

# LOCAL Wicklow Times

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Tuesday 16th August 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

## 'WHEELY GOOD NEWS'

There was good news for County Wicklow commuters last Thursday with the confirmation that the 133 bus service is set for a new much improved schedule and timetable and a new 131 service will run hourly between Wicklow Town and Bray.

Bus Eireann has been selected as the preferred bidder in the tender process for Dublin and Wicklow. As preferred bidder, Bus Éireann retain the right to provide the 133-bus service from Wicklow Town to Dublin City Centre.

"Bus commuters along the east coast will see significant service improvements early next year with new schedules and timetables to be introduced on

the 133 route," stated the National Transport Authority (NTA).

The 133 route was one part of two routes put out to tender by the National Transport Authority (NTA) last year. The 133 currently runs between Wicklow town and Dublin, serving Bray, Kilmacanogue and Belfield.

"Service levels will remain broadly similar to what they are now, but under the new contract, the 133 will

by-pass Bray, reducing overall journey times by approximately 10 minutes.

"The existing 133B between Wicklow and Bray runs very infrequently and will be replaced by a new service, the 131 which will run every hour. The existing Bus Eireann 133L is to be run with increased frequency as a TFI Local Link service, by Local Link Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow."

Fine Gael Minister



Pictured are Jim Kelly BL, Bernadette Goff, Paddy McNiece, Niamh Foley BL, Paul Murray SC & Joseph Maguire presenting a specially commissioned painting of Bray landmarks to Rory Benville to mark his stepping down as State Solicitor after 25 years of service. See page 4

Simon Harris explained, "The 133 bus will next year be re-outed via the Bray by pass and Wicklow Town will be linked to Bray by the new route 131. This Bray to Wicklow service will be more frequent than the existing route 133B. In other positive news for Wicklow Town bus users the 133L route from Wicklow Town to Arklow will now be increased in frequency."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady said, "Having led out on a long running campaign against the privatisation of the 133 service, I am delighted to hear the announcement that the 133-service will continue to be provided by Bus Eireann, following their success in the tendering process."

"The introduction of an additional service from Wicklow Town is another very welcome

development. With the 133 service now avoiding Bray Town Centre, in a move that will cut ten minutes from the journey time, the introduction of the new 131 service, from Wicklow Town to Bray Town Centre is particularly welcome to those passengers that relied on the 133 to get into Bray. Particularly, students from the Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFI), and the many other commuters who were dependent on the 133.

"The new 131 route will address the difficulties encountered by passengers who were previously dependent on the 133 through the provision of an hourly service directly to the centre of Bray Town."

"The fact that the 133 was the most complained about and maligned route in the country, with buses run-

ning late, and sometimes not turning up at all, means that there is a

responsibility on the NTA to ensure that there is continued

investment in the route in order to continue to

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At the Kilmac Horse Show in Enniskerry representing Bray Lakers were Claire, Nathan, Bernie, Lana, Philomena and Sara. Pic: Joe McQuillan.

## County Archives

From 17th August, Wicklow's County Archives are available at <https://www.heritageweek.ie/projects> as part of Heritage Week. You might be surprised at the volume and variety of records relating to your county in your local archives! In this digital presentation, archivist Catherine Wright will describe the collections held in the Wicklow County Archives Service, focusing on collections common to most local authority archives and discuss their usefulness as sources for research. County Archives are widely used by local historians, family historians, academics and researchers of varied interests. Indeed, the collections of county archives tell the story of the development of communities and the authorities who served them and place this story within the national context.

## Seed Art Workshop

There will be a Seed Art workshops with Elida Maiques taking place in Bray Library on Eglinton Road on 20th August. There will be a Zoom session at 11am and an in person workshop in Bray Library at 11am.

"Our Seed Ark is a self-sustaining collection of seeds that are free for the community to use. Gardeners borrow up to 4 packets per season of seeds from the library. At the end of the growing season, the gardeners save seeds from the plants and return a portion of the seeds to the library. In this way, the Seed Ark becomes a self-sustaining resource for our community to use. Seeds can be requested and collected at any Wicklow Library branch. We happily also accept donations of open-pollinated or non-F1 seeds

"Elida Maiques is a Wicklow-based artist with roots in Guatemala and Spain. Her work, often in collaboration with different groups, has been exhibited internationally. Since 2017 her long-term project I am a Forest has involved seed-gathering, tree propagation and wildlife and art workshops with her local school and other communities. She became our Seed Ark librarian in May, and we are delighted to have her on board with us to help our project grow. This workshop will demonstrate how to collect seeds for growing next year."

## Tinahealy Tidy Towns Fundraiser

A GoFundMe campaign has been set up by Tinahealy Tidy Towns. Tinahealy Tidy Towns is active and engaged and every year brings new successes in this important national initiative. The campaign organisers use the GoFundMe page to write, "We are seeking your support and asking you to LOVE TINAHELY. Our new committee will be working hard over the coming months to make positive changes to the town through biodiversity, improving community recreational areas and streetscaping projects, plus many more."

To donate, see <https://www.gofundme.com/f/tinahely-tydy-towns>

## Treasures of the Local Studies Collection

All day on Friday 19th August Wicklow Town Library will showcase its Local Studies Collection to help people to engage with, and or find out more about the Heritage and History of the county.

The event will provide a unique opportunity to visit Wicklow Local Studies Library and view some of the rare, unique and unusual items that have been added to the Local Studies Collection over the years. Visitors will be able to ask questions, browse the treasures or just drop in and have a chat with Gerlanda our Local Studies Librarian.

## Wicklow National Park

Wicklow National Park will host a wide range of activities throughout the summer. These include Wild Woods: The Magic of Ireland's Native Woodlands on August 18th and on Sunday 21st August at 11am there will be a session on Wildlife Gardening in conjunction with Heritage Week. Booking is essential for that date. There's plenty on offer for families too, such as Pond Life and Dragonfly Art session. It doesn't end with summer as Star Gazing sessions will be offered by the Irish Astronomical Society this Autumn. To book email [Wickloweducationcentre@housing.gov.ie](mailto:Wickloweducationcentre@housing.gov.ie) and visit [www.wicklowmountainnationalpark.ie](http://www.wicklowmountainnationalpark.ie) for further information.

## Summer chess sessions in Burnaby Park

Free chess events at the new Chess Tables in Burnaby Park in Greystones take place each August Saturday morning from 10:30am to 12pm. The new Chess Tables are located in the southwest corner of the park. Come along to learn the basic rules or play some friendly games. A limited number of chess sets and chairs will be provided. Recommendation is that you bring along a folding chair.

Youth players are most welcome, provided a Parent or Guardian is present to supervise. Full details and information from Cllr Stephen Stokes, [stephenstokes101@gmail.com](mailto:stephenstokes101@gmail.com).

# Irish United Nations Veterans Association fundraising for new Wicklow premises

The Irish United Nations Veterans Association - Post 21 Wicklow are seeking to build a premises, to better serve the local community and their members. Post 21 is the local branch for County Wicklow.

Post 21 Wicklow held a successful fundraising quiz on Wednesday, August 10th at part of their fundraising campaign for new premises. They are the Wicklow branch of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association. Post 21 Wicklow are fundraising to build premises in Kilcoole alongside Kilcoole Men's Shed.

Cllr Stephen Stokes served as Quizmaster on the night. He stated: "The community salutes our United Nations Veterans for their service towards peace in the World, and all of their positive endeavours in Co. Wicklow. We are also grateful to all of the staff in Greystones Tennis Club for allowing us to use their clubhouse, and for their excellent service. There was a real buzz on the night."

Speaking on the night Post 21 Wicklow Chairperson, Viv Collins, outlined the outreach services that the Irish United Nations Veterans Association offer to former soldiers who may suffer from loneliness or have fallen on hard times. Cllr Stokes added: "Having a premises of their own will help Post 21 Wicklow to enhance



Pictured (left to right) are Pat O'Brien (Welfare Officer), Viv Collins (Chairperson), Cllr. Stephen Stokes, Andy Clarke (Secretary), and Jerry Maloney (Treasurer)

their activities in the community."

A total of 16 teams took part with additional tables and chairs having to be brought into the venue. The organisers thanked the prize sponsors including Movies@. Special thanks were also expressed to Greystones Tennis Club for being terrific hosts.

Post 21 Wicklow previously took part in the Rally for Ukraine on Friday, March 10th, 2022. The Irish United Nations Veterans Association Headquarters are located in Arbour Hill, Dublin. Anyone looking to visit

their museum can find out more information at [www.iunva.ie](http://www.iunva.ie).

Chairperson Viv Collins said the new venue is badly needed to engage with their members, who sometimes have limited outreach services. He said "Having our own premises would be amazing. We could host wider community events, support members, and hopefully grow membership numbers."

All of the Post 21 members have served in the Irish Defence Forces, and all have served overseas on United Nations operations including Congo,

Cyprus, Lebanon, Somalia and more. They also provide services such as help on pensions and social welfare etc. In addition the Irish United Nations Veterans Association look after Veterans who may have fallen on hard times.

With planning permission already granted, fundraising will be key to their efforts.

Cllr. Stokes added: "The U.N. Veterans have given tremendous service to Ireland and World peace. It is only right and proper that they get a premises to continue their good work."



Friday mornings during the summer in Burnaby Park, Greystones, is the place to be for all crafters. Crafters get together from 10:30am to 1pm each Friday to work, chat and share ideas. All crafters with all skills are most welcome- those who knit, crochet, quilt or sew, or anything else that takes their fancy. Don't forget to bring a chair and something to drink. Craft in the Park is a special way to celebrate summer in Greystones. Tamara Fiabane, leader of the group, says: "This is a very friendly group which has been ongoing for several years. You can come alone or you can bring a friend. We look forward to seeing all crafters on Friday mornings. You can follow us on Too Fabulous Art & Crafts on Facebook."

Pictured are Tamara Fiabane, group organiser, (on the right) and her fellow crafters.

WICKLOW  
LOCAL Times

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# Huge spike in Notices To Quit as rents soar

New figures show that rents in Wicklow have soared to €1,738, making Wicklow the most expensive county in the country outside of Dublin to rent a home. Only Kildare and Meath come even close to the rental costs that families are enduring in Wicklow. The news comes amidst a major spike in the number of Notices To Quit issued by landlords.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady said that the Government has 'lost control' of the housing market and has called on the Minister for Housing to convene an urgent meeting on the crisis in the rental sector.

Figures released to Sinn Féin by the Residential Tenancies Board, reveal that 1,781 Notices To Quit were served in the second quarter of 2022. This is an increase from 841 Notices in the same period in 2021.

Deputy Brady said "These figures are very alarming and require urgent action. The number of Notices To Quit has soared in recent months, which will see a dramatic escalation in evictions in the near future. Wicklow endures some of the highest rent prices in the country, particularly for new renters. This crisis will increase pressure on services, which are already stretched.

"In Quarter 1 of last year there were 352 eviction notices. That rose to 841 the following quarter as a result of Darragh O'Brien ending the Covid19 ban on evictions in April last year. Since then the numbers have escalated exponentially, to 1,132 notices in Quarter 1 of this year and 1,781 notices in Quarter 2.

"The Minister for Housing needs to convene an urgent meeting to address this clear crisis in the rental sector. This meeting must take place immediately and include the Residential Tenancies Board, tenants and landlord's representative organisations and opposition housing spokespersons. We urgently need a crisis intervention plan to slow down the disorderly exit of private landlords exiting the rental market.

"All options must be on the table for consideration including a temporary ban on evictions, an accelerated tenant in situ purchase scheme by Local Authorities, an acceleration of social housing delivery and tax reform in the private rental sector.

"On the basis of the figures released to me the number of single people and families being evicted will increase every month for the remainder of this year and into 2023. This will lead to a level of homelessness that we previously would have thought impossible. I urge the Minister for Housing to act, and act now."

The latest Daft.ie rent report recorded the highest rents to date and the lowest number of rental properties on the market

since their records began. In just over a decade, there has been an approx. 80% fall in the number of properties available outside of Dublin. Rents in Wicklow have increased 11.8% since last year.

On 1st August of this year there were a total of 424 rental homes available across the country outside of Dublin. This boils down to an average of 17 homes per county available for rent outside of the capital. Across Leinster, the figure is even worse with an average of only 12 homes available to rent per county outside Dublin.

For every hundred homes which were available to rent across the country in 2009, there are only three today - a 97% reduction in availability.

"Rents were already far too high and too many people here in Wicklow are trapped by the housing crisis and locked out of owning their own home," said Deputy Brady. "This is a very worrying crisis and people cannot afford to continue paying these spiralling costs.

"Workers and families on ordinary incomes here cannot afford to fork out these huge sums for rent every month, when they are already struggling with a cost-of-living crisis

that is seeing their bills soar. Every day, people are contacting me looking for help with this crisis, including young families stuck in cramped flats that they're paying through the nose for, and young people living at home with their families while they anxiously watch house prices creep further and further out of their reach."

"It is clear that the Government has lost control of the housing market. social, and affordable housing is well behind target and the private rental sector is shrinking. This out-of-touch Government simply doesn't understand how serious this crisis is.

"Budget 2023 next month is the Minister's last chance to make the level of change required to fix our deepening housing crisis. We need a dramatic increase in funding to deliver 20,000 social and affordable homes every year for the next decade. We need emergency action to reduce homelessness and slow down the disorderly exit of landlords from the private rental sector. The Government's failure to fix the housing crisis is devastating the lives of renters in Wicklow who are forced to pay the price for their inaction."

## Wicklow loses 12 pubs during pandemic

Sixteen Wicklow pubs closed between 2005 and 2021, new analysis shows, with 12 of the closures occurring over the pandemic period.

A new report from the Drinks Industry Group of Ireland (DIGI) has shown a stark decline in the number of pubs doing business throughout the country since 2005. The Irish Pub: Stopping the Decline report, based on the group's analysis of Revenue license data and including an economic and social analysis by Dublin City University (DCU) economist Anthony Foley, shows a 21.2% decline in the number of pubs in Ireland from 2005 to 2021.

All 26 counties experienced declines in pub numbers through the 16-year period. The largest decrease was seen in Laois with 30.6% less pubs since 2005. This was the only county with a decrease of 30% or more. The lowest decrease was in Meath with 1.4% less. Meath was followed by Dublin, reporting a decrease of only 4.3%. All the remaining 23 counties had decreases greater than 10%.

Three counties, Carlow (10.4%), Kildare (13.6%), and Wicklow (10.1%) showed decreases between 10% and 14.9% and, five counties, Cavan (17.2%), Kerry (15.3%), Kilkenny (18.1%), Monaghan

(19.8%), and Wexford (17.2%) were in the 15% to 19.9% decrease bracket. All the remaining counties had decreases of more than 20%. Six counties, Clare (24.7%), Galway (20.6%), Louth (20.3%), Sligo (24%), Waterford (23.5%), and Westmeath (24.4%) were in the 20% to 24.9% decrease band, while nine counties Cork (28.5%), Donegal (26.3%), Leitrim (26.4%), Limerick 29.1%), Longford (25.7%), Mayo (25.1%), Offaly (29.9%), Roscommon (28.3%), and Tipperary (26.3%) saw decreases between 25% and 29.9%.

The report highlights that many public houses operate at relatively low levels of sales volume. One of the factors which influence business sustainability at these low sales volumes, which is within the control of the Government, is the high Irish alcohol excise level which represents a significant cost on the business.

Paul Moynihan, DIGI member, Vintners Federation of Ireland President and Wicklow publican, described the report as 'alarming.'

"A 21% decline or 1,829 rural pub closures represent businesses that provide jobs, a hub in the local community for socialising and community integration and a cultural hub which is among the main attractions for tourists visiting Ireland.

"The pace of decline increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic which saw the drinks and hospitality industry suffer the worst of all, with one of the longest lockdowns recorded globally.

"Considering this sharp decline and trend we're witnessing in the reduction of the number of pubs in Ireland, we need to monitor this industry carefully and ensure the necessary supports are in place to help reverse this trend. Business owners in the drinks industry were challenged by two increases in alcohol excise tax in Budget 2012 and Budget 2013 as part of austerity measures which were never reversed. Our high alcohol excise tax is a cost and slows the growth of these businesses and impacts their day-to-day operations and bottom line. Exasperated currently with inflation and the cost of living. We are calling on the Government to reduce excise tax to support the industry with meaningful measures that will be felt immediately."



Sara Jayne with Meadhbh, and pet dog Lily at the Kilmac Horse Show. Pic: Joe McQuillan



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Notice in relation to the operation of the following Grant Schemes. These schemes apply to private accommodation.

#### HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANT MOBILITY AIDS GRANT SCHEME HOUSING AID FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Wicklow County Council is inviting applications for funding under the terms of the above Grant Schemes.

**HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANT** – covers adaptation to make existing accommodation for people with a disability or mobility problems in privately owned properties.

**MOBILITY AID GRANT SCHEME** – covers level access showers, ramps, rails, ceiling hoists and stairlifts in privately owned properties.

**HOUSING AID FOR OLDER PEOPLE** – covers roofs, electrical works and essential repairs in privately owned properties that are in poor condition.

As there is limited availability of funding only fully completed applications received with the necessary supporting documentation will be considered. Applications will be prioritised on medical need.

Application forms can be obtained from the Grant Section, Housing Department, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town, 0404 20120 or at [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) or email [grants@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:grants@wicklowcoco.ie)

## 'WHEELY GOOD NEWS'

Continued from Page 1

improve the service. That said, I also want to welcome the considerable investment in a new fleet of buses by the NTA. This along with plans to invest in new and improved infrastructure such as shelters at Bus stops is a step towards meeting the needs of commuters.

"I believe that to ensure that our commu-

nity is able to get the most that they can out of our public transport service, that along with investments in new buses and shelters, that the NTA needs to invest in new park and ride facilities, which would greatly enhance the attractiveness of public transport for many people who would otherwise be forced to travel by car."

Steven Matthews TD (Green Party) said

"I have been contacted by so many residents over the years who seek better public transport and an alternative to car use. I am committed to improving bus and rail services throughout Wicklow, expanding rural services, and bringing the DART service to Wicklow Town. This latest announcement is another positive step for Wicklow commuters. Please contact me for further details and other information on Wicklow public transport improvement plans."

The new services will become operational in early 2023."

# After 25 years of service Rory Benville steps down as State Solicitor

Solicitor Rory Benville is stepping down as State Solicitor for County Wicklow at the end of August and his colleagues and friends in the legal profession together with business leaders marked the occasion at the final sitting of Bray Court before the summer recess.

Rory has served with distinction as State Solicitor for 25 years and there were many laudatory speeches and praise for him and his professionalism as a prosecutor.

Judge James McCourt thanked him for his service and remarked on his wisdom and pragmatism in handling cases, which he always did with calmness, politeness and good humour.

Detective Sergeant Eamon O'Neill thanked Rory for the help and advice that he freely dispensed to the Gardaí and for his constant availability, often out of hours.

Helena Kiely, Chief Prosecution Solicitor with

the DPP said she had travelled down from Dublin to convey the thanks and appreciation of the DPP for the excellent work done by Rory over the past 25 years.

Wicklow solicitors, David Tarrant and Damien Conroy also spoke of Rory's professionalism and made a presentation on behalf of the Wicklow Bar Association.

Also, speaking was Jim Kelly, the current prosecutor for Wicklow while the Master of Ceremonies was Paul Murray, Senior Counsel, who worked for many years with Rory as prosecutor.

Present in the court on the day were many friends,

business people and representatives of Bray Chamber of Commerce and Bray Rotary.

Both of County Wicklow's Government Ministers were abroad but sent messages to be read out in court.

Deputy Simon Harris, Minister for Higher and Further Education commented "I regret very much that I can't be present to personally join in with the well-deserved tributes to Rory who has served this county for the past 25 years as State Solicitor.

"His tenure has been marked with fairness, consideration and humour. He is renowned as being very

approachable and a good listener. I'm aware of the high regard he is held in by the judiciary, the DPP, the Gardaí and his colleagues in the legal profession.

"Today is an occasion in which we as a community express our gratitude and appreciation to Rory for his public service and also extend our thanks to his family as I know only too well that public service roles require a supportive family. It is a mark of Rory's humility that he should voluntarily step down from the position of State Solicitor at the time that he feels is right and appropriate not just for him but for the office he has held. Rory is extremely well respected in our community and his dedication, concern for, and love of Bray and Wicklow is well known. He is a powerful advocate for County Wicklow. I wish Rory every success in his continuing legal career. I have no doubt that he will continue to play a positive and impactful role and I would imagine and hope that this is simply the end of one chapter with much more to come"

Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly wrote "I would like to congratulate Rory on his retirement as State Solicitor after more than a quarter of a century serving the people of Wicklow.

"In that time, he has through his exemplary work as State Solicitor, built a deserved reputation



Pictured are Liam Benville, Roisin Benville, Rory Benville and Gerarda Benville

as being amongst our very best.

"It's by having public servants of the calibre of Rory in pivotal roles that the public's trust in our institutions is cemented—that is a legacy to be extremely proud of.

"The fact the great and the good have come together to show their appreciation for everything he has done is testament of the high regard in which he is held amongst the legal profession.

"However, Rory has not just limited his skills to within the courtroom as he has invested enormous time and effort working with local business groups, Chamber of Commerce, Bray Rotary Club, GAA County Strategic Committee, Greystones Educate Together, Bray Lions as well promoting charity groups in Bray.

"Volunteering so much of your precious spare time for local causes when you are State Solicitor is an extraordinary act of generosity. I would personally like to

thank Rory for the immense service he has done for the State and to wish him well for the future.

"I know his colleague Brian Robinson is stepping into the State Solicitor role.

I'm confident Brian will do an excellent job-

although he will have seen from watching Rory in action at close quarters just how high the bar has been set.

Good luck to you both" Speaking to the *Wicklow Times*, Rory was anxious to clarify that he was not retiring from his legal practice, just the

State job. "The role of State Solicitor is very demanding and after 25 years I felt it was time to make way for a younger person with fresh ideas and energy. Also, our legal firm has grown very rapidly in the past few years and I want to devote more time to it."



Pictured are John Whelan SC, Rory Benville & Therese Morgan (President Bray Rotary)



Rory Benville with Benville & Robinson partners Eilish Bradshaw (left) and Clare-Ann Temple (right)

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\*In contentious business, a solicitor may not calculate fees or other charges as a percentage or proportion of any award or settlement

## Standing room only at first Greystones chess session

The first Greystones Chess Session took place on Saturday, August 6th in the southwest corner of the Burnaby Park. The event was organised by Cllr. Stephen Stokes and Bernadette Stokes. It was well attended, with all the additional seating and tables in full use.

Cllr. Stokes stated: "It was great to have so many people take part. Our thanks to Wicklow County Council who installed chess tables around County Wicklow. The chess players of County Wicklow really appreciate them, so we wanted to do something positive to encourage their use. Hopefully this will raise awareness that the chess tables are open for use."

Open chess sessions are taking place in the Burnaby Park, Greystones every Saturday in August from 10am - 12pm. Cllr. Stephen Stokes will be offering a free lesson to beginners on the basic rules of chess from 10am - 10.30am. No experience is required.

Cllr. Stokes added: "A special thank you to all those that brought an extra seat with them. It helped a lot as the event was



A game of chess underway in Burnaby Park

standing room only for a while. attended. We had great fun and What was also wonderful was the good weather helped too. the great range of people that Having an open chess session

also raised awareness with passers-by."

During the Covid 19 pandemic chess underwent a huge online boom.

This was further boosted by the Queen's Gambit on Netflix. Cllr. Stephen Stokes concluded: "Chess is a great game. It tests your patience and logic. However with a return to live events, chess must be ready to adapt again to over the board events. The open chess sessions in Greystones are a small part of this bigger picture."

It is expected that an additional two chess tables will be installed in each Wicklow Municipal District in 2023, including in the Greystones Municipal District. Anyone seeking more information about chess can contact [stephenstokes101@gmail.com](mailto:stephenstokes101@gmail.com)



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# Funding announced for 21 Wicklow walking trails

Twenty-one walking trails in County Wicklow are to receive funding from the Department of Rural and Community Affairs programme to support Community Trail Management Organisations.

Welcoming the funding, Minister Simon Harris said: "I am delighted that 21 of Wicklow's Community Trail Management Organisations will receive a total of €46,400 towards the promotion and upgrade of Wicklow's walking trails.

"Of the 175 grants announced nationally Wicklow is to receive 21 of these. Not only are these amenities much enjoyed by the community, but they are also a key asset for Wicklow Tourism. The 21 organisations will

receive grants of €1000 to €3000.

"I would like to pay tribute to the local organisations involved and the fantastic work they carry out".

The 21 organisations to receive funding are registered with Sport Ireland and work in partnership with the local authority, Coillte and the Local Development Company (LDC) in maintaining their local trails.

The trails to receive funding are: Lacken Mass Path; Avoca Red Kite Loop; Tinahely

Railway Walk; Sugar Loaf Way; Ballydonarea Loop; Mangan's Loop; Blessington Greenway; Belmont Way; Bray Head Loop Walk; Rathdrum - Jubilee Loop; Ballycumber loop; Avonmore Way; Arklow Loops Kynoch Walk; Arklow Loops Town Walk; Arklow Loops Glenart Walk; Arklow Loops Love Lane Walk; Arklow Loops South Beach Walk; Arklow Loops Monument Walk; Kyle Loop; Miners' Way; Tinahely Loop.



The Blessington Greenway

## Public advised not to feed horses and donkeys without the owner's permission

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is urging members of the public not to feed horses and donkeys without the owner's permission.

Many of us are enjoying walks along boreens and village roads this summer and will likely get the opportunity to see horses and donkeys up close. The Department is urging people, however, not to feed these animals without the owner's permission. While it may be well-intentioned, the feeding of bread, food scraps, fruit or vegetables to horses or donkeys may cause severe illness, choking or death. What may seem like a treat could be potentially fatal for the animals. Additionally, the horses and donkeys may be put at risk of developing laminitis (a painful swelling of the feet) or suffering colic (a condition which can be serious and even fatal).

The public are asked to be mindful that feeding grass cuttings or garden waste to equines can also be dangerous. Chemicals applied to lawns may be harmful if eaten, while plants mixed with grass cuttings may be poisonous to horses and donkeys if ingested.

And remember - don't open farm gates, or enter fields in which animals are kept, without the owner's permission.

## Planning permission granted for Blessington pop-up pool

Planning permission has been granted for the pop-up pool in Blessington. The pool is due to open in September and operate for four months on the site of St Kevin's Community Hall in the centre of the town.

The 12x4 metre pool, which will be heated to 31C and will have both a ramp and a hoist for disabled access, is being provided by Swim Ireland.

The pool will be housed in a heated marquee and have three changing rooms.

Crucially, the use of the pop-up pool will play a vital role in supporting the case for a permanent pool in the west of the

county.

Minister Stephen Donnelly said: "I'm absolutely delighted planning permission has been granted for this project which will be a superb attraction for the entire area."

"Huge work has gone into the push to get a permanent pool for the town and getting the pop-up pool in place will help show there is huge need and support for such an amenity."

"You will need to book to use the pool through Swim Ireland so they will know exactly how many are using it while it is open and this in turn will help in the push for funding."

"The dedicated team behind the project say they have already lined up at least ten schools who plan to use the pop-up pool for swimming lessons. I'll be working

closely with them to make sure the arrival of the pop-up pool is just the first step in getting a permanent facility in place."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady described the success as a victory for the local community.

Deputy Brady said: "The area of West Wicklow, like many areas of the county, and indeed rural Ireland as a whole, has been hit hard with the loss of services and amenities over the last number of years. With the closure of Garda Stations, local Post Offices closing, and lack of funding for road upgrades, along with planning difficulties for local people attempting to build homes in the area, the West of the County has had to fight hard to maintain its vibrancy."

"The announcement today that planning permission is to be granted



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# Permission refused for Newtown mast

An Bord Pleanála has refused planning permission for a 30-metre high telecommunications tower at Trudder, Newtownmountkennedy. The decision goes against the recommendation of ABP's own inspector's report.

Wicklow County Council refused Vantage Towers Ltd permission for the tower, noting that the tower would be located next to lands zoned for proposed residential development and a future school campus. The Council said the applicant had failed to provide sufficient evidence that there is a need for the structure at this location. An appeal was submitted to ABP following the Council's decision.

The site is located to the south-west of Newtownmountkennedy, in an upland agricultural field off a local road, south

of the R765. The site is visible from the R772, the former N11. The Duck Walk is nearly directly in line with the site.

ABP Inspector's Report had recommended granting permission, stating: "Having regard to national planning policy supporting the need for enhanced telecommunication infrastructure, as set out the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan and in particular, to support the Digital Strategy for Schools and the location of the site within the development

boundary of Newtownmountkennedy it is considered, that the proposed development, would not be detrimental to protected views, would not seriously injure the residential and visual amenities of the area, and would therefore be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area."

However, ABP ultimately rejected the recommendation, stating: "In deciding not to accept the Inspector's recommendation to grant permission, the Board considered that, due to the lack of a land-

scape visual impact assessment within a protected view and the limited information provided with the application and appeal to justify locating the telecommunications mast on this site and evidence of how it would improve mobile phone coverage, the justification for such a development would not satisfactorily be in accordance with the relevant objectives and standards of the County Development Plan, and would therefore not be consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area."

## Plans for 152 Lott Lane houses

Wicklow County Council is planning to construct 152 housing units at Lott Lane in Killoole.

The dwellings will be a mixture of duplex apartment, terraced and semi detached.

The accommodation shall consist of 14 one bed apartments, 51 two bed two storey housing units, 85 three bed two storey housing units and 2 four bed two storey housing units.

The site is a five-acre Greenfield site, adjacent to a residential neighbourhood and less than 0.5km to the north east of the village. The land is zoned mixed use. Plans for 75 social houses on the site were approved by the Department of Housing in 2021.

The planning report says that the position of the dwellings on the site have been designed to avoid overlooking or overshadowing on neighbouring properties.

The Council has undertaken a detailed site investigation and preliminary designs for roads, foundations and retaining walls shall be further progressed as the design develops.

Public consultation for the development is currently underway and a decision is due to be made on 20th September. The deadline for submissions is 12pm on September 12th.

Submissions can be made via email to part8@wicklowcoco.ie or in writing to David Porter, Administrative Officer, Wicklow County Council Housing Section.



Tom Scott, Club Captain of Arklow Golf Club, with Deirdre Keogh, recently appointed Community Engagement Manager with SSE Renewables for Arklow Bank Wind Park, at the Arklow Golf Club Open Week 2022, which was sponsored by SSE Renewables.

## Appeal lodged against Enniskerry housing development

Enniskerry Demesne Management CLG has lodged an appeal with An Bord Pleanála against plans for 74 houses and 10 sheltered housing units in Enniskerry.

The site is located on the southern side of the Cookstown Road directly across from the Enniskerry Demesne residential development. The site is currently under pasture and enjoys a protected view of the Sugar Loaf.

Local residents had submitted their objections and concerns during the public consultation phase. They raised the points that: The proposal exceeds the permissible density on these lands as outlined in the LAP and Action Area Plan and therefore contravenes the plan for the area; The density is out of context with surrounding existing surrounding development; Development typology is too urban for this rural area.

They also raised concerns relating to the ecological and visual impact, including the negative visual impact on the area and on views towards the Sugarloaf. They said that insensitive development will impact on Enniskerry's tourism industry. Development on the site should be of an exceptionally high quality, they said.

Another major concern for Enniskerry Demesne residents is traffic, and the limited social infrastructure in to serve the development. They also raised concerns regarding road safety at St. Patrick's National School due to construction traffic/HGV's having to come through the village.

ABP is due to make its decision by 5th December.

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Cllr Derek Mitchell entered his car in the Holyhead Festival Parade for the 10th anniversary of twinning between Greystones and Holyhead. See more on page 12

## 'I estimate Greystones will overshoot its 2028 population target by 2,000 people'

Fine Gael councillor for the Greystones Municipal District Derek Mitchell has reiterated his intentions to vote against Wicklow County Council's Budget for 2023. Cllr Mitchell says that unless changes are made to increase the funding for Greystones MD he cannot support the Budget.

Local Property Tax paid in Greystones is the highest in Wicklow, yet services are the lowest, said Cllr Mitchell.

The preliminary Census results show the population of Greystones Municipal District has increased by 4,041 to 30,352, a 15% increase since 2016. The population of County Wicklow has increased by 9%, the

Greystones increase being 31% of the total, increasing Greystones from 18% to 20% of the County's population.

"Census 2022 also shows the population of Greystones-Delgany is 405 short of the 2028 target of 21,727. At least 1,000 houses are being built now and I expect Greystones will overshoot its 2028 target by at least

2,000 people in 2023," said Cllr Mitchell.

"Greystones' share of the County budget has remained at 12% for at least the last five years. It is by far the lowest spend of any area and it is not increasing with the population. Increasing population needs more resources. The Outdoor Staff are less than half that of other areas. This is

why Greystones Tidy Towns has had such difficulties in spite of a huge effort by them.

"This rapid growth also needs many projects provided by the Council and not enough is being done to provide, roads, footpaths, arts and community facilities. I will not be voting for the Council Budget unless something is done to improve this."

## Staff shortages leave councils reliant on Tidy Towns volunteers

Senator Victor Boyhan has called for Local Authorities to ensure that resources and finances are in place in the cleansing departments for the maintenance of open space and public realm of villages and towns.

Senator Boyhan, a member of the Oireachtas Committee Local Government, made his comments following local councillors' concerns that falling staff numbers across local authorities has led to an over-reliance on volunteers from local Tidy Towns groups to maintain the streets and open spaces in their administrative areas.

Senator Boyhan said he had heard reports of "situations in local and municipal district areas where

Tidy Towns volunteers were now left carrying the can for the cleaning up and maintenance of our towns and villages.

"It is important to emphasise that Tidy Towns Champions are volunteers, indeed many have retired from employment, they should not be burdened with the maintenance and labour within their town and villages.

"Councils cannot place the burden of responsibility on tidy town volunteers as they are not there to do the councils work.

"The Council has a statutory responsibility to maintain public areas, they must ensure that resources and funds are in place so that areas in their charge are maintained."

## Repair works at Greystones Cove to mend crack in the wall

Climate adaption works are taking place in The Cove, Greystones, to mend a large crack in the wall.

Cllr Stephen Stokes stated: "These works are essential. There is a large crack in the wall beside the path. As such the Greystones District Engineering Department has successfully secured €65,000 in climate adaption funds, to protect the road from the sea. This will be important to ensure a safe long term environment for Cliff Road and Cove users."

The crack in the wall was reported to Wicklow County Council by Former Councillor Kathleen

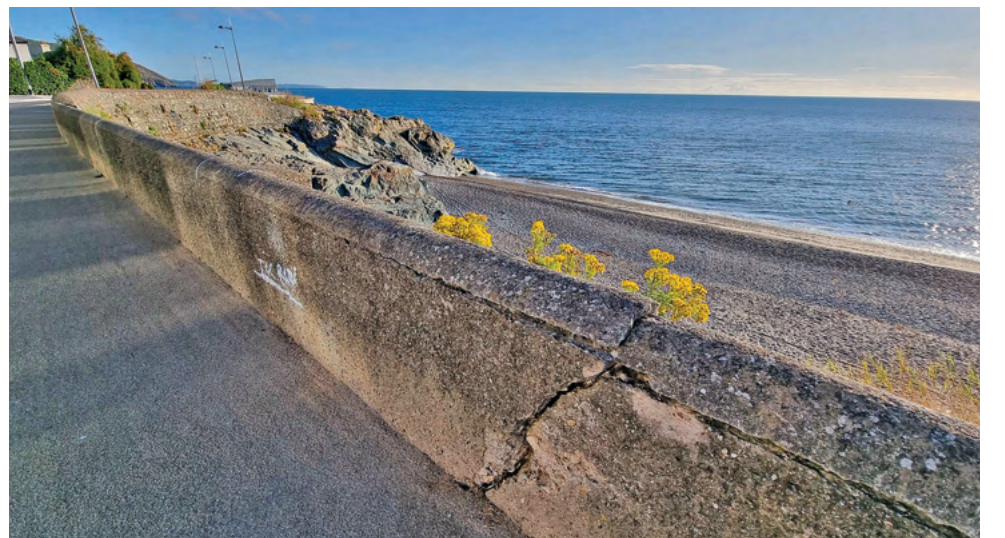
Kelleher in the late 1990s. At the time Wicklow County Council took action by cementing the crack. However over the years the crack has become bigger. It is believed that further erosion posed a potential risk to the Cliff Road, Greystones.

The current works are expected to take around 2 months to complete.

Cllr Stokes added: "This is a challenging job. Although climate adaption funds have been secured, my understanding is that the work will cost over €125,000, provided that

there are no unexpected delays. Additionally I have been advised that people will still be able to access the Cove.

"While work is being undertaken some footpath access disruption is to be expected. However appropriate alternatives are expected to be in place. Cllr. Stokes concluded: "The Cove is a much loved area in Greystones. I would like to thank the Greystones Municipal District Engineering Team for their hard work. Making this area safe, with climate protection works will be of great value to local people and visitors."



The crack in the wall at The Cove in Greystones

## Funding for Cliff Walk works

€198,000 has been secured for work on the Cliff Walk. It is planned to move a section further inland for safety reasons. At the moment a section of the Cliff Walk is closed, with users advised to use alternative routes such as the Bray Head Loop Trail.

Cllr Stephen Stokes stated: "The Cliff Walk is an amazing trail. At the July 2022 Greystones Municipal District meeting I requested an update on the Cliff Walk progress. It is currently with the Wicklow County Council Legal Section. Negotiating land access takes time, but I believe we would all love to see the Cliff Walk fully reopened as soon as possible. As such the Greystones Municipal District agreed to write to the Legal Section, to see if further progress has been made."

Cllr. Stephen Stokes reiterated the benefits of the Cliff Walk. He stated: "It's a wonderful amenity between Bray and Greystones for locals and visitors alike. For local residents it's a fantastic trail to enjoy the sea and nature. Some people just like to walk a small section, so having a partial closure is not ideal. Many tourists will often stop for coffee or bite to eat, which is a great boost to our local businesses. Hopefully all issues can be resolved, but we need to make sure we get it right."



Cllr Stephen Stokes on the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk

## Council applies for Kilpedder footpath and lighting funding

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris has contacted the Chief Executive of the National Transport Authority in support of the application by the Council to apply for funding for new footpaths and public lighting in Kilpedder.

Minister Harris said: "I have been campaigning for Kilpedder to receive the attention it deserves in

terms of its fair share of funding for paths and public lighting. "The Chief Executive of

Wicklow County Council has confirmed to me this week that Wicklow County Council has

applied for funding in respect of footpath and public lighting improvements along the main street in Kilpedder to Willow Grove. The Council has applied to the National Transport Authority (NTA) and I have written to the CEO of the NTA to add my support to the project. "Kilpedder has been considered a forgotten village as it is divided between the Wicklow and Greystones Municipal Districts. I have been working to ensure the village is not overlooked. The Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council has also undertaken to ensure that the road sweeper will attend to the Kilpedder Village shortly."



Sunken footpath in Kilpedder

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# Libraries to benefit from dormant accounts funding

A range of exciting initiatives will be possible in Wicklow County Council Library Service as a result of a €23,862 grant from the "Dormant Accounts Funding" including aids to help those with reading difficulties, books in Ukrainian and other languages and books for Shelton Abbey Open Prison.



Wicklow Town Library

The funding, announced by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, will enable the provision of electronic resources both in library buildings and online and will also be used to assist libraries in offering literacy and mathematics supports across the library network.

In recent years "Dormant Accounts Funding" has helped Wicklow's libraries to fund online literacy supports, sensory spaces and the recent recording of the "Small Steps to Literacy" video programming, among many other relevant and important literacy-based projects.

One of the highlights of the funding will be the purchase of "C-pens" which have a simple scanning mechanism that reads text aloud and will be available for borrowing in each library, making life easier for anyone struggling with reading and enabling parents to try out a pen before making a decision to purchase this costly item.

The grant will also enable Wicklow County Council to purchase a subscription for an online data base of children's picture books in 50 different languages. This includes Ukrainian titles and will be welcomed by parents of young children now living in

County Wicklow, if English is not their main language.

The much welcome additional funding also paves the way to acquire a new online "Times Tables" support for schools which will be offered from September and builds on the current "Mathletics" offer acquired in 2020.

Planned library programming as a result of the funding will provide a pilot intergenerational programme to three nursing homes in the County, a literacy programme for pre-schoolers and for children living in direct provision, a dedicated book club for children with dyslexia and a "Minecraft Club".

Wicklow County Council Library Service has an existing connection with Shelton Abbey Open Prison in terms of the selection of books and support for the librarian. Part of this funding will be used to build on this connection by enhancing our service to the Open Prison population in Shelton Abbey, encouraging membership, facilitating activities for visiting children and nurturing the skill of reading aloud to children.

Speaking after the announcement, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley said: "This significant



Greystones Library

funding will improve the accessibility of literacy supports across the library network and will further position our public libraries as a valuable community resource."

Deputy Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Michael Nicholson, added: "Wicklow County Council welcomes this funding and will ensure that it is promoted and made available to those who need it most. It will complement literacy support programmes, such as "LEXIA" and "TTRS," which Wicklow County Council has made available across all schools and libraries in the County".

Cllr Stephen Stokes welcomed

the funding and praised the Greystones Library staff for their continued excellent service to the Greystones Municipal District. He added: "People come from all over Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle to avail of the resources. The online resources were especially vital during the Covid 19 pandemic. I used it extensively myself, including e books and audio books. I would encourage local people to avail of the Greystones Library services. This funding will boost the accessibility of literacy supports in place across the Greystones District and Co. Wicklow as a whole. I warmly welcome it."

## Tree grants from council for planting of native trees

Grants of up to €500 are being provided by Wicklow County Council for the planting of native trees and hedgerows by communities in a bid to increase the amount of trees in our public space. Any community group, school, youth club, sports club can apply for the funding.

The grant aims to facilitate the planting of trees on public sites that can be enjoyed by all in the community. The grant will cover 75% of the cost of purchasing trees, stakes and ties up to maximum of €500.

To apply groups need to identify a site suitable for

planting and seek a quote from a supplier for trees, outlining the type of trees and their cost. A sketch map should be included with the application form to show where it is proposed to plant trees.

Trees can help to sequester carbon reducing our impact on cli-

mate change. They can also help to create a better local climate reducing the impact of heat and wind in local areas and most importantly help to reduce run off when heavy rain occurs.

By planting native trees we maximise the benefit of planting for

local biodiversity which is well adapted to living with those trees. The new grant is provided as part of Wicklow County Council's Climate Action programme and as part of the commitment in its new Tree Policy to increase tree cover in County Wicklow.

Any group can plant some trees. In previous years the Council has had applications from as few as two or three trees up to

the planting of many hundreds of saplings.

All applications will be considered and reviewed to ensure that the proposed site is suitable for the long-term development of the trees being planted. Groups should ensure when making an application that they have the support of local communities including local Residents Associations or Tidy Towns when planting on public green space.

The deadline for application is 2nd September and it is expected that all trees will be planted out during the months of October to December. Participants can purchase trees once Wicklow County Council gives approval for their application. The grant is paid out once a receipt is then submitted for the purchase of trees.

Anyone interested in making an application should contact the Environmental Awareness Office to request an application using the email address [eao@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:eao@wicklowcoco.ie). People can also contact the office on the same address with any questions about the grant.



## Funding for outdoor adventure projects

Wicklow County Council has been allocated grants of €281,700 for 10 outdoor adventure projects under this year's Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS).

The projects to benefit will include the upgrading of walking trails in Aughrim, Clara Vale, Devil's Glen, Ballinagee and Ballinafunshogue. A new equestrian trail at Ballyboy Forest and a new linear wild play area on the red kite loop in Avoca will also benefit.

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, welcomed this further investment in the Wicklow outdoors which will enhance the County's walkways, rivers, lakes and beaches as well as boosting local economies by attracting visitors and furthering our reputation as a destination for adventure tourism.

Michael Nicholson, Deputy Chief Executive, paid tribute to all the Council staff involved in the preparation of the 10 applications and also acknowledged the ongoing commitment to the County from the Minister for Rural and Community, Heather Humphreys TD. He added that outdoor recreation tourism is a growing sector and has the potential to have major economic spin-off benefits for all our rural

towns and villages.

Mr Nicholson also stated that some of the approved projects are often hidden gems on our doorsteps and he encouraged everyone to get out and discover them over the rest of the summer.

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has welcomed the additional funding, saying: "Wicklow did really well under the latest round of funding. 10 projects were selected across the county which aim to improve beautiful parts of our county for visitors and residents to enjoy."

"Wicklow received €280,000 for projects across the country including restoration of granite stonework for Aughrim Heritage, the Avonmore Way, a looped equestrian trail in Ballyboy forest, and an extension to the river walk in the Devils Glen. Also receiving funding were a linear play area on the Red Kite Loop, improved access points to Coillte land in West Wicklow, resurfacing works on the Miners Way and funding to airlift restoration materials to sensitive Wicklow upland areas.

"In the recent public consultation on the Outdoor Recreation Strategy I submitted that good access to the outdoors is critical for us to enjoy our beautiful natural environment and that this access can foster a real understanding and respect for our natural world and the threats that exist and the fragility of our biodiversity and habitats. I am also of the view that our wild and beautiful outdoors in Wicklow is for residents to enjoy as well as visitors."

"It is important that we provide well managed and accessible locations to support our tourism offering but also to provide for our residents and locals that visit these places all year around. This latest round of funding is for smaller scale projects and I expect further funding later this year for larger scale projects and walking trails."

"I am working on a few potential projects for Wicklow with Wicklow County Council and will continue to ensure that the Garden County gets a fair assessment in these funding considerations. If you have any ideas or suggestions on outdoor recreation improvements for Wicklow please get in touch and I would be happy to help," concluded Deputy Matthews.



Peadar Shortt and Mary Flynn at the Kilmac Horse Show in Enniskerry. Pic: Joe McQuillan

# Delgany's Honeybrook Cottage is saved

Planning permission has been refused for a residential development on the site of Honeybrook Cottage in Delgany that would have seen the beloved local dwelling demolished.

A planning application was lodged with Wicklow County Council seeking to demolish the existing single storey dwelling, garage and shed, and construct a four-storey building containing nine apartments.

The site is located within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) less than 60 metres from Christ Church. Honeybrook Cottage itself forms part of a terrace of three houses, one of which (Malvern House) is a protected structure.

Malvern House (including the buildings now known as Honey-

brook Cottage and Westgate) operated as Dr W Alfred Johnson's Malvern Hydropathic Establishment in the middle of the 19th century (1857 to 1870 approx) and local residents say there are still springs and potentially wells and underground streams on the site.

The Council refused permission due to: The site being located within the Delgany Village Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) and Honeybrook Cottage and its front boundary contributing the special character of the ACA; the height and mass of the

proposed development, its design and finish, which would have a negative visual impact; the proximity of its eastern and western side elevations to the shared boundaries of the site and the presence of balconies in these elevations resulting in a loss of privacy on a neighbouring property; public safety being endangered by the proposed vehicular entrance due to inadequate sightlines along Church Road couples with the increase in traffic movements which the development would generate; Failure to consider the ecological and visual impact of the

proposed development. Greystones councillor Stephen Stokes welcomed the news and particularly commended Delgany Community Council for their hard work on this issue.

"This is an important decision. Delgany and many other areas are under intense development pressure. I made a submission objecting to the Honeybrook Cottage plans because of serious concerns about the scale and impact on Delgany, including environmental, traffic and heritage."

Cllr Stephen Stokes commended all those who made submissions. He added: "It is important for local people to have their say on local issues. The planning decision acknowledged that the proposed Honeybrook Cottage development would have had a detrimental visual impact on the special character of Delgany Village."

Cllr Stokes concluded: "While it is important to increase housing across the country, it is important that development works to the benefit of the local community in terms of environment, heritage and infrastructure."



Honeybrook Cottage



St. Columcille's Hospital is delighted to announce the recommencement of their DXA service. A new DXA room and General Electric (GE) Prodigy Pro V18 machine have also been commissioned following the absence of DXA for over a year subsequent to the HSE cyberattack in May 2021. A DEXA Scan is a special non-invasive form of imaging that measures bone density and loss. In general the denser the bone the stronger it is and therefore less likely it is to break. Pictured are Muvashni Carey, Senior Radiographer and Vicki Douglas, Radiographer. Both staff members are involved in the DXA Scanning Service at SCH.

## Green light for Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

An Bórd Pleanála has approved the proposed Flood Relief Scheme for the town of Arklow.

The estimated €28.5 investment by the OPW includes a plan to deepen the river as well as the introduction of new debris and gravel traps in order to improve conveyance.

It also includes elements to enhance the public realm, strengthening works to the existing quay walls and Arklow Bridge, the construction of floodwalls, glass panelling and an embankment as barriers against flood risk. Wicklow County Council will act as lead authority in delivering the scheme, with full funding and support provided by the OPW under the Capital Flood Relief Programme.

Minister Stephen Donnelly said: "This is a project I have been pushing for a number of years as it is of vital importance for the future of the town."

"In 2018 I invited then Minister for State for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief Kevin 'Boxer' Moran to the town to see for himself what needed to be done and to ensure that the scheme was incorporated into Government policy. During the visit we made it clear that the scheme was essential to protect the town against both river and coastal erosion. It's an issue that has been championed on the ground by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and I'd like to also commend Wicklow County Council for the work they have done in pushing it forward. I will continue to work with the local authorities and through the Government to make sure the project is delivered as quickly as possible."



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CHILL DARAGH AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN  
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EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD



## Only a couple of weeks to go. Don't miss out!

Your local Further Education & Training Centre still has some golden opportunities for you on these courses (coming up in September):

- The QQI award in Healthcare Support: a **must** for every credible Healthcare Assistant (don't compromise on professionalism!)
- The **new qualification** in Childcare (**Early Learning & Care**: you can get it right here in Bray)
- **Inclusive Education & Training**: Special Needs Assistant course
- **21st Century Skills For Work**: all the skills you need to enter any workplace with confidence
- **Beginners Art**: no previous experience needed, just the willingness to learn
- **Creative Craft**: a superb training in Art, Crafts & Design for the more ambitious learner
- A fantastic range of **Computing Courses**: full-time and part-time options available
- **CompTIA A+**: professional training in maintenance and networking
- **Part-Time Crafts**: Wood craft, leather work, pyrography (one of the most enjoyable things you'll ever do)

**Planned start date: Monday 5th September. Act now!**

**Expert teaching • Adult learning • Valuable certificates.**

**Contact:** Bray Adult Education Centre: [www.baec.ie](http://www.baec.ie) | [baec@kwetb.ie](mailto:baec@kwetb.ie) | Tel: (01) 5242796 / 0871666074.



Bray Adult Education Centre, Civic Centre Bray.

**Your plans for the future really should include education and training.**

**Jobseekers under 26: the standard VTOS weekly payment is €208!!!**



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## Discover more about life at Castlekevin

*Heritage Week event in Roundwood Parish Hall, 8pm, Tuesday 16th August*

**Come along to discover more about life at Castlekevin, the epicentre of ferocious struggles between Anglo-Norman colonists and the native Irish from 1169 to 1652. It tended with the execution of the de facto head of the O'Toole clan, the 75-year-old Luke O'Toole.**

Castlekevin, a typical Anglo-Norman castle with motte and bailey, has been a landmark since then. Its survival is thanks to the generations of private landowners who had the foresight to keep it intact. The intervening four centuries have taken their toll. Now vegetation is covering the motte though the bailey is still clear.

Concerned that history was getting lost, Roundwood District and Historical Society applied for and was awarded Community Monument Funding this year. This has allowed us to use top professional archaeologists to scrutinise the area with non-invasive lidar, geophysical and ecological surveys. These have just been completed and are now being analysed. What more may be revealed about life in this medieval enclave?

As their contribution to Heritage Week, 2022, the Society is holding an evening event Tuesday 16th August at 8pm in Roundwood Parish Hall. This will be hosted by Fin Dwyer of the Irish History Podcast to cover not just the history but also some new 'lost' features and secrets.

## Arts Office announces final edition of Summer Songs Inland & By The Sea

**Four fun-filled days of family activities and live music performances have been created by Wicklow Arts Office in collaboration with Rathdrum Development Association as part of the final edition of 'Summer Songs Inland and By the Sea'.**

Taking place in Parnell Memorial Park, Rathdrum, from 18th to 21st August, some of the activities and workshops available include willow weaving workshops, perfect for the whole family; an 'Introduction to Songwriting' workshop, ideal for both beginner and experienced young songwriters, and basic Hip Hop dance workshops with Zoe Patterson of FYI Dance Club.

Music highlights will include live performances by the Penston Family singing West End and Broadway favourites; Mia Parsons Quartet, showcasing a local rich and unique jazz sound; Teddy and Cathal Social Band with a mix of country and trad, and one of Ireland's most acclaimed live artists, Paddy Casey, supported by Florence Road a young up-and-coming band from Arklow.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, said he was pleased that the Council was supporting a third edition of 'Summer Songs - Inland and by the Sea' this year, catering for local families in rural locations.

Deputy Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Michael Nicholson, said he was delighted with the range of activities and musical talents on offer in this year's programme which is supported by the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme provided by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Tickets can be booked by searching for Rathdrum Summers Songs on Eventbrite.ie. For further information, contact Síle Stewart, Art Services Coordinator, Wicklow County Arts Office, at 0404 20100 extn 4910 or email sstew-art@wicklowcoco.ie



*Sophia Poveda from Delgany launching last year's Summer Songs festival*

## Greystones celebrates 10 years of twinning with Holyhead

**A delegation from Greystones visited Holyhead in Wales recently to take part in the 2022 Holyhead Festival. The event also celebrated 10 years of twinning between the two towns. The visit took place from July 29th to 31st.**

The Greystones delegation enjoyed a guided visit to RAF Valley where they spent an afternoon at the airfield. Flight Lieutenant Phil McQuade explained Royal Air Force operations, at the base where Prince William trained. The Greystones visitors also spent time on the flight simulator which mimics real flight experience.

The annual parade is the highlight of the festival with the Greystones contingent participating.

Cllr. Derek Mitchell and his wife, Carol, were part of the parade with their vintage 1964 Mercedes Benz Pagoda.

Cllr. Stephen Stokes, Kay Coughlan from Greystones Municipal District and former Mayor Kathleen Kelleher also travelled over.

They were very impressed with the wide range of activities available and impressed with the groups who were active in the festival schedule.

The Holyhead seafront was crowded with local families and visitors who came to enjoy their day out.

To mark Ten Years of Twinning, Cllr. Stephen Stokes presented Adrienne Edwards, Holyhead Mayor, with a framed evocative photo. The photo was taken by James Griffin of The Boat Yard Gallery at Greystones Harbour Marina and shows Greystones' North Beach looking towards Holyhead.

Sue Williams and Dewi Thomas from Holyhead put together a fabulous collection of photos of ten years of twinning events. The purpose of the display, which also included

tourist brochures and booklets, was to promote Greystones as a tourist destination.

The special photograph collection will be on display in Greystones Library from 12th to 23rd November 2022.

The twinning partnership falls under the Tourism and Twinning Sub Committee of Greystones Municipal District. The twinning partners also had the opportunity to hold informative discussions on matters of common interest.

Greystones and Holyhead are both maritime towns with similar local government concerns. The two towns learn from each other and help each other. There have been many visits back and forth between the two towns over the ten years.

Holyhead twinning partners will pay a return visit this November for Greystones' Christmas Lights and will bring the famous Holyhead Santa with them as well as the Holyhead Male Voice Choir who will perform a joint concert with the Holyhead McGee Brothers traditional band. The Concert will take place in the Whale Theatre on 19th November.



*Pictured above: Adrienne Edwards, Holyhead Mayor, with a framed photo presented to him by the visiting Greystones delegation, and below: The Greystones delegation enjoying a guided visit to RAF Valley where they spent an afternoon at the airfield.*



*Cllr Derek Mitchell and his wife Carol in the Holyhead Festival Parade in their vintage 1964 Mercedes Benz Pagoda.*

# Register now for the 2022 Big Beach Clean

The Big Beach Clean initiative is back, and Clean Coasts, supported by Cully and Sully, are calling people all across Wicklow to register to receive clean-up kits and join the world biggest clean-up.

In 2021, a record number of over 400 clean-ups were organised by volunteers who removed 42 tonnes of litter across the whole country. This represented a 5% decrease in litter found across Ireland, compared to the previous year campaign, which reflects the incredible work that Irish volunteers do all year round to tackle litter, as well as more conscious behaviours by beach users.

Last year in county Wicklow, volunteers organised clean-ups in over 15 different locations, removing 1.4 tonnes of litter. Moreover, Clean Coasts hosted a Big Beach Clean event at Greystones Beach on Saturday the 18th of September 2021, where 28 dedicated volunteers managed to collect 8 bags which amounted to 34kgs of litter. According to these volunteers, the top 5 Big Beach Clean offenders were: cigarette butts, plastic pieces, food wrappers, food containers (plastic), and wet wipes.

The Big Beach Clean is an annual call to action and this year it will run from 16th to 18th September, as part of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), operated internationally by Ocean Conservancy. This call to action invites communities and volunteers around the country to remove litter from around the Irish coast after the end of the bathing season. This initiative is also an opportunity for volunteers to get involved in a worldwide citizen science project, which entails collecting the amount and types of litter on Irish beaches and filling in Clean Coasts' Marine Litter Data Cards. This will help heighten awareness about the issue of marine litter serving as an indicator of the magnitude of the problem and help shape future policies and campaigns.

The 2021 results have been shared with Ocean Conservancy and, in Ireland and regionally in Wicklow, they have been used to shape Clean Coasts campaigns

designed both for registered groups and the general public, tackling the top 10 offenders, such as cigarette butts, plastic bottles and food packaging.

This year, Clean Coasts are calling not only Clean Coasts groups and people who would traditionally be involved in environmental activities to join. Clean Coasts, with the support of Content Creators, are asking everybody in the community to get involved and find out more about the benefits of taking part in a beach clean and international citizen science project, which go beyond the environmental aspect of the initiative.

Registration will again be open to all residents of Ireland, no matter how far from the coast they are based. Statistics show that the number one cause of marine litter is litter dropped in towns and cities. Getting involved in the Big Beach Clean is a way for residents of non-coastal counties to help prevent litter entering our waterways and seas by holding a clean-up no matter where they are in the country and tackling the problem at source.

Sinead McCoy, Coastal Communities Manager, stated: "The work carried out by Clean Coasts groups across Ireland throughout the year is amazing, and unfortunately very much needed during these times. We are asking Clean Coasts groups and any other group that would like to join the effort to sign up to partake in the Big Beach Clean, which runs on the 3rd weekend in September each year, and receive a free beach clean kit. Last year we had a boost in clean ups with loads more areas on the coast, along lakes and riverways and in our town and villages being cleaned up, we are excited to build on this success and get even more volunteers out cleaning during week-end. This year you can find your local beach clean or sign up on [cleancoasts.org](http://cleancoasts.org)."



Elaine Doyle, Clean Coasts Campaign Officer, Colum O'Sullivan, Founder of Cully & Sully, Cullen Allen, Founder Cully & Sully, Proinsias O Tuama, Founder of Clean Coasts Ballynamona. Pic: Cathal Noonan.

## Arts Office accepting applications for 2023 award scheme

Wicklow Arts Office is inviting submissions to the 10th edition of the Strategic Projects Award Scheme.

This scheme is open to artists, national resource organisations, individual curators, and artist collectives. Applications should focus on nurturing practice, enhancing connectivity, generating new perspectives and cultivating new voices within County Wicklow.

There are two funding streams available for the 2023 round of Strategic Projects Award:

### Stream A

Support for new initiatives will

be prioritised for projects which add significant value to existing arts practice, experience and participation in Wicklow, and which support Wicklow County Council Art's Office's Strategic Goals.

### Stream B

As this is the 10th edition of the Award, consideration will be given to repeat applications for existing Award recipients; from practitioners who wish to consolidate a project currently underway

or to develop an area of practice previously awarded under the scheme. Previously supported work which qualifies under this scheme includes visual arts engagement, digital arts, arts in the public realm, arts and health, early years, and arts and disability.

Regarding this year's Award, Deputy Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Michael Nicholson, stated: "We welcome imaginative projects which seek to enhance or create new work of and for County Wicklow but recognise that the

arts have been particularly affected by the Covid-19 and that there are uncertainties which remain challenging."

While the scheme is open to individuals and organisations from across all arts disciplines, the Arts Office would particularly welcome thoughtful applications that propose innovative solutions such as bespoke audience engagement projects using, for example, audio technology, outdoor installations or public performance.

Artists who have previously been successful in this award process include: Mary Coughlan,

Shane Finan, Kate Strain, Josh O'Caoimh, Eamon Sweeney, Lisa Freeman, Conor O'Reilly, Susan McKeown, Aisling Ennis, and West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival.

The total amount of the funding available is expected to be in the region of €80,000 to €100,000 for 2023.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, said he is pleased that the Council is able to fund selected projects up to a maximum of €15,000 for any one application as a result of this call.

Further information relating to the Award and the application process is available at: [www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Arts/Funding-Support-Opportunities/2023-Strategic-Projects-Award-Scheme](http://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Arts/Funding-Support-Opportunities/2023-Strategic-Projects-Award-Scheme).

The closing date for completed applications is Tuesday 13th September 2022 at 16:00 hours. Late applications will not be accepted.

Questions relating to the Award application process can be directed to Karan Thompson, [karan@ktcl.ie](mailto:karan@ktcl.ie)

## Sustainability and biodiversity is theme for Heritage Week

National Heritage Week 2022 which runs from Saturday, 13th August, until Sunday, 21st August, is currently being celebrated across County Wicklow.

In-person event and digital project organisers have responded with enthusiasm to this year's theme of sustainability and biodiversity, creating opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to learn more about our built, cultural, and natural heritage, helping to ensure its preservation and protection in the future.

There are over 50 individual events taking place in County Wicklow, the majority free-of-charge and family friendly.

Examples of events include: Dragon Fly Walk at East Coast Nature Reserve; Medieval History Walks and Pottery workshops in Arklow; A 'Big Dig for Kids' in Glendalough as well as folklore and graveyard tours; A 12 Graves historical walk in Glenmalur; A 'hauntological' sound tour at Killruddery Estate; Basket making demonstrations; A Battle of Delgany re-enactment; Gardening for biodiversity.

There will also be woodland talks

at Wicklow Mountains National Park, guided native woodland walks at Altadore Castle and at Humphrystown, invasive species walk at Tinahely, a talk on swifts in Rathdrum, historical tours in Bray, a talk on the Kennedy's of Newtownmountkennedy, whale watching from Bray Head, visits to Ballymurrin Quaker Farmhouse, Nuns Cross Church, and Old Connaught Graveyard.

Wicklow County Council's library service is hosting a series of events including backyard seed saving workshops in Bray, a Lego Glendalough play+learn event in Blessington, poetry evening in Greystones, guided online tour of Wicklow's heritage at Arklow and an Open Day at Wicklow Town local studies library. To check out and browse full details of all events visit [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie).

"It is wonderful to see the number and diversity of events happening in Wicklow this year, following on from

two years of restrictions on in-person activity during the pandemic. This year we are calling on heritage newcomers, enthusiasts, and experts alike to consider how they might promote sustainability in their own lives during Heritage Week and beyond," said Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer with Wicklow County Council.

This year, in the interests of sustainability, audiences are directed to visit the [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie) website rather than printed material. On the website visitors can use the filter arrow to search for events happening in county Wicklow, or on specific dates and selected themes.

Another new feature to the website is that visitors can click on the 'heart' symbol at events and to create their own bespoke Heritage Events trail for the events they wish to attend.

Heritage Week is co-ordinated by the Heritage Council in partnership with the local authority Heritage Officer network. Contact [heritageweek@heritagecouncil.ie](mailto:heritageweek@heritagecouncil.ie) or Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer with Wicklow County Council at [wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie)



Lauren, Kiara and Kathleen Darcy at the 2022 Tinahely Show



Pictured left to right; Eric Rountree, Foróige Way Project, Wicklow Moss Grace, Manor Kilbride Foróige Youth Club, Aoibhin Chamberlain, Manor Kilbride Foróige Youth Club, Robyn Nolan, Manor Kilbride Foróige Youth Club

## Young Wicklow people attend youth leadership conference

250 teenagers from around the world gathered in Kildare for Foróige's Leadership for Life Youth Conference last week.

The conference, which was launched on Tuesday 8th August on the grounds of NUI Maynooth, brought together young people from the USA, Ukraine, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, South Africa and Ireland to learn how to become leaders in their own lives.

During the week-long conference the teens learned crucial life skills such as empathy, decision making, communication skills, critical thinking and team-work.

Seán Campbell, CEO of Foróige, said "It's so important for this event to be back again in person. The conference gives young leaders the opportunity to not only learn from the speakers and facilitators, but to learn from each other in a fun and safe environment.

"Young people are playing a greater role than ever before in highlighting the issues that really matter and youth activism and community action are central pillars of our Leadership programme. I'm always in awe

of what young people can achieve when given the opportunity."

The Foróige Leadership for Life Programme was developed in Ireland in 2009 and is open to young adults aged 15-18. Delegates attending have been nominated by youth workers and volunteer leaders from their own countries because they have demonstrated an innate sense of justice, determination, passion and ability to lead and make positive changes in their own communities. The programme includes lectures by a host of inspirational speakers, workshops on team building, critical thinking and communication skills and peer discussions on matters of global importance. Young people will also be challenged to understand their own values and prejudices. Participants are encouraged to go beyond their own personal comfort zones and perceived capabilities to be better than they thought they could be.

## Approximately 160 Wicklow classrooms have 30 or more pupils

Recent figures show that there were 2,120 primary school classes across the State with 30 pupils or more in the academic year 2021-2022. In Wicklow, there are approximately 160 classes which have 30 or more students, or are approaching that figure with class sizes of 28 or 29 pupils.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady said that the figures underline the need for increased investment in our education system in the upcoming budget.

"For far too many of our children, their quality of education is being affected by high class sizes. In too many instances, classes that are far too big, in buildings too small, and not fit for purpose," said Deputy Brady. "I

believe that this is a matter of some urgency, and I urge the Minister to address this issue immediately.

"In Wicklow, there were 90 classes with 30 pupils or more. An approx. 70 additional classes have pupil numbers of 28 or 29. In Newtownmountkenedy, and Rathnew, there are class sizes running as high as 35 and 36 pupils. In one national school in

Blessington, three out of four classes have 30 or more pupils. There is hardly a national school in the whole county which is not affected by overcrowding.

"Some of these classes are absolutely enormous and would clearly put teachers and students under severe pressure. This is simply unacceptable. Sinn Féin wants to abolish all classes of over 30 kids and never allow them to return, and work towards attaining the EU average of 20 children per class.

"The Minister has an historic opportunity to introduce a two-point reduction in average class

size in a single year. This opportunity can be seized by sufficiently investing in our Education system in the upcoming budget and to make progress in reducing class sizes to the EU average. The Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO) is campaigning for a two-point reduction in average class size in a single year. I urge the Minister to listen to this and to work towards reducing our primary school class sizes in line with the EU average.

"Evidence shows that pupils do better and are better served with smaller class sizes. The complexity of the contemporary classroom

is such that, with larger class sizes, teachers find it challenging to meet the broad spectrum of needs children now present with.

"When class numbers are more reasonable, modern teaching methods work more effectively, and teachers can spend the time required with children. This is particularly important for children with additional needs and those from disadvantaged communities.

"Sinn Féin in Government would reduce the pupil/teacher ratio in primary schools to the EU average of 20 children per class by September 2024, we would build additional classroom space

required to implement reduced ratio and facilitate smaller class sizes. A two-point reduction to the pupil-teacher ratio in each of the next 2 years would cost €62m in total, €31m per year.

"These are the changes and actions that the Government should be taking now, it is time to invest sufficiently in our Education system. In Wicklow our Children are our future, they cannot afford to wait. Our children deserve the best in terms of their education and currently they are not getting the quality of education that they need and deserve."



Pictured is Emily Ní Bhrú who recently represented Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin and Lacken National School in the INTO Mini 7's in Croke Park. "I was very excited when my teacher said there were GAA trials test to get through to play football at Croke Park. I got through the trials in Ballinakill and got to represent my school and Wicklow in Croke Park," explains Emily. "On July 10th I represented Lacken N.S and County Wicklow at half time in Croke Park at the semi-final between Dublin and Kerry. It was an amazing day and I was so proud to get to play in Croke Park. I really felt like I was playing in an actual All Ireland semi-final and hopefully one day I do get to play in Croke Park again. Thanks to the INTO and Cumann na mBunscol for a day I will never forget!"

## Young Wicklow woman first in country to pass tough security exam

A young Wicklow woman has become only the second female in the country to pass one of the most coveted professional examinations in the security industry.

Louise O'Connell from Blessington, a Supervisor with Manguard Plus, passed the CSSM (Certified in Security Supervision & Management) examination awarded by International Foundation for Protection Officers (IFPO), a recognised highly sought-after certification.

Speaking at an event organised to present the certification, Louise said "I am absolutely delighted to have this certification under my belt. This certification is highly prized within the security industry and so passing it is so important for my career. The exam is very difficult and passing it has made all the hard work and a study worthwhile. This exam was tough and is recognised as being very difficult which makes passing it all the sweeter.

"A career in Security is a highly demanding, interesting and varied path and I would recommend it to anyone. There are real opportunities for professional advancement

in security. In particular I would love to see more women coming into the industry. As it stands, only 11% of women work in the Irish security industry. I would encourage any woman to look into our sector for real opportunities and career advancement. It is a fascinating and fast-moving industry, one that definitely offers rewards and flexibility, and I am so glad it is my chosen field".

Congratulating Louise on her professional advancement, Managing Director of Manguard Plus, Sean Hall said "Louise is an exemplary member of our team. She runs the busiest client's site in Dublin which is a sterling example of her professionalism. This is a multi-million-euro prestigious contract for Manguard Plus and one that is consistently growing. It is a hugely responsible position and Louise has risen to the task in an inspiring manner.

"Though a relative newcomer to the security



Louise O'Connell (left) and Claire Regan

industry, Louise has consistently demonstrated an ability and willingness to learn, qualities that are excellent signals to a long and highly successful long-term career in the sector. She picks up things easily in what is a very responsible and fast-moving role, which is a strong advantage.

"She has that unquantifiable talent for pre-empting any potential issues that could prove problematic for our clients and takes the steps necessary to negate them. This is both a talent and an example of true dedi-

cation that simply cannot be overstated. Her eagerness to continually improve both her understanding of the security industry and her own skill set is inspiring and points to a long and successful career in the industry. The fact that she was promoted twice, first to Security Supervisor and then to Area Supervisor in such a short time is testament to this dedication and ability on such a prestigious contract. We are incredibly impressed by her and can see that Louise has the knowledge skills and attitude to forge out a very

successful career in security. What I find most heartening is the bond that Claire and Louise have built up throughout this process and this is exactly what we are striving for, leaders developing new leaders.

"Traditionally Security has been an industry that has predominantly attracted men, but Louise has carved out a very important role for herself and we firmly believe that her success will encourage other women to consider a role in security as a long term and professional career path."

# Rewilders reach peak of Lugnaquilla in tough conditions

On Saturday 23rd July, 21 volunteers from the community group ReWild Wicklow completed their Reach the Peak challenge fundraiser by climbing to the top of Lugnaquilla. It was a very wet day and conditions were challenging with visibility very low, but with International Mountain Leader Niall Ennis at the helm, the group safely navigated their way to the summit and back.



Reach the Peak organisers Maria O'Loughlin and Simon Alvey, descending from Lugnaquilla

"The weather was not what we hoped for," said chairperson of ReWild Wicklow, Danny Alvey, "but that made the challenge all the more rewarding! We had a great range of volunteers who joined us on the day. They aged from 11 to 77 and we had one from as far away as New Zealand. We also had a member of the group, James Timmons, who only ten months ago broke his back, neck and two legs in a motorbike race accident. James had to use a wheelchair after that and learn to walk again through physio, so for him to get to the point of climbing a mountain today was very special for him."

The fundraising event was to raise funds for their Snapshot Europe project. This is an initiative that will see the most extensive camera trap monitoring of mammals in Ireland ever, happen right here in Wicklow, across September and October. Snapshot Europe began last year and just 10 camera traps were deployed as Ireland's contribution to this



Participants at the summit of Lugnaquilla

Europe-wide report on mammals.

This year ReWild Wicklow are partnering with the UCD Wildlife Department to raise funds for as many camera traps as possible and their volunteers will deploy and monitor them.

"We're delighted to have raised €3,500 of our €4,000 goal," said Danny. "And there is still some time left if anyone would like to show their appreciation of our wet mountain warriors and donate at our GoFundMe page."

A full camera trap setup costs €218 and, as a special thank you,

every fundraiser who reaches this target will get the opportunity to name it. Every image shared online and in the media will mention the name of the camera it was captured on.

Local businesses, such as Jacksmill Forest Gardens, HUB13 in Newtownmountkennedy and Special Ops Adventures in Roundwood, have also got involved to sponsor and have a camera named after them and the group would welcome more businesses.

You can donate and find out more on their website at [rewildwicklow.ie](http://rewildwicklow.ie)



ReWild Wicklow's youngest and oldest climbers, Saoirse and John Alvey, at the summit of Lugnaquilla

## EcoTrail Wicklow bigger and better with the support of Fáilte Ireland



Frederic Verdier, Tourism Officer, Wicklow County Council; Nicola Cleary, EcoTrail Wicklow and Nicola Fitzgerald, Fáilte Ireland, pictured at the launch of EcoTrail Wicklow

EcoTrail Wicklow has been successful in securing the support of Fáilte Ireland for this year's edition of the popular trail Running Race. The objective of the support is to grow the event into a weekend experience and attract more overseas visitors.

Starting and finishing at Bray Seafront, EcoTrail Wicklow will take place on September the 24th offering four different races (19k, 30k, 45k and 80k), through some of Wicklow's most scenic locations.

Orla Carroll, Director of Product Development at Fáilte Ireland said "Fáilte Ireland is pleased to support the EcoTrail Wicklow race and would like to wish all athletes the best of luck for race day on 24th September. Investing in participative festivals like this not only attracts competitors from around Ireland and overseas, it also encourages families and supporters to stay and explore the local area, which in turn is beneficial for local businesses and drives the local economy."

"These events also showcase the fantastic outdoor activity offering we have in Ireland, and are hugely important as we drive recovery across the tourism sector"

Fred Verdier, Tourism Officer at Wicklow County Council says: "We're absolutely delighted to get Fáilte Ireland's support and we are busy planning for the event in September. The agenda is not fully defined yet, but expect activities such as a bus tour to Glendalough to overseas visitors on Friday, live broadcast of the race on a big screen on Bray Seafront, a food fair with Wicklow Naturally on Sunday, and more."

Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council adds: "EcoTrail Wicklow offers a fantastic opportunity to showcase Wicklow as a fantastic playground for outdoor activities."

"With Fáilte Ireland's backing, our event and destination will reach a larger audience both in Ireland and abroad."

## Annual Alzheimer's Memory Walk Fundraiser

Comedian Neil Delamere and beauty expert and entrepreneur Pamela Laird are inviting the people of Wicklow to make every step count for the third successive Alzheimer's Memory Walk which is taking place nationwide on Sunday, September 18th, during World Alzheimer's Month 2022.

Alzheimer's Memory Walk is a family-friendly event suitable for all ages and abilities to unite together with their families and communities to raise awareness and funds for dementia supports. The ASI hopes that 3,000 walkers across Ireland will help us raise €250,000 for vital services that help to support so many people with dementia and their family carers across Ireland.

An estimated 1,838 people live with dementia in Wicklow, and 64,000 people live with dementia in Ireland which will more than double in the next 25 years to over 150,000 by 2045. However, there is one thing you can do to help - you can Walk Together on Sunday, September 18th

Walk with your household, family, friends and pets; it's guaranteed to be a fun event. You can choose where you walk, whether your back garden or the local park - remember, on Sunday, September 18th - Let's Walk Together. Family-friendly prices are €8 for kids and €20 for adults.

Register on [www.memorywalk.ie](http://www.memorywalk.ie)



Pamela Laird and Neil Delamere

# Mermaid to preview Emmet Kirwan's Accents

Project Arts Centre and Kate Ferris in association with Mermaid Arts Centre are pleased to announce a new show running as part of this year's Dublin Fringe Festival. The world premiere of Emmet Kirwan and Eoin French's *Accents* will open on September 11th, with two previews, one on September 3rd at Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray and one on September 10th at Project Arts Centre, Dublin.



Emmet Kirwan and Eoin French in *Accents*

Following the success of Dublin Oldschool, *Accents* is a transformative new show about the arrival of new life, the families we try to create, the families we may never have, and the post-crash boom generation living a life delayed. Written by Emmet Kirwan, composed by Eoin French and directed by Claire O'Reilly, this world premiere presents a powerful, poetic journey through a gentrified city. Weaving spoken word, extraordinary live music and stunning visuals, *Accents* will feed your mind and lift your soul.

Critics praised Dublin Oldschool as being 'Unmissable. Exceptional acting squared with exceptional writing' (Sunday Times), 'Riotous. A late-night trip that makes for incredible theatre' (Evening Herald), 'swagger and linguistic self-intoxication of rap and a kind of vernacular concrete poetry that you can see materialising in mid-air as it is uttered.' (The UK Independent) 'Everything Spoken word should be' (Exeunt Magazine.)

Dublin Oldschool earned Emmet the Stewart Parker Trust award, it has played seven sell out runs in Project Arts Centre, Dublin, toured internationally including a sell-out run in The National Theatre in London. Emmet's poem Heartbreak from thisispopbaby's hot show RIOT was adapted into a short film that been viewed over 2 million times on Facebook and YouTube combined and won an Irish Film and Television Award for Best Short Film.

Speaking about *Accents*, Emmet Kirwan said: "I am thrilled to finally bring *Accents* to the stage with Eoin and Claire. I set out to write a contemporary piece about life in modern Ireland two and a half years ago. Life has changed for everyone in the past two years including myself and becoming a father changed the narrative of not only my own story but the narrative of this play, hopefully along with Eoin French's incredible score this is something that will be laugh out loud funny, energetic,

entertaining, and also extremely life affirming. Hope you enjoy.

Speaking about *Accents*, Cian O'Brien, Artistic Director of Project Arts Centre said: "Project Arts Centre have a long association with Emmet Kirwan's work, and I am thrilled to be partnering with Kate Ferris, Mermaid Arts Centre and Dublin Fringe Festival on *Accents*. This collaboration with Eoin French's extraordinary music and Claire O'Reilly's vision is a total dream, so I cannot wait to share it with our audiences."

Speaking about *Accents*, Julie Kelleher, Artistic Director of Mermaid Arts Centre said: "Having had Emmet on the Mermaid Arts Centre team for the last 15 months as one of our Transform Associate Artists, we've had an up-close view of *Accents* as it has developed. It felt appropriate and serendipitous to be able to support the making of it with this exceptional team of artists and our friends and colleagues at Project Arts Centre and Dublin Fringe Festival."

## Inspired by Light

*An Exhibition by Khatuna Petsyukha*

Signal Arts Centre, Monday, 15th August to Sunday 28th August



*Blooming Cherry* by Khatuna Petsyukha

Khatuna Petsyukha is an artist based in Dublin, working primarily in oil and mixed media. This exhibition represents the ever-changing character of nature, cityscapes and us, the inhabitants.

A dedicated life watcher and an intrinsic explorer, Khatuna's true passion is about researching and reflecting on the surrounding space, people and elements, noticing all the details and feeling the colours, shades and ultimately the light.

Could something be as simple and at the same time as complex, as light? We can see it, yet can't touch. We may not even notice it during the day but we quickly realise when it's gone. Sun, moon, clouds, natural surfaces and man-made objects – all together generate, reflect, cast, absorb and share light. Shades, colours and glare around us are purely magical. Isn't it worth getting on canvas? The very present moment will never be repeated. And the light allows us to see it as is, fully and clearly.

Khatuna had moved to Ireland in 2016 and graduated from NCAD in 2021, though she had earlier collected degrees and certificates in art, music, medicine and psychology. Khatuna has been working as a professional artist since 2014. She is a professional member of Visual Arts Ireland, Greystones Art Group, Dublin Art Society and Signal Arts Center. Her works can be found in private collections across Europe.

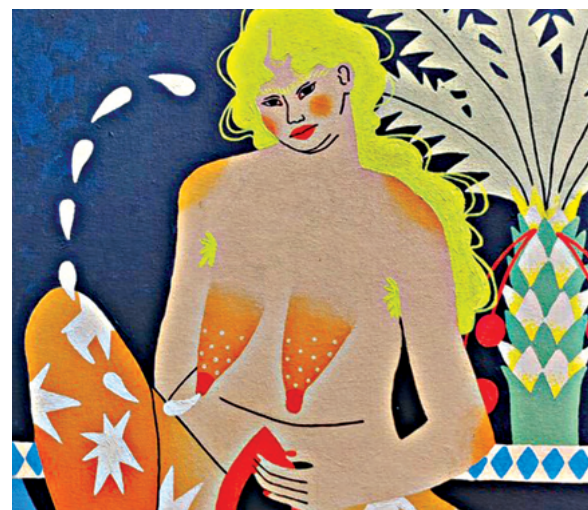
## Exhibitchin: An exhibition by Bebhinn Eilish

An exhibition by feminist artist and Design Graduate (2020 viscomm IADT) Bebhinn Eilish, entitled 'Exhibitchin', will open in the Signal Arts Centre at the end of this month.

"Storytelling, particularly the re/telling of the female story is an important aspect to my work," says Bebhinn.

"I draw from heritage, fables, mythology and herstory through which I interrogate the power of women, their internal and external struggles. My art process serves as a conduit through which universal cultural taboos around the female and the female body can be played with. With a BA in Graphic Design and self-taught in Fine Art, I work across mediums of traditional and digital painting, utilising the languages of both to communicate with audiences not confined to the traditional spaces of contemporary art viewing.

"With a good social media presence and large growing following, my work has found a place in many homes globally as well as being exhibited in many publications worldwide. In the last two years I have had my work displayed in many national exhibitions and had the opportunity to further explore my own practices and develop my skills for my upcoming 'Exhibitchin'. "This exhibition explores themes I am particularly interested in – such as sacred femininity, death, birth, and cultural taboos like body hair and free bleeding. Through my work I wish to inspire, empower and encourage introspection."



*Mother Yoni* by Bebhinn Eilish



Brian Carthy, Alison Keogh, Siobhan Mehigan, Clodagh Whelan and Cllr Paul O'Brien, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow Municipal District, at Evelyn Murray's exhibition 'When the Tide is Against You' and the launch of Nadia Ramoutar's new book of poetry 'Making Mosaics from the Fragmentsof Life' at Anchor House, South Quay, Wicklow Town.

# Fundraising campaign to shoot heartwarming short film in Arklow

Award-winning Arklow director Dave Thomas is crowdfunding to make a short indie film in Arklow focused on telling a strong story with a high production value. He is seeking support to help bring this story to life and says the film will showcase the beauty of Arklow and Co. Wicklow to a global audience and will also demonstrate the local talent in the county.

"Seven Moments in Time" is a moving and funny story about the gap between generations. It explores the misconceptions some elderly people have of teenagers and the misconceptions some teens have of elderly people.

It will be submitted to Oscar Qualifying festivals on the island of Ireland and globally.

"Seven Moments in Time is about bridging the gap between generations, something we don't do very well as a society. Young people and the elderly remain in separate worlds with no bridge between them," says Dave.

In the film, an older man sits on a public park bench once a week to eat his sandwiches and drink tea from his flask. This becomes an issue when a teenager sits on the older man's bench. Two generations often perceived as worlds apart is characterised by the two people sitting on separate benches. The physical and cultural divide gives the



Filmmaker Dave Thomas

impression that these two people will never get on, will never understand each other, and will never find a connection.

"Each moment in time reveals the differences between the two generations. And then, a moment in time changes everything."

"As the film will be shot on location mostly in Arklow, it will showcase the beauty of the town to a global audience. It will also place a spotlight on Arklow and Wicklow as an excellent location for international films," explains Dave.

It will star Pat Nolan, a well-known Irish Actor living in the neighbourhood.

Individual donations can be any amount from €10 and there is no upper limit. Medium to Large Businesses that wish to have their Name/Brand stand out in the rolling credits can donate any amount from €2,300. Small Businesses that wish to have their name/brand in the Thank You list can donate any amount from €500.

"Please support this indie film so we can produce a top quality film that will be screened all over the world," Dave adds.

For more information, please check out the Funding Campaign at <https://gofund.me/8b2720b0>



A feltmaking Irish sheep workshop for teenagers took place in the Egan Business Centre in Bray, on Thursday 4th of August. August Craft Month celebrates local craft in Ireland across the entire month, with a host of exciting events taking place throughout Wicklow. This year is the largest ever August Craft Month with a packed programme of over 230 events including workshops, exhibitions, and festivals to allow audiences to immerse themselves in local craft. Local makers such as Tamzen Lundy, Karen Allison and Aoife Patterson have all been involved in the celebrations and events.



The Ukulele Uff Trio

## The Ukulele Hooley is back!

The world famous Ukulele Hooley in Dun Laoghaire is back after a COVID-enforced two-year absence.

The Hooley, which is now in its 11th year, see ukulele players and fans from all over the world descend on the south Dublin seaside town for a weekend of entertainment.

Once again, the highlight of the three-day festival will be the free concert in the People's Park, Dun Laoghaire, on

Sunday, August 28th, which attracts thousands of fans.

The 2022 Hooley - which is supported by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council - will see all of the usual attractions that fans love: Workshops; The Bus Busk; Open Mic; The Big Concert and Jam.

"We are absolutely delighted to be able to bring the Hooley back," explained organiser Niall Carty, "the Hooley was really missed by players in Ireland and abroad and by fans who came every year."

"This is a free, family focussed, fun event that has grown into an internationally recognised celebration of the humble ukulele which is now one of the most popular instruments in Ireland. The Hooley has been missed but we are back in full swing," he added.

The Hooley will see ukulele performers from Ireland, the UK, US, Belgium and elsewhere taking part. Amongst the top performers on the bill for Ukulele Hooley 2022 are: Christopher Davis Shannon (US); The Ukulele Uff Trio (UK); The Dublin Ukulele Collective (Irl). Arklow Ukulele Players will also be at the Hooley. The Players are led by their founder and musical director, Ronan McCauley. The popularity of ukulele playing has now actually spawned a sister group, the Wicklow Ukulele Players.

Further details from: [www.ukulelehooley.com](http://www.ukulelehooley.com)



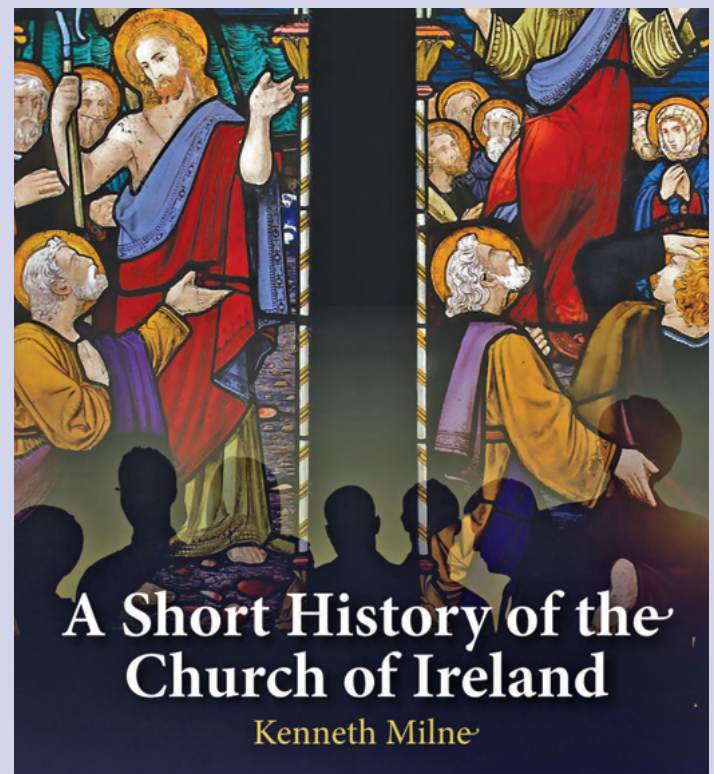
The Rathfarnham Ukulele Group

## A Short History of the Church of Ireland - new edition published

A new edition of A Short History of the Church of Ireland, by Dr Kenneth Milne, has been published by Messenger Publications.

In nine chapters, the book takes readers from the dawn of the Celtic Church - when Ireland experienced a Golden Age of scholarship and culture under its influence - through the Middle Ages, the Reformation and subsequent centuries, and into the most recent 150 years of the Church's history since Disestablishment in 1871.

This is a "sensitive and detailed introduction" which allows the reader the choice to explore the Church's history at their own pace, as noted by Messenger Publications. It will be of interest to members of the Church, and indeed other denominations, and also students studying for state examinations who could find it helpful as they research Ireland's different church denominations. A Short History of the Church of Ireland is available at €12.95/£11.95 from the Church of Ireland's online bookstore: <https://store.ireland.anglican.org>



# RECRUITMENT



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

Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for part-time and full time posts in Counties Kildare and Wicklow which may arise from 1st September 2022:

## SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANT

Colaiste Bhríde, Carnew Co. Wicklow

## CLERICAL OFFICER Grade III – Permanent

Colaiste Bhríde, Carnew, Co. Wicklow

## CLERICAL OFFICER Grade III – Fixed Term Contract

Pipers Hill College, Naas, Co. Kildare

## YOUTHREACH RESOURCE PERSON – (Part-time) Fixed Term Contract

Woodwork

Youthreach, Naas, Co. Kildare

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

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

Dr Deirdre Keyes,  
Chief Executive.

## Clermont Enterprise hub CLG

### Unique Opportunity: Project Manager required

Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG was established in 2017 as a not-for-profit company.

Led by Wicklow County Council and key stakeholders, its mission is to oversee the construction, development and management of key, demand led, enterprise hub infrastructure. Over a series of strategic sectoral developments, it will maximise the potential of Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, a 55-acre site dedicated to Enterprise, Education and Innovation.

Its first project, the Content Creation Enterprise Hub, was backed by REDF 2020 with a funding award and is scheduled to open in Q4 2022.

The company now wishes to drive the development of the **Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation Centre** at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew and funding has been secured towards priming the development of such a Centre.

To drive and manage the roll out of this exciting initiative, applications are invited from suitably qualified persons. This full-time contract position will run over a 12-month period, remunerated at €80,000 per annum. This position will report to the board of Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG and is based in Rathnew, occasional travel may be required, and flexible working arrangements may be possible for the right candidate, after the probation period.

Interested applicants can request an information booklet with further information by emailing [enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie) and on <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/News/Press-Releases/>

#### Application Process

Interested applicants are invited to post 4 copies of the application form to Head of Enterprise, LEO Wicklow, Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew and email a soft copy to [enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie) by closing date **Monday 5th Sept at 12noon**. Please use 'Food Hub Project Manager Role' in the subject line of your email. As part of your application, you should set out your skills and experience to meet the requirements of the position.

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: 12noon on Monday 5th September 2022.**

The information booklet may also be obtained from the Local Enterprise Office website: [www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow/news](http://www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow/news). Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG reserves the right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate. Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG is an equal opportunities employer.

# Ifac advises Wicklow SMEs and start-ups to get credit under control now

Ifac, Ireland's farming, food and agribusiness specialist professional services firm, is advising Wicklow SME and start-up business owners to make sure they avoid poor credit control to ensure their survival.

Julie Burke, National Credit Controller at ifac said: "I like to think of a business as a person. At the heart of that business, is credit control. It brings money into the business. This in turn means it can be pumped back out in many different directions to keep the business alive. And of course, if it doesn't, come in, it can't go out and the business suffers."

Common mistakes businesses make in their first five years

Overtrading – Avoid taking on every bit of business that comes your way. This may sound counter-productive but if you over-promise and under-deliver, this will be much more damaging to your reputation. It is better to take on what you can confidently complete to a high standard and build on that.

Avoiding the talk – New businesses get so caught up in generating new business, that they avoid following up for payment. Whatever your credit terms are, you should be actively following up after this date with any fees due.

The see-saw effect – Instead of chasing payment with their customers, a lot of young businesses will opt to avoid paying their own suppliers, dragging out credit terms, extending limits, etc. In effect, just passing on their credit control issues to their suppliers. Eventually, suppliers become frustrated and stop supplying and this is where the business is stuck. They can't get paid and they can't get more product.

Unpredictable events – We have all seen firsthand over the past two years what can happen when something nobody could have planned for occurs. Having a good handle on your credit controls means you can respond to these events, pivot your business and continue on with little to no interruptions.

Polite persistence – Follow up consistently with all debts past your credit terms. You want the customer to feel "they have been chasing this, I better sort this out".

Make it real – Letters can lose their meaning and often are left unopened. A phone call makes it real. A letter does not look for an

answer, a phone call does. Sometimes it's only when we talk to our customers that we realise there's a problem and this is the perfect time to discuss how we go forward.

Put credit control at the top of every agenda - Just like your customers, you can't put your head in the sand. Deal with your credit control, analyse it weekly at a minimum and ask the hard questions. Remember it is the beating heart of your business. A healthy cash flow = a healthy business and your total debt should never be more than 10% of your annual income. This is what you should be working towards.

When is a sale a sale? – Businesses often focus on sales, sales projections and promises of sales! A sale is not a sale until it's in the bank. Compare your expected sales every month to what has actually come in. They will be two very different figures, but only one of them is real. Deal with it - Whatever issues arise from chasing debts, deal with them. Remove any barriers to payment. If a customer complains that they have not paid because of a certain reason, follow that feedback until it is fixed. Then it's back to chasing the payment.

Julie continued, "If you are looking to start this process today, my advice is to start with your worst and work backwards. For example, look at all aged debt over six months, pursue every lead, follow up and chase this debt. When you are satisfied you have done all you can, move the goal post and work from 60 days credit and so on. The key to this is breaking it down into manageable portions so that you can manage it.

"Finally, it is also important to ask yourself why. Why did you go into business in the first place? It's most likely because you feel you have something really great to offer, you want to do well and you want to be around in 10 years. To ensure this get your credit under control today and you can be more confident of your business and its future tomorrow."

For further information and/or advice contact your local ifac office or visit [ifac.ie](http://ifac.ie).



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KILDARE AND WICKLOW  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for part-time and full time posts in **SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMMES (SCP)** in Counties Kildare and Wicklow:

## SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME (SCP) COORDINATOR – Full Time

WRAN – Wicklow/Rathnew/Ashford/  
Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow

## SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME (SCP) COORDINATOR – Full Time

Athy, Co. Kildare

## SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME (SCP) PROJECT WORKER – Part Time

Newbridge, Co. Kildare

**Project Information:** The School Completion Programme (SCP) is a targeted programme which aims to increase the numbers of children and young people staying in primary and post primary school and in doing so improve the numbers of young people who successfully complete the Senior Cycle, or equivalent. The primary focus of the Programme is to work with those who may be at risk of educational disadvantage through early school leaving.

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

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

Dr Deirdre Keyes,  
Chief Executive.



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# Kare Plan open new Shankill Office

Kare Plan recently launched their new office in Shankill. "We were ecstatic to celebrate the launch our new office," they said.

"Kare Plan has been in the homecare industry for over a decade. Since the organisation's birth in 2009, our rapid expansions have allowed us to administer care nationally. From Ennis, County Clare to Raheny in Dublin 05 we are accommodating the demand for care services by consistently recruiting healthcare assistants.

"On our grand opening, we were joined by numerous caregivers from the area, client care coordinators and client care man-

agers. We were grateful to welcome Councillor Jim Gildea in our presence."

Councillor Jim Gildea from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council did the honours of officially cutting the ribbon as he stated, "the launch of a fully Irish owned, user-centred homecare provider will be a great addition in the community. It will help countless people."

"The introduction of our new office, we're proud to state, will produce employment oppor-

tunities," say Kare Plan. "It will widen the support for carers and clients alike in the area. Many of our carers are fully qualified in healthcare. The other minority are studying to complete their QQI level 5 in healthcare, while picking up invaluable skills in the role of caregiving when they are providing care for our clients. We offer a platform for carers to not only excel in caregiving, but to also continuously learn whilst they are improving the daily wellbeing of

those in need.

"We are actively seeking staff in the coming months. These additional staff will grant us to increase our capacity to provide the professional range of services we supply to our clients. We're inviting all interested & qualified individuals to contact us at hr@kareplan.ie or 01 851 1411. Alternatively, you can visit us at any of our offices in Raheny, Ashbourne, Shankill & Ennis to discuss our available roles in person.



Kare Plan staff with Cllr Jim Gildea at the opening of their Shankill branch



Wicklow recently enjoyed an extensive feature on 'Télématin' show on France 2 national TV network. The feature on Wicklow lasted more than five minutes and featured locations such as Powerscourt Waterfall, Lough Tay and Glendalough. The show can be watched (in French) at link: <https://youtu.be/GHnoFtaLBLs>. Télématin journalists were hosted by Clothilde Walenne (pictured above with cameraman), originally from France and now living in Wicklow and working as a forager for the Brooklodge hotel, who said: "We enjoyed fantastic weather on the day which helped showcase some of Wicklow's stunning sceneries. I was absolutely delighted to present what has been my home for the past 15 years."

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