



PRIMARY CARE CENTRE
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NO TURBINES
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Tuesday 24th May 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

CITIZENS INFORMATION CLOSURES

OFFICES IN WICKLOW TOWN, BALTINGLASS AND LARAGH WILL NOT RE-OPEN

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has expressed her dismay and serious concerns regarding the future of the Citizens Information Service across County Wicklow, as it 'becomes apparent that recent changes by the national Citizens Information Board will result in office closures across the service'. Deputy Whitmore has been informed that volunteers may no longer be used as part of the service.

Speaking on the issue, Deputy Whitmore said, "I met with Eamonn Burgess, a volunteer on the South Leinster Regional Board, to discuss concerns around structural changes that are already having huge implications on the service in Wicklow. Not only has funding not been granted to open up a service in Wicklow Town, it now seems that they have been told volunteers are no longer to be used. "The mind boggles how this can be the case, as volunteers have been at the heart of the service. County Wicklow is now reduced to only 2.5 full time paid staff to cover the entire county with only Arklow and Bray offices currently open. Furthermore, outreach services have also been closed down as they are



Chairperson of Laragh/Glendalough Tidy Towns Judy Doyle plants sunflowers with members of the Ukrainian community at a Tidy Towns event in Laragh. Pic: Michael Kelly

primarily run by volunteers, which means Baltinglass and Laragh will no longer have these services. The office in Wicklow town has already been closed further reducing access to the service for residents in Wicklow.

"Demand is only increasing for reliable information provided by these offices. With rising inflation, fuel prices and more Ukrainian refugees in need of advice, we need to be expanding this service rather than reducing it.

"There is no way we can have a viable service in Wicklow if we move away from a volunteer model. It flies in the face of National Volunteer Strategy, and I will be contacting the Minister, the CIB and the Chairs of the Regional Boards to get some answers to the many questions about the current strategy and the future of the service.

the future of the service.

The board of South Leinster Citizens Information Service (SLCIS) were informed on Friday 13th May that the funding would not be made available to allow the Citizen's Information Centre in Wicklow Town to reopen.

Sinn Fein TD John Brady also slammed the decision, and called on Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphries and the three Wicklow government TDs to immediately intervene and reverse it.

Deputy Brady said "Since last year I have been attempting to get an undertaking from Fine Gael Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphries, who has responsibility for the Citizens Information Board (CIB) to directly intervene to ensure that the funding was forthcom-

ing to ensure the closed Citizen Information Service could reopen.

Unfortunately, nothing appears to have been done by the Minister, as

the board of the SLCIS were informed on **Continued on Page 8**

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Chitty Chitty Bang Bang to headline vintage car show

The team organising the Powerscourt Parish Veteran, Vintage and Classic Car Show is gearing up for fun-filled day on Sunday 29th May. There will be a carefully curated exhibition of vehicles from the 1900s to the 1980s, headlined by the iconic Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.



Just some of the incredible cars that will be on display at the show, including a Lagonda, a Bentley, 'Chitty' and a Mercedes

A truly unique selection of vehicles will be on display, including a historic 1918 Stutz Bearcat, which competed in the Peking to Paris rally, a magnificent Mercedes 'Gullwing' and a rare Ferrari 275 GTB. The entrants will be battling it out to be crowned winner of the Public, Entrant or Celebrity Choice of vehicle on the day.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the occasion, from car enthusiasts to families and friends and those looking for bargains from the various pop-up stands. There will be plenty of family fun, with children's games and social opportunities to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Refreshments will be available in the Catering Village and from the various pop-up stands. Visitors will also be entertained by the fabulous Steadfast Band, who's varied repertoire is sure to appeal to all ages! The raffle will

provide an opportunity for those who want to be in with a chance to go for a drive in Chitty, as that, as well as a host of other amazing prizes will be on offer. It will also be possible to have your photograph taken at the show whilst sitting in Chitty.

Taking place in the grounds of St Patrick's Church, Powerscourt, Enniskerry, the show will be open to the public from 11am – 5pm and free parking for visitors will be available in the field at the entrance to Powerscourt Estate. Exhibiting vehicles must be pre-registered – to enquire please phone 087 257 0893.

Further information for both entrants and visitors can be found on Eventbrite by searching for Powerscourt Parish Car Show.

All proceeds will go to St Patrick's Church, Powerscourt, and the organisers would like to record their grateful thanks to all sponsors and donors.



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang will be the star of the show at the Powerscourt Parish Car Show

Evening Classes resuming at BIFE

BIFE are happy to announce the resumption of their evening classes starting Monday September 26th. and running for 10 weeks.

They are planning to offer a wide range of classes including: First Aid; Pottery and Ceramics; Woodwork; Art; Spanish; French; Bee Keeping; Pilates; Tai Chi; Yoga; Psychology; Photography; TEF; Bridge; Barista Training; Graphic Design Skills among many others"

You can apply online via their website www.bife.ie from July 1st.

It is recommended that bookings are made online as soon as possible as it secures a place on your chosen course for September.

Employability Wicklow celebrate 21 years of service

EmployAbility Service Wicklow is celebrating 21 years working in Wicklow providing employment support services to people with disabilities.

EmployAbility is funded by the Department of Social Protection and is a specialised community-based service. Its main aim is to increase the number of people with a disability who are employed in County Wicklow.

EmployAbility has offices in Bray, Wicklow Town, and Arklow, and provides outreach services throughout the County. EmployAbility can be contacted by email by info@employabilitywicklow.ie or <https://www.employabilitywicklow.com>

The service extends across the full range of people with a disability whatever the impairment, including people with a physical or sensory disabilities, those with mental health conditions, and those who acquire a disability.

EmployAbility strongly believes that when Jobseekers are placed at the centre of the service provision and given the correct supports everyone can gain employment that matches and meets their own

individual circumstances.

The EmployAbility Service is delivered in five stages.

- Employment Needs Assessment
- Vocational Profiling and Career planning
- Job Search support and advice
- Work experience and progression to open employment
- Progression to Independent Employment

Jobseekers progress through each stage of the service with the support of an experienced Employment Support Specialist or Job Coach.

The 21 years working in Wicklow celebrations will be held in the **Wicklow Library, Wicklow Town on the morning of the 26th May, 11am to 1pm**, where elected public representatives, Wicklow's inclusive employers, and their employees, will share their experience of working with the EmployAbility service.

Wicklowlaid4Ukraine

Wicklowlaid4 Ukraine has been set up by local support groups. These groups are travelling to Poland and Ukraine to help Ukrainian families. These families need support with relocating and logistics. All donations and help go directly to those in need. Details from Wicklowlaid4Ukraine Facebook page.

Back issues of 'Archaeology Ireland' sought

Gerlanda Maniglia, Local Studies Librarian, Wicklow County Library Service, is organising to have their copies of 'Archaeology Ireland' journals bound into hardback volumes but a number of older copies are missing. Copies of the following back issues are sought: Autumn 1992, Vol. 6, No. 3, Summer 1993, Vol. 7, No. 2, Autumn 1993, Vol. 7, No. 3, Spring 1995, Vol. 9, No. 1, Summer 1996, Vol. 10, No. 2, Autumn 2001, Vol. 15, No. 3, Autumn 2002, Vol. 16, No. 3, Spring 2005, Vol. 20, No. 1, Winter 2006, Vol. 20, No. 4. Any reader who can help is asked to contact Gerlanda Maniglia, Local Studies, Librarian, Salthouse Lane, Wicklow Town, - go to www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Libraries/Local-Studies or call/text 087- 2683724, or call 0404 67025.

Comedy fundraiser in aid of school

Come along for a fun night out in aid of Scoil Chaoimhín Naofa on Friday May 27th in Lynhams of Laragh. Doors open at 7:30pm with show starting sharp at 8pm. On Stage for the ultimate entertainment will be Danny O'Brien(Comedy Central RTE), Paul Marsh (Winner of Ireland's Funniest joke) and music by The Flamin Mongrels. Tickets can be purchased by contacting 086 1942546, 087 282 2490, 086 222 8188. Book early to avoid disappointment. Limited seating.

Food for Thought

Food for Thought is a collection of written pieces by the Little Bray Creative Writers Group who meet regularly in the Resource Centre in Fassaroe. They reflect the multiplicity of talents in the group plus age and experience. Highly talented, these writers have gained the wisdom of mature years and bring their gems of creativity and experience to you.

The exhibition in Signal Arts Centre (Monday, June 7th to Sunday, June 19th) will also feature the artwork of the Porcelain Painters Group who meet weekly in the Resource Centre. They have been decorating pieces of porcelain for many years and enjoy each others' company and the peace of leaving the world outside the door to bring out their inner creativity.

Lookout for Ringend Plovers

Birdwatch Ireland's Brian Burke from the Garden Bird Survey will be busy this summer colour-ringing Ringed Plovers and he is keen to know if you spot any Plovers breeding along the Wicklow coast (other than those at the Kilcoole Little Tern Colony). They are a species in decline so BirdWatch need to collect as much data as possible on them. They nest in a scrape on the shingle beaches in many places along the Murrough. If you see a bird leave an area close to the high tide mark and head for the water's edge to wait for you to depart (especially if you're accompanied by a dog) then it is likely that bird was on or near a nest. Again let Birdwatch Ireland know the location if you suspect birds are breeding by sending an email to birdwatchwicklow@gmail.com please.



Filie and John Cullen with Fr Pat Murphy at the Rathdangan Drama Group's Comedy Play 'Nobody's Talking to Me', which was held in the Community Hall in Rathdangan.

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Donnelly opens HSE Primary Care Centre and Integrated Care Hub

Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D., officially opened the HSE Primary Care Centre and Integrated Care Hub in Bray on Friday, part of the national Enhanced Community Care (ECC) programme. The ECC programme is already making progress, aiming to reduce pressure on services and dependence on the hospital-centric model of care through enhanced and increased community services.



Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly with Martina Queally, Cllr Rory O'Connor, Anne O'Connor, John O'Donovan, and Emma Smyth at the opening of the Integrated Care Hub in Bray

Speaking at the opening event, Minister Donnelly said: "79 Community Healthcare Networks and 27 Community Specialist Teams of the new Enhanced Community Care (ECC) Programme have already been established nationally, with over 2,000 staff already recruited or at an advanced stage of employment, with a further 1,700 planned during 2022.

"The national Enhanced Community Care programme is at its core a reform programme, representing an investment of €240 million to develop and enhance care in the community. It has been developed under the Sláintecare Programme to ensure all HSE primary and community care services work together effectively."

Developed as part of implementing Sláintecare, the ECC programme aims

to ensure all HSE primary and community care services work in an integrated way to meet population health needs across Ireland, to reduce dependence on hospital services and provide access to consultant-led specialist services in the community. 19 community specialist teams for older persons and 8 chronic disease community specialist teams have been established, and 21 community intervention teams are

now in place with national coverage. Community diagnostic services have provided over 139,000 scans to patients in 2021, and over 75,000 scans already in 2022.

Welcoming everyone to the event, Martina Queally, Chief Officer of HSE Community Healthcare East said: "The new Primary Care Centre and the Integrated Care Hub in Bray help us advance the ECC vision of providing accessible, integrated, and high quality services closer to people's homes. It shows that the move towards more primary and community care is becoming a reality in Community Healthcare East.

"The new Primary Care Centre in Bray accommodates a range of primary care, mental health and community services within a single integrated, modern facility, and will improve access to a broad range of services to the local community. The Integrated Care Hub in Bray offers access to specialist services in the community for older people and people living with more complex



Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly with Deputy Matthews, Denis O'Driscoll, Marie Keating, Vivienne Lawlor, Amelia Cantwell, Evelyn Byrne, and Cllr Melanie Corrigan at the opening of the Bray Primary Care Centre.

chronic disease.

"Collaboration and shared governance is pivotal to the successful implementation of our ECC programme. I would like to acknowledge the GP and Consultant leads and our colleagues in Ireland East Hospital Group, St Vincent's, St. Michael's and St. Colmcille's hospitals for the time and commitment they've provided to the development of the ECC programme in Community Healthcare East so far. I would also like to thank the large number of people involved in the development of the physical infrastructure required to support this programme, as well as those support-

ing the reorganisation of patient pathways of care."

Speaking at the event, Anne O'Connor, HSE Chief Operations Officer said: "This transformational programme will include 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs), 30 Community Specialist Teams for Chronic Disease and 3,500 additional staff when fully implemented. This marks a very significant step in supporting older people and people living with chronic disease by bringing specialist services closer to local communities, reducing pressure and dependence on hospital services.

"An essential theme underlying this programme is developing a new, integrated model of care, which is responsive to the needs of local communities. This requires strong leadership and ownership at local level, bringing the relationship between General Practice, primary care and specialist community care into a much more patient focused and integrated model of care in each locality."

Commenting on the ECC initiative's progress, Dr Colm Henry, HSE Chief Clinical Officer said: "The work that has been undertaken by the Integrated Care Programmes for Older People and Chronic

Disease over recent years has shown that we can achieve much improved outcomes, particularly for older people who are frail, and those with chronic disease. The new model of care allows the specialist multidisciplinary team to engage and interact with services at community healthcare network level, supporting people in their diagnosis and ongoing care. With the support of the Dept of Health and Sláintecare, these models are now being implemented at scale, by the HSE, with the establishment and full rollout of 30 Community Specialist Teams for Older People and 30 Specialist Teams for Chronic Disease."

Bray loses Blue Flag

Bray South Promenade has lost its Blue Flag status, it was announced at last week's awards ceremony by An Tiasce. Three of the four Wicklow beaches awarded the Blue Flag in 2021 (Brittas Bay North and South, and Greystones South Beach) retained it for 2022.

Bray was one of five beaches in the country that were awarded the Blue Flag in 2021 that failed to retain it this year.

The awards were presented by Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Heritage and Electoral Reform at a ceremony Curraclloe Beach in County Wexford last Thursday afternoon.



Wicklow County Council told *Wicklow Times*: "Wicklow County Council is delighted to retain three Blue Flags for 2022 at Brittas Bay South, Brittas Bay North and Greystones. The Blue Flag is an international award for beach excellence and means that a beach has achieved 'excellent' water quality to standards set by European and National Regulations, and a very high grade across a wide range of other criteria including facilities for visitors, beach management and environmental education. The standards for the Blue Flag are very high with the classification of bathing water based on water samples taken over a four-year period rather than in a single year.

"The efforts that go into achieving a Blue Flag are significant and Wicklow County Council works across departments and with local partners to maintain and manage them to the highest standard and the awards announced today provide recognition for the efforts of our staff in this regard.

"While Wicklow County Council is disappointed not to retain the existing flag at Bray South Promenade the water quality is still classified as 'good' under the Bathing Water Regulations, and we are determined to regain the Blue Flag Award for Bray."

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Irish Water submits planning application for major Avoca wastewater project

Irish Water has announced that following detailed design works, a planning application has been submitted which includes the construction of a new state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant and associated works in Avoca beside the existing plant located off Tower Avenue.



Aerial view of the proposed wastewater treatment plant in Avoca

Irish Water, working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, is progressing plans to construct the new state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant (WWT). When completed, the new treatment plant will bring significant benefits to the local community in terms of protecting the environment and improving water quality in the Avoca River for angling and aquatic life. It will also act as an enabler for housing and support economic growth and development in the area.

The project also involves the construction of a new storm water storage tank, outfall pipes to the Avoca River and the construction of new reed beds, providing a sustainable and cost-effective solution for the long-term treatment of sludge. The new treatment plant will have the capacity to adequately treat a population equivalent (PE) of 1,900, the equivalent of 2,690 wheelie bins of raw sewage per day, ensuring it meets appropriate

standards before being safely discharged into the marine environment.

Commenting on the project Dawid Wozniak, Regional Delivery Lead at Irish Water, said "We are delighted to be moving forward with this significant project on behalf of the local community in Avoca. This project will end the current practice of discharging untreated wastewater into the Avoca River, thereby, improving water quality and marine life as well as supporting economic growth and development in the area.

"Irish Water is committed to ending the unacceptable practice of discharging raw sewage in Ireland by constructing wastewater treatment plants and network infrastructure. We are working to ensure that wastewater is adequately treated and meets the highest standards before being safely discharged into the marine environment."

When originally constructed in the early 1970s, the existing

Avoca Wastewater Treatment Plant provided primary treatment for a designated population of approximately 500. The wastewater treatment plant no longer operates sufficiently and does not provide the necessary treatment to meet the demands of a growing population, resulting in raw sewage being discharged directly into the river. This project will end this unacceptable practice and bring with it significant benefits to the local community and environment including improved water quality for angling and marine life while also acting as an enabler for housing and support economic growth and development in the area.

Outlining the progress Irish Water have already made to date in ending raw sewage discharges, Dawid added: "The size and scale of the challenge of raw sewage discharging into our water ways is well documented. Since 2014, Irish Water has built new wastewater infrastructure for 17 towns and

villages across the country, ending the discharge of raw sewage into our rivers, lakes and seas: the equivalent of 100,000 people's worth, every day.

"In 2021, we awarded contracts in 13 locations nationwide to end the discharge of raw sewage into our waterways. So far in 2022 we have awarded contracts for two additional locations with more to follow in the coming months. 60% of the raw sewage entering waterways in Ireland has now been eliminated and we are on track to fully removing the majority of raw sewage discharges by 2025".

Irish Water is responsible for the delivery of all public water and wastewater services in Ireland. We are committed to continuously upgrading and developing critical infrastructure to support the growth needed in housing and across our economy, while protecting the environment and safeguarding water supplies.

New grants for Parent and Toddler Groups in Bray

New funding through Wicklow Childcare Committee is being made available to Parent and Toddler Groups in Bray.

This follows the launch of the Parent and Toddler Group Grants Initiative by Roderic O'Gorman TD, Minister for Children. Councillor Erika Doyle has welcomed this new initiative and is encouraging groups to make an application.

The Grants Initiative will help Parent and Toddler Groups to establish and operate Buggy Walking Groups, provide additional sessions for existing groups, fund toys, books, storage, training for parents, and activities for children such as arts and crafts.

Green Party Councillor Erika Doyle said; "This funding will be invaluable to Parent and Toddler Groups in Bray and for those who are looking to set up a new group. Parents of toddlers in 2022 had their babies during a time of covid restrictions and many would have experienced feelings of loneliness and isolation. These groups are incredibly useful for new parents to bond over shared experiences and for toddlers to socialise."

This funding comes on the back of the recent roll-out of the 'First 5 My Little Library' free book bag with books and resources for every 4 and 5 year old going to school in September. City/County Childcare Committees support and assist families and childcare providers with childcare matters at local county level. They are a Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth-funded support and are located nationwide. More information and contact details can be found at <https://myccc.ie/>.

'Be aware, don't compare'

Transition Year students from Colaiste Bhríde Carnew are pushing for a change in legislation in relation to edited and photoshopped photos on social media. With their 'Be Ware, Don't Compare' project they want to educate as many young people as possible on the issue.

Part of their campaign is a petition which calls for the introduction of legislation that would require photo-shopped or edited photos on social media to carry a symbol to note that the images are edited.

The project by the students recently gained national attention when it picked up the 1st place award in the 'Digital Innovation' category at the Young Social Innovators Awards.

The Coláiste Bhríde team is passionate about combatting the issue of negative self-image amongst teens. The team strongly believes that any photoshopped image posted to social media should be identified as having been altered. Minister for Health, Simon Harris, and Minister for Education, Norma Foley, are due to visit the school to discuss the issue, and the team recently visited Leinster House and met with Senator Pat Casey and Minister for Mental Health, Mary Butler, who praised the project.

Following his meeting with the students, Senator Casey is now calling for the introduction of legislation to require photo-shopped or edited photos on social media to carry a symbol.

Senator Casey said, "We can label products that damage our physical health, such as tobacco, alcohol, foods, etc., so why not label photoshopped or edited photos which damage our mental health. I will continue to support the Coláiste Bhríde student's campaign and the introduction of this legislation."

The school stated "The YSI class are proposing an introduction of legislation requiring that edited images require a tag/symbol. Both Senator Casey and Minister Butler are now going to look at how best to move this process forward. The class would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has been so supportive and encouraging of our project

and allowed our students to have such a wonderful experience."

The Be Aware, Don't Compare team was also Highly Commended at the YSI Awards in the Make Our World a Better Place for Young People Award, supported by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

Picking up the YSI Global Citizens Award, supported by Irish Aid WorldWide Global Schools, a team from Youthreach, Wicklow Town was also recognised at the awards for its Carry on Caring project. The Youthreach team was passionate about combatting access barriers to the local community. The students' innovative response to this issue involved raising money to upcycle bicycles and other necessities so that residents of Rathmore Direct Provision Centre can more easily access to the local village of Ashford. The team's plan for the future is to work on the project and continue to identify and address any needs that come up. The Carry on Caring team was also successful in receiving the Make our World Fair and Just Challenge Award.



Senator Pat Casey with Transition Year students from Colaiste Bhríde, Carnew

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CITIZENS INFORMATION CLOSURES

Continued from Page 1

Friday by CIB that funding to ensure the critical service in Wicklow Town could reopen was not going to be made available.

"The decision to sit back and refuse funding for this critically important service is an absolute disgrace. The Citizens Information Service in Wicklow Town provided vital assistance to many of the most marginalised and vulnerable members of our community. In an average year the CIS in Wicklow Town would deal with over 4,500 appeals for help. It provided a free, non-judgmental, and confidential service, providing advice and advocacy on a wide range of issues including social welfare, employment rights, housing, health, and immigration.

"Previously the Minister stated that discussions were taking place between her Department and CIB to complete the new premises development for Wicklow Town for CIS. The Minister also stated that they are hoping to source funding from within the current 2022 budget for CIB.

"The CIB had previously approved funding for appointment of a project manager. It had also instructed Wicklow Town CIS to submit planning permission to secure the new premises, which it did. Consequently, the CIS submitted funding applications in relation to these developments in April, and June 2021, and again in October. Only to be informed at a subsequent meeting with the CIB, that funding will not be granted for the new premises. So, the news on Friday that no funding would be forthcoming is a real slap in the face for the CIS.

"I have again written to CIB and the Minister and outlined the importance of the service and the negative impact its closure will have; however I believe at this stage only direct government intervention will help save this service. I'm calling on the three Wicklow Government TDs to take some interest in the wellbeing of the people in Wicklow Town and surrounding areas that depend on the service provided by CIS. Two of the three government TDs sit at the cabinet table with Minister

Humphries, they need to take immediate action to have this disgraceful decision reversed to ensure the service can reopen."

Green Party TD Steven Matthews questioned the Minister of State with Responsibility for Public Health, Well Being and National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan TD in The Dail last Thursday.

Speaking in The Dail, Deputy Matthews said there's "confusion and doubt" surrounding the closure and funding.

Minister Feighan TD said "I understand that CIB has recently asked the board of south Leinster CIS to consider the use of an outreach office for Wicklow town as soon as possible. The board of south Leinster CIS has therefore been asked to develop a proposal which would identify a possible location for an outreach office in order to provide citizen information services directly in Wicklow town. The Citizens Information Board is continuing to engage with south Leinster CIS with a view to progressing its use to meet local needs."

Deputy Matthews, responding, said "An outreach office is obviously better than nothing but Wicklow town is the county town with a growing population. It is designated under the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy as a key growth town in planning. That is where we are planning to grow populations in County Wicklow, which is in Bray and in Wicklow town. The removal of this service and the suggestion that the service may look for an office to provide an outreach service is not good enough for the residents in Wicklow town."

Minister Feighan said "The CIB will continue discussions with south Leinster CIS regarding the future delivery of services and the development of proposals in identifying possible premises [...] The CIB and the regional CIS companies decide on how their funding budgets are allocated and these decisions are not a matter for the Minister for Social Protection.

"However, Deputy Matthews has rightly outlined that Wicklow is the county town and that it is a service that was there. These dis-



Deputy Whitmore with Eamon Burgess, South Leinster Regional Board

cussions should continue and I will bring his proposals back to the senior Minister. I understand that she has given an allocation of funding and this is an issue, therefore, that has really to do with the Minister."

Danish Ambassador welcomed to Wicklow

Offshore renewable energy was the focus of His Excellency, Uffe Balslev, Ambassador to Ireland from Denmark, on a visit to Wicklow on Tuesday 17th May.

The Ambassador was on a fact-finding mission to Wicklow and expressed a particular interest in visiting Wicklow Harbour to find out more about work being carried out in the offshore renewable ener-

gy sector.

Wicklow County Council works closely with Codling Wind Park and SSE Renewables, along with other agencies in this domain.

The Ambassador was welcomed by Cllr Gail

Dunne, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow Municipal District, along with Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson. Following lunch in Sorrel and Eve, the Ambassador visited the

recently opened Wicklow Library where he viewed the state-of-the-art library facility and the Wicklow Harbour area. Ms. Catherine Wright, Archivist, also provided a brief tour of the National Archives' exhi-

bition The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives. Cllr. Dunne presented the Ambassador with a book on the subject "Wicklow and the War of Independence"

The group moved to Wicklow County Council where they were welcomed by Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, and Ms Christine Flood, Senior Executive Officer, who provided an update on the development of the offshore renewable energy sector in County Wicklow.

To mark his visit, Cllr Cullen presented the Ambassador with a print by Anna Nielsen, a Danish artist who chose to make Ashford her home.

The Cathaoirleach also encouraged the Ambassador and his

team to return to Wicklow to "explore all that Wicklow has to offer from our 6th Century former monastic site at Glendalough to the magnificent National Botanic Gardens at Kilmacurragh, the world renowned Powerscourt Gardens or perhaps you will be among the first to try the newly developed Beyond the Trees at Avondale, when it opens during the Summer. The Wicklow Passport also signposts some of our lesser-known hidden gems for you to discover and enjoy as you "stamp your journey."

Mr Brian Gleeson focussed on strengthening the links between Denmark and Wicklow advising "collaboration between Denmark and Wicklow goes back over a thousand years. We learnt a lot from you



Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Shay Cullen makes a presentation to Danish Ambassador to Ireland Uffe Balslev during his visit to Wicklow.

then and would love to learn more from you as exemplars in local government and public administration, in renewable energy, and in areas such as anaerobic digestion.

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Christine Flood (Senior Executive Officer), Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Shay Cullen, WCC Chief Executive Brian Gleeson, Lorraine Gallagher (Director of Services), Vibeke Delahunt (Head of LEO Wicklow), are pictured with Danish Ambassador to Ireland Uffe Balslev during his visit to Wicklow last week.

Permission refused for Kilranelagh turbines

Fine Gael councillor Edward Timmins has welcomed An Bord Pleanála's decision to refuse permission for a development of five wind turbines on Kilranelagh Hill in West Wicklow.

The application from ABO Wind Ireland Limited, sought permission for five turbines 165 metres high on Kilranelagh Hill, and townlands near Donard and Baltinglass. Wicklow County Council refused permission for the development in March of 2021 and ABO then appealed the decision to ABP.

In making its decision, ABP stated that the proposed development was located in an area of archaeological remains and of monuments of national, regional and local importance, and within an area described by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, and Gaeltacht, in its submission to the Council, as a nationally important archaeological landscape recognised by the Monument's Service and the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Local Authority.

ABP also noted that the development contradicted a number of stated objectives of Wicklow's 2016-2022 County Development Plan. "The proposed development, by itself and by the precedent it would set,



Protesters standing against the development of wind turbines on Kilranelagh Hill

would result in significant physical and visual impacts on the heritage and archaeology of the area and on the archaeological landscape of the area," ABP stated, "and would materially contravene the objectives of the development plan."

ABP also stated that the height of the turbines in this location would adversely affect the ability of the Irish Air Corps aircraft to operate and in the vicinity of Coolmoney Camp, an air firing range and a larger training area in the Glen of Imaal used for low level flight training and as an air firing range. The proposed development would "endanger or interfere with the safety of air-

craftor the safe and efficient navigation thereof," ABP said.

Also welcoming ABP's decision were Save Wicklow's Ancient East (SWAE) and West Wicklow Wind Action Group (WWWAG). In a statement they said "People throughout the county, in Ireland and as far away as America and Australia, have campaigned for over two years against the potential irreparable damage to archaeological and heritage sites of national and international importance, as well as to a unique ecological environment. SWAE and WWWAG are grateful to hundreds of ordinary people who

fought a long campaign against well-resourced global industrial interests. While this campaign attracted support beyond West Wicklow, the work and determination of every local person mattered most.

"We are extremely grateful to Wicklow County Council for their outright rejection of this planning proposal, however, it must be stated that correct statutory protection of the Baltinglass Hillfort Complex could have stopped this wind turbine proposal at an earlier stage. It didn't, and without the intervention of local people it is by no means certain the development would have been rejected. It is

hard not to feel, in the atmosphere of piecemeal action and confused agendas that is often the planning system in Ireland, that such decisions hang on a toss of a coin.

"SWAE and WWWAG feel it is important to express continuing concerns. However, in the case of Kilranelagh Hill the right decision has been made. It is to be hoped this will help government, local authorities, local communities, planners and developers to look at the future with a more consistent and considered focus when conflicts arise between development and conservation. We will work better for Ireland if we find ways to work more closely together.

"SWAE and WWWAG thank all those who devoted so much time, energy, passion and donated financially to the campaign to save Kilranelagh. This made all the difference. Without the determination of so many the decision might not have gone this way. It is an achievement for local democracy as well as a significant result for the country as a whole."



Lily Cullen with her pet Beatrix at the Laragh/Glendalough Tidy Towns planting of sunflowers with the Ukrainian community in Laragh.

Transport Minister agrees to attend Council meeting

Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan TD has accepted an informal invitation to attend a meeting of Wicklow County Council to discuss the suspension of the N11 Upgrade Scheme, according to Cathaoirleach Cllr Shay Cullen.

Speaking at this month's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Cullen said "I had an impromptu meeting with Minister Ryan at the recent opening of the solar farm in Ashford. I had about ten minutes with him and I made it very, very clear that the members of Wicklow County Council were very, very annoyed about the shelving of the N11 upgrade.

"I asked him to come to a meeting of the Council here, which he accepted. The Chief Executive is to follow up on this and a date now has to be arranged. I hope that he will honour his commitment that he gave to me."

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Wicklow garden designer creates Respite Garden for Bloom

Robert Moore from Kilmacanogue has designed Enable Ireland's show garden which will be showcased in Bord Bia's Bloom this coming June bank holiday weekend.

The garden is inspired by its mission to maximise independence, choice and inclusion for the 13,000 children and adults with disabilities using their services across Ireland.

This is Robert's second show garden at Bord Bia Bloom. He was awarded a silver-gilt medal and won the People's Choice Award

for his Memories Are Made of This - Dementia: Understand Together Garden at Bloom 2019.

Robert said, "I'm delighted to be working

with Enable Ireland on the design for the Respite Garden. The garden highlights the incalculable value of 'Respite' as it enables people to interact with their peers in an

imaginative and creative environment. It is fun, colourful and interactive. I'm looking forward to welcoming visitors to the garden at Bloom and sharing with you the important role that respite plays on the journey into adulthood and independence for people living with a disability."

Planting in the garden is inspired by the rural setting of Rathmore House, Enable Ireland's respite service for young people and adults in Wicklow. After Bloom, the Respite Garden will be donated to Rathmore House, where Enable Ireland provides overnight respite breaks to adults and young people.

Respite is one of the essential services that Enable Ireland provides to children and adults with disabilities. Respite can provide a lifeline to families caring for a child with complex physical, sensory and medical needs 24 hours a day.

It gives families a much needed planned respite break whether that is for a weekend or a few hours. For children



Wicklow-based designer Robert Moore

with disabilities, respite breaks are often their first taste of independence. For adults, they are a chance to try out new activities and socialise with friends.

"Our Respite Garden at Bloom will highlight the importance of respite services to children and young people with disabilities. Our garden reflects what respite means to the children

and young people benefiting from respite at Enable Ireland. It captures the excitement of taking your first steps towards independence and reflects our values of independence, inclusion and child/person centredness," commented Frankie Barrett, Enable Ireland Director of Services Dublin and Wicklow.

Enable Ireland has

respite facilities for children in Clare, Wicklow, Cork, Carlow and Tipperary. For adults, they have respite services in Wicklow and Cork. They also provide direct in-home respite services and community respite around the country.

Bord Bia Bloom 2022 will take place from June 2nd to June 6th in the Phoenix Park.



Culann Murphy and Sophie Adamson from Enable Ireland's Little Pals Pre-school at the launch of the Respite Garden

Nominations now open for Ecclesiastical's Movement for Good Awards

For the fourth year running, Ecclesiastical and Benefact Group are giving away over €1,000,000 to charities with the return of the Movement for Good Awards.

people in Wicklow are once again invited to nominate a cause close to their hearts for a potential €1,000 award to help make a difference. This year, another 500 charities around Ireland and the UK will each receive €1,000 during the campaign.

It's quick and easy to nominate, you can vote for your favourite charity online at: www.movementforgood.com

David Lane, Managing Director of

Ecclesiastical in Ireland, said: "We are delighted to announce the launch of Ecclesiastical and Benefact Group's Movement for Good Awards for the fourth year running.

"We were thrilled to receive so many nominations from the public over the past three years, and in 2022 we are encouraging even more people to nominate a charity of their choice.

"Thank you on behalf of the 1,500

charities that have already benefited from the awards and the members of the public who voted for them.

"The pandemic, the current rising cost of living and other external factors have had a huge impact on charities with many facing financial difficulties. Our Movement for Good awards will continue to help charities at a time when they need it most, and we know that for many charities, €1,000 can make a real difference.

"Ecclesiastical is a unique financial services group. We are owned by a charity, which means all available profits can be given to the good causes that are so

important to our customers. As a company whose purpose is to contribute to the greater good of society, charitable giving is at the heart of our business."

Anyone can nominate a registered charity at any time for the chance to receive €1,000. The first 250 winners will be announced in June, a further 250 winners will be announced in September.

Winners will be drawn at random and the more times a charity is nominated the more chance it has of being selected.

For more information about the awards visit www.movement-for-good.com



Managing Director of Ecclesiastical Ireland, David Lane

€1m fund to support local charities

AIB Group has today launched the AIB Community €1 Million Fund to support over 30 charitable organisations in communities across Ireland.

The bank is asking its customers and the wider public in Wicklow to nominate registered charities that connect with causes that matter most to them and their communities.

AIB will allocate €700,000 to charities chosen by its customers and the public while €300,000 will go to charities chosen by the bank's employees.

The fund will be distributed fol-

lowing an online nomination process, one for customers and one for employees, and will be split across five regions in Ireland

Nominations opened on 12th May and will close on 22nd June 2022. The nomination form and full details on the AIB Community €1 Million Fund are available on the bank's website. Customers and the public are required to submit the registration number of the charity they are nominating in order to complete the form.

The bank will separately launch a process for AIB staff wishing to nominate charities in their communities. Once nominations are confirmed, the top six nominees for each of the five regions will be asked to present to an AIB regional panel.

Four charities in Leinster will each receive €28,000, while two will each receive €4,000. The selected charities will be announced in September 2022.



**COMMUNITY
€1 MILLION FUND**

AIB Tullamore branch employees



Martina Slattery, Clinical Nurse Manager from Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, Harold's Cross, is pictured at the announcement of this year's Hospice Sunflower Days street collection, which will take place on June 10th and 11th. Hospice Sunflower Days aims to raise much needed funds for hospice and specialist palliative home care providers across Ireland enabling them to continue to provide person centred, holistic and loving care to patients and their loved ones free of charge. Hospice care is provided either in a hospice in-patient unit or in the person's own home with specialist palliative home care nurses. If you would like to volunteer and take part in the on-street collection, please contact your local hospice or home care service today. Contact details for your local hospice can be found at www.togetherforhospice.ie/hospices

Harris launches 2022 Free Mentoring Scheme at Fishers of Newtown

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD launched the 2022 MentorsWork programme at Fishers of Newtown on Friday. The Minister was joined by Bobby Kerr, businessman and broadcaster, who is an ambassador for the MentorsWork programme.

Minister Harris said: "Launched in 2020, MentorsWork has helped more than 1,000 businesses all around Ireland.

Today the 2022 round of 1,000 programme places is open to SME owners and leadership

teams across all industries. Any private sector business with up to 250 employees is eligible to participate in the 12-week free mentoring and business planning programme".

The programme is pro-

vided by the Small Firms Association (SFA) in partnership with Skillnet Ireland. The fully funded 12-week business support programme offers one-to-one mentoring from an independent professional mentor, experienced in the

business area, as well as masterclasses and peer-to-peer workshops. It includes an online diagnostic tool to provide insights and help business owners and managers identify key skills and development needs.

Broadcaster and businessman Bobby Kerr said: "I have had my own mentors and I have worked as a mentor to others, and, invariably, that third-person independent insight helps tremendously to navigate both early-stage planning, as well as that push to grow further when a business plateaus."

Minister Harris concluded: "MentorsWork has supported businesses in many sectors including services and manufacturing operations working in domestic and international markets.

"Lifestyle, hair and beauty, childcare, technology, retail, marketing services, recruitment and small manufacturing have all benefited from the programme and further information is available at mentorwork.ie"



Minister Harris launching the mentoring scheme, with Bobby Kerr, Becky Harrison of Fishers, Geraldine Magnier, and Paul Healy (Skillnet Ireland).



Minister Harris opening the Remote Working Hub in Newtown

Remote working hub opens in Newtown

On Friday, Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD officially opened the Wicklow Remote Working Hub in Newtownmountkenny.

Minister Harris said: "Remote working is an essential part of the range of measures we have to reduce carbon emissions and improve our quality of life.

"I am delighted to officially open Newtownmountkenny's Wicklow Hub which successfully secured government funding under the Connected Hubs Initiative.

"I want to congratulate owner Paul Jacob and the team at the Wicklow Hub for the magnificent state of the art facility they have established. The Wicklow Hub is a window into the future of remote working with a full suite of conference rooms, meeting rooms, and remote co-working space.

"Today I met a number of local businesses who are already using the Hub and the government is committed to expanding the number of remote working hubs for local businesses under the Connected Hubs Initiative".

Additional information on the Wicklow Hub is available at wicklowhub.ie and the Department of Rural and Community Development's Connected Hubs Network at connectedhubs.ie.

Dealing with Bereavement

The death of a loved one is a deeply upsetting time. However, this is one time when decisions cannot be put off. Coping with having to plan a funeral can actually give the mourner a sense of control and preparation over the one thing they can't control. Organisation is the key to planning in the midst of grief and sadness at the death of a loved one.

You or the authorities may call the funeral home that will be taking care of the arrangements for the funeral and calling hours. Notify any relatives who will be having a part in planning the calling hours and details of the funeral and set up a time to meet with the funeral director to finalise the plans.

Discuss who will be responsible for funeral expenses for billing purposes. If there is an executor for the estate of the deceased, this person usually handles this responsibility, but it is entirely up to the family to determine who should handle this responsibility.

If the deceased left specific instructions regarding preferences for funeral and burial arrangements, with a list of people to be notified, your job is that much easier. If not, you'll need to consult other family members and look for address or phone books that can help you with your task. Most people in Ireland contact a funeral director for help with funeral arrangements. The Irish Association of Funeral Directors is the undertaker industry's trade association. Individual funeral arrangements vary widely and depend on, among other things, where the funeral is taking

place, the type of coffin (casket) you get and whether or not you hire funeral cars.

If you plan to have a funeral service, you need to consider when and where the service will be conducted ie before burial or cremation/ after burial or cremation, at the funeral home, Church/Temple/Mosque or at the graveside.

The funeral director will guide you through much of the planning process.

If a cemetery plot has been previously purchased, bring the deed to the funeral with you, if you have it, to the funeral home when you make your plans. If you

know you have a plot but don't have the deed in your possession, the funeral director can contact the cemetery overseer to arrange confirmation. Otherwise a plot will need to be purchased. The funeral director will assist you with this.

Decide on the type of flower arrangements to be provided by the family. Relatives and other mourners may also need to be advised as to your desired floral selections. Consider setting up pictures or a photo album to remind mourners and family of good times or special events in the life of the deceased.


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Amy Roche and Aobha Harmon at the Knockananna GAA/Camogie Dinner Dance in the Woodenbridge Hotel

One-to-one artist coaching sessions with Wicklow County Arts Office

Wicklow County Arts Office is offering a second round of Artist one-to-one Coaching Sessions with experienced coaches and expert consultants from the arts sector.

Designed to cater for a range of artists at different career stages these sessions will assist in:

- Identifying strengths and areas for improvement
- Working towards goals and realise priorities
- Creating sustainable plans and realistic strategies
- Increasing confidence and working with imposter syndrome
- Finding direction, energy and creative resilience

In order to take part, please submit an expression of interest through an online application process. If

successful, they will receive two one-to-one coaching sessions to support their thinking, prioritisation and goal orientation for 2022.

Note, the Artist one-to-one Coaching Sessions is open to artists who live in or are originally from County Wicklow.

Find out more and apply today at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Arts/Artist-Supports/Info-page-for-coaching-and-mentoring>

Casey appointed Age Friendly Ambassador

Wicklow Fianna Fáil Senator Pat Casey has been appointed as the County's first Age Friendly Ambassador by Age Action Ireland.

Since its inception Age Friendly Ireland, a shared service of local government, has worked not only to champion the needs of older people, but to educate and inform the wider population on the pressing need to adjust our environment and our attitudes to cater for a hugely growing demographic.

Commenting on his appointment, the Glendalough-based Senator stated that "I was honoured to be asked and have accepted the role as the first Age Friendly Ambassador for Wicklow. I will continue to work to represent the Age Friendly Programme on behalf of older people in all parts of Wicklow.

"I have prioritised additional services and recognition of the older members of our community since before I became a public representative. Working with the many Wicklow older peoples networks and the many active retirement groups I have seen the fantastic work that has been achieved and the need to ensure that all our ageing demographic regardless of location can feel valued and protected.

"The last two years of Covid has seen the great value of community services in protecting and valuing our older population and I will use this honorary position to promote these services and these important principles in the years ahead."



Senator Pat Casey

Campaign declares Arklow 'open for business'

Wicklow County Council in collaboration with Arklow Town Team is running a business campaign to show that the town is open for business as usual.

Arklow is currently a transformation with large infrastructural schemes underway which will enhance the town for its residents and visitors alike. It is important that businesses are supported for the duration of the works in the town.

Wicklow County Council has invited businesses to submit a post relating to their business for social media distribution. The campaign focuses on promoting businesses in the town to show that Arklow is 'Open for Business' during the current works.

"We would encourage businesses to submit a post if they wish to be included in the campaign to promote what they can offer their customers," the Council said.

Wicklow County Council will continue to expand the initiative to support local businesses.

The 'Open for Business' campaign will run for the summer months on social media to help spotlight local businesses in the town and encourage people to shop local.

If anyone would like to receive regular updates on works being carried out in the town, they are invited to submit their request for a form to be included on the email distribution list to arklowmd@wicklowcoco.ie.

It is important that the lines of communication remain open throughout this period of transformation.

Pride Festival founder calls for premises to fly the flag this June

Cofounder of the Wicklow Pride Festival, Dave Thomas, is asking for the continued support for the LGBTQ+ Community by flying the Pride rainbow flag as we approach Pride Month on 1st June.



Cofounder of the Wicklow Pride Festival Dave Thomas

"After the call out last year, there was a phenomenal response with many schools, libraries, Cafes, Bars, Shops, Hotels, Shopping Centres and various businesses across County Wicklow flying the Pride Rainbow Flag for the Month of June and in some cases throughout the whole Summer, which was amazing. Last year there was an increase in the amount of flags flying, and this is a tremendous show of solidarity from the broader community, and it means a lot to us all."

Dave can be contacted through the Wicklow Pride Festival Facebook Page where there will be information and more throughout the year.

"On behalf of the Wicklow Pride Festival, I ask everyone to join us again this year. Sadly we have recently seen an increase of homophobic attacks, verbal, physical and horrifically the murders of Michael Snee and Aidan Moffitt, which sadly underlines that we still have issues with acceptance of diversity and difference in Ireland. The attacks and the murders reminds me of the horrific murder of Declan Flynn in 1982 in Fairview Park in Dublin. His death, and the results of the trial that fol-



The Pride flag at Arklow C.B.S. in 2021

lowed, sparked the first protest marches in Dublin that evolved into the Dublin Pride Parade that we have today. In many ways we have progressed since 1982, and in some, we clearly have not.

"While we do not have Hate Crime Legislation passed yet, it is needed, but it won't solve all the problems. It will be a great asset to help reduce Hate Crimes, but it won't stop it.

"We need to include in the education of young people in every school that our society is made up of people that are all different from each other. Children need to learn what diversity is. They need to learn about the LGBTQ+ community and they need to stop hearing from Religious Institutions that

Homosexuality is evil and wrong. As long as Religious Institutions continue to teach young people that it is acceptable to hate, discriminate and view other people as evil, we will always have some level of hate in our society. This must stop.

"This June, I ask everyone across county Wicklow and beyond, to stand with the LGBTQ+ community by flying a Pride rainbow flag. This sends a strong message, one filled with love, acceptance, support, encouragement and an acknowledgement that our society stands as one community that is beautifully diverse and wonderfully unique."

The Wicklow Pride Festival is planning to hold a fully inclusive

event in early July 2023. They are looking for Sponsorship, support and more to bring the festival

back with a great event for all.

The Wicklow Pride Festival was created in 2015 by Dave and his husband Patrick Bracken. They had previously created the Arklow LGBTQ+ Social Drop-In Group in 2012 and the Arklow Pride Festival in 2014.

Senator David Norris became the official Patron of the Festival. In 2015 he visited Arklow to officially launch it and to unveil the Wicklow Pride Festival monument that commemorates the occasion in Arklow Town Park.



The Pride Flag flying at Bray Library last year

Avondale Community College wins award at the Water Schools of the Year

The achievements of Ireland's young water champions were celebrated last week at the annual Green-Schools Water Awards hosted by An Taisce Green-Schools and Irish Water.

Over the past school year, over 123,000 students from 551 schools all over Ireland have participated in the Green-Schools water theme which is sponsored by Irish Water. The water theme looks at developing awareness around

water conservation and how to effectively manage this precious resource in our schools and at home. Gabriella Dodd from Avondale Community College, picked up the award for best poster in the Secondary School

category in the East and Midlands Region at the Water Schools of the Year. Balbriggan Community College in Fingal, Co. Dublin was named the overall Secondary Water School of the Year, while St Brigid's National School

in Meath Hill, Navan, Co. Meath were declared the overall winners in the Primary School category.

Speaking at the awards, Geoffrey Bourke of Irish Water congratulated all the winners for their efforts to highlight the value of water. "We have seen how the younger generation has taken the lead in the battle against climate change. In the same spirit, the students and schools who have taken part in the Green-Schools Water Theme this year have shown exceptional leadership in inspiring their communities to value our precious water resources. We all have a role to play in safeguarding our water and they are leading by example through outstanding water conservation, communication and education initiatives. Congratulations to all the winners and everyone who has taken part in this excellent programme."

Green-Schools Manager Cathy Baxter said: "Once again this year we have seen some

and inspirational ideas from the participating students. They have shown great leadership, not just in their schools but also in their wider communities.

"Our Schools of the Year winners have shown a real willingness to reach out beyond the schools themselves to

engage with a wider audience, including using social media to spread the word about water conservation.

"Well done to all the schools who took part in the programme this year for their outstanding efforts." Among the awards given out at the event were the regional

and national Water Schools of the Year and the Green-Schools poster and video competition winners. The country's top Water Ambassadors were also honoured at the special ceremony which took place in Dublin. This is the ninth year of the Green-Schools partner-

ship with Irish Water, and in that time over 1,600 schools have taken part, attending interactive water workshops or Walk for Water events, hosting talks from Irish Water staff or visiting their local water and wastewater treatment plants.



Gabriella Dodd from Avondale Community College, picked up the award for best poster in the Secondary School category in the East and Midlands Region



Pictured is the Kilmac team at the 5th and 6th Class Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantain Girls Football Participation Day at Bray Emmets GAA Club. Schools represented included St. Laurence's, Kilcoole, Scoil Chualann, Ashford, Roundwood, St. Brigid's, Gaelscoil na Clocha Liath, Greystones Educate Together, Newtown, Kilmac, Greystones Community National School and St. Peter's. There were some great displays of teamwork and score taking as well as fast paced skilful football.

Thanks again to Dave Barry and Willie Braine of Bray Emmets and the Young Whistlers from Coláiste Ráithín and Pres Bray who contributed hugely to the smooth running of the blitz.

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'Wicklow's biodiversity is at a crossroads'



Jennifer Whitmore at the Avoca River

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has said that Wicklow's biodiversity is at a crossroads and must be prioritised by government. Deputy Whitmore made the comments during National Biodiversity Week and after the first meeting of the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity.

"It's a crucial time for biodiversity in Wicklow given the large number of on and offshore development, including large housing projects and wind farms off the coast of Wicklow. Where there is large scale development, there can be risks for biodiversity if there aren't protective measures to prevent loss or damage to the surrounding environment," said Deputy Whitmore.

"As TD for Wicklow and as an ecologist, I am passionate about biodiversity and have been advocating for the prioritisation of this area of climate action in my role on the Oireachtas Committee for Climate Action and as SocDems Spokesperson for Climate and Biodiversity. I have been pushing for individual protections for biodiversity such as my Wildlife Bill protecting basking sharks, and amending legislation to ensure biodiversity is included when we talk

about climate action.

"Government needs to take a biological perspective not only on a national level but also on a local level, for example in Wicklow where we have so much development but also so much potential. We are lucky to have Glendalough, Wicklow Mountains National Park, Brittas Bay SAC, however even these highly sensitive areas have not been protected sufficiently and are not as biodiversity rich as they could potentially be with the correct protections. I have been heavily engaged with the Minister in relation to the reforms of the National Park and Wildlife Service and the need for a Wildlife Crime Unit that is properly resourced. I will be talking on this in more detail in the Dáil this week when we have statements regarding the review of the NPWS.

"There is huge public interest in

protecting biodiversity in Wicklow and there's been a real community-level leadership in this regard, for example, planting trees, moving away from pesticides, letting public spaces go to weed and keeping areas free from human intervention.

"The government needs to start listening to ground-level groups such as those working across Wicklow, and help inform a more biologically-conscious response to climate change in Ireland.

"As I've said before, biodiversity in Wicklow is at a crossroads and if we don't prioritise protection of biodiversity we can see it further eroded. I believe Biodiversity Week is a good week to call for greater focus on our local and national biodiversity and to listen to our local communities championing for biodiversity in all its expressions," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

Act locally to make a global difference on World Ocean Day

Clean Coasts and National Spring Clean are offering in County Wicklow a free clean-up kit to host a clean-up on World Ocean Day.

With two weeks to go, Irish environmental charity Clean Coasts has joined forces with National Spring Clean, and they are inviting communities in County Wicklow to come together and start planning their World Ocean Day beach clean.

World Ocean Day is celebrated annually on June 8th to highlight the important role the ocean has for our life and the planet. In 2022, the focus will once more be on the 30x30 campaign: to create a healthy ocean with

abundant wildlife and to stabilize the climate, it's critical that 30% of our planet's lands, waters, and ocean are protected by 2030.

One of the issues affecting our ocean is marine litter that has become a global problem for both humans and marine life. However, communities in County Wicklow have demonstrated their desire to be part of the solution by taking part in several beach cleaning calls to action.

Once more, Clean

Coasts is asking individuals, households and groups to join them and take action to protect the ocean. To support their efforts, today registrations opened for communities and individuals in Ireland who want to receive free beach cleaning kits containing bags, gloves and hi-viz vests.

In 2021, the initiative changed its name from "World Oceans Day" to "World Ocean Day". By dropping the "s", its organisers wanted to highlight the fact that we are all connected by a

large ocean. This shared ocean supports all life on the planet, by producing most of the oxygen we breathe and regulating climate. No matter where we live, we all depend on the ocean to survive.

Statistics show that the number one cause of marine litter is litter dropped in towns and cities. Building on the success of the Spring Clean 22 campaign, which took place in the month of April and saw over 3,000 volunteers organising over 130 clean-ups in county Wicklow, the National Spring Clean programme is joining Clean Coasts this year in supporting these communities around Ireland.



The Clean Coasts volunteers cleaning up Bray Seafront

This means that each piece of marine litter removed from the coast in county Wicklow will have a positive impact on a global scale.

Clean Coasts is a charity programme,

run through the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce, which engages communities in the protection of Ireland's beaches, seas and marine life. Clean Coasts works with com-

munities to help protect and care for Ireland's waterways, coastline, seas, ocean and marine life. Clean Coasts thrives to create tangible and immediate improvements to Ireland's coastal envi-

ronment, involving thousands of volunteers removing large quantities of marine litter from our coastline each year.

To register, visit: cleancoasts.org/our-initiatives/world-ocean-day/

Shankill Parish wins European Climate Change Award

St. Anne's Parish, Shankill, is a joint recipient of the European Christian Environmental Network prize for 2022. The award seeks to recognise and affirm Christian environmental action in local churches across Europe.

St Anne's Parish launched its Shankill Action for a Green Earth (SAGE) project in 2016 in order to promote Pope Francis's encyclical letter Laudato Si. The Sage coordinator, Justin Kilcullen says "We decided that, in addition to seeking to make our parish more sustainable, we would work with the wider community in promoting sustainable living in Shankill. We engage politically with our local councillors and TDs to advocate for climate justice nationally and internationally."

SAGE is also registered as a Sustainable Energy Community with the SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) and the parish has received grants for upgrading its lighting and heating systems in the church. It has also cultivated a 'biodiversity bed' in the church grounds, supported by a Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council grant.

In awarding the prize the jury noted "the complex approach covering practical steps in energy saving with prayers, liturgy and further promotion of climate justice. The committee appreciated the engagement with the wider community, both locally and nationally, as part of its mission, and promoting the Church commitment for protection of creation within the Church setting."

Fr. Derry Murphy, Parish Priest of Shankill, said "This award is a great encouragement to us all to take up the challenge of climate change. Pope Francis has told us that this work is central to what it means to be a Christian today, and is not optional! It is important that we reflect this reality in our prayers and in our liturgies. We have made a good beginning but much more needs to be done."



Bray Coastcare volunteers with members of the Ukrainian community in Bray at a clean-up on Bray Seafront on Saturday 14th May. The Ukrainian community has reached out to Bray Coastcare to ask if they can participate in the group's monthly clean-up events. A Facebook group called 'Bray and Ukraine Community' has been created to bring Ukrainian refugees in Bray together with local residents on a number of initiatives. . Pic: Joe McQuillan

Coastal photography competition opens for entries

Clean Coasts' 13th annual Love Your Coast photography competition has official opened for entries. The Love Your Coast competition asks for amateur photographers to capture and celebrate the uniqueness of our coastal communities, environments, or waterways such as its stunning coastline, beautiful beaches, epic cliff faces, and raging rivers.

Wicklow has some of the most spectacular coastlines in the world and Clean Coasts want to encourage people to get out their cameras this summer as they explore the coast and capture its beauty.

Last Year, 15 images scored top places in the competition with Declan Roche's image from the Wildlife and Underwater category, entitled Let Me Out (taken at the Wexford

Harbour Quayfront in Co. Wexford) winning the overall Love Your Coast title for 2021.

Three Wicklow photographers placed within the top ten best Love Your Coast images over two categories in 2021. The first was Githin Tom Zachariah with their image A Small World for the Coastal Landscape category. The next was Odeta Burokaite's image entitled Webbed

Foot which placed in the top ten for the Creativity and the Coast category and the final top ten Wicklow image was James Grandfield's image entitled Three Generations from the Coastal Heritage category.

Photographers have until 9am on Monday the 29th August 2022 to submit their best images in one of five categories to be in with the chance to win a prize fund of €5,000 across all

categories.

The categories for this year include:

1. Wildlife and Underwater
2. Coastal Landscape
3. People and the Coast
4. Coastal Heritage
5. Creativity and the Coast

Each year Love Your Coast draws in a large amount of interest from Ireland's amateur photographers, coastal enthusiasts, and conservation and biodiversity-minded. Clean Coasts have ensured there is a diverse range of categories so there truly is something for everyone!

Photographers are encouraged to explore new and different methods and angles in capturing the coastal regions and wildlife and would discourage photographing of locations and species that have been heavily submitted in previous years.

Working with communities on the ground, Clean Coasts' mission is to help foster pride in our coastline, supporting Clean Coasts communities, groups, and volunteers to tackle issues affecting their local area. This competition provides an opportunity to view the coast and our waterways that the Clean Coasts programme works to protect from a completely different perspective and see the beauty captured therein.

Clean Coast manager Sinead McCoy stated: "The Clean Coasts pro-



Githin Tom Zachariah's image A Small World for last year's Coastal Landscape category



James Grandfield's image entitled Three Generations from the Coastal Heritage category in 2021



Odeta Burokaite's image Webbed Foot which placed in the top ten for the Creativity and the Coast category.

Nautical theme for Arklow Visual Arts competition

Arklow Visual Arts have announced a community art competition, open call, in conjunction with Arklow Library. The competition will be divided into two categories, the first being a junior under 18's and a second over 18's.

A nautical theme has been decided upon to celebrate Arklow's wonderful maritime history. There is a five euro submission fee with every entry with all proceeds being donated to the RNLI Arklow Lifeboat Station.

This is an exciting local community project for all who are interested in art. All submissions will be displayed in the Nautical Open Call Exhibition Online at arklowvisualarts.com and a curated selection of entries will be displayed in Arklow Library from June 1st-11th.

The age categories are: Age 5 or under; Age 6 - 10; Age 11 - 15; Age 15 - 18; Age 18+. All are welcome. The deadline for entries is 25th May via the online portal at www.arklowvisualarts.com.

The Arklow Visual Arts Gallery is located in the heart of Arklow Town, an active part of the community for over twenty years hosting exhibitions and encouraging artists to show off their talents. They welcome members to partake in group shows and solo exhibitions.

For further information please contact the gallery: arklowvisualarts@gmail.com or 089 4248376.



Leave only paw prints!

With summer rapidly approaching, the country's dog owners are being encouraged to leave only paw prints in the sand and pick up after their pets when using the country's beaches.

The UCD Acclimatize Project has identified dog faeces as an important cause of water pollution, which can result in temporary bathing prohibition notices being issued by local authorities. In an effort to address this issue, the UCD Acclimatize team has released an animated video entitled 'Leave Only Paw Prints' illustrating the direct link between dog fouling and poor beach water quality. They want to highlight the potential harm caused by the abandoned dog mess and encourage pet owners to take responsibility for cleaning up after their dogs on the beach to help ensure better water quality for all to enjoy. For more information on this initiative log onto www.acclimatize.eu/dogs.

People are more likely to come into contact with dog faeces on beaches through swimming and other recreational activities during the bathing season which runs from 1st June to 15th September. Contact with dog faeces can have serious health impacts including diarrhea and even blindness in children. Their research has shown that even one dog foul can result in contamination the size of a tennis court. Dublin City Council has advised that ultimately, dog owners may face increased restrictions on beach use as well as more frequent patrols by dog wardens in an effort by local authorities to keep our coastal waters clean and safe for use. Bylaws may also be reviewed in an effort to improve bathing water quality.

Speaking on the initiative Professor Wim Meijer, Professor of Microbiology at UCD said "The aim of our animation is to highlight the extent to which dog fouling causes deterioration of water quality and endangers public health. The unique aspect of this problem is that it can be rectified through our own actions. We are confident that increased awareness of this problem will lead more people to clean up after their dog. Each and every dog



owner who makes the conscious decision to pick up after their pet will be making a difference."

To gather data on the topic, in 2019 the UCD Acclimatize team began investigating the amount of dog fouling on four Dublin beaches; Sandymount Strand, Merrion Strand, Donabate and Portrane beaches. The results were then used to calculate its impact on bathing water quality. Its research is ongoing.

The Acclimatize project is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland Wales Programme 2014 - 2020, led by University College Dublin together with Aberystwyth University in Wales. Partners on the project include Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Dublin Bay Biosphere Partnership, the Environmental Protection Agency, Fingal County Council, Irish Water and Waterways Ireland. The research was undertaken led by Professor Wim G. Meijer, Niamh Martin, PhD Student, Jayne Stephens, PhD Student with support of the UCD Acclimatize team.



Music Generation Wicklow Youth Orchestra

Whale Theatre, Sunday 5th June @ 4pm (doors 3.30pm).
Tickets €60 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the
booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

Music Generation's Wicklow Youth Orchestra presents its inaugural performance!

Comprising of 21 musicians aged between 12 and 18 from all around north Wicklow, the orchestra has been running since February 2022 and is currently based in the Ashford Heritage & Community Centre. Our conductor is Áine Gell has recently taken part in the National Concert Halls Female Conductor Programme. Using skillful direction and mentorship Áine has helped the orchestra move towards finding their own distinctive sound. Orchestra leader Siofradh Walsh-Peel will lead the musicians through a lovely varied repertoire which is sure to please.

The orchestra is delighted to be able to hold its first performance in the fabulous Whale Theatre in Greystones. This is just the first step on what promises to be a long and fulfilling musical journey for many of our young Wicklow musicians. We are also joined by some young talented musicians who although not members of our orchestra have crossed our path recently and we are delighted to support them in a performance opportunity.

10th Annual Signal Open

An Exhibition by various artists, Tuesday 2nd August to Sunday 14th August, Signal Arts Centre

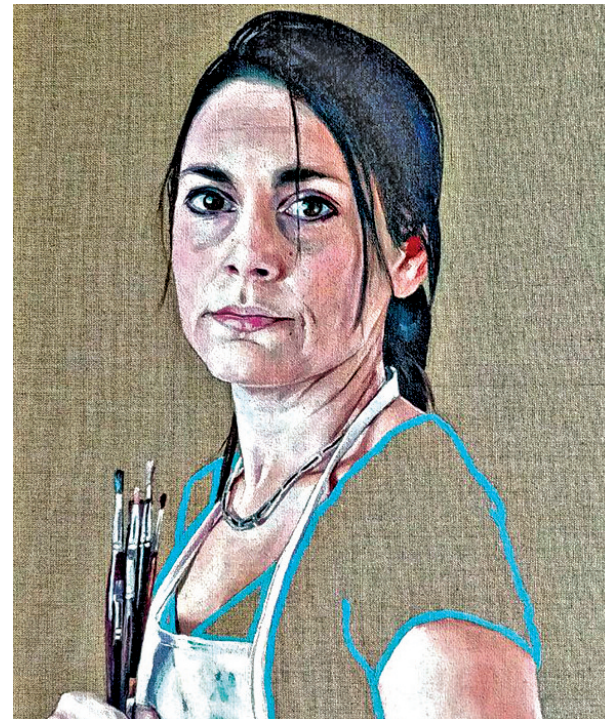
Over the last 250 years 'Open Submission' exhibitions have become established as an essential element of Arts infrastructure. They act as one of the most accessible routes for artists to have their work seen by the public and are almost invariably amongst the stepping stones in an artist's career.

These exhibitions provide an opportunity for artists to come together as a community to show and sell their work and provide the public with an eclectic insight into what's happening in the arts both locally and nationally.

A founding tenet of Signal Arts Centre is the belief that there is a huge amount of talent that goes unrecognised and that an opportunity should be there for all artists to exhibit their work. The Signal Open is just such an opportunity.

The Signal Open Exhibition is now in its 10th year and has become an annual event in artists' calendars. We have been delighted by the response and the quality of work submitted each year and we are very grateful to all of the artists for their support.

The 10th Annual Signal Open Exhibition takes place at the Signal Arts Centre from Tuesday 2nd – Sunday 14th August 2022. The 'Best in Show' winner will be awarded €1,000 and will be announced at the Exhibition Opening on Friday 5th August from 7-9pm.



Pictured above (left), "Fanta, Lemons" by Michael O'Leary, and (right): "Portrait of an Artist" by Lynn Kennedy

Live music in Calary returns with Silvija Scerbaviciute and YueTang

The first live concert of the 2022 Music in Calary series will be at 8pm on Thursday 26th May at 8pm in Calary Church when Yue Tang (cello) and Sylvie Scerbaviciute (flute) will play a programme.

Calary Church, Thursday 26th May, 8pm

Lithuanian flautist Silvija Scerbaviciute is the principal flute of RTE Radio Concert Orchestra in Dublin, Ireland, where she moved to in February 2021.

Silvija graduated from the Royal Academy of Music (London, UK) with a First Class Honours Bachelor's degree in July 2017, where she studied with Michael Cox, Helen Keen (piccolo) and Lisa Beznosiuk (baroque traverso).

While at RAM, Silvija received the Regency Award for Notable Achievement and won the prestigious Patrons Award, which resulted in a solo recital at Wigmore Hall in May 2017.

Silvija has since enjoyed a busy freelancing career, performing as guest principal flute with Oslo Philharmonic, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Hallé, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia and as principal piccolo with English National Opera and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Silvija is also a regular guest with the Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and London Mozart Players. In 2017-2018 Silvija held the flute position at the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Future Firsts Academy and Southbank Sinfonia. Prior to that, in 2016, she received a full

scholarship to participate at the Aspen Music Festival and School in Aspen (Colorado, USA) where she won the Woodwinds Concerto Competition and had the opportunity to explore the American music scene. Silvija is an alumna of Chetham's School of Music (Manchester, UK) and is originally from Vilnius, Lithuania, where she attended the National M.K. Ciurlionis School of Music.

Yue Tang, Sub-Principal cellist of the RTE Concert Orchestra. Born in Beijing, studied cello performance in Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, received his BA in Oberlin College, Ohio and M.Mus from Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin. He was the prize winner of Rio Hondo Young Musician Concerto Competition, Marina del Rey Concerto Competition, Chinese-American Showcase Competition and Kingsville International Competition. Prior joined the RTE Concert Orchestra in 2008, he was member of Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphonia, Ars Flores Symphony Orchestra, Miami City Ballet, Symphony of America, Atlantic Classic Orchestra as well as Florida Philharmonic Orchestra. He has shared the stage with artists such like Mstislav Rostropovich, Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido

Domínguez, Kiri Te Kanawa, Lang Lang, Sir. James Galway, Joseph Silerstein, Giuseppe Sinopoli, Zubin Mehta, Lalo Schiffrin, John Williams, Bryn Terfel, Angela Gheorghiu and many more.

His solo cello album "Variations on Cello" was well received by public and has been played regularly on Lyric FM. He has also made his TV appearance on RTE One reality show "Instrumental" in 2012 as cello tutor and solo cello performance on "Dancing with the stars" in 2019. Since 2015, Yue has been acting Section Leader cello of RTE Concert Orchestra and has led the section in CO's first China Tour in 2017.

Programme

J.S. Bach Sonata BWV 1031
Brevall Duet No.3
Hoffmeister Duet in C major
Danzon Duet op.64
Beethoven Duo in C major

Interval

Britten Gemini Variations:
theme, Var.III-VII, Var.X,
Finale, Fugue
Villa-Lobos: The Jet
Whistle
Piazzola: Cafe 1930



Yue Tang, Sub-Principal cellist of the RTE Concert Orchestra



Lithuanian flautist Silvija Scerbaviciute

From Belo Horizonte to Greystones

An evening with the artist Leandro Gladstone

Brazilian self-taught photographer and musician Leandro Gladstone will have an art event in Greystones, Co. Wicklow, on June 2nd (from 5pm) to share his photographic work *A Look at the Streets* and music, from Sweet and Stone, during a small exhibition and open mic at Rise at the Cove.

"A Look at the Streets" (in Portuguese "Um Olhar Sobre as Ruas") was born while Leandro was traveling to Colombia, many years ago, with his old band. He borrowed a cam-

era from his ex-girlfriend and used it to register the streets of the cities they were visiting and decided to go create the project when he was back to Belo Horizonte, his hometown

in Brazil.

Leandro is a person of colour who grew up in a poor family in Brazil, having to face many challenges, including racism from his own father. His

mother never had the chance to support his talents (he's also a self-taught musician) but Leandro never gave up doing what he loved and this project was very special for him.

"A Look at the Streets is firstly about me, about people like myself that just needed a change. Or to be seen. I didn't need a fancy camera when I started this project and I didn't care much about the 'quality' of the photos, I just cared about what the photos meant to me. How they made and make me feel. And they make me feel alive. I am part of each of these photos, it's like a mirror, it reflects my life and it reflects society and its abandonment to the less favoured people", says Leandro.

In the beginning of this year, a close friend who has been living in Ireland for over a decade, decided

to launch a fundraising to realise Leandro's dream: to transform his photos into a book. With the fundraising and the help from people all over the world, his friend was not only able to print the book, but to purchase flights to bring Leandro to Ireland. And with the support of local people, Leandro will also have his first international exhibition.

As Leandro is also a musician, Rise at the Cove will host an open mic to bring community together with live music and some of the photos will be exhibited in the cafe too. During the event, people will have the opportunity to see his work, have a chat and purchase his prints. The money raised will go towards the Irish edition of A Look at the Streets, as Leandro will be photographing the country during the few weeks he'll be here in Ireland.

Leandro's first international exhibition opened in Bray at Finnbees Café on May 19th. During the opening night, people had the opportunity to see his work, have a chat and purchase his prints. The money raised will go towards the Irish edition of A Look at the Streets, as Leandro will be photographing the country during the few weeks he'll be here in Ireland. His photos will be on display at Finnbees until May 30th.



Leandro Gladstone

ICONS II at The Courthouse Arts Centre

*By Paul MacCormaic,
Sunday 15th May - Sunday 12th June*

Paul began making icons in 2006 after graduating from UCD, where he first encountered them whilst reading History of Art. He loves their simplicity, and, like a magpie is drawn to their glimmering gold. He likes the fact that the appear as self-contained units, housed in their specially constructed frames. At UCD it was pointed out that icons are an early version of Conceptual Art, disregarding realism and emphasising the message.

Paul toured Europe and saw wonderful collections, especially in Crete, the Courtauld Gallery. In truth, he and his wife encountered icons as a child being taken to

Catholic chapels and lighting a penny candle. Although Paul is a devout atheist, or technically an agnostic, a word that sounds like he's sitting on the fence, the iconography of Catholicism has stayed with him, and he enjoys the pageantry and beauty of church art.

Comment on his work Paul says, "Much church art was made to illustrate church doctrine to illiterate viewers. Much of it was direct at women, how to be virtuous and to know their place in society. The influence of the church has thankfully declined in my lifetime and secularism is the dominant code for living. What interest me is how people now find their moral compass, and it is not the Humanist ideal one might think. TV advertising, magazines and social media bombard us with opinion on how to live the ethical life. Every action becomes an ethical action: to buy fair trade, go vegan, get in shape, be a good parent, breast is best but if you don't breast feed, here's the perfect formula. This is the conceptual basis of ICONS II. Some of these icons were shown in Axis Ballymun in 2017 and this exhibition has the addition of several



more. I had been looking for other venues to exhibit the icons and the Courthouse Arts Centre, with its church-like appearance and the footfall generated by community activity, is an ideal place to host them."

Paul MacCormaic was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1961 and continues to live and work there. He grew up in Finglas, a suburb on the city's north side, which was an amazing laboratory of

adventure for an enquiring mind. Just 200 metres from his council house family home, began the fields and hedgerows of North County Dublin where he climbed trees, dammed ditches and observed nature. Finglas fed his curiosity for all things scientific, including physics, zoology and anthropology.

Paul had his first solo exhibition in Saint Andrew's Lane Theatre in 1991. This was fol-

lowed by Refrigerate After Opening in 1997 at the School Yard Theatre in Charleville County Cork and was the first show in which subject of food and consumption would become a continuous theme with his work. In 2002, The Daffodil Gallery Skerries, hosted 'A Brick A Week', a collection of paintings that documented the DIY holiday homes of North County Dublin, in places like Portrane, Donabate

and Rush. Most of them have now fallen into ruin.

As a mature student MacCormaic graduated from UCD, having read History of Art and went to Dunlaoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT) graduating in 2006.

Since graduating he has been a full-time artist and part-time teacher of painting classes in NCAD and Art History in local schools.



Artist and educator Brian Fay hosts this in-conversation with Kidney and Geddis, which marks the launch of their new eponymous project publication, in The Mermaid Arts Centre on Thursday 26th May at 6:30pm. Commissioned by Mermaid Arts Centre, the book includes a text by Dr. Doris Rohr and a written correspondence with Brian Fay. The event is free but booking is essential - through the Box Office on 01 - 2724030

Nissan Ariya - Large all electric crossover unveiled

Nissan have had a leadership role in electric motoring since they showed us their first Leaf's way back in 2010. It was big leap into a brave new world, at the time.

by Martin McCarthy

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.**

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. **MO'R**

That pioneering motorcar has been the best-selling electric car in Ireland for most of the last 12 years – but the numbers sold were still small with battery range, charging infrastructure and price being the main obstacles to better sales.

I am sure if they added up the total costs of training, tools and other costs needed to support electric cars, it surely is not a profitable project yet for Nissan. However they had their winning Crossover SUV, Qashqai selling like hot cakes – which helped pay the electric project bills.

Yet they now have more experience than anyone else of electric

motoring – and hence are in a better position that anyone to guess at what could suits Irish motorists. As they developed the Crossover sector they know that aspect, intimately, also.

So while the Hyundai Ioniq 5 and the Kia EV6 have been a lot (too much?) noise here lately, it will be interesting to see if the new Ariya outsells the Korean twins next year.

Nissan used Mondello Park, Naas and Rathallagh Hotel in the majestic West Wicklow hills to unveil the new model and the immediate impressions are very favourable.

It's big, tall and roomy and being priced at a grand and a bit under €50,000 – €48,995 to be exact – is an important attribute. Designed and built in Japan, initially, they ooze quality of construction and the latest



Martin McCarthy testing new Nissan Ariya at Mondello Park

Japanese design tends. Two battery options are available, a 63 kWh battery that delivers a range of 402 kilometres and an 87 kWh battery that offers a range of 529 kilometres, making the no compromise Ariya perfect for daily commutes or longer road trips.

Nissan is launching the car with two grade options featuring many of its innovative safety and infotainment features as standard.

"Nissan invented the crossover segment with the Nissan Qashqai in 2007 and started the journey to electrification when it launched the mass market Nissan LEAF in 2010. The all new Ariya builds on our success, key strengths and pioneering expertise and we expect that it will quickly establish itself as one of the best-selling EVs on Irish roads," said Seamus Morgan, Managing Director of Nissan Ireland.

The new Ariya is the most technically advanced Nissan to date. It has been specially designed to meet the needs of tech-savvy

customers and to be a partner in an increasingly connected world, offering seamless, personal assistance and responses. Wireless Apple Carplay, cabled Android Auto, a wireless phone charger and Intelligent personal assistance technology come as standard.

Nissan's Safety Shield System also comes as standard, including Intelligent 360° Around View Monitor, Intelligent Forward Collision Warning, Intelligent Driver Alertness, Intelligent Cruise Control and Lane Intervention, Intelligent Emergency Braking (Pedestrian & Cyclist Detection, Junction Assist), Rear Emergency Braking and cross traffic alert technology.

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Please email a CV and a Course Outline to the Director of Adult Education at: karlglennfinnegan@kwetb.ie

(If you have ideas for other classes, we'll be happy to consider them. Please send suggestions to above email.)

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Please send your CV to:
darglevalleynh@gmail.com
FOA Nicola Kirk DON.

CLEANER REQUIRED

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(2p.m. - 6p.m - Monday to Friday)



St Laurence O'Toole's National School, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow.

For further details please contact the school office on **01 2818399** or to apply please send applications by email to: chairpersonhom@roundwoodns.ie or postal applications by **Wednesday 8th June** to

The Principal
St Laurence O'Toole's National School
Roundwood, Bray, Co. Wicklow. A98 RP49

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

or by post to

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

Wicklow consumers recycled 17 batteries per person last year

Wicklow consumers recycled the equivalent of 17 AA batteries per person in 2021, surpassing the national average, new figures reveal..



Data from WEEE Ireland shows Ireland achieved a 46% battery recycling rate in 2021, reaching its EU directive obligations.

Nationally, there was a 16% increase in the amount of batteries recycled by Irish households, in line with increased consumption and greater usage of batteries in everyday products.

The spike in recycling is equivalent to 15 AA batteries saved from landfill per person - an increase of two per person on 2020.

Consumers in Wicklow were above the national trend, averaging an equivalent of 17 AA batteries per person which were prevented from entering landfill.

"This small increase of two extra AA batteries recycled per person across Ireland made a huge difference and we are urging everyone in Wicklow to recycle at least two more in 2022 to reach our target - and to stop and think before throwing them in the bin," said WEEE Ireland CEO, Leo Donovan.

Younger consumers, in particular, are being urged to stop binning used batteries - as a new survey reveals almost half of 18-34-year-olds are tossing them in the trash.

WEEE Ireland's study found that despite warnings around the environmental and safety hazards of incorrect disposal of end-of-life batteries, behavioural change is urgently needed amongst the younger generation.

"They are often lauded as the most environmentally conscious, yet the survey shows a worrying

43% of adults under the age of 34, actually throw their used batteries in general waste bins instead of recycling them," said Mr Donovan.

"Binning batteries means that a range of really valuable resources will never be recycled. We need a sea change in behaviour amongst this cohort in order to properly address the problem."

The survey of 1,000 people, conducted online by Empathy Research last month, reveals that more than a quarter (28%) of people are unaware that batteries contain valuable

resources such as cobalt, zinc, nickel and lithium, which can be used again.

Over 55s are the most eco-conscious, with just 9% binning batteries - the lowest of all age categories - while 81% know they contain valuable materials.

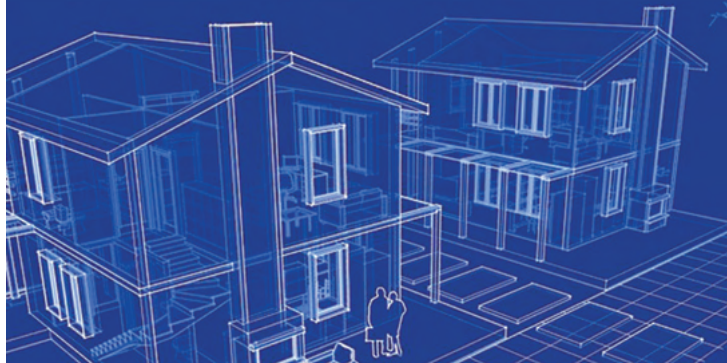
Only 2% of over 55s hoard them, but this rises to 26% for 18-34 year olds.

Sure Partners Limited (SPL), a subsidiary of SSE Renewables, are developing Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 which is a proposed offshore wind farm located off the Wicklow coast. SPL will soon commence survey activities involving offshore ground investigations to facilitate the design development of the wind farm. The proposed site investigation activities include boreholes and associated testing, with all activities undertaken in accordance with the conditions outlined in the associated foreshore licence (ref FS007339). Weather depending, the initial phase of the survey work is anticipated to start at the end of May and is planned to be completed by August 2022. The location of the surveys will be off the Wicklow coastline within the area identified in the foreshore licence. The survey activities planned this year will include approximately 8 boreholes at discrete locations within the license area from a jack-up vessel. A Marine Notice for the site investigation activities has been published by the Department of Transport and is available on the Department's website <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/cc42-marine-notices-2022/>

sse
Renewables

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PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, the Board of Management of Temple Carrig Secondary School, intend to apply for permission for development at Coolagad, Blacklion, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of changes to the existing hockey pitch granted under previous planning Ref 13/8103, the provision of a new sand dressed training pitch on part of the area of the existing pitch, the construction of a new viewing terrace, new pedestrian walkway, retaining walls, new pump house, re-orientation of the existing lighting for the pitches and all associated ancillary site works. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee of €20 within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We Stephen and Siobhan Maguire seek permission for a two storey extension at the rear and the side of the dwelling together with a single storey extension at the rear. Including altering the existing ground floor front window to form a bay window and to extend the hallway and front door at the front of the dwelling at 47, Hollybrook Park, Bray Co. Wicklow A98HK18. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee of €20 within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Keldrum Limited seek planning permission for minor alteration/extension to the childcare building and site layout granted permission Reg Ref 19/853 and an intensification of its use. The proposed development consists of the following: (1) Minor alterations to Childcare / Crèche Unit including revised elevations, an extension to the ground / first plan adding a total of 58Msq to the overall building area. (2) A revised site layout plan, parking arrangements and a reduction of the site area. (3) An intensification of use to that permitted Reg Ref 19/853 by increasing childcare numbers to 190 places. All this together with connections to foul/surface water services, an attenuation system, site developments work at The Broomhall Business & Enterprise Park, Merrymeeting, Co Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Mark Flood, intend to apply for permission for development at this site at Belan Street, Baltinglass, Co Wicklow. The development will consist of: Amendments to previously granted Permission 20 /737: consisting of the demolition of a disused farm outhouse building of 60m2 and the proposed construction of 12no. 3-Bedroom semi-detached dwellings, new vehicular entrance onto the R747 and associated site development works for car parking, footpaths, foul and surface water drainage, and hard and soft landscaping, street lighting, 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 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.

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Wed 25th May 10:00-17:00

Thurs 26th May 10:00-21:00

Fri 27th May 10:00-13:00

**Next
OPEN DAY**

Thurs 26th May

7 to 9pm

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Art Portfolio Preparation Course
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NEW

NEW

NEW

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