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Tuesday 6th September 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

WICKLOW'S WATER WASTERS

Two incidents of excessive water use last Wednesday left Irish Water and Wicklow County Council working hard to maintain the water supply for customers.

In Rathnew, the unauthorised use of fire hydrants had crews from Irish Water and the Council onsite working to maintain supplies for homes and businesses in the area. It's believed the fire hydrants were used by members of the public to fill IBC water tanks (Intermediate Bulk Containers).

A spokesperson from Irish Water told *Wicklow Times* "There have been reported incidents in Wicklow - and also nationwide - of IBCs being filled for power

washing and other uses."

Meanwhile, a hosepipe left running on private property in the townland of Kirkee near Glenmalur resulted in reduced network storage levels and interrupted supply for others on the Water Supply Zone. Reservoir levels fell as a result of the hosepipe being left running and Irish Water filled supplies with water from neighbouring water supply zones to aid recovery.

In a statement following last week's incidents,

Irish Water said "Irish Water would like to thank members of the public for their responsible use of water and is asking everybody to continue to take some simple steps to conserve water to ensure supplies are healthy into Autumn."

"Irish Water and Wicklow County Council are closely monitoring water levels in a number of areas in the county and taking remedial measures to maintain normal supplies, however, the public is still being asked to assist by taking some



Mia Harding-Downes, Bojin Manson, Samson Ryan, Katie Lacey and Alice McLaughlin at their first day in school at Scoil Eoin, Redcross. Pic: Michael Kelly

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simple steps to reduce their water use."

Kevin Love of Irish Water, said, "We have seen a big increase in demand in recent days including a hosepipe left running on private property resulting in reduced network storage levels and interrupted supply for others. We are appealing to everyone to continue playing their part in helping to conserve water, and particularly to avoid non-essential use. We will continue to monitor the levels at all our supplies over the coming weeks and months and take any actions that may be necessary to maintain supplies, including communicating about localised issues as they arise."

On the unauthorised use of fire hydrants, Irish Water stated "Hydrants are for use only by authorised personnel for fire-fighting purposes and

should not be used for any purpose other than fire-fighting by the Fire Service. Misuse of fire hydrants has the potential to put lives in danger and prolong or extend damage to premises in the event of an incident where water is unavailable due to unauthorised use. Misuse is impacting Irish Water's ability to meet customers' water supply needs.

Mr Love added: "Fire hydrants provide an essential role in the maintenance of the water system as well as fire protection for local communities. Unauthorised use of fire hydrants can threaten the quality of water delivered to homes and businesses, interrupt supply and can lower pressure in the water lines required for firefighting purposes."

"We are continuing to work with stakeholders across Wicklow and are appealing to the public not to tamper or open fire

hydrants without permission and request the assistance of the public by

reporting details of any such incidents immediately to Irish Water, An

Garda Síochána, or Wicklow County Council."

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Helen Winterbotham, Maya Dowling, Ella Breen and Ciara Winterbotham at the Avondale Forest ParkRun.

Bray Choral Society rehearsals start again

Bray Choral Society is delighted to be back with live rehearsals again. If you are interested in singing please join them at their rehearsals any Tuesday night from 7:30pm in the Little Flower Hall beside the Holy Redeemer Church in Bray.

"We perform classical and contemporary works. Don't worry if you can't read music - audios are available and help is given. We have a very exciting programme this season! This starts with a free performance on Culture Night on 23rd September, then a fabulous Messiah and Carols night on 17th December. Then in 2023 there's the heavenly Eternal Light by Howard Goodall on 2nd April, and the fabulous Jubilate Deo by Dan Forrest on 28th May. So much to look forward to. Why not join us? Phone 086-8197698 for more information."

Music in Calary September concert

On Thursday 15th September, Dianne Marshall (harp), Mia Cooper and Lidia Jewloszewicz-Clarke (violins), Beth McNinch (viola) and Katie Tertell (cello) from Musici Ireland will play pieces by Jessie Montgomery, Siobhan Cleary, Arnold Bax, Rebecca Clarke, Valentin Silvestrov and Andre Caplet. The concert in Calary Church begins at 8 pm sharp. For more information or to book tickets, which are €18 and €15 for concessions, please ring John at (01) 2818146 or email derekneilson11@gmail.com.

The Old Dublin Society

Author and historian Liz Gillis will present her lecture 'The Battle of Dublin, June 28th to July 5th 1922'

to The Old Dublin Society at 6pm on Wednesday September 14th in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library & Archive, 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All are welcome - admission is free and non-book-ing required.

Glory Days - a tribute to Bruce Springsteen

Glory Days, an Irish tribute band to Bruce Springsteen is coming to Greystones for the first time to pay homage to The Boss. Bruce Springsteen is one of the few artists to not only survive the 'new Dylan' tag, but to transcend it. A poetic soul married to the charisma and showmanship of a band leader make Springsteen a uniquely talented performer who couldn't be anything but a superstar. They will be playing the hits and many favourite live songs on Saturday September 10th, Doors 8pm. Show 9pm. Tickets www.the-hotspot.ie/tickets or phone 087 291 7519

Bray Toastmasters

After nearly 42 years of meetings on Monday evenings, Bray Toastmasters Club is changing its meeting night! "From Tuesday 6th September 2022, we shall meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month. The time remains the same; gather at 8pm for meeting starting at 8.15pm. Our meetings are in Open Door Day Centre, Vevay road, Bray. Bray Toastmasters is a local public speaking club that gives members the opportunity to learn communication and leadership skills. All are welcome to come along to any Bray Toastmasters meeting to see what Toastmasters is about. For more information email braytoastmasters@gmail.com."

Mobile Library

A mobile comes to Laragh every second Thursday from 12.15 to 12.50pm and parks at the back of Lynhams Hotel. Phone on 087 9135229 or email library@wicklowcoco.ie. For people who have difficulty accessing their nearest public library, the Mobile Library Service gives them the opportunity to avail of a public library facility. The mobile library carries approximately 2,500 items with free access to many online resources including downloadable audio books, newspapers and more.

Housing Adaptation Grants

Applications are invited for the following schemes from the Wicklow County Council Housing Department. These schemes apply to private accommodation: Housing Adaptation Grant; Mobility Aids Grant Scheme; Housing Aid for Older People. There is limited availability for funding. Only fully completed applications received with the necessary supporting documentation will be considered. Applications can be obtained from Grant Section, Housing Department WCC, 0404 20100. See www.wicklow.ie or email grants@wicklowcoco.ie

Wicklow Mountains challenge in aid of bereaved siblings

Would you like to challenge yourself to climbing three mountains in one day surrounded by the sensational Wicklow landscape?

Jacinta's Smile are a Nationwide registered charity for children and young adults whom have lost a brother or sister. They provide unwavering grief support through carrying out subsidised therapy, fun adventure days and creating knowledge and awareness of the effects of sibling loss.

This year Jacinta's Smile have chosen the stunning Wicklow mountains to take on their annual Three Peak Challenge. The Great Sugar loaf, Turlough Hill and The Spink Glendalough will be roamed and crowned by a flurry of avid walkers and trekkers all looking to embody a sense of accomplishment whilst raising funds for children and young people whom are grieving the loss of a sibling.

Jacinta's Smile was set up by three sister after they

lost three siblings in both childhood and adulthood. This annual challenge represents their three siblings that have died and the mountains of grief they have faced each time. It speaks to the difficulties that are faced in grief as well as the sense that with support around you, with fresh air and by keeping moving the body that it is possible to feel a sense of accomplishment and healing and as always a sense of hope.

So if you would like to join Jacinta's Smile on their challenge please check out social media pages or contact info@jacintassmile.ie or by calling 0874220000/0906625898 or register in Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/3-peak-challenge-fundraising-event-in-aid-of-jacintas-smile-tickets-321240889147>

Calling all Environmental Champions

Follow in the footsteps of two previous Wicklow winners – Tinahely Community Area Projects Ltd and A Plus Service Centre

Repak has announced that the 2022 Pakman Awards will close for entries on Friday 23rd September. Now in its eighth year, Ireland's National Environmental Awards recognises excellence in recycling and waste management across organisations, businesses, community groups and individuals in Ireland.

Over the last eight years, the Pakman Awards has recognised individual environmental champions, rewarding sustainability leaders including two previous winners from Wicklow - including Tinahely Community Area Projects Ltd and A Plus Service Centre. In 2022, there will be 10 Pakman Award categories, including Community Recycling Initiative, Waste Prevention Award and Business Recycling Champion as well as the Overall Pakman Award.

In 2021, Tinahely Community

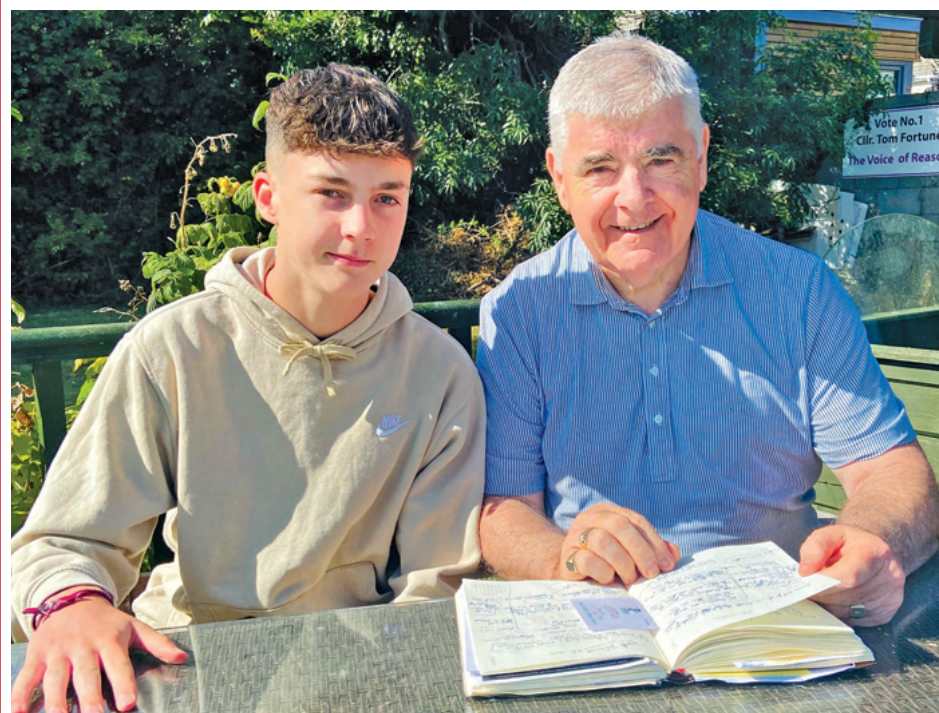
Area Projects Ltd won the Environmental Education and Awareness Initiative despite the difficulties they faced while navigating through a global pandemic. Tinahely Community Area Projects Ltd was recognised for implementing excellent waste management, and recycling practices and we are looking forward to highlighting the sustainability efforts of others at this year's awards.

Category entrants are invited to submit examples of their environmental efforts from the past year,

with details of all categories available on www.pakman.ie. The winners will be announced at this year's Pakman Awards, which will be held on the 28th October in The Marker Hotel, Dublin.

The Pakman Awards, recognised as one of the most prestigious accolades that an organisation, community group or individual can win in Ireland's environmental sector, is FREE to enter, and previous winners demonstrate that small organisations and individuals are just as likely to scoop an award as larger companies.

Entries to the 2022 Pakman Awards close on Friday, 23 September. More information about the Pakman Awards is available at Pakman Awards on Facebook, @PakmanAwards on Twitter and www.pakman.ie.



Jake Mitchell and Cllr Tom Fortune met recently to update progress on the Kilcoole Skate Park project. Jake has been focused on making this a reality for over two years. "We are delighted with the support from Minister Harris, Alan Cox principal of Temple Carrig and Stephen Flynn from The Happy Pear," said Tom and Jake. "Wicklow County Council has now applied for funding for the project. We are expecting to hear good news very soon." Cllr Fortune said he is delighted to help Jake, who he called "an amazing young man and a great example of what young people can achieve".

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'Long-term plan needed to protect Wicklow's rail line'

€230 million will be required to protect the rail line between Dublin and Rosslare for the next 50-100 years, according to Irish Rail. The East Coast Railway Infrastructure Protection Project (ECRIPP) will ultimately provide the critical maintenance works needed on Wicklow's rail line to prevent it from being washed into the sea.

Jacobs Engineering was recently awarded the contract to carry out the first phase of the project which involves detailed planning before the physical works begin, which will involve a combination of beach nourishment, breakwaters, onshore revetment and embankment strengthening.

On RTE Radio last Thursday, Barry Kenny, Communications Manager with Irish Rail, said the elements which make Co. Wicklow's rail line so scenic also bring challenges and are what make it vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

"The projects will focus on the 60km stretch from Merion Gates to Wicklow, focussing on the key sections of Merion to Dun Laoghaire, Dalkey to Killiney, Bray to Greystones, Greystones to Newcastle, and Newcastle to Wicklow, as well as the area around Rosslare," said Mr Kenny.

Mr Kenny said that there's been more storm and coastal erosion impacts on the line in the last 20 years than in the previous 100 years.

"Historically it's not something that's new to this railway, the area at Bray Head has seen the line diverted three times in the early part of its existence but it's the intensity and the increase in frequency of these issues that require a major programme of works rather than 'sticking plaster' measures. There's a need for a long-term plan."

Irish Rail has examined the feasibility of moving the entire line inland and creating new tunneling through Bray Head, but has been deterred by the financial and environmental costs involved.

When Irish Rail looked at the possibility of tunneling through Bray Head in 2018 the cost was estimated at three quarters of a billion euro.

Mr Kenny acknowledged however that the demand exists for an increased frequency in the service from Greystones and south and Greystones, and that the All Ireland Strategic Rail Review is currently examining the type of interventions needed to boost capacity for the longer term.

The ideal situation would be to increase the service to every 15-20 minutes both ways between Bray and Greystones, and increase the service further south also.

"We would love to be in a position to have a more frequent service on that line and the Dart+ Coastal works which we anticipate will be going out to public consultation later this year will present the available options," said Mr Kenny.

He said that Irish Rail want to increase the frequency of trains between Rosslare and Dulin, and

that part of the new Dart fleet may be used to do this in the short term by creating additional services south of Greystones to Greystones, where passengers can then transfer.

"There are a lot of demands and we have a lot of ambitions around the network, and it is a case of where we can get the most return in the shorter term that will determine where we put the priority for double tracking."

In December 2021 the Dart+ Programme was approved by Government, with Irish Rail saying that "Passenger capacity and service frequency will be vastly improved for people across the rail network in the Greater Dublin Area. When it comes to providing travel choices, DART+ will be a game changer and will contribute to a reduction in emissions in the region by providing a reliable alternative to the private car."



Theo De Jager in Wicklow Town Library celebrating its first birthday in the new premises. See more page 10

Expansion of Green Tech Skillnet's Wind Turbine Technician programme at Wicklow ESB Windfarm

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD, announced on Friday the expansion of Green Tech Skillnet's Wind Turbine Technician programme at ESB's Raheenleagh Wind Farm near Arklow.

Minister Harris said: "We have set ambitious climate targets for 2030 and ensuring right talent is vital in making those commitments a reality. Today we launch the Wind Turbine Technicians programme from Green Tech Skillnet and Skillnet Ireland will play a critical role to ensure industry identified skills and talent requirements are met.

"My department and I are delighted to support this programme through the National Training Fund to ensure we have qualified people ready to take up roles to tackle the climate crisis.

"With energy prices increasing, the need to move to domestically generated sustainable energy becoming is ever more apparent. Skillnet Ireland and Green Tech Skillnet are taking action to ensure there is the staff needed to ensure the Wind Sector can thrive into the future.

"The programme will provide a vital pipeline of workers with green energy skills needed to meet Ireland's 2030 targets for CO2 emissions reduction and renewable energy provision."

The Wind Technician programme has been developed by industry to ensure the future workforce needs are

met. The course is delivered in two stages, the first phase in-person technical training followed by an industry placement with companies such as ESB, Siemens and SSE.

The programme is aimed at people with electrical, mechanical or engineering backgrounds and once complete the trainee will be certified Wind Turbine Technicians.

Skillnet Ireland is a business support agency of the Government of Ireland, responsible for advancing the competitiveness, productivity, and innovation of Irish businesses through enterprise-led talent development.

Skillnet Ireland partners with 57 industry bodies, supporting over 22,500 businesses and 86,500 trainees annually, through its 72 Skillnet Business Networks across most sectors and all regions in Ireland.

Skillnet Ireland is funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

Further information about Green Tech Skillnet is available at: <https://windenergyireland.com/learn-hub/green-tech-skillnet>.

Local Mortgage and Pension advisors move to new premises

Prendergast Maguire

FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

Prendergast Maguire Financial Services Limited has recently moved to a new premises in Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow.

Founded in 2006 by Paul Prendergast and Brendan Maguire the company has expanded in recent years and a larger premises was required for staff and customers. They are now situated in a spacious building opposite their former offices on Main Street Newtownmountkennedy.

The Company continues to advise new and existing clients on Mortgages, Pensions, Investments, Life assurance and Protection needs

Speaking to Wicklow Times Paul Prendergast said "Having moved to Newtown in 2008 we have found the area easy for our clients to access us as we are very central in the County of Wicklow and also accessible to our Dublin and Wexford clients. Covid 19 has also meant that we have embraced online meetings and it has helped our business grow as we are always available to our clients and are flexible with meeting outside traditional business hours. At the moment we are extremely busy with clients who are switching their mortgage from Ulster Bank and KBC banks that are closing. Also with the uncertainty in global markets we have



Pictured Left to Right are Simon Scanlon, Paul Prendergast, Ciara Walsh, Brendan Maguire, Sean Cleary, Dylan Delaney.

many clients seeking the best deals on fixed rate mortgages. Equally we have clients that are coming up to retirement and are seeking a secure haven for their lump sums and savings. We pride ourselves on having an experienced and knowledgeable team that can quickly address any financial needs that clients have."

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Artwork of SS Great Eastern commissioned for Wicklow Pier

As a renowned Special Effects director, Gerry Johnston worked for almost 50 years at Ardmore Studios, with some of the biggest names in film, helping to bring stories to the screen. Gerry recently left Ardmore, but his passion for telling stories, via the screen and other ways, remains as strong as ever.

Originally from Dublin, Gerry has been living in Wicklow Town for the last 15 years and has become interested in highlighting local stories from the area, drawing on Wicklow Town's history.

Gerry's latest project saw him commission an artwork by local pier artist Pat Davis, depicting Captain Robert Halpin's famous ship The SS Great Eastern.

In a perfect alignment of timing, Pat put the finishing touches to his painting

last Tuesday, August 30th, which also happens to be his birthday and the same date that The SS Great Eastern made its maiden voyage under the command of Captain Halpin in 1859. Last Tuesday saw Gerry present a cheque for €500 to Pat, who was celebrating both his 66th birthday and his retirement from An Post after 39 years on the same day. Pat called the day 'Super Tuesday' as a result.

Pat is known in Wicklow for his pier paint-

ings as much as he's known for being 'Postman Pat'.

He started painting on Wicklow's pier in 1976, starting with a restoration of an earlier artwork of The Trifylia, a Greek vessel which crashed ashore north of Wicklow in 1915 having gone off course during a storm on its voyage from Scotland to France. Pat got permission from the Harbour Master at the time to restore the painting, and he hasn't stopped since. His painting

of the SS Great Eastern, completed last week, is his 54th pier painting. Pat says he is looking forward to having more time now to devote to his painting.

The story of Captain Halpin is familiar to many in Wicklow, the town where he was born and where his memorial monument stands in Fitzwilliam Square. In his Brunel-designed SS Great Eastern, he laid the first transatlantic cable in 1866 between Valentia Island off the coast of Co. Kerry and Newfoundland, Canada.

The SS Great Eastern, at the time it was built, was the world's largest ship at 692 feet, able to carry 4,000 passengers from England to Australia. It was an iron sail-powered paddle wheel and screw propelled steamship, built by John Scott Russell & Co. at Millwall Iron Works in London.

Gerry says he may try to highlight the story of Robert Halpin and the SS Great Eastern further in the form of a documentary, film or TV series at some point in the future.

Currently Gerry is involved in a number of projects, with many more in the pipeline. Gerry tells *Wicklow Times* that he fell into the movie business in



Gerry Johnston (right) presenting a cheque for €500 to Wicklow Pier artist Pat Davis, for a commissioned artwork of the SS Great Eastern



Pier artist Pat David puts the finishing touches to his painting of the SS Great Eastern last Tuesday, 30th August, his birthday and also the date of the famous ship's maiden voyage in 1859.

the mid 60s and had no idea at the time that it would become his life's work.

The first film he worked on was the 1966 British war film *The Blue Max*, which starred James Mason. Word got to Gerry that the production in Ardmore needed some more trainees and Gerry, who had an engineering background and hadn't thought about working in films before, decided to put himself forward. There wasn't even any course at the time in Ireland for Special Effects in film.

Since then, he's worked with some of the biggest names as a Special Effects Supervisor and Coordinator, including Stanley Kubrick (*Barry Lyndon*, 1975), Sergio Leone (*Duck, You Sucker*, 1971), Robert Altman (*Images*, 1972), John Huston (*The MacKintosh Man*, 1973), Steven Spielberg (*Saving Private Ryan*, 1998), J. Lee Thompson (*The Greek Tycoon*, 1978), Neil Jordan (*Angel*, 1982), Michael Collins, 1996; *The Butcher Boy*, 1997), Jim Sheridan (*My Left Foot*, 1989; *The*

Field, 1990; *In the Name of the Father*, 1993), and John Boorman (*Zardoz*, 1974; *Excalibur*, 1981).

Most recently his work can be seen in *Hole in the Head*, the debut narrative feature film from Greystones filmmaker Dean Kavanagh.

Some of the other ninety-plus films Gerry has worked on over the years include *Ryan's Daughter* (1970), *Exorcist II: The Heretic* (1977), *The Great Train Robbery* (1978), *The Big Red One* (1980), *Educating Rita* (1983); *Braveheart* (1995); *Space*

Truckers (1996); *Dancing at Lughnasa* (1998).

He has also entered the world of directing and producing. He directed the 2017 documentary *Spitfire Paddy: The Ace with the Shamrock*, which tells the story of Brendan Finucane, the youngest Wing Commander ever in the RAF. In 2012 he made the documentary *Fighting for Peace* about the 26 Irishmen who were killed in The Congo between 1960 and 1964, and in 2021 he made a feature sci-fi film called *The Forest Never Sleeps*.

Blessington pop-up pool opens this week

The eagerly awaited pop-up pool in Blessington opens to the public this week on Monday 5th September at St. Kevin's Hall.

The pool is an initiative of Swim Ireland and is the first of its kind in Ireland, bringing swimming to communities across the island.

The first Pop-Up Pool landed at Donabate Portrane Community

Centre in May. The 12m by 3.4m steel structure holds 45,000 litres of water which is heated to a toasty 30 degrees and the pool is sheltered from the elements in a hard sided and heated marquee. The pool will

remain in Blessington for a few months before going on to another destination on its journey around Ireland.

There are changing rooms onsite, a ramp and a hoist; this accessible pool of water is the ideal

place to learn to swim, hone your skills or just remember how great it feels to block out the world and dip your head in the water.

At least 10 local schools will be holding swimming lessons in the pool.

Swim Ireland CEO Sarah Keane said "We are delighted to get the Pop-Up Pool up and running, this project is something we have been working on for quite some time and to see it come to fruition is really exciting."

"At Swim Ireland our vision is for 'An Island of Swimmers' and we hope that by bringing the Pop-Up Pool to the people, that we can teach thousands to swim and give them the experience and opportunity to see swimming as a skill and something they can participate in across all life stages."

"We also see the pop-up pool as a first step in supporting the development of the National Swimming Strategy, a major part of which will focus on swimming infrastructure indoors and outdoors."

Welcoming the pool, John Brady TD said "The area of West Wicklow, like many areas of the

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

"The pop-up pool is a tribute to the hard work and commitment of the Community Pool for West Wicklow Committee and the local community who supported the campaign."

Minister Stephen Donnelly said "Huge work has gone into the push to get a permanent pool for the town and getting the pop-up pool in place will help show there is huge need and support for such an amenity. People will need to book to use the pool through Swim Ireland so they will know exactly how many are using it while it is open and this in turn will help in the push for funding," Minister Donnelly concluded.



Claire Adams and Karen Reynolds at the Newcastle Parish's Medieval Fayre on the grounds on St. Francis National School, Church Lane, Newcastle.

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Major upgrade to sewer network in Bray

A major project to upgrade and improve the sewer network at Old Connaught, Bray, will support future development and economic growth and will significantly improve the capacity and operational performance of the existing sewers, benefitting local businesses and residents, Irish Water says.



The project, which is due to begin this week, will involve the construction of over 400 meters of new gravity sewerage pipes on Ravenswell Road and Harbour Road Access.

Commenting on the project, Padraig Hanly, Regional Delivery Lead at Irish Water said, "Working with our colleagues in Wicklow County Council, we are delighted to announce the progression of this vital project for Bray. A sewer network that is fit for purpose is essential to support business and social development in the community. These works will support existing and future residential and commercial development while also improving the overall performance of the sewer network and will safeguard the local environment by reducing the risk of sewer flooding."

Padraig added "We understand that the works may cause some inconvenience to commuters and our crews will make every effort to minimise any disruption and complete the project as quickly as possible. On behalf of Irish Water, I would like and thank the people of Bray in advance for their support and co-operation."

In order for the project to be completed safely and in a timely manner, Ravenswell Road footpath along the River Dargle will close on the commencement of works for approximately one month. Diversion routes for pedestrians will be in place and will also be communicated locally.

Where works are underway on the public road, traffic management will be in place in the form of a stop/go traffic light system, however, emergency traffic and access for local residents will be maintained at all times.

The first phase of the works will involve the construction of 200 meters of sewerage pipes along Ravenswell Road and is set to be completed in November 2022. The remainder of the works will be delivered in early 2023 following the completion of third party development works planned for the Harbour Road Access over the coming months. The project is being delivered by David Walsh Civil Engineering on behalf of Irish Water.

Irish Water says "Our customer care helpline is open 24/7 on 1800 278 278 and customers can also contact us on Twitter @IWCare with any queries. For general updates, visit www.water.ie/water-supply/supply-and-service-update/."



Padraig Hanly, Regional Delivery Lead at Irish Water

Anxiety increasing over fuel costs as winter approaches

According to Martina Cronin, Development Manager with Citizens Information Services in Co. Wicklow, "queries in relation to imminent fuel poverty concerns are now being responded to by our staff who can advise our clients of State supports to alleviate such costs".

As people are now facing into the winter months with the much expected higher energy expenses, information about the supports that are available can be obtained in your local Citizens Information

Centre (CIC).

"For anyone needing impartial, confidential, non-judgemental and informed advice and support, the Citizens Information Service (CIS) is here to assist you to

apply for Fuel Allowance which is a payment to help with the cost of heating your home during the winter months," says Martina.

"Qualifying conditions have changed for the fuel

allowance this year for certain groups. Are you one of the people who may benefit?" she asks. "We can provide you with up-to-date information on this scheme and assist you with filling in the form if needed."

Applications are now being accepted and it is advised to apply for this payment as soon as possi-

ble to get your full entitlement. The rate of payment is €33 per week or it can be paid to you in 2 lump sums. The Fuel Allowance is paid from the end of September to April each year for 28 weeks. You do not need

to reapply for the Fuel Allowance each year as long as your circumstances remain the same and you continue to get the same social welfare payment.

Michelle O'Hara, National Spokesperson for MABS says that "This is a perfect time to review your household budget, MABS Money Advisers are here to help you if you need it."

MABS, the State funded Money Advice & Budgeting Service offers

a free and confidential service for those seeking guidance and support with money management and debt.

Martina says that the Citizens Information Service is here for anyone needing their help. She highlights how this service is 'free and confidential' and that they are available for drop-ins, appointments or by telephone. "I am pleased to say that we can speak to all of our clients without much delay".

The CIS website, www.citizensinformation.ie, is packed full of helpful information. Martina concludes "To find out our opening hours or if you would like us to address a specific query or to book an appointment with a member of our team please contact your local Citizens Information Centre in Bray CIC on 0818 07 6780 or Arklow CIC on 0818 07 6750. We are available from Monday to Friday."



Ruairi, Darragh and Eanna Flanery at the Avondale Forest ParkRun



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Are you elderly at home and physically unable to get to a polling station to Vote?

If you are physically unable to get to the polling station due to mobility of physical illness issues then you can contact the Franchise Department on 0404 20161 and we can post an application form out to you that will allow you to vote from the comfort of your home or you can download it from www.checktheregister.ie.





Juggler Ben Harris at the Medieval themed Fayre in Newcastle, on the grounds of St. Francis' National School.

Plans for Kilcoole nursing home

A planning application has been lodged with Wicklow County Council for a three-storey nursing home in Kilcoole.

The nursing home would be located on lands to the north of Darraghville House/Holy Faith Saint Patrick's Convent, and to the south and west of the Convent Lodge on Kilcoole Main Street.

The total floor area would be c. 5,784.6sqm, and it would comprise 109 ensuite bedrooms, as well as ancillary facilities including shared dining and day rooms, café, visitor and activity area, treatment room, staff area, support areas, kitchen, laundry rooms, and over 40 car parking spaces.

A Nutura Impact Statement has been prepared in respect of the proposed development. The Council is due to make a decision on the application by 18th October.

Objections lodged against tower at Kilcoole's Holy Faith Convent

Objections have been lodged against a development in Kilcoole which would see a 35-metre telecommunications tower erected beside a protected structure on lands associated with the Holy Faith Convent, the former Luisne Centre for Wellbeing.

The planning application has been submitted to Wicklow County Council by Cignal Infrastructure Ltd. The completed structure is to resemble a replica pine tree.

The planning application comes after Cignal's plans for a telecommunications installation at an adjacent site at Finn Park, used by St. Anthony's Football Club, were refused by the Council last October.

Cignal say that the new site is a suitable compromise to meet the infrastructural requirements of network operators. They say that the revised design addresses the reasons for the previous refusal.

One of the objectors to the development is local Independent Councillor Tom Fortune who says the proposal is "wholly inappropriate".

In his submission objecting to the development, Cllr Fortune complains of the inadequacy of the site notices and a lack of public consultation. He also believes it poses a "serious health and safety issue".

"It is not suitable for a residential area," he said. "Kilcoole has a population of 4,500 people. There is an existing national school on the footprint of this land with 600 children. In addition there is a planning application also on the foot print of this land to build St Catherine's Special Needs School to facilitate 190 young people. We also

have a secondary school in the village (830 students). There is also an application to build a nursing home on this land with 109 rooms. There are also strategic plans for this land that would add value to the community of Kilcoole and provide much needed community gain. So there is no logic, rationale or reason for this development."

In his submission, Cllr Fortune argues that the potential environmental impact of the proposed development should make it adhere to the Aarhus Convention Directives.

"The Aarhus Convention and associated directives require that people have access to a review procedure to challenge the substantive and procedural legality of decisions, acts or emissions relating to the environment," he says. "The Aarhus Convention establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment."

"This proposal is a serious environmental matter. 39 countries have ratified this convention. UK ratified it in 2005. Ireland ratified it in 2012 and it came into force in September 2012. Research has linked mast radiation with Alzheimers, Brain Cancers of various types, depression. The research that claims that there is no issue uses language such as 'It is unlikely'. This kind of flimsy language can not be relied on. The convention



Cllr Tom Fortune

was created to empower the role of citizens and civil society organisations in environmental matters and is founded on the principals of participative democracy.

"We would expect that Wicklow County Council would protect us under this convention. It is not reasonable to ask the people of Kilcoole to accept this proposal and I am asking Wicklow County Council to refuse this planning permission."

The application cover letter states that "The subject application for a multi-user antenna sup-

port structure has been designed to improve the coverage and capacity of wireless broadband communications services for this area but also to meet future services delivery as customer requirements of the network increase. The proposed development has been designed to meet the aims and objectives of national, regional and local planning policy.

"The subject site has been designed as a multi-user site required by eir Mobile, who need to expand their services the Kilcoole North area. The proposed site will improve 2G voice, 3G and high speed 4G broadband services including future 5G in Kilcoole and its surrounding environs. The main coverage objective for this site is to provide a significant improvement in indoor coverage to the area of Kilcoole (north), and the townlands of Knockroe and Priestsnewtown.

"The applicant has identified this local area and its immediate environs as an area currently experiencing deficiencies in mobile coverage in terms of wireless telecoms infrastructure services for the Mobile Network Operators. In addition, supplementary infrastructure capacity is also required for mobile phone and Broadband."

The deadline for submissions is 7th September and the Council is due to make its decision by 28th September.

Crews battle fires in Newtown and Charlesland

The weekend of 26th-28th August saw a wildfire break out on the outskirts of Newtownmountkenney (Seasons Park), which spread quickly and was dealt with by a fire crew from Greystones. The fire had to be put out several times over the course of three days as it repeatedly rekindled.

The fire crew attended the fire for the first time in the late afternoon on Friday 26th August. They then had to return to the scene twice on Saturday, at approximately 3pm and 7pm, as the fire had been reignited. They then had to return again in the afternoon on Sunday 28th August, as the fire had rekindled yet again.



The fire in Newtown. Photo by Wicklow Fire Service

It's believed that the initial fire may have been started from negligence or maliciously, and that the subsequent fires were due to the warm and dry weather.

On 21st August the Bray fire crew dealt with an outdoor fire in Charlesland while the Greystones crew tackled a fire in Blacklion.



The aftermath of the fire in Charlesland. Photo by Wicklow Fire Service

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Martin Hayes and Naoise Farrell at Newcastle Parish's Medieval themed Fayre on the grounds of St. Francis' National School, Church Lane, Newcastle.

Wicklow nominates three innovative projects for Pride of Place Awards

Three projects have been nominated by the Community, Cultural and Social Development Directorate of Wicklow County Council for the "Pride of Place 2022" awards.

In the "Community Wellbeing" category the Council has nominated An Tochar GAA and Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership for their collaborative "Irish Sign Language Project."

In the "Community Resilience" category the Wicklow and Arklow Ukrainian Hubs have been nominated.

An Garda Siochana's "Chatting Benches" project has been nominated in the "Creative Place" category.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, offered his congratulations to the three nominated projects and wished them well in the 2022 competition.

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, added his congratulations and expressed the hope that Wicklow's recent successes in the "Pride of Place" competition will continue in 2022.

He thanked IPBMI and Co-operation Ireland for their ongoing support for the annual "Pride of Place" competition.

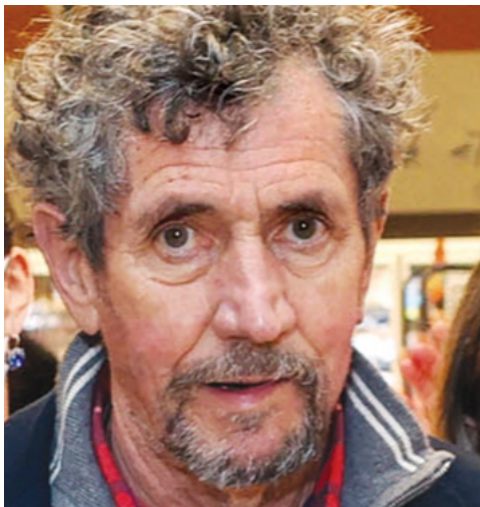
The judging for these projects will take place on 6th and 7th September and the winners will be announced at an awards ceremony later this year.

The competition is run by Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Company (IPBMI), in association with Co-operation Ireland.



An Garda Siochana's Chatting Benches project has been nominated in the Creative Place category. Pictured is the Arklow chatting bench.

Date set for ceremony to give Charlie Bird the Freedom of Wicklow



Charlie Bird

Monday 26th September has been confirmed as the date that Wicklow County Council will confer the Freedom of County Wicklow to Charlie Bird.

The ceremony will take place in the Council Chamber at County Buildings. Councillors voted unanimously at the July meeting of Wicklow County Council to give the renowned broadcaster and journalist the Freedom of the County after the proposal was put forward by Labour Party councillor Paul O'Brien.

The award is the highest honour that the Council can bestow, and has been given to only two Wicklow residents before - academy award winning actor Daniel Day-Lewis and Katie Taylor.

Charlie Bird is now retired and lives in Ashford. In 2021 he opened up about his diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease, and has since been raising awareness and organising fundraising events. The

Climb For Charlie fundraiser in May raised over €3 million for the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association and Pieta.

In putting forward the proposal, Cllr O'Brien said "Growing up, we were all familiar with Charlie on TV, working for RTE and reporting on some of the most traumatic events in history. At one point he was viciously assaulted for bringing us the news, during the Love Ulster riot in Dublin in 2006. He witnessed the Troubles and the twists and turns of the Peace Process and brought us important news. He was there to report on the death of Senator Ted Kennedy. He presented a series, a collection of documentary programmes, visiting the Amazon, the Ganges and the Arctic, educating us

even further.

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

"I know Charlie is a humble man and does not see himself as inspirational, but he is. I know we don't always see eye to eye at times in the chamber here but today we have an opportunity to speak and to act as one to award Charlie Bird the freedom of County Wicklow. It's what he deserves."



Cllr Paul O'Brien

Vice Chair and Secretary of Ballinaclash Community Association resign

Rita Sexton and Stephen Kearon, Vice Chair and Secretary of Ballinaclash Community Association, last week announced their resignations from the association.

In a joint statement, they said: "It is a matter of profound personal regret that we have resigned as Vice Chair and Secretary of Ballinaclash Community Association.

"The purpose of any community association is to engage as many people in the community as is possible in common or shared goals for the betterment of the community. The officers of a community association, in whom the members repose trust, are intended to work together in a collegiate manner.

"As far as we are concerned the Governance of the Ballinaclash Community Association does not adhere to these principles or function as it should, these concerns only came to light following the Department of Rural and Community Development press release in February 2022 concerning the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021 applications. Brian Gleeson, CEO of Wicklow County Council, and Heather Humphries TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development have been informed of the resignations."



Ballinaclash Community Hall



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Harris visits Arklow Youthreach

Minister for Further Education Simon Harris TD visited Arklow Youthreach last Friday to meet learners and staff and to see first-hand the impact of the Youthreach programme.

Minister Harris said: "As Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation, and Science, I have had the opportunity to visit Youthreach providers from around the country and I am always impressed by the dedication and commitment that staff and advocates provide to their learners.

"Youthreach provides a caring and supported environment in which young people have the opportunity to gain qualifications, develop their social and personal skills and progress positively into further education and training or employment."

In Arklow Youthreach learners are provided with the opportunity to pursue a QQI Major Award in General Learning at Levels 3 & 4. They are also provided with numerous opportunities and high levels of support and guidance to develop their personal, social and vocational skills during their time on the programme so that they are constantly working towards a positive progression path on to further education, training or employment.

Minister Harris continued: "I believe Youthreach represents the best that FET has to offer. Meeting the learners today perfectly demonstrates that there is no one path to learning and training.

"Educational achievement does not have to begin and end with your Leaving Certificate results. The skills and training that you receive Youthreach can provide you with your individual pathway that can provide you with an opportunity to progress within FET, progress to higher education, or indeed bring you to employment in a sector that you care about. There are many possibilities that are available to each and everyone."



Yazan Alaakla Alaalyan, Kathleen Balfe, Jhemima Van Eck and Arklow Youthreach Co-Ordinator Sharon Hughes pictured with Minister Simon Harris on his visit to Arklow Youthreach last Friday.

Walk 5k While You Can in your community for MND

When the remarkable Fr. Tony Coote did his extraordinary walk four years ago?from Donegal to Cork – some 550 kilometres – he raised €600,000 for Motor Neurone Disease.

From these miraculous funds, IMNDA were able to hire a much needed fourth outreach nurse to care and support people living with Motor Neurone Disease in Ireland. This has been invaluable, allowing

IMNDA's nursing team to reach more people in the community more often.

The outreach nursing service provided by the IMNDA helps over 400 people and families spread across 26 counties. This is the only service of

its kind in the country and it is funded entirely from public donations.

"So we are calling on you and your loved ones to get walking together once more and continue what Tony started!" said IMNDA.

"Walk 5K While You Can in your community this September. You can register your event online by simply visiting www.imnda.ie.

"Please help us honour Fr. Tony's incredible achievement and in turn help hundreds of people nationwide who are affected by this cruel and debilitating disease."

Claire Byrne, Broadcaster with RTE and this year's Walk While You Can Ambassador will be joining in and asking you to get involved. Her personal friendship with Fr. Tony means she is continuing his fight.

"I will be walking on September 10th September to remember Fr Tony Coote. Will you join me and walk in your community Walk while you can, where you can! Your support means vital funds will be raised to provide people who have MND with the crucial support and care that they and their families need

and deserve. I'll be doing my bit and walking on September 10th. Together we can make a difference!"

There are currently over 400 people living with MND in Ireland. MND is often referred to as the 1,000-day disease as most people die within 1,000 days of first symptoms. 1 person dies every 3 days from MND.

Lillian McGovern, CEO of IMNDA says "The funds raised from While You Can by all the incredible people involved, helps us to sustain our nursing service and grow our outreach care further. It's so important to keep people in their own homes. They need the care and support of their close family and friends, and they need to remain active in their community.

"Our outreach nursing service, along with our other key supports, enables us to do this. And that's why we desperately need you to join us this September in your communities, so we can raise the crucial funds needed to continue caring and supporting our MND community."

All the information you need can be found on www.imnda.ie



Claire Byrne

Harris meets with Arklow Main Street traders to discuss challenges

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD met with Arklow Main Street Traders on Friday to discuss their ambitions for the future and challenges they face.

Minister Harris said: "Today's meeting is an opportunity to meet with small business owners in Arklow to hear their challenges and listen to their ambitions for the future".

Minister Harris met with the business group at Unique Cafe & Patisserie on Main Street.

Minister Harris continued: "Unique Café is an example of the great potential Arklow holds. Local businesses have faced considerable disruption firstly with covid, and then the impact of the roadworks and street enhancements during 2022.

"I am glad to see that these works are nearing completion and with the refurbished Parade Ground to be unveiled later this year, Arklow Main Street's shopping

experience will be transformed. It is important that the local authority work in partnership with traders and business groups and I welcome the more intensive engagement by the council with local business owners in recent months."

Peter Murray, proprietor of Unique Cafe & Patisserie said: "We are now beginning, albeit slowly to see our footpaths and streets again. However there are still outstanding issues as regards traffic management and the provision of adequate parking. Only two standout representatives showed a working interest in getting any help or support for us. Minister Simon Harris has been unwavering in his support for the Traders and understanding of our dilemma. He has now followed up on that by meeting us today in Arklow".

Minister Harris said: "I want to thank the traders for their time today and I will continue to work on their behalf to ensure Arklow's regeneration is a success."



Minister Harris meeting with Arklow traders

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Wicklow Library celebrates first birthday in new premises



Abbie Spalding celebrating the first anniversary of Wicklow Town Library's new premises

Nearly 90,000 visits have been made to the new Wicklow Town Library in its first year of operation.

One year after opening its doors, patrons and staff gathered for first birthday celebrations last Wednesday.

Patrons were treated to refreshments while the Wicklow Ukulele Players provided the entertainment, playing a host of well-known songs. Blue sky and sea views added the perfect backdrop to a wonderful morning in Wicklow Town.

Almost 90,000 visits to the library have taken place since opening last year.

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Brian Gleeson, said: "We're excited about what the future holds in Wicklow Town Library; from welcoming new patrons and visitors to highlighting and expanding on what the building already offers."

The 1,234 square metre building is spread out over six floors providing modern library facilities, including a children's library and a general reading area, adult borrowing area, study area and public access to technology and teenage library in addition to an exhibition space. There is also a dedicated community room which local groups can use for meetings and other activities.

It is also home to Wicklow County Council Archives and to the County Local Studies library.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, commented: "The new library is a vital building in the heart of Wicklow Town and has been embraced locally with over 3,000 current members who enjoy free access to books, Wi-Fi and the internet and an environment to explore and learn".

The library is part of the "My open library" (MOL) initiative which allows users access to the building from 8am until 10pm 365 days a year.

This same service is also available in Arklow Library. For more information on MOL, ask library staff at either location.



Siobhan Jameson, Loretta Rose, Mark Sayers and Margaret Birchall celebrating the first anniversary of Wicklow Library's new premises

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The new Junior Infants who started school at Scoil Chaoimhín Naofa in Laragh last week.

Harris demands Dept establish second level school for Newtown

Minister Simon Harris TD has demanded that the Department of Education begin the process to establish a secondary school for Newtownmountkennedy.

Minister Harris said: "The need for a dedicated secondary school for Newtownmountkennedy has again been highlighted by the decision by An Bord Pleanála this week to grant permission for an additional 179 homes in Newtownmountkennedy.

"I have raised this directly with the Minister for Education. A site for a secondary school in Newtownmountkennedy was designated by the local authority over a decade ago. Previously Department of Education officials claimed that the expansion of Colaiste Croabh Abhainn in Kilcoole is sufficient to meet demand. I disagree with this and I have no doubt census 2022 will show the rapidly developing need for a secondary school for Newtown.

"I have sought a meeting with the CEO of Wicklow County Council regarding the renewed development pressures in Newtownmountkennedy and I am campaigning to ensure the establishment process for a Post Primary School for Newtown commences as speedily as possible.



Minister Simon Harris

€40m to make colleges greener and more accessible

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris has announced an additional €40m for higher education institutions for the upcoming academic year.

The funding must be used for key capital investment priorities including:

- Investments to support universal access;
- Energy efficiency and decarbonisation upgrades;
- General ICT and equipment-related upgrades;
- Health and safety works, and other building upgrades;
- Minor works and equipment.

Grant funding for the coming academic year is being extended to the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) and the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies (DIAS) for the first time.

Minister Harris said: "I'm delighted to announce a significant devolved capital grant for the higher education sector to support a range of capital priorities. Our

third level sector faces significant challenges in responding to climate objectives and this fund will assist with making energy upgrades.

"It will also ensure our campuses are inclusive and accessible. The funding can be used to make the necessary upgrades to make campuses accessible for people with disabilities, and it can also be used to help students access laptops or other ICT requirements.

"The funding forms part of ongoing investment in the higher education sector under Project Ireland 2040 and reaffirms a strong commitment to public investment in higher education infrastructure."

Previous allocations under the Devolved Capital Grant have delivered tangible benefits for students and staff and complements other Project Ireland 2040 capital investments in the higher education sector.

Funding will be provided through the Higher Education Authority (HEA) for all Technological Universities, Institutes of Technology and smaller colleges with the exception of RIAM and DIAS who will be funded directly by DFHERIS.

'Childcare costs to be halved by 2024'

Deputy Steven Matthews, Green Party TD for Wicklow, has said that the Government will provide relief to working parents across Wicklow and halve childcare costs over the next two years as well as increasing Core Funding for the sector.

"Ensuring access to high-quality and affordable childcare is one of the most important priorities for the Green Party in Budget 2023," said Deputy Matthews.

"We recognise the pressure that parents are under as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, and we are working to reduce childcare fees. My Green Party colleague, Minister Roderic O'Gorman, introduced a fee freeze earlier this year and has committed to halving childcare costs by 2024.

"Our vision is to create the best system of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) in Europe. We believe in a model where families can access childcare at a low cost in their local communities and where children can develop and thrive in a positive and nurturing environment. As well as decreasing the costs of childcare, the Green Party plans to increase the number of childcare places available and improve levels of pay and conditions for those working in the sector. We have already achieved progress on many of these objectives. As well as securing a national fee freeze for parents, we have introduced a Core Funding agreement worth €221 million which will increase State payments to 99% of childcare providers. In 2021, Minister O'Gorman established a Joint Labour Committee to examine the pay and conditions of childcare workers, and this will soon conclude with an Employee Wage Order that will see wages rise across the sector.

"We are also introducing state subsidies and regulations for the first time for childminders and establishing a dedicated agency for the delivery of ELC and school-aged childcare. This will contribute to higher standards of learning and care for children. Finally, there will be an independent review of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) which will assess whether the programme is meeting its core objectives and inform work to introduce a universal legal entitlement to pre-school."

Students encouraged to get thinking caps on for BTYSE 2023

With the project deadline for the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2023 fast approaching, students from across Wicklow are encouraged to get their thinking caps on and turn creative ideas into project entries by the 26 September 2022.

The event, which has shone a spotlight on STEM research and innovation for almost 60 years, returns as an in-person event for the first time in three years. The 2021 and 2022 exhibitions were held virtually due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Students can enter across any one of four categories, whether their interests lie in technology; social and behavioural science; biological and ecological science; or chemical, physical and mathematical science.

An individual or group must submit a simple, one-page proposal outlining their bright idea. It's as

easy as that!

For over half a century, BTYSTE has provided incredible opportunities for young people who take part, with many going on to have successful careers in STEM. BTYSTE alumni have become global trailblazers, showing the exhibition as an effective launchpad for the brightest young minds on this island. Past participants have become successful scientists, academics, researchers and high-tech entrepreneurs, making a positive impact in their own way around the world.

The 2022 exhibition winners Aditya Joshi and

Aditya Kumar from Synge Street CBS, Dublin said, "We found the whole BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition experience really fun and exciting, and we think every student should enter a project in an area of science that they find intriguing."

"When entering the BTYSTE, we never could have imagined that we would go on to win. The entire experience was brilliant, from developing our project idea and finding a way to solve a centuries old mathematical equation to taking part in the exhibition week and getting to present our pro-



Darcy MacGillivray (aged 14), Lily Taaffe (aged 11) and Sally Gleeson (aged 15), pictured with BT Ireland Managing Director, Shay Walsh, finding inspiration for their project ideas ahead of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2023 project deadline on 26 September

ject to the judges.

They added, "The BTYSTE has opened up so many doors for us that we never could have imagined possible. Following

from our BTYSTE win, we are getting ready to represent Ireland at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists Leiden this September. We

can't wait to see what else the future will have in store."

In January, thousands of visitors are set to walk through the doors of the

RDS where the brightest minds from across the island of Ireland will be showcasing their brilliant projects. Spectacular STEM acts will also provide entertainment and interactive installations will allow you to immerse yourself in the world of STEM - get your entries in before the deadline to be a part of this!

Participating students will be in the running to win over 200 prizes across all four categories and age groups. The overall winner(s) will take home the top prize of €7,500 and go on to represent Ireland at the prestigious European Union Contest for Young Scientists, where Ireland has a strong history of taking home the prize for first place, with 16 wins over the past 32 years.

Speaking ahead of the BTYSTE 2023 September deadline, BT Ireland Managing Director, Shay Walsh said, "We are delighted to see the return of the BTYSTE 2023 to an in-person exhibition this coming January and to witness the energy and the buzz in the exhibition hall before our eyes."

"The BTYSTE is for all students to explore the thrill of STEM subjects, and I would encourage all students to get their entries in as soon as possible, to ensure they don't miss out on the excitement of the 2023 in-person exhibition."

Entries must be from second-level students aged between 12 and 19 years. For more information on the BTYSTE 2023, please visit www.btyoungscientist.com.

Funding for South East Technological University for its work with Tiglin

Ireland's Higher Education Authority (HEA) and Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris, T.D., has announced the award of €833,333 in funding to South East Technological University (SETU) for the provision of higher education courses for service users at Tiglin and other addiction treatment centres in the region.

Tiglin opened its doors in 2008 with its first residential rehabilitation centre for men in Wicklow, followed by additional centres including the women's centre at Brittas Bay in subsequent years, to provide rehabilitation programmes for people affected by drug and alcohol addiction and homelessness to support them in creating a life beyond addiction.

Its services take a holistic approach that not only address addiction issues but aim to equip people to return to life in society with confidence. This includes facilitating educational and training opportunities to service users.

SETU, through its Faculty of Lifelong Learning, began collabora-

rating with Tiglin in 2016 to deliver supportive and engaging educational programmes to advance access to higher education and to better support reintegration into society with appropriate skills.

This award of HEA funding will enable SETU and Tiglin to co-create a suite of micro-credentials and build courses specific to the needs of those on the Tiglin recovery programme, embedding those awards within the programme itself to create conditions for connectedness with the community that are vital for long-term success.

Professor Veronica Campbell, President of SETU, said the award

would "scaffold the development of new initiatives to provide higher education and employment pathways for service users at Tiglin and other rehabilitation centres in the South East and complements a broader suite of initiatives in SETU around inclusive higher education for all".

Addiction is one of the greatest societal challenges facing Ireland today with the most recent national survey data from 2019-2020 showing the prevalence of alcohol use disorder in the general adult population was 14.8%. A key part of that is to empower those in recovery with the confidence and resilience to face the challenges of progressing through higher education and beyond.



Simon Harris, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science of Ireland with Aubrey McCarthy, Chairperson Tiglin

tion and beyond. This in turn strengthens an individual's role in society as they gain core transferable skills as lifelong learners.

Dr Joseph Collins, Head of Faculty of Lifelong Learning at SETU's Carlow Campus, com-

mented, "At SETU we have always believed in reaching beyond our walls and connecting with communities in ways that are novel, challenging and impactful.

By being proactive and working with Tiglin, we created the oppor-

tunity for learners to enter higher education for the first time and in delivering on site at Tiglin, we have opened up a world of possibilities and a brighter future of those participating in the Tiglin addiction recovery programme."

Loreto Bray congratulates students as they excel in Leaving Cert results

Loreto Secondary School, Bray has lived up to its reputation of being a school of academic excellence yet again.

"Not only did some of our students achieve over 600 points we had eleven students who secured H1 in Higher level music," Loreto stated.

"Our students also excelled in the sciences, arts and humanities, LCVP and business. We are extremely proud of all our girls who will continue their education journey be it at third level or in the world of work.

"Congratulations to our class of 2022, we are so proud of you and we are confident in the knowledge that not only have you excelled academically but you also have a strength of character and a resilience that is firm in our Loreto tradition of educating young women. In the words of our foundress 'Women in time to come will do great things'. Class of 2022 your time has come."



Minister Simon Harris meeting with Loreto's students in January

Half price public transport for students

Half price travel on public transport for people between the ages of 19 and 23 will see potential savings of up to €3,000 over the course of a year. The reductions, which came into effect in May, will benefit students who returned to education last week.

An overall additional 20% fare reduction on all public transport announced as part of the government's cost of living supports will make transport fares 60% cheaper for students and young adults under 24.

Green Party Spokesperson for Education, Senator Pauline O'Reilly, said, "Increased costs for students have really been mounting and I strongly encourage those going back to education this week to take advantage of the reduced fares that came into effect earlier this year.

"The Green Party fought hard to secure these transport cost reductions as part of our response to the rising cost of living, so that everyone could benefit from reduced public transport costs and to support the country's recovery post-Covid."

Green Party Spokesperson for Transport, Brian Leddin TD, said "The fare reductions available for young people are substantial. The Green Party want to make it easier and cheaper for people to use public transport and develop the habit of a lifetime. By using public transport we can reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and make our town and cities less congested, less polluted, more safe, more walkable, and more liveable."

The low fares on public transport came into effect in May 2022 and apply to all subsidised public transport journeys on Dublin Bus, Iarnród Éireann, Bus Éireann, Luas, Go-Ahead Ireland and Local Link.

All young adults aged 19 to 23 are eligible for the half-price fares and eligibility continues up to the day before their 24th birthday. For holders of a current Student Leap Card, no action is required. They simply pay for their journey by Leap, and the reduced fare is deducted from their card in the normal way. However, non-student young adults looking to avail of the lower fares will need to apply for a Young Adult Leap Card for use when travelling.

Bord na Móna's 'Pathways to the Future' programme announced

Bord na Móna 'Pathways to the Future' programme has been announced by Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD. The programme is comprised of three pathways: a Scholarship Pathway, a Graduate Pathway, and an Apprenticeship Pathway.

These pathways offer different choices, educational support and career development opportunities to a broad range of people. All pathways provide opportunities to work on the front line of climate action and sustainable economic development. (see www.bordnamona.ie/careers/)

The programme is accepting applications for roles aligned to Bord na Móna's climate solutions focus such as sustainability and renewable energy alongside other areas including finance, legal, business, engineering and IT.

Launching the programme, Minister Harris said: "I really want to congratulate Bord na Móna for its leadership in this area. This is such an exciting time in the evolution of Bord na Móna to a climate solutions company, which is showing the way in innovations to tackle climate change. Being part of this is a fantastic opportunity for people.

"I particularly welcome the commitment to employ such a variety of apprentices. We have a commitment to deliver a Government Apprenticeship Recruitment Plan and I would see Bord na Móna's work feeding into that. Public Sector organisations can and should play a key part in the Plan and so I very much welcome the excellent example being shown by Bord na Móna. Apprenticeships offer valuable employment



JP McGrath CFO and Sharon Doyle Minister Simon Harris

and training routes which should be part of everyone's deliberations when they are finishing school or considering other career or re-skilling options."

Sharon Doyle, Head of Human Resources at Bord na Móna said, "Bord na Móna is passionate about helping and supporting people starting their careers. We recognise the value of apprenticeships and our graduate programme as ways of developing a range of critical skills and attracting diverse talent into our business. Our Graduate programme will enable students to proactively tackle the key issues linked to climate change. Participants can also expect to learn a wide range of skills alongside the very best experts our industry has to offer.

"Our Apprenticeship Programme offers a great alternative to the traditional third level route, for people who wish to gain

valuable knowledge and skills on-the-job while being paid throughout. We believe these programmes will provide talent pipelines for the future, with people who are passionate about building a sustainable future for everyone. We look forward to welcoming the latest graduates and apprentices to our teams and embracing their experiences and thoughts on climate solutions in the 21st century. We encourage any interested candidates to apply to the pathways that we have available."

Chief Executive of Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board, Joe Cunningham, welcomed the opportunity offered by the 'Pathways to the Future' initiative to enhance LOETB's progressive partnership with Bord Na Mona in skills development. "Bord Na Mona have been an integral partner in craft

apprenticeships for half a century, providing work-based learning to midland apprentices that complemented their academic endeavours and produced professional craftspeople with skillsets that were relevant to the labour market. A large proportion of Bord Na Mona's skilled workforce has traditionally progressed through the apprenticeship route. I welcome the company's foresight in embracing the much more diverse range of apprenticeships currently on offer through Generation Apprenticeship and in providing a pathway that assists in overcoming barriers to educational progression and offers sustainable employment opportunities."

Representatives from Bord na Móna 'Pathways to the Future' will be at career fairs across the island of Ireland, including the Gradireland Graduate Careers Fair on the 28th of September.

Thomas Murphy Memorial Cup a massive success



The winning team United FC at the Thomas Murphy Memorial Cup tournament

A celebration of football and community in Bray saw teams of all ages above 15 years compete in a six-a-side football tournament organised by Bray Travellers CDG.

A competition now in its 23rd year the Thomas Murphy Cup is all about inclusion. Teams from Bray and Wicklow played over four nights which culminated in a pulsating final between United FC and the local favourites and holders The Park Lads. In the end a solitary goal separated the two teams and United FC won the final after an unbeaten run throughout the whole tournament. Their goalkeeper Thomas Connor picked up player of the tournament which is testament to how important a good keeper is in these competitions whether it's shot stopping or being comfortable having the ball at your feet and playing as the extra man.

Manager of Bray Travellers CDG Jim O'Brien was delighted with the tournament and believes that this year a new generation have brought the competition to life. "It was great to see so many

young teams coming together this year to enter the tournament. The quality of football was very high and also the amount of support that came out from the community was fantastic. We are delighted to be able to run this tournament each year and appreciate the support of the funders, the users committee of the Ballywaltrim Recreation Park and also the Council who ensure that the grass is cut and ready for action. It was great to have our official ref Brendan back again who brings his own style to the occasion, also John Byrne who oversees the facility and equipment, the Wicklow branch of the FAI who were here and local Youth Workers who all come together and add value to this annual tournament.

"The Thomas Murphy Memorial Cup is named after a young man who played in the tournament for a number of years

before he tragically passed away and it was great to have the family here to present the trophies."

Speaking after the Final, Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien was particularly impressed with the atmosphere and positive community connections that are at the heart of this tournament. "Every year I find myself reminiscing with others about the times we played in the tournament and now some of those people have their own children playing! That is a wonderful legacy and a testament to Bray Travellers CDP and Jim in particular for whom this has a special place in his heart. Every year we wonder how many teams we will have and whether the younger generations will step up and I feel that this year is a turning point in that sense, there was such good energy around participation, and I believe it will inspire more teams to get involved next year."

Martin's marathon in aid of Rathdrum Cancer Support

Martin O'Toole is fundraising for Rathdrum Cancer Support Group and St Colman's Residential Care Centre by walking a marathon, (26.2 miles) in the Rathdrum area on Saturday 17th September. Any support you can give support would be very much appreciated.

Having suffered in recent years with ill health, including cancer and heart problems, Martin has decided to do this fundraising marathon in appreciation for the support and care which both of these organisations have given to himself and family members over the years.

Martin has set up a fundraising page which can be found at www.idonate.ie/MartinOToole

Sponsorship cards will also be available in the local area.



Martin O'Toole

Two successful events for Pura Vida hiking group

The Greystones-based Pura Vida hiking group recently completed a successful Alpine Swiss mountain climb and a challenging five-day cross country Laugavegur Trail Trek in Iceland.

On Tuesday 23rd August two Pura Vida members Bill Roberts and Tom O'Mahony summited the 4,164 metre Breithorn peak, in the shadow of the Matterhorn.

Two days later on Thursday, together with renowned Alpine guide Myles Bright, after an arduous 11-hour climb starting at 3am in the morning - roped together with carabiners wearing crampons and ice picks - they reached the summit of the 4,206 metre Alphubel.

Pictured are Tom O'Mahony, Bill Roberts and Alpine guide Myles Bright.

Early in July, having trained for months - eight Pura Vida members undertook the gruelling 5-day Laugavegur Trail trek in Iceland. Led by a local Icelandic guide the group hiked over snow covered terrain, crossing roaring rivers, up and down deep canyons, walking on black volcanic rock, past spouting thermal vents, lakes, and rolling hills. They stayed in basic hiking huts. And of course, there was no phone or internet signals!



Guide, Niamh O'Mahony, Anne Boyle, Karen Hodgins. Jeni Brown, Grace Delahunty, Darina Heavey, Denis Dwyer and Megan O'Brien



Stephen Murphy at the sunflower field in Ashford in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation

Arts Office announces programme for Culture Night

Eleven locations across County Wicklow will see activities take place as part of the annual Culture Night (Oíche Chultúir) on Friday, 23rd September.

Culture Night is a national moment, celebrating culture, creativity and the arts. It seeks to actively promote the rich and varied culture treasured and nurtured in people's lives, today and every day, across Ireland.

Delivered nationwide in cities, towns, villages and rural locations all activities are made available to the public free of charge.

This year, Wicklow Arts Office have collaborated, supported, and funded a range of events and activities across the county for Culture Night, thanks to the continued support of the Arts Council, Creative Ireland and the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme provided by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and Creative Ireland.

With 11 locations across County Wicklow, the programme includes a diverse range of experiences purposefully created and selected to surprise and delight all ages.

Arklow Music and Arts present Arklow Culture Crawl featuring local musicians, bands, artists, poets, and actors on a guided tour of the town's cultural and historic sites.

In Baltinglass, Aisling Ennis (harp) and soprano Catherine Redding (singer) will present 'Songs to the Moon,' a

recital of evocative and charming selections by Fauré, Debussy, Bellini and Strauss, with two more performances yet to be announced.

West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival presents a feast of party-fuelled rhythmic virtuosity with Bangers & Crash Duo, Caitríona Frost and Paddy Nolan, who are two of Ireland's most accomplished percussionists. Later in the evening the Yurodny Ensemble treat us to an energising musical melting pot of new interpretations of traditional music from around the world. It promises to be a magical musical evening in the stunning setting of The Avon, on the shores of the Blessington Lakes.

Mermaid Arts Centre is hosting three events for Culture Night including: Abacus, a contemporary dance performance of nine women and 18 buckets choreographed by Laura Murphy, taking place on the Bray seafront; singer Susan O'Neill in concert at the Mermaid and extended opening hours for the Blacker Than Any Blindness exhibition by artist Michael Durand.

Music in Calary have invited award-winning Wicklow classical musicians Annette Cleary (cello), John Feeley (guitar), and David O'Doherty (violin) to perform in the

19th Century Calary Church.

Dunlavin's Market Square, will play host to a unique evening of gastronomy with an Interactive a Cookery Demonstration by Catherine Fulvio, followed by performances by four of Ireland's finest musicians, Niamh Kavanagh (singer), Lynda O'Connor (violin), Gerald Peregrine (cello), and Brian Connor (Piano). This family friendly evening is rounded off by a by local singer-songwriter, Amy Barrett, in concert.

The Whale Theatre showcases an intergenerational celebration of jazz music featuring some of Ireland's most celebrated jazz masters alongside a new generation of emerging young jazz musicians.

Bray Jazz Festival will stage a double-bill of live music at the 18th Century St. Saviour's Church in the heart of Rathdrum village, presenting live performances by bands led by Bray-born jazz singer Aoife Doyle, and by Arklow-based Irish jazz guitar legend, Nigel Mooney.

The Courthouse Arts Centre is bringing a multi-dimensional experience of sound and vision to Tinahely with presents live music with on stage by Mark Caplice, Layzee Gold



Pictured, from left to right are Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley; Baltinglass artists, Siobhán Madden, Kathy Gallagher and Dermot Burgess and Deputy Chief Executive, Michael Nicholson, in Baltinglass Abbey. Photo credit: Mark Stedman.

and Sam Ali; while visual artist, Liang Heaney will animate the townscape buildings with projections from her film exploring Tomnafinnoge Woods.

Finally, Wicklow Arts Office in collaboration with Wicklow Library Services have curated an exciting programme of fun-filled activities and workshops for children and adults at Baltinglass, Carnew, Dunlavin, Rath-

drum and Wicklow Town Libraries including:

- Baltinglass Library - Felt making and painting workshops in Baltinglass Library;
- Carnew Library - A children's An interactive workshop exploring 3D printed replicas and real dinosaurs fossils for children, followed by a poetry open mic session with Lorcan Brennan at Carnew Library;
- Dunlavin Library - tradi-

tional craft workshops such as candle making and willow weaving at Dunlavin Library;

- Rathdrum Library - Geli Printmaking and Mosaic Making with Whitedoodle Art and Mosaic Making in Rathdrum Library;
- Wicklow Library - And a Podcasting Workshop with Createschool and Make your own personalised Exlibris/Bookplate workshop for adults in Wicklow Library.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, said he was delighted to see 11 locations represented in this year's Culture Night programme while Deputy Chief Executive, Michael Nicholson, stated: "It's great to see Wicklow artists, organisations, venues and citizens coming together and participating in this annual all-island celebration of culture, creativity, and the arts."

Greystones councillor Stephen Stokes has warmly welcomed the Annual Wicklow Culture Night programme being announced. He stated: "Culture Night makes a positive impact across Wicklow and Irish communities. It is a national moment of togetherness. I fully recommend people to enjoy the events on offer."

For more information and booking visit www.culturenight.ie/wicklow.

Relove Fashion competition launched for new school year

Relove Fashion, a competition designed by local authorities in partnership with the Rediscovery Centre, has been launched in time for the new school year. The competition offers students an opportunity to take a second look at how we dress and how we make a fashion statement without creating more demand on resources.

Wicklow County Council led the development of the competition, winning and Excellence in Local Government award for its creation.

In a world of fast fashion we can easily overlook the impact the industry is having on our planet and its resources. Fashion causes damage when we grow the cotton to produce textiles, in the manufacturing of garments and as we ship it round the world to sell in our shops and online.

Fashion does not have to be fast and temporary. Quality garments and textiles can be very durable and a good outfit is one which is timeless but stylish.

The ability to work with textiles, reinventing them and giving them a new lease of life has always been central to the fashion industry. This competition aims to allow students test their design skills using older fabrics or recreating something out of an older outfit.

A new contemporary look is created without the use of new resources. Part of the vision for a circular economy is a transition from disposable fast fashion to an industry that will harness the circular economy, conserving resources while creating jobs and adding value to products.

Relove Fashion is giving students a platform to demonstrate their skill of working with textiles, their creativity in design and their commitment to sustainability. Entrants who can be individual or a team. They must record their design process in a mood board, produce their outfit by early January and are also questioned on their views on sustainability in the textile and fashion industries.

The competition, which is open to all second level students in Wicklow, fits in well with the Home Economics curriculum and also the Art curriculum. In some schools it has been undertaken as a TY project.

Students can register to participate on www.relovetofashion.ie. All registered by the 30th of September will be entered in a free draw to win a sewing machine for their school. The outfit created for the competition must be submitted by the 13th of January. A teacher's pack is available providing more information on the competition.



Ann Thompson, Lydia Sasse, Marlena Murphy and Sarah Hutch at the Making Waves Youth Theatre open mic evening at The Cove Café in Greystones.



Clockwise from top left: Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, Cormac De Barra, and Mark Redmond.

Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, Cormac De Barra & Mark Redmond

*Courthouse Arts Centre, Friday 16th
September, 8pm €18/€16*

The Courthouse Arts Centre is pleased to welcome these three leading lights of Irish traditional music, brought together by Music Network for a unique autumnal confluence: a journey through a landscape rich with the timbres of fiddle, harp, uilleann pipes and whistle, and voices intertwined in song at every bend in the road.

Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh (fiddle/vocals), Cormac De Barra (harp/vocals) and Mark Redmond (uilleann pipes/flute/whistles) have graced stages and screens around Ireland and the world for several decades, and they are each undisputed masters of their respective instruments, rooted in tradition and with an ear for exploration. Whether onstage at home or

abroad, in the studio, or with emperors, popes or queens in attendance—tradition and innovation are superbly aligned when these three artists approach a project.

Their considerable talents have been the core of longstanding concert collaborations and recordings with supergroups that include Altan, The Chieftains, Alison Krauss, Enya, Clannad,

Riverdance, and Celtic Woman at the top of a very long list. Ní Mhaonaigh, De Barra and Redmond condense their vocal and instrumental finesse into trio formation this

September as they take the helm on an adventurous voyage in melody and song, a sonic journey for which we are most welcome to climb on board.

Greystones Film Club presents: The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent

Whale Theatre, Thursday 15th September, 8pm

It is, of course, the role that Nicolas Cage was born to play. And given just how meta, mental and mischievous his character is in *The Unbearable Weight Of Massive Talent*, how could the man not have fun? He's playing Nicolas Cage, after all.



Given that the man born Nicolas Kim Coppola has hit a sweet spot somewhere between iconic and ironic after 40 years up on our screens, it's only fitting that he would finally get around to playing himself in an action comedy that's as much *Adaptation* as it is *The Rock*. Cage plays Cage at a particularly low point in his life, separated from his wife (Sharon Horgan) and increasingly distant from his teenager daughter (Lily Mo Sheen), his only offer of work is to take the money and grin at a multimillionaire superfan's birthday party. That superfan is played by Pedro Pascal (*The Mandalorian*, *Game Of Thrones*, *The Last Of Us*), who's about to be pounced upon by the CIA. But they hadn't reckoned on Nicolas Cage. Presented by the Greystones Film Club, you can catch *The Unbearable Weight Of Massive Talent* (USA/18/107mins) on Thursday, September 10th at 8pm in The Whale. Your €10 admission comes with a free box of freshly-popped popcorn...

Tickets €10 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

Equus Ferus

*An exhibition by Matea Brekalo, Signal Arts Centre,
Monday, 21st November to Sunday 4th December*

The artist chooses the motif of a wild horse, after which named her solo exhibition "Equus Ferus".

The body of a noble horse animal is its inspired drawing starting from blurred sections in the background distance, to those sharp foreground details, thus achieving dominance and maximum contrast within the format. Matea Brekalo is a Dublin-based artist in Ireland. In addition to figurative art, she deals with abstraction, anatomy, still life, and landscapes. Her art is not limited to one medium, style, and concept. Matea has a Master's degree in Painting from the Academy of Arts University Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

placement and tension from blurred sections in the background distance, to those sharp foreground details, thus achieving dominance and maximum contrast within the format.

Matea Brekalo is a Dublin-based artist in Ireland. In addition to figurative art, she deals with abstraction, anatomy, still life, and landscapes. Her art is not limited to one medium, style, and concept.

Matea has a Master's degree in Painting from the Academy of Arts University Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina,



2013 and she is a Visual Arts Teacher. Her work is held in public and private collections in Europe.

Solo exhibition: 2017, Gallery Aluminij, 'Equus Ferus', Mostar, BiH.

Exhibitions: Groups, charity, and auction exhibitions since 2008.

'A breath of Autumn's being....' by Selma McCormack



*Courthouse Arts Centre,
Opening Sunday 4th
September 3pm – 5pm, runs
until Saturday 24th, 4pm*

The Courthouse's opening exhibition of the Autumn season is Selma McCormack's 'A breath of Autumn's being...'

"We are so thrilled to have a multi-media show for our first artist's exhibition of the new season. Opens on Sunday, September 4th; 3pm/5pm. Make sure to drop in! Runs until September 24th." (Selma McCormack lives and works in Dublin. She studied painting and sculpture part time for many years before starting to exhibit her work in the late 1980's. (Originally her sculpture consisted of clay and wax modelling and she later exhibited bronze casts of her work. Generally figurative in subject matter, she continues to produce works in bronze, and occasionally in ceramics - especially of the figure in motion and of animal studies.



Emerging Talent Showcase at Whale Theatre

Friday 16th September, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €15 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

Featuring three of Ireland's up-and-coming young musicians, this Emerging Talent Showcase is presented by AMA Music Agency with special thanks to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media through the LPRGS Support Scheme. Please note, under 18s must be accompanied by an adult.

Strange Boy

Strange Boy is a 1000-year-old poet channeling through the body of a young man from Limerick. With hard hitting, thought-provoking lyrics, his unique mastery of flow renders him one of the most important Irish rappers of our time. Strange Boy combines hip hop and Irish traditional music, the old and new cultural influences dominant in this country, with a sophistication that would have you swearing this genre always existed. Since his signing with the Berlin-based record label WELCOME TO THE NEW WORLD in 2019, Strange Boy has been working with his producer and fellow Irishman Enda Gallery on his debut album HOLY / UNHOLY (Summer 2021).

Saoirse Casey

Saoirse grew up in a musical family, & her childhood home was full of musical instruments. As a child she made plays, short films & stories. As a teenager, she taught herself piano & guitar, and started to write songs everyday. Very soon after, she was performing. Her first concert was supporting Declan O'Rourke at the INEC, in Killarney. Since then, she has played in many of Ireland's much loved venues, with her own concerts and at other times supporting different artists including Tiny Ruins, Kila, Mundy, Cathy Davey, and Paddy Casey.

Jacob Koopman

Indie-Electropop Artist Jacob Koopman continues to widen his

influence with a new dark-Billie Eilish-esque single "Is that what you wanted?". Returning after the successful release of the last single "Weight of the Wave" which has now over 30k listens on Spotify and 35k for the music video on YouTube. Jacob has once again teamed up with the producer and composer Brian Dwyer to deliver a tasty new track.

Hailing all the way from Bali (Indonesia), Jacob basks on Grafton Street, Dublin in between playing festivals and touring sold-out shows around Ireland. Throughout the 2020 pandemic, he has continued to grow his online presence by streaming live performances multiple times a week. Approx Duration: 120 mins plus interval.



Autumn Songs for All Seasons

Whale Theatre, Saturday 17th September

Anne Randolph, well-known Bray singer, returns to the Whale Theatre with her band and her show 'Autumn Songs for All Seasons', a collection of folk and classic songs reflecting the wonderful change of seasons, from stellar artists such as Joni Mitchell, Sandy Denny, Tom Paxton, Janis Ian and more on the 17th September.

The Songs are thoughtfully chosen and arranged to tell you a story and take you on a journey and with Anne's style you are promised an evening of engagement, beautiful tunes, and musical loveliness! Anne's band is made up of some greats of the Irish music scene:- Vera Craughwell – accordion, Keith Donald - Clarinet, Garvan Gallagher – Bass and Charlie Mooney on Guitar, so do come out and enjoy what promises to be a great evening! It is a delight to be back at the Whale theatre after a three year break! Approx Duration: 2 hours (including interval).

8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €22/€20 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.



The Riptide Movement – Unplugged

Whale Theatre, Sunday 18th September, 7pm (doors 6pm).

With an unplugged, stripped back and intimate show, The Riptide Movement will be taking to Whale Theatre stage for a very special performance this September! The Riptide Movement are a Gold selling, Choice nominated, Number 1 rock band from Dublin, Ireland. With five studio albums to their name and a string of hit songs including "All Works Out", "You & I", "Elephant in the Room", "Changeling", and "Something Special". The band was formed in 2006 by songwriter and vocalist Malachy Tuohy, guitarist John Dalton, bassist and harmonica player Gerry McGarry and drummer Gar Byrne. The Riptide Movement are renowned for their blistering live shows and have played all around the world, from the main stage at Electric Picnic to Glastonbury and Benicassim; they've also shared the stage with artists such as The Rolling Stones, Neil Young and Bon Jovi and have collaborated with renowned orchestras such as the BBC Orchestra and the RTE Concert Orchestra. The Riptide Movement has also produced environmentally-themed music videos and documentaries, including their 2018 "Plastic Oceans" documentary, which highlighted the effects of plastic pollution on our environment. Approx Duration: 2 hours (including interval).

Tickets €35 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.



Deirdre O'Kane at Mermaid Arts Centre

Friday 30th September, €25. See mermaidartscentre.ie or call the box office on 01 2724030

There's a point beyond burnout where all you can do is laugh, and funny woman Deirdre O'Kane has well and truly reached it.

The last few years have been something of a whirlwind for Deirdre O'Kane. A co-founder of Comic Relief in Ireland, she fronted the critically and audience acclaimed RTÉ Does Comic Relief which raised more than 6 million euros to help those most in need as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and reached in excess of 1.4 million viewers across Ireland. She recently fronted her own talk show - Deirdre O'Kane Talks Funny - in the primetime Saturday night slot on RTÉ One and debuted a brand new standup comedy series, The Deirdre O'Kane Show, with Sky Comedy. Deirdre also appeared as a judge alongside Boy George, Aston Merrygold and Vogue Williams on the new Fox-developed talent show, The Big Deal, for Virgin Media Television.

Deirdre is also known as the voice of smash-hit Gogglebox (Virgin Media) which returned for a seventh season in late 2021. In recent years she has hosted the revamped IFTA Film & Drama Awards (for RTÉ and Virgin Media), and reached the finals of the national broadcaster's fan-favourite Dancing with the Stars.

One of Ireland's favourite comedians, Deirdre never strays too far from her live stand-up roots; her new show, Demented, a box-fresh hour of side splitting laughs, is touring Ireland and the UK in 2022.



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Wicklow Toastmasters return for new season

After a well earned summer recess Wicklow toastmasters returned with a New Season in a New Venue in An Tairseach Wicklow Retreat and Ecology Centre in Wicklow Town.

President Paul Haran, welcomed everyone back and they are looking forward to a new year and to taking up the mantle of recovering their 'Community club' after spending two years on Zoom.

"To Kick off our first fully in person meeting since before Covid we had three wonderful Speeches from our members. Colin entertained us with his speech on 'A Metaphor for Life' how keeping our bodies in order could be compared to keeping classic cars in full working order. Ashleigh beguiled us with her speech on 'making time for Harvest' bringing us on a journey of emotions and lastly we had Will who took us on a voyage with his speech entitled 'the Train'. A Wonderful night and a huge thank you to everyone who made it a resounding success especially our guests on the evening.

"A Special Congratulations to Richard Clune, a new club member, who swept up on ribbons for the night winning both Best Table Topic and Best Evaluation Ribbon for the evening. Well done Richard!!

"Wicklow Toastmasters is a friendly, local club where you can learn how to speak with confidence. We meet on the first, third and fifth Thursday of the month. Meetings start promptly at 8pm and finish at 10pm.

"All guests are welcome. No Speaking is required on the night, so if you are considering activities for your autumnal evenings why not come along and see if we are a fit for you? Feel free to ask questions on the night or on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/WicklowToastmasters>."



10th annual Green Ribbon Campaign

See Change, the national programme dedicated to ending the stigma and the discrimination that often surrounds mental health, officially launched its 10th Annual Green Ribbon campaign with an event at Smock Alley Theatre in Dublin last week.

The idea behind the campaign, which will run across the month of September, is to get as many people as possible to help end the stigma and discrimination surrounding mental health. In the past, people often did not talk about any issues they were having, preferring instead to 'bottle' them up inside, for fear that others might think they were different.

The public are invited to wear a Green Ribbon to show others that you are willing to talk about mental health and to discuss the problems that people face every day in a more normal way. See Change is reminding everyone that you don't have to be an expert to start a conversation.

The theme for the campaign this year is 'shame' – the key message being that there is no shame in having a mental health difficulty.

Speaking about the

importance of the Green Ribbon campaign, Barbara Brennan, said "I am very proud of the work that my team at See Change is doing to help normalise conversations about mental health. The Green Ribbon campaign is key to creating a culture where people can openly have conversations about mental health without fear of being shamed or rejected."

Speakers at the official Dublin launch event included Caroline Conroy, Lord Mayor of Dublin, Mary Butler, Minister for Mental Health and Older People, Shine CEO, Nicola Byrne, Dr Malie Coyne, Clinical Psychologist and Author, Guadalupe Cano, Director of Fundación Mundo Bipolar (Spain), as well as Bernadette Crawford, a See Change Ambassador who will speak of their own journey with mental health difficulties and will be hosted by See Change Programmes

Leader Barbara Brennan.

See Change will also hosting another launch event in Co Cork, which will take place on Tuesday September 6th from 11:00 – 13:00 at the Hibernian Hotel in Mallow, Co Cork. Speakers include the Mayor of the County of Cork, Danny Collins, Caroline Norris, National Operations Manager at Shine, Professor Ella

Arensman, Chief Scientist, National Suicide Research Foundation, Sue Baker, Co-founder of the Global Anti Stigma Alliance (GASA), See Change Ambassador, Daragh Fleming, and will be hosted by See Change Programmes Leader Barbara Brennan.

More official See Change events will take place for free across the

country during the month of September, which you can register to attend via Eventbrite. People can pick up a free Green Ribbon at participating Boots Pharmacy, AIB Bank branches, Iarnród Éireann stations, and eir stores.

To find out more about this year's campaign visit www.seechange.ie/green-ribbon/

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South Leinster Citizens Information Service is currently seeking to recruit a permanent full time Information Officer for its Wexford Area and a fixed-term part time Information Officer for the Wicklow Area.

Key tasks for the post include the direct delivery of information, advice, advocacy and referral services, and liaison with other service providers, both statutory and voluntary.

Excellent communication skills, a good level of research and IT skills, and a Leaving Certificate and/or equivalent of education are required. Ideally, applicants will also hold a higher-level qualification in relevant field of study, (e.g. social policy, human rights, social work/social care practice, legal qualification etc.), and / or substantial previous work experience in a busy information/advice/advocacy environment.

- **Permanent Post:** The Wexford Area position is a permanent position, subject to completion of a 6-month probationary period.
- **Fixed Term Post:** The Wicklow Area position is a fixed term position (job share) up to February, 2024, subject to completion of a 6-month probationary period.
- **Full Time Salary Scale:** €29,821 - €45,498 including 2 x LSIs, long serving increments (pro rata for part-time staff).
- **Incremental Credit:** CIS operates an incremental credit process, on request, which is based on the information provided by applicants on their application form.

Applications must be made on the relevant application form and sent to: recruitmentsicis@citinfo.ie

Closing date: 23:59 on Friday 23rd September 2022 (late applications will not be accepted).

A detailed job description and application form together with further information on CIS can be accessed at: <https://www.citizensinformationboard.ie/en/news/vacancies/fo20220822.html>

For details on how your personal data will be used as part of this process our Data Protection Notice for Job Applicants is available at: www.citizensinformationboard.ie/en/data_protection/cib.html

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See Change Ambassador Bernadette Crawford

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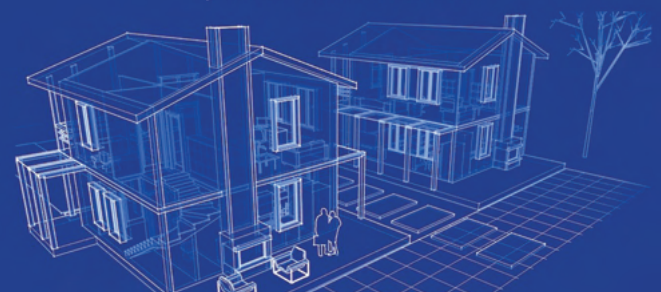
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Marcella Byrne seeks planning permission for a single storey dwelling, septic tank and percolation area, bored well, a new entrance on existing lane and all assorted site works at Hillbrook Lower Carnew Co. Wicklow.

The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee €20.00 within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application. Such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application.

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Wicklow Naturally launches Farm to Fork Trails

Farm to fork trails have been launched as part of the Wicklow Naturally food promotion campaign.

The launch was hosted by renowned chef Catherine Fulvio in the gardens of Ballyknocken House and Cookery School. Welcoming guests she stated: "I'm very proud to be a part of Wicklow Naturally. I think it's one of the most important initiatives in County Wicklow. A rising tide lifts all boats, and if we all work together, there is no limit to what we can achieve." Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, thanked the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine for funding this

project under the Rural Innovation Development Fund and added: "This will stimulate agri-business and tourism in the County and put Wicklow Naturally on the map nationally and internationally."

The Farm to Fork Trails will include guided and self-guided tours throughout County Wicklow. The trails aim to showcase the best of Wicklow food and drinks producers and providers, connecting the visitors' experience from Farm to Fork and offering a true taste of the Garden County.

From fine dining in historic houses, vegetable growing in walled gardens, traditional farms producing Wicklow beef and lamb, to innovative producers, brewers, distilleries and even a winery, Wicklow has much to offer. With a variety of experiences such as afternoon teas, cookery classes, foraging tours and chocolate making classes, there really is something for everyone.

Speaking at the launch, Paula Johnston, Executive Director of An Tairseach Organic Farm, said that she was looking forward to welcoming participants on the trails to An Tairseach for refreshments and to showing them around the gardens where

the produce is grown, with an opportunity to stock up on seasonal organic produce in the Farm Shop.

Lorraine Aspill from Daisy Cottage Farm spoke with passion and enthusiasm about cooking a batch of scones with her visitors and serving them with tea following a farm walk.

The Farm to Fork Trails have been developed and curated by Wicklow Naturally - Wicklow's Food and Drinks network. Guided tours include return coach travel to several destinations such as farms, historic houses, food and drinks producers, farmers markets etc. Self-guided tours can be facilitated also.

It is hoped that the initiative will further



Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Tommy Annesley, Chef Paul Smith, celebrity chef Catherine Fulvio, Santana Kennedy, CEO of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson at the launch of Wicklow Naturally at Ballyknocken Cooking School.

enhance the reputation of County Wicklow as a great destination for quality food and drink.

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow

County Council, noted that "The Wicklow Naturally Farm to Fork Food Trails bring the participants from beekeepers to breweries, from choco-

late to cheese, offering delicious tastings while traversing the fabulous Wicklow Countryside."

Wicklow Naturally will host several trails

throughout the year, with details on their website www.Wicklownaturally.ie and regular updates on their social media channels.

CLASSIFIEDS

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

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Lily Pad Home Accessories' new shop Canopy opening soon in Wicklow Town

Two online businesses have decided to come together to open a retail space in Wicklow town at 1 Church Street, the site of what was a Health Food Store.

Lilypad Home Accessories and Lalli & Moo lifestyle accessories will open the doors to Canopy (2 businesses under the one) on the 10th of September. Both businesses have enjoyed great success with their online stores based in Greystones and now will bring their beautiful range of products to customers in person.

Lilypad Home Accessories sells home interior products such as Battery Operated Lamps, Cushions, Remote control candles and styling

items. Lilypad's owner Gillian Rijke was inspired to set up her business after the sudden death of her Aunt Eithne. Whilst clearing out her aunt's home she decided to use her inheritance to turn her life around, leaving her job as a HR consultant. With 4 young sons this new venture allowed her to create a work life balance that so many working parents crave, and to indulge her passion for interiors. The name Lilypad was chosen as her aunt had Lily Pads in the pond

in her garden.

Lalli & Moo sell a beautiful range of genuine Italian leather handbags, Jewellery, Scarves and an array of different fashion accessories. All of their handbags are sourced directly from Italy and accessories from France. Sarah Condon, the owner of Lalli & Moo Accessories (quirky name came from the nicknames of her two daughters, Maggie and Laila), set up her business mid pandemic after toying with the idea of having her own

business for years.

In December last year the two businesses set up a pop up shop for Christmas in their hometown of Greystones. The shop proved to be a great success which is what encouraged Gillian and Sarah to consider a more permanent retail space. They were both attracted to the lively energy that they felt in Wicklow town and having spoken to many living in the area as well as other retailers, felt their shop 'Canopy' could be a good addition to the town.



Gillian Rijke, owner of Lily Pad Accessories (left), with Sarah Condon, Canopy

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