Since Jim's arrival on the world stage, he has gained the respect of both national and international musicians and has performed and recorded with artists such as Sinead O'Connor, Steve Earl, Shane McGowan, Altan and Mary Black to mention but a few.



# Libraries offer free book bags to all children starting school in September

Wicklow County Council Library Service is inviting 4 and 5 year-old children due to start school this coming September in to their local library to collect a little bag of books and begin their library membership journey.

The stories in the books friends, all very important are about starting school, milestones in the lives of being happy and making young children.

The distribution of the book bags - which are free - commenced last week, ready to be collected by parents and children from Wednesday April 13th.

There are 170 plus Early Learning Centres in County Wicklow operating under the guidance and support of Wicklow County Childcare Committee.

Almost 3,000 children attending these preschool facilities will be receiving invitations to call to their local library to collect their bag of books.

Children will also receive a specially designed wallet to hold their new library card. Parents and caregivers will be given information to guide the transition from pre-school to junior infants and to support the children on their learning journey.

The project was greet-

ed with great enthusiasm from library staff across Wicklow County Council Library Service and they look forward to welcoming lots of children in this cohort in the coming weeks. They ask that each child is accompanied by their parent/s or caregivers when they come to collect their bag of books.

The titles included in the bag are stories about starting school, being happy and making new friends - all very important to children starting school. Children who will be attending a Gaelscoil will receive a bag of books as Gaeilge.

Library staff have been enjoying meeting ELC staff working in Playgroups and preschools across the county since the launch



Glenn Brennan, David Bell, and Steve Blount of the Wicklow Sub-Aqua Club at the male-only Dip in the Nip in aid of Wicklow Hospice at Brittas Bay

of the First5 Bookbag initiative last year and very much look forward to building on this relationship in the future.

Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, said: "Reading is so beneficial for learning, imagination and creativity, and sto-

ries can really help children to understand and deal with the steps they take as they grow, like starting school. It is hoped that once the children visit the library to pick up their book bag, that along with their family they will come back again and again to

keep their bag filled up with borrowed books and enjoy other activities."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson, added: "This is a wonderful opportunity for parents all across the county to drop into their

local libraries and find out about the various activities and resources available. Your library is ready to greet your child and the entire family, there is something for every age at your local library and a library card provides free access at point of delivery."

## RECRUITMENT

## RECEPTIONIST/ SECRETARY REQUIRED

for busy legal practice in Bray.  
Computer skills and experience desirable but not essential. Please forward C.V. together with cover letter to  
[info@jonesmagee.com](mailto:info@jonesmagee.com)

or by post to

Jones Magee Solicitors, 1 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow A98 A0W9.

## Easter Egg-stravaganza in the Wicklow Hills

Clissman's family farm have launched a spEgg-tacular new outdoor Easter adventure and Egg Hunt for all the family open from now until Easter Monday.

Visitors get to meet the friendly horses and donkeys, who are hoping for some help from the Easter-Egg hunters on their journey through the fields...

Their carrots are all scattered across the farm along with the Easter Bunny's colourful little eggs after his basket fell over! The mission is to crack the clues and gather the eggs and crunchy carrots for their donkey pals in special Easter baskets. They'll get to feed the donkeys through the special Easter Carrot Feeder and win a yummy Easter Egg prize for themselves!

Then it's off to the haybarn to take part in fun Barn Games and get selfies with the Easter Bunny. The Haybarn Coffee dock will be open serving great coffee and plenty of sweet treats.

Advance bookings only. Tickets available online at [clissmannhorsecaravans.com](http://clissmannhorsecaravans.com) (Adults €10; Children €11.50 - includes one Easter Egg per child).

Based in Cronybyrne, Rathdrum Clissman's Farm is just 15 minutes from Ashford and an hour from Dublin.



Leyna and Emily Byrne hunting for Easter Eggs at Clissman's family farm

## PLANNING PLANNING PLANNING

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Alex Lyons, intend to apply for planning permission for development at 4 Countybrook Lawns, Ballyman Road, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow, A98 TC99. The development will consist of the construction of a detached, prefabricated single storey domestic shed of metal framed and clad construction, drainage, hardstanding's and all associated 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 the planning authority during its public opening hours. 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. Signed: Alex Lyons

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Ciaran & Niamh Dunne seek full planning permission for attic conversion to include realignment of existing roof ridge line, with rear flat roof dormer extension to include Bedroom and En-suite, Area (27.35 sq mts), minor First floor internal alterations & all ancillary site works at No 17 Sugarloaf Crescent, 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 office of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Robert Driver, intend to apply for retention permission for development at this site Ballydowling, Glenealy, Co. Wicklow A67 XV99. The development consists of retention permission for a detached single storey flat roofed masonry - built storage shed to the rear of the property. 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. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### PART-TIME RETAINED FIRE FIGHTERS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form panels from which vacancies may be filled on the following Fire Brigades:

- BRAY FIRE BRIGADE REF: 09/2022
- ARKLOW FIRE BRIGADE REF: 10/2022
- BLESSINGTON FIRE BRIGADE REF: 11/2022
- DUNLAVIN FIRE BRIGADE REF: 12/2022
- TINAHELY FIRE BRIGADE REF: 13/2022
- BALTINGLASS FIRE BRIGADE REF: 14/2022
- RATHDRUM FIRE BRIGADE REF: 15/2022

Candidates should not be more than 55 years of age on the latest date for receipt of applications.

Candidates should reside and work within a maximum of 5 minutes distance to the Fire Station as there are strict requirements regarding availability to attend fire calls.

**Remuneration:** Retainer starting at €8,359.00 per annum gross (paid on a quarterly basis) plus hourly rates for attendance at fires.

Candidates will be subject to Garda Vetting.

Application Forms and further details can be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20100 or by emailing [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie) and on the Wicklow County Council website [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF  
COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS  
12 NOON ON THURSDAY 28TH APRIL 2022

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

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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

Phone: 0404 20100  
Fax: 0404 67792

e-mail: [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie)

## ATTENTION Architects, Planners & Builders

Reach the widest readership for your planning notices  
in County Wicklow with Wicklow Times  
Call 01 286 9111 or email  
[pauline@localtimes.ie](mailto:pauline@localtimes.ie)





# 50th anniversary of Ventac in Blessington

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris today joined the team at Ventac in Blessington to celebrate their 50th year in business.



Minister Simon Harris with Ventac MD Darren Fortune, Business Development Manager Brian Scully and Cllr Edward Timmins at Ventac's 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Minister Harris said: "I am delighted to visit the Team at Ventac in Blessington and join their 50th anniversary celebrations. "The last time I visited Ventac they had just won the Small Firms Association's small business of the year award. It is great to see a Wicklow SME going from strength to strength. Ventac is a valued part of the community in Blessington and provides quality employment that supports the local economy. "Ventac provides industrial noise control solutions for industries such as Data Centers, Food and Drink, Pharma, Life Sciences and Engineering and these industries are the engine of the future growth of the Irish economy. I look forward to Ventac's next 50 years and as Minister for Further Education and Training, Wicklow SMEs can be assured of my continued support in ensuring they continue to grow in the years ahead."



Liz Dillon, Community Liaison Officer for Codling Wind Park, and Fred Verdier of Wicklow Tourism at the Wicklow County Council Breakfast Briefing in Druid's Glen Hotel.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

M.D.

## Registration open for Adult mental health education programmes

Aware, the national charity supporting people impacted by depression and bipolar disorder, opened registration for its new Adult Education Programmes, which are always in high demand.

The courses offered, which commence on April 25th, have been designed to empower people living with depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder in Ireland, as well as their support network and the general population, with the knowledge and skills to build positive mental health and resilience into the future. The in-person and virtual sessions are free of charge but places are limited. Some courses are offered at The

Arklow Bay Hotel and Kilcoole Community Centre.

There are three free programmes to choose from: The Life Skills programme, which provides insight into methods to reduce the impacts associated with anxiety, stress and depression and for people who want to improve their mental health and build resilience; The Living Well with Bipolar Disorder Programme for people with a diagnosis

of bipolar disorder; and the Relatives and Friends Programme for people supporting a loved one experiencing depression. All of Aware's programmes are offered free of charge, with a wide range of times and locations on offer, including virtual options, to ensure they are accessible to all.

Aware's Director of Services Stephen McBride said, "We continue to live in a time of great uncertainty which exacerbates the need to

protect mental health and to build resilience. People are navigating a new pandemic landscape, transitioning back to the office and re-emerging back into society. Our Life Skills Programme may just be the right space to help people develop new tools that will enable them to better navigate the new environment we find ourselves in. Attendees will also develop their knowledge and understanding of the importance of having these skills so they can practise self-care.

"On the Living Well with Bipolar Disorder Programme, people diagnosed with the condition can learn new ways to manage it more effectively. It is the only course of its kind in Ireland and is a great step for increasing the supports available for people living with this very challenging condition. At a societal level, the understanding of bipolar disorder remains very limited in Ireland, and Aware is committed to helping people living with a diagnosis to learn methods that will help

them to live well," said Stephen.

"And finally, our Relatives and Friends Programme represents a very positive intervention in the under-resourced area of 'supporting the supporter'. Aware wants to encourage as many as possible to take up the opportunity to learn ways to protect their own well-being as they undertake the challenging role of assisting others."

Aware's aim is to ensure that individuals across Ireland impacted by depression, bipolar

disorder and other mood related conditions know they are not alone and are provided with the knowledge, advice and tools they need to improve their wellbeing.

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

To register for the Adult Education Programme, or for further information on Aware and volunteering see aware.ie

**ALLSHADES BLINDS**  
• Roller • Vertical • Wood Venetian  
• Pleated • Velux • Roman  
**Tel: 087 2201600**  
FACTORY: Unit 10, Block 1, Broomhall  
Business Park, Rathnew. Tel: 0404 20344

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

**Affordable Live-in Homecare**  
Night and/or Daytime Care available  
For less than the Cost of a Nursing Home or Private Visiting Care Service  
**National Enquiry Line:**  
**087 744 0729**  
or call Eileen: 087 991 6791  
[www.alhomecare.ie](http://www.alhomecare.ie)

Painting  
Decorating  
Home & Property Maintenance  
**MDP Services**  
25 Years Experience - Fully Insured - VAT Registered  
**086 325 8973** [hello@mdp-services.ie](mailto:hello@mdp-services.ie)

**ChemDry**  
Drier. Cleaner. Healthier.  
**Wicklow/Wexford**  
Carpet, upholstery, tile & grout cleaning  
**Ph.: 087 915 3830**  
**E: enquiries@chemdryonline.com**  
[www.chemdrywicklow-wexford.ie](http://www.chemdrywicklow-wexford.ie)

**KATIE CHADWICK**  
PROPERTY SERVICES  
Specialising in residential lettings and property management across Wicklow and Dublin  
**RENTAL PROPERTIES REQUIRED**  
**087 241 6913**  
[@katie@katiechadwick.ie](mailto:katie@katiechadwick.ie)

**O'Donnell ROOFING**  
ARKLOW  
ROOFING SPECIALISTS WITH  
3 GENERATIONS OF EXPERIENCE  
**083 363 3133** **0402 20655**  
[antonodonnell@hotmail.com](mailto:antonodonnell@hotmail.com)

**PAINTER AVAILABLE**  
Irish painter over 25 years experience  
**Example:** Hall, Stairs and Landing, Walls and Ceilings including paint **€230**  
**Example:** 3 Bedrooms Walls and Ceiling including paint **€360**  
**Call Gerry on 085 721 8718**

**O'BRIENS**  
ROOFING & GUTTERING  
**Gutters Cleaned & Sealed** **From €49** **Roof Repairs** **From €199**  
**Call Richard: 087 348 8516**  
[www.obriensroofingandguttering.ie](http://www.obriensroofingandguttering.ie)

**AR**  
Competitive service and spare parts prices  
Installation of integrated and free standing appliances  
**APPLIANCE REPAIRS** **085 157 2076**  
[arrepairs@outlook.ie](mailto:arrepairs@outlook.ie)  
Dishwashers • Cookers • Dryers • Washing Machines • Fridges  
**15+ years of experience**





# Flanagan Kerins®

Furniture for Life

## THE BED SCRAPPAGE SCHEME NOW ON



### HOLLY

5FT BED FRAME WOODEN  
HEADBOARD & LOW  
FOOTBOARD

Was €1359 **Now €975**



### AVALON

5FT MATTRESS,  
BASE AND HEADBOARD

Was €2244 **Now €1495**



### POSTUREPEADIC

5FT MATTRESS Was €795 **Now €595**



### TARA

DOUBLE BED FRAME

Was €749 **Now €475**



### REFLECTION

5FT MATTRESS BASE AND HEADBOARD

Was €3094 **Now €1975**

**Plus we'll deliver and recycle your replaced bed FREE OF CHARGE**

Bray Retail Park, Southern Cross Road., Bray, Co. Wicklow. Mon-Sat: 10am - 6pm

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