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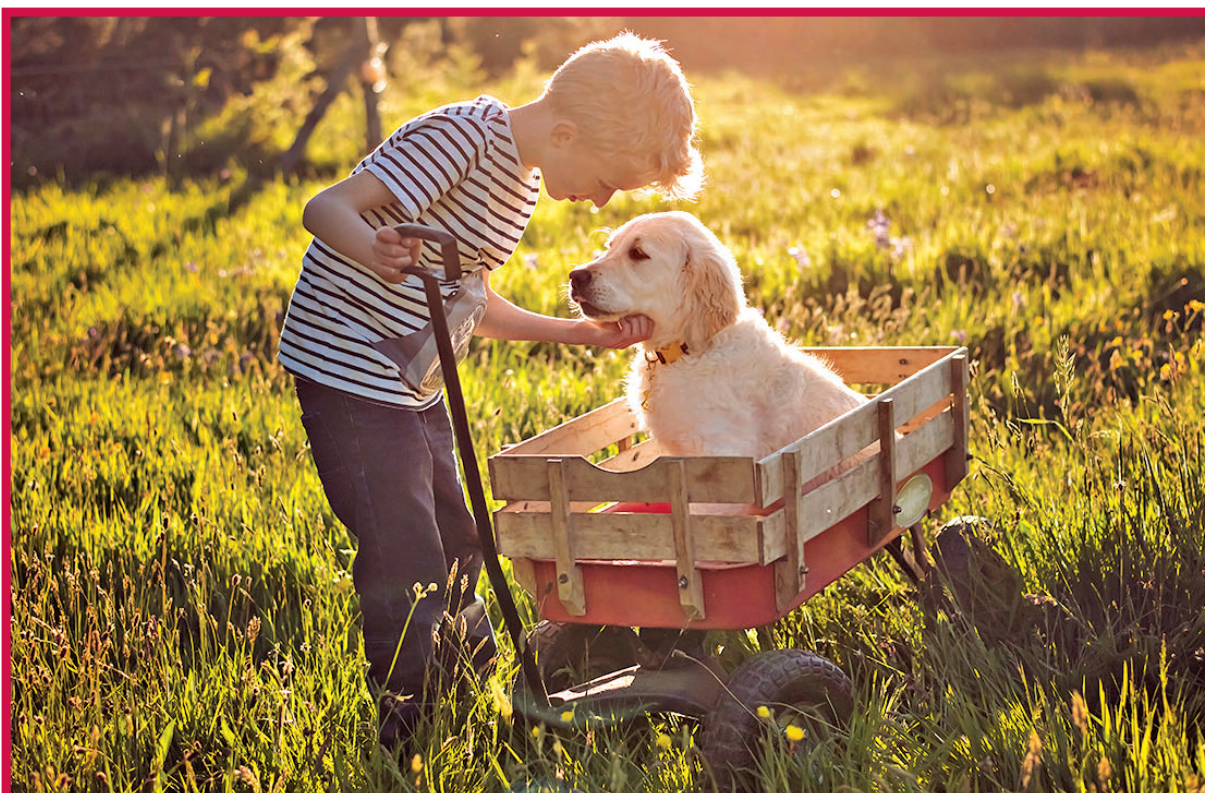
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Tuesday 28th June 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowned@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

WICKLOW'S GROWING PAINS

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) last week published the Preliminary Results from Census 2022. The results provide provisional figures for Ireland's total population count on Census Night (3rd April 2022), including the first breakdown of the number of females and males in the country. They also include a snapshot of the housing stock data. The data is being published at State, county, and Electoral Division (ED) level and includes comparisons with Census 2016 results.

In Wicklow the preliminary figures show that the population on 3rd April was recorded at 155,485. The population included 79,143 females and 76,342 males. This is an increase of 13,060 (+9.2%) since 2016. This was made up of a natural increase (ie births minus deaths) of 5,278 and an estimated net inward migration (ie population change minus natural increase) of 7,782. The total housing stock in Wicklow in April 2022 was 60,113. This shows an increase of 5,127 (+9.3%) since 2016. There were 3,469 vacant dwellings, which was 55 more than in 2016 (+1.6%). This does not include holiday homes, of which there were 976. Local politicians have reacted to the figures saying they show an under investment in the county over recent years. Sinn Féin TD John Brady welcomed the publication of prelimi-



Childhood as it should be: Néo Smith, aged 9, from Annamoe enjoys the first of many late summer evenings with his best friend, Duggee, a Golden Retriever pup. Photo by Alda Smith

nary results indicating a substantial increase of the population of the Garden County. The Bray based TD has argued that the 9.2% population increase since 2016 highlights the need for the State to take seriously the needs of the County, and for a commitment from the Government to provide investment in critical infrastructure such as schools, emergency services, houses, health services, public transport, community, and recreation facilities.

Deputy Brady said: "Obviously, the team at the CSO have put in an extraordinary effort to get the initial results out so quick. What we learn from this initial release of statistics is that the population of Wicklow has seen a 9.2% increase in Census 2022, increasing from 142,425 in 2016 to 155,485.

"This is a part of a trend which can be witnessed in all the counties surrounding Dublin. And not withstanding the fact that rental costs and house purchase prices in Wicklow are amongst the highest in the State, Wicklow is set to see continuing population growth.

"The early results clearly indicate that there needs to be substantial investment in Wicklow now to deal with this increase and the expected continuing population growth. Critical infrastructure such as schools, emergency services, houses, health services, public transport, community, and recreation facilities need to be put in place.

"Currently the county is lacking in much of the most basic services, and infrastructure. This needs to be addressed at a governmental level."

Social Democrats TD

Jennifer Whitmore said that the significant increase in population in

the county is clearly not being met by existing infrastructure. She said

the latest CSO results reveal a chronic lack of
Continued on page 7

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Marlana and Gavin Murphy from Greystones pictured with President Michael D. Higgins at the opening of Tiglin's Jigginstown Manor in Naas, Co. Kildare. Pic: Michael Kelly

Event to mark 60th anniversary of Eagle's Nest Chairlift Ballroom dance

An event on Bray seafront this Wednesday 29th June will mark the 60th anniversary of the Eagle's Nest Chairlift Ballroom Dance which took place in Bray on 29th June 1962. The event, in conjunction with the Bray Chamber of Commerce, will be held on the balcony at Finbees at 6pm.

The event comes on the back of an article by writer Michael Doorley which appeared recently in 'Senior Times' & 'Ireland's Own' magazines and generated much interest. In the article, Doorley writes about how sixty years ago local man Oliver (Ollie) Mahony came up with the idea to hold a dance as a fundraiser towards helping his football team, Bray Celtic F.C., join the Dublin League.

Ollie worked at the time on the Bray Head chairlift, which, Doorley writes, "was set up in 1952 by Eamonn Quinn (father of Superquinn boss Fergal Quinn) [and] supported by seven metal pylons (painted bright yellow) going up to Bray Head. Steel wires ran between the pylons carrying passengers in what were then called gondolas. It could convey up to 350 people per hour, with the upward journey costing 1s/6d. Buses would convey visitors weekly from Red Island in Skerries which was also run by the Quinns. The upper terminus was at the popular restaurant and ballroom the 'Eagle's Nest'."

Ollie chose the Eagle's Nest Ballroom as the location for the dance, with the chairlift used to



The old Chairlift on Bray Head

bring the party-goers and the cost included in the ticket price. A local group of musicians supplied the live music on the night and were named The Wingbeats. Over 400 people attended, and Ollie and his teammates made a £35 profit.

"The only problem was when the P.A system broke down, it was Ollie who had to clamber onstage as M.C at the end of each set," writes Doorley. "It was by and large a peaceful and happy musical night but an inevitable skirmish kicked off towards the end. While the band was playing 'The Loco Motion', Masher Murphy

predictably started a scrap but happily it was short lived after Ollie and his pals diplomatically intervened. They were then assured that 'the row will be finished off back down the Seafront' and so it came to pass."

As the chairlift always shut down at 11pm, when the dance finished at 1am Ollie had to make his way back down in the darkness with the cash, with his friend Mick Power acting as bodyguard. However, despite all of this effort, their application to the Dublin League was unsuccessful.

Doorley writes: "From then on, Oliver focussed on his chosen career- that

of Master Barber in his father's salon- where he had started when it was established in 1957. The Hygienic Barber Shop (a most apt title in the current health environment) is a prominent landmark building on the Main Street with Dempsey Bros. (now Frank Doyle's) butcher's shop downstairs. The business had prospered under the expertise of Oliver's' Dad who passed away in 1967.

Over the subsequent years, Oliver further developed great customer loyalty and strong local personal and business connections such as Ardmore Studios."

Meet & Greet with Olympic swimmer

Irish Olympic and International swimmer Darragh Greene, who is a Brand Ambassador for Coral Leisure Ireland, will be holding a FREE meet and greet workshop at Coral Leisure Wicklow Town on Saturday 2nd of July from 5pm to 7pm.

Schedule

5pm to 6pm - Breaststroke Clinic plus relay races plus fun time - see can you beat an Olympic Swimmer!

6pm to 6.30pm - Presentation - Darragh has a wonderful presentation to share with the swimmers and coaches that takes about 20mins or so, charting his beginning in swimming right up to the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

6.30pm to 7pm - Q&A, photos and autographs

Having started his swimming career in his local Coral Leisure swimming pool in Longford, Coral Leisure said they are extremely proud to have Darragh as their Brand Ambassador having supported him in the lead up to his performances at the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games as part of Team Ireland. The event is open to all and make sure to bring your swim gear.



Olympic swimmer Darragh Greene

Seafarers Memorial Service

The 35th Annual Seafarers Memorial Service will be held this Wednesday June 29th in the Seafarers Memorial Garden, Dock Road, Arklow, at 7:30pm. All are welcome to remember those from our community who have lost their lives at sea.

Redcross Church Summer Fete

The 2022 Redcross Church Summer Fete will take place in the grounds of Redcross Church, Redcross village, on Saturday 2nd July from 2 - 4 pm. There will be Afternoon Teas & Cakes, Pancakes, Home Baking, Plants & Garden Produce, Toys, Books, DVDs, Pre Loved Fashion and Fashion Accessories, Pony Rides, Games & Raffle Prizes. Free Entry & Parking and all funds raised go towards Parish Funds. It's going to be a great family event and all are welcome. More information on Redcross Church facebook page and www.redcrosschurch.ie.

Delgany Thursday Group

The next outing of the Delgany Thursday Group will take place on Thursday 7th July, and will be to Newbridge House, Donabate, Co. Dublin. Leaving Christ Church, Delgany, at 1.30 pm sharp. The cost is €30.00 per person to include coach & guided house tour. Refreshments are not included. Due to the increased cost of the coach transport, outings cannot proceed with less than 20 participants. If this number is not reached, those who have pre-booked will be advised. Also, any refreshments will be at participant's own expense.

To book contact Peter (086 830 7644), Violet (087 756 0153), or John (086 356 6527).

Celebrating John Lennon

A celebration of John Lennon is happening in the Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones on Friday July 1st. The brainchild of Kilcoole musician, Terry Meakin, the evening will feature a variety of songs from Lennon's career in the Beatles, in addition to music from his career as a solo artist. This bespoke band features musicians and brothers, Terry Meakin and Michael Meakin as well as members of a Beatles tribute band - Scott Maher, Rob McKinney and Duncan Maitland. The Meakin brothers will also return to the Hot Spot on Tues, July 12th for a once-off performance of The Back Doors. The Lennon evening is on July 1st, Doors 8pm. Tickets €10 from thehotspot.ie/tickets or on the door subject to availability.

Singing for Guide Dogs Ireland

After a very long wait Bella Voce Choir are delighted to announce they will perform a celebration of summer songs on Sunday 3rd of July at 8pm in Christ Church Delgany. Under the musical direction of Frank Kelly a great evening of singing is promised. All proceeds will be donated to Guide Dogs Ireland. Please come along and support this great cause and enjoy a wide variety of song. Tickets are €10 at the door kids go free.

Open Door's 1,000 km Challenge

Following the success of last year's 500 Mile Challenge, members, staff and volunteers at Open Door have decided to increase this year's challenge to cover 1,000km. During the month of July, using some of the Physiotherapy equipment available at the Centre, participants will endeavor to complete 1,000km through walking, jogging, cycling and using the cross trainer.

Members have various physical disabilities as a result of Stroke, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, accidents and other causes and they benefit from the many activities provided by Open Door.

This challenge is a team effort, using the treadmill, exercise bikes and x-trainer, to highlight some of the equipment available and also to help raise funds for the Centre.

All participants have sponsorship cards and there is also an iDonate.ie page at https://www.idonate.ie/event/3692_open-door-s-1-000-km-challenge-july-2022.html for on-line donations. Contact Suzanne on 087 6250823 for further details.

Open Door will be updating progress regularly during the month of July through social media and on their website - www.opendoor.ie.

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Huge increase in youth mental health waiting times

Sinn Féin TD John Brady TD has said the increase in waiting times for the Jigsaw youth mental health service is "extremely worrying" and urged the government to act as a matter of priority.

Deputy Brady has called on the Minister to urgently engage with the Jigsaw service to provide a solution and ensure young people can get mental health supports without unnecessary delays.

Deputy Brady said: "Figures released to Sinn Féin by the HSE through a Parliamentary Question have revealed extremely worrying wait times for Jigsaw; the mental health service which provides vital supports to young people.

"In Wicklow there are currently 77 young people waiting for a first appointment. On average, young people in Wicklow are waiting for 15 weeks for a first appointment. This is an increase from 7 weeks in 2021.

"Every expert in child and adolescent mental health will tell you that early intervention is absolutely vital in avoiding enduring and worsening problems in the future.

"Yet, these figures reveal that if a child or young person seeks out care, they are in all likelihood going to be faced with extended waiting periods. These wait times



John Brady TD

are simply unacceptable and put those in need of help and their mental health at a very serious risk.

"Behind every number is a young person who needs help and should have access to services in a timely way. This cry for help from our young people cannot fall on

deaf ears.

"Children and young people in [area] deserve better. We need to move away from the postcode lottery for mental health treatment.

"I am urging the Minister to urgently engage with the service to ensure this is resolved. We must see adequate funding and resources put in place to end these long waits."

A new Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) report has classified 55% of 22-year-old women and 40% of 22-year-old men as 'depressed'.

Turn2Me, a national mental health charity, has urged the public to use its free mental health services.

The charity emphasised that two of its free services, its Support Groups and its 'Thought Catcher' service, have no waiting lists and can be used by anyone in Ireland or the UK.

Turn2Me stated that the results of the ESRI report are shocking and are reflective of what mental health professionals witnessed dur-

Wicklow has longest waiting list for Speech & Language Therapy assessments

Wicklow and South Dublin have the highest numbers of people waiting for an initial assessment for Speech & Language Therapy in Ireland, it's been revealed.

HSE April figures provided to Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore reveal that numbers waiting in Wicklow and South Dublin (both included in CHO7 statistics) currently stand at 2,763 people waiting over 24 months for an initial assessment. Figures are even higher if West Wicklow is added however these figures are included with Kildare and Carlow waiting lists.

Speaking on the matter, Deputy Whitmore said "It is very alarming to see so many people waiting for just an initial assessment, nevermind initial therapy

and further therapy. The fact that Wicklow and South Dublin have the highest figures in the country reveals a significant problem in the provision of this service for people living in the county.

"Children in particular, remain very vulnerable and are losing out much needed services to help them with speech and language issues. I inquired with the HSE on recruitment issues in the Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) 5 in North Wicklow, where children with multiple

needs can access Speech and Language Therapy (SLT). There are currently 2.6WTE Speech and Language vacant posts as of the end of May. Working with Enable Ireland, they ran a recruitment campaign for SLT vacancies in January 2022, however there was only one applicant, indicating the shortage of SLTs nationally.

"The numbers waiting is unsustainably high and something urgent must be done to address this. I have had many parents on to me about their child's behaviour and develop-

ment getting worse while waiting for an initial assessment. Many can't afford to go private and so they are forced to watch their child decline in the meantime. It's completely wrong that families have to go through this experience.

"I am following up with the Minister for Health on the matter of staffing and any plans in place to relieve the recruitment backlog. Whatever is in train must radically change the current system so that no child, no individual is waiting up to two years just to be seen."



Kyran O'Grady and Barry Kilcline at the SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race in Wicklow Town. Pic: Michael Kelly

ing the pandemic. Demand for Turn2Me's services significantly increased during lockdown - at the peak of the pandemic, demand for its services spiked by 386%. Turn2Me is urging anyone who is experiencing anxiety, depression, grief or relationship issues to sign up for their free support groups, which are facilitated by mental health professionals, and run six evenings a week.

The 'Thought Catcher' service runs every day from 2pm until 8pm. It's a safe online platform

where people can post about how they're feeling, and other users can respond with positive, uplifting messages. Users can engage with both the Thought Catcher and the support groups without the barrier of a waiting list. These services are funded by the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP).

"The ESRI report is shocking," Fiona O'Malley, CEO of Turn2Me, said. "It clearly outlines how the pandemic negatively affected so many people, particularly young people. I would encourage anyone

who is feeling depressed to engage with our free mental health services, particularly our support groups and our Thought Catcher - both these services are free, operated by mental health professionals and don't have long waiting lists attached!"

People can sign up to Turn2Me's free mental health services by going to Turn2Me.ie, setting up a free account, and signing up for the support groups or engaging with the 'Thought Catcher'. For more information, go to Turn2Me.ie



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Minister Simon Harris, Thomas Ryan (Glanbia), Junior Housing Minister Peter Burke, Karina Pierce (UCD), Cllr Shay Cullen, Brian Dunne (Wicklow Uplands Council), and Junior Minister for Agriculture Martin Heydon at the 'Backing Rural Wicklow' meeting in Arklow

Tommy Annesley elected new Cathaoirleach



Cllr Tommy Annesley

Arklow Fianna Fail councillor Tommy Annesley was elected the new Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council at last week's Council AGM. Cllr Annesley takes over from Fine Gael councillor Shay Cullen. Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy from Bray was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

Cllr Annesley was formally proposed for the position by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, and this was seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. Independent councillor Joe Behan was also put forward for the position by the Independent group on the Council, but lost by 24 votes to 8.

Nominating Cllr Annesley, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald said, "Since his election to the Council some years ago he's been a very effective public representative. He's available night and day and is widely respected in our community in Arklow. I have no doubt that Cllr Annesley will be an asset to Co. Wicklow as Cathaoirleach."

Cllr Blake said "I have known Tommy for quite a number of years. I knew him long before he came into Wicklow County Council as well. I know the dedication he's given to the people of Arklow and South Wicklow in the last few years. I'm sure he will give the same dedication and commitment to the county. He is to me a very worthy replacement for Cllr Cullen as Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council."

Cllr Annesley has been a county councillor since 2014 having previously served on Arklow Town Council. A proud Arklow man, Tommy and his family have been in business in the town for generations. He's played a leading role in Arklow Tidy Towns, and is a founding member of the Seabreeze Festival and has a lifelong love of Arklow's maritime

heritage and the local RNLI.

Taking his seat in the Cathaoirleach's chair, Cllr Annesley said, "It's an honour to sit here today. Every single person sitting in this Chamber is good enough to be sitting where I am today. I'm willing and want to work with every person in this Chamber and my phone is on 24/7. I have a very hard act to follow with Shay Cullen."

Cllr Annesley took a moment to remember the councillors who have passed away in recent years, Pat Doran and Pat Kavanagh: "I sat here beside Pat Doran for five years. Pat was a great influence on me. I can't mention Cllr Pat Doran without mentioning Cllr Pat Kavanagh. These are people we haven't forgotten about and they're still with us. They played a major role in my life and on the Council."

Cllr Annesley paid tribute to the Council officials "who do a terrible amount of work and don't always get the credit for it", and also thanked his family - his partner Joy and his children.

"I also want to mention the most important people in my life, my mother and father. My God, what my father would say about me sitting up here today! In fact, I won't even go there. I know my mother would be very proud. My father wasn't a huge supporter of local politics. He did his own thing. He had six kids and he gave every one of them an opinion and a voice. Now here I am in



New Cathaoirleach Tommy Annesley with his daughter Orla

the most opinionated room in Wicklow where there's 32 people and every one of them has an opinion. I want to listen to them all. I look forward to working with you all. Thank you very much."

Cllr Shay Cullen said to Cllr Annesley: "I would like to congratulate you on the position of Cathaoirleach and wish you well for the coming year. I think you will do a fine job. It is great for yourself and your family so enjoy it!"

Congratulating Cllr Annesley, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson said, "Cllr Annesley will get the full support of myself and the Council staff during his year. I look forward to working with the new Cathaoirleach to address the many challenges that we face in the areas of housing delivery, cli-

mate action, roads infrastructure and community development. We will see the completion of the County Development Plan, as well as the Local and Economic Community Plan.

"The Cathaoirleach's support is crucial to this. Cllr Annesley took over the reign for one of the Council's meetings earlier this year when Cllr Cullen was unavailable and did a fantastic job on the day. So, I'm sure he will do a great job for the coming year in that position.

"It is also a great day for the people of Arklow who have been represented by him so well over the past number of years. So once again, I'd like to wish him every success in the role. I look forward to working with him to try and achieve many great things for the people of Wicklow over the next 12 months."

'A quick and eventful year'

Stepping down from the role of Cathaoirleach at last week's Council AGM, Fine Gael councillor Shay Cullen reflected on the past year, describing it as "quick and eventful".

"I came into an empty chamber last June for the handover from the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pat Kennedy. It was a very strange experience

not having any members in the chamber here. We were still dealing with Covid and had become used to lockdowns. There was a nervous tension

across the country, wondering how long Covid would keep us away from living our day-to-day lives. "I want to thank our

staff on how they managed the pandemic and the role they played in helping communities across the county. Covid has changed our lives and some of these changes have been a positive, with opportunities in terms of remote working, increased family time, more engagement in communities. The economic benefit of remote working will enhance our work in the community."

Cllr Cullen also acknowledged the devastating impact of Covid and led councillors in a minute's silence "to remember all those who lost their lives to Covid and their grieving families."

Continuing, Cllr Cullen said: "I spoke last year about two important areas of the Council that I wanted to focus on during my tenure as Cathaoirleach. Firstly housing. My first official duty in June of last year was to welcome President Higgins to Greystones. He spoke passionately about housing and the homeless situation we have in our country. When chatting to the President I explained we had ambi-

tious plans in Wicklow to provide social housing. It's therefore fitting that one of my last duties as Cathaoirleach was to officially open over 80 social houses across Wicklow and Bray District. We have such wonderful work being done by our housing section that the President last week referenced Wicklow as an example for the country in our building and support mechanisms that we have in place.

"My second area of focus was on investment into our county. This is something I am and have been passionate about over the last 12 months. I urged the management to apply for as much funding as possible for Wicklow and I think we have done this, and we should continue to keep this as a priority going forward."

Cllr Cullen also reflected on Wicklow's response to the Ukraine crisis: "We've taken in over 13,300 Ukrainians to Co. Wicklow to date. A community response forum was started to co-ordinate refugees. The forum has brought together state, private,



Cllr Shay Cullen

community and voluntary organisations to respond to this emergency. The Council secured emergency accommodation across the county in hotels, guest houses and leisure centres. And I want to pay tribute to the Council staff who worked tirelessly to ensure the Ukrainians were treated with the dignity and respect they deserve."

Cllr Cullen listed some of the major achievements over the past year, such as Wicklow County Council being crowned Council of the Year and Kiltegan being awarded at the Pride of Place awards, the openings of Wicklow Library and County Archives and Rathdrum Public Library, the completion of the Fitzwilliam Square Civic Space and Bray Seafront

Plaza, investment in the solar car park at County Buildings and further investment into Clermont campus.

Cllr Cullen thanked the Council staff and officials and his wife Rhona. "We all have families and we need their support to do this role and without their support I don't think it would be easy to be a councillor or do this job, so I want to pay tribute to all the families of the members here who give their time to make sure that you can get the opportunity to represent your county."

Concluding, he stated "It has been an absolute honour and privilege to have held the position of Cathaoirleach. Nine years ago, I never thought I would be elected as a councillor let alone to ever hold the position of Cathaoirleach. I want to thank all the members of the council. I spoke last year about mutual respect, and I do believe I treated everyone equally I believe you extended the same respect to me.

"I would like to think that I have done my best to represent my county to the best of my ability and I want to extend my support to the new Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach for the year ahead."

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200 new social homes to be delivered in Wicklow

Innovative Public Private Partnership model is already providing a further 1500 homes

A new phase of Local Authority social housing delivery launched last week will see approximately 1,530 new homes delivered across a number of local authorities, including 200 across two sites in Bray and Greystones.

80 homes will be delivered in Burnaby in Greystones and 120 in Rehills in Bray, subject to design development, planning etc. as the projects are taken forward.

A collaboration between a number of local authorities namely DCC, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Kildare County Council, Louth County Council, South Dublin County Council and Wicklow County Council where it is anticipated that approximately 750 new social homes will be delivered.

Last week's launch builds on a successful Public Private Partnership social housing pilot programme being delivered by the National Development Finance Agency (NDFA) in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and relevant local authorities, and which was introduced in recent years, and which has, or is in the process of delivering, in the region of 1,500 social homes, including: 534 new houses and apartments across six sites in Dublin, Kildare, Louth and Wicklow in 2020 and 2021; 465 homes in 2021 across eight sites in Cork,

Clare, Galway, Kildare, Roscommon and Waterford; 480 new homes to be delivered across six sites in Dublin, Kildare, Sligo and Wicklow with all sites at the statutory planning phase.

Welcoming today's new phase of social housing, Minister O'Brien said:



"Approximately 200 individuals and families in Co Wicklow, and over 1,500 in total across four counties, will benefit from the latest social housing Public-Private Partnership programme announced today. This Government, through Housing for All, is committed to increasing the supply of social housing to an average of

10,000 social homes per annum between 2022 and 2030."

Work is on-going to progress further phases under the programme. A public-private partnership (PPP) is an arrangement between a public authority and a private partner designed to deliver a public infrastructure project or service under a long-term contract.

Minister O'Brien added: "I recently had the pleasure of seeing first-hand some completed housing developments in County Cork which were progressed as part of an earlier phase of the programme. The success of this initiative is evident from the high quality houses I visited, which are providing new homes and a fresh start for individuals and families."

"The pilot social housing programme was unique in being the first social housing PPP project in Ireland. It was also the first time local authorities collaborated to deliver social housing projects and the first time European Investment Bank financing has been used in a social housing PPP. It was also the first time the Irish charity sector has been involved in a PPP consortium.

Homeless outreach service confirmed for Bray

A homeless outreach service has been confirmed for Bray. Welcoming the news, Sinn Féin councillor Cllr Grace McManus said, "At the moment, people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Bray have to present themselves (often with their children) to Wicklow County Council buildings.

"This is costly in time and finance, especially

when we are talking about people in very challenging financial, emotional and traumatic times.

"We (Sinn Féin) recognised this issue in the pre-pandemic times of 2019, and passed a motion at Bray Municipal District calling for the service to be provided at the Bray council offices to address this.

"We have consistently outlined the need for this service since that motion, based on our experiences working with people who are homeless, and council officials have listened,

and have been working to provide this vital resource in the town. It was confirmed at our recent Municipal District meeting that this service will be provided, and I think that is a significant step in terms of positive change.

"My ultimate hope is that this change will have the biggest impact on our people who are experiencing very vulnerable times, and assist them to get the support they need, when they need it, where they need it."

Cllr 'Daisy' O'Brien



Cllr 'Daisy' O'Brien

O'Brien (SF) added, "The unfortunate reality is that because of the failure of Govt policy, many people

who are suffering from housing distress and homelessness are based in the wider Bray area.

"To be in a position to provide an outreach service to these people locally is an absolute necessity if we want to have a meaningful impact. The experience and related impacts of homelessness are very time sensitive, every day that you are not in a position to access support services is an extra day of risk. The sooner this service is back up and running, the better."



Cllr Grace McManus

Demot McGowan and his dog Dimmy in Wicklow Town for the start of the SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race in Wicklow Town.



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Property prices rise by €15,000

Property prices in Wicklow have mirrored the national trend by rising during the quarter, according to the latest MyHome.ie Property Report.

The report for Q2 2022, in association with Davy, shows that the median asking price for a property in the county is now €385,000. This means prices have risen by €35,000 compared with this time last year.

Asking prices for a 3-bed semi-detached house in the county were up by €10,000 over the quarter to €385,000. This means that prices in the segment are up by €38,000 compared to this time last year.

Meanwhile, the asking price for a 4-bed semi-detached house in Wicklow was up by €2,500 over the quarter to €477,500. This price is up by €22,500 compared to this time last year.

There were 479 properties for sale in Wicklow at the end of Q2 2022 - an increase of 10% over the quarter. The average time for a property to go sale agreed in the county after being placed up for sale now stands at nearly three months.

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Knockroe bend realignment officially opened

The Knockroe Bend realignment project was officially opened on Friday June 17th removing road hazards at this location.

Performing the official opening, Cllr Shay Cullen, in one of his final acts as Cathaoirleach, said: "The main construction work was substantially completed in December 2020 with a total overall project cost approximately €6.9m. Again due to Covid

restrictions we unfortunately have not been in a position to officially open the scheme until now."

Cllr Avril Cronin, Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District, stated: "West Wicklow is served by this primary N81 route and is the main artery of travel

and access to many small rural areas of west Wicklow.

As Cathaoirleach of the Baltinglass District, together with my fellow district members, we welcome this alignment works.

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, added: "The construction of this scheme has removed the road hazards at this location and will significantly reduce the occurrence of collisions. This will lead to significant benefits and improvement to safety and overall economic returns."

Mr Gleeson thanked Transport Infrastructure Ireland and CEO Peter Walsh for their continued and ongoing support on this project and hopefully others in the future.

Construction work commenced in September 2019 and the new alignment was opened to two-way traffic on 24th July 2020. The main construction work was substantially completed in December 2020.

Wicklow County Council signed the Main Works Contract with Clonmel Enterprises Ltd September 2019 and Site supervision of the Main Works Contract was provided by RPS Consulting Engineers



Cllr Shay Cullen performing the official opening



At the official opening of the Knockroe Bend realignment project were Minister Simon Harris, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson, Cllr Shay Cullen, Senator Pat Casey, Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District Cllr Avril Cronin, Cllr Gerry O'Neill, Cllr Patsy Glennon, Cllr John Mullen and Cllr Vincent Blake.

"Wicklow County Council would like to thank TII for providing funding to facilitate this safety improvement alignment project. The completion of this works will improve the visibility and legibility of the N81, providing a safer transport route on this key piece of infrastructure," said Mr Gleeson.

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD said at the official opening that there needs to be a comprehensive integrated plan for the N81.

Minister Harris said: "Earlier this year I met with the Department of Transport to discuss the specific challenges N81 commuters face and the need for a new type of

plan for the road that integrates safety improvements like the one opened at Knockroe, with public transport improvements and priority and a wider network of footpaths and cycle lanes. From my own survey of N81 commuters the biggest issues they raised were bus shelters, public lighting and cats eyes along the route."

Minister Harris continued: "The Department of Transport has made an undertaking to bring the transport agencies together along with County Council to devise a wholistic plan to deliver a comprehensive upgrade of the N81."

"There are a number of other safety improvements on the N81 that have secured funding including

the Hangman's Bend realignment scheme and new footpaths at Tuckmill.

"The improvement of the N81 for West Wicklow remains a top priority for me and I look forward to working with the transport agencies involved to bring this much needed improvement to West Wicklow Commuters."

Funding for over one hundred Wicklow community groups

€282,686 has been allocated across 123 community groups in Wicklow under the Community Activities fund announced by Green Party Minister for State with Responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O' Brien.

This funding has been allocated to assist with the running costs of the groups as well as to support the improvement of facilities.

Speaking following the funding announcement, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said: "I am delighted to see that this funding has been allocated to 123 community groups across Wicklow. I hope that this support will provide some assistance to these groups who play a vital role in our county."

"The last 2 years have shown us just how important these groups are in ensuring a sense of community and togetherness for people across Wicklow. I have had the opportunity to visit a number of these groups in recent months and it is clear that the role they play is invaluable."

Some of the groups that have received funding include Aughrim Community Group, Arklow Tidy Towns, Bray Community Addiction Team, Rathnew Community Centre, Annacurra Community Hall, Newcastle First Responders and Newcastle Community Centre, Blessington Boxing Club, Nazarene Community Church in Greystones, Delgany Tidy Towns and Wicklow SPCA.

Deputy Matthews added: "I would like to congratulate all of the groups around Wicklow that have been awarded this funding. I know that the



Cllr Shay Cullen pictured with members of Newcastle First Responders. The group, which was launched in April, is one of the 123 community groups to be awarded funding.

pandemic posed particular challenges in terms of fundraising, the continued payment of fixed costs such as insurance and maintaining engagement with members and I hope that this funding goes some way towards alleviating these concerns.

"This funding comes as part of wider Government investment plans in local projects and I will liaise directly with Wicklow County Council on all future funding opportunities. If any other community group leaders want to get in touch I would be more than happy to engage with them to discuss future grant options or any other concerns they have in relation to the day to day running of their group."

Also speaking in support of the

funding allocations, Minister Simon Harris said, "I am delighted to see almost €283,000 in funding for 123 local projects across Wicklow today as part of the Community Activities Fund. This funding will provide practical support to smaller community groups at a grassroots level across county Wicklow and support community groups with utilities, essential repairs or the purchasing the equipment."

"The pandemic has highlighted the importance of our vibrant community sector and how much we rely on community groups in times of need. It is important that we can provide support to such vital voluntary and not-for-profit organisations within county Wicklow."

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Screen skills to green skill

Meeting the needs of key sectors into the future

Wicklow County Council hosted a 'Screen Skills to Green Skills' event in County Buildings on Friday 24th June.

The aim was to create an opportunity for professionals and stakeholders to help facilitate the development and delivery of training and education to meet the skills needs of County Wicklow into the future.

The theme for the event was 'Screen Skills to Green Skills' and the focus was on film, food, and renewables as key drivers of economic development in the county.

Opening the event, Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. Aoife Flynn-Kennedy, said: "We hope this event

will be a catalyst for active collaboration and cooperation between all stakeholders in the skills development and training and development of potential employees for the film, food, and renewable energy sectors."

The keynote speaker was Minister of Further and Higher Education, Innovation and Science, Minister Simon Harris TD, with other speakers representing the film, food, and renewable energy industries.

These included Kate Dempsey, Chief

Executive Officer, Aqualicense Ltd; Graeme McWilliams, Chief Operating Officer, Echelon Data Centres; Fran Keaveney, Screen Ireland; James Burke, Retail and Food Expert, James Burke and Associates.

Panel members included: Dr Deirdre Keyes, Chief Executive, KWETB; David Denieffe, Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Registrar, SETU; James O'Byrne, Head of Commercial Division, National Maritime College of Ireland; Drd

Michael Brougham, Regional Director, Enterprise Ireland and Chair of the Mid-East Regional Skills Forum and Siobhán Keogh, Manager, Mid-East Regional Skills Forum.

The event was compered by Noel Davidson, The Entrepreneurs Academy.

Minister Simon Harris TD, summarised his objective as Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science as "making sure we are ready for the future, so that individuals can reach their full potential and get to where they want to get in life".

Complimenting the agencies and education providers for coming together to support the event, the Minister acknowledged the role of

Wicklow County Council, the excellent work of KWETB in these challenging times, and expressed delight that we now have a University presence in County Wicklow as SETU deliver lifelong learning programmes from Wicklow County Campus. He stressed the importance of having a masterplan for the development of skills infrastructure to allow us to harness the employment opportunities being discussed.

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County

Council, commented: "Offshore Wind Projects, the Film and Food sectors have been prioritised as areas of activity for Wicklow County Council in the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024. This will also be clearly evident in the new Local Economic and Community Plan for County Wicklow which is currently at planning/consultation stage. These sectors will create hundreds of jobs for County Wicklow and bring with them significant investment for the County as well as contributing to the local economy and to supporting our tourist offering."

Closing the event, Ms Lorraine Gallagher, Director of Services, Wicklow County Council, summed up the morning's discussions saying: "Our purpose today was to ensure Wicklow is well prepared for the future needs of some of our key sectors - the film, food, and renewable energy sectors, and to help with getting the right people, with the right skills in place for these sectors when they need them."



Pictured are Deputy Steven Matthews, Dr Deirdre Keyes, Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Minister Simon Harris, Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Christine Flood, Senior Executive Officer, WCC, Lorraine Gallagher, Bray District Manager, Stephanie O'Brien and Dr Joseph Collins

WICKLOW'S GROWING PAINS

Continued from Page 1

affordable housing, public transport, school and creche places and community infrastructure in Wicklow.

Deputy Whitmore added, "Anyone living in Wicklow will know there's a chronic lack of public transport, school places and community infrastructure. Interestingly, the CSO figures reveal that Wicklow has the third highest rate of housing development in the country at 9.3% However, very little of this increase in housing represents affordable housing which has meant many Wicklow residents are unable to secure housing in their home county and instead are being forced out of Wicklow to

be able to afford housing in neighbouring areas.

"This undermines our communities in Wicklow. It means adult children can no longer live in the same area as their parents having a knock-on impact on family lives, childcare and family supports. School places including creches are in huge demand as a result of this population increase with many schools housed in temporary accommodation.

"Further, public transport has stagnated and even decreased in certain parts of Wicklow. Despite the government's eco-spin, we are not seeing the transport and road improvements long promised in Wicklow to meet the demand that is there. Existing

public transport is at peak capacity, little investment in Local Links or rural transport routes and no funding provided for the N11 to ensure safety for commuters.

"We need to see government being proactive and planning for these kinds of population increases. This has not been there to date. Government needs to plan ahead and meet the needs of those moving to the county including young families. This means more school places, creches, public transport and community and recreational facilities to support such population growth, which no doubt is set to continue for county Wicklow," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

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Cllr Shay Cullen (centre), with Kaj Christiansen and John Sheehan at the SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race in Wicklow Town



Hugh, Sabhbh, Fiadh, Ruadh and Nola O'Connor with Caroline and Nicholas Mulligan at the recent 'Soccer in the Meadow' event in Enniskerry.

'Wicklow commuters must be treated fairly!'

National Transport Agency consider strategy for Greater Dublin Area

Minister Simon Harris TD has joined with his Fine Gael colleagues in Meath and Kildare, Minister Helen McEntee and Minister Martin Heydon, in asking the National Transport Authority to extend the 'short hop' fair rate to other towns and areas in the counties of Wicklow, Meath and Kildare.

Minister Harris raised this matter at the Fine Gael Parliamentary Party and the issue received unanimous support. Speaking on the issue, Minister Harris said, "The time is right to try and progress this issue as the National Transport Authority is currently drawing up its plan for what they call the Greater Dublin Area. In that context, it makes sense for them to review and extend the short-hop range of stations.

"This would mean significant savings for train commuters in County Wicklow and would make a real difference to people in their pocket. I intend to continue to pursue this matter vigorously. We must see fairer fares for Wicklow commuters."

A new home is the goal for Blessington AFC

Blessington Association Football Club is seeking a new permanent home. The West Wicklow club is currently located in Co. Kildare where it rents land.

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD along with the Chair and board members of Blessington AFC met with the Baltinglass Municipal District Council recently to discuss the provision of a permanent site for the club.

"After 54 years serving the community, Blessington AFC is long overdue a permanent home," said Minister Harris. "As a Wicklow Club they have had to rent land inside County Kildare and this anomaly must be brought to an end.

"I have been working with the club for a number of months and today's meeting with the Council was to examine the options for a permanent home for Blessington AFC. There are a number of possible new locations for the club and Baltinglass Municipal District Council is to carry out a social audit of the required community facilities for Blessington in the years ahead. This will include new sports facilities including grounds for Blessington AFC.

"It is important that the location of the club grounds is easily accessible to the town and family friendly. The club has drafted a detailed development plan and we discussed this with the municipal council.



Deputy Matthews discussing plans for a new premises with the club's committee members

"Blessington AFC can be assured of my wholehearted support as I work with the Club to deliver on the objectives of their development plan."

Green Party TD Steven Matthews also met with the management and committee of Blessington AFC recently and committed to helping them source new facilities.

"The club is currently located on lands far out of town which means every player and supporter has to drive to their grounds. The temporary nature of their current setup also excludes the club from many funding opportunities," said Deputy

Matthews.

"West Wicklow has been poorly served with sports facilities over the years and I am working with Wicklow County Council and my Green Party colleague, Minister Catherine Martin on a proposal for a large multi sports facility to serve the district.

"I envisage a facility providing playing pitches, running track, a pool and sports hall for indoor sports and community use. I expect a master plan to be drawn up taking into account the sporting requirements now and into the future for Blessington and the wider

West Wicklow area. I am fully behind this plan to deliver much needed and long deserved top class sports facilities for all ages and sporting interests from soccer to swimming to basketball and indoor sports.

"Blessington AFC is a very large club with a long history and great future ahead of them. The management committee, players, parents and supporters of this club deserve much better as do all the residents of West Wicklow and I am determined to see the area served with top class community sports facilities."

'Wicklow needs a coastal link bus service to Brittas Bay'

'Transport Minister needs to go back to the drawing board to understand transport needs of rural Ireland'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore raised the need for a coastal Local Link bus service in Wicklow last Wednesday in The Dail during a discussion on public transport. A bus service is badly needed which serves Greystones, Kilcoole, Newcastle, the beaches of Brittas Bay and Magheramore, Wicklow Town and Arklow, Deputy Whitmore said.

Deputy Whitmore addressed her comments to Minister of State Josepha Madigan as Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan was not present.

"It is a relatively short distance, but no bus service connects these towns and villages at the moment. This is not the first time I have raised this issue. I raised the need for additional Local Link services in

2017, and the issue has been discussed for a long time. However, I do believe it is critical that we put this in place this year. I will initially call for a seasonal bus service connecting those towns, but there is potential and a need for an all-year service to connect them and provide a much-needed transport link to the DART in Greystones for people in Arklow and Wicklow town.

Deputy Whitmore explained that Brittas Bay beach is a tourist hotspot for Wicklow and the East Coast, and that the village of Brittas Bay cannot cope with the traffic and congestion during the summer.

"We see increasing numbers of people coming to the village and leaving their cars all over the place to the point where over the past two years, there have been serious health and safety issues. I got stuck in a traffic jam there one day for 20 minutes with an ambulance stuck behind me and all of the other cars. It was trying to get to someone in need of emergency care on the beach. I understand this happened three or four times last summer and this is obviously not acceptable.

"The council has done some remediation work. It has put in double yellow lines. I know some of the locals have opened up temporary car parks. This should be only part of the solution. The answer to this is a public bus service that would go from Greystones to Wicklow town



Jennifer Whitmore TD

and Arklow to bring people to the beach. There are private operators. I spoke to them last year when they were available to provide a seasonal service but the National Transport Authority did not take them up on their offer. It would pay for itself.

"It is crazy in this day and age that a beach such as Brittas Bay does not have a bus service. Down the road in County Wexford, there is a seasonal Local Link bus service that connects Wexford town to Curracloe. I fail to see how such a service can be provided in Wexford but is not provided for such a popular beach in Wicklow."

Responding, Minister Madigan said "In terms of Local Link ser-

vices in Wicklow, the NTA has advised that there is a range of services in operation including regular rural services and demand responsive services [...] Wicklow and Arklow towns are also shortly to benefit from a new Local Link route, the 183 Arklow to Sallins, which is in procurement and will commence service later this year. In addition to the range of TFI Local Link services, Wicklow is also served by a variety of other public transport offerings, including those provided by Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann, commercial operators, the DART and other rail services.

"Connecting Ireland aims to identify these gaps in the public transport network and to develop plans to address them. I understand that all settlements defined as such by the Central Statistics Office, CSO, that line the Wicklow coast along the R750 are connected by public transport. As such, there are no plans for a coastal Local Link bus service in County Wicklow as a requirement for such a service has not been identified. That being said, there are other proposed routes for Wicklow and these can be viewed on the NTA's website."

Deputy Whitmore responded, saying that although larger towns such as Greystones and Arklow are connected by a rail service, the ser-

vice is insufficient.

"Brittas Bay has no public transport available to it. During the summer in particular there is an absolute need. I ask that the Minister and perhaps the NTA visit there on a sunny day to see the demand placed on the village. There is no public transport in the area," said Deputy Whitmore. "The Minister of State has spoken about all of the Local Link services available in Wicklow. There are 30 services, of which four operate Monday to Friday and the other 26 have one bus every week. If anyone in the Government thinks one bus a week is sufficient to cover public transport needs in rural Ireland I suggest they speak to constituents throughout the country because it is not. It is not sufficient from an economic perspective, a community perspective or an environmental and emissions perspective. This mindset needs to change.

"There is €5.6 million for Connecting Ireland for the entire country for this year when we are in the middle of a climate crisis. This is a paltry amount of money. While it is a pity the Minister for Transport is not present, he should go back to the drawing board and try to understand the transport needs of rural Ireland and invest to ensure they are met."



Brittas Bay: The tourist hotspot needs a bus service, Deputy Whitmore says



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Garech Browne Library loaned to Farmleigh

The Office of Public Works, in partnership with the Trustees of the Browne Family Trusts, has announced the long-term loan of the Garech Browne Library to Farmleigh.

The library is a substantial and eclectic collection of around twenty thousand books and manuscripts reflecting Garech Browne's life-long, remarkably wide-ranging interests, including, but not limited to, international literature, art, music, philosophy, religions, history, and horticulture. Its contents include many precious items of great rarity and of specialised interest. Garech corresponded with many of Ireland's greatest writers of the twentieth century and there are many signed and dedicated first editions of their works in the collection.

In a happy reunion of different generations of Guinness family history, his library will join that of the late Lord Iveagh, Benjamin Guinness, whose bequest to Marsh's Library in Dublin is housed at Farmleigh. The Farmleigh Estate itself was established by the first Lord Iveagh, Edward Cecil Guinness, great-grandfather of both Benjamin Guinness and of Garech Browne through his mother Oonagh Guinness. Today, Farmleigh is the official guest house of the Irish State and accommodates visiting heads of state and high-ranking



Garech Browne

guests of the Irish Government. It also hosts cultural events and is open to visitors.

Welcoming the announcement of the long-term loan agreement, Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Patrick O'Donovan, TD, said: "We are honoured by the trust placed in the OPW to care for and make available Garech Browne's unique library collection to researchers at Farmleigh library. This is the latest example in a long line of significant

partnerships we have forged over time at different heritage sites in our care with major cultural institutions, non-profit organisations and private donors and collectors, all in order to preserve and share with the public a rich variety of important collections and legacies.

"I am also delighted to announce that in addition to the long-term loan of the library collection, the Browne Family Trustees have also gifted to the Irish State sixty-nine horse-drawn carriages collected by Garech Browne over the course of his lifetime.

"In order to be able to drive these, Garech obtained an official qualification: a hackney licence, badge number 99 1972/1973. We are very fortunate indeed to be able to conserve and display the carriages for visitors to enjoy in fitting period settings at our wonderful historic properties in Farmleigh Estate, Doneraile and Annes Grove."

In accordance with his wishes, and on behalf of the Browne Family Trustees, the Garech Browne Library remains intact and will be curated professionally by the OPW with the generous financial support of the Trustees in a dedicated library



Dr Tony Boylan, Browne Family Trustees, Minister of State for the Office of Public Works Patrick O'Donovan TD, Katie Morrisroe, Principal Officer at National Historic Properties and Richard Ryan, Browne Family Trustees at the OPW announcement of the loan of the Garech Browne Library and gift of his 69 horse-drawn carriages to the State at Farmleigh.

space at Farmleigh. When completed, it will be made accessible and available as a particularly rich resource for Irish and international scholars.

Visitors to Farmleigh House can discover the life of Garech Browne in art, music and literature in the beautiful Oak Room, which will contain a display of artworks,

personal and Guinness family memorabilia, photographic material, furniture and other objects and will be named The Garech Browne Room.

Wicklow man features in book of Irish polio survivors

An updated edition of a book which shares 29 personal stories of polio survivors in Ireland and their ongoing struggles with the long-term effects of the disease has been unveiled by Polio Survivors Ireland.

One of those who features is a Wicklow man known as Goodwin, who was born in 1952. "For six months I was in hospital, during which time the only treatment was physiotherapy. In April 1946, I was let home with a calliper on my left leg. I was told I would have to wear it for the rest of my life, that I would not be fit to farm ever again," he says.

Entitled *Polio & Us*, the book was originally published 15 years ago, but with significant renewed interest in pandemics, epidemics and disease eradication by vaccine due to Covid 19, the charity decided it was the perfect time to publish an updated version. The aim of the new publication is to help ensure that the legacy of polio is not forgotten and that eradication is protected.

Polio, or infantile paralysis, is a disease that struck fear into the hearts of parents across the world in the early 1950's. The highly contagious disease could result in partial or complete paralysis for life. In an eerily similar parallel to Covid 19, the public were told to avoid large crowds, many events were cancelled while schools, circuses, cinemas and public baths were shut down, with much controversy at the time around what places should be closed, and for how long. Vaccination was introduced in Ireland in the late 1950s and while there is still no cure, the polio vaccine has resulted in the disease being largely eradicated across the world.

Polio & Us is essentially a time capsule of the stories of polio survivors and how they overcame the challenges of the disease. It was originally commissioned so that the trials and triumphs of those who contracted polio in the 20th century would not be forgotten. In addition, the story of polio in Ireland is one of a successful disease eradication that will resonate at a time of huge interest in vaccinations and viruses due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Polio Survivors Ireland was established nearly 30 years ago and is the only organisation in Ireland providing practical services and support to those unfortunate enough to have contracted polio as babies or young children. They provide a range of services including mobility aids and appliances, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and respite, and raise awareness of the issues faced by polio survivors. They also work to educate medical professionals, social care providers and health policy makers about the reality for all those still impacted by polio.

Polio Survivors Ireland has a network of support



groups around the country and they also provide a telephone support service for those who can't leave their home. As well as providing stair lifts, callipers, bespoke footwear, electric scooters and wheelchairs, the organisation also helps survivors to access a range of supports. For those who are isolated, a listening ear is often the most important lifeline the organisation provides.

Fran Brennan, CEO of Polio Survivors Ireland, says: "As we've seen with Covid 19, epidemics and pandemics are still a reality that can affect our everyday lives. However, the story of the polio epidemic in Ireland is one of hope, as the disease was successfully eradicated here by a vaccine. That said, the legacy of polio and the continuing struggles of polio survivors must not be forgotten and that is why we have reprinted *Polio & Us*. Unfortunately, approximately 40% of polio survivors are now living with the late effects of this disease. Many have had years of rehabilitation to help regain independence, only to find their mobility impacted in later life once again by Post Polio Syndrome (PPS). This is why we continually work to raise awareness of polio. Post Polio Syndrome causes sleep impairment, fatigue, new muscle weakness, muscle and joint pain, wasting of muscle, a severe intolerance to cold, speech difficulties, difficulty swallowing, and respiratory problems. Many will end up needing mobility supports and risk losing hard fought independence. Some survivors may not realise that there is help available to them and that's why we are here. In addition, many health care professionals have not received adequate training to treat polio survivors. As a result, we work to address this by distributing essential information to GP's and other healthcare professionals to ensure PPS is understood."

IFA 'Food From Our Farms' marquee returning to Tinahely Show

The IFA 'Food from our Farms' Launch took place in the Woodenbridge Hotel on Tuesday 21st June. This is one of the landmark attractions at the annual Tinahely Agricultural Show held on August Bank Holiday Monday. The Marquee is run by the IFA County Wicklow Farm Family Committee with Florence Dagge as the Co-ordinator.

"This year we hope to welcome a record number of exhibitors who come mainly from County Wicklow and the surrounding counties and are dedicated to producing food to the highest standard," the committee said.

"There is, as always a great variety of gourmet foods which vary from organic hot foods to artisan cheeses, oils and sauces, delicious home baking including gluten free and plenty of sweet treats. Tasty burgers - organic lamb, barbeque beef and chicken will be sizzling to feed the hungry show-goers.. Many exhibitors will be doing tastings and are delighted to give advice on preparation and cooking methods. This year we also hope to have a butcher giving a de-boning demonstration.

"As in previous years we have Ben Harden, with his hive of bees and this always draws a crowd of people, young and old."

The judging takes place during the morning with the Presentation of Cups for overall first place and for best Wicklow Exhibit and Plaques are presented to the stands in 2nd and 3rd place also.

In addition, the IFA Farm Safety Competition is held each year in the Marquee. Farm safety cannot be over-emphasised and this is a worthwhile exercise in alerting people to the dangers in farmyards given the fatalities that happen on farms each year. There are valuable prizes including a €100 cheque, €100 voucher. €50 voucher and €40 voucher.

"The Committee wishes to acknowledge the generous sponsorship of this Competition received from M.A.Healy & Sons Ltd. With so much on offer the IFA Marquee at Tinahely Show is a 'must visit' this year on Bank Holiday August Monday."



Phyllis Mates, Forence Dagge, and Catherine Shay launching the IFA Food From Our Farms marquee which can be visited at this year's Tinahely Show.

Over 200 grants awarded under Community Awards Scheme

Two hundred and twenty-seven grants have been awarded as part of the Community Awards Scheme 2022.

Wicklow County Council operates this scheme as part of its commitment to supporting local community development and is available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area.

The maximum grant amount is €500 per organisation to assist with small projects and group running costs.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, welcomed the announcement stating: "This scheme is in recognition of the strong and active community spirit here in Wicklow."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson, said: "This scheme will support groups and organisations doing excellent work in their local community."

Director of Services for Community, Cultural and Social Development, Mr Michael Nicholson said that the funding

was a great opportunity for Wicklow County Council to help groups working hard at grassroots level to develop community activities and foster community spirit.

Independent councillor Stephen Stokes has welcomed the grants in the Greystones Municipal District.

"Under the scheme, a sum of €300 is being awarded to Kilcoole Women's Group, Delgany Community Council, Delgany Tidy Towns, the 18th Wicklow Greystones Harbour Sea Scouts, Making Waves Youth Theatre, Greystones Lawn Tennis Club, Kilcoole Men's Shed, Rolling Stones Rugby Club, and the Wicklow Aquanauts/Bray Divers Sub-Aqua. A sum of €500, meanwhile, is being awarded to Greystones Family Resource Centre, Wicklow Triple A Alliance, Newcastle Community First Responders and St Patrick's Community.

Cllr Stokes stated: "We are fortunate to have so many amazing community groups in Delgany,

Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle. The Community Grants are a positive source of funding, that boost the impressive work of local organisations".

Cllr Stephen Stokes thanked all of those who took the time to submit applications, and all the people who took the time to carefully review them.

Cllr Stokes added: "What is particularly striking is the range of successful applications. It really brings to life the diversity of people who are improving the social, sporting and cultural fabric of our area. I really cannot thank them enough for their great service."

Successful applications are expected to be paid out via Electronic Fund Transfer before the end of July 2022.

If anyone has any queries about the awards they can reach out to Community, Cultural & Social Development Team. Telephone 0404-20208 or email: ccsdad-min@wicklowcoco.ie.

Funding to tackle dereliction

Applications are now being accepted for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. This year's funding is specifically seeking to target dereliction and vacancy across towns and villages and will also prioritise projects that enhance the regeneration of town centres, parks and green spaces, and remote working.

Speaking following the announcement from Wicklow County Council, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said: "Dereliction and vacancy in our towns and villages is an area that I have put significant work into in recent months. This includes a Bill I introduced in Dáil Éireann that seeks to tackle the issue through a series of targeted measures aimed at owners of these properties, seeking to bring them back into use. I am delighted to see that emphasis that this year's Town and Village Renewal Scheme places on this issue and I look

forward to seeing Wicklow being awarded funding for various projects. "Examples of projects eligible for funding include those to upgrade shop fronts and street facades, turn vacant properties into remote working and multi-use community spaces and to provide more parks, green spaces and areas for recreation. The minimum grant value is €20,000 and the maximum value is €500,000. Towns and villages with a population of up to 5,000 people will be prioritised for funding, in line with the Government's commitment to supporting communities in rural and less

populated settlements.

"This scheme builds on the Town Centres First Policy, which was published by the Department of Rural and Community Development in February and aims to transform our town and village centres into viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit. As Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage, I had the privilege of launching the Urban Regeneration Report earlier this month, which lists 39 recommendations for returning life and vibrancy to our towns and villages

across Ireland. I hope that these recommendations are considered when funding is being allocated.

"Town Centres First is a key objective of the Green Party, and we fought hard to ensure that it was included in the Programme for Government. Under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, unprecedented levels of funding will be made available to revitalise our town and village centres and return vacant and derelict properties to use. I have already begun assisting local groups with their applications so if this would be of interest, please get in touch. The closing date for applications under is July 22nd and I look forward to engaging directly with Wicklow County Council and local groups on their submissions."

Help local artist beat cancer



Alan Hanney

Kym Hanney Day has set up a fundraiser for her dad's fight against cancer

Alan Hanney has been diagnosed with lung cancer which has now spread to his brain, and all funds raised will go towards treatments and living expenses during his fight against the disease.

On the GoFundMe page, Kym writes: "I have started this campaign in aid of my Dad who was recently diagnosed with Cancr. The doctors found a tumour in his lung which has spread, to at least six tumours in his Brain. For anyone who doesn't know Daddio please prepare yourselves for tumour humour throughout this campaign. We have started this campaign for two reasons; To spread (excuse the pun) the news and to raise funds. We are confident Daddio can beat this! All we can do is focus on the aspects that we can control, his attitude and his diet. All donations received will go towards rent/bills/transport to treatments and food to help him fight. I know there are lots of people who want to help or simply send well wishes. If you have ever considered buying some of Daddio's artwork there has never been a better time than now."

To make a donation, see the fundraising page at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/pmfwc-help-al-beat-cancer>



Valerie Cox with Don and Gayle Conroy at Wicklow Sailing Club for the SEE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race

2022 Greystones Municipal District People of the Year Awards



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

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

Kcoughla@wicklowcoco.ie / greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie

Ticket Price €35

www.wicklow.ie

Closing date for receipt of nominations is 19th Aug 2022

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



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Virtual Fun Run for St.Colman's Sheltered Houses Patients Benefit Fund

A virtual fun run and walk will take place this week in aid of the Patients Benefit Fund at St.Colman's Sheltered Houses in Rathdrum.

The proceeds of the fundraiser will go towards the refurbishment of 12 homes within the complex.

The virtual walk takes place from Monday 27th June and ends with a BBQ, and there will be a medal presentation on Sunday the 3rd of July. Sponsorship cards are available from Avondale Sports and St.Colman's Hospital. For further information visit the St.Colman's Website.

Pictured above are Jim Molloy, Sean Olohan of Wicklow Lions, Saranna Condell and Bill Porter at the St. Colman's Sheltered Houses.

Tidy Towns and Sustainable Development Awards now open for applications

Wicklow County Council's Tidy Towns, Estates and Sustainable Development Awards are now open for applications. The awards are an opportunity to recognise the work done across the county to protect our environment, use resources with more care and develop sustainable communities.

The awards are open to a wide range of community sectors including schools, businesses, residents associations, local environmental campaigns as well as the Tidy Town groups. Any group can apply and you can also nominate a local group or project.

The awards originated as the Tidy Towns Main Street and Estates competition and this is still a core part of the awards. The work of these groups ensures our towns and communities are always presented at their very best while protecting biodiversity and heritage.

The Sustainable Development Awards recognise the innovative work being done in our communities to deliver on Climate Action and protection of our Biodiversity, including the diverse range of projects and actions delivered whether by local groups, our schools and the business community. Topics covered

include waste, energy, biodiversity and water. Groups are also able to nominate a local champion. Awards are presented in the following categories:

- Biodiversity, Wildlife and Natural Amenities Award
- Built Environment Award
- Business Award
- Climate Change Award
- Coast Care Award
- Communal Gardening Award
- Energy Award
- Landscaping Award
- Local Champion
- Schools Awareness Award
- Schools Biodiversity Award
- Schools Climate Change Award
- Sustainable Food Award
- Sustainable Tourism/Recreation Award
- Trees Award
- Youth Environmental champion Award
- Waste Minimisation Award

• Water Conservation Award
• Water Protection of Resources
Cllr Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, said: "The work being done at community level by groups, schools and the business community are vitally important in meeting the challenge of Climate Change."

"Innovative engagement and responses are helping to build resilience at local level. Wicklow County Council wants to recognise this work being done by groups countywide. Applications are available from the Environmental Awareness Office by emailing eao@wicklowcoco.ie.

The closing date for all entries is Friday 8th July except schools which have an extension until Friday the 9th September. Contact the Environmental Awareness Office for further information.

Dog fouling videos still in production

As part of her work with the North Wicklow Clean Coasts group, Green Party councillor Lourda Scott has observed that dog fouling remains a big problem on Wicklow's beaches.

At the June meeting of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Scott asked for an update on the educational dog fouling videos which the Council has been working on.

Director of Services at Wicklow County Council Breege Kilkenny said that "unfortunately we are still in production on those dog fouling videos. Because the campaign is seen to be really good, five additional Local Authorities have come on board, so their input is to be included in the video also."

The animated videos will form the basis of an upcoming social media campaign; there is to be six videos which show the impact that dog fouling has on people and the community.

€256,000 allocated to three Wicklow Youth Diversion Projects



Minister Simon Harris

The Department of Justice has announced that three Wicklow projects have been included in just under €6.7m in funding allocations for over 50 Youth Diversion Projects (YDPs) nationwide.

YDPs engage with young people through a range of supports, including education, training and employment support, social enterprise initiatives, as well as personal

development and supports such as mentoring, and personal development activities.

In Bray, there will be €139,000 for an boundary extension as part of

the 'New Directions Project'. Two separate lots of funding of €58,500 are going to Wicklow Town for Early Intervention and Family Support.

Welcoming the announcement, Minister Simon Harris said: "I am delighted with the announcement that €256,000 in total funding has been allocated to

three Wicklow Youth Diversion Projects. It is essential that we can provide vulnerable young people in Wicklow with the support that they require for the good of themselves, their families and their communities.

"This money will extend the work of existing projects into neighbouring communities in

Wicklow, it will help projects to allocate resources to children with additional needs and to appoint additional family support workers where required.

"I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tireless efforts of everyone involved in the Wicklow YDPs and for the terrific work which will benefit many individuals, families and entire communities in Wicklow."

Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027 was published by the Department of Justice in April 2021 and a major change contained in this Strategy is a new and expanded mandate for 105 YDPs across the State. Additional funding of €6.7m was allocated to youth justice services in

Budget 2022, which sees a substantial increase from €18m to €24m on the previous year's budget.

The Department of Justice has stated an ambition to ensure that the provision of YDP services is available to every child in the state who would benefit from it within the next two years.

Warning issued over e-mail scam

Wicklow Gardai are warning members of the public about a 'judicial' email-based scam where an individual receives correspondence claiming to be from An Garda Síochána.

This correspondence states that the individuals computer is to be seized in relation to investigations into Child pornography - Paedophilia - Cyber pornography - Sex trafficking or some similar 'judicial' claim. Gardai are advising the public that An Garda Síochána does not and will not make contact with a person under investigation in this way.

"We would like to remind the public of the following fraud prevention advice: Don't respond to any unsolicited email seeking personal, financial or security advice; Never click on a link or attachment in an unsolicited email; If you believe the email is from a genuine source, verify this independently. Independently means independent of the email sender; Independently verify any requests for information and never use the contact details supplied to you by the caller or texter. Independent means independent of the caller or texter. Further fraud prevention advice can be found at <https://www.garda.ie/en/crime/fraud/>. We would urge anybody who has received similar correspondence and has any concern about it to contact their local Garda station for advice.

"An Garda Síochána also appeals to any person who may have inadvertently or otherwise engaged with this scam, or any similar scam, and subsequently been a victim of this type of fraud to report it to their local Garda Station."



INO XXX, skippered by James Neville pictured at the start of the SSE Renewables Round Ireland Race organised by Wicklow Sailing Club. Photo by David Branigan, Oceansport

'Pay increase for top HSE management is scandalous'

Speaking at Leaders Questions last Wednesday, Aontú leader Peadar Tóibín outlined the crisis engulfing the Health Service and demanded that those presiding over it at the top of the HSE should not get pay rises.

"Senior public servants earning more than €150k will receive at least a 10% pay increase. It is outrageous to reward those who have presided over a Health Service falling apart," he said.

Backing up his comments, Wicklow Aontu representative Ciaran Hogan said: "The people of Wicklow, and the nation have been let down by the old boys club who seem to be looking out for themselves with massive pay packages while demonstrably failing in their role to provide reliable and efficient health services.

"What this country needs right now is people motivated by love of their country and citizens. Clearly we need to shake up the system and a clear out of those who are underperforming and not justifying their pay packet with highest standard of results.

"We in Aontú have campaigned tirelessly to save Navan A&E and countless other health care provisions for love of the country, not for personal financial gain."

Deputy Tobin outlined: "HIQA found one patient was waiting on a trolley in University Hospital Limerick for five days. Patients in the mid west are travelling to Dublin rather than attend UHL because its so over crowded. Emergency department delays are at record levels with the sick and the old waiting on average 13 hours for admission. Older patients are waiting more than 19 hours for admission to A&E. Patients attending Tallaght Hospital are waiting on average 24.5 hours from registration to admission.



Wicklow Aontu representative Ciaran Hogan

"8,680 patients were on trolleys in May. There have been reports of double parking of hospital trollies on corridors due to the lack of space. Mater Hospital and Mullingar Hospital telling patients not to present to their A&Es as they are too busy.

"Up to 350 people are dying every year due to Emergency Department overcrowding according to Irish Association for Emergency Medicine. The number of adverse incidents jumped from 79,000 to 105,000 in 5 years. That's a 32 per cent increase in the number of people who have suffered from mistakes in clinical care. Extreme incidents, which includes death or permanent incapacity, rose from 373 in 2017 to 579 last year. The number of Hospital beds has fallen from

20,000 to 14,000. The number of ICU beds are 200 fewer than HSE admit are needed. Many people cannot register with a GP and if you have a GP you can't get a doctor's appointment for a fortnight. Over 400 doctors have emigrated to Australia this year so far".

"Paul Reid is getting paid €411,000 a year. This pay increase may tip him over €450,000. Robert Watt receives €300,000. He is now in line for his 5th pay hike in just over a year. There is no relationship between work outcomes and productivity and the amount these public servants are paid. People doing valuable work and achieving success for the country should be paid well but that's not what's happening here. The announcement of the of a pay increase for the extremely wealthy is in stark contrast to the pay negotiations for lower and middle income earners in the Public Service. For Public Servants on €30,000 or €40,000, Minister Michael McGrath has offered a pay rise of 2.5%. This is while families are being hammered by a cost of living increase that will top out at 9% this year. If you are a nurse struggling in the overcrowded departments, the government warn you about the National Debt and chasing inflation.

"But if you are a senior manager responsible for that overcrowding the government largesse is endless. The truth is, there are two Irelands. Those hammered by the Cost of Living Crisis and wealthy public servants getting pay rises double the rate of inflation."



A series of defibrillators have been installed by Bray fire brigade and associated sponsors. The areas where they have been installed are The Emiskerry Inn, midway point on the cliff walk between Bray and Greystones, Quinnsborough road between Post Office and Barks and Bubbles and at the Raheen car park as pictured here. Pictured L/R top are Sarah Williams, and Lee Gibson, and bottom row are Emma Lally from Scallywags, Evanna Lally and Ross Lally. Picture by Shayne Phelan

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Sun & Bank Holidays - Closed

Unit B7, South City Business Pk, Tallaght, D24



Ballybrack Outlet
phone: 01-2720788

Opening Times

Mon - Sat (10.00am - 5.30pm) Thurs 7.30 pm
Sun - Closed (Bank Hols 2.00pm - 5.30pm)

Church Road, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin



Aughrim school scoops Class of the Year Award

The accolade of Class of the Year 2022 in the 12th year of the Junior Entrepreneur Programme (JEP) went to the fifth and sixth class pupils of Sacred Heart National School in Aughrim.

In total, pupils from almost 300 schools island-wide took part in the JEP and experienced what it's really like to be a start-up entrepreneur, doing market research and agonising over their final business plan before investing their own money and putting their business in motion.

The pupils combined their innate creativity with the skills they devel-

oped on the programme to create original products and launch businesses ranging from board games to storybooks to high-end craft and educational products.

Starting with a simple idea of producing a children's guide to the landmarks of Aughrim, the Sacred Heart pupils unleashed their creativity to create a rhyming and beautifully illustrated

children's book in the style of a treasure hunt. With an alpaca and an alligator vying to find the hidden treasure, the story and illustrations are both engaging and entertaining.

The class formed a writing and art team and collaborated closely to produce a book that reaches professional publishing standards. Each child invested €10 of

their own money. They sold out of the 120 copies produced in the first print run and made a profit of €732. It was a timely reminder for the 10 - 12 year old pupils that if you focus on what you love and do good work - in this case, writing and artwork - success will follow. Class teacher, Emma Barriscale, who guided the children through every step of the programme,

said she was bowled over by the skills and ingenuity of her pupils.

Other Wicklow schools that featured prominently in JEP in 2022 included Scoil na Coróine Mhuire, Ashford; Greystones Educate Together National School; St. Peter's Primary School, Bray; Stratford Lodge National School in Baltinglass and Scoil Phádraig Naofa Curtles-town, Enniskerry. Their businesses ranged from dog bandanas to clever card games.

Managing Director Marie Lynch commented, "Participation by schools has returned to close to pre-pandemic levels, and JEP has

become a rite of passage for children in many primary schools before they move on to secondary school. Teachers indicate a huge increase in confidence and life skills as well as a strong reinforcement of the primary school curriculum in Maths, English, Art and SPHE," she added.

Approximately 90,000 pupils have participated in JEP since its inception in 2010. In an exciting development for the programme, Enterprise Ireland has supported JEP in 2021 and 2022 under its Primary Schools Entrepreneurship Initiative, underlining the vital role of entrepreneurship in shaping Ireland's future.



Catarina Amaral from Greystones Educate Together National School, who was part of the 6th class group who created beautiful bracelets called PC Bracelets. Photo by Jerry Kennelly



Sacred Heart National School pupils with their children's guide to the landmarks of Aughrim



Fintan Jansen, Laila Marshall-Baugh, and Ella Bonaldi from 6th Class, Greystones Educate Together National School, created a dog bandana business called Pucci Pack. Photo by Jerry Kennelly

St. Fergal's students learn how to turn an idea into a business

4th class students from St. Fergals National School had the opportunity to participate in the Junior Achievement 'It's My Business' programme which was facilitated by business volunteer Avine Brennan.

Over five modules, students aged 9-10, learned the steps involved in launching a business. Through identifying their very own entrepreneurial characteristics, they worked in teams to develop business ideas, innovation, and market research to develop a business start-up, culminating with an opportunity to pitch their new business to potential "investors".

Some of the ideas that the students came up with were An App that detects certain foods that cause allergic reactions and Clothing that doubles as rain protection and UV protection.

During the programme, which is sponsored by AIB, students met several successful Irish entrepreneurs, including social entrepreneurs Iseult Ward of FoodCloud and Michael Kelly of GIY (Grow It Yourself) in a series of inspirational video interviews. Tribe



St Fergal's students learning how to turn their idea into a business. Photo by Barry Cronin

Hospitality Group, Wildlands Activity Centre and Dough Bros. also featured so that students learned first-hand what it takes to become a successful entrepreneur.

Speaking about the programme, Carol King,

Teacher at St. Fergal's said, "The children really engaged with the programme and thoroughly enjoyed it. It was something completely different for them which was brilliant."

Volunteer Avine

Brennan, AIB, said "During my five visits to St Fergal's Primary school as part of the Junior Achievement Ireland programme, I was astounded by the information which is stored in the minds of the 4th Class boys and girls. Their eagerness to learn and willingness to participate was refreshing and a joy to experience.

"The focus of our time was on Entrepreneurship and there was a keen interest in Social Entrepreneurs and helping the wider community, as well as exploring profitable ventures. I would like to thank Ms. King and all the pupils of St Fergal's 4th Class for allowing me to share this experience with them."

"We learned a lot about making money and about how to start a business. Just because you are smart doesn't mean you are business smart," one of the students commented.

Junior Achievement Ireland and AIB will part-

ner to engage 6,000 primary students in 250 classrooms nationwide over the next three years.

CEO of Junior Achievement Ireland, Helen Raftery, said: "Educators refer to school communities (not just schools) because the involvement of families and the wider community

is inherent to the achievement of positive educational outcomes for all children. Students who have adult involvement in their schooling generally have better grades, better attendance, and higher graduation rates. Getting the opportunity to work with positive role models from the world of work

makes a significant impact on young people. Our 20+ years of industry-education collaboration with organisations like AIB has had a direct positive impact on the lives of nearly 1,000,000 young people in Ireland and we are grateful to all our partners in business and education for their willingness to work

with us to ensure students can enjoy the benefits of being involved in JA educational programmes."

Junior Achievement programmes delivered by business volunteers support the Department of Education's action plan, Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS).



St Fergal's students learning how to turn their idea into a business. Photo by Barry Cronin

Relief for community with decision to retain teacher

The staff and students at Brittas Bay National School had a double reason to celebrate on Wednesday 15th June as the school enjoyed the return of the annual Garden Open Day and also learned that they are to retain their sixth teacher.

The Garden Open Day, which was a huge success, was an opportunity for the children of Scoil Réalt na Mara, Brittas Bay, to show off all of the hard work they had put in over the year growing organic peas, potatoes, scallions, beetroot, rainbow chard, strawberries, beans and lots of beautifully fragrant herbs.

The school also got the wonderful news on June 15th that they are to retain their sixth teacher, which was a culmination of efforts by the school, its staff, parents, representatives and the wider community.

Commenting on the success of the event and the good news, Una Gallinagh, Principal of the school said, "We had such a super turnout here last Wednesday, the sun shone, and so did the school. So much work went in to making the day a success and the hard work paid off.

"The icing on the cake was learning the news that we would retain our sixth teacher here at Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara. This was a hard-fought effort by the school and the parents and wider community. We are so glad that the decision of the Department went in our favour and we can continue to offer the level of care and dedica-

tion to each individual child here at our fantastic school.

"We are a small school offering so much. Many of our children are from the locality but children also come to us from as far south as Arklow and from Wicklow town too. And while we are a Catholic co-ed school, we welcome pupils from all faith and none. The school is unique in its offering and the organic garden is just one thing that sets us apart. We look forward to September, being able to move forward with a full complement of staff and a cohort of green-fingered students who will start the process of gardening and learning for the coming academic year".

Last month, staff of Brittas Bay NS were notified that the school's request for the Department of Education to retain the six mainstream teaching positions was unsuccessful. Brittas Bay NS submitted a staffing appeal to be considered by an independent appeals board.

Speaking in support of the announcement, Minister Simon Harris said: "I have been working very closely with Brittas Bay National School on their campaign to resolve this issue in recent months. I was delighted to visit the

hard-working staff and students of the school last month and to see first-hand the benefit that the retention of a sixth teacher would have on the students and staff of the school.

"The positive impact that access to a suitable learning environment can have on children is something that I feel very passionate about and I was happy to assist Brittas Bay NS on this issue".

Harris continued: "It is extremely important that we acknowledge the hard work that the staff of Brittas Bay NS have put in over the past two years to ensure that the needs of the students are catered for. Additionally, we must consider the benefit that this will have on the students who deserve access to a learning environment that can meet their educational needs".

The allocation of a sixth mainstream teacher will be based on the retention of current enrolment figures in Brittas Bay NS on September 30th, 2022. The key factor for determining the level of staffing resources provided at individual school level is the staffing schedule for the relevant school year and pupil enrolments on the previous September.



Elaine Parsons, Emma Kitson and Irene Parsons at the Brittas Bay National School Garden Open Day

Green Party TD Steven Matthews said, "It's fantastic news for a fantastic school, Scoil Realt na Mara, Brittas Bay National School will now not lose this vital teacher post. I am delighted and relieved that after my lobbying and persuasive pleading to the Minister on behalf of the teachers, parents

and students the school will keep its full teaching staff.

"I visited the school recently and met with the principal, Ms Gallinagh, teaching staff and students. I got a tour of their beautiful vegetable garden and their ongoing work on a sensory garden. The students were so engaging and knowl-

edgeable on climate, transport and environment and we had great chats and questions and answers session. The loss of a teaching post in a small school can have massive impact on the ability to provide extra support to students, important extra curricular activities and create inappropriate class ratios."

10 Wicklow schools win awards for science and maths

Ten Wicklow primary schools have been awarded the Discover Science and Maths Award.

The award rewards schools for excelling in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and doing so in a fun and engaging way.

The recipient schools from Wicklow are: St Patrick's National School; Kilmacanogue National School; Kilcoole Primary School; Nuns Cross National School; Lacken National School; St. Peter's Primary School; St Kieran National School; Scoil Aodán Naofa, Carnew National School; Greystones Community National School; St.

Catherine's Special School.

Minister Harris said: "I want to congratulate all the students and the teachers that have been successful in winning an SFI Discover Primary Science and Maths Award.

"Not only is it wonderful to see a high level of engagement from primary schools across the county, but impressive to see the quality of submissions.

"The projects this year covered several important topics that will inevitably impact every one of us. It is important

that we engage primary school students in STEM and encourage more girls to get involved in these subjects from an early age."

The awards celebrate and recognise the participation of schools in hands-on, inquiry-based learning in the areas of STEM. This year, students focused on issues such as climate change, plastics, technology, and using STEM to solve everyday problems.

Minister Harris added: "It is great to again get the opportunity to celebrate and reward so many primary school students, and their teachers."

Minister Harris visited Lacken National School

to congratulate the school on winning an SFI Discover Primary Science and Maths Award. Following the visit, Minister Harris said: "I was delighted to visit Lacken National School today in county Wicklow and to engage with both students and teachers who are raising awareness on the importance of science and the curiosity that it brings out in children.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students and the teachers of Lacken NS for the hard work that they put into their submission for the SFI Discover Primary Science and Maths Award".



Minister Harris visiting Lacken National School to congratulate the school on winning an SFI Discover Primary Science and Maths Award.



at the annual final year computing showcase at SETU Carlow; Nigel Whyte, Head of Department of Computing at SETU Carlow, Simon Walshe, Software Development Lead, Netwatch Group, Chi Leong Ng, winner of the Software Development category and Dr Joseph Kehoe, GameCORE director and senior computing lecturer at SETU Carlow.

Computing showcase Stuns at SETU Carlow

A driving companion app that can rate your driving skills, a crypto based mining game and a system that finds weaknesses in hardware, software, and operating systems were the top winners of South East Technological University's (SETU) 11th annual showcase of final year computing projects, sponsored by Netwatch.

Chi Leong Ng won the Software Development category for his project Driving Companion App. Chi Leong Ng developed a mobile phone app to track the speed, acceleration, and deceleration during a user's driving journey. The data is then analysed and a score is given.

Jonathon Bourke won the Cybercrime and IT Security category with his project CVE-Guard. This vulnerability management aid protects IT systems from attacks by identifying, evaluating, remediating, and documenting security weaknesses.

Michael Rainsford Ryan was the winner of the Computer Games Development category with Mecha-Miners - a blockchain mining game. Mecha-Miners is a crypto-based game with online multiplayer, fast paced battles, and tons of fun upgrades and gadgets. The game is built in the Godot engine and utilises a server-side GraphQL interface to communicate with Enjin for its blockchain capabilities as the game's currency.

Simon Walshe, Software Development Team Lead, Netwatch Group said, "This is our second year partnering with this showcase, but Netwatch has been involved with the computing department on SETU's Carlow campus for many years now.

Each year we are lucky to welcome some of these students into our R&D department as part of our internship programmes. The quality of the projects from this year's graduates is amazing, and it's very encouraging to see they are aimed at real world issues. We got to see a wide variety of technologies used, everything from blockchain to machine learning. We'd like to congratulate all the students involved and wish them the very best of luck in the future." Nigel Whyte, Head of Department of Computing, SETU Carlow stated, "The demand by employers for SETU computing graduates is high, they are regarded as industry-ready and capable of collaborating with the world's largest tech firms, as seen by the calibre of projects on display at this year's showcase. I'm delighted to have the continued support of Netwatch as sponsors of the showcase and indeed collaborative partners on some final year projects. As this year's computing graduates embark on their professions, I wish them every success and happiness in a job they enjoy."

For more information on the Department of Computing, SETU Carlow, please visit: <https://www.itcarlow.ie/courses/department/computing-networking.htm>



Eleanor Tiernan: Away With The Fairies, A Preview

Whale Theatre, Thursday 7th July 2022 @ 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €18/€16 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

Presented by Lisa Richards, Eleanor Tiernan previews her new show! Glorious mistakes. Glaring errors. Gallant tales of mischief and misconduct. A bonkers hour of stand-up, story and song from Fest's idiot savant. Comedian Stewart Lee describes the show as "Amiably acerbic", while Graham Lee called it "Funny, fanciful and fearless".

Baby Loves Music

Mermaid Arts Centre, 12th - 16th July
€10 per ticket. Covers 1 baby & 1 adult Full Price
Duration: 30 minutes

A unique concert for babies led by guitarist Eamon Sweeney. BabyLovesMusic is an informal concert for babies aged 0-12 months featuring 4 musicians - Tim Doyle, Kate Hearne, Anna Newell and Eamon Sweeney - with musical arrangements by The Irish Chamber Orchestra's, Malachy Robinson.

An eclectic musical journey with a distinctly Irish feel, BabyLovesMusic features a rich variety of instruments including renaissance guitar, cello, accordion, fiddle, uilleann pipes, treble recorder, and lots more.



Eamon Sweeney

Cathy Davey in Greystones

With support artist Mute The TV

Whale Theatre, Saturday 9th July, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €25 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book

2020 was a year Cathy had planned on not playing live! Instead she grew My Lovely Horse Rescue, and launched My Lovely Pig Rescue which she manages on her farm. There is much excitement about leaving the farm for the stage again, and playing live with Derren Dempsey on guitar and Steve Kiernan on drums.

During 2020, she also wrote and recorded the soundtrack for a forthcoming animation movie, and a couple of those songs will have their live premiere at this show! Supporting Cathy will be a two-piece band of brothers from Co. Wicklow, "Mute The TV" featuring well-known locals Elliot and Dylan E. Crampton. Fusing together their respective influences and musical styles, their aim is to approach their music in a way that neither of them are accustomed to.

With Dylan and Elliot being brothers and perfectionists, many an argument ensues during their recording process something that has plagued many bands before them but given that they are brothers it always turns right.

According to The Irish Times: "Cathy Davey's first new single in six years does represent rather a departure for the Wicklow songwriter. Synths and electronic atmospherics replace her signature guitar sound. But sure-footed as ever, the result is as beguiling as anything she's done to date."

The Approx Duration is 2 hours (including interval)



Cathy Davey

Peering Out: An exhibition by Patrick MacAllister

Mermaid Arts Centre until Saturday 13th August. Open Monday – Saturday 11am – 4pm., Opening reception Friday 1st July 6-8pm

Mermaid is pleased to present this body of recent work by Bray-based artist and educator Patrick MacAllister. Peering Out reflects a gradual shift from previous recurring themes (for example the Dublin lockout series, the Cable Street series, the bog body series) to more purely abstract works inspired by the surfaces and materials themselves.

What brings all of the work together is an endeavour to get under the surface of any subject, be it abstract or semi-figurative, and try to distil its essence through paint applied in as raw and direct a way as possible. MacAllister describes this approach as "archaeological", excavating layers of paint to get at an essence that has energy and resonance. He says, "I work best in an intuitive, improvisatory manner often from historic news footage, local and urban landscapes, other artworks, or really anything that triggers the imagination. I often use a range of industrial tools (scrapers, fillers, knives, screwdrivers) to find marks that reflects my response to a subject. My work practise sometimes feels archaeological, digging down or scraping at layers to excavate an essence or theme. I hope the work speaks for itself and that I have managed to make something that has enough energy and strength to endure." Artist Biography

Patrick Mac Allister was born in Ireland. He is a graduate in Fine Art from IADT. In 1995, he held his first Solo Exhibition at the Pantheon Gallery, Dublin, described by Aidan Dunne (Irish Times) as one of the shows of the year.

In 1997, he exhibited at the European Parliament; Brussels in a group show opened by John Hume, and in an Exhibition at the West Cork Art Centre curated by Charles Tyrell.

Following this with a In solo exhibition at the Jo Rain Gallery, Dublin (1998).

In 2000, he was awarded a publications Grant by

the Arts Council, and held a solo show at the Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin. He has continued to exhibit in major group shows such as the Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA) and Boyle Arts Festival.

In 2004, he received a Ballinglen Arts Foundation award, with his work now included in their permanent Collection. In 2008, he had a two Person Exhibition at the Hallward Gallery, Dublin.

His work is in public and private collections in Ireland, Europe and the United States, while this year he is an invited artist at the RHA Annual Exhibition.



Portrait of Pat MacAllister by Mark Granier



Pat MacAllister, Figure Peering Out, Mixed Media On Card 16x23cm Photo by Gillian Buckley

A summer's evening of poetry and music

Three local Lapwing Publications poets, Rosy Wilson, Judy Russell, and Paul T Dillon from Greystones will be reading from their latest poetry books, with musical interlude by musician Jonny Dillon in Signal Arts, Bray June 30th from 7.00pm until 9.00.

This event promises to be an inspiring and fun summer's evening as each poet brings to life through their poems, imaginative and sensitive insights into the world around us, finding magic in the mundane and the

extra in ordinary.

About the poets Rosy Wilson is a London, Dublin, and Co Wicklow poet. She is a member of several local poetry workshops. 'Waterborne' is the title of her latest of 8 collections, 6 published by

Lapwing and 2 by Boland Press. Judy Russell has published three collections with Lapwing Press, Wind Horses, Glencree Riverain and Ancestral Bones. Her poems have been published in the Cork Literary Review,

Jumping the Bus Queue, anthologies with Shed Poets and Bealtaine Poets.

Paul T Dillon is a Lapwing Publications poet. His fourth book, Whisper was published earlier this year and was nominated for this year's Pigott Poetry Prize. The award is for the best collection of New Poetry by an Irish Author and is the

largest poetry award in Ireland. In addition to his books his works have been published in magazines and books in Ireland the United Kingdom and the USA. Paul lives in Charlesland, Greystones with his family.

For further information contact: Paul Dillon, 08725140966 email ptjdillon@gmail.com



Lapwing poets Judy Russell, Rosy Wilson and Paul T Dillon will be reading in Signal Arts, Bray, on June 30th



Climber Dónal Ó Murchú in the Wicklow Mountains, during filming for episode one of Ireland: Coast & Country.

Wicklow Mountains feature in new TV series

Images of the Wicklow Mountains were beamed into homes across Britain, when a new series - called Ireland: Coast & Country - aired on More4 on 22nd June.

The three-part series will follow various personalities from across the island of Ireland - offering viewers the chance to learn about their daily activities and lifestyles and to see our spectacular landscape. The series was produced by Afro-Mic Productions, a Belfast-based production company, and is supported by Tourism Ireland.

Episode one featured three rock climbers, all over the age of 70 and long-time members of the Irish Mountaineering Club, exploring the Wicklow Mountains.

Julie Wakley, Tourism Ireland's Head of Great Britain, said: "With a large audience right across Britain set to watch the series on More4, it's a great way to shine a spotlight on Co Wicklow and Ireland - highlighting our spectacular coastline and countryside, our wonderful people and some of the fantastic experiences on offer here. It will remind British viewers why Ireland is a great choice for a holiday.

"Publicity and broadcasts like this are a key element of Tourism Ireland's programme of activity, to encourage travellers in Britain to put Co Wicklow, Ireland's Ancient East and Ireland on their holiday wish-list."

Wicklow astro-photographers shortlisted in competition

Two Wicklow astro-photographers have been chosen for the next stage of the prestigious 'Reach for the Stars' astrophotography competition, run by the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS). The competition aims to find the best astro-photographs taken in Ireland over the past year.

Shortlisted photographers include:

* Alex Labunskij, from Greystones, has been shortlisted in the 'Out of this World' category.

* Laurynas Zubrickas, from Delgany, has been shortlisted with two photographs in the 'Back on Earth' category.

While a high-profile

judging panel will select the overall winning entries in the coming weeks, an online vote was launched so members of the public can also have their say.

All shortlisted images can now be viewed on the 'Reach for the Stars' website, www.reachforthestars.ie, where members of

the public can also cast their vote for their favourite image.

Over 160 images were submitted to the competition in total this year, with 40 selected for the shortlist and public vote. There are two categories in the competition: 'Out of this World' and 'Back on Earth'. The 'Out of this

World' category features images depicting elements of astronomical interest. The 'Back on Earth' category features astro-landscape images that depict an element of astronomical interest and elements such as nature, cityscapes, land or water. The winning images selected by the judging panel and the public vote will be announced in July, and an outdoor exhibition will be staged by DIAS in August to showcase the best images.

Alongside the Public Choice Award for the winner of the online public vote, an overall winner and runners-up will be chosen by the judging panel for 'Reach for the Stars', which includes: Professor Peter Gallagher, Head of Astrophysics at DIAS; Brenda Fitzsimons, Picture Editor of The Irish Times; John Flannery, Vice-President of the Irish Astronomical Society; and Niamh Breathnach, Director, Alice PR & Events.

This year will also see

the inclusion of a special prize to mark the 75th anniversary of the School of Cosmic Physics. One photograph that depicts the work of one or more of the research areas carried out at the School will be selected for the prize.

Professor Peter Gallagher of DIAS said: "The standard of entries has been excellent again this year. It's amazing what the photographers have been able to capture, from stars and galaxies that are millions of light years away to stunning scenery back on earth.

"I'm particularly excited to be involved in selecting this year's special prize to mark the 75th anniversary of DIAS's School of Cosmic Physics. I'll be looking for an image that depicts the work of one or more of the research areas carried out at the School. This includes research on everything from solar and stellar physics and space weather to planetary science, geological formations and star formations.

Votes for the Public Choice Award are restricted to one vote per person, and voting will close at midnight on Sunday, 3rd July 2022.



'Guiding Light' (above) and 'Ancient History' by Laurynas Zubrickas, from Delgany, were both shortlisted in the Back on Earth category.



Alex Labunskij, from Greystones has been shortlisted in the 'Out of this World' category for 'Solcar Eclipse 2021'

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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. **K.H.**

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THE
MIRACULOUS
PRAYER

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

Two Wicklow organisations named as national finalists in Good Causes Awards

Wicklow Rapid Response and Birdwatch Ireland are amongst the thirty-five community groups, sports clubs and organisations from all over Ireland who were announced as national finalists in the National Lottery Good Causes Awards. Wicklow Rapid Response are a finalist in the Health & Wellbeing category while Birdwatch Ireland will contest in the Heritage category.

The Awards honour the inspiring work and achievements of thousands of projects, clubs and individuals from all over Ireland who, with the help of National Lottery Good Causes funding, have had an extraordinary impact on their local communities. Nearly 30 cent in every €1 spent on National Lottery games goes back to Good Causes all over the country.

Wicklow Rapid Response is a voluntary charity who provide a

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

Established in 1968, Birdwatch Ireland is the largest independent con-

servation organisation in Ireland. The aim of the registered charity, which has over 15,000 members, is to conserve wild birds and their natural habitats. During the Covid pandemic, birds became a significant source of entertainment, comfort and solace for people which led to an increase in enquiries about Irish wildlife. Thanks to the Heritage Council and Good Causes funding, their 'Outreach for Nature' project aimed to

assist and engage better with the public and educate them on the role they could play in supporting nature conservation.???

Each of the 35 finalists will now receive €1,000 and a hand-crafted trophy and proceed to the grand final in which there are seven categories: Arts & Culture, Community, Health & Wellbeing, Heritage, Irish language, Sport and Youth. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony which takes

place on Saturday 1st October in the Kilashee House Hotel, Co. Kildare, where each of the seven category winners will receive €10,000 and the overall Good Cause of the Year will take home an additional €25,000.

Gráinne Seoige, who will host the awards for the third consecutive year, said: "While last year's event truly was unique as we had to go virtual due to the Covid restrictions in place, I am looking forward to meeting this year's fantastic finalists in person. Hearing stories of triumph, strength and endurance have stood out as highlights from my previous two experiences of presenting the Awards and I am certain that this year will be no different. Seeing how communities from all over Ireland help and look out for each other is a truly inspiring part of the night and one that I am looking forward to playing a part in."

Speaking at the announcement, Sonya Lennon who is Chair of this year's judging panel, congratulated the 35 finalists who have reached this stage of the Awards process.

"Last month, we announced 118 County

winners from all over the country who all had such inspiring stories about the work they do within their communities. Narrowing that same list down to 35 finalists was certainly not an easy task as all of the entries were truly moving. The entire judging process has really proved just how important the Good Causes Awards are in recognizing the incredible work being carried out by

groups all over the country. I am now looking forward to meeting the finalists and hearing even more about the wonderful work they all do."

The 35 National Lottery Good Causes Awards finalists are below. More information on the finalists and the National Lottery Good Causes Awards can be found at: www.lottery.ie/good-causes-awards



Sonya Lennon, who is Chair of this year's judging panel, was photographed at the announcement along with Gráinne Seoige, who will host the Awards ceremony later this year, and Jennifer Crowe, the National Lottery CSR and Good Causes Relationship Manager. (Photo by MacInnes Photography)

Consumers in Wicklow recycle 1,239 tonnes of electrical waste in 2021

An average of 8.7kg of e-waste was recycled per person in Wicklow last year according to figures released by WEEE Ireland. This is just outside the county's 2020 collection rate of 8.8kg. The 2021 national average is 10.9kg per person.

1,239 tonnes of electrical waste were collected in Wicklow in 2021 by the country's largest recycling scheme.

"People in Wicklow have contributed greatly to e-waste recycling every year, and we want to encourage that trend," said WEEE Ireland CEO Leo Donovan.

"One of the key habits consumers are encouraged to embrace is to stop hoarding end-of-life electronic goods – estimated at 4-5kg of e-waste per person.

"So many of these appliances and devices can be repaired, re-used or re-gifted, but if they cannot, make sure you recycle them for free.

"Our consumption is only going in one direction. In 2021, an average of 12 household electrical products were sold for every person in Ireland.

"If we are buying more electronics, we need to adopt a one plug in, one plug out mantra as we do not have enough raw materials in the ground to keep up with growing



Leo Donovan, CEO of WEEE Ireland

global demand.

"It is now more important than ever to rescue e-waste after consumption of new electrical devices such as mobile phones, computers, small kitchen appliances and white goods soared during the pandemic.

"After the safe removal of hazardous elements, 82% of all material that we collect is recovered for use again in manufacturing through both indigenous operators and specialist processors in Europe.

"Most end-of-life products contain metals and minerals in higher concentrations than primary resources.

"These stock of resources are the urban mines of the future, so our recycling efforts can have a significant impact on the environment."

WEEE Ireland is one of the best performing recycling schemes in Europe, with a record 18.7 million waste electrical items collected in 2021, the organisation's annual report has revealed.

127,000 fridges and 205,000 TVs and monitors were recovered, as well as over 2.3 million lightbulbs in a total takeback of 38,464 tonnes – 57% of the average goods sold over a three-year period.

In 2021, the equivalent of 231,179 tonnes of CO2 emissions were avoided by recycling e-waste through the WEEE Ireland Scheme as opposed to landfilling. That is the equivalent of the annual carbon consumption of 4,624 hectares of trees.

PLANNING PLANNING PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Michael Duggan, intend to apply for permission for development at this site: Blackberry Hill, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow, A98 PC66. The development will consist of: The provision of a new two-storey, three-bedroom house to the rear of the existing house and the widening of the existing vehicular entrance to the west side boundary of the site. 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, John Power, intend to apply for retention permission for development at this site, Cloghlea Manor, Kiltbridge, Blessington, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of pre 63 shed unit for stable, toilet and washand basin / septic tank and percolation and circular training track for horses. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for extension to dwelling, internal alterations to existing dwelling and associated works at Ballyraheen, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow for Betty Kavanagh. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Full Planning Permission sought for: 1. Proposed 130 No. Solar Array Panels to Southern Roof and 70 No. Solar Array Panels to Northern Roof of Existing Shoreline Leisure, Southern Cross Rd, Bray, Co. Wicklow. 2. All ancillary requisite site works to facilitate proposal at Shoreline Leisure, Southern Cross Rd, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98F585. Signed: Bray Swimming Pool Sports & Leisure Centre Ltd. 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

Full Planning Permission sought for: 1. Proposed 148 No. Solar Array Panels to Southern Roof and 146 No. Solar Array Panels to Northern Roof of Existing Shoreline Leisure, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. 2. All ancillary requisite site works to facilitate proposal at Shoreline Leisure, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 HD25. Signed: Wicklow Recreational Services Ltd. 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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Avonmore and St Kevin's Way featured on 'Tracks & Trails'

County Wicklow will again feature in RTE's 'Tracks & Trails' which returns for its 10th season this week.

The first show airs on Thursday, 30th of June, featuring Lough Derg in Co Clare while Wicklow's St Kevin's Way and the Avonmore Way will feature on Thursday, 14th July, at 7.30pm. This year's Wicklow presenter is Roz Purcell, cookery book author, entrepreneur and founder of The Hike Life.

"Over several years, Wicklow County Council has developed a strong and beneficial partnership with 'Tracks & Trails', said Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach Wicklow County Council, who added: "the quality of production has helped tremendously showcasing some of Wicklow's stunning trails to a large national audience and beyond."

Roz, who regularly walks around Wicklow, takes viewers on two walks: The mystical St Kevin's Way from Hollywood to Glendalough and the winding forest trail of the Avonmore Way from Glendalough to Rathdrum and the new Avondale attraction 'Beyond the Trees'.

St Kevin's Way

St Kevin's Way is a well waymarked trail in Co Wicklow notable for the little yellow monk on the waymarkers to guide walkers in the footsteps of St Kevin. It is along this 26 km trail that Roz begins her walk which will bring her the monastic settlement of Glendalough. Starting her day at Ballinagee Bridge

Roz quickly hits the trail walks for a while with



Roz Purcell in Wicklow

and heads off-road into a pretty and atmospheric forest which weaves through canopied and tree lined paths and alongside old stone walled fields.

Well into her rhythm now after about 3km she is delighted to arrive at St Kevin's pools which are a hidden and magical place to discover and to take a moment here to stop. It is then, near this section of the route that Roz meets Cat, a forest bather. In a first for Roz and for 'Tracks & Trails' we get a wonderful introduction into forest bathing; the practice of bathing our senses in a forest. The next section which involves the only uphill stretch brings Roz to Turlough Hill and the first of two gorgeous viewpoints. With the valley laid out before her and banked on either side by rolling hills this is definitely worth a stop to appreciate the magnificent Wicklow scenery.

It is all downhill from here and as she traces her way along the path through this valley Roz

Carol Coad who is responsible for the trails in Co Wicklow. As Roz is a keen hiker it is lovely for them to walk and chat about the development of trails that we have in this country. Roz soon gets to her last viewpoint which looks down into Glendalough Valley, a view that few people get to experience as most visitors usually come to Glendalough from the other side. With one last section of trail Roz is delighted to realise that she has come to the famous Round Tower of Glendalough, but through the back door. It is here that Roz ends her first walk.

Avonmore Way

The Avonmore Way, as the name suggests, follows the Avonmore River along quiet, meandering peaceful paths and boherrens as far as Rathrum. Roz Purcell starts her hike with an uphill stretch from Trooperstown Wood to a short section of road with open views to the Clara Vale in front of her. Much

of this well marked trail dips in and out of a number of forests but it is not a challenging hike and so it gives Roz a chance to slow down and reset.

Shortly after passing the very pretty Clara Church, Roz enters the Clara Vale Nature Reserve, a special area of conservation. This wood is flat and the paths weave their way gently through the tall trees and woodland. One of the joys of walking is that there are always surprises along the routes and unexpectedly Roz comes across a forest floor covered as far as the eye can see in a blanket of bluebells.

Further along on the paths Roz meets professional forager Geraldine Kavanagh. Geraldine is a local who has a vast knowledge of plants and wildlife. As she walks with Roz she helps her learn how to identify leaves and flowers both edible and poisonous that grow in the gardens, hedgerows and forests around us. Soon after, Roz comes to the final part of this trail at the Samuel Hayes suspension bridge just outside Rathdrum.

Roz ends her time in Co Wicklow with a visit to Avondale Estate nearby, taking a walk with Deborah Meghen from Coillte who gives her an introduction to the fascinating history of the trees grown here.

With a glimpse at the new Beyond the Trees experience, Roz ends this programme urging the viewer to get out on the trails.



Late Late Show host Ryan Tubridy with Donal Walsh at the opening of Tiglin's Jigginstown Manor in Naas

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