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Page 3



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Page 6



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Tuesday 14th June 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

WICKLOW DELIVERING HOUSES

Last Friday saw the opening of 82 new local authority homes across County Wicklow. A new 22 home scheme was opened at Mountainview Drive in Newtownmountkennedy, while the keys for new houses in Hawkstown Park (Wicklow Town), and Jamestown Heights (Kilmacanogue) were handed over to long waiting new tenants.

The three new housing estates in Wicklow Town, Newtown and Kilmacanogue were officially opened by Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, in the presence of Daragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Simon Harris TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education.

Hawkstown Park Wicklow consists of eight one-bed, 16 two-bed and 16 three-bed homes, all of which were allocated in the recent weeks. Mountain View in Newtown consists of six one bed and 16 two bed homes and will be allocated in the coming weeks. Jameson Heights Kilmacanogue has 20 homes and the residents moved in during the

COVID pandemic.

The provision of these homes is among many schemes being developed in Co Wicklow under the Council's Building and Supply Programme. All the houses are highly energy efficient, achieving a BER of A3 for the majority of homes using high efficiency air to water heat pumps, resulting in low cost in use.



Ciara Kavanagh, Robert Kelly, David Kinsella, Michael McNamara, and Jackie Carroll at Brittas Bay with the Blue Flag, which was recently awarded to Brittas Bay's North and South beaches. Pic: Michael Kelly

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Performing the official opening, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Shay Cullen, said: "I recognise the serious challenge we face in terms of housing and a critical focus and priority has been firmly placed on responding to this challenge by Wicklow County Council through the development and implementation of the Social Housing supply programme. Today we officially open three housing estates and this marks the first of many official openings to come.

"In the last two years due to COVID there were no official openings but works continued throughout the pandemic and while official openings did not take place houses were allocated, in numerous parts of the County

including Arklow Greystones and Bray to mention but a few, to families in need. Wicklow County Council vigorously continues to progress its development programme under the Rebuilding Ireland banner."

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, stated: "Over the course of the next two years, the Council's programme is expected to deliver newly constructed homes for more than 400 households on the Council's social housing list. The Council currently has five projects at various stages of construction and tendering, which will yield a further 99 homes before the end of 2023.

"A further eight schemes are under active consideration with a potential yield for a further 388 units. We are

also engaged with Approved Housing Bodies under the CALF

and CAS schemes and with private developers who are delivering additional units under Part V."

Continued on Page 3

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Pupils from 6th class of St. Laurence O'Toole National School in Roundwood were the winners of the first inter-school quiz hosted by Roundwood Historical Society. Pictured L-R are Sinead Sharkey (Principal, Roundwood NS), Fionn Stephens, Adam Jenkinson, Noah Lorenz, Lorcan Gaskin, and Claire Chambers, Chair of Roundwood Historical Society.

Enniskerry fundraising walks for refugees

Help make a difference and support efforts to rehome a family in Enniskerry. There will be a fundraising walk on Sunday 19th June, the day before World Refugee Day, and family groups and individuals are invited to participate by taking part in one of three walks that best match their level of fitness.

The first walk is the Higher Maulin Loop from Knockree Hostel, it starts at 11am and takes approximately three hours. The second walk is the Lower Maulin Loop from Knockree Hostel, it starts at 12 noon and takes about two hours. The third walk is from Knockree Hostel via Wicklow Way to Bluebell Field and River Walk. It starts at 1pm and takes about one hour.

Ukrainian people who are living in the area are particularly welcome to join the walks. The Walks will be followed by refreshments and an afternoon of music, dancing and fun at Knockree Hostel where locals and Ukrainian visitors can get to know each other and socialise together.

Register on www.enniskerrywelcomes.weebly.com, and donate on the GoFundMe page at <https://gofund.me/da6ca049>. There will also be an opportunity to make donations on the day of the Walk.

Ashford Historical Society meeting

Ashford Historical Society will hold its first meeting, after the Covid period, in Ashford Heritage & Community Centre on Tuesday 14th June at 7:30pm. Following the successful publication of our latest journal, we look forward to taking on new project's on the historical events in Ashford/Glenealy and surrounding areas. Anyone interested in our local history is very welcome along and to participate in our activities and presentations from visiting historians.

Redford Cemetery Mass

The Annual Cemetery Mass in Redford Cemetery, Greystones, will take place this year on Friday 24th June at 8pm.

Wicklow to Wales stand-up paddle

Damien Wildes and Charlie Fleetwood will be doing a Stand Up Paddle across the Irish Sea. The pair will travel from Greystones Harbour Marina to Holyhead in Wales. This mammoth journey will be in aid of three Wicklow charities: Purples House Cancer Support; RNLI Greystones Newtown

Branch; Sharpeshill SPCA. Their target is to raise €15,000. You can help them on their way by contributing via iDonate (www.idonate.ie/the-crossing2022). The team will leave Greystones at 3 am, hoping to arrive between 7 pm and 8 pm that evening.

Travel date will be between 7 and 10 July, depending on the tides.

Bat Watch & Walk in Glendalough

Watch as hundreds of tiny pipistrelle bats fly out of the information office attic at dusk. Then join some bat detectors for a short night time walk. Bring insect repellent and a torch! This event will take place at 9.30pm on Thursday 16th June, meet at the Information Office, Upper Lake, Glendalough, A98R221. Parking at the Upper Lake County Council Car Park, A98W778 (charges apply). Free, booking not required. For more information phone 0404 45425.

New date for Wicklow Lions Golf Classic

The date for the annual Wicklow & District Golf Classic has been changed from June 17th to June 24th. If last year's event is anything to go by then this year should prove to be the ultimate golfing day out in beautiful Blainroe Golf course. This is a major fundraiser for the Lions Club and all funds raised will help all local charities and individuals.

"Sincere thanks to SSE Renewables and local company CD Auctioneers who have come onboard which will make a huge difference on funds raised on June 17th," said Wicklow Lions Club. Please contact John Mulqueen or any Lions member if anyone would like to be part of this special day for charity.

Be part of the combined 1,000,000 steps

There will be a 24-hour sponsored walk taking place from 12 noon on 18th June to 12 noon 19th June at Russborough House, in aid of Blessington & District Day Care Centre and St. Mary's Schools. For a sponsor card call 087 9195 991. Parking on the day will cost €3, and there will also be a treasure hunt. You can walk any time, day or night.

Greystones Municipal District & Wicklow Times People of the Year Awards returns

The elected members Greystones Municipal District, in conjunction with The Wicklow Times, have agreed to resume the People of the Year Awards in September 2022 following two years when the event was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, Green Party Councillor Lourda Scott stated last week that nominations were now being invited under the following categories: Sports Person of the Year, Civic Person of the Year, Special Person of the Year, Cultural Person of the Year, Commercial Person of the Year and Young Entrepreneur of the Year. She stated that nominations can be made by letter or email or on nomination papers available from the GMD office.

The Cathaoirleach stated that nominations should be proposed and seconded by

two different persons and all nominations must be returned to the Council Offices, Mill Road, Greystones, - Email: Greystonesmd@wicklow-coco.ie on or before Friday 19th August, 2022.

She pointed out that the Awards would be presented at a function to be held on Thursday 29th September, 2022 in the Greystones Golf Club, Whitshed Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

Councillor Scott stated that the District Councillors, in conjunction

with the Wicklow Times, wished to honour persons for their achievements and their contribution to the community. She pointed out that the "Special Person of the Year" award was included to recognise people who have overcome personal difficulties in their achievements.

Councillor Scott concluded by saying that it was imperative that all clubs, organisations and businesses participated in the nominations to ensure the success of the People of the Year Awards Scheme.

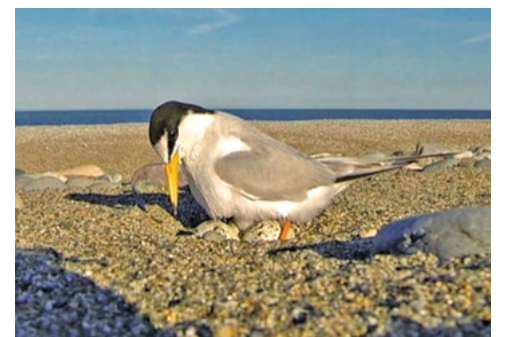
Local Birdwatch Ireland events

Bray Head Seabird colony

Visit to the Seabird Colony, Cliff Walk, Bray Head, to see and hear the nesting Guillemots, Razorbills, Kittiwakes and Fulmars. Meet at the Information Board in Raheen Cliff Park, Bray at the start of the Bray-Greystones Cliff Walk at 7.00pm on Thursday 23rd June. Finish by 8.30pm. This event is organised by Birdwatch Ireland.

Little Tern colony

BirdWatch Ireland's annual visit to the Little Tern Colony on Kilcoole Beach takes place this month. Meet in Kilcoole Railway Station Car Park at 9.30am on Saturday 25th June. Finish by 11.30am.



One of Kilcoole's Little Terns

Wicklow Lions BBQ a success

One of the most enjoyable social events of Wicklow Lions Club's calendar took place outside the Jailor's Rest at Wicklow's Historic Gaol on Friday 3rd June.

Wicklow & District Lions Club held its first BBQ for many years in blistering evening sunshine on the historic grounds of the local Gaol.

People came from far and wide and in particular many Ukrainian people attended which in most cases was their very first social event for them since they moved to Wicklow.

Wonderful music and singing was supplied by two girls from Ukraine Alina Kuzmina and Yulia Katalagina who now live in Ireland.

People are still talking about the wonderful food supplied by Eoghan Whelan and his staff.

Funds raised will be used to help Ukrainian families with difficulties as they try to settle in the area, and local charities will also benefit.

President of the Lions Sean Olohan said he would sincerely like to thank everyone who came along and to everyone who helped make the evening so successful. A special thanks to Tanya from the local Hub

who organised so many Ukrainians to come along. Thanks to Fergal Canterbury for looking after the sound."

The next big event will be the annual Lions Golf Classic which will take place on June 17th at Blainroe Golf Course. Last year it proved to be the best supported event of the year and golf officer John Mulqueen is hoping for the same support this year.

"Sincere thanks to CD Auctioneers and SSE Renewables for their ongoing very important support which is extremely appreciated," added Sean.



Denise and Michael Lynn with Jackie Olohan at the Wicklow Lions Club BBQ at Wicklow Gaol

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

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Stokes being co-opted to Council

The vacant Council seat on Wicklow County Council following the resignation of Independent Councillor Mags Crean from Greystones Municipal District is to be filled by Stephen Stokes.



Stephen Stokes

Following the nomination from Cllr Crean, Stokes is set to be co-opted at this Monday's meeting of Wicklow County Council.

Stokes has served as a Councillor before, being elected in 2009 to Greystones Town Council, then as a Labour Party candidate, and serving until 2014.

He was also Mayor of Greystones during his term, taking over from Kathleen Kelleher in 2013, and was Chair of the Greystones Town Council Tourism and Twinning Committee from 2009-2014.

Stephen received BA in History & Politics at UCD and also a Masters Degree in American Studies.

Along with his mother Bernadette, Stephen was instrumental in the successful Campaign for Greystones Dog Park. He successfully submitted the first motion to Greystones Town Council calling on Wicklow County Council to provide a Dog Park for Greystones. The motion was carried in March 2012.

Stephen lived for six years in England, where he worked with international students. He now works in international education as a Resident Director.

Most recently he was one of the organisers, along with Viv Collins, of the Rally for Ukraine in Greystones, which was held on March 11th.

Stephen is an Honorary Life Member of Bray-Greystones Chess Club and won the ACO (Amateur Chess Organisation) World Amateur Chess Championship (U1600 section) in 2017, the only Irish person to ever win an ACO medal.

Shock at death of Wicklow principal

School patron body pays tribute to 'outstanding' principal who led the establishment of Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School

There was shock last week following the death of the founding principal of Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School Colm Kehoe, who died suddenly at his home in Gorey on Saturday 4th June.

Educate Together has paid tribute to Colm, who was appointed principal of ETSS Wicklow in May 2019, when the new school was announced.

"He brought a wealth of experience from his work in education in Ireland and abroad and invested huge time, skill and hard work to build a wonderful team of staff and a strong school community," Educate Together stated.

CEO of Educate Together Emer Nowlan said: "We were all shocked and deeply saddened to hear this terrible news. Colm was an outstanding school leader - his dedication to young people and passion for student-centred learning were clearly visible to all who knew him. In three short years, Colm has built a vibrant, happy school community in ETSS Wicklow, where students are at the centre of everything, and educational innovation and creativity are the norm. And every step of the way, Colm put students first - his quiet modesty was in contrast to his enormous achievements as an educator and school principal."

Chair of the Board of Management of Wicklow ETSS, Danny Haskins, expressed the profound sadness of the whole school community on the loss of Colm: "As the leader of our new school community, Colm built strong relationships with students, parents, staff and board members over the past three years, and we are devastated at his loss. He was a



Colm Kehoe

committed professional, a highly-valued colleague and a much-loved teacher who brought Educate Together's student-centred and democratic ethos to life in ETSS Wicklow over the past three years."

Colm's achievements during his career as a teacher and school leader were many. Just in the past three years, he established the Wicklow Model United Nations within months of opening a brand new secondary school, inviting students from around the region to ETSS Wicklow to discuss global issues and develop leadership and other important skills.

He then successfully moved this initiative online, providing important

engagement and connections for students during the pandemic and ensuring continuity of learning. He also created the first all-Ireland Educate Together debating competition and engaged the whole national Educate Together second-level school network in this uplifting and educational online event.

Colm Kehoe returned to Ireland from Belgium in 2019 to take up the role of school principal in ETSS Wicklow, having spent ten years as a teacher of English with the European Schools and two years as coordinator of Model United Nations conferences in Brussels. He had worked in education in five countries - Ireland, England, Spain, Belgium and Guatemala - and held Bachelors Degrees in Arts and Law and Masters Degrees in International Law and Educational Leadership and Management.

"Colm's contribution to education is immeasurable and we will all miss his quiet passion for education, his creative ideas and his commitment to equality and student-centred learning," Emer Nowlan added. "That he has left us at such a young age is tragic, and all of us in the Educate Together network join with his family and the ETSS Wicklow community in mourning his terrible loss. His impact has been huge in the lives of students, staff and volunteers he worked with, and in setting ETSS Wicklow on the right course, he leaves a lasting and tangible legacy."



Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien officially opening the new houses at MountainView Drive in Newtown with Wicklow County Council Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen, WCC CEO Brian Gleeson, WCC Director of Services Breege Kilkenny, Minister Simon Harris, Senior Executive Officer, WCC, Theresa O'Brien, Senator Pat Casey, and Cathaoirleach of Wicklow Municipal District Cllr Gail Dunne

WICKLOW DELIVERING HOUSES

Continued from Page 1

Minister Simon Harris said: "These new homes being delivered to Wicklow families on the housing list will make a significant difference to 82 families. Getting the keys to a new home is an unforgettable moment."

"I want to wish the new residents of Mountainview Drive, Jamestown Heights and Hawkstown Park every happiness in the years ahead in their new homes and I look forward to opening further new Wicklow County Council housing developments modelled on the housing delivered here today."

"Increasing the supply of local authority homes is a key commitment in Housing for All. Wicklow is constantly growing and adapting and it is vital we provide all types of housing to meet the demand."

The Minister also encouraged more people to get involved in the construction trades He added: "As Minister for Further and Higher Education a priority for me is to ensure we have enough trained skilled construction workers to deliver on the ambitions of Housing for All."

"This will mean supporting the industry in a significant

ramp-up in education and training opportunities, including commitments regarding programmes and apprenticeships and delivery of new courses.

"Last month I launched the new Future Building Initiative which will see people from training agencies across the country working to identify people for direct placement into employment in the sector. There is no shortage of jobs in this sector."

"We need more skilled craft workers such as electricians, plumbers and carpenters to build more housing schemes such as the one we are opening today."

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Key contract signed for critical upgrade to drinking water supply



A major new construction contract will result in critical upgrades to the drinking water supply in South Dublin and North Wicklow, Irish Water has announced.

Irish Water last week announced the signing of the contract for a project which will provide a more reliable water supply for existing homes and businesses. It will also support social and economic growth and provide capacity for future growth for up to 12,000 homes.

The project, known locally as the Old Connaught-Woodbrook Water Supply Scheme, will involve the construction of two new state-of-the-art reservoirs and more than 13km of new water-mains, providing new drinking water infrastructure for the area which will provide network resilience and flexibility for South Dublin and North County Wicklow.

Ward and Burke Construction Limited have been awarded the construction contract and will deliver the project on behalf of Irish Water. Works are commencing later this month.

Commenting on importance of the project for the GDA, Alan Morrissey, Regional Delivery Regional Lead with Irish Water, said: "This project is an

important milestone in the Greater Dublin Area's water supply. These new reservoirs and associated pipelines will provide enough storage capacity to meet current and future demands of homes and businesses across South Dublin and North Wicklow for decades to come, and to attract new industry and allow existing companies to expand and grow.

"Today, in Ireland and across the world, we can see the impacts of Climate Change bringing with it long spells of warmer weather and warnings, alongside the continued need to support housing, businesses and economic growth. The East and Midlands of Ireland and the GDA's water network needs to be more resilient to periods of high demand which is why we are building future capacity into our water infrastructure.

"Projects such as these are essential to allow Irish Water to continue to support social and economic growth in Ireland through the delivery of essential water and wastewater services.

"The size and scale of the task to improve our water services and to cater for a modern, growing economy shouldn't be underestimated. We have made significant progress but there is work still to do as we continue to build world-class water infrastructure through our multi-billion programme of investment. This project is just one of a number of critical steps in safeguarding Dublin's water supply to ensure it is capable of meeting current and future demand."

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 growth in our economy, while protecting the environment and safeguarding water supplies.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities launched in Bray

Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan TD, launched the first Sláintecare Healthy Community in Bray on Friday 3rd June.

Launched nationally in October 2021, Sláintecare Healthy Communities is a cross-Government initiative to deliver increased health and wellbeing services to 19 community areas across Ireland. This programme will be delivered locally in partnership with the HSE, Wicklow County Council, statutory, voluntary and community groups as well as the local community. The programme will also fund new posts including staff working at community level within Wicklow County Council and the HSE to engage, support and coordinate support and services to the community in an effective manner.

Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD said: "I am delighted that Bray is the first of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities local launches to take place.

"The Healthy Communities programme will support not only the physical and mental health of the people of Bray; but will also support improvement in the wider determinants of health such as in education, social support and the built environment."

Speaking at the launch, Minister Feighan said: "These locally commissioned community partners who have an existing reach and engagement into the Bray community

will be a key asset to the programme as they are already imbedded into your community.

"Taking an evidence-based approach, this work will build on existing health and wellbeing programmes in the Bray community and mobilise available resources to address local needs."

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council said: "As Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, I am delighted that Bray is included in the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme and the Council looks forward to working with our partners in the Department of Health and

the HSE and the wider community in Bray, to enhance the health and wellbeing agenda."

To ensure the area of Bray have access to the full enhanced health and wellbeing programme, a core group of services will be established and operated by the HSE. These services include Stop Smoking Advisors, QUIT smoking services, Parenting Programmes, Healthy Food Made Easy, Social Prescribing, and Make Every Contact Count (MECC). Better

access to this range of services will help improve and promote healthier lifestyle behaviours with the aim of supporting the community's wellbeing.

Aisling Heffernan, Head of Service for HSE Health and Wellbeing for Community Healthcare East stated: "Health inequality impacts on life expectancy, the risk of chronic disease and the general health of a person. HSE Community Healthcare East welcomes the significant investment in Bray under the

Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme to allow us to work in partnership with Wicklow County Council and local community groups to further enhance supports for tobacco cessation, healthy eating, parenting and social prescribing in the area. This investment and partnership approach will empower people to make healthier lifestyle choices to improve their overall physical and mental health and wellbeing."

A once off total fund of €250,000 has been made

available. The focus of this fund, the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Community Enhancement Scheme, is to support projects through Wicklow County Council that will positively impact on the health and wellbeing of those who live within the Bray area. This scheme has demonstrated a collaborative approach with Wicklow County Council, who worked alongside the local community and stakeholders to identify projects that support the increased use of, and

access to, amenities in their areas and that invoke an improved sense of community.

This enhancement fund will enable various projects such as the installation of three community kitchens, which will facilitate the delivery of healthy eating and cookery courses; alongside the installation of calisthenics equipment and playground bouldering rocks and the refurbishment of a sports pavilion and playing pitches in Ballywaltrim.



Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing, and National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan TD, pictured launching the first Sláintecare Healthy Community in Bray. Pictured with the Minister are Michael Nicholson, Director of Services, CCSD; Jennifer Darcy, Bray Area Partnership Social Inclusion Coordinator; Aisling Heffernan, Head of Service, Health and Wellbeing, Community Healthcare East; Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District; and Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council.

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Excitement building for SSE Renewables 2022 Round Ireland Race and Family Festival

Excitement is building as Wicklow Sailing Club counts down the final days ahead of the next edition of the SSE Renewables Round Ireland Race and Festival 2022, which opens this Friday 17th June and runs all weekend until Sunday 19th June.

The hotly-anticipated 705-nautical mile premier yacht race in Ireland, will set sail from Wicklow Harbour in the official race start at 1pm on Saturday 18 June, and for the first time, the organisers are promising a packed and vibrant Family Festival which will span the entire weekend offering a feast of fun, food and entertainment for all the family.

This year, Artisan Events in partnership with Wicklow Sailing Club will deliver the biggest ever Round Ireland festival event, and all sponsored by SSE Renewables.

The highlight of the weekend is the spectacle of the 50-plus boats and their crews that will gather in Wicklow for the classic biennial offshore event. Hosted once again by Wicklow Sailing Club, the SSE Renewables Round Ireland will feature boats ranging in size from 30 feet to over 70. For this year's event, there will be a fleet of at least 52 boats, including Pen Duick VI, the largest boat in the race at 73-feet.

The 2022 SSE Renewables Round Ireland Race is Ireland's premier offshore yacht race. First staged by Wicklow Sailing Club in 1980 and held biennially since, the Round Ireland is the second longest race in the Royal Ocean Racing Club calendar. The SSE Renewables Round Ireland course follows the traditional route first contested in 1980 that states "leave Ireland and its islands to starboard"

while starting and finishing at the scenic port of Wicklow on the east coast of Ireland. The race will conclude with a sprint to the finishing-line along the east coast to Wicklow and Wicklow Sailing Club's legendary hospitality at the end.

However, the Round Ireland is more than just a race – it is an incredible opportunity for Wicklow Sailing Club and for County Wicklow as a whole, providing significant economic opportunities for the area.

This year's event is the first to be sponsored by SSE Renewables, Ireland's leading developer and operator of renewable energy, including offshore wind energy. The association with the Round Ireland is an ideal one as the company is an active member of the community in County Wicklow as it continues to progress its plans for the development of the next stage of its offshore wind energy project, Arklow Bank Wind Park.

To celebrate this landmark yacht race, Wicklow Sailing Club is hosting a series of festival events that will take place from 16 to 19 June at Wicklow Sailing Club and on Black Castle Hill.

Proceedings kick off with a 'Meet the Sailors' party on Thursday 16 June at 8pm, followed by the 'Rock-a-Round Ireland Party' with a BBQ and live music on Friday 17 June, all at Wicklow Sailing Club.

Up at Black Castle Hill, a three-

day Family Festival will open from 5pm on Friday 17 June, continuing from 12pm-9pm daily on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 June. This fun family festival promises live music and entertainment, a funfair with children's Bounceworld, and food stands from local businesses.

For the first time, the Round Ireland weekend will rock to the sound of three days of live music at the Black Castle. Brought to you by SSE Renewables and supported by Wicklow County Council, Wicklow County Arts Office and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media, the line-up at the free, open-air live music stage includes the best of local artists and bands. There will be plenty of local Wicklow talent taking to the stage during the weekend including Wicklow Ukulele Players, Spotlight Studios and John and Tommy Breen. Headline performances include popular band Big Love on Saturday night and renowned sign-songwriter Leslie Dowdall on Sunday night.

Kyran O'Grady, Commodore of Wicklow Sailing Club said: "The anticipation is building at Wicklow Sailing Club with the 2022 SSE Renewables Round Ireland Race almost upon us. We cannot wait to welcome all contestants from across the world to this year's competition. We already have a blue riband offshore sailing event and this year, the Family Festival will run for the entire weekend offering



Barry Kilcline from SSE Renewables, Denise Cummings, Brendan Dillon and Jason Cooke from SSE Renewables, celebrating the partnership between Wicklow Sailing Club and SSE Renewables, in advance of the Round Ireland Yacht Race

increased footfall to the town and economic benefit to traders."

Barry Kilcline, Director of Offshore, SSE Renewables said: "We're particularly pleased that the offshore spectacle of the SSE Renewables Round Ireland will be complemented by an extended three-day Family Festival for the entire community of Wicklow and beyond to enjoy. The Round Ireland is a blue riband sporting and tourism event, not just locally but nationally, so it's great to see its

return this year marked by the staging of its biggest-ever family festival including a packed line-up of local music and arts performers.

"On behalf of SSE Renewables, I would like to extend our thanks and congratulations to all the organisers of this year's event, especially Wicklow Sailing Club and Wicklow Municipal District for their tireless efforts in preparation for this year's event both offshore and onshore. I would also like to Artisan Events, Wicklow County Arts Office and

the Department of Tourism, Culture, and Sports for their support in making this year's event bigger than ever before. It's going to be a fantastic spectacle and I urge everyone in County Wicklow and beyond to arrive early to enjoy this magnificent sporting occasion."

The SSE Renewables Round Ireland 2022 will officially conclude on Friday 24 June with a Sailors' Prize Giving Ceremony, BBQ and live music at Wicklow Sailing Club.

Get a taste of Summer at this year's Taste of Wicklow

Taste of Wicklow is delighted to be returning from Friday, 24th to Sunday, 26th of June and is set to be the largest food festival on the east coast.

Joining a host of local and national chefs will be a star-studded line up of celebrity chefs from across Ireland including JP McMahon, Darina Allen, Jeeny Maltese and Paul Kelly.

There will also be over 50 artisan food and drink stalls serving delightful and delicious dishes at the event's new location, An Tairseach Organic Farm & Ecology Centre in Wicklow Town.

On Friday, June 24th a wonderful weekend in Wicklow Town will kick off with the VIP Taste of Wicklow banquet, where booking platform Tabero and local restaurant Sorrel & Eve along with An Tairseach Organic Farm & Ecology Centre are joining forces to put on an exclusive pop-up dining experience limited to just 50 people.

Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th will play host to a smash-hit range of food demonstrations from celebrity and local chefs, along with a live stage where a medley of musicians and DJs will be performing across the weekend.



Also on display will be various craft and gift stalls as well as a jam-packed schedule of family entertainment including circus acts, face painting, balloon modelling, clay painting, games and storytelling - children aged under 12 will be allowed free entry to the Taste of Wicklow.

Speaking ahead of the festival's launch, Wicklow Town & District Chamber President Matt Forkin said: "I'm delighted that Wicklow Town's signature event, Taste of Wicklow, is finally able to return with a bang."

"This will be its eighth year, and we can't wait to welcome visitors to our lovely coastal town. We hope you take the time to shop in Wicklow Town, to visit our coffee shops, restaurants, and local pubs."

Taste of Wicklow is brought to you by Wicklow Town and District Chamber of Commerce, with the support of Gallaghers Super Valu Wicklow, Codling Wind Park, Ardale Property Group, An Tairseach, Wicklow Naturally, Trinity Motors, REA Forkin, McKenna, Wicklow County Council, Green Meadow Farm, Wicklow Hire & Sales and Smiths of Wicklow.

Tickets are still available for the Taste of Wicklow online at www.tasteofwicklow.ie. You can also visit the website to find a full list of what's on each day.



Four decades around Ireland

As the 2022 Round Ireland Yacht Race draws nearer, Wicklow Times spoke with Denis Noonan, Race Organiser for the biennial offshore event for six races, from 2000 to 2010, about the history of the event.

Today the Round Ireland Yacht Race is one of the biggest events on Wicklow's calendar, and is the second longest race in the Royal Ocean Racing Club calendar, but the race had very modest beginnings, Denis recalls.

The first Round Ireland took place in 1980, with 17 boats taking part, starting from Wicklow Harbour. Ten of the boats completed the race, and the winner was Brian Coad with a time of 6 days and just under four hours.

Before that, a couple of 'trial run' round Ireland races had been held, with Wicklow Sailing Club organising the 'Round Ireland Rally' in 1979, which started and finished in Wicklow, and was the prototype for what became the Round Ireland Yacht Race the following year.

It was the brainchild of Michael Jones, who spearheaded it and got it up and running that first year, and it's grown every year since. In the second race, in 1982, there were 28 entries. During the 90s, there were over 60 boats taking part some years, as well as celebrities such as Simon LeBon from Duran Duran, who entered his yacht named 'Drum'.

Michael remained Race Organiser until 1992, Fergus O'Conchobhair took over from 1994 until 1998, then Denis Noonan took up the reins, and he was followed by Theo Phelan (2012-2016), and then Hal



Wicklow Sailing Club

Fitzgerald (2018).

Wicklow Sailing Club has organised the event every two years since 1980, with Denis becoming involved in the late 80s, and this will be 21st race (there was no race in 2020 due to the pandemic).

Now, post-lockdown, the event is coming back stronger than it's been in many years, thanks to the hard work of the current committee. 52 boats are taking part this year, ranging in size from 30 feet to over 70. This year's event will include Pen Duick VI, the largest boat in the race at 73-feet.

The race has long been a favourite among sailors all over the world, with many entering multiple times. Closer to home, too, the race has its familiar faces such as James Tyrrell from

Arklow Sailing Club who competed a dozen times.

As the event went from strength to strength over the years, a base for larger boats taking part was also established by the Royal Irish Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire in 2014, a move which has allowed the race to keep growing.

Sponsors have also changed over the years. Irish TV rentals were the sponsors of the second race. Other sponsors over the years have included Cork Dry Gin, BMW, Volvo, and now SSE Renewables. A couple of races were also held without any sponsors, Denis says.

Wicklow Sailing Club has remained the host, however, and the race has been the jewel in its crown.

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Race Day – Race Start at 1pm
Festival opens 12pm-9pm
All-day free live music with headliner: Big Love, 7.30pm

SUNDAY JUNE 19

Festival opens 12pm-9pm
All-day free live music with headliner: Leslie Dowdall, 7.30pm

FREE ENTRY
RACE STARTS
SATURDAY JUNE 18
AT 1PM



Lands at Rockbrae House transferred to Council



Cllr Grace cManus, John Brady TD, and Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien at Rockbrae House

The Department of Defence has confirmed that it has completed the transfer of land at the former Reserve Defence Forces facility at Rockbrae House on Vevay Road in Bray to Wicklow County Council.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has been campaigning for several years to have the lands set aside for housing, having first put forward the proposal to the former Minister for Defence Paul Kehoe in the last Dáil in 2018.

Deputy Brady said: "I want to first of all welcome the completion of the legal transfer of the land at Rockbrae House from the Department of Defence to Wicklow County Council. I believe that this development offers a significant opportunity for Wicklow County Council to address the housing shortage, as this is an ideal site for the development of affordable housing.

"I have been campaigning for the transfer of these lands for several years. I first engaged with the now former Minister for Defence Paul Kehoe during the term of that last Dáil. Following inquiries from myself, in which I laid out a plan to him in 2018, Minister Kehoe undertook to

investigate the matter with the Department of Defence.

I am now glad to say that now, several years later the transfer of the lands has taken place.

"I believe that this is an ideal site for the development of affordable housing in Bray. It really has huge potential if it is developed properly. The area has been zoned residential in the Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan. I believe that the time is now right to commence a conversation as to what type of development would be the best to proceed with on the site.

"The transfer of this site offers an all too rare opportunity for the development of much needed affordable housing and community facilities. I believe that the Council should begin a consultation process with the residents of Charnwood and the Church Road at the earliest opportunity."

Councillor Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien added, "There is a des-

perate need out there for affordable housing and this provides Wicklow County Council with a huge opportunity to respond accordingly. We must be proactive about exploring the options and have meaningful conversations about designing and developing an appropriate and sustainable housing development with complimentary amenities that will serve those who need it."

Cllr Grace cManus said "Council owned land is one of our best assets we have for playing our role to address the housing crisis. We in Sinn Féin believe in public housing on public land. This prime location is a welcome opportunity for this, especially within the growing appetite and need for affordable housing in Bray. It will be very exciting to see how we can best utilise this land to serve Bray's housing needs. I look forward to hearing from the community on this as it develops."

'We need a comprehensive registry of vacant and derelict housing'

Steven Matthews TD, Green Party Spokesperson on Planning and Local Government and Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage, recently launched the Committee's report on urban regeneration, including key issues around derelict and vacant buildings.

Deputy Matthews stated "The blight of derelict and vacant properties across the country is obvious for everyone to see, while at the same time we are in the

midst of a housing crisis. The report published today contains 39 recommendations covering penalties for vacancy and dereliction with reasonable exceptions,

compulsory purchase orders and supports to assist building owners to refurbish and re-use their properties. Critically, the report recognises the wider needs of urban regeneration including public transport, jobs, housing and climate - all

the requirements for restoring our town centres that will make them attractive and vibrant places for people to live.

"Today, I also will also be introducing a bill to the Dáil to address these very matters and to tighten up the Derelict Sites Act. For far too long planning and development has focused on sprawling, greenfield and one-off housing that is car dependent and extremely costly in provision of infrastructure, transport, and services. This area is complex and cannot be solved overnight but I look forward to working with Ministers Darragh O'Brien and Pascal Donohoe in relation to progressing the recom-



Steven Matthews TD

mendations within the report and the bill."

One of the main recommendations in today's report is that the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Local Authorities should develop dedicated units to concentrate on vacancy and dereliction with proper data collection.

Francis Duffy TD, Green Party Spokesperson on Housing

and member of the Housing Committee said;

"While it is estimated that there are up to 132,000 vacant properties in the country, we need to develop a full picture of Ireland's vacant and derelict housing. This would include a centralised, publicly accessible Derelict Sites Register that Revenue would use to apply taxation measures. A Vacant Homes Tax, with reasonable exemp-

tions will also be applied by Revenue, with the income generated by both taxes being used to acquire, refurbish and provide affordable secure homes to live within our towns."

Urban regeneration and a Town Centres First approach is a long-standing area of Green Party policy.

Senator Pauline O'Reilly added "Living over the shop and the benefits it brings to communities has been a planning discussion for decades. However, it is my view that building regulations are too complex and often act as a barrier to the viability of smaller projects. "We need to streamline this process, and this report spells out how to do this, how we support local trade and businesses and how we make our towns and villages places that people want to live in again."

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O'Connor proposes film museum for Bray Main Street

Independent Councillor Rory O'Connor has written to Minister for Tourism Catherine Martin urging her to explore the possibility of creating a new film museum in Bray.

Wicklow is fast becoming Ireland's home to filmmaking., O'Connor pointed out, with notable big-budget TV shows and movies being filmed in the county, including Disenchanted, Vikings, Penny Dreadful, Braveheart and PS I Love You.

It was recently announced that an international consortium which bought Ardmore and Troy production studios is to build a €300m film and TV campus in Greystones. The 670,000 square feet of studio space will contribute to the creation of 1,500 jobs, with 450 construction staff to be employed during the building phase.

Independent councillor Rory O'Connor said "Bray, which is currently Ireland's ninth-largest town, has no full-time museum

and that needs to change. We need to make the most of what's happening in the county.

"The Bray Central development is making good progress and I believe we should be looking at ways to enhance its draw for visitors. This can be done by using vacant buildings near the location of Bray Central and putting a Film Museum there.

"This will bring a whole new life to the main street with visitors from all around the world coming to see the museum and boosting business for all. I've written to the Minister for Tourism Catherine Martin with this suggestion.

"I think Wicklow is on the cusp of turning into one of Europe's top destinations for films, and with that the creation of thousands of jobs," concluded Cllr O'Connor.



Cllr Rory O'Connor

Over €500,000 in Sports Capital Grants for Wicklow

Over €500,000 in Sports Capital Grants has been announced for Wicklow. The recent round of funding was released under the appeals process which saw six clubs in Co. Wicklow receive funding.

It comes after over 50 clubs across the county received over €3.7 million under the scheme in February.

Funding of almost €120,000 was granted for an airdome for Greystones Tennis Club while Dominican Convent has secured backing of over €180,000 for a new astroturf hockey pitch.

And in the west of the county Lacken-Kilbride were awarded €150,000 for work on their club house and Baltinglass AFC received over €74,000 for dressing rooms.

The successful clubs included:

- Baltinglass Town (Boys) AFC Dressing Rooms €74,446.81
- Wicklow Dominican Convent Secondary School Installation of an astroturf hockey pitch in DCW Hockey €181,067.41
- Fifth Wicklow Bray Sea Scouts Den Renovation - Refurbishment of Showers/Toilets Hillwalking €21,481.01
- Greystones Lawn Tennis Club Supply and erect airdome over 3 existing courts Tennis €119,338.94
- Lacken-Kilbride GFC Club House Construction including Public Toilets Gaelic Games €150,000.00

Welcoming the funding, Minister

Stephen Donnelly said: "I would like to congratulate all the successful clubs who have been awarded game changing funding under the appeals process. I have seen first-hand the huge difference that the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme has made throughout the county.

"The work these clubs do in improving not just the physical but also the mental health of young people is invaluable. This year's funding has been the highest ever made because we recognise the hugely positive impact these clubs have on our communities."



Contestants from Roundwood National School pictured at the inter-school quiz hosted by Roundwood Historical Society last Tuesday; Sam Wheatley, Tori Lambe, Niamh Lowe and Leah Byrne.

€2,450 raised for Bray Women's Refuge and Women's Aid

To mark International Women's Day 2022, the Wicklow Women Councillors Caucus called on communities in Wicklow to gather for a walk and chat in aid of Bray Women's Refuge and Women's Aid.

Cllr Lourda Scott, Chair of the Wicklow Women Councillors Caucus said, "We are pleased to announce that a total of €2450 was raised from this event and the monies have been sent to Bray Women's Refuge and Women's Aid.

"On behalf of the Women Councillors Caucus I thank everyone who participated on the day and contributed so generously to these local causes. A particular thanks to John Duggan and the Martello for their support and for matching funds raised on the day."

Wicklow winners announced in Good Causes Awards 2022

Lysette Golden, Wicklow Rapid Response, Enniskerry Boxing Club, Ninth Wicklow Arklow Sea Scouts and Birdwatch Ireland are the five Wicklow beneficiaries announced as county winners in the National Lottery Good Causes Awards 2022.

The awards were created to honour and showcase the inspiring work being carried out by thousands of projects, clubs and individuals in their local communities across Ireland thanks to National Lottery Good Causes funding. Nearly 30 cent of every euro spent on National Lottery games goes back to Good Causes all over the country.

Announcing the County winners, National Lottery CEO, Andrew Algeo, said: "The stories and insights that we read in this year's entries truly exemplified the positive impact that the groups, sports clubs and organisations who receive National Lottery funding, are having in towns and villages all over Ireland. Celebrating the inspirational work being carried out by these extraordinary beneficiaries and recognising the effect that they have on their communities is exactly what the Good Causes Awards are all about. Our ambition is to do more for communities all over Ireland and we hope that soon, this will become a reality. If the practice of betting on lottery games were to be finally banned in Ireland, as it is in most EU countries, our research shows that National Lottery sales would increase by at least €228 million which would result in approximately €63 million in additional funding for the Good Causes fund which would have a huge impact on communities all over Ireland. Last year, Benefacts established that 34% of all charitable giving in Ireland in 2021 was attributable via the National Lottery. We believe that even more charitable and community groups would directly benefit if a ban on lottery betting was put in place."

The Wicklow winners are:

Lysette Golden - Arts & Culture

Lysette Golden is an aspiring flying trapeze artist devoted to her dream of performing. Her training with Flying Monkey's Trapeze greatly impacted her level which led to Lysette being offered a professional contact. Through funding she received from the Arts Council, part-funded by National Lottery Good Causes, she was able to train one on one with professional coaches. This is a huge steppingstone for the

Irish Circus Arts because there has never been Irish flying trapeze artists, until now. Lysette is now on her way to becoming the first professional flying trapeze artist ever produced in Ireland.

Wicklow Rapid Response - Health & Wellbeing

Wicklow Rapid Response is a voluntary charity who provide a high-level, pre-hospital critical care service and who work in partnership and support the existing Emergency Services. Funding received via the HSE National Lottery Grant Scheme allowed the WRRR to complete their fundraising to purchase a critical care ventilator and also contributed toward the fundraising for the loan on their new rapid response vehicle.

Enniskerry Boxing Club - Sport

Enniskerry Boxing Club are a voluntary boxing club made up of approximately 40 members between the ages of 7 to senior. Alongside the club's five coaches, there are members training competitively as well as those training to keep fit. The club has two elite boxers who are currently preparing for Paris 2024 as well as World Championships in June. Thanks to a Sports Capital Equipment grant, they were able to purchase much-needed boxing equipment.

Ninth Wicklow Arklow Sea Scouts - Youth

With 236 youth members, the Ninth Wicklow Arklow Sea Scouts have been able to offer even more water activities since receiving Good Causes funding through the Sports Capital Programme and the HSE National Lottery scheme. The group purchased a new rib and inboard Diesel boat and 4 Pico's which means that they can now offer the full Sea Scout program with rowing, paddling and sailing. This has benefited both the adult volunteers and youth members who have gained additional skills as well as increased confidence.

Birdwatch Ireland - Heritage

Established in 1968, Birdwatch Ireland is the largest independent conservation organisation in Ireland. The aim of the registered charity, which has over 15,000 members, is to conserve wild birds and their natural habitats. During the Covid pandemic, birds became a significant source of entertainment, comfort and solace for people which led to an increase in enquiries about Irish wildlife. Thanks to the Heritage Council and Good Causes funding, their 'Outreach for Nature' project aimed to assist and engage better with the public and educate them on the role they could play in supporting nature conservation.

2022 Greystones Municipal District People of the Year Awards



The Awards will be presented in the Greystones Golf Club, Greystones on Thursday 29th Sept, 2022 at 8pm

Application forms and tickets are available from Greystones Municipal District, Tel: 01 2876694 or Email:

Kcoughla@wicklowcoco.ie / greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie

Ticket Price €35

www.wicklow.ie

Closing date for receipt of nominations is 19th Aug 2022

- **Sportsperson of the Year**
- **Civic Award**
- **Special Person of the Year**
- **Cultural Person of the Year**
- **Commercial Award**
- **Young Entrepreneur of the Year**



GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
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WICKLOW Times
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Fianna Fail councillor Pat Kennedy is the new Cathaoilreach of Arklow Municipal District. He is pictured here with fellow Arklow Municipal District councillors Tommy Annesley, Peir Leonard, Miriam Murphy, Pat Fitzgerald, and Sylvester Bourke.

Arklow Cancer Support Coffee Morning

Arklow Cancer Support will be hosting a Mid-Summer Coffee Morning on Tuesday, June 21st at the Arklow Bay Hotel from 10.00am. This is their first event in over two and a half years.

"On the day you can expect live entertainment by some of our local talent, enjoy some sweet treats and be in with a chance to win one of the many wonderful prizes on offer in our Bumper Raffle.

"The draw will take place on the day. Anyone who misses out on the chance to enter our Bumper Raffle will have the opportunity to purchase tickets on the day for our Spot Prize Raffle.

"All prizes for the raffle have been very kindly donated by local businesses and beyond and we are extremely grateful for their continued support. To be in with a chance to win, tickets for our Bumper Raffle are available from our office on 8 St. Mary's Road. We look forward to seeing you all. Don't miss out on what promises to be a great morning."

Bereavement support meeting to be held in Newtownmountkennedy

Every town across the country becomes a little quieter over the summer months as the school traffic disappears and people head for the coast or further afield on holidays. But for many, time stands still.

It should have been the time their child graduated from primary to secondary school. It should have been the start of the Junior Cert. It should have been the finishing of their school years as college beckons. There are many, many milestones that are remembered by bereaved parents and many of these happen over the summer months.

Anam Cara works across the country to ensure no bereaved parent is left isolated in their grief, without access to support services. Throughout the summer months,

bereaved parents can link in with the service but also avail of their online services. Their podcast series "Conversations in Grief" is available on all podcast platforms and gives an insight into those who have faced the death of a child but offers hope. The organisations 8 leaflet Information Pack can be a good reference piece for many, with leaflets including "A Dad's Grief", "Self-care, how it can help", "Guidelines for employers of bereaved parents" to name but a few. All of this information and more can be found on the Anam Cara website,

www.anamcara.ie. Anam Cara will hold their Face-to-Face meeting in The Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy on Monday 20th June @ 7:15pm.

All bereaved parents are welcome to this free event, regardless of circumstances of death or the age of the child.

Registration is not required to attend the meeting on Monday 20th June, just turn up. Anam Cara would welcome any bereaved parent in the Wicklow area and surrounds to attend.

For further information on this event and all other supports Anam Cara offer, their information line is 085 2888 888 or by email info@anamcara.ie

Arklow RNLI rescues Kayakers

The Arklow RNLI volunteer lifeboat crew were paged by the Irish Coastguard at 2.20PM on Bank Holiday Monday following a report of person in the water.



The all-weather lifeboat under Coxswain Ned Dillon and the volunteer crew of Geoff Kearnes, James Russell, Craig O'Reilly, Austin Gaffney, Jimmy Myler and Eddie McElheron launched immediately and made its way to the scene. Upon arrival at the nearby Roadstone jetty, two kayakers were spotted in the water almost under the jetty with one of the casualties having slipped from the kayak into the water and unable to recover back on to the boat. The second person had stayed in the kayak alongside the casualty but was unable to assist.

The casualty was recovered from the water to the lifeboat and once safely aboard the second person was recovered along with their kayaks. The casualty was given first aid and the casualty was cold and fatigued but uninjured, the lifeboat returned to station and the casualties were given refreshments and warmed up, before they left.

Speaking following the call out, Mark Corcoran, Arklow RNLI Community Safety Officer said "Thankfully we were able to assist these kayakers safely back to shore, given the good weather there are a lot more people around and on the water, we would like to reiterate our message that if you are going on or in the water: Always carry a means of calling for help, always wear a lifejacket and other appropriate protection, always check the weather and tides before going to sea and please Respect The Water."

Vandalism in playground at 'crisis levels'

Vandalism is at crisis levels at the South Beach Playground in Greystones, Social Democrats councillor Jodie has said. Cllr Neary has discussed ongoing maintenance issues with the council since the start of the pandemic caused supply chain issues for replacement equipment. Vandalism has been cited as a huge problem for maintaining the playground for public use.

Despite repairs being carried out a month ago on the South Beach playground, several pieces of new equipment have since been damaged. The bridge has a panel snapped, the musical instruments have been ripped apart and the zipline seat damaged as well.

"I am regularly in touch with the Council about these concerns however the latest episodes of vandalism has left us all downtrodden," said Cllr Neary. "It takes so much work to source, pay and physically replace all the equipment at this playground which is highly specialised.

"However, since I rang the Council this week, the bridge and zipline have been fixed and the music section will be due repairs this week by the contractor as well. I hope the equipment remains so that children can enjoy the playground, especially those with special needs.

"The Council has done tremendous work to keep it maintained with regular repairs but the question now is what's the point in replacing equipment of it keeps getting vandalised. I would be afraid to go



Cllr Neary at South Beach Playground

down the lock-and-key route that other playgrounds in the area have had to go down, however it seems this may have to be considered in the long run.

"There have also been complaints about rubbish being left there and by Monday morning there are piles of coffee cups and other waste, including toilet waste, left across the

playground. Greystones Tidy Towns and Greystones Council staff do weekly clean ups in the playground which is much appreciated, but their resources are stressed and it shouldn't be on them to solely do the clean up work.

"I had organised a parent clean up group in the past but due to increasing

workload it is not sustainable for me to be out there each week. It's up to the community now to take over the regular upkeep of the place and for people to take responsibility and bring their rubbish home or throw it in the bins provided at the entrance of the playground.

"Other playgrounds across Wicklow have Committees set up with parents who work together to keep the place tidy. I would encourage any parents who are vested in the playground to come together and form a community group to keep the playground as accessible as possible to all those using it. It's an amenity we are all so proud of and the fact that it is universally accessible makes it even more special.

"It's time now that we as a community come up with a solution to the ongoing vandalism and litter problem in the playground we've grown to love.

I am liaising with the Council to see what kind of solutions could be implemented and hope the community will work with me on this," concluded Cllr Jodie Neary.

Holyhead Festival returns this summer

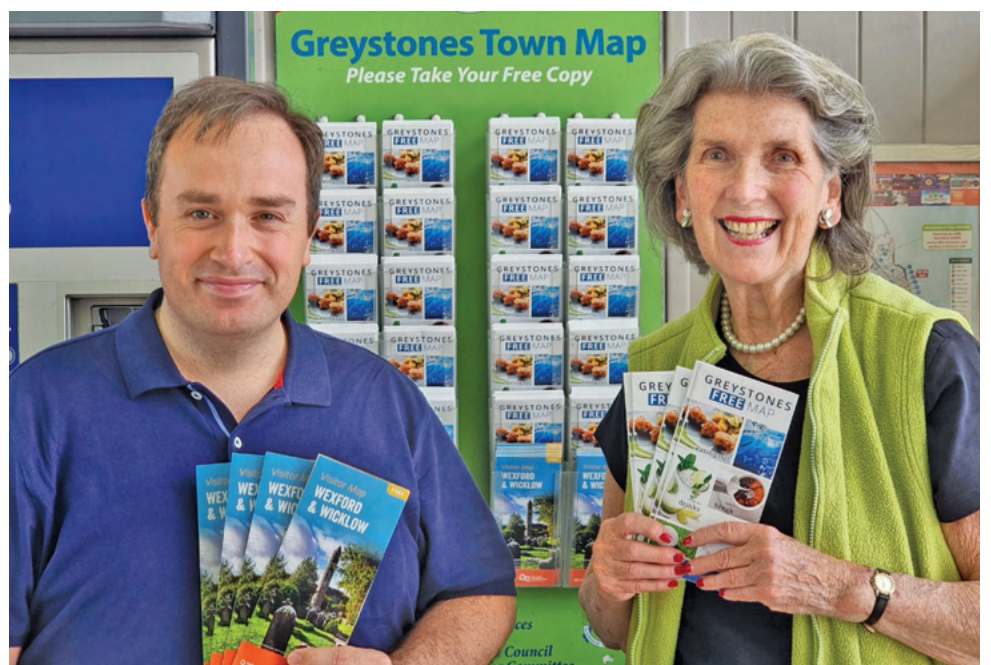
The Holyhead Festival is returning from July 28th - August 1st and promises to be bigger and better than ever.

For anyone interested in attending there will be numerous tribute bands, Anglesey's Strongest Man, bouncy castles, dancing and more. Cllr Derek Mitchell, and former Greystones Mayors Kathleen Kelleher and Stephen Stokes, are some of those expected to attend from Greystones.

Speaking about the festival, Stephen Stokes stated: "The Holyhead Festival is affordable and great fun. I've been a few times. The people of Holyhead are always so welcoming".

The Holyhead Festival coordinators are planning to organise a Greystones stand to encourage

Holyhead residents to visit Greystones. If any Greystones businesses are interested in free promotion they can contact stephenstokes101@gmail.com for more information. Greystones formally twinned with Holyhead in 2012. Over the years both communities have benefitted from numerous intercultural exchanges. Some of the groups involved include football, Sea Cadets, sailing and more." Kathleen Kelleher added: "Of particular special interest to Greystones last year was the wonderful visit of Holyhead Santa. That brought great joy to our community".



Stephen Stokes and Kathleen Kelleher with the Greystones and Wicklow maps

Music teacher given Special Recognition Award

Traditional Irish music and dancing teacher, Katherine Brennan Kinsella, was presented with Arklow Municipal District's Cathaoirleach's Special Recognition award by outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr Miriam Murphy, at a function on Tuesday 7th June.

This award is given each year to recognise an outstanding contribution from an individual or group in Arklow Municipal District. Cllr Murphy chose Katherine for her outstanding contribution to traditional Irish music and dancing for 60 years.

Cllr Murphy said she was "honoured to present this award to Katherine for her outstanding achievements in her lifetime. Katherine started dancing in September 1953 at the young age of eight years old and was entered into her first dancing competition in the Arklow Feis in July 1954, doing a reel and a 3-hand reel and received

first prize. This was the start of her successful career.

"Katherine started playing the violin and sat all the Trinity College London music exams and was leader of the school orchestra for many years. She has given so many children the start in life to enjoy Irish dancing and music and bring it all through their lives. She has given so many people hours of her talent, giving enjoyment all across the world, but she never forgot her roots here in Arklow."

Katherine was delighted to accept the award and said she was honoured to have been cho-

sen by Cllr Murphy for the Cathaoirleach's Special Recognition Award and reminisced about the great times she had over the years. Katherine played a few songs on the violin, one of which she wrote herself for her late husband John, 'Grá mo Chroí'.

Proud pupils of Katherine also attended on the night. Entertainment was provided by the fantastic traditional Irish music group, "Col Ceathracha."

The evening did not pass without a few jigs and reels being danced and Katherine stating: "If I had to live my life over again I wouldn't change a thing."



Arklow Municipal District Cathaoirleach Miriam Murphy pictured with councillors and friends of Katherine Brennan Kinsella who was awarded the Cathaoirleach's Special Recognition Award

Applications open for town & village funding scheme

Wicklow County Council has announced that the 2022 Town and Village Renewal Scheme is open for applications. The Scheme aims to tackle dereliction and vacancies in towns and villages while supporting town centre living.

The Town and Village Scheme objectives are being refocused to align with commitments within 'Our Rural Future - Rural Development Policy 2021-2025'.

The 2022 Scheme will prioritise the objectives of this policy such as tackling vacancy in towns and villages, remote working and supporting town centre living. Other projects which will be welcomed include regeneration projects that support active and vibrant town or village centres, upgrading shopfronts and street facades, and green spaces and parks.

Speaking of the launch of the scheme, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr

Shay Cullen said: "This Town and Village regeneration scheme represents a fantastic opportunity for communities in the county to turn their visions into reality for their areas. I urge people to get involved and to take advantage of this funding opportunity."

Measures that will be supported by the 2022 Town and Village Renewal Scheme include (but are not limited to) include:

- Tackling dereliction in town centres
- Turning vacant properties into remote working and multi-use community spaces
- Investing in town centre living
- Investing in amenities to make

town centre living more attractive

- Upgrading and improving shop fronts and streetscapes on Main Streets
- Projects that support and enhance the nighttime economy and add vibrancy to town centres
- Enhancement of heritage assets
- Marketing campaigns aimed at attracting remote workers, mobile talent, new customers, or businesses.

Grant Levels

For the 2022 Scheme, the minimum grant which is available is €20,000. The maximum level of grant funding available is being raised to €500,000, which is restricted to one per county. A max-

imum of €250,000 will apply in respect of five applications. We particularly welcome applications from Towns/Villages that have not previously received funding under the Standard Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

Only projects that are capable of being delivered within an eighteen-month timeframe can apply.

Project Development Measure

A new Project Development Measure (up to €50,000) is being continued this year. This Measure funds the preparation work needed to progress a project to shovel ready stage. Local Authorities can submit up to 2 applications under the PDM.

Marketing Campaign Measure

A new Marketing Scheme Measure (up to €50,000) is being introduced, on a trial basis, to fund marketing campaigns targeted at attracting remote workers and mobile talent to individual counties, in line with the commitments under Our Rural Future.

Rate of Aid

The rate of Aid for projects (excluding the BAM) for this year will remain at 90% in recognition of the challenging environment for raising financial contributions.

How to apply

As in previous years, in order to apply, community groups must fill out an Expression of Interest form which should be submitted to Wicklow County Council. Selection

of projects is a competitive process. Seven Expressions of Interest will be selected by the local authority for development into detailed applications to be submitted to the Department. All Expressions of Interest will be assessed based on the priorities contained in the Scheme Outlines (available on www.wicklow.ie).

The closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest is Friday 1st July at 12 noon. Expressions of Interest forms should be emailed to townandvillage@wicklowcoco.ie

All relevant guidelines and application forms are available on www.wicklow.ie. All queries should be emailed to townandvillage@wicklowcoco.ie

Energy Awareness Day to be hosted in Wicklow

Wicklow Tidy Towns Sustainable Energy Community is hosting an Energy Awareness Day on Saturday 18th June in the Pastoral Centre, St. Patrick's Road, Wicklow Town from 11am to 4pm.

Attending will be: 16 electric vehicles from 10 dealerships; A range of electric bicycles; Installers of solar panels, air to heat pumps and electric car chargers; Suppliers of LED bulbs, eco-friendly paints, ultra-quiet electric lawnmowers and other electric powered garden equipment.

The event will also include the launch of the Energy Master Plan for Wicklow. Technical advice will be available from a one-stop shop on appropriate measures that can be taken to reduce emissions. There will also be advice on behalf of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) on available grants, and information on the proposed Codling Wind Park off the Wicklow Coast.

There will be fun activities such as a

smoothie bike where you can make your own refreshing drink without a plug and an electric game to test hand eye coordination. There will also be face painting and energy awareness activities for children.

Entry is free and there will be a competition for a free Building Energy Rating survey.

Andrew Lawless of Wicklow Tidy Towns says that "studies are coming out weekly that countries are running out of time to take action to combat Climate Change. Here in Ireland, the SEAI has reported that Ireland's emissions rose in 2021 by 6.3% when they were targeted to reduce by 4.8%. While significant progress has been made on generating electrical energy from renewables, 86% of the overall energy used in the country still came

from non-renewable fossil fuel sources.

"Transport alone currently generates well over 50% of harmful emissions, especially on short journeys. On the positive side, Wicklow has the first solar farm in Ireland and representatives of the proposed Codling Wind Park off the Wicklow coast will be attending the Awareness Day. The promoters of the Arklow Bank Wind Park are sponsoring the Round Ireland Yacht Race. Over the next few years more and more 'home grown' energy will keep more money in our pockets and in our country. Switching to electric vehicles will result in cleaner air and quieter streets.

"The latest solar, heat pump and LED technology will show that virtually any building in the area can be adapted

to make our homes, work and play areas more comfortable, run our electric vehicles and export surplus power to the national grid.

"An appetite to take action has been identified as one of the major barriers to tackling the issue of climate change. Appetite from individuals, appetite from businesses, appetite from industries and appetite from government. Different sectors are lobbying heavily to be exempted from some of the necessary measures. The Energy Awareness Day aims to bring some of the possible solutions direct to the public. Wicklow Tidy Towns has gained huge support from the people of Wicklow in recent years and the organisation is there to help those who wish to take action."



Sandra and Kevin Desmond celebrate the partnership between Wicklow Sailing Club and SSE Renewables, to mark the upcoming SSE Round Ireland Yacht Race, at an event in Wicklow Town Library.



The County Wicklow Lawn Tennis Club Ladies Charity Tennis Competition raised €1,500 which has been donated to Bray Lions Club. Bray Lions Club president Joe Codyre is pictured with Janice Clancy, Bernie McCabe and Betsy Walsh.

Council to look for a designated campervan site for Greystones

Wicklow County Council are proactively looking for a designated campervan site for holiday goers visiting Greystones.

The issue had been raised by Social Democrats Councillor Jodie Neary at the recent Greystones Municipal District meeting ahead of the summer holiday months when increased numbers of campervans are due to arrive in the town.

"It's fantastic news that the Council are now proactively looking for a designated site for those people visiting with their campervans," said Cllr Neary.

"I have been engaging with a number of campervan holiday makers who love visiting the area and are keen to see a well-serviced designated space for their campervans.

"To date, there has been no such area for people with campervans leading to use of public parking spaces along the seafront in Greystones or the Irish Rail car park. Many residents have been on to me about issues with parking, traffic management and lack of facilities for campervans which has been an ongoing concern for residents in the area.

"It's important that we have an official designated site, close to the town as holiday makers arriving in campervans bring a lot of money to the area. It's good for local business as well as for the recreational value of Greystones and Wicklow. Tourists arriving in campervans are in need of a well-serviced area such as sewage and water facilities so it's important we get the right spot. We are looking at areas near the Park & Ride or as part of the South Beach Masterplan. It's something I have been raising for quite a while and I hope it comes to fruition in the near future.

"It's also important for residents to be able to continue to live in their area stress free and with certainty especially as the summer months gets busy with tourists visiting the district. There has been much concerns raised for many years and I believe this is the first step in trying to find a solution that works for everybody involved," concluded Cllr. Neary.

Brittas Bay National School Garden Open Day returns this week

The staff and students at Brittas Bay National School have been digging, planting and potting-up in the run-up to their annual Garden Open Day which returns Wednesday, 15th June - the first time since 2019 - and all are welcome to attend.



Susan Howe (1st class) with her brother, Thomas Howe (5th class) show off some of the produce from the school garden at Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara.

The Garden Open Day, which is always a huge success, invites parents, grandparents, friends and members of the public to the school. The garden has a polytunnel and raised beds stuffed with fruit and vegetables. All organically grown, the vegetables and plants will be for sale on the day.

This year children have tried their hand at growing peas, potatoes, scallions, beetroot, rainbow chard, strawberries, beans and lots of beautifully fragrant herbs - all cared for by the very knowledgeable children from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

Commenting on the upcoming event, Una Gallinagh, Principal of the school said, "The vision of Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara in Brittas Bay is to promote the physical and emotional wellbeing of all pupils, and to develop their expressive, artistic, creative

and intellectual abilities to each pupil's full capacity. The school garden gives us an opportunity to fulfil this ethos. We're especially glad this year, after all of the lockdowns and restrictions have been lifted, to be able to showcase of the produce we have. The garden provides each student with an enormous sense of fulfilment when they see they seed that they planted flourishing and growing and producing flowers and food. The garden also acts a great opportunity for the parents and community to get involved with the school. It is a real reminder of what a fantastic community and school spirit we have at Brittas Bay National School."

The Garden Day takes place on Wednesday, 15th June at Scoil Mhuire Réalt Na Mara, Ballinacarrig, Brittas Bay and is open to the public from 1pm - 2.30pm.



Cllr Jodie Neary at the Car Park beside the train station at Greystones Seafront

4th annual Pilgrim Journey to include St Kevin's Way



The St. Kevin's Way at Hollywood

Between June 18th and 25th, fully guided walks along all of Ireland's passported pilgrim paths will take place, which will include St Kevin's Way.

The other ancient routes included on the Irish Pilgrim Passport are: Cosán na Naomh, Co Kerry; St Finbarr's Pilgrim Path, Co. Cork and Cnoc na dTobar, Co Kerry and Tochar Phádraig, Co Mayo

Walkers collect a pilgrim stamp at the end of each stage before being awarded the full passport when they arrive at Ballintubber Abbey after later completing Tochar Phádraig pilgrimage.

Knowledgeable local guides will lead each walk, allow time for personal contemplation, outline the story of the route and explain how medieval penitents coped with their arduous journeys.

Speaking last week,

Chairman of Pilgrim Paths Ireland, John G O'Dwyer said; "The medieval pilgrimage was originally a journey combining prayer and sacrifice - with an element of physical discomfort. Recently, there has been a renewed interest in following the footsteps of these pilgrims past and over the last number of years, Ireland's penitential trails have echoed to ever-increasing footfall.

"This pilgrim journey is suitable for the growing numbers seeking to escape the daily grind of life and take time out to reflect and meditate a little while enjoying the outdoors. St Kevin's Way is a particularly beautiful walk that is almost entirely off-

road."

Advance booking is essential and must be made individually to each pilgrim path. More information on how to book can be found on www.pilgrimpath.ie.

Local walkers not wishing to complete the full journey are welcome to join for St Kevin's Way only.

Pilgrim Paths Ireland was founded in 2013 as the umbrella association for the community groups representing the 10 principal, pilgrim paths in Ireland.

It works to re-develop and build awareness of these routes for the enjoyment of walkers and pilgrims alike while promoting locally based tourism initiatives.

Kilcoole has 'most important little tern colony in Ireland'

A new report by Fair Seas identifies Kilcoole as having the most important little tern colony in Ireland and therefore being in need of protection. The report also recommends extending the Wicklow Reef SAC (Special Area of Conservation) due to the presence of horse mussels and Sabellaria spinulosa (a species of marine worm) off the coast.

Ireland's Marine Protected Areas must increase 18-fold by the end of the decade in order to restore critical habitats, safeguard wildlife and address the climate crisis according to the new report commissioned by the Fair Seas campaign. Fair Seas is a coalition of Ireland's leading environmental non-governmental organisations and networks, including Birdwatch Ireland.

Fair Seas is urging the Government to designate a minimum of 30% of Irish waters as Marine Protected Areas by 2030, up from the current figure of 2% which the group says is wholly inadequate. Recent assessments indicate that two-thirds of Ireland's coastal habitats are in an unfavourable condition, with an alarming decline of 90% in numbers of iconic species such as porbeagle and angel sharks noted.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are areas of our seas and coasts legally protected from activities that damage the habitats, wildlife and natural processes. In 2019, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage initiated a process aimed at expanding Ireland's network of MPAs in the coming years. The Fair Seas campaign initiated this research to help accelerate the conversation.



A huge message in the sand appeared on Kilmurrin Beach in Co. Waterford in time for World Oceans Day, by Sand Artist Sean Corcoran. Photo by Tony Kinlan, Aerial.ie

The report by Fair Seas shows how it would be possible to protect 36% of Ireland's ocean territory, enabling the country to meet its 2030 European targets. This would help to protect, conserve and restore vulnerable and important species and habitats, as well as ensuring that these habitats can

act as huge natural carbon stores. It identifies 16 'Areas of Interest' for MPA designation in Irish waters including eight coastal areas stretching along the coast of the Republic of Ireland from Donegal to Louth. These places are home to critically endangered sharks, globally important seabird colonies, and animals threatened with extinction which rely on these areas for breeding and feeding such as Atlantic puffins and blue whales.

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One of the 16 Areas of Interest is the East Coast. One of only two cod spawning grounds occur in this area. Harbour porpoise are ubiquitous throughout the site, seasonal abundance of minke whales is apparent. The most important roseate tern colony in all of Europe occurs on the small island of Rockabill. Lambay Island is one of the most diverse locations for seabirds in the country. Kilcoole hosts the largest little tern colony. The Irish Sea is a vital feeding ground for not only birds breeding in Ireland, but also supports colonies in the UK.

Fair Seas Campaign Manager Aoife O'Mahony says, "This report is about kick-starting the conversation among stakeholders and decision makers nationwide. It aims to significantly ramp up the process of building an effective network of Marine Protected Areas in Irish waters which would enable Ireland to meet its 2030 commitments with the best possible outcomes for nature, climate and people. We've used scientific research and available data to identify the potential areas most in need of protection. Our ambition is



Pictured at the launch of the "Revitalising Our Seas" report are Fair Seas Campaign Manager Aoife O'Mahony and cousins Alissa Fleury and Anar Devée. Picture: Michael O'Sullivan

to see Ireland become a world leader in marine protection, giving our species, habitats and coastal communities the opportunity to thrive."

Oonagh Duggan, Head of Advocacy at BirdWatch Ireland said, "Ireland is a laggard when it comes to protecting and restoring nature on land and sea. We have been endowed with a wealth of marine life but are squandering it. Our

extensive coastline supports hundreds and thousands of breeding seabirds but species like the Puffin and Kittiwake are now globally vulnerable. Irish Kittiwake populations declined by 32% between 2002-2018. While seabirds have some protection on land where they breed, there's no protection for them at sea where they forage for food. Ireland's sea territory is huge, it's high

time to protect and restore large areas for these and other marine life."

Professor in Marine Ecology at Nord University Norway, Mark John Costello authored the foreword to the report. Professor Costello said, "If properly planned, Marine Protected Areas can lead to more stable and sustainable coastal fisheries, with added benefits of increased tourism and public enjoy-

ment of marine life. While a majority of the public in Ireland support the need to have MPA in principle, there will be objections to exactly where they are located, their boundaries, and rules.

"That is why discussions with local communities need to start as soon as possible, with political support to implement what is best for Ireland in the long term."

Deadline extended for bathing area nominations

Regular swimmers around Co. Wicklow can help Wicklow County Council decide which bathing areas should be classified as such. The deadline for entries has been extended to 30th June.

Bathing areas are areas which the Council recognizes as being used regularly by people for swimming, and as such they are monitored for safety, water quality and their level of use.

If you wish to make a bathing area known to the Council, send your name, address, email address to the Council (bathingwater@wicklowcoco.ie or by post to Michael McNamara, Administrative Officer, Planning, Development and Environment, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Tel 0404-20236), along with the name and location of the proposed bathing area, information on how your swimming area has been used up to now and how many people use the beach; the facilities that exist at the site and how accessible it is; Any safety issues; Any other information, observations and comments you would like to make.



Lifeguards Amy O'Brien and Keith Bentley on patrol at Bittas Bay

15 clean-ups take place in Wicklow for World Ocean Day

Over 200 volunteers in Wicklow answer Clean Coasts and National Spring Clean joint call-to-action

Last May, Irish environmental charity Clean Coasts joined forces with National Spring Clean, to provide communities around Ireland with free clean-up kits to host a clean-up during the week around World Ocean Day.

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 is 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 which has become a global problem for both humans and marine life. However, communities around Ireland have demonstrated their desire to be part of the solution by taking part in several beach cleaning and clean-up calls to action.

Statistics show that the number one cause of marine litter is litter dropped in towns and



Clean Coasts volunteers cleaning up on Bray beach

cities. Building on the success of the Spring Clean 22 campaign, which took place in the month of April and saw 500,000 volunteers organising over 5,600 clean-ups, the National Spring Clean programme is joining Clean Coasts this year in supporting these communities around Ireland.

Sinead McCoy, Coastal Communities Manager said: "We were so overwhelmed with the support received from the public. In under 72 hours over 230 clean-ups had already registered on the Clean

Coasts website. Now over 4,000 volunteers are set to take action for World Ocean Day by organising or joining a clean-up event around Ireland."

Volunteers who didn't manage to secure a clean-up kit can still take action by joining an existing clean-up, a list of which can be found on the Clean Coasts website.

In County Wicklow, 15 clean-ups happened, which saw about 200 volunteers getting involved. This incredible support by the community in County Wicklow comes after a

successful National Spring Clean campaign in the county, which saw over 3,000 volunteers organising over 130 clean-ups in the county.

All these events took place in the context of a very few busy months for the organisation, which saw other initiatives to protect and learn more about the ocean being launched recently, including the launch of two marine biodiversity directories, the release of new Enjoy and Protect guides, marram grass planting events and more.

Curiosity Cube visits Arklow schools

Merck Arklow, a science and technology company, recently arranged for Curiosity Cube events at St. John's SNS and Arklow Gael Scoil.

The volunteers from Merck were on hand to demonstrate science experiments to the school children on both days.

The Curiosity Cube is an initiative from the Merck SPARK team which sees them try to 'spark' the minds of the young generation with

science experiments. It consists of a mobile science lab.

The Cube is travelling from Germany and to many other Merck sites in Europe as part of a tour.

"The number of people working Science, Technology, Engineering

and Math (STEM) occupations grew three times faster than the total employment in the EU according to the EU STEM Coalition," say Merck.

"With this growth in jobs, there is an urgent need to train up the next generation of scientists to

fill this pipeline. Merck is engaging students in STEM learning through its Curiosity Cube(r) mobile science lab. The Cube is designed to spark scientific curiosity and passion early-paving the way to a future filled with innovative breakthroughs and encouraging students to pursue careers in STEM fields. It also brings interactive science experiences and tools to students who might not otherwise have access, such as those attending schools with fewer resources.

"The Curiosity Cube will hold more than 70 events across Europe as part of its inaugural European tour. The Cube will make stops in countries including Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the U.K. The Cube will also have a stationary location at company sites in Darmstadt, Germany and Molsheim, France."



Katie Doyle Murphy of Merck with student Nanci Desmond at the Merck Curiosity Cube event in St. John's National School, Arklow.

At the Curiosity Cube event in St. John's National School were (above) Grace O'Sullivan of Merck and pupil Zola Benkovam and (below) Katie Doyle Murphy of Merck, with teacher Eoin O'Luasaigh and pupil Grainne Driver

St Kevin's extension now fully funded

Two Autism classrooms to be delivered

Minister Simon Harris TD has confirmed that the Government will fund the final aspects of new extension for St Kevin's National School in Greystones. The extension will include two Autism classes and an expanded play and outdoor space area.

Minister Harris said: "I am delighted that the Department of Education has agreed to fund the outstanding elements of the design for St Kevin's NS extension."

"I had been working closely with the school in engaging with the Department of Education to secure funding for the entire extension project for St Kevin's NS' two classroom extension for Autism classes. I am so delighted with this result for St Kevin's and for our community. This will greatly assist the school, Autistic children and indeed all students in St Kevin's."

School Principal Corrina Bailey and Board Chair Paul Talbot said: "The Board of Management of St Kevin's NS are committed to inclusion as is evidenced by our action in opening our first Autism class in September 2021 and our hosting of a special language class for the last number of years. Today's decision by the Department of Education means that St Kevin's can move forward with the building of our extension. We very much appreciate Minister Harris' critical support for the school and his strong personal commitment to supporting our Special Education classes."



Minister Simon Harris visiting Ms Sherry's 5th class in St Kevin's National School

268 Ukrainians enrolled in Wicklow schools

The Department of Education has confirmed that as of 3rd June, 268 Ukrainian pupils have been enrolled in schools across Co. Wicklow. Of these, 176 are in primary schools and 92 are in post-primary schools.

To assist with the transition of Ukrainian refugees and their families into Irish schools Regional Education and Language Teams (REALT) continue to operate, hosted by the 16 regional education and training boards around Ireland and staffed by regionally based education support personnel.

The primary role of the REALT is to

build on existing regional education support structures and the initial focus will be on assisting families in securing school places. REALT are also supporting schools in the area to meet the needs of these children as they emerge, advising and supporting the Department of Education in developing new capacity where required, and co-ordinating the provision of education

services to schools and families across their defined area.

These teams are ensuring that clear, accessible information flows are in place between schools, local education support services and national support structures in relation to people arriving from Ukraine.

Information for parents in Ukrainian and Russian on accessing school places is available on gov.ie/Ukraine.

The Department will continue to publish figures on the enrolment of Ukrainian children each month.



At the inter-school quiz hosted and sponsored by Roundwood Historical Society last Tuesday were contestants from Laragh National School; Kyle McCoy, Sophia Fegan, Carissa Dunne, and Evan O'Connor

Local teachers awarded ASTI Thomas MacDonagh Medals



Kieran Christie, ASTI General Secretary and Declan McInerney, ASTI Wicklow Branch who received an ASTI Thomas MacDonagh Medal and Deirdre Mac Donald, 2019/2020 ASTI President.

Gerry Maloney a former teacher at St David's Holy Faith Secondary School, Greystones, and Declan McInerney a teacher at Coláiste Chill Mhantain, Wicklow Town, both received a Thomas MacDonagh Medal in honour of their service to the ASTI.

Both teachers are members of the ASTI Wicklow branch.

This medal recognises extraordinary service to the union by members. It is named after the historical figure Thomas MacDonagh who is a founder member of the ASTI.

Declan represented Region 14 (Stillorgan, Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Bray) on the ASTI Standing Committee and the ASTI Central Executive Council.

The Award Ceremony took place on Friday 27th May last in the Gresham Hotel in Dublin.



Kieran Christie, ASTI General Secretary, Gerry Maloney, ASTI Wicklow Branch who received an ASTI Thomas MacDonagh Branch and Deirdre Mac Donald, 2019/2020 ASTI President.

Matthews criticises proposed 'Special Education Centres'



Steven Matthews TD

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has strongly criticised the proposed introduction of Special Education Centres as an interim solution to the lack of school places for children with special needs.

This proposal includes the introduction of 5 Special Education Centres across Ireland to be run by the Education and Training Board. It is proposed that these centres will open in September and will operate separately from mainstream schools. If implemented, these education centres will each cater for 24 students, split into 4 classes.

Discussing the proposal, Deputy Matthews said: "When I first heard this plan, it raised a series of questions and concerns in relation to the wellbeing of children

who require this additional support and their families. I wrote to Minister Madigan to express my concerns following a series of emails from understandably worried parents in Wicklow.

"Prior to the information becoming publicly available, it is my understanding that the Minister did not adequately engage with relative advocacy groups and stakeholders on this

issue, and I have asked Minister Madigan to meet with these groups as a matter of urgency.

"As a point of principle, I have huge concerns in relation to the proposed segregation of students away from mainstream classes and schools as well as being separated from their peers which is in clear conflict with best practice in child welfare.

"In recent days I have had the opportunity to

meet with Wicklow based school principals and experts in this field that shared my concerns about the fast-tracked introduction of these centres. The information available to date from the department has not been clear and I hope the Minister can engage with her department officials as soon as possible to alleviate the genuine concern of families.

"I understand that the Minister is proposing

this as a short-term interim measure, but even at that, this is something that I cannot accept. We should be encouraging inclusion as much as possible in our education system and I believe that alternative solutions must be found. Segregating children for any reason, highlighting them as different in an isolated site away from their peers is highly detrimental to their wellbeing and is unfair on

the students and their parents.

"I will continue to work on this issue on behalf of concerned parents in Wicklow. I will also be raising this with my green party colleagues who share many of my concerns.

"If any families have any concerns about this issue, I encourage them to get in contact with me directly and I will help in any way I can," concluded Deputy Matthews.

Bright young minds from Wicklow getting ready to shine in BTYSE

Young scientist & technology exhibition returns in person in 2023

BT Ireland has announced the return of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) live and in-person in January 2023, and Wicklow students encouraged to get thinking caps on ahead of the official call for applications.

After two years of virtual exhibitions, the wait is finally over as Ireland's biggest and brightest showcase for young STEM talent returns to an in-person event in Dublin between 10th-14th January

2023. The live event will once again bring science and technology to life with amazing student projects, spectacular exhibits, influential guest speakers, and immersive displays.

Now in its 59th year, the BTYSTE 2023 will throw open its doors to students, from across the

island of Ireland, blazing a trail with their creative takes on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

The exhibition brings together the best and brightest of the STEM community in Ireland in a massive celebration of science, technology, and curiosity.

As one of Europe's longest running science competitions, the BTYSTE is proud of its fantastic alumni, many of whom have gone on to do remarkable things – from setting up tech unicorns, to breaking new ground in scientific discovery, to molding the minds of future young scientists.

The exhibition gives students and teachers the chance to work on projects that move science and technology beyond the classroom and into the real world. Applications for the BTYSTE 2023 will close in late September and BT Ireland is encouraging students across Ireland to get their thinking caps on to be in with a chance of featuring at the exhibition.

Participating students will be in the running to win over 200 prizes across all four categories and age groups. The overall winners will take away the top prize of €7,500 and go on to represent Ireland at the prestigious European Union Contest for Young Scientists, where Ireland has won 16 first



Wicklow students are being encouraged to get their thinking caps on ahead of the official call for applications for the Young Scientist exhibition



At the inter-school quiz hosted and sponsored by Roundwood Historical Society were Anna Chiam, David Kearney, Paul Corneliusson, and Ryan Jenkinson from Roundwood Natinal School.

place prizes over 32 years.

Speaking at the launch of the 2023 BTYSTE, BT Ireland Managing Director Shay Walsh said: "The buzz and excitement of the live exhibition is second to none, so we're thrilled to be bringing everyone back together after two successful virtual exhibitions."

"This national institution, one of the finest STEM exhibitions in Europe, will enable thousands of students to reconnect, and to present their ideas for addressing some of the major challenges the world faces."

The 2022 exhibition winners Aditya Joshi and Aditya Kumar from Synge Street CBS, Dublin added: "We would really encourage anyone with an interest in science and technology to take part. Winning it was a fantastic experience for us both and we were so proud to receive the overall top prize for our project "A New

Method of Solving the Bernoulli Quadrisection Problem". Because of our BTYSTE win, we're now preparing to represent Ireland at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists Leiden this September. Another brilliant opportunity provided by this life-changing exhibition."

Entries must be from second-level students aged between 12 and 19 years. To enter, an individual or group must submit a one-page proposal outlining their project idea. Entries can be made in any one of four categories:

- Technology
- Social and behavioural science
- Biological and ecological science chemical
- Chemical, physical, and mathematical science

For more information on this stellar exhibition and the opportunities it brings, please visit www.btyoungscientist.com

Wicklow Wanderings: Lockdown Landscapes

An exhibition by Aoife Hester, Signal Arts Centre, Monday, 20th June to Sunday, 3rd July

"This exhibition was formed as a direct result of the circumstances created from Covid 19 and spending large amounts of time exploring my 5k radius," explains Aoife Hester.



Bray Head Sunset, by Aoife Hester

"I have always appreciated Bray and I would have often taken photos within the area over the years. However, when I found myself embracing the slower pace of life from around March of 2020, I started to really take more photos while I was out for my walks. I started to notice and appreciate scenes that were always on my doorstep, but possibly taken for granted or overlooked. I took a lot of sunrise photos on the beach and I gained a huge appreciation for the stunning landscape at Killruddery and Belmont Demense. This exhibition focuses on a good aspect of the restricted movements, for me personally. Bray is very diverse and I found myself often thinking that no two mornings were ever the same down the beach as I was capturing the sunrise.

"Since the restrictions



Killruddery Tree by Aoife Hester

have eased off and we have been allowed to move about more freely, I have really enjoyed exploring the county of Wicklow, photographing areas that I always knew were there but rarely took

the time to properly appreciate. Before the pandemic hit, I think I was of the mindset that you needed to travel further afield to take satisfying photos. However, now I don't feel the need

to travel far at all, to take a photo that I'm happy with."

Check out www.ahphotos.ie or follow Aoife on Instagram for more: @ahphotos_ie.

Coming up at Whale Theatre... Gemma Hayes

Saturday 25th June, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €25

Since then she has released 4 critically acclaimed studio albums and a limited-edition live album. Gemma is constantly in demand for film and tv placements – her version of Chris Isaak's Wicked Game, recorded for the US TV series Pretty Little Liars, is now close to 18 million streams on Spotify alone. Gemma is currently working on a new album which she herself describes as deconstructed folk-pop. In the Spring Gemma will be releasing a song called 'A Reminder Of Another' from her new album due out at the beginning of the summer. Support act is Naimee Coleman.



Music Together Band

Sunday 26th June, 2pm (doors 1.30pm). Free Admission but booking is recommended



Over the last two years the Music Together Band has established a regular lineup of musicians with all abilities.

"During the pandemic, we were obliged to livestream our performances. 2022 will offer our first live performance in THE WHALE for 3 years, playing instruments selected for each individual musician.

MUSIC TOGETHER will feature new original tunes around the theme "TOGETHER AGAIN" We will also be joined by guest artists Alison O'Donnell and Dom McDonald adding some homegrown traditional material. This show will be a celebration both for us and for the audience, to share in our expression of collaborative spirit.

Duration: 60 minutes (No interval)

For tickets see www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550

Weighing In at The Courthouse

Courthouse Arts Centre,
Saturday 18th June €18/€16
8pm. Doors open 7.30pm

Starring June Henderson of Fair City, Father Ted and Isobel Mahon of The Clinic, Glenroe with the voice of Maria McDermottroe and directed by Caroline Fitzgerald.

The Courthouse becomes an Easi-Slim venue for the night for this popular play by Ger Gallagher.

The Easi-Slim clinic has just signed up a new member. Upwardly mobile Pam has joined, but only to 'maintain', and brag about the four stone she's already lost. In fact, the only part of Pam that weighs too much is her over-bloated ego.

Breda has been attending Easi-Slim for quite some time but just can't manage to reduce her waistline. But, that's all about to change because Pam is on hand to power walk her back into shape.

Breda becomes a disciple of the high-priestess of low-carbs and is bowled over by just how fabulous Pam appears to be. However, when Pam's mask begins to slip, Breda is reminded that things aren't always what they appear to be!



Isobel Mahon and June Henderson in Weighing In

FRENCH EXIT

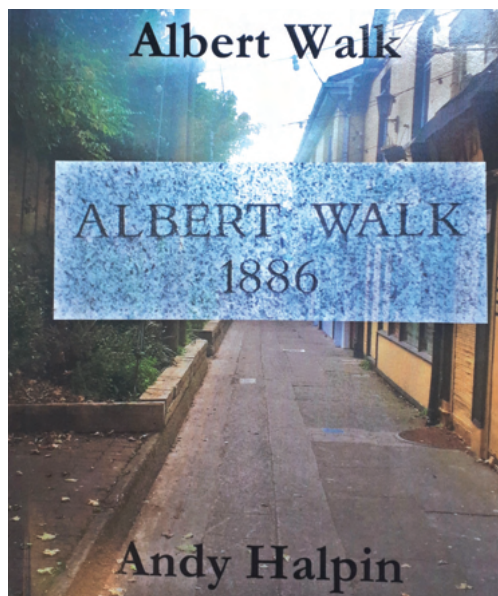
Courthouse Arts Centre, Friday 17th June 7.30pm. Tickets: €6/€5

"My plan was to die before the money ran out," says 60-year-old penniless Manhattan socialite Frances Price (Michelle Pfeiffer), but things didn't go as planned.

Her husband Franklin has been dead for 12 years and with his vast inheritance gone, she cashes in the last of her possessions and resolves to live out her twilight days anonymously in a borrowed apartment in Paris, accompanied by her directionless son Malcolm (Lucas Hedges) and a cat named Small Frank – who may or may not embody the spirit of Frances's dead husband. Multiple award-winning Michelle Pfeiffer stars in this film by director Azazel Jacobs based on the novel by Patrick deWitt. With Lucas Hedges, Imogen Poots and Valerie Mahaffey



Bray's Albert Walk inspires collection of short stories



Author Andy Halpin has self-published a collection of fictional short stories all inspired by the 'glory days' of the Albert Walk in Bray.

"In this collection, I pay homage to Albert Walk for all the pleasure I got when passing through the lane all those years ago," says Andy.

"I have tried to bring back a flavour of how it might have been when Albert Walk was in its prime and to bring to life the characters who may have frequented and filled Albert Walk back in the days when a day trip to Bray was the highlight of the summer for many a Dubliner.

"When I was young one of the most exciting things about a day trip to Bray was walking from the train station down the laneway across the road and mingling with the crowds of other day trippers, and being fascinated by the collection of amusement arcades, ice cream parlours, sweet and candyfloss shops and an

assortment of other attractions only found in a seaside town.

"Those days are of course now long gone and the attractions that fascinated us in those innocent days of our youth have no place in the modern world we live in now, consequently Albert Walk's glory days are long gone.

"It is seldom if ever thronged with people making their way to the beach."

From 'Rosie and Sally's First Holiday', to the 'Woman Who Plays The Slots', 'Midnight at The Roxy' and 'The First Great Bray Air Show', the characters and places of Andy's stories hark back to yesteryear.

Albert Walk is available now from Amazon and Kindle.

Mermaid seeks feedback from public on the return to live events

Mermaid Arts Centre has created a survey to get people's thoughts with regards to attending live events.

"It has been wonderful to welcome back so many of you since we reopened," said Mermaid.

"However, we know that some of you are not yet returning to us or to cultural venues at all and we're getting in touch today because we need your help with a short survey about how you're currently feeling about attending cultural events

and venues.

"We want to hear from everyone, whether you are back attending as often as you did before Covid or you haven't yet come back at all. Your responses will help us to understand how our audiences are feeling, plan for the future and make sure we are doing all we can to welcome you back as soon as possible.

"We have worked with our partners Indigo, Baker Richards and One Further to develop a short survey which we would be very grateful if you could complete. The survey should take around 10 minutes to complete.

"Your responses are anonymous - they will be used to inform our own planning as well as being

added to responses from all over Ireland and the UK to help produce a broad picture.

"Our partners will only have access to your responses for analysis and will not be able to

see any of your personal information.

Thank you for your help and we hope to see you again very soon."

To take the survey see <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3D2L2QT>



Jenny Sherwin, Arts Officer with Wicklow County Council, and Aoife Patterson of Wicklow Willow, help local children Padhraic and Amelia Byrne take part in a Wicklow Willow weaving workshop in the Rathcoran Estate in Baltinglass. The workshop was run by Respond as part of Cruinniú na nÓg, the annual celebration of arts and culture for children and young people curated and managed by Wicklow County Council for Creative Ireland. It took place on Saturday 11th June across County Wicklow. Pic: Conor Healy.

Freddie White returns to Greystones

Hot Spot Music Club - Friday June 17th. Doors 8pm | Show 9pm

In 2004, Freddie White returned to Ireland after many years living in the USA and released an all-new studio album entitled Four Days in May. Recorded in Dublin with some of Ireland's finest musicians over a four-day period, it showcases Freddie's songwriting prowess and unerring choice of songs worthy of remarkable reinterpretation. Since then he has toured regularly and also dedicated himself to the development of his latest recording, collaborating with songwriters Jimmy MacCarthy and Jim Barrett. Released in 2008, 'Stormy Lullaby', is a stunning collection of moody tracks in which Freddie White's musicianship and voice shine through.

It showcases what Freddie does best - that is 'get inside' and deliver heartrending, troubled love songs in a manner guaranteed to stop you in your tracks. It is often said of Freddie that he does not merely 'cover' great songs; more often than not he improves on the originals. Indeed, if this were not the case, he would surely be more highly revered for his own songwriting talent.

For tickets see www.thehotspot.ie/tickets or call Ph 087 2917519. Also at the door subject to availability



Freddie White. Photo by Con Kelleher

Cinema at Mermaid: An Cailín Ciúin

Friday 17th June | 8pm
€9 Full Price | €7 Concession
Duration 94 Minutes

Nine-year-old Cáit (Catherine Clinch) is sent by her dysfunctional family to spend the summer with an Aunt and Uncle she has never met before.

Through the tender care of her aunt Eibhlín (Carrie Crowley) Cáit finally feels loved and safe. Despite himself, her uncle Sean (Andrew Bennett) forges a bond and for the first time, Cáit experiences the warmth of a loving home. The once quiet Cáit blossoms in their care, but in this house where there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one.

Wonderfully recreating the feel of a country home in 1980s Ireland, An Cailín Ciúin (The Quiet Girl), adapted from Claire Keegan's acclaimed short story, Foster, is a genuine, deeply felt portrait of the bonds that sustain us.



BIFE Art & Design student Trinia Moriarty at the recent BIFE Art & Design Graduate Show. Pic: Joe McQuillan



The Arklow RNLI volunteer lifeboat crew were paged by the Irish Coastguard at 2.20PM on Bank Holiday Monday following a report of person in the water.

Toyota race ahead - and have great 222 offers

Toyota have had an amazing 2022 in Ireland as the runaway No. 1 in the new car sales league and with four of the top five best selling cars here being Toyotas in the year to date.

Toyota's cars remain among the very best made and coupled with a superb dealer network and a reputation built over 50 years here, and a ready availability of cars – it all adds up to a more compelling offering than anyone else.

In Wicklow, Boggans have been ably representing the brand here for many years and know their

by *Martin McCarthy*

customers well – and which models will suit their needs best.

But even with a remarkable 17.5 % market share year to date, they are not holding back and have an impressive range of incentives for the upcoming 222 registration plate starting on the 1st of July.

The Four Toyotas in the top five best selling models to date, are the Corolla, the CH-R, the RAV4 and the Yaris – with the brand-new Yaris Cross being the 7th best selling model in Ireland this year.

Toyota have been the pioneer of the petrol electric hybrid since they launched the Prius in Mt. Juliet in 1997 and they



The Toyota Yaris Cross

have continued to refine the concept. It clearly is a drivetrain that suits the environmentally conscious motorist – but for whom all electric simply isn't practical.

There is also a certain pride that Toyota Ireland is an Irish firm, in business for 50 years, showing they can compete and win against the most sophisticated global firms.

While Boggans have all the details of the upcoming incentives, the summary is:

- Toyota Easy PCP from 3.9% APR
- Toyota's new Aygo X, Yaris Hybrid and Yaris petrol available for just 3.9% APR
- 4.9% APR offered on Toyota Corolla and Toyota C-HR models

- 3 Years Servicing as standard on all retail sales
- Offers available from 20th May – 31st July

Commenting on the 222 offers, Zoe Bradley, Head of Marketing Communications in Toyota Ireland said: "We believe that there has never been a better time for Irish motorists to make the switch to hybrid electric vehicles. With fuel prices at a market high, we want to incentivise drivers with a host of great finance offers for 222. Not only benefitting from lower running costs and strong used car resale values, but self-charging hybrids electric also have many environmental benefits compared to diesel, such as 90% less NOx emissions."



The Toyota range

Strongest May on record for wind energy in Ireland

Wind Energy Ireland has released its May Wind Energy report, which shows that wind energy provided 34 per cent of Ireland's electricity in May 2022, up 9 per cent on May 2021.

This was the most power ever generated by wind in the month of May and over the first five months of 2022 wind has provided 37 per cent of Ireland's electricity.

Prices on the wholesale electricity market fell significantly to an average of €143.27 but market analysts believe this was likely a temporary fall due to a combination of an over supply of gas in Britain, lower than expected demand and better renewable energy performance.

Noel Cuniffe, CEO of Wind Energy Ireland, said: "Irish wind farms have delivered enormous amounts of clean energy over the first five months of the year, cutting our carbon emissions and helping to insulate Irish consumers from our dependence on expensive imported gas."

"We expect to see new wind farms connected before the end of 2022 and with solar farms connecting to the grid this year for the first time the two technologies will increasingly be able to work together to push fossil fuels off the Irish electricity system."

However, the organisation warned that delays in the planning system are slowing the rate of connection of new wind farms. Although An Bord Pleanála has a statutory timeframe to decide



applications from wind energy projects in 18 weeks the average time for a decision is over a year.

Noel Cuniffe said: "Our planning system must be urgently reformed and properly resourced to ensure that the renewable energy projects needed to cut our carbon emissions and drive down electricity bills can get built as quickly as possible."

The results of this report are based on EirGrid's SCADA data compiled by MullanGrid and on market data provided by ElectroRoute. This is the fifth in what will be a continuing series of monthly reports from Wind Energy Ireland. This series will play an important role in progressing the development of wind energy as an energy source in Ireland.

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Application is being made to Wicklow County Council by Richard & Catherine Kilbride for an amendment to the previously granted Planning Permission Reg. Ref. No. 20/855 for a one storey extension to an existing dwelling and retention and alterations to an existing extension including all ancillary site works at Coolboy, Tinahely, Arklow, 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

Bairbre Wilson and Jeff Doyle seek Planning Permission for the demolition of a single storey conservatory to the rear and the construction of a part single and part two-storey extension to the rear and to the side, and all ancillary works at Ceadaoin, Putland Road, Bray, Co Wicklow, A98 YX52. 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

Name: Mr Thomas Mackey Jr. Address: Moanvawn, Dunlavin, Co Wicklow W91 P522. Details: Planning permission is sought for change of use (removal of condition 2 of PRR 03/8818) from restricted use as a dwelling to use by all classes of person. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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

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

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Wicklow County Council
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Fax: 0404 20112

e-mail: recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie

Wicklow company wins at National Enterprise Awards

Aqualicense, who are supported by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, were this year's overall winners at this year's National Enterprise Awards. The awards, which took place at the Mansion House in Dublin, are in their 23rd year and run annually by the Local Enterprise Offices.

Aqualicense is an Arklow based company that provides consultation, planning, legal compliance and project delivery services for firms in the aquaculture and offshore energy industries. In 2021, Aqualicense expanded their operations into the highly regulated offshore renewable energy sector which has helped the company grow considerably and they are now looking to expand their expertise into new markets internationally.

Established in 2019 by Kate Dempsey the company has gone from strength to strength.

Acting Head of Enterprise, Lousie Fleming, said, "Local

Enterprise Office Wicklow in delighted that an Arklow-based company, Aqualicense Ltd., has been awarded the overall Winner of the National Enterprise Awards 2022. Serial Entrepreneur, Kate Dempsey, founded the business in 2019, providing services in aquaculture licensing. A loyal supporter of Co. Wicklow, Kate has created high level jobs in her four companies. She has been supported by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow since 2017, and all the team at the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow are thrilled with her success, and send congratulations to her and her hard-

working staff."

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, said "It is a fantastic to see a young Wicklow business competing against Ireland's most enterprising companies, and being recognized as the best. Aqualicense is contributing to a new and exciting chapter of economic diversity in the maritime sector. This accolade will undoubtedly launch Arklow as a centre of excellence and innovation in this industry. Congratulations to Kate and her Team."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr. Brian

Gleeson, said "Kate Dempsey's passion for Irish marine development and her determination to succeed have been instrumental in her success to date. Supported by the Local Enterprise Office, and working together with

Wicklow County Council to delivery on strategic opportunities in the marine sector, we are delighted to see her work celebrated on a national stage. She is driving high value job creation, and helping to ensure environmental sustainability is at the heart of Maritime development. Congratulations to Kate and her fantastic team."

Previous winners of the National Enterprise Awards include Irish Yoghurts (1998), Obelisk (2000), Simtech Aviation

(2008), Digiweb (2004) and Design Pro (2013), Terra NutriTech (2018) and Pestle & Mortar (2019). The last winners celebrated on a national stage in 2021 were Bevercraft, who were supported by Local Enterprise Office Westmeath. Europe's only mobile canning company have gone from strength to strength since winning the award, opening new hubs across the continent.

The National Enterprise Awards are one of a number of initiatives that the Local Enterprise Offices run, to

foster entrepreneurship across the country. Others include Local Enterprise Week, the Student Enterprise Programme, National Women's Enterprise Day and Local Enterprise Showcase. The Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities are funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland.

Established in 2014, the Local Enterprise Offices are the essential resource for any entrepreneur looking to

start a business or any small business that is looking for support or advice to help them grow. Since their inception eight years ago, the Local Enterprise Offices have helped create over 20,000 jobs across the country. The LEOs work with thousands of client companies across Ireland in a diverse range of sectors offering mentoring, training, expert advice and financial supports to small businesses. For more information see www.LocalEnterprise.ie.



Lorraine Gallagher, Wicklow County Council; Sarah Cosgrave, Aqualicense; Colin Farrell, Aqualicense; Kate Dempsey, CEO, Aqualicense; Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council; Lousie Fleming, Wicklow LEO

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