



WATER QUALITY
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Tuesday 18th October 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

FURY OVER PROPERTY TAX

Last week the rate for Local property Tax was discussed and decided on at the Council meeting.

In a statement issued by the council they said "Councillors voted to maintain the Local Property Tax (LPT) charge for 2023 at the same level as 2022. The decision means that householders in Wicklow will face no increase on their 2022 LPT payments while generating €1.1m in funding for the Council. This funding is ring-fenced for discretionary use by the Elected Members of the five Municipal Districts to support local projects in these areas including

footpath repairs, public realm initiatives and supporting local community organisations." However, a number of councillors are enraged by this interpretation and decision, pointing out that Wicklow has some of the most expensive homes in the country, that 4,000 extra homes are being taxed this year and that Dun Laoghaire (where former Wicklow Chief Executive, Frank Curran is in charge) actually reduced their property tax by 15%. Sinn Féin TD John Brady TD has joined his

party colleagues councillors Dermot O'Brien, and Grace McManus in expressing anger at the decision of the 23 Wicklow County Councillors who took the decision to increase the Local Property Tax by 6% above the base rate for the year ahead. The two Sinn Féin Councillors voted against the decision of the 23 Wicklow Councillors. Deputy Brady said "This decision comes in the midst of a crippling cost of living crisis. The actions of the 23 Cllrs in



Laragh midfielder Damien Hanlon celebrates winning the Junior A Football Championship with young supporter Peader Merrigan after his side beat Blessington in Aughrim. Pic: Michael Kelly

Wicklow will witness households across our county being handed an increased Property Tax Bill for the year ahead of 6%. Political conversations across the country are being dominated by discussions of how to alleviate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on ordinary families. There is growing concern at the failure of the government to introduce a moratorium on evictions over the harsh winter months ahead. But in Wicklow it appears that a decision has been made to pile on the pressure on homeowners. "People are frightened, they know that the months ahead will be challenging. They are being crucified with outrageous energy bills. Food costs are increasing, and it appears that everywhere that they look there are other price increases taking place as the impact of

inflation continues to bite. "All I can say is that it appears that those members of Wicklow County Council who voted for this tax hike, are totally out of touch with the fears, the challenges, and the sheer reality of what it is like for ordinary people on the ground who are attempting to deal with this cost-of-living crisis - or maybe they just don't care." Cllr Grace McManus said "I voted against the increase because I'm very worried about the impact that this decision will have behind closed doors. One of the main arguments put forward at the meeting is that people paid this rate last year. "The context is different, and yet we are responding the same. Only a few weeks ago I attended a protest with thousands of others

about the cost of living crisis. People are telling us they are struggling,

and I felt it was my responsibility to listen to them and take the stance

that there should be no increase this year. *Continued on page 6*

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NO MIDDLE MAN, WE SELL, MANUFACTURE AND INSTALL



Martina Robinson and Sean Olohan at the Sugarloaf Lions Club's Ukrainian Coffee Morning at Coolnagreina in Greystones

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 the 1950s, the quality of colour picture postcards left a lot to be desired. One man, John Hinde, had a clear vision of what a colour picture postcard should look like, from image composition to colour reproduction and finish. He successfully achieved this vision in his famous 'Beautiful Ireland' series of postcard. After setting up his company in Cabinteely, County Dublin, Hinde went on to be one of the largest and most successful publishers of colour picture postcards in the world. 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. He will discuss the John Hinde technique which revolutionised how colour picture postcards looked and were produced, and the effect that technique had on his competitors in an era when modern day computer technology did not exist.

The talk will conclude with a selection of John Hinde colour picture postcard views of various County Wicklow locations as they looked like some 60 years ago and, using more modern images of these locations, he will show how these places have changed in appearance over this passage of time. 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.

Lions Quiz Nights

Depending on the reaction and interest of all local charity clubs in the area, Wicklow & District Lions Club members are planning to organise their hugely popular Quiz Nights starting as soon as November. The last quiz was held in March 2020 which was the grand final in Wicklow Golf Club after 26 years without a break. Unfortunately Covid came along and put a stop to all activities for everyone. The Lions quiz committee would like to hear from all clubs, schools and organisations who are willing to support the quiz with as many tables as possible and raise vital funds for their particular charity as soon as possible. They can write to The Secretary Wicklow Lions Club c/o The Pastoral Centre Wicklow or make contact with any club member or by emailing directly to LionsQuizWicklow@gmail.com

Bray Cualann Historical Society

On Thursday October 20th County Wicklow based local historian and author Dr. Seamas O Maitiú will present his lecture 'Mapping Rathmines for the Irish Historic Towns Atlas' at 8pm in the Royal Hotel, Bray. All are welcome to attend in admission for visitors/non-members is €5.

Star gazing in Wicklow National Park

Unfortunately, weather conditions were not favourable at the beginning of Oct for the Star Gazing event and it had to be postponed to a later date to try and get a clear night sky. The date will be announced one day in advance. Email wickloweducationcentre@housing.gov.ie and they will notify you when a date has been confirmed.

Bereavement Support Meeting

Anam Cara wants to reach out to bereaved parents all over the county, to avail of their free services, to drop their 'masks' at their support meetings. On Monday 17th October, Anam Cara will hold their Wicklow meeting in The Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy at 7:15pm. All bereaved parents from the Wicklow area are welcome, regardless of the age their child died or circumstances of death. There is no need to register, just arrive on the evening at 7:15pm. For more information on the support services offer by Anam Cara, please call 085 2888888, email info@anamcara.ie or see www.anamcara.ie

Book of condolence opened for Creeslough victims

Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, has opened an online Book of Condolence, to give members of the community an opportunity to express their sympathies to the families of the victims who lost their lives in the horrific explosion at Creeslough on Friday the 7th of October.

Cllr Annesley stated: "As Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council I wish to express my heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the families and friends of the victims of this awful tragedy, and to the wider community. There are no words for the sadness and grief we are all feeling

at this time. On behalf of the people of County Wicklow I extend our deepest condolences and sympathies to all those affected by this unimaginable tragedy."

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, added: "On behalf of Wicklow County Council I wish to extend our sincere sympathies to the people of Creeslough and the wider community of Donegal. I would like to pay tribute to the emergency services and crews who attended the scene of the explosion. The thoughts and prayers of the entire community of County Wicklow are with you all at this time."

The closing date of the online Book of Condolences is the 24th October 2022.

Holyhead visitors in Greystones

Greystones' Twinning Partners from Holyhead visited Greystones last weekend to put final details on plans for their big November trip when they will return with the Holyhead Santa.

The Holyhead Santa has been a huge success in Greystones over the past few years. All the children are looking forward to seeing him again for Greystones Christmas Lights. The November visit will also include the Holyhead Male Voice Choir and the Magee Brothers Traditional Band. They will perform in a concert at the Whale Theatre on 19 November, Voices from Across the Irish Sea. The concert is celebrating Ten Years of Twinning Partnership. Tickets for the concert will go on sale shortly and will sell quickly. The choir and the band performed in Greystones in 2019 to an

enthusiastic audience. They are back by popular demand.

Greystones Library will also host a photographic exhibition highlighting the Ten Years of Twinning. The exhibition will be open from 12 to 23 November 2022. All are invited.

Greystones Councillor Stephen Stokes said, "Our Twinning Partners are always welcome in Greystones. Holyhead people share much in common with ourselves. They have been a part of our social calendar for ten years now. Holyhead visitors come over to our town whenever they can. We look forward to seeing them once again in November."



Holyhead Councillor Alan Williams and his wife, Carol, with Greystones Councillors Stephen Stokes, Bernadette Stokes, and Kay Coughlan from Greystones Municipal District.

Native Woodland Trust is branching out

An opportunity has arisen to join one of Ireland's leading environmental charities in the fight to reverse the effects of biodiversity and habitat loss as they form their first local branches in Roscommon, Westmeath and Wicklow.

The NWT plans to set up their first locally-led branches. The aim is to ensure local interests are included and local communities can derive maximum benefit from the ongoing woodland expansion efforts at three of their sites across Roscommon, Westmeath and Wicklow.

The Native Woodland Trust have organised an event at the Brockagh Resource Centre on 26th October at 7pm. For more information, or to RSVP to their inaugural meetings, please feel free to email Jeremy Casey at jeremy.casey@nativewoodlandtrust.ie

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Firemen to ballot on strike action

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has appealed for the government and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) to immediately address the recruitment and retention crisis in order to avert industrial action by the Retained Fire Fighters Association.

The long-running crisis is crippling the Retained Firefighter Service, and is endangering the safety of both the firefighters and members of the public. Brady's appeal came on the back of the announcement that the retained firefighters are in the process of serving two weeks' notice of their intention to ballot members for industrial and strike action.

This follows the failure to achieve any meaningful progress in discussions between the SIPTU national negotiating committee and the Fire Services National Oversight and Implementation Group (FSNOIG).

Deputy Brady said: "The decision by the retained firefighters to serve two weeks' notice of their intention to ballot members in the Retained Fire Service for industrial and strike action was not taken lightly.

"An opportunity was given to the government and the LGMA to come forward with a solution to the recruitment and retention crisis faced by the Retained Firefighter Service across the state.

"Unfortunately, the government chose not to avail of this opportunity, and the state is faced with a potential scenario of industrial action. This is a direct result of the failure or indeed the refusal of the LGMA to bring

forward any proposals despite giving previous commitments to do so. The failure of the LGMA is putting the safety of both firefighters and the public at risk. The service cannot be asked to continue under the current conditions. We need to see the LGMA come forward with solutions now.

"The Retained Fire Service are frontline workers. They are the first people that ordinary people see on perhaps the worst day of their lives. Their safety and our safety, the safety of the general public, is conditional on the willingness of management to give them the resources needed to do their job safely. There appears to be a reluctance by management to do this.

"With the current crisis in retention and recruitment, they are forced to work extra hours to make up for staffing shortages where they forgo time off to spend with families. It is not a role conducive to family life, and the retainer money they receive does not come close to compensating them for the sacrifices that they make.

"Current conditions offer little incentive for new recruits to the Retained Fire Service. It is seen as a thankless role with little or no personal benefit. A recent survey points to some 60% of Retained Fire Service intending to leave the service in the near future. Many within the next year.

"The strain of being on 24-hour call, seven days a week, in understaffed fire stations, with little hope of promotion, is having a significant impact on morale. Many highly trained, highly motivated individuals who love the fire service, and are committed to serving their communities, are being forced out of the job. The impact of this loss of experience will be devastating to both the Retained Fire Service, and the communities which they serve."

Last week a letter to Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Brian

Glesson, Brendan O'Brien Sector Organiser said: "As a result of the failure and/or refusal of management represented by the LGMA to honour its commitment to make proposals to address the long outstanding issues giving rise to the recruitment and retention crisis affecting the Retained Fire Service in your Local Authority our members are in dispute with your Organisation. You will be aware, our members have sought to progress the ongoing recruitment and retention crisis in the Retained service through the established Fire Services National Oversight and Implementation Group (FSNOIG) Retained Division. You will recall that following a number of meetings of the FSNOIG, the Department invited rank and file firefighters to participate in a questionnaire completed by our Retained Firefighter members late last year. The Department has subsequently made a number of presentations to the FSNOIG, which has also identified fixed incomes and structured time off among the key issues our Retained Firefighter members require resolutions to. We are now at the stage where despite having repeatedly sought to address this issue through the agreed channels, management have failed to table any meaningful proposals, despite making a commitment to do so, in order to address the recruitment and retention crisis affecting the Retained Fire Service. Accordingly, we are hereby serving two weeks' notice of our intention to ballot our members in the Retained Fire Service for Industrial and Strike Action."



Artist Kate Strain who's opened her new studio Kunstverein in Aughlim

Urgent meeting with Irish Water

Jennifer Whitmore TD arranged an urgent meeting with Irish Water last week to discuss the ongoing issue of taste and smell from tap water across North Wicklow.

While Irish Water have stated that it is caused by a compound from algae and the water is safe to drink, Deputy Whitmore was responding to many reports of people unable to drink it due to the taste and odour coming from

Deputy Whitmore said "At the meeting with Irish Water, I asked a range of questions in relation to the filtration system, the water quality reports, looking in detail at how they carry out

testing of water quality and what they do in the event of there being large amounts of algae growth. It was reassuring to see that Irish Water carry out a large number of tests using a whole range of procedures and that there

is no health risk associated with the algae issue. I did ask whether Irish Water could prevent this from happening again but unfortunately, it's not as straight forward as we imagine.

"With the onset of colder temperatures, this will kill off any lingering algae with water taste returning to normal. What is interesting however, is the fact how subjective the taste and odour is for people. Residents from the same home will have completely different reactions with some not smelling or tasting anything at all while others have very strong reactions to the water.

"I will continue to monitor constituents' reports of water taste and odour issues and following up with Irish Water for each concern. It's important that the public can trust in our water sources and in Irish Water and I welcome the positive response from Irish Water to meet with me as the area's public representative," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

Cllr. Erika DOYLE

Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District

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Laragh captain John Nolan celebrates winning the Junior A Football Championship after defeating Blessington in Aughrim

Biodiversity Officer will be 'a wonderful addition' to Council

Wicklow is one of ten counties chosen to make a total of sixteen councils at a national level to have this role within their local authority. This new biodiversity officer will be tasked with promoting the initiatives required to tackle this crisis at a local level.

Discussing the announcement, Green Party TD Stephen Matthews said: "A Biodiversity Officer for Wicklow is a wonderful addition to work on the objectives of Wicklow County Council in relation to Climate and Biodiversity which are driven by the Climate & Biodiversity Action, Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). Prior to being elected as a TD, I was directly involved with the establishment of the SPC and to see one of our key priorities establishing a specific strategic role on biodiversity within the council is extremely positive. This is a high-level role within Wicklow County Council that will work on strategies and policies that focus on protecting the environment, biodiversity and sensitive landscapes across Wicklow.

"We are extremely fortunate in Wicklow to have a truly incredible landscape containing great variety of wilderness, mountains, farmland and rural and urban environments including our Wicklow Mountains National Park. We also have important areas of



Steven Matthews TD

conservation for habitats and birds along our considerable coastline and our marine environment to protect and restore especially as we look to a

decade of development of offshore renewable energy, which is currently underway.

"Wicklow County Council was one of the very first in the country to declare a climate and biodiversity crisis in 2019. In my experience, Wicklow County Council is already streets ahead of other local authorities in terms of their strategic awareness of the need to emphasise our environment in their projects but would greatly benefit from the support of a dedicated biodiversity officer.

"This new officer will

work in tandem with the pre-existing roles of climate officer and heritage officer, and I believe will provide a wonderful team in Wicklow to work at the highest level with the Chief Executive on biodiversity strategic objectives.

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

Report reveals increase in pollution of Wicklow rivers and lakes

28% of river bodies in Wicklow are now polluted, with 6% noted as either in a 'bad' or 'poor' condition. This statistic was shared in the Environmental Protection Agency's newly-released Water Quality in Ireland Report 2016 to 2021, which reveals that just half of all water bodies in Ireland are in a satisfactory condition, with significant declines in water quality being recorded in the last five years.

MEP for Wicklow Grace O'Sullivan noted that this result was a disappointment, but unfortunately not a surprise, stating "These findings have come at a time where we have already recognised that we are in a biodiversity crisis".

"The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has now revealed that almost 70% of wildlife populations have disappeared since 1970. These are the consequences of policy decisions and actions taken by the human race, where industry is allowed to endlessly extract and destroy, facilitated by the inaction of decision makers until now. Ireland is no different, and we need

to be doing much more to protect our precious water resources," the MEP said.

The EPA stated that agricultural runoff was a major contributor to the decrease in water quality, with higher concentrations of nitrates and phosphates being recorded across most river bodies and estuaries. This is directly linked to fertiliser usage, and poses a significant risk to human health when used as drinking water. O'Sullivan noted that the Department of Agriculture's regular requests for a derogation from the EU Nitrates Directive is having a direct impact on rivers like the Avoca. The directive normally limits the

amounts of the fertiliser which can be used on land, for environmental and public health reasons, but an exemption is often granted to Ireland to sustain large dairy herds.

"While biodiversity and nature are the current losers, these actions will inevitably lead to consequences for people too. The vast majority of farmers do not benefit from increased nitrates usage, but we all suffer from it," MEP O'Sullivan stated.

"If we want to ensure that we have clean drinking water, safe places to bathe and liveable ecosystems for fish and other wildlife, we will need stronger plans and

braver actions from all parties. The government has begun to act, with a new River Basin Management Plan forthcoming, but we need to tackle nitrates levels as a matter of priority."

The EPA's Water Quality in Ireland Report 2016-2021 provides the latest assessment of the quality of Ireland's rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal and groundwaters. The report shows that water quality in Ireland is not as good as it should be. Only just over half of rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters are in satisfactory condition. The overall ecological health of these surface waters has declined across all water body types since the last assessment (2013-2018). This means these water bodies are less able to support healthy ecosystems for fish, insects and plants.

While the decline in water quality of our rivers and lakes is relatively small (one and three percent of waterbodies respectively), the number of estuaries and coastal water bodies in satisfactory condition has decreased by almost 16 percent and 10 percent respectively. These declines are mostly along the southeast and southern coasts where nitrogen emissions from agricultural activities are having a significant negative impact on water quality. Excess nitrogen causes algal blooms in our estuaries which can damage the ecosystem, and excess nitrogen in drinking water can pose a risk to human health.

Commenting on the report, Dr Eimear Cotter, Director of the EPA's Office of Evidence and Assessment, said: "The scale of the declines in



MEP Grace O'Sullivan on a recent visit to the River Shannon

our estuaries and coastal waters is alarming. In recent years the EPA highlighted that nutrient levels in our rivers and groundwaters are too high and that trends were going in the wrong direction. We are now seeing the impact of these emissions on our estuaries and coastal waters. Areas such as Cork Harbour, Wexford Harbour and the Slaney, Suir and Nore estuaries have lost their good water quality status. This directly impacts the marine biodiversity and ecological value in these areas."

The report highlights that since the last assessment published in 2019, the number of monitored water bodies in satisfactory condition has declined by:

- 1 percent in rivers,
- 3 percent in lakes,
- 16 percent in estuaries, and
- 10 percent in coastal waters.

The main pressures on water quality are agriculture, physical changes such as land drainage and dredging, forestry activities and discharges from urban wastewater. These activities can lead to runoff of nutrients, sediment

and pesticides and damage to the physical habitat of waterbodies. The number of waterbodies impacted by urban wastewater remains high, but it is reducing, and the trend is going in the right direction. The number of waterbodies impacted by agriculture has, however, increased in recent years.

Mary Gurrie, Programme Manager, added: "Improvements in water quality are being made, particularly in the priority areas for action where there has been focussed action to restore water quality in the past three years. This shows that improvements to water quality can be made when actions are targeted. However, the gains made are being wiped out by declines in water quality elsewhere."

The EPA is calling for urgent and targeted action to protect and restore water quality in the next River Basin Management Plan (2022-2027), and full implementation of, and compliance with, the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations.

The Sustainable Water Network (SWAN), a network of twenty five of Ireland's leading environ-

mental organisations, reacted to the EPA Water Quality report by calling on Government to come up with an effective plan to address Ireland's escalating water pollution crisis.

Sinead O'Brien, SWAN Coordinator, said: "This report has revealed yet again the ongoing failure of government to address this crisis and to stem the tide of water pollution."

Local success stories are a tribute to the communities who have taken their local waterbody to their hearts but nationally these are massively overshadowed by escalating pollution and physical damage from agricultural intensification, poorly managed forestry, lack of regulation of river and land drainage and continued pollution from out-of-date sewerage systems.

"This has not happened by accident. The State's policy for, and promotion of, aggressive agricultural expansion and intensification, particularly in the dairy sector, runs contrary to the ever-growing body of evidence showing the drastic impacts this is having on our rivers, lakes and coasts, especially in vulnerable catchments.

"The government now has a perfect opportunity to fix the issues highlighted in the EPA report in the upcoming River Basin Management Plan. This must challenge the fundamental mismatch between current land-use policy and the legal requirements of the WFD while introducing robust controls to halt and reverse pollution from agriculture, forestry and sewage; along with proper regulation of land and river drainage. To rise to this challenge will require a substantial rewrite of the deeply disappointing business-as-usual draft plan which was heavily criticised by the 1,000+ respondents to the public consultation earlier this year."

With the final River Basin Management Plan due before the end of the year, SWAN is calling on the government to introduce site-specific risk assessments for intensive farms and afforestation in vulnerable catchments; measures to fix discharges in the 200+ waterbodies heavily polluted by sewage; a ban on wetland drainage; reform of the Arterial Drainage Act and a national wetland restoration plan.

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Coláiste Ráithín

Coláiste Ráithín was founded in 1991 and was originally based on Florence Road in Bray. In 2018 they were delighted to move into their state-of-the-art campus on the Dublin Road. The school is under the patronage of the KWETB.



Deaglan O'Laoire, Príomhoide, agus Siobhan Ni Lionsigh

Coláiste Ráithín is committed to living out their motto of 'Ad Totam Personam'. This means providing a holistic education to all, and the first element of this is having a wide subject choice.

"We endeavour to offer a broad range of subjects to our students," says Principal Deaglan O'Laoire. "This is made possible by having the facilities to enable this to happen. We have three science labs, a home economics room, sports hall and gym, art room, technology room and three computer rooms. We also offer three modern foreign languages French, Spanish and German."

Transition Year (TY) plays a central role in



student development at Coláiste Ráithín and forms a compulsory bridge between junior and senior cycle. After school study runs on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

"We are fortunate to have an excellent staff who work extremely hard to help students to achieve their full potential. Our teachers employ evidence-based teaching strategies to achieve this goal.

"We are determined to ensure the physical and mental wellbeing of the entire school community. Central to this is ensuring an orderly learning environment at all times. Further initiatives currently running in this regard are One Good School (Jigsaw), FUSE programme (antibullying) Amber Flag, Green Schools, Bystander programme,

Student Mentors and Yoga. We regularly employ guest speakers to help in this regard.

"We have a significant range of extra-curricular activities that students can choose from. These include track & field, badminton, GAA, soccer, debating, basketball and others besides. Music has a rich heritage here

in the school and we have ad hoc concerts on Fridays at lunchtime. Each year we run a Christmas concert and a TY musical. We even had the winner of TG4's Junior Eurovision this year.

"Imríonn an Ghaeilge tionchar ollmhór ar chúrsaí scoile. Is beatha teanga í a labhairt agus

cuirtear béim ar seo go laethúil. Múintear na hábhair trí Ghaeilge fosta. Feidhmíonn Coiste na Gaeilge na scoile chun na spriocanna seo a chur chun cinn.

"We have strong community links and our Board of Management, Parents Council and Student Council play a central role in the running of the school."

Website: www.raithin.ie,
Phone: 01 2865180,
Email: colaisteraithin@kwetb.ie,
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Home Economics at Coláiste Ráithín



Coláiste Ráithín's outdoor courts



Science studies at Coláiste Ráithín



The gym at Coláiste Ráithín



The music room

'The greatest ever attack on local democracy'

Councillors concerned by plans for Town Team elections

The idea of holding elections for Town Teams across Wicklow has drawn criticism from Councillors who see the move as a further undermining of their role.

Town Teams are stakeholders who come together to make their area a better place to live, work, visit and invest in. In addition to County Council members, they can members of the Chambers of Commerce, Public Participation Network, etc.

Wicklow County Council has had Town Teams established since 2016. There are currently Town Teams in Arklow, Blessington, Greystones and Wicklow Town.

The recommendation of Town Team elections has been put forward by Wicklow County Council which commissioned a review of the Town Teams in 2021. Bray is currently awaiting the outcome of the review before forming a new Town Team.

Town Teams have been involved in many projects in recent years, such as the Blessington Health Check, Arklow Tourism Website, Wicklow Historical Trail, and Greystones' success in the LivCom Awards.

In a presentation at the October meeting of Wicklow County Council, Senior Executive Officer Christine Flood said: "There is a degree of confusion and lack of clarity as to the role of the Town Team versus the role of the Local Authority and the elect-

ed representatives and there is room for improvement in representation on Town Teams committees, and in getting a broad representation of players and sectors on the Town Team."

The review recommends that all Town Teams operate under a company limited by guarantee structure and that Town Teams introduce a minimum standard in relation to governance and adopt policies and procedures for the operation of the Town Teams. It's also recommended that there be "a democratic approach" to appointing Town Team members.

It's recommended that three members of each Town Team be appointed by election, with their membership to be reviewed every five years at the Council's AGM following the local elections.

"We should recruit

new members democratically, to ensure that the Town Team is representative of the local town and the environs and I know that most Town Teams would like to see younger people engaging with the Town Teams and taking part in the process," said Ms Flood.

Expressing his concerns about the election of Town Team members for five-year terms, Cllr Shay Cullen said "The relationship between Town Teams and town councillors is in my view, very poor at the moment [...] These people aren't elected by the public, yet they are privy to information. There are open lines of communication between them and officials in the council and very often we as councillors are not aware of what is going on, we are often hearing it second hand. I listened to a radio interview one day where a Town Team

member was expressing his delight that one million euro had been awarded to his town through a scheme, which we councillors weren't aware of. That is not good enough in this day and age. We, as public representatives, are elected by the people to serve the people and not to be bypassed by Town Teams or district forums or anything else. They should be feeding in the information into our Municipal District Councils, for us to work with Town Team members to establish projects and make our towns and villages a better place for everybody."

Cllr Tom Fortune called the proposal "madness". "I believe it would be a massive mistake," he said. "It's a duplication of the system that we already have in place. It's just replicating everything that a public, democratically elected

public representative does, so I can't understand for the life of me the role of the Town Team. I think this is the most important thing that has ever come before democratically elected councillors. There is no way in the world we should accept this."

Cllr Fortune proposed that if the recommendation to elect Town Team members goes ahead that all members of the Municipal District Council would sit on the executive of the Town Team and that the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District would at all times be the chair of the Town Team.

"That is the only way we, as members, should even contemplate this in any shape or fashion, because this is the greatest attack on local democracy ever," he said. "I am absolutely 110% disgusted with this. I will not accept it."



Quin's Pharmacy on the Quinsborough Road in Bray must have this year's scariest Halloween window display. Photo by Michael Kelly

FURY OVER PROPERTY TAX

Continued from page 1

I'm disappointed my colleagues did not agree, and my main concern now is how families are going to manage the impact and fallout of this decision."

Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien described the LPT as the "Family Home Tax" and highlighted the unprecedented pressures and stressors on the families of Wicklow at the moment. "We are in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, an energy crisis, a housing crisis, a mental health crisis, a climate crisis and the list goes on. We had an opportunity to send a message to the homeowners of Co. Wicklow that we recognise your struggles, we empathise with your struggles and we will not add to them. Unfortunately, the majority of Councillors did not believe that the 6% increase in the LPT represented a burden that would send people over the threshold and add to their distress."

"The Pro Government majority of FF, FG, Greens, Labour, Social Democrats and some Independents have voted to continue with a 6% increase in the Property Tax for 2023," declared Independent councillor Joe Behan last week.

"It is grossly unfair to expect hard pressed citizens of County Wicklow to pay more than the standard rate of property tax at a time of huge cost of living rises and particularly when they see little or no return for their money.

"Potholes, Littering, Dog-fouling, Shuttered shops and vacant Council houses are all still with us and yet the people are asked to pay up every year. For what?"

"The Property Tax is unfair in many ways. It is not based on ability to pay, it discriminates against older people and it varies from county to county. In Bray, for example, residents living in the same size house in Corke Abbey will pay 21% less in their

Property Tax next year than residents in Richmond Park. Why?

Because the Councillors in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council area cut the Property Tax by 15 % whereas the Pro Government Cllrs in Wicklow have continued the 6% increase they voted through last year.

"This decision It is a slap in the face for the people of County Wicklow and will add yet another burden on their incomes at a time when they can least afford it. It should never have been agreed."

Independent councillor Tom Fortune described last Monday's Council meeting on Property Tax as a 'three card trick'. He says the decision taken was the wrong decision and unfair to the people of Wicklow.

"To put it in context : The finance director of presented the numbers to the members, making a big play on €1.1 euro discretionary funding that would be divided across five districts , resulting in 208,197euro for four districts (there are six councillors in each district and 277,596 for Bray (eight councillor). Cllr Fortune says "this would just about pay for a feasibility study in each district and this is where the three card trick is played. We were told it would pay for footpaths and other works, this is totally disingenuous. We were told that the rate of increase above the base rate would be 6% meaning 106% off the base rate and that this was not an increase even though it was 6% above the base rate. The equalisation element that was retained this year of 3.7m euro was taken by the department and allocated to building, the department reducing building allocation by almost four million euro. Property tax was never intended for this."

"The meeting was then opened to the members. FF immediately proposed the 6% which was seconded by FG. Cllr

Fortune says this was a pre-arranged strategy to ensure this would be the first vote therefore making sure there would be no other votes on any other proposal. A discussion followed this proposal that lasted for two hours. There were a number of other proposals - Cllr Behan proposed a reduction of 15% which was seconded by Cllr Fortune - Cllr Snell proposed that we stay at the base rate which was a reduction of 6% which was seconded by Cllr Kavanagh.

Cllr Fortune stated that he did not support property tax as it was "constructed unfairly and is very unfair on the people of Wicklow".

There was a long discussion ending in a vote. The first proposal made by FF and seconded by FG was put to the members . What was voted on was as follows: To retain the property tax at the 2022 level which is an increase on the base rate of 6%.

"This was the exact proposal put to the the members by the meeting administrator," said Cllr Fortune.

This was accepted by 23 votes to 9 (Cllrs Kavanagh, Leonard, Behan, Fortune, Snell, O'Neill, Dermot 'O Brien, McManus, Scott) voted against this proposal.

Cllr Fortune added: "At a time when people are struggling with increased costs for every thing, when the government are putting in family supports, twenty three members of Wicklow County council decide not to reduce the burden of property tax."

He says he is flabbergasted to see the Labour Party, Social Democrats one Green

Party member and two independent Cllrs supporting the FF/ FG proposal. "The people of Wicklow were due and entitled to a break, however 23 councillors decided not to give it to them."

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CALLING ALL STAFF NURSES AND CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS **BLACKROCK NURSING RECRUITMENT OPEN DAYS** 203 MERRION ROAD, DUBLIN 4, D04 NN12

Wednesday 2nd November 2022: 10.00am - 12.00pm | Thursday 10th November 2022: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

- We are looking for Staff Nurses and Clinical Nurse Specialists to join our fantastic Nursing team in our Blackrock Hospice.
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We look forward to seeing you on the day! Just turn up or register by going to our Rezoomo career page where you will see Staff Nurse and Clinical Nurse Specialist job descriptions: <https://olh.ie/careers/>
Contact our Recruitment team with any queries on: **01-4912594** | hr@olh.ie



*Respite
Rehabilitation
Reassurance* **Harold's Cross
& Blackrock**

Laragh's Sharon Farrell is finalist in Carer of the Year Awards

Sharon Farrell from Laragh has been announced as a regional winner and finalist in Right at Home's Carer of the Year Awards 2022. The awards recognise and celebrate the hard work and dedication of Care Staff who play a significant role in their communities, enabling elderly people and people with disabilities to continue to live independent lives in the comfort of their own homes.

Presented by Right at Home, a provider of in-home care and assistance for seniors and adults, the awards were established in 2020 to shine a light on the heroic work of Carers. Nominations for the Year finalists were submitted by those who work closest with including clients, client families, co-workers, managers, and supervisors.

Sharon will be one of six finalists who progress to a special awards ceremony in November where Right at Home's National Carer of the Year 2022 will be crowned as they advance to the final stage of judging over the upcoming weeks.

Speaking about the awards, Iaesia McCrea, Business Manager, Right at Home South Dublin and Wicklow said, "Our Carer of the Year awards are a fantastic opportunity to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work of Carers who play such an important role in the lives of so many people. No matter what, our wonderful team of Carers go above and beyond to ensure the highest level of care is provided to their clients, some of who are the most vulnerable people in society. For our clients, knowing that we have trusted Carers to support them is a wonderful source of comfort."

"Sharon is such a valued member of our team



Sharon Farrell with Lisa Faloon, Business Manager at Right at Home

and really deserving of this award. Sharon is an amazing Carer who will without a doubt go the extra mile for her clients. The feedback we receive from clients is wonderful to hear. Sharon always ensures she spends some time chatting with her clients, making sure they are not feeling isolated and giving them back the confidence they lost during the midst of the pandemic. We wish Sharon the very best of luck in the national final in November, and we will be incredibly proud of her no matter what happens."

Speaking about her award, Sharon said, "I am thrilled to receive this award to progress to the final in November. Working as a Carer is incredibly fulfilling and I am lucky to support some amazing individuals while they continue to live independent lives in the comfort of their own homes. I work with a really great team and while of course, there will always be hurdles to overcome, we tackle them head-on. I look forward to representing Wicklow and my colleagues at the national awards in November and celebrating the amazing work of Carers."

The national winner of Right at Home's Carer of the Year will be announced at an awards ceremony in Dublin on November 11th where the winner will be unveiled.

IMPACT celebrates its learners

Bray Area Partnership's IMPACT Initiative held a celebration and awards ceremony recently for adult learners from RehabCare Bray who had completed the IMPACT Skill Building in the Workplace programme.

The programme included modules such as Manual Handling, Conflict Resolution & Effective Communication, Customer Care and Health & Safety. The idea was to increase the job-readiness of those who took part and some participants have already taken up paid employment or voluntary positions, with one young woman engaging with the Partnership's sister company Bray Community Enterprise to set up her own business.

IMPACT Initiative Coordinator, Orla Butler, congratulated the learners for their achievements while presenting them with their certificates, and wished them well

in their future careers. She also thanked trainer Finola Dolan for working so supportively with the group.

"We're delighted to have collaborated with RehabCare Bray on this programme," she said. "IMPACT is all about supporting people with disabilities to get the job they want, progress in their careers or set up their own business. We will continue to work with the RehabCare team to support these learners through their ongoing career journeys."

The IMPACT Initiative is a free service that supports people with disabilities in the Bray and north

Wicklow area to get work, progress in their careers or set up their own business. They also work with employers to help them make their workplaces more inclusive and accessible.

IMPACT was set up by a consortium of local organisations, led by Bray Area Partnership, with funding under the Measure to Support the Employment of People with Disabilities - a Department of Social Protection programme resourced by the Dormant Accounts Fund.

To find out more about IMPACT, see www.brayareapartnership.ie or call 01 963 3342.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Housing for All
A new Housing Plan for Ireland

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT MURROUGH VIEW, GREENHILL ROAD, WICKLOW TOWN, COUNTY WICKLOW

Wicklow County Council is delighted to launch an 'Affordable Housing Scheme' at Greenhill Road, Wicklow Town, County Wicklow.

A total of 36 affordable homes, consisting of 12 two bedroom houses, and 24 three bedroom houses are being made available for sale by Wicklow County Council in the residential development of Greenhill Road, Wicklow under affordable dwelling purchase arrangements in accordance with the Affordable Housing Act 2021 and associated Affordable Housing Regulations.

The houses are available for purchase by first time buyers who do not own or have a legal interest in a dwelling, with some exceptions applicable. The dwellings will be sold at a price that is lower than market value, such price to be determined in accordance with the income of the purchaser. The minimum prices to be paid by eligible purchasers for dwellings are detailed in the table below.

All purchasers will sign up to an 'Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangement' with Wicklow County Council. Wicklow County Council will retain an 'Equity Share' in the property, equal to:

'The difference between the open market value of the dwelling and the Purchase Price paid by successful applicants' expressed as a percentage of the Open Market Value of the dwelling'

Wicklow County Council may not seek realisation of this Equity Share for a 40-year period (with exception where a breach of the agreement occurs). However, successful affordable purchasers can choose to redeem or purchase the Equity Share in the dwelling at any time by means of one or a series of payments to Wicklow County Council.

To be eligible to apply for the scheme, applicants must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Be a First-Time Buyer or meet the exceptions under the Fresh Start Principle.
2. Each person included in the application must have the right to reside indefinitely in the State.
3. The affordable home must be the household's normal place of residence.
4. Applicant's purchasing power must not exceed 95% of the market value of the property.
5. Comply with the typical gross household income limits for eligibility for each dwelling type as set out in the following table.

No. of units	Beds	Type	Story	House Price	Minimum House Price
6	2 bed	Terrace	2 Storey	€272,716	€222,716
6	3 bed	End Terrace	2 Storey	€286,782	€236,782
16	3 bed	Terrace	2 Storey	€302,395	€252,395
8	3 bed	End Terrace	2 Storey	€325,618	€275,618

We advise that applicants have Mortgage Approval in Principle prior to applying for this scheme.

Where the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of affordable dwellings for which applications are made, applications will be prioritised in accordance with Wicklow County Council's Scheme of Priority. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of affordable dwellings for sale, the following will apply:

- In respect of 70% of the dwellings, date and time of application, will be a ranking mechanism on which eligible applications will be prioritised on a First Come First Served basis under Wicklow County Council's Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements.
- In respect of the balance of 30% of the dwellings, priority to be given to households whose current address as given in the application form is in the County of Wicklow. Date and time of application will also be a ranking mechanism on which eligible applications will be prioritised under Wicklow County Council's Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements.

Applications will be accepted via an online application portal only which will go live on Wednesday 30th November at 09:00am.

Applications can be made between Wednesday 30th November and Wednesday 21st December.

Further information on this scheme, including the Scheme of Priority, link to the application form and support documentation required, is available at www.wicklow.ie.

For queries please emails affordablehousing@wicklowcoco.ie.



‘People to receive immediate help with cost of living’

Just under 10,000 Wicklow residents to receive enhanced Fuel Allowance

The people of Wicklow are to receive immediate help with the cost of living, according to Minister Simon Harris TD.



Minister Simon Harris

Minister Harris said: “This week will see the first tranche of eight lump-sum payments totalling €1.2 billion nationally will be made to help people with the cost of living.

“From Monday 17th October the Autumn Double Lump Sum Payment will be paid to social protection recipients including all pensioners, carers and people on disability payments.

“There will be a double payment of Child Benefit on November 1st. On the week commencing Monday, 14th November, there will be four significant payments.

“A €500 Disability Support Grant will be paid to people with disabilities; a €500 Cost of Living Payment will be paid to those in receipt of Working Family Payment; and a €200 payment will be made to people in receipt of Living Alone Allowance.

“A €400 Fuel Allowance Lump Sum Payment will be paid in the same week to almost 10,000 households in Wicklow. Minister Humphreys also secured a major expansion of the Fuel Allowance Scheme - which will see many more households in Wicklow supported with their fuel cost for the first time from January.

“On the week commencing Monday 21st November, a €500 Carer's Support Grant will be provided to all those in receipt of the Carers' Support Grant. A 100% Christmas Bonus will also be paid on the week commencing December 5th.”

Minister Harris concluded: “I am particularly happy to confirm that just under 10,000 people in Wicklow who are entitled to the expanded Fuel Allowance Scheme will

now be able to avail of it as we approach the winter.

“The payment is made at the weekly rate of €33 or, by way of two lump sum payments if people prefer. In Budget 2023 my colleague Minister Humphreys also ensured a €400 additional Lump Sum payment for all households in receipt of the Fuel Allowance

Payment. This will be paid the week commencing 14th November 2022. This will bring the total value of the Fuel Allowance to €1,324 per household. This is the largest ever expansion of the Fuel Allowance scheme and I am proud it has been delivered by a Fine Gael Minister. This expansion will bring an many more Wicklow households into the scheme and will be of particular benefit for older

people with a new Means Test taking effect for Over 70s from January.

“Under this new over 70s means test, a single person can have income of €500 per week and a couple can have income of €1,000 per week. In the case of a couple where one person is under 70 and one person is over 70, they will be assessed under the Over 70s Means Test criteria. If you require further information please contact my office at 01 2813727 or simon.harris@oireachtas.ie.”



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

ORDÚ DÍLSEACHÁIN – ALT 81 DEN ACHT UM TITHÍOCHTA 1966

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

ORDÚ DÍLSEACHÁIN UIMHIR 1 DE 2022

ÓS RUD É gur talamh atá imscríofa sa Sceideal seo a leanas agus atá taispeánta ar an léarscáil ceangailte, an léarscáil ráite céanna a iompraíonn an marc 21/06/65/100 agus atá faoi shéala Chomhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin (as seo amach luaite mar an “Údarás Tithíochta”), talamh leis a mbaineann Ordú Ceannach Éigeanta Uimhir 9 de 2021, agus go bhfuil an tOrdú sin i bhfeidhm maidir leis an talamh sin:

AGUS ÓS RUD É gur iontráil an tÚdarás Tithíochta, ar a laghad, sé mhí roimh an ordú seo, agus gur ghabh siad seilbh ar an talamh ráite, de réir na cumhachtaí bronnata orthu ag Alt 80 den Acht Um Tithíochta 1966:

AGUS ÓS RUD É –

- Nach n-aistrítí leasa na talún ráite don Údarás Tithíochta,
- Go bhfuil an tÚdarás Tithíochta den tuairim go bhfuil gá práinneach leis an gceannach talún a chur i gcríoch, maidir leis na cuspóirí a tá sé údaraithe talamh a cheannach go héigeanta.
- Tá fíor- thairiscint scríofa déanta ag an Údarás Tithíochta chuig gach duine a bhfuil leas aige sa talamh ráite agus a chur go leor sonraí cuí maidir leis an leas sin, ar fáil i dtreo is go mbéidís in ann fíor-thairiscint a dhéanamh maidir leis an leas sin.

ANOIS DÁ BHRÍ SIN Ordaíonn an tÚdarás Tithíochta de bharr cumhachtaí a bronnadh air ag Alt 81 den Acht um Tithíocht 1966, go ndílseofar an talamh ráite, i mbith-dhílse, saor ó hualaithe agus ó ghach eastáit, ceart, teideal agus leas d’aon saghas (seachas aon Ceart Slí Poiblí) ón 12ú Samhain 2022.

SCEIDEAL – TAILTE LE NDÍLSIÚ

Talamh seachas talamh is teach nó tithe atá neamhoiriúnach do dhaoine cónaí ann agus nach féidir ar chostas réasúnach iad a dhéanamh oiriúnach do dhaoine cónaí ann.

Uimhir an léarscáile i dtaisce ag oifigí an Údarás Tithíochta	Cainníocht, ainmníocht agus suíomh na talún	Úinéirí nó úinéirí ainme	Léasaithe nó léasaithe ainme	Áititheoirí (seachas tionóntaí míosa nó níos lú ná mí)
21/06/65/101 5 Priory Way, Delgany Wood, Delgany, Co. Wicklow	Teach chónaithe agus talamh 240 m².	William Charles and Eleanor Charles of 5 Priory Way, Delgany Wood, Delgany, Co. Wicklow	Duine ar bith – teach folamh	Duine ar bith – teach folamh

Faoi shéala oifigiúil an Údarás Aitiúil, an 12ú Lá Deireadh Fomhair 2022, i láthair:

Brian Gleeson, Príomh-Fheidhmeannach, Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach.

VESTING ORDER – SECTION 81 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1966

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

VESTING ORDER SERIAL NO 1 OF 2022

AND WHEREAS the Housing Authority have, at least six months prior to the date of this order, entered on and taken possession of the said land in accordance with the powers conferred upon them by Section 80 of the Housing Act 1966:

AND WHEREAS –

- The several interests in the said land have not been conveyed or transferred to the Housing Authority,
- The Housing Authority considers that it is urgently necessary, in connection with the purposes for which it has been authorised to acquire land compulsorily, that the acquisition of the land should be completed, and
- The Housing Authority has made a proper offer in writing to each person having an interest in the said land who has furnished sufficient particulars of his interest to enable them to make a proper offer for such interest.

NOW THEREFORE the Housing Authority in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 81 of the Housing Act 1966, hereby order that the said land shall, on the 12th of November 2022, VEST in the Housing Authority in fee simple free from encumbrances and all estates, rights, titles and interests of whatsoever kind (other than any public right of way).

SCHEDULE – LANDS BEING VESTED

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
21/06/65/101 5 Priory Way, Delgany Wood, Delgany, Co. Wicklow	Dwelling house and land of 240 m².	William Charles and Eleanor Charles of 5 Priory Way, Delgany Wood, Delgany, Co. Wicklow	Not known	Not known

The official seal of the Local Authority was affixed hereto this, the 12th day of October, 2022 in the presence of:

Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach.

Nominate Carer of the Year

Family Carers Ireland is calling on the public to help shine a light on Ireland's forgotten frontline by nominating a family carer or young carer they know for this year's Netwatch Family Carer of the Year Awards.

Now in their 15th year, the awards seek to honour the extraordinary work of each and every one of the more than 500,000 family carers in Ireland who provide care at home for loved ones such as children or adults with additional needs, physical or intellectual disabilities, frail older people, those with palliative care needs or those living with chronic illnesses, mental health challenges, or addiction. The 19 million hours of unpaid care they provide each week would cost the state E20bn a year to replace.

The national charity representing Ireland's family carers says that more must be done to ensure that family carers are not only recognised for their immense contribution, but truly supported to care safely at home.

Catherine Cox, Head of Communications and Policy, Family Carers Ireland said: "Family carers go above and beyond every single day in providing remarkable levels of care for their loved ones at home - often to the detriment of their own physical, mental, financial and social wellbeing. They are mums, dads, sons, daughters, siblings, relatives, friends and colleagues - ordinary people doing extraordinary work. As a society, we must ensure that they are properly supported and acknowledged. These awards seek to not only give family carers the recognition they deserve, but also to shine a light on this forgotten frontline and the challenges that they face. We firmly believe that no one should have to care alone.

Nominate someone you know today at www.familycarers.ie or call the National Freephone Careline on 1800 24 07 24 to request a nomination form by post. Nominations should be submitted no later than October 21st.



Karen and Svanah Bosch with Brian Duffy at the Wicklow Garda 100th anniversary commemorations in Wicklow Town

Pilot conservation advice grant scheme announced

The Department of Housing, Heritage and Local government has announced a new pilot scheme to provide conservation advice to owners of protected structures which could be of benefit in Wicklow.

The scheme will provide grants of €3,000 (ex VAT) to cover the cost of having a conservation-accredited architect visit a protected structure, conduct a survey, and compile tailored conservation advice for the property owner.

This report will suggest a maintenance schedule for the building, and outline repairs and improvements which would enhance the building's character, integrity, and amenity.

The aim of the scheme is to help owners of protected structures to understand the value and potential of the architectural heritage of their buildings and to prompt them to consider investments which could enhance that value, whether funded privately or through conservation grants.

Applicants must complete the

short application form and submit it to builtheritage@housing.gov.ie by Friday, September 30th using the subject line 'Conservation Advice Pilot Scheme'. Alternatively, applicants may submit their form by post to: Conservation Advice Pilot Scheme, Built Heritage Policy Unit, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 1.06 Custom House, D01 W6X0, by the same date.

Information and application forms are available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/32ae3-financial-assistance-for-architectural-heritage/>.

Successful applicants will be selected by lottery and provided by the Department with a list of conservation architects participating in the scheme. The applicant will then select an architect from the list and

arrange a site visit.

Based on the site visit the architect will compile a report using the Conservation Advice Template. The completed report will be provided to both the building owner and the Department. The Department will use the reports only for the purpose of approving the grant payment, in line with the Data Privacy Statement.

The Department will make grant payments directly to the architect on receipt and approval of the required Conservation Advice and invoice.

The Record of protected structures for County Wicklow is available at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning>, application forms are also available to access at www.wicklow.ie under news and events.

Feasibility study to be carried out on Avoca Train Station

The National Transport Authority has requested that Iarnrod Éireann commence a feasibility study on the re-opening of the Avoca Train Station. The feasibility study will consider, amongst other things, the demand, engineering feasibility and costs and is due to commence next year.

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore, who has called on the train station to be reopened as part of expanding the existing rail network in Wicklow has welcomed the news saying, "This is a huge step towards the provision of greater public transport options for people living in Wicklow particularly in the southern part of the county where the Dart and bus routes do not currently connect Arklow to the rest of the county."

"I have been calling for this since I first became a TD as it makes sense to expand the existing rail network. I also raised it

with the Minister for Transport in the D-IL. While the Avoca Train Station is in disrepair and has been out of commission for some time, it's worth looking into the possibility of reopening it especially as demand has been rising and traffic congestion is increasing.

"While this is just a first step, it is in the right direction and signifies a commitment to at least look into the many ways we can expand public transport to people who don't currently have access to it.

Constituents in Avoca have been campaigning for this for a long time and many have gotten in touch with me to say they would use the train station if it reopened. People are commuting from the Avoca area all the way into Dublin. Access to the train would help take more cars off the road and offer a cheaper alternative for people living in the area. I also want to see something similar happen for the Glenealy Train Station and have raised this with the NTA as well.

"The feasibility study for Avoca Train Station is due to commence next year when the funding is made available and I will follow its course and the results. Whatever the results it's important that the current government looks at all options on the table as we attempt to increase public transport provision in Wicklow, reduce our reliance on cars and find greener, more reliable alternatives that meet the needs of ordinary residents in the county," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

Fibre broadband rollout expands across Wicklow

Almost 1,400 premises are available to order or pre-order broadband on the NBI network in Blessington, National Broadband Ireland (NBI) has announced.



NBI is currently rolling out the new high-speed fibre broadband network under the Government's National Broadband Plan.

In Wicklow, there are approximately 16,000 premises in the Intervention Area, which includes homes, farms, commercial businesses, and schools. Under the National Broadband Plan, Wicklow will see an investment of €59M in the new high speed fibre network. This will enable e-learning, remote monitoring of livestock or equipment, e-health initiatives, better energy efficiency in the home, and facilitate increased levels of remote working.

Premises are live on the network in Blessington where 1,390 premises are now able to order or pre-order broadband on the NBI network. A total of 3,286 premises in County Wicklow are now able to join the NBI network.

As a wholesale network operator, NBI does not sell fibre broadband directly to end users, rather it enables services from a range of broadband providers or Retail Service Providers (RSPs). As a wholesale provider, NBI will make the new Fibre-to-the-Home network available to all RSPs operating in the Intervention Area.

Some 57 RSPs have already signed up to sell services on the NBI network and 43 are certified as ready to start providing connections.

Peter Hendrick, Chief Executive Officer, National Broadband Ireland, said: "We are delighted to announce that almost 3,300 premises in County Wicklow can now order or pre-order broadband services through the NBI network. This will enable users to experience the life-changing benefits that high-speed broadband provides."

"We are confident that the rollout will continue to gather pace as our ability to move premises from the construction phase to the order phase ramps up. We are acutely aware that people want access to high-speed broadband and our goal is to deliver that as quickly as possible."

Under the National Broadband Plan, 559,000 premises nationwide are included in the Intervention Area, which was established by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to identify areas where commercial operators are not currently providing access to high-speed broadband or do not intend to.

Motion to address 'poor finish' of Farrankelly ramp

Cllr Stephen Stokes recently brought a motion to Greystones Municipal District seeking completion of the ramp at Farrankelly Close.

Cllr Stokes stated: "This issue has been going on for years. It's seems oversized for a start. Of course structurally it's sound, so it probably ticks a lot of boxes from an office somewhere. But the finish is poor."

Cllr Stokes noted that no councillor objected to the motion. He added: "Wicklow County Council seems unwilling to bring this up to the finish of surrounding estates. Essentially it should be a stone wall finish to blend in. I do appreciate that several Wicklow Council Staff have made genuine enquiries. However the only options Wicklow County Council are willing to consider are much cheaper fixes. In addition it has been plagued with graffiti in recent times."

Cllr Stokes has commended the Farrankelly residents for their continued efforts. He concluded: "This is an important issue. It is right and proper that this matter is highlighted to avoid a reoccurrence in future estates. I also welcome that the Farrankelly residents are willing to further engage with Wicklow County Council."



Cllr Stokes at the Farrankelly Close ramp

Wicklow artist shortlisted for coveted RDS Visual Arts Award

Wicklow artist Aisling Phelan is a talented emerging young artist who has just been shortlisted for the coveted RDS Visual Art Awards 2022 - a big deal in the art circles and an amazing platform into the professional art world for emerging artists like Phelan.

Aisling's work that will be exhibited at the RDS Visual Art Awards and exhibition from Oct 21st-29th highlights issues of online and offline identities - questioning what is lost in the digital reconstruction of the human form - in her inaugural public professional exhibition entitled Dual Reality.

Aisling graduated from the National College of Art & Design, Dublin with a first-class honour's degree in Fine Art. She is a multi-disciplinary visual artist and writer, working across 3D animation, photography, video, virtual reality, performance and live interactive technologies. Her work is mainly concerned with the exploration of the digital self and the potential for this to further our understanding of our physical selves.

Her exhibition at the RDS Visual Art Awards Exhibition is an interactive installation that explores the merging of our online and offline identities. Merging physical and virtual space, the installation invites the viewer to fragment Aisling's digital self.

Through interaction with the work, the viewer becomes part of the interplay between the real and the virtual world as they mutually influence each other.

Aisling is one of 13 shortlisted exhibiting artists from some of the best BA & MA visual art graduates from all over Ireland.



Aisling Phelan



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 7 OF 2022 REGULARISATION OF LAND OF 9 PARKMORE BALTINGLASS

Wicklow County Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Housing Authority") in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Section 76 of the Housing Act 1966, and the Third Schedule thereto (as amended by the Planning and Development Act 2000) have made an order entitled as above which is about to be submitted to an Bord Pleanála for confirmation. If confirmed, the order will authorise the Housing Authority to acquire compulsorily the land described in the Schedule for the purposes of the Housing Act, 1966.

A copy of the order and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:
Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow

Owners, lessees and occupiers of the land described in the Schedule will receive individual written notice.

The Housing Act 1966, as amended, provides that An Bord Pleanála cannot confirm the order in respect of the land if an objection is made in respect of the acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the land, and not withdrawn, until it has held an oral hearing into the objection and until it has considered the objection and the report of the person who held the oral hearing.

SCHEDULE

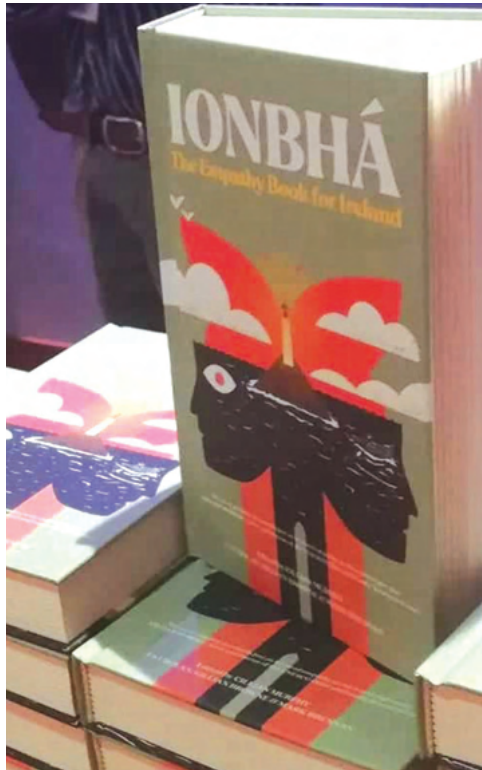
Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

Map Number Deposited at the offices of Local Authority	Number on map deposited in Local Authority	Quantity, description and situation of land. (Hectares, Townland and Description of Property)	Owner or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers or reputed occupiers
19/06/20(2)/100	2A	0.029, Lathaleere. Part of Road and open space	Folio WW10166 Brendan Cullen		Wicklow County Council
	2B	0.009, Lathaleere, Front Garden of house No.2 & house Eircode W91Y2Y2		Folio WW3058L Patrick Hughes	Occupier Patrick Hughes
	2C	0,010, Lathaleere, Front garden of house No. 3 and house Eircode W916C5			Occupier Wicklow CoCo tenant Kathleen Farrell
	2D	0.018, Lathaleere, Front Garden of house No 5 and house Eircode (W91E2AD)			Occupier Wicklow CoCo tenant Sinead Barry
	2E	0.042, Lathaleere, Front and rear garden of house No.6 & House EircodeW91C6A2		Folio WW3016L Wicklow CoCo	Occupier Keith Pender and Barbara Fagan

Joe Lane, Director Services, Housing & Corporate Estate
Dated this 19th day of October 2022

Wicklow entrepreneur features in new Empathy book for Ireland

Local business owner, Hugh Fitzmaurice of ClarityCoach.ie, attended the launch of the book "Ionbhá: The Empathy Book for Ireland" in Croke Park last week. The book is the brainchild of Cillian Murphy, the Hollywood actor from Peaky Blinders, and Prof. Pat Dolan from the UNESCO Child and Family research centre in the University of Galway.



Hugh Fitzmaurice's new book Ionbha.

Hugh is one of the contributing writers alongside fellow Wicklow man Hozier, our President Michael D. Higgins, Brendan O' Connor, The Edge and Rachel Blackmore, who all share their insights and experiences of Empathy in their lives.

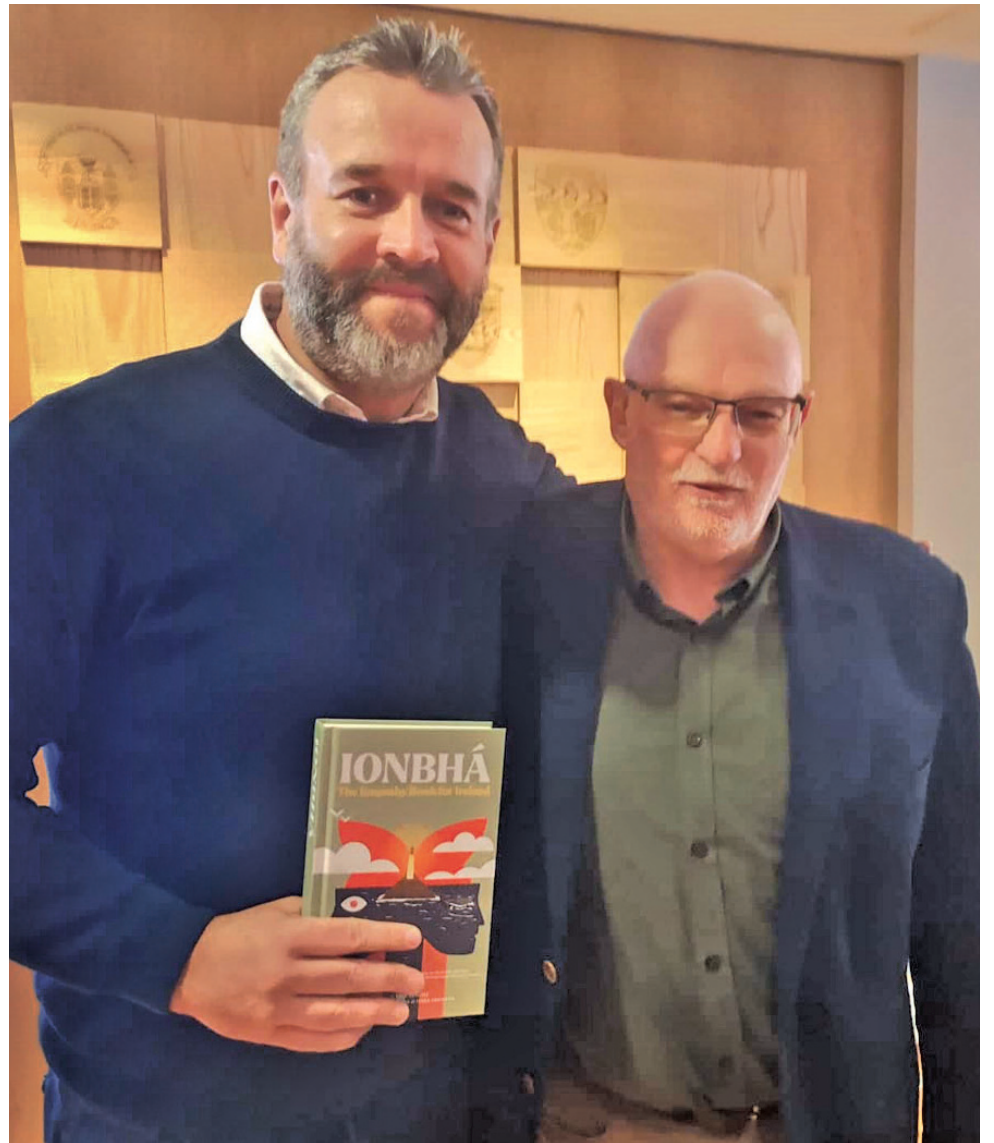
This book is being distributed to every secondary school across Ireland. All royalties from the book published by Mercier press go to supporting the Activating Social Empathy programme in secondary schools and youth groups.

"Ionbhá is an important and timely book with the potential to play a critical role in the creation of a more compassionate Ireland" said President Michael D. Higgins

Hugh consulted with Pat Dolan and his team as they developed Activating Social empathy which teaches students and educators about the skills of Empathy. Their research illustrates how it helps improve prosocial behaviour and academic results. On Empathy in education Cillian Murphy comments, "It's just as important as learning Maths".

Speaking at the event, Hugh says, "As a mindset coach, I work with individuals and groups to help them achieve their goals within their lives or organisations. Working with people to cultivate empathy not just with others, but also within themselves, is a key part to what I do at ClarityCoach.ie. I am proud to have been part of this programme in schools and a contributor to a book around an area that I am passionate about."

Ionbhá - The Empathy Book for Ireland is now available in all good bookstores. For more information regarding 1:1 coaching, talks and workshops on Empathy, Stress Management and Performance you can contact Hugh Fitzmaurice at www.claritycoach.ie.



Hugh Fitzmaurice with Prof Pat Dolan, Chair of the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre at the University of Galway

Wicklow writer makes RTE short story competition shortlist

Wicklow-based writer, Alan McCormick is among ten writers whose exciting new stories have been shortlisted for the RTE Short Story Competition in honour of Francis MacManus 2022, from more than 1,700 entries.

The stories, selected by judges, writers Lisa McInerney, Ferdia MacAnna and Eilis Ni Dhuibhne are (in alphabetical order, by title): A Nice Cup of Tea by Bernard Crowley; Big Why, Little Why by Brendan Killeen; Cherries by Sara Keating; Cnamharlach Uaigneach by Nicola Crean; Fire Starter by Alan McCormick; Fishing for Pike by Antoinette McCarthy; Scrappage by Aingeala Flannery; Strawberry Season by Doreen Finn; The Big House of Nora Toad by Rachel Hynes; The Coast of Africa by Julie Cruickshank.

Alan McCormick was born in Kenya and has lived most of his life in England, near Brighton and later in London. He has worked as a hospital porter, nurse, political researcher and actor, and was InterAct Stroke Support's first writer in residence after winning a story competition judged by Ruth Rendell.

He moved with his wife and daughters to Wicklow three years ago. He has

been working on a memoir, and recently completed his second story collection, as well as a book of comic illustrated shorts with artist Jonny Voss. His work will be published this autumn in The Stinging Fly, Southword and Sonder.

About his short story called Fire Starter, Alan says "I suffered from a long-term illness in the late 1980s and 1990s. I tried healing, and, though I wasn't religious I used to sometimes go to a Quaker Retreat. Once I met a quiet man in the grounds who calmly told me that he'd 'raised his hand to fell a forest and sent lightning to set fire to the fallen trees'. His companion at the retreat said 'No, you didn't, don't talk silly'. And the man replied, 'Okay I didn't, and then turned to me with a smile and said, 'But you know I did, don't you?'."

"Another time, after being in hospital, I ended up in a recuperation nursing home during the damp squib of 1999's solar eclipse. These experiences stayed locked away for nearly two

decades but when the phrase 'Theo thinks he's Christ' popped into my head, I had an opening line for a story and an imaginary character ready to disrupt a familiar time and place."

All 10 stories are being broadcast and podcast in a season of new writing as part of Late Date on RTE Radio 1, weeknights at 11.20pm, from Monday 10th October to Thursday 20th October inclusive (except for Saturday 15th October). All stories will also then be published on rte.ie/Culture.

The winning story along with the two other prizewinning stories selected by this year's judges will be announced at a special RTE Radio 1 Arena RTE Short Story Special live event in the Pavillion Theatre Dun Laoghaire at 7pm on Friday 21st October and broadcast live on RTE Radio 1 as part of an Arena special programme.

The RTE Radio 1 Arena live event will see host, Sean Rocks and this year's judges, Lisa McInerney, Ferdia MacAnna and Eilis



Alan McCormick

Ni Dhuibhne discuss the art of the short story, review the stories on the shortlist of this year's RTE Short Story Competition in honour of Francis MacManus, and announce their overall winners, with live music and performances from leading actors.

For tickets see <https://www.paviliontheatre.ie/events/view/rte-arena-live>.

Set up in 1986 to honour writer and broadcaster

Francis MacManus, the RTE Short Story Competition has been a critically important launch pad for new and emerging writers in Ireland. Past winners and shortlisted writers include Claire Keegan, Danielle McLaughlin, Anthony Glavin, Chris Binchy, Nuala O'Connor, Liz Nugent, Colin Walsh, Stephen Walsh, Austin Duffy and Sarah Gilmartin.



Emily Meuleman at the opening of the Kunstverein art studio in Aghrim

The Rose of Glenkerry: a Co. Wicklow mystery

American author Robert T. McMaster has penned a new book, *Rose of Glenkerry*, a mystery set in Co. Wicklow.

An engrossing mystery/romance set in Wicklow, it's a fast-moving story that carries readers from the busy streets of Dublin to a tidy Wicklow village to a remote lough where the book's mystery begins to unfold. The central characters, young adults just embarking on careers, are endearing for their courage, vulnerability, and self-deprecating humour.

Twenty-one-year-old Cary McGurk is about to graduate from a Dublin university with hopes of pursuing a career in print journalism. He has demonstrated talent as a writer, but he is also his own severest critic, regarding both his career prospects and his would-be romantic relationships. In the first chapter Cary finds his dual anxieties on a collision course. A few days before graduation, classmate and friend Siobhan Sullivan, a hard-driving, career-oriented American, drops a bombshell. She has just landed the job of her dreams in London. Why, she asks, doesn't Cary move with her and share a flat in London? A two-bedroom flat, of course - they are, as she says, just mates - although Cary is secretly of two minds on that question.

But suddenly all Cary's plans are thrown



Robert T. McMaster

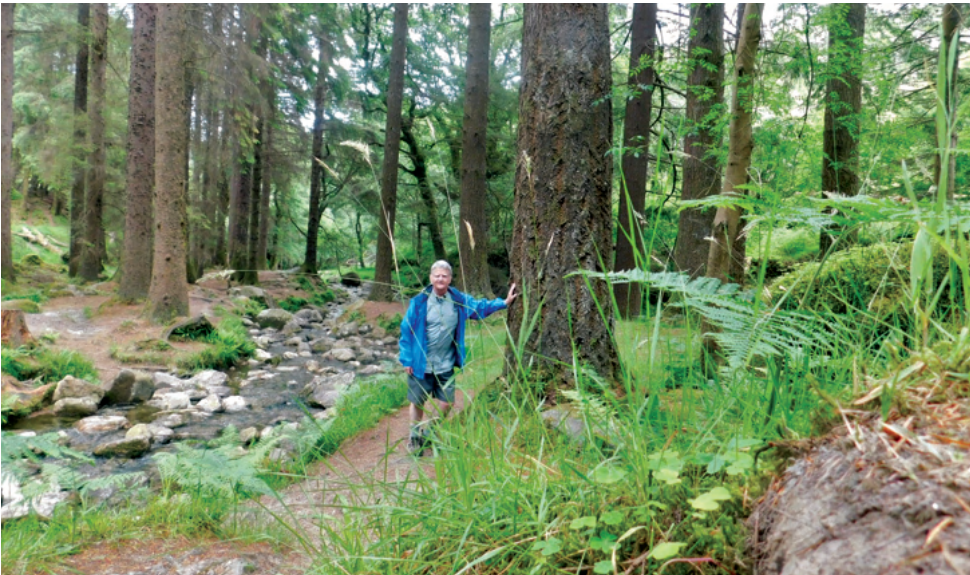
into turmoil. A family crisis takes him back to his hometown, Glenkerry, in County Wicklow. There he meets up with an old friend, Rosie O'Malley. Rosie's story has always been a sad one; an air of melancholy seems to drape around her like a shroud, and now it seems history is repeating itself. Her mother has disappeared, and Rosie is desperate to locate her. Cary offers to help, enlisting another schoolmate, Garda Del Samuels, to help

unravel the mystery of the disappearance of Mary O'Malley. Throughout the book the characters share bits of their internal conversations, sometimes touching, sometimes hilarious. "You've set out on the sea of life," Cary tells himself after graduation, "smack into a bloody fog bank". As he watches Siobhan depart for London, he confesses, "Lonely with her, mate, lonely without her." And their dialogue is often good for some

heartily laughs as well. At one point Rosie warns Cary not to get on her wrong side, reminding him that she is trained in Taekwondo. "I can throw a mean kick when necessary," she tells him. "My advice - whenever I'm around, protect your crotch, mate."

Besides the disappearance of her mother, Rosie harbours another mystery of a more intimate nature. Back in secondary school, just as their friendship was evolving into something more serious, Rosie withdrew without explanation, leaving Cary disappointed and hurt. Now that things are heating up between them once again, Rosie must make a difficult decision. In a night of no turning back, she tells all.

But when Cary knows her secret, she wonders, will he abandon her as she once did him? The older generation of Glenkerry faces its own trials as well. When Cary's mother Catherine and friend Gloria Hennessy enlist the assistance of Cary, Rosie, and Del in a fight to save their town from a proposed 'Monster Mall', they confess that their generation never dared stand up to the powers that be in the old Ireland. "We allowed ourselves to be bullied and cowed by



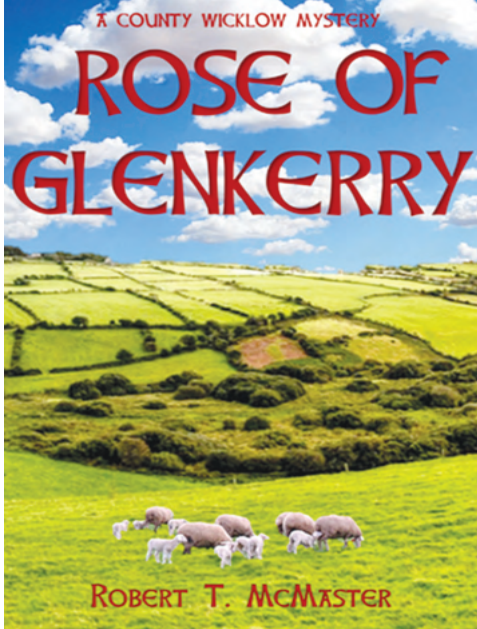
Robert T. McMaster in Glendalough

those in authority," explains Gloria. "We learned a sad lesson, a lesson I hope and pray Ireland never forgets. And you and your generation, you give us hope."

A riveting story line, enchanting setting, and unforgettable characters combine to make this a thoroughly satisfying read for young and old alike.

Robert T. McMaster grew up in Southbridge, Massachusetts. He holds a B.A. from Clark University and graduate degrees from Boston College, Smith College, and the University of Massachusetts. He taught biology at Holyoke Community College in Massachusetts from 1994

to 2014. His parents' reminiscences of growing up in early 20th century America were the inspiration for four novels, *Trolley Days* (2012), *The Dyeing Room* (2014), *Noah's Raven* (2017), and *Darkest Before Dawn* (2022). He is also author of a biography, *All the Light Here Comes from Above: The Life and Legacy of Edward Hitchcock* (2021). He has at least two ancestral ties to Ireland: John and Katharine McMasters emigrated to America from County Antrim in about 1713; Hannah McGurk and her children lived in County Tyrone before making their journey to America in 1849.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 8 OF 2022 REGULARISATION OF LAND OF 10 PARKMORE BALTINGLASS

Wicklow County Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Housing Authority") in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Section 76 of the Housing Act 1966, and the Third Schedule thereto (as amended by the Planning and Development Act 2000) have made an order entitled as above which is about to be submitted to an Bord Pleanála for confirmation. If confirmed, the order will authorise the Housing Authority to acquire compulsorily the land described in the Schedule for the purposes of the Housing Act, 1966.

A copy of the order and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:
Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow

Owners, lessees and occupiers of the land described in the Schedule will receive individual written notice.

The Housing Act 1966, as amended, provides that An Bord Pleanála cannot confirm the order in respect of the land if an objection is made in respect of the acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the land, and not withdrawn, until it has held an oral hearing into the objection and until it has considered the objection and the report of the person who held the oral hearing.

SCHEDULE

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

Map Number Deposited at the offices of Local Authority	Number on map deposited in Local Authority	Quantity, description and situation of land. (Hectares, Townland and Description of Property)	Owner or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers or reputed occupiers
19/06/20(1)/100	1A	0.013, Lathaleere. Part of Road	Folio WW10165 John and Mary Cullen		Wicklow County Council
	1B	0.017, Lathaleere, Rear garden of house No. 2 Eircode W91Y2Y2		Folio WW3058L Patrick Hughes	Occupier Patrick Hughes
	1C	0.017, Lathaleere, Rear garden of house no. 3 Eircode W916C5			Occupier Wicklow CoCo tenant Kathleen Farrell
	1D	0.048, Lathaleere, Rear Garden of house No 5 Eircode (W91E2AD)			Occupier Wicklow CoCo tenant Sinead Barry
	1E	0.013, Lathaleere, Rear garden/Side of house No 6 Eircode W91C6A2		Folio WW3016L Wicklow CoCo	Occupier Keith Pender and Barbara Fagan

Joe Lane, Director Services, Housing & Corporate Estate
Dated this 19th day of October 2022



Elaine Nevin and winners of the Young Environmentalist People's Choice Award for 2022, Ellen Farrell and Sean Byrne from Skerries Community College, are calling on students to submit projects for the 2023 awards.

Apply now for Young Environmentalist Awards

The Young Environmentalist Awards programme (YEAs) is back for its 24th year and ECO-UNESCO, Ireland's leading environmental education and youth organisation is calling out for young people to apply.

This year's awards have been launched in line with Ireland's first ever Sustainable Development Goals week hosted by the government. The Young Environmentalist Awards programme is an all-island programme that recognises and rewards thousands of young people as they raise awareness and create environmental action projects in their school or community. For details, see ecounesco.ie

Funding for 24/7 student support partnership

Minister for the Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris last Monday, 10th October, marked World Mental Health Day by delivering funding for a new initiative to provide 24/7 mental health support to third level students.

Psychological Counsellors in Higher Education Ireland (PCHEI) last week launched a partnership with Togetherall to deliver a clinically moderated, online peer-to-peer mental health community that empowers individuals to anonymously seek and provide support.

Minister Harris said: "As students and staff returned back to college campuses last year, we made a commitment to provide the supports to assist them in whatever way we could.

"I am delighted to follow through on this commitment with funding for this vitally important partnership between PCHEI and Togetherall. Students endured an incredibly difficult two years during the pandemic, with the long-term impact on their mental health potentially significant. While we have invested heavily in enhancing student counselling services, and innovative mental health and wellbeing supports for students, there is always more we can do.

"This partnership we are

announcing today will provide students with 24/7 access to mental health support, and I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this valuable initiative, which will have such a positive impact on people's lives, a reality."

Togetherall is designed to work with existing mental health services to provide preventative and early intervention supports. The funding for Togetherall was granted by the HEA under the additional funding in Budget 2023 to underpin student wellbeing and mental health in HEIs as part of the funding packages to mitigate against the impact of COVID-19.

This is a key project aimed at supporting implementation of the National Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Framework. Along with matched funding from HSE Mental Health Division this has enabled the launch of Togetherall in Ireland for the first time, available now to all publicly funded higher education institutions for this academic

year, led by and delivered through PCHEI.

Henry Jones, CEO of Togetherall, said: "We are delighted that Togetherall's online peer support can now be made available through universities across Ireland. We've seen how offering a choice of services and easy-access tools can help to serve a wider range of needs and a larger proportion of students, every day we see the power of people helping each other by sharing their thoughts, feelings, stories and encouragement."

Treasa Fox, Chairperson of PCHEI added: "In Student Counselling services we're hearing so many students talk about loneliness and isolation. The connections that Togetherall offer in their peer support communities have never been more needed. The fact that it's anonymous and moderated by mental health professionals mean that it's a very safe space to connect, to talk about what's going on, to give and receive support."

Wicklow adults urged to consider return to learning

AONTAS, Ireland's national adult learning organisation, has received the 2022 International Adult and Continuing Education (IACE) Hall of Fame award. It is the first time the award, presented by the IACE Hall of Fame based in the University of Oklahoma, has been won by an organisation.

Newly appointed CEO of AONTAS, Dearbhail Lawless, and her predecessor, Dr Niamh O'Reilly, accepted the award in a special presentation at the ASEM Lifelong Learning Conference in Cork.

On receiving the award, AONTAS urged adults across Ireland to consider their options to return to learning with the support and information available through their One Step Up Service. AONTAS support adults of all ages and backgrounds in Wicklow, and across Ireland, to return to learning. The organisation's induction to the IACE Hall of Fame acknowledges AONTAS as a global leader in the adult and continuing education sector.

ing education sector.

Accepting the award, Dearbhail Lawless paid tribute to the tireless work of her colleagues in adult education across Ireland and to her predecessor Niamh O'Reilly, who also received an individual award for her contribution to the adult education sector.

Ms Lawless said: "AONTAS believes that all adults deserve the right to quality lifelong learning opportunities that are both empowering and transformative. Having worked closely with our former CEO Niamh O'Reilly, I am delighted to see her great work in the sector recognised today as well. She has been an incredible

advocate and changemaker for adult learners in Wicklow, and across Ireland and along with my colleagues in AONTAS, we are continuing to carry on that important work and raising the voices of people returning to education."

Dr O'Reilly said: "We are so honoured to receive this award and it is a testament not just to our work in AONTAS, but to the work of every single partner organisation we work with across Ireland to support people in their local communities. Often, those who work in adult education aren't solely tutors or teachers, they are pillars of support for individuals embarking on something new and possibly very challenging. Their impact has an incredible domino effect for wider society."

Ms Lawless also pointed to AONTAS' One Step Up information service, website and freephone

helpline which helps thousands of adults to return to learning each year. She said: "Returning to education can be a daunting step, especially for those who have only negative experiences of school or who have been out of formal education for a long time.

"Whatever the reason someone wants to return to education whether it is to get a qualification or to help them get a new job, to help their kids with their homework, to make friends or to learn something new - AONTAS can support learners in Wicklow to find the right path."

Adult learner Kayla Dibble left school before completing her Leaving Certificate after being diagnosed with a rare neurological condition. Kayla says that at the time, she thought the Leaving Cert was her only route into third level education: "I had gone from being

a straight A or B student to missing multiple days from school due to medical appointments and managing my symptoms - there were days when migraines or vertigo meant I couldn't even sit up in bed and the condition effected my eyesight.

"I had fallen so far behind with the work that it became a vicious, exhausting cycle trying to catch up. It all became too much and it became clear to me and my parents that I simply wouldn't be able to sit the Leaving Cert as I'd hoped."

Kayla took a year away from her studies to focus on her health, before enrolling with a distance learning college to attempt the Leaving Cert from home. This came with its own challenges and Kayla's parents suggested another option: "My parents both had experience of the Vocational

Training Opportunities Scheme and even though I knew how much they had gained from it, I couldn't see it as a viable option for me but by God was I wrong! I attended an open day in VTOS Roscommon and that's when everything changed for the better."

With the support and advice of staff at the VTOS in Roscommon, Kayla undertook courses at Levels 4 and 5, and gained work experience at a local newspaper, easing back into education while managing her condition. She has since started a Digital Marketing degree at TUS Athlone. Kayla said: "This wouldn't have been possible without VTOS Roscommon."

The One Step Up website www.onstepup.ie and free phone helpline, 1800-303-669, provided by AONTAS is available to all adult learners looking to return to education.

New plan to provide counselling in primary schools

The Irish Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (IACP) has welcomed the news that the Government intends to invest €5 million in piloting a programme of counselling supports for children.

After many years of advocating for counselling and psychotherapy supports for school children including in their recent 2023 Pre-Budget Submission, the IACP believes the new pilot plan announced by Norma Foley at the Fianna Fáil's Árdfheis is a positive step for the country. IACP CEO Lisa Molloy stated: "I welcome the latest news of the allocation of €5 million for in-school counselling. There is an urgent need for services to address the mental health issues facing children and young people across Ireland. This pilot scheme is a positive step towards giving our children and young people access to the help they need, when they need it. Following the impact of Covid-19 and related restrictions, concerns over children's mental health have increased."

A nationally representative general public survey, commissioned by the IACP and conducted by Behaviour & Attitudes (B&A) earlier this year demonstrates a growing support of the public for this service. It found that 93% of Irish adults think that counselling/psychotherapy should be made available for children/adolescents through schools - an increase on the previously strong support of 88% found in 2019.



The Coolafancy players who participated in the recent Cumann na mBunscol boys hurling blitz

Libraries showcase illustration-led books for young readers

New Children's Books Ireland guide aims to break down barriers to children's reading

A new reading guide from Children's Books Ireland celebrating picture books and illustration is now available in every branch library in Wicklow.



Picture This features over 230 recommended reads for children and young people aged 0-18, which have been reviewed by experts in children's literature. The guide aims to break down barriers to children's reading, making books of all kinds accessible to children across Wicklow, including those who may have reading difficulties or whose first language may not be English or Irish.

Each review is accompanied by a 'Read also' recommendation, bringing the total of books included to over 450. Picture This focuses on books with strong visual narratives, including wordless or silent books, graphic novels and comics, picture books for all ages and graphic diary-style texts. The guide aims to highlight books, series and texts to encourage reluctant readers or those with language barriers to engage with reading.

Commenting on the launch of the Picture This Elaina Ryan, CEO of Children's Books Ireland, said: "Pictures are important. They are rich and expressive and joyful and complex. As a child, they're our first dip into the world of storytelling and but they're not something to be left behind once a child is comfortable reading text. Pictures on the page aren't just a stepping stone, they're a journey in themselves."

"Presenting an alternative route to the linear progression from picture books to chapter books, we want Picture This to give children and young people in Wicklow just a little bit of space to discover a love of reading at their own pace, to read stories in formats they never knew about or would never have considered, to come back again and again to an illustration, experiencing the joy of finding something new each time."



Pictured at the launch assisting Children's Books Ireland CEO Elaina Ryan was young reader Kate.

"We particularly hope that these stories will have special appeal for young readers with reading difficulties, or those whose first language may not be English or Irish"

Testament to the increased visibility of excellent books for children as Gaeilge, the guide, whose Irish name 'Amharc! Breathnaigh! Feach!', translates to 'Look! Look! Look!', features 29 Irish language books. These include new releases, such as An Slipear Gloine by Fearghas Mac Lochlainn and

Paddy Donnelly, and family favourites such as Geansal Otto by Sadhbh Devlin and Tarsila Kruse. All books from Irish authors, illustrators, publishers or those written in the Irish language are highlighted in the guide with a shamrock.

Picture This is now available for free in every library authority in Ireland and in sixty participating bookshops island-wide. The guide is also free to download from the Children's Books Ireland website: childrensbooksireland.ie.

Father & son duo travel from Wexford to Wicklow in TG4 series

In a new TG4 series of Sli na mBeaglaioich, father and son duo Breannan and Cormac O Beaglaioich once again take on an epic Irish musical journey together in their beloved campervan, Beauty.

This time around, they travel along a stunning route through Cork all the way to Wicklow, immersing themselves in the rich musical and cultural tapestry of the South and Southeast of Ireland. This time around, they take on a route through four of Ireland's most stunning coastal counties, in search

of great stories, tunes, songs and of course, meeting with some incredible characters along the way.

Episode 4, which aired on Sunday 16th October, saw them reach Wicklow in their trusty camper

Beauty meeting friends - new and old - along the way. In this fourth and

final instalment, they travelled across from Passage East and arrived in Arthurstown in Co. Wexford before travelling on to meet the infamous harmonica playing Murphy brothers John and Pip in Carrick-on-Bannow. From there, they travelled towards Wexford town to meet old

friend Stephen James Smith who chatted about his life there since he moved from Dublin, before he recited one of his poems about the area.

At Kilmore Quay, harpists Shelly O'Grady and Una Walsh played a few tunes in a local fishing supplies shop while sheltering from the rain outside. An interesting visit to the home of Paddy Berry provided some insight into the history of the ancient language of Yola and Paddy joined his brother Phil to sing a local song.

Breannan and Cormac payed a visit to Egan's of Parkridge which is just over the border into Wicklow and listened to some music from Paddy and Larry Egan with Ciarán Somers and Dave Sheridan.

A kayaking excursion on Blessington Lake with Brian McGloinn gave us a glimpse of the stunning Wicklow Mountains and lakes before it was time to relax and reflect on the journey in the Bosca Beatha - an outdoor sauna based in Glenmalur Valley. Their final visit of the series was to the home of Mary Maxwell in the Glen of Imal where they learned about the mumming tradition of the Eastern Counties, before watching a set dance and some more great music.



Dave Sheridan Paddy Larry Egan and Ciarán Somers in Egan's of Parkridge



Breannan in the Wicklow Mountains



Playing the accordion in the Wicklow Mountains



Artist Niki Keane and Monica Keane at the launch of Niki's recent solo exhibition in Arklow Library

Theatre at Mermaid Arts Centre

Shirley Valentine

Saturday 22nd October, 5pm & 8pm, €25/€22

Back by popular demand! Following a run of sell out shows, this is your last chance of 2022 to catch Willy Russell's Shirley Valentine. With two performances at 5pm & 8pm on Saturday 22nd October. These will be the last performances in the Greater Dublin/Leinster area for 2022 so don't miss out.

Why not treat yourself to an evening of laughter and triumph, as Norma Sheahan, one of Ireland's leading dramatic actors, breathes new life into Willy Russell's effervescent and iconic character SHIRLEY VALENTINE.

Trapped in a dreary marriage and humdrum life, Shirley wonders when she lost her hopeful, youthful self. With no support from her demanding husband, snooty neighbour, or self-absorbed teens, Shirley resorts to full-blown (although somewhat one-sided) conversations with her kitchen wall.

So, when a divorced friend asks Shirley to go on a vacation to Greece, she bravely gathers what remains of her dignity and begins a humorous and uplifting voyage of rediscovery.

Shirley with ever-opening eyes, begins to see the world - and herself - in a different light, but will she ever go back to being 'St Joan of the fitted units'?

Credits

By Willy Russell, Starring Norma Sheahan, Directed By Michael Scott, Designed By Michael McCaffery



Coming up at Whale Theatre

Celtic Calling

Thursday 27th October, 8pm
(doors 7pm)

Celtic Calling consists of award-winning, grammy-shortlisted performers that have come together to share their passion for Celtic music. The group have performed alongside world-renowned acts such as Celine Byrne and at prestigious venues and events ranging from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin to being the headline act for National Irish Heritage Week 2022. They perform nationally across their native Ireland as well as touring internationally delivering their unique and captivating take on Celtic classics and their own Celtic-inspired compositions.

Celtic Calling released their first single on 5 October 2022, a reimagining of the Irish classic 'The Parting Glass', which went to No.1 in the iTunes Irish charts.

Approx Duration: 2 hours (including interval)
Tickets €15 available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.



Celtic Calling

Peter Pumpkin's Party: A Hallowe'en Spooktacular

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th October, 4pm
(doors 3:30pm) and 6.30pm (doors 6pm)

Peter Pumpkin is having a party and you're all invited!

Peter has a new house in Hallowe'en Hollow - a big haunted mansion! But he's lonely. So he has decided to throw a big party to meet all his new neighbours and celebrate Hallowe'en.

The only problem is - he doesn't know where to find them. So he sets off through the Witch's Wood, the Vampire Valley & the Ghostly Glade to find some new friends. If you dress up in your Hallowe'en costume and come to the Whale Theatre, you can join the fun!

Arclight Drama Studio return to The Whale Theatre on October 29th & 30th with this charming Hallowe'en Spooktacular.

Suitable for children from 2 - 10 years. Hallowe'en costumes encouraged.

This event is SOLD OUT. Register for returns at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

The Blizzards - Unplugged

Friday 28th October, 8pm (doors 7pm)

Following their sold-out show at the Whale Theatre earlier this year, Irish rock band The Blizzards make their highly anticipated return for another intimate and unplugged (sort of) performance. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear songs from their new album "Sometimes We See More In The Dark" including "Play God" and "Friction Burns" as well as some of their hits in a beautifully intimate setting.

Having moved to Co. Wicklow during the pandemic, front-

man Niall Breslin explains "our fourth studio album was essentially conceived and born in Greystones", and so audiences will be treated to some of the stories behind the songs - many of which have a strong local connection.

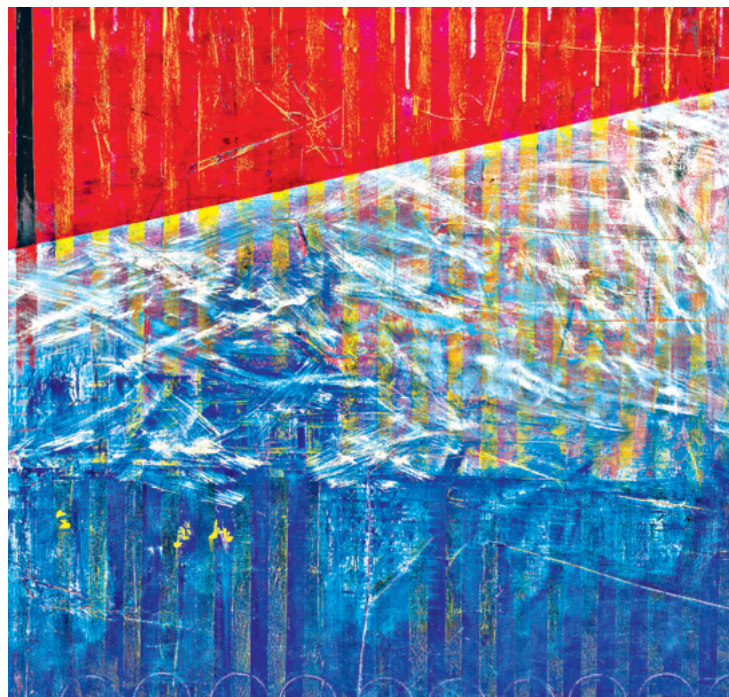
This event is presented by AMA Music Agency with special thanks to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media through the LPRGS Support Scheme.

Tickets €25 www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.



Escape Boutique & Louise Cherry collaborate

Anyone who lives or has visited Greystones cannot have missed the beautiful, Escape Boutique, located on Mill Road between the library and the entrance to south beach. The independently owned boutique has been a staple for local fashionistas for over 25 years offering an eclectic range of clothes that are as unique and individual as their customers.



Escape Boutique is about to embark on a new venture and are delighted to announce their collaboration with local Wicklow based artist, Louise Cherry. Escape will be hosting an exhibition of Louise's work in their Greystones boutique from October 27th until November 6th.

Sorcha Murphy, founder and owner of Escape Boutique, explains she has long been a fan of Louise's work and is very excited to embark on this new adventure in her boutique. It is the first time the boutique will be exhibiting art. The idea for this gallery / shopping experience collaboration was inspired by "Desire", the 2019 collaboration between the Kildare Village and the

Irish Museum of Modern Art where the aim was to bring art out of the gallery environment and to reach a greater and more diverse audience through their retail experience.

Louise, originally from Greystones, currently lives and works from her studio in Wicklow Town. She has exhibited nationally and internationally in solo and group shows, and her art is held in both private and public collections home and abroad. Louise has an extensive art practice that includes painting, photography, film, sculpture, performance and writing. Her current focus, abstract paintings, are an elaborate investigation of painting and deconstruction. Created to excite and challenge, these brave paintings will continue to intrigue every time you look at them.

The Escape exhibition will open on Thursday



Wicklow artist Louise Cherry

27th October from 7-9pm and a short talk about her work will be presented by Louise herself.

Entry to the opening evening is by ticket invitation only, tickets can be

secured free of charge through Eventbrite, link on websites listed below. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Louise will also be

available to discuss her work in the boutique at specified times over the 10 days of the show, visit www.louisecherry.com or www.escapeboutique.com for further information.

Wicklow Library hosts St. Catherine's pupils' first art exhibition

On Thursday 6th October St. Catherine's Special School had their first ever public exhibition at Wicklow Library. The new library boasts state of the art facilities and has a wonderful exhibition space. The exhibition was planned and curated by craft teacher Ashling McNamara.

"The children at St. Catherine's really engage with making artworks using a whole range of media. Projects are broken down into stages, so that each child can see their work developing and evolving into a finished piece," she said.

"Our pupils have a whole range of learning abilities, moderate, severe and profound. The challenge is to create a creative curriculum that develops; fine and gross motor skills, communication and social skills, life skills and wellbeing. Craft naturally lends itself to all of these elements. Providing opportunities for the pupils to work together, share ideas and explore different effects created by



sticking, spraying, rolling, casting, printing, cutting, weaving etc".

St. Catherine's have been among the many fortunate schools to have received funding from the Arts Council.

"We have resources to create and make a huge range of different Arts

and Crafts and many pieces have been made using recycled materials.

However it is fantastic to have the funds to work with more expensive media. We have used our funding to make a new sign for the school out of mosaic tiles, the children have also made a whole

range of different designs using mosaics.

"We are also very lucky to have Aoife Patterson of Wicklow Willow as our current artist in residence. Again the funding for this project has been awarded by the Arts Council, who have provided this won-

derful opportunity. The children are working on fairy sculptures which when finished will take up permanent residence on the school grounds."

The principal of the school Brigeeta Mulvihill is delighted with the surge of creativity that is happening at St. Catherine's.

"I love my morning visits into Ashling's room, as I am always surprised and amazed to see what the children are producing. I'm so proud to see this spectacular exhibition come to fruition, in a celebration of all our pupils' achievements."

The exhibition is also a wonderful opportunity for the parents to see what their children have been doing. Many of the children at St. Catherine's are non-verbal, so it makes events like these even more poignant.

One parent Rebecca Glynn said "Absolutely fabulous exhibition, amazing achievement by all the students. Thank you Ashling and staff for putting it together. What amazing little people we have".

If you are in Wicklow Town make sure you visit this incredible exhibition on the top floor of the library. The exhibition continues until 28th October and all pieces are for sale. Contact Deputy Principal Sarah Doyle for further information sarah-doyle@stcatherinesspecialschool.ie



Noah Glynn at the St. Catherine's art exhibition in Wicklow Library



Callum Watson with his sisters Beth and Matilda at the St. Catherine's Art Exhibition in Wicklow Library



Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Tommy Ammesley and Fabian McGowan at the Wicklow Garda 100th anniversary commemorations in Wicklow Town

Maxi Zoo's Friendship Connects Campaign will help save more cats and dogs

Thanks to Maxi Zoo's Friendship Connects Campaign, which aims to raise vital funds, The Cat & Dog Protection Association (CDPA) will be able to save even more cats and dogs.

This October, Ireland's largest pet retailer, Maxi Zoo will raise vital funds to help the Cat & Dog Protection Association (CDPA) through their annual 'Give Paw' fundraising campaign. Now, in its seventh year running the 'Give Paw - Friendship Connects' campaign, works with a different charity each year to raise vital funds.

This year will see Maxi Zoo - where pets are family, selling a pendant in 2 colour varieties; Gold and Anthracite. Each pendant will be sold for €2.50, with 100% of the profits being donated to the CDPA. This much-needed funding will allow them to promote, provide for and improve the welfare of cats and dogs through education, intervention, and rehabilitation.

The Cat & Dog Protection Association of Ireland is a registered animal charity dedicated to reducing the suffering of cats and dogs in Ireland through rescue, fostering and Trap-Neuter-Return, community outreach and welfare programmes.

Anthony Cremin, Marketing Manager of Maxi Zoo Ireland said: "Our 'Give Paw' campaign is one of the great initiatives we run at Maxi Zoo Ireland, it allows us to give back to animal

charities, and helps us raise much-needed funds that will really make a difference. Through our Give Paw initiative, we raised €28,000 in 2021 and our target for this year is to raise €45,000 for our chosen charity partner CDPA.

Many of the animals that CDPA rescues are malnourished or sick, and one of their largest costs is their vet bills - by donating you are directly helping the most helpless and vulnerable animals regain their health."

Noelle Long, Marketing Director from Maxi Zoo Ireland added: "At Maxi Zoo, pets are like family to us, so one of our main goals as an organisation is to always support the work of animal charities as best we can. We are very proud of the funding we have raised to date with this initiative over the years, which has always been supported by our generous customers. We want to encourage pet lovers nationwide to call into any of our stores across the country this October to pick up a pendant and help us make a difference."

For more information visit maxizoo.ie



Wicklow stroke patients urged to attend Heart Foundation support talks

The estimated 2,700 stroke survivors in Wicklow are being urged to join a series of live and recorded talks offering supports ahead of World Stroke Day.

The Irish Heart Foundation is co-ordinating a series of expert-led online talks to provide vital support to patients who need help coping with the after effects of stroke. One survivor has told how in an instant, my whole world was taken from me and is backing the information campaign as an essential tool in the

recovery process.

Teacher Fiona Bardon, from Dublin's Terenure, woke up feeling sick in August 2019 and suffered a seizure at home, breaking her shoulder as she fell, before being rushed to A & E and told she had a stroke.

"To say I was lost is a complete understatement; I wasn't able to complete tasks indepen-

dently," she said.

"I had no energy, I was hugely fatigued and I wasn't able to regulate my emotions. I was incapable of communicating my thoughts. I was under constant supervision so I felt like I was back to being a child."

Before World Stroke Day on October 29th, survivors, their families and healthcare professionals are invited to register for the Irish Heart Foundation talks - seven of which are live via Zoom and three of which will take place in the Irish Heart Foundation's 'Life after Stroke Facebook' group.

They include discussions on secondary prevention (Oct 26), involving stroke nurses from Dublin's Mater Hospital and focussing on medical and lifestyle methods to reduce a patient's chances of suffering a further stroke.

A talk on October 25 offers advice on supporting a stroke patient returning home from hospital, how to navigate daily tasks and adjusting to cognitive changes.

Others focus on managing fatigue (Oct 24), mindfulness for relaxation and stress management (Oct 25) and State grants/entitlements for stroke patients (Oct 28).

For more details and to register for the free talks, taking place between October 24-28, go to: <https://irishheart.ie/news/world-stroke-day-stroke-talks-2022/>.

Healthy eating and lifestyle advice (Oct 27) is also examined, while participants will also hear personal stories from other stroke survivors (Oct 26).

"We want to reach people living with stroke, their carers and healthcare professionals," said Helen Gaynor, Head of Community Services with the Irish Heart Foundation.

"Stroke affects the whole family. Isolation is often a major factor and some people can't meet socially, they may have lost confidence, so talks like these where people can meet others in similar situations is very empowering."

For more details and to register for the free talks, taking place between October 24-28, go to: <https://irishheart.ie/news/world-stroke-day-stroke-talks-2022/>.



Fiona Bardon



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Michael & Lara D'Arcy, intend to apply for permission for development at Ard Na Greine, Coolnaskeagh, Delgany, Co. Wicklow, A63 Y237. The development will consist of alterations and extensions to the existing single storey house on the site to include a single storey side extension to the north side elevation, alterations to an existing rear elevation window, a new side facing window to the north elevation, demolition of the existing front porch & provision of an external veranda & replacement step to the front elevation. 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.

CLASSIFIEDS

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

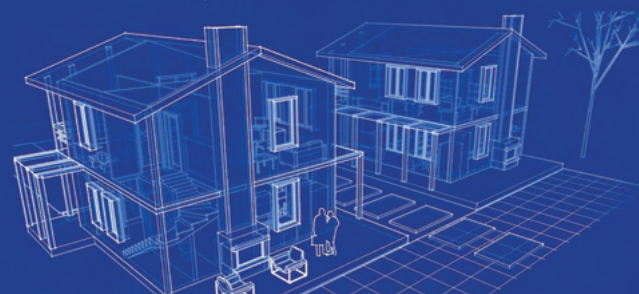
Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one. (Mention request) Take it, dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken Heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. St Anthony and St Jude,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

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French chic motoring - DS back in force in Ireland

The DS 19 was the premium Citroen model whose adventurous styling and engineering made it an instant hit when launched in 1955 - and allowed it to continue in production for 18 years - as the model was refreshed to DS 21 and DS 23.

By Martin McCarthy

It reflected the space age - and its most famous user was President Charles de Gaulle who survived an assassination attempt in August 1962 - despite no less than 7 bullets hitting the car. It set the starter scene for former Wicklow Resident Frederick Forsyth's superb "Day of the Jackal" novel.

Among car collectors, the DS epitomises daring style - with supreme travelling comfort.

Some years ago, PSA made DS a stand alone brand and it's luxury SUV the DS7, especially, has been winning significant sales all over Europe from those who want something different to what BMW, Audi and Mercedes offer. Today DS is reenergized as a significant premium brand of the vast Stellantis Group - coinciding with the Irish distributor, Gowar Group investing huge sums in facilities and people to service an expanded Irish customer base. The DS Brand has a new, exclusive supercool retail base - just off the M50 on the Navan Road. Here the full DS range is on show - with experts to hand to go through the variants and options.

Just this week the new DS4 was introduced to the Irish motoring public - and tested on a trip to Virginia Co. Cavan, through a mixture of motorway and rural roads. There is a choice of petrol or diesel power - and a hybrid option - but the outstanding features are the luxury interior and super smooth ride - regardless of road type.

Some of the detailed engineering in the DS 4 is truly leading edge - and three in particular are noteworthy: DS EXTENDED HEAD-UP DISPLAY - an avant-garde visual experience is a first step towards augmented reality. With a new immersive technology, vital driving information is projected directly onto the road.



Using an optical illusion, data is displayed four metres ahead of the windscreen diagonally following the driver's gaze at 21-inches, never seen before in the segment.

This sensory and experiential technology is part of a wider offering, at the heart of a completely reimagined 10-inch infotainment system, DS IRIS SYSTEM. Controlled by voice and gesture, DS IRIS SYSTEM incorporates a personal assistant.

DS ACTIVE SCAN SUSPENSION controlled damping, exclusive to the segment with its use of a camera. Positioned at the top of the windscreen, it views and anticipates irregularities in the road surface and transmits the data to a computer. The system controls each of the wheels independently, using the information it receives, it makes the suspension harder or softer, resulting in comfort no matter the road surface.

DS NIGHT VISION: another technology that enables DS Automobiles to stand out from the competition. An infrared camera, located in the grille, spots pedestrians and animals up to 150 metres away at night and in poor light. The driver sees the road's hazards in their digital instrument display (and as warnings in the DS EXTENDED HEAD-UP DISPLAY) enabling them to react quickly. Irish prices for DS 4 start from €37,295 (on the road price, including delivery charges, excluding

metallic paint) and offers customers five grades to choose from: Bastille +, Performance Line,

Trocadero, Performance Line+ and top of the range Rivoli spec.

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Patsy Burns, Paul Burnes, and Dorothy O'Brien celebrating the recent one-year anniversary of the opening of Dargle Valley Pharmacy at the Egan Centre in Bray

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