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Tuesday 27th September 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

'A SHAMELESS STUNT'

The proposed changes to pensions introduced by the Government have been slammed by Wicklow local representatives as a 'shameless stunt' and a 'Trojan Horse'.

Independent councillor, Joe Behan said "Once again the Government is attempting to put soon-to-be older citizens in a worse position than they were in already as a result of the recently announced changes to pension entitlements. While pretending that employees will gain and the State will lose by pushing the retirement age to 70 yrs, in fact, the opposite is the case."



Cllr Behan (Ind) says pension plan is a 'shameless stunt'

that workers have paid their PRSI for nearly 50 years and have earned their pension. It is their money. Today, the

maximum contributory pension rate is €253 a week. If an employee foregoes this for four years, they will lose €53,624 and the State gains this amount because they are not paying out the pension to the pensioner for those four years.

"The gain in pension payment after the age of 70 years will be €60 per week. If you are still alive, it will take you until age 87yrs to make up the amount you lost by not retiring at 66 yrs



Women took to the water in Bray last week for World GO Day to raise awareness of gynaecological cancers. 30 swims took place across Ireland. See more, page 8

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and loaning the State €53,624.

"However, it gets worse. If the person remains in employment, they will obviously be paying PAYE and PRSI and in those four years, at a conservative estimate that is likely to amount to roughly €25,000 in total.

"Add it all up and the Government gains €78,624 while it will take 25 years for the employee to earn that money back from the State. So congratulations to the future 95 year olds among us as they will be the only ones to gain from this Government's alleged generosity. There is also a well-hidden catch in this new scheme for every retired employee and that is that they will in future be compelled to pay PRSI on additional earned income which currently they do not have to pay.

"The Government has also claimed that PRSI rates generally will rise to 'fund' these changes when in fact there will be no additional cost. In fact there will be a lowering of cost. It is hard not to come to the conclusion that this pensions proposal is in reality a shameless stunt dressed up as an act of generosity to the employees and future retirees of this country. It should be examined extremely closely by every concerned citizen before it comes to pass."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady described Government plans to increase the pension age to 70 in increments as alarming. Brady described the pension plan as a 'Trojan Horse' designed to increase the pension age by stealth until we ended up with people being forced to work until 70.

Deputy Brady said: "I

find the governments plans alarming. I believe that they are nothing

more than a guise to push the pension age up by stealth measures.

Currently workers can access their pension and **Continued on page 3**

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NO MIDDLE MAN, WE SELL, MANUFACTURE AND INSTALL



Harry Witter checks out the bug hotel at the recent Harvest Day at Brittas Bay National School

Coffee morning for Ukrainians

Sugarloaf Lions Club are sponsoring a special Coffee Morning for our new neighbours from Ukraine. This will include those who are residing in Coolnagreina Greystones and those living in the wider Northeast Wicklow area. This gathering is intended to help further integration and hopefully allow meetings between Ukrainians who are staying in our homes and other accommodation around the Wicklow Area. The invitation is open to all those who wish to attend and meet with fellow country men, women and children who have made their way to our shores. There will be representatives of local support and welfare organisations present on the day to offer advice. The event on 30th September takes place from 11am at Tiglin Centre, Coolnagreina, Trafalgar Road, Greystones.

For more information, please contact sugarloaflionsclub@gmail.com

Wildflower community sowing day in Newtown

Newtownmountkenedy Tidy Towns would like to invite the local community along on Saturday 1st October to sow wildflower seeds in patches around estates across the town. They will meet at 10am at the Community Centre for a demonstration and then break into groups to head to different estates. Danny Alvey, vice-chairperson of the Tidy Towns, has been working closely with local resident associations to establish a wildflower patch corridor across seven estates and locations. "I tried to reach out to everybody but if I missed an estate that wants to take part just message me and we've plenty of seed," said Danny. "I collected most of it locally in Newtown and Ashford. The local

Mens Shed are also kindly making nice wooden signs for each patch along with the usual 'Managed for Wildlife' All-Ireland Pollinator Plan signs. Hopefully we get a dry day and lots of local people are up for coming along to help out. It will be great for the bees next spring to have a corridor across the town and hopefully we get nice blooms!"

Irish Wheelchair Association Fundraising

The Irish Wheelchair Association is hosting a National Fundraising Day on Thursday, September 29th and has asked county Wicklow to support the campaign. The National Fundraising Day will see staff and volunteers at centres and other on-street locations shaking buckets in a bid to help raise €100,000.

Over 20,000 people benefit from services provided by the Irish Wheelchair Association across sport, accessible homes, transport, assisted living services and community centre services which provide a social outlet for members to make friends and develop lifelong skills as well as combatting loneliness and isolation.

Staff at the Irish Wheelchair Association's 57 centres across Ireland will be shaking buckets in the hope of raising funds to ensure the rights and needs of people with disabilities are met. www.iwa.ie for more information.

First Saturday Book Sale

The October First Saturday Book Sale will take place in the Shankill Day Care Centre, Lower Road, Shankill, from 10am to 1pm on Saturday October 1st and all are welcome to attend. The First Saturday Book Sale continues to adhere to strict safety guidelines with all precautionary health measures in place. Donations of books, which must be in a clean and good condition appreciated but limited to one bag per donor.

Kilmacanogue History Society

Kilmacanogue History Society is returning to "In person Talks" for the coming season. So from October they will be having their monthly talks in a new venue - Kilmacanogue Parish Hall (adjacent to St. Mochonog's R/C Church)- free car-parking available.

"We are delighted to have Mr. Frank Tracy Historian as our Speaker and his Talk will be on "The Anglo-Irish Families- then and now" on Monday 3rd October at 8p.m. All welcome, non-members €5. "We are looking forward to welcoming back some former members that have lost contact with us during the Covid years. An important request. We would ask all of you who can to wear a mask during these Talks, to protect the elderly and vulnerable from Covid and other Winter viruses that are expected to be prevalent. For everyone's sake please do not attend if you have any symptoms of Covid."

Bray Credit Union invites applications for scholarships

Bray Credit Union is offering TWO lucky members a scholarship towards their college or apprenticeship fees worth up to €4,000 each (terms & conditions apply). The closing date is 14th October.

How to enter? Apply online at www.braycu.ie or pick up an application form at Bray Credit Union (open 6 days per week).

Bray Credit Union provides every day banking to all members including Mortgages, Current Account with Mastercard debit card, Loans up to €75,000 and People Insurance plus a Member Benefit Insurance programme and

mobile App. Become a member today by downloading the App from the comfort of your home.

In operation since 1964, Bray Credit Union has over 25,000 members and continues to offer the personal touch and digital capabilities to meet the needs of consumers.

As the banks continue to reduce their presence in County Wicklow, Bray Credit Union continues to

support consumers of all ages that prefer the face to face customer experience, whether its for a simple transaction or a more complex query.

Bray Credit Union continues to invest in local initiatives including 'The Pat Woods Scholarship' sports kit funding and much more.

For more information click www.braycu.ie

Autumn on Wicklow's coast

Autumn is a great time for exploring our coast and the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council is co-ordinating a number of upcoming events that may be of interest to many people.

The annual Coastwatch survey season runs from 15th September to 15th October and interested members of the public are invited to take part in the survey.

The 'Behind the Beach' biodiversity programme at Brittas Bay continued with a Migrant Birds field trip on Sunday 25th September; a big beach clean-up planned for 1st October and a 'Dynamic Dunes' field outing on 26th October.

The Coastwatch sur-

vey is our longest running eco-audit of the coastline where volunteers from all over Ireland are invited to adopt one or more 500m survey units of the coast and to commit to visiting this at low tide and to completing and submitting the Coastwatch questionnaire.

The questionnaire records everything from sealife, plants and animals to litter and micro plastics and this year it is also expected to document cases of dead seabirds

who have succumbed to avian flu.

Members of the public are reminded about the unfortunate incidences of Avian flu affecting seabird populations and are reminded never to touch dead or dying birds, keep pets away and to report all sightings to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine at T: 01 492 8026.

Likewise, the public is reminded that this time of year is also particularly important for grey seals as the adults congregate in sheltered beaches and typically give birth to a single pup between now and December. People and dogs are asked to main-

tain a distance of 100m or more if possible from seals, as coming close to them will cause stress to the animals and may cause abandonment of pups.

For more information see sealrescueireland.org and Seal Rescue Hotline T: 087 1955393

For more on the Coastwatch Survey and to download materials see www.coastwatch.org, visit www.wicklow.ie/latestnews for more information about upcoming events or you can drop an email (wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie) to subscribe to the Heritage Office mailing list.



The Irish Mid-Amateur Golf Championships were held in Blainroe Golf Club in Wicklow over the weekend, kicking off on Friday, 23rd September and finishing on Sunday, 25th September, with practice rounds being held last Thursday. The Championships attracts elite golfers from Ireland and abroad such as Paul O'Hanlon from Carton House. From an initial entry of 156, the first cut saw 89 of the very best tee up on Friday morning. All players had handicaps at scratch or better and represented golf clubs from Portmarnock to Cork to Ballinasloe. International competitors included Niall Handley from the US and Daniel Hahn from Germany as well as many representatives from Northern Ireland. For the first time, and in parallel with the Men's event, the Ladies Mid-Amateur event also took place. In this competition, 25 of the very best ladies sought seek to make their mark in a very special championship.

Pictured are Men's Captain John Daly, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Tommy Annesley, Ladies Captain Bernie Cooney, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson, and Men's Vice-Captain Derek Sherwin.

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Times

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Wicklow gets a Biodiversity Officer

Wicklow County Council has been approved for the appointment of a Biodiversity Officer, it's been confirmed.

The high-level officer within Wicklow County Council will work on strategies and policies that focus on protecting the environment, biodiversity and sensitive landscapes across Wicklow.

Wicklow County Council was one of the very first in the country to declare a climate and biodiversity crisis in 2019. This new biodiversity officer will be tasked with promoting the initiatives required to tackle this crisis at a local level.

Discussing the announcement, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said: "Prior to being elected as a TD, I was directly involved with the establishment of the SPC and to see one of our key priorities in establishing a specific strategic role on biodiversity within the council is extremely positive.

"We are extremely fortunate in Wicklow to have a truly incredible landscape containing great variety of wilderness, mountains, farmland and rural and urban environments including our Wicklow Mountains National Park. We also have important areas of conservation for habitats and birds along our considerable coastline and our marine environment to protect and restore especially as we look to a decade of development of offshore renewable energy, which is currently underway.

"In my experience, Wicklow County Council is already streets ahead of other local authorities in terms of their strategic awareness of the need to emphasise our environment in their projects but would greatly benefit from the support of a dedicated biodiversity officer.

"I look forward to working further with Wicklow County Council and specifically the new Biodiversity officer on ensuring that all new projects and initiatives at a council level have a focus on our lived environment and biodiversity at their core," concluded Deputy Matthews.

Green Party Councillor for Bray Erika Doyle said "A Biodiversity Officer for Wicklow is a wonderful addition to work on the objectives of Wicklow County Council in relation to Climate and Biodiversity which are driven by the Climate & Biodiversity Action, Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). This new officer will work in tandem with the pre-existing roles of climate officer and heritage officer, and I believe will provide a wonderful team in Wicklow to work at the highest level with the Chief Executive on biodiversity strategic objectives."

Green Party Councillor for Greystones Municipal District

Lourda Scott said "This post is one that I have been calling for a very long time and have been in regular contact with my colleagues in Government to make it happen. As chair of the Climate and Biodiversity Action Policy Committee I am acutely aware of the huge body of work to be done in the area of biodiversity in County Wicklow. We have incredible community volunteers working so hard in this area and they deserve the fullest support possible from the Local Authority.

"Wicklow County Council have already done a fantastic job working within their own biodiversity plans and with communities, to help halt biodiversity loss. Earlier this year the Climate and Biodiversity Action Policy Committee produced the County's first Tree Management policy and a policy to reduce the use of weedkiller. However having a dedicated Biodiversity Officer to support this work would be greatly impactful. Addressing the biodiversity emergency is among the greatest challenges of our time and this increased investment will go a long way to boost their efforts. I am looking forward to meeting with the new Biodiversity Officer, and continuing to place biodiversity at the heart of all future decisions."

Shortage of Wicklow dentists accepting medical card patients

Jennifer Whitmore TD has called on the Minister for Health to intervene in the ongoing issue of the shortage in the number of dentists in Wicklow and across the country accepting medical card patients.

Deputy Whitmore put a question to the Minister for Health on the topic following concerns from constituents having trouble finding a dental practice taking medical card holders.

Deputy Whitmore said "Since Covid more and more dental practices have left the public dental care scheme which provides care for people in receipt of a medical card. What started out as a disagreement over the cost of PPN equipment has now become a prob-

lem which has continued to develop over years.

"It has resulted in many dental practices leaving making it difficult for those with medical cards to access dental treatment.

"This means, people with medical cards are going without treatment or having to travel further away across the county or to a different county altogether to get dental treatment. This should be something people can access locally.

"The Minister has confirmed more funding has been provided to increase the fees for treatments which dentists carry out, however it has yet to be seen how this will improve the situation for people in Wicklow. I've had many constituents contact me spending months trying to get a dental practice to take them on as a medical card patient and not being able to find anyone who will treat them.

"In the meantime, they are living with a dental issue that's only getting worse and will become even more expensive which the state will have to cover in the end. By the time they contact me,

I have to put them through to the HSE for emergency treatment when they should've been seen to months prior. It is not clear whether there are enough dental practices re-entering the scheme. In the meantime, it's important that people with medical cards can access treatment on time and locally. I have raised this issue for the past two years and while I welcome the Minister's most recent response it seems progress, if any, will be slow for those living in Wicklow. I will continue to raise this and urge the Minister to resolve this issue once and for all," concluded Deputy Whitmore.



European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union Mairead McGuinness with Eilish Quinn of Carnew Mart at the Ploughing Championships last week. Pic: Paul Sherwood

St. Kilian's Community School Open Night 2022



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Open Night Tuesday 27 September

'A SHAMELESS STUNT'

Continued from page 1

work past 66 - under the government's plans their pension will be deferred and workers will lose out on thousands of euros. Removing mandatory retirement clauses are welcome, in the last Dail term I brought forward legislation to stop mandatory retirement taking place.

"People should have the choice to work beyond retirement age,

this however should not be used to jack the pension age up to 70. Workers and voters have spoken in they want to be able to retire on a decent pension at 65, or they want to be able to work on past the age of 65 if they so wish. This is about fairness and decency. People should be able to retire and know that they can live a secure and decent life in their older years. People who have had

a lifetime working on their feet in factories and construction for example, simply cannot be expected to continue working beyond the age of 65.

"The reality is that physical work takes a toll on the body. And workers who are employed in roles that are physically taxing pay a heavy price. The stark reality is that many will be unable to work past the age of 65."

Volunteers remove two tonnes of litter from beaches

Over 350 volunteers from county Wicklow joined Clean Coasts latest call to action at over the weekend of 17th and 18th September, removing approximately two tonnes of litter.

Clean Coasts received overwhelming support and commitment from Wicklow volunteers and communities for the Big Beach Clean weekend.

The Big Beach Clean is an annual call to action that runs as part of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), operated internationally by Ocean Conservancy and invites communities and volunteers around the country to remove litter from around the

Irish coast after the end of the bathing season.

Once more, volunteers were asked to join the call to action, no matter how far from the coast. Statistics show that the number one cause of marine litter is litter dropped in towns and cities and getting involved in the Big Beach Clean has been a way for residents of non-coastal counties to help prevent litter entering our waterways tackle

the problem at its source.

This year, a record number of over 500 clean-ups were organised by volunteers who removed over 63 tonnes of litter nationwide.

In County Wicklow, 27 groups and volunteers were joined by Arklow Tidy Towns, Clean Coasts North Wicklow, Newcastle Community Group and others. Groups in Wicklow tackled litter in

several locations, including North Beach Arklow, South Beach Greystones, Newcastle Beach and more.

Clean Coasts officer Aidan Gray joined Greystones Tidy Towns, Kerry Dairy and Paragon Records on Friday 16th September for their Big Beach Clean event on Greystones South Beach. During the event, volunteers removed marine litter, learnt about biodiversity and what can be done to protect it, and completed the litter survey on the Clean Coasts' marine litter data cards.

Clean Coasts group North Wicklow hosted two clean-ups, one on Saturday at 10am at Burnaby and one on Sunday at 10am at Rise at the Cove. The group said: "We are proud to be part of a global campaign to tackle waste and support a more sustainable world!"

The group collected 13.5kg of marine litter and over 700 cigarette butts.

Coast Care Arklow Clean Coasts group hosted their Big Beach Clean event on Friday 16th September removing approximately 10kg of litter, including cigarette butts, food wrappers, and plastic bottles.

Each year this initiative is also an opportunity for Big Beach Clean Wicklow volunteers to get involved in



Big Beach Clean volunteers in Greystones

a worldwide citizen science project, which entails collecting the amount and types of litter on Irish beaches and filling in Clean Coasts' Marine Litter Data Cards to share with Ocean Conservancy, help heighten awareness about the issue of marine litter serving as an indicator of the magnitude of the problem and help shape future policies and campaigns."

So far, data collected from the International Coastal Cleanup have informed policy in a number of areas, leading to laws banning the use of plastic grocery bags; prohibiting smoking-related litter; encouraging the use of reusable bags; prohibiting mass balloon releases; and prohibiting food and beverage take-away containers.



Cleaning up in Arklow



Cllr Lourda Scott at the Beach Clean in Greystones

Ready Set Go for Wicklow Hospice Half and Full Marathon

With a few weeks to go, The Wicklow Hospice Marathon and Half Marathon returns on 15th October to raise vital funds for Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, Wicklow.

Following a successful and enjoyable inaugural marathon event in 2021, this year, the Hospice is hoping to build on that success and have over 150 participants across the half and full marathons.

Speaking about the event, Eleanor Flew, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services Director of Fundraising and Communications said, "We're delighted to bring this race back as it was well supported by the community last year, we hope to see old friends and welcome new faces. We encourage people to put on their runners and take to the road to jog/run this looped course."

"We encourage all participants to raise a minimum of €100 in sponsorship. The fundraising team can help with sponsorship cards, setting up an online fundraising page and other advice. If you can't take part perhaps you could sponsor a friend or help us spread the word about this event. Money raised will fund on-going enhancements to Wicklow Hospice and the purchasing of specialised equipment," she explained.

Meeting at The Beehive Bar & Restaurant, runners will complete a looped course. The entry fee is €35 for the half marathon and €55 for the full marathon, with all participants receiving a medal. The event is open to individuals and club members of all ages.

The Full Marathon starts at 8am and Half Marathon starts at 9am. Location/venue: Beehive Bar & Restaurant. To sign up, see the route and get full details visit: www.myrunresults.com



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Full details on Admissions 2023 - 2024 (First Years) are on our school website www.stdavids.ie under policies tab.

Our Open Night Zoom link has already been provided to Sixth Class parents/guardians in our nine local primary feeder schools. All others, please contact our school office at info@stdavids.ie for Zoom link.

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Ambitious solar panel programme proposed for Wicklow

Social Democrats Spokesperson on Energy and Climate Action, Deputy Whitmore has proposed an ambitious solar panel programme for 100,000 homes as part of the Party's Alternative Budget launched last week.

The solar panel programme would also benefit individual houses in Wicklow by helping them to become more resilient to energy price and supply shocks, according to Deputy Whitmore.

Speaking on the launch, Deputy Whitmore says, "The Government needs to urgently ramp-up investment in solar energy in next week's budget. We need to see a strong focus on creating a more sustainable Ireland, allowing individual households to become more resilient to energy price and supply shocks."

"Our alternative budget calls on the Government to commit to installing solar panels on 100,000 homes over the next two years. This includes a proposal for an initial €200m fund to provide grants to households to install solar panels, which will help reduce emissions and cut electricity bills by an average of up to 40 percent over the course of a year."

"The initial tranche of funding should be targeted at low-income households, using the same eligibility criteria as the Warmer Homes Scheme. It is crucial that the instal-



Jennifer Whitmore TD

lation of solar panels is provided free of charge to those most at risk of energy poverty. In addition to targeting 100,000 homes, we have also called for a doubling of the existing grant for solar panels. There should also be a parallel move to install solar panels on public buildings, including schools.

"Around one million homes in Ireland are suitable for solar panels

but do not have them installed. This means many dozens of thousands of households in Wicklow could benefit from such a programme, helping those particularly vulnerable to energy price shocks, gain greater protection from future energy crisis.

"The lack of investment to date, however is a wasted opportunity as we grapple with skyrocketing energy costs and a climate emergency in the immediate term. It's important that measures are put in place now, to benefit people as soon as possible as the future remains uncertain in the energy sector."

"Separately, the Government needs to look at adopting a more flexible approach when it comes to planning regulations surrounding solar panels. At present, planning permission depends on the size of a home's roof, but these rules should be relaxed to reflect the urgent response that this crisis requires. I will be watching the Budget closely to see how it will help people in Wicklow who are struggling to face winter energy bills and the rising cost of living," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

'Government TDs must hold ministers to account over school transport shambles'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called on the Government TDs for Wicklow - Simon Harris, Stephen Donnelly and Steven Matthews - to urge Minister for Education Norma Foley and Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan to take immediate action to address the school transport shambles that has left children and parents stranded.

Deputy Brady said: "Parents up and down the state have been badly let down with thousands of children left without a place on school transport."

"Many parents, who have relied for years on school transport on concessionary passes, have been left high and dry after being told that their child no longer has a seat on the bus."

"They are being told that Bus Éireann is getting correspondence that additional capacity is not

being sought for concessionary pupils who secured tickets for this school year, while other parents lost out due the unfair lottery nature of the scheme."

"Families expecting to see savings of €500 now look set to instead be heaped with additional costs as they try to find alternatives."

"My constituency offices have been overwhelmed with worried families who are paying for a service upon which

they relied and now find themselves unable to get their children to school."

"There has been a complete failure of Ministers Foley and Ryan to plan and deliver the additional capacity needed."

"They should have anticipated the increase in demand following the introduction of free school transport, and should have worked with Bus Éireann to deliver additional capacity to ensure that no child is left behind."

"Instead of facing up to this debacle, they have gone into hiding, so Government TDs here in Wicklow must hold them to account."

"Failure to do so demonstrates a real lack of respect for parents. This mess is entirely of the Government's making, and families need a solution and they need it now."

"Sinn Féin Education and Transport spokespersons, Donnchadh O'Laoghaire and Darren O'Rourke, have consistently called for an additional 10,000 places on school transport. That is the level of investment that is necessary to get on top of this crisis."

'Go-Ahead contract extension should not go ahead'

North Wicklow Labour Party representatives Cllr Anne Ferris, Ian McGahon and Anne Waithira Burke have written to the National Transport Authority regarding the ongoing problems with regularly cancelled buses and to ask it not to extend the Go-Ahead Ireland contract to run the 45a, 184 and 185 bus services beyond the contract expiry date of 2023.

In a statement; Ferris, McGahon and Burke said "Go-Ahead's bus service in Bray, Enniskerry, Kilmacanogue, Greystones and Netown-moun-tkenedy is a complete and utter shambles. Every day we hear of stories of schoolchildren being late for school, workers abandoning these unreliable local buses to drive, elderly people waiting many hours for buses home and young people left stranded."

"Additionally Go Ahead frequently cancels the last bus at night time. It is clear commuters in North Wicklow are being failed and have no faith at all in Go Ahead Ireland."

"The contract between Go-Ahead Ireland and the National Transport Authority to operate the three

routes 45a, 184 and 185 and other routes is agreed until October 2023. In October 2022 the National Transport Authority has the option to extend this contract by one year so that Go-Ahead Ireland's contract to run 45a, 184 and 185 and other routes would run then until October 2024. We as Labour party public representatives feel this shambles cannot continue any longer."

"We have written to the CEO of the National Transport Authority urging them not to extend Go Ahead Ireland's contract into 2024 for these shockingly poor bus services. Local people in Bray, Greystones, Enniskerry, Kilmacanogue deserve so much better," concluded Ferris, McGahon and Burke.



Isabelle O'Grady, Sigve Svengerud, Meave Svengerud and Caragh O'Connor at Niki Keane's solo exhibition in Arklow Library.



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Event to discuss upland paths

Following the completion of an extensive survey focussed on the current condition of many of county Wicklow's upland paths, a special online event has been organised

Aside from managed trails such as the Wicklow Way, there is an extensive network of informal paths that criss-cross the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands, connecting routes, peaks and popular points of interest for hikers and walkers. Evolved through common usage over the decades, the impact of the ever-increasing footfall on these paths contribute to soil erosion and the loss of vegetation and sensitive habitats. Often scarring the landscape, the paths frequently cross fragile peat soil, leading to a loss of carbon and water runoff that affects the water quality of upland streams.

With biodiversity and landscape preservation, along with sustainable recreational enjoyment in mind, a public event titled 'The Condition Of Upland Paths In The Wicklow Mountains' has been organised for 3pm on Wednesday the 28th of September.

Led by Chris York of 'Walking the Talk', the online event that includes a Q&A session on the findings of the survey, offers a great insight into how to potentially address the damaged areas, minimise future erosion and sustainably manage recreational usage into the future.

Given the importance of the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands as an invaluable natural resource for recreational activities, fresh water, conservation efforts and climate mitigation measures, both the event and upcoming release of the final report, are expected to generate considerable interest from a wide-reaching audience.

To attend the event, advance registration is required. For further information, please visit the Wicklow Uplands Council website, www.wicklowuplands.ie or email, bdunne@wicklowuplands.ie

Funding announced for local biodiversity projects

Malcolm Noonan T.D., Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, has announced over €1.4 million in funding for Local Authorities to carry out biodiversity projects through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF).

Wicklow projects include €32,700 for a dune management and education at Brittas Bay and €15,300 for a countywide hedgerow survey to address an information gap.

The focus of the 2022 Brittas Bay Conservation Project is to continue to implement an annual programme of works as per the management recommendations drafted in 2018. In addition to the conservation management and monitoring elements it is planned to initiate enhanced community engagement elements and to address onsite interpretation and messaging.

Green Party TD Steven Matthews said, "I'm delighted to

see Wicklow County Council applied for and were successful in obtaining funding for biodiversity projects. Not only do we have a climate crisis but also a biodiversity crisis and protecting the biodiversity in our planet is key to our survival. Protecting it needs to be integral to everything we do. Localised projects like these will raise awareness of the importance of natural assets like dunes and hedgerows in protecting our diverse species and ecosystems."

Councillor Lourda Scott said "As Chair of the Climate & Biodiversity Action Strategic Policy Committee, I know that engagement with communities and local authorities is vital for the suc-

cess of the National Biodiversity Action Plan. This funding will help support implementation of the plan in Wicklow. Having declared a Biodiversity emergency in 2019 this is particularly welcome."

Since it was launched in 2018, a total of almost €4m has been granted to local authorities through the LBAF to carry out projects in support of the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (NBAP).

The LBAF scheme represents a commitment to support implementation of the Plan at community, county and regional level, and recognises the importance of the work carried out by local authorities through their biodiversity and

heritage officers. All 31 local authorities applied for and will receive funding this year, with a total of 128 projects approved, covering a range of biodiversity related activities, including invasive alien species control, dune restoration, wetland surveys and biodiversity awareness and training.

The public consultation for Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan launched on September 1st and submissions are invited through www.gov.ie/biodiversityplan.

The public consultation will close on November 9th and the 4th NBAP will be published in early 2023.

Communities discuss heritage tourism

Community events were held in Baltinglass, Tinahely and Rathdrum last week where local communities were given an opportunity to share their views about heritage tourism development in their local areas.

Organised by the CUPHAT (Coastal Uplands: Heritage and Tourism) Project, Project officers provided a short introduction to the project heard the local views about the type of tourism development that would best support local communities, businesses and services.

CUPHAT, supported by the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland-Wales Cooperation programme, focuses on sustainable and regenerative heritage-based tourism in the coastal uplands of Ireland and Wales. The project seeks to showcase the shared and distinctive heritages of the coastal uplands of Ireland and Wales bordering the Irish Sea.

The UCD project leads, Dr Arlene Crampsie and Dr Christine Bonnin describe CUPHAT as "an innovative project directly involving all members of local communities and stakeholders in collaboration so that CUPHAT can 1) develop locally appropriate tourist activities that support rural economic development, 2) help address some of the challenges facing coastal upland communities, and 3) ensure that the kind of tourism promoted by the project is not just sustainable but also actively beneficial to the region. We want to learn from local communities about aspects of the cultural and natural heritage of the Wicklow Mountains that are most significant and meaningful to them and that

could be better showcased to a tourist audience."

The project will work with a range of community, local and national stakeholders from Wales and Ireland, with Aberystwyth University leading the project, and working in partnership with University College Dublin and the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. The project aims to showcase the natural and cultural heritage of four coastal upland areas in Ireland (Wicklow and Blackstairs Mountains) and Wales (Cambrian and Preseli Mountains) to increase sustainable forms of tourism within them, thus leading to the creation of more sustainable livelihoods, communities and environments.

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BIFE goes from strength to strength

Bray Institute of Further Education's Graduation Ceremony 2022 will take place this year on the BIFE campus for the first time since 2019, on Saturday 12th November. Conferring will take place over two sittings.

"We are delighted to have so many graduating this year as we celebrate over 30 years of serving the Wicklow, Wexford, Kildare, and Greater Dublin area," said Deputy Principal Gabriel Allen. "In this difficult economic climate, having a Level 5/Level 6 Certificate, Diploma or Higher National Diploma award remains a prerequisite to finding meaningful employment, irrespective of location. These awards are portable and their quality is recognised internationally which gives the graduate every opportunity of success."

BIFE has been going from strength to strength over the last decade and is now one of the largest colleges of further education in the country. They offer over 80 different courses in many different subject areas. They have signed agreements with all of the IT's and Universities in the South-east region allowing their students to progress seamlessly to higher education on completion of their course in BIFE. Their graduates also have the opportunity to gain advanced entry onto higher education degree courses and in some instances complete an honours degree with one extra year of study in Higher Education Institutes.

Work Placement is a vital part of BIFE courses and now all students in the College have the opportunity to complete a 3-week or a 3-month work placement abroad in countries such as Spain, Portugal, Poland, Italy, Finland, Malta or Czechia under the Erasmus+ Programme



Paddy McNulty (Deputy Principal BIFE), Simon Harris (Minister for Further & Higher Education) & Ray Tedders (Principal BIFE) at a recent graduation ceremony.

which is sponsored by the European Union. "This is a terrific opportunity for our students" according to Allen, "not only to gain valuable work experience in a European country, but also to experience a different culture and to broaden their horizons". BIFE is adding several new countries to their Erasmus+ portfolio with partners in Athens, Istanbul, Berlin & Austria coming on board.

BIFE has plans in place to be one of the new "Further Education Colleges of the Future".

They have already:

- Developed a new state-of-the-art hairdressing and Barbering Training

Academy comprising of two Salons which will cater for up to 50 full-time hairdressing and barbering students.

- Developed state-of-the-art restaurant, which will work in tandem with their training kitchens, bar and barista facilities which will cater for up to 50 full-time culinary arts students as well as 16 apprentice commis chefs and 50 part-time students.

- Developed a Film & TV Academy consisting of TV studios and editing facilities. It will feed into their already dynamic Film, TV and Music facilities and will support the future growth of the Irish Film, TV and Music Industry in

the area. Bray Institute with its prime location and existing base is positioned to help maintain and develop the Irish Film sector. This Film & TV Academy caters for 60 film students and 20 film apprentices along with 50 part-time film students

- Developed a new Engineering department in conjunction with IT Tallaght. BIFE engineering students have access to both BIFE and Tallaght for their courses.

Projects currently planned are:

- To develop an Animal Hospital & Health School on the grounds of BIFE, catering for the Health Sciences such as Nursing,

Food Science and Social Sciences and Animal Science

- To develop a new Media Centre for Film and TV consisting of TV studios, editing facilities and performance areas. This Media Centre will also include studios for sound, music and their various performing arts studios such as Dance and Theatre. It will feed into their already dynamic Film, TV and Music facilities and will support the future growth of the Irish Film, TV and Music Industry in the area

- To develop sports facilities to include a new sports centre and an Astro turf all-weather pitch with both Gaelic and Soccer dimensions to cater for BIFE's Sports Department, one of the fastest growing departments in the Institute, facilities which would also cater for the local sporting and community needs.

- To develop student accommodation to cater for BIFE students.

- To consolidate onto one campus the many adult services in the town of Bray offered by Kildare & Wicklow ETB.

To discover more about what's on offer at BIFE, prospective students are invited to attend their **Open Evening this coming Wednesday 28th September between 4pm and 5pm.**

Places are still available on these courses. All courses will be up and running this week so do hurry and apply for the final places available. You can call the Institute during office hours on 01-2829668 or log on to www.bife.ie and apply on-line.



The Higher Options Expo which was held in the RDS last week is the foremost annual education expo for Irish senior second level students. Hundreds of third level institutes had stands manned by teachers to answer would-be students' questions. Pictured at the Exhibition was Minister for Further and Higher Education Simon Harris with Ray Tedders, Principal of Bray Institute of Further Education.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SOCIAL HOUSING ASSESSMENT 2022

IMPORTANT NOTICE IF YOU ARE AN APPLICANT ON WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL'S LIST FOR SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT

Wicklow County Council intends to carry out a Social Housing Assessment in accordance with Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009.

The Social Housing Assessment is a review of all approved applicants for social housing supports who are currently on the Social Housing List with Wicklow County Council.

The Council has written to Applicants on the Social Housing List who have been approved for Social Housing prior to 3rd September 2021 using the current address provided. If you have moved address please contact the Housing Section in writing to update your address details as soon as possible.

Each approved Applicant is required to complete a form and return it with supporting documents before 7th October 2022. If you have any difficulty with completing this form, you can contact the Housing Section for assistance:

Email: hna@wicklowcoco.ie

Tel: 0404 20100

If you fail to return this information within the specified time period, your application for Social Housing will be closed and you will be removed from Wicklow County Council's list for Social Housing Support.

All approved Social Housing Applicants should return their forms by Friday 7th October to:

Theresa O'Brien
Senior Executive Officer
Housing & Corporate Estate,
Wicklow County Council
County Buildings,
Wicklow Town,
Co. Wicklow



Recent graduates from BIFE

Women take a dip in Bray for World GO Day

A group of women took a dip at Bray beach last Tuesday, 20th September, for World GO Day, an international awareness day to raise awareness around gynaecological cancers.

The Irish Network for Gynaecological Oncology (INGO) encouraged women across Ireland to take a 'Dip or Dance' to raise awareness of how to reduce the risk of uterine cancer and the importance of acting on potential early signs or symptoms.

The recent average annual incidence of Uterine cancers diagnosed in Ireland is 540, making it the most common gynaecological cancer (NCRI Annual Report, 2021) and the 5th most common cancer in women in Ireland (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer). Symptoms for uterine cancer include abnormal vaginal bleeding or discharge and pelvic pain or pressure. Uterine cancer is often diagnosed early, and the recent 5-year survival rates are 78% (NCRI Annual Report, 2021).

Uterine cancer is a type of cancer that begins in the uterus/womb. The majority of uterine cancers arise from the lining of the uterus/womb known as the endometrium. Risk factors for this cancer type can include age, and genetics.

Woman can reduce the risk of uterine cancer by

being active and maintaining a healthier body weight.

New research commissioned by the Irish Network for Gynaecological Oncology (INGO) has highlighted that three in five women in Ireland admit that they cannot name any of the signs or symptoms of this type of cancer.

The INGO has developed the World GO Day 'Dip or Dance' campaign to remind women to maintain a healthier weight and stay active to reduce the risk of developing Uterine Cancer.

Professor Carel le Roux, obesity specialist from St Vincent's Hospital said, "Over 2000 gynaecological cancers are diagnosed across the Island of Ireland annually. However, we are delivering a positive message this World GO Day that being a healthier weight and physically active can reduce the risk of developing uterine cancer. Currently between 70 and 80% of uterine cancer patients live with obesity which is why we are encouraging women to seek help to treat obesity while also incorporating physical activity into their daily routine. We know that intentional weight

loss in postmenopausal women is associated with a lower endometrial cancer risk, especially among women living with obesity. It is worth checking out the Irish Cancer Society funded Women's Health Initiative platform; thisisGO.ie as there is lots of information and very helpful resources there."

Juliette Casey from the Emer Casey Foundation and a member of the INGO, said, "When Emer passed away in 2006 aged only 28 from uterine/ovarian cancer we did not know a great deal about any of the gynaecological cancers. We now know that, in some uterine cancers, something occurs to create a genetic mutation within cells in the endometrium. The Emer Casey Foundation looks forward to working with scientists to help our understanding of genetic pathways to uterine cancer."

Speaking last Tuesday, Dr. Sharon O'Toole, Senior Research Fellow in Trinity College Dublin, and Coordinator of the World GO Day campaign at INGO, said, "Today is all about elevating the public's understanding of gynaecologi-



Women taking a dip in Bray last Tuesday for World GO Day

cal cancers and highlighting the risk factors, symptoms, the importance and benefits of early diagnosis and risk reduction strategies related to the main types of gynaecological cancers that impact women: cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal, and vulval. The Irish Network for Gynaecological Oncology believes in the power of working together to improve women's lives."

Creative Places Baltinglass

Wicklow County Arts Office launched Creative Places Baltinglass with a special Culture Night programme on Friday, 23rd September.

Following a successful application led by Wicklow County Council in partnership with local community development organisations in Baltinglass and West Wicklow, the people of Baltinglass will benefit from an investment programme to the amount of €375,000 awarded by the Arts Council to develop and sustain new creative opportunities for all age groups over the next three years.

Creative Places is an opportunity for locations which had not benefited from sustained arts investment in the past to build local arts programmes which will benefit local people. Each programme will have a coordinator and the approach is inclusive and diverse and rooted in socially engaged practice and community development principles. It builds on existing cultural strengths and is led by community participation and ideas and supported by artists.

The inaugural Baltinglass Culture Night programme included: Bodhran Buzz Family

Workshop where children and adults learned how to hold the bodhran and the stick and master the basics of getting the first few beats; Harpist Aisling Ennis, soprano Catherine Redding and local author Robert Barrett presenting a classical recital; West Wicklow based trad sensations Kila; Four-piece band The Voyagers.

In partnership with Wicklow Library Services, Baltinglass library hosted two activities: Felt Making Workshop with Tamzen Lundy; Painting Workshops with local artist Maura O'Halloran.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, said: "The community of Baltinglass is extremely excited to have received this investment through the Arts Council's Creative Places initiative. The amount of investment is unprecedented and will be really well received."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson, stated that the application

was well supported by the community and voluntary sector from the area and now they will continue to work collaboratively to ensure the initiative will have maximum impact.

Director of the Arts Council, Maureen Kennelly, stated: "We are delighted to be awarding Creative Places Baltinglass; it is not a place where we have not been able to invest before and it is very important to us that public investment in the arts reaches and benefits more people in a sustained and meaningful way. We are very excited to see how the people of Baltinglass will respond to what matters to them most, and we look forward to working further with the community and Wicklow County Council."

Over the autumn, Creative Places Baltinglass programme will be established, a coordinator will be appointed, and conversations with the community will get underway.

Managed by Wicklow County Arts Office, contact Sile Stewart, Art Services Coordinator, at 0404 20100 extn. 4910 or email ssewart@wicklowcoco.ie for more information.



Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Tommy Annesley launching Creative Places Baltinglass

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'Help to Buy Scheme is working for Wicklow's first-time buyers'

Wicklow Fianna Fail Senator Pat Casey has praised the Help to Buy Scheme as making a real difference to the 1,354 families in Wicklow who have successfully availed of the scheme to allow them to purchase or build their first home.

"Having worked with Minister Darragh O'Brien and his colleagues on this scheme, I am delighted to see that since it was rolled out that so many people have been successful in securing financial support to buy a home," said Senator Casey.

"So far 32,666 HTB claims had been made, of which 31,841 were approved. The estimated total value of approved HTB claims to date is in the order of €599.0 million and the total value of approved and pending HTB claims to date is in the order of €614.6 million. Of these 1,326 have been approved for Wicklow plus another 28 in first quarter this

year bringing a total of 1,354"

"The Help to Buy incentive offers first-time purchasers of a new house / apartment the opportunity to avail of a refund on Income Tax and Deposit Interest Retention Tax (DIRT) paid in the State over the previous four years, subject to limits outlined in Section 477C of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997. One of the policy aims of the incentive is to assist first-time buyers of new homes to fund the deposit required under the Central Bank's macro-prudential rules. The other is to encourage the building of additional new properties."

A €500,000 price ceiling

applies under the scheme, although a €600,000 maximum applied previously where, in the period from 19 July 2016 to 31 December 2016, a contract for the purchase of a new house was entered into, or in the case of a self-build, the first tranche of a qualifying loan was drawn down by the claimant. Help to Buy allows claimants to select all or any of the previous four tax years for the purposes of calculating the refund available to them. Enhancements to the scheme were provided for in Section 8 of the Financial Provisions (COVID-19) (No. 2) Act 2020 such that the maximum rebate is currently the

lower of: €30,000 (increased in 2020 from €20,000); the total income tax and DIRT paid in the previous four years; or 10 per cent (increased in 2020 from 5 per cent) of the purchase price of a new build property, including self-builds.

"Home ownership is a key aspiration of working people all over Wicklow and I know that with the evidence of success of Help to Buy, the new Shared Equity Scheme the increase in Part V and further measures will be introduced to ensure that the ability to buy or build a home all over our County is available to all who wish to do so."

Laragh village boundary to be extended

Councillors have voted to extend the village boundary in Laragh by 1.5 acres. The decision was made during the debate to finalise Wicklow's County Development Plan earlier this month.

The proposal was put forward by Cllr Shay Cullen who says it will pave the way for a once-off house to be built which in turn would allow for Laragh Castle to be opened up as a tourist attraction.

Laragh Castle is currently in private ownership. The amendment will extend the site boundary so that another house can be accommodated on it to allow for the occupants of Laragh Castle to move out and into the new house.

The proposal was passed by 27 votes to 4, and went against the recommendation of the Council's Chief Executive Brian Gleeson.

"The other lands that are owned by the family in question are not suitable for development," Cllr Cullen explained. "They're wetlands and that's why this particular site has been chosen. It's the only site that is suitable for development for a one-off house. I want to emphasise this is a one-off house for the owners of Laragh Castle, to provide a tourist destination. It is a magnificent building and can be opened up to the public and will be an added attraction for the Glendalough and Laragh area."

Also supporting the proposal, Cllr John Snell said "People in the uplands are entitled to

a roof over their head as well as people in the urban area. This makes good business sense. Laragh will be opened up to future generations and we all know that Laragh and Glendalough is the jewel in the crown in regard to tourism in this county. This is just one housing unit. I would ask you to think about that. We are not talking about a large-scale development."

Senior Planner Sorcha Walsh said: "The landowner didn't make a submission in relation to this proposed amendment with a business plan. The proposal is to change the village boundary. It doesn't restrict the development of the land to the owners of Laragh Castle. They could in theory sell the site to a third party, so it doesn't tie this site to the owner or to the future development of Laragh Castle. It is a simple boundary extension."



Mervyn Griffin taking part in the recent ParkRun in Avondale Forest Park

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Many people are alarmed to be told that just because you are the 'Next of Kin' that you do not have the authority to make decisions for your loved one if they become mentally incapacitated due to injury or accident. The medical profession will require that an Enduring Power of Attorney be in existence, as indeed will other professions such as accountants and banks.

Safeguarding Ireland earlier this month said more people 'Thinking Ahead' would help to reduce and prevent abuse of vulnerable adults. Recent research, commissioned by Safeguarding Ireland, showed that just 6% of adults had appointed an Attorney under Enduring Power of Attorney, and just 8% had discussed a preferred place of care.

"When people don't have their choices, preferences and decisions legally stated and they have a life-changing accident, become seriously ill, or frail due to age and they are reliant on the honesty of friends and family. In most cases people's wishes are



upheld by loved ones.

"Unfortunately, it is estimated that up to 10% of people are dishonest in how they manage a vulnerable person's money. That is why it is very important for all of us to appoint an Attorney and also put

in place an Advance Healthcare Directive."

So what is an Enduring Power of Attorney?

An Enduring Power of Attorney is a legal document which allows an

individual to choose to appoint a specific individual (usually a close family member) to look after both your person and financial affairs in the event that for any reason you lose your mental capacity in the future. An enduring power of attorney is only valid or effective if you lose your mental capacity at some future point in time. An enduring power of attorney can be an extremely powerful document that significantly bypasses the hurdles and problems your family could face when trying to deal with your affairs should you become incapable. The main purpose of an enduring power of attorney is to enable somebody of your choosing to have the entitlement to manage your financial and personal affairs for you if you lose your mental capacity at some future date.

An enduring Power of Attorney creates peace of mind

The execution of an enduring power of attorney is an excellent way of planning for the future and provides a mechanism for the management of the donor's affairs in the event that the donor becomes incapable of doing so themselves in the future.

Unlike a general power of attorney which has immediate effect once executed, an enduring power of attorney will only come into effect at a later date should the donor become incapable of managing their affairs. The enduring power of attorney will not come into force should you remain in control of your affairs.

As a donor of an enduring power of attorney, there are a number of safeguards designed to protect you.

When executing an enduring power of attorney, you can decide as to the scope of your affairs that you wish to have delegated to your attorneys. As donor, you can decide whether to grant authority for the control of your financial affairs, personal care, housing, medical affairs etc. Your solicitor will take great care in discussing all options so as to determine what is best for you.

An enduring power of attorney therefore allows you to maintain control of your affairs until such time as you may become unable to do so yourself through mental incapacity.

Why bother with an Enduring Power of Attorney

Have you considered how you or your family would cope if you were to suffer from some accident or illness which deprived you of the mental capacity to look after your own affairs?

With advances in medical care, increasing life expectancy and varying property values there is a growing need for people to make arrangements which can be brought into effect in the event of mental incapacity arising. Under the Powers of

Attorney Act 1996 it is possible for you to make provision for these situations by setting up an enduring power of attorney. Your solicitor can explain the formalities and arrange for you to sign the necessary document now while you have the good

health and the capacity to make the decision as to the person or persons whom you would wish to look after your affairs should the need arise. If a person loses mental capacity without having signed a valid Enduring Power of Attorney then in

order to manage the person's property and affairs it is necessary to have such a person made a Ward of Court. This can be an expensive and lengthy process so having an enduring power of attorney in place is preferable.

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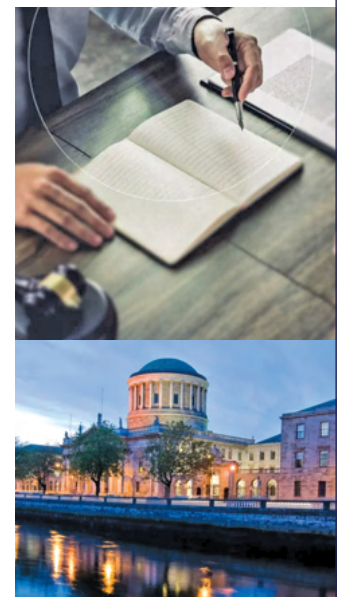
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The best way to protect your own and your family's interests when you can't ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY



There are many ways in which a person might lose mental capacity - Alzheimer's disease; Dementia; Stroke; Accident, etc

Mark Felton of Felton McKnight solicitors in Greystones says "I have an audio CD (available for

pick up in office) giving full information about EPA's that I am willing to make available to any Wicklow Times Reader who would like one. It is very beneficial to those who need them and will ultimately save people a lot

of money by making the management of their affairs significantly more straightforward than they would otherwise be, if they don't have an EPA in place and they lose their capacity.

"An assumption is often made that a person's spouse, if they have one, (or a family member,) will be able to make all relevant decisions on behalf of a person if they lose their mental capacity. That is not in fact the case. It is also often assumed that where a property is owned jointly by a couple, if one of them loses their capacity, the other party could, if they wished to do so, sell the property, if for example the property was not suitable for the care needs of the incapacitated party. Again, that is not the case.

"The question therefore is how can the affairs of someone who has lost their mental capacity be managed for them. The answer is that the most straightforward way in which that can be done is by means of an Enduring Power of Attorney.

"It is possible to appoint just one attorney or you can appoint more than one. The choice is yours. It is also possible to appoint one or more than person to be what are referred to as substitute attorneys and it is recommended that you would do this. The substitute attorneys are people who will only ever become involved in the manage-

ment of your affairs if the first named attorneys have also become incapable and are no longer able to manage your affairs.

"If you wish to do so you can give your attorney your permission to manage both your financial and property related affairs and your personal affairs. Personal affairs are the normal day to day things you decide for yourself on an ongoing basis. Things like where you live, who you live with, your diet and your dress, where you go, who you see or don't see, and other similar decisions. It is a good idea to allow your attorneys to have your permission to make these decisions for you also. You can, if you wish, also restrict your attorneys and only allow them to make certain decisions for you or about you.

"The critical decision to make is who you wish to appoint as your attorney(s). You need to be absolutely certain that your attorney(s) will act in a manner that they believe is in your best interests. It is a position that carries a lot of responsibility.

"Attorneys are generally not paid for acting as attorneys. They are generally however entitled to recover



out of pocket expenses that they incur when they are managing your affairs for you. This again is a matter for you to decide.

When an Enduring Power of Attorney is signed it also has to be signed by the person's doctor who has to confirm that as far as they are concerned the person had the necessary mental capacity to understand to document.

"It is also important to note that there are proposed

legislative changes about the come into force in relation to the creation and operation of Enduring Powers of Attorney. It appears likely that the new regulations are going to add additional complications to the process and it is therefore recommended that if you are interested in putting an Enduring Power of Attorney in place you should try to do so before the legislation changes."

Rory Benville from

Benville & Robinson Solicitors in Bray says "In advance of an EPA consultation you will need to have given careful consideration as to whom you would like to act as your Attorney(s) and who you would like to appoint as your Notice Parties. In addition, we will need your date of birth and the name of your current General Practitioner. You can call into us and we will walk you through the entire process."

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Conor and Eibhlin Lumsden celebrating the recent Harvest Day at Brittas Bay National School

Schools sign up to sexual health education programme

A new nationwide education programme 'Debunking The Myths: The Science Behind Our Sexual Health' has been launched by the RCSI Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in collaboration with The Rotunda Hospital. The project is funded by Science Foundation Ireland under the Discover Programme.

Two schools in Co. Wicklow have signed up to the programme so far. In the current climate of 'fake news', it can be challenging for teenagers to find reliable sources of information about sexual and reproductive health. Many teenagers are learning about their bodies from film, television and social media, which often show standardised images that help perpetuate myths and unrealistic body standards.

With this in mind, the 'Debunking The Myths' programme was designed to help teenagers learn more about these topics by stimulating open discussion and curiosity while providing clear and reliable information in a non-biased and non-judgemental way. Live and interactive workshops will be delivered by Obstetrics and Gynaecology consultants and midwives based at the Rotunda Hospital in conjunction with Infectious Disease and Emergency Medicine specialists, GPs and psychologists. Topics include information directly in line with the government's Women's Health Action Plan 2022-2023 and the RSE curriculum, including the HPV vaccine, contraception, menstruation, STI prevention and fertility.

With the support of Science Foundation Ireland Discover

Programme and the Rotunda Foundation, from

October 2022 - March 2023 over 4,000 transition year students from 52 schools in 20 counties across Ireland will have the opportunity to attend these expert-led workshops both in-person and virtually.

Professor Fergal Malone, programme lead at 'Debunking The Myths' and Master of the Rotunda Hospital said: "The launch of Debunking The Myths is a very exciting time for us all at the RCSI Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and we are delighted to have over 4,000 students registered so far. The ability for our experts to engage with young people virtually has revolutionised the programme and allows us to offer this programme to schools beyond Dublin. Young people are more online than ever, and we need to ensure that the information they receive is factual, relevant, and most of all, safe."

The first phase of the project will conclude in April 2023 with a livestream workshop. If you want to get in touch with the team of 'Debunking The Myths' you can check the website www.debunkingthemyths.ie or send an email to debunkingthemyths@rcsi.ie.

North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School Open Night

North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School provides high standards of learning, teaching and student support in an equality based, sustainable and socially-just environment. As an Educate Together school we actively place student participation and involvement at the centre of all our work.

At Junior Cycle students study a short course in either Coding, Artistic Performance or Climate Action along with their other subjects. Students have short tasters of the optional subjects during the first term on First Year before they make a decision on their Junior Cycle subjects.

"We have a special transition program to support First Years which runs for three days prior to students starting in September. This helps the students settle into school and get to know the staff and school."

Some feedback from recent Department

of Education inspection reports stated 'The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is excellent'; 'Students were competent in working collaboratively and they instinctively elected to do so according to their needs in making progress with tasks. Their engagement was excellent.'; 'In all lessons, digital technology was used very effectively to support teaching and learning and encourage student engagement'.

"We asked our students to describe their school in one word and here's what they said: 'Unique, diverse, inspiring, friendly, safe, amazing, freedom, opportunities,

accommodating, positive, eventful, relaxing, excellence, phenomenal, understanding, enjoyable, accessible, inclusive and just'.

"We open applications for First Year 2023 on Tuesday 4th October via our website: www.nwetss.ie

"We will be holding an Open Night on Thursday 6th October from 5pm to 7pm. This is your chance to join a school tour and to meet teachers, staff and current students to really get a feel for our school. Please come along on the night - no need to book. All welcome!"

Bray native appointed new CEO of AONTAS

National adult learning organisation AONTUS has announced the appointment of Dearbhail Lawless as its CEO.

Originally from Bray, Ms Lawless has a background of teaching in community, Further and Higher Education. She joined AONTAS in 2018 as EU Project Officer and went on to become the organisation's Head of Advocacy, before being appointed as CEO this summer.

In her new role, Ms Lawless wants to see the profile of adult and community education grow and to foster more connection and collaboration between AONTAS' members so that anyone, from any background, can access education and feel comfortable doing so.

Speaking about her appointment, Ms Lawless said that a priority for her as CEO will be to ensure that all adult learners "feel safe, respected and welcomed in education" and ensuring that learners are supported to continue their education throughout the cost-of-living crisis.

"Accessing education should not feel like a risk or a burden to adult learners and while there have been positive developments in support and policy to address barriers such as childcare, transport and accommodation, AONTAS will continue to address these issues, particularly in the current climate of increasing costs of living."



Dearbhail Lawless

Diversity and inclusion are also key priorities for the new CEO: "Rather than individuals shapeshifting to fit into the education system, the education system should be reshaped to fit around the needs and experiences of people of all ages and backgrounds."

Representation is hugely important for adult learners and for the NGO sector in Ireland.

"I know that as a 36-year-old gay woman from a working-class background, I'm probably still a rarity amongst CEOs in Ireland. I'm here to advocate for adult learners and for those who work in adult education, and I hope I can also help to shift the balance of representation in Irish society too."

Ms Lawless grew up in Bray and recently returned to live on the same estate she grew up in. She loves the town for its fun energy and having both the sea and mountains on her doorstep.

Growing up in a working-class environment, Ms Lawless attended a DEIS school and left school believing that she wasn't very intelligent due to the school learning environment. However, she completed a course in Education and Training in Dun Laoghaire Further Education Institute and realised that this model of education suited her better than school.

After her course in Dun Laoghaire, she went on to study a degree in Education and Training at Dublin City University (DCU), before completing a Master's in Education at Trinity College Dublin. She is currently undertaking a PhD at Maynooth University, which focuses on people's experiences of the pathway from adult education into higher education.

Primary school pupils urged to get creative for 'Someone Like Me' art competition

Minister of State with responsibility for disability, Anne Rabbitte T.D. has called on Wicklow primary school pupils to get creative to help develop a more inclusive society as she launched this year's Someone Like Me primary schools art competition.

The competition, which is organised by the National Disability Authority, has seen more than 9,000 primary school pupils submit projects over the last six years, all of which were inspired by their learning about inclusivity and diversity through the medium of art. It is now firmly established in the primary school calendar as an annual celebration of the things that unite children of all abilities, and as a way of developing more positive attitudes towards persons with disabilities.

Minister Rabbitte encouraged primary school principals, teachers and pupils alike to take part in this year's competition and become part of a movement to

create a more inclusive Ireland.

The Minister stated that: "Approximately 6% of children aged between 0 and 14 years have a disability. This means that, on average, every primary school class in Ireland will have at least one or two students with a disability. Ensuring their acceptance and inclusion from an early age is important for children with disabilities if they are to reach their full potential. Initiatives that increase awareness about disability for all children, such as this competition, are important steps in developing a more inclusive society."

"Once again, I would like to congratulate the National Disability Authority and primary

school teachers right across Ireland for their work to encourage as many pupils as possible to enter the competition. Up and down the country, the Someone Like Me cross-curricular lesson plans and learning resources will challenge and inspire our young people to make a positive generational shift in attitudes towards persons with disabilities."

The Someone Like Me art competition junior and senior lesson plans have been delivered to every primary school in Ireland over the past week. They are also available on the Someone Like Me website to enable children who are home-schooled to also take part.

The competition, which offers a range of



Minister Anne Rabbitte

prizes up to the value of €1,250, is open to all primary school pupils from junior infants to sixth class and entries are welcome from individual pupils, a class or even a whole school as a combined effort. Entries can come in all shapes and sizes and can be anything from a poster or collage to a papier-mache or mixed media sculpture, a poem or song to a multimedia presentation.

There will be a junior and senior category winner in every county, along with an overall national winner. For a chance to win Creative Care Packages for your school, send your early bird entries by Friday October 28th, 2022. The final deadline for entries is Friday 18th November 2022.

More information can be found at someone-like-me-competition.ie.



The fireplace has been a focus-point of the home for many generations and everyone loves the comfort and warmth provided by a traditional fire. However, open fires and chimneys are major sources of heat loss.

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Ambassador of Finland launches the 6th Annual Glencree Peace Walk

Event celebrates 60th Anniversary of Ireland/Finland diplomatic relations and marks UN International Peace Day

The Ambassador of Finland to Ireland, H.E. Raili Lahnalampi launched the 6th Annual Glencree Peace Walk on Sunday 18th September and led over 80 Peace Walkers in a 'Walk4Peace' across the Wicklow mountains.



The Ambassador of Finland to Ireland, H.E. Raili Lahnalampi with Brigadier General Rossa Mulcahy, Assistant Chief of Staff, Irish Defence Forces

This year's peace walk marked the celebration of 60 years since diplomatic relations were established between Ireland and Finland in 1962. It also marks UN International Peace Day (21st September), which calls

for 24-hours of non-violence and ceasefire.

Over 80 champions of peace, including members of the diplomatic corps, the Irish Defence Forces, supporters, Board members and staff of Glencree turned out to

take part in the 9km peace walk, which set out from the Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation to Knocknagun in the Wicklow Mountains.

Launching the walk, H.E. Raili Lahnalampi

said: "It is a real pleasure and honour to be a part of this Peace Walk. Working for peace has become an urgent reality also in Europe. One step at a time can make a difference. As in walking, stay the course and one day you will see results. We need civic organisations like Glencree on this island and in other countries to continue to do this work and spread the lessons of peace, as Glencree do."

Addressing the event, Brigadier General Rossa Mulcahy, Assistant Chief of Staff, Irish Defence Forces, said: "For all the great work that we Irish soldiers do on our overseas missions, we are safe in the knowledge that when we return home at the end of our missions, to peace on the island of Ireland we have organisations such as Glencree to thank for all their hard work in contributing to that stability. Your work which often goes unrecognised is, believe me, really appreciated by all of us in the Defence Forces and we are indebted to your altruistic work to build a brighter future for generations to come."

"The Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation is a world leader in its field, utilizing their skillsets to prevent and transform politi-



cal and intercommunal conflict while building peaceful and inclusive societies. That is why the Defence Forces are proud

Naoimh McNamee said: "Finland and Ireland share a long history in international peacekeeping and promoting peace

and her colleagues at the Embassy of Finland to Ireland for their kind support of this year's peace walk and their ongoing support of our peace-building and reconciliation work."

Ms McNamee also spoke of Glencree's ongoing collaboration with the Irish Defence Forces and Training School and the shared opportunities to work together that lie ahead.

She also led tributes to H.M. Queen Elizabeth II saying: "The Queen was a remarkable monarch and woman, whose life of duty and service provided a great constancy to many people across the world."

"Her dedication to furthering peace and encouraging reconciliation between our islands was evidenced powerfully during Her State Visit to Ireland in 2011, along with her husband the late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. It was the clearest demonstration of their friendship to all of us who share this island, and it was also significant in deepening the relationship with our nearest neighbour."

The Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Ireland, H.E. Paul Johnston said: "It is an honour to take part in the Glencree Peace Walk in this week of mourning for the late Queen Elizabeth II, who had worked for peace and reconciliation between these islands and building understanding in our relationships with the EU. The late Queen's visit to Ireland in 2011 marked her commitment to peace and this is continued by King Charles III's commitment to peace and reconciliation also."

The Irish Defence Forces Army No. 1 Band - Quintet opened the event, while The Harbour Ukuleles played as following the walk. Hungry hikers then tucked into a barbeque prepared by Glencree's onsite Armoury Café team along with traditional pastries from the Finnish Ambassador.

Fundraising for the 6th Annual Glencree Peace Walk will continue throughout September. More information on the Peace Walk can be found on glencree.ie/walk4peace/



Participants at Glencree Centre for Reconciliation

of our partnership with Glencree and I am so excited by our bright future as will continue to work closely together."

Glencree CEO,

and we are delighted to join in celebrating 60 years of cooperation and friendship. We are extremely grateful to Ambassador Lahnalampi



Participants at the 6th Annual Glencree Peace Walk on Sunday 18th September. The Ambassador of Finland to Ireland, H.E. Raili Lahnalampi launched the walk and led over 80 people in a 'Walk4Peace' across the Wicklow mountains

A new era for ladies football at Greystones United

Founded in 1969, Greystones United football club is now one of the largest footballs clubs in the country with over 1000 members. It is run by a team of dedicated volunteers and all coaching is run by parents within the Greystones Community.

U13 MGL league winners

The club has been growing its girls and women's sections, with their U13 Metropolitan Girls League (MGL) Team lifting the trophy as league title winners earlier this month.

Team Coach, Dermot Synnott said: "This is a very special bunch of players and their achievement last season was quite incredible. The team was basically formed right before Covid hit, so it's their first time playing a full league season, as previous seasons were bombarded with postponed training, cancelled games, and Government restrictions. I think the girls particularly enjoyed the away games, where the music was always blasting on the team bus. We are also fortunate to have fantastic team sponsors in D/RES Properties,

Dunport Capital and Destination Ireland, who kitted out the girls with lovely gear."

The U13 MGL winning squad were: Alanna Synnott, Beth Sherwin, Cerys Cresswell, Eabha Kelly, Ella Mullen, Eva Gaube, Eve Tyrrell, Julie Jacob, Kirsten O'Halloran, Lana O'Gorman, Laoise O'Gorman, Lucia Downing, Maddison Moran, Olwyn Costello, Rosie Owens, Zoe Browne. Coaches: Ciaran Jacob, Dermot Synnott, Richard Cresswell, John Sherwin.

A club spokesperson said: "Ladies soccer has boomed at local and national levels across all age groups, and Greystones United we now have nine underage girls teams and in 2021 launched an academy for U7 girls. It's fantastic to see, and it's only going to grow stronger with our new

partnership with Bray Wanderers."

Bray Wanderers & Greystones United AFC partnership

In a major new development for Irish football, Bray Wanderers FC and Greystones United AFC, have agreed a far-sighted partnership to create a combined new force in Women's National League Football at all levels.

The ultimate ambition and objective of this agreement is to devise and implement the most successful female club partnership in Irish football, both on and off the pitch, to the mutual benefit of both clubs and to further facilitate the development of elite and community female football in the area.

Under this agreement, the combined player and coaching talent will participate in the Women's National League as Bray



Team captain Alanna Synnott lifts the U13 MGL league winners trophy

Wanderers FC and Greystones United AFC will be recognised for their participation on co-branded kit, a combined crest and throughout all communications.

This partnership is visionary in its construction and reflects the most sensible and practical way to advance women's teams capable of competing and winning at the highest level. It provides a clear development pathway for girls and women and an

opportunity to participate in what is the fastest growing area in sport.

The partnership will be underpinned by investment, from both clubs, in academy facilities and coaching talent, affording players the best possible environment to fulfil their dreams and ambitions.

Andy O'Hara, Chairperson of Greystones United AFC said: "We're delighted to partner with Bray

Wanderers FC to move forward together with a shared vision for girls' and women's football. We're seeing significant growth and interest in women's football and have been involved at underage level in the WNL since its inception. The club has over 200 girls and young women now playing football and this partnership will only further enhance the player pathway development for all.

"These are exciting

times for women's football and I believe this ambitious development will position us front and centre, as our partnership develops."

Tony Richardson, Chairperson of Bray Wanderers FC said: "This is an excellent development with Greystones United AFC, a highly respected and neighbouring club with a great heritage in football. As evidenced by our recent developments together with Cabinteely

FC, we strongly believe in collaboration and co-operation for the betterment of football. Greystones United AFC share a similar philosophy and their openness in discussions and willingness to create this partnership is deeply encouraging as we jointly embrace this opportunity to promote Women's National League Football.

"We look forward with confidence to future success together."



Pictured are members of Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin at the recent AGM. The voting of officerstook place, which saw officers old and new returned to the cóiste: Ciara Fagan, Cathaoirleach; Brendan Roache, Leas-Cathaoirleach; Brian Cornyn, Rúnai; Pamela McDermott, PRO; Eamonn Hughes, Cisteoir; Billy Cuddihy, Quiz Co-ordinator; Áine Quinn, Boys Football Officer; Brendan Doyle, Hurling Officer, Ronan Keddy, Girls Football Officer; Emily Stephenson/Saoirse Morgan, Camogie Officers; Michael Moran, West Representative; Pádraig Murphy, South Representative and committee member Jim O'Riordan.

Looking ahead to this year, it is hoped that the Young Whistlers training that is planned for the North/East will also be arranged in other regions, with the support of GDA's. A 1st and 2nd class indoor hurling blitz has been scheduled in this year's calendar to promote hurling at a younger age. West Wicklow representatives Michael Moran and Peter Kelly are going to call a meeting in the west of the county aiming to set up similar structures that are in place in the North/East and South already. It was agreed that for inter-county blitzes a team would be formed from a selection of schools across the county. It was also agreed that schools along the border can take place in blitzes in bordering counties but can only enter the skills competition in Wicklow and represent Wicklow in inter-county games. Lastly, it was agreed that smaller schools can enter a mixed boys and girls' team in boys' blitzes.

Former-Ireland international takes up position as Director Of Rugby in Pres

Former-Ireland international Bernard Jackman has taken up his position as Director Of Rugby in Presentation College Bray.

The ex-Leinster player took charge at the County Wicklow school at the start of September. Presentation College Bray, is the most successful non-fee paying school in Leinster Schools Rugby, having won the the Senior Cup in 1932 and the Junior Cup in 1930, 1975, 1985, 1988 and 1990.

"I am truly delighted and honoured to be joining a school with such a rugby pedigree," Jackman said. "Presentation College Bray, has a fantastic history in the sport, producing several outstanding internationals and I am truly looking forward to hopefully driving the school onto even greater success."

Rugby alumni of the school include rugby internationals Jack Doyle, Aidan Bailey, Neil Bailey, Maurice Mortell Snr, Johnny Murphy, John Spud Murphy, Tony Doyle and Reggie Corrigan, and Ireland Under-20s coach, Richie Murphy and his son Ben who



Bernard Jackman with Pres First Years

plays for Leinster.

"I would very much like to welcome Bernard into the Pres Bray fold," Chairman of the school's rugby council Maurice Mortell Junior said.

"This is an excellent appointment of someone who understands the game innately and will bring a wealth of experience to the position as we plan for the future of Rugby in Pres."

Mr Jackman also represented Connacht, Sale Sharks and Leinster as a player during a career which saw him collect a Celtic League,

Champions Cup, Challenge Cup, Magners league medal and Heineken Cup medals, while also winning a Six Nations with Ireland.

The past pupil of Newbridge College was also part of the coaching team that won Senior Cups with St Micheal's in 2012 and Newbridge College in 2020.

Previously, he was also head coach with Grenoble in France and Dragons in Wales while he also currently a columnist with the Sunday Independent and a pundit on RTE's rugby

coverage.

"This is a fantastic appointment for the school," Principal Martin Locke said. "To have someone of Bernard's calibre will elevate the status of rugby in the school."

The announcement comes as the school celebrates its centenary after first opening its doors on September 5, 1921. There are currently more than 650 students housed in a modern building which was built in 2011, with approx 200 boys playing rugby across 15 teams.

Wicklow Stories Film Festival - the first of its kind

Whale Theatre, Saturday 8th October at 4pm (doors 3.30pm) & 7.30pm (doors 7pm)

The Whale Theatre is hosting the first of its kind Wicklow Stories Film Festival in October. On Saturday, the 8th of October Greystones will see filmmakers from all over Wicklow and the rest of the country come together to celebrate not only Wicklow Filmmaking, but visual arts and music as well.

Wicklow is so often used as a filming location, but all these stories are never about Wicklow and her people. The Wicklow Stories Film

Festival aims to change that focus, to showcase everything that Wicklow has to offer," explains festival co-founder Ronika Merl

4pm Show:

A line-up of fascinating short films, as well as musical guest Dylan E. Crampton will be sure to make for an unforget-

table afternoon at the Whale Theatre in the opening act of the inaugural Wicklow Stories Film Festival.

The showing includes

celebrated short films such as Sinead O'Loughlin's early masterpiece "Homecoming", which centres around a young man returning to Wicklow. Created with beautiful cinematography by Dan Keane, this is a celebration of Wicklow itself.

Dylan E. Crampton's music is soft, flowing, melodic and full of a very unique Greystones charm.

Duration: 75 - 90 minutes approx.

7.30pm Show:

The main event for the Wicklow Stories Film Festival kicks off at 7.30pm, showing pieces by locals such as "The Forgotten", which was the brainchild of Bray filmmaker and director Sam Uhlemann, who has gone on to create his highly celebrated



debut feature "Edge of Chaos", as well as working on the new award-winning ground-breaking film "Lambing".

Musical guest Cian O'Melia will delight with his grounded and down to earth style.

The world premiere of the widely celebrated inaugural Wicklow Stories Anthology "The Pier" will conclude the evening as a culmination

that showcases the essence of Irish independent filmmaking. Created by Writer and Producer Ronika Merl, The Pier has been a year long journey which is now coming to its rightful home in the Whale Theatre. Directed by five up and coming directors, among them the widely celebrated Sinead Cassidy Holt, and starring high calibre

acting talent such as Shane Robinson, this film is truly unique and will give the audience a clear cut view of what Wicklow life is like.

Duration: 90-120 minutes approx.

Tickets €2 @ 4pm & €8 @ 7.30pm
www.whaletheatre.ie
or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.



Some of the Crew at Greystones Harbour Marina

The Annie Keating Band at Whale Theatre

Thursday 6th October, 8pm (doors 7pm)

Annie Keating writes and sings like a woman who knows deep down that heartache is the price of hope, and she can make us believe – in that way that only the best artists can – that all of it is worth the cost.

Over the years, she's been compared with great artists ranging from Lucinda Williams to John Prine but now, in 2022, Keating has found a UK band that takes her talent to a whole new level through undeniably great live shows that deliver unbridled, raucous joy and an infectious sound. Following the success of her eighth full-length album, 2021's Bristol County Tides, Keating will bring this full band tour de force to a run of fall '22 England/Ireland shows, along with an unreleased limited-edition EP of brand new songs ONLY AVAILABLE to fans on the tour.

Keating has brought together some of the UK's finest players for this tour, including Scott Warman, Joe Coombs and Jamie Dawson. The Annie Keating Band had its brilliant debut run in April of 2022, meeting audiences with a tremendous sound, energy, connectivity, talent and joy.

Scott Warman inspires on both the double and electric bass (depending on the song he moves effortlessly between the two) as well as tasty backing vocals). His experience shines through (he has toured the UK,



The Annie Keating Band

Europe and USA with many international acts over the years and appeared on legendary broadcaster Bob Harris's recent charity release of Stand By Me alongside the likes of Mark Knopfler and Rosanne Cash.

Then there's rising star Joe Coombs on guitars. He's a well-known talent on the Americana scene, playing electric, acoustic and slide guitar internationally with a wide variety of artists including Grammy nominated songwriter Yola on her Walk Through Fire tour, Jaime Wyatt, Laura Evans, Robert Vincent, Sam Morrow and Lynne Hanson.

Last but certainly not least, the Annie Keating band features rocker Jamie Dawson on drums; he's also a regular player on the Americana scene (a member of the Dreaming Spires and Steady Habits bands) as well as playing and recording with artists like Speedbuggy USA.

Arriving on the eve of a slew of live dates across the UK and Ireland this Autumn, the new track is plucked from an upcoming eight-track new collection, the 'Twenty 22 Tour EP', which will be exclusively available at these shows.

Casting a sultry Brooklynite shadow over a swampy honky-tonk jam, iLovesick Blues

would be as at home in the ember-like aura of a Mississippi roadhouse or the neon glow of a backstreet city bar. Toying with the old to create something new, the single finds Annie tipping her hat to the time-tested formulas of master bluesmen like John Lee Hooker & the Groundhogs or Howlin' Wolf, while peppering-in a contemporary character all her own.

Written at her home studio in Brooklyn, NYC during a particularly lonesome chapter of her life; it would be the introduction of a classic British blues artist by her producer Teddy Kumpel, that would strike a chord with her mood and provide the

gateway drug for unlocking 'Lovesick Blues'. As Annie explains: "I was feeling lovesick and knew I had to lean into capturing that through a blues song. My producer Teddy Kumpel turned me on to John Lee Hooker & the Groundhogs, absolutely brilliant, timeless roots blues and one of the first 3 piece British Blues bands. I was told he couldn't read or write but memorised thousands of songs. He had fierce riffs and grit and I wanted that sound for this sound - like provocative, playful and fierce at the same time - so that's what I was going for on this tune."

Pushing herself to avoid the low hanging fruit, easy rhymes that have become tropes of traditional blues numbers, the lyrics here are as playfully esoteric as the curveball country arrangements that adorn it. With wry, rhythmic couplets like 'Write a song / and make beef stew, I'm still up a midnight / missing you', Annie makes clear that the best way to get over the blues is with a healthy dose of humour.

Tickets €15
www.whaletheatre.ie or
call the booking office on
01 2010550 to book.

Cinema at Mermaid: Official Competition

(Cert: 15A), Monday 3rd October | 8pm, €9 Full Price | €7 Concession Language: Spanish with English Subtitles
Duration: 115 minutes

In this Spanish comedy, a millionaire decides on his eightieth birthday that he needs something more memorable than business success to guarantee his legacy.

He decides to produce a film and after securing the rights to a Nobel Prize-winning novel, engages acclaimed but unconventional auteur Lola Cuevas (Penelope Cruz) to direct. She in turn casts two very different actors a global movie star Felix (Antonio Banderas) and distinguished thespian Iván (Oscar Martínez) - as her leads. Before long, methods, personalities and egos clash!

Official Competition is a clever satire that pokes fun at various elements of film culture, but also has some genuine laugh-out-loud moments. All three actors are clearly enjoying themselves, but it is Cruz that is the standout here.

Directors: Mariano Cohn, Gaston Duprat

Cast: Penelope Cruz, Antonio Banderas, Oscar Martínez



Kilmacanogue author brings back international crime writing festival

Brought to you by Kilmacanogue based bestselling author Sam Blake, and online for the past two years, Murder One, Ireland's International Crime Writing Festival is back with a bang from 4th-9th October with a host of in person and online events at a new venue, Dun Laoghaire's stunning dlr LexIcon Library and Cultural Centre.

The Murder One International Crime Writing Festival was founded in 2018 by Sam Blake and literary event maestro Bert Wright, and has brought many international bestsellers to Dublin audiences both in person and online.

Now living in Wicklow for over 20 years, Sam Blake says, "We've got a stunning line up this year and we're really looking forward to in-person events, but equally very conscious that many may still be shielding so we're also talking the festival online where you can watch events live."

At Murder One this October, cultural historian and TV presenter, Lucy Worsley, will be discussing her latest biography of Agatha Christie

while Mick Herron, whose TV show *Slow Horses* was such a huge hit recently, talks to fellow crime author Declan Hughes about his latest novel, *Bad Actors*. Ann Cleeves tells us about her new Vera Stanhope mystery, while Steve Cavanagh and Lisa Jewell also headline. In addition to these UK visitors, the festival will showcase the cream of Irish crime writing talent with Catherine Ryan Howard, Brian McGilloway, Andrea Mara, Edel Coffey and Sinead Crowley among those appearing on a range of hot-topic panels.

In keeping with the hybrid format extensively used during Covid, Murder One are delighted to be able to bring you two US greats, Laura

Lippman and Jean Hanff Korelitz, in online interviews. Many of the other events will be available to watch online ensuring that everyone can access the stellar programme featuring some of the world's greatest crime writers.

Whether it's twists you enjoy, or a hardboiled courtroom drama, you will be gripped by the plot as it unfolds across three days at Dun Laoghaire's LexIcon Library and Cultural Centre. With a free access 'speakers corner' reading area that will allow new talent to rub shoulders with seasoned authors, plus an onsite bookshop, MURDER ONE will have you hooked from the moment you enter the building. With easy

access to the DART and bus routes, plus plenty of parking and restaurant options, Dun Laoghaire will be the perfect place to enjoy your favourite crime writers this autumn.

Crime is one of the biggest-selling genres in the book business and Ireland boasts some of the world's top crime writers. Uniquely, MURDER ONE is run by local crime writer Sam Blake, whose latest No 1 best-seller, *Remember My Name* is in shops now.

Sam Blake explains, "Murder One is supported this year by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Libraries as well as The Arts Council and Dublin City of Literature - it's a festival all about readers and post pandemic, when

reading became such an important distraction, we want to re-introduce you to the irreplaceable experience of live author events while ensuring access online for those who find it difficult to attend festivals."

Catherine Gallagher, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Librarian said "we are delighted to be involved this year with MURDER ONE. Connecting readers and authors is a key part of what we aspire to do in dlr Libraries and crime books are some of the most consistently borrowed and read. We look forward to welcoming audiences old and new to dlr LexIcon in October."

Sam Blake is a regular in Wicklow libraries too, where she has run writing



Sam Blake

courses online and appeared more recently at Bray Central Library with author Louise Phillips to celebrate National Crime Reading Month. As she explains, "Libraries are a vital part

of the book ecosystem, and getting to meet readers is one of the greatest pleasures of this job. I hope Murder One will give readers an even bigger opportunity to listen to and meet their

writing heroes."

Murder One runs 4th-9th October with both in person and online events. All details at www.murderone.ie or follow @MurderOneFest on Twitter.

Niamh Regan at The Courthouse

Courthouse Arts Centre, Saturday 8th October 8pm. €18

Niamh Regan is a critically acclaimed songwriter from county Galway. Released in the midst of the lockdown in 2020, her debut album *Hemet* announced her arrival as one of the most distinctive songwriters in Ireland today.

Earning nominations for both the RTE Fold Awards and the Choice Awards album of the year, the album received soaring praise, and led to per-

formances on the Late Late Show and Other Voices.

After her studies at the University of Limerick, Regan honed her craft as

a songwriter by travelling between Ireland and California, writing about her experiences along the way. As a result, her songs seamlessly weave the intimacy of the Irish lyrical tradition with the expansive breadth of American songwriters such as Karen Dalton, Stevie Nicks and Joni Mitchell, but the resulting sound is entirely her own.

A natural storyteller, Regan's songs are windows into her world, snapshots of the intimacy of everyday life. This is evident on her upcoming EP, *In the Meantime*, which was generously supported by the Galway International Arts Festival Elevate Bursary. The EP is a collection of songs written during the challenges of the pandemic, exploring themes of acceptance, uncertainty, independence, family guilt, silence and ordinary acts of love. With her singular mastery, Regan's song writing draws us in the intricate details of everyday life and elevates them into something universal.



Niamh Regan

'Sometimes I Live in the City'

An exhibition by Greystones artist Tom Byrne

The latest exhibition by Tom Byre is a celebration of commuting to Dublin.

"When I lived in Dublin, on the weekends we would bring the kids out to Greystones to the beach and restaurants, when I was a child my parents did the same," says Tom.

"When we decided to move to Greystones, the roles reversed, we travelled to Dublin for work. My love and affection goes deep for both places. The cove, the harbour, the old cinema, Grafton street, O'Connell street, Trinity College, all nestled deep in my psyche."

"Over the years I've been painting and showing both places on separate occasions, this is the first time I've put a show together with both and it looks exiting."

Tom owns the Greystones Gallery/ studio on Church Road, where he does both portraits and seascapes. His patrons include Gerald Keane, Elizabeth Banks, Patrick Bergin, Alden Ehrenreich, Louis Walsh, Seamus Heaney, Dara O'Brien, Johnny McEvoy and many others.

He has had many Irish history commissions for museums and his paintings hang in many prestigious art collections including Lissadel

house, Sligo and the Doyle collection. While simultaneously celebrating the commuter belt, Tom was commissioned recently to paint 18 history portraits for the Greystones train station.

The show opens on Friday 30th of September in Tom's gallery and continues until October 14th.



The Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk



The old Greystones cinema

Arklow Maritime Museum to host Glendalough LEGO display

The upcoming 'Glendalough in Lego' display at Arklow Maritime Museum from 1st-8th October will be an opportunity to view this unique diorama of one of County Wicklow's most iconic heritage sites recreated in 44,388 LEGO bricks.

Commissioned by the Lego artist Jessica Farrell, Centre and Wicklow, Glendalough Heritage Over the last two Blessington and Arklow Forum with funding from months, the model has libraries. The Heritage Council, the been displayed at Thanks to support from model is the creation of Glendalough Visitor the Heritage Office of

Wicklow County Council, professional brick artist Jessica Farrell (Channel 4 TV LEGO MASTERS) has been commissioned to run a day-long children's workshop at each venue, with an event scheduled for the Arklow Maritime Museum on Saturday 1st October from 11am to 4pm.

Meet Jessica Farrell and let her show you all the amazing details that teach the story of 12th Century Irish monastic life. While you're there, explore the theme and enjoy some fun LEGO brick activities in a special, day-long workshop for children aged 7-13.

• Speed Challenge - How fast can you build a medieval Irish structure?
• Wall-To-Wall LEGO -

Help build Ireland's longest LEGO stone wall!

• Brick Art - Build a mini-mosaic with your own Celtic design

• Free Build Area - A special DUPLO play pit will be provided for children aged 6 and under

No booking needed, just drop in. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The stunning diorama will remain on display at in the exhibition room of the Museum until Saturday October 8th after which time it will travel to the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin, on 12th November as part of activities for National Science Week.



Glendalough in LEGO form

RECRUITMENT



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form a panel from which future temporary and / or permanent positions may be filled.

• I.S. TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER

Salary: €44,574 - €53,454 (2nd LSI) gross per annum

REF: 39/2022

Application Forms and further details may be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20159 or by emailing recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie and on the Wicklow County Council website www.wicklow.ie

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED
APPLICATION FORMS IS THURSDAY 13th OCTOBER 2022
AT 12 NOON SHARP

Wicklow County Council reserves the right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Lorraine Gallagher,
Director Of Services

Enterprise & Corporate Services Phone: 0404 20159

Wicklow County Council Fax: 0404 20112

County Buildings

Wicklow

e-mail: recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie

Arklow Municipal District welcomes German students

Arklow Municipal District held a reception to welcome a group of 11 students from Ursula Schule in Wurzburg, Germany, on Tuesday 19th September.

The students were on a return visit to County Wicklow as part of a student exchange programme and were hosted by Arklow CBS School from Saturday, 17th September until Saturday, 24th September.

Arklow CBS was granted E3,000 from the Arklow Municipal District's 2022 town twinning fund for a school trip to Wurzburg earlier this year. Eleven students and two teachers spent seven days in Wurzburg from 2nd to 9th April on the first leg of their student exchange programme between the two schools.

Speaking at the reception, the Cathaoirleach of

Arklow Municipal District, Cllr Pat Kennedy, said he was delighted to welcome the students to Arklow and that he hoped they enjoyed their stay in "our beautiful county". Cllr Kennedy made a presentation to Elizabeth Battye, who is a teacher at the school, and thanked her for organising the exchange.

The students had a busy itinerary for the week, taking part in a Walking Tour of Arklow led by local historian Jim Rees. They also visited Avondale House, the new Beyond the Trees Tree Top Walk Experience and Glendalough.



Cllr Pat Fitzgerald; Elizabeth Battye of Arklow CBS; Cathaoirleach Cllr Pat Kennedy; Peter Somers, Principal of Arklow CBS; Claire Lawless, District Administrator, pictured with teachers and students from Ursula Schule in Wurzburg Germany and students from Arklow CBS

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning permission is sought by Packaging Laundry Ltd for removal of existing single-storey joinery workshop building and adjacent yard, and for construction in its place of new nine meter high single-storey storage/processing building, on site at former home of Wicklow Timber and Joinery Ltd, Wurtzburg Avenue, Boghall Road, Bray, Co Wicklow, (Eircode A98WD37). This site is immediately adjacent and adjoining the existing home of the applicant company, Packaging Laundry Ltd, at Unit C, Oldcourt Business Park, Wurtzburg Avenue, Boghall Road, Bray, Co Wicklow, (Eircode A98P6N3), and the application includes retention of an external cylindrical water storage tank, and minor items of external plant. Other minor associated works will include the provision of markings for car parking, markings for a turning circle, and markings for loading areas, and gates to the external storage areas. Signage, too, is included as illustrated.

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



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Part Time Retained Fire Fighters:

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form a panel from which vacancies may be filled on the following fire brigade:

• PART-TIME RETAINED FIRE FIGHTER, BLESSINGTON FIRE BRIGADE

REF: 40/2022

Candidates should not be more than 55 years of age on the latest date for receipt of applications.

Candidates should reside and work within a maximum of 5 minutes distance to the Fire Station as there are strict requirements regarding availability to attend fire calls.

Remuneration: Retainer starting at €8359.00 per annum gross (paid on a quarterly basis) plus hourly rates for attendance at fires. Candidates will be subject to Garda Vetting.

Application Forms and further details may be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20159 or by emailing recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie and on the Wicklow County Council website www.wicklow.ie

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED
APPLICATION FORMS IS ON THURSDAY 13TH OCTOBER, 2022
AT 12 NOON SHARP

Wicklow County Council reserves the right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate

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Lorraine Gallagher,
Director Of Services

Enterprise & Corporate Services Phone: 0404 20159

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Wicklow pubs need 'urgent and substantive' energy supports, research finds

Wicklow pubs require urgent and substantive energy supports in the light of new research which shows more than four in ten Irish adults plan fewer visits to pubs for the remainder of 2022, due to cost of living pressures.

The data has prompted Vintners' Federation of Ireland CEO, Paul Clancy, to call for urgent and substantive energy supports for the pub trade in Budget 2023.

He says pubs cannot pass on increases to customers already under financial strain. The CGA (Current Gooden Associates) Cost of Living Consumer Pulse Survey, carried out across Ireland and the UK last month, found that 42% of Irish adults plan to visit pubs far less often between now and New Year's Eve.

The survey comes on the back of sky-rocketing fuel bills for Ireland's 7,000 heavily energy-reliant pubs and a pandemic which saw the permanent closure of many pubs nationwide.

"The survey findings paint a bleak future for the pubs of Ireland, their staff and the communities where they often provide a vital social hub," said Mr Clancy, whose organisation represents 4,000 publicans.

"With 42% of pub-goers expected to curtail visits due to cost of living pressures, it is vital that Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe provides urgent and substantive energy supports to the pub trade in Budget 2023.

"Pubs cannot pass on increases to customers already under financial strain and colossal energy costs are

going to force pubs to close, or reduce their winter opening times.

"Reduced footfall, coupled with an unprecedented rise in energy costs after 22 months of Covid lockdown closures and restrictions, means we are almost certainly looking at the permanent closure of many more pubs."

While there has been a 21% decline in the number of pubs in Ireland since 2005, according to the Drinks Industry Group of Ireland, research by the University of York and Newcastle Business School has highlighted the significant contribution of the Irish pub to the economy with 50,000 employed and €60.7 million generated in wages.

Across Ireland and the UK, the CGA survey, conducted amongst 1,000 adults who typically visit a hospitality venue every six months, found that 93% of consumers are expecting to spend more on household expenses.

But the survey also found that despite pressures on disposable income, the hospitality industry remains a vital part of consumers' lives, with 69% agreeing that eating or drinking out it is the treat they most look forward to, with 80% stating satisfaction with the quality of the product and service on offer.

Concern over SafePass credential checks

Serious concern was expressed at the recent meeting of the Bray and District Council of Trade Unions on reports that many local construction sites are failing to check workers for SafePass credentials, which is essential under Health and Safety requirements.

Proposing a motion on behalf of his union Connect, Vice-President Mick Ryan called on the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to raise this as a matter of urgency with the relevant authorities to ensure proper enforcement of this most basic requirement. He pointed out that the issue affects all unions and their members and it is "simply unacceptable" that there is scant regard

being given to this on numerous local construction sites.

"We have some major construction developments in the area at present, such as at Cherrywood where there are 1,500 workers on site, and there is a need to ensure that all those employed on such sites, whether directly or indirectly, have the basic SafePass certification," he stated.

"According to the

Health & Safety Authority between 1989 and 2016 a total of 1,616 work-related fatal accidents were reported to them. Over a quarter - 338 - involved construction businesses or other businesses engaged in construction activity. It is important, therefore, that the failure to check this basic health and safety credential is stopped immediately", he concluded.



Mairead McGuinness European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, at the Ploughing Championships last week with (l-r) Garda Andrea Byrne Portlaoise; Senator Barry Ward, Dun Laoghaire; Garda Pat Carroll from Wicklow and Garda Peter Browne from Newtownmountkennedy.

Small Wicklow businesses struggling with rising energy costs

Social Democrats Jennifer Whitmore has called for supports for small businesses operating in Wicklow in light of the rising cost of energy.

As Party Spokesperson on Energy, Deputy Whitmore along with her colleagues in the Social Democrats, announced initiatives aimed at supporting businesses in their alternative budget 2023 last week ahead of the Government's own proposals.

Deputy Whitmore says, "Just this week, a business in Blessington has announced their imminent closure due to the rising cost of energy resulting in suppliers increasing their prices.

"This is causing a knock-on effect forcing small business owners to decide whether to

absorb the price increase or pass it on to the customer. Without any supports, the decision can often be to shut down.

"Wicklow is at risk of seeing more and more shops closing down if supports are not there to help them ride out the energy crisis.

"With the Government's budget due shortly, we in the Social Democrats are proposing cash supports for SMEs to support them at this time, in place until electricity prices are decoupled from the price of gas.

"Furthermore, our proposals will be demand-led so when a

small business in a local village experiences unsustainable jumps in energy costs then they can quickly apply for a cash support, much like what was available during the covid pandemic. It's vitally important that the State provides supports for our local SMEs which provide local employment and services to our towns and villages so we need to be able to jump in and help them until there is more certainty in the energy markets.

"To date, the government has been slow to act for this sector and as we head into a Christmas of harsher weather, it must be proactive in addressing the issues facing the SME sector head on," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

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