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Tuesday 5th July 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# HEROIC SEA RESCUES

The lives of six people in Bray were saved on Tuesday 28th June thanks to the heroic actions of three brave young lifeguards. Lucy Greene, Shanley Clancy Molloy and Fionn Clancy Molloy acted quickly to save the lives of the six swimmers who got into difficulty at a Bray seafront danger spot in challenging conditions.



Bray lifeguard Lucy Greene

The incidents have led to renewed calls for an enforcement of the swimming ban at the northern end of Bray beach where there's a strong rip tide. The six rescues occurred just a day after another incident where a person drifted away from the shore on an inflatable raft. The person was eventually rescued by a vessel that happened to be passing.

Among swimmers who regularly swim at Bray Beach, the area near the rocks at the north end of the beach is known for being particularly lethal as the tide is going out.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady expressed his gratitude and admiration towards the young heroes, and also expressed concern at the number of swimmers getting into diffi-

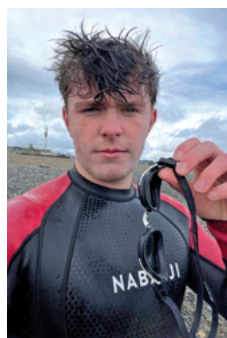


Karen Boyle and Mia Nichols at the Taste of Wicklow food festival in Wicklow Town. Pic: Michael Kelly

culty at the north end of Bray seafront. He has appealed to swimmers to heed the warnings not to swim at this dangerous location.

"I want to firstly pay tribute to the incredible courage and bravery of the three young people who courageously carried out a series of rescues at the north end of Bray Seafront," he said.

"Eyewitness accounts paint a picture of some-



Bray lifeguard Fionn Clancy Molloy

thing out of a Hollywood movie, where a young lifeguard had just rescued a swimmer, pulled them to shore and is administering aid, when they are forced to immediately go back into the water to go to the assistance of another swimmer who had got into difficulty.

"All of the incidents occurred at the North End of Bray Seafront, in an area where a stone breakwater was put in

place a number of years ago, which has contributed to the creation of a dangerous rip current. The Council have erected signage in the area, warning people not to swim.

*Continued on page 3*



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# See Glendalough recreated in Lego form

One of Wicklow's most beautiful and iconic heritage sites – Glendalough – has been recreated out of 44,388 LEGO bricks!

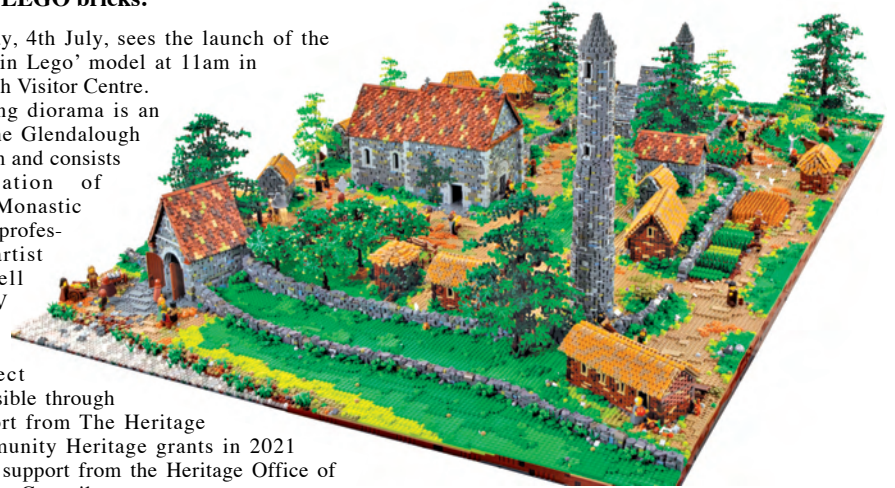
This Monday, 4th July, sees the launch of the 'Glendalough in Lego' model at 11am in the Glendalough Visitor Centre.

This stunning diorama is an initiative of the Glendalough Heritage Forum and consists of a recreation of Glendalough Monastic Settlement by professional brick artist Jessica Farrell (Channel 4 TV LEGO MASTERS).

The project was made possible through funding support from The Heritage Council Community Heritage grants in 2021 and additional support from the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council.

"The model features many amazing details which will help audiences of all ages gain a better understanding of 12th century monastic life", says Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council.

The Lego model will be on display in the Visitor Centre for one week until 11th July after which it is scheduled to travel to Wicklow branch libraries with a day-long workshop in each venue as follows:



The Glendalough LEGO model

Wicklow Town 22nd July; Ballywaltrim Library 6th August; Blessington Library 15th August; and Arklow Library 20th August.

For queries on the event contact Deirdre Burns, Heritage officer at [dburns@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:dburns@wicklowcoco.ie). For more information on Glendalough Heritage you can visit [www.glendalough.wicklowheritage.org/](http://www.glendalough.wicklowheritage.org/)

## St Kevin's Choir in Glendalough needs you!

Were you ever told in school that you couldn't sing? Have you always liked music and just needed a push to join a choir? Now is the time! If you have a song in your heart, that is all you need.

There are no auditions, and singers, musicians, young and old all are welcome. The choir learns the songs during a short practice one evening a week, from September to May. New members – come and enjoy and continue the ancient tradition of spiritual worship in Glendalough. Call choir leader Angela for a chat at 086 3059946.

## Adopt a River

On Saturday 18th June, an 'Adopt a River' workshop took place at the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh. As part of the Junior Tidy Towns initiatives Mary Kelly from UCD came to give a brief presentation on the main groups of macroinvertebrates in the citizen science schemes with local young people and guardians. The Junior Tidy Towns will look at the local waterways, identify insects while also taking into account the environment to determine the level of pollution or how clean the water is.

Everyone got a chance to collect insects, place them in petri dishes and identify them under a microscope. If you wish to contact the TT group you can email [laraghglendaloughTT@gmail.com](mailto:laraghglendaloughTT@gmail.com).

## Free Wellness Workshop

Bray Area Partnership's Social Prescribing for Bray and North Wicklow is teaming up with SOS to bring their Wellness Workshop to Bray on Thursday 21st July, from 9.30am-12.30pm.

The workshop will be informal and relaxed and is for anyone and everyone as we all have mental health! Topics covered will include Changing Your Thinking, Wolf of Hope, Stress, Bringing Calm to your Life, Mindful Minute and Daily Wellness Plan.

For more information and to book your place see [www.wellnessworkshop.ie](http://www.wellnessworkshop.ie) or call 01 272 2158. To find out more about the services offered by Social Prescribing for Bray and North Wicklow see [www.brayareapartnership.ie](http://www.brayareapartnership.ie).

## Brockagh Market & Car Boot sale

The Brockagh Market & Car Boot sale is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month (except Jan/Feb). The next sale will be on 10th July. Open to the public from 10am to 3pm. Tea, coffee and food snacks are available. Indoor and outdoor stalls with a variety of items for sale with plenty of bargains from gifts, clothes, plants, books, toys, aloe vera products, artwork, tools, household items etc. Free parking and customer toilet facilities.

The barrier will be locked from 6pm Saturday evening until 8am Sunday morning. You can contact us by phone 0404 45600 (Wed-Fri 9am to 2pm) or email [carbootbrockagh@gmail.com](mailto:carbootbrockagh@gmail.com).

## Ballinatone Church Fete

The Annual Church Fete at Ballinatone Church will take place on July 9th in the grounds of the Church (located between Ballinacash and Greenan) from 2 pm to 4 pm. There will be tea, books, bric-a-brac, and more.



Five-year-old Sofia from Ukraine at the community Street Feast in the People's Park in Bray on 26th June. Street Feast is Ireland's national day of lunches and one of Ireland's most successful community initiatives for over a decade. The aim of Street Feast is to build neighbourhood and community networks and tackle social isolation. Photo by Joe McQuillan

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# THE BACK TO SCHOOL BURDEN

With rising back to school costs burdening many families across Wicklow, the Government must act to provide relief for parents who spend up to €1,500 for each child, Social Democrats Children's Spokesperson Jennifer Whitmore said. Sinn Féin TD John Brady, meanwhile, has slammed Wicklow government TDs from Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and the Greens for voting against a Sinn Féin motion last week calling for an emergency budget to deliver much-needed support to workers and families hit by the cost of living crisis.

"Last year, a survey from the Irish League of Credit Unions revealed that 24% of parents go into debt when they are trying to pay back-to-school costs," said Deputy Whitmore. "That is hardly surprising when the Back To School allowance was actually set at a higher rate in 2007 - 15 years ago - than it is now. We know that families in Wicklow are already struggling to meet to heat their homes and feed their families. Back-to-school costs are an additional burden that will send many families across the county over the edge. There are measures the government could adopt now to alleviate this pressure.

"For a start, the Back To School allowance should at least return to its previous peak - 2010 levels - when it was paid at a rate of €200 for children under 12 and €305 for children over 12.

"The Minister announced a review of

the School Meals Programme, which supports 1,500 schools, in April. This review now needs to be fast-tracked to ensure that any expansion of the programme can be done in advance of the new school year in September in all schools across Wicklow.

"Finally, as a country, it is time that we made primary and secondary education genuinely free. Doing this would cost a total of €238 million - just 2.5% of the overall education budget - and it would have a hugely beneficial impact.

"It would mean that parents in Wicklow no longer have to pay voluntary contributions; schools capitation grants would be at sustainable levels; there would be no fees for books; classroom resources would be paid for and the School Transport Fee scheme would be entirely covered.

"School capitation grants have not increased

since budget 2020, when they went up by just 2.5%. Meanwhile, the costs of lighting, heating and a range of other services have increased exponentially since then. Many schools in Wicklow struggle to cover their running costs and so that burden falls on families who are asked to contribute. This has gone on long enough. The government must act," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

Deputy Brady said: "I am very aware that families throughout Wicklow find back-to-school costs a huge burden every year, but even more so this year, with a cost-of-living crisis that is getting worse and worse. No families should face the fear of being plunged into debt or struggling to get by just for sending a child to school. Families need a break from these spiralling costs now.

Speaking after last week's vote, he said "The government has failed to act and deliver much-

needed support to ensure that workers get a break. Their excuses are wearing thin, and people need action now. Sinn Féin brought forward a motion in the Dáil demanding that the government deliver an emergency budget immediately to address the cost of living crisis.

"Unfortunately the government has again chosen to bury their heads in the sand on this issue and voted against the Sinn Féin motion. All three Wicklow government TDs from Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and the Greens voted against taking action to help people here in Wicklow that are struggling now. They need to wake up and realise the urgency of the cost of living crisis that people are facing every day.

"We must introduce a cost of living cash payment for people who need it. We have to cut rents and freeze them, including putting a



Labour Councillor Paul O'Brien was elected the new Cathaoirleach of Wicklow Municipal District last week. He is pictured here with Fine Gael councillor Irene Winters who was elected Leas Cathaoirleach. Cllr O'Brien is a Wicklow Town native and has been an active member of the community, involved with many local organisations, and has been National president of the Irish Soccer Referees Society and referees in the Irish Soccer League.

month's rent back into renters' pockets with a refundable tax credit. We need to cut childcare costs by two thirds, as they are far too expensive for families. We must cut the price of petrol and heating, so that they are

affordable. We must increase core social welfare rates to ensure the most vulnerable in society are protected from price rises. The government cannot keep ignoring this crisis and the huge pressures people are

under. The time to act is now."

Sinn Féin launched a plan last Thursday which, according to Deputy Brady, would ensure families get a much-needed break from the cost of living crisis by cutting spi-

alling back-to-school costs associated with voluntary contributions, school books, uniforms and transport. The measures would be delivered through an additional investment of €161 million.

## HEROIC SEA RESCUES

Continued from Page 1

"But these warnings are not being adhered to. Action needs to be taken to enforce the No Swim rule along that area of Bray Seafront before there is a fatality. I appeal to people to heed the warnings and not to swim in the area, not only are they putting their own safety at risk, but they are also putting the safety of others at risk.

"The fact six rescues had to be carried out last week by the lifeguards speaks volumes of the dangers involved. In the last month alone, that stretch of Bray Seafront has witnessed more rescues by lifeguards than the whole season last year on all of Wicklow's beaches.

"I want to pay tribute to the courage and commitment of the three lifeguards on duty who carried out the six rescues, Shanley Clancy Molloy, Fionn Clancy Molloy and

Lucy Greene. They showed incredible courage and bravery in carrying out their duties.

"These incidents follow on from another serious incident which occurred on Monday at the same location where an individual on an inflatable device was washed out one kilometre offshore before being rescued.

"We need the message to get out regarding the dangers of swimming at this location. But we also need to acknowledge the bravery and dedication of the three young people, who have certainly earned the gratitude of the people of Wicklow."

## Urgent request to publish Action Plan for Disability Capacity Review

CEO of Sunbeam House Services Joe Lynch has written a letter to Wicklow's councillors and TDs expressing 'deep concern' regarding the pace of planning for the implementation of the Disability Capacity Review to 2032.

The Capacity Review, published by the Department of Health in July 2021, details the current outstanding need for HSE funded disability services, and how this is predicted to evolve up to 2032. It highlights very significant levels of unmet need, with much of this due to acute requirements for support for individuals with complex needs or the circumstances of family carers.

Sunbeam House Services (SHS) supports over 400 constituents with intellectual disabilities and their families in Co. Wicklow, and employs 600 support staff.

"The reality of the unmet need

detailed in the Capacity Review is very evident for the citizens with intellectual disabilities and their families whom we support," says Mr Lynch.

"For instance, there are a significant number of families who desperately require residential placements for their family members including situations where parents are in their nineties and have serious health needs themselves while looking after people who require urgent assistance including personal care. There are business cases that are not being addressed for people within our care where their disabilities are progressing and there are unmet

needs including housing.

"The Disability Action Plan Framework published by the Department of Health to guide the implementation planning for the Disability Capacity Review stated that: 'Work will be delivered through an interdepartmental Working Group, representing the key Departments and the HSE, and reporting to the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy and Equality, and will be completed by December 2021.'

"We are very concerned that the plan that was due to be completed in December of last year has not yet been published. Our particular concern is that the budget preparation for 2023 is well under way without the benefit of the Action Plan to inform planning to address the urgent and critical needs identified in the

Capacity Review."

Mr Lynch has asked Wicklow's TDs and councillors to advocate urgently for "the immediate publication of the Action Plan for the Disability Capacity Review, and its inclusion in the budgetary plan for 2023 to ensure another year does not pass with families and individuals left without any indication of when or how the urgent needs they are experiencing will be met."

Mr Lynch has also asked them to advocate for "accessible budget announcement for disability, so that individuals with disabilities and their supporters can understand how many existing and new residential supports, day places and respite supports will be provided for in Budget 2023, and how this relates to the needs outlined in the Capacity Review."

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# Council trying to acquire former Carnew bank and Ashford Garda Station for public use

Applications have been submitted by Wicklow County Council under the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme for funding of €400,000 in order to acquire the former Garda Station in Ashford and the former Bank of Ireland premises in Carnew to be developed for local community use.

Sinn Féin TD, John Brady, who has been involved in long running campaigns to have the transferred to Wicklow County Council in order to allow both buildings to be used by their respective local communities, County Council to has welcomed the announcement.

"I want to fully welcome this initiative," he said. "I have been campaigning for a long time to have both premises brought under the ownership of Wicklow County Council to allow them to be used

for community purposes, and I want to acknowledge and welcome the fact that Wicklow Co Co have listened to the arguments which I have put forward and took action as a result.

"The securing of

these two buildings would represent a huge boost to the local communities in Ashford and Carnew. The former Garda station has been unused for 20 years since it was extensively damaged in a fire in 2003. But this new initiative offers the opportunity of turning it into a Community Centre. Having heard that the OPW was set to dispose of the property I contacted the Minister responsible for the OPW and asked that the property be transferred to the Council at the earliest opportunity.

"When the Bank of Ireland announced the closure of 88 of its branches across the state, three of the branches were located in Wicklow, in Carnew, Rathdrum and Tinahely. I have made representations at the time to the Bank of Ireland at the behest of the community in Carnew that the former branch building in the town be allowed to be used by the local community. The Bank responded by stating that it has no intention of engaging in short

term leases or handing it over to the community and they intend to prepare the building to be put on the market in the second quarter of 2022.

"Following this, with Wicklow County Council in advanced negotiations with the Office of Public Works to purchase both the former Garda Station in Ashford and the former Bank of Ireland building in Carnew, they were in prime position to put together an application once the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme opened up.

"Under a new category in the scheme, local authorities can apply for a grant of up to €400,000 to purchase vacant buildings, in order to bring them back into use as multi-purpose spaces.

"If Wicklow County Council are successful in their grant application and can secure both buildings, they will be in a position to apply for further funding in 2023 and 2024 to carry out refurbishments on both buildings."



Deputy Brady at the former Arklow Garda Station (above), and with South Wicklow Sinn Féin representative Aidan Kinsella at the former Bank of Ireland premises in Carnew (below).



Wicklow League President Jim McLaughlin presents the Wicklow Cup to Avonmore captain Pat 'Gouch' Kennedy after his side beat Arklow Town 1-0 in Shamrock Park, Rathnew.

## Community Employment reforms welcomed

**Major reforms to Community Employment, Tús and the Rural Social Scheme are aiming to extend eligibility criteria for Wicklow participants and provide additional flexibility to local supervisors when it comes to recruitment.**

Welcoming the reforms, Minister Simon Harris said "These schemes support a range of vital local services in Wicklow such as childcare, meals on wheels, the maintenance and upkeep of local amenities and other vital work in our communities.

"For the Rural Social Scheme, the six-year time limit will be removed. Eligibility for Tús is now extended to persons in receipt of disability payments. Flexibility for CE schemes will allow for direct recruiting of eligible candidates to fill 30% of places.

"The Intreo centre in Wicklow will also feel benefits with an increase in the number of referrals to CE. Schemes will be required to offer places to at least 60% of candidates.

"These changes will extend the eligibility criteria for these schemes and will also provide additional flexibility to local supervisors when it comes to the recruitment and retention of participants.

"I am pleased to confirm that the application process for the ex-gratia payment for CE supervisors and assistant supervisors is now open and the Department of Social Protection and Employment Affairs will shortly write to CE supervisors and CE assistant supervisors who may have an immediate entitlement inviting them to apply for this payment."

Fianna Fail Senator Pat Casey said "These schemes provide vital local services such as childcare, meals on wheels, the maintenance and upkeep of local amenities and other vital work in our communities.

These are important changes to a programme which gets people back into the workforce and allows them to reskill and take part in society.

"I welcome this Government's commitment to implementing these good improvements both for the participants and the schemes.

"The purpose of CE and Tús is to provide

long term unemployed participants with work experience in their local communities to help them find employment.

"There are currently over 19,000 participants on CE, almost 5,000 participants on Tús and just

under 3,000 participants on the Rural Social Scheme. Government investment in the three schemes will amount to over €500million in 2022."

He added: "Also today, the application

process for the ex-gratia payment for CE Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors is being opened. This ex-gratia payment will benefit around 2,500 people at a total cost of over €24 million."

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### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

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The Expression of Interest Application form can be found on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) and should be submitted to [housinghomeless@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:housinghomeless@wicklowcoco.ie) for the attention of the Senior Executive Officer on or before **Friday 29th July 2022**.

Any panel that may be formed will be for 2022/2023 placements.



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# Community groups and social enterprises celebrate transformative impact of national training fund support

Staff and volunteers representing community groups and social enterprises gathered at Wicklow Library on 24th June to celebrate the positive impact of training initiatives funded by the National Training Fund (NTF).

The event, which was hosted by The Wheel, the national association of social economy and nonprofit organisations, included a contribution from the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science of Ireland, Simon Harris T.D.

Speaking at the event, Minister Simon Harris said, "The community and voluntary sector is, at its heart, about people. Our skills agenda is about ensuring every person has an equal opportunity.

"The partnership between The Wheel and the National Training Fund is about ensuring we create a system which belongs to all of us. One which facilitates upskilling and reskilling in the workplace and through an individual's life, regardless of circumstance, and ensures that we are prepared for the challenges ahead."

Deirdre Garvey CEO of The Wheel said, "In Ireland, the social economy is a very significant part of our overall economy and workforce.

Most people are unaware that one in every three people delivering public services is actually employed by a social enterprise or nonprofit community & voluntary organisation."

"The NTF-funded training programmes for social enterprises, community groups and nonprofits have had a transformative effect on many of the 168,000 paid staff and nearly 500,000 volunteers working in the sector, and the positive impact of this training is visible in the communities where these organisations operate."

"These programmes increase collaboration and impact, nurture leadership and promote best practice and good governance. An analysis carried out by the research firm Indecon in 2020, however, found that the amount of time and investment spent on training in the social economy is still lower than in other sectors of the economy."

"As we deal with the continuing fall-out from the pandemic, address the needs of those com-

ing to Ireland seeking asylum from Ukraine and elsewhere, respond to the climate and biodiversity crises and respond to the needs of those most affected by the cost-of-living crisis, the social economy and nonprofit sector won't be found wanting in working in close partnership with the state and public services to address the pressing needs of our communities. And in doing so, the need for continuous upskilling and innovation will be more necessary than ever - thus demonstrating the essential nature of this National Training Fund support for all of our workforce employees," said Deirdre Garvey.

Representatives of organisations that have benefited from NTF-funded programmes also spoke at the event, including Nora Moriarty from Crosscare, Lisa Marmion from Safe Ireland, Assumpta O'Neill from Wicklow Childcare Committee and Carrieann Belton from Longford Childcare Committee.



Staff and volunteers representing community groups and social enterprises gathered at Wicklow Library today (24 June) to celebrate the positive impact of training initiatives funded by the National Training Fund (NTF). From left to right are Deirdre Garvey from The Wheel, Nora Moriarty from Crosscare, Assumpta O'Neill from Wicklow Childcare Committee, Carrieann Belton from Longford Childcare Committee, Lisa Marmion from Bray Women's Refuge and Minister Simon Harris TD.

Lisa Marmion from Safe Ireland said the funding they received, "is enabling us to design and deliver customised training clearly identified as a priority by spe-

cialist domestic violence services across Ireland".

The National Training Fund was established by the National Training Fund Act, 2000, as a dedicated fund to sup-

port the training of those in employment, and those seeking employment. The Act funds research which provides information on existing and likely future skills

requirements of the economy. The NTF supports several upskilling programmes for that part of the workforce, whose employers are social economy organisations

and community & voluntary groups, including The Wheel's Training Links programme and the recently launched Leadership Academy (www.leadersacademy.)



**Marrakesh**

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## Questions over public access to local landmark

Public access to the iconic Wicklow Head Lighthouse off Dunbur Road in Wicklow appears to have been closed off, preventing locals and residents enjoying the scenic walk and breathtaking coastal views from the lighthouse station.

Green Party TD, Steven Matthews visited the site last week following complaints from locals and found that the road had been blocked off and that security were present and refusing access to locals and residents to visit the landmark site.

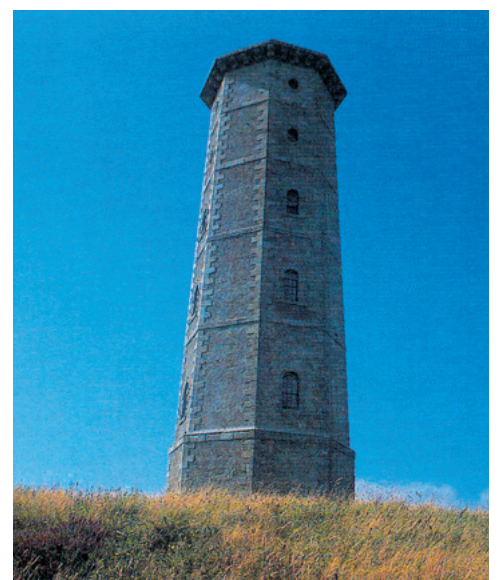
"I have visited this site on many occasions, and it is one of the most enjoyable and scenic walks in Wicklow," said Deputy Matthews.

"The lighthouse is an incredible heritage building and the walking route brings you down to the old lighthouse station providing amazing views out over the Irish Sea."

The lighthouse was constructed in 1781 to prevent mariners from confusing Wicklow Head with the lights of Howth Head and Hook Head, whilst the headland station was built in 1818 and automated as recently as 1994.

"Apparently, this situation arose last year too with the access road gated and locked off but the access had been reinstated and was enjoyed freely upon until recently.

"I have written to Wicklow County Council to seek clarification on access rights and land ownership, and I hope a resolution can be found that will restore pedestrian access for all to enjoy. I understand landowners seeking to protect their land from trespass and the concern they have regarding liability, but this site has a clear access path and has strong cultural and heritage importance for Wicklow. It is incredibly disappointing for visitors and locals with their children to be turned back and refused access to a famous Wicklow landmark."



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# German students hope to initiate project at Glencree



Students from the Eichendorffschule school in Wolfsburg with teachers Christian Luebke and Susanne Wolf in the Glencree War cemetery last week.

A group of German students and their teachers visited the German Military cemetery at Glencree last Monday to carry out maintenance work in the graveyard where German soldiers are buried.

The six 9th grade students from Eichendorffschule school in Wolfsburg were recipients of the Sara-Frenkel-Prize donated by Volkswagen and decided to use the money to visit the Glencree cemetery.

Their aim is to start a project, in conjunction with local schools, where regular visits are carried out to the graveyard and necessary work is carried out.

The Sara Frenkel Prize is for Respect, Tolerance and Civil Courage, and was named after Sara Frenkel-Bass, a Jewish Polish forced laborer at the Volkswagen plant in Wolfsburg from 1943 to 1945. All her life she's been committed to the values of respect, tolerance and moral courage that are close to her heart and against forgetting. She calls for an active attitude: "I appeal to the younger generation: Be vigilant, look closely, don't ignore. Stand together and open your mouth when people are rushing again about people who think differently, people of different colors and people of different faiths. The suffering of that time must not be repeated." The 99-year-old now lives in Antwerp in Belgium.

The Eichendorffschule school was one of three schools to be awarded the prize this year, and were awarded for their video project on Wolfsburg's memorials.

Schools, groups and clubs from all over Wolfsburg and the surrounding area had applied for the Sara Frenkel Prize this year, and the prize was €3,000.

The competition is organised by the youth and trainee representatives and the vocational training



The Wolfsburg students at the Celtic Cross in Glencree cemetery

department at Volkswagen in Wolfsburg.

The war cemetery at Glencree, one of many German war cemeteries in Western Europe, serves as a stark reminder of the devastation of the First and Second World Wars. 134 German military servicemen and civilians are buried there, many of them Luftwaffe pilots who flew off course while flying over England, or crashed as a result of damage to their aircraft or fuel loss.

The Glencree website states: "Interred here also are a number of regular naval personnel (Kriegsmarine) whose bodies washed up, sometimes in remote coastal locations. Of the eighty-one air and

naval servicemen buried in Glencree, the identities of twenty-eight remain unknown.

"Those who engaged in the 'secret side of war' are also buried here. Dr. Hermann Gortz, who took his own life to avoid arrest as a spy, has the only individual memorial - a finely carved stone relief - in the cemetery.

"Six soldiers of the First World War are also interred. These soldiers died while in a British prisoner of war camp based in Ireland from 1915-1918.

"The cemetery is also the final resting place of forty-six German civilians who were being transported from England to Canada in July 1940. Their

ship 'The Arandora Star' was torpedoed by the German submarine off the coast of Donegal.

"Just inside the wrought iron gated entrance, a poem by Professor Stan O'Brien, a dedicated supporter of the Irish-German Society, set in polished stone, captures the poignancy of this quiet resting ground.

"A pathway leads to the 'Hall of Honour', a place of reflection and prayer. Just beyond the Hall the grave-stones are laid out in eight gently curved arcs, while a mosaic Pieta, designed by Berlz, the Munich born painter, adorns the interior wall. Seton a height above the cemetery is a fine Celtic cross."

## 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:**

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**Closing date for receipt of nominations is 19th Aug 2022**

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



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Natalia, Olena and Kseniia from Ukraine at the People's Park Street Feast in Bray on 26th June. Street Feast is Ireland's national day of lunches and one of Ireland's most successful community initiatives for over a decade. The aim of Street Feast is to build neighbourhood and community networks and tackle social isolation. Photo by Joe McQuillan



# Application for Maritime Area Consent submitted

Ireland's largest Phase One offshore wind project, Codling Wind Park, has submitted its application for a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) to the Irish Government.

The MAC is a new regulatory requirement for marine-based projects, which came into effect following the enactment of the Maritime Area Planning Act in December 2021. If Codling Wind Park's application is successful, it will allow the project to compete in the first Offshore Renewable Electricity Scheme (ORES) auction, which is

due to open later this year, and to submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála.

The project has also announced changes to its management team, with the partners - EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Seawind will become more directly involved in the day-to-day running of what is a strategically important project for both companies.

Thomas Gellert, currently Senior VP Project Execution at Fred. Olsen Seawind, and Scott Sutherland, Head of Offshore Wind at EDF Renewables, have been appointed as co-project directors. They will take up their joint leadership role straight away, with former director Arno Verbeek continuing as a senior advisor to the partners.

Commenting on their appointment, the new project directors emphasised the strategic importance of Ireland to both companies and said their focus was on maintaining the project's momentum.

Thomas Gellert commented: "Ireland is a hugely important market for Fred. Olsen Seawind and Codling Wind Park is our flagship project. I am excited to be joining such a successful team and look forward to not only delivering one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade, but to helping the country realise its potential and become a world leader in offshore wind."

Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling Wind Park could begin construction in 2025, and is expected to take two to three years to complete.

Located off the Wicklow coast, it is a 50:50 joint venture between EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Seawind. With a maximum installed capacity of up to 1,500 megawatts, Codling Wind Park will play a significant role in helping Ireland to meet its 2030 climate action targets.

It has the potential to provide enough renewable energy to power up to 1.2 million Irish homes and could save around 2 million tonnes of CO2 emissions every year.



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Fianna Fail councillor Gerry Walsh was elected Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District at last week's District meeting. Cllr Walsh, who takes over the role from Green Party councillor Lourda Scott, has been serving the community of Greystones for many years, initially as Garda Sergeant-in-Charge at Greystones Garda Station and then as a councillor for Greystones Municipal District since 2014.

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# BRAY BOWL

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE



# LANE 13

## New-look Family Entertainment Centre is bowling a perfect game

Customers of Bray Bowl in recent weeks will have noticed that a transformation has taken place. After some major and minor improvements and changes, the much-loved family entertainment centre is now looking better than it ever has and has more to offer than ever before.



One of Bray's major attractions and entertainment hubs for several decades now, the family-run Bray Bowl, owned by Boz Quinn and his father, has always been more than just a bowling alley. Not part of any big chain of outlets, Bray Bowl has established its reputation on its own, built on the experiences of its generations of customers.

The video game arcade, the pool tables, snooker tables and the Quasar laser tag over the years have all proven to be major attractions in



their own right, and have cemented Bray Bowl's reputation as a true Family Entertainment Centre which caters to all ages. Now, the latest

improvements have taken Bray Bowl up another level. The doors were shut to the general public on 23rd May as the makeover began - starting with the decommissioning of the old lanes and the installation of brand-new bowling pinsetters.

revamp the lanes in time for the scheduled relaunch and with a lot of hard work this was achieved. "A huge amount of hard work and effort went into getting everything ready for the relaunch on June 19th and thankfully it all went to plan," says General Manager Boz Quinn.

Wishing continued success to Boz Quinn and all the Team in Bray Bowl

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Lane 13 at Bray Bowl



General Manager of Bray Bowl, Boz Quinn

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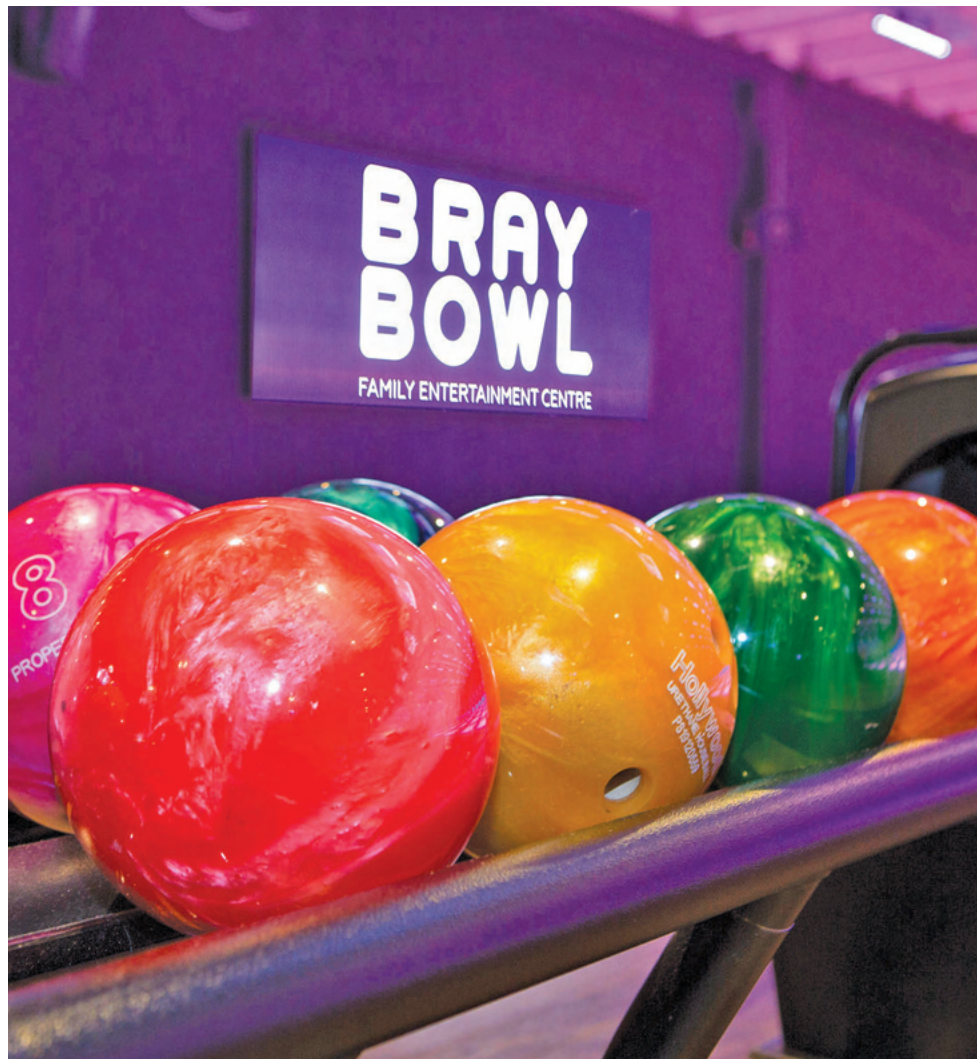
Wishing continued success to Boz Quinn and the team at Bray Bowl from

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The relaunch event was a huge success with many old and new friends and customers coming down to try out the fantastic new lanes and other new additions, and to wish Boz and his staff the best of luck.

"We were blown away with the support for our launch day and would like to thank everyone who came down. Here's

to many more happy days at Bray Bowl."

As well as the new-look lanes, new seating has also been installed and also a state-of-the-art lighting system, making for a new and improved entertainment experience for all the family.

A walk around the groundfloor shows that the improvements didn't stop at the tenpin bowl-

ing lanes. Brand-new Ticket Redemption and Video Arcades were purchased, taking Bray Bowl to a level where it now rivals the best Arcades in the country. All the latest attractions in novelty, video and redemption machines are now on site at Bray Bowl - including VR.

The new additions are a continuation of the

makeover which began in October 2021 with the opening of the Lane 13 Café and Pizzeria, started and managed by Boz's wife Carol. It's proven to be a big hit with customers and is now itself one of the major attractions at Bray Bowl. Serving delicious Barista coffees, freshly made gourmet pizzas, toasties, sundaes and so much



All the latest attractions in novelty, video and redemption machines are now on site at Bray Bowl

more, Lane 13 is ideal for a range of events, from children's birthday parties to corporate events.

"At Bray Bowl we strive to make the name synonymous with quality entertainment for all the family," says Boz. "As long as we have our loyal customers, we will continue to improve the activities and add quality to what we already offer. Come down and see for yourself."

The new tenpin bowling lanes are open 7 days a week, and Bray Bowl is open 11am - 10pm (Mon - Thurs), 11am - midnight (Fri & Sat), and 11am - 11pm (Sundays). Call (01) 286 4455, email [info@braybowl.ie](mailto:info@braybowl.ie) or see [www.braybowl.ie](http://www.braybowl.ie) to find out more.



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# 3,000 bags of litter removed from uplands in 2022

The environment/community initiative, the Pure Mile, which encourages communities and groups to adopt a mile of road, or miles of road, and work together to keep these areas litter and rubbish free have removed over 3,000 bags of litter and rubbish from Wicklow/Dublin uplands in the first six months of 2022.



The Pure Truck has removed over 75 tonnes, (75,000kg) of illegal dumping and rubbish from Wicklow/Dublin uplands in the first six months of 2022, with a considerable amount of this litter and rubbish collected by Pure Mile Volunteers from hundreds of roads, verges, drains and ditches from the Wicklow/Dublin uplands. There are now over 800 miles of roads, mountains, woodlands, valleys, forestries, and upland amenities, signed up to the 2022 Pure Mile Project, the largest number ever since the project began in 2010. Over 1,000 litter

picks/clean-ups, undertaken by Pure Mile Groups have already taken place this year, with over 3,000 bags of litter, rubbish, and dumping, removed from the Wicklow/Dublin upland environment, all by thousands of Pure Mile Volunteers. In some instances, recent clean-ups by Pure Mile groups resulted in the collection of over 100 bags of rubbish from just one area. Other discarded material included, tyres, batteries, mattresses, radios, hovers, TV's, cables, piping, furniture, chairs, bedframes, building materials, toys, prams, suitcases, buckets, bikes, and much more, with each Pure Mile clean-up making a huge difference to the Wicklow/Dublin environment. Pure Mile groups are also contacting Pure to report illegal dumping sites that they locate on the landscape during their litter picks, and Pure are collaborating with Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, and Dun-Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, to investigate sites for evidence prior to Pure Truck removal.

Pure have also been working with Walking Groups, Hiking Groups, Cycling Groups and Businesses, who have adopted areas in the Wicklow Mountains



The Glencree Pure Mile group of volunteers

National Park located in the South Dublin Uplands. A number of litter picks and cleanups have already taken place this year and the groups are transforming this environmentally sensitive area, an area which attracts thousands of visitors annually.

Ian Davis, manager of Pure commented "The Pure Mile was established in 2010 and the project has grown from 5 miles to over 800 miles. With Covid-19 we saw an increase in people reconnecting with the area they live in, walking their local roads, rediscovering their natural environment, and becoming aware of the

amount of litter and rubbish on roadside verges, hedges, and drains. This increased registration to the Pure Mile Project and a considerable number of these Pure Mile groups have continued with the project and they are now contacting us every day to organise litter picks and clean-ups. The Pure Truck has been extremely busy collecting the rubbish on a daily basis, ensuring that no bags are left on the landscape. It's amazing the amount of litter and rubbish the Pure Mile Volunteers are removing, and I would like to thank all of them and congratulate them for their dedica-

tion in Cleaning Up The Wicklow/Dublin Uplands."

Pure are continuing to support all of the Pure Mile Groups with further litter picks, clean-ups, anti-dumping initiatives, community projects, biodiversity and heritage projects, which are ongoing throughout the year.

Pure provide all groups with Pure Mile signage, Pure Mile bags, Pure Mile high-vis vests, gloves, litter pickers, and the Pure Truck removes all of the rubbish collected by the groups.

Pure is a partnership project and the first of its kind in Ireland which

incorporates statutory and non-statutory organisations, including: Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications, Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council. Pure was established to combat illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. The project was officially launched in September 2006.

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The Pure Truck cleaning up in Wicklow National Park

## Wool Feasibility Study finally published

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Charlie McConalogue T.D. welcomed the publication of the Wool Feasibility Report on Friday.

"This important report provides a valuable resource for industry, and I look forward to working with Ministers Hackett and Heydon in helping the sector to develop in line with the recommendations outlined. I hope the report will be used by the sector to help chart an exciting future of the wool sector," he said.

One of the main recommendations of the report is the establishment of an industry-led Wool Council which would develop and promote Irish wool domestically and internationally, bringing together multiple stakeholders to foster collaboration, innovation and scaling activities. The report suggests that the broadly based membership of this voluntary Council should include a mix of primary producer farmers and stakeholders/supporters, including commercial enterprises who are willing to fund research and

promotions and to advise on scaling of micro businesses involved in the wool sector.

Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association (ICSA) Sheep chair Sean McNamara had described the delay in publishing the Wool Feasibility Study as "unconscionable" as sheep farmers have endured another disastrous wool clipping season.

"Wool has been valued as practically worthless for three consecutive years now and sheep farmers are at their wits end. It makes no sense that this valuable natural resource is only worth around 20c/kg to farmers when we know the myriad of uses it could be put to," he said.

"Sheep farmers are relying on the Wool Feasibility Study to breathe life back into the wool sector. It is a disgrace that another year's clip has not been properly valued or properly

utilised. This year we also have the added pressure of the rising cost of shearing. Everything has shot up in price and the standard quote for shearing is now €3/hd. Shearing is an expense that is becoming more and more difficult to bear with wool prices as flat as they are.

"Wool merchants are also feeling the pressure due to the lack of markets for wool domestically. The potential is there for all the wool produced in this country to be used as insulation or fertiliser, but we need to get our hands on the Wool Feasibility Study, and we need to see action on getting these types of businesses up and running."

Senator Victor Boyhan, a member of the Oireachtas Agricultural Committee, said that it was critically important that the report was published in order to plan for the future direction of the Irish Wool Industry.

He went on to say that sheep's wool offers many benefits when used in a mixture as compost or mulch: as a source of slow-release nitrogen and other trace elements, in weed and pest control, moisture retention and temperature regulation.

Wool may be used as a sustainable, renewable and environmentally friendly alternative to peat. Other alternative uses include in thermal and noise insulation, particularly in the construction of new 'eco-houses'. Senator Boyhan said he shared Minister Charlie McConalogue's ambition to support the development of Irish Wool.



Bernie Forde Kilchreest, Senator Victor Boyhan & Colman Keane, Wool Merchant in Gort, Co Galway



Dr Deirdre Keyes, Chief Executive of the Kildare Wicklow Education & Training Board, and Denise Horan, pictured at the Screen Skills to Green Skills event in Council Buildings, Wicklow Town. 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.



# ‘Public consultation needed on Sports Complex Masterplan’

**Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has urged Wicklow County Council to facilitate a public consultation on the proposed masterplan for a sports complex in Blessington.**

Deputy Whitmore recently met with community groups in Blessington and Kilbride to discuss the recreational deficit in West Wicklow and the critical need for a sports complex in the area.

Speaking on the matter, Deputy Whitmore says "having met with sports groups and community groups in Blessington and Kilbride, it is clear there that demand continues to rise for a sports complex in the area. I have been raising the recreational deficit that exists in West Wicklow for many years now

and have worked closely with community groups and the Pool for West Wicklow Campaign to get a sports complex for the area that includes a public swimming pool. I first raised this with the previous CEO of Wicklow County Council when I was a Councillor and throughout my general election campaign and since I've been elected. It's time now that we see movement on this to bring certainty to people of what they can expect in future.

"Wicklow County Council pre-

sented a Masterplan last year and a public consultation was due before December for input from the community on the plan. This still hasn't happened and so I am calling on Wicklow County Council to ensure this happens without delay. I have been in touch with the Council and they have confirmed that they are due a Report from the planning authority and once this is in place, they can proceed with the public consultation process.

"A public consultation would be useful in demonstrating the critical need for a recreational facility that would cater to the range of sports clubs and community groups as well as schools and individuals who want to use the public swimming pool.

"It is a very positive step for West Wicklow now that Swim Ireland will put in place a temporary swimming pool in Blessington in the coming months. This will provide real evidence of the demand that is out there for such an amenity and will help inform the Council the benefits that would come with a fully fitted sports complex once it is in place.

"I welcome the support from Wicklow County Council and their commitment to facilitate a public consultation on the Masterplan soon."



Deputy Whitmore with Deirdre McCormack and Susan Rossiter from the Community Pool for West Wicklow campaign group.

## All the right moves - Chess players welcome new tables

**Chess players all across the county have taken to social media to acknowledge the latest outdoor initiative from Wicklow County Council which involves the installation of outdoor chess tables at various locations in each Municipal District.**

Tables have been installed to date in Greystones (Burnaby Park) and Wicklow (Riverwalk and Bachelor's walk). Additional tables will be installed shortly in Bray, Blessington, Baltinglass and Arklow.

This latest initiative from the Council is designed to encourage more outdoor activity as we emerge from the COVID pandemic. Chess is an increasingly popular activity, heightened by the critically acclaimed "Queen's Gambit" series recently shown on Television.

The chess tables have been specially designed to the Council's specification and are accessible to all, and they are already proving very popular.

Welcoming the installation of the chess tables, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, paid tribute to the Community Cultural and Social Development Directorate for coming up with the idea of the tables and added that this initiative, together with others such as the recently completed dog parks, will allow everyone to enjoy the outdoors.

Chief Executive Brian

Gleeson acknowledged the funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development under their Community

Enhancement Funding Scheme and added his congratulations to the Council staff in the CCSD Directorate. He

encouraged existing chess players and those wishing to take up the sport, to make full use of the tables.



Cllr Lourda Scott, enjoying the new chess tables in Burnaby Park, Greystones.



Kilmacanogue National School recently ran a round robin football competition with teams made up from the school. Pictured from the winning team is Captain Killian Kearns with vice-captain Cillian Flynn being presented with the Tony Lawlor Cup, by local businessman Tony Lawlor.

## Maternity leave to be available for councillors

**Cllr Lourda Scott, Chair of the Wicklow Women's Councillors Caucus, has welcomed Cabinet approval to draft a general scheme which will allow for the provision of maternity leave to Councillors across the country.**

The scheme offers the choice to appoint an individual as a temporary substitute in the place a Councillor who takes a period of maternity-related absence or is absent due to illness. The substitute would have the ability to vote on behalf of the councillor, represent them at all meetings, in all aspects of the role for the 26-week maternity leave period.

Cllr Scott stated: "In Wicklow County Council only twelve out of 32 elected representatives are women and of councillors nationally just 23% are women. This scheme will allow for the increased participation of women in local government, which will have a positive knock-on effect for politics at large.

"An equal Ireland for every woman can only be achieved when we have women's voices from all backgrounds at the highest offices in local government and beyond. This scheme is an important step in removing one of the barriers that currently prevents this from happening."

There is alternative administrative support option if a councillor does not wish to elect a substitute in their place. In this case, councillors will be given funding for additional administrative assistance for the entirety of their maternity leave.

Following the approval at Cabinet last Tuesday the draft legislation will be prepared and will pass through the Oireachtas in the near future.

## Greystones Squash Initiative seeks to expand facilities

**Cllr Stephen Stokes has endorsed a presentation by the Greystones Squash Initiative, seeking to expand squash facilities in Co. Wicklow. The presentation took place at the monthly meeting of Greystones Municipal District on Tuesday, June 28th. Cllr Stokes expressed his appreciation of Rory Gillen for a comprehensive discussion about bringing squash to the Greystones Municipal District.**

Cllr Stokes stated: "Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle are hubs of sporting facilities and clubs. Squash is a tremendous sport that would be an ideal addition to our community. We are fortunate to have everything from camogie, to tennis, to football, to chess, and everything in between. An offer has been made by the Greystones Squash Initiative to buy the land, pay for the building costs, and finance its operation for several years. It looks like a win-win opportunity for everyone".

Cllr. Stokes previously lived in England for six years and saw investments being made by England Squash to increase facilities. He added: "There is a real drive in England to increase squash courts. When I lived in Bury, North Manchester, my local squash club was booked out morning, noon and night. So they built an



Cllr Stephen Stokes with Rory Gillen

extra court to cater for demand, boosted by grant money. I really believe that with these types of facilities, if you build it, they will come".

Currently the only squash court in Co. Wicklow is in Dunlavin. The closest squash courts to the Greystones Municipal District are in the West Wood Club, Leopardstown. Cllr. Stephen Stokes concluded: "I passionately believe we need to work with the Greystones Squash Initiative, Wicklow County Council and local squash players to make this dream a reality".





Celebrity chef Darina Allen with young chefs Layla Cashman and Megan Kelly at the Taste of Wicklow food festival in Wicklow Town. Pic: Michael Kelly

## Councillors attend meetings in Brussels with MEP Kelly

MEP for Ireland South Seán Kelly welcomed a group of Fine Gael Councillors to the European Parliament last week. Local Councillors from across the constituency of Ireland South joined MEP Kelly in Brussels for a series of meetings, discussions and fact-finding tours.

The group included local representatives from Cork, Kerry, Tipperary, Limerick, Wicklow and Wexford.

"I was delighted to host such an engaging group of Councillors in the European Parliament this week," MEP Kelly stated. "It is crucial that local representatives have an opportunity to engage with European politics, and indeed that the local issues that matter most to people are highlighted at European level."

"This trip represented a valuable opportunity to exchange on a range of issues, both local and European, and to discuss the ways in which European

policymaking can be made relevant for people in a local context."

The group of Councillors also met with Commissioner Mairead McGuinness and received a briefing from Ambassador Eamonn MacAodha of Ireland's Permanent Representation to the European Union, who discussed the role of the Permanent Representation in bridging the gap between the national and European levels of government.

They were given a tour of the European Parliament in Brussels, and the Parliament's excellent visitors' service provided an overview of the work of MEPs.



Seán Kelly MEP is pictured welcoming a group of Fine Gael Councillors to the European Parliament this week. The group included local representatives from Cork, Kerry, Tipperary, Limerick, Wicklow and Wexford. Visitors pictured include: Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy (Wicklow); Cllr. Sarah Kiely (Limerick); Cllr. Melanie Corrigan (Wicklow); Cllr. Marie Murphy (Tipperary); Cllr. Olivia O'Sullivan (Limerick); Cllr. Patrick O'Connor Scarteen (Kerry); Cllr. Dan McSweeney (Limerick); Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald (Tipperary); Cllr. Cathal Byrne (Wexford); Cllr. Declan Burgess (Tipperary); Cllr. Michael Paul Murtagh (Cork); Ann Murtagh; Cllr. Peggy Ryan (Tipperary); and Eileen Ryan.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### "Bridge will not be in swans' flightpath"

Dear Sir,

In the article about the Bray Harbour swans (*Wicklow Times*, June 21st), it is stated that the [proposed sustainable transport] bridge will be in the flight path for the harbour swans, which is manifestly not the case. The swans in the harbour are more or less tame and well fed on an ad hoc basis and also on a planned basis. They are composed of immature birds during the breeding season and are joined by the adults and cygnets during spring / summer. The adult birds do not breed in Bray or close by. They fly or paddle to breeding grounds north and south in Malahide and Wicklow.

The only time the birds leave the harbour is when going to breeding grounds or when venturing up river. The breeding grounds are on the coast so a bird leaving from Bray would fly either due north or south. Neither of these routes involve a westerly flight therefore a bridge on the river is not an obstacle to them. All the swans venture upriver for recreation and feed-

ing, generally going up with the rising tide. These trips are all paddling, they do not fly except occasionally when they fly a few feet over the water.

Again, they are not at risk from a bridge. What is more important is the disruption to their passage up and down river which will be caused by construction work. It is obvious that heavy machinery working will deter them from making the trip upriver. The evidence I have is that those trips are more recreational than feeding but research would be necessary to ascertain the type and quantity of feeding and whether the lack of it would have serious dietary effects on them.

I think it is important for this issue to be properly aired and debated before well-meaning and civic conscious people pay potentially a lot of money to go the legal route.

Yours,  
Paddy Demery  
(Passionate lifelong nature lover and observer)

## Water Safety Day in Greystones

A Water Safety Awareness Day was held at Greystones Marina Plaza on Sunday 26th June. It was a chance for the community to meet members of the local emergency services from the RNLI, Irish Coast Guard, An Garda Síochána, the Civil Defence, Wicklow Fire Service, Greystones First Responders, and Poseidon Life Saving Club.



Cllr Stokes at the Water Safety Day at Greystones Marina

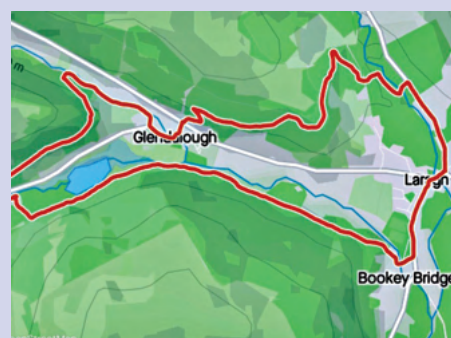
Local Independent councillor Stephen Stokes praised the event, saying "It was a very positive day, with a strong turnout from the local community. But it could not have happened without the great work from our local organisations, who already work so hard to protect lives."

"Local people could engage with many organisations, and get practical advice or demonstrations. I would like to express special thanks to Keith O'Brien from Greystones Community First Responders who taught me basic CPR techniques"

Cllr. Stokes added: "I'd also like to say a big thank you to An Garda Síochána for their coordination efforts. Many of their staff volunteered to attend on their day off. That shows a real commitment to the community. Speaking to Greystones Community First Responders was fascinating."

"They are busier than ever, especially as the Greystones area continues to grow. Hopefully events like today will also spark fresh interest in generating new volunteers. The Water Safety Day was an all round success for the community."

## Clodagh's Loop - trail named in honour of local shop owner



At the entrance to Laragh on the right side of the green Clodagh Duff's organic Café/Deli is the start and finish of perhaps the most interesting loop walk in the Glendalough/Laragh area - offering forests, rivers, hills, lakes and spectacular views. The Pura Vida hiking and walking group consider this a very special loop and in recognition of Clodagh and her tireless service to walkers, cyclists, locals and tourists they have named the trail Clodagh's Loop. On Saturday 25th June six of the Pura Vida group presented Clodagh with a special gift to mark the naming. Pictured are Grace Delahunt, Niamh O'Mahony, Clodagh Duff, Helen O'Sullivan-Dwyer, Dermot Dwyer, Megan O' Brian and Denis Dwyer





# ‘Report highlights Govt’s failure to provide special needs education’

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has criticised the government's ongoing failure to deliver appropriate special education and said that many children in Wicklow with special educational needs have been failed.

His comments follow the publication of a report by the Ombudsman for Children, which found that the State is failing children with special educational needs who cannot secure appropriate school places.

Deputy Brady said: "The Ombudsman's report is shocking and highlights the ongoing scandal around special education school places that has been happening in plain sight under this government's watch for years. The government is totally failing these children. This cannot be allowed to continue."

"Sinn Féin brought a motion to the Dáil recently on this very issue calling for emergency legislation and improved forward planning to ensure this crisis ends, but the government refused to use that opportunity to act. The government's excuses on this important issue are wearing very thin and

families feel totally let down and unsupported.

"These children are being denied their constitutional right to an appropriate education. Special Education is not being given the respect and place it deserves. Families are being subject to unnecessary stress and uncertainty."

"I welcome the Ombudsman's report, and he and his office's work on this, which I know was informed by complaints made by families affected by this issue, campaigning for adequate provision for special education in September."

"It adds to the weight of evidence that demonstrates how these children are being failed, and I hope it brings renewed urgency to a severe, and indeed emergency situation."

"The fact is that the Department and the NCSE constantly wait

until the 11th hour, before acting far too late. The Department should be planning at least a year if not 2 years in advance for adequate school places.

"They have the information, they have the powers and they have the budget. There are no excuses for the failures of Minister Foley and Minister of State Madigan to make adequate preparations to ensure every child had an appropriate school place."

"Without emergency legislation to streamline the section 37A process, it is incredibly unlikely new special classes will be ready for September. This is an emergency situation, which requires an emergency response."

"Sinn Féin will continue to stand up for children with special educational needs and their families, and ensure that every child has access to education, as is their right. Nothing less is acceptable."



Minister Harris opening the new 'Quiet Room' in Gaelscoil na Lochanna in Blessington

## Quiet Room opened in Blessington school

Minister Simon Harris TD recently opened Blessington's Gaelscoil na Lochanna's new Seomra Ciúin (quiet room).

Minister Harris said: "I want to thank the school community at Gaelscoil na Lochanna for today giving me the honour of opening their Seomra Ciúin. The school community has invested considerable resources in opening the new room and has demonstrated a strong commitment to become a Neurodiversity Affirmative School. I want to commend the school and principal Sean O'Cearnaigh for their commitment an outreach in the wider community of Blessington and I am delighted to be able to support the initiative here today".

Gaelscoil na Lochanna has been approved for a 16 classroom school with 2 classrooms for autism. Conveyancing on the site continues.

Minister Harris concluded: "I want to assure Gaelscoil na Lochanna of my continued support on the next stage of their development and I look forward to the permanent school building project moving to design stage."

# Students to be kept waiting for Leaving Cert results

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has expressed concern over the recent announcement that Leaving Cert results will not be issued until September, saying students in Wicklow are paying the price of the State Examination Commission's failure to plan.

Speaking on the matter, Deputy Whitmore says, "It is completely unacceptable that Leaving Cert results will not be issued until September 2nd. Delaying the Leaving Cert results until will cause huge levels of additional

stress and worry to the many students in Wicklow that were hopeful to have the results in August as was the case before the pandemic. It will also make it extremely difficult for students, who need to travel for third level and to find

accommodation given the depths of the housing crisis.

"The State Examination Commission (SEC) has issued a number of reasons for delaying the publication of the Leaving Cert results until September 2nd. Yet none of

them stand up to any scrutiny.

"For a start, it's difficult to understand how merely holding deferred exams for a small minority of students could contribute to any delay. Further, the SEC has known about a shortage of examiners for quite some time. It is worth asking, what has the SEC actually done to address this perennial issue?"

"Finally, an assurance that

grades would be kept at 2021 levels certainly adds some additional complexity to this year's exams. But, given this assurance was made back in February, it beggars belief that systems could not be put in place to minimise the delay caused by this additional step.

"This delay also affects students in Wicklow who have a disability or are from disadvantaged areas and need to

apply to certain access schemes. No contingency plan has been put in place for these students which is unacceptable.

"The SEC has had a long time to prepare for this year's Leaving Cert results. It is unacceptable that it failed to do so - and that students in Wicklow and across Ireland are paying the price of that failure."



Jennifer Whitmore TD

# More than 1,000 extra college places announced

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD has announced the expansion of third-level including targeted college places and new apprenticeship programmes.

An extra 1056 targeted college places will be offered through the CAO for the 2022/2023 academic year, while 16 new apprenticeship programmes are being developed, and the Post-Leaving Cert course levy of €200 will be abolished in September.

Minister Harris said: "I'm delighted to announce these additional college places as I know it is a constant concern for Leaving Cert students."

"This year we have made a real effort to make sure that they are in sought after courses, and ones that will produce graduates with the skills our country is crying out for. Some examples of courses receiving extra places this year include IT, architecture and construction, nursing, engineering, education and welfare."

"In the coming weeks the Minister for Health and I will also bring a memo to Government to outline a five-year plan to secure extra places in medicine, another area in which we are in need of more qualified staff."

"After a stressful number of weeks for school-leavers, I hope today will offer some good news about the weeks ahead."

The expansion of third level will include additional apprenticeship programmes too. Over the next num-

ber of months, an additional 16 will commence this year.

This will include Roofing and Cladding, Robotics and Automation, and a degree programme in Cybersecurity.

For those who choose a Post-Leaving Cert course, the €200 levy has been abolished from September.

Minister Harris added: "While these extra CAO places are a vital and welcome development, it is essential we continue to expand our third level system for everyone. There must be multiple pathways that learners can take as they prepare for their chosen careers."

"That's why we are working hard to introduce new apprenticeship programmes, such as the ones in bar managing and wind turbine maintenance which we launched in March, and we have also improved the financial incentives on offer to employers to take on apprentices, particularly female ones."

"We are also working hard to improve pathways from further to higher education as part of our Unified Tertiary System strategy. There should be no barriers for students who want to pursue their chosen educational and career goals."

"Students anxiously awaiting their Leaving Cert results should know that while their points are important, they alone will not determine whether they can succeed in their education and career ambitions."

"There are different routes to getting where you want to go, and we are working hard to ensure they are accessible to everyone."



Best of luck to Jada Kinsella Carroll, Cody Brady, and Kelsey Kinlan from Bray Modernettes Baton Twirlers who have been selected by the BTSAI (Baton Twirling Association of Ireland) to represent Ireland in the European Championships in Blanes in Spain. They are currently in Spain training in preparation for the competition which begins on Thursday 7th July and lasts until the 10th July. "This is such an amazing opportunity and experience for these talented girls," says their coach Sinead Flanagan. "They have trained so hard since last September travelling to Tallaght on Sundays and Tuesdays as well as our own training in between. I would like to wish them and I'm sure Bray would like to wish them the very best of luck."



# Kilcoole artwork draws on village's sea connection

Keep Kilcoole Tidy, a group of volunteers working to improve and protect the environment of Kilcoole, started a project in 2020 to install artwork at the newly built train access ramp at Kilcoole beach.

In cooperation with Irish Rail and local artist Louise Hogan, the project has now been completed. Visitors arriving in the car park get a view as it were through the wall into the sea, watching as a school of mackerel swim through the waves toward the beach. The fish recall Kilcoole's historic reputation for sea angling, and are a reminder of the importance of protecting and improving marine habitats for future generations.



Kilcoole beach and the Breaches wetland area are important natural assets in our care as a community. Birdwatchers, swimmers, walkers, anglers, sailors, farmers and families share the coastline with seals, otters, the endangered

Little Tern, and countless other animals of the air, water and land.

"Coastal streams flowing from Kilcoole, Newcastle and Newtown are vital threads connecting our communities with this ecosystem," says the

Keep Kilcoole Tidy group.

"It is critically important that we improve water quality to enable these habitats to offer the best conditions for all life. We hope the recently installed artwork will remind us of our responsibilities and

encourage the protection and safeguarding of this special place. Local residents formed Kilcoole Biodiversity Group to work towards the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity of Kilcoole, including the beach area."

In addition to its natural beauties, Kilcoole's beach played an important part in the formation of the Irish nation. The recently restored plaque at the rail crossing honours those who landed weapons here in 1914 in support of the Irish Volunteers, achieving one more step toward the eventual independence of Ireland.

Modern-day visitors to the beach can enjoy long walks to either Bray Head or Wicklow Head, as well



The completed artwork at the Kilcoole train station access ramp

as an off-road connection to Kilcoole via Ballydonarea Loop Walk. This local path starts at the beach car park and ends at the Rock of Kilcoole, an important geologic feature in the

centre of the village. From Kilcoole, walkers can continue on the Mass Path to Kilquade or Drummin; dedicated walkers can reach Downs Hill and the Sugarloaf within a few hours.

A group called Kilcoole Swimmers was recently formed to seek bathing water recognition from Wicklow County Council and working to improve accessibility. Kilcoole Swimmers intend to

organise beach clean-ups on a regular basis with the hope of obtaining a Green Coastal Award.

For more information on Kilcoole and to get involved, see [www.kilcoole.ie](http://www.kilcoole.ie).

## Luka Bloom - with support from Cian O'Melia

Whale Theatre, Saturday 16th July at 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €25 are available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book

"When the lockdowns began, I thought about trying the online gigs, says Luka Bloom. "But I just missed the true feeling of a room full of people too much. And so the virus gave me a precious gift; time. Time to be still, time to dream, and time to create."

"LIVE AT DE ROMA is a recording from my favourite venue, De Roma in Antwerp, November 2019. Then BITTERSWEET CRIMSON, recorded in Windmill Lane in February 2020, just before lockdown number 1. And finally, the stillness, and the solitude of this Corona year, brought me right into the bosom of my old friend the guitar. This led to OUT OF THE BLUE, my first record with no

voice or lyric, just the guitar.

"These 3 records are a good reflection of my life in this strange time we have been living through. And I have decided to present them together, on my 66th Birthday, the 23rd of May. I can't wait to hit the road soon, and sing these songs, and play these tunes wherever the road takes me"

About Luka Bloom, Peadar O'Riada says: "Music tends to reflect

the musician playing, and moreover, the composer of the song or music. The more honest the piece, the more powerful the performance. Luka swims naked in the flow of his truthful music."

Iarla O'Lionaird says: "This recording illustrates amply Luka's innate and deep love of music-rendered as it is with equal measures of magic and masterly execution."

Martin Hayes says,

"Luka has achieved the most important thing when it comes to the playing of these tunes; he has captured their beauty."

Steve Cooney says "I'm delighted that Luka has finally placed his immense guitar-playing skills front and centre on this new offering....A thing of magic and beauty created by a fully committed heart."

Approx Duration: 2 hours (including interval)



Luka Bloom

## MoMA - MAMAC - ME: An exhibition by Gaby Browett

Signal Arts Centre, Monday 12th September to Sunday 25th September

"A fortuitous encounter with a bag of eyes in Paris was just the start. With the eyes in my possession, I began to see things differently....," says Gaby Browett.

"I feel most at home in modern and contemporary art museums. I imagine that most of the artists on the walls thought themselves mad at one point or another but their company made me feel less mad or maybe we were all joyfully mad together. These spaces gave me permission to follow my own thought process. The works in this exhibition include mixed media paintings and 3D works.

"Originally a designer and dress maker, I have maintained a visual arts practice for the past 20 years. I find that my work is informed by my design background, which leads it to having an illustrative and playful quality.

"I regularly exhibit locally and my work has also been shown internationally. Recent work includes pieces shown at Sculpture in Context 2021 and the RHA 192nd Annual Show."

Opening Reception: Friday 16th September, 7pm - 9pm



Colin, Ciara, Roisin and Clare Kennedy at the Kaleidoscope Festival at Russborough House. Some summer showers did nothing to dampen the spirits of the festival fans young and old, as they soaked up the chilled out vibes and the magical atmosphere. Pic: Anamaria Meiu



# Jason Byrne at Whale Theatre

*Comedian Jason Byrne brings two shows to Whale Theatre in Greystones this month*



Jason Byrne

**Paddy Lama (Wednesday 13th July, 8pm)** is a one-act play inspired by Jason's father Paddy, who recently passed away. A Dubliner full of wit and wisdom, Paddy used to say, "If you don't continue to talk about someone when they die, they die twice."

In this one-man play, Jason Byrne brings the full life of Paddy Byrne to the stage playing his dad, keeping him alive in stories full of laughter and tears.

This is 80 years of Dublin wit, 80 years of Dublin bull, but heart-warming and loving all the same. "Sure, that's life son, just don't tell your mother."

Tickets €26 are available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

Jason then brings his **live comedy** stand-up to Whale Theatre on **Thursday 14th and Friday 15th July**. The **Outright King of Live Comedy** (The Times) is ready to take back and carefully disinfect his crown and he's got loads to tell you.

How can one man's life continue to fall apart while he is essentially locked in his own house? He's got a brand-new heart and a new lease of life. This is not to be missed.

Show starts at 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €26 are available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.



Charlie O'Carroll (age 10), who plays accordion, was thrilled to meet her hero Sharon Shannon at Mermaid Arts Centre on 18th June, accompanied by her sister Molly O'Carroll (age 12) and father Dave O'Carroll.



Sadhbh Daly having fun at the Kaleidoscope Festival at Russborough House. Photo by Anamaria Meiu

## Double headliner at the Hot Spot Music Club's Comedy Night

LOL Comedy Club is back on July 8th at Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones with a double headliner show featuring stars of RTE, Karl Spain and Sharon Mannion - two of the most in demand comedy acts for the past 20+ years. The support act is Cork's finest, Paul Crowley. Resident MC at City Limits comedy club and your MC for the night is Paul Marsh, a multi award winning comedian from Tipperary hailed as the "King of the one liners" by Laughter Lounge, Dublin.

Karl Spain is one of the busiest comedy MCs in Ireland. He hosts his own shows every year at the Galway Comedy Festival, the Kilkenny Cats Laughs and Electric Picnic. He's a regular on Irish TV, with appearances on 'The Republic of Telly', 'Bridget and Eamon' and 'Killinascully' to name just a few.

But it's as a stand up Comedian that Karl is best known. He's one of the busiest comics in Ireland, playing every venue and festival each year and The Hot Spot are delighted to have

coaxed him up from Limrick, to headline their Comedy Club.

"Our other headliner is the wonderful Sharon Mannion. Sharon is a Comedian, Actress, Improviser, Radio presenter, Drama/Comedy teacher and writer," the Hot Spot said.

"You might recognise her from TV shows like 'Bridget and Eamon', 'Moone boy' and 'Irish Pictorial weekly'. She is also one of Ireland's top comedians and we guarantee you'll be a fan of hers after you see her on July 8th.

"Support on the night comes from Cork man Paul Crowley. Paul is the resident MC at Cork's City Limits Comedy Club and a regular at every comedy club in Ireland. He's brand of story telling us unique and guarantees huge laughs."

For Tickets see [www.thehotspot.ie/tickets](http://www.thehotspot.ie/tickets), Phone 087 2917519 or on the door subject to availability.

Doors 8pm, Show starts 8.30pm



Sharon Mannion



Paul Crowley



Karl Spain





Cllr Gail Dunne, Senator Pat Casey, John Brady TD, and Simon Whelan SEAI, Sustainable Energy Community Mentor at the Wicklow Energy Awareness Day organised by the SEC and Wicklow Tidy Towns in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town. The event saw the launch of the Energy Master Plan for Wicklow. Attendees were also able to avail of advice on behalf of the SEAI on available grants, appropriate measures that can be taken to reduce emissions, and information about the proposed Codling Wind Park off the Wicklow Coast. There were a range of electric bicycles on display, installers of solar panels, air to heat pumps and electric car chargers, suppliers of LED bulbs, eco-friendly paints, ultra-quiet electric lawnmowers and other electric powered garden equipment. There were fun activities such as a smoothie bike (pictured) where you could make your own refreshing drink without a plug.

# 'Urgent need' for Changing Places

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has called for urgent progress in providing for more Changing Places in Wicklow. This follows the recent progress report from the Government's Working Group on the issue.

A Changing Places toilet offers larger supported facilities that address the needs of people who may not be able to use standard facilities. These facilities enable people with complex care needs to take part in everyday activities such as travel, shopping, family days out or attending a sporting event.

Discussing the importance of Changing Places, Deputy Matthews said: "This is an issue that I first brought up in the Dáil in October 2020 following a series of meetings with a group of local carers and supporters who are pushing for these facilities for people who need them. A public consultation, initiated by the Working Group on amending the existing Building Regulations to make provision for more Changing Places in buildings such as hospitals, sports stadiums, roadside service facilities, schools and colleges, shopping centres and hotels was opened last February.

"I am delighted that this attracted over 600 submissions from NGOs, local organisations and families affected by the current lack of Changing Places. Now it is time to act on the recommendations of the Working Group and amend the Building Regulations to enable the construction of Changing Places in public spaces.

"At a local level, I am disappointed that there are no Changing Places in Bray and Greystones and this reflects the challenges that people with disabilities and their carers face in accessing publicly available toilets that meet their needs. I have engaged extensively with individuals and families affected by this issue and I have met with Wicklow County Council's Subcommittee on Changing Places.

"Efforts are ongoing by the council and Changing Places are available in Wicklow Town Library and will be available in Avondale House once the works are complete amongst other proposed projects. The families and supporters of this campaign have put in extraordinary work and there needs to be a wholesale change to building regulations rather than having to individually push for specific locations.

"I met recently with representatives from the National Wheelchair Association to discuss the need to further amend building regulations to require wheelchair liveable homes. We need to do so much more to make both public and private spaces more accessible for everyone, and a change to the existing regulations is what is required.

"Ultimately, I am working towards ensuring that Changing Places are included as a basic minimum requirement in building plans in future. This is essential to addressing the barriers that people with disabilities face in their participation in society and fulfilling Ireland's international obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). If anyone is experiencing issues accessing Changing Places, I would encourage them to get in touch with me directly and I will offer any support I can," Deputy Matthews concluded.



A changing places facility

## Moves to secure Community Centre for Delgany

Wicklow County Council has confirmed it is in negotiations with Delgany Community Council to secure a Community Centre for Delgany. The Council is in discussions with the community to help secure the vacant HSE building in Delgany to be used as a heritage and community centre for the area.

Speaking on the news, Jennifer Whitmore TD says, "I am delighted to receive confirmation from the Council that they are in discussions with the Delgany Community Council and the HSE in relation to using this building as a community facility.

"I have been keeping in regular contact with the

Council, HSE and the Delgany Community Council in relation to this issue, since discovering that it was about to be sold on the open market a few months ago.

"I'm delighted to see that this did not happen, and that my request to examine its use for the community has been progressed. This would make

a fantastic space for the community to use.

"Delgany is crying out for a space to showcase its diverse history including nature walks, the Three Trouts Stream and its unique archaeological heritage. Delgany is also home of Éamon de Buítléar, a well-respected national figure on environment issues. I believe

this facility would make for a fantastic heritage centre, not just for Delgany but for the wider county and surrounding areas. There is so much to showcase in Wicklow such as the rich natural, historical and archaeological heritage this county has to offer.

"I want to thank Delgany Community Council for all their hard work with Wicklow County Council to commence negotiations. I hope take Wicklow County Council will take the initiative and progress towards acquiring the vacant building for the long-term benefit of the local community."

## RECRUITMENT

The Marian Centre CLG,  
Greenpark Rd, Bray. Co. Wicklow  
*are recruiting a*

## PART-TIME HOUSEKEEPER

The Marian Centre in Greenpark Rd is a well established community Pre-School within the North end of Bray.

### Main Duties:

- To maintain a hygienic, tidy and comfortable environment in the Centre
- Prepare healthy snacks for Pre-School Children
- Monitor grocery, household and cleaning supplies
- To work alongside the Pre-School team in planning menus, healthy eating food themed activities

Desirable but not essential: **First Aid, HACCP, Level 5 in Childcare**  
Hours: 12.30am - 4.30pm (Monday to Friday). Rate of Pay: 10.50ph

This position is funded through Community Services Programme (CSP) people eligible to apply must be in receipt of:

- Jobseekers Allowance • Disability Allowance • One Parent Family Allowance

Detailed Job description and/or further details can be obtained by contacting Lisa on **01-2861082** or by email to **mpshwc@eircom.net**

Applications by cover letter and CV to the Manager at the address or email above by 5pm on the 15th July



## CLASSIFIEDS

### THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We Paul and Rose Marie McNally seek planning permission for a kitchen, dining and bedroom suite extension to the rear of our house and ancillary to our house a 25.6M2 games room extension to our garage, removal of existing septic tank and installation of a new sewage treatment system unit and soil polishing filter to EPA 2021 standards, at Glendruid, Annamoe, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

## In Memoriam



## 2ND ANNIVERSARY

In loving memory of  
**Colm Kirwan,**  
who died on the  
7th July 2020.

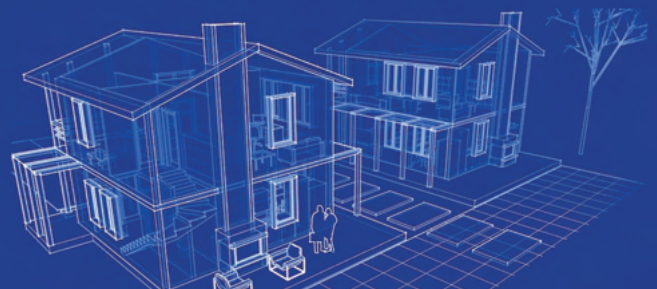
*Time may pass and fade away,  
But silent thoughts and  
memories stay.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by his brothers Eamonn and Diarmuid, sisters Nuala and Neasa and extended family. Also remembered are Colm's parents Sean and Mairin and late sister Grainne, who passed away on 15th August 2021.

**Anniversary mass on 9th July  
in Castleisland Parish**

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# Glendalough wins Irish Distillery of the Year at the New York International Spirits Competition

Glendalough, the Wicklow-based Distillery has been awarded the prestigious accolade of Irish Distillery of the Year at the New York International Spirits Competition.

The competition also awarded Glendalough Double Gold for its new Mizunara Single Malt and Double Barrel whiskeys and Gold for its Wild Rose Irish Gin.

Glendalough Distillery was founded in 2011 by a group of friends who had a shared passion for reviving the heritage of craft distilling in Ireland, and it's since become part of Mark Anthony Brands International.

The Irish Distillery of the Year award is not an annual occurrence. Rather it is a prize bestowed as and when it is appropriate, making it all the more coveted and important.

Glendalough's 7-year-old Mizunara single malt whiskey which received double gold is aged in Japanese Mizunara casks from the island of Hokkaido in Japan. Glendalough's Double Barrel Whiskey was also awarded double gold, it is aged twice in two different barrels. Glendalough's Wild Rose Irish Gin received a gold award. It is made with carefully tended flowers from the garden of the mother of Glendalough's head distiller, and the gin also includes wild flowers from the mountains around the distillery.

In 2010, The New York

International Spirits Competition was the first to be founded in the new International Beverage Competition Series. In 2022 alone, the competition saw over 1400 submissions from over 39 countries.

Enda O'Sullivan, VP of Spirits Mark Anthony Brands International said, "It's an exciting time for Glendalough, our Wild Gins are fresh-distilled from hand-foraged, wild botanicals in the Wicklow mountains. Our Irish Whiskeys are the result of a relentless search for the finest, most flavourful species of oak in the world, not least Irish oak

from our surrounds in the Wicklow mountains. These awards are testimony to the drive and ambition of the Glendalough team who strive for the very best in all they do. Securing double gold for our Mizunara and Double Barrel whiskeys as well as gold for our Wild Rose Gin is a huge achievement but to also be named Irish Distillery of the Year is an incredible result. We're so passionate about crafting liquids with a profound sense of place, to have Glendalough recognised on the world stage gives us renewed ambition for the future."



Courtney Cullen and Conor Jameson at the Taste of Wicklow festival in Wicklow Town.

## Valleymount LGFA receives Support for Sport funding

Wicklow's Valleymount LGFA Club, County winners in the recent Texaco Support for Sport initiative, has been presented with a cheque for €5,000 which will be invested in coaches and equipment to help keep the club operational following some challenging years during the pandemic.



Wicklow's Valleymount LGFA Club members Aislinn Nugent Reid, Alice Stones, Jess Maguire, and Bridget Cahill and Michael Nolan (both front) was made at the Texaco Service Station, Blessington. Pictured with them was Texaco Dealer, Peter Deane (left) and Valero Area Sales Manager, Niall O'Rourke (centre).

Amongst the community in West Wicklow, the Valleymount LGFA club has an important role to play most notably in providing a sporting outlet for young girls and for the advancement of ladies' football.

Under the scheme – similar to that which proved successful last year when the Wicklow county award was presented to Roundwood and District Athletic Club – the presentation was made to the Club by Valero Energy (Ireland) Limited, the company that markets fuel in Ireland under the Texaco brand.

Now in its second year, the Texaco Support for Sport initiative sees an annual fund of €130,000 set aside for allocation in equal amounts of €5,000 to successful applicants chosen on a county-by-county basis. Entries to the Texaco Support for Sport 2023 initiative will open this Autumn.

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†On the Road Price includes delivery & related charges. Model shown for illustrative purposes only. GMFV†† payable if you retain or renew the vehicle at the end of the agreement. Further charges may apply subject to kilometre limits/condition of vehicle. \*Lending criteria, terms and conditions apply. Finance by a way of PCP agreement provided by Toyota Financial Services Ireland DAC. Finance example is based on a fixed rate APR and is inclusive of a documentation and purchase fee of €63.49 each. A deposit of 0% - 36% of the finance amount may be required and a maximum term of 49 months applies. Rate quoted is at 16/05/2022 and is subject to change. Rate of 3.9% APR\* available on all Toyota Yaris Hybrid models purchased between 16/05/2022 and 31/07/2022.