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Page 6



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Tuesday 12th July 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

NEW CHARGES FOR RECYCLING

Wicklow residents are due to face new charges as Wicklow County Council plans to introduce a €3 charge at its recycling centres around the county, Councillors were told last week.

However councillors were divided on the proposals, with Edward Timmins (FG) calling them 'inappropriate at this time' and doubting whether they would garner the monies the Council expected. On the other hand Lourda Scott of the Green Party felt they were 'modest'.

The Council is undertaking a review of recycling centres around the county and is proposing increased investment

which would include upgrades to the existing facilities as well as the establishment of a facility in Blessington.

Senior Executive Engineer Marc Devereux explained that significant financial investment is required to enable the Council's five-year investment plan for the centres to be carried out.

The total investment being proposed is €3 million, which will be divided among

Bray (€1m), Arklow (€800,000), Blessington (€500,000), Wicklow (€500,000), Avoca (€100,000) and Rampere (€100,000).

Proposed upgrades include a new roof and upgrades for Bray recycling centre; refurbishment and roof repairs at the Murrough recycling centre; roof repairs and refurbishment in Arklow recycling centre, and incorporating energy efficiency measures in all



President Michael D. Higgins and Sabina Higgins at the official opening of the new 'Beyond the Trees' visitor experience at Avondale Forest Park. See page 4.

of the centres.

The capital cost will be partly funded through available grant schemes and the Council's own resources, Mr Devereux explained, however an 'ongoing income scheme' will also be required which will mean a charge of €3 per visit.

"This will bring Wicklow in line with other Local Authorities in the country in terms of funding infrastructure," he said.

A charge of €3 per household would yield approximately €1 million per annum, said Mr Devereux, which would be ringfenced for improvements to the recycling/waste management services.

Electrical waste and glass would remain free, but additional charges

would apply for bulky and hazardous waste.

Mr Devereux said that introducing the charge would change the mindset of how waste is viewed. It would create a disincentive for households to tolerate excess packaging, he said. Addressing the concern that the charges would lead to an increase in illegal dumping, he said that this was not the case in other counties where charges exist.

"Nearly 50% of the material that is fly-topped in Wicklow could have been recycled for free in our recycling centres already," he said. "Illegal dumpers are not our recycling centre customers."

Voicing his opposition to the charges, Cllr Edward Timmins (FG), Chairman of the Planning

& Environment policy committee, said "I think that the timing of it, apart

from anything else, is wrong. People are suffering a lot of extra charges,

extra costs all over the place.

Continued on page 3

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C for Charlotte Clements who attended the launch of the Irish Sign Language and GAA project held in the An Tochar GAA Complex in Roundwood. See story on page 8

Kilcoole Men's Shed fundraising for new premises

Kilcoole Mens Shed received planning permission from Wicklow County Council for building its own premises on the grounds of the Community Centre in Kilcoole. The premises will measure 45 sq metres and will be a focal point for the 30 members.

The estimated cost of the build is over €30,000 and Kilcoole Tidy Towns are appealing to the Kilcoole and wider community for assistance in getting this project up and running. Any donation will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged. Since inception in February 2020, the Shed has been involved in a diverse mix of projects/ activities in Kilcoole including:

- Restoration of furniture, fencing, and enhanced landscaping at Kilquade Cemetery.
- Landscaping Project and Planting at Kilcoole

Primary Schools.

- Maintaining the Playground on the Sea Road.
- Continued assistance in the Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal following an enormous outpouring of goodwill by the Community in March.

Shedders have also availed of organised trips to Croke Park, Arbour Hill, Collins Barracks, the Botanic Gardens and Mountjoy Jail and museum. Given the on/off Covid restrictions which seriously affected our activities, the Shed are justly proud of our achievements to date.

To contribute to this fund, contributions can be sent to IBAN IE52GDCI99224910162898 (Greystones Credit Union account). Contributions will be acknowledged where requested. Alternatively contributions (not cash) can be left in the Kilcoole Community Centre during opening hours.

Farm Safety demo

Wicklow IFA will host a regional farm safety demo and exhibition in Kilmullin Newtownmountkennedy (A63 FH99) on Friday 15th July from 7-9pm as part of a national initiative. This event will launch Farm Safety week which kicks off Monday 18th July. 2022 marks the 10th annual Farm Safety week.

Wicklow IFA are hosting the event. Demos and exhibitions will be: An Garda Síochána - will do a safety jeep and trailer demo and will speak on safety and community information. You can also get gun license renewal, passport forms etc on the night; Farm Relief will demonstrate a chainsaw demo. Safety gear available; Teagasc will show animal handling, machinery

safety and much more; Adventure Quads will show a safety demo. Training and helmet protection will become a mandatory requirement to drive a quad from 2023. Safety equipment available; Glanbia will speak on chemicals and slurry monitors; Quinns of Baltinglass will speak on sprays.

"We will also be joined on the night by FBD, an organisation called Tick Talk who will speak on Lyme disease and Wicklow IFA will have their own stand," said Wicklow IFA.

"The junior agricultural minister Martin Heydon will also attend. This will be an evening full of information. We look forward to seeing you on the night. Come along for a cup of tea and a chat!"

Lisne Open Day

Lisne Centre for Spirituality and Well Being, at the Egan Centre, Bray, invites the public to an Open Day on Saturday 13th August from 10am-5pm. Callers can visit the Meditation and Therapy Rooms, meet Tutors, Therapists and Volunteers and learn about a wide range of courses, therapy sessions, meditation and other activities. In the period leading to the Open Day, therapists and tutors are offering complimentary sessions. For details please visit www.lisne.ie or call 086 0517575.

Wicklow Mountains National Park

Family Fun Days from 2-4pm every Tuesday for July and August. Fun for all the family with nature walks, arts and crafts, treasure hunts and bug safaris. Free with booking essential. To book or for further details email us at wickloweducationcentre@housing.gov.ie. Parking: Wicklow County Council, Upper Lake Car Park, A98W778 (parking charges apply).

Nominations now open for Greystones People of the Year Awards

Cllr. Stephen Stokes has advised that nominations are now open for the Greystones Municipal District / Wicklow Times Awards. Nominations can also be submitted by letter or email.

Cllr. Stokes stated: "I encourage local people to submit entries. There are so many worthy contenders in Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle. This is a great chance for people to have their say. The nomination categories are Sports; Civic; Special; Cultural; Commercial and Young Entrepreneur."

A person nominated for an award must be proposed and seconded by two different persons, and all nominations must be returned to the Council Offices, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. You can email: greystonesmd@wicklow-coco.ie on or before Friday, August 19th.

The Awards will be presented at a function to be held on Thursday, September 29th, 2022 in Greystones Golf Club, Whitshed Road, Greystones.



The District Councilors, in conjunction with the Wicklow Times, wish to honour persons for their achievements and their contribution to the

achievements.

Nominees must be residents of the district, except in the case of the Commercial Nominee who may be a non-resident whose business is in the Greystones Municipal District. The reasons for the nomination should be clearly stated on the form and continued on a separate sheet if required.

Cllr. Stephen Stokes added: "I would also like to thank the Greystones Municipal District Staff for their hard work coordinating the awards. There are a lot of hours that go in to this, and it should be acknowledged."

To ensure the success of the People of the Year Awards Scheme, it is imperative that all clubs, organisations and businesses participate in the nominations. Anyone with any questions can contact greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie

Wicklow Uplands Council's AGM and panel meeting announced

The Wicklow Uplands Council AGM and Summer Panel Meeting is taking place on the evening of 13th July in the Glendalough Hotel.

If you live, work or perhaps enjoy recreational activities in the Wicklow and Dublin uplands, this event offers the perfect occasion to be part of the conversation on its sustainable development and the issues that affect the region.

Beginning at 7pm, the event commences with a panel meeting which provides an opportunity for networking and discussion amongst the tourism, community, recreation, environmental and farming sectors. This is followed by nominations being made to the Board of Directors.

The AGM starts at 8pm with an overview on what has been a very busy time indeed for the Council, with a number of significant projects underway.

Guest speaker on the night will be the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Brian Gleeson.

Formed in 1997, Wicklow Uplands Council is an independent, voluntary organisation that offers a collective voice to its diverse membership. Focussing on the sustainable development of the Wicklow and Dublin uplands, the Council is involved with a wide range of projects such as recreational and trail development, the PURE Project, deer management, heritage interpretation and community led projects. It is also the final year of the innovative 'Sustainable Uplands Agriculture-environment Scheme (SUAS)' Project, an EIP project that's working with hill-farmers and other stakeholders across the region to address declining habitats.

The Council also leads policy development on a range of issues affecting upland communities and its biodiversity. All interested parties are very wel-



come to attend to discover, discuss and participate in the conversation.

For further information, please visit www.wicklowuplands.ie or contact the office on 01-2818406.

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'Privatisation of Wicklow bus services has been a fiasco'

Calls for passengers to inform NTA of their experiences

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has described the privatisation of a number of Wicklow bus routes as a 'failure', in particular: The 45A, 184 and 185, which are now being operated by the private company 'Go-Ahead Ireland'. Some passengers have found themselves abandoned by the roadside as they waited for 'Go-Ahead' buses which failed to run. In quite a few instances this meant that passengers were forced to miss important medical appointments.

Last week Deputy Brady met with representatives of the National Transport Authority (NTA), Anne Graham Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the NTA, and Tim Gaston, Director of Public Transport Services, to raise the concerns which he had voiced in the Dáil the previous week to Government Minister Hildegard Naughton.

"The privatisation of these three bus routes has resulted in a total deterioration of the service which was previously successfully run by Dublin Bus," he said.

"Having previously raised this matter with the Minister in the Dáil last week, I met this week with representatives from the NTA in relation to the ongoing failure of 'Go-Ahead' Ireland to fulfil their contractual obligations to provide a fit for purpose bus service of routes 45A, 184, and 185 in Wicklow.

"There have been problems with these routes well before Covid and a shortage of drivers. When I raised these issues with the NTA, to be fair to the NTA they acknowledged the issue. Go-Ahead have been issued with fines by the NTA on an ongoing basis as a result of their failure to complete their contractual obligations. In quarter one last year alone, they were fined €50,000.

"In response to the ongoing failures of Go-Ahead, the NTA intend to change the bus timetable and reduce the number of scheduled buses every day on the routes. We have a situation at this moment that Go-Ahead have a five-year contract to provide this bus service to Wicklow. They are now three and a half years into this contract, which

gives the NTA leave to conduct an initial review into the service offered by Go-Ahead. Following which a decision can be taken to either extend the contract or have it resented out for tender.

"I am asking members of the public who have been affected by the failures of Go-Ahead to feed in their experience to the NTA. Let them know the reality of what it has been like to have to deal with the cancelled buses, the missed medical appointments, the long and dangerous walks home after being abandoned by the side of the road. The NTA need to hear it all.

"I have recently launched a petition calling on the Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan to sort out the mess created by Go-Ahead's mismanagement of the three bus routes in Wicklow. The Petition can be reached through the following link <https://chng.it/GRC8w86MKz>.

"The petition has already received over 700 signatories, and I have been overwhelmed at the levels of support I have received for this initiative. The accompanying feedback from ordinary people who have been let down by Go-Ahead sets out very clearly the failure of the company to deliver a fit for purpose service. Eamonn Ryan needs to step in, he needs to revoke Go-Ahead's licence, and sort out this mess for once and for all."

One resident of Garden Village in Kilpedder recently wrote to Go Ahead to complain about the 184 service on Friday 3rd June: "Your company is making it increasingly difficult to 'GO AHEAD' anywhere at the moment!" they wrote. "On Friday 3rd June, what should

have been a maximum of a 2-3 hour round trip to do errands in Greystones, turned into a 5 hour patience-stretching/back-breaking trip as the 12.31 and the 13.01 buses from Newtownmountkennedy to Bray were cancelled. Moreover, on the return journey we had another at least hour-long wait from Bus Stop No. 4228, Tennis Club Greystones (or the stop outside ALDI), as there was no sign of the 16.10 nor the 16.38 from that stop."

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore also continues to raise concerns regarding bus routes operated by Go Ahead.

Deputy Whitmore made representations to officials in the National Transport Service and to Go Ahead itself, in relation to the 45a, the 185 to Enniskerry and the 184 to Newtownmountkennedy. Speaking on the matter, Deputy Whitmore said, "Persistent issues with service delivery on each of these routes continues despite having raised it with the National Transport Authority, TII and the Minister for Transport. I continue to receive complaints from many constituents who say issues have not resolved and buses continue to be late or cancelled with no shows or buses not stopping at certain stops.

"In relation to the 185 to Newtownmountkennedy, before the school holidays, parents were regularly on to me about having to drive their children to school in the event of a bus no-show. This is incredibly disruptive for families who are trying to get out the door and out to work. It's important that this service

resolves its issues in time for the new school year and throughout the summer.

"The 45a has been particularly problematic as it is a very popular commuter route from Dun Laoghaire. Some buses simply arrive much later than scheduled with some women feeling 'stranded' and unsafe waiting at night for a late bus or 'no show'. Other passengers end up paying for a taxi to get to work or home. A woman wrote that at one point, almost every Saturday, all buses between 5pm- 6pm did not show up in Dun Laoghaire to take passengers to Bray.

"Shortcomings in the service are also affecting vulnerable users such as the elderly, special needs, etc who are very reliant on the service.

"In relation to the 185 to Enniskerry, there have been significant operational issues for this route and I met directly with Go Ahead to outline constituents concerns. Staffing and recruitment issues have been cited as causing problems for bus services however, I believe we have moved on from covid-related restrictions to there being a long term operational issue at hand.

"Whatever the reason, constituents across Wicklow need a solution. With public transport already in high demand, gaps in service are making it extremely difficult for people reliant on these bus routes. I continue to raise these issues in the Dáil, with the Minister for Transport and will continue to provide constituency feedback to Go Ahead to ensure that all normal bus services resume as soon as possible."



Kerry Byrne was crowned the Arklow Seabreeze Festival Princess. She is pictured here with her dad Shane

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NEW CHARGES FOR RECYCLING

Continued from page 1

I think it's really inappropriate to be looking to bring it in now if at all. And secondly, the projection of 3 Euros, generating €1 million per annum. I also question if that figure of €1 million per annum is valid given the overheads involved in putting the system in place. So, as chairman of the SPC, I would be opposed to charging the residents of Wicklow for recycling."

Green Party councillor Lourda Scott said, "I use the Bray recycling

centre a lot, it's a hive of activity on a Saturday morning and I hope that will not change with the modest charge proposed. €3 per car is not a huge amount. It will be important, though, that it is ring-fenced to be re-invested into the centres. We also need to reduce what we are buying, to repair what we are buying before we get down to the point of throwing stuff away and recycling, so I would like to see repair cafes started up in the recycling centres."

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'Beyond the Trees' opens at Avondale

President Michael D. Higgins opens unique new visitor destination

President Michael D. Higgins last Wednesday performed the official opening of 'Beyond the Trees Avondale', a new visitor experience developed in partnership between Coillte, Fáilte Ireland and EAK Ireland in Avondale Forest Park, combining a stunning 700 metre Treetop Walk with a 12 storey high Viewing Tower.

Visitors to Beyond the Trees Avondale will experience the beauty of Avondale's tree canopy on the Treetop Walk and enjoy incredible views of the beautiful Wicklow countryside from the spectacular Viewing Tower created for the project by EAK Ireland. The Beyond the Trees Avondale experience will be further enhanced in the Autumn when restoration work on Avondale House, the home of Charles Stewart Parnell, will be completed and the house will open to visitors.

This 19m project at Avondale is part of Coillte's

strategy to create more world class visitor destinations and increase recreation spaces nationally, and aims to encourage international and domestic visitors to stay longer and spend more in Wicklow and the wider Ireland's Ancient East region, driving economic and employment opportunities for local communities. Sixty new full and part-time jobs have been created to staff the site, the majority of whom are from the locality. Beyond the Trees Avondale expects to attract 200,000 to 250,000 visitors within a full year of opening.

Avondale occupies a significant place in Irish history both as the birthplace and home of Sir Charles Stewart Parnell, and also because of the work of Samuel Hayes who inherited the estate in 1770. In addition to Samuel Hayes being the author of Ireland's first book about trees, he also played a very important role in Irish forestry - it was he who realised that the ancient forests of Ireland were disappearing and who set about creating a forest park at Avondale, which is often thought of as the birthplace of Irish forestry. Following his death, Avondale was inherited by his cousin, Sir John Parnell, great grandfather of Charles Stewart Parnell.

Treetop Walk and Viewing Tower

Visitors arriving at Beyond the Trees Avondale will enter through the new Seed Café into the Walled Garden, which also houses a Coillte Pavilion, an immersive exhibition that tells the story of Coillte's work in forestry, recreation, nature conservation and climate action. At the end of the Walled Garden, visitors enter the Treetop Walk and begin the journey on the elevated boardwalk, which is up to 23m above the forest floor at its highest point, making their way out over the Avonmore River valley.

The surrounding forest habitat and the natural gradient of the land means that

although the Treetop Walk does not climb or descend more than a few degrees, you will see all of the different levels of trees from the forest floor to the canopy. Visitors will pass through Avondale's Forest Arboretum, a collection of the finest trees in Ireland, featuring 300-year-old trees planted by the estate's founder, Samuel Hayes, and trees planted during the Great Tree Experiment when Avondale was a forestry experimentation station in the early 1900s. Forestry and wildlife facts



Ruby McEvoy tries out the slide at the opening of Beyond the Trees

are displayed in a fun, interactive way at various points along the Treetop Walk.

The Treetop Walk culminates in the journey to the top of the Viewing Tower. Standing amid a grove of eucalyptus trees on the edge of the historic Great Ride at Avondale, the Viewing Tower reaches 38 metres into the sky. The

of building with wood.

The spiral, ramped boardwalk of the tower rises slowly through the forest, never exceeding a gradient of 6 degrees which makes it fully wheelchair and pram accessible with resting points on each level. New vistas of the surrounding countryside emerge at each level as you journey to the

The Treetop Walk and Viewing Tower have been developed by EAK, a German company and an experienced developer of such facilities in Europe. All of EAK's treetop walks, including the facility at Avondale, are designed to be easily accessible and offer 'access for all' to wheelchairs, prams and elderly visitors.

Viewing Tower was constructed using innovative glulam beams, an engineered wood product that equals the structural strength of steel, from Irish grown trees and is among the most modern methods

top. For the adventurous visitors, young and old, you can 'whoosh' your way quickly back down via a 90m slide, providing an exhilarating end to your unique Beyond the Trees Avondale experience.

In addition to the Treetop Walk and Viewing Tower, this new destination includes a Walled Garden, Seed Café, a children's playground, a sensory garden, a Coillte pavilion area which showcases the history and relevance of Irish forestry and a series of facilities to ensure the overall site is as inclusive as possible to those of all abilities.

The project was constructed with sustainability at its core using fully renewable and climate friendly wood products. Homegrown timber was used to create the innovative timber structures seen at the park. Locally sourced Douglas fir and larch was used for the Treetop Walk and Viewing Tower, and the longest spans ever produced from homegrown Sitka spruce are clearly visible in the new Seed Café.

Accessibility

The Treetop Walk and Viewing Tower visitor experience is 100% accessible and the new visitor centre has been designed to ensure universal access. There are

also accessible toilets and baby changing facilities provided, including a fully equipped Changing Place room. Wheelchairs are available to loan on site. A sensory garden located in the courtyard area is designed to be a welcoming space to both children and adults especially those who have sensory processing challenges, including autism, physical disabilities, and dementia.

In his remarks to formally open Avondale House and Forest Park, President Michael D. Higgins said: "In terms of lived experience, may I suggest that places like Avondale House and Forest Park allow us all - people from diverse walks of life, of all ages and backgrounds - to reconnect with nature, to reaffirm its critical position in our lives, perhaps even to commit to taking individual and collective actions to protect it, to tackle declining biodiversity and climate change. This could be the greatest impact and legacy of this beautiful forest park which I am so pleased to formally open today."



President Higgins admiring the completed treetop walk



President Michael D. Higgins officially opens the Beyond the Trees experience

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With President Michael D. Higgins at the opening of Beyond The Trees were Cllr Rory O'Connor, Brian Gleeson (Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council), Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cllr Avril Cronin, Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Joy Crosbie, and Cllr Gerry Walsh

Measures introduced to ease the back to school burden

The Government is introducing additional supports to help with Back to School costs, including a €100 increase on the current rates of back-to-school allowance.

The announcement of the new measures coincides with the Irish League of Credit Unions' latest report on Back to School Costs published last week which found nearly a third of parents in Wicklow are going into debt to pay back-to-school costs, with an average debt of €327. Seven out of ten Wicklow parents say the cost of covering back to school is a financial burden while three quarters of parents will deny their children extracurricular activities because they can't afford them, higher than the national average.

Fianna Fail Senator Pat Casey said, "I'm delighted to see the significant €100 increase in the back-to-school allowance for each eligible



Senator Pat Casey

child. The back-to-school allowance is an important payment to support parents and children as they prepare for their return to school.

"In addition to this, the school meals programme will also be expanded which will see a further 60,000 children covered under the programme. Importantly, Government has also decided to suspend school transport fees for one year to help support parents which will see a saving of up to €500 for families.

"Government are cognisant of the pressures facing people and Fianna Fáil are committed to finding solutions to alleviate those cost of living pressures."

The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, administered by the Department of Social Protection is being increased by €100 for each eligible child under the scheme. Consequently, the amount being paid for each qualified child aged 4-11 years will be €260 and the rate payable for each eligible child aged 12 and over will be €385.

It is estimated that some 151,000 families will benefit from this measure in respect of over 262,000 chil-



Minister Simon Harris

dren. This is a one-off measure for 2022 to assist families with back to school costs in the current year.

Minister Simon Harris said: "There are a number of cost of living measures that can be implemented in advance of the Budget in September. That is why today the government announced an increase in the Back to School Allowance. Those eligible will begin receiving the allowance payment from the start of next week, with the increased amount being paid from August.

Minister Harris continued: "I also want to welcome the changes in the 2022/23 School transport scheme. I can confirm that anyone who has applied for and receives a school transport ticket for the academic year 2022/23 will not be charged a fee for their school bus ticket this year.

"Further details on how the scheme will operate will be announced shortly and communicated directly to families. Families have already applied for their tickets for the school year and these will be processed in the usual way, and where fees have already been paid, these will be refunded in the coming period.

"The government is doing everything within its means to provide relief for hard working families from the cost of living crisis and further measures will be implemented as part of Budget 2023 in September."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady said the new measures do not do enough to alleviate the pressures on ordinary families.

Deputy Brady said "A Sinn Féin Motion in the Dáil on the issue forced



John Brady TD

the Government to concede extra funding to address back to school costs, but the Government did not do enough. It remains very clear that the Government response was inadequate, particularly for working families. For many people we are getting to the stage that it is not worth their while working.

"The Sinn Féin package would have increased the Back-to-School allowance by 50%, increasing supports for children aged 4-11 from €160 to €240, and for children aged 12 and up from €285 to €427.50. The Government is obligated to provide free Primary and Secondary education to the state. This is not the case. The reality is that the cost for parents of putting children through school are enormous.

Schools remain underfunded, forcing management in schools to seek voluntary contributions from parents.

This can run to hundreds of euros, and in some instances over a thousand euros. This is absolutely unfair and is something that Sinn Féin would immediately act to put an end to.

"The average cost of sending a child to primary school is now €1,186, and if you have a child in secondary school that rises to €1,491. The proposals which Sinn Féin had put forward would have helped reduce the costs for 750,000 parents, and 500,000 children this year. The Government needs to act to protect ordinary families from the impact of the spiralling cost of living costs on education."

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said, "Back-to-school



Jennifer Whitmore TD

costs are unsustainable and unnecessary and amount to an incredible financial burden for families in Wicklow. But this year, in particular, high costs are putting parents under immense pressure as they struggle to pay the exorbitant costs associated with children going back to school on top of the cost of living crisis.

"I have met with many parents in Wicklow getting into debt, having to borrow, use their credit card or find alternatives to paying voluntary contributions, uniforms and school stationary. I have been raising their plight with the Minister and many times in the Dáil calling on the need for a proper government response to this growing concern for families.

"While I welcome the government's announcement that it will increase the Back to School allowance by €100 per child - this should have happened long ago. The current Back to School allowance was paid at a higher rate in 2007, 15 years ago, so it has long been woefully inadequate.

"The expansion of the School Meals programme, and the suspension of school transport costs, will also provide welcome relief for parents. What we need to do now is make primary and secondary school education genuinely free. This means ensuring parents do not have to pay so-called voluntary contributions; providing schools with adequate capitation grants and classroom resources; removing fees for school books and uniforms; and making school transport permanently free. This is a relatively small investment which would have a hugely outsized positive impact and ensure that back to school costs do not cause anxiety or plunge families into debt."



Tanya Sunderland and Aisling Dowling at the Avoca Ladies GAA Fundraiser, the 'Queen of the Vale', in the Woodenbridge Hotel.



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Sod turned on landmark project to safeguard North Wicklow drinking water supply

Irish Water, working in partnership with Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and Wicklow County Councils, last Tuesday marked the start of construction on one of the largest projects to upgrade the drinking water supply in South Dublin and North Wicklow.

When completed, the project will provide a more reliable water supply for existing homes and businesses while also providing additional capacity for future growth of up to 12,000 homes.

A sod turning ceremony to officially mark the commencement of the works contract took place this morning and was led by the Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Peter Burke TD and supported by Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Councillor Mary Hanafin, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Councillor Tommy Annesley, and representatives from Irish Water, Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and Wicklow County Councils. The landmark event was also attended by members of the local business community.

The project, known locally as the Old Connaught-Woodbrook Water Supply Scheme, will involve the construction of two new state-

of-the-art reservoirs and more than 13km of new water mains, providing new drinking water infrastructure for the area. It will also provide network resilience and flexibility for the GDA (Greater Dublin Area).

Minister Burke commended Irish Water for progressing the project saying: "I am delighted to be here today to officially turn the sod and mark the commencement of this new water supply scheme is pivotal for the future growth and development of South Dublin and North Wicklow. The provision of a reliable water service is essential to support the economic and social development of the Greater Dublin Area. I would like to commend all those involved in bringing the project to this important day and I would like to wish the project team well as they progress this vital water project."

Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council,

Councillor Mary Hanafin, added: "I am delighted to be here today to witness the hard work, dedication and collaboration of Irish Water, Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and Wicklow County Councils all working together on this significant project for the benefit of local communities across South Dublin and North Wicklow. The delivery of this significant project will improve security and resilience of supply in the Greater Dublin Area, as well as supporting much needed growth and development."

Dermot Ferris, President of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the project, adding: "A reliable and secure water supply is essential for a healthy and successful society and an integral factor for local business, particularly for our multinationals and hospitality sectors. As Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown continues to develop, local economic growth will be underpinned by these improvements to our water



Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Cllr Mary Hanafin, Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, and Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Peter Burke TD, turning the sod on the new project to safeguard the drinking water supply for South Dublin and North Wicklow

infrastructure. It is important that the capital expenditure planned for the area continues to be implemented effectively so as to ensure the delivery of an efficient and robust water supply for both our residents and businesses and I therefore welcome the commencement of this essen-

tial upgrade project by Irish Water".

Speaking about the project, Ted Hurley, Programme Manager with Irish Water, added: "We are delighted to begin works on this critical project. These new reservoirs and associated pipelines will provide enough storage capacity to meet cur-

rent and future demands for homes and businesses across South Dublin and North Wicklow for decades to come, and to attract new industry and allow existing companies to expand and grow".

The project is being delivered on behalf of Irish Water by Ward and Burke Construction

Limited and is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

Irish Water is responsible for the delivery of all public water and wastewater services in Ireland. We are committed to continuously upgrading and developing critical infrastructure to support the growth needed in housing

and across our economy, while protecting the environment and safeguarding water supplies. Irish Water is committed to playing its part in the national drive to provide homes to people who need them by developing and prioritising the delivery of key water service infrastructure.

Grant applications being sought in Kilcoole and surrounding townlands

The RISE Community Fund supported by National Broadband Ireland (NBI), the company delivering the National Broadband Plan (NBP), has announced that applications for its grants to small businesses, community groups and social enterprises are now open in Kilcoole and surrounding townlands.

Following the route of NBI's deployment of its new high-speed fibre broadband network Kilcoole is amongst the first locations to benefit from the RISE Community Fund after it was launched earlier this year. Up to five grants of €1000 will be available to successful applicants.

Small businesses, community groups and social enterprises with plans to use technology to scale their operations and bring tangible benefits to their local communities are encouraged to visit www.rise-globalfoundation.com for entry forms and guidelines. A full list of the townlands that are eligible to

apply for grants is available at the RISE website.

Peter Hendrick, CEO of NBI, said: "At NBI, we're on a mission to connect over 1.1 million people in rural Ireland who don't have access to high-speed broadband to a world-class, superfast network. Whilst connectivity is a vital utility and a critical first step, it alone can't solve all of the challenges for businesses, community groups and social enterprises trying to expand the positive impact they're able to have - both to the local community, and to the wider economy."



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Tara Collins CMO at NBI, David McCourt Chairman at NBI, Minister Heather Humphreys and Peter Hendrick CEO at NBI



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Rita gets An Tochar GAA talking with their hands

A new campaign - #signmeup - to promote sign language and raise awareness of the challenges faced by people with hearing difficulties has been launched in GAA clubs across County Wicklow.

An Tochar GAA Club, Irish Deaf Society, Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership, the GAA, the Camogie Association, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) and Wicklow GAA Health & Wellbeing Committee are supporting the initiative.

The HSE reports that one in six people have some level of hearing loss, with one person in a thousand acutely deaf using Irish Sign Language (ISL) to communicate. The capacity to communicate, to be understood and to understand influences our sense of social inclusion and belonging.

Roundwood woman Rita Brady, Healthy Club Officer in An Tochar GAA Club is an ISL user who wanted to find a way to make her GAA community more aware of ISL and

give people the opportunity to learn some Gaelic games ISL signs.

Her passion to achieve this was the catalyst to bring together a working group which included representatives from An Tochar GAA, the Irish Deaf Society, Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership, GAA, The Camogie Association, LGFA and Wicklow GAA Health & Wellbeing Committee to create an Irish Sign Language video.

Rita grew up with a non-verbal sibling so all her life she has been aware of the fact that people such as her sister were easily marginalised. Unfortunately Rita herself lost hearing in one ear over 5 years ago. This encouraged her to begin doing online ISL courses during Covid to familiarise herself with Ireland's 3rd language and

while learning ISL herself she came up with a plan. She felt sure that under the auspices of "Diversity and Inclusion" in the GAA a way could be found to include children with hearing difficulties to a greater level. Her vision was to produce a video which could be used to help coaches, trainers and managers as well those with hearing difficulties to learn, promote and hopefully use ISL while training.

While doing her research she became aware that certain sports groups were already using ISL. She brought her proposal for a video to the Irish Deaf Society who happily came on board. Rita now needed funding. Her first port of call was to Clr. Shay Cullen who pointed her to the Wicklow Sports and Recreation

Partnership. At the same time Rita was in touch with Ger McTavish who is Diversity and Inclusion Officer with the GAA in Croke Park. Both of these parties were delighted with Rita's vision and became fully supportive. Of course Rita's own Club, An Tochar, were fully behind Rita's endeavour.

The filming for the video took place in Roundwood on 20th November last and included many familiar GAA faces. Taking part were Danny Staunton, Nicky Dunne, Mark Jackson, Lorna Fuscardi, Aoife Keddy, John Keenan and Sean Brady. These all took part in the skills presentation while interpreters from the Irish Deaf Society performed the corresponding ISL signs.

Chris Brady, Rita's husband, complimented the



At the launch of the #signmeup campaign were Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council; Rita Brady; Clr Shay Cullen; Chris Brady

drive and ambition of his wife to see the idea of the videos come to fruition and be launched in such a manner in An Tochar.

The ISL working group put their creative minds together to develop content for Gaelic games ISL videos. The Gaelic games ISL videos production was funded by Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership and Irish Life. Local Club and County Gaelic games players, referees, and volunteers along with Irish Deaf Society presenters from County Wicklow were delighted to be involved in creating the video and bringing #signmeup to life.

Clara Jenkinson, Wicklow Sport & Recreation Partnership said: "This #Signmeup Irish Sign Language video embodies the vision of Wicklow Sport & Recreation Partnership, to have more people enjoying taking part. The ISL video comes from a community passion to be inclusive in our sports, in our community and reduce barriers to

participation in local GAA clubs for the deaf community of Wicklow and Ireland."

Speaking at the launch, Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow

County Council congratulated Rita and the committee on the videos and reinforced the supports available from Wicklow County Council for inclusion activities by both sports and

community groups.

These are available through Wicklow Sports & Recreation partnership and the Community section in Wicklow County Council.



Aisling Hubbard, Co-ordinator, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership; Clr Shay Cullen; Clara Jenkinson; Rita Brady; Ben O'Looney, Deaf Sport Ireland; Ollie Byrne, An Tochar GAA Chair.



Louise Keane, Hilda Breslin and Trina Murphy at the launch of the Irish Sign Language and GAA collaborative project

Reach the Peak for ReWild Wicklow

Newly-formed local community group ReWild Wicklow have announced their first fundraising event; a sponsored, guided hike to the peak of Lugnaquilla in the Wicklow Mountains on Saturday 23rd July.

The hike will be led by Niall Ennis, an International Mountain Leader and Maria O'Loughlin, ReWild Wicklow member and qualified Lowland Leader.

"This fundraising event will be to raise funds for our Snapshot Europe project," said Danny Alvey, ReWild Wicklow chairperson. "This is an initiative that will see the most extensive camera trap monitoring of mammals in Ireland ever, happen right here in Wicklow, across September and October. Snapshot Europe began last year and just 10 camera traps were deployed as Ireland's contribution to this Europe-wide report on mammals. This year ReWild Wicklow are partnering with the UCD Wildlife Department to raise funds for as many camera traps as possible and our volunteers will deploy and monitor them."

A full camera trap setup costs €218 and, as a special thank you, every fundraiser who reaches this target will get the opportunity to name it. Every image shared online and in the media will mention the name of the camera it was captured on. Local businesses and individuals remembering loved ones have already got involved to sponsor and name cameras as part of the project.

The group are asking the public to help put Wicklow at the forefront of European conservation and donate to their fundraiser at rewildwicklow.ie/reachthepeak.

There are also a limited number of spots still available for anyone who would like to take part and join the hike on the day with more information on their website.



ReWild Wicklow members recently volunteering at Carraig Dula Organic Farm in Glenealy

Use of public land as a car park blamed on 'misinterpretation'

The use of public land as a car park by The Avon in Blessington has been explained as a 'misunderstanding' of an agreement with the Council.

Councillors in the area were alarmed recently to discover that four acres of Council-owned land at Burgage Mor had been fenced off and that hardcore had been placed down to create a car park without their knowledge. A €3 charge was also put in place for parking there, however this was later removed.

The land is part of 32-acres of Council land located near Burgage cemetery, the Avon Ri and an entrance to the Blessington Greenway.

Describing the moment he became aware of the situation, Independent councillor Gerry O'Neill said "I drove down to go have a look around, and was informed by a security lad at the gate that I couldn't enter. I wanted to enter our land, the people's land. He said no, and told me that I had to go into the holiday resort and pay €3 and then drive through the estate resort and park my car on council land."

Cllr O'Neill raised the matter at the June meeting of Wicklow County Council, where he was told by the Chief Executive of the Council Brian Gleeson that the Council would look into it. An explanation was then given at the July meeting last week that the Avon had 'jumped the gun' on what was a pilot plan, due to a 'misinterpretation' of the agreement.

"At the moment there is massive traffic and parking problems arising at that location, and it's an issue for the visitors to the greenway," said Mr Gleeson. "In mid-March, Avon requested that Wicklow County Council undertake a pilot plan to cope with the St Patrick's Day bank holiday weekend as they expected traffic problems. There

was a pilot plan for that weekend only. We were to see how that weekend went and what lessons could be learned from it before any formal arrangement was made going forward.

"The pilot was cancelled due to the weather. So that did not go ahead. A short time later, Avon put forward another pilot plan for the summer period. No approval was provided by Wicklow County Council and the proposal made no reference to a €3 charge. It was brought to the attention of Wicklow County Council that Avon went ahead with the works to use the Burgage Lands field as an overflow car park. Wicklow County Council officials met with Avon shortly after to confirm that they developed the car park on the erroneous understanding that the pilot approval that they had received earlier also covered the summer period.

"Avon fully accepted that they proceeded without the full consultation and consent of the Council. Wicklow County Council directed Avon to stop the E3 charge for parking in the couple field. Avon agreed to this instruction and are now using the field as an overflow car park as needed."

Mr Gleeson went on to say that despite the error, the overflow car park should remain open: "We have two options; to close down the overflow car park which would cause major traffic issues over the summer period or to formalise a temporary arrangement for the overflow car park, and keep it open free of charge up to 31st August to cover the summer period.

"I don't believe that it should be that the baby is thrown out with the bath water. I don't believe it is right

for the residents in the area or the visitors to the Greenway. We have had these temporary situations in other locations before to address traffic problems, so this is no different. Obviously, the premature works by the Avon did not help the matter but we are trying to regularise this, we believe it is the best approach for all concerned."

Mr Gleeson made assurances that the Council would be legally covered by the Road Traffic Act and that a letter of indemnity had been provided by Avon to Cover the Council in terms of insurance.

Councillor Edward Timmins described the situation as "extremely unsatisfactory". "Once again in Blessington, for the umpteenth time, councillors have been excluded from decision-making or not told what the hell is going on here," he said. "We are being ignored and side-lined, there is a fundamental communication problem here. Often people on the ground in Blessington know what is happening in advance of the local councillors finding out."

Cllr Gerry O'Neill said "It is wrong to suggest that the new car park is for the Greenway. Maybe 20% of the people that park there will go on to the Greenway, the majority of the people going to the Greenway will go to Russell Town or go to Annie Burns Lane. I want to see a solution to this, car parking is an issue and has to be addressed, but I don't support this temporary little arrangement."

Mr Gleeson said that the majority of Baltinglass Municipal District councillors are in favour of keeping the temporary arrangement in place until the end of August and that the Council "are going to proceed in that manner".



Conor O'Toole of Blessington in action against Matthew McNamee of Clontibert Co Monaghan, during the Division 3 Shield Semi-Final between Blessington and Clontibert at the John West National Football Feile 2022 event at Kildare GAA Centre in Hawkfield, Kildare. Blessington won 5-4 to 2-11. Photo by Sportsfile

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

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

Council adopts glyphosate policy

Councillors last week received a presentation on Wicklow County Council's new policy for its use of Glyphosate.

Glyphosate was developed by the American agrochemical and agricultural biotechnology corporation Monsanto and was sold under the trade name Roundup. It was trademarked in 1970 and has been out of trademark since the year 2000.

There's currently much public concern due to ongoing investigations into the herbicide's carcinogenic properties, and it's known to be detrimental to aquatic life. It's widespread and sometimes indiscriminate use is linked to a loss in biodiversity and studies indicate it's linked to the declining numbers of key pollinators such as bees.

The policy has been developed by Council officials and the Council's Climate and Biodiversity Strategic

Policy Committee.

"We are trying to develop best practice for Wicklow County Council in how we use weed killers as an organisation and how we can focus on eliminating and avoiding their use going forward," said Environmental Awareness Officer Jim Callery.

The Council is proposing a number of actions: Providing training to all staff involved in the application of glyphosate to raise awareness of its effects on pollinator-friendly plants and watercourses; Ensure widespread compliance amongst staff in the completion of the Business Case for the application of Glyphosate and also the Glyphosate Application Record Form (via an app being developed); Maintain an

organisation-wide register of the application of glyphosate; investigate alternatives to its use for weed control, ensure that lessons learned are shared between all Municipal Districts; Raise awareness among community groups, schools and businesses on the effects of its application and available alternatives; Monitor its use and review the reasons for its use to identify means of reducing its use.

In 2020, Wicklow County Council became a partner in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025, which contains the objective to make public land pollinator friendly to enhance biodiversity.

The Council has established a 'hierarchy of decisions' regarding how and when Glyphosate should be used; the use of glyphosate is to be the last option once other

options have been exhausted or excluded.

"I must commend the council for taking a lead and proactive role," said Green Party councillor and Chair of the Climate & Biodiversity SPC Lourda Scott. "There are a couple of authorities, in Dublin and in Cork who have taken measures to reduce the use of glyphosate. But County Wicklow has done a great job of developing the policy to encourage everyone in the county to look at so-called weeds in a different light. We have to change the mindset a little and let the need for complete tidiness go, nature is not meant to be tidy. That takes adjustment. It will take some adjustment as we move away from using the pesticides but we can help create opportunities to transition to a different way of looking after our shared areas."



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Bray youths to battle cancer at fitness fundraising event

On Saturday July 23rd, Twenty-four youths from FSM Bray (Functional Strength Movement) will be taking part in an event in Dublin called Battle Cancer, a 'functional fitness' event.



Caoimhe, Sophie and Emma from FSM Bray

Money raised at the event will be used to help many charities. Battle Cancer is an events series which exists to facilitate fundraising for existing registered cancer charities, which means anyone taking part can fundraise for whatever charities they choose. The FSM youths are the first ever in the history of this event to be allowed to take part and will be raising money for The Gavin Glynn Foundation. The Battle Cancer Challenge is a fitness fundraising event for teams of four. They take on four 9-minute functional fitness workouts over the course of one day. The workouts incorporate teamwork, high-intensity cardio, functional fitness, and accessible weights. "We want to drive a movement that helps those affected by cancer, to inspire them in their darkest moments and support them in recovery," the Battle Cancer event organisers say. "Our work is threefold and aims to: Raise awareness and funds for cancer charities by delivering epic fundraising events; Connect a supportive community of likeminded people through the sharing of stories and experiences; Promote health and well-being as a preventative to illness. "Together we will battle cancer, and together we will win. We also have our own charity, The Battle Cancer Program, which supports people post-cancer with fully-funded fitness programs. Our mission is to inspire, support and unite people with one goal: kicking cancer into the dust." Battle Cancer Dublin is taking place in the Sport Ireland Campus on Snugborough Road.



Some of the young members from FSM Bray who will be taking part in the Battle Cancer event: (back row); Lilly, Gaby, Caoimhe, Molly, Kai, Daniel, Lalia, and (front row); Emma, Byron, Zoe, Arlo, Sophie. Photos: Joe McQuillan



Young members from FSM Bray who will be taking part in the Battle Cancer event on 23rd July; SORCHA, Sam, Cian, Senan, and Luke

Wicklow RNLI volunteer takes to the pitch at Croke Park to promote water safety

Lifeboat crew from around the island of Ireland, took to the pitch during Sunday's (July 3rd) All-Ireland Senior Hurling semi-final at Croke Park, to promote the charity's partnership with the GAA on water safety. Before Limerick and Galway battled it out for a place in the final and in front of a packed stadium and TV audience, RNLI volunteers, including Wicklow RNLI's Stephen Kenny, dressed in their full kit, unfurled a giant flag showing an all-weather lifeboat in action.



Wicklow RNLI volunteer Stephen Kenny

The RNLI and GAA water safety partnership was established in 2017 to raise awareness of drowning prevention and to educate communities on how to stay safe in and around the water. The partnership is part of the GAA Healthy Clubs' programme and has seen RNLI lifeboat crew visiting GAA clubs around Ireland to deliver water safety talks to all age groups. Within a 10km radius of the 46 RNLI Lifeboat Stations on the island of Ireland, there are 333 GAA clubs. From the first year of the partnership, the GAA have invited the RNLI to Croke Park for an All-Ireland Semi-Final, where the charity has reached new audiences that may someday save a life themselves with water safety advice. Speaking about his experience on Sunday, Stephen said: 'It was a great day, not just for being at Croke Park for the All-Ireland Hurling semi-final, but to have the opportunity to show, to thousands of people, the work that we are doing with the GAA. When people think of Wicklow, they think of the mountains with the sea below them. Our coastline is an important part of our county's natural heritage, it stretches 60km along the Irish Sea. The RNLI and GAA partnership emphasises the importance of bringing messages of water safety to everyone across our community.' Commenting on the event, Gareth Morrison, Head of Water Safety said, 'This was an amazing opportunity to be given by the GAA and it shows the importance of working in partnership with organisations who share our values. With so many people watching and listening, we are bringing important water safety messages to a huge audience, that could one day save a life.'



Pat Crowe and Mary Graham at the recent Arklow Cancer Support Group coffee morning.

Think Ahead, Think Housing 2022: An annual housing campaign for disabled people

Irish Wheelchair Association has launched Think Ahead, Think Housing 2022 its annual campaign for more social housing for people with disabilities. Think Ahead, Think Housing is an awareness campaign for disabled people in the county, encouraging them to think about the future and apply to Wicklow County Council for housing if they will need it in the coming years.

According to Tony Cunningham, National Director of housing at Irish Wheelchair Association, "Think Ahead, Think Housing is for anyone with a disability in Wicklow who wants to move out of home and begin their independent life or anyone who is worried about where they will end up living as they get older. Our campaign is encouraging and supporting people to apply to their local authority for housing sooner rather than later.

"Across our membership we see that there is no wheelchair liveable housing available through private rental or local authorities," said Tony. "At Irish Wheelchair Association we are campaigning for change, but it is the responsibility of disabled people to apply to their local authority for social housing in order to be included in local authorities' new housing development plans, which will take a number of years to be completed.

"We know that in Wicklow and across Ireland there isn't just an accessible housing shortage, there is a complete absence of any

wheelchair liveable housing options. As a result, across Ireland 1,300 young and middle-aged people with physical disabilities have been forced to live in nursing homes for older people because of the lack of accessible social housing. This cannot be the future and there is a lot of work to do locally and nationally for our housing campaign."

In 2021 Irish Wheelchair Association was part of a successful campaign to have 'wheelchair liveable accommodation' included as an option on social housing application forms.

According to Jean Coleman, Irish Wheelchair Association's national housing programme manager, it's the right time to apply for social housing, "The government's national housing strategy aims to increase the supply of social housing to an average of 33,000 per year over the next decade through €4 billion state funding per year. Also, for the first time, applicants can register their need for wheelchair liveable accommodation on their application form. Before 2021, it had not been possible for a

disabled person to specifically include their accessibility requirements on their social housing application form. So, we are calling on people with disabilities who want a home of their own to contact their local authority for the new social housing application form," said Jean Coleman.

"This was the first step of our housing campaign" according to Tony Cunningham. "Now people can register their needs in their housing applications and local authorities and disability organisations can track the specific needs of people on our social housing waiting lists. At Irish Wheelchair Association we have even more ambitious plans to change Ireland's outdated inaccessible building regulations. But we need disabled people who want to live independently to contact Wicklow County Council, get included and be seen. We can only achieve change together," said Tony Cunningham. People with physical disabilities must be included in Ireland's social housing strategy like never before" he said.

For more details, visit www.iwa.ie/thinkhousing



Harris meets with Irish Families Through Surrogacy

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD last week met with Irish Families Through Surrogacy. They visited to the Dail to mark the publication of the report by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on International Surrogacy.

Minister Harris said: "Today, the International Surrogacy Committee Report was launched. This report sets out the pathway to a legal framework for parenthood through surrogacy in Ireland.

"I was delighted to join all of the families and members of the Assisted Human Reproduction Coalition outside Leinster House today for the launch of the International Surrogacy Committee Report.

"The International Surrogacy Committee Report is a vital step to ensuring that the human rights and interests of children born through surrogacy, are respected and that they are not left legally vulnerable as a result.

"All families and all children are equal, and it is important that our legislation reflects such fundamental equality for families in Ireland.

"It is always a pleasure to meet with the members of the Assisted Human Reproduction Coalition, all of whom have worked extremely hard to bring this issue to the fore. I will continue to support and progress this important issue for the families of Ireland."



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Charlie Bird to be given the Freedom of Wicklow



Charlie Bird

Renowned broadcaster and journalist Charlie Bird is to be given the Freedom of Wicklow, councillors decided unanimously at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council.

The proposal was put forward by Labour Party councillor and Chathaoirleach of Wicklow Municipal District Paul O'Brien. The award is the highest honour that the Council can bestow, and has been given to only two Wicklow residents before - Academy Award-winning actor Daniel Day-Lewis and Katie Taylor. It's expected that the ceremony will take place in September.

Charlie Bird is now retired and lives in Ashford. In 2021 he opened up about his diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease, and has since been raising awareness and organising fundraising events. The Climb For Charlie fundraiser in May raised over €3 million for the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association and Pieta.

In putting forward the proposal last week, Cllr O'Brien said "Growing up, we were all familiar with Charlie on TV, working for RTE and reporting on some of the most traumatic events in history. At one point he was viciously assaulted for bringing us the news, during

the Love Ulster riot in Dublin in 2006. He witnessed the Troubles and the twists and turns of the Peace Process and brought us important news. He was there to report on the death of Senator Ted Kennedy. He presented a series, a collection of documentary programmes, visiting the Amazon, the Ganges and the Arctic, educating us even further.

"Charlie retired on August 16th, 2012, little did he know what awaited him. Charlie was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease after experiencing problems with his voice. Unfortunately, I know this cruel disease all too well as my own grandfather passed away from it. I don't know how anyone would react to hearing this diagnosis but Charlie has been an inspiration to us all since receiving this dreadful news, bringing about awareness to Motor Neurone Disease never seen before and raising €3 million for charity.

"I know Charlie is a humble man and does not see himself as inspirational, but he is. I



The Roundwood walkers pictured at their Climb for Charlie walk which raised €1200.

know we don't always see eye to eye at times in the chamber here but today we have an opportunity to speak and to act as one to award Charlie Bird the freedom of County Wicklow. It's what he deserves."

Seconding the proposal, Cllr Anne Ferris said "I believe even though Charlie Bird is a household name he has a special place in the hearts of people living in Bray. Charlie lived here many, many years, he was a regular walker on the Bray Promenade. He had time to say hello to everybody that greeted him and to stop to have a few words. I would like to personally wish him well, indeed his

wife Claire and the family well for the future and to thank him for all he has done for the whole of County Wicklow and indeed for the people of the country."

Independent councillor Stephen Stokes also spoke in favour of the proposal: "Charlie Bird has given a lifetime of service to journalism and broadcasting. Additionally his campaign of Climb with Charlie brought in vital funds and awareness of motor neurone disease, and Pieta House, who work towards suicide prevention. I would like to commend Cllr O'Brien for bringing forward this wonderful idea. I was delighted to support it in

the Wicklow County Council Chamber."

Cllr Miriam Murphy said, "I want to thank both councillors Paul O'Brien and Anne Ferris for bringing this forward. It is a fantastic acknowledgement of a man who has, I suppose, seen many, many challenges, but the biggest challenge has been put on his shoulders. I never talked about my disability for a long time. Sometimes as you get older you just have to say 'yes, I'm not able to', at times I am unable to cope but I hide it. For that man to open his heart and mind, to share what he is going through, it has to be acknowledged and I hope this can be done sooner rather than later."

CLIMB Programme for children affected by cancer

Purple House Cancer Support have opened registration for their next six-week CLIMB Programme for children who have a parent with a Cancer diagnosis, which will start on Wednesday 14th September 2022 from 3.30pm-4.30pm in Purple House Cancer Support Centre in Bray.

CLIMB stands for Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery. It is an enjoyable, sharing, interactive experience and a time for children to come together to deal with their feelings. The programme will be delivered by our trained CLIMB facilitators in Purple House in Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Throughout the programme the children will develop an understanding of cancer and from this understanding the myths and fears that children can hold about cancer will be dispelled. The programme is creative, using drama, arts and play. They are also based on having fun together and meeting new friends.

CLIMB aims to help your child:

- To understand a cancer diagnosis by providing information on cancer.
- To learn how to express his or her feelings and emotions.
- To learn how to cope with these feelings.
- To feel part of a social group by making friendships with other children sharing a similar experience.
- To cope with the dramatic changes they are witnessing and experiencing in the home.

To book a place, please contact Purple House on 01-2866966, visit purplehouse.ie or email info@purplehouse.ie



At the Two Mary's Golf Classic held in Delgany Golf Club on Friday 1st July in aid of Greystones Cancer Support were Jason Bradshaw, master of ceremonies, Winning team of Mark Behan, Tom Bradshaw, Sean O'Toole, Peadar O'Toole and committee member Liz Kinsella. The event is held annually in memory of Mary Nolan and her daughter Mary Bradshaw, local women who both lost their lives to cancer within one week of each other in 2003. Photo by John McGowan

Twining ties remain strong as Holyhead golfers visit Greystones



Cllr Gerry Walsh, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, and Cllr Derek Mitchell joined in welcoming eight golfers from Holyhead to Greystones Golf Club last weekend.

Holyhead in North Wales is twinned with Greystones and regular visits occur between the two towns.

Councillors Alan Williams and Hywel Williams, from Holyhead Town Council, travelled over with the golfers for a day trip. They were accompanied by twinning supporters Sue Williams, Dewi Thomas and Richard Burnell, the famous Holyhead Santa.

Greystones and Holyhead twinning connections will continue when a delegation from Greystones will travel at the end of the month for the Annual Holyhead Festival.

Robert Gardner, leader of the Holyhead golfing group, says: "It was a pleasure to visit your wonderful town for a golf outing. I would like to extend special appreciation to Liam Moulton, Operations Manager, Greystones Golf Club, for his warm welcome and help in organising our trip. We look forward to visiting with our new friends once again in the near future."

Pictured are councillors Gerry Walsh and Derek Mitchell from Greystones Municipal District with Cllrs. Alan Williams and Hywel from Holyhead Town Council, Robert Gardner from Holyhead and his golfing partners.

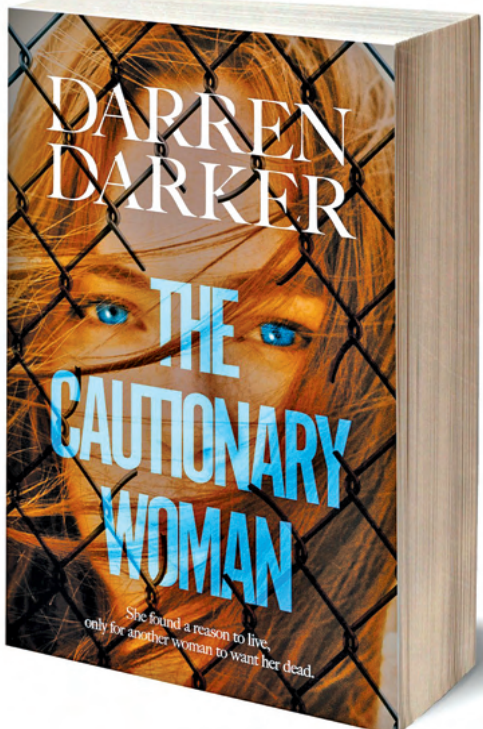
New novel from Darren Darker hits the shelves

The latest novel by local Bray author Darren Darker will be officially launched next week in Dubray Books on Bray Main Street, on Tuesday 19th July at 6:30pm.

In *The Cautionary Woman*, the author of 'Redemption' and the 'John Morgan' series of books (Under An Irish Sky, No End to the Lies and Fighting Back) shifts focus away from the criminal underworld as he explores the prison system and the topic of psychological trauma. *The Cautionary Woman* tells the story of Aoife Cassidy, whose family flees the gloom of recession-hit Ireland and moves to New York City in search of a better life. But as a teenager, she spirals out of control after suffering sexual abuse at the hands of her father and turns to alcohol and drugs. After a series of catastrophic personal events, the law catches up with her and Aoife ends up in a brutal mixed prison in New York City.

Returning to Ireland to serve out her sentence, Aoife works through her trauma with the help of a prison psychologist and learns that despite everything, she could have a future with her son. But a dark shadow from her past creates an opportunity for bloody revenge...

The Cautionary Woman is available from Amazon in paperback (£11.99) or Kindle (£3.25).



Claudine Brett and Ailbhe Brett with Mark the Science Guy (Mark Langtry) at the Kaleidoscope Festival which was held recently at Russborough House. Photo by Anamaria Meiu

Coastal Rescue: An Exhibition by Denise French

Signal Arts Centre, Monday, 26th September to Sunday 9th November



The Signal Arts Centre champions contemporary Irish artists and their forthcoming exhibition of local artist, Denise French is a great example of this. Her new collection of paintings reflecting the beauty of nature showcases her contemporary optimism and colourful view of life.

Born in Dublin, Denise grew up near the sea and always had an appreciation of its magnificence and this is reflected in this exhibition. Converting to sea swimming at age 50, she now paints evocative crashing waves in vivid colour and detail.

Initially preferring to learn by example and practice, French opened her own cooperative studio. However, she went to college in her forties and com-

pleted a post grad in cultural and creative entrepreneurship during Covid. As an artist, she is constantly evolving, always positive and pushing forward and this is hugely reflected in this collection.

There is always a whole story behind each painting. Vivid, striking, and playful, French's unique perspective and textured style is a result of her diverse inspirations.

She is forever inspired by the ever-changing muse of nature and the glory of it whether it's the sea or a summer meadow. The realism of her designs and textures often makes her flat-surface paintings appear three-dimensional.

Her September exhibition at the Signal Arts Centre in Bray is sure to delight collectors. They will love a collection inspired by nature infused with the energy of the moment in which they were created.

See more of Denise's work on <https://www.instagram.com/denisefrenchartist/>

Royal Irish Academy of Music launches new Adult Division

The Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) has launched its new Adult Division offering instrumental and singing lessons, performance opportunities, music appreciation, and professional development for adult musicians at all levels, from beginner and improver to seasoned professionals.

Since 1848, the RIAM has taught or assessed over one million young musicians in Ireland through its Third-Level, Junior, and Exam divisions. For the first time in its 175-year history, adult musicians and appreciators will have full access to the Academy's talented Faculty of professional musicians, teachers, and doctoral students, many of whom perform in Ireland's National Orchestras. It launches at a time of exciting transformation at the RIAM as a brand new campus development on Westland Row is due to open in September 2022, and a 175th-anniversary programme of special concerts and events will run throughout 2023.

Adult learners can share their love of music with like-minded musicians at instrumental and vocal classes in small group settings.

Classes from eight to 12-week durations will run twice per year, culminating in a celebratory concert each term. Lessons for beginner, intermediate and advanced learners will be available in various disciplines, including clarinet, classical piano, flute, french horn, guitar, jazz piano, low brass, musical theatre singing, opera singing, percussion, saxophone, trumpet and violin.

Professional musicians and teachers can sign up for a range of short Continuing Professional Development courses designed to upskill performance and teaching, including RIAM Key Skills for piano teachers, Kodaly Method and conducting for choral practitioners, and historical performance for professional string players.

Each term of the RIAM Adult

Division will feature a new music appreciation series on Friday mornings. Eminent RIAM piano Professor Anthony Byrne leads the way with an introduction to the great piano repertoire and pianists of the 20th and 21st century, with guest performances from the Academy's most promising third-level pianists. Future talks will see the return of RIAM Director Deborah Kelleher's famous and fast-paced 'History of' series and Discovering Opera with Head of Vocal Studies Kathleen Tynan.

Speaking about the launch, RIAM Director Deborah Kelleher said, "This is a truly exciting development for the RIAM that opens our doors to the only age group left for us to teach! The new Adult Division aligns perfectly with our core value of inclusion, of deliver-



Pictured at the launch of RIAM's new Adult Division are Maeve Breslin with her grandad James Cramer, Sean Noonan and mum Dara Pender, and Conor Sheahan and mum Maireann Sheahan.

ing a broad range of professional, non-professional, and access programmes in the belief that music benefits all, and making the RIAM accessible to anyone who loves music. For the first time in RIAM's long history, an adult interested in learning cello or jazz piano can do so with some of Ireland's most experienced teachers. Those who

spent their youthful years learning music, but left their instrument aside as life took over, can pick it back up and build upon those foundations with a group of like-minded learners. The network of incredible private and school-based music teachers around Ireland can engage in important Continuous Professional Development. Those

with a deep passion and appreciation for music, who never saw themselves as a performer, can attend thoughtful and insightful music appreciation lectures with live performances. The RIAM Adult Division is open to all, and we look forward to welcoming our first corps of adult learners in September 2022.

Alison Gapert named NLN manager for Wicklow



Alison Gabert with Lee and Aaron

A Bray native who became involved with the National Learning Network (NLN) due to a life-changing accident has been named as the area manager for South Dublin and Wicklow.

Alison Gapert succeeds Deborah Coughlan who stepped down from the role in April after 16 years at the helm overseeing the centres in Bray, Arklow and Park House Stillorgan.

"I am absolutely delighted to take up this new position," Alison says. "After almost 15 years in the company, this is the culmination of a fantastic career so far with NLN."

"I am very much looking forward to working with the teams in Bray, Arklow and Stillorgan and I would like to pay tribute to the excellent work Deborah Coughlan did before me and wish her well for the future."

Former architectural

technician Alison, whose surname before her marriage was O'Leary and who still lives in Bray, was previously Head of Department in NLN Roslyn College in Sandymount and Cathal Brugha Street.

Alison started working with NLN while recovering from being hit by a car in Stillorgan in October 2002 which saw her spend over six months in the National Rehabilitation Hospital.

"While I was attending an outpatient physiotherapy appointment in 2006, I noticed an information stand for NLN in the hospital. One of the courses it offered was Computer-Aided Design (CAD) which is some-

thing I was familiar with from my architectural work," Alison continues.

"I asked if they needed anyone to help out and after meeting with staff in Roslyn College, I was offered a teaching assistant position. After some time, I left architecture completely and took over as the full-time CAD course instructor. I believe that I am the living embodiment of #Think Possible - which is the defining mantra of NLN and I hope my story can inspire other people who may have challenges in their lives."

Married with a young daughter, Alison previously lived on Novara Terrace, is a past pupil of

Loreto Secondary School and a graduate of TU Dublin, BIFE, NUI Maynooth, UCD, and is currently studying at DCU.

NLN provides training and specialist support to people who, for a variety of reasons, may find it difficult to gain employment or access training and further or higher education.

It is the country's largest non-governmental education and training organisation.

"We empower people to undertake positive learning pathways through inclusion in training, further education, higher education, and working life," NLS says.

'Students can opt for savvy further study close to home'

SOLAS, the state agency that oversees further education and training, is encouraging young people in Kildare and Wicklow, who may be still deciding their next step, to consider FET (further education and training) courses, traineeships and apprenticeship programmes as great local opportunities for achieving their career ambitions, with many exciting programmes being delivered through Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (ETB).

Kildare and Wicklow ETB is delivering a broad local offering of FET courses and apprenticeships, and driving change in the sector.

Many FET courses and apprenticeship programmes delivered by Kildare and Wicklow ETB remain open for application, past the CAO change-of-mind closing date. They offer flexible, vocational learning that can include practical skills training and work experience.

According to SOLAS, the many and varied choices on offer through Kildare and Wicklow ETB

can help Leaving Cert students in Kildare and Wicklow reach an informed decision on what career they want, while studying close to home, or support them on a pathway into higher education with apprenticeships also enabling them to learn and earn.

For example, FET courses offered in Kildare and Wicklow include Brewing and Distilling Technology; Game Design; Animal Care; Computer Science; Computer Networks & Cyber Security; Forensics; Sport,

Exercise and Fitness Instruction; among other choices, at levels five and six on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Apprenticeship opportunities in Kildare and Wicklow are also available to explore and applications are open all year round in a wide range of industries. Through an apprenticeship, you can gain an NFQ award at levels 5 to 10, not to mention the confidence that comes with hands-on experience in employment with a leading organisation in your chosen profession.

Commenting on the FET and apprenticeship options available through Kildare and Wicklow ETB, Andrew Brownlee, CEO of SOLAS, said: "FET is for everyone. There's a broad range of FET options delivered through Kildare and Wicklow ETB, designed to help people looking to take the next step after completing their Leaving Certificate. Our research shows that many of these options, including apprenticeships and traineeships, can prepare learners for in-demand occupations that are emerging and expanding or that recruiters are struggling to fill. A FET course can also be a pathway to higher education."

Also commenting, Dr Fiona Maloney, Director of Further Education and Training at ETBI,

said: "The variety of post leaving cert courses, apprenticeships and traineeships that are now available for Leaving Cert students in Kildare and Wicklow to explore on the CAO website is a real step forward. The range is right up-to-date with engaging and stimulating choices that will appeal to people. Meanwhile, many of the options give people the opportunity to stay close to home, with many allowing you to earn while you learn. The options offer those doing their Leaving Cert and wondering what to do afterwards so many possibilities. They provide them with another pathway to a job or career."

Ken Seery, Director of Further Education and Training at Kildare and Wicklow ETB, stated:

"Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board provides valuable pathways for Leaving Certificate students to reach their potential, whether they wish to explore a particular subject, use it as a stepping-stone to third-Level education, or take the direct route into employment. There is a broad range of options available locally through Kildare and Wicklow ETB across both FET courses and apprenticeships, with an emphasis on vocational skills, preparing many learners for direct entry into in-demand occupations."

Leaving Certificate students can explore the FET courses and apprenticeship programmes on offer through Kildare and Wicklow ETB via the CAO website at CAO.ie/options.

First ever athletics competition for Educate Together Secondary Schools

On Friday May 13th, the first ever athletics competition for Educate Together second-level schools took place. The competition was held in Morton Stadium in Santry on a bright sunny day, with perfect conditions for all track and field events.

The Sports Day event was a huge success that was enjoyed by all students and teachers in a friendly and fun atmosphere. The successful event was organised by teachers and volunteers from Belmayne Educate Together Secondary School and Blackrock Educate Together Secondary School with great support from many other schools.

In total, eighteen schools participated in the Sports Day event, with hundreds of students trav-

elling from all over the country including Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare, Louth, Galway, Limerick and Cork.

Prizes were presented by CEO of Educate Together, Emer Nowlan, who congratulated all students who took part in the Sports Day and all those who placed in their events, as well as thanking the organisers. The overall award for the school that won the most medals went to Celbridge Community School.



Young athletes at the first ever athletics competition for Educate Together second-level schools in Morton Stadium in Santry

Glenart College and SSE Renewables join forces for student mentoring programme

Glenart College and SSE Renewables have successfully completed a one-to-one student mentoring programme facilitated by Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI).

Arklow's largest secondary school and leading renewable energy developer teamed up at the beginning of the school year and ten student and mentor pairs were identified.

The programme is designed to enable students to receive personalised sessions with their mentor covering various topics such as setting personal goals, overcoming challenge and CV and interview skills preparation.

The SSE Renewables mentors were selected from a number of departments across the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 project team and sessions were conducted virtually on a monthly basis.

Niall Walsh, programme coordinator at Glenart College said: "We at Glenart College were delighted to partner with SSE Renewables for this programme. The feedback from our students has been extremely positive. It was particularly beneficial for

our students to participate in this student mentoring programme in a year when much of their time was spent learning remotely. It has boosted their confidence and challenged them to think creatively about their future education and career options."

Alison Norman, Regional Coordinator, Business in the Community Ireland said: "Business in the Community Ireland congratulate all the students and mentors who participated in the Student Mentoring Programme in this first year of partnership between SSE Renewables and Glenart College. Mentors from SSE Renewables provided career-based support for the students to help them maximise their own career journeys". BITCI's Student Mentoring Programme strives to encourage students to stay in school, increase their self-esteem and develop an awareness of the work-

place over the course of their senior cycle. Nationally, 265 students and mentors have participated in the programme this year, with 2,279 students and 2,109 mentors having participated to date. Currently, there are 26 Student Mentoring programmes running across the country.

Deborah Coleman, External Affairs Manager, SSE Renewables said: "SSE Renewables' Arklow Bank Phase 2 project team members were delighted to participate in this programme and to be able to build a strong relationship with Glenart College which will continue into the future. It was a pleasure to mentor these bright and ambitious students and we wish them every success in their future endeavours."

For more information on BITCI's Student Mentoring Programme please contact Diane Beckingham at dbeckingham@bitci.ie



Pictured at the conclusion of the Glenart College and SSE Renewables student mentoring programme facilitated by Business in the Community Ireland are: Niall Walsh, Glenart College, Alison Norman, Business in the Community, Deborah Coleman, SSE Renewables, Damien Cloney, Glenart College and the participating students.

€12m to support autistic students

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD has announced new initiatives to support autistic students and those with an intellectual disability access third level education.

The proposals, which will form part of the proposed new National Access Plan, will allocate ring-fenced funding of €3 million a year to 2025 so Higher Education institutions can implement universal design and inclusive practices on their campuses. The aim is enhance opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities and autistic students in higher education.

Funding of €3million this year will includes improving campus accessibility such as supporting autism friendly campuses e.g., wayfinding apps, signage, small-scale capital works such as autism-friendly spaces such as sensory rooms or quiet zones.

Minister Harris said: "We have never focused on how many students with an intellectual disability or

autism have entered or completed third level. These new proposals will allow us to assess how we are doing but crucially, we will be introducing new policy changes to ensure we do better.

"Education is the greatest leveller in society. A key ambition for me is to ensure that supports and opportunities are provided for learning to all. This means recognising the needs of vulnerable learners, people who are most marginalised and people with special and additional needs and assisting them in accessing and progressing through third level education."

The proposals will form part of the National Plan for Equity of Access, Participation and Success in Higher Education. Later this year, a call for further proposals will be issued. The fund will be worth €3 million again.

Minister Harris said: "This is an important day and I really want to thank everyone for working with us to make this a reality. This has the potential to change the lives of autistic students and students with intellectual disabilities."

Start new career as a yoga teacher with SCFE

In September 2018, Sallynoggin College of Further Education (SCFE) launched a hugely successful Yoga Teacher Training course including Wellbeing and Holistic Studies.

This one-year course runs from September to May from 10am to 2pm, is certified by International Therapy Examination Council (ITEC) and Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and leads to the Diploma in Yoga Teaching.

"Since the pandemic the course has seen an increase in applicants who are re-evaluating their careers and looking for a new purpose in their work," explains the Course Coordinator Aoife Driver.

"Many of those students have gone on to work for themselves in an industry that is flexible and fits in with other careers and family life. There are many paths available, and this course focuses on giving students the skills and qualifications necessary to deepen their own practice in a supportive environment and to share their knowledge with others."

"SCFE Yoga Training and Holistic Studies was a transformation experience that exceeded my expectations," says past student Joanne Reid, while past student Goshia Maughan said: "I was hesitant to start studying again at the age of 40, but I found many people on my course were in the exact position as me. It was an amazing year - probably one the best of my life!"

Features of the course include workshops delivered by industry specialists and Work Experience placement in a variety of settings. SCFE's recently refurbished facilities include fully equipped complementary therapy rooms, a large mirrored studio and access to fully equipped IT suites, Library, Wifi and Office 365.

Those who successfully complete the course may set up their own business as a Yoga teacher and holistic practitioner. There are also opportunities to progress to further studies, e.g. SCFE is also running a Pilates Teacher Training course, for details see Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.

The course costs €420 with exemptions of €50 for holders of a medical card. Funding is also available for Social Welfare recipients through the

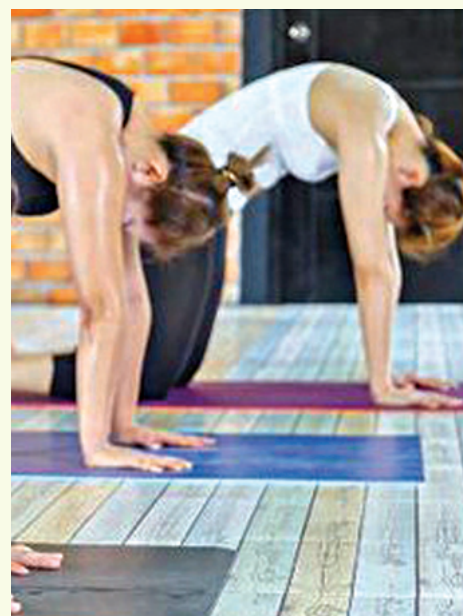
Vocational Training Opportunities scheme (VTOS) and the Back to Education Allowance scheme (BTEA). Mature applicants are very welcome, and applicants may also be accepted without meeting formal entry requirements. Through the BTEA scheme this course is also available on a part-time basis.

For more information check out our website www.scfe.ie or call (01) 2852997.

All courses commence mid September 2022, applications close 30th September.

SCFE is located within walking distance of Dún Laoghaire and is well served by public transport.

Students can also avail of SCFE's free secure car park.



Simon Lynch from Wicklow Wolf Brewery and Santina Kennedy from Wicklow Naturally 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.

Delgany Community Council calls for submissions on 'Honeybrook Cottage' development

Delgany Community Council is calling for local residents to make submissions regarding the proposed development for the 'Honeybrook Cottage' site off Church Road in Delgany. The deadline for public submissions is 21st July.


A planning application has been lodged with Wicklow County Council seeking to demolish the existing single storey dwelling, garage and shed, and construct a four-storey building containing nine apartments. The site is located within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) less than 60 metres from Christ Church. Honeybrook Cottage itself forms part of a terrace of three houses, one of which (Malvern House) is a protected structure. Malvern House (including the buildings now known as Honeybrook Cottage and Westgate) operated as Dr W Alfred Johnson's Malvern Hydropathic Establishment in the middle of the 19th century (1857 to 1870 approx) and local residents say there are still springs and potentially wells and underground streams on the site.



“This is a unique part of Ireland's Water Heritage, being Ireland's most high profile contribution to the British and European water-doctors/water-cure movement of 19th century,” Delgany Community Council says. “There were direct family links to the Greater Malvern UK hydropathic establishments, where Dr Johnson's father and brother were leading figures.”



Honeybrook Cottage (above) and the proposed development (below)



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

ORDÚ CEANNACH ÉIGEANTACH UIMHIR 6 - 2022

41 KILGARRON PARK, ÁTH NA SCÉIRE CO CILL MHANTÁIN

Tá an Ordú luaite thuas, déanta ag Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin (as seo amach luaite mar “an tÚdarás Tithíochta”), de réir an chumhacht a thugtar dóibh faoi réir Alt 76 den Acht um Tithíocht 1966, agus an Tríú Sceideal den Acht chéanna (arna leasú ag an Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000) atá ar tí chur ós comhair Bord Pleanála le haghaidh daingniúcháin. Má daingnítear an t-ordú, beidh an tÚdarás Tithíochta ceadaithe an talamh atá sa Sceideal a cheannach go héigeantach le haghaidh cuspóirí an tAcht um Tithíocht 1966.

Is féidir cóip den Ordú agus an léarscáil atá luaite ann, a fheiceáil ag gach uair réasúnta ag:

An Rannóg Tithíochta, Áras an Chontae, Baile Chill Mhantáin.

Gheobhaidh úinéirí, léasaithe agus áititheoirí an talún luaite sa Sceideal fógraí scríofa ar leith.

De réir an tAcht um Tithíocht 1966, arna leasú, ní féidir leis an Bord Pleanála an tOrdú a dhaingniú maidir leis an talamh má ndéantar aon agóid i gcoinne an cheannaigh ag aon úinéir, léasaí nó áititheoir agus gan é a tharraingt siar acu, go dtí go bhfuil Éisteacht ó Bhéal curtha ar bun maidir leis an agóid agus go dtí go bhfuil an agóid agus tuairisc an duine i gceannas ar an Éisteacht o Bhéal scrúidithe ag an mBord.

SCEIDEAL

Talamh seachas talamh is teach nó tithe atá neamhoiriúnach do dhaoine cónaí ann agus nach féidir ar chostas réasúnach iad a dhéanamh oiriúnach do dhaoine cónaí ann.

Uimhir an léarscáil curtha ar fáil ag oifigí an Údaráis Tithíochta	Cainníocht, ainmníocht agus suíomh na talún.	Úinéirí nó úinéirí ainme.	Léasaithe nó léasaithe ainme.	Áititheoirí (seachas tionóntaí ar feadh mí nó am níos lú ná mí)
22/06/42/100 Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Ordú Ceannach Éigeantach Uimhir 6 - 2022	Teach cónaithe agus talamh ar 495 m² (0.0495ha).	Mark agus Jacqueline Gibson 41 Kilgarron Park, Áth na Scéire, Co Cill Mhantáin	Duine ar bith (teach folamh)	Duine ar bith (teach folamh)

Joe Lane, Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí

An 4ú Lá Iúil 2022

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 6 OF 2022

41 KILGARRON PARK, ENNISKERRY, CO WICKLOW

Wicklow County Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Housing Authority”) in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Section 76 of the Housing Act 1966, and the Third Schedule thereto (as amended by the Planning and Development Act 2000) have made an order entitled as above which is about to be submitted to an Bord Pleanála for confirmation. If confirmed, the order will authorise the Housing Authority to acquire compulsorily the land described in the Schedule for the purposes of the Housing Act, 1966.

A copy of the order and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow

Owners, lessees and occupiers of the land described in the Schedule will receive individual written notice.

The Housing Act 1966, as amended, provides that An Bord Pleanála cannot confirm the order in respect of the land if an objection is made in respect of the acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the land, and not withdrawn, until it has held an oral hearing into the objection and until it has considered the objection and the report of the person who held the oral hearing.

SCHEDULE

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
22/06/42/100 41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry, Co Wicklow	Dwelling house and land of 495 m².	Mark & Jacqueline Gibson 41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow	None (vacant house)	None (vacant house)

Joe Lane, Director Services, Housing & Corporate Estate

Dated this 4th day of July 2022

Delgany Community Council says “We recognise that this site is zoned Village Centre and considered appropriate for development for residential housing and office accommodation but would request that Wicklow planners give careful consideration to; the Architectural Conservation Area status of Delgany village and obligations on the planning authority to protect that status; The proximity of the site to a protected structure and to several National Monuments; Road safety concerns; The environmental impact of any proposed development on watercourses, bats and habitat and climate in general.”

Harris meets with Newcastle Residents Association

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD met with the new committee of the Newcastle Residents Association on Friday.

Minister Harris said: “Today is an opportunity to catch up with the new committee of Paul, Mary, Hugh and Jane to see their ambitions for the community in Newcastle and provide any support necessary.

“The new committee are seeking to replicate best practice elsewhere in Wicklow with Residents Association encompassing a number of strands including local businesses, community garden, a heritage committee, biodiversity and tidy towns”

“Minister Harris and the Newcastle Residents Association discussed key local issues including refurbishment of the Community Centre, Sports Amenities and the challenges posed by new development.”

Minister Harris added: “Today we also discussed my ongoing work in respect of much needed flood defence works at the Breaches. I brought my colleague the Minister for Public Works to the Breaches to see first-hand the hazard posed to local homes and businesses.

“Today I have again been in touch with the Chief Executive of the Council about the need for the council to apply to the OPW for funding for flood defence works. Local residents cannot wait another winter for the council to apply for funding from the OPW and I reiterated the urgent need for the Council to bring the matter to conclusion.”

Newcastle Community Centre

Remembering local IRA volunteer on the 100th anniversary of his death

Sinn Féin TD John Brady marked the occasion of the death of 29-year-old IRA Volunteer Joseph Hamill, who was shot and killed one hundred years ago on the 5th of July 1922, by laying a wreath of Lilies on the fallen Volunteers graveside.

Joseph Hamill died as Free State Forces conducted a search for Eamon de Valera, who was reputed to have been in the Blessington area at the time.

Deputy Brady said: "One hundred years ago, Irishmen and Women entered into a devastating Civil War, which tore families and communities apart, following the Anglo-Irish Treaty which was signed in December 1921.

"It represents a sad and tragic episode in the history of this Island. It was a period where many of the most active members of the IRA in the war against the British were killed by their own countrymen.

"The first IRA casualty of the Civil War in Wicklow following the death of Joseph Hamill was Volunteer, Daniel Kane, a member of a Flying Column commanded by Paddy Rigney, which was very active against the British. Vol Daniel Kane was killed by Free State forces at the Sally Gap on 22 August 1922.

"There were many other significant events which occurred in

Wicklow during this period, particularly in the West of the County. Including the murder of IRA Volunteer Noel Lemass, brother of future Taoiseach Sean Lemass, whose body was discovered in the Wicklow mountains, following his abduction, torture, and murder by Free State Forces.

"In May 2023, over two weeks after the ceasefire of the 30th April which effectively ended the Civil War, Donegal man, Neil 'Plunkett' O'Boyle, another IRA Volunteer on the run in Wicklow, was captured and executed without warning by a Free State Officer in the west of the County following his surrender.

"Vol Joseph Hamill was a native of Arvagh, in County Cavan. He had been living and working in Bray as a drapery assistant in Tansey's on the Quinsboro Road. In July 1922, Free State forces entered Blessington to raid the town in search of Eamon de Valera.

"A member of E Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Eastern Brigade

IRA, Vol Joseph Hamill was shot and killed as along with his comrades, as he attempted to evade the Free State forces. Vol. Joseph Hamill is buried in St. Peter's Cemetery, Little Bray, County Wicklow. This week on the one hundredth anniversary of his death, I honoured his sacrifice by laying lilies on his grave.

"While the aftermath and consequences of the Civil War created a dividing line that ran through Irish politics throughout the twentieth century, the entry into coalition of Fianna Fail, and Fine Gael, the two political parties primarily identified with the Civil War, in many ways marks the end of the ideological differences that marked the two parties. This has led to a loss of identity for many of their grassroots membership and supporters, who struggle today to identify what the two parties stand for anymore.

"While it has left much to be lamented, it is important that the occasion of the Civil War is remembered, its legacy defined much of the twentieth century in

Ireland. And certainly, the courage, sacrifice, and patriotism of Vol. Joseph Hamill must be remembered, alongside all those who died during this tragic period."

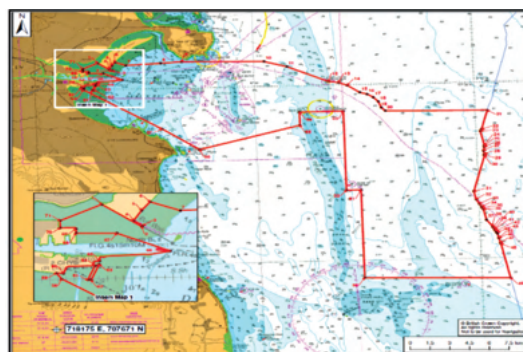


Desi O'Toole and the rest of the Over the Hill Gang hand a cheque for €2030 raised from their charity bike run, to Collette Ghith from the living life counselling services in Bray. Pic: Natalie Phelan

PUBLIC NOTICE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING DETERMINATION/INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS FOR PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Application for a foreshore licence in relation to Sea Stacks Offshore Wind project by ESB Wind Development Limited off County Dublin and County Wicklow (Reference: FS007134) to undertake marine site investigations to inform feasibility assessments and design relating to the Sea Stacks Offshore Wind project. Surveys will be undertaken in an area under consideration for development of an offshore wind farm array (to the east of County Dublin and County Wicklow) and along potential export cable corridors from the array area back to the shore and at potential cable landfall areas. These site investigation works include Geophysical surveys, Geotechnical surveys, Metocean surveys, Environmental/Ecological and Archaeological surveys.

The Foreshore Licence application area where marine surveys are proposed to be undertaken is shown in the map below. The key coordinates are provided in the table below.



ID	Easting (ITM)	Northing (ITM)	ID	Easting (ITM)	Northing (ITM)	ID	Easting (ITM)	Northing (ITM)	ID	Easting (ITM)	Northing (ITM)
1	721285.53	735775.22	19	742840.65	731105.06	37	750829.06	719288.07	55	736655.57	729237.16
2	722370.29	734941.36	20	743133.75	730756.01	38	751316.53	718533.41	56	729042.71	726672.6
3	722402.68	734977.74	21	750880.94	730829.53	39	751336.28	718437.43	57	726186.06	728847.25
4	722152.12	735164.29	22	750450.4	728813.17	40	751441.43	718275.2	58	720197.86	732968.9
5	722365.96	735548.69	23	750345.5	728646.42	41	751451.45	718226.56	59	720048.55	731192.13
6	722598.64	735869.46	24	750659.3	727120.37	42	751544.93	718082.3	60	720250.14	733169.72
7	723420.42	735543.23	25	750661.95	727022.3	43	751564.57	717986.99	61	720904.67	732922.12
8	726076.11	735760.82	26	750664.59	726924.23	44	751669.86	717824.53	62	720997.38	732922.6
9	727665.54	735935.87	27	750597.74	726576.44	45	751764.83	717363.09	63	721214.96	733516.22
10	733910.31	735951.03	28	750665.2	726210.66	46	751781.42	717337.51	64	721105.48	733468.26
11	735650.35	735418.91	29	750648.62	726133.05	47	751885.89	716830.05	65	721231.97	733638.17
12	738801.99	735859.88	30	750670.49	726014.53	48	751923.32	716759.36	66	721353.88	734020.36
13	739575.14	733740.27	31	749869.33	722262.14	49	752657.46	713174.39	67	721696.16	734688.44
14	740242.34	733452.5	32	750040.61	721429.26	50	741579.63	713147.77	68	720589.33	734688.06
15	741192.92	733701.79	33	750280.56	720962.76	51	741305.29	722418.48	69	720587.13	734852.92
16	741740.01	732525.36	34	750473	720665.83	52	740192.79	722385.67	70	720154.78	734892.14
17	742217.63	732205.81	35	750502.1	720524.32	53	739947.58	730729.42	71	720153.12	735158.96
18	742604.92	731729.4	36	750598.68	720375.32	54	736615.48	730631.95			

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Regulation 42(6) of S.I. No. 477/2011 - European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 that the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage, in considering an application for a foreshore licence under the Foreshore Act 1933, as amended and in particular whether or not the plan or project would have a significant impact on a European Site, has determined that an Appropriate Assessment is required. A copy of the Appropriate Assessment screening decision is available on <https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/9815d-esb-wind-development-limited-site-investigations-at-sea-stacks-offshore-wind-off-dublin-and-wicklow/>

In considering this matter the Minister had regard to the following:

1. The Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report
2. The Marine Advisor Environment Screen Stage Environmental Report with Screening determination and EIA examination
3. Application documents submitted by ESB Wind Development Limited
4. Submissions and observations received during the public and prescribed bodies, consultations and ESB responses to same.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is responsible for making a decision on the application and the Minister may either grant, approve or consent to the application with or without covenants, conditions or agreements, where applicable, or refuse the application.

The Minister will carry out an Appropriate Assessment and in doing so, shall have regard to the matters in Regulation 42 (12). The Minister will make a determination as to whether or not the proposed plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site in accordance with Regulation 42(11) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

In this regard, in accordance with Regulation 42(13), public submissions are invited for the purposes of conducting the Appropriate Assessment of this case. Any person may make a submission or observation to the Minister concerning the proposed project and the Minister shall have regard to any submissions or observations received during the public consultation period.

A copy of the application, map of the proposed project, the determination that an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of the project, the Natura Impact Statement included with this application, and the other information and documentation relevant to the application, are available for inspection for 30 calendar days, between 11 July 2022 and 9 August 2022, free of charge at:

- Fingal County Council, Planning Department, County Hall, Main Street, Swords, Fingal, Co. Dublin. K67 X8Y2. Monday to Thursday: 09:00 to 17:00. Friday: 09:00 to 16:30.
- Dublin City Council, Planning Department, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, D08 RF3F. Monday to Friday: 09:00 to 16:30.
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Planning Department, County Hall, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, A96 K6C9. Monday to Friday: 10:00 to 16:00.
- Wicklow County Council, Planning Department, County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96. Monday to Friday: 09:00 to 15:30.
- Howth Garda Station, 8 Dunbo Hill, Howth, Co. Dublin, D13 YR70. Daily 07:00 to 21:00.
- Irishtown Garda Station, 57A Irishtown Road, Irishtown, Dublin 4, D04 YE33.
- Dún Laoghaire Garda Station, 34/35 Corrig Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, A96 N299.
- Bray Garda Station, Convent Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 E093.
- Greystones Garda Station, 6, Marine Terrace, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 N446. Daily 07:00 to 24:00.

The documentation is available on the Department's website at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/9815d-esb-wind-development-limited-site-investigations-at-sea-stacks-offshore-wind-off-dublin-and-wicklow/>

Members of the public who wish to make a submission or observation concerning the proposed plan or project for the purposes of conducting the Appropriate Assessment may do so between 11 July 2022 and 9 August 2022 (quoting ref: FS007134) to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Foreshore Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or ForeshoreORE@housing.gov.ie The closing date for submissions is close of business (17.30) on 9 August 2022

Take notice that material upon which the Minister shall make the Appropriate Assessment determination will be published on the Department's website. In this regard the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at <http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process>

Dated this (11th July 2022)



Deputy Brady with Marie Gavigan laying lilies at the grave of Joseph Hamill

Stars line up for Opel with new Astra & Grandland



RECRUITMENT

Customer Care / Receptionist Foxrock Branch

Ark Vetcare requires an enthusiastic, customer care team member to join our friendly, progressive practice in a busy, well established veterinary hospital in Foxrock. We provide excellent patient and customer care. We need to expand our team to meet the extra demands of modern practice and increased workload.

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- Provide basic and accurate information in-person and via phone/email
- Receive, sort, and distribute daily deliveries
- Offer dietary and over the counter medicine advice

REQUIREMENTS

- Proven work experience as a Receptionist, Front Office Representative, or similar role
- Customer service attitude
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office
- Hands-on experience with office equipment
- Professional attitude and appearance
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It's been a turbulent few years for Opel with ownership of the revered German car maker moving from General Motors to PSA, Peugeot / Citroen (2017) and finally – following a 2020 merger with Fiat Chrysler (FCA), to become an integral part of the vast Stellantis Group.

by Martin McCarthy

Opel has a special association with Wicklow, since the cars were assembled very successfully in Ireland from the early 1960s by Reg Armstrong, an Ashford resident. He made sure there were plenty of Kadetts, Ascona and Mantas on our roads and these laid the foundation stone for the brand's long term success here.

In parallel with the international mergers, the distribution of Opels in Ireland had been acquired by Gowan Group, which already had PSA and FCA in their portfolio – so mirroring perfectly what was happening in Europe. All Stellantis products are marketed here by Gowan Group.

Gowan have invested heavily in a brand new Headquarters at City West, which will open next year and provide a support service to dealers and owners that should be second to none.

It is the perfect background against while to launch the refreshed Opel range and particularly new generations of Astra, Grandland SUV and soon, a new Corsa.

Opel has a loyal existing Leinster customer base, not just in cars but also in Light Commercial

vehicles (LCV), and already in 2022, they have moved their market share here up to 10.3%, - into the top four in LCV sales here.

These are most unusual times in the car market – with many makers having to restrict production because of chip shortages. Electrification is underway in earnest and prices are moving up fast. It is an amazing era when cars such as the 12WW Golf the family bought 2 years ago achieved a higher price than what we paid for it, when we sold it 6 months ago. When has that ever happened, before?

Stellantis are now global scale and key components like batteries, drivetrains and platforms can be shared across the brands, providing huge economies of scale.

The new Grandland SUV flagship is now available at Opel dealerships, just in time for the all-important 222-registration plate. Elegantly sporty and proudly displaying the new signature Opel Vizor brand face, it is host to a stunning new Pure Panel cockpit and class-leading technology



Ashford's Reg Armstrong, winner of the German Grand Prix and Isle of Man TT

and comfort features. Designed and produced in Germany, and available in petrol and diesel from launch, the plug-in electric hybrid arrives later in 2022. The new Grandland retails from €37,395, plus delivery related charges.

Powered by efficient petrol and diesel engines from launch in Ireland, customers have a choice

between a 1.2 130hp 6-speed manual petrol (139g CO₂), a 1.2 130hp 8-speed automatic petrol (145g CO₂) and a 1.5 130hp 8-speed automatic diesel (135g CO₂). The new Grandland plug-in electric hybrid 225hp 2WD version will arrive later in 2022 (31g CO₂ combined), with a 300hp AWD version to follow.

The sporty Grandland SRI trim retails from €40,195 while the top of the line Elite is just €1,000 more.

Astra is such a well established car here most people don't even bother to say Opel Astra. It's a bit like Katie and Annalise – the first name is enough.

With 15 million predecessor model units sold and building on 40 years of rich success, the much-anticipated sixth-generation Opel Astra has now arrived. As dynamic as never before, with sheer, taut surfaces and sporting the new Opel Vizor brand front face and latest-generation Pure Panel cockpit, the confident all-new Opel Astra has been proudly

designed, developed and manufactured at Opel's legendary HQ in Rüsselsheim, Germany. With a retail price in Ireland from €27,995, plus delivery related charges, for the SC 1.2 petrol 110hp version, the new Astra combined Opel's traditional values of German build quality at an affordable price.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

George Dunne seeks Planning Permission for : Slope stability remediation works on the sloped landscape areas to the north of the existing house and adjoining coach house, between the house and the River Dargle, as outlined on the planning application drawings. Works to include removal of existing trees and vegetation, slope regrading, soil nailing, construction of stone-filled gabion facing, foundations, drainage, underpinning and rebuilding of existing damaged walls, replanting of vegetation; all at the grounds of Mount Herbert House, Herbert Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Mount Herbert is listed as a Protected Structure, No B20. 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.

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We (June Donnelly & Wisam Gaaloul) seek planning permission for the construction of a front porch at 18 Mariner's Point, Wicklow, A67 DX22. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Mr & Mrs Huw & Cjelle Griffiths, seek Permission for a Proposed opening in the existing rear boundary wall to facilitate the installation of a pedestrian timber access gate, existing wall height to be increased with the addition of a timber fence over and all associated site works at 126 Charnwood, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Philip and Caroline Rice are seeking planning permission for the erection of a shed type structure for use as a personal gym at Robin's Rest, The Red Road, Ballygahan Lower, Avoca, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA
CHILL DARA AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN
KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for part-time and full time Special Needs Assistant posts which may arise from 1st September 2022 in the following schools:

SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANT

- Athy College, Athy, Co. Kildare
- Colaiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow
- Colaiste Chill Mhantain, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow
- Colaiste Lorcaín, Castledermot, Co. Kildare
- Naas Community College, Naas, Co. Kildare
- Scoil Chonglais, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow
- St Farnan's Post Primary School, Prosperous, Co. Kildare
- St Kevins's Community College, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow

Panels may be formed from which future Special Needs Assistant posts may be filled.

All details and on-line application forms are available on KWETB website's recruitment page:

<https://kildarewicklow.etb.ie/recruitment/current-vacancies/>

Dr Deirdre Keyes,
Chief Executive.

pure

The Pure Project is seeking to recruit a part-time (16 hours per week) office ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

The Administration Assistant will be based at the Pure Project office in Tinahely, Co Wicklow and have responsibility for administration requirements of the Pure Project.

Candidates should have experience working in an office assistant role with excellent time management skills and keen attention to detail.

Applications must be submitted to

info@wicklowuplands.ie

no later than 5pm on Friday July 22 2022, and should include a short current CV and cover letter. A full job description is available from www.wicklowuplands.ie under current vacancies – further information on Pure at www.pureproject.ie

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Businesses urged to apply to Low Cost Covid 19 Loan Scheme

Wicklow businesses are being urged to avail of the new Low Cost Covid 19 Loan Scheme launched last week.

Senator Pat Casey said, "This COVID-19 state-backed loan scheme is aimed at helping businesses who are still attempting to pick themselves back up following the impact of the pandemic."

"This scheme will allow SMEs to access low-cost finance on loans of between €25,000 and up to €1,500,000, with terms of one to six years and unsecured up to €500,000. To this point, State-backed loan schemes have aided more than 10,000 SMEs to access low-cost credit."

"It's very welcome that this scheme will also be open to farmers and fishers and I urge any eligible Wicklow businesses to make use of the scheme where needed."

Loans under the scheme range from €25,000 to €1.5 million and are available for terms of one to six years. They are available without security where the loan amount is less than €500,000 and

typically feature a lower interest rate than other comparable lending in the market.

Loans can be used for: Liquidity/Working capital; Investment; Refinancing (Up to 30% of new loans may be allowed for refinancing of existing short-term credit, for example, as arising due to COVID-19 impacts).

This Scheme is available to eligible SME and small Mid-Cap businesses, including primary producers (businesses engaged in farming and fishing), established in Ireland. A business must also have experienced an adverse impact of a minimum 15% in turnover or profit due to the impact of COVID-19.

Minister Simon Harris said: "The new business loan scheme is in recognition that many SMEs are still getting back on their feet after what has been an incredibly challenging few years."

"The new COVID-19 Loan Scheme is delivered by the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI), through participating lenders and further information on the application process can be found on the SBCI website at www.sbc.gov.ie

Minister Harris continued: "The Government is committed to supporting our SME sector. Alongside the Brexit Impact Loan Scheme, the COVID-19 Loan Scheme will ensure that businesses continue to have access to longer term unsecured lending as they deal with impact of the past two years on SMEs."

We now have the highest number ever employed in Ireland and it is important that despite the economic challenges brought by the pandemic and war in eastern Europe that Wicklow businesses exploit the opportunities to invest, grow and expand."



Actor Colm Meaney stopped by the Kilmacanogue Show at the Enniskerry Horse Show on Saturday 25th June. Pic: Joe McQuillan

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