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GUM LITTER
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Tuesday 26th July 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowned@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

AIB'S 'ARROGANCE AND CONTEMPT'

The decision by AIB Bank to cease cash services in 70 of its branches, including Greystones and Wicklow Town, brought a tsunami of angry protest from personal customers, businesses, publicans, and political parties, with many describing it as arrogance and showing contempt for customers. The only politicians that welcomed the move were from the Green Party. Anger was intensified when it was revealed that neither the Taoiseach or Minister for Finance had been consulted or informed. In County Wicklow politicians from most political parties were up in arms, except for the Green Party who were not available for comment.

Independent councillor, Joe Behan, angrily declared "Allied Irish Banks had announced its intention to deliver a severe 'slap in the face' to the residents and small business owners in two of County Wicklow's largest towns last week. In a brazen move, designed to increase profits at the expense of the people it pretends to serve, the bank planned to close its branches in Greystones and Wicklow within weeks. This would have caused huge inconvenience and hardship for those residents and small business owners who rely on their local AIB branch to lodge and withdraw cash as well as the other functions normally associated with a bank branch.



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Charlesland Park, Charlesland Nursery, Orahova Montessori, Shoreline, Greystones have catered to children from 11 months to 12 years of age for over 25 years. The fully trained and caring staff look after babies, toddlers and montessori children. The TUSLA approved and insured premises includes a large, enclosed play area and provides breakfast and afterschool club facilities.



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01 287 0719 / 086 864 4145
E: info@charleslandmontessori.com



Ukrainian teenagers Tim Novosolov and Eva Trachuk working in the ice-cream cabin in Greystones. Tiglin CEO Phil Thompson and Chairman Aubrey McCarthy came up with the idea to provide employment, integration and community development opportunities for the Ukrainians in the town. It's located on the grounds of Tiglin's Rise at the Cove café. Pic: Michael Kelly

"The fact that this bank was rescued by the people of this country a few short years ago and is still effectively publicly owned adds insult to injury.

"The timing of the announcement by the bank was also very suspicious as it came the week after the Dáil had gone on holidays. This meant that Government Ministers could not be challenged in the Dáil on whether they were consulted

about this decision and if they would use their influence on behalf of the citizens to reverse it.

"It is argued, correctly in my opinion, that the move to a cashless society discriminates against older and less well-off citizens and will result in people keeping more cash in their homes and business premises with obvious security and safety implications.

"The hints in the

media from big banks that the banks want to see a return to bigger

salaries for top executives are a warning that the bad old days of

bankers' arrogance are back with a bang."

Continued on Page 3

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Stay Safe!



Cody, Callam and Ryan Walker at the Arklow Seabreeze Festival.

Kilcoole Men's Shed fundraiser

Kilcoole Men's Shed are appealing to the Kilcoole and wider community for assistance in raising €30,000 for building its new premises on the grounds of the Community Centre in Kilcoole. 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.

Wicklow Athletics Off-Road Championship

The Wicklow Athletics Off-Road Championship is coming to Laragh on 20th August starting from 9:30am and with finishers expected from 10:20 and until 13:00. The races start and finish on the GAA grounds.

The clubs of Wicklow will be competing for individual and team honours across various age categories as part of the Derrybawn Woods 10k race (open for entry to the public) and on the same day as the Run the Ridge 20k event (raising funds for Glendalough AC and the juvenile section of Laragh GAA). There'll be an option to support and cheer on the runners both down at the GAA

grounds and out on the route (the bird-gate zig-zags will be a particularly good spot).

If you want to run see: <https://www.myrunresults.com/.../wicklow.../4530/details>. Runners who are not members of Wicklow Athletics Clubs see: worldsmarathons.com/marathon/run-the-ridge

Delgany Thursday Group

The next outing of the Delgany Thursday Club is on Thursday 4th August, to The Casino, Marino, Dublin 3. Leaving Christ Church, Delgany, at 1.30 pm sharp.

Cost €30.00 per person to include coach, guided tour of the Casino & including tea/coffee and scone in Clontarf Golf & Bowling club. Due to the increased cost of the coach transport, outings cannot proceed with less than 20 participants. If this number is not reached, those who have pre-booked will be notified.

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

Summer Brockagh Market & Car Boot

The Brockagh Market & Car Boot Sale is held once a month on the second Sunday (except Jan/Feb). The next event will be on the 14th of August. Open to the public from 10am to 3pm. Tea, coffee and food snacks are available. Indoor and outdoor stalls with a variety of items for sale with plenty of bargains from gifts, clothes, plants, books, toys, aloe vera products, artwork, tools, household items etc. Free parking and customer toilet facilities.

The barrier will be locked from 6pm Saturday evening until 8am Sunday morning. You can contact by phone 0404 45600 (Wed-Fri 9am to 2pm) or email carbootbrockagh@gmail.com. All stallholders must pre-book their space or no entry on the day.

West Wicklow Historical Society

West Wicklow Historical Society's summer evening stroll will take place in Dunlavin, led by Chris Lawlor, Chairman, WWHS, on Wednesday 27th July. Meeting at 7.30pm at the Market House - no cover charge (weather permitting).

Help baby Autumn

A GoFundMe campaign has been set up by Wicklow man Richie Ross to raise funds for his niece Autumn. Autumn was born November 2021 but has been in hospital since her birth. While at the hospital, the doctors identified Autumn as having a rare severe immune-deficiency disorder called Complete DiGeorge Syndrome. Complete DiGeorge Syndrome is where part of a chromosome is deleted.

With this deletion, she has a non-functioning immune system as she was born without a thymus. The thymus organ creates T-cells, which allow our bodies to fight illnesses which so many of us easily combat. Several other symptoms come along with this disorder. She has had a few, but overall, Autumn has been strong.

After the Newborn Screening bloodwork identified the severe immune-deficiency disorder, she was transferred to Children's Hospital in Aurora Colorado. She was placed in the bone marrow transplant unit to keep her in the healthiest place possible until intervention. She's now been there almost six months. Autumn will need a thymus transplant, and the only hospital that does this type of procedure (just now FDA approved) is Duke University in North Carolina. Insurance is still working out the details, but this type of transplant tissue will cost upwards of \$2.7 million dollars.

Richie uses the GoFundMe page to write, "So far, this has been a journey with tons of tears, sacrifice and prayer. The way Josh and Ashley have handled these past six months has been nothing short of admirable. They consistently lean on God, and the strength they gain in doing so is so evident. Their children Skye and Noelle have been the best little troop-



Baby Autumn

ers and have handled the juggling around from house to house with such resilience.

"While insurance covers the actual transplant, there are many more expenses that come alongside..."

- House modifications to make it safe for Autumn whenever she comes home. Flooring, carpet, air filtration etc.,

will all be needed to help keep her safe while her immune system builds.

- Travel expenses for Autumn and her parents to get her to North Carolina for the operation. Autumn will require a medical flight and from what we understand, this is not covered by insurance.

- Lodging for them in North Carolina for four to

six weeks.

- Insurance deductible & further medical tests

- Along with so many other expenses along the way.

The goal of the campaign is to make this upcoming time and procedure as financially stress-free as possible.

To donate, see <https://www.gofundme.com/f/hjb4a-help-autumn>



Stuart Brierton, with students at National Learning Network Tyler, Darren, Cole, Jack and James, during a visit by Minister Simon Harris on Friday 15th July. Pic: Joe McQuillan. See more, page 4

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AIB'S 'ARROGANCE AND CONTEMPT'

Continued from page 1

Senator Pat Casey, Fianna Fáil, asserted "The announcement by AIB to withdraw cash services from its branches in Wicklow and Greystones was a disgrace and a cynical move which was stood up to by Government. As a business and personal customer of AIB, I am disgusted that the Bank had taken this decision without consulting with its Government shareholders on behalf of the people of Wicklow.

"Businesses all over Wicklow along with personal customers are just returning to normal trading and banking practises after the long Covid disruption. As Fianna Fáil spokesperson on Finance I spoke directly to Ministers McGrath and Fleming and I welcomed the Taoiseach's strong and unprecedented intervention on this.

"AIB cannot and will not get away with a quick hit-and-run announcement on the cutback of vital financial services for the people of Wicklow and consequences will follow should the Bank ever again refuse to engage

with the Government and the people who are their customers and shareholders."

Minister Simon Harris, Fine Gael, welcomed AIB's reversal of their decision to remove cash services from a number of branches in Wicklow.

Minister Harris said, "While I welcome AIB's reversal of their initial decision to remove cash services from many branches, they must now come before the Oireachtas Finance Committee to explain what happened here and to give a solid commitment to customers on the future of cash services in Wicklow.

"Banks must keep customers informed about any future decisions in respect of services and branches. We cannot have shock announcements like this, causing consternation for older customers and businesspeople.

"The announcement from AIB with very little notice, showed absolutely no regard for customers. Branches such as Greystones and Wicklow Town would have seen services severely curtailed. This decision

would have had a serious impact on businesspeople and ordinary customers, particularly older and vulnerable people, in urban and rural areas. This whole episode must be a lesson to all banks to respect their loyal customers and never take them for granted."

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said AIB's proposed changes to the way it handles cash services, would have negatively impacted on customers in County Wicklow.

"Already we have seen a shrinking of bank services in Wicklow with Ulster Bank announcing it will remove all its services from Blessington and Bray. AIB's proposed move, would have meant only Bray and Arklow would retain cash services. For towns like Greystones and Wicklow, AIB intended to remove all cash, cheque and ATM services starting the end of this September.

"This was a very short-sighted move by AIB which made this decision just as we emerge from two years of covid lockdown, and in the middle of a cost-of-living cri-

sis. People need more one-to-one bank services, not less. This would have had disproportionately impacted vulnerable customers, who may not be in a position to deal in a digital economy. I wonder if this was even a consideration by AIB when it made its decision."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady said: "AIB's original decision was short-sighted, and ill-thought out, and would have created major difficulties and hardships for many customers. This is a significant victory for rural Ireland, it is a victory for ordinary people who have voiced their protest since AIB made their announcement.

"This is a banking institution with which the State is a major stakeholder. That they would seek to withdraw cash services from what would have been a primarily rural customer base was outrageous, and was rightly met with anger across the State.

"There are many vulnerable customers, who in many instances do not have the means to travel long distances to avail of remaining cash services at other bank branches. The needs of these vulnerable



Local Bray author Darren Darker with his family Dorothy, Catherine, Claire Ryan, Freya and Amilia, at the launch of Darren's latest novel *The Cautionary Woman*, in Dubray Books in Bray last Tuesday. Pic: Joe McQuillan.

people have to be taken into account by major financial institutions such as AIB.

"I had talked to a number of business owners in Wicklow Town, and the concern and anger at the original decision by AIB was palpable. I also talked to an elderly man in Greystones who was very anxious following the AIB announcement. Having

banked there for decades, and having no means to travel to another branch of the AIB to access cash services, he was very much at a loss at what he was going to do. AIB and the other financial institutions continue to have a responsibility to provide services to our local communities.

"I call on other financial institutions to learn a lesson from this experience

and put the needs of their customers first. We have witnessed enough of the erosion of the fabric of rural Ireland."

Independent councillor Stephen Stokes from Greystones remarked: "The original decision by AIB caused a lot of alarm in the community. Over the past few days a lot of people have voiced their dismay from all walks of soci-

ety. I welcome the change of heart by AIB. Cash continues to be important for many businesses, older people, and folks who just like cash. For them Cash is King. A bank without cash would be like a restaurant with no food."

Cllr Stokes noted that the AIB Greystones Branch is particularly convenient for accessibility and public transport.

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Harris visits Bray National Learning Network

Minister for Further and Higher Education Simon Harris TD visited the Bray National Learning Network on Friday 15th July to see first hand the excellent work carried out by staff and students.

Minister Harris said: "I am delighted to be able to visit the team at the Bray NLN to see first hand the excellent work

they do. The Bray NLN combine the very best of vocational and community based rehabilitative training.

"I met with students and instructors from both rehabilitation and vocational training. The Bray NLN offers Level 2 to 5

courses in small classes where each person's need can be met on an individual basis. In addition to an excellent team of instructors, the Bray NLN also has a psychologist, an English and maths teacher and an advocacy worker."

Minister Harris continued: "As Minister for Further and Higher Education a key priority for me is to expand the range of education and training options. The vocational skills programme at the Bray NLN is an excellent example of this, catering for students aged 16 to 22.

"I am passionately committed to inclusion and today's visit was not only an opportunity for me to express my gratitude for all that the Bray NLN does, but also to learn best practice as to how inclusion in education can be promoted elsewhere."



Minister Harris chats with students at Bray's National Learning Network. Pic: Joe McQuillan



Shay Hiney, Transition Facilitator at National Learning Network Bray, Alison Gapert, NLN Manager, Minister Simon Harris, Antoinette Taylor and Ben Hoskin. Pic: Joe McQuillan

Council receives funding for Clermont food hub

A Priming Grant of €199,600 has been awarded to Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG from Enterprise Ireland's Regional Enterprise Innovation Scheme (REISS).

The main purpose of REISS is the investigation and preparation of major new collaborative and innovative initiatives that have the potential to make a significant impact on enterprise development in a region, across regions, or nationally. It provides early-stage financial assistance to potentially significant projects that can be primed to deliver a regional impact.

Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG is a not-for-profit company overseeing the construction, development, and management of key, demand led enterprise hub infrastructure. Wicklow Naturally, County Wicklow's promotional food and beverage brand are located on the campus.

This funding is intended to allow Wicklow County Council to engage a consultant to prime the development of a Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation Centre at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew comprising regional infrastructure of scale for agri-food and drinks SMEs including specialist food production units, co-working innovation kitchens, and scaling and growth support services.

With one of Ireland's most prolific food and drinks networks, the focus of the new infrastructure will be to respond to industry needs for food enterprise space and innovation supports to accelerate growth in the regional food and beverage sector and will contribute to maximising the potential of the 55 acre site at Wicklow County Campus.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, commented that: "Historically Wicklow is synonymous with good food, it earned the name 'The Garden of Ireland' with its green and clean image. This is a fantastic opportunity to play to our strengths, it also fits in with our plans for the overall development of the campus and the development of on-campus skills."

Wicklow is a proven incubator and growth zone for agri-food and drinks companies. To drive the latent potential of the sector, Wicklow County Council facilitated the development of a dedicated Food Strategy in 2018, which sets out an ambitious vision for the agri-food and drinks sec-

tor. In 2019, a feasibility study was commissioned by Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Naturally into the viability of a dedicated food hub for the county.

The findings were clear:

- 84% of respondent food and drink businesses in County Wicklow intend to expand over the next few years
- 50% stated that dedicated food units would enable them to expand their business
- 20% of respondents stated that they are unable to find larger premises for their business.

This funding will allow for plans to be primed for the full implementation of the Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation Centre. It will enable the recruitment of a project manager to advance plans for the centre, retention of an architect led design and multi-disciplinary team to prepare plans, appointment of a financial team to complete a business model and a financial analysis review, and the launch of a promotional awareness campaign.

Food Hubs are recognised for their unique potential to spur productive, inclusive, and sustainable economic development. They tackle the challenge of the prohibitive high capital set-up costs of food-grade workspace and help to create a

pipeline of new food businesses with the ability to create jobs.

Welcoming the announcement, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Brian Gleeson stated: "This will help tackle the challenge of the prohibitive high capital set-up costs of food-grade workspace for start-ups and small businesses and help to create a pipeline of new food businesses with the ability to create jobs."

The Wicklow Naturally Food Hub is expected to realise the following benefits within 3 years:

- Build sectoral improvement and smart specialisation with clear and achievable targets.
- 4 food and drinks production tenants embedded in 4 independent food production units, creating 40 new jobs.
- Development kitchen for product development, training, and small-scale production enabling 40 new food and drink start-ups to create 80 new jobs.
- 1500 industry professionals participating in training/networking events;
- 70 food and drink professionals attending regular networking events;
- 30 businesses receiving business growth mentoring support.
- 20% reduction in costs of new concept

development for early stage start-ups.

- Facilitate food businesses to grow and develop their business by engaging with students academics and specialist mentors, through SETU and the Local Enterprise Office which are co-located on the Campus, to work on innovation led projects and avail of management capability training.

- Unlock real growth and scale in such a dense area of population as the mid-east region;

- Leverage the benefits of affordable food infrastructure close to Dublin to attract new, innovative food businesses to relocate.

Wicklow County Campus is working towards a zero carbon status in the near future through the use of solar energy and biomass heating systems and this will carry forward to the Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation Hub, helping to deliver on the Government's Climate Action Plan 2019 and the European Green Deal plan to build a fairer economy while protecting our planet.

The Food Hub will facilitate the development of scalable, sustainable, and profitable food businesses across the mid-east by providing the physical environment to choreograph opportunities for food entrepreneurs to interact with each other and will support Wicklow food and drink companies to respond to new market realities arising from Covid-19, Brexit, and other market changes, including climate change/sustainability, innovation, and digital transition.

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Emma, Eamonn, Lisa and Katie Burke with Hannah Dillon at the Arklow Seabreeze Festival.

Local Authorities launch new dog fouling awareness campaign - Help Scally be a good dog!

A new campaign to raise awareness of the problem of dog fouling has been launched by a group of local authorities, including Wicklow County Council.

Dog owners everywhere know they need to pick up after their dogs, but the issue of dog fouling is still one that plagues County Wicklow. Waste should always be bagged and removed for binning. Your dog is your responsibility.

Fouling of our streets and public areas is a problem for all of us, particu-

larly children, those who manage our greenspace and people with mobility concerns. Dog fouling can also contribute to the spread of disease between dogs.

To highlight the issue of dog fouling Wicklow County Council has developed a new campaign to remind dog owners to pick

up after their pup wherever they are.

The campaign features the adorable "Scally", the dog in a series of videos which highlight the consequences of not picking up the poop. Whether under the cover of darkness, on our streets, in a park or on the beach remember "Your dog's poop could end up

anywhere! Always Pick it up!"

Speaking at the launch of the campaign, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley said: "Dog Fouling is frequently raised to elected members as a source of nuisance and concern Wicklow County Council continues

to look for new and innovative ways to help combat the issue of dog fouling, and over the last number of years has engaged in social media campaigns, adverts and the use of audio devices which remind dog owners of their responsibility in order to increase awareness around the issue of dog fouling. Help Scally to carry on the message and bin the poo responsibly."

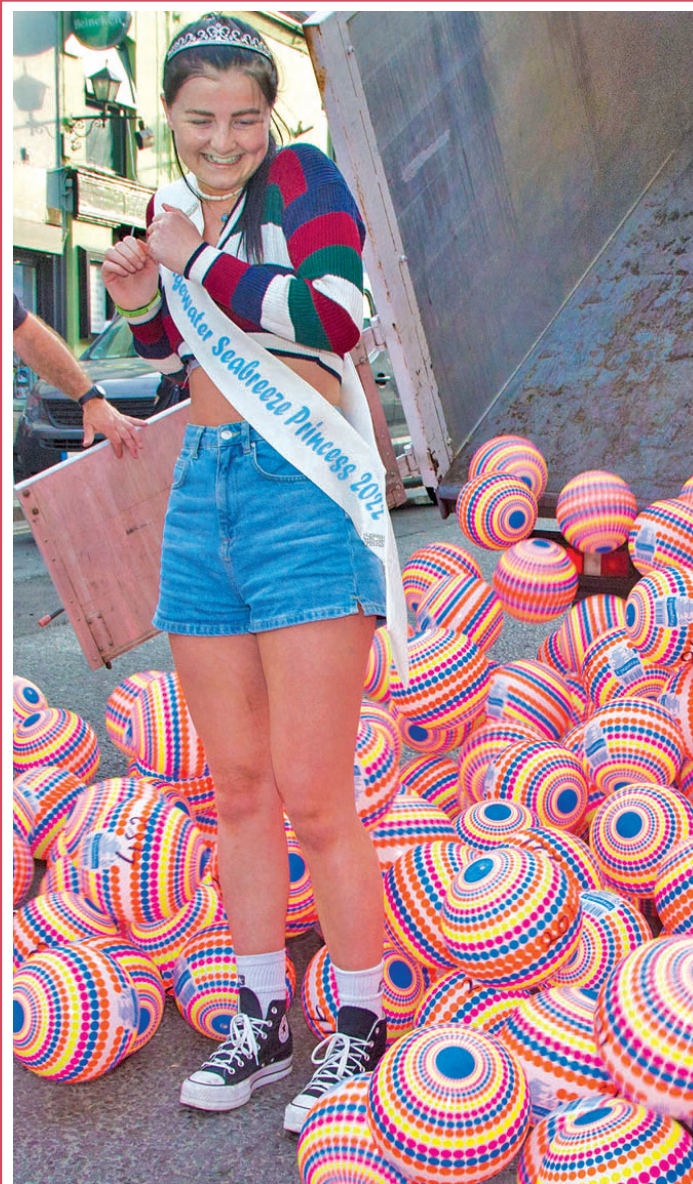
Failure to pick up after your dog is an offence under the Litter Management Acts 1997 - 2009 and could result in an on-the-spot fine of €150. The maximum court fine is €3000.

The new campaign is sponsored by Wicklow County Council along with the Local Authorities in Louth, Meath, Dublin City, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Laois, Longford, South Dublin, Westmeath and Roscommon.

For more information, please contact Jim Callery, Environmental Awareness Officer, eao@wicklowcoco.ie



Jim Callery, Environmental Awareness Officer; Maureen Dunne and Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, launching the new dog fouling campaign in Arklow.



Arklow Seabreeze Festival Princess Kerry Byrne at the start of the Great Ball Race during the Arklow Seabreeze Festival

Dog fouling is litter wherever, whenever - remember ... **Always Pick it Up!**

Bag It, Bin It!

For more info visit www.wicklow.ie

Fire safety warning issued after Crone Woods blaze

Coillte and fire service personnel last week tackled a significant forest fire at Crone Woods in Enniskerry. The fire affected areas of forested lands and also the Wicklow Mountains National Park. An Air Corps helicopter was in attendance to assist in the efforts as well as three Wicklow fire crews from Bray, Greystones and Blessington.



Smoke billowing from the fire in Crone Woods

Fire services were attending the scene since 1am last Tuesday morning and the blaze was under control by Wednesday morning. Flames were reported to be 30-40 feet high. By Thursday Wicklow Fire Service were reporting that just a few 'hot spots' remained, which Coillte were monitoring.

There is a National Status Orange Forest Fire Warning in place and Coillte is asking the public to avoid the use of all outdoor fires and other open ignition sources such as barbecues and cigarettes at this time.

Coillte issued a statement requesting that all members of the public and visitors to recreational areas should cooperate with all requests regarding fire safety, obey all relevant bye-laws and be considerate in parking vehicles so as not to impede access by emergency vehicles.

"Forest fires pose a serious health and safety risk to the public and to people working in the forest sector," said Coillte.

"They are very difficult to control and put firefighters and forest personnel at great risk in their efforts to extinguish them.

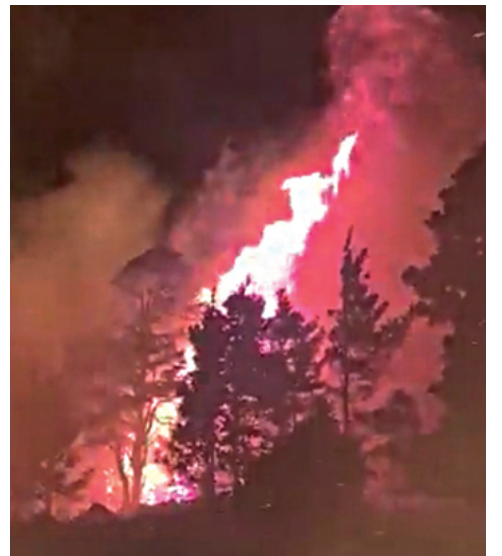
"They cause ecological and environmental damage to wildlife and to protected habitats and species that can take years to recover from.

"Coillte advises that where fire outbreaks occur the following actions should be taken by visitors in the interests of safety:

1. Do not light fires in and around forests or open land;
2. Do not attempt to intervene or fight fires under any circumstances;
3. Gather all family/group members and move to a safe fuel-free location such as a car park, upwind of the fire;
4. Telephone Fire and Rescue Services via 112 and report the fire and its location;
5. Evacuate if instructed to do so and cooperate with all Emergency Service Instructions."

NPWS also issued a statement following last week's fire, saying "NPWS wishes to remind members of the public of dangers of lighting fires outdoors.

The NPWS appeals to the public not to light fires in the National Parks and to abstain from using barbecues in our parks. Have a great weekend in the sunny weather and enjoy our parks responsibly if you visit."



The fire raging last Monday night

Call for ideas to tackle social or environmental challenges

Do you have an idea that you think would help combat social or environmental challenges in your local community? Maybe you've had a brainwave that could really solve a social problem such as food waste, fast fashion, climate change, education, housing or mental health - but you're unsure what to do next?

If so, the Community Enterprise Association Ireland, through its network of enterprise centres and hubs, is hosting a series of regional events that will help you or your group build this idea into a service that could drive real change in your community.

Entitled Champion Changemakers, the ambition is to find solutions that can be turned into products or services which will directly impact the lives of people in local communities around Ireland. This positive social change is often the basis for starting a business - also known as a Social Enterprise.

The purpose of these events is to promote the role of social enterprise in local communities. Individuals will not need to have any experience of business or social enterprise, but will be driven by a passion to make a real difference in their own communities and beyond. Ideas will be classified under one of three key themes which are all encompassing: Environment and Climate Action; Economic Inequality; Human Wellbeing.

Examples of successful social enterprises already in Ireland include: Thriftify - a web platform that allows charities to offer second-hand items for sale online; Food Cloud - a social enterprise that connects businesses that have surplus food with charities and community groups that need it to combat food waste in Ireland; GIY Ireland - helping and educating people to become more sustainable by growing some of their own food with the goal to rebuild a sustainable food system; Too Good to Go - an app that lets people buy surplus food and drink from restaurants, grocery stores, pubs, cafes and producers to combat food waste in Ireland; Refill Ireland - non-profit organisation aiming to create a sustainable future by reducing plastic waste and trash in Ireland by eliminating single-use plastic bottles; Men's Sheds Association - non-profit



Siobhan Finn, National Hub Bnetwork Manager at CEAI with Gary O'Meara, Executive Director at CEAI

local organisations nationwide that provide a space for craftwork and social interaction to improve health and well-being of older men in communities.

To enter, visit Community Enterprise Association Ireland's website (communityenterprise.ie) to find out where your local event is happening and details on how to sign-up. Anybody interested will be given the opportunity to work with local mentors to develop your idea and help prepare you to present and pitch it to a panel of experts in your local hub across the weekend of September 23rd.

Finalists will be identified from each region and those shortlisted will participate in the national event on October 20th 2022. The selected overall winning team will benefit from a bursary of key supports and services that any start-up would welcome.



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Community-led Wicklow housing scheme to be 'first of its kind' in Ireland

A proposed community-led housing scheme for North Wicklow is aiming to be the first of its kind in Ireland.

Common Ground Community-Led Housing (CLH) say their model makes housing more attainable, community-focussed and sustainable. They point out that community-led models have worked successfully in the UK, EU and beyond.

“By taking the best from these models it allows us to develop a low-risk investment proposition for stakeholders, lenders and land donors alike. The community-led model makes acquiring a home more attainable for many individuals frozen out of the housing market by delivering a more affordable home. And it maintains this affordability in perpetuity.”

Common Ground CLH was born out of Common Ground Bray community resource centre in 2018.

“The pandemic has given us a renewed vigour by reinforcing our belief

in the power of community and allowing us to further commit on realising our plans,” they say.

“We now have seven external consultants on board to complement the work of our members. And we plan to publish our prospectus for Ireland's first ever community-led housing scheme this summer. We are currently liaising with a number of potential land, fundraising and financing partners to assist in bringing our project to fruition.”

Common Ground CLH intends to be inclusive of people in all life stages. The standard design for a three-bedroom house in the Common Ground CLH development is 20% smaller than the size of an average new house. The savings made are invested in shared social spaces, small guest rooms, laundry, a toolshed and gardens.

The wider community is also catered for through a neighbourhood centre with a multipurpose hall, wellness centre, work hub, cafe, market space and playground.

The scheme aims to protect assets through a Community Land Trust (CLT) Model. “It will enable communities to own and protect valuable physical assets such as land designated for affordable housing, community buildings and green spaces. The assets will be permanently protected for future generations via use of an asset lock which prevents land being sold for personal gain. Where CLTs develop attainable housing, local need and affordability is prioritised.”

A Mutual Home Ownership Society (MHOS) model allows for mutual member ownership and provides access to secure tenure.

“Primary funding is a single, combined (mutual) mortgage. Debt is serviced by households' monthly payments. Equity in the MHOS company is accrued by households through these monthly payments. Initial equity value is related to actual build cost. Equity growth is linked to wage inflation not housing-market inflation - eliminating any speculation from the project. Outgoing members can sell their equity to incoming members.

“Community is at the heart of our proposal. And while all members will have their own home - it's in our shared spaces, support and responsibilities that our project will generate its true wealth. Common Ground CLH is not just a concept, we're an active organisation who are serious about building Ireland's first ever community-led housing scheme.”



Pictured during the Health Minister's visit to Blessington District Day Centre last year were Michael McLoughlin, Minister of Health Stephen Donnelly, Jean Roche, Catriona Byrne, Bridie Gleeson and Cllr Patsy Glennon.

Blessington District Day Centre services extended

The Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly has confirmed services at Blessington District Day Centre will be extended from two to four days a week.

The Minister visited the centre late last year when the management made a direct appeal to see if it was possible to extend the operating hours of the centre.

Since being established over 20 years ago the day centre has provided an invaluable service to local people. At present 20 clients, some of whom are transported by bus from across West Wicklow, use the centre on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Services provided at the centre include nursing, physiotherapy and chiropody as well as hairdressing and laundry.

Clients can also do arts and crafts, bingo, cards and bowls and music as well as have lunch on site.

The centre, which caters for people with all forms of dementia including Alzheimer's, will now be able to extend its services to more local people. It is expected the extended hours will be in place by September.

Minister Donnelly said: "I'm absolutely delighted it has been possible to double the number of days the day centre is to open. I saw for myself the incredible work done there and how it really improves the quality of life for their clients when I visited.

"Staff were understandably keen to extend the service which is in huge demand. I would like to pay tribute to the staff and volunteers who make the incredible and impactful work done at the centre possible. They are changing the lives of not only their clients but also their families for the better."



Tasha and Matty Donnelly at the Beach BBQ Festival in Bray



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Gum Litter Taskforce takes to streets of Greystones



At the Gum Litter Taskforce Roadshow in Greystones were Margaret Callaghan, Jim Callery (Wicklow County Council Environmental Awareness Officer), Olaf Moore, Richard Grainger, Marie McCooney, and Dave Emerson

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Food Drink Ireland and the chewing gum industry recently announced the renewal of successful gum litter awareness campaign. The Gum Litter Taskforce Roadshow took to the streets of Greystones on Friday, 8th July as part of its summer roadshow campaign to promote responsible disposal of gum litter.

This follows the national launch of the Gum Litter Taskforce Roadshow which took place on June 20th, which will see the Roadshow travel to locations across all four provinces over the course of the Summer months. To date the campaign has engaged with over 30 local authorities across the country to promote community-led action on gum litter by hosting awareness initiatives and localised launch events and providing engagement and educational materials.

Ireland has achieved a 70% reduction in chewing gum litter since 2007, according to the Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT), the National Awareness Campaign to make gum litter an issue of the past. The study from GLT, also shows that gum litter now accounts for only 8% of all litter compared with 2007, when the campaign was launched. This research was published to mark the renewal of the campaign by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Food Drink Ireland, and the chewing gum industry. The GLT National Awareness Campaign has ambitions to further build on the remarkable success and reach of the programme to date. The renewed campaign, which is funded by Mars Wrigley, will run for a fifth cycle until 2025 on the back of a remarkable 70% reduction in gum litter since the initiative first began in 2007.

The Gum Litter Taskforce has led to a phenomenal shift in people's



of the Gum Litter Taskforce demonstrates the forward-thinking, joined up approach of industry, local communities and local government that is necessary to further drive the objective of changing the public's gum disposal behaviour. I look forward to working with all stakeholders to achieve further positive changes in litter reduction in our cities, towns and villages."

Gum Litter Taskforce Project Manager, Avril Donlon of Food Drink Ireland, also said: "We are delighted to continue the great work of the Gum Litter Taskforce alongside the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. Through continuing to engage with people and educate them on the harms of gum litter, we can work to make gum litter on the streets of Ireland a problem of the past."

"The focus for the next three-year cycle of the Gum Litter Taskforce campaign is to increase its reach among target audiences and influence future generations through proven successful education campaigns in schools and digital activations."

The National Gum Litter Awareness Campaign, which launched on June 20th will see representatives from the Gum Litter Taskforce working with local authorities and communities to carry out education and awareness initiatives that demonstrate the proper means of gum disposal and raise awareness of the environmental and fiscal impacts of improper disposal.

attitude to litter with chewing gum dropping to a record low as a result of the awareness campaign. It has also increased knowledge of the fine associated with gum litter, with 81% of those surveyed after the campaign now aware of the €150 fine. However, just over one in four (27%) claim never to have dropped gum, highlighting the continued importance of this awareness and behavioural change campaign, particularly for future generations.

Following the conclusion of the roadshow, the Gum Litter Taskforce's Bin It! education programme will kick off in September. The 'Bin It!' school roadshow encour-

ages students to responsibly dispose of litter, and particularly gum litter, through actor-led workshops. The latest cycle of the campaign will see the programme shift its focus from secondary school students to students in fifth and sixth class, and a return to in-person workshops, with the programme set to deliver 60 performances a year to primary and secondary schools nationwide, with the ambition to visit 180 schools by 2025. This is in addition to useful lesson plan material that has been made available to almost 730 schools across Ireland.

Speaking ahead of the campaign, Minister Ossian Smyth, said: "The success

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www.wicklow.ie

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

'Greystones Municipal District should also have a recycling centre'

Independent councillor Stephen Stokes is calling on Wicklow County Council to provide a recycling centre in Greystones Municipal District, which is the only Municipal District in Wicklow without such a facility.

The Council is planning to introduce a €3 charge at the County's recycling centres which it says will be put towards establishing a recycling centre facility in Blessington. However Cllr Stokes has noted that "With 20% of the County Wicklow population located in Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle, a recycling centre in Greystones MD is badly needed. From an environmental standpoint it doesn't make much sense to make people travel to Bray to recycle. We need something a lot closer, and it would also take pressure off the Bray Centre. It would also be marvelous for local schools to be able to bring their students to a Greystones recycling centre on a field trip. This would

help to instil the value of recycling in society."

Regarding the €3 charge, Cllr Stokes said "I am cautious about introducing any charge, especially during a cost of living crisis, and with the impact that Covid-19 has had on the economy and society. The last thing we want to see is people being discouraged from recycling because of affordability."

Cllr. Stephen Stokes requested that if there must be charges, then the list of free items should be extended.

He added: "Wicklow County Council has the power to decide which items should be free. During the post-presentation discussions I advocated in the Wicklow County Council



Cllr Stephen Stokes

Chamber that cardboard, paper and cans should be added to the list of free items.

"In the Greystones Municipal District there are many new houses that will have packaging to dispose of, let alone all the normal cardboard packages that people receive these days."



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ROUNDWOOD STREET FESTIVAL

Sun. 31st July. 2pm till LATE

The Roundwood Festival (31st July, Bank Holiday Sunday) is a family fun event in the heart of the beautiful Wicklow Mountains. There's something for every taste with dancing, music sessions and side shows including origami for children and Japanese massage, bungee runs, family attractions, pets corner and the down hill ball race to name but a few.



The scarecrows will add great colour to the village throughout the weekend

The first event is a family céile will take place on Friday the 29th of July in Roundwood Parish Hall. No previous experience of dancing of any type is required as Sheila Lawless and her team of expert dancers will be on hand to call out the dances and get everyone up on the floor.

Sunday is a dedicated Family Street Festival from 2 til late with field day events suitable for all age groups with music and dancing on site. The Sunday Festivities will begin with piper led parade with the Post 21 IUCN-VA Colour Party with a piper and a fabulous display of people dressed in traditional Japanese Kimonos. The star attraction for the kids will be the return of the ever-popular bungee run along with the fun obstacle course! Sideshows include Tug of war, Duck herding, Fair Day attractions, Pets Corner, Kid's Corner with face painting, beekeeping and Coast Watch displays along with the



The bar man's race and inter club wheel barrow race will take place during the day with Sunday evening's street events closing with the festival raffle and downhill ball race at Roundwood Bank.

Altura Credit Union stand. There are plenty of competitions including nappy hanging, hang tough and the ever popular dog show! There's a fresh cuppa to be had in the tea tent with enter-

tainment including singing, drumming and more.

When you start to get hungry the BBQ onsite makes a great pit stop to recharge before the next event. The bar man's

race and inter club wheel barrow race will take place during the day with Sunday evening's street events closing with the festival raffle and downhill ball race at Roundwood Bank.



Ceili dance at the Roundwood Street Festival

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ROUNDWOOD STREET FESTIVAL

Sun. 31st July. 2pm till LATE



Vintage car show at the Roundwood Street Festival

There is still time to get working on those scarecrows for the scarecrow competition. These creations add great colour to the village throughout the weekend with prizes for the best and most original scarecrow! If you need straw for your masterpiece please call John on 086 8225705. Then erect your scarecrow inside the fence in the Festival Field.

That activity by checking out some of the local bars or if it is more music and partying you want, head to the grand finale with music by Florence Road, James Pierce and friends and the Roamin' Cadillacs on the street outside the Kavanagh's Vartry House and Woods & Byrne.

There's something for everyone at the Roundwood Festival weekend so do come

along this August Bank holiday Sunday. Raffle tickets for fabulous prizes donated by the ever supportive local business community are on sale on the run up to the festival and throughout the weekend. The Festival is a community event. Charges to events are kept to a minimum, as the sole aim of the event is to cover the running costs. So do come along and join the fun!

Further information on the Festival please check out the roundwood.ie Facebook page or on www.roundwood.ie



Schedule of events

2:00pm: Vintage Vehicle Parade, with IUNVA colour party & Guests to Festival Field with fun events and activities for all the family. Field attractions include: Vintage car & tractor display, Dog Show, Scarecrow competition, Pet's Corner, Bungee Run & Kid's Corner, Bottle fishing, Face painting, Mountain Rescue, Guess the weight of the lamb, hang tough & nappy hanging competitions, Japanese cultural display, origami, hand massage and much more.

Live music & entertainment while having a cuppa in the Tea tent
All day Street BBQ BBQ proceeds fund the Festival running costs

2:30pm Dog Show

3:00pm Inter club fun race

4:00pm Inter pub Barman's race

4:30pm Tug o'War: youth & inter pub competitions

6:00pm Raffle outside Kavanagh's Vartry House & the "Load of Balls Downhill Ball Race"

6:30pm Sunday Evening/Night at Byrne & Woods/ Kavanagh's Vartry House - Street Party with live music featuring Florence Road, James Pierce & friends, The Roamin' Cadillac's & more til late



Congratulations to Roundwood Street Festival Committee

Wishing everybody a great day

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The Sunday festivities will begin with a piper-led parade with the Post 21 IUCNVA Colour Party.

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'184 bus is like a mystery machine'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady met with a number of his party colleagues recently in Leinster House where they discussed the difficulties that commuters are encountering with the bus service that has been provided by GoAhead.

The Sinn Féin team included representatives from across Dublin, and the Sinn Féin party spokesperson for Transport Darren O'Rourke.

Deputy Brady said: "Myself and my Sinn Féin party colleagues met this week in Leinster House to formulate a response to what is clearly an inadequate, and just plain terrible transport service being provided by 'GoAhead' Ireland. In Wicklow for the last three years GoAhead have operated the 185, 184 and 45a routes. The privatisation of these three bus routes in County Wicklow, has resulted in a total deterioration of the service which was previously successfully run by Dublin Bus.

"It's safe to say that the privatisation of these routes has been a disaster



Cllr Stephen Stokes waiting for the 184 at Blacklion bus stop

as not a day goes by that buses aren't canceled or simply fail to show up. As my party colleagues were able to inform me, this failure is replicated across all the routes that GoAhead operates.

"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://chngr.it/GRC8w86MKz>.

There has been strong engagement with this petition by the public. It is clear that there is huge anger out there at the failure of GoAhead to meet their contractual obligations. I have also recently 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 I have with this service."

In Greystones, Independent councillor Stephen Stokes has written to Go Ahead to raise issues about the unreliable 184 bus service in particular.

Cllr Stokes stated: "I am a regular commuter on public transport, and passionately believe that we need reliable services.



Sinn Féin members at the meeting in Leinster House

The 184 bus service seems to have deteriorated significantly under Go Ahead and I am seeking answers for passengers in the Greystones Municipal District".

Cllr Stokes has specifically raised the plight of the 18.40 bus (Monday to Friday) from Bray Railway Station. Cllr. Stokes added: "It's like a mystery machine. One minute it's on the app, then suddenly at the last minute it's cancelled. This is very unfair for local passengers. Many people travelling at 18.40 are tired from their day at work, school or college etc. Go Ahead needs this service to go ahead".

Cllr Stokes thanked all the local people who reached out about this

issue. He added: "When I put up a post on my Facebook page it became clear very quickly that 184 bus cancellations are not isolated incidents. There are systematic issues with Go Ahead services. It's all times of day including the first 184 bus on a Sunday, to peak weekday commuting, and everything in-between".

Cllr Stokes has also expressed concern about the damage to the local economy. He added: "It is affecting local businesses also. One language school advised me that their international students have been left stranded on numerous occasions. They end up being late for classes, and it leaves an unpleasant feeling

for these visitors".

Cllr. Stokes believes at very minimum people should be informed of cancellations in advance. However he added that what people really deserve is a reliable service that runs on time.

Additionally Cllr Stokes believes that public transport, including the 184 bus, is critical to reducing petrol and diesel emissions in North Wicklow.

He stated: "If we are serious about reducing car usage, then alternatives need to be in place. Less reliance on petrol and diesel cars is a win-win for everyone, leading to less fumes and less traffic. However every time a bus service is cancelled it erodes confi-

dence and trust in the system. People who have cars may give up, and go back to driving".

Cllr. Stokes further pointed to the strategic importance of the 184 bus. He stated: "With the massive population growth of Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle, the demand for public transport has never been greater. I believe we need to increase public transport as a priority".

Cllr. Stokes concluded: "From my experience the 184 is a decent service when it runs. Simply put I am calling for the 184 bus services to run as scheduled, and for expansion to cater for our growing population."

Concerns over last-minute cancellation of Bus Route 132 from Baltinglass

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has raised concerns about Bus Éireann's 132 route between Baltinglass and Dublin following a recent last-minute cancellation of the service.

The 132 bus, the only public transport service between Baltinglass and Dublin, was cancelled on Monday 27th June 'without warning', Deputy Whitmore said.

Speaking on the matter, Deputy Whitmore says, "It is very concerning that Bus Éireann cancelled the only public transport route between Baltinglass and Dublin at a last minute's notice and without any warning or

explanation to service users. As the prime transport route for commuters in the area, this caused huge setbacks for people in Baltinglass who had to find alternative means to get to work, school and any other trips.

"No explanation was given except to explain why there was a service disruption and no reassurance was granted to state that the service would commence the following

day. People should expect the best from our public service providers especially when it comes to transport.

"Baltinglass is already poorly serviced by public transport despite many calls by myself and other representatives to see more bus routes open up to cater to the rising demand in the area.

"I have written to the NTA and to Bus Éireann on this matter and hope there are no future cancellations of the service without sufficient time given to people to make alternative arrangements."

'Roundwood needs an extra bus service'

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has proposed to the National Transport Authority a new bus service for Laragh/Roundwood to Bray Railway Station under the Connecting Ireland rural bus scheme.

Deputy Matthews outlined: "I have contacted the NTA outlining my research to support the provision of a new service and asked that this route be included in the expansion of national rural bus services currently underway.

"Connecting Ireland already proposes an expansion of the 183 route which will provide a full East West service from Blessington via Roundwood and Wicklow Town to Arklow and a 181 route serving Glendalough to the City Centre however there is no service to the transport hub at Bray

Railway Station. I am proposing a 182 route running from Laragh to Bray, thus providing opportunities for residents to enjoy public transport to work, college, recreation and community services" said Deputy Matthews.

"The residents in the area are heavily car dependent because of the lack of regular and affordable public transport placing a social and financial cost on families. Roundwood has grown over the years and many new young families have moved to this beautiful village and surrounding areas.

"The provision of better



Steven Matthews TD with Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan

public transport across Co Wicklow is a priority for me and I have worked closely with the Minister for Transport, the NTA and Wicklow County Council to ensure that Wicklow gets the invest-

ment that was lacking in the past. I have worked well with the National Transport Authority over the years and successfully secured reduced rail fares for Greystones residents as well as the

major commitment to provide a DART extension to Wicklow Town.

"Last year I attended the launch of Connecting Ireland with Minister Eamon Ryan and NTA Chief Executive Ann Graham at Glendalough and we discussed how we can improve on bus services throughout Ireland. My suggestion for a service from Roundwood to Bray has been supported by any resident I have discussed it with, and I know that the demand for a good bus service exists.

"Full details of the proposal for Connecting Ireland are on the NTA website or I would be happy to send on details if anyone wishes to contact me directly on stevenmatthews.ie."



The 2022 Arklow Seabreeze Festival closed with a magnificent fireworks display over the 19 Arches Bridge

Irish dancing school brings World Championship honours home to Bray

The Claddagh School of Irish Dancing in Bray has just returned from the CRN World Open Irish Dancing Championships with four championship titles and a glittering haul of trophies and medals.



Some of the school's successful young dancers will be showcasing their skills when they join in the fun of the upcoming Summer Dance Camp.

The Summer Dance Camp comes at the end of the most successful year in the 10-year-history of the Claddagh School. The teaching team - all former champion dancers - are Bray natives, twin sisters Elisa and Jennifer Billington, Bryan Coughlan and Sam Davies.

Throughout the lockdown, they maintained the enthusiasm and developed the skills of their dancers - whose ages range from three to 23 - through Zoom classes. And the dedication of dancers and teachers was rewarded at the recent World Championships in Killarney.

A trio of individual championships were won by Clodagh Warner (Under nine), Sarah Colleran (Under 10) and Aoife Reilly (Under 18). And Claddagh's Under 18 ceili team also claimed a

world title with their win - the school's first ceili world championship.

Other honours went to: Lucy Grant (2nd, Under 10), Ailbhe Byrne (2nd, Under 21), Max McGlone (4th, under 15), Katie Byrne (5th, under 17), Amber Behan (5th, Under 20), Nicole Byrne (5th, over 23), Ceili Paiste Mixed team (5th), Ceili Aonach Mixed (5th), Caitlin Coyle (7th, under 16), Holly Byrne (8th, under 17), Jade Forde (8th, Under 21), Anwen Rogers (10th, under 17), Freya Larkin (11th, Under 13) and Laura Murphy (16th, Under 17).

Jennifer Billington said: "It was a weekend we will

never forget, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of our amazing dancers. To see all of our dancers back on stage, doing what they love, was very special. And we are very excited to see what the future holds."

Ballywaltrim Community Centre, Bray will be the venue for the Summer Dance Camp, which is open to youngsters of all abilities, aged four upwards between 15th and 19th August. For more details text 086 889 2526, DM @Claddagh School of Irish Dancing on Facebook or DM @CladdaghIrishDancing on Instagram.



A trio of individual championships were won by Clodagh Warner (Under nine), Sarah Colleran (Under 10) and Aoife Reilly (Under 18). And Claddagh's Under 18 ceili team also claimed a world title with their win - the school's first ceili world championship.

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Skillnet Ireland sees strong level of engagement with Wicklow businesses

559 Wicklow companies and 1,631 individuals supported in 2021

Skillnet Ireland has published its 2021 results, reporting an increase in its supports to Irish businesses and an investment of €60 million in upskilling programmes for companies and their workforces.

The 2021 Annual Report shows a strong number of Wicklow businesses engaging in talent development through Skillnet Ireland, at 559. The year also saw a growing number of people participating on upskilling programmes through Skillnet Ireland, with 1,631 participants in 2021.

Most notable, was the record level of investment in talent development across the country in 2021, growing by 17% to more than €60 million. Contributions from businesses represented €22.5 million or 37% of total investment.

Nationwide, Skillnet Ireland saw a growing appetite from businesses in tackling strategic skills challenges such as digitalisation, leadership development and sustainability. The agency increased the output of training programmes by 8%, delivering 9,853 programmes spanning industry and professional certified

courses, specialised upskilling, new industry and academia collaborations, and many innovation and research-based projects.

Growth in Skillnet Ireland's national initiatives was also robust. Climate Ready, which focuses on supporting businesses in understanding and preparing for climate action, supporting more than 1,600 businesses and 3,200 people in its inaugural year. MentorsWork which supports small business owners through expert mentoring and skills development, grew by 35% in 2021.

Launching the annual report Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris said: "Skillnet Ireland's results demonstrate a growing appetite for talent development and upskilling from businesses of all sizes. In 2021, Skillnet Ireland played a critical role in providing upskilling programmes

to workers in areas that will be vital to ensure our economic success into the future, including digitalisation, green skills and boosting SME productivity. The government is committed to ensuring that we have the right skills to thrive and grow and Skillnet Ireland is a key part of that."

Brendan McGinty, Chair, Skillnet Ireland, added: "2021 was another excellent year for Skillnet Ireland amidst a climate of change and challenge. We are pleased to have been able to increase our support to businesses and workers, both in helping them navigate the immediate challenges a second year of the pandemic brought about and in preparing them for the future with initiatives focused on boosting the digital agenda, the SME sector, and climate action. We have also increased our focus on nurturing talent for FDI firms, which is vital in



Paul Healy, Chief Executive, Skillnet Ireland and Brendan McGinty, Chair, Skillnet Ireland

attracting and retaining investment in Ireland."

Paul Healy, Chief Executive, Skillnet Ireland said: "In 2021, Skillnet Ireland supported a record number of businesses – more than 22,500 nationwide. Our investment

in talent development was also significant, growing by more than 17% to €60.2 million – 37% of which was invested by companies, demonstrating real belief from the business community in the value and impact of skills development.

Talent has and will continue to play a fundamental role in Ireland's economic development, and our goal is to increase the number of businesses supported by Skillnet Ireland to 30,000 annually by 2025."

Community education providers called on to apply for SOLAS and ETBI Reach Fund

Applications for Reach funding to support disadvantaged adult learners are now open through Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board

Community education providers in Kildare and Wicklow are being encouraged to apply for funding for eligible projects under the €5.5 million Reach Fund, which is now open for applications through Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (ETB).

The Reach Fund was formerly known as the Mitigating Educational Disadvantage Fund and carries a new

name this year.

The aim of the Reach Fund remains the same as its past two successful outings, which is to sup-

port community education for adult learners in counties across Ireland, including Kildare and Wicklow, who have the highest

level of need. A further focus of the Fund is on building the digital infrastructure of local community education providers in Kildare and Wicklow to increase their capacity to deliver online learning, with target funding available to improve access to technology and devices.

The Reach Fund was first announced by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD, in 2020. It is funded by SOLAS, the further education and training authority, and administered to local community

education projects by the 16 local Education and Training Boards (ETBs) around the country, including Kildare and Wicklow ETB.

Commenting on the 2022 Reach Fund, Minister Simon Harris TD said: "The success of the Reach Fund over the past two years has been so important. It's critical, now that we are past the acute phase of the Covid-19 pandemic, that we reconnect with the most disadvantaged learners around the country, including in Kildare and Wicklow, and ensure that community education

partners are empowered to reach them. These learners simply cannot be left behind. I am very proud of the work in reaching these learners that has been achieved under the banner of the Reach Fund and can't wait to see what vital projects are funded in 2022's call."

Around the country, the projects supported by the Reach Fund helped to support online learning, connect communities and provided social supports to the most vulnerable groups. These priority groups include people who are long-term unemployed; young people; people with disabilities; members of the Traveller and Roma communities; migrants and refugees; women wishing to return to the labour market; and lone parents.

In 2020, over 500 community education projects were funded by Reach

through the 16 ETBs, with overall funding of €5.8 million. In 2021, overall Reach funding of €6.85 million was allocated to support community education, comprising 1,000 initiatives.

Commenting on the call, Andrew Brownlee, CEO of SOLAS, said: "Through the Reach Fund, we are supporting those in society who are furthest removed from education through social disadvantage. We are calling on community education partners in Kildare and Wicklow to apply for funding for their critical work through this year's Reach Fund. These partners and their projects have a huge impact, not only on an individual's life, but also to our communities, and Irish society overall."

Fiona Maloney, Director of Further Education and Training with Education and

Training Boards Ireland (ETBI), commented: "ETBI welcomes the continuation of the Reach Fund, which is administered by the national network of Education and Training Boards. The Reach Fund has already had a significant positive impact for many communities. I encourage community education providers in Kildare and Wicklow to engage with Kildare and Wicklow ETB to access this fund to further support the very valuable work across our communities for all of our citizens."

Community education providers in Kildare and Wicklow can apply for Reach funding by completing a funding application form, which is available from Adult Education Officers in Kildare and Wicklow ETB by phoning 045-988000 or emailing admin@kwetb.ie.



Shane Hoare, a past pupil of Tinahely National School has embarked on an epic cycling journey from the steps of Tinahely National School to Istanbul, Turkey, 5,000 kilometres away. Shane's cycling journey to Istanbul is expected to take 90 days to complete, moving through five countries. This journey is in aid of Tinahely National School and developing The ICT resources for the students. You can follow Shane's journey on his Instagram account, @ireland2istanbul, and can make a donation to the fundraising campaign at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/donate-to-help-shane-hoare-on-his>

Parents must apply now for free school transport

School transport fees are set to be scrapped for the 2022-2023 school year, as part of a new package to curb back-to-school costs, but parents need to act now to register with Bus Eireann said Green Party TD Steven Matthews.

School children who are eligible for the scheme must register before July 29th to get free fares for the coming year.

Deputy Matthews said: "The waiving of fees for school transport is an excellent initiative and will come as a welcome relief for many."

"It's important that as many children in Wicklow avail of it as are eligible and I really want to get the message out that families need to register now."

"Going back to school is always an expensive time for families and with the rising cost of living this year it will be particularly hard. Not only will

this free transport scheme save parents money but if there is strong take up then it will ease congestion around schools, reduce emission and lower air pollution. It's very much a win-win-win."

"As a Green Party TD, I fully support any initiative that reduces the number of cars on the road. It's also been shown in various studies that if children use public transport from a young age that it is habit forming and they are less likely to be car dependent as adults."

"Access to school bus transport is something that I have raised consistently in the Dáil



Steven Matthews TD

in recent months and while this news is hugely welcome, I will continue to press for greater flexibility in the system that

would allow families currently locked out of the scheme to have access to a bus place", concluded Deputy Matthews.

This scheme means cost savings ranging from €100 for primary school pupils up to €500 for a family with more than one child in secondary school, subject to eligibility.

Parents who wish to register can do so at www.schooltransport.buseireann.ie.

Children are eligible for free transport at primary level for 22/23 where they live not less than 3.2 kilometres from and are attending their nearest national school.

At secondary level that distance changes to 4.8 kilometres. Parents should check the Bus Eireann website for further details on eligibility.

Primary school children bring home the farm safety message

Sixteen Wicklow schools took part in the Agri Aware Farm Safe Schools programme which gave kids practical advice to keep everyone on the farm safe.

The role of children on the farm during Farm Safety Week (July 18th-22nd) was crucial as 21 children have sadly died on Irish farms over the last decade.

The Agri Aware Farm Safe Schools Programme is helping improve farm safety across Leinster with 139 primary schools representing all counties in the province carrying the initiative. All of the children

who took part are now Farm Safety Ambassadors.

Wexford had 24 Schools involved, Wicklow had 16, Kilkenny 14, Meath 13, Kildare had 12, Westmeath 11, while Offaly Longford and Laois had 10 each. Seven Dublin Schools took part, Carlow had eight while the Wee County of Louth had just four schools take part.

Unfortunately, farming has the poorest safety

record of any occupation in the UK and Ireland. This week brings Ireland and the UK together to encourage farmers and farm workers to view health and safety as an integral part of their business.

Farm Safety Week hopes to keep farm safety at the forefront of all farmers' and their families' thinking, with schoolchildren helping to lead the

way.

Alan Jagoe, Agri Aware Chairman said: "We are proud to support the annual Farm Safety Week campaign. A campaign across Ireland and the UK can really draw attention to, and reduce the injury risk that farmers and farm workers face every day."

"The Agri Aware Farm Safe Schools programme has had a real impact in just a short space of time in bringing the farm safety message home to the farm from the classroom."

"When many voices join together to drive a change, this is when it can happen. Farm Safety Week is important for this focus but the truth is that we should all try our best to farm safely every day of the year not just during Farm Safety Week."

Throughout Farm Safety Week, the Farm Safety Foundation, supported by the Farm Safety Partnerships, The IFA, the Health & Safety Executive, Health & Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and the Health & Safety Authority, Ireland, will encourage people in the industry to speak up for safety and make our farms safer places to work.



Minister Martin Heydon TD at the Launch of Farm Safe Schools for Farm Safety Week with 10 year old Eamon Delany



Co. Wicklow entrant Victor Jackson receiving his competitor sash from Ellen Walsh, Diageo Baileys Supply; Anthony Farrelly, Glanbia Ireland Virginia and Brendan Smyth, the competition's director. The event returns to the Virginia Show on 24th August. The countdown is on for the county's dairy breeders to enter the Diageo Baileys Irish Champion Cow. The competition rewards breeders that combine good conformation in their animals with top milk production capability. Breeder of the 'Diageo Baileys Champion' will be rewarded with a cheque for €2,500 from a €10,000 prize fund that also covers a range of categories from Heifer-in-Milk to Junior Cow and Best EBI. Entries close 12th August. Further details are available on the Virginia Show website.

Sunflower Fields for Hospice

2022 is the third year of the Sunflower Fields for Hospice fundraiser in Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services. This year three acres sunflowers have been planted in two fields in Wicklow and are expected to bloom at the start of August for two to three weeks.

For the second year, Joe Mahon of Scalp Wood Nurseries, Kiltarnan is generously hosting a sunflower field (D18 P9P7).

Charles Tottenham is hosting the second sunflower field near Ballinahinch, Ashford (A67KF65).

Both fields will be open seven days a week from 10am until 5pm (weather permitting) and no pre-booking is required. Visitors are welcome take photos in the field and if they would like to take some sunflowers home should bring a cutting implement along. There are no set charges but visitors are kindly asked to donate to Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services using cash or by tapping a credit or debit card.

All are welcome but please remember these are open fields and appropriate footwear is needed and no dogs are allowed. There is limited parking at both sites but there are no toilet facilities or refreshments.



Clodagh and Ellie Forde from Greystones at last year's Sunflower Field at Scalp Wood Nurseries, Kiltarnan.

Kilmac Classic Car Show a phenomenal success

The Garden of Ireland Vintage and Classic (GoIVC) Car Club held The 10th Tom Kennedy Memorial Vintage and Classic Vehicle Show on Sunday 10th July at the GAA Pitch situated under The Great Sugarloaf Mountain in Kilmacanogue.

by Martin McCarthy

It was the biggest GoIVC car show to date with almost 200 vintage vehicles and motorcycles on display. The highlight was the display three MGY cars as it is the 75th Anniversary of the MGY-Type all three are Irish built and Irish Registered cars, the three proud owners of these beautiful cars are Garden of Ireland club members Charles Connolly, Tom Tracey and Michael Kelly. The event raised a considerable amount

for the Charity 'Make a Wish' thanks to the support of local businesses.

The winner of The Tom Kennedy Trophy went to Thomas Morgan for his 1911 Ford Model T, - an excellent example of the car which put the world on wheels a century ago.

The Kilmacanogue GAA Club generously gave the use of their facilities - particularly their fabulous pitch which was created only a few short years ago and is now at the centre of the Kilmac community.



Three Irish assembled MG Model Y cars were the stars of the show



1968 Alfa Romeo 1750 Spider Veloce once owned by Eddie Jordan.

COMING UP AT MERMAID...



Film - ENNIO

Monday 1st August, 7pm, €9/7, Language: English & Italian, Duration: 156 minutes

A portrait of one of the most popular and prolific film composers of the twentieth century, ENNIO celebrates the life and legacy of Ennio Morricone, featuring never-before-seen archival footage and interviews with renowned filmmakers and musicians including Hans Zimmer, John Williams, Quentin Tarantino and Clint Eastwood.

From Oscar-winning director Giuseppe Tornatore (Cinema Paradiso), ENNIO celebrates the life and legacy of the legendary Italian composer Ennio Morricone, who passed away on 6 July 2020. Through interviews with directors, screenwriters, musicians, songwriters, critics and collaborators, Tornatore's documentary retraces the life and works of the cinema's most popular and prolific 20th century composer - who wrote over 500 scores for film & television and sold over 70 million records - from his cinema debut with Sergio Leone, to winning an Academy Award for The Hateful Eight in 2016.

Director: Giuseppe Tornatore. Please note 7pm Start Time.



Mono-print Workshop For Heritage Week with Me & The Moon

Saturday 13th August: Workshop 1 (4 - 8 year olds): 11am - 12pm, Workshop 2 (9 - 12 year olds): 12.30pm - 1.30pm, Places are free but booking is essential, phone box office on 01 272 4030.

Free children's art workshops brought to you by Mermaid with Me + The Moon.

"To celebrate National Heritage Week we invite children to explore the historical buildings and monuments of Bray and make unique mono-prints to take home. This hand-on workshop is great for all ages, and children are free to experiment and create unique one-off prints using tools like rollers and inks. Our town is full of all kinds of houses, churches and ancient monuments. Have you noticed them? What shapes can you see in the buildings? What does it make you think of? What is your favourite building? What do you think they are made of?"

Two Wicklow artists awarded funding

The Arts Council has announced the recipients of the 2022 Next Generation award. Alison Clarke and Choy-Ping Clarke-ng from Co. Wicklow have been awarded €25,000 each.

The Next Generation bursaries are awarded to promising emerging artists across all disciplines at an early but pivotal stage of their career. The award allows artists to buy time to develop their work and to be able to show their potential to advance and strengthen a distinctive and assured creative practice. The successful recipients have demonstrated in a compelling way how the award and the financial investment at this particular time will have a transformative effect in bringing them to the next stage of their artistic development.

Arts Council Director,

Maureen Kennelly said, "I am really excited by the range and diversity of these young artists who have received these awards. These bursaries offer artists valuable time to cultivate their artistic voice, develop their practice and pursue their vision. I look forward to seeing the work of the Next Generation."

Artists from Louth to Mayo, and Cork to Wexford working across Arts Participation; Dance; Literature; Music; Theatre; Traditional Arts; Visual arts And Young People Children and Education have been awarded 20 bursaries to support their practice and

their ambition as rising stars of the contemporary arts in Ireland.

Each artist received an award of €25,000 and they are invited to participate in a collective week-long residency in the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig in the spring of 2023.

Ali Clarke is a choreographer working with dance and circus. Ali's work is characterised by her strong transdisciplinary approach and her passion for exploring the interface between public and performer. This award will allow Ali to explore immersive formats for performance. Currently, Ali is working on a dance

and circus performance commissioned by The Courthouse Arts Centre for October 2022 and preparing for an immersive dance solo to premiere in The Mermaid Arts Centre in 2023.

Choy-Ping Clarke-Ng is a Hong Kong-Irish theatre maker and Linbury Prize-winning designer of set, costume and video.

Their interests in theatre making include exploring racialised and queer identities, the sociology of Ireland and all things surreal. They have designed for venues including the Abbey Theatre, Bristol Old Vic and Singapore Repertory Theatre.

Terra Hibernia: An Exhibition by Dan Laffan

Signal Arts Centre, Monday, 18th to Sunday 31st July

Terra Hibernia is a body of ceramic works produced by Wicklow native Dan Laffan. Dan is a musician, composer, and visual artist who works in a wide variety of disciplines and media. He is now currently working as a facilitator of ceramic classes running at the Signal Arts Centre in Bray.

His upcoming exhibition takes its name from the Latin "terra" meaning earth, and the term "Hibernia," which was used in antiquity for marking the place of Ireland, giving us the direct translation "earth from the land of winter."

The collection of work is structured along the lines of a narrative, the idea being, to tell the intertwining Stories of the material and landscape, and to chart the personal creative journey of the artist, from imagination to reality. The pieces themselves, held together by the air, and made just of earth and water, are in some sense representative of the footprints along this journey, moments of fleeting inspiration, but fixed now in time through the alchemical transformation of fire.

All the works in the show are made exclusively from clay gathered from south county Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford. The show begins with a display of the raw unworked source material and ends with bonsai arrangements depicting the distilled beauty of the landscape from which the material and inspiration is drawn, what takes place between is an unveiling, and indeed celebration of the extraordinary potential when this given material is formed with purpose and rendered with love and skill in equal measure.

Despite appearances, all the wheel-thrown works in the exhibition are not glazed on the outside, the almost



machine-like precision in terms of surface treatment comes from years of experience gained in his early 20's making and restoring marble fireplaces. The influence of this experience along with knowledge of the techniques used in finishing marble are what gives the work its remarkable quality and signature style.

The show will be running for just two weeks and promises to captivate anyone with an interest in ceramics, art, design, or indeed nature, so make a note in your diary and do your best to catch what will be an exhibition with something for everyone.



Music in Calary presents: Duo Formosa, Violin and Piano

'Committed to engaging audiences with captivating programming'

Calary Church, Thursday, July 28th, 8pm sharp

Committed to engaging audiences with captivating programming, Duo Formosa presents a diverse body of repertoires that includes chamber works for the duo, solo selections for each of the performer, as well as compositions from Formosa (aka Taiwan). Duo Formosa has toured extensively throughout the United States, performing at major concert halls and museums. Enthusiastic about education, Duo Formosa has presented lectures and recitals at libraries and universities across the States.



Violinist, and conductor, Huifang Chen

As a dynamic and diverse musician, violinist, and conductor, **Huifang Chen** enjoys a dual career as a performer and an educator. She is currently the Concertmaster of the South Florida Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the Greater Miami Youth Symphony and a Professor of Violin at the New World School of the Arts in Miami. She was a member of the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra from 1994 until its demise in 2003. She studied with Jascha Brodsky at the Curtis Institute of Music. As an international violin soloist, Ms. Chen has appeared with many orchestras around the globe including the Taipei Symphony Orchestra in Taiwan and Brno Philharmonic in Czech Republic among others. As a committed violin pedagogue, many of Ms. Chen's students are frequent winners at both local and international competitions. Many are now attending top music schools such as the Curtis Institute of Music and Juilliard School, and many others are now members of professional orchestras.

Dr. Catherine Lan has performed in Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, Thailand, Canada, Mexico, France, United Kingdom, Slovenia, Croatia, Estonia,

Finland, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and the USA in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York and Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. As a soloist, Catherine has performed with orchestras including Milwaukee Symphony, Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, Sinfonia of the North Shore, British-Columbia Chamber, Fifth Avenue Chamber, Braddell Heights Symphony, Frost Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Broward Symphony, Palm Beach Atlantic Symphony, and Edmonton Symphony.

She is the pianist at Duo Formosa, Duo Arpeggione, Duo Beaux Arts, Atlantic Piano Trio, Delray Piano Trio, and Tallinn Piano Trio, as well as Beaux Arts Chamber Ensemble and Chrysalis Chamber Players. Her performances have been featured on CBC Radio Debut Series, Maine Public Radio/TV, and World Journal New York. Having earned degrees from University of British-Columbia, Indiana University (Bloomington), and University of Miami, Dr. Lan serves on the faculty of Broward College. Dr. Lan records for Centaur Records. www.catherinelan.com

Music in Calary 2022 Summer Concert Series

Saturday July 30th

Fiachra Garvey (piano) and Patrick Rafter (violin)

Tuesday August 2nd

Anna Cashell (violin) Aisling Ennis (harp) and Simon Watterton (piano)

Thursday September 15th

Musici Ireland - String quartet with Harp

Friday October 7th

Classic Harmony

Concerts start at 8:00pm sharp Tickets €18 / €15



Pianist, Dr. Catherine Lan



Deirdre O'Kane - Demented

Hot Spot Music Club, Greystones, August 10th

One of Ireland's favourite comedians, Deirdre O'Kane is bringing her new show, **Demented**, a box-fresh hour of side splitting laughs to the Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones on August 10th. Deirdre never strays too far from her live stand-up roots and is touring this show in Ireland and the UK throughout 2022

The last few years have been something of a whirlwind for Deirdre. She recently fronted her own talk show - Deirdre O'Kane Talks Funny - in the primetime Saturday night slot on RTÉ One and debuted a brand new standup comedy series, The Deirdre O'Kane Show, with Sky Comedy. She also appeared as a judge alongside Boy George, Aston Merrygold and Vogue Williams on the new Fox-developed talent show, The Big Deal, for Virgin Media Television.

A co-founder of Comic Relief in Ireland, Deirdre presented the critically acclaimed RTÉ Does Comic Relief which raised more than 6 million euros and reached in excess of 1.4 million viewers across Ireland. In recent years she has hosted the prestigious IFTA Film & Drama Awards (for both RTÉ and Virgin Media), and reached the finals of the national broadcaster's top-rated entertainment show, Dancing with the Stars. Deirdre is also known as the voice of smash-hit Gogglebox (Virgin Media) which returned for a seventh season in late 2021.

An accomplished film and television actor, Deirdre has umpteen credits to her name and has won numerous awards across these industries. Theatre credits include Mary in Juno and the Paycock (The Abbey), Miss Funny in At the Black Pig's Dyke (Druid Theatre) Daphne in Present Laughter (Gate Theatre), Jean in two sold-out runs of Dandelions at the Gaiety Theatre for Landmark Productions, and her acclaimed performance in the one woman show My Brilliant Divorce (Druid). "O'Kane quickly sets up a rhythm of her own and when she exits, applause follows her all the way down the street." - The Scotsman. According to 'Three Weeks' "O'Kane is an instantly charismatic stage presence and her brand of day-to-day anarchism stormed the place." - Three Weeks

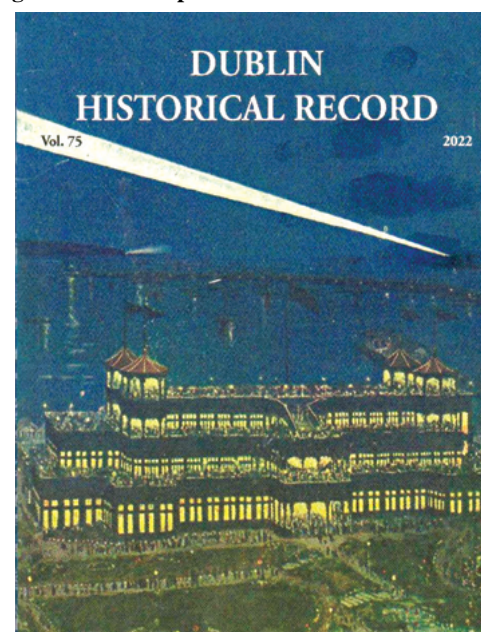
Showtime 8pm (Doors 7pm) August 10th at the Hot Spot Music Club. Tickets €20 from <https://comedyclub.ie/products/deirdre-okane-greystones-aug-10>

Dublin Historical Record

The latest (Volume 75) edition of the Dublin Historical Record, the annual Journal of the Old Dublin Society, contains a variety of content. It was edited by Dr. Séamas Ó Maitiú and features a cover image of Kingstown Pavilion by night from an old postcard.

Articles in this year's journal include: 'Around the Town' by Séamas Ó Maitiú; 'Dean Walter Meyler and the Andean Schools, Cumberland Street, Westland Row 1847-1864' by Gail C. Roantree; 'The origins of Dublin's Mansion House Round Room' by Mary Clark; 'Dublin haunts and homes of Arthur Griffith - and the admirers who bought him a house' by Colum Kenny; 'The Bretzel' by Séamas Ó Maitiú; 'Raymond Kenna haute couture designer and manufacturer' by Anne Boylan and Kieran Fagan; 'Irish Transport and General Workers' Union Membership and Finance in Dublin City and County, 1909-1930' by Francis Devine; 'The air crash nobody saw: The Djouce Mountain aircraft crash, 12 August 1946; 'Forgotten History: Irish Servicewomen in the First World War, 1917-1919' by Barbara Walsh; 'Notable houses in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Milltown' by Patrick Salmon; 'Some Notes on Kilmactalway, Co. Dublin' by Brian McCabe; 'Victorian Dún Laoghaire' by Tom Conlon; 'Where is Dublin?' by Tadhg Ó Rodaí; Data Protection Declaration.

Copies of the 2022 'Dublin Historical Record' are available from Hodges Figgis, Dawson Street, Dublin, Books Upstairs, D'Olier Street' or directly from The Old Dublin Society, by emailing: olddublinsociety@gmail.com.



Author Darren Darker with Sylvia McCormick and Rachel Woods at the book launch for his latest novel *The Cautionary Woman* in Dubray Books in Bray last Tuesday.

Bike repair workshops in Wicklow recycling centres

Wicklow County Council is offering free bike repair workshops in its Arklow, Bray and Wicklow Recycling centres this August.

The workshops - which last approximately an hour and a half - will introduce participants to the basics of bike maintenance. They will be provided by the Rediscovery Centre in Bray and Wicklow and by South East Cycling in Arklow. Further workshops are planned with Bray Wheelers later in the year.

Bike maintenance including puncture repair, chain care and checking of performance of brakes and gears will be demonstrated. The aim is to ensure that participants can keep their bikes in tip top performance between servicing.

The workshops are open to all and youth participation is particularly welcome. Teens under the age of 17 can participate but must be accompanied by an adult. Why not make it a combined parent and teen summer event to learn together how to maintain your bikes.

Workshops will be held on the following dates and times:

Tuesday 9th August at 7.00pm - The Murrrough Recycling Centre, Wicklow Town; Thursday 11th August at 7.00pm - Arklow Recycling Centre; Saturday 13th August at 2.30pm - Bray Recycling Centre.

The workshops can be booked with the Environmental Awareness Office of Wicklow County Council by email on eao@wicklow-coco.ie. Space is limited to 12 participants per workshop so book early.

Good maintenance practice and repair skills will help us build a circular economy where less waste is generated, according to Jim Callery, Environmental Awareness Officer with Wicklow County Council. Learn some new skills this summer and keep your bike functioning at peak performance with an extended lifespan.

Be prepared for Flying Ant Day

Rentokil is advising the public of the annual phenomenon known as Flying Ant Day this summer and the steps which they can take to avoid the presence of the pest insects in their home or business.

As an indication of the increased level of activity from the insects during this period, Rentokil recorded a 30% increase in call outs for ants in July 2021 when compared to May of the same year. During the July and August period the public may notice an increase in activity from winged ants around their homes and businesses.

Dublin has experienced the highest level of callouts for ants so far this year, accounting for 40% of all ant callouts in 2022. Galway (18% of ant callouts) is the next county most affected,

followed by Cork (8%) and Kildare (6%).

This phenomenon occurs during a period in the summer months when flying ants leave the nest to reproduce and start a new colony. Swarms of flying ants from multiple colonies conjoin to breed mid-air. This is believed to be due to the temperature, humidity and wind conditions being just right for them.

Richard Faulkner, Advanced Technical Field Consultant for Rentokil said: "Late July and early August is when we see this phenomenon occur. While it is

often labelled as 'flying ant day', it is in reality an extended period of time where we see increased activity from the insects.

Ants can enter a premise in search of food and while ant infestations don't present a danger to inhabitants, they can be a nuisance, and a small problem can quickly become a large one. If they find a food source, ants can lay down a pheromone trail which attracts other ants to the area."

There are a few steps which people can take to discourage the presence of ants on their premises:

- Clear up any food or liquid spillages immediately.
- Sweep up any food crumbs from under your kitchen appli-

ances and units.

- Store your food in airtight containers wherever possible.
- If you have a pet, clear away any food that isn't eaten straight away.
- In the garden, keep your compost enclosed and make sure all rubbish bins have tightly sealed lids.
- Seal cracks and crevices around doors and window frames
- Keeping windows and doors shut is one of the most effective methods of preventing flying insects from entering your home or business
- Installing a fly screen will prevent flying ants from entering your home whilst leaving windows and doors open

HAIL marks two-year anniversary of its mental health tenancy support service in Wicklow

HAIL (Housing Association for Integrated Living) is marking the two-year anniversary of its Mental Health Tenancy Sustainment Service in Wicklow.

The Mental Health Tenancy Sustainment Service provides support to people with mental health difficulties who are living in private rented accommodation or Local Authority housing and are at risk of losing their tenancy and becoming homeless. The Service was introduced in June 2020 in partnership with the HSE and Wicklow County Council.

CEO of HAIL Martina Smith, said: "HAIL's mission is to provide quality



Sinead Byrne, HAIL Support Worker from the Mental Health Tenancy Sustainment Service

housing and individually tailored services to support tenants and clients, primarily those with mental health difficulties, to integrate and live independent lives in the community.

"People with enduring mental health difficulties such as schizophrenia, bipolar or depression are at increased risk of experiencing homelessness. Therefore, we are pleased with the positive impact the Mental Health Tenancy Sustainment Service is having in Wicklow in helping peo-

ple who have mental health difficulties maintain their tenancies and avoid homelessness. In 2021, 30 clients were referred for our supports.

"As part of the Service, HAIL works with clients and their mental health teams to help them address issues which are affecting their tenancy. Our support workers visit clients in their home and provide practical support on household budgeting, paying bills on time, maintaining links with family and friends and pursuing employment and

education opportunities. This level of support helps clients manage their homes better and live independently.

"The Mental Health Tenancy Sustainment Service operates between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. We would encourage anyone interested in finding out more about the Service to call us on 01-6718444 or visit www.hail.ie for more information. HAIL would like to thank the HSE and Wicklow County Council who fund this important service."

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Victoria Kelly seek a planning permission for the construction of 4 No. proposed dormer dwellings with garages, each proposed house will be individually serviced by a packaged effluent disposal system with mechanical aeration and polishing filter to current EPA standards, and together with two new shared entrances/exits off the existing R752 and all associated site development works at Ballyfree East, Glenealy, 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.



Gerry and Bobbie Ryan in Dubray Books in Bray for the launch of Darren Darker's new novel *The Cautionary Woman*.
Pic: Joe McQuillan.

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Oliver Whelan seeks permission for alterations to include provision of additional floor area within the envelope of the existing building incorporating balcony to west elevation and dormer to north side of the existing roof at Apartment 6, Oakdown Court, Convent Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow A98 V525. 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

Marcella Byrne is applying for planning permission for a single storey dwelling septic tank and percolation area bored well a new entrance on existing lane all assorted site works and services at Hillbrook Lower Carnew 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

The Board of Management of Scoil Padraig Naofa Avoca seeks planning permission for floodlight installation on the existing Astro turf pitch at Scoil Padraig Naofa, Kilmagig Lower, Avoca, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

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TalentPool Ltd, a QQI accredited training provider, has launched a training programmes in Ukrainian for the many entrepreneurs and business people displaced from their war-torn country, enabling them to apply their business skills to the Irish market.

TalentPool's Small Business programmes have now been fully translated and are delivered in Ukrainian, in real-time using simultaneous subtitles. Their specialist business trainers have transformed their suite of business supports so they are also available in Ukrainian. This support includes networking events, and most notably free business mentoring which is available to participants during and after their Start Your Own Business courses.

Pivoting on their courses in English which simplify the start-up process, the Small Business module addresses the Irish market from a

multi-faceted perspective. Covering everything from communications, and taxation, to digital marketing - this innovative course was translated in its entirety into Ukrainian and is delivered online. The first course was run over six days in July 2022. TalentPool is preparing to deliver more of these unique courses over the coming months, as those who were displaced look to immerse themselves in Ireland's business communities utilising their skillsets from Ukraine.

For more information on how you can access these courses, please contact TalentPool at info@talentpooltd.ie.

Funding for retailers to grow online capability

New funding has been announced for Wicklow retail businesses to expand their online offering and presence to customers at home and abroad, Minister Simon Harris TD has said.

Minister Harris was speaking after over an additional 200 retailers were approved for funding under the Online Retail Scheme (ORS) administered by Enterprise Ireland. 216 retailers were approved for total funding of €929million under the scheme.

Minister Harris said: "This scheme is for retailers who already have an online presence and who have a physical store and is targeted at enhancing their online capability."

Two Wicklow businesses have been successful in this round of the Online Retail Scheme. They will receive grants ranging from €10,000 to a maximum of €64,000.

"Through the Online Retail Scheme, we are enabling Wicklow retailers with a physical store the chance to compete for online sales that are currently going to businesses based outside the country."



Aoife McCarthy and Katie Shannon at the Beach BBQ Festival in Bray

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