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Tuesday 25th October 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

SICK OF WAITING

When the HSE closed down the Emergency Department in St. Columcille's Hospital in Loughlinstown residents of County Wicklow were promised a better and faster service would be provided in St Vincents Hospital. A recent HIQA report shows just how bad the service is.

The average waiting time to be seen in St Vincents is 22 hours (the worst in the State) while in the other major hospital serving Wicklow, Tallagh Hospital, the average wait is 21 hours.

When you factor in the commute time to get to these hospitals a seriously ill patient is looking at 24 hours to be seen.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady said that the latest HIQA reports into emergency department

dysfunction across the State show that widespread investment in capacity as well as reform of patient care is urgently needed for patients.

Deputy Brady added: "Emergency department waits have continued in the wrong direction in the last year, and now stand at 21.9 hours in St. Vincent's University Hospital. This is very concerning for patients from County Wicklow who need urgent access

to care. Since the closure of the emergency department in St. Columcille's Hospital waiting times for patients in St. Vincent's Hospital have gotten longer.

"Staff at St. Vincent's are working extremely hard to do their best to give patients the high quality care that they deserve, but the Government's failure to invest and plan is making their work harder. Patients from Wicklow deserve high quality care



Ciara Kelly, Leah Kavanagh, Emma Porter and Lily O'Brien at the St. Mary's College Arklow Open Day last week. Pic: Michael Kelly

without unnecessary delays.

"Difficulties in getting a GP visit have also added to the pressure on the emergency department in St. Vincent's. Some people are having to wait a number of weeks to get an appointment to see a GP and as a last resort go to the emergency department to get medical assistance.

"We need significant investment in primary and community care, especially in training more general practice doctors and primary care nurses and allied health and social care professionals to move more care out of hospitals.

"Too many patients are being treated in the wrong place, at the wrong time, leading to costly delays in their care. Alternative care pathways and locations as well as additional step-down capacity, planned based on the

health needs of communities on a local and regional basis, must be advanced.

"We also need to see much greater investment in public diagnostic capacity, with direct access for GPs as well as a modernisation of acute hospital diagnostic capacity to increase efficiency. We know that many Emergency Departments' delays are due to waits for scans. The Minister for Health is reacting to crisis after crisis with short-term measures, but we need a serious, multi-annual plan which addresses long emergency department waits through a reorientation of care, investment in capacity, and investment in workforce planning.

"Regionalisation, integration of care, and investment in the National Ambulance Service to provide better services as well as community-based services

are all necessary components of such a plan.

"We will never reduce health waiting

lists if we cannot get on top of the crisis in emergency departments, but this requires strategic

multi-annual planning which has not been forthcoming from the Minister for Health."

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County Wicklow Joint Policing Committee meeting to be held in Bray

Wicklow County Council's Joint Policing committee will hold a public meeting on Thursday 10th November At Little Bray Family Resource Centre, Ard Chulainn, Upper Dargle Road, Bray, commencing 7pm.

The purpose of the JPC is to provide a forum where the local authority and the senior Garda officers, responsible for the policing of that area, can consult and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area and in particular to keep under review the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

Membership of the committee consists of the Chief Superintendent, Senior Members of the Gardai, Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Elected Members and

representatives from the voluntary and community sector. The focus of the public meeting will be on policing, rather than individuals and obtaining the co-operation of the public in preventing crime. The local community will have the opportunity to make their views known and ask questions and all are welcome to attend.

To increase the productivity of the meeting and encourage greater participation written questions may be submitted prior to the meeting to hpurcell@wicklowco-co.ie or in writing to the undersigned.

Questioners should give their name and contact details, which will not be publicised. While every effort will be made to provide the information requested in certain circumstances it may not be possible for legal reasons or because it would not be in the public interest to do so.

Trick or Treat Spooky Cabaret at The Hotspot Music Club

Serpentine Rooms have announced their return to the stage after far too long a hiatus, with the upcoming Trick or Treat Spooky Cabaret on Saturday, October 29th at the Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones.

This Halloween cabaret offers a delightful and eclectic mix of song, dance, burlesque and sideshow performers from around the country, and of course from your local favourites too! Hosted by Ms. Kitty LeRoux, who says "we're going big and this promises to be the spooktacular event of the year!"

Trick or Treat features monsters, magic and mayhem; plenty of treats hidden amongst the tricks; award winning acts from nationally renowned performers and a market before and after the show; fresh candy floss and popcorn; raffle with amazing prizes; a creepy coffin photo booth and best costume contest!

So this Halloween - treat yourself to a creepy cabaret and all the extras, you'd only be tricking yourself if you stayed home...! Doors open from 7pm for Market | Show 9pm Oct 29th Hot Spot Music Club. Tickets www.thehotspot.ie/tickets or on the door



David Murray and Adam Byrne present Rachel McGrane of Annacurra GAA Club with the GAA Health and Wellbeing Board at the launch of the GAA Health and Wellbeing Boards initiative at the GAA Centre of Excellence, Ballinakill. See more, page 15.

West Wicklow Historical Society

West Wicklow Historical Society's upcoming Autumn lecture will take place at the Lalor Centre (near St. Joseph's Church), Baltinglass, on Tuesday 1st November at 8pm. Admission is €5. The talk will be by Declan Kennan on 'Mapping the Devolved Gaelic Territories and Districts of the O'Tooles'.

Rathnew Women's Shed Merket presents: Spooktacular

All children are welcome to Rathnew Women's Shed's Halloween Spooktacular market on Sunday October 30th, 12pm-4pm, in Rathnew Community Centre (St. Brigid's Hall). Entry is free for each child. There will be face painting, toffee apples, ghost stories and spot prizes for the best costumes. The market will have over 20 craft stalls.

Local History Talks at Wicklow Library

Wicklow Local Studies Library Service is launching a season of talks beginning on the 27th of October with a talk by local historian James Scannell entitled 'John Hinde and his Colour County Wicklow Postcards'. In his talk, James will trace the origin of the picture postcard, providing examples of the types of colour picture

postcards circulating in County Wicklow in the 1950s prior to John Hinde's arrival on the scene. The talk will take place at Wicklow Library, in the exhibition space on the third floor on Thursday, October 27th at 7pm. Contact Wicklow Library on 040467025 or email Wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie to book your place.

Shankill Classical Music Club

The next meeting of the Shankill Classical Music Club will be on Wednesday 2nd November at the usual time (7:45pm to 10pm), and venue - Shankill Day Centre, Lower Rd, Shankill (100 yds from the main street, car parking available). The music will be as always: a varied programme of classical music on CDs, covering many genres - orchestral, instrumental, vocal, opera etc. To get an idea of the range, have a look at some of the playlists on www.shankillclassical.org. You don't need to be an expert! Visitors and new members are always welcome. There's no charge on the night. For further info please phone or text John on 087-2109175.

Bray Tidy Towns AGM

The Bray Tidy Towns AGM will take place at 7:30pm on Wednesday 26th October at Villa Pacis, Vevay Road, Bray. The agenda will include: Minutes of previous AGM; Annual Report; Financial report; election of committee members. All are welcome to attend including newly signed up volunteers. If you wish to attend please contact Mary on 087 2104844 or email braytidytowns@gmail.com.

Octagon improvement works

Funds have been secured to carry out improvement works to make the Octagon structure in Delgany safe. Work will commence in the next 2-3 weeks. "The general approach to the conservation and repair of the Octagon will be to do as little as possible and as much as is necessary to provide for its use as amenity and heritage site within the Glen of the Downs Nature Reserve," said Delgany Community Council. "Surviving historical fabric will be treated with care, and priority given to maintenance and repair. Loss of existing fabric will be resisted unless it can be shown to be beneficial to enhancing historic character. The approach includes removing inappropriate and damaging interventions of the past."

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Approval secured for Wicklow transport plan

Deputy Steven Matthews, Green Party TD for Wicklow says the transport plan approved last week for Wicklow County Council under the Department of Transport, Pathfinder project is ambitious, innovative and can be delivered quickly.

Welcoming the approval, Deputy Matthews said "Wicklow County Council has gone big and ambitious in this plan, in response to Minister Eamon Ryan's request for councils to identify projects that will provide easier choices to use public transport and cycle safely to town or school and to help cut our transport emissions. Only councils which have submitted exemplar projects have been selected and I am delighted to have worked closely with Wicklow on the project, to secure the backing of the Department of Transport to support the accelerated roll out of the proposal."



Steven Matthews TD

The plan for Wicklow will be delivered by Wicklow County Council and will fast-track the delivery of a number of core walking and cycling infrastructure projects providing connectivity to towns within Wicklow, focusing in particular on multiple routes in Wicklow Town and Greystones with extensions to Ashford and Newtownmountkennedy and Rathnew. The project will include the provision of high quality, safe, legible pedestrian and cycle links to train stations and public transport hubs in the county.

"The approved project has many similar routes and ideas to those contained in a recent integrated transport plan I published for these areas," said Matthews. "Good safe routes from Greystones to the town centre and

the rail station, connection to Kilcoole and to Kilcoole Railway Station and a further option to connect to Newcastle. The proposal includes multiple routes from Wicklow Town, including a safe route from Rathnew to the Rail station and an extended route to Ashford.

"At the core of the project is connectivity to the rail line where I am continuously working successfully towards providing an electrified rail service to Wicklow Town. The provision of a DART to Wicklow Town has been approved by the NTA and I am working with the Department of Transport and Irish Rail to proceed with the engineering works to enable the service. I am also working with the NTA on improv-

ing rural bus services such as a Roundwood to Bray Railway service and ensuring timely delivery of rural routes under Connecting Ireland and urban routes under the Bus Connects project.

"Wicklow has long been neglected in terms of public transport investment, but the success of this application shows that with the right political leadership and through working with Wicklow County Council and the Department of Transport, our county will get the public transport, cycle paths and safe walking routes that our residents deserve. Nobody really wants to sit on a congested N11 when the alternative can be a reliable DART service or express bus from one of the planned park and ride locations along the route and with good safe cycling access to the transport hubs, our towns, schools and shops. The overall scheme will now be supported and resourced by the Department of Transport to proceed quickly and with support of the local councillors can deliver safe routes, economic benefits and real opportunity to reduce transport climate emissions and air quality improvement. Another important aspect is the acceleration and delivery of Safe Routes to School with approximately 500 schools to have front of school zones completed and cycle parking in place by 2025."

Neary resigns her seat

Social Democrats Councillor for Greystones Municipal District, Jodie Neary, has resigned her seat on Wicklow County Council to take up a new role in the renewable energy sector.

Commenting on her resignation, Jodie said, "After twelve years working in politics, two and a half of which I spent as a councillor for Greystones District, I have regrettably come to the decision that it is time to step down. Throughout my career in politics, I have particularly focused on climate change issues and when a new employment opportunity arose in that sector I felt compelled to take it.

"I am pleased that I now have an opportunity to work directly in the renewable energy industry helping to deliver Ireland's climate change obligations. However, it is a bittersweet time for me as this change of career will necessitate leaving my seat on Wicklow County Council.

"It has been a real privilege to be a local representative and help advocate for constituents in the Greystones District. I got to know so many incredible local people campaigning for better community services and a stronger response to climate change. The people of Greystones are extremely engaged in local politics

and I have really enjoyed working with them to better our local community.

"Despite resigning my seat, I will remain a member of the Social Democrats and look forward to continuing working with the party in a per-



Jodie Neary

sonal capacity. In the meantime, the local Social Democrats branch is working on a replacement for my seat, which it hopes to fill as soon as possible.

"I want to thank all my councillor colleagues in

Greystones Municipal District and my colleagues across Wicklow County Council and wish them all the best in their work. I would also like to thank the officials and staff in Wicklow County Council, and in the Greystones

ties. The Social Democrats have also been a huge support throughout my role and I want to thank all the SocDem Cllrs, staff and members for their support. "Finally, I would like to thank all the constituents of Greystones District, community groups and individuals who have supported my work and who work tirelessly for the benefit of the community. I will never forget the incredible years I've spent representing such a vibrant, special community in Wicklow."

Commenting on Jodie's resignation, Social Democrats Wexford TD Jennifer Whitmore said: "Jodie has been a fantastic councillor and a tireless worker for the Greystones District. Jodie also worked for me in Leinster House, and provided invaluable support in her role as my parliamentary assistant.

"As such, the resignation is a double blow for me and I am very sorry that she is standing down. However, I know Jodie will excel in her new career in an area that is very important to her, and to me: the renewable energy sector."



Emma Jane O'Loughlin and Grace O'Connor with teacher Valerie Power at the St. Mary's College Arklow Open Day last week.

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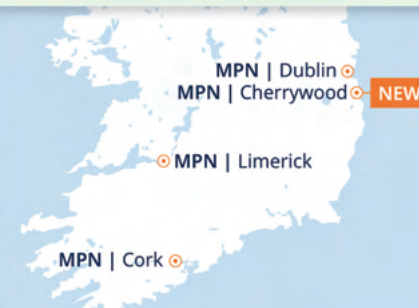
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Bray Jigsaw service officially opened

Jigsaw, the youth mental health charity, officially launched its service in Bray on Monday, 17th October.



Alongside the local team, Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D. was at hand to cut the ribbon to mark the long overdue opening of Jigsaw in Wicklow.

The Minister said: "I would like to congratulate Jigsaw on their remarkable success since opening their service in Bray. Over the last two years, the team have showed brilliant innovation by developing a wide range of online health supports, services and programmes such as Jigsaw Live Chat as well as offering therapeutic sessions in person and online. It means young people from Arklow are able to use the service in Bray without having to leave their homes. The fact more than 1,000 young people have used the service since it opened shows there is a huge demand for what they do. The Government is committed to supporting mental health services - a record €1.149 billion was provided for mental health in 2022 which has allowed game changing services like Jigsaw have a real impact on their local community." Located at Unit 2,



Minister Donnelly cuts the ribbon to officially open the Jigsaw service in Bray



Above: Minister Donnelly with Jigsaw CEO Joseph Duffy and below: The Jigsaw team

Aubrey Court, Parnell Rd in Bray, the Jigsaw service first opened its doors to young people in December 2020, but the pandemic prevented, until now, the official service launch. To date, demand for Jigsaw in Wicklow has been strong with over 1,000 young people having crossed the threshold to date.

Also in attendance at Monday's launch was Dr. Joseph Duffy, Jigsaw's CEO. He commented "We are delighted to welcome Minister Donnelly to Jigsaw in Wicklow today. A long-time advocate for Jigsaw, Minister Donnelly's interest in, and support of, Jigsaw is hugely appreciated. We know all too well that

mental health support for our young people, in Wicklow and across the country, is needed now more than ever. To finally and officially open the doors today is fantastic." "The opening", commented Nicky Russell, Service Manager for Jigsaw in Wicklow, "represents an opportunity to celebrate the journey of

the service so far. We're really excited for people to see how our Jigsaw service fits into the Wicklow community, and to talk about how the work we do is providing support to our young people. And we know the need is great. Young people from across County Wicklow are reaching out each and every day."

Community audits for Arklow, Wicklow, Baltinglass districts

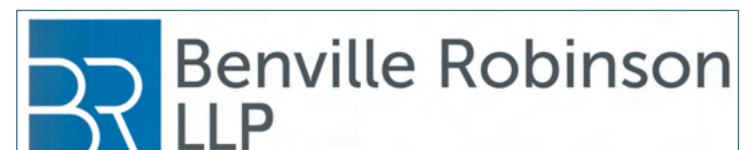
Social Democrats TD for Wicklow Jennifer Whitmore is encouraging residents in the Municipal districts of Arklow, Wicklow and Baltinglass to take part in Wicklow County Council's public consultation on their Recreation and Sports Needs Assessment.

The Assessment seeks to identify the needs, strengths, and deficits of the recreational and sporting offerings in each area. Speaking on the matter, Deputy Whitmore said "I welcome the opportunity for the public to engage in the process to identify community recreational needs across these three districts after one was successfully carried out in Greystones. "Local communities across the county are seeing unprecedented demand for their services. As populations increase in many areas, so too does the need for more facilities. People want to engage more locally, share their identity of place with their neighbours and are increasing their awareness of appreciating their local areas as well as thinking ahead in terms of climate change. "Unfortunately, the demand has not been met with these types of facilities despite many housing developments having shot

up in the past few years. Many of these developments have promised a community facility which often lies empty for large periods of time. Furthermore, they are not left for community ownership and have to be purchased or leased by the Council or an enterprise. "Now is an opportunity to voice these concerns as well as what residents would ideally like to see in their own local area. The Council need to hear directly from residents. It will be very useful information for the Council to work off when funding decisions are being made in future. "However, I would ask that residents in Bray district are also afforded the opportunity to input in a similar audit and hope the Council will work towards facilitating this in the near future. I also hope the Council will use the results to put in place a plan to develop recreational facilities further and that results

are not left sitting on a shelf for years to come."

Residents, community groups, local clubs etc - can access the survey at wicklowlsp.ie



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Cold weather may be a problem in the coming months, especially if you are older, have a disability or a long-term illness. In such situations, please keep the rooms you use in your house warm and continue to use any devices you have that keep you safe and comfortable. We also provide simple tips that can help you reduce your bills, while keeping warm and well.

For more information and signposts to services that can help you, visit gov.ie/ReduceYourUse



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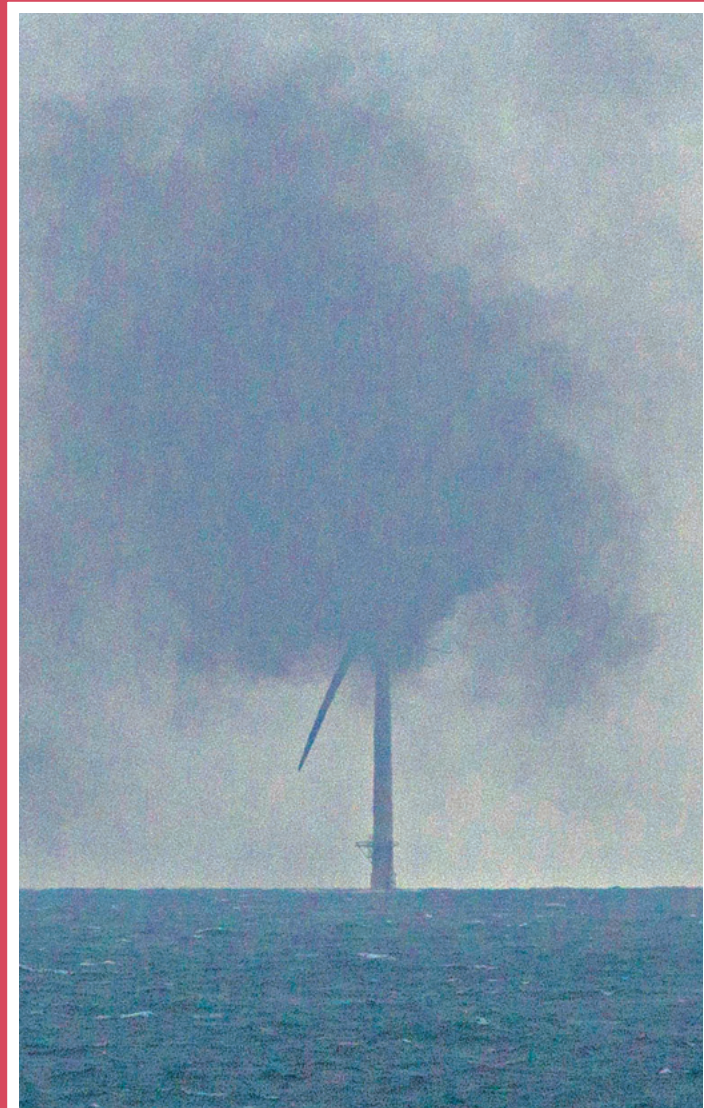
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A wind turbine off the coast of Arklow caught fire last Wednesday afternoon after being struck by lightning. The turbine is located approximately 10km off the coast. No GE Energy employees were on the turbine at the time. Almost 500 ESB customers in Arklow lost power during the thunderstorm.

‘More consultation needed on Arklow Flood Relief Scheme’

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath TD, for an update regarding the proposed flood defences for Arklow.

The Arklow Flood Relief Scheme was granted planning permission by An Bord Pleanála in July. The project includes plans to deepen the river and to construct flood walls, glass panelling and an embankment to reduce the risk of damage to property caused by flooding. Wicklow County Council and the Office of Public Works (OPW) will deliver the scheme.

Discussing the importance of having public engagement on the proposed works, Deputy Matthews said: "I welcome the Flood Relief Scheme and the benefits that it will bring to Arklow. Improved flood defences are needed to protect the 637 homes and 141 businesses in Arklow town from extreme weather events that are now more frequent and severe due to climate change.

"I was glad to be able to make a submission on the proposed design and put emphasis on the importance of public areas, seating, green space and the glass pan-



Deputy Steven Matthews in Arklow.

elling being well designed and unintrusive. In any flood relief plan, the measures implemented should protect the public from the potential negative impact of the river but should never break the town's connection to the river.

"I welcome the confirmation that a dedicated Project Team with a community liaison officer will be established to oversee public engagement on the flood

defence scheme which was another key aspect of my submission. Wicklow County Council will also develop a communications strategy which will include the launch of a website to enable members of the public to contribute their views on the proposed works and contact the Project Team.


"I recently submitted a Parliamentary Question to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform asking for an update on

the Flood Relief Scheme and the Department's commitment to having open public engagement on the proposed works. Wicklow County Council is in the process of drafting consultancy briefs to bring the scheme to the next stage and plans to appoint detailed design consultants in 2023.

"Proper consultation on the design of the scheme is incredibly important for addressing the concerns raised by

members of the local community in Arklow and for advancing the aims of the project. I will continue to work with Wicklow County Council to ensure that the voice of residents is heard at every stage of the process. If anyone has any questions about the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme, please get in touch directly and I will offer any support I can," concluded Deputy Matthews.

Happy Halloween from Wicklow County Council

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Harold's Cross
& Blackrock



Joy Harper, Luke Staunton, and Noah Daly launching 'Trick or Treat for Sick Children', Children's Health Foundation's annual fundraising campaign. Trick or Treat for Sick Children raises vital funds to support patients and their families in Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin, Temple Street, Tallaght, and Connolly. Children's Health Foundation is calling on individuals, families, community groups, schools, creches and more across Co. Wicklow to get spooky this Halloween by dressing up, hosting your own Trick or Treat party, and raising funds to support sick children and their families in Children's Health Ireland hospitals and urgent care centres. Getting involved couldn't be easier, simply visit www.childrenshealth.ie/trickortreat to sign up for your free party pack. Your monster bash can be as big or as small as you like, and the funds you raise will be put to work where they are needed most.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

Notice is hereby given under Section 12 (12) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) that Wicklow County Council made a new County Development Plan on Monday 12th September 2022. This plan replaces the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022. This plan will have effect from Sunday 23rd October 2022.

The new County Development Plan will be available for inspection at the following locations from Monday 24th October 2022:

- The Council's website www.wicklow.ie (available to view and download)
- Planning Department, Wicklow County Council, Station Road, Wicklow Town

Hard copies will be available to purchase at a later date.

This plan is accompanied by a statement ('Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement') summarising:

- how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan,
- how
 - the environmental report prepared pursuant to Article 13C of the Planning & Development (SEA) Regulations 2004, as amended, and
 - submissions and observations made to the planning authority in response to a notice under Section 12(1) or (7) of the Act
 have been taken into account during the preparation of the plan,
- the reasons for choosing the plan, as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and
- the measures decided upon to monitor, in accordance with article 13J of the Planning & Development (SEA) Regulations 2004, as amended, the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan.

The plan is also accompanied by an Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, pursuant to Article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, associated AA Determination and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Wicklow Record of Protected Structures

As part of the making of the new County Development Plan, the Record of Protected Structures has been amended, including the making of additions, deletions and amendments to existing entries. The record is included in Appendix 4 of the published County Development Plan. The owners and occupiers of relevant structures shall receive a separate written notification including the particulars as per Section 12 (13) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Wicklow County Council is committed to Access For All.
Please contact the Planning Department should you have any specific access requirements.

Celebrate Halloween safely

Wicklow County Council is advising the public to celebrate Halloween safely. The Council is also reminding residents that it will not clean up after bonfires in their estates.

Halloween is one of Ireland's oldest traditions and allows us to celebrate the arrival of longer darker evenings. It is a time that all of us should be able to enjoy and celebrate, particularly children who get to experience being out in the dark and exploring their imagination with ghosts and ghouls.

Unfortunately, some events lead to mayhem, damage and risk of injury. Bonfires may have had some tradition but the modern practice of burning all types of waste and very dry wooden pallets, often with use of fireworks and outdoor drinking, is far removed from what was a traditional event. The modern bonfire creates fear in the community, damages public recreational areas, causes injury and harm and puts excessive pressure on our emergency services.

Wicklow County Council is reminding the public that bonfires and the burning of waste is illegal.

Businesses or householders who give waste for bonfires can

be prosecuted for the environmental damage caused. Wicklow Council will prosecute for illegal waste management wherever sufficient evidence is gathered.

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said: "Every year illegal bonfires destroy areas of public open space, with some causing personal injury and others threatening property. It is the busiest night of the year for all our emergency services, who dedicate themselves to protecting communities, the people who ensure we all have safety and access to medical care."

Wicklow County Council is reminding residents in estates that it will not clean up after a bonfire. Where people allow a bonfire in their area, and where they get involved in building one, they must take responsibility and clean up after themselves.

Also of concern during Halloween is the use of fireworks and bangers. The use of bangers in particular causes distress to all animals.

Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, has asked the public to refrain from using fireworks and bangers saying that "the use of fireworks is strictly illegal and can cause immense stress to pets and to older people. It is unfair to subject people and animals to weeks of fear and anxiety. Each year illegal fireworks cause multiple injuries to people using low quality products without due care. Let's celebrate without causing fear."

There are now a diverse range of events available countywide to celebrate Halloween including food events, spine tingling forest trails, spooky venues like Wicklow Gaol, Halloween Balls to dress up, music events, and farm and pumpkin patch events. There are events to suit all age groups and all tastes.

Let's have fun this Halloween and make it a festival that all can enjoy. It doesn't need to be memorable as the busiest night of the year for our first responders and our hospitals. It should be fun but safe.

National Museum of Ireland seeking tales of the unexplained from County Wicklow

The search is on for Ireland's 'spookiest' county

This Samhain, the National Museum of Ireland is inviting people across County Wicklow to share and help preserve ghost stories that have been passed down through oral tradition in their locality.

The Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN), a Museum initiative that supports communities to collect and share their local history and heritage online, has launched a new project called 'Ghost Stories of Ireland - Seeking Tales of the Unexplained'.

"Ghost stories and encounters with otherworldly beings are a common theme in Irish folklore," explained Lorna Elms, iCAN Development Officer, "so this Halloween we are inviting the public to help us document those stories that continue to be told and to help us find out which county in Ireland is the spookiest!"

"Stories passed down through oral tradition give us a greater understanding of how our ancestors perceived and explained the world around them, which is why the Irish Folklore Commission was set up in 1935 to collect and study the folklore and traditions of Ireland. Much of this work continues to be carried out by local volunteer History and Heritage



Matron Mary Morris in Wicklow Gaol, reputed to be one of the most haunted buildings in Ireland

groups, such as those supported by the iCAN initiative."

The project also wants to revisit the ghost stories gathered by schoolchildren for the Irish Folklore Commission in the 1930s. The Commission prepared a guidance booklet that listed 55 subject headings - topics that the children could explore with older people in the

community.

"Despite 'Ghost Stories' not being on the headings list, the collection contains over 1,000 spooky tales, suggesting that a belief in the unexplained strongly persisted in the public consciousness at that time," added Ms Elms. "Going by the amount of ghost stories collected by county, Tipperary appears to have

been the most 'haunted', with 95 accounts of frightful folklore. There are nine ghost stories listed from Co Wicklow, so here is an opportunity to capture more stories from the county. As part of our 'Ghost Stories of Ireland' project, we would also like to revisit and highlight those tales gathered by the children 75 years ago, and bring them back to life."

Visit ouririshheritage.org to learn more about the 'Ghost Stories of Ireland' project; submit a ghost story of your own; or choose your favourite story from the National Folklore Collection and tell the Museum why you like it.

Through iCAN, the National Museum works in partnership with the Local Authority Heritage Officers to support communities as they document their own history, heritage and culture on digital platforms. This initiative is supported by the Heritage Council.

Visit ouririshheritage.org or www.museum.ie for further information.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Revenue
Cáin agus Custaim na hÉireann
Irish Tax and Customs



COUNTY WICKLOW RESIDENTIAL ZONED LAND TAX (RZLT)

A new tax to activate land for residential purposes was introduced by the Department of Finance and the Revenue Commissioners in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage as Section 80 of the Finance Act 2021. The tax measure is aimed at incentivising residential development rather than generating revenue for the State.

In order to implement this new tax measure, local authorities are required to undertake mapping to identify the lands in scope for the tax in their respective functional areas, with provisions allowing those landowners identified as being within the scope to challenge this decision by making submissions to the local authority or, where the challenge to the local authority is unsuccessful, An Bord Pleanála. Thereafter, the administration of the tax measure will be undertaken by the Revenue Commissioners.

A draft map for County Wicklow, prepared under Section 653C of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, will be published on **01 November 2022** on the Wicklow County Council website <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax> and will be available for inspection at the Planning Department in Wicklow County Council HQ, Wicklow Town from **01 November 2022**.

The draft map has been prepared for the purposes of identifying land that satisfies the relevant criteria and is to be subject to the residential zoned land tax.

Residential properties, notwithstanding that they may be included on the draft map, shall not be chargeable to the residential zoned land tax.

Land which satisfies the relevant criteria is a reference to land that -

- (a) is included in a development plan, in accordance with section 10(2) (a) of the Act of 2000, or local area plan, in accordance with section 19(2)(a) of the Act of 2000, zoned -
 - i. solely or primarily for residential use, or
 - ii. for a mixture of uses, including residential use,
- (b) it is reasonable to consider may have access, or be connected, to public infrastructure and facilities, including roads and footpaths, public lighting, foul sewer drainage, surface water drainage and water supply, necessary for dwellings to be developed and with sufficient service capacity available for such development, and
- (c) it is reasonable to consider is not affected, in terms of its physical condition, by matters to a sufficient extent to preclude the provision of dwellings, including contamination or the presence of known archaeological or historic remains, but which is not land -
 - i. that is referred to in paragraph (a)(i) and, having regard only to development (within the meaning of the Act of 2000) which is not unauthorised development (within the meaning of the Act of 2000), is in use as premises, in which a trade or profession is being carried on, that is liable to commercial rates, that it is reasonable to consider is being used to provides services to residents of adjacent residential areas,
 - ii. that is referred to in paragraph (a)(ii), unless it is reasonable to consider that the land is vacant or idle,
 - iii. that it is reasonable to consider is required for, or is integral to, occupation by -
 - (I) social, community or governmental infrastructure and facilities, including infrastructure and facilities used for the purposes of public administration or the provision of education or healthcare,
 - (II) transport facilities and infrastructure,
 - (III) energy infrastructure and facilities,
 - (IV) telecommunications infrastructure and facilities,
 - (V) water and wastewater infrastructure and facilities,
 - (VI) waste management and disposal infrastructure, or
 - (VII) recreational infrastructure, including sports facilities and playgrounds,
 - (VIII) that is subject to a statutory designation that may preclude development, or
 - (IX) on which the derelict sites levy is payable in accordance with the Derelict Sites Act 1990.

Submissions on the draft map may be made in writing to the local authority concerned **not later than 1 January 2023**, regarding -

- i. either the inclusion in or exclusion from the final map of specific sites, or
- ii. the date on which a site first satisfied the relevant criteria.

Publication of the draft maps provides a key opportunity for landowners and members of the public to participate in the process. Submissions should be restricted to setting out and providing information establishing to the satisfaction of the local authority, why the land does or does not meet the qualifying criteria set out in section 653B of the Act.

Relevant issues to be considered may relate to lands not being connected to or being unable to be connected to services, being occupied by a particular use which benefits from an exclusion or being subject to criteria such as contamination which could warrant exclusion.

Matters which are unrelated to the criteria identified in section 653B such as planning permission, commencement on land in-scope, finance, or personal circumstances are not matters that can be taken into account during consideration of submissions. Furthermore the size of the landholding, ownership of the land by private, public or semi-state bodies, lack of knowledge of ownership or transfer of ownership cannot be considered.

Submissions regarding removing an existing permanently-occupied house from the maps will not be considered, as residential premises will not be liable for the tax under the terms of the legislation.

Submissions may be made in one of the following ways:

1. Write to Administrative Officer, Planning Department, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96, marked 'RZLT'
2. Online through the Council's consultation hub at www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub
3. Email RZLT@wicklowcoco.ie

Submissions should include a name and address, reasons for inclusion or exclusion of lands, along with a map of scale 1:1,000 (urban area) or 1:2,500 (rural area) where the submission is made by a landowner, clearly identifying the area of land subject of the submission.

Any such written submissions received by 1 January 2023 other than such elements of a submission which may constitute personal data, shall be published on the website maintained by the local authority concerned not later than 11 January 2023.

Where land identified on the draft map is included in a development plan or local area plan in accordance with section 10(2)(a) or 19(2)(a) of the Act of 2000 zoned -

- i. solely or primarily for residential use, or
- ii. for a mixture of uses, including residential use,

Where land is identified on the draft map as being subject to the residential zoned land tax, a person may, in respect of land that such a person owns, make a submission to the local authority requesting a variation of the zoning of that land. Any such submission should include evidence of ownership, detailed reasons for any rezoning request, along with a map to a scale of 1:1,000 (urban) or 1:2,500 (rural) clearly identifying the relevant plot of land.

All rezoning requests made will be considered by the Local Authority having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

More information can be found of the Council website at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax>



Glencree Centre for Peace wins prestigious prize

The Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation has been announced as the winner of the prestigious Polish Prize of Sergio Vieira de Mello by the Villa Decius Association in Krakow, Poland for their activities for the peaceful coexistence and cooperation of societies, religions, and cultures in the non-governmental organisation category.

The Polish Prize of Sergio Vieira de Mello, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2002-03) is the initiative of the Villa Decius Association and was established in 2003 to promote human rights, democracy, and tolerance. Barbara Walshe, former Glencree Chair was awarded the Prize by H.E. Ambassador of Poland to Ireland Anna Sochanska. The newly arrived Ireland Ambassador to Poland Patrick Haughey also attended.

Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation is an independent non-governmental organisation founded in 1974 in response to the Northern Ireland conflict. It played an important role in the peace process at that time, mainly by enabling both sides of the bloody conflict to engage in constructive dialogue and to establish a relationship of trust across political and religious divides as well as against mutual preju-

ices. The Centre's mission and the main objective of its activities is "Peace for All".

The organisation specialises in conflict resolution, extensive inclusive dialogue, mediation, negotiation and peace education. For almost 50 years, The Glencree Centre has carried out its conciliation programmes on 4 continents, including Israel and Palestine, Turkey, Haiti and Thailand, working with both individuals and entire community groups.

Villa Decius Association

Participating in the work of the Villa Decius Association Award Committee were representatives of the President of the Republic of Poland, the Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden in Poland, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the

Ombudsman for Civil Rights Protection, the Mayor of the City of Krakow, the Consul General of the United States in Krakow, the ZNAK Publishing House, the Founders and Initiators of the Prize, as well as President of the Board and the Director of the Villa Decius Association. The honorary patrons of the Polish Prize of Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights are the Ambassador of The Kingdom of Sweden to Poland and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Among the nominees were individuals and organisations from different parts of the world promoting human rights and the dialogue between religions and cultures.

By the decision of the Award Committee, the 2022 Polish Sergio Vieira de Mello Prize is awarded to:

- Individual category: Serhiy Zhadan (Ukraine)
- Non-Governmental Organisation category: The Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation (Ireland)
- Honorary Prize: Sister Michaela Rak (Poland)

The recipients were presented with a statuette by Andrzej Renes, commemorative diplomas, and a monetary prize founded by the Sponsor ZUE SA Group. The Gala was followed by a panel discussion with the Award winners, moderated by journalist Magdalena Rigamonti.

The Ambassador of Poland to Ireland H.E. Ms. Anna Sochanska presented the award to Glencree's Barbara Walshe Chair and said: "I express great appreciation for Glencree's achievements and its role in reconciliation through dialogue and getting to know each other better, which increases mutual understanding. I am delighted that the award on behalf of The Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation is being received today by Barbara Walshe, a long-time Chair of the Board and I would like to express my appreciation and congratulations to the hard and fruitful work of all employees of the centre, headed by CEO Naoimh McNamee."



Participants of the recent Peace Walk on 18th September at the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, which was attended by the Ambassador of Finland to Ireland, H.E. Raili and Brigadier General Rossa Mulcahy, Assistant Chief of Staff, Irish Defence Forces

Accepting the award, Barbara Walshe, the former Glencree Chair said: "Like Sergio, at Glencree experience has taught us the importance and transformative impact of building relationships and facilitating dialogue between people of often opposing views. Glencree provides a safe space for people to come together to talk, to listen and to grow in understanding of each other, while respecting other's needs, concerns and difference and looking for the common ground...whatever it takes to keep the lines of communication open and bring people in from the margins."

Glencree Chair, Ciaran O Cuinn said: "This award for us is about the future. Glencree will strive each day to remain deserving of this great honour. As we work to build and deepen recon-

ciliation, Glencree will endeavour be a living commemoration of the life of Sergio Vieira de Mello. Our warm thanks to the Ambassador of Poland to Ireland H.E. Ms. Anna Socha'ska for her ongoing partnership and guidance. In recognition of her amazing dedication, the Board and staff of Glencree were proud to nominate our colleague Barbara Walsh to accept the award on our behalf."

Glencree CEO, Naoimh McNamee said: "We are deeply honoured to receive the Polish Prize of Sergio Vieira de Mello and would like to wholeheartedly thank the Villa Decius Association and our dear friend H.E. Anna Sochanska and her team in Dublin for their steadfast support. So much of our work over the years at Glencree has been conducted privately and out

of the public eye, due to the need to hold a safe and protected space where difficult conversations can take place and where those in conflict can come together to build constructive relationships and find solutions together. As an organisation that must work quietly at times, it is wonderful and even more meaningful to receive this prestigious endorsement of our work. The Polish Prize of Sergio Vieira de Mello recognising Glencree's five decades of peacebuilding work will serve to inspire so many and strengthen our organisation as we continue our peacebuilding journey and strive to equip and support the next generation of peacebuilders, who will carry on this important work in the hope of forging more peaceful futures for us all".

Sergio Vieira de Mello (1948-2003) was a

Brazilian diplomat who defended two doctorates in humanities at Sorbonne. In several decades of work for the UN, he served at various posts, including those of UN Secretary General's Special Envoy in Kosovo, East Timor UN Transitional Administrator, 3rd UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2002-03), and the EU Secretary General Special Envoy for Iraq. While holding that function, he was killed in a bomb raid on the UN headquarters in Baghdad on 19 August 2003. Throughout his life, Sergio Vieira de Mello actively supported protection of freedom and human rights, intercultural dialogue, fight on terrorism and refugee crisis, and supported compliance to international law. The values that informed his work also inform Glencree's.

Swift Kick's world champions

Swift Kick Martial Arts Academy (SKMAA) in Newtownmountkennedy recently had a team of five competitors qualify to represent Ireland at the WAKO World Championships in Jesolo, Italy, where they won a number of medals and trophies.

Full results for SKMAA

Zoe Ledwidge

- * World Champion in Creative Open hand
- * World Champion in Creative Weapons
- * World Champion in Musical Open hand
- * World Champion in Musical Weapons
- * World Champion Forms & Weapons YC Team

Amy Ledwidge

- * World Champion in Musical Open hand
- * World Champion in Musical Weapons
- * Silver medalist in Creative Open hand
- * Silver medalist in Creative Weapons
- * World Champion Forms & Weapons YC Team

Leah Kiernan

- * Silver medalist in Creative Weapons
- * World Champion Forms & Weapons Junior Team

Jake Carroll

- * World Champion Forms & Weapons Junior Team

Heidi McLoughlin

- * World Champion in Musical Open hand
- * Silver medalist in Creative Open hand
- * Bronze medalist in Creative weapons
- * Bronze medalist in Musical weapons
- * World Champion Forms & Weapons Junior Team

SKMAA has five New WAKO World Champions. They won nine 1st Place World Titles, 4 World Silver Medals and 2 World Bronze medals.

Swift Kick stated they are "beyond proud" of how well the team not only performed but supported each other as a team in "a week filled with emotion".

"It takes a lot of courage to get out there on the mats in an arena filled with thousands of people knowing you only have one chance to perform your best. They had some outstanding performances and played a big part in putting Ireland 4th on the overall medal table for the Championships. They worked hard over the last few months and represented their club, community, and country with pride and now they have some impressive medals and trophies to show for it!"



Zoe Ledwidge, Heidi McLoughlin, Jake Carroll, Leah Kiernan & Amy Ledwidge



Post 21's annual commemoration

Post 21 of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association held their annual commemoration in Kilmacanogue GAA Club on Sunday, October 16th. Post 21 is the branch for County Wicklow.

The commemoration remembered all of the Wicklow soldiers who served with United Nations on peacekeeping duties. The event saw an increased turnout from the previous year. Post 21 Chairperson Viv Collins (pictured above with Cllr Stephen Stokes) spoke about the growth in membership and highlighted many of the activities that Post 21 are involved in. This includes food collections for local charities. A number of commemorative presentations were held including to local people who have assisted Post 21 of IUNVA over the past year. This included Cllr Stephen Stokes and Cllr Tom Fortune. Cllr Stokes stated: "It's a great honour to be associated with Post 21 even in a small way. The work that they have done overseas on peacekeeping missions is tremendous, helping to make the world safer and more stable. But what is also remarkable is their continued service to the community, whether that is food collections, or supporting veteran soldiers who may have fallen on hard times. I wish Post 21 every continued success."

To enhance this work further, Post 21 Wicklow are currently fundraising for premises with Kilcoole Mens Shed. A fundraising table quiz is planned for Friday, November 4th at 8pm in Byrne's Pub, Kilcoole.

SUSI grant holders set to receive double payment



Minister Simon Harris

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD has confirmed all student grant maintenance holders will receive an additional maintenance payment in December, including 1,261 students in Co. Wicklow.

As part of the Budget 2023 package for students, all maintenance grant recipients will receive an additional maintenance payment on December 16th. For some students, this will mean an additional €679 before the end of the

year.

Minister Harris said: "We have taken important steps to address the cost of education for families in Budget 2023. This additional student maintenance grant payment will mean more money back in peo-

ple's pockets by the end of the year.

"This will benefit almost circa 50,000 students across the country. And effective from January, we will permanently increase maintenance grants by 10-14% ensuring students will receive the help and assistance they need."

In recognition of the cost of living financial challenges, the Minister also announced a once off contribution of €1,000 towards the student contribution

paid by each free fees eligible student in academic year 2022/23. For students, this will reduce the amount payable by free fees eligible students to their institution from €3,000 to €2,000 in academic year 2022/23. No action is required by the student.

Students who paid their 2022/23 student contribution in full will receive a refund from the HEI attended. The HEIs will inform eligible students this week of the application process

for refunds and begin the process of contacting individual students shortly thereafter. Individual students who are contacted by the HEI will be asked to provide account details to facilitate a refund and to provide those relevant details by the 30th November 2022.

Students eligible for a 50% student contribution grant support as paid by SUSI will benefit proportionally and will see the amount they pay to their

institution reduce from €1,500 to €1,000.

Minister Harris added: "These are practical measures to help students and families with the cost of education and the cost-of-living more generally. This is all about ensuring we can help people through the next weeks and months. If you have not paid your fee, it will be knocked off your bill and if you have, your college will be in touch to ensure you get your money back."

NLN Bray students to undertake sponsored walk in aid of Ark Housing

More than 30 students from National Learning Network (NLN) Bray are to undertake a sponsored 5k walk in aid of Ark Housing Association on Friday October 28th.

The charity walk will begin at 11am from the centre in Beechwood Close on Boghall Road before winding its way through nearby Killruddery Estate and finishing back at the centre.

"This is a fantastic initiative which has been devised by the students themselves," NLN co-ordinator of the walk Oonagh Hodkinson says.

"We're asking everybody who can contribute to support Ark Housing through sponsorship of the students."

There will also be a raffle on the day which will go towards the homeless charity which is also Bray based.

"We're delighted to partner with National Learning Network Bray for

this," Claire Harris of Ark Housing Association says.

"We understand that things are very difficult for people at the moment with the cost of living crisis so fundraisers like these are very important for us.

NLN provides training and specialist support to people who, for a variety of reasons, may find it difficult to gain employment and is the country's largest non-governmental education and training organisation.

"We empower people to undertake positive learning pathways through inclusion in training, further education, higher education, and working life," it says.

Ark Housing Association was set up in 2005 as a response to the needs of people frequenting WH Five Loaves drop in centre.

With the assistance of grant aid, fundraising and donations, Ark Housing purchases and converts properties to provide accommodation for homeless people who would

benefit from support that would help in the transition from homelessness to independent living.

In addition to providing housing and support to residents, Ark Housing assists people to search for accommodation in the private sector and help with any issues regarding applications with finance.



National Learning Students Ray, Lauren and Ethan with Instructor Oonagh

Kilcoole Primary School gets approved for major expansion

Minister Simon Harris has confirmed a significant expansion of Kilcoole Primary School. There will be an additional 12 classrooms, special educational classrooms and other facilities.

There will also be a refurbishment and 4 classroom extended to the St Anthony's building. Minister Harris said: "This is great news for the people of Kilcoole and for this super primary school. I really look forward to this project now advancing and seeing the benefit of this major investment in education in Kilcoole."



Student Isla McEvoy teaches Mollie Lou Kelly how to play badminton at the St. Mary's College Arklow Open Day last week.



**Wicklow
Volunteer Centre**

Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Cill Mhantáin

County Wicklow Volunteer Centre is recruiting for . . .

VOLUNTEER CENTRE COUNTY MANAGER

Reporting to: County Wicklow Volunteer Centre Chair and board of trustees

Location: Wicklow county

Type of Role: 30 hours a week, permanent

Role: The core responsibility of the county manager is to direct, lead and deliver on the CWVC strategic and operational plans which are developed in the framework of continuous quality improvement (CQI) and align with the National Volunteering Strategy (NVS.). This role requires skills in Leadership and Operational management, HR and Governance.

For a job and person specification, please see

www.volunteerwicklow.ie/welcome/

[county-wicklow-volunteer-entre-job-vacancy](http://www.volunteerwicklow.ie/welcome/)

Closing date for applications is **9th November 2022.**

Please apply with a CV and covering letter to leah@volunteerwicklow.ie

Supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development

Pure Mile Gala Evening returns after two years

After a two-year absence, the Pure Gala Evening Awards will return for 2022 to The Brooklodge Hotel in Macreddin, Aughrim, on Thursday 27th October.

The Pure Mile is an environmental, community, heritage initiative, established by the Pure Project, which encourages communities and groups living in rural areas to adopt a mile, or miles, of road, and keep this area litter/rubbish free, research information about their local wildflowers, plants, trees, animals, and the built, cultural, and social heritage of an area.

Ian Davis, Pure Project Manager commented: "This is the 13th year of the Pure Mile, with the largest number of groups and volunteers involved in the project since it was established in 2009. The first year we had 6 miles of road, and this year, 13 years later, we have over 850 miles of road, mountains, woodlands, valleys, forestries, and upland amenities, with over 3,500 volunteers. The Pure Mile demonstrates

that people want to make a difference to the environment, and Pure gives them the assistance, so they can make that difference. The Gala Evening is Pure's way of thanking all of the people involved in the Pure Mile, and it enables the groups to meet people with similar interests."

On the Gala Evening each group will receive a Pure Mile Certificate of Participation, a selection of native Irish trees, and all will be included in the popular Pure Mile Calendar, which will be launched in December this year. Certificates of Recognition will also be presented on the night, with over €6,000 of prize money being handed out to the winning Pure Mile Groups and their volunteers.

The Pure Mile is the perfect opportunity for communities and groups who want to make a positive

contribution to their locality and environment, and assists people in improving and enhancing the place they live in, or recreate in. Special interest groups such as, walking groups, cycling groups, running groups, hiking groups, businesses, and organisations, adopt a mile, or miles of road, in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and help Pure to 'Clean Up The Wicklow/Dublin Uplands'. Pure provide all groups with Pure Mile signage, Pure Mile high-vis vests, Pure Mile bags, gloves, and litter pickers, and Pure also removes all of the rubbish collected by the groups.

If any groups, communities, individuals, schools, walking groups, cycling groups, scouts, businesses, ANYONE, want to get involved in next years Pure Mile, they can contact Pure at info@pureproject.ie or download an application from www.pureproject.ie/what-we-do/the-pure-mile/. You can also write to: Pure Project, Unit 6 B, Riverside Business Centre, Tinahely, Co Wicklow, Y14 R978, and they will post out all the information, or request an application form and information pack by phoning Pure on 0402 28662.

Further information on Pure can be found on www.pureproject.ie

TO REPORT DUMPERS AND DUMP-
ING IN THE WICKLOW/DUBLIN
UPLANDS - LO-CALL
1800 365 123



Pure Mile Trekkers Walking Group



Pure Truck Cleaning Up the Wicklow National Park

Wicklow dancers selected for Irish National Youth Ballet Christmas production of The Nutcracker

Two young ballerinas from Co Wicklow are part of an elite cast of Ireland's most talented ballet dancers who will perform the iconic Christmas favourite The Nutcracker as part of the Irish National Youth Ballet's (INYB) winter programme, it has been announced.

The show will run age 16, from Wicklow from 8th-10th of town, and Sarah Curran, December at The Helix, also age 16, from Dublin. Nina Braswell, Stratford-on-Slaney, are part of an all-island troupe of 45 dancers - 11 of whom are male and who range in age from 9

to 18 - who will recreate the winter wonderland of The Nutcracker on the stage of The Helix's Mahony Hall.

The professionally trained young dancers were handpicked out of 142 who auditioned for the INYB's 2022 season from across the island of Ireland. Nina is trained by Wicklow School of Dance in Rathnew and Sarah is trained by Ruth Shine School of Dance in Blessington.

This will be the first unrestricted run of winter shows for the Irish National Youth Ballet since before the pandemic. Audiences can expect to see Ireland's best young dancers, including Nina and Sarah, bring many of ballet's most-loved characters and set-pieces to life, from wooden soldiers, dancing mice, a 'Land of Sweets' and the Sugar Plum Fairy, to the highly anticipated pas de deux between the Snow Queen and the Prince amid falling moonlit snowflakes. The set to The Nutcracker's famous score by Tchaikovsky.

Announcing the winter season performances, Artistic Director of Irish National Youth Ballet Lindsay Ashe-Browne,

said: "We are so excited to be coming back before a full live audience this winter season in The Helix and to be performing one of the most-loved ballets of all. To dance with Irish National Youth Ballet, you really do need to be among the best dancing

talent on the whole island. The performance level is akin to elite athletics. The audition process is strict and competitive, and our dancers are highly trained.

"This December, audiences can look forward to a magical and unforgettable experience from

the exceptionally talented young dancers who make up The Nutcracker cast. They each have an unrelenting passion, commitment, and gift for ballet, including Nina Braswell from Wicklow town and Sarah Curran from Stratford-on-Slaney. Many of our dancers have gone on to become fulltime professional career ballet dancers worldwide, which is a remarkable achievement given the

level of competition. So, people are really in for a treat this December!

"We are very grateful for the support we receive from Arts Council Strategic Funding, 'Friends of the Company', RTE Supporting the Arts and Dance World, who help us in our work in developing and promoting the best of dance talent on the island of Ireland and in bringing it to audiences."



Pictured at the launch of the Irish National Youth Ballet's 2022 winter season performances of The Nutcracker, taking place at The Helix, Dublin, 8th-10th December, were members of the lead cast.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Application forms can be obtained from the Grant Section, Housing Department, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town, 0404 20120 or at www.wicklow.ie or email grants@wicklowcoco.ie



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The Roundwood Reservoir Upper Vartry Trail

Upper Vartry Trail reopens

Sport Ireland has announced that the Roundwood Reservoir Upper Vartry Trail will reopen fully after being partially closed for a number of months.

A section of the loop trail was closed in February, with Sport Ireland releasing a statement at the time saying that "all stakeholders involved are working together to create a speedy resolution".

Last week Sport Ireland announced that "difficulties that caused the closure of a section of the trail have now been resolved. Sport Ireland would like to thank and recognise the willingness and cooperation of all parties involved, specifically, the landowners, the neighbouring business, County Wicklow Partnership, Wicklow Uplands Council and Wicklow County Council, to find a safe and appropriate resolution. It is an important and valued amenity in the local community, and everyone involved was supportive and committed to re-opening the trail. Sport Ireland wishes to

thank the trail users for their patience while this matter was being resolved.

"This is an idyllic trail forming a loop around the shore of the upper part of the Vartry Reservoir beside Roundwood. It is just 6.4km long and graded 'easy' so it is the perfect trail for many walkers. During the closure part of the trail was impassable and it could not be used as a loop. The full trail route has now been reinstated and the entire loop can be enjoyed again by the local community and walkers from further afield, as it was before the closure."

The trail was opened by then Taoiseach Leo Varadkar in 2018. There are close to 20km of trails around the reservoir, including the Lower Vartry Trail and the Woodland Trail.

TDs demand Go-Ahead be held to account

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD and his Bray West/Enniskerry colleague Cllr Melanie Corrigan recently met with the National Transport Authority to demand it take action regarding Go-Ahead Ireland's inadequate bus services in North Wicklow.

Minister Harris said: "Along with my colleague Cllr Melanie Corrigan, I today met with the National Transport Authority to seek answers as to what action it is taking to tackle poor bus services in Wicklow."

"In particular the services operated by Go Ahead are unsatisfactory and I have repeatedly raised cases of constituents with no evening time bus service to Enniskerry. In particular I am greatly disturbed by instances of school children being unable to find a bus route home. The situation is unacceptable."

Cllr Melanie Corrigan added: "It has been a source of enormous frustration to me that despite repeated assurances from Go Ahead that they would improve their services and ensure Enniskerry would have a reliable bus services there has been no change. Go Ahead's response has been unacceptable and hence the reason I met with the regulator today with Minister Harris to demand action."

Minister Harris and Cllr



Jennifer Whitmore TD

they are facing is covid related. A year later, this is simply not good enough. We are already nearing the mid-term break and school children are still, seven weeks after the start of term being left behind at a bus stop or driven passed by a bus or waiting for a delayed service to take them to school and inevitably arriving late.

"It is simply not fair that parents have to miss a morning's work so that they can ensure that their child gets to school safely - or miss a morning's work because the bus service that they were depending on didn't show."

"From a safety perspective, it is wholly unacceptable that young girls are abandoned at a bus stop waiting for a bus that doesn't come, comes late or passes them by. In a time of crisis when we are concerned with the cost of living and we are all encouraged to take public transport, it's a joke that the public transport provided for the people of Wicklow is so unreliable that people are forced back to their cars."

"I previously called for intervention by the Minister for Transport on this issue over five months ago. Clearly, this hasn't happened and no amount of talk of NTA fines have resolved the issue - so I call on the Minister once again to give this issue his immediate attention and intervene so that the people of Wicklow can trust in a reliable and safe bus service."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady last week appealed to each of the four sitting Wicklow TDs, including the three government TDs to support Sinn Féin's Motion on accessible, affordable, and reliable public transport, which is scheduled to come before the Dail on Tuesday 25th October.

The motion, says Deputy Brady, has been driven by the need to confront the continuing inability of the government to meaningfully address the chronic problems with the 45a, the 184, and the 185 bus routes.

Deputy Brady said: "The crux of the transport difficulties we are witnessing in north Wicklow in relation to the Go-Ahead service can be traced back to the decision of the government to attempt to introduce privatised bus routes. There is nobody who can argue that this failed government initiative has not been a disaster."

"I have met with, questioned, and harangued the Minister in the

Dail on this issue, I have met with the National Transport Authority (NTA), I have spoken with Go-Ahead Ireland and have led a Sinn Féin team of public representatives in a protest outside Go-Ahead's offices in Dublin. I also launched an online petition which received widespread support, with countless individuals taking the time to contact me directly to recount their experiences of being let down by Go-Ahead Ireland."

"The reality is that the Go-Ahead contract with the NTA is up for review. The NTA has the power to scrap this contract. This is something that I have repeatedly called for, which forms a central tenet of the Sinn Féin motion. The motion is designed to deliver accessible, affordable and reliable public transport for workers and their families. And will also address the need to extend the short hop service in Wicklow as far as Arklow."

"It is not acceptable that rail passengers in Wicklow are being asked to pay extra just because Leap Cards are not accepted after from Greystones onwards travelling south. The Government may be advising more people to leave their cars behind and to use public transport instead. But they are doing little to make rail travel an attractive alternative, instead we have rail users in Wicklow and Arklow who are being penalised for using the train."

"With anti-social behaviour on public transport growing at an alarming rate, Sinn Féin is also calling for the establishment of a



Minister Simon Harris

Corrigan also raised service issues with the NTA relating to the 185 Enniskerry bus, 184 Greystones bus, and the 145 service to Kilmacanogue. The need for the NTA to facilitate adequate shelters for commuters at locations such as the Bog Meadow carpark, the 185 terminus and a new stop at Enniskerry's parochial hall was also discussed.

Also speaking out on the issue, Social Democrats TD for Jennifer Whitmore last week called for immediate action to address the service provided by Go Ahead in Wicklow.

People have consistently, over the past year, reported buses passing them at stops, buses not letting people off at their desired stop, and buses not showing up.

"For the guts of a year I have now been raising concerns about Go Ahead bus services in North Wicklow with the National Transport Authority, and the Minister, and have corresponded with and met Go Ahead directly," said Deputy Whitmore.

"In the first instance, a year ago when I first raised the issue, the excuse used to explain the inadequate service was Covid and recently, in a meeting with Go Ahead, I've been given the same excuse that the recruitment issue



John Brady TD

dedicated transport policing unit as called for by the National Bus and Rail Union (NBRU).

"Some 13.5% of the population are recorded as having a disability. Many disabled people continue to face barriers to using public transport such as broken lifts, limited wheelchair space, or having to give 24-notice before their journey in order to ensure that there is a ramp in place. We are also calling for the Public Transport Accessibility Retrofit Programme budget to be increased to ensure accessibility at all train stations, platforms, and bus stops."

"I want to repeat my call for all TDs in Wicklow to back the Sinn Féin motion and help to deliver on an accessible, affordable and reliable public transport for workers and their families across our county."

New 'buzz stops' for Bray?

Independent Councillor for Bray Municipal District Rory O'Connor has submitted a motion at Bray Council's next meeting to create the town's first 'bee bus' shelter.

This is following inspiration from Utrecht a Dutch city, who first implemented bee bus shelters following a policy of 'no roof unused'. This policy helped stabilise the steady decrease in urban bee population. After the success of this project a petition was set up in the UK for councils to have the same policy. This petition was signed by 50,000 people leading to it being implemented with many councils across the UK having Bee bus shelters incorporated into its bus shelter infrastructure.

Councillor O'Connor said "As a council we need to begin increasing our green infrastructure in every way possible. We need to look at every asset the state has and do whatever we can to increase biodiversity. I think we also need to be practical when it comes to increasing our green infrastructure."

"We need to ensure the NTA take biodiversity into account by allowing a green patch on top of bus shelters and help our local bee population flourish. I believe if other European countries can do this, we can in Ireland as well. I hope Bray can be the trail blazer for this idea and ensure its success will be replicated elsewhere."



A Bee Bus shelter

New health & wellbeing initiative for GAA clubs

A health and wellbeing initiative for GAA clubs has been launched in County Wicklow which shows players how to mind their mental health and where to find help if they need it.

The GAA Health and Wellbeing boards initiative aims to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing supports through the promotion of the 24/7 support and crisis helplines.

The Boards also feature the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing', evidence-

based actions we can do every day to improve our mental health and wellbeing - Connect, Keep Learning, Be Active, Take Notice and Give.

The GAA Health and Wellbeing Boards initiative was launched on Friday, October 14th at the GAA Centre of

Excellence, Ballinakill, Co. Wicklow during World Mental Health Month.

Mental Health Ireland has worked in coproducing this initiative alongside the GAA Health and Wellbeing in Wicklow, HSE Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention,

Healthy Ireland - Wicklow, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, HSE Mental Health Engagement and Recovery and Wicklow Mental Health Association. The boards have been funded by the GAA Clubs, the National Office of Suicide Prevention and Wicklow Endless Opportunities.

The Boards will be placed in twelve GAA Healthy Clubs across County Wicklow: An Tochar, Annacurra, Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney, Aughrim, Ballymanus, Blessington, Bray Emmets, Donard/Glen, Eire Og Greystones, Enniskerry, New-town and Shillelagh Coolboy.

The Boards will also be installed at Ballinakill Wicklow GAA Centre of Excellence Rathdrum and Wicklow GAA County Grounds in Aughrim. Each Board will include the club's logo and Eircode, as well as a Communications Toolkit to support each Club's roll out of the initiative along with a dedicated webpage that will sit on the official Wicklow GAA website. Supports In Wicklow - Wicklow GAA (official-wicklowgaa.ie) A QR code located on each of the boards will link



David Murray and Adam Byrne with councillors John Mullen, Joe Behan, Avril Cronin, Aoife Flynn-Kennedy and Rory O'Connor at the launch of the GAA Health & Wellbeing initiative

directly to this website.

"The GAA is at the heart of many communities throughout Ireland in both rural and urban settings and the Healthy Clubs have pledged to support their community's health and Wellbeing. We all need support at various times in our lives and by placing the boards in the GAA grounds and promoting their presence within communities and across social media net-

works, we can help to normalise reaching out for support and remind people that help is available," said Noeleen Wills, Development Officer, Mental Health Ireland.

"Our communities play a vital role in creating, promoting, and protecting our mental health and wellbeing. By building awareness of how to look after your mental health and the services and sup-

ports that are available both nationally and locally, we are encouraging people to look after themselves and each other by reaching out for support when it is needed," said Linda Moore, Head of Service, HSE Community Healthcare East.

Mental Health Ireland has worked in coproducing this initiative alongside the GAA Health and Wellbeing in Wicklow,

HSE Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention, Healthy Ireland - Wicklow, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, HSE Mental Health Engagement and Recovery and Wicklow Mental Health Association.

The boards have been funded by the GAA Clubs, the National Office of Suicide Prevention and Wicklow Endless Opportunities.



David Murray and Denise O'Shea present Ciara Fagen of Eire Og Greystones GAA Club with a Health & Wellbeing board.

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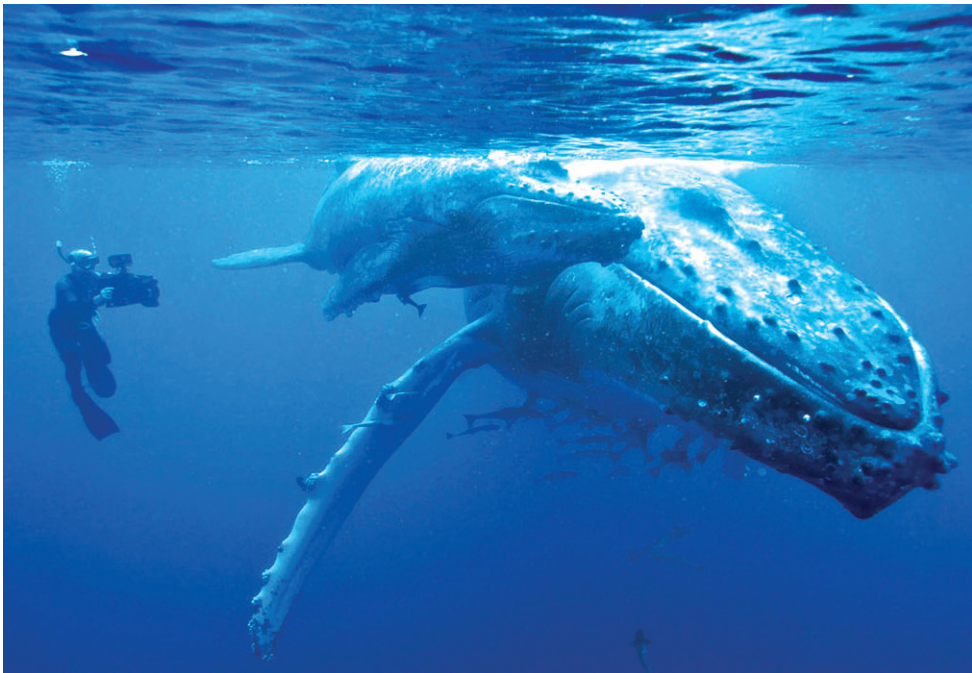
Doug Allan - It's a Wrap!

Doug Allan looks back over his successes and setbacks during 35 years of natural history film making in his Autumn 2022 tour, which he will bring to the Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray on Tuesday 22nd November.



Doug Allan in the Antarctic

Doug Allan is an award-winning natural history photographer, documentary filmmaker, diver, author, and public speaker. Doug is touring Irish theatres this Autumn with his latest show "It's a wrap", sharing his extraordinary filming challenges and successes. Part retrospective, the show is also Doug's perspective on climate change and its impacts on the world's wild places. What change of emphasis and direction should we now be incorporating in wildlife films? "There are big days when animals behave spectacularly right in front of your lens. And other quieter times when a deeper understanding reveals itself, a new insight into the environment and what's alive there. I'll be talking about these moments of truth and how they're the biggest privilege of a wildlife cameraperson." Doug Allan "I've always balanced optimism with reality but the latest world climate report lays bare the need for radical, urgent action. There are solutions, and I



Doug Allan with a humpback whale

want to talk about them. They're all challenging, some are scary and depend on us making deep changes to how we live. The planet's at a crossroads and we're at the wheel. The next few years are going to be exciting." Doug Allan In his 35 years of filming, Dougs been involved with more than 65 films, freelancing for the BBC, Discovery, National Geographic and others. He was principal cameraman on many prestigious award-winning programmes, making over 25 trips to the Antarctic and more than 30 across the Arctic, filming for series including Hostile Planet, Forces of Nature, Operation Iceberg, Frozen Planet, Ocean Giants, Human Planet, Life, Planet Earth, The Blue Planet and Life in the Freezer. Doug speaks with passion and authority about the challenges of plastics and climate change. His topside and underwater filming - from the ice-covered polar seas to tropical coral reefs - combined with his scientific credentials as a marine biologist, have given Doug unparalleled first-hand experience and a unique long-term perspective on these issues which are now severely impacting our environment. He was one of the cameramen for, and appeared in, the award-winning documentary A Plastic Ocean. Doug's photographic awards include eight Emmys, five BAFTAs and five Wildscreen Pendas. He has twice won the underwater category in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year. He has three Honorary Doctorates in recognition of his camerawork and is an Honorary Fellow of the prestigious Royal Photographic Society and Honorary Fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographic Society. In 2018 he was awarded the RSGS Mungo Park Medal for his contribution to geographical knowledge in hazardous environments. Sir David Attenborough commented "Wildlife cameramen don't come much more special than Doug".

Scary Halloween Night

A poem by David P. Carroll

On a dark and scary night	And the Moonlight is	it's just
There was a loud bang tonight	So blue and bright	Scary Skeletons and ghosts and
And the little children	And it's a ghostly night	ghouls Tonight and the howling
Ran with fright so scared	A bitter cold breeze blowing	Of the crazy werewolves
tonight	All through the night	tonight
And there's laughter in the air	And there's an other	And the dead
tonight	Loud bang tonight	Zombie's walking through the
And it's a cold dark lonely	And the little children are	Streets on this cold dark lonely
Scary Halloween night	Running around with fright	Scary Halloween night.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Mermaid Arts Centre, Tuesday 1st November. €10/€35 (Family (2 adults + 2 children) Full Price

‘The Legend of Sleepy Hollow’ is a classic Gothic story by American author Washington Irving. It is often read around Halloween and has been adapted on stage and screen many times.



Set in 1790, the story tells of Ichabod Crane, a school teacher from Connecticut who moves to Sleepy Hollow, a small town in upstate New York. The place is home to many tales of the supernatural especially that of the Headless Horseman. Ichabod Crane is superstitious and believes all of the local legends. He soon becomes a rival to Brom Bones for the affections of Katrina. She rejects Ichabod. Perhaps the Headless Horseman wants Ichabod to leave town too, or is it Brom in disguise? Barking Dog's two talented actors (with the help of some puppets and children from the audience) present this exciting tale, specially adapted for children. Suitable for children aged 5-10 years old.

New book from Bray children's author

Bray-based children's writer Sadhbh Devlin has released a new picture book *Amuigh Faoin Spéir*, which is illustrated by Brian Fitzgerald.

The way Rua sees things, Saturday is for lying on the sofa and watching cartoons all day. But Mum has a completely different plan of action. *Amuigh Faoin Spéir* is a joyful celebration of the beauty of nature and the special sofa-snuggles that follow a big adventure in the great outdoors. Dublin based, Brian Fitzgerald is an award-winning children's

book illustrator. After graduating from the National College of Art and Design, Brian's work focused on editorial and school publishing before moving into children's book illustration which is now his passion and a source of joy. *Amuigh Faoin Spéir* is Brian's third book with Futa Fata, having previously illustrated *Cócó an Colgán Cairdiúil* by Ailbhe Nic Giolla Bhrighde and *Bínjí, Madra ar Strae* by Patricia Forde. *Amuigh Faoin Spéir* will be available in all good bookshops nationwide and online at www.futafata.ie from October. RRP €10.95 Futa Fata would like to thank Foras na Gaeilge and The Arts Council for their support.



Sadbh Devlin



Sadbh Devlin Brian Fitzgerald

KVA presents Kunstverein Aughrim - The Trunk Show



Mermaid Arts Centre, Wednesday 2nd November, 7pm, €8/€6

Wicklow's brand new visual art initiative Kunstverein Aughrim presents a live, one-night-only, travelling Trunk Show with a pairing of special performances.

A short introduction (with props) will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about a Kunstverein. What it is, what it does, with whom, and how. Presented by founding director Kate Strain, Trunk Show features dramaturgy by Kate Heffernan, props by Forerunner, and a ditch spritz by Fiona Hallinan.

Packed inside Trunk Show is MAGPIE a new performance by Isadora Epstein, Cillian Byrne, and Stephane Bena Hanly with stage paintings by Kathy Tynan, costumes by Amie Egan, and set by Millie Egan.

Kunstverein Aughrim is a not-for-profit curatorial office and production agency for contemporary art projects, located on the ground floor of a townhouse in the village of Aughrim. It is Ireland's first art organisation based on the European model of a kunstverein (from the German word kunst meaning 'art' and verein meaning 'club' or 'association') and is part of the franchise established by Kunstverein in Amsterdam, with sisters in Milan, New York and Toronto. Designed to bridge the gap between artistic practice and public presentation in contemporary visual art in Ireland, Kunstverein Aughrim acts as a commissioning, development and production agency for new artistic productions.

The Lost Brothers

Whale Theatre, Saturday 5th November, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €28 available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

Regarded as one of the finest musical duos to come out of these shores, Oisín Leech and Mark McCausland, from Meath and Tyrone, have been making music together since 2007.

Their sound is inspired by a range of influences that include the writings of Patrick Kavanagh, the music of Billie Holiday, and the paintings of Jack B Yeats. The Guardian described their most recent album, 'After The Fire After The Rain', as 'sublime' while The Irish Times stated that the album was 'deeply soulful' including it in their albums of the year.

BBC 6 Music celebrated the album with luminaries like Iggy Pop and Steve Lamacq playing the songs on the airwaves and awarding it 'Album Of The Day' upon its release. The album was also shortlisted for the Northern Ireland Music Prize and 'Album Of The Week' at RTE Radio 1. In 2021 the band headlined Union Chapel London and sold-out the Vicar St. in Dublin as part of the ongoing tour.

Over the years the band have toured and shared stages with the likes of Richard Hawley, Billy Bragg, Martha Wainwright and M Ward. They've performed internationally from Glastonbury to South By Southwest.

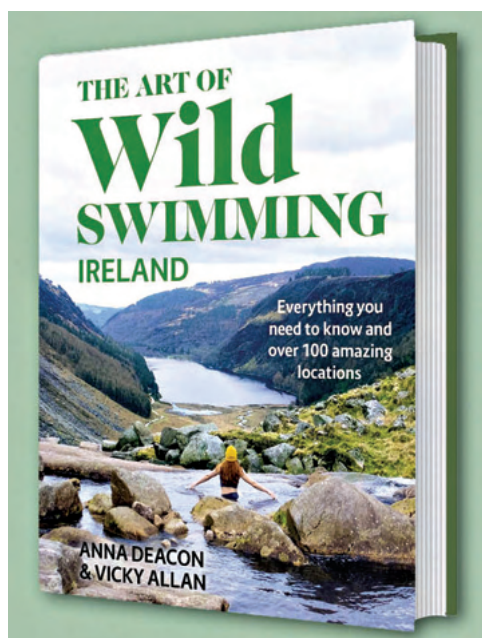


The Selene Saint-Aime Trio comes to The Mermaid Arts Centre this week on Thursday 27th October (8pm, €18/€16). Double bassist, singer and poet of Martinican and West African descent, Selene brings her Afro Caribbean rhythms, contemporary jazz and modern classical influences to the stage, showcasing her spellbinding vocal and instrumental talents.

'The Art of Swimming' book launch in Greystones

Ireland's wild swimmers provide guide to the perfect plunge

From the authors of *The Art of Wild Swimming: Scotland and England and Wales* comes the brilliant, expert guide on wild swimming adventures in Ireland. Filled to the brim with passion and advice from seasoned swimmers, *The Art of Wild Swimming: Ireland* features over 100 amazing locations across the country. It will be launched in The Village Bookshop in Greystones on Tuesday 25th October at 6pm.



Anna Deacon and Vicky Allan have shared the voices of the communities across Ireland and Northern Ireland who offer their expertise on the experience and how to safely enjoy it, with the mentioned places picked as favorites by local swimmers.

Showcasing stunning locations such as Portally Cove, Bishop's Pool in Mullaghmore, Sandycove Island and Tourmakeady Waterfall in Co. Mayo, this book will allow you to fully experience the best rivers, loughs, waterfalls and beaches that Ireland has to offer. A map of all listed spots is also included, accessible

through a provided QR code, to better plan your adventures.

Whether a beginner or regular wild swimmer, *The Art of Wild Swimming: Ireland* has everything to provide you with the best experience. From managing different bodies of water, tips on what to wear and to be environmentally conscious. This joyous book is an essential part of your kitbag, a gift for swimmers from the community itself.

Anna Deacon has worked as a photographer for over a decade, following a career in the music industry. Her photographic and written work has been published in many magazines and

newspapers including The Guardian, The Scotsman & Glamour. Her travel book *Wild Guide Balearic Islands* came out in 2022. She hosts the popular Instagram account @wildswimmingstories.

Vicky Allan is an award-winning journalist and author. A staff writer for the Glasgow Herald, specialising in stories about wellbeing and the environment. As well as her book collaborations with Anna, she is also author of a taboobusting collection of frank real-life menopause stories, *Still Hot!* (co-authored with broadcaster Kaye Adams) and a novel, *Stray*.



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**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED
APPLICATION FORMS IS THURSDAY 17th NOVEMBER 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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Irish Guide Dogs For The Blind highlights impact of fireworks

Halloween fireworks are having a devastating impact nationwide on Guide and Assistance Dogs and their owners according to Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The charity, which supports those who are vision impaired and the families of children with autism, says fireworks can be extremely distressing for all animals but particularly working dogs such as Guide Dogs and Assistance Dogs. As a result, some dogs are no longer able to support their owners and there-

fore must be retired.

Ulla Quayle's Guide Dog Sage had to retire in 2020 due to the stress of the impact of fireworks. "She was only 4 years of age; I should have had another 6 more wonderful years with this amazing dog. She suffered severe trauma from the fireworks and was never the same dog after, she

was terrified to leave the house which broke all our hearts as she was a much-loved family member.

"Even the trainers in Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind couldn't get her to overcome her fear of noises to the extent she became terrified of doors shutting. She was retired to a lovely family in Kerry where she is living out her days in peace and quiet. Guide Dogs become part of your family and parting with

them is agony."

Tim O'Mahony, Chief Executive Officer, Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind explains; "Situations like Ulla's are not uncommon. Not only is the impact on the dog heartbreaking but it's devastating for the owner who must wait to be matched with another dog which can take many months. In the meantime, the independence and mobility which they previously enjoyed is hugely curtailed or completely



If you are concerned about fireworks being set off in your area, you can report it to the An Garda Síochána by phoning your local Garda Station or by calling the An Garda confidential line on 1800 666 111.

taken away. If a dog has an experience which goes beyond a normal level of stress, such as a firework exploding close to them, this can overly sensitise the dog, similar to PTSD in humans. Whilst most dogs can recover, some will over-react to unexpected noise which manifests as a fear reaction. Every Halloween our teams support a number of our Clients whose dogs have been adversely impacted by fireworks."

Tips to protect your dog

1. Dogs do not like fireworks, so ensure to get plenty of exercise before dark and ideally during school hours or at mealtimes. This will minimise the exposure and tire the dog so that they will be more relaxed and more likely to sleep through the evening.
2. After dark dogs should be kept indoors as much as possible.
3. Confine pets to the general living areas rather than quieter areas such as hallways or bedrooms.
4. Leave the radio and TV on to drown out some of the external noises. Pull your curtains to help reduce visual exposure to fireworks.
5. Do not scold or fuss over a nervous dog as this only exacerbates the situation and can reinforce the behaviour.
6. If a dog is particularly stressed, we recommend treating them with natural remedies available from vets and pharmacies.
7. Remember, no tricks and no treats for your dog. Chocolate is not safe for your pet so do not share any with the dogs.



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Clyde Hatter and Maeve Anslow seek permission for the conversion of existing attic space to accessible storage space (Non habitable status) with 4 no. rooflights to the front of the existing house as well as a new stairs, internal alterations and all associated site works at 86 Deepdales, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 E624. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Ger Devlin Haulage & Plant Hire Ltd intend to apply for planning permission for development comprising the importation and deposition of inert subsoil and topsoil for land profiling and recontouring purposes on an existing agricultural holding together with any necessary ancillary site works at Annagolan, Ashford, Co. Wicklow. The purpose of this work is to improve the site for agriculture. A Certificate of Registration under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration Regulations) SI 821 of 2007 as amended is required for this development. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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Contact -
Shamim Akhtar via info@daata.ie

District Court

IN THE MATTER OF:
THE LICENSING ACTS, 1833 TO 2010

AND IN THE MATTER OF:
THE LICENSING ACT (IRELAND) 1874, SECTION 10, AS AMENDED BY SUBSTITUTION IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE COURTS (NO.2) ACT 1986

AND IN THE MATTER OF:
THE LICENSING (IRELAND) ACT 1833, SECTION 6

AND IN THE MATTER OF:
THE DISTRICT COURT RULES 1997, ORDER 79

AND IN THE MATTER OF:
AN APPLICATION OF:

CHRISTOPHER KEATLEY NOMINEE OF RYSTENVIEW INNS LIMITED

APPLICANT
TAKE NOTICE that Christopher Keatley nominee of Rystenview Inns Limited having its registered office at 57 Clannahon Road, Donnycarney, Dublin 5 will apply to the Annual Licensing District Court at Wicklow District Court, Civic Buildings, Main Street, Bray, County Wicklow on the 25th day of October 2022 at 10.30 am in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as this application may be taken in its order in the Court list for a Certificate by way of transfer entitling the applicant to receive a Seven Day Publican's On-Licence in respect of premises known as The Castle Inn and situate at Bridge House, Newcastle, County Wicklow in the Court Area and District aforesaid. Such Certificate being the Certificate referred to at Rule 79 of the District Court Rules as amended.
The previous Licensee being Denis Doyle of the Castle Inn, Bridge House, Newcastle, County Wicklow.

Dated this 19th day of October 2022.

Signed _____
M D O'Loughlin & Company,
Solicitors for Applicant,
Suite 11 Parklands Office Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, County Wicklow.

TO: The District Court Clerk
Wicklow District Court Office
Civic Buildings
Main Street, Bray,
County Wicklow

TO: The Superintendent
Wicklow Garda Station
Bachelor's Walk
Wicklow

TO: Wicklow Fire Brigade
1 Church Hill
Westmount Court
Bollanney South
Wicklow

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Lidl commits to 2023 Living Wage to support employees

Lidl Ireland, the first major nationwide employer to commit to paying the Living Wage in 2015, has once again become the first large employer to commit to the latest rate of €13.85 as recommended by the Living Wage Technical Group for 2023.



Maeve McCleane, Chief People Officer at Lidl Ireland & Northern Ireland

The company will invest €7.5 million to introduce this change that will benefit 4,200 employees across Ireland, as all other employees currently earn in excess of the new Living Wage. The Living Wage is an independently assessed and recommended rate of income considered necessary to have a socially acceptable standard of living.

This is the second increase to pay rates that Lidl has announced this year and is in recognition of the ongoing hard work and dedication of store and warehouse colleagues, particularly as the cost-of-living crisis continues. This latest pledge by Lidl to adopt the living wage for 2023 will directly benefit more than 4,200 Lidl colleagues across the country, with a full-time colleague impacted by this increase earning approximately €1,500 more a year. Employees will benefit from the new living wage level from the 1st March 2023.

This announcement comes on the back of a €10 million investment by the company in March of this year which saw all 5,000 employees receive a pay rise. In total, across the 12 months from March 2022 to March 2023 Lidl will have invested €17.5 million in pay increases across the organisation.

Maeve McCleane, Chief People Officer at Lidl Ireland & Northern Ireland, said: "Our most important asset is our people and now more than ever before, it is vitally important that we deliver on our responsibility to support our employees to overcome the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis as best we can. Our latest commitment to adopt the recommended Living Wage for 2023, for the seventh year in a row, will mean a second pay rise announced for more than 84% of our employees in less than 12 months.

"At Lidl, we've prioritised building not only an exceptional place to work, but also an inclusive, rewarding and fulfilling culture for our employees with industry leading initiatives including paid fertility leave, the removal of the mandatory retirement age and our compassionate leave policy. We can see clear evidence that we continue to be an employer of choice for Irish workers with just over 92,000 applications in 2021 versus 76,000 pre pandemic in 2019."



At the LEO Wicklow National Women's Enterprise Day event were L-R Back: Martin Cullen, LEO Wicklow; Nina Carberry; Kate Dempsey, CEO Aqualicense, Arklow; Louise Fleming, LEO Wicklow; and L-R Front: Susan Keogh MC; Vibeke Delahunt, LEO Wicklow

National Women's Enterprise Day a sure bet with Nina Carberry

National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) 2022 took place on Thursday, 13th October with the aim of encouraging female entrepreneurship and supporting women in business across the country. The initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices, is now in its 16th year. The theme of this year's National Women's Enterprise Day was "Our Future, Our Way".

This year the joint Kildare & Wicklow LEO event was hosted in Co. Kildare in the stunning Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge. MC Susan Keogh welcomed Nina Carberry (Guest Speaker, entrepreneur, retired jockey and TV personality), LEO Wicklow's Leading Light entrepreneur Kate Dempsey (Aqualicense Limited) and LEO Kildare's Leading Light Tara Lane (Centrepiece Rosettes), where 120 female entrepreneurs from both Counties gathered to be inspired and hear the stories of perseverance and tenacity from the three guest speakers.

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise at LEO Wicklow, said: "National Women's Enterprise Day has become a flagship event for women entrepreneurs and businesswomen every year. While the past two years saw successful online celebrations, it really is special to be back with sixteen in person events across the country, and some amazing speakers and inspirational businesswomen."

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