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Tuesday 21st June 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

ARKLOW'S WIND AND WATER

It was all good news for Arklow last week as two critical milestones were achieved.

The Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 planning permission was granted for their Operations and Maintenance Facility.

The decision means SSE Renewables is the first offshore developer to secure planning permission for an offshore wind operations and maintenance facility in Ireland.

Approval was secured by SSE Renewables from Wicklow County Council in relation to the operations base proposed for South Dock. The decision will help

contribute to a significant regeneration of the Arklow townscape known as The Old Shipyard.

Once operational, the facility will serve as the onshore support base used to control, operate and maintain the offshore wind farm during its operational lifetime.

It will accommodate around 80 long-term direct, local jobs during the operation of the offshore wind farm which will include site managers, supervisors, technicians, vessel crew, control room operators

and engineers. Hundreds more jobs will be created and sustained during the construction phase of the operations base and the wider wind farm project. The four-storey Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) will also feature a Sustainable Education Centre on its top floor which will complement Arklow's Decarbonisation Zone status.

The Sustainable Education Centre will act as a link between the offshore wind farm and



Alannah Delahunt, Olivia Pennell, Lauren Beacom and Nicole Peterson at Brittas Bay National School's Garden Open Day and plant sale last Wednesday. Pic: Michael Kelly

the local community and will have the capacity to accommodate exhibitions, guided tours and sustainability-themed events.

Within the South Dock, designated quayside and berth facilities will be constructed to accommodate four crew transfer vessels (CTVs) and a pontoon system will be

installed to provide for safe boarding, loading and unloading of CTVs.

Kaj Christiansen, Development Manager, SSE Renewables said: "We are extremely pleased to have planning permission granted for the Operations and Maintenance Facility which will support Arklow Bank

Wind Park Phase 2's offshore infrastructure.

"This means that

another critical piece of the puzzle is now in place as we work to

deliver this project by 2028."

Continued on page 3



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A digital image of the completed operations and maintenance facility.

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Pictured is 9 year old Liadh Fitzmaurice celebrating after completing her 150th Park Run in the People's Park in Bray on Sunday 12th June.

Water Safety Awareness Day in Greystones

There will be a water safety awareness day taking place at Greystones Harbour on Sunday 26th June from 11am to 3pm. Come and meet your local emergency services and community groups, including the RNLI, Irish Coast Guard, An Garda Síochána, the Civil Defence, Wicklow Fire Service, Greystones First Responders, and Local Lifesaving Group.

Bray Head Seabird colony

Birdwatch Ireland is organising a 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 Car Park, Bray at the start of the Bray-Greystones Cliff Walk at 7.00pm on Thursday 23rd June. Finish by 8.30pm.

Parkinson's Choir

A choir for people with Parkinsons, family and friends meets every Monday morning at 11.30am in the Ashford Community and Heritage Centre. Singing together is great fun, and has many positive benefits - physical, emotional and social. New members are always welcome anytime. Dara MacMahon, Music Director of the singing group, can help with any queries (086-8146926).

Bray Street Feast

Bray Tidy Towns are organising a Street Feast at Ravenswell River Walk on Sunday 26th June at 3pm. Bring your own food, drink, and chairs.

€24.5k for Wicklow Naturally

Minister Simon Harris TD has announced that €24.5k will be allocated by the Government under its agri-tourism fund to Wicklow Naturally. Wicklow Naturally is the county's network to support and promote Wicklow food and drink producers. Speaking last Friday, Minister Harris said, "I am delighted we have secured this funding for Wicklow Naturally. Excellent work is underway to promote and support Wicklow food and drink producers. In my view, this could have very significant impact in promoting County Wicklow and in attracting tourists to our county and growth opportunities for Wicklow businesses."

"I want to congratulate and commend all involved in Wicklow Naturally and I look forward to their work continuing to progress. I hope this funding support today through the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund will assist them."

Summer Songs Outdoor Concerts

The Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh, will welcome back this year Summer Songs - Inland & by the Sea with two nights of outdoor concerts this year. Saturday 25th from 7:30pm the line up is Paddy Casey, Robbie Walsh Trad Band. Sunday 26th of June, Kila, Robbie Walsh Trad Band. Summer Songs - Inland & by the Sea is curated by Wicklow County Arts Office funded by the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme provided by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media. Tickets can be purchased through See page 16 for more details.

Creative Wicklow 2022

Applications are now being accepted for Wicklow County Council's Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme. The scheme is for not-for-profit organizations and local community groups - arts, heritage and cultural groups, venues and societies. WCC is seeking projects that effectively capture and showcase the richness of Wicklow culture. The Closing date is 5 pm on 24th June. Details from Wicklow.ie. If you would like to speak with someone about this innovative scheme, please contact Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer (0404 20100); Catherine Wright, Archivist (0404 20100); Wicklow Arts Office (0404 20155).

Mobile Library

A mobile comes to Laragh every second Thursday from 12.15pm to 12.50pm. To renew or request items or access online resources from your PC/tablet/mobile phone please phone 087 9135229 or log into the library online catalogue (if unsure of your PIN Number, ask library staff). Email at library@wicklowcoco.ie. Next date is June 16th and 30th.

St John of God Dublin South East Job Open Evening

St John of God Dublin South East (111 Upper Glenageary Road, Dun Laoghaire), has lots of new opportunities in Day Services for Instructors, Key Workers, Social Care Workers, Nurses & career changers! Attend their Job Open Evening on Tuesday 28th June, 5:30pm - 8:30pm, and chat with some of the team to find out more. Register to attend and check out existing vacancies on www.sjogdse.ie.

While you are there attend the communication workshop facilitated by an expert in the area.

6.30pm - 7.15pm: Communication with the men and Women and we support, including an introduction to Lámh:

"We communicate with the men and women we support using a variety of communication means that suit their individual needs."

These can include Lámh, Visuals (timetables, Communication books etc.) and Alternative Communication (including technology). In this

workshop you can increase your skills in this area as we will discuss and demonstrate these strategies. This will be an interactive workshop where you can ask questions, get hand outs and learn more about communication."

Refreshments will be available in Oasis Café. Free Parking on Site

If you can't make it on the day and are interested in working with St John of God Community Services, send your CV to DSERecruitment@sjog.ie quoting 'Open Evening' in the subject line.

Information Talk: Food, Nutrition and Cancer with Dr. Mary Flynn

Purple House Cancer Support Centre are holding a free talk on Food, Nutrition and Cancer with Registered Dietitian Dr. Mary Flynn on 11am Friday 24th June at Purple House in Bray.

All are welcome, but registration essential at www.purplehouse.ie. Based on research from the World Cancer Research Fund, Mary will describe: the countless different foods that can be part of healthy eating; how it's never a problem if you don't like certain foods - there are always others that are equally good; how cancer can affect our food habits (taste changes, nausea, weight loss or weight gain, overwhelming tiredness; how flexibility is key to healthy eating in the long-term - rigorous diets never work!; how there's a never-ending choice of foods, prepared in a wide variety of ways, can be part of the healthy eating plan that's best for you!

In addition to the effects of cancer, people have very different nutritional needs depending on their age, gender and life-stage so finding a healthy eating pattern that best suits you (and your life!) is very individual.

In Purple House we know how some of the best insight we get on protecting ourselves from cancer comes from learning from each other.

So do come and help Purple House develop a food and nutrition service that meets your needs - group sessions on nutrition for different life stages, on weight issues, preparing meals and recipe swaps, individual sessions.



Jess and Amy Connolly with Ciabhan Connolly Egan at the 'Soccer in the Meadow' event at Bog Meadow, Enniskerry. The weekend-long event over June 11th and 12th, organised by Enniskerry Football Club, saw plenty of entertainment for adults and children from Enniskerry and surrounding area, centred around a two-day Mini World Cup tournament for boys and girls. Approximately 300 children took part in the event.

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New wastewater treatment plant opens in Ballyconnell

It was a historic occasion for Ballyconnell on Friday morning as Irish Water, in partnership with Wicklow County Council, officially opened a new state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility following a €600,000 investment to safeguard the environment and support a sustainable future for the village.

The new treatment plant and supporting infrastructure will ensure that treated wastewater is now fully compliant with EU Urban Wastewater Directives before being safely discharged back into the natural environment. It will also enable future growth and development in the area, and has already facilitated a much-needed expansion of the local primary school, St Mary's NS which also benefits pupils living in Carlow.

At a special event to mark the occasion which also honoured 40 years of dedication from retired Senior Executive Wastewater Executive Engineer, Larry Wolohan, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen welcomed the significant investment by

Irish Water, adding; "I'm delighted to be here to witness the official opening of Ballyconnell Wastewater Treatment Plant. This significant investment by Irish Water will ensure that wastewater is collected and treated to the highest environmental standards. The completion of this project in Ballyconnell is vital to ensure we can provide a platform for future growth in the local community."

"I would also like to pay tribute to retired senior executive engineer for Wicklow County Council, Mr. Larry Wolohan retired senior executive engineer for Wicklow County Council, Mr. Larry Wolohan whose dedication to Ballyconnell and expertise on both the old and new wastewater treatment

plants span four decades."

Larry Wolohan who spoke at the event said: "After 40 years of working as an Engineer with Wicklow County Council and other local authorities it is a momentous occasion to witness the opening of the new Ballyconnell Wastewater Treatment Plant. A lot of hard work went into the design and construction of the plant, and it is an honour to be standing here to see the project brought to reality and serving the community of Ballyconnell."

Irish Water's Wastewater Asset Operations Lead, Brendan Cahalin, said: "The completion of this essential piece of infrastructure for the area will ensure that wastewater from homes and businesses is treated

and discharged locally in compliance with Irish and European environmental standards and will unlock the potential for future growth and housing development in the area."

Brendan added "Prior to the completion of this project, the original wastewater treatment plant did not meet the needs of a growing community and surrounding areas. Tankered wastewater had to be transported each week to a second wastewater facility for treatment. Following this investment by Irish Water tankering is no longer required, providing significant cost savings as well as a sustainable wastewater treatment for homes and businesses now and into the future."

The project represents a significant investment by



Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District, Cllr Avril Cronin, with Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Shay Cullen, 5th and 6th class pupils from St. Mary's National School Ballyconnell, Larry Wolohan, retired senior executive engineer for Wicklow County Council, and Irish Water's Brendan Cahalin, officially opening the new wastewater treatment plant. Pic: Naoise Culhane

Irish Water and included the construction of a new state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant and associated infrastructure which will significantly increase

treatment capacity and support future growth and development in the area.

The project was delivered by David Walsh Civil Engineering Limited as

Contractor and Ryan Hanley as Employers Representative on behalf of Irish Water.

Irish Water and Wicklow County Council

said they also acknowledge the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin with regards to acquiring the site to facilitate the new plant.

ARKLOW'S WIND AND WATER

Continued from Page 1

The second critical milestone for Arklow was the announcement by Irish Water that it has moved closer to eliminating raw sewage in the town with construction of major outfall pipeline to the Irish Sea.

Working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, it continues to progress this landmark project which will provide wastewater treatment for the first time in Arklow. The project includes the construction of a new state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant and associated pipeline, bringing significant benefits to the local community including environmental protection and improved water quality in the River Avoca for angling, water sports and marine life. It will also act as an enabler for housing and support economic growth and development in the town.

Works continue at an impressive rate with construction already underway on the long sea outfall pipe which will safely discharge the treated wastewater from the town almost a kilometre out to sea. Following months of planning, the new pipeline was recently shipped in three sections, each measuring almost 310m in length, over

1,000km across the open sea from Norway to the Port of Arklow. The sections of pipeline were then tugged carefully and with acute precision towards the harbour by AMS Retriever and assisting tug, AMS Husky, before being moored in the North Quay where they were fitted with concrete collars. The new



The inlet pumping station at the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant site

pipeline will be sunk this week, weather permitting, in a pre-excavated trench using specialised equipment and a number of marine vessels.

In addition Irish Water announced that the first phase of construction on the new interceptor sewer pipelines along the North and South quays have been completed which will bring untreated wastewater to the new plant.

To minimise the impact on the local community, the majority of this work continues to be carried out using modern trenchless technology (Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM)), meaning most of the construction is taking place almost entirely underground without the need for large open excavations.

The next phase of tunnelling will progress over the coming months including underneath the River Avoca, where a new sewer will be installed, connecting the North and South Quay wastewater network.

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Wicklow Town makes top 10 in litter survey

Wicklow Town has been assessed as the being 'Cleaner than European Norms' in the latest Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) survey, and has come in 7th place out of 40 towns and cities.

All approach roads got the top litter grade and it was also noted that there were less vacant/derelict sites along Abbey Street/Main Street, with the outdoor seating and substantial planting seen as a very welcome addition. Wicklow Gaol and environs received a comment as being "exceptionally well presented and

maintained" while the Glen Beach Cliff Walk was also noted as a wonderful addition to the town. Cathaoirleach of Wicklow Municipal District, Cllr Gail Dunne, said: "We are delighted that Wicklow Town has featured so highly in the IBAL Anti-Litter League Survey and this is a testament to the hard work and dedica-

tion of the Council staff. I would also like to commend Wicklow Tidy Towns who continually foster a sense of pride and community spirit which has earned them Gold Medal Status for Wicklow Town." Grade A Ratings were awarded to: Approach from Rathnew, Dunbar Approach, Glen Beach Cliff Walk/Lime Kiln Bay, Abbey Street/Main Street, 'Bring Bank' at car park on way into SuperValu car park, Murrough Playground/Picnic area & Environs, R999 Approach over Murrough Bridge, Lidl, Wicklow Goal.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson, said: "This is a great achievement for Wicklow Town and a great endorsement for everyone who has worked so hard to achieve this result. I would like also to pay tribute to all the community groups and volunteers across the County who work extremely hard all year round in keeping our towns and villages attractive places to live and visit.



Market Square, Wicklow Town



Fitzwilliam Square, Wicklow Town

Communities receive grants for local waters and biodiversity

A range of projects across County Wicklow are to benefit from grants to support the protection and enhancement of local waterbodies.

The Community Water Development Fund is providing a total of just over €23,500 for nine community groups around Wicklow.

Projects approved for grant funding in County Wicklow include:

- Hydrogeological assessment of Arklow Town Marsh to preserve the protected aquatic habitat (Arklow Tidy Towns)
- Glencree River Water Quality Project: Improvement and assessment (An Óige Knockree Conservation Group)
- Three separate

Ecological Assessments of Cannistown River/Kilcoole Stream, Newcastle River and Swan River, Bray (Keep Kilcoole Tidy/Kilcoole Biodiversity Group, Newcastle Residents Association/Biodiversity group, and Bray Tidy Towns/Swan River Conservation Group respectively)

- Enniskerry Tidy Towns
- Cookstown River
- Invasive Species survey and action plan
- Snapshot Europe 2022 Wildlife Survey across Wicklow Water Habitats

(ReWild Wicklow)

- Refurbishment of Observation Hide at BirdWatch Ireland's East Coast Nature Reserve (BirdWatch Ireland) and
- The Park Stream, Shillelagh. Installation of solar powered water fountain (Shillelagh Peoples Property Ltd)

Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, welcomed the announcement, saying: "I am delighted to see these hard working community groups acknowledged with grant funding to support them

in delivering projects to enhance their local water bodies. These local community groups play a key role in the protection of their local environment in collaboration with

LAWPRO, Wicklow County Council and the other relevant agencies."

Congratulating the Wicklow groups who were successful in receiving funding, Chief

Executive Brian Gleeson added: "Wicklow County Council will continue our vital work with the community and the other agencies to protect the water quality of Co Wicklow's streams, rivers, lakes and coastal areas. I congratulate these groups for their engagement and participation in this initiative and recognise the value of the work they do."

The Community

Water Development Fund will continue to be a key measure in the new revised and strengthened River Basin Management Plan for Ireland, which will be launched later in 2022. The Plan aims to protect Ireland's water quality, and to ensure we have a well-protected environment and vibrant communities for future generations.

For more information

on all grants awarded in 2022 visit www.lawaters.ie and for information and advice relating to enhancing local water bodies in County Wicklow contact Dónal O'Keeffe, Community Water Officer at 085 8700 126/ dokeeffe@lawaters.ie

For the latest on water quality, science, and stories of community activities visit www.catchments.ie

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At least 200 volunteers collected almost one tonne of litter at the 15 clean-up events held both on land and by the Wicklow coast for World Ocean Day, to prevent litter pollution at the source to ensure it does not end up in the ocean. A few key events that took place during the first week included clean-ups from Clean Coasts North Wicklow as well as an event from Catalyst Coffee and Sea Life Bray who partnered up for a big clean-up for World Ocean Day removing almost 10 full bags of marine litter on Bray beach, pictured here. If you won't get a chance to get involved with the World Ocean Day initiative this year Clean Coasts are holding event nationwide throughout summer 2022. For more information on these events head to our website at www.cleancoasts.org to stay up to date on what's happening.



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William and Maeve Clucas at the 'Soccer in the Meadow' event in Enniskerry. The weekend-long event was organised by Enniskerry Football Club

Stokes outlines infrastructure, transport, tourism as key issues

Stephen Stokes was officially co-opted to Wicklow County Council at last Monday's meeting, and has outlined infrastructure, tourism and transport as being among the key issues he wants to tackle.

Stokes was officially proposed at last week's meeting, on Monday 13th June, by Independent councillor Tom Fortune, and the proposal was seconded by Independent councillor Joe Behan.

On taking his seat, Cllr Stokes praised the work of his predecessor, Dr Mags Crean, who, he said, has left "big shoes to fill".

"Mags was an amazing worker for the Greystones Municipal District. Her integrity and work ethic is second to none," said Cllr Stokes. "Mags was instrumental in Greystones again winning the World's Most Livable Community at the Liv Com Awards. Lets hope she will remain active in the local community. I am humbled that Mags selected me to replace her for the remaining two years of her term. Mags has left big shoes to fill."

During his maiden speech, Cllr Stokes outlined several key issues that he will work towards including infrastructure, public transport and tourism.

Cllr Stokes added: "I am very proud to represent the Greystones District in Wicklow

County Council. It is a huge honour. Having been raised in Greystones I have seen massive changes during my lifetime, especially in housing. Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole, Newcastle and Killadreenan have definitely contributed their fair share of new housing. However many local people have expressed concern that the infrastructure has not kept pace. This has to be a top priority going forward. I would like Wicklow County Council to redouble our efforts in this area."

As a longtime commuter, Cllr Stokes believes public transport is crucial. He added: "I share the pain of commuters. I've been stuck in traffic while driving on the N11, as well as being stranded by cancelled public transport. If we are serious about reducing car journeys, we need to urgently increase capacity and reliability. Building confidence is key. Furthermore I'd love to see usb charging ports as standard on all public transport. The Dart being extended to Wicklow Town is a positive development. Imagine though



Cllr Stephen Stokes takes his seat in the Wicklow council chamber last Monday

if frequent rail services went beyond Wicklow Town. Imagine if the Luas went beyond Brides Glen in the east, and Tallaght in the west. Imagine the possibilities for work, study, leisure and tourism".

Cllr Stokes added: "We are rightly proud of our tourism businesses. They provide crucial employment. Enhancing our visitor attractions is great for Wicklow residents to use. In my first Wicklow County Council meeting I pressed for an update on the re-opening of the Cliff

Walk, especially coming into the peak summer season. As someone with a background in international education, I am laser focused on visitor experiences. What we do now will shape the view of Wicklow in the 21st century."

Cllr Stokes is also focused on housing. He will replace Dr. Mags Crean on the Housing Special Policy Committee of Wicklow County Council. Anyone looking to contact Stephen Stokes can do so on stephenstokes101@gmail.com.

During his time on Greystones Town Council, Cllr Stokes was Deputy Mayor to Mayor Kathleen Kelleher, who said Cllr Stokes's return to local politics is "very welcome".

"Councillor Stokes was an excellent Greystones Town Councillor. He will be an excellent Wicklow County Councillor, serving on Greystones Municipal District," she said.

"Councillor Stokes was a superb Deputy Mayor of Greystones when I was Mayor of our town. I know he will work hard for the people of Greystones in the future as he did in the past. Councillor Stokes was an initial supporter of Holyhead Twinning, travelling over to make their acquaintance in 2010. His most recent contributions to the town are the chess tables in Burnaby Park and the Dog Park in Charlesland. Special acknowledgement must go to former Councillor Mags Crean for her excellent work and dedication. Best wishes to her and I'm looking forward to her continued valuable contributions to our community."

'Crean resignation a huge loss to our council'

Councillors last week praised the work of Dr Mags Crean from Greystones Municipal District who recently resigned her seat on the Council. Stephen Stokes was officially co-opted to the vacant Independent seat at last Monday's meeting.

Councillors spoke highly of the contribution made over the last three years by Dr Crean, who was in attendance at last week's meeting.

Dr Crean made the decision to resign, stating that "a change in my personal, family and employment circumstances" had made her "unable to continue to meet the demands and commitments that a county councillor role requires without it having an adverse effect on my health and family."

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Shay Cullen described Dr Crean as "hard-working and dedicated. She's a real community person and I'm sad to see her leave. She took her role as a councillor very seriously in terms of what she believes in. The decision she came to was a difficult one, but in her three years on the Council she has done an amazing job for her community and the County and she can be proud of that." Cllr Cullen said he was sure that Dr Crean would remain active in her community.

Independent councillor Tom Fortune said that in her time on the Council, Dr Crean had been a very important part of the Independent

group and had made an invaluable contribution. Cllr Fortune said her professionalism as a councillor was reflected in her decision to step down. "She has an understated tenacity, and brought a great fairness and freshness to the Council," he said. "Her resignation will be a massive loss to politics."

Sinn Féin councillor Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien said, "Mags honoured the role and saw it something worthy of her commitment and all the integrity that came with that".

Social Democrats councillor Jodie Neary said "Dr Crean's resignation will be a huge loss to our Council. It's hard to juggle life with the challenges of a career, work as a councillor and everything else, it can be particularly difficult for women and a lot needs to change to support women."

Labour Party councillor Anne Ferris described Dr Crean as "one of the most thoughtful people I've ever met. She will be sorely missed. It's a huge issue for women in politics - trying to make everything balance - but I have no doubt that we will see her back in politics some day."

Labour Party Councillor Paul



Dr Mags Crean

O'Brien described Dr Crean as "a lady of integrity and high intelligence. When I served with her on the Housing SPC, her in-depth knowledge scared me a bit at times. It's a sad loss to our Council."

Independent councillor Joe Behan said it was "a sad day for local democracy". He praised Dr Crean's "compassion for people who are marginalised and disadvantaged. She's a genuine committed person, and I'm delighted she's here today to hear these contributions. I'd love to see the day when Mags Crean re-enters the world of politics."

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Erika Doyle elected Cathaoirleach of Bray

Green Party Councillor Erika Doyle was elected Bray Municipal District Cathaoirleach at last Tuesday's Bray MD meeting. Cllr Doyle takes over from Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy (FG). Fine Gael Councillor Melanie Corrigan was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

On taking the Chair, Cllr Doyle said, "It's a huge privilege to be voted in as Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District and have the support of my colleagues. I will do my utmost to represent the district and the council in a manner that reflects the pride and love I have for my home town.

"Rather than reciting a list of promises, I will instead commit to listening and participating and ensuring that all voices are heard, and that all those living in our community feel equal in their power to contribute and be heard.

"When I was a very young teenage mum, I didn't for one minute think I would ever sit in this chair. I felt set apart from the decision makers. Much later in my role reporting on local politics I saw things that frustrated me. I made the decision to get involved, and I would like everybody in our community to know they are entitled to input, regardless of their age or background.

"While it is a great



Cathaoirleach Erika Doyle with outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy (right), and Manager of Bray Municipal District Lorraine Gallagher (left)

personal honour, I am of course aware that we take this role as an office holder and not as an individual. We must show leadership but not ego, seek robust discussion but not be afraid to take responsibility when decisions do not please everybody, which few do.

"We have wonderful,

passionate community and voluntary groups in Bray, Kilmacanogue and Enniskerry. We have innovative business people. We have so many doing unseen work, volunteers and carers. We have inspiring young people. I hope to meet and listen to as many of you as possible

during my term as Cathaoirleach.

"This year will hopefully see a return to normality for our district after years of covid. The upcoming opening of Bray Central will see the rejuvenation of that area and hopefully inspire confidence in the retail sector. Housing projects

will continue. I hope to progress projects that will improve the liveability of the district, projects like the long-awaited skate park, the greenway from Kilmacanogue to Bray, the neighbourhood scheme on the old par 3, extending the cycle ways from both sides of our town, towards Greystones and at the northern end from the harbour into Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown. I want to work with the council to see how we can return the Blue Flag to Bray beach.

"We will see progress on cycle lanes and public realm improvements within the town itself and inclusiveness and accessibility are vital. Larger projects, in fact all that we do, must be guided by the strategic development goals with a focus on sustainability.

"Thank you again for your support. I look forward to working with the elected members, the executive and the people of Bray, Kilmac and Enniskerry for the good of the district."



Green Party Councillor Erika Doyle was elected Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District at last Tuesday's Municipal District meeting. Cllr Doyle takes over from Fine Gael councillor Aoife Flynn-Kennedy. Fine Gael councillor Melanie Corrigan was elected Leas Cathaoirleach. Cllr Doyle said "I'm looking forward to representing Bray District to the best of my abilities, with the support of my fellow councillors and the Council executive".

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Campaigners to challenge decision on Bray bridge



The Swans at Bray Harbour

Campaigners in Bray are challenging An Bord Pleanála's decision in relation to an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the proposed sustainable transport bridge over the River Dargle in Bray. The Bord had determined that an EIAR wasn't required.

The 'Save Bray' campaigners (formed from the Save Our Floodplain and Save the Bray Swans campaigners, and Seapoint Court Residents) are to fundraise towards a judicial review to challenge ABP's decision. An application for leave to bring a judicial review has been lodged by legal representatives for the group and a decision on this is expected to be made by the High Court in the coming months.

The group is hoping to raise an initial €10,000 towards the costs of the legal challenge.

Meanwhile, O'Connell & Clarke Solicitors have lodged a request with ABP asking if a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) must be carried out by Wicklow County Council as part of the project. This request was lodged with ABP

at the end of May and a decision is due to be made by 3rd October.

Wicklow County Council's proposals to build a 'sustainable transport bridge' across the River Dargle have drawn much criticism from locals.

ABP decided that an EIAR report was not required, determining that the bridge would have 'limited potential for significant effects on the environment'.

The Council's Part 8 process was put on hold while ABP made its decision. The public consultation phase for the project was carried out last year, with many submissions expressing deep concerns about the danger that the proposed suspension bridge might pose to the 120 swans in Bray Swan Sanctuary. The final decision on the bridge will ultimately fall to

Wicklow's county Councillors, it's understood.

The proposed bridge and link road would consist of a two-lane public transport road and pedestrian and cycle path. It will also facilitate buses and, possibly in the future, the LUAS.

The flight path of Bray's local swan population is along the Dargle River, and campaigners say the 'unnecessarily tall' bridge will be directly in their path. They say that the 'vain' design of the bridge - with vertical cables - has prioritised aesthetic considerations above animal welfare.

Wildlife rescue volunteers who currently help the swans in Bray harbour and on the river Liffey, have observed that many of the Dublin swans crash into the Samuel Becket bridge, fall onto the road and cause traffic

problems. Likewise, swans in Bray regularly fall on the train tracks and cause DART and train delays.

Campaigners have also expressed concerns about the otters which feed in the River Dargle underneath the railway and road bridges. These feeding grounds could be severely compromised by the construction of the transport bridge, they say. As well as wildlife concerns, the local residents fighting for the preservation of the Dargle river's natural floodplain are also concerned as the bridge will cut across the floodplain, where heavy rain and potential overflow from the river can be absorbed. They believe the construction of the bridge will destroy a valuable safety valve which provides protection from flooding for the low-lying areas of Little Bray.

Planning permission exemptions for rooftop solar panels proposed

The Minister of State for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke, TD, has published proposed revisions to the existing planning exemptions for the installation of solar panels on the roofs of houses and certain non-domestic buildings in Wicklow and elsewhere in the country.



Steven Matthews TD

new classes of development relating to apartments and educational/community/religious buildings. Exemptions are also proposed for free-standing solar panel installations for houses.

Senator Róisín Garvey, Green Party Spokesperson for Rural Development and Enterprise, Trade and Employment said "I'm delighted to see these exemptions open to public consultation. I want to see solar panels on the roof of every farm building, community hall and school in Ireland and finally see farmers reduce their energy bill and get paid for excess electricity through the Microgeneration Scheme introduced by Minister Eamon Ryan."

The publication of the exemptions comes after years of campaigning by the Green Party to simplify the planning process, including a bill brought to the Seanad by the Green Party in June 2021.

Senator Pauline O'Reilly who brought the bill to the Seanad stated, "The Green Party has been campaigning for a number of years to make it easier for people to put solar panels on their roofs, so I'm delighted these proposals published this week. Solar power, in both individual rooftops and at utility scale, has huge potential in supplying our energy needs and helping to achieve the targets in our Climate Action Plan. Under current regulation, farms, schools and public buildings need to seek planning permission to install even one solar panel, and this can take months of paperwork and formalities. There are also restrictions on the size and number of panels that can be used, and this means they are too small for the needs of the building."

A public consultation as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process is now open and will run until July 13th.

A public consultation as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process is now open and will run until 13th July. The proposed changes are aimed at increasing Ireland's generation of solar energy and national action on climate change.

Steven Matthews TD, Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage stated: "I warmly welcome the publication of the proposed planning exemptions that will finally remove barriers to solar panels on farms, homes and public buildings. Easing planning regulations makes sense in the context of the immediate energy crisis, but also for our longer-term objectives for accelerating our renewable energy objectives and reducing fossil fuel dependency. I hope to see these exemptions come into effect later this year."

The proposed expansion of the regulations sees the addition of two

'More staff needed to address biodiversity'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called on the government to provide more staff to assist Wicklow County Council in addressing climate change and biodiversity.

Deputy Whitmore was questioning officials from the Department of Environment and the SEAI in the Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action, discussing the role of local authorities in climate action.

"During my work as Cllr and now as TD, it is evidently clear that local authorities need more staff to enable them to meet our climate action targets," said Deputy Whitmore. "Councils, like Wicklow County Council, will play a crucial role in our capacity to reduce carbon emissions particularly in areas like transport and the housing sector. They will also play an important supporting role for local communities to engage in the transition towards a zero-carbon economy."

"I have regularly engaged with Wicklow County Council on the range of tasks it is set to complete including the Decarbonisation Zone of Arklow, its masterplan as well as the County's Adaptation and Mitigation Plans including reviews and reports. The biggest challenge is yet to come, when local authorities will be tasked with drafting and implementing

a Climate Action Plan as provided for in legislation. This will include a county-wide carbon budget. To draft and implement a large plan like this it will require need biodiversity officers, environmental officers, green infrastructure personnel and many more on hand to develop climate action policy on a county-level.

"To do all this takes a huge team of people and lots of funding to make it happen. The current Climate Action Team in WCC is doing incredible work but with little resources in terms of staff and funding. Not only is it very difficult to receive funding from the SEAI, they don't fund staff so it's up to Councils to get extra staff sanctioned by the Department of Local Government."

"I asked the Department of Environment, if they were aware of the staff shortage in Climate Teams at local authority level and, incredibly, the Climate Action Team in WCC has not had funding for a single new hire in two years."

"To follow up on this, I asked that the

Department make representations on behalf of Wicklow County Council and local authorities across Ireland who will need to hire staff with specific expertise in these areas," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

Independent Councillor Mary Kavanagh, meanwhile, has questioned whether outdoor council staff are receiving an appropriate amount of biodiversity training. Cllr Kavanagh raised the matter at the May meeting of Wicklow County Council, on the back of the removal of heron nests by Council staff along the river bank in Wicklow Town.

"We had a heron colony down at the river bank and a few months ago, their habitat was removed," she said. "Herons build and use the same nests for generations. If you remove their nests, you are effectively removing their habitats. What happened was tree tops were removed which had a lot of these nests in them."

"While some work had been done to find out if there were any herons nesting in the nests, nobody had gone that extra mile to investigate whether it was important to leave these nests where they were. Now the heron population in that area has been reduced from about six breeding pairs to possibly one or two."



Cllr Paul O'Brien, with Jenny and Mervyn Nolan at Brittas Bay National School's Garden Open Day and Plant Sale held last Wednesday.

Contract signed for sale of 1,000-pupil school site

Cairn Homes plc has announced that contracts have been signed with the Department of Education and Skills for the sale of an 11.5 acre site in Greystones, for the location of a new school building for Greystones Community College.

The school will be adjacent to Cairn's Hawkins Wood residential development, which is currently under construction, and its completed Glenheron residential development. The sale is scheduled to complete in July 2022.

Cairn recently received full planning permission for the new secondary school, which was designed by Cairn in conjunction with the Department of Education and Skills.

The new community secondary school will be constructed on the 11.5 acre, fully-serviced site,

comprising c. 10,808 square metres of gross internal floor area, including 57 classrooms, a 1,000 square metre PE hall and gym and 6 outdoor hard play court areas. The new secondary school will have the capacity to accommodate up to 1,000 students benefitting the broader Greystones community and its hinterland.

This will be the sixth school built and delivered on Cairn sites in recent years, providing new purpose-built educational facilities for in excess of 4,000 pupils in addition to up to six other serviced

sites in our landbank which we have identified as being suitable for primary and secondary schools.

Announcing the land sale to the Department, Michael Stanley, Chief Executive Officer of Cairn Homes plc said: "Cairn's approach to placemaking is focused on creating strong, sustainable communities by delivering amenities and activities which bring new residential developments to life. This includes new schools within close proximity to the new homes we build. Cairn is also delivering a

new 2,700 square metre incubator enterprise centre, The Weaver Building, adjacent to the school site in Greystones which will accommodate up to 300 people, including expected new employment within the community."

Minister Simon Harris said: "Planning Permission was granted for the new school complex in April and today's announcement brings certainty with the site now being acquired by the Department of Education. Greystones Community College is a fast expanding school and it is imperative that the

project moves to construction as speedily as possible and the school can count on my continued whole-hearted support."

The Department of Education stated "The Department have signed contracts for the acquisition of an 11 Acre site from Cairn Homes. The acquisition of this site includes full planning permission for an 1,000 pupil post primary school, which was recently granted."

The project to deliver the permanent school facilities on this site is now moving to detailed design & tender. The construction of this school is due to commence in 2023."

Jennifer Whitmore TD said, "I welcome news that things are progressing for the school community with the move by the Department of Education to purchase lands at Charlesland. Now that we have an approved planning application already in place with Wicklow County Council, it is good news to hear the Department will now own the site outright. This will allow the Department to start the tendering process for the building of the school."

"It has been a long and difficult journey for the school and I have been in touch with the Principal, teachers, staff and parents for many years as they



Minister Harris meeting with pupils from Greystones Community College

campaign to move this project along. Students have been waiting a long time to work in permanent, fitted classrooms.

"However, demand for school places in the area continues to rise and so I am urging the Department to move as soon as possible with the tendering process so that building can begin quickly."

"I hope that there are no unnecessary delays as the project progresses and will be keeping in touch with the school throughout tendering to make sure everything goes as smoothly as

possible," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

Minister Stephen Donnelly welcomed the deal, saying: "This is fantastic news for everyone involved in the school because it opens the way to get the school built. The next step will be to get a contractor on site and to get shovels in the ground as soon as possible. The original timeline was for the new school to be open for September of next year but the reality is it is likely to be September 2024."

The Minister added: "The design of the new

school has been in such a way as to allow for the possibility of a rapid build which means it can be completed within 18 months. It is likely a design team will be appointed by December with a start date in January of next year and completion in the summer of 2024 in time to be opened for September of that year. It is vital the school build stays on schedule and the deadlines are met which is something I will be working hard to make sure happens."

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

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Wicklow Pride Festival cofounder Dave Thomas (left), with Bray councillors and supporters of the festival, at the Pride flag raising on Bray seafront.

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Minister for Health & TD for Wicklow

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FIANNA FÁIL
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Many Pride and Trans Flags have been flying at various venues across County Wicklow for the entire Month of June (Pride Month), and some will be leaving their flags up for the entire summer. Festivities culminate this week with a week-long Pride Festival and the Dublin Pride March and Parade on Saturday 25th June. 'Be You in 2022' is the Wicklow Pride Festival slogan this year.

"After the call out last year, there was a phenomenal response with many schools, libraries, Cafes, Bars, Shops, Hotels, Shopping Centres and various businesses across County Wicklow flying the Pride Rainbow Flag for the Month of June and in some cases throughout the whole Summer, which was amazing," says Dave Thomas, cofounder of Wicklow Pride Festival.

"Last year there was an increase of the amount of flags flying, and this is a tremendous show of solidarity from the broader community, and it means a lot to us all."

Dave can be contacted through the Wicklow



Pride Festival Facebook Page where there will be information and more.

"Sadly we have recently seen an increase of homophobic attacks, verbal, physical and horrifically the murders of Michael Snee and Aidan Moffitt, which sadly underlines that we still have issues with acceptance of diversity and difference in Ireland. The attacks and the murders reminds me of the horrific murder of Declan Flynn in 1982 in Fairview Park in

Dublin. His death, and the results of the trial that followed, sparked the first protest marches in Dublin that evolved into the Dublin Pride Parade that we have today. In many ways we have progressed since 1982, and in some, we clearly have not.

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

"I ask everyone across

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

The Wicklow Pride Festival are planning to hold a fully inclusive event in early July 2023. They are looking for Sponsorship, support and more to bring the festival back with a great event for all.

Speaking about the motto for this year's festival, Dave says "It underlines how important it is for anyone, especially young people, that may feel pressure to hide their true self, that it is so important for your mental health and overall well-being that you just be yourself, accept yourself for who you are, as you are a unique and beautiful human being that is just as

normal as the next person, regardless of any negative or toxic words you may have heard. Being yourself is the best and healthiest way to live your life."

Inspired by all of the Pride events taking place in Ireland and throughout the world, Dave Thomas and his husband Patrick Wicklow founded Wicklow Pride Festival in 2015.

Dave has been a LGBTQ+ activist since the late 1980s and remembers the murder of Declan Flynn, as he lived in Artane, just a short distance from Fairview Park.

When Dave and Patrick moved to Arklow, they saw there was no LGBTQ+ groups or pro-

jects in the town and so in 2012 they founded the Arklow LGBTQ+ Social Drop-In Group that would meet once a month.

This was an informal, private and welcoming place for all who identified as part of the community to meet over a coffee.

In 2014 Dave and Patrick organised and personally funded the Arklow Pride Festival, a one-day event with music and entertainment in Arklow Town Park. This proved to be an enormous success, and based on the feedback it was decided to broaden out the event to encompass all of County Wicklow.

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For anyone needing impartial, confidential, non-judgemental and informed advice and support the Citizens Information Service (CIS) is here to help. Funded by the Citizens Information Board, Bray and Arklow Citizens Information Centres (CICs) are part of South Leinster Citizens Information Service.

"A growing number of customers require in-depth assistance and CIS plays an important role in providing advocacy with, or on behalf of, those people who need it from all walks of life," says the South Leinster Citizens Information Service.

"During this Pride month, the CIS reminds citizens that we welcome everyone to our office in a non-judgemental manner, anyone who has an issue that needs addressing or is at a crossroads in their lives can feel safe to drop in or call to our centres and get the assistance you need from our highly trained staff and Information Officers. We recognise that LGBTQI+ people can disproportionately experience discrimination and social exclusion in employment, education, housing and other areas and we are here to help and

support. The Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC) has set up a pilot LGBTQI+ legal clinic until the end of August 2022. This clinic will provide free legal advice, information and advocacy for LGBTQI+ people who have unmet legal needs."

Martina Cronin, Development Manager for the South Leinster Citizens Information Service, is clear in her message that, "Whoever you are, whatever stage in life, we are here to help. Our services are free and confidentiality is key for us. Your query can relate to anything such as your rights as a same sex couple, children's rights, property rights or indeed any issue that you need help discussing. If we cannot help we will know where you can get the help and advice you need. For anyone needing impartial, confidential, non-judgemental and informed advice and support the CIS is here to help. Our website www.citizensinformation.ie is packed full of helpful information. Please contact your local Citizens Information Centre in Bray CIC on 0818 07 6780."



Pride Festival cofounder Dave Thomas

Monday 30th May saw the raising of the Pride flag at County Buildings.

"The raising of the colourful Pride flag is a powerful and positive message of support for the LGBTQ+ community", explains Dave Thomas.

"Many businesses across Wicklow are joining us for Pride Month by flying the flag. We also have the Wicklow Libraries displaying the pride colours while showcasing books by LGBTQ+ authors. Visibility is key when it comes to creating a positive awareness of the diversity within our towns and villages. I am delighted to see Hotels, Bars and Cafes, bookstores and retail outlets to name just a few, all playing their part to help with this positive show of support."

There are already plans in development to return to a physical festival for the first weekend in July 2023.

"We need sponsorship, grant aid and a lot of assistance so we can stage a wonderful festival for all," says Dave. "There will definitely be an outdoor event with music, food, and a lot of fun. We also hope to have some indoor events that will educate, inform and entertain everyone just like we have done over the years. Sponsorship will be vital to enable all this to take

place and we ask any business or individual that is interested in participating to please make contact with us through the Wicklow Pride Festival Facebook Page.

"It is fantastic to see the first Pride flags going up this year, with Arklow CBS, Arklow Municipal District, Woodenbridge Hotel, Coral Leisure Arklow, and Arklow Bay Hotel among the first places to fly the rainbow flag. If anyone wishes to buy a flag, it is not too late. Just go to our Facebook Page where we have some links to companies that provide them," says Dave.



Arklow was the first place in the Republic of Ireland to install a permanent Pride Rainbow Crossing on the Main Street.

East Wicklow Youth Service

East Wicklow Youth Service offer support to all young people aged between 14 and 24 years old in the form of group work, one to one work and support for allies.

For further details please contact East Wicklow Youth Service on **0402-39646** or on **086 7789409**.

East Wicklow Youth service are affiliated with BeLonG To.



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Cllr. Erika **DOYLE**
Cathaoirleach Bray Municipal Council
Supporting Pride Month
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[@MissErikaDoyle](https://www.facebook.com/MissErikaDoyle)
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Martin and Karen Byrne with film director John Boorman and his daughter Daisy at the Irish Red Cross and Ukraine appeal auction which was held at Drumeen, Laragh. Pic: Michael Kelly

Information evening on sustainable tourism possibilities

Individuals and community groups in and neighbouring the southern Wicklow Mountains are invited to a community information evening this Thursday 23rd June in Rathdrum Library at 6.30pm.

This event is being organised to introduce a new European project 'CUPHAT - Coastal Uplands: Heritage and Tourism' which focuses on sustainable and regenerative heritage-based tourism in the coastal uplands of Ireland and Wales. Supported by the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland-Wales Cooperation programme, the project seeks to showcase the shared and distinctive heritages of the coastal uplands of Ireland and Wales bordering the Irish Sea. CUPHAT focuses on areas outside the reach of traditional tourism offerings with four funded study locations in the Cambrian Mountains and Preseli Hills in Wales, and the southern Wicklow Mountains and the Wexford portion of the Blackstairs Mountains in Ireland. Researchers from UCD School of Geography partnering with colleagues in Aberystwyth University and the Dyfed Archaeological Trust will work with local communities to develop

tourism offerings in these areas and they would like your input to connect and co-create sustainable tourism offerings that meet the needs of the local community.

The project leads from UCD, Dr Arlene Crampsie & Dr Christine Bonnin describe CUPHAT as providing an exciting opportunity to increase awareness of the rich heritage of our landscape and to widen accessibility to key visitor sites for local communities and tourists alike. They hope that by collaborating with local communities and stakeholders that CUPHAT can develop locally appropriate tourist activities that support rural economic development and help address some of the sustainability challenges facing coastal upland communities.

"We are keen to meet with people from all sectors of the local community to ensure that the kind of tourism promoted by the project is sustainable and beneficial to this region. We invite anybody who is interested to come along and find

out more, meet with us and share their ideas", they said. They also want to learn about aspects of the cultural and natural heritage of

the Blackstairs Mountains that are most significant and meaningful to local people, commenting that "this project offers a unique chance to preserve aspects of the area's heritage for future generations as well as showcasing it to visitors".

The CUPHAT project will also bring together community groups and stakeholders from across the four coastal upland areas for learning visits where participants can share experiences from previous projects, discuss new ideas and collaborate on shared initiatives. To find out more, all are welcome to attend next Thursday's information event.

The event is free, but registration is required, by emailing cuphat@aber.ac.uk or completing the google form available at: <https://forms.gle/y4wX8HHobuiPnHtZA> to RSVP

Local animal welfare charities urged to apply for funding

The Animal Welfare Grant Programme for Registered Animal Charities for 2022 has been launched, and animal welfare charities in Wicklow are being urged to apply.

Animal welfare organisations in Wicklow that are registered with the Charities Regulator are invited to apply for funding before the deadline of July 1st, 2022.

Speaking following the announcement, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said: "I am delighted that applications are now open for the Animal Welfare Grant Programme for Registered Animal Charities for 2022. This funding will enable animal welfare charities in Wicklow to continue their crucial work preventing animal cruelty and protecting vulnerable animals. Last December, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine announced €3.8 million in funding to 98 animal welfare charities in Ireland, including Wicklow SPCA, the Irish Horse Welfare Trust, Arklow Cat Rescue and Ash Animal Rescue. This was the largest-ever funding allocation to animal welfare charities in the history of the State and demonstrated the commitment of the Government to ensuring better standards of care for animals.

"Both as a County Councillor and now as a TD

for Wicklow, I have been fortunate enough to see the incredible work that many hard-working and dedicated volunteers do on the ground and I would encourage every eligible animal welfare organisation to apply for this grant programme, which will close for applications on July 1st, 2022.

"Animal welfare is a priority for the Green Party, and we have always led on this issue. Since we entered Government in June 2022, we have: Doubled annual levels of funding for animal welfare organizations; Legislated a ban on fur farming; Published Ireland's first Animal Welfare Strategy; Established an Animal Welfare Division in the Department of Agriculture; Re-launched the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council (FAWAC); Founded a new Advisory Council on Companion Animal Welfare; Commissioned Ireland's first annual equine census.

"The Green Party will continue to implement the animal welfare commitments in the Programme for Government. I look forward to working with my colleague Pippa Hackett, Minister of State in the Department of Agriculture, on this issue and engaging with animal welfare organisations in Wicklow to ensure that they have the necessary supports to keep up their vital work in the long-term", Deputy Matthews concluded.

St. Coen's school selected as runner up winner in BioDive sticker competition

St. Coen's National School, Rathnew has been selected as runner up winners in BioDive sticker competition as Spa National School in Tralee, has been named the overall winner.

The initiative, which saw more than 1,000 schools apply to take part, was run by Applegreen. The BioDive campaign is designed to build awareness among primary school children, their families and local communities about the importance of biodiversity in Ireland. The initiative featured 120 collectible stickers to help students recognise distinct native flora and fauna.

St. Coen's runner-up prize is a full day biodiversity workshops for their school which will be delivered by the team at Biodiversity in schools.



Pupils Rian Murphy and Sadhbh O'Donnell with Eanna Ni Lamhna, BioDive Ambassador, and Clare Killen, Applegreen Head of ESG.

UK Sea Cadets welcomed to Greystones Marina

On Sunday, 12th June, the TS Jack Petchey, a UK Sea Cadets training vessel, arrived at Greystones Harbour Marina.

The training vessel, lucky enough to be one of which runs out of their chosen destinations. Portsmouth in the UK, is currently visiting various ports and Greystones was



TS Jack Petchey moored at Greystones Harbour Marina

on the TS Jack Petchey literally 'learning the ropes'. The latest visiting contingent were the Scarborough Sea Cadets.

The Holyhead Sea Cadets were the first Holyhead twinning group to travel over to Ireland. They arrived for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2012 and were an instant success.

Sue Williams, one of the founders of Greystones/ Holyhead twinning, escorted her cadets. Sue continues with her Sea Cadet service and is well known for her bugling at memorial events.

She bugled at the Greystones St. Patrick's Day 2017 parade in memory of those who died in the Rescue 116 crash.

UK Sea Cadets are part of the Royal Navy and come with impressive credentials.

Kathleen Kelleher, and Councillors Derek Mitchell and Stephen Stokes were on hand to welcome the Scarborough group.

Councillor Stephen Stokes said, 'Our visitors were delighted with their warm welcome and would like to come back again soon'.



Scarborough Cadets training on deck

Sunbeam House Services raise €30,500 with Camino fundraiser

Thirteen staff and supporters at Sunbeam House Services (SHS) recently raised €47,500 on a 'Camino Walk' fundraising event.

SHS confirmed on Friday that a new bathroom at Rosanna Gardens has already been installed with the funds raised and two other similar refurbishment projects are due for completion in the coming weeks, as a direct outcome of this fundraising project.

The group planned to complete the walk in 2020, but had to postpone because of the pandemic. The group of thirteen planned to raise €2,000 each, however, with generous support from family and friends a total of €47,500 was raised. After flight and accommodation and t-shirt costs, just over €30,500 has gone directly to the service.

The Camino walk involved walking 115km from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela and was completed in the last week of April.

Joe Lynch, Chief Executive of Sunbeam House Services said, "We continually look at ways of improving the quality of life and care of those who use our services. We are committed to empowering individuals to enjoy a good quality of life by providing the highest quality of services to each individual and the funding raised will improve our clients lives."

SHS employ 450 staff, representing 17 different nationalities, working in 45 locations in Wicklow and South Dublin - providing residential, day services, training, and individualised respite supports to over 420 clients.

SHS plan to complete another leg of the Camino in September 2023, and if anyone would like to register with us, we would very much appreciate your assistance. Contactus:fundraising@sunbeam.ie



Pictured are the fundraisers on reaching Santiago de Compostela; Aishling McDowell, Fiona Hurley, Brendan Lynch, Marie Farrell, Emily Farrell, Bernadeta Opalla, Ken Brady, Rachel-Ann O'Keeffe, Martina Canna, Denise Commons.

The foster mum who gave one refugee family a chance for brighter future

There are so many millions of people fleeing conflict, persecution and natural disaster that it is easy for society to see them as a faceless mass. But behind every cold statistic is a real person, full of hopes and fears. As we mark World Refugee Day this week (June 20th), one young refugee reveals his daunting journey to Ireland and how, with the help of a devoted Wicklow foster mum and a state agency, he and his family were given a chance for a brighter future.

Mirwais left war-torn Afghanistan when he was just 14 years of age, and he did so alone. The choice was simple, it was either do that or die.

"If I stayed, I'd be dead; that's why my family told me to leave. I left my country alone because there were fears for my safety and my mom and dad could not work. My mom also had a heart problem, so it's very hard for her to go," he says.

"I went to Helmand by car and then from there I went to Iran, Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia, Slovenia and a lot of different countries in Europe, through Europe and I came to Ireland," he says.

For two years he was shunted from once place to the next, unable to lay down roots; never knowing where or when he could begin to think of a future free from upheaval.

It is daunting to think of

an adult taking on such a trip, never mind a young person who could neither speak the languages of the countries he passed through, nor understand their cultures.

"It was like a nightmare for me. In my point of view a dog lived better than me. It is not easy for a person to leave their family behind."

By the time he reached Ireland, in 2017 he had just turned 17 years old. Having passed through so many countries, Mirwais didn't know what to expect. He was confused and a little suspicious, too, when he moved in with his foster mum, Naomi.

"When I arrived here, I was scared, everybody here explained to me about the family, how it works here but I couldn't trust, I was so scared," he says.

"When I came here and a few days spent with

Naomi, I thought she might be a spy after Immigration or something like this."

But over time he trusted her. Naomi offered a chance for a real future.

"She is like a family for me. She is like a real mom for me. The things that I achieved in Ireland so far, all credit goes to Naomi, not just only myself," says Mirwais.

"She helped me out through everything, passed my Leaving Cert, graduated well and then I went to my college, got admission there - and special thanks to Tusla, they helped me out with my life and about my family members as well."

"Every single step she was forward for me there and standing always beside me. She was saying I am always here if you need anything, which I can't thank her for enough, that she did that

for me."

Mirwais is now 22 and, according to Naomi, is a different person to the tired, almost hopeless, teenager she first met.

"He has become confident, he knows his way around, he's educated, he's well able to talk and, yeah, he's great," she says. "I think I wanted him to be afforded every opportunity that any Irish child would have and that I was going to do my best to support him to have equal access to education and opportunities."

"I wanted to help with the humanitarian crisis. This, I felt, was my contribution, this was how I could contribute and help some young people," she adds.

And Naomi points out that whatever she has given Mirwais has been paid back in so many ways.

"Being a Tusla foster carer has been probably the best decision I have ever made in my life. It's been very rewarding, fulfilling, challenging at times but I can't imagine my life now not fostering. It's just been a great experience. I can't imagine Mirwais not being in my life."

Two months ago, things took an even more positive turn for him when his mother, father and 14-year-old brother Abdullah arrived in Ireland after Mirwais successfully applied to the Department of Justice for reunification with his family.

Dortek team fundraise for 'Talk-To-Tom'

A team of employees from Dortek Ltd, from the North Quay in Wicklow Town, took part in the recent Hell & Back event to raise money for the suicide organisation, "Talk-To-Tom".

On the 15th June, Ray Cullen (CEO from Talk-to-Tom) gave an inspirational talk to the entire workforce at Dortek where he was also presented with the proceeds from the fundraiser - an impressive €8,500.

Talk-To-Tom, a 100% non-profit organisation, trains individuals how to recognise the signs of an individual thinking about suicide, how to talk to that person and the steps required to get them to seek help.

Dortek says they are delighted to be a partner of such a worthy organisation and look forward to continuing to offer whatever support they can over the coming years.



Pictured at the cheque presentation last Wednesday were Ed Yasushenko, David Vickers, Shaun Vickers, Ned Gaynor, Ray Cullen. Calum Vickers, Gavin Canavan and Mulcaire O'Mara.

Tusla supports refugees in foster care by helping them with application forms and accompanying them to interviews, if required.

The Agency also helps refugees' families by putting them in touch with charities who can provide funding for visa applications. Tusla also assists them in finding accommodation and connects them with charities who can give them extra clothing, should it be needed.

After almost eight years apart, Mirwais and his family are reunited. They now live in emergency accommodation close to Naomi's home in Wicklow.

"I hope one day that we can live together," Mirwais says.

In the meantime, though, as they are being accommodated extremely close to where Mirwais lives with Naomi, where

they can visit every day and eat together.

The family gather there on almost a daily basis and have struck up a bond with their son's 'Irish Mammy'.

"They say prayers for Naomi," he says. "They are really happy that she helped me so much."

The family reunification has brought not only joy but added responsibility for Mirwais, and Naomi supports him in this.

"It was very emotional at the airport," says Naomi, who works currently as a support worker for Ukrainian and previously with Syrian refugees being resettled in Ireland. It's also been full-on as Naomi has now also taken on the role of helping Mirwais' family integrate into Irish society.

"I don't speak Pashto, the family's native language, so Mirwais must interpret everything. I'm

teaching the family how things work in a typical Irish home - where people eat, how they eat, what's appropriate, what isn't.

"I supported Abdullah to enrol in a local secondary school and he will also attend summer school in Dublin to continue learning English. His parents attend English-language classes with KWETB (Kildare and Wicklow Educational Training Board) in Wicklow and they participate in conversational English classes with Fáilte Isteach once a week.

"I'm encouraging them all to familiarise themselves with Irish society," she adds.

The future is looking brighter for the family. Mirwais has completed two years of Professional Cookery and one year undertaking a Restaurant

and Bar Management course, which included Barista skills.

"I love cooking. Hopefully, I will work as a manager or as a chef," he says.

Meanwhile, his younger brother, Abdullah, is getting to grips with learning English.

It's a long way from the life-and-death struggle in Afghanistan. Maybe a time will come when Mirwais and his family decide to return to their homeland, even if only for a visit. For one person, though, there really is no going back...

"My life has changed in a very positive way? - I think by becoming a foster carer," says Naomi. "I love what I do, and I can see myself doing it until I'm old and grey."

If you are considering becoming a foster carer, see fostering.ie for details.



Anwar, Abdullah, Naomi and Mirwais

Wicklow 200 makes a welcome return to mountains



Ireland's premier cycling sportive made a welcome return to Wicklow yesterday, Sunday 12th June 2022. Over 3,000 cyclists took part in Wicklow 200 2022, enjoying fine weather and the magnificent scenery of one of the world's most epic cycles.

Wicklow 200 comprises two routes of 100km and 200km that take in many of Ireland's iconic mountain climbs and the spectacular scenery of Ireland's 'Garden County'. With its base in Bray, Co Wicklow, this annual event is one of the toughest and most revered on the world calendar.

Starting and finishing at Bray Emmets GAA Club, the route includes the monumental climbs of Wicklow Gap, Glenmalur, Slieve Maan and Shay Elliott, and through the stunning villages of Rathdrum, Baltinglass, Enniskerry and Laragh amongst others.

After the last event in 2019, organisers, The Irish Veteran Cyclists Association, partnered with Elite Event Management to help grow the event, increase participant numbers and encourage visitors to the region. This has been achieved in 2022 and will be a focus of future events, in addition to working with local businesses and community groups to develop the cycle.



Event director Oliver Kirwan said: "We are delighted to have maintained our partnership with the IVCA for this much anticipated cycle. It one of the most stunning routes I've ever witnessed and has an enviable reputation amongst cycling enthusiasts both nationally and internationally. We worked closely with Gardai beforehand to communicate road respect and safety messages to participants, which worked well on the day. We'd like to thank the Gardai, and our volunteers and support team, for all their hard work in bringing this event back in 2022."

Organisers are already planning next year's event which has a provisional date of Sunday 11th June 2023, and encourage people to register their interest now via the website: www.wicklow200.ie

port team, for all their hard work in bringing this event back in 2022."

Holyhead football team welcomed to Greystones

Greystones United AFC hosted Trearddur Bay FC from Wales on Saturday 11th June in an Under 13s match.

Trearddur Bay is a neighbouring town to Holyhead, which is twinned with Greystones. There was a warm welcome from Greystones for the Welsh visitors, who won 2-1. Trearddur Bay went home with memories of good comradeship and wonderful hospitality.

Kathleen Kelleher from the Greystones/Holyhead Twinning said "I was delighted to be able to welcome such a superb group of young players. They were a credit to their club and to their parents, as were the Greystones team. That is what football is all about."



Greystones Captain Oisín Duff, with Referee Tucker Dowling and Trearddur Bay Captain Owen Griffiths



Neil Morris, Trearddur Bay Team Manager, with Kathleen Kelleher and the Trearddur Bay team

Leave No Trace awareness campaign urges care and respect for our outdoor spaces

Leave No Trace Ireland, Ireland's only outdoor ethics programme, which promotes the responsible use of the outdoors, has launched its third national awareness campaign urging the public to exercise care in their enjoyment of the outdoors including public parks, open countryside, and beaches.

Record numbers of people are taking part in outdoor activities, putting increased pressures on our outdoor spaces. The new campaign asks the public to Love This Place, but also to Leave No Trace when enjoying the outdoors this summer.

The Love This Place Campaign - which is being run by Leave No Trace Ireland in conjunction with partner organisations from the sports, tourism and outdoor activities sectors - will include advertising across national and local radio and on social media.

The 2022 campaign is a joint initiative with Government departments and leading state and independent organisations that promote outdoor activities and the responsible enjoyment of the countryside including Fáilte Ireland, Sport Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Department of Rural and Community Development, Dublin City Council, the Office of Public Works, Coillte, Waterways Ireland and Horse Sport Ireland.

Commenting, Leave No Trace Ireland Chief Executive, Maura Kiely, said: "All the indications are that this year we are going to

see a welcome bounce back for tourism in Ireland. This will bring with it an increase in outdoor activities and renewed pressures on outdoor spaces and the countryside including the natural environment, wildlife, habitats, farming and sensitive ecosystems such as dunes and rivers.

"Our campaign is making a direct appeal to everyone to consider and take responsibility for their activities and their impacts, and to follow the 'Leave No Trace' Principles."

"The 'Love this Place' campaign asks all of us that love the outdoors to share our responsibility to protect our natural environment by taking simple actions such as planning ahead, cleaning up after a visit, managing our pet dogs. We should all strive to leave the outdoors as we find it for the next person to enjoy.

"This summer, we are also highlighting pressure points that are bearing the brunt of the increase in outdoor activities. These include an increase in dog fouling and worrying of farm livestock as the numbers of pet dogs continues to grow, and the devastation that can be caused by fires from uncontrolled and inappropriate use of campfires and barbe-

ques in the countryside. 99% of wildfires in Ireland are the result of human activity in the outdoors. We can reduce and eliminate these impacts if we follow the 'Leave No Trace' Principles."

This year the public is being urged to take the following actions on key issues and pressure points in the outdoors:

Littering

Plan ahead and always bring a bin bag. By taking your rubbish home, you are playing your part in keeping our outdoor spaces litter free and beautiful.

Dog Control & Fouling

Bring poo bags and always pick up after your dog, bag it and safely bin it, or bring it home with you. Keeping your dog on a lead shows consideration for others and avoids disturbing livestock and wildlife.

Campfires & BBQs

No fires unless on a designated site. You should not light a campfire unless you have permission from the landowner and only ever in suitable, low risk locations. If you are at a designated site where campfires are permitted, make sure you have the skills to set, use and extinguish a campfire. See leavenotraceireland.org for detailed guidance on how to set and use a campfire safely. Do not use disposable BBQs in the countryside.

From Reservoir to Russborough

An evening of music with Cora Venus Lunny & Yurodny, Mermaid Arts Centre, Friday 24th June, 8pm



Cora Venus Lunny

The Mermaid Arts Centre will play host to the premiere of two live performance films commissioned and curated by Wicklow Arts Office alongside a live musical performance featuring some of Ireland's leading talents within the contemporary classical music space.

Currents composed by virtuoso violinist Cora Venus Lunny has been captured in a unique performance film inside the old pumphouse at Poulaphouca Reservoir. The striking surroundings at Poulaphouca offer an impressive accompaniment to this improvisational music piece.

A performance film shot with Yurodny in the lavish surroundings of Russborough House, not far from Poulaphouca reservoir will also be presented on the evening. Yurodny are an exciting ensemble constantly innovating and re-imaging musical traditions from around the world.

The night will see live performances from those involved in both films which promises to be an unforgettable experience for those in attendance.

The films were made in January, on site in Wicklow by SoFFT Productions, and capture the stunningly beautiful settings of both Russborough

for the Yurodny piece and the Poulaphouca Reservoir for Cora Venus Lunny +quartet.

Cora Venus Lunny lives in Wicklow and is an improvising violinist, violist, vocalist and composer with extensive performing, touring, and recording experience in contemporary, classical, improvised, and folk music. A member of Yurodny and Fovea Hex, they frequently perform with Crash Ensemble, solo as a free improviser and in free duo with Izumi Kimura. Lunny is well-known for their pedigree in classical and traditional music, playing with artists from Nigel Kennedy to Sinead O'Connor. As an improviser and composer, they bring their virtuoso technique on violin and viola together with a fascination with consciousness and groove, to bring the dizzying heights of contemporary classical string playing into jazz and folk-influenced soundworlds. They have worked with, to mention just a few, Damien Rice, The Republic of Loose, Kanye West, Laura Sheeran, The Jimmy Cake, Camille O'Sullivan, Julie Feeney, The Blizzards. Their interests began to branch out from the classical soloist template which they had been indoctrinated in, and their skills expanded to incorporate improvisation, composition, the viola, vocal & ensemble work, and recording.

The quartet includes: Cora, Izumi Kimura, David Lacey and Niwel Tsumbu Yurodny.

Founded in 2007 by saxophonist and composer Nick Roth, the Yurodny Ensemble perform contem-



Miklos Lukacs, close collaborator with Yurodny

porary interpretations of traditional music from around the world alongside new work by composers inspired by these traditions.

In this film, they perform Miklos Lukacs' 'Himnusz' (Hymn in Hungarian)

Miklos is a close collaborator with Yurodny with whom they recorded Evenset, and played in Budapest with his trio Czimbiosis.

Balally Players bringing Shakespeare's pastoral comedy 'As You Like It' to Kilruddery



'As You Like It', performed by the Balally Players. Photo by Declan Brennan

What a wonderful feeling to attend live theatre again, and what better way to see 'As You Like It' than outdoors in the magical setting of the Sylvan Theatre at Killruddery House and Gardens. Balally Players Theatre Company is delighted to be back with their Summer Shakespeare production directed by Karen Carleton. This is the 'All The World's A Stage' show - is it mere madness and folly or will true love conquer all?

Banished into the Forest of Arden, the lovers, Orlando and Rosalind become entangled in a rustic romp featuring couples in love, limbo, lust and melodic songs.

Mistaken identities abound amid a cross dressing heroine, questionable poetry, laughter and cheer!

Join us at 8pm on Thurs 30th June or Fri 1st Aug for a merry romp in the beautiful setting of Killruddery Gardens. As the sun sets we hope to create some magic in your evening. Bring warm clothes, blankets to wear and to sit on, cushions, a picnic ... and keep an eye on the weather forecast to see how many layers you will need. If the weather is wet 'As

You Like It' will go ahead in The Orangery.

Based in Balally, a suburb in the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown area of Dublin city between the villages of Dundrum and Sandymount, the Balally Players Theatre Company has been part of the amateur theatre movement in Ireland since its first performance in 1983.

A vibrant group of passionate performers, most years they produce two full length productions and a run of one-act plays in the dlr Mill Theatre in Dundrum, a Christmas Variety show, competitive one-act plays for the drama festival circuit, and an outdoor Summer Shakespeare show. The company has presented high standard theatrical productions in a wide range of genres over the years.

Balally Players started competing on the Drama Festival circuit in Ireland in the late 1980s. The group has enjoyed considerable success on the One-Act Festival Circuit. Plays have been taken to France, Denmark, Belgium, Canada and the USA.

Balally Players has performed Summer Shakespeare plays at Killruddery House and Garden on previous occasions, and are delighted to be back at this stunning venue again for 2 nights this summer.

'As You Like It' will be performed by Balally Players outdoors at The Sylvan Theatre or Tennis Lawn, Killruddery House & Gardens at 8pm on 30th June and 1st July. Tickets (Adults €14 / Children €7 / €12 Concessions/ Groups/ Family ticket €40) are available from Kilruddery.com

Judges announced for Zurich Prizes

Final call-out to Wicklow artists, children and young people for entries

The National Gallery of Ireland has announced the judges for the 2022 Zurich Portrait Prize and Zurich Young Portrait Prize competitions.

Judges for the Zurich Portrait Prize are Anna O'Sullivan, Director of the Butler Gallery, Kilkenny; Nick Miller, artist; and Diana Copperwhite, artist. Judges for the Zurich Young Portrait Prize are Una Sealy RHA, artist; Nick Roche, comic illustrator and Janet McLean, curator, National Gallery of Ireland. The closing date for entries to the Zurich Portrait Prize and Zurich Young Portrait Prize is 22 June 2022. For the Zurich Portrait Prize, the competition showcasing contemporary portraiture, the Gallery invites submissions from across the island of Ireland, and from Irish artists living abroad. The Zurich Young Portrait Prize, now in its fourth year, is open to young people aged 18 and under. The

Zurich Portrait Prize aims to encourage interest in contemporary portraiture and to showcase the National Portrait and Showcase at the National Gallery of Ireland. The winner of the competition will receive a cash prize of €15,000 and will be commissioned to create a work for the national portrait collection, for which they will be awarded a further €5,000. Two additional awards of €1,500 will be given to highly commended works.

The Zurich Young Portrait Prize, which aims to foster and support creativity, originality and self-expression in children and young people returns for its fourth year in 2022. The competition is split into four age categories and is open to young people of all abilities aged up to 18

from across the country. Winners in each age category and an overall winner will be chosen from a shortlist of 20 works. Winners will receive a bespoke art box and a cash prize.

Exhibitions featuring shortlisted works in both competitions run at the National Gallery of Ireland between 26th November 2022 and 2nd April 2023. The exhibitions will then travel to Donegal where they will run at Regional Cultural Centre in Letterkenny from 3rd June 2023 to 2nd September 2023.

Highly commended artists and an overall winner for the Zurich Portrait Prize, as well as category winners and an overall winner for the Zurich Young Portrait Prize, will be announced in early December 2022, after the exhibitions have opened at the Gallery.

Find out more at www.nationalgallery.ie.

Comedy at The Harbour Bar

On June 23rd and July 14th, local Bray comedian Adam Burke, Founder of Bray Comedy Festival and Hardy Har Comedy Club, will be previewing some 'work in progress' performances of his new solo stand up show, 'Prison, Pirates and The World's Most Dangerous Man' in The Harbour Bar in Bray.

Each show will have a line up of supporting acts in the first half of the show, admission to these shows is free of charge and this show has already been accepted into big Irish comedy festivals and venues later in the year. Described as "the perfect mix of wit, charm and seething anger", Adam Burke's reputation as one of the country's finest comedy hosts has recently taken him to the biggest stages including 3 Arena, Vicar Street, Cork Opera House and The Royal Theatre and to top festival stages including All Together Now, At The Manor and Electric Picnic.

And whilst perhaps best known for regularly fronting the global phenomenon Bingo Loco, Adam is a well established stand up act who has performed with household names like Tommy Tiernan, Jason Byrne, Joanne McNally, Deirdre Ó Kane and The Rubberbandits.

In his latest solo show 'Prison, Pirates and The World's Most Dangerous Man', Adam recounts his several "brushes with death" and his knack for landing himself in hot waters with everyone from world famous cage fighters to Dryrobe-clad, sea swimming vegans.

Adam was a 'Show Me The Funny' and 'Ireland's Got Comedy Talent' finalist, and was described by Hot Press as "One of Ireland's best known funny men".



Summer Songs Inland And By The Sea

Wicklow County Council's Arts Office is presenting a range of performers on stages both outdoors and indoors throughout County Wicklow this month as part of the latest round of the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme.



Kila will play on 26th June

First up were Wyvern Lingo, Bróna Keogh, and Sean Fox who took to a covered stage in Arklow on June 11th at a seated and intimate gig for 200 people. Wyvern Lingo are just back from a European Tour and rounding off the experience in their native County Wicklow.

Next is the premiere of two live performance films commissioned and curated by Wicklow Arts Office alongside a live musical performance featuring some of Ireland's leading talents within the contemporary classical music space.

Taking place on June 24th, the event is bringing together virtuoso violinist Cora Venus Lunny, a Wicklow resident, and Yurodny, an exciting ensemble constantly innovating and re-imaging musical traditions from around the world with strong connections to Wicklow, at Mermaid Arts Centre. Tickets are €18 and €20 and are available from Mermaid Arts Centre on mermaidartscentre.ie or 01 2724030.

Next, things move inland to Laragh on the 25th and 26th June for outdoor performances at the Brockagh Resource Centre. On Saturday 25th Paddy Casey takes to the stage supported by Robbie Walsh Trad Band while on Sunday 26th Kila are headlining with support from musicians Tim Doyle Trad Band. Tickets are €5 and are available from Eventbrite - search Laragh Summer Songs Inland By the Sea.

Rounding off the performances, the festival is supporting performances at the SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race in Wicklow Town. Taking place from 17th to 19th June, performances will be on the main stage on Friday evening and all day Saturday and Sunday. This event is free and further details will be available shortly. The stage is being managed by Raw Marketing.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson, said was delighted to see such a variety of events throughout the County under the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme provided by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport



Robbie Walsh from the Robbie Walsh Trad Band

and Media again this year. Audiences and performers, he added, would have the benefit of a much freer experience this year without the limitations of Covid-19. We wish all the performers and audiences a good experience at the gigs.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Shay Cullen, said he was glad that there was so much on offer and to see the inclusion of rural locations in the line-up. He wished all concert and festival goers a safe and happy experience this summer.

Music in Calary returns for 2nd part of 2022 series

The second concert of Music in Calary's 2022 series takes place this week on Friday 24th June in Calary Church, and features Musici Ireland (violinists Maria Ryan and Jane Hackett, violist Beth McNinch, and cellists Katie Tertell and Annette Cleary), together with guitarist Eamon Sweeney.

Founded in 2012, **Musici Ireland** is a female led chamber collective that takes pride in presenting interesting and evocative programmes. Musici consists of a core of players that welcomes collaborations with nationally and internationally celebrated musicians.

Eamon Sweeney teaches and performs extensively - giving broadcasts, lectures and workshops in Ireland and abroad. He is passionate about Early Irish Music; the provision of music in Community Settings and teaches with Kylemore Music Centre CDETB and the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

Award-winning Irish violinist **Maria Ryan** is currently based in Kilkenny after nearly a decade spent in London. Maria was the winner of the coveted Heineken Violin Competition in 2010. A keen chamber musician Maria has travelled throughout Europe and the USA, and South America to perform in various ensembles. In 2011 she toured the USA with Camerata Ireland including her first performance in Carnegie Hall. She has appeared as soloist with various orchestras, performing concertos of Mozart, Bach, Locatelli, and Vivaldi, the latter of which she performed as soloist and director of the Southbank Sinfonia in a

concert of Vivaldi and Corelli in Anghiari Music Festival, Italy 2010. Most recently she performed the Beethoven Concerto in Kilkenny and Wexford with the Wexford Sinfonia in January 2013. She has also performed as soloist in Norway, and in Ireland with the Kilkenny Youth Orchestra.

Maria graduated with a Graduate Diploma from the Hochschule für Musik Köln in 2009, where she was in the class of Herr. Emilian Piedicuta. Prior to this, Maria graduated with a First Class M.A. in Performance from the Cork School of Music, where she was a student of Ms. Ruxandra Colan. She has worked numerous orchestras in the UK and Ireland including the RTE Concert Orchestra, the Ulster Orchestra, Camerata Ireland, the

Irish Chamber Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, and has also worked The Wexford Opera Festival Orchestra, Folkwang Kammerorchester Essen, the Düsseldorf Sinfoniker, she has lead orchestras under such prestigious conductors as Sir Charles Mackerras, Barry Wordsworth, and Carl Davis.

Jane Hackett is a freelance violinist based between Dublin and Vienna. She performs regularly with the National Symphony Orchestra, Irish Chamber Orchestra, RTE Concert Orchestra, Irish National Opera and the ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra in Vienna. She has appeared as soloist with the RTE Concert

Orchestra, is an RDS Rising Star, and is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland, Dublin City Council and South Dublin County Council. Jane enjoys a diverse mix of repertoire, spanning from solo, chamber and orchestral, to experimental performance art and contemporary music. She is a member of the contemporary music group, Kirkos Ensemble, performing and composing works for 'New Music Dublin' and the Contemporary Music Centre's 'Artist Network of Colleagues Programme' hosting discussions and working with Irish composers. Jane is interested in cross art collaborations and has recently been commissioned to work with artists and devise performances in the area of dance and visual art. She is a proud member and recently appointed Co-Director of Musici Ireland and is an invited peer panellist for the Arts Council from 2022-26.

Beth McNinch studied viola at the GSMD & RAM in London, continuing with a successful freelance career, performing with all major symphony orchestras in the UK, including the London Symphony Orchestra & BBC Symphony Orchestra. She has appeared as principal violist with English National Ballet, London Sinfonietta, Wexford Festival Opera, Irish National Opera, RTE Symphony & Concert Orchestras and the Ulster Orchestra. She is recipi-



Beth McNinch, who formed acclaimed Irish chamber collective Musici Ireland in 2012

ent of the SEVN bursary, researching & recording works for solo viola by female composers. Beth is also recipient of an arts council bursary to study viola d'amore. She has also been awarded a place on Creation 21/22, a mentoring scheme run by the Performance Corporation to encourage cross genre collaborations.

Beth formed acclaimed Irish chamber collective, Musici Ireland, in 2012. They are one of the most respected chamber ensembles in Ireland and their performances can be heard regularly on RTE Lyric FM and across the EBU. Musici Ireland is a female led ensemble & as part of their 10th anniversary celebrations, they will be presenting a series of 5 concerts featuring exclusively female composers. Musici enjoy collaborating with composers, dancers, artists

and poets, creating new and interesting ways of presenting classical music.

American cellist **Katie Tertell** enjoys a rich and varied experience as a freelance artist in Europe and America. A former member of the RTE National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, Katie works with numerous European symphony and chamber orchestras. She is a current recipient of the prestigious Exceptional Talent visa awarded by Arts Council England and teaches cello at Durham University (UK).

Katie performs regularly in international music series and festivals and also with her ensemble, Semibreve Collective, which received critical acclaim for their rural Autumn 2020 tour of North East UK that served communities left isolated and vulnerable

by the Covid-19 pandemic. She is increasingly interested in folk and cross-genre collaborations and was awarded a competitive "Developing Your Creative Practice" grant from Arts Council England in 2021 to further explore her creative work.

Annette Cleary is a prizewinner of International competitions in Europe and the U.S. and has performed as soloist with many orchestras, including the S_dwestfunk Orchester, RTE Concert Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra. In 1989 she was the first Irish musician accepted to the prestigious Schleswig-Holstein International Orchestra which toured Europe and Russia with Leonard Bernstein. Annette has performed solo recitals and television broadcasts internationally, including a Southern African tour and five tours of Japan. In Ireland she has performed

at major festivals and venues such as West Cork Chamber Music at Bantry House, Music for Wexford, Airfield House, Kilkenny Arts Festival, Music Network tours and the Cork Celebrity Recital Series. Annette has acted as jury member for the Bucchi International Chamber Music Competitions in Rome and the Antonio Janigro International Cello Competition in Croatia.

As Principal and Co-Principal cellist, Annette has worked with many orchestras and chamber groups including the RTE Concert Orchestra and the London Symphony Orchestra. While based in the U.S. Annette played baroque cello as soloist with Los Angeles Musica Viva.

Tickets are €18 and €15 for concessions. To book please email dereknelson11@gmail.com or ring John on (01) 2818146.

Programme:

Boccherini - String Quintet No.60 G324 "La musica notturna delle strade di madrid"
Vivaldi - Guitar Concerto
Santiago de Murcia (1673-1739)- Jacaras (Guitar solo)
Johann Schop (1590-1667) - Lachrimae Pavan (cello, guitar, violin)

INTERVAL

Gaspar Sanz (1640-1710) - Preludio & Canarios (Guitar solo)
Joaquin Rodrigo (1901-1999) - Adagio (violin + guitar)
Roland Dyens - Tango en Skai
Boccherini - Fandango Quintet
Guitar: Eamon Sweeney
Violins: Maria Ryan and Jane Hackett
Viola: Beth McNinch
Cellos: Katie Tertell and Annette Cleary



Guitarist Eamon Sweeney

An Evening with Mundy at Whale Theatre

Saturday 2nd July, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €25 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

Mundy was born Edmond Enright in the rural town of Birr, County Offaly. In 1993, at the age of 18 Mundy moved to Dublin to take his place on the energetic busking circuit.

It was during this period and in the midst of heartbreak that Mundy penned some of his greatest hits including, 'Gin & Tonic Sky' & 'Life's A Cinch'. These stirring tracks quickly secured Mundy a place on the roster of Sony's Epic records as well as a publishing deal with Warner Chappell Music. Mundy's first album 'Jelly Legs' was released in October 1996 to critical acclaim and went on to sell 50,000 copies. However it was his visceral debut single 'To You I Bestow' that garnered most attention after it was licensed to appear on the soundtrack to Baz Luhrmann's adaptation of Shakespeare's 'Romeo &

Juliet', this bestselling soundtrack went on to sell 11 million copies and introduced Mundy to the world. Mundy has since gone on to release a further eight albums creating his own flavour of acoustic, folk-based pop/rock through his own record label 'Camcor Records' which he set up in 2000. His album Raining Down Arrows went straight in to the Irish Charts at number 1, he has enjoyed gold and multi-platinum record sales and has picked up a number of awards including the Meteor Music award for 'Best Male' and 'Most Downloaded Song' 2 years running for his rousing rendition of 'Galway Girl' featuring Irish

traditional musician Sharon Shannon. Mundy's music has allowed him travel the world supporting some of the greats; Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Lucinda Williams, Emmylou Harris, R.E.M., Oasis, White Stripes, and the Pogues to name a few. Most recently however, Mundy was invited to perform for perhaps his most prestigious audience to date, in the White House for president Barack Obama as part of their St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Mundy certainly has an impressive CV and he has been touring extensively in Ireland, UK, Europe, North America, Australia, and Asia.



Mundy



Gearóid Farrelly

Gearóid Farrelly: Glamour Hammer, A Preview

Whale Theatre, Sunday 3rd July, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €18/€16 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

Gearóid Farrelly previews his new show ahead of his Autumn Tour!

After some time sitting on the couch we are back to real life. Trousers instead of tracksuit bottoms and coffee and a biscuit instead of four gin and tonics and half a cheese cake.

In this show Gearóid takes a look at the litany of things in our lives that just don't measure up. Everything from his generic-looking cat to Shania Twain. He will also be examining the big issues that really sell tickets like mental health (INSERT SOMETHING SEARINGLY HONEST), Masculinity (grrrr) and relationships (sexy stuff as opposed to splitting bills) and how we're living in a time when we can say anything we like and it becomes the truth.

Fierce Awkward

Whale Theatre Thursday 30th June 2022 @ 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €10 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

A coffee van becomes the focal point for some delightfully awkward encounters between strangers. Finding connection in a coastal community during lockdown proves to be bewildering, hilarious and thought provoking.

After two sell out debut shows in Kinsale we are elated to share this production with another exceptional village by the sea.

Audience have called it "an absolute joy", "brilliant", and "the Best laugh I've had in ages."



Comung up at the Hot Spot Music Club...

SAT JUNE 25th

Set Adrift Dance Party is back after it's phenomenal success in May. Tickets €12 Doors 7pm Limited Seating. Second Dance Party - July 23rd.

Good Vibes Reggae Night with BAJJNA (Ireland's Rising Stars Reggae band) + Reggae Ireland Guest DJ Bajjna are one of Ireland's fastest growing Reggae bands; In 2019 they performed at The Vicar Street Venue to support the legendary reggae band "The Wailers". They have also performed in many other music festivals and concerts across Ireland and the UK. On June 25th they will be performing in The Hot Spot as part of their most recent tour to celebrate the launch of their newest album "One Humankind".

FRI JULY 1st

A Celebration of John Lennon will feature a variety of songs from Lennon's career in the Beatles and also as a solo artist; featuring musicians Terry Meakin, Michael Meakin, Scott Maher, Rob McKinney and Duncan Maitland. Doors 8pm | Show 9pm Tickets €10 Proceeds to local Charity / Charity TBC

FRI JULY 15th

String Time w/ Bjorn Solli | John Moriarty Quartet: Having met at the

final of the Montreux Jazz Festival Guitar Competition in 2006, Bjorn Solli and John Moriarty have continued to play together since, in various settings. Solli has played extensively in Norway with his own group Solid, as well as with Seamus Blake, Aaron Parks and many others. John Moriarty is at the forefront of jazz guitar in Ireland, having performed with Louis Stewart from the early 2000s and currently in groups led by Richie Buckley as well as his own quartet. In this setting the guitarists explore well-loved standards as well as original arrangements and compositions. This evening also features one of Ireland's finest rhythm sections with Barry Donohue on double bass & Kev Brady on drums. Doors 8pm | Show 9pm Tickets - Advance €15 - €18 on Door

ALL TICKETED Evening Gigs -
DOORS 8PM. SHOW 9PM unless otherwise stated

ALL TICKETED SUNDAY GIGS -
DOORS 4PM. SHOW 5PM

For Tickets | Gig listings | Private
Event Rental visit

www.thehotspot.ie Note: Early ticket
purchase usually gets best ticket price

Urban Expressions 5.0

Mermaid Arts Centre, Sunday 26th June, 3:30pm & 7pm

Studio X Bray are delighted to bring their hip hop dance show to the Mermaid Theatre. It will be their 5th end of year showcase here, and after 2 years they are delighted to be back to perform our favorite dances of 2022.

"Our show consists of fun, energetic dance routines, per-

formed by our cast of 4-18 year olds who have been working so hard for this! We promise to entertain you with our exciting choreography, enjoyable music and passion for dance. Join us to celebrate our favourite day of the year!"

€15 for adults, €10 for children under 12





Frank McNamara, Wendy Nairn, Jonathon O'Donovan and Sarah Nolan at Brittas Bay National School's Garden Open Day and cake and plant sale last Wednesday.

Safety first: Beware of the hazards lurking in your garden

The great outdoors is a wonderful place to explore with the summer season officially starting this week on June 21st - but be aware of hidden dangers for young children as they play in the garden.

The experts at GardenBuildingsDirect.co.uk say it's worthwhile taking a critical eye to assess your outdoor space regularly to identify hazards to keep children safe.

Royalty-free image (Allan Mas, Pexels) - toy garden tools are fine for children - just not the real thing.

A spokesperson for GardenBuildingsDirect.co.uk said: "As the warmer weather beckons, children will spend more time in the garden. But are there objects which could result in an easily preventable accident if you take time to think ahead and make sure they are either safely out of the way or children know to be careful with them?"

Taking a few minutes of planning before children begin to enjoy exploring the garden could save potential accidents and heartache later on. Here are some of the critical things to consider from GardenBuildingsDirect.co.uk:

Play equipment

Regularly check your play equipment, such as climbing frames and slides, for jagged edges

or loose screws, which can cause a sudden nasty injury. With wear and tear, the standard of equipment may also deteriorate with time, so it is essential to see if it is safe to play with regularly. Always follow the instructions on erecting new equipment and any safety advice given.

Greenhouses

Greenhouses are not playhouses, so children should be discouraged from exploring these in the first place. It is worth investing in a greenhouse with strong glass to reduce the risk of injury in the event of a smashed window from a stray football, where the glass will not shatter into tiny hazardous shards.

Trampolines

These should be secured safely in position to ensure they cannot capsize or move around, and it is safer for just one person to use the trampoline at a time to give them the space to play and prevent awkward knocks and injury.

Poisonous berries and plants

Just as children are

told not to eat plants or berries without checking with a parent first when out on a walk in the countryside, the same applies to home, there are online lists available to talk through which plants are poisonous, and there may also be advice given when the plant is bought.

Ponds and pools

There are stories of children who drown in the garden every year, and babies and toddlers can drown in as little as five cm of water. Children need to be supervised around water at all times, and where possible, it is sensible to drain water from a paddling pool once used.

Barbecues

Barbecues remain hot long after use, so it is essential to keep children away from them during cooking and after eating as the coals and grills cool down. Flames and red hot coals entice children, but charcoal can also retain its heat long after extinguishing a fire.

Gardening tools

Young children may see sharp tools such as

shears and spades as exciting playthings, but they are dangerous in the wrong hands. Children should be supervised outdoors when gardening occurs, and stray tools should be locked away in the shed or outhouse.

Chemicals

Essential outdoor products such as

antifreeze for the car and plant fertiliser for the lawn are often stored in the garage of the shed.

These must be kept out of the reach of young hands at all times, which might otherwise see these items as enticing and want to explore them. Always keep these products clearly labelled as well.

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Peter and Theresa Sheekey are seeking Retention Planning Permission at Ballinahinch, Ashford, Co. Wicklow, A67 R902 - The application is for the retention of the glazed conservatory type, link corridor (31 sqm) to the rear of the existing dwelling house. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Chloe and Robert Dunne wish to apply to Wicklow County Council for planning permission to construct a single storey dwelling house, O'Reilly Oaktown sewerage treatment system, bored well, alterations to existing entrance and all ancillary site works at Griffinstown Glen, Grangecon, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.



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A panel will be created for the filling of other Cleaner positions in Kilkenny and Carlow ETB that may arise during the 2022/2023 school academic year.

Please refer to: www.kcetb.ie for job application form and further details.

Closing Date: Monday, 4 July 2022 (12 noon).

Shortlisting may apply.

Kilkenny and Carlow ETB is an equal opportunities employer.

Free books for children available from libraries

Green Party TD Steven Matthews is encouraging parents to collect their free book bags for children starting school in September.

Discussing the First Five My Little Library Scheme, Deputy Matthews said: "My Green Party colleague and the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman TD, recently launched the First Five My Little Library Scheme to provide free books to children starting Junior Infants in September 2022. This is a wonderful initiative which will assist young children in the transition to primary school and ensure that every child can benefit from reading and stories. So far, 19,000 book bags have been collected at a national level which is only one third of those available since the scheme was introduced in April.

"I would encourage every parent with a child starting school in September to visit their local library during the summer break to collect their free bag of books. Each book bag contains three books on starting school, making friends and developing self-confidence, a story card on visiting the library, a postcard the child can write or draw on and give to their new teacher, a special library card and a 'My Little Library' cardholder. The young readers will be invited to continue their journey with the library and refill their bag with borrowed books.

"The My Little Library Book Bags will be available for collection until the start of the 2022/2023 academic year in September. This initiative is one of many measures that the Green Party is implementing in Government to transform supports for early years in Ireland."

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

The Board of Management of Scoil Padraig Naofa Avoca seeks planning permission for floodlight installation on the existing Astro turf pitch at Scoil Padraig Naofa, Kilmagig Lower, Avoca, 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

Stephen Kennedy seeks Full Planning Permission for the construction of a single-storey, 4-bedroom dwelling including separate garage, well, and effluent treatment and disposal system. The proposal also includes the improvement of the existing vehicular entrance and all associated site works at Shraghmore, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Liam O'Toole seek planning for a continuation of use to Wicklow Strength And Fitness gym granted permission Reg Ref 19/142, at South Quay, Wicklow Town, Wicklow, A67 X928. 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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The perfect Greystones Pizza 2022

New arrival Enso wins public vote



Tim Crooks of Enso accepts the best pizza award from Eamonn Foley and Lydia Casey from Sherry Fitzgerald

It was big smiles and mouth-watering smells at Enso last week as they were voted the makers of The Perfect Greystones Pizza.

Voted for by the public, the fact that the town has seen a tripling of pizza outlets in the last five years made the win all the more prestigious.

"When we first began getting Enso ready for Greystones, there were three outlets in the town where you could grab pizza," says founder Tim Crooks. "Today, it's like every third business in the town has pizza. And coffee, of course."

Sponsored by Sherry Fitzgerald, the voting saw contenders such as The Pizza Truck, Pigeon House and Domino's feeling the Greystones love, but it was obvious early on that one particular pizza joint in the town was most likely going to win.

"Seeing not only the votes but the positive comments was actually very moving," says Crooks, as he accepted his award from Sherry Fitzgerald's Eamonn Foley and Lydia Casey. "It really meant a lot to us."

"And having my mum ring me every day to read out the latest pretty much made my month."

The lucky voter chosen randomly for a €50 voucher to the winning pizzeria went to Sigita Alis.

CLASSIFIEDS

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

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Kilkenny-based firm commencing broadband roll-out

National Broadband Ireland has announced that the total construction workforce delivering the roll-out has now reached over 1,500, with a 25% increase in workers in the first half of 2022.

The increase includes 80 additional construction workers deployed to the NBP roll-out as a result of NBI's new partnership with Gaeltec Utilities. NBI Chairman, David McCourt said: "The National Broadband Plan is a transformational infrastructure project which will ultimately see Ireland become one of the most connected countries in Europe for fibre broadband. Not only will this open up economic opportunities in the future, it is leading to investment and job creation in the regions right now. With 80 additional Gaeltec workers now commencing work in County Wicklow, a workforce of over 1,500 is now deployed to the NBP, showing real

momentum in the roll-out."

NBI Deployment CEO, TJ Malone said: "NBI is moving to expand our capacity by adding an additional construction partner as momentum in the roll-out of the NBP grows. We are delighted to be working with Gaeltec, our sec-

ond Kilkenny-based partner. This additional capacity will help us to ensure more premises are being passed by future-proofed, high-speed broadband every day. NBI contractors have already been on the ground across the country for 25 months with over 330,000 premises nation-

wide surveyed to date and almost 180,000 either constructed or under construction. Today's announcement will see this activity take a further step up and we anticipate 40% of the entire Intervention Area will be under construction by the end of the year."

The National Broad-

band Plan (NBP) is the Government's initiative to deliver high-speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland.

This will be delivered through intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have indicated they have no plans to invest.

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