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Tuesday 30th August 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

'IT NEEDS TO BE SCRAPPED'

Independent Councillor Tom Fortune has backed calls to scrap An Bord Pleanála.

Limerick Fianna Fail TD and Minister of State Niall Collins, referring to the findings of an independent report to the Gardaí and the DPP, told RTE's Today with Claire Byrne show that ABP should be scrapped and replaced with a new "fit-for-purpose, modern organisation" that can make decisions quickly and "fits the needs of our society".

Cllr Fortune stated last week that he agrees "one hundred percent" with the Minister's remarks. Cllr Tom

Fortune has previously voiced his frustrations with An Bord Pleanála at Wicklow County Council meetings.

"It is no longer fit for purpose. How could there be any confidence in them?" said Cllr Fortune. "They are answerable to no one, they make decisions that make no sense, some of which destroy communities. I have seen decisions where they totally ignored the reports of their own inspector."

A recent decision saw ABP refuse permission

for a telecommunications mast in Newtownmountkennedy when its own Inspector's Report had recommended granting permission.

"The way the Board members are appointed poses lots of questions," continued Cllr Fortune. "Making cosmetic changes is not sufficient. It needs to be scrapped!"

Cllr Fortune said that changes also need to be made at Local Authority level that will make planning "fully transparent".

He described ABP as



Emily and Ryan Forde at the Sunflower Field in Ashford in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation. Pic: Michael Kelly

a "Quango", and says they make decisions that aren't community friendly.

Speaking to *Wicklow Times* last week, Cllr Fortune said "I think ABP has outlived its usefulness".

He said that he believes Local Authorities can do a better job. "Wicklow County Council should be the authority for all planning in Co. Wicklow, but there also needs to be changes made in how the planning system works in the Local Authority to make it more community oriented," he said.

Cllr Fortune voiced his frustrations with the lack of long-term thinking in planning, pointing to the situation in Greystones Municipal District as an example, where there aren't enough schools to meet the demand of the growing

population.

"There's horrendous problems with school places every year across Co. Wicklow. Colaiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole is bursting at the seams," he said. "There's talk of another secondary school going into Newtown, but that's unlikely to be anytime soon."

He also cited ABP's recent decision to approve 179 houses in Newtown against the wishes of the Council.

Last Wednesday, the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) initiated its review of certain systems and procedures used by An Bord Pleanála in the delivery of its statutory planning functions.

"Taking account of the urgent need to progress measures aimed at restoring public confidence in An Bord Pleanála, as well as reviewing wider

matters of concern relating to systems and procedures used by An

Bord Pleanála in delivering certain functions, the review will be carried

ried out in two parts in line with the Terms of *Continued on Page 3*

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Patrick Mboci, Catherine Kayya Murphy, Mika Onodera and Justine Nantale at the Greystones Multicultural Festival in Burnaby Park. The event was organised by the African Irish Society of Wicklow (AISW). The theme of this year's event was "Bringing the Heart of Wicklow Cultures to You". Members of the AISW prepared a great line up of events to entertain the whole family throughout the day with activities such as dance, music, educational workshops, world food tasting, comedy, and exhibitions of various countries, beatboxing and more.

Shankill Classical Music Club's new season

The first meeting of the new season will be on Wed 7th September. Usual time - 7:45 to 10:00 pm, and venue - Shankill Day Centre, Lower Rd, Shankill (100 yds from the main street, car parking available).

The music will be as always: a varied programme of classical music on CDs, covering many genres - orchestral, instrumental, vocal, opera etc. To get an idea of the range, have a look at some of the playlists on www.shankillclassical.org. You don't need to be an expert! Visitors and new members are always welcome. There's no charge on the night. For further info please phone or text John on 087-2109175.

Request for old Wicklow motorcycling photos

A request has been made for photographs of riders in the Leinster 200 races that were held on the 8.34-mile Wicklow-Beehive-Rathnew circuit from 1950 to 1957, as part of a book that is being put together on international motorcycle road racing in the 1950s. Many of the world's top racing motorcyclists raced on the circuit in those years, including Reg Armstrong, Dickie and Louis Carter, Joe Wood, Sammy Miller, Artie Bell, Ernie Lyons, and visiting stars such as Dickie Dale, Ken Kavanagh, and Johnny Lockett.

Any photos from this period would be much appreciated. You can email photos to harhav4@gmail.com, or email for details of where to send by post. Photos sent by post will be copied and immediately returned to the owner.

Arklow screening of Michael Collins

Fine Gael has teamed up with Omniplex Cinema Group to host Neil Jordan's 1996 biopic 'Michael Collins', to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of General Michael Collins. The special screening takes place on Tuesday 6th of September at 7pm, in Omniplex Arklow. 18 other Omniplex Cinemas across the country will show the movie at the same time. It's 26 years since the release of 'Michael Collins' the movie, so for some people this will be the first time they will have a chance to see it on the big screen.

Tickets are available now for €6 through the Eventbrite link Special Screening of "Michael Collins" | Eventbrite (or search "special screening of Michael Collins" on Eventbrite). Please note that tickets will not be available from Omniplex.

First Saturday Book Sale

The September First Saturday Book Sale, which supports the Shankill Old Folks Association, will take place in the Shankill Day Care Centre, Lower Road, Shankill, on Saturday September 3rd from 10am to 1pm and all are welcome to attend. The First Saturday Book Sale continues to adhere to strict safety guidelines with all precautionary health measures in place. Only a few people will be allowed in at a time and will be allowed 20 minutes to browse and select their books. Donations of books, which must be in a clean and good condition appreciated but limited to one bag per donor.

Dublin Central Library Historian in Residence Lecture

'Working on the Railway: The Great Southern and Western Railway in Leinster, 1900-1924' 1900-1924' is the lecture by Dr. Mary Muldowney from 1pm to 2pm on Wednesday September 7th.

The Great Southern & Western Railway (GS&WR) was the largest railway system in Ireland by 1900, following a series of strategic expansions and takeovers in the second half of the nineteenth century. This lecture, delivered in the Dublin Central Library, Ilac Centre, Henry Street, Dublin 1, by Dr. Mary Muldowney (Dublin City Council Historian in Residence), will cover the operation of the GS&WR years from the beginning of the twentieth century until 1925, when the Dail passed an act merging the company with the other railways in the Irish Free State to become the Great Southern Railways.

Places are limited so booking is required. Make your booking in the library, email: centrallibrary@dublincity.ie or phone 01-2228300.

Tickets on sale for Greystones People of the Year Awards

Nominations have closed for the 2022 Greystones People of the Year Awards and tickets are now on sale.

The awards, sponsored by Wicklow Times, make a return for the first time since the pandemic on Thursday 29th September in Greystones Golf Club.

The winners were selected by a panel of adjudicators last week.

Awards will be handed out for Sports Person of the Year, Civic contribution, Commercial Award, Special

Person of the Year, Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Cultural Person of the Year, and a Special Recognition Award.

Tickets are available from Greystones Municipal District Office, for €35. Call 01 2876694 or email Kcoughla@wicklowcoco.ie or greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie

Greystones girl donates hair to give back to charity

Robyn von Meding from Greystones donated 14 inches of her beautiful strawberry blonde hair last week to the Rapunzel Foundation to raise funds for ChildVision.

Robyn is 10, has Albinism and is registered as legally blind. She's a big sports and athletics fan. She wanted to give back to ChildVision, a charity that has helped her over the years with large print books, for events for visually impaired children where she has met other kids with vision impairment, along with accessible events and sports.

ChildVision is Ireland's only dedicated centre for children with sight loss, some of whom also have profound sensory impairments and additional disabilities. They are a national resource for families and professionals needing expert help in the area of visual impairment or visual impairment and/or additional disabilities. At the time of going to press Robyn had raised €1,720. She got her hair cut in Susan Collins in Greystones.

Robyn's GoFundMe page can be found at <https://gofund.me/4498c214>



Robin von Meding



Fiona Brennan at the recent Wicklow Town Library Cosplay Pageant. Due to the positive feedback from the teens and parents, a regular monthly Cosplay Club is being organised in the library with 15 teens already signed up. To register an interest in joining, please contact Loretta by email at Wicklow Library wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie

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Wicklow the only county where residential vacancy rate didn't decrease

Wicklow was the only county where the residential vacancy rate didn't decrease in the past year, according to figures released in the latest GeoDirectory Residential Buildings Report.

967 residential buildings under construction and 1,780 new residential address points were recorded by GeoDirectory in Wicklow in the twelve months to June 2022.

The residential vacancy rate in Wicklow was 3.6% in June 2022, lower than the national residential vacancy rate of 4.2%, however out of the 26 counties surveyed Wicklow was the only one in which the residential vacancy rate didn't decrease.

The highest vacancy rates in the country were found in the west and north-west of the country. At 12.8%, Leitrim was the county with the highest vacancy rate, although it did post a year-on-year vacancy decline of 2.0pp. Mayo (11.4%), Roscommon (11.0%) and Donegal (9.7%) were the other

counties to post notably high vacancy rates.

The twice-annual residential buildings report, prepared by EY, found that a total of 86,708 residential buildings were classified as vacant across Ireland by GeoDirectory, a 5.9% drop when compared to the previous year.

Dublin was the county with the lowest vacancy rate in the country at 1.5%, closely followed by Kildare at 1.6%. Meath (2.5%), Waterford (2.6%) and Louth (2.6%) all recorded residential vacancy rates under the 3.0% mark.

In addition to vacancies, 21,897 residential address points were classified as derelict. This total was 3.8% lower than the corresponding figure in Q2 2021.

Buildings under Construction In Wicklow, 967 resi-

dential buildings were under construction in June 2022. Nationally, residential construction activity accelerated in the first half of the year, with 22,390 residential buildings under construction in June 2022 that the number of buildings under of construction was 18.4% higher than the corresponding period in 2021.

Of the total number, 17.4% were located in Dublin, 14.2% in Kildare and 12.0% in Cork. Notably, the year-on-year increase of buildings under construction in Kildare was 74.4%.

Sharp Increase in Number of New Residential Address Points Recorded

In Wicklow, 1,780 new residential address points were added to the GeoDirectory database in the twelve months to June 2022.

57% of all new address points were added in the Greater Dublin Area of Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare. At the other end of the spectrum, Leitrim (0.3%), Longford (0.4%), and Roscommon (0.6%) had the smallest share of new address points.

Number of Residential Property Transactions increases

The number of residential property transactions increased by 13.5% in the twelve months to May 2022, representing an additional 5,500 transactions on the corresponding figure for the previous twelve months.

In Wicklow, there were 1,664 residential property transactions, 28.8% of which were new dwellings.

The average property price in the county was €448,317.

'Lack of Vacant Home Officer a cause of concern'

Green Party TD Steven Matthews said that the role of a Vacant Home Officer is crucial to identifying vacant and derelict properties and returning them to use in the community as units for housing and accommodation.

Wicklow County Council is one of 13 local authorities that has not appointed a full-time Vacant Home Officer by the Government's deadline of June 31st, 2022.

Discussing the importance of tackling vacancy and dereliction, Deputy Matthews said: "Access to housing and accommodation is the most critical issue in Wicklow at the moment. From the preliminary results of Census 2022, we know that there are 3,469 vacant houses in Wicklow and that the rate of vacancy is at 5.8%. Increasing the housing supply not only involves building new units, but also returning vacant and derelict properties back to the housing stock. This is one of the quickest, cheapest and most environmentally sustainable ways of addressing the housing crisis.

"The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

recently provided an increase in funding for local authorities to appoint a Vacant Home Officer and established a deadline of June 31st to employ someone in this position. It is disappointing that Wicklow County Council still does not have a Vacant Home Officer, as this role is integral to identifying vacant sites and properties and ensuring that the necessary actions are carried out to return these sites back to use. I have written to the CEO of Wicklow County Council to ask for a timeline on the appointment of a Vacant Homes Officer.

"I recently launched the Dereliction and Building Regeneration Bill 2022, which if enacted, will introduce a new vacant homes tax, expand the derelict sites register and make it easier to convert over-the-shop spaces into residential units. It is estimated that these mea-

sures could deliver as many as 11,000 homes a year. We must act now to return vacant and unoccupied properties for use, as this is critical to increasing access to affordable housing, providing accommodation for refugees and asylum seekers and creating centres for remote-working and the delivery of community services.

"Addressing vacancy and dereliction is one of my priorities as TD for Wicklow. It is also a core policy of the Green Party, which we fought hard to include in the Programme for Government. I look forward to further engagement with Wicklow County Council on the employment of a full-time Vacant Home Officer and other measures to prioritise the re-purposing of vacant sites for housing, accommodation and community services. If anyone has questions about the Dereliction and Building Regeneration Bill or the registration of vacant properties in Wicklow, I would encourage them to get in touch with me directly and I will offer any support I can."



Leo, Vanessa and John Walsh at the Sunflower Field in Ashford in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation

'IT NEEDS TO BE SCRAPPED'

Continued from Page 1
Reference," said the OPR.

Part 1 of the review will be under the Director of Planning Reviews of the OPR, Mr Gary Ryan, and led by Mr Conleth Bradley SC with Paul Cackette formerly head of the Scottish Government's Legal Directorate and Chief Reporter of the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals together with John McNairney former Chief Planner to the Scottish

Government. It is due to be completed on or before the 3rd October 2022.

Part 2 of the review will, under Director of Planning Reviews of the OPR Mr Gary Ryan, be undertaken by Paul Cackette and John McNairney and will be completed on or before the 30th November 2022.

The OPR has engaged with An Bord Pleanála officials, who will put in place appropriate arrangements at strategic operational and

high management levels to support the timely production of both parts of the review in line with the stated timetable.

In addition to the matters being focussed upon in this review, An Bord Pleanála will be included in the OPR's programme of general reviews on an ongoing basis with discrete modules addressing various focussed areas of performance to be scheduled on a regular cycle over time.



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Communities to benefit from water mains upgrades

Works have been completed on two significant water mains upgrade projects in Barndarrig and Roundwood, Irish Water has announced.

Irish Water, working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, has completed the construction of more than 3km of new water mains and ancillary works linking Barndarrig to Redcross Water Treatment Plant. In Roundwood, a further 4km of new water mains was constructed along the R764 to Vartry Water Treatment Plant providing both communities with a safer and more secure water supply.

Outlining the benefits of the works, Joe Carroll, Water Network Programme Lead with Irish Water, said completion of both of these strategic projects, is another step in improving Wicklow's water network.

"Irish Water is delighted to have completed these significant projects for the people of Barndarrig and Roundwood. Both projects will provide the local communities with a safe and reliable water

supply now and into the future. I'm sure this is welcome news especially to the local community in Barndarrig as they were previously impacted by drinking water restrictions due to water quality issues.

"We understand that the delivery of these important works to the underground water network caused disruption to the local communities, so again, we would like to thank the people of Barndarrig and Roundwood for their patience and cooperation while we completed these vital projects. Both projects were completed by Ward & Burke Construction Limited and we would like to thank them for their diligence throughout."

John Bowes, Senior Engineer with Wicklow County Council, added: "As a result of the collaboration between

Wicklow County Council and Irish Water, customers across the county are currently enjoying a more secure and reliable water supply. These works in Barndarrig and Roundwood, undertaken through the Leakage Reduction Programme, will benefit customers by strengthening and reinforcing the water network. I would like to thank these communities for their patience as we delivered this significant work to provide a better water supply."

In addition, Irish Water took the opportunity to upgrade the local wastewater network, which involved the construction of almost 2.5km of new sewer pipeline from Barndarrig to Redcross. A sewer network that is fit for purpose is essential in order to support business and social development in the community. These works will support existing and future growth and development while also improving the overall performance of the sewer network and helping to safeguard the environment.



'More solar panels needed in Wicklow car parks'

Independent councillor Rory O'Connor has written to the Minister for Local Government to introduce a country wide grant for local authorities to apply for solar panels for their parking lots.

The Bray Municipal District councillor said "A grant like this would increase the decarbonization of local authorities and also in the long run reduce the energy bills. This would mean in the long run, more money could be paid into local services. Local authorities across Ireland have large quantities of parking lots, which could be utilised."

Currently Wicklow County Council has the largest solar car port in Ireland. Covering 107 car parking spaces at County building in Wicklow town. Councillor O'Connor wants this replicated across the county.



The solar car port designed for Wicklow County Council buildings

'Behind the Beach' biodiversity programme for Brittas Bay

A biodiversity awareness programme called 'Behind the Beach' has been announced by the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council.

This is a series of free outdoor public workshops and activities over the coming months to increase awareness and appreciation of the rich ecology of our coastal areas and to highlight the vital role that healthy dune systems play as a tool to address climate change.

Focussing on the Council owned lands at Brittas Bay, this programme complements the ongoing conservation work underway by Wicklow County Council at this important coastal location, and will be an opportunity to delve behind the popular beaches, explore wildlife, pick up some new field ecology skills and participate in hands-on conservation work.

The first event will take place on Wednesday, 31st August @ 4pm on the theme of 'Butterfly Identification'

- a guide to butterfly monitoring techniques, equipment and identification (this is a follow up to a popular Butterfly Walk held last month). Other events and themes are as follows:

Sunday 25th September - Migrant Bird field outing and workshop
Saturday, 1st October - Hands on clean-up of the dunes with a conservation focus
Thursday, 13th October - Nature discovery Day walk and talk
Thursday, 27th October - Dynamic Dunes workshop
Saturday, 12th November - Sea Buckthorn management day

All activities are being co-ordinated by ALC Nature in association with Wicklow County Council and co-funded

by National Parks and Wildlife Service through the National Biodiversity Action Plan fund.

Details of events may change depending on weather conditions so interested participants are advised to register by email to wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie giving dates of events that they are interested in participating in.

Encouraging people to take part, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said "This is an incredibly positive initiative that celebrates the rich plant and animal life of our marine environment in Wicklow. As a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the management of Wicklow County Council, Brittas Bay is the ideal location for a biodiversity awareness programme. As well as its significance for biodiversity, the sand dunes of Brittas Bay play

a vital role in developing resilience against climate change. The events planned over the following months include a session on butterfly identification, a migrant bird field outing and workshop, a clean-up of the dunes and a nature walk.

"I would encourage everyone who is interested in exploring the wildlife and habitats of Brittas Bay to register their interest for one or more of the events by emailing wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie. The events are organised by ALC Nature in association with Wicklow County Council and are supported by funding through the National Parks and Wildlife Service's (NPWS) National Biodiversity Action Plan. Further information can be found on the website of Wicklow County Council."



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Congratulations to Greystones bodybuilder Lisa Duggan who recently got engaged to Colonel Steve Rogers from the U.S. Army.

College choice – keep your options open with BIFE

BIFE Open Afternoon, Wednesday 14th September (4 pm–5:30pm)

Bray Institute of Further Education is full steam ahead preparing for the new academic year and a return to relative normality in September after the unprecedented nature of the last year with COVID-19 restrictions.

BIFE, as the largest College of Further & Higher Education and Training in the South East, has always maintained a strong relationship with local industry and has identified emerging demands in key areas nationally.

They have met these ever-increasing and challenging demands from a diverse group of stakeholders by re-developing part of their institute over the past number of years.

Now, the huge range of courses available at BIFE offers learners fabulous opportunities, for those not only looking for additional skills or hoping to go directly into employment but also as an alternative route to a college course in a university or institute of technology in Ireland or abroad.

Their Open Afternoons every Wednesday in September from the 10th, 4 pm to 5:30 pm, will showcase the large variety of courses they have in the College ranging from Art & Design, Media, Sport, Psychology, Equine Studies, Science, Business, Nursing, Theatre/Dance and much more. “We have over 70 full-time courses to choose from, all progressing on to Higher Education Institutes in Ireland and abroad”, according to Deputy Principal Gabriel Allen. “Further



BIFE staff and students visiting TU Dublin

Education offers a learner, who may not have achieved the required CAO points, the opportunity to gain advanced entry onto honours degree programmes. Therefore, it is important to keep your options open and apply for a BIFE course now.

BIFE is introducing the following new courses this September:

- Special Needs Assistant (Primary & Post-Primary)
- Professional Make-Up & Hairdressing
- Tourism with Airline Studies
- Security & Pre-Garda
- Applied Ecology & Biodiversity Studies
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Equine Studies,
- Barista, Pastry & Baking,

- Brewing & Distilling Technology,
- Applied Ecology & Biodiversity Studies

Over the past few years, graduates of BIFE have achieved honours degrees across a wide range of programmes, opening up a myriad of career opportunities from graphic design to performing arts to psychology.

This year BIFE will offer Higher National Diplomas in the following:

- Fine Art - Art Practice
- Acting
- Dance
- TV & Film (Moving Image)
- Music Production
- Music Performance
- Traditional Irish Music
- Graphic Design
- Fashion Design

As Gabriel Allen explained,

“These nine courses will allow graduating students to proceed to the final year of an honours Degree Programme in Ireland or Britain if that is their ultimate ambition”

“Work Experience is an important part of all our courses. All BIFE students have the opportunity to participate in our Erasmus+ programme where they can complete their work experience in European countries such as Spain, Portugal, Finland, Poland, Italy, Germany, Malta and the Czech Republic”

Allen assured us that there are many opportunities for mature students to study and progress at BIFE. “All courses have valuable certification and offer progression routes to Higher Education, yet you don’t need CAO points to study at Bray Institute.”

To discover more about the courses available at BIFE, prospective students are invited to attend their Open Day on **Wednesday 14th, 21st and 28th of September from 4 pm to 5:30 pm.**

Apply online at www.bife.ie or call the Institute any day during office hours on 01-2829668 for further information between 9am and 4pm.



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Is your child starting school in September?

Wicklow County Council Library Service is inviting 4 and 5-year-old children due to start school this coming September in to their local library to collect a little bag of books and begin their library membership journey.

The titles included in the bag are stories about starting school, being happy and making new friends - all very important to children starting school. Children who will be attending a Gaelscoil will receive a bag of books as Gaeilge.

The distribution of the book bags - which are free - has already commenced and so far over 1800 bags have been collected. Libraries still have a stock of bags awaiting pick-up so do pop in and pick up this lovely little gift which also includes a social story card for going to the library and a postcard to send as a greeting and tell the news of their first day at school.

Children will also receive a specially designed wallet to hold their new library card. Parents and caregivers will be given information to guide the transi-



Little Library Book Bags from Wicklow Library Service

tion from pre-school to junior infants and to support the children on their learning journey.

This national project has been greeted with great enthusiasm from library staff across Wicklow County Council Library Service and they look forward to continuing to welcome lots of children in this

cohort in the coming weeks.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, said: "Reading is so beneficial for learning, imagination and creativity, and stories can really help children to understand and deal with the steps they take as they grow, like starting school. It is hoped that

once the children visit the library to pick up their book bag, that along with their family they will come back again and again to keep their bag filled up with borrowed books and enjoy other activities."

Deputy Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Michael Nicholson, added: "This is a wonderful opportunity for parents all across the county to drop into their local libraries and find out about the various activities and resources available. Your library is ready to greet your child and the entire family; there is something for every age at your local library. An added bonus is that the library is a free resource, there is no charge for joining, fines for overdue books are a thing of the past and everyone can have up to 12 library items on loan at a time.



Ewan Macadam at the Making Waves Youth Theatre Open Mic Evening at The Cove Café, Greystones

Ukrainian support videos launched

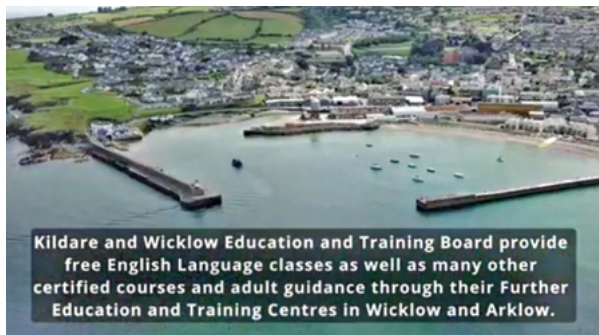
Wicklow Children and Young People Services Committee (Wicklow CYPSC), together with Bray Area Partnership and County Wicklow Partnership, last week launched three videos and a series of maps designed to offer support to the Ukrainian community in County Wicklow.

Since the start of 2022, Wicklow has welcomed Ukrainian people displaced by the war in their homeland. The partners involved in the Community Response Forum, led by Wicklow County Council, have been working hard to make this transition as easy as possible.

The videos and maps launched last week will help that transition.

The Co-ordinator of Wicklow CYPSC, Fionnuala Curry, stated: "We are delighted to launch the videos and maps today and we hope that they will help our friends from Ukraine to find the main services and supports in the county. We know this is a challenging time for you and we hope this will help in a small way.

"I am grateful to my partners



An image from the Ukrainian video for South Wicklow

Bray Area Partnership and County Wicklow Partnership for their significant contribution to this project and to McKenna Creative for their work in designing both the videos and maps. We are asking people to promote the videos and maps by sharing the links widely through

their websites and social media accounts."

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, welcomed the launch of the videos and maps and paid tribute to the ongoing work of Wicklow CYPSC and the entire Wicklow Community

in their response to the crisis in Ukraine.

Deputy Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Michael Nicholson, added that the Council is at the forefront of the emergency response, in sourcing accommodation for the Ukrainians and working with all the agencies in the county, under the auspices of the Community Response Forum, and stated that the videos and maps will further assist our displaced friends from Ukraine.

The videos and maps are divided across North, South and West Wicklow and you can find them at: **North Wicklow Video and Map** - <https://youtu.be/BdN-ccvL0SM>; **West Wicklow Video and Map** <https://youtu.be/0DNdou9meLU>; **South Wicklow Video and Map** - <https://youtu.be/C-BEhB7TDQA>

Harris supports safety measures at Lacken National School



Minister Harris meeting with pupils from Lacken National School

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD has received an update on his ongoing campaign to improve safety for pupils and staff at Lacken National School.

Minister Harris said: "Before the summer holidays I visited Lacken National School where I saw first-hand the need for a new safe footpath and drop off point for pupils, parents and staff at the school.

"The Baltinglass Municipal District council has now met with the school and local community leaders to draft a plan that will include a new safe footpath, reconfigured drop off facilities and a new carpark in the back field of the school.

"This is progress and I look forward to a traffic management plan being put in place for the school. I am also supporting the school in applying for funding from the Department of Education for a carpark to the rear of the school."

First 5

Bags of stories and fun for every child starting school in 2022!

Pick up their FREE Little Library Book Bag at your local library

To help children navigate starting school, libraries have put together a bag of books just for them that can be collected at any library.

Each bag contains:

- Free books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable to be yourself
- A story card on going to the library
- A postcard the child can write or draw on and give to their new teacher
- Their very own library card and special 'My Little Library' cardholder

More support:

More supports to help the transition to primary school are available at www.gov.ie/letsgetready

Arklow woman fundraising to support her brother following shock paralysis

A fundraiser has been set up by Dorota Marah from Money Little, Arklow on behalf of her brother who has sadly been left paralyzed from the neck down after doctors found he had a rare spinal cord abscess and had to operate.

Dorota uses the GoFundMe page to write: "My brother ended up in a hospital one day, only to wake up being paralysed from the neck down the next day. Only with a bit of shoulder/back pain over the weekend, he woke up Monday morning saying he can barely walk. It looked like his knees were giving in, making his walk very bizarre. After I called the ambulance, he was brought to the hospital, a few tests were done, and he was informed he had a spinal cord abscess and needed surgery straight away. Spinal cord abscess is a very rare condition."

Dorota's brother was due two surgeries, and between them he was still fighting an infection, the source of which was impossible to find.

"It took only a few days for the infection to leave my brother unable to breathe independently," says Dorota.

"He was intubated (placement of a flexible plastic tube into the trachea), and a tracheotomy was performed shortly after. At the moment, he is learning how to breathe and speak again, which takes a lot of effort, energy and willpower. The road ahead of him is a long and difficult one."

"All our family live abroad. Me and my husband will do everything in our power to help my brother. We drive 200km each day to see him, support him and ensure he keeps fighting. We make sure his mental approach stays strong and positive. Without him being out of the hospital, we can already realise how significant the financial impact will be."

"Me and my husband are more than happy to take care of my brother. I just can't imagine sending him to an institution. We would need to collect money for a physiotherapy wheelchair/reclinable chair. We are looking to convert our downstairs living room into his bedroom and toilet into a shower room. We want to make sure when he is ready to be discharged and move in with us it will be all ready and accessi-



Dorota Marah (centre) and her brother (left).

ble for him. At the moment, we have two scenarios: a positive one in which he will regain some power in his arms and will be able to move in the wheelchair, and a less positive one where he will be bound to the bed.

"I'm a believer. If I could, I would swap places with him in a heartbeat. Unfortunately, I don't have such power. He is a strong young man who can achieve anything. He wears his heart on his sleeve and never refuses to help others. He would make you laugh so hard you wouldn't be able to catch a breath. My brother already went through so much in such a short period of time, which only makes me believe more that he has what is needed to win that battle. I'm, asking for a donation, no matter how small- it will all make a huge difference!"

To donate, see <https://www.gofundme.com/f/fragile-mortality>



Bo, Mieke and Sam Ffrench Mullen at the Sunflower Field in Ashford in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation.

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FREE PARKING

Harris demands NTA tackle failures of 185 service

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD has expressed his total dissatisfaction with the 185 Bus Service delivered by Go Ahead from Bray to Enniskerry.

Minister Harris said: "My colleague Cllr Melanie Corrigan and I have repeatedly over the past year highlighted with the National Transport Authority the continued failure of Go Ahead to deliver a satisfactory service on the 185. I have numerous examples of distressed parents of school children and workers unable to get to their job on time due to the failure to deliver this service".

Last week Minister Harris received the following update from the Chief Executive of the National Transport Authority: "The Authority contacted Go Ahead Ireland in respect of the service issues including on route 185. We can confirm that since May 2022, Go-Ahead have introduced 30 drivers to their operations department, all of them ready to go in service. The operations department provided assurance that all duties



Minister Simon Harris

on routes 184 and 185 will be covered, however, they can be left uncovered for short-notice absences. The Authority have been

informed that Go-Ahead management is confident that significant improvements will be seen on both routes and they are working towards improving the service further."

Minister Harris continued: "I will continue to monitor the situation and keep up the pressure on the regulator and Go Ahead to deliver to the people of Bray and Enniskerry the public transport service they deserve."

Minister Harris also advised: "The National Transport Authority has also advised me that they are now ready to provide a new bus shelter at Bogmeadow in Enniskerry, but they are awaiting a response from the local authority. The shelter is scheduled for installation before the end of the year and I have asked Wicklow County Council facilitate this before the onset of winter."

'Investigation needed into NPWS after year-long wait for report'

Independent councillor Rory O'Connor has called for an investigation into the National Parks and Wildlife Service after it took over a year to produce an ecological and archaeological report for the Enniskerry's dirt bike track.

Currently the report is being reviewed by senior management within the National Parks and Wildlife Service. No timeline has been set for when this will become publicly available.

The land where the amenity is located is owned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The report was commissioned following reports of littering and health safety concerns, which caused its closure. The report was meant to determine the future of the amenity.

Cllr O'Connor said "It's an absolute disgrace that the users of this amenity have to be left in the dark for so long to find out if they will still be able to use it. An investigation needs to be carried out into the National Parks and Wildlife Service to ensure that this poor level of communication doesn't happen again."

A local member of the dirt biking group in Enniskerry speaking on the issue said "The continued closure of the jumps is becoming a mental health

issue for our regular users. The jumps are a large and important part of our lives, as a sport, a hobby, for exercise, an outlet for creativity through building, a source of satisfaction from creating such a facility and seeing it enjoyed by people from all over the country, and for the community that surrounds it. The loss of this is irreplaceable and many of us have struggled with mental health issues as a consequence.

"The endless questions from kids, teenagers, and parents about the reopening are becoming more and more difficult to answer with the lack of info provided. To have a kid ask if he should sell his bike is heart breaking, especially



Cllr Rory O'Connor

when there is nothing else for these teens to do in Enniskerry. The facility has existed for over 25 years and to see so much time and work eroding away as it sits unused is devastating."

Legislation to protect Irish Seas

The Government has agreed to expand Ireland's network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Deputy Steven Matthews, Green Party TD, said this is vitally important for the sustainable development of coastal communities in Wicklow and for meeting our climate and biodiversity objectives by 2030.

MPAs are geographically defined maritime areas that provide levels of protection to achieve conservation objectives.

"We are at a critically low point in the health and functioning of our marine environment and urgent protection and restoration is required," said Deputy Matthews.

"My Green Party colleague Minister Malcolm Noonan TD, will bring the draft legislation to the Oireachtas committee which I chair and I look forward to the introduction of laws to provide environmental protection for 30% of our sea area.

"As TD for Wicklow and a long-time environmental activist, I am delighted to support these measures which will protect our ocean and seas and enhance the development of our coastal communities. Ireland's maritime area is a source of thriving biodiversity, carbon capture and economic opportunities but is increasingly under pressure due to climate change, biodiversity loss and plastic pollution.

"Expanding our Marine Protected Areas will help to

keep our seas clean, healthy and able to sustain rich ecosystems of aquatic plant and animal life. It will also provide for the development of more offshore renewable energy infrastructure, which is crucial to addressing the current energy crisis and accelerating the transition to environmentally sustainable sources of energy.

"The establishment of dedicated areas for marine protection will enable us to deliver on our national and international environmental commitments including UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 which aims to protect and conserve the marine environment. It will also help us to achieve a key objective which the Green Party fought hard to include in the Programme for Government: to designate 10% of Ireland's maritime area as MPAs as soon as possible and 30% by 2030. This is the work of a Government that is committed to protecting our ocean and seas for future generations. If anyone has questions about the Government's marine policies, please get in touch with me directly and I will offer any support I can," Deputy Matthews concluded.



Joseph Ryder at the Making Waves Youth Theatre Open Mic Evening at The Cove Café in Greystones.



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LEGACY MONTH

Will them well

Call for people in Wicklow to leave a legacy which shapes the future

My Legacy Month is a reminder to put your affairs in order

My Legacy Month is a reminder to people in Wicklow to use September to put their affairs in order, and if circumstances allow make a contribution to the future of local communities.

Now is a good time to make your will and consider leaving a legacy gift to a cause you care about. Having a will is very important for so many good reasons and particularly during this annual awareness campaign, people are being encouraged to take that first step in writing their will by making an appointment with a solicitor. My Legacy is grateful for the support of hundreds of solicitor firms all around the country who can offer expert guidance and advice about making or amending a will at any time of the year.



Denise Charlton, Chief Executive, The Community Foundation for Ireland

generations will live in thriving local communities.

The Foundation, which works with over 5,000 voluntary, community and charitable groups across the country and has distributed almost €100 Million in donations in the past 22-

years, believes the full potential of legacies has not been reached and is seeking to increase awareness.

People who wish to leave a gift are being invited to support The Community Foundation which will ensure future support goes where the

need is greatest but with a particular focus in four areas:

Empowering Generations. an opportunity to support people across all age groups whether strengthening young voices or standing up for the rights of older persons.

LEAVE A LEGACY TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

You Can Make A Difference

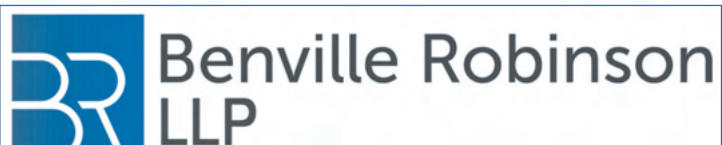
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Clare-Ann Temple L.L.B.

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

ing a will at any time of the year.

It is usually a much more straightforward and cost effective process than you might think and your solicitor will discuss what is necessary for drawing up this important personal document when you make your appointment.

Once family and friends have been looked after and all other important personal decisions have been made, decid-

ing to leave a legacy gift to a charity is a wonderful way to support a favourite cause in the future. Large or small, every legacy is a generous gift of hope and trust for the future.

The Community Foundation for Ireland says Legacies, either in a will or a 'letter of wishes', offer an opportunity for people to continue contributing to causes which they are passionate about to ensure future



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Wicklow Travellers Group CLG is a community development organisation of Travellers and settled people working together to promote human rights for Travellers and create a society in which we are different, equal, confident and valued. Established in 1992, WTG has continued to grow in response to the needs of the Travellers living in County Wicklow. The charity is based in Crinion Park, Wicklow Town in a building known to many as CEART (Centre for Ethnicity and Resourcing for Travellers)

The organisation aims to empower Travellers and our work is based on principles of adult education, community work, youth work and positive physical and mental health promotion. We seek to achieve awareness, recognition and celebration of Travellers unique identity and culture and to empower Travellers in Wicklow and its environs to enhance their quality of life.

www.wicklowtravellersgroup.ie

LEAVE A LEGACY WHICH SHAPES THE FUTURE

LEGACY MONTH

Will them well



Inclusive Communities. LBTI+ communities and others who are too often left on the sidelines or brushed aside. **Accelerating Change,** which supports groundbreaking work across a range of issues like pro-

moting cross-border civil society partnerships or shaping national debates on issues like poverty by supporting world-class research.

Sustainable Futures, which facilitates donors who want to be part of the response to the biggest challenges of our time, the climate and biodiversity emergencies.

Denise Charlton, Chief Executive of The Community Foundation for Ireland says: "Making a will, putting affairs in order and planning for the future is something all of us have a habit of putting on the long finger. My Legacy Month which is being marked right through September is a reminder that these are things we should not continue avoiding, but for ease of mind should get to grips with."

"Taking action now not only prevents future uncertainty and confusion in families but also is an opportunity to show your intention to continue to support causes which you have held dear throughout your life. Many of those causes can in communities in Wicklow and a legacy can ensure they thrive into the future for the benefit of your younger loved ones."

"There are options. A legacy can be part of a will, however if you are not yet ready to take that step it can also be in the form of a Letter of Wishes. Our team are always happy to have a conversation and to advise on the steps which may best meet your needs. Please do drop us a line info@foundation.ie."

"We also believe that legacies are largely untapped in Ireland when compared to other countries."

The Foundation is asking the Government to include an awareness raising campaign on legacy giving as part of a new National Policy on Philanthropy."

The Community Foundation for Ireland and its partners believe in equality for all in thriving communities.

"We work with individuals, families, corporates and other trusts and foundations as well as Government to translate giving in the moment to giving that is strategic, sustainable and impactful. We use our skills and knowledge developed over 22-years to help donors turn aspirations into



effective investments.

"In 2021 alone we provided over €18 million in grants. At a time of national crisis we have adapted and responded forming new and unique partnerships, including a Covid-19 Emergency Fund, RTÉ Does Comic Relief as well as the Late Late Toy Show Appeal. Together we have given frontline organisations and lifeline services the resources for

digital transformation so their vital work can continue through the Pandemic."

"Since our establishment, we have provided in excess of €86m to communities through strategic investments. Our Donors provide leadership and support across areas as diverse as engaging communities on climate action, restorative justice for young people, human

rights as well as identifying future priorities, including support for all-island civic society engagement."

"In addition, the issues of climate change, domestic violence, as well as rights for minorities such as travellers, migrants and LBTI+, still need to be urgently addressed. Brexit and the post-Covid scenario will also present their own challenges."

"We have a dedicated and committed team; they have extensive experience of grant-making from working with over 5,000 non-profit organisations at a national, regional and local level throughout Ireland and overseas. With over 1,800 community foundations globally, the community foundation model is proven and effective model for social change."

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AsIAm, Ireland's National Autism Charity. Registered Charity Number 20144838



Garda Sandra Tierney with Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Cllr Gerry Walsh at the Multicultural Festival in Burnaby Park, Greystones

Council offering tree grants

Wicklow County Council is again offering its annual Tree Grant for community planting of native trees or hedgerows as part of its Climate Action programme. Grants will cover up to 75% of the costs of purchasing trees with a maximum grant of €500 available to groups.

The Council is announcing the grant earlier than usual this year in order to allow more time for planting in Autumn with all grants to be paid out by January 2023. Applicants should provide details of the trees they plan to plant and the costs involved. A sketch map of where trees will be planted is also required which will be used to assess whether the site is suitable for planting.

Only trees listed as native or beneficial for pollinators and biodiversity by Wicklow County Council below will be considered for grant aid. Applications will be assessed on whether trees selected are suitable on proposed sites and the relevant municipal district will be consulted to ensure that the trees are both appropriate to the site and broader tree schemes for the community or town.

For more information contact Jim Callery at Wicklow County Council (0404 20100).

Roundwood is a Think Before You Flush community

Local businesses in Roundwood have received Think Before You Flush resources to help combat sewage related litter and wastewater system blockages in the community.

Flushing unsuitable items like wipes down the toilet can have huge implications for our wastewater systems and damage our local environment. As part of the Think Before You Flush campaign, B&Bs, restaurants, and many other businesses in Roundwood have received information and resources about the campaign in an effort to raise awareness locally.

Think Before You Flush addresses the issue of flushing unsuitable items down the toilet and highlights the consequences of doing so, such as blockages in our wastewater network and treatment plants, surface water overflows and sewage related litter impacting rivers, beaches, oceans and damaging our marine environment. Many toiletries, such as wipes, cotton pads and dental floss, are part of the 'Dirty Dozen', which are the top 12 items that are incorrectly flushed down the toilet in Ireland. Other items include hair; paper towels; medicine; tampons; food items; contact lenses; condoms; cigarette butts; and cotton bud sticks.

There is no denying these items are incredibly useful. Many people love the convenience of disposable wipes and cotton pads but are unaware of the problems associated with these items when inappropriately flushed down the toilet. Unlike toilet paper, which is designed to disintegrate quickly in our pipes and sewage systems, other items don't break down easily.

Furthermore, when fats, oils and greases (FOGs) from cooking are poured down the kitchen sink, they cool and harden as



they travel along the wastewater network. When FOGs combine with wipes and other sewage related litter such as hair and dental floss that shouldn't be flushed down the toilet, fatbergs can form. Irish Water clears hundreds of blockages including fatbergs from the wastewater network every week.

This Summer, the Think Before You Flush campaign has rolled out an education and awareness campaign in Roundwood to highlight the need for locals and visitors to maintain proper flushing and pouring behaviour in the area. Nationally in 2021, Irish Water responded to approximately 10,000 customer notified blockages (approximately 200 every week) and removed 162 tonnes of wipes and other items from the screens at wastewater treatment plants every month - that's close to 2,000 tonnes' year.

Speaking about the education and awareness drive being undertaken in Roundwood Tom

Cuddy, Irish Water said: "Irish Water is committed to safeguarding the local environment and returning wastewater safely to the environment. Our operational staff in Roundwood have started to experience a significant strain on the wastewater infrastructure due to large volumes of fats oils and greases, wipes and associated sanitary waste being disposed of incorrectly into our network. This is resulting in significant operational difficulties for our staff and the plant.

"We are asking everyone living and visiting Roundwood to be very conscious of the impact their flushing and pouring behaviour can have on their local wastewater networks and treatment plants and would ask that they dispose of FOGs and other products such as wipes and sanitary waste correctly.

Tom continued: "Irish Water is investing in wastewater infrastructure right across the country. We are building new wastewater treatment plants, upgrading old

plants and laying new sewers. However, it is still really important that both businesses and the wider public don't dispose of FOGs and sanitary products incorrectly and are aware of the impact of what they dispose of, so the network can function efficiently and effectively and protect the environment."

Speaking about the campaign Sinead McCoy, Coastal Communities Manager, Clean Coasts, said: "We're delighted to engage with businesses in Roundwood to remind people to 'Think Before You Flush'. The aim of the campaign is to create positive behavioural change and raise awareness about the impact sewage related litter has on our environment and wastewater network. We hope the business and community in Roundwood will join us in raising awareness by displaying these resources and help spread this important message." As part of the campaign in Roundwood, the Think Before You Flush campaign are offering:

A range information resources including posters, information leaflets, and infographics that can be displayed in homes, businesses, clubs or community spaces.

Awareness events such as school days, business days, and community events. Clean Coast are asking the public in Roundwood, to get in touch with us about organising an awareness event or with your ideas on how to raise awareness.

Join the campaign at <https://thinkbeforeyouflush.org/> and follow @CleanCoasts on social media.

Banana dessert earns Rathnew girl best junior baker title

10-year old Savanna Pascoe from Rathnew was chosen as a top winner in the recent nationwide search by banana importer Fyffes to find Ireland's most imaginative meal-makers.



Savanna's caramelised banana and cardamom blondie

In topping the 'best junior baker under-12' category, Savanna fought off stiff competition from the large volume of competitors who responded to the invitation fronted by well-known television cook, Donal Skehan - whose previous collaborations with Fyffes led to the discovery of Ireland's most creative banana bread bakers and banana dessert makers.

This year, Skehan broadened his search to find the most delicious dish, from first to final course, savoury or sweet, in which a banana is the key ingredient. Describing the quest, Skehan called it "a challenge to mums, dads and the younger generation to create an appetising recipe that will demonstrate the

versatility of bananas as an ingredient, whether in meals that are cooked, baked, boiled, blended and everything in between."

Second youngest of four, and a fourth class pupil at St. Oliver Plunkett School in Monkstown, Savanna draws her inspiration for baking from her mother Holly who has encouraged her to bake from a very young age, often using experimental techniques and ingredients.

In creating her prize-winning 'caramelised banana and cardamom blondie', Savanna melded a delicious combination of white chocolate chips, fresh bananas, vanilla and cardamom pods.

Congratulating Savanna on her success which she says 'demonstrates the obvious dedication and enthusiasm she puts into her culinary creations', Fyffes head of

marketing, Emma Hunt-Duffy went on the praise all those who entered the competition, adding "it was particularly pleasing to see the incredible levels of skill and creativity amongst those who took part, not least the younger, next generation of home baking enthusiasts".

Other category winners in the competition are: 14-year old Rachel Hanley from Lanesborough (Best Junior Baker aged 13 - 17); Cynthia Wong from Monasterevin (Best Breakfast); 14-year old Elliott Stokes from Caherconlish (Best Savoury); Kiera Stewart from Dripsey (Best Dessert); Harini Sonpal from Churchtown (Best Non Bake); Alline Isense Dalpiaz from Cahersiveen (Best Vegan) and 12-year old Aoife Flood, from Rathangan, (Overall Winner).



Savanna Pascoe from Rathnew

How to support your loved one in getting a wheelchair accessible home

by Evelyn O'Rourke, service coordinator with Irish Wheelchair Association in Wicklow

As a parent or a sibling, sometimes it is hard to find the balance between encouragement and pressure when we are trying to get our loved ones to think about the future and where they will live as they get older. While working in Irish Wheelchair Association in county Wicklow, supporting families across the area; everyday, I am meeting disabled people who are being underestimated by society and also left behind by the national housing crisis. Many don't know where to go or how to start looking for their own home. But help is out there.

I often meet parents who are so hopeful and enthusiastic about their son or daughter's potential but the struggle for an independent life can seem out of reach for so many. Many people, not just parents, would like to support their child, sibling or friend to live independently and have their own home but don't know where to start.

The reality is that housing is a critical issue for a person with a disability. In my work across Kildare and Wicklow I regularly meet people who are living in homes that are unsuitable and sometimes even dangerous for their condition. I meet people who cannot figure out where they will live when their parents get older. And I meet parents who are struggling to care for their adult children and are worried about the future.

We know that in Ireland there is a housing shortage. But for a wheelchair user there is a housing absence, a complete lack of any wheelchair liveable housing anywhere. This is why social housing is so vital for people with disabilities, because there are no private rental options there for them at the moment.

However, while local authorities are focusing heavily on building social housing, they are not yet delivering wheelchair liveable housing at the rates that our community needs. In 2021 Irish Wheelchair Association was part of a successful campaign to have 'wheelchair liveable' needs included as an option on social housing application forms. Before 2021 it had not even been possible for a disabled person to include their disability requirements in their local authority housing application. This is how far behind we were on accessible social housing in Ireland.

The good news is that now in 2022 all local authorities have new application forms with options to include and register accessibility needs. So there has never been a better time to encourage your loved one to think about their future, the life they want to lead and where they want to live as they get older.

Here are five steps to get started to support your loved one begin their journey.

1) Get the application form: you need to



Evelyn O'Rourke service coordinator with Irish Wheelchair Association, Wicklow

contact your local authority/ county council housing department and get the social housing application form. Irish Wheelchair Association has a great online section as part of our 'Think Ahead Think Housing' campaign with direct links to all the local authority's individual application forms <https://www.iwa.ie/services/accessible-housing/think-ahead-think-housing/apply-now/>

2) Get the medical form: There is a separate medical form (Disability and/or Medical Form HMD1) that needs to be filled in and also completed by two medical professionals who work with the applicant. You will possibly need to contact for example your GP, Public Health Nurse or Occupational Therapist and Social Worker for support with your application.

3) Ask for help, a lot: There are a number of people who have experience and can help you. Citizens Information Centres have a lot of detail and support about the process or look online (https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/housing/local_authority_and_social_housing/applying_for_local_authority_housing.html). The Housing Agency also has an easy guide to the application form (<https://www.housingagency.ie/housing-information/applying-social-housing-support>). Irish Wheelchair Association members should contact their local branch and ask for advice and support to make the application process easier.

If you are a member of another disability organisation, contact them for support. Speak to as many people as you can along your journey for advice and information including your local TDs and councilors.

4) Cover all your needs: If you need personal assistance, a PA service, to live independently you need to make contact with your local HSE Disability Manager and begin that application process alongside your housing application process.

5) Return the application form. TODAY!! It is remarkable how many people nearly get their form completed but then delay or forget to post it away and leave all that effort sitting in a drawer. Support your family or friend to get the job finished when they have lost momentum and are discouraged by all the work.

Recently I heard Yvonne, a member of Irish Wheelchair Association saying "I actually never thought that it would be possible for me to live independently because I didn't have the confidence and courage in myself... Look once you get into your home you get to actually have fun. "And it's only then that you actually relax and just realise... you kinda wonder why you waited so long to do something like this. So yeah definitely go for it."

Just keep going and finish the job together. You will be glad you did.

For information about Irish Wheelchair Association's Think Ahead, Think Housing campaign log onto www.iwa.ie/thinkhousing



Peter Byrne, Wicklow RNLI's new mechanic

New mechanic appointed at Wicklow RNLI

Peter Byrne has been appointed full-time mechanic at Wicklow RNLI lifeboat Station. Peter, who has been a volunteer crew member for the past three years, takes over the role from Brendan Copeland, who retired earlier this summer.

As full time Wicklow RNLI Mechanic, Peter will be responsible for maintaining the station's two lifeboats in a constant state of readiness and the day-to-day maintenance of the busy station's lifesaving equipment. While at sea Peter will be in charge of monitoring machinery on board the lifeboat and keeping radio contact with the station.

Speaking about his new role at Wicklow RNLI, Peter Byrne said he was looking forward to being mechanic and thanked the volunteer crew for their support. He also thanked Brendan Copeland for his mentoring and advice during the changeover at the station.

Volunteer drivers urgently needed for Irish Cancer Society in Wicklow

The Irish Cancer Society is urgently seeking Wicklow-based volunteer drivers to help bring cancer patients to and from their treatments.

Volunteer Drivers located in Wicklow are being sought to drive patients who are undergoing chemotherapy to hospitals in Dublin.

This vital service is completely free for patients. Last year, the Irish Cancer Society provided 181 journeys for cancer patients in Wicklow and 13,035 journeys nationwide.

The Volunteer Driver role is week-days only and drivers will need

access to their own car and be able to commit a full two days each month to the Service. Volunteer Drivers receive expenses from the Irish Cancer Society to pay for their fuel costs, road tolls and food while waiting for the patient.

Irish Cancer Society Volunteer Manager Mary Quinn said, "The Volunteer Driver Service helps to ease the strain of travel on cancer patients who often find it hard to get to hospital because of trans-

portation costs. It also helps patients who might not be feeling well enough to drive themselves because of their treatment.

We urgently need to recruit more Volunteer Drivers in Wicklow so we can continue to provide this very important service to anyone who needs it. We encourage anyone in the Wicklow area who meets the requirements to get in touch."

More information about applying for a Volunteer Driver role can be found at <http://www.cancer.ie/volunteer-driver-service> or by emailing volunteer@irishcancer.ie



Melaney Hollingsworth and Sharon Adamson at the Sunflower Field in Ashford in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation.

Introductory trail running videos launched by Wicklow Tourism



Journalist Siobhan O'Connor and Nicola Cleary from Trail Running Ireland on the shoulder of the Little Sugarloaf at Belmont Demesne

Wicklow County Tourism with the support of Fáilte Ireland has commissioned a series of videos to showcase the sport of Trail Running.

The videos follow journalist and first-time trail runner, Siobhan O'Connor, on her journey to the EcoTrail Wicklow event that will take place on the 24th September.

Siobhan stated: "There was a genuine apprehension when I accepted to sign up for EcoTrail Wicklow. But after the various shoots, I realised that trail running is very different than road running, and it's ok to combine walking and jogging along the route. The focus is very much on enjoying the journey rather than the finish-line. Trail Running offers a fantastic workout, in stunning sceneries: who needs a gym?"

Fred Verdier, Manager of Wicklow Tourism added: "Through those videos, we wanted to show how accessible the sport is. Trail Running is not dedicated just to elite runners, but to anyone with a minimum level of fitness. Wicklow and Ireland offer a perfect year-round playground for the sport, and we hope that the videos will inspire people to take on the sport and



enjoy the many trails around Wicklow."

The first two episodes are available online at links below while the last episode will follow Siobhan on race day and should be released shortly after the event.

o Episode 1: Siobhan meets Nicola Cleary from Trail Running Ireland at Bray Seafront for a first trail running experience up Bray Head. This episode includes a short introduction to trail running shoes.

Watch video at https://youtu.be/La5z9vW6H_c
o Episode 2: Siobhan and Nicola meet again at Belmont Demesne along the EcoTrail Wicklow route for further trail running experiences and tips.

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/HO6D9wAp9Dk>
EcoTrail Wicklow is scheduled annually for the last weekend in September. There are four distances to choose from 19k, 30k, 46k or 80k. Booking and further info can be found at <http://wicklow.ecotrail.com>.

Another Gold medal for Bray runner Seamus

Bray runner Seamus Mallin added another Gold medal to his collection at the Athletic Association of Ireland National Masters Track & Field Championships in Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 13th August.

Seamus, in his mid 80s, won a Gold in the 100m race in a time of 1 min 10 seconds. Seamus also won a Silver medal in the 200m with a time of 1:36.

The medals come just a few months after Seamus won Gold in the Athletics Leinster Outdoor Track & Field Championships in May.

Originally from Tullow, Co. Carlow, Seamus has lived in Bray for some time and trains with Bray Runners Athletics Club.

Seamus has been involved in sport throughout his life, and played hurling and Minor football in his native Tullow in the 1950s, where he was part of the 1961 and 1963 Junior Hurling Championship winning teams.

In the 1980s, Seamus got into running, joining Dundrum Athletics Club and competing in his first marathon in 1981. He took part in eight marathons over the next four years and continued to run into his 70s and survived a brush with Cancer in 2014.



Seamus Mallin

Hike for Hospice from Glen-to-Glen

Hike for Hospice Glen to Glen is returning and will take place on Sunday 11th September. This is the sixth Glen-to-Glen hike, organised by Fabian and Ursula Doyle from Wicklow. This special fundraiser has raised more than €90,000 for Wicklow Hospice in that time.

The route is a moderate 12.5km guided hike from Glendalough to Glendasan. It is a looped route, taking around three to four hours to complete, exploring Glendalough Valley and St Kevin's Way. The Glen to Glen hike is an opportunity for an enjoyable and scenic challenge, while making an important contribution to the Our Lady's Hospice community by helping supporting patients, their families and friends.

Those interested in participating

should register on olh.ie/hike-for-hospice-glen-to-glen/ or 01 491 1072 by 8th September. After registration, you will receive a full information sheet about the hike, a t-shirt and a sponsorship card from Wicklow Hospice.

All hikers should wear appropriate clothing, footwear and bring water and food.

Tea and coffee will be provided in the car park after the hike and all participants will receive a certificate of completion.

Run'n'Roll for inclusivity with Irish Wheelchair Association

Sports journalist Joanne O'Riordan and Irish Wheelchair Association last week launched the IWA Run'n'Roll under the slogan #MovedByValues.

The race, hosted in partnership with Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA), is open to individuals of all ages and abilities and seeks to support and promote an inclusive society for people with functional disabilities.

By 'Running'n'Rolling' in the race over 2.5km or 5km, individuals of all abilities can show their allyship with people with physical disabilities and, in doing so, help raise funds for Irish Wheelchair Association.

Runners, rollers and strollers will be at their marks to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in Irish society on Sunday, September 4th, in a relaxed, fun and family-friendly atmosphere at St. Anne's Park, Raheny, Dublin 5.

This event represents the first time the Liberty Race will take place in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The race, which is in its 15th year in Spain, sees almost 8,000 people participate annually for inclusivity and was hosted virtually in Ireland last year.

Participants can register for the race via <https://link.iwa.ie/runroll>. All participants who register for the race will receive a specially designed commemorative t-shirt and medal as part of their welcome pack.

Shauna Morgan, student at IWA Clontarf, said "We are so delighted to have the support of Liberty Insurance for our Run'n'Roll event this year, and for their dedication to inclusion every day. The funds raised through this event will go a long way to supporting our activities in IWA Clontarf, in particular our life skills training and youth services. This race is for everybody, so sign up today and we will see you in September!"

Joanne O'Riordan, activist and sports journalist said "I'm delighted to support the first ever Liberty race for inclusivity in Ireland, in association with the Irish Wheelchair Association. I'll be in St. Anne's Park for the race on 4 September and hope to see as many people as possible there to Run'n'Roll with us!"

uan Miguel Estallo, CEO of event sponsors Liberty Insurance, Western Europe Markets, said "We are delighted to launch this important race for inclusivity. The IWA Run'n'Roll represents the first ever Liberty Race in Ireland. Liberty is committed to greater equity, diversity and inclusion within society, and central to this commitment is greater support and allyship with our family and friends, colleagues and customers with functional disabilities.

"While the race is in its infancy in an Irish context, it is entering its 15th year in Spain, with 8,000 people participating annually. Our ambition is to grow the race year on year and establish it as a much-anticipated fixture in the Irish sporting and running calendar."



Pictured are Nicola and Audrey Hobbs who took part in the recent 'Have a Go at Surfing' event at Brittas Bay Surf School as part of Her Outdoors Week.

No rookie mistakes at Bray Rapid Chess event

The 2022 Bray Rapid Chess Championship took place on Sunday, August 21st in Greystones Bridge Centre. The tournament was won by Ireland's only Grandmaster Alexander Baburin. Greystones player Kevin Venkatesan finished third.



Cllr Gerry Walsh, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, making the ceremonial opening move, with Brian Beckett

The tournament was sold out with seventy players attending from all over Ireland. Four Senior Irish Internationals took part, along with several youth internationals. Cllr Gerry Walsh, Cathaoirleach of the Greystones Municipal District made the ceremonial opening move for Greystones player Brian Beckett.

Cllr Stephen Stokes stated "It was a fantastic to see players from around Ireland including Galway and Donegal. We are indebted to Greystones Bridge Centre for hosting us in their wonderful venue. There was a cracking atmosphere on the day."

The Bray Rapid, now its 28th year, took place in Greystones for the first time as a venue could not be sourced in Bray. Cllr Stokes added "Greystones Bridge Centre was a more than suitable venue. Multiple players commented about the high quality playing conditions. Our thanks to Bernadette Coggins, Michael Keeshan and all of the Bridge Centre Team. The tournament also provided an economic boost to Greystones, as many players bought food and beverages while visiting. Many players also enjoyed walking in the Harbour area. Coupled with the good weather, it painted Greystones in a positive light. In fact many people are hoping to see more tournaments in Greystones again."

The tournament saw quite a number of Ukrainians take part in the event, with some travelling quite a distance. Chess underwent a boom during the Covid-19 pandemic as one of the games that easily transitioned to online activities. This was further boosted

by the Queen's Gambit on Netflix.

Cllr Stokes concluded: "With over the board chess making a gradual return there is pent up demand for live chess events. We could have sold over a hundred entries. A massive thank you to all of those who took part, and to the organising committee for their hard work."

Local results: Kevin Venkatesan 3rd (Greystones), Stephen Stokes 19th (Greystones), Niall O'Higgins

28th (Kilcoole), Brian Beckett 32nd (Greystones), Tom Janowski 36th (Bray), Pat Reynolds 48th (Bray), Ihor Pinas 55th (Newcastle). The organising committee was Cllr Stephen Stokes, Pat Quill, Eugene Rellis, and Tom Janowski.

Bray-Greystones Chess Club are planning to enter three teams into the Leinster Leagues. Anyone looking for more information can contact braygreystoneschessclub@gmail.com.



The Bray Rapid 2022 Winners & Committee

'My legs are in bits afterwards, but it's worth it'

Alan Heaney, the organiser of a charity Ultra Cycle Alan Heaney began the 2022 1,100km Ancient East cycle last Wednesday 24th August. He is cycling with a group of ultra-cyclists volunteers from Derry city to Kinsale, Co. Cork along the whole east coastline, including Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford. The cycle group have already raised €227,000 to date for worthy causes and this year, the Ultra cycle's sixth year, hope to raise another €50,000, bringing the total amount raised for Irish national & local charities to €277,000.

Alan Heaney said his legs "are usually in bits afterwards, but it's worth it when we think of what the fundraising will do for the charities!"

Heaney said his previous journeys have been really intense, cycling through sweltering heat, sunshine, rain, winds and sometimes even hailstones. He said it's the comradery of the group that helps them all push through the physical difficulties and mental walls they face on their journey.

The six brave cyclists will begin their cycle on Wed 24th August and complete the challenging journey on Sat 27th Aug, beginning at Derry city and finishing at Old Head in Kinsale, Cork. The cyclists will cycle along the coastline of the counties of Derry, Antrim, Down, Louth, Dublin, Wicklow, Wexford, Waterford & Cork and all the coastal towns and cities on their journey.

"To date, we have raised £227,000 over 6 ultra-charity cycles covering 8,700km across 5 different countries in just 25 days!" Alan Heaney, the main organiser of the ultra-cycle, said, "All our cycles are self-financed, so 100% of all monies collected goes directly to the worthy charities."

Alan Heaney is from



Mullingar men - Aidan Daly Ciaran O'Brien (Mullingar Motors & O'Brien's Centra), Shane Flynn (NGS gym) & Alan Heaney (Mayo ultra cyclists)

Swinford, Co. Mayo, part time farmer and Agri business owner, and is the co-founder and owner of Efficient Farm Solutions, Lely Centre Mullingar & Efficient Farm Systems. While he's very busy with business, farm, family and sport, he spends his limited free time cycling the roads of Mayo, Galway and Sligo, getting the long miles of preparation in. Typical training sessions for Alan entail 75km - 120km spins, in the early morning and weekends. In addition to road cycling, he trains 2-3 times a week in the early hours of the

morning, running through forestry trails, cross mountain ranges and bog roads to build up the stamina, physical and mental fitness, that is required to complete ultra events. Alan has been joined by fellow co-owner of EFS/Lely Centre Mullingar, Niall McGauran, on many trips and both are big advocates of fundraising for local and national charities through ultra-cycling events.

"The event is fantastic," Alan said, "The big push behind the fundraising are our social media

followers, the general public who donate to us, and the corporates who support us. Over the last 2 years, our corporates include MSD, Alltech, Glanbia, IFAC, Keenan, Lely, Lakeland Co-op, Kepak, Cows.ie, XLvets, Condon Engineering, Easifix, AEI, Zerograzzer and I'd really like to thank them for their generous support for these fantastic causes!"

The charities benefiting from this year's cycle include Turn2Me, a national mental health charity, and the Mayo/Roscommon

Hospice Foundation who fund palliative care services in the community and their two hospices and Hooves4Hospice who are raising vital funds for the cost of building a planned midland regional hospice for the counties of Laois, Longford, Westmeath & Offaly. The charities have stated that charity fundraising has dropped significantly during the pandemic, and that they are very grateful for the efforts of the cyclists involved, the supporters, the donors and everyone who gets involved.

"This is an incredible fundraiser," Fiona O'Malley, CEO of Turn2Me, said, "At the peak of the pandemic, demand for our mental health services increased by 386%. As a small charity, donations from fundraisers, like this Ultra Cycle, are really vital and make a huge difference to the services we can offer people who are struggling with depression, anxiety, grief or relationship issues. Well done to everyone who is involved, or supports, this fantastic event - it is a huge achievement and Turn2Me is so grateful!"

Martina Jennings, Chief executive of Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation said "We are incredibly grateful to the

Ultracyclists for choosing us as one of their charities again this year. We are dependant on fundraisers like this to fund our much needed palliative care service in our community and in our Mayo & Roscommon Hospices. It is humbling that Alan and his team give so much of their own time to train for this event, and raise so much for charities like ourselves. We wish the whole team the very best of luck with this challenge, and our sincere gratitude to them and all who support them"

"This is a great event and we are very proud to be chosen as one of the charity partners for this amazing ultra cycle. The money raised will go towards the building of a

new palliative care centre in the midlands which the counties of Laois, Westmeath, Longford and Offaly badly need. We wish the ultra cyclists the best of luck and safe passage on their cycle over the 4 days" says Pat Lawlor from Hooves for Hospice.

The ultra cyclists are from various counties - Gerry "Boots" is from Armagh, living in London; Brendan Barrett is from Belmullet, Mayo, living in London; Ronan Bourke is from Balla, Mayo; Vinny Gavin is from Swinford, Mayo; Jonathon Very is Tubbercurry, Sligo; Alan Heaney is from Swinford Mayo; and Niall McGauran is from Roscommon.

The Ultra Cycle also has an "Agri Day" on Day 3, Fri 26th August, which starts on Sandymount strand and finishes 265km later in Duncannon beach, Waterford. This leg of the Ultra cycle is open to all cyclists, particularly farmers, industry (vets, co-ops, advisors, animal health companies etc.). Anyone can join. The Ultra Cycle group welcomes all cycling enthusiasts to join them on the "Agri Day" for fun, laughs and a healthy, community, networking day. Members of the public are encouraged to come and cycle a 65km leg or the full 265km stage. For more information on the Ultra Cycle for Charity or to donate, go to <https://www.ultracycling-forcharity.ie/>



Top of the world on a previous cycle at Malin Head, Donegal the Mayo Ultra cyclists and 4 Mullingar men - Ciaran O'Brien, Aidan Daly, Stephen Franzoni & Shane Flynn



Michael Fitzgerald and Anne Marie Williams at the launch of Evelyn Murray's new exhibition of paintings 'When the Tide is Against You', held in conjunction with the the launch of Nadia Ramoutar's new book of poetry 'Making Mosaics from the Fragments of Life', at Anchor House, South Quay, Wicklow Town.

Dare to Roam

An Exhibition by Catriona Ní Threasaigh

Signal Arts Centre, Monday, 7th November to Sunday 20th November

Caitriona Ní Threasaigh's Dare To Roam exhibition is inspired by Paul Klee's definition of drawing ie. 'taking a line for a walk'. Working instinctually and using colour and line as the impulse, this work uncovers an imaginative environment populated with figures that range from the grotesque, sinister and distorted to the appealing, mischievous and playful.

These characters provide a means to encounter the absurd and fantastical elements of the creative imagination and act as an entry point into the unconscious mind's way of dealing with issues such as love, loss, friendship, fear and death.

The sculptures are created in the same stream-of-consciousness way using a wide variety of found objects ranging from fabric, bone, hair, gems, among others.

Caitriona's graduation show (NCAD 2004) gained a special mention from Aidan Dunne and she won the Emerging Artist award in Claremorris Open the same year. She exhibited in EVA, Limerick in 2006. She has travelled far and wide and has exhibited her work in Ireland, New York and Ulaanbatar, Mongolia. Caitriona has also worked in other creative fields, namely dyeing and ageing costumes for film and theatre. She is also a professional actor and her passion for creativity and drama is evident in all of her artistic pursuits. Caitriona's website is www.caitriona.ie



Coming up at Mermaid...

Michelle Read & Brian Keegan present: On A House Like A Fire

Wednesday
14th September

On A House Like A Fire is a powerful story told through fragments and glimpses - an immersive experience about the nature of memory and the way we remember. Sometimes in a gesture, or in a turn of phrase, sometimes in the scent of hairspray, or glimpsed in an old photograph, a person reappears. In this evocative and lyrical memoir piece, words and music ebb and flow to build up and undermine the past like a beach over time and tide.

Michelle Read Michelle is an award-winning theatre-maker with a background in comedy. She has performed, written and produced work in Ireland for nearly thirty years and aims to create engaging, relatable and emotionally complex stories for the stage. Her comedy-drama 'Bang!' about gender identity, premiered at the Dublin Theatre Festival in October 2021, and 'On A House Like A Fire' had its digital premiere at the Bealtaine Festival At Home online in May 2021. Michelle is an alumni of Six In The Attic with Irish Theatre Institute 2021/22.

Brian Keegan Brian is a composer and sound designer. He has written music for live performance, feature-length dramas and documentaries and numerous short films. His compositions for film have been heard at festivals in Ireland and internationally. Brian has also written music for the RTE Concert Orchestra and a range of ensembles & performers. His awards include Germany's DAAD and the François



de Roubaix music composition award. His work in collaboration with Michelle includes both the digital and live score for 'On A House Like A Fire' and the music for the Dublin Theatre Festival production of 'Bang!' in 2021.

Written & Performed by: Michelle Read

Composed by: Brian Keegan
Lighting Design by: Niall Cranny & Eoin Fegan

Set Design by: Ellen Kirk, Michelle Read & Brian Keegan

€18 Full Price. €16 Concession Price.
Age Suitability for 13+. Duration: 1 Hour

Subhashini Goda Presents: Introductory Workshop to Bharatanatyam

Saturday 17th September

This workshop is an introduction to the historically established South Indian classical dance form of Bharatanatyam, with a contemporary understanding and vocabulary by Subhashini Goda. This workshop is for anybody interested in movement and dancing.

The workshop will begin with a warmup, some body tuning exercises then ease into exploring basic movement and gestures. Subhashini will teach a short choreography, but the main focus will be on an improvised piece where participants can attempt to build their story through gestures and movement.

No previous experience is required. All that you would need are clothes that facilitate movement, with no shoes while dancing.

Bharatanatyam is a dance form from the state of Tamil Nadu located in the South of India. Originally a dance form of ritualistic importance that was practised in the temples, Bharatanatyam now has gained both national and transnational recognition as a classical dance form and is performed on occasions that are not limited to religious importance. The dance form combines complex rhythmic footwork, and intricate storytelling through gestures and expression. While it is usually performed solo, it is now performed in groups as well and expertly combines tradition and contemporaneity.

Subhashini Goda is an interdisciplinary performing artist, researcher and a poet from Chennai, India, specialising in the dance form of Bharatanatyam. She has been practising and performing for close to three decades and has taught the dance form for well over fifteen years. With a masters in English literature and another in Dance Anthropology, the core of her artistic practice revolves around traditions, transgressions, and memories. She is currently pursuing an interdisciplinary PhD at University College Dublin and her academic research is situated at the intersections of dance, diaspora, and identity.

€15 Full Price. No previous experience is required. Please wear clothes that facilitate movement. - Limited capacity workshop. Age Suitability: 16+. Duration: 3 Hours



Peace and Abundance Art Exhibition

3rd Floor Gallery, Wicklow Library, Friday, 2nd September — Friday, 30th September

Designer and Illustrator, Heather McKay and a band of creative friends have come together to consider the concept of Peace and Abundance. What is it and how do you get it? Is it something you can foster or is it a matter of circumstance?

Heather is of the opinion that for her, peace is illusive. You can have it all (money, security, love) yet have no peace. You can have everything, but have no time to enjoy life. She is constantly trying to determine the best path forward, but has struggled to find the correct level with her

own work-life balance. She identifies herself as a teacher, business owner, artist and mother. After a busy day, she often tends to her creative work at night when it is quiet and she can think.

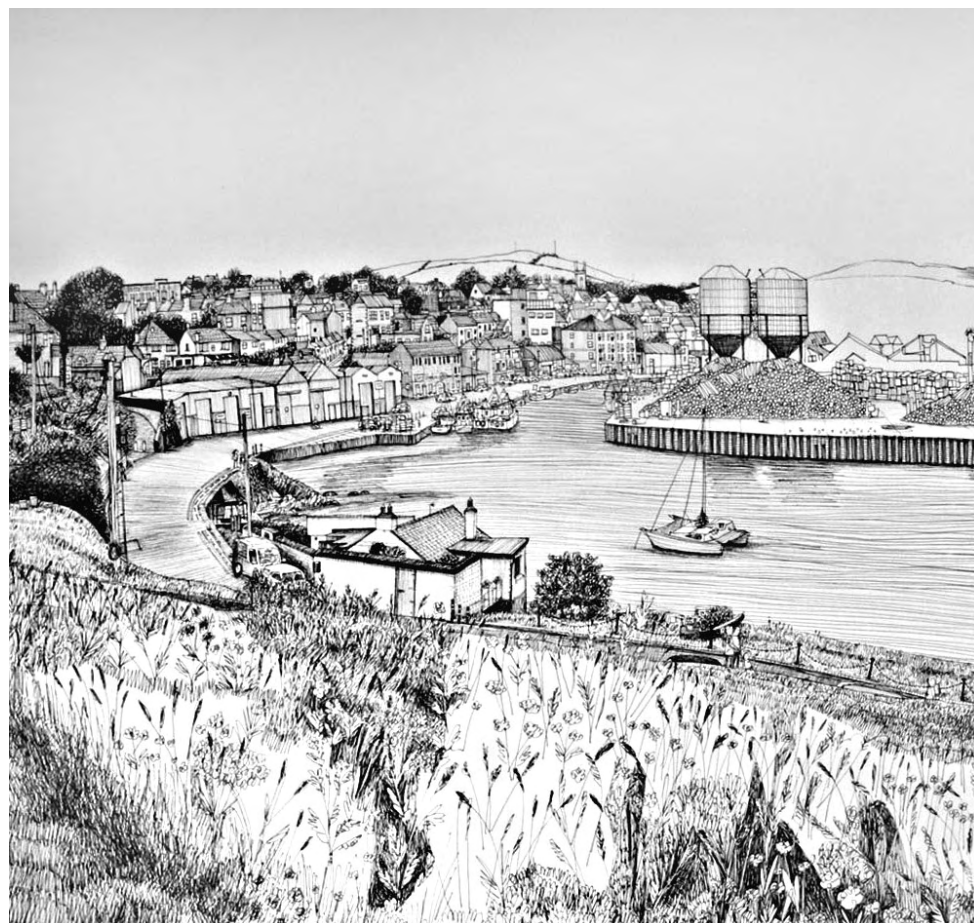
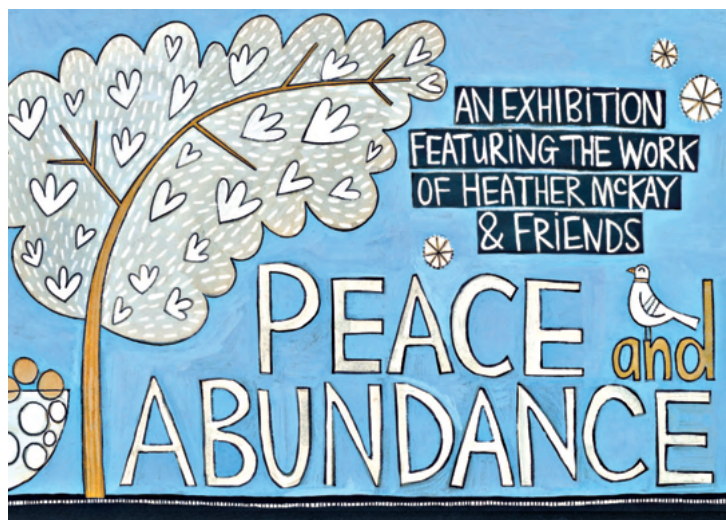
"There have been times when I have had far too much on. I have been juggling so many

balls I haven't had time to catch my breath. I have recently taken a break from teaching after 20 years and I am still too busy! However, for me the Art is a non-negotiable. It cannot be removed from the equation. It is something I feel called to do, and it is fantastic therapy."

Each contributor to the exhibition has their own take on what Peace & Abundance is for them. The group hopes that the work will encourage the viewer to reflect on their own experience. With 12 artists taking part, the offering will be rich and diverse. Mediums include poetry, photography, painting, 3-dimensional work, drawing & collage.

The show will be on view at Wicklow Library (in the beautiful 3rd floor Gallery) for the month of September. Library opening times 10-5pm, Monday-Saturday (late opening Tues & Thurs until 8:30pm).

Artists include Heather McKay, Nathalie Borel, Mandy Jackson, Jack Clarke, André O'Kelly, Ana McKay, Jane Proctor, Jenny Graves, Mirko Sekulic, Siobhán Wilmot, Kelly Hood and the late Linda Barrington.



Dominic's Park: A gripping new mystery

Debut author Anne Callanan's *Dominic's Park* has at its core an exploration of the influences that drive decision making and responses when faced with life dilemmas.

With modern life fuelled by mantras such as, "You can be anything you want to be if you just try hard enough" the author uses her frustration with those who employ such adages to judge others struggling to succeed as the premise of this highly original crime thriller.

A tale about human strengths, weaknesses and foibles, this unputdownable mystery, which is made more authentic due to the author's social work background, will have readers eagerly awaiting what's next from this talented and imaginative author.

Synopsis: "He didn't know it then, but he cycled right by the spot where his body would soon be dumped, left to decay."

In his youth, JJ believed that old saying: 'you can be anything you want to be if you just try hard enough'. He had built his whole life around it. But now, middle-aged and with his past erupting into his present, it's clear to him that life is just not that fair.

With his son's disappearance acting as a catalyst, JJ is forced to make some unsavoury decisions in order to survive. But the choices he makes have consequences, and with his life and the lives of his friends and family being turned upside down, will anyone come out the other end unscathed?

The author says: "Dominic's Park is about a group of people who are not getting an easy ride in life and who are interconnected in more ways than they are aware. It's a story that highlights life isn't fair, and I hope on some level it makes the reader think about this."

"Each character has different struggles, some out of their control, some self-made but each struggle has significantly impacted on their lives. They all want to do better than they have been able to do in one way or another, and I've written the book wanting the reader to immerse themselves in the reasons why. That is what makes my book different from many of the crime mysteries I have read. It's not just about solving the clues."



"JJ's story is an extreme but realistic version of the way we typically judge people who make poor life decisions; but in his position how much choice does he have and if faced with a similar threat would the outcome be the same for us? Louise, Niamh, Finn and others have different dilemmas to face, but they all have to make life choices as a consequence. What are the drivers behind their decision making? Looking in from the outside how entitled are any of us to judge?"

"The book is about our humanity. The control fear and shame can have in our lives, sometimes real and sometimes just in our minds. The fears that stop us following the path we want to follow. Fear of taking responsibility for our actions. Fear of judgement. Fear of the unknown. Fear of rejection. Shame where shame should not lie and our struggles to break free.."

"It's a reflection too of society and how it can influence one's path in life. The inequalities that exist. The lack of supports where supports are needed... and all this in a little mysterious tale of fiction!"

Ann Callanan was born in Dublin but spent her first year or so on a small farm in Wexford before moving to Derbyshire and then Hertfordshire.

"In my early adolescence I became aware that being identified as Irish at a time when the IRA were committing atrocities in England had consequences," she says.

"I think this experience of feeling like an outsider prompted my interest in diversity, social work and the complications that arise as a consequence of misguided understanding and intolerance off difference."

"Aged 13 we returned to Ireland, where I completed my secondary education and went on to start a Social Science Degree in University College Cork. In second year I transferred to Trinity College Dublin and headed off to our capitol city where I completed my degree and obtained a further social work qualification (CQSW)."

"Over the last 30yrs or so I've enjoyed a varied career in social work, been married to my husband Sean, raised three children and lived in many locations including, Glasgow and Northumberland in the UK, Cork and Wicklow in Ireland, and for the last eight years St Kitts in the Caribbean."

"Last year in the midst of the Covid epidemic I decided to try something new, and completed some online writing courses at The Center of Excellence which led to me writing my first book, 'Dominic's Park'."

"In terms of credentials for writing this book my social work background has perhaps given me insights into people's lives and dilemmas that others may not be privy to. Both my professional and personal life experiences have taught me the importance of thinking outside of my own perspective."

Macbeth at Whale Theatre

Friday 9th and Saturday 10th September

Arclight Theatre Company present William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Directed by Paul Cullen.

Tempted by the prophecies of mysterious creatures, Macbeth's ambition to be King of Scotland leads him into a nightmarish world of evil, deceit and murder.

Monstrous actions run rampant as he and Lady Macbeth lose themselves to unstoppable drives of savagery and political atrocity. Arclight's production of *Macbeth* is vibrant, energetic, visceral and highly visual. The music score for the production is composed and performed by renowned Irish musician, D. Cullen.

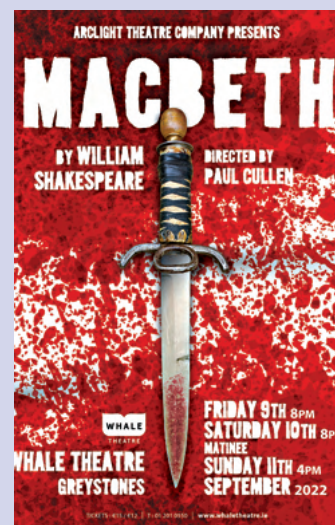
Over the past 20 years, Arclight Theatre Company have built a wonderful reputation when it comes to Shakespeare and have been invited on four occasions by the Royal Shakespeare Company to perform in Stratford upon Avon. They have also performed the bard's plays in venues such as Smock Alley, Pavilion, Temple Carrig Amphitheatre, Shakespeare In The Park in Cabinteely, Greystones Theatre, Lexicon Studio, The Ivy House and here in the Whale.

Having delighted critics and audiences with their acclaimed versions of *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *As You Like It*, Arclight are thrilled to revive their award winning 2013 production of *Macbeth* and bring it to the Greystones audience.

Approx Duration: 80 mins plus interval (no interval on Sunday 11th September).

Friday 9th and Saturday 10th September at 8pm (doors 7pm) and Sunday 11th September, 4pm (doors 3pm).

Tickets €15/€12 are available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.



An Taisce Green Schools initiative to feature in global walking Conference

Chiara Hanrahan, Team Leader with the Green School's Travel programme which has been rolled out in schools across Co. Wicklow, is one of 60 speakers at Walk 21 Ireland, a five-day global conference on walking and liveable communities, taking place in Dublin this September 19-23. She will present, 'How to support walking - a child's perspective,' as part of a session on Creating Places for Children & Young People.

Speaking about the conference, Chiara said: "I'm delighted to be part of such a prestigious panel of international experts and proud that the 22nd International Walk21 Conference is taking place in Ireland. My colleague Ellen O' Sullivan and I are excited to have the opportunity to showcase Green Schools Travel programme and how we actively engage children

and young people nationwide to promote and support walking to school."

Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) will host Walk21 Ireland, in partnership with the Government of Ireland. The Conference series is the leader on walking and walkability in the world and Walk21 Ireland will bring together around 500 delegates and over 60 speakers including practitioners, academics, planners, politicians and citizens to celebrate the importance of walking and to re-imagine a world that is more liveable and sustainable. Walk21 has previously been held in locations including Rotterdam, Hong Kong and Seoul and in line with its sustainability objectives, delegates can attend the conference either in-person or virtually.



Adam O'Reilly and Mark McNulty celebrating the Green Schools Programme

In addition to an extensive event programme, Walk21 organisers are encouraging delegates and speakers to avail of walking related social events while visiting Ireland for the conference, including Culture Night, Friday 23 September and National Walking Day, Sunday 25 September.

Bronwen Thornton,

CEO of Walk21 explained who should attend the conference: "This year's conference theme is 'The Decade to Change - Steps to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' and is open to walking and community groups, academics, planners, advocates, politicians and citizens

to attend.

"Since the first Walk21 Conference in London in 2000, the Walk21 International Conference series on Walkable and Liveable Communities has promoted the international profile of walking. We're thrilled to be bringing the conference to Ireland and look forward to being

joined by virtual and in person delegates to celebrate the importance of walking, re-imagine a world that is more walkable and liveable, and ensure a cleaner, safer, healthier future for all."

For further information and to register visit <https://walk21ireland.com>

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

AN CHÚIRT DÚICHE (THE DISTRICT COURT)
DISTRICT COURT AREA OF BRAY, DISTRICT NO. 16
THE PUBLIC DANCE HALL ACT, 1935
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PUBLIC DANCE LICENCE

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION OF JOHN DUGGAN AS NOMINEE OF MULTILANE LIMITED IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS THE MARTELLO HOTEL
APPLICANT
TAKE NOTICE that John Duggan as nominee of Multilane Limited having its registered office at 'Laxton', Novara Avenue, Bray in the County of Wicklow being the holder of a Seven Day Publican's On-Licence intends to apply to the Annual Licensing Court, sitting at Bray District Court, Courthouse, Main Street, Bray in the County of Wicklow on the 26th day of September 2022 at 10.30am or so soon thereafter as this Application may be taken, for the renewal of a Licence to use the premises known as The Martello Hotel, formerly known as The New International Hotel and situate at Strand Road, Bray in the County of Wicklow and Court area and District aforesaid, for Public Dancing. The Applicant intends to apply for Special Exemption Orders.
Dated this 23rd day of August 2022.

Signed: Benville & Robinson, Solicitors for the Applicant,
Riverview House, Seapoint Road, Bray, CO. WICKLOW

TO: The Garda Superintendent at Bray Garda Station, Convent Avenue, Bray, County Wicklow
TO: The Fire Officer at Bray Fire Station, Boghall Road, Bray, County Wicklow.
TO: The District Court Clerk, The Courthouse, Main Street, Bray, County Wicklow.
TO: The County Council Official, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, County Wicklow.

Legal Notice

AN CHÚIRT DÚICHE (THE DISTRICT COURT)
DISTRICT COURT AREA OF BRAY, DISTRICT NO. 16
THE PUBLIC DANCE HALL ACT, 1935
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF PUBLIC DANCE LICENCE

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION OF SUGARLOAF VENTURES LIMITED IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS POWERSCOURT HOTEL
APPLICANT
TAKE NOTICE that Sugarloaf Ventures Limited having its registered office at Intercontinental Dublin, Simmons Court Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 being the holder of a Seven Day Publican's On-Licence intends to apply to the Annual Licensing Court, sitting at Bray District Court, The Courthouse, Main Street, Bray in the County of Wicklow on the 26th day of September 2022 at 10.30am or so soon thereafter as this Application may be taken, for the renewal of a Licence to use the premises known as, 'Killing Hollow', Powerscourt Demesne, Enniskerry in the County of Wicklow and Court Area and District aforesaid, for Public Dancing. The Applicant intends to apply for Special Exemption Orders.
Dated this 22nd day of August 2022

Signed: Benville & Robinson, Solicitors for the Applicant,
Riverview House, Seapoint Road, Bray, CO. WICKLOW

TO: The Garda Superintendent at Bray Garda Station, Convent Avenue, Bray, County Wicklow
TO: The Garda Superintendent at Donnybrook Garda Station, 43 Donnybrook Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.
TO: The Fire Officer at Bray Fire Station, Boghall Road, Bray, County Wicklow.
TO: The District Court Clerk, The Courthouse, Main Street, Bray, County Wicklow.
TO: The County Council Official, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, County Wicklow.

Legal Notice

AN CHÚIRT DÚICHE (THE DISTRICT COURT)
DISTRICT COURT AREA OF BRAY, DISTRICT NO. 16
REGISTRATION OF CLUBS ACTS, 1904 TO 1988
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

Caroline Blennerhassett
APPLICANT
TAKE NOTICE that I, Caroline Blennerhassett of 65 Hollybrook Park, Southern Cross, Bray, County Wicklow, Secretary of County Wicklow Lawn Tennis Club, a Club whose premises are situated at Vevay Road, Bray, County Wicklow within the Court Area and District aforesaid, hereby apply to the Annual Licensing Court, sitting at Bray District Court, The Courthouse, Civic Centre, Main Street, Bray in the County of Wicklow on the 26th day of September 2022 at 10.30 a.m. or so soon thereafter as this Application may be taken for a Certificate of Registration of the above-mentioned Club.
The Object of the said Club is playing and promotion of Lawn Tennis.
Dated this 22nd day of August 2022

Signed: Benville & Robinson, Solicitors for the Applicant,
Riverview House, Seapoint Road, Bray, CO. WICKLOW

TO: The Garda Superintendent at Bray Garda Station, Convent Avenue, Bray, County Wicklow
TO: The Fire Officer at Bray Fire Station, Boghall Road, Bray, County Wicklow.
TO: The Registrar of Clubs, Bray District Court Bray, County Wicklow.

National Cinema Day

On Saturday, 3rd of September, cinemas across the Republic of Ireland, including Arklow Omniplex, will celebrate National Cinema Day with admission tickets at participating cinemas reduced to just €4 (RSP) including Premium seats, screens and 3D screenings.

Over 95% of cinemas in the Republic of Ireland will participate in this initiative, offering a wide variety of new and recent releases for audiences to enjoy, including family favourites that all the family can enjoy as a treat as schools reopen. Cinemas in every county in the Republic of Ireland are participating, meaning easy access for audiences to big screen entertainment in their home county.

Off the back of a blockbuster summer, the cinema industry in Ireland has united to celebrate the ritual of cinemagoing and the important place it has in Irish life.

For many years, Ireland has had the highest cinema attendance per capita in Europe. What better way to celebrate that than to come to the cinema and enjoy a movie on National Cinema Day.

Tickets can be purchased through the websites of participating cinemas and at the box office from Monday August 29th.

Audiences are advised to check local cinema listings, some of the movies showing include: Nope; Top Gun; Maverick; Bullet Train; Spider-Man: No Way Home (The More Fun Stuff Version); Beast; E.T. (40th Anniversary); The Invitation; An Cailín Ciúin (The Quiet Girl); The Forgiven; Fall; Blackbird and Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (40th Anniversary).

Participating cinemas include: Arc Cinemas; Carrick Cineplex; Cineworld; Eclipse Cinemas; Eye Cinema; Gate Cinemas; IMC Cinemas; Light House Cinema; Movies@ Cinemas; Odeon Cinemas; Omniplex Cinemas; Pálás Cinema; Reel Cinemas; Vue Cinemas.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Norman Spicer seeks permission for the widening of the existing driveway entrance and extending the dishd/lower portion of the footpath to facilitate vehicular access from the road to the widened driveway & all associated works at 44 Woodbrook Lawns, Boghall Road, Bray, Co.Wicklow, A98 V8X9. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

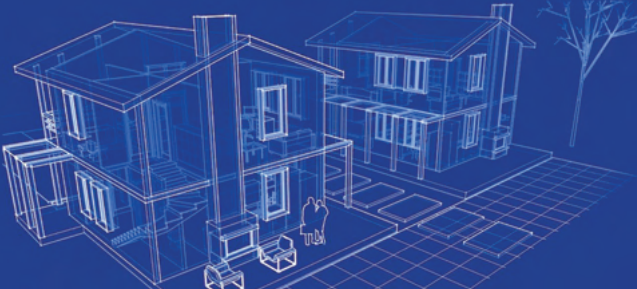
We, John & Frances Wynne, intend to apply to Wicklow County Council for planning permission for construction of a Calf shed, flow channel and all associated siteworks at Mattymount, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Ballyhenry Enterprises Ltd. seeks Planning Permission New Roadside Entrance to Access Farm at Castlegrange, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow along with all associated ancillary works. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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Wicklow farmer wins Best Protein Award

Victor Jackson from Co. Wicklow has won the Best Protein Award at the 2022 Diageo Baileys Champion Cow Competition held at the Virginia Show with his cow Nohl-Hilaz-Vray



Victor Jackson is pictured with his cow Nohl-Hilaz-Vray, Pat Murphy, Vice Chairman of Glanbia Ireland, and Maighread McMahon, Diageo Baileys.

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The €10,000 prize fund was contested by fellow Holstein Friesian breeders from all over the island of Ireland. The competition is sponsored by Diageo Ireland and its cream supplier Glanbia Ireland to reward dairy breeding excellence. Twenty one cows were in the finale.

The event is regarded as the most prestigious competition of its kind on the island of Ireland. It rewards strength and good body conformation as well as proven excellence in quality milk production. A Co. Down junior cow, Hiltara Undenied Apple, entered by Sam and John McCormick won the overall 2022 Diageo Baileys Champion title.

Congratulating the winners, Robert Murphy, Head of Baileys Operations said, "From being the world's first cream liqueur to becoming the world's most loved spirit, Baileys is now a global giant of a brand. We are proud of the brand's heritage and its connection back to family-owned farms on the island of Ireland. This event highlights that link between superior genetics that go into the national dairy herd and the dairy farmer-suppliers of its primary raw ingredient."

Also speaking at the event Glanbia Ireland Chairman, John Murphy said, "Glanbia Ireland is delighted to be back at the Virginia Show. It was fantastic to see so many of the country's foremost dairy breeders return after a two year hiatus. They put on a first class display for the crowds here today. Congratulations to all our winners."



Barra Meakin and Dontae Roche at the Greystones Multicultural Festival in Burnaby Park. The event was organised by the African Irish Society of Wicklow (AISW). The theme of this year's event was "Bringing the Heart of Wicklow Cultures to You". Members of the AISW prepared a great line up of events to entertain the whole family throughout the day with activities such as dance, music, educational workshops, world food tasting, comedy, and exhibitions of various countries, beatboxing and more.

Bereavement support meeting for the South East

For many, September is a new beginning - a new school term, the start of college, a new career to embark upon. But September can be a difficult month for bereaved parents. Many milestones are achieved over the month, many milestones their beloved child will never get to mark.

Anam Cara, the only organisation of its kind in Ireland with services available to all bereaved parents, will resume their face to face meetings following a short break over the summer months.

Service Manager for Anam Cara, Sharon Vard comments "while family and friends might be good at marking the major milestones - anniversaries, birthdays, Christmas - it's important to understand that less obvious occasions can also be hugely triggering".

She continues "we launched Anam Cara back in 2008 in recognition of the need for a safe space for those bereaved, somewhere to let the mask drop, where others might understand what friends and family cannot".

On Tuesday 13th September, Anam Cara will hold their South East meeting in The Brandon Hotel, New Ross at 7:15pm. All bereaved parents from the South East area are welcome, regardless of the age their child died or circumstances of their death. There is no need to register, just arrive on the evening at 7:15pm. For more information on the support services offer by Anam Cara, please call 085 2888 888, email info@anam-cara.ie or see www.anamcara.ie

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