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Tuesday 15th November 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS

Councillors from all corners of county Wicklow have rallied behind Arklow fisherman CJ Gaffney to urge the Government to end his long-running plight. Mr Gaffney was sold an 'unseaworthy' vessel, The Mary Kate, in 2007 and was left with debts of €2 million. Councillors are also calling on every Local Authority in the country to support Mr Gaffney by putting pressure on the Government to act.

At last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Councillors unanimously supported a motion which calls for the Council to urge the Government to recognise the European Commission's confirmation that the Government "could exceptionally address the case of CG Gaffney and the MV Mary Kate through the European

Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF)". The motion was submitted by Independent councillor Peir Leonard and seconded by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Tommy Annesley. It was signed by 18 councillors prior to the meeting. In January of this year, a joint letter was sent to the Taoiseach on

behalf of a cross-party group of Irish MEPs in the European Parliament, concerning Mr Gaffney's case. Outlining the background to the case, it stated: "Prior to Mr. Gaffney buying the Dutch-owned and German-registered vessel in 2007, the vessel was surveyed and the Germanischer Lloyd



John Brady TD and Minister Simon Harris at the 'Kitchen of Hope' fundraiser event in Colaiste Raithin in Bray. See more, page 10. Pic: Joe Keogh

Classification Society stamped the stability book. It later transpired that the vessel was over 20 tonnes heavier than stated, and consequently failed a stability test and was deemed 'unseaworthy'. As a result, Mr. Gaffney was required to act to bring the vessel into compliance, and he did so by lengthening the vessel, at a great cost. Naval Architects have confirmed that the fishing vessel was unseaworthy from new build.

"Having liaised at length with the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) and the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) in the European Commission, they have advised us that the European Commission has no jurisdiction over this matter [...] However, the European Commission has made it

clear on several occasions that Mr Gaffney's case can be exceptionally addressed through the European Fund for Maritime and Fisheries. This matter has been previously reverted to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, as well as the Department of Transport for consideration.

"In your letter to Minister Simon Harris dated 6th December 2021, you indicated that issues concerning the safety of fishing vessels and safety certification come within the competence of the Minister of Transport. Clarification regarding this issue is therefore needed as to what department would be responsible to distribute exceptional funding under the European Fund for Maritime and Fisheries in this case, as indicated for use by the European Commission.

At this stage, the matter has been left unresolved for the best part of 15

years and it does not reflect well on the government that this remains

the case when a clear remedy is available."

*Continued on page 3*

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Clodagh and Fionnan Lally at the recent launch of Stan O'Reilly's book, 'Wicklow Folklore and Paranormal', in St. Brigid's Hall, Rathnew

## St. Anne's Parish Christmas Fair

The St. Anne's Parish Christmas Fair returns this year but in a scaled back version and will take place on Sunday November 27th from 10am to 3pm in St. Anne's Resource Centre, beside St. Anne's Church, Dublin Road, Shankill. Christmas Fair Raffle Tickets are now on sale in St. Anne's Resource Centre. There are some really great prizes to be won! All are welcome

## Bray Cualann Historical Society

'Police in Bray 1823-1922/Civic Guard, Garda in Bray since 1922' will be the subject for the Bray Cualann Historical Society's Thursday November 17th 8pm lecture in the Royal Hotel, Bray, and will be presented by Brian White. All are welcome ñ admission is €5 for non-members. Those wishing to join the Bray Cualann Historical Society can do so at this meeting.

## Crafty Crafters

The Brockagh Resource Centre in Laragh is reaching out to anyone who would like to share a creative space with likeminded people who enjoy being creative, sharing ideas and would like to connect with other people who share similar interests such as knitting, writing or art etc., in a social setting during the winter months. It commenced on November 9th with €5 entry fee per person each week, tea/coffee provided by the centre, WIFI and laptop available for research. If you have any questions call 0404 45600 or email brockaghoffice@gmail.com

## Delgany Thursday Group Christmas Lunch

Delgany Thursday Group's Christmas Lunch will be on Thursday 1st December, starting at 12.45pm in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy. The cost is €30 per person. To book contact Peter on 086 8307644, John on 086 3566527 or Violet on 087 7560153. Please book by Monday 21st November.

## Laragh Lights

The people of Laragh will be starting to get their Christmas Lights ready over the next few weeks.

They are going to turn the lights on Saturday 26th November and plan to hold a Santa parade again due to the success last year. Members of the community are invited to light up trucks, tractors etc., and be part of the parade.

It is requested that children are not in vehicles in the parade and enjoy it from the village instead. There will be a small prize for the best lit vehicle on the night. If you have any questions in relation to the parade please contact Brian Windsor or Collette Connolly.

## Mass for St. Brendan's pupils, staff & parents

A Mass will be held for deceased pupils, parents & staff of St. Brendan's Christian Brothers College, Woodbrook, on Sunday 20th November in the Holy Redeemer Church in Bray.

## Brockagh Christmas Market

The very popular and successful Christmas Market at the Brockagh Centre in Laragh is back on Sunday 4th December from 10am to 3pm. As always, there will be a great selection of gifts, crafts, baking, jewellery, art, and beauty products etc., making your Christmas shopping experience a pleasure. Traders are now welcome to contact Michelle at brockaghoffice@gmail.com to get a booking form or for more information phone 0404 45600, www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie.

## Greystones Flower Club demonstration

The Greystones Flower Club Christmas Demonstration will be given by Ms Brenda Joyce, in the Evangelical Church Hall, Hillside Road, Greystones, on Tuesday 29th November at 8pm. Admission is €10. All arrangements will be raffled. Tea/Coffee and mince pies will be served. All are welcome.

# Calling young artists...show your support for animal welfare awareness

Have you a dog-ged approach to art? Does your drawing hand have cat-like reflexes? Our animals and pets are part of our families and to recognise the role pets play in our lives, this 8th December is Animal Welfare Awareness Day 2022.

To mark the huge importance of Animal Welfare Awareness Day, Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Charlie McConalogue T.D. has announced a nationwide art competition for primary school pupils aged 10, 11 and 12 years of age.

Children interested in taking part are asked to draw or paint their favourite animal using whatever design they like, photograph it via smartphone and get a parent or guardian to submit the picture via email to ArtCompetition@agriculture.gov.ie along with your name, school, and age before 5pm on 21st November. Winners will be announced shortly after the closing date. Five winners will be selected from all entries received and the judging panel will be headed by ISPCA ambassador Rosanna Davison. The prizes for the five winners is a Dublin Zoo family pass for 2023 and goodie bag. All participants will receive an online

certificate of participation.

Winners and their families will be invited to a special event in Farmleigh House on 8th December to receive their prize from Minister McConalogue plus very special guests.

Terms and conditions of entry: One entry per participant; Artwork should be completed on an A4 sheet of paper; Entries will only be accepted via email from a parent or guardian; Submit a photograph of your artwork via email to: ArtCompetition@agriculture.gov.ie; Artwork entries may be used in social media promotions of Animal Welfare Awareness Day; Five winners will be chosen by the judging panel; Judges' decision will be final; Data privacy information and terms and conditions available on Department of Agriculture

Food and the Marine website; All entrants' data will be deleted on 12th December.

# WWI history talk at Wicklow Library

**Thousands of men from Co. Wicklow fought and died during World War One. It was a conflict that impacted every street, and possibly every household, in Wicklow and the surrounding area.**

Their blood was split on the Western Front in France and Belgium, on Turkish soil in Gallipoli, in Salonika in Greece and even in The Holy Land of Palestine. Merchant seamen were caught up in the conflict regardless of their age or politics, their occupation making them a target.

It was a war that was fought by brothers and even fathers and sons and these families could be devastated

by the loss of their menfolk. Often their suffering didn't end when the guns fell silent as they carried their physical and mental injuries back to Ireland with them.

In his talk, historian John Goodman will tell the stories of some of the men from the Wicklow District and detail their wildly different experiences. Through official records, personal papers and newspapers, he will attempt to tell the story of their war and its aftermath on them and their families.

The talk will take place at Wicklow Library, in the Exhibition Space on the third floor on Thursday, November 24th at 7pm. Contact Wicklow Library on 040467025 or email Wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie to book your place.

# Kilcoole Men's Shed Table Quiz a great success

**Cllr Stephen Stokes has congratulated Kilcoole Men's Shed on a highly successful fundraising quiz. The event took place on Friday, November 4th in the Mill Room of Byrnes Pub, Kilcoole. Over €1,500 was raised on the night in aid of building a premises for Kilcoole Men's Shed.**

Cllr Stokes served as Quizmaster on the night. He stated: "It was a tremendous evening for a great cause. I would like to congratulate the organisers on their endeavours. It was great to see so many people turn out. More tables and chairs had to be brought into the room!"

Kilcoole Men's Shed received a welcome boost lately, with the announcement that €2000 funding is to be provided to every Men's Shed in Ireland. This will support their continued work in the community.

Cllr Stephen Stokes noted: "The funding that they receive is vital. The community receives this investment back many times over from the excellent voluntary service that give."

To make their premises goal a reality, Kilcoole Men's Shed have teamed up with Post 21 Wicklow - Irish United Nations Veterans Association to secure a joint facility. This will greatly assist the service that they both

offer in the community. Several IUNVA members were in attendance at the fundraising quiz, with Kilcoole Men's Shed attending the IUNVA quiz previously.

Cllr Stokes concluded: "I would like to thank

everyone who attended, organised, donated prizes, and volunteered. It was a very enjoyable experience for all involved."

The Kilcoole Men's Shed Team are planning more events in 2023.



Cllr Stokes with members of Kilcoole Men's Shed

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# Concerns over conditions in the Grand Hotel

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has expressed his concern over the reuse and increased density at the Grand Hotel in Wicklow Town, which has led to worry within the community and amongst residents in the Hotel itself.

Deputy Brady has argued that conditions in the Grand Hotel have transformed over the recent while.

Originally the Grand Hotel was being used to accommodate 111 people, it is now being used to house 255, predominantly men.

Deputy Brady said: "While I am fully aware that we have an accommodation crisis of the government's making as a consequence of their failure to plan for the increased numbers coming into the country, the government has shown flagrant disregard for the recommendations of the Refugee Council of Ireland to make use of holiday homes and other such premises, by taking the inexcusable decision to increase the numbers in the hotel to 255 majority male residents (nearly two and half

times the original number of residents), who are housed in what I would term inappropriate cramped conditions."

The Grand Hotel has been used as a Direct provision centre and has been operating since 2018 without incident.

"Residents in the centre had been exceptionally well integrated into the community where they played roles in the tidy towns and other community organisations," Deputy Brady continued.

"Responsibility for the situation at the Grand Hotel, the gross overcrowding of far too many residents in one place in unacceptable conditions lies squarely at the feet of the government. The government has not even achieved what it set out in its own white paper on Direct

Provision.

"By the coalition's own estimates Ireland expected to receive over 100,000 Ukrainian refugees. There are no excuses for the failure of the government to act in preparation for the numbers that it set out that the country would receive. The Grand Hotel originally housed 111 refugees, but now houses 255 residents, predominantly men. It is evidence of how little regard which the government has for the local community.

"The current situation is unacceptable, and having raised the matter with the Gardai, and local community representatives from Wicklow Town, I have also written to the Minister seeking an immediate meeting to demand action on this matter."

## HAIL to expand in Wicklow

**HAIL, a specialist housing association primarily for people with mental health difficulties, is planning to expand in Wicklow by purchasing more homes for the people they support.**

The housing association is asking local property developers, estate agents and those considering selling to contact them about properties which could be suitable for their clients.

HAIL provides social housing and support services predominantly to tenants and clients with mental health difficulties and also to general needs tenants. After a client is housed by HAIL, they are provided with tenancy support services to help them maintain their home, live independently and integrate into their local community.

HAIL currently provides 440 homes across Dublin, Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Longford and Limerick. The housing association requires properties in Wicklow to support the demand for its services.

CEO of HAIL Martina Smith, said: "HAIL is planning

to expand in Wicklow to support more people with mental health difficulties to live independently but we are struggling to find suitable properties in the county.

"We are encouraging property developers, estate agents and people thinking about selling in Wicklow to contact us about opportunities for HAIL to purchase more homes for the people we support. Typically, we are aiming to purchase one-bedroom units as this tends to be the most suitable form of accommodation for our clients.

"Providing a home can be hugely transformative to the lives of people living with mental health difficulties. It can support them in their recovery and help them avoid hospitalisation or homelessness.

"Through our combined housing and support services, we are proud of our success rates in supporting our clients to live independently. If you are interested in discussing any potential opportunities with HAIL for us to provide more homes in Wicklow, please contact our Development Team at development@hail.ie or 01-6718444. This will help to create more positive outcomes for people living with mental health difficulties in the county."



Aishling Freehill and Annie Conroy at the AGB Fashion Show in Arklow

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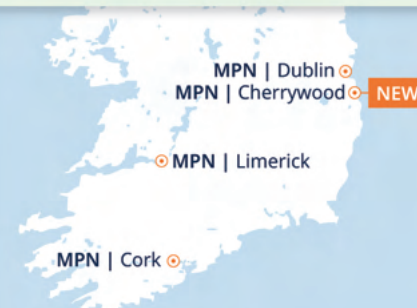
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## FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS

*Continued from page 1*

Speaking at last week's Council meeting, Cllr Leonard said "The Gaffney family are a local fishing family who have not only worked honestly and hard all of their lives to build their business up, but five generations of their family have given service to the RNLI, putting their own lives at stake for the sake of others. Many questions remain unanswered about the issue which will be for other forums outside of this Chamber to pursue [...] This is our one chance to be able to support this family with this Notice of Motion going forward today."

Cllr Joe Behan said, "It is a testament to CJ Gaffney and his strength of purpose that so many people across the political spectrum have rallied together to get behind him and his case for compensation for an injustice that was

done to him. Fine Gael MEP Sean Kelly has been outstanding in the support he has given to CJ and his family, it is quite obvious that the European Commission themselves are saying the Irish Government have the power to deal with this man's situation, they have the power to ensure that he receives adequate compensation. So, what we're doing here is providing moral and political support for this family to get the support from the Irish Government that they are entitled to.

"It is a sign of good will that so many councillors signed a suspension of Standing Orders motion. I have never witnessed 18 councillors supporting a suspension of Standing Orders before we even got to discuss it. It indicates our will is settled on this. We want to support this family."

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald said recent

conversations he had with Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Charlie McConalogue indicated that there wouldn't be a positive outcome in the matter.

"I was first contacted about the situation back in 2009 and traveled to Kildare to meet a member of the European Parliament and nothing happened after that," he said. "Recently I made contact with the minister and got my message through. I have to say that there was going to be a positive end to this which was disappointing."

Addressing the Gaffney family, who were present in the Council chamber, Cathaoirleach Cllr Annesley said "You have the full support of the Wicklow County Council members. I wish you the very best of luck going forward."



# Wicklow included in 'Best of The World 2023' destinations by National Geographic



*Beyond the Trees in Avondale was given special mention by National Geographic*

Wicklow has been included in a 'Best of the World 2023' list of destinations by National Geographic magazine.

National Geographic has compiled its annual Traveller's 'Best of the World' list recommending 35 destinations for 2023. Wicklow is number 35 on the list under the 'Culture' category.

The selection is split into five categories: Adventures, Culture, Nature, Family and Community.

The list highlights some of the most exciting and exceptional experiences on the planet, 25 of those selected by National Geographic global editors, and another 10 selected by the UK edition.

Wicklow is featured as one of the top family destinations alongside San Francisco, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Manchester, Switzerland and Bath.

The article talks about the Wicklow Mountain trails that are ideal for hikers and bikers. It also includes Wicklow's state-listed Palladian mansions, wild waterfalls and our unique coastline. Special mention is given to 'Beyond the Trees - Avondale', its canopy walk, 12 story tower and Ireland's tallest slide.

"We are absolutely delighted to have



Wicklow recognised as a fantastic family destination. Wicklow has so much to offer with plenty outdoor activities and great attractions for all to enjoy," says Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council and Chairman of Wicklow County

Tourism. "Recognition from National Geographic is a huge achievement and a great coup, offering international exposure."

Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, added: "The tremendous investment from Coillte and

Failete Ireland at Avondale is proving extremely successful. Beyond The Trees is becoming one of the leading attractions in Ireland, and deservedly so."

See full list of 35 destinations at: [www.nationalgeographic.co.uk](http://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk)

## National Museum hosts Medieval Glendalough weekend

Medieval Glendalough formed the focus of activities at the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th November for Science Week.



*The unique LEGO model of the valley of Glendalough by brick artist Jessica Farrell*

The National Museum of Ireland-Archaeology (NMI) hosted a weekend of events centred on the display of the unique LEGO model of the valley of Glendalough and featuring the outputs from workshops held in County Wicklow over recent months, including LEGO mosaics and the longest LEGO wall ever made in Ireland, which has been made by the people of Co Wicklow.

Over the weekend of Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th November, visitors to the museum had the opportunity to participate in LEGO workshops, handle replica objects relating to the archaeology of the valley, test their observational skills tracking the daily life of the valley's inhabitants with an activity sheet, try colouring drawings of objects from the time period, and watch videos about the archaeology of the Valley.

Cllr Tommy Annesley,

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, stated: "The Glendalough Monastic settlement is one of County Wicklow's most iconic heritage sites and I welcome this collaboration with the National Museum which will promote awareness of this heritage to a wider national audience."

Made out of 44,388 bricks, the model shows how the monastic site might have looked in medieval times. Built by brick artist Jessica Farrell and inspired by archaeological discoveries about the valley, the LEGO model includes displays of what daily life might have been like in the valley for monks and pilgrims, and references some of the objects on display at the National Museum's Glendalough exhibition. This summer members of the public visiting the model in local libraries throughout County Wicklow, and most recently at the Arklow Maritime Museum, had the chance

to see the model and take part in LEGO building workshops which were sponsored by the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council. Under the guidance of Jessica Farrell, participants made segments of a traditional stone wall in LEGO and created the longest wall made of LEGO in Ireland, over twelve metres in length.

The NMI commented: "We are delighted to work with Glendalough Heritage Forum to bring this model and associated activities to the public. It is an enjoyable way to learn about distant medieval times and imagine what daily life was like for those who lived in the Wicklow Valley over one thousand years ago. As the NMI opened an exhibition in 2020 showing the artefacts from the area it is especially interesting to see how they are included in the model including a shoe possibly left behind by a female pilgrim."

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## Council announces the return of 'Way With Words' literature festival

Wicklow County Council's Arts Office and Wicklow Library Service have announced the return of the 'Way with Words' Literature Festival taking place on Saturday, 19th November in Blessington Library.

Designed for writers and readers, this day long mini-festival is funded by Creative Ireland and features readings, workshops, in-conversations and song for all ages with a variety of genres and approaches to writing represented.

Sarah Sparkles and her puppet friends are sure to delight audiences with a fully interactive show for young families. Featuring lots of fun stories, music and singing, this event is perfect for 0-4-year-olds and their adults.

Join award-winning children's author and illustrator, Peter Donnelly for his Dead Zoo workshop. The session will start with a

story reading followed by an illustration workshop where children aged 6+ years will learn how to draw some of the animals on exhibition in the National History Museum.

Workshops for writers, every journey begins with a single step, but taking that single step can prove difficult. For new writers, the most daunting aspect of a writing a novel is often how or where to start.

Join Declan Burke's workshop 'First Steps, Giant Step' where participants will explore how to generate and develop the most important elements of storytelling. Taking place from 1-3:30pm,

places are limited.

Bestselling crime author, Louise Phillips, will hold a two-hour workshop entitled 'Getting to grips with character, structure and pace'. The workshop will help participants get to grips with character creation, structure, plotting, planning and pace. Taking place from 4-6pm, places again are limited.

Finally, join award-winning writer Claire Keegan for a reading from her novel 'Small Things Like These', described by Martina Devlin in the Irish Independent as 'a tender, condensed and pitch-perfect tale'.

The reading will be followed by conversation moderated by local writer Philip St John.

Funded by Creative Ireland, all 'Way with Words' events are free, but booking is essential. To find

out more and book today by visiting: [www.waywithwords.ie](http://www.waywithwords.ie).

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, said he was delighted to see Wicklow County Council continue to find ways to support the writers and readers of Wicklow through vibrant and dynamic programmes such as 'Way with Words'.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson, said he was pleased to see the return of the Council's leading literature festival after a two year break due to the Covid pandemic adding: "Catering for the diverse Wicklow community of writers and readers, this year's programme features an outstanding calibre of award-winning writers, illustrators and performers."



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Jessica Hurley at the AGB Fashion Show in Arklow

# Welcome news for Wicklow's 84X customers

Dublin Bus is reviewing plans to increase the number of evening 84X bus services running from Dublin to Wicklow.

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore, having previously written to Dublin Bus about the need for more services on this route, raised this issue directly with representatives from Dublin Bus and the National Transport Authority today in Leinster House.

Speaking at last week's Joint Committee on Transport and Communications Deputy Whitmore raised the issue of Wicklow passengers not being able to get seats on the 84X before it leaves Dublin.

"I was very heartened to hear from the National Transport Authority and Dublin Bus today in the transport committee that funding can be made available for addi-

tional 84X services leaving Dublin. Every year we have this issue where Wicklow bound passengers cannot get a seat on the services even before it departs Dublin City.

"I was glad that Dublin Bus confirmed they are looking at this issue. Although it is frustrating to have to be continually raising this issue on an annual basis. Capacity reviews of these services should happen as standard. It shouldn't take public reps and members of the public raising it every year. I will continue to raise this issue with both Dublin Bus and the NTA, and look forward to hopefully seeing extra services on the 84X route soon."



Jennifer Whitmore TD

## Concerns over 184 Charlesland service as residents claim area is being 'skipped'

Cllr Stephen Stokes has written to the NTA and Go Ahead about reports that some 184 drivers are skipping Charlesland in Greystones.

Cllr Stokes stated: "Concerned local people have reached out to me about Charlesland being skipped. It's utterly shocking. Charlesland, or any other area, should not be by-passed on the whim of a driver. If we want to encourage people to use public transport, it needs to be reliable, first and foremost."

Cllr Stokes continued: "The approved

routes are essential. As the nights draw in and the weather deteriorates, it is even more important for people to get to their correct bus stop, especially those less able."

Cllr Stokes said it's inappropriate for children to be abandoned at an incorrect stop, especially at night. He added: "Go Ahead needs to understand that there is a duty of care."

Cllr Stephen Stokes is seeking an investigation into Charlesland being skipped. He concluded: "We should thank the drivers who drive the 184 on time, and along the correct route. I use the 184 occasionally myself. When it runs correctly I have found it to be a good service. But clearly there are recruitment and oversight challenges in general. That's no surprise as the Go Ahead depot is based in Ballymount, Dublin. I have asked the NTA and Go Ahead to investigate this matter and take appropriate action."

## 'Go-Ahead apology will be measured in future performance'

Go-Ahead Ireland's Managing Director Andrew Edwards has issued an apology to customers on behalf of the company for its poor service. Mr Edwards was speaking during a meeting of the Oireachtas Committee on Transport last Tuesday, where he said that the issues would be resolved in four to six weeks.

"I'm sorry to all of our customers for the experiences they have had," he said, citing staff shortages as the primary cause for the problems.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady welcomed the apology but said that the true test of the worth of the apology by the company will be measured in the weeks and months ahead. He warned that commuters in Wicklow will be demanding a much-improved performance from Go-Ahead Ireland.

"The appearance of representatives of Dublin Bus, the National Transport Authority (NTA), and Go-Ahead Ireland before the Transport Committee comes on the back of a Sinn Féin Motion that came before the Dail in recent weeks, which specifically addressed the dismal service delivery on bus routes in Dublin and Wicklow," said Deputy Brady.

"The Sinn Féin motion has been driven by the need to confront the continuing inability of the government to meaningfully address the utter failure of Go-Ahead Ireland to deliver on their transport contract. The routes in question in Wicklow, the 45a, the

184, and the 185, service the towns of Kilmacanogue, Greystones, Newtownmountkenedy, Enniskerry and Bray. The experience for bus commuters in North Wicklow on these three routes has been dreadful, and in some instances horrific. With last minute cancellations seeing many bus users stranded by the side of the road, resulting in missed hospital appointments, with other commuters being unable to get to work or college on time.

"And while I welcome the apology by the Managing Director of Go-Ahead Ireland Andrew Edwards, I will be closely watching the standard of delivery of the service by the company in the Wicklow area in the near future.

"Mr Edwards claims that a lot of the problems suffered by Go-Ahead Ireland were due to software-problems in September, although the experience of commuters in Wicklow led to them being well aware of the problems with Go-Ahead long before September.

"And notwithstanding this a lot of the problems encountered by commuters cannot be blamed on computer glitches. In a number of



John Brady TD

instances drivers, in an attempt to make up time on routes where the bus was running late, changed the bus routes, not only leaving members of the public waiting at bus stops for a bus that would never arrive, but also taking passengers sitting on the bus far away from their scheduled stops. This type of behaviour is just plain ridiculous.

"By taking the recent decision to maintain the contract with Go-Ahead, the NTA is taking responsibility for the conduct of the company in terms of its service delivery. This is something that I will be watching closely. Public transport users in Wicklow have had enough and will not tolerate a return to the shoddy service that we have witnessed to date."

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# Funding secured for Bray projects

*Albert Walk lighting and Quinsborough Road masterplan study approved*

Festoon lighting on Albert Walk and an extension to the Seafront Playground are just some of the projects that will be carried out in Bray after funding was secured by Green Party Councillor Erika Doyle.

Other projects that were approved for funding at last week's Bray Municipal District meeting are a masterplan study for the Quinsborough Road, a sea swimmer's pontoon, a feasibility study into installation of infrastructure to allow accessibility to the north beach, more bins, and a tree replacement programme for end-of-life trees around the town.

Councillor Doyle said, "It's always nice to be able to announce good news projects in the district, and these public realm improvement projects that were approved last week will enhance Bray for locals and tourists alike. As Cathaoirleach, I drew up a proposal of projects that were supported by members and council engineers, and I was delighted that this proposal passed unanimously at the council meeting. Despite occasional differences of opinion, all members have the mandate to work together for the betterment of the district, and this vote is evidence of that commitment."

"My proposal to extend the

seafront playground stems from the fact that there are no accessible items in this playground which is the district's biggest and most used playground. While there are no design plans yet we will be consulting with the relevant stakeholders to ensure the works are appropriate for the users. I recently had a motion come before Wicklow County Council to ensure that all future playgrounds are made fully accessible at design stage and where possible, when refurbishing existing playgrounds.

"The Albert Walk is the main route for visitors from the DART station to the seafront and is a popular haunt for locals thanks to the innovative businesses along the Walk, particularly the restaurants. Festoon lighting is attractive and fun, will add to the atmosphere of this area and dare I say it, be perfect for social media selfies. It will enhance Bray's offering as a brand, and as an attractive place to visit."

"The reimagining of Quinsborough Road is a longer-

term project. It's such a beautiful street with stunning 19th century buildings, fantastic shops and a wide thoroughfare at the sea end but I think we can all agree that it is looking a bit tired. Rather than take a piecemeal approach to improvements, this masterplan will take an overall look at strengthening the linkage between the seafront and the town centre. There will of course be extensive public consultation with local residents and businesses who are invested in making the most of their street."

The funding for these projects comes from the Bray allocation of the Local Property Tax.

Cllr Doyle said, "While it's fair to say that there are differing opinion on the property tax, and it is an imperfect system, I think it's important to show people where their money is going. Otherwise it feels like their hard earned money going out into a black hole. The projects listed for this year are tangible improvements to the dis-

trict and for public realm are shared by us all.

"Bray has so much to offer and is a wonderful place to live. It has a strong sense of community, evident in its generosity to those needing help and its volunteer sector. Investment in public realm improvements is investment by the people for the people. My ambition when I stepped into the role of Councillor was to listen to the people of Bray and help make our town a safe and attractive place to live, work and travel in. That means giving people safe pedestrian routes and cycle lanes to travel on and reduce traffic, attractive public spaces to sit and enjoy, facilities to enjoy and clean safe streets. I believe that my role and the role of the council is to work with and for the community so that together we can enjoy living in beautiful Bray."

Cllr Doyle added that anybody who would like to know more about the projects and find out about the others not listed here, can contact her for information.



Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr Erika Doyle at the Albert Walk in Bray which will get a facelift with some new festoon lighting. The design of the lights has yet to be decided.

## Joint Policing Committee meets in Bray

A public meeting of Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee (JPC) was held in Little Bray Family Resource Centre, Bray, on Thursday 10th November.

The purpose of the JPC is to provide a forum where the Local Authority, Senior Garda Officers, Public Representatives and Community Representatives can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of their area.

Cllr Gerry Walsh, Chair of Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee, welcomed and thanked all present for taking the time to attend the meeting and for their engagement during a lengthy questions and answers session.

Superintendent Pat Connell gave a presentation outlining the specialist services provided in the Bray District which included Roads Policing Unit, Forensic Collision Investigator, Community Policing Unit, Detective Unit, Crime Prevention Unit, Scenes of Crime Unit, Immigration Unit, Victim Service Office, Juvenile Liaison Office, Criminal Intelligence Office, Family Liaison, Ethnic Liaison & Crime Prevention Officers, Continuous Professional Development and National Support.

He noted the importance of community engagement saying some of the highlights during 2022 were the Bray Garda station open day, Bray Air Show, Purple House Run-Greystones to Bray and the Garda centenary event. During the questions

and answers session issues raised related to community policing, community engagement, e-scooters, drug trends, drug services, speed limits, domestic violence and Halloween activities.

Superintendent Pat Connell and Inspector Pdraig Roberts provided

comprehensive responses to all questions raised. Many attendees also paid tribute to the Community Gardaí in Bray, Sgt John Fitzpatrick and Garda Adam Nolan, who provided an excellent service to the local community.

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow

County Council, thanked everyone for their attendance and engagement saying public JPC meetings are an excellent example of community, Gardai and the Council working together through a collective approach to the benefit of all members of our local communities.

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**Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG**

**Unique Opportunity:**

**Enterprise Hub Manager**

Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG was established in 2017 as a not-for-profit company. Led by Wicklow County Council and key stakeholders, its mission is to oversee the construction, development and management of key, demand led, enterprise hub infrastructure. Over a series of strategic sectoral developments, it will maximise the potential of Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, a 55-acre site dedicated to Enterprise, Education and Innovation.

Its first project, the Content Creation Enterprise Hub, was backed by Regional Enterprise Development Funding in 2020 and is currently under construction but scheduled to open in Q1 2023. The company now wishes to recruit a Full Time Manager to manage the day to day running of the Clermont Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to the role of Hub Manager to manage the day to day running of the Enterprise Hub and its users and to roll out screen-sector specific business supports. This full-time contract position will run over a 3 year period, remunerated at €60,000 per annum. This position will report to the board of Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG and is based in Rathnew, occasional travel may be required. Past experience working in the screen sector and / or managing an enterprise hub are a pre-requisite.

Interested applicants can request an information booklet with further information by emailing [enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie) and on <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/News/Press-Releases/> or <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/Job-Vacancies>

**Application Process**

Interested applicants are invited to post 3 copies of the application form to Head of Enterprise, LEO Wicklow, Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew and email a soft copy to [enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie) by closing date Tuesday 22nd November at 12noon. Please use 'Content Creation Enterprise Hub Manager Role' in the subject line of your email. As part of your application, you should set out your skills and experience to meet the requirements of the position.

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: 12noon on Tuesday 22nd November 2022.**

Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG reserves the right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate. Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG is an equal opportunities employer



# Packed programme for SUAS Project conference

The SUAS Project has announced the full list of speakers for a special conference being hosted on Thursday, November the 17th of November in the Glenview Hotel in county Wicklow to coincide with the successful conclusion of the five-year EIP-AGRI Project.

The packed event programme, which includes a keynote presentation from Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity, Pippa Hackett, will explore the key findings of the five-year project with a host of guest speakers, panel discussions and a guided field trip to see the innovative work currently being undertaken across the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands.

Along with presentations from the project team, international guest speakers include Professors Julia Aglionby and Davy McCracken; both renowned for their research and expertise on the use and management of the UK's extensive upland regions. Also joining them on the stage is the consultant ecologist Faith Wilson, who has worked extensively with the SUAS Project. The event organisers are especially excited to announce that Irish-based journalist and well-known television presenter Ella McSweeney will be filling the role of Host and Guest Chair of the event.

Speaking at the recent launch of the event, coordinator for Wicklow Uplands Council, Brian Dunne said: "We are delighted to be able to host this conference and to share the substantial knowledge and learnings gained by all involved with the project to a much wider audience. The event programme will explore and discuss a range of topics with some of the leading speakers in their field joining us for this special occasion and we very much look forward to welcoming everyone interested in attending."

Launched in 2018 by Wicklow Uplands Council, the ambitious project was established to develop innovative and sustainable solutions to the environmental and economic challenges facing hill-farmers in the Wicklow and Dublin uplands.

Having successfully received a funding allocation of €1.95M in the first round of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-

AGRI), the five-year project has grown to include 74 hill-farmers across 25 locations throughout the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands.

Shaping the landscape by incentivising hill farmers to improve upland habitats, there is currently over 7,500 hectares, much of which is designated Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), where initiatives such as peat and vegetation restoration, grazing management, tree planting, bracken control and the removal of invasive tree species are taking place.

One of the unique attributes to the project is its work with commonage groups, assisting in establishing them into a formal structure to participate as a collective group. Once formed, the groups themselves have undertaken habitat actions as part of an agreed multi-year management plan that is focussed on the sustainable usage of the land and to improve its overall biodiversity.

Speaking about what has been observed over the last five years, Project Manager of the SUAS



Hill-farmers participating in the SUAS Project with Ecologist Faith Wilson on the slopes of Carrigeenduff Commonage

Project, Declan Byrne said: "By working collaboratively with hill-farmers across a range of different locations, we have been able to deliver meaningful habitat actions that have already begun to positively impact the sensitive biodiversity found in the uplands."

"We have found that with appropriate grazing practices and the delivery of various vegetation

management initiatives, that projects such as SUAS offer great insights to how we should be systematically managing our uplands with all of the stakeholders to ensure they remain healthy into the future."

The conference coincides with the project's conclusion at the end of December 2022 and will provide an overview of its extensive activities as well as providing detailed

discussion on its outcomes and learnings. As part of the conference gathering, a field trip to a nearby upland farm participating in the project is open to everyone to attend on the afternoon beforehand, Wednesday the 16th.

Discussing what attendees should expect on the day, Mr Dunne said: "The SUAS conference provides the perfect opportunity to share and

discuss what has been observed over the last five-years and we invite anyone with an interest in how our uplands are managed, whether it be from a farming, environmental or community viewpoint to attend."

Attendance is complimentary, however advance registration is required, which can be done by visiting the WicklowUplands Council website: [www.wicklowuplands.ie](http://www.wicklowuplands.ie)

Anyone interested in attending the field trip to the upland farm is requested to email [bdunne@wicklowuplands.ie](mailto:bdunne@wicklowuplands.ie) for further details.

Ireland's European Innovation Partnership (EIP) projects are funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

## Celebrating Wicklow's heritage: The Coastal Uplands

All are welcome to attend 'Celebrating our Wicklow Heritage', a Coastal Uplands: Heritage and Tourism (CUPHAT) event, in Rathdangan Community Hall from 2pm to 8pm on Tuesday, 22 November 2022.

CUPHAT, supported by the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland-Wales Cooperation programme, focuses on heritage-based

tourism in the coastal uplands of Ireland and Wales. The project seeks to showcase the shared and distinctive heritages of the Blackstairs Mountains and Wicklow Mountains, and Cambrian Mountains and Preseli Mountains in Wales.

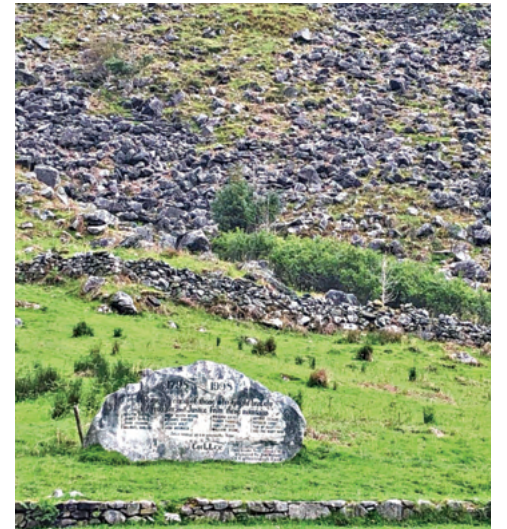
The upcoming celebratory event invites local community members in and around the southern Wicklow Mountains to bring along items they feel are important in representing the history and heritage of their area, including: photographs, artefacts, crafts, tools, objects, memorabilia, and postcards. The

CUPHAT team will be there to hear stories about why these items are important and there will be an opportunity for some items to be digitised and preserved for future generations.

Community members are invited to drop-in at any point during the day. An exciting programme of events showcasing local history and heritage is planned, with speakers, music, and opportunities to watch old video footage and hear voices from the local area. This event is free to attend and tea, coffee and cake will be provided throughout the day.

The CUPHAT Project Team describe the event as being "an important way to share, celebrate, record and preserve the things that are important to the rich and diverse heritage of these communities. A full programme of events will be released closer to the day, so please check CUPHAT's social media accounts."

Another CUPHAT event, 'Celebrating our Blackstairs Heritage' will also be happening in the Blackstairs Mountains, in Nicky Rackard Community Centre, Rathnure, on 21 November 2022 from 2pm – 8pm.



## Public consultation sought for coastline audit

Wicklow County Council is in the process of conducting an audit of the county's beaches to assess the uses, strengths, and deficits of the offerings of Wicklow's beaches.

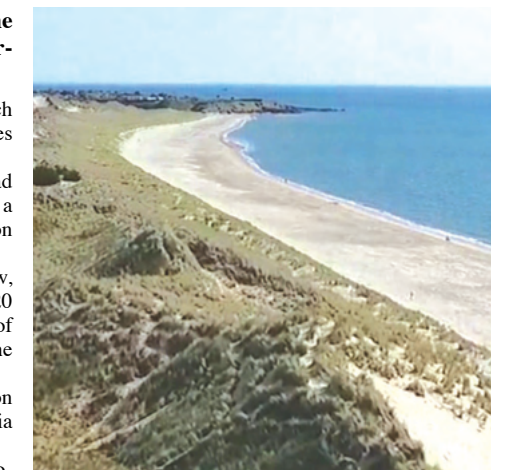
To assist with this, the Council is keen to hear the views of local residents which will shape the study and future development of recreational services and amenities of the beaches as part of the process of a Wicklow Coastal Blueway Project.

The proposed Blueway project will create five Blueway nodes which will lead participation in coastal outdoor recreation in the county. Each node will have a defined access point to the sea, a supporting trailhead, signage and interpretation information.

The proposed nodes are Arklow and surrounding beaches/harbour, Wicklow, Kilcoole, Greystones and Bray. The Blueway project's overall budget is €554,820 with Wicklow County Council providing match funding of €55,482 and a grant of €499,338 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

Feedback is sought now from the public with the link to the public consultation survey available on the Wicklow County Council website and various social media platforms.

If you would like to have your say on Wicklow's Beach Audit, please see link provided - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R2VBK3C>



Brittas Bay

### Wicklow Volunteer Centre Ionad d'Oibair Dheonach Cill Mhantáin COUNTY WICKLOW VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2022

2022 and once again the people of Wicklow have gone that extra mile in volunteering. Restarting clubs and organisations post COVID-19 and then quickly responding to the Ukrainian crisis. Do you know a local volunteer or team? Would you like to see them recognised? Why not nominate them for one of the County Wicklow Volunteer Awards?

These awards are a recognition of the many individuals and groups of people that work tirelessly in Wicklow to provide services to the old, the young, the lonely, the sporty, and the vulnerable. The awards will recognise the befrienders, the tidy towners, the coaches, board trustees, first-aiders, arts tutors and charity shop assistants. The awards will give a bow to the information givers, the help-line listeners, and the English language tutors.

#### Nomination Categories include

- Local Volunteer Award.  
(1 in each municipal district, Arklow, Baltinglass, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow)
- Volunteer Team Award
- Under 18 Volunteer Award
- Award for a volunteer from the migrant, refugee, asylum seeker community
- Volunteer in an Environmental and Biodiversity project
- Ukrainian Response Volunteer Award
- Corporate Volunteer Award for a company working on community projects in Wicklow.

Each category requires you to nominate ONE volunteer. If you would like to nominate more than one volunteer, please submit your entry in the Volunteer Team Award category. Nominations close on December 8 at 5.00 pm.

To make your nominations and for further information visit our web-site

[www.volunteerwicklow.ie](http://www.volunteerwicklow.ie)



# Wicklow Hospice announces expansion of services

## Specialist community palliative care increases to seven days a week

Speaking on Friday at a meeting to update local public representatives on progress at Wicklow Hospice, Audrey Houlihan, CEO of Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services (OLH&CS) announced a recent expansion of its services, enabling it to provide more care across the county.

The Wicklow Hospice is a purpose-built hospice providing 15 in-patient public beds and a new base for the Wicklow Specialist Community Palliative Care Team (CPCT) who visits patients in their own homes.

"Since we welcomed our first in-patients at the end of 2020 during the pandemic, we have steadily continued to grow and increase the provision of specialist palliative care in Wicklow. During 2021, 127 admissions were made to the in-patient unit in Magheramore and the specialist community palliative care team saw more than 340 individual patients, carrying out almost 3,400 interactions, either in patients' place of residence or through virtual visits.

"During 2022, this growth is continuing and at the end of October, we

had already had 160 admissions to the in-patient unit and carried 2,700 interactions with patients either in their place of residence or through virtual visits.

"To meet this increased demand I am delighted to share the news that, from this week, our specialist community palliative care service has increased from five to seven days a week. This means that our patients, and their families, can now receive palliative care tailored to their needs and in their homeplace 365 days a year.

"In addition, our in-patient team will provide telephone support to our community patients outside the working hours of our Community Palliative care team. This means that our patients, and their families, can also telephone us for advice and support 24 hours a day. This was made possible

through the recruitment of a further two Clinical Nurse Specialists.

"We have also recently added a full time Medical Social Worker to the Community Palliative Care Team, this role provides important support to patients and their loved ones at a challenging time in their lives.

"Fundraising has been seriously impacted by Covid 19 and we are all aware of the competing demands people are facing at present. However, we do urgently need to raise money to cover the balance of the almost €3 million bank loan required to finish the building work in Magheramore, and to build on the services we're providing, so we are appealing for support," she said.

OLH&CS provided €750k over the last two years and the Government also provided



At Wicklow Hospice last week were Dr Joan Cunningham (Palliative Medicine Consultant), Cllr John Snell, Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Minister Simon Harris, Audrey Houlihan (CEO, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services), Cllr Tom Fortune, Mary Flanagan (Director of Nursing, Quality & Clinical Services), Jennifer Whitmore TD, Geraldine Tracey (Head of Nursing & Operations, Wicklow & Blackrock Hospices), and Senator Pat Casey.

€1.6m. The outstanding balance is on the bank loan is €840,000.

"Once the capital loan is paid off, fundraised income will be critical to pay for enhancements that are so greatly valued by patients and families such as specialised equipment and improvements and

developments to our facilities, our grounds and gardens. We could not provide this service without the support of the local community and their support enables us, in turn, to help those who need our care," she explained.

The Hospice's Annual

Light Up A Life Christmas campaign is underway, a special remembrance campaign, inviting people to remember loved ones by sponsoring a light on our virtual tree in their memory. This is the 30th year of the event and OLH&CS is appealing to the public

to support it by sponsoring a light, or by buying Christmas cards or decorations. For more information see [www.lightupalife.ie](http://www.lightupalife.ie) or [www.olh.ie](http://www.olh.ie).

Minister Simon Harris said "This is a tremendous facility for the whole of Wicklow, there's hardly a family in

Wicklow who is not touched by the palliative care services for patients and their families. It's amazing that from a green field site years ago and ten years of fundraising we have an amazing facility that the whole community can be very very proud of."

## Sinn Fein councillors publish paper on Housing

Bray Sinn Fein Councillors Grace McManus and Dermot O'Brien have published a paper that examines in detail the issue of housing in Bray. The paper covers many topics, including issues around trauma informed care, homelessness and renting costs in the town.

Having produced a paper on housing in Bray in 2020, they say "the depth and scope of conversation about the issue has widened" since then. "More and more people are finding themselves caught up in the repercussions of Ireland's housing crisis, while the most vulnerable seem further away than ever from stability and security," they said.

There were 45 presentations to the homeless team in Wicklow County Council in August alone, and 50 children who presented with their parents within that month. The total number of new presentations for the first eight months of 2022 was 279, which included 264 presentations of children with their families. The paper states that "it is not unreasonable to assume that many of these 279 are from Bray".

Cllr Grace McManus said "Every day we as councillors are meeting people in housing distress. There is only so much of answering people in crisis we can do before we need to take a step back and try and capture the detail of what is happening, and what we can do about it. That is the intention behind this paper.

"The paper argues several things. Firstly, we show how important a trauma informed approach is when dealing with housing and homelessness. Many people experiencing homelessness have at least one trauma, and inad-

equately housing, including homelessness, is known to adversely affect the health of occupiers. A trauma informed approach is a practice that recognises this and responds appropriately.

"Next, we outline key recent figures around homelessness. We also widen our definition of homelessness, and look at the issue from the perspective of the Women's Refuge, people sleeping rough and those in Direct Provision.

"Thirdly, we look at rental and purchase prices for housing in Bray, and argue that both the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and average wages are not sufficient to meet the rental prices in the town. This results in a severe and stressful impact on those in need of a home.

"Finally, we outline key proposals throughout the paper, as we don't just want to highlight the problems, we want to put forward real solutions. We argue for Wicklow County Council to become a trauma informed organisation. We call for reviews of staffing levels and a report from the new Homeless Outreach service in Bray. We will be requesting an exploration of the idea that Wicklow County Council could provide a trauma informed HAP and housing support in Bray, and ask Bray MD Councillors to take the stand that we need cost rental properties in the town.

"Dealing with people in their moments of terror as they navigate the housing crisis has been the most challenging part of my work as a councillor. My hope is that the work we have put into this paper will result in tangible and positive change for those caught in this scenario in Bray, and in some small way will honour the stories people have bravely shared with us along the way."

Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien said "There is no doubt that the housing crisis is very real and on our doorstep here in Bray. When we keep this issue on the agenda, we are showing people it is our priority. When we use data to inform our debates, we are showing we are serious about the issue. When we respond with trauma informed care, we are showing we understand and have the capacity to respond.

"There are many groups and organisations in the town who do phenomenal work supporting the most vulnerable, and we extend our deepest gratitude to them for the compassionate work they do. A special thanks to the groups who gave their perspective for this paper. I believe we can do better for all those caught in this crisis, and for future generations who feel hopeless about a safe future in their town. This paper is our latest contribution to this issue and with support will result in a positive impact."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### N11/M11 BUS PRIORITY INTERIM SCHEME

#### NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC DISPLAY OF THE PREFERRED OPTION (PHASE 2)

Wicklow County Council is progressing the development of the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme (BPIS) in partnership with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the National Transport Authority and the Department of Transport.

The N11/M11 BPIS aims to deliver a practicable interim solution capable of realising bus journey time benefits in the short to medium term. The key strategic goal is to deliver as much contiguous bus priority as practically achievable, such that the transportation deficiencies blighting the corridor could start to be addressed early, in advance of the more comprehensive scheme to follow. The BPIS proposed must also integrate into the preferred option for the more comprehensive N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme.

#### Public Display Event

The public, stakeholders and interested parties are invited to attend to view information on the Preferred Option identified for the BPIS scheme, the work undertaken to date and the programme for advancement of the project. This non-statutory consultation event also provides an opportunity for feedback and observations to be submitted regarding the process and conclusions reached to date, which may inform the further development of the scheme in the next phases.

The public display event will be held over two days in the Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs, on Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th November 2022 between 12.00 noon and 8.00pm.

Members of the Project Team will be available on both days to provide guidance and to answer questions.

The public display documents will also be available to view on the project website [www.n11m11bpis.ie](http://www.n11m11bpis.ie) from 12:00 noon on Monday 28th November 2022.

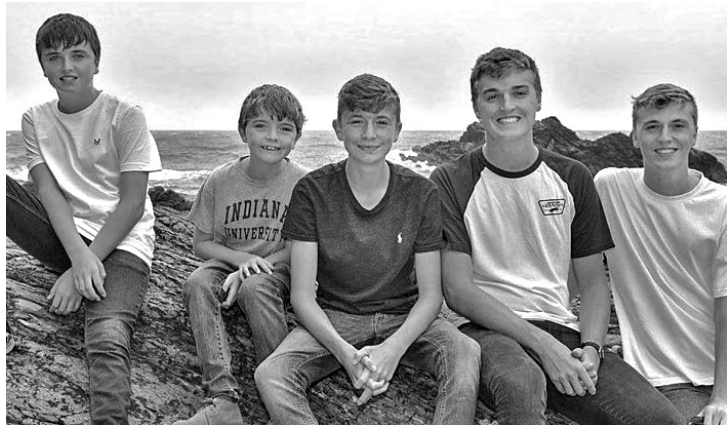
Submissions will be accepted via the online feedback form available on the project website [www.n11m11bpis.ie](http://www.n11m11bpis.ie) or by email to [n11m11@arup.com](mailto:n11m11@arup.com) or by post addressed to N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme, Transportation Department, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96. Submissions will be accepted from Monday 28th November 2022 and must be received on or before Thursday 22 December 2022.

Wicklow County Council values the opinion of the community on this project and welcomes feedback and submissions from the public and interested parties. The knowledge gained from the engagement will be considered by the project team as part of the next stages of the development of the scheme.



# Greystones to celebrate 10 Years of Twinning with Holyhead

Greystones is gearing up to celebrate 10 years of twinning with Holyhead on Saturday, November 19th.



The Magee Brothers Band

Holyhead Santa will again be parading through the streets of Greystones, starting at Eden Gate from 4pm. Santa's parade route will take in Charlesland, Mill Road, Delgany Wood, Eastmount, Beechbrook Park, Redford Park, Rathdown Road,

Harbour Area, Church Road and more. The celebrations will culminate with a special concert in the Whale Theatre. A Welsh Male Voice Choir will be travelling over to perform at the Whale Theatre that night. They will be supported by the Magee

Brothers. Tickets are still available from the Whale Theatre website at €15 each.

The five brothers in the Magee Brothers Band are a well known and popular Welsh family group. This concert is a return visit to Greystones for them as

well. Their singing and musicianship are a delight.

Cllr Stephen Stokes stated: "We are thrilled to welcome our Holyhead friends. Holyhead Santa will bring real joy to our town. The Welsh Male Voice Choir will also be a special experience. I would urge people to book tickets. The acoustics will be amazing. Our thanks to the Whale Theatre for hosting the event."

Holyhead and Greystones signed a formal twinning agreement in 2012. Over the years multiple individuals and groups have visited including cultural and sporting. There were a number of exploratory meetings by both sides in the run up to the twinning decision, led by the Tourism & Twinning sub-committee of Greystones



Tawnia Kearns from Greystones Municipal District Office, Cllr Stephen Stokes and Kathleen Kelleher

Town Council. Cllr Stokes added: "From the outset we both wanted to partner with somewhere that would be accessible by our communities. Greystones and Holyhead share many cultural, maritime and sporting tradi-

tions. Some people who deserve particular credit include Kay Coughlan, Sue Williams Kathleen Kelleher, Dewi Thomas, Myra Porter, Alan Williams, Ciaran Hayden, Hywel Williams, James O'Sullivan, Richard

Burnell and so many more. Hopefully this friendship will continue to be built upon over the coming years. We thank all of our Holyhead partners for their wonderful commitment to this project."

**Saturday 19th November @ 8.30pm**  
(doors 7.30pm).  
Tickets €15 available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

## Fundraiser cooks up some hope



Celebrity chef Nevin Maguire. Pic: Joe Keogh

Minister Simon Harris was a guest cook at Colaiste Raithin last Monday night at a fundraiser in aid of Beaumont Hospital and The Royal Hospital in Donnybrook.

The fundraiser was organised by Chef Ruairi Morahan, whose son Cathal was involved in a car accident last January, and who has made a miraculous recovery. In attendance also was Chef Nevin Maguire with his nephew James Maguire who also recovered from a serious accident in 2018.

The event was very well supported and Grainne Seoige was the Master of Ceremonies for the night.

Minister Harris wearing his apron for his cookery demonstration commented "This is not my normal audience but I am very happy to support these hospitals and the work they do and

also celebrate Cathal and James's recovery."

Chef Morahan was delighted with the evening and hoped everyone would "Look out for one another because you never know what's around the corner."

After his cookery demonstration with Chef Simon Hudson and Chef Karl Clarke, the Minister presented a medal to both Cathal and James in recognition of their path back from injury.



Chef Ruairi Morahan, Minister Simon Harris and Master of Ceremonies Grainne Seoige

## Chime tests political ears in Leinster House



Steven Matthews TD with Brendan Lennon, head of advocacy at Chime, at the first ever hearing screening tests for TDs and Senators at Leinster House to highlight the social and mental impact of unaddressed hearing loss in Irish adults.

On Wednesday 19th October, Chime, the national charity for deafness and hearing loss, held its first-ever hearing screening tests in Leinster House to highlight the social and mental impact of unaddressed hearing loss in Irish adults.

The charity is seeking the seeking a commitment from Mr Stephen Donnelly TD, the Minister for Health, to tackle the long audiology waiting lists and establish a working group to develop a national strategy to manage the issue of unaddressed hearing loss and its long-term costs to the State.

There are approximately 20,000 adults and children on the HSE's audiology waiting lists, double what they were in 2014. Commenting on this figure, Mark Byrne, chief executive of Chime, said, "At present, the government does not have a strategy to deal with hearing loss, so we have a piecemeal system with a lot of duplication that is wasting precious resources. There are major gaps with people falling through them and being left behind completely.

"Measures to tackle the long waiting lists for audiology tests and the establishment of a departmental working group in the Department of Health is vital to developing a cohesive, efficient and caring strategy that addresses the hearing needs of the Irish adult population and in turn, reduces the financial health burden on the State in the coming years," Byrne continued.

The charity states that 8% of the adult population, 300,000 people, have a significant hearing loss and require hearing aids.

Research by TILDA shows that only one in five people with hearing loss have them. Chime's research in 2022 cites costs as one of the main reasons for this low uptake. Although medical card holders are entitled to basic hearing aids, many non-medical card holders cannot afford them, even with the current PRSI grant.

In 2021, the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated that for every euro invested in addressing hearing loss, governments could expect a return of almost €17 over the following ten years, through reduced demand for health services in areas such as mental health and cognitive decline, and increased independence and productivity for those getting timely support for their hearing loss.

Commenting on this finding, Brendan Lennon, head of advocacy at Chime, said, "The negative health consequences of hearing loss are considerable. For example, timely treatment could reduce the incidence of dementia by 8%, saving up to €100m per year alone, while approximately 50,000 older people are depressed or have depressive symptoms due to unaddressed hearing loss. Addressing hearing loss in a timely fashion can improve people's quality of life and significantly reduce health costs.

"We are calling on the Minister for Health to listen to the WHO, to accept that we need to greatly improve our current approach to managing hearing loss, and to take action now," Lennon continued.

Chime is the national charity for Deafness and Hearing Loss. For over 50 years, it has championed for equal rights, greater accessibility and opportunities to support individuals with tinnitus, deafness and hearing loss. Visit [www.chime.ie](http://www.chime.ie)





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

An open fire is approximately 30% efficient, whereas a modern stove can reach efficiencies of 80% or more. SKC supplies an extensive range of stoves, which are on display in our Wicklow showrooms.



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# German Day of Remembrance held at Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation

Early on Sunday morning, 6th November, at Glencree, nearly a hundred people turned out to join with the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ireland and the Lutheran Church in Ireland to mark German Remembrance Day - or Volkstrauertag as it is known in Germany - and remember those of all nations who have lost their lives in wars.

Glencree CEO Naoimh McNamee, Chair Ciaran O Cuinn and the German Ambassador to Ireland H.E. Mr Cord Meier-Klodt welcomed Heinz Kampes one of the 460+ children who were fostered by Irish families after World War II as part of Operation Shamrock, as well as veterans, members of the diplomatic corps, staff, friends and neighbours to the Glencree Centre to mark the occasion.

All gathered first in the Bridge Building for a Listening Circle Discussion on personal experiences with past and present conflicts.

Former Glencree Chair Barbara Walshe hosted the dialogue and engaged with people's thoughts, insights and experiences on the theme of 'The Possibilities of Peace in the Midst of Violence. What matters to us now?'

Participants including the German, Croatian and Georgian Ambassadors spoke from the heart, sharing their own experiences of conflicts and peacebuilding.

Following the circle discussion, the assembled made their way across to St Kevin's Church, a Gothic-style church built around 1860. The congregation took part in an Ecumenical prayer for peace with Interfaith elements led by Father Bernard Kennedy, Parish Priest of Enniskerry and Pastor Florian von Issendorff of the Lutheran



Wreaths were laid in remembrance of the 134 German military servicemen and civilians laid to rest in Glencree and of all those who have died in war across the world.

Church in Ireland. Michael O'Sullivan, Director of Columban Missions and former Chair of Dublin City Interfaith Forum (DCIF) read a message during the prayer for peace ceremony from the current Chair. They were joined by

members of the Lutheran, Catholic and Jewish communities.

"In view of the war in Ukraine and the many other wars and conflicts around the world, we do not want to give up, but to set a sign for peace and reconciliation with this

prayer," said Florian von Issendorff.

"Especially now we need the biblical message of hope and peace and the prayer that connects us with so many people who are suffering from war at this moment," the Lutheran pastor emphasised in his sermon.

The trilingual service in English, Irish and German included a recital by the Goethe Choir, and a reflection by the Dublin City Interfaith Forum.

Mr O Cuinn gave the closing address saying: "This is particularly poignant and important Volkstrauertag. Europe once again faces dark forces of war, annexation and narrow nationalism. In opposing these forces, we recall the first line of the first article of the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany: 'Human Dignity Shall be Inviolable'. As simple and powerful when adopted in 1949, in the aftermath of war, in those same months as German children sheltered in Glencree, as it is today. Those who make war, those who seek power in the name of narrow nationalism do so on the basis of a supposed hierarchy of humanity based on race or nation or tribe. For us there is but one tribe, humanity. Ar sc'th a cheile a mhaireann na daoine - We live in each other's shadows. There can be no hierarchy. All equally entitled to human dignity. Die Würde des Menschen ist unantastbar. Human dignity shall be inviolable. That is the Glencree approach. We must never accept less - in Ireland, in Ukraine, in Europe."

Following prayers by the children from St Patrick's National School, Curlestown, the children

then lit a lantern at the altar symbolising the light of hope for the world.

The children along with piper Joseph Meade and drummer Robert Matthews then led the procession with down the hill to the German Military Cemetery. As attendees filed in, the piper played a solemn lament standing at the foot of the Celtic Cross. Ambassador Meier-Klodt and representatives of veteran organisations laid wreaths in remembrance of the 134 German military servicemen and civilians laid to rest here and of all those who have died in war across the world.

The German Ambassador H.E. Mr Cord Meier-Klodt said at the wreath-laying: "As every year, we mourn the soldiers killed while serving with peace missions abroad and the victims of current wars and civil conflicts. Yet, this year, one new facet must be added to the many sufferings we pay tribute to on this occasion. One that we would not have thought possible even one year ago: War is back again in the middle of Europe! In such times, unity among partners and solidarity with our friends and allies must be our first priority, as we demonstrate it daily in our unwavering support for Ukraine. At the same time, and particularly on a day like this, it is important to remind ourselves that we must not look away from the many sufferings in other parts of the world."

The Ambassador then called for a minute's silence for reflection and remembrance. Guests then returned to Glencree's Armoury Cafe, where they enjoyed a

warm welcome and a hearty lunch, including mulled wine.

"I am so grateful and feel so lucky to have lived to this time. I look at what is happening to the Ukrainians today and feel that could have been me. I am heartbroken for them," said Heinz Kampes from Dundalk who was one of more than 460 German children, fostered by Irish families in Operation Shamrock organised by the Irish Red Cross in the aftermath of the Second World War. Accompanied by eleven members of his family and friends, Heinz added: "Ireland has done more than their share in helping Ukrainians com-

ing over here, and if they have half the luck I had, which I truly hope they will have, they will do very well."

The Glencree Centre, German Embassy and Lutheran Church in Ireland said they wish to thank everyone who took part in this year's commemoration, in particular the musicians Joseph Meade, Robert Matthews, Aoife Garry and Wolfgang Marx, the Goethe choir and children, parents and teachers of St Patrick National School, Curlestown, as well as Heinz Kampes of Operation Shamrock and all family, friends and neighbours who came along.



The congregation took part in an Ecumenical prayer for peace with Interfaith elements led by Father Bernard Kennedy, Parish Priest of Enniskerry and Pastor Florian von Issendorff of the Lutheran Church in Ireland.



German Ambassador to Ireland H.E. Mr Cord Meier-Klodt



# Film director John Boorman to be honoured at civic reception

Wicklow County Council will hold a civic reception this week for film director and Wicklow resident John Boorman, at which he will be honoured with a lifetime achievement award in recognition of his contribution to the Irish film industry.



John Boorman

The proposal was put forward by Cllr Shay Cullen at last week's council meeting.

Boorman, born in England, has lived in Annamoe since 1969 and will celebrate his 90th birthday in January. He will soon be moving back to the UK, however. The civic reception will take place this Wednesday, 16th November.

As well as being an acclaimed director, Councillors last week also recognised the contribution Boorman has made to the local community in Co. Wicklow, in his planting of thousands of trees in Annamoe and teaching local children to swim in a swimming pool he built.

Boorman has directed 22 films and was the 2004 recipient of the BAFTA Fellowship Award. He also won the Best Director Award at the Cannes Film Festival in 1998 for *The General*, his biopic of Martin Cahill.

His filmography includes classics such as *Deliverance* (1973), for which he received an Oscar nomination for Best Director and which was nominated for Best Picture. *Hope and Glory* (1988) also earned him an Oscar nomination for Best Director and was nominated for Best Picture.

He is also known for *Point Blank* (1967), *Excalibur* (1981), *Zardoz* (1974), *Exorcist II: The Heretic* (1977), *Hell in the Pacific* (1968), *The Emerald Forest* (1985), and *The Tailor of Panama* (2001).

His films *Excalibur*, *Zardoz*, and *The Tiger's Tail* were shot in Co. Wicklow. In January of this year Boorman received a Knighthood.



Aishling Flusk and Doireann Killoran at the AGB Fashion Show in Arklow

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Ciaran, Kevin, Jackie and Sean Olohan at the launch of Kevin's book 'Gardensea' in Wicklow Library

## New book Gardensea launched in Wicklow

Writer, performer and Wicklow Town native Kevin C. Olohan launched his book *Gardensea* at the Wicklow Library last week.



Conor Jameson, Courtney Cullen, Robin Kelly and Mark Dune at the launch of Kevin Olohan's book 'Gardensea'

*Gardensea* is a poetry collection fusing the history, folklore and religion of Ireland, through a lens of growing up in County Wicklow. Written between the east coast of Ireland and the west coast of California - *Gardensea* is a neo-myth of home.

Having grown up in the Garden of Ireland - Kevin has worked as an actor with Dublin Fringe Festival, the Abbey Theatre and the Gate. He has written for Theatre Upstairs, Smock Alley and the Abbey. He has also toured around Europe, Australia and the United States. He is also about to embark on a tour of New Zealand. This is Kevin's debut book.

Kevin also runs Fireside: The Irish Storytelling Podcast, which is about to celebrate its fourth anniversary and 200th episode.

*Gardensea* is available from Bridge Street Books, The Good Life in Wicklow town and available in paperback from HeadStuff.org, and in Kindle version from Amazon.

## Wicklow chef crowdfunding for film about the future of food

Tadhg Byrne, a chef from Wicklow, has set out to create a documentary on the future of food in Ireland. The film will take a deep dive into how Ireland has both coped in the past with food supply and how the country can seek to become more self sustainable into the future.



Byrne has said "It is important that this film be funded by the public and not corporate or state bodies, so that it can remain truly independent and objective. We hope to enter it into film festivals next year and it will be available to stream online from after the launch.

"There are plenty of documentaries and series out there about food on streaming platforms but they are mostly US-centric. It is hard to believe, but no one has ever made a film about such a pressing topic with an Irish focus."

Professor Bryce Evans, a Food Historian, who has taken part in the documentary has said "To quote George Orwell 'Food is the most important thing in the world', and so if we are looking towards the

future, an Irish future, then food must be front and centre".

Irish filmmaker Max Barry, who is set to direct the project, expressed the importance of the film: "When Tadhg came to me with the idea I was very excited to help develop the project. As supply issues, inflation, climate change and war in Europe continue to cause instability, how we will grow, process, market and eat our food in the future is something that needs to be highlighted."

Byrne and Barry have worked on a number of projects before this film including a Documentary on Modern Irish food for the 2022 St. Patrick's Festival that aired on SPFTV. Byrne has expressed his excitement to work with Barry's pro-

duction company Cling Films, "I have worked with Clingfilms before and am a big fan of their work, so I am excited to start filming this project early in 2023. I am very happy with the lineup of speakers we have so far and new people are putting their names forward to get involved every week."

The film is set to premier in Spring 2023 in Dublin. Byrne says, "The premier is sure to be a fun night, with guest speakers, plenty of food and drink and of course the film itself, so you will get value for your money on top of the feel good factor of donating to an important cause!"

To donate, find Tadhg's fundraising page by searching for 'Film About the Future of Food in Ireland' on GoFundMe.com.

## PUCA IN THE MACHINE

Shane Finan, Alannah Robins and Niamh Fahy  
Mermaid Arts Centre, 12th November 2022 - 7th January 2023

In the 1930s in west Wicklow, the rivers around Poulaphuca Valley were dammed and the valley flooded to facilitate a new hydroelectric power station. This station, still in operation today, represented a major engineering project in the young Irish Free State.

The human residents of the valley were evicted prior to the flooding and given compensation that the state calculated as more than reasonable. Yet displacement causes more than monetary suffering and any uprooting of lives can have long-term emotional and social consequences. Writing around the same time as the valley was being submerged, French philosopher Simone Weil recognised how uprooting people en masse can have dangerous and long-lasting repercussions, especially where a long-term rootedness had been established and where removal is forced.

Responding to this traumatic

event, *Puca in The Machine* is an exploratory collaboration between three artists, coordinated and organised by Shane Finan. The artists are Alannah Robins (mixed media, Interface Inagh, Galway, Ireland), Niamh Fahy (print and photography, University of the West of England, Bristol) and Finan (interactive digital media, Vallemount, Co Wicklow). The three have worked on new interpretations, creating artworks that respond to the unique and unusual history, mythology and ecology of the Poulaphuca Reservoir, first exhibited at Blessington Library in February 2022.

Using mixed media including electronics, lights, print kinetic sculpture and paper, the works evoke the unknown depths of this man-made lake and its borders, where remnants of its past emerge and disappear as it fills and drains.

Fahy's responses have explored the edges and borders of the lake, where the shore meets the water and what this boundary suggests. The boundary is, of course, manufactured, but real enough to create two spaces of existence. This is what Alannah Robins has created work in response to, seeing the submerged space as a past, present and future narra-

tive of nonhuman life. Finan's work straddles these ideas, drawing from myth and many walks on the lake shore observing the colours, forms and lives that exist in and around it.

Niamh Fahy is an artist and researcher from Galway, based in Bristol. Her research investigates how print artists can contribute to understanding hydro morphological changes within the landscape as a result of slow violence. She has been awarded the UWE HAS-ACE connecting research project grant for the project *Slow Violence and River Abuse: The Hidden Effect of Land Use on*



Water Quality.

Shane Finan is an artist and project manager from Sligo, based in Wicklow. He assembles things into artworks, including interactive contemporary tech-

nologies, found objects and traditional artistic media. His work is based in rural environments and examines the role of contemporary technology on nonhuman and human

behaviours.

Alannah Robins is an artist and residency director of Interface Inagh, Galway, with a dynamic artistic practice based in Ireland and Sweden. Her

practice includes object making and ephemeral artistic interventions.

Her work uses myth and features light and shadow in a responsive art practice.



# Wicklow photographers show love for the coast

*Wicklow shot in the top three for the Wildlife and Underwater Category in the Love Your Coast Photography Competition*

Clean Coasts were thrilled to announce the winners of the 13th edition of their Love Your Coast photography competition during an in-person award ceremony in the Smock Alley Theatre, in Dublin on Thursday the 3rd of November.



'Bray Air Show Crowds 2022' by Aoife Hester

After a two-year break, when the awards were held in a virtual ceremony, Clean Coasts and the photographers who were short-listed, were happy to be back celebrating the beauty of the Irish coast in person.

For the past 13 years, the Love Your Coast photography competition has been inviting photographers to capture the uniqueness of our coastal landscape, heritage, wildlife, communities and more, and to submit their best shot across five categories - Coastal Heritage, Coastal Landscape, People & the Coast, Wildlife & the Coast and Creativity and the Coast ñ for a

chance to win prizes from a €5,000 prize fund and plenty of exposure opportunities.

This year, we receive over 1,100 entries and the 50 best images were short-listed and displayed at our event at Smock Alley.

Darragh Gorman with his 'Splash', captured in Mullaghmore Co. Sligo has been awarded the title of Image of the Year, as well as first place in the Coastal Landscape category. Christopher Howes with the image titled 'Seals Have Fun Too' taken at Brides Head, Wicklow Town, received the second place prize in the Wildlife and the Underwater

Category. Christopher commented: "I have been photographing the Seals in Wicklow for a number of years now and I wanted to try to get something different for a change. I planned to go out during the mating season of the Seals to see if I could get a playful shot of them and they didn't disappoint me. It ended out to be a bit stormy, so it took some patience and time. But it was well worth the wait."

Moreover, 'Bray Air Show Crowds 2022' by Aoife Hester taken in Bray, and 'Wicklow Head Lighthouse at sunrise' by Philip Reilly taken at Dunbur Head, were short-

listed among the top ten images in the People and the Coast and Coastal Heritage categories, respectively.

Working with communities on the ground, Clean Coasts' mission is to help foster pride in our coastline, supporting Clean Coasts communities, groups, and volunteers to tackle issues affecting their local area. This competition provides an opportunity to view the coast and our waterways that the Clean Coasts programme works to protect from a completely different perspective and see the beauty captured therein.

Coastal Communities Manager Sinead McCoy said: "We were delighted to be able to celebrate in person again both the beauty of the Irish coast and the talent of the photographers who entered our competition, after a two-year break. Over the last 13 years, the competition has been very successful and very well received. For Clean Coasts, this is more than just a photography competition: we are an island nation, and our coast and marine environment are incredibly important to us. Clean Coasts has over 1,800 volunteer groups



Christopher Howes with the image titled 'Seals Have Fun Too' taken at Brides Head, Wicklow Town, received the second place prize in the Wildlife and the Underwater Category

who are doing amazing work when it comes to managing and protecting our marine environment, so these photographs are a way for everybody to appreciate and celebrate our coast and be inspired to get involved too."

**Chris Howes - Seals have fun too:** "Brides Head, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow. I have been photographing the Seals in Wicklow for a number of years now and I wanted to try to get something different for a change. I planned to go out during the mating season of the Seals to see if I could get a playful shot of them and they didn't disappoint me. It ended out to be a bit stormy so it took some patience and time. But it was well worth the wait."

**Philip Reilly - Wicklow Head Lighthouse at Sunrise:** "Alan, Tom and I from the Carlow Photographic Society arrived at the

lighthouse at 04:15 am on the 14th of June for sunrise at 5 am. It was just perfect with the right mix of cloud and sun. I love the variety of colour and tones in this image. We spent two hours there photographing the seascapes and just enjoy-

ing the sound of the sea birds."

**Aoife Hester - Bray Airshow Crowds 2022:** "I was watching the Air Show from a higher viewpoint (slightly up Bray Head) and the crowds on the beach were of far more photographic inter-

est to me than the planes in the Air Show. It's a rare sight to see so many people (especially post pandemic) and it reminds me of the Where's Wally books. Camera used is Canon 6D Mark II, lens used Canon 75-300mm f/4-5.6."



'Wicklow Head Lighthouse at sunrise' by Philip Reilly

# YARN Storytelling Festival returns to Bray

November is here and with it come the stories! Mermaid Arts Centre is delighted to bring YARN Storytelling Festival for the thirteen year, taking place now from Saturday 12th - Thursday 24th November to county Wicklow.

YARN is a community-based non-profit making festival that strives to bring our audiences some of the very best of Irish and international storytelling talent.

Mermaid Arts Centre said, "We are thrilled to be back holding live storytelling events again in schools with support from Poetry Ireland, Mens Sheds and nursing homes and partnering again with our supporters at Killruddery House & Gardens, The Martello and The Harbour Bar to avail of their unique and atmospheric storytelling venues. A huge thanks also to Municipal District Bray for the use of the Town Hall Chambers - a true gem in the heart of Bray."

"This year thanks to the very generous support of Wicklow Arts Office under the Art Festival Award Scheme we have



Colin Urwin presents *The little Gold Ring: A Legend of the Spanish Armada* on 19th November

been able to extend YARN into County Wicklow into both libraries and pubs: Partnering with Wicklow County Library Services YARN events will take place in Dunlavin,

Blessington, Baltinglass, Tinahely, Carnew and Ballywaltrim libraries and two special Mermaid Tales events will take place in The Glenmalure Lodge and Lynham's of Laragh.

"Monday 14th of November is focused on the visual storytelling medium of film. We have creative documentary investigating the idiosyncratic world of Irish writer Pat Ingoldsby with The Peculiar Sensation of Being Pat Ingoldsby. Our Monday night film will have short Fall of the Ibis King screened beforehand."

"Brian White's Bray Through the Lens invites you to discover Bray and district through old movie footage and still photography from 1929 to 1960. This will take place in Mermaid Arts Centre main auditorium at 8pm. Tickets are €5."

"Don't miss your chance on Wednesday 16th of November at 8pm to see one of Ireland's finest traditional master storytellers weave is magic. Eddie Lenihan takes to the stage at Mermaid, with tickets available online and through box office for 2 / 10."

"Nuala Hayes presents The Queen of Irish

Storytellers - Stories of Peig Sayers on Thursday 17th evening at 8pm at Mermaid Arts Centre. Translations by Eilish Ní Dhuibhne. In this special YARN performance, she will tell some of Peig's story - focusing on Peig's close and happy relationship with some of the collectors who visited the Great Blasket Island summer after summer to sit at her feet and listen to her stories. Tickets for this event are €12 / €10."

"Friday evening will be an evening of Choctaw Stories with Tim Tingle in Mermaid Arts Centre. Tickets are available for €12 / €10, with the show starting at 8pm. Tim Tingle is an Oklahoma Choctaw, a highly esteemed storyteller and award-winning author. In 1993 Tim retraced the Trail of Tears, the trail once walked by his great-grandfather in 1835. Tim began to record the stories of tribal elders as he retraced the steps to Choctaw homelands in Mississippi."

"Join us for family tales with Colin Urwin at Killruddery on Saturday morning from 12pm. This event is suitable for those aged 4+. We have a limited capacity for this free event, and spaces are first come first served for this event."

"Whale Tales is a children's concert presented by Ian Wilson, the Degani Piano Trio and Kim Sharkey. Tickets are €10 or €35 for a family ticket (2 adults & 2 children) for this 2pm show on Saturday 19th of November."

"Colin Urwin presents The little Gold Ring: A Legend of the Spanish Armada. This is a storytelling collage of music, song, verse and prose which will take you on a journey of wonder and tug at your heart... This event is for adults with tickets available for €12/€10."

"On Sunday 20th of November from 11am until 1:30pm Tim Tingle will facilitate - The First Step: A storytelling workshop. This workshop is hosted by our international guest,

Native American Choctaw teller, Tim Tingle who will host the workshop upstairs in Bray Town Hall, tickets are €25."

"The Speks are back at Mermaid Arts Centre for a lively show of nursery rhymes and sing - along songs set to acoustic Irish music."

"We will wrap up the festival with two story-

telling events in west Wicklow. Mermaid Tales with tellers Colin Urwin, Masako Carye, Niceol Blue, Máirín Mhic Lochlainn and Órla Mc Govern."

Full information can be found on Mermaid's website at [www.mermaidartscentre.ie](http://www.mermaidartscentre.ie) or by calling box office on 01-2724030.



Tim Tingle will facilitate - *The First Step: A storytelling workshop* on 20th November



# Carnew Musical Society present: Guys & Dolls

St. Brigid's Hall, Carnew Mon 21st - Sat 26th November, 8pm Sharp

Rehearsals are well under way for Carnew Musical Society's forthcoming production of *Guys and Dolls*. This will be the first full show since their 2019 production of *Oklahoma*, and members are enjoying being back preparing for another show.

*Guys and Dolls* is a fable of Broadway and based on the stories and characters of Damon Runyon with Musical and Lyrics by Frank Loesser with book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows. Popular songs from the show include Luck be your Lady, Follow the Fold, Take back

your Mink, Sit down your Rockin' the Boat and Guys and Dolls.

The Director for this production is, Michael Dunbar and our choreographer is Frances Ryan, Conor McCarthy is this year taking over from Lar Duffy as our Musical Director. The role of Sarah Browne,

will be played by Erin Hogan, who received a nomination as Best Actress for her portrayal of Laurey in our production of *Oklahoma* in 2019. Erin will play opposite Graham Finnerty who plays Sky Masterson. Graham played Will Parker in our last production. Nathan Detroit will be played by John Young, who won an AIMS award for his portrayal of Jud Fry in *Oklahoma*. We welcome both, Maria Forrest in her first show with the Society in the role of Nathan's long suffering girlfriend, Miss Adelaide and Paudie Breen in his first show as Nicely-Nicely Johnson. The young and versatile Richard O'Toole will play Benny Southstreet while General Cartwright and Arvide Abernathy will be played by the talented Jennifer Byrne and Jimmy Spellacy. Ronan P. Byrne (who played Ali Hakem in *Oklahoma*) will play Lt. Brannigan while Rory Robinson (who played Professor Higgins in Carnew Musical Society's production *My Fair Lady*) plays Big Jule and John Duignan plays Angie the Ox. The rolls of Agatha, Rusty and Joey Biltmore will be played by Joan Duignan, Gerry Doran and Fergus Garrett and no Carnew Musical Society Production would be complete without Sean Hallahan playing Calvin in this his 52nd Carnew MS production to play a role.

Vital to the production are the backstage crew who include Set Designers, Lar Duffy and Kevin



Dancers John Donohue, Aimee Walsh, Carol Byrne, Clodagh Leacy, Roisin Scallan, and Paul Kehoe who are taking part in Carnew Musical Society's upcoming production of *Guys & Dolls*

McEvoy and the Set Construction crew led by Lar Duffy and Stage Manager Tommy Kavanagh.

The costuming will be undertaken by Jacinta Kavanagh and her crew, hair by Marion O'Toole and crew, and the award-winning lighting expert is Kevin McEvoy.

Getting ready to welcome all patrons to St. Brigid's Hall for the show is the Society's President, Debbie Furlong, who is the Front of House Manager.

At the helm, organising all aspects of the show is a hardworking committee under the leadership of Chairman, Lorna Doran McEvoy.

Tickets prices range from €10 - €20 (+ booking fee) from

[www.gr8events.ie](http://www.gr8events.ie)

Should any business or private individual wish to become a Sponsor for the show or if you would like further information in this regard, please contact any of the committee or members of Carnew Musical Society or phone 087) 9323990 (This is not a booking Number) Sponsors will be entitled to priority booking.

Online booking is now open for the public on [www.gr8events.ie](http://www.gr8events.ie).

## Super Draw

Also to help with the cost of staging their annual show, Carnew Musical Society have a Super

Draw each year and this year's prizes are again fabulous:

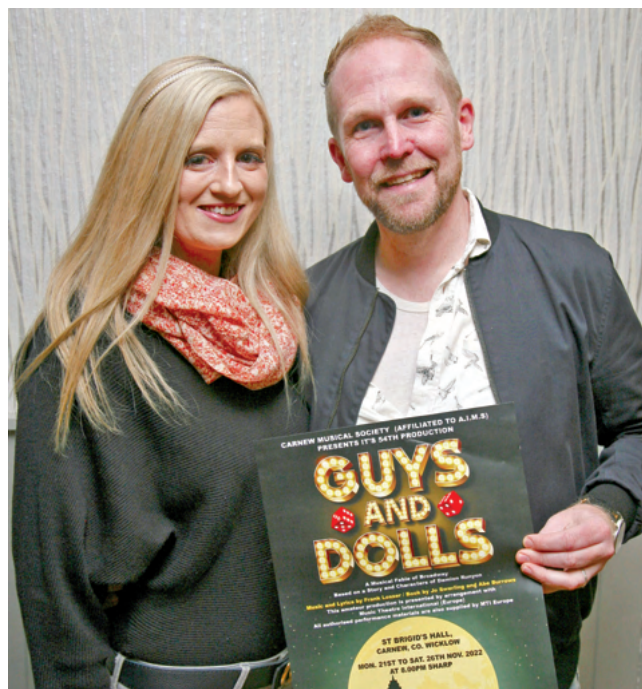
1st Prize: Designer Necklace (Value €220.00) Sponsored by McGuire Diamonds, Gorey

2nd Prize €200.00 Sponsored by Ian Pearson, Orbital Fabrications UK

3rd Prize: Super Christmas Hamper (Value €150.00) Sponsored by Quinn Property (Carnew and Gorey)

4th Prize: €100.00 Fuel Voucher Sponsored by Glen Fuel Services Ltd., Gorey.

The Draw will take place after the Final performance of *Guys & Dolls* on Saturday 26th November, 2022.



Erin Hogan (Sarah Browne) and Graham Finnerty (Sky Masterson) who are starring in Carnew Musical Society's upcoming production of *Guys & Dolls*

## Digiboy- an action packed adventure in the digital world!

Professor Marian Brennan's new book *Digiboy* was officially launched on 13th November and is available in local bookshops.

Trapped in a video game, Finn and his friends are challenged to their limits. Finn meets Digiboy who has been stuck in the game for 3 years. The kids have to use all their collective smarts to beat the hackers and get out of the game. *Digiboy* is the third book in the 'Adventures of Finn O'Shea' series. *Digiboy* was released this month written by local author, Marian Brennan. *Digiboy* is

packed full of adventure, and fun, suitable for 5-9 year olds.

The first book in the series 'The Inventions of Finn O'Shea' stars a little boy living in Greystones who is smart, witty and an inventor! It is full of robots, rockets and gadgets, and hopes to inspire budding young scientists. The first book quickly ascended to the Amazon best-seller list where it remains. *Astro Fiasco* continues the adventure to the space centre where Finn is accidentally jettisoned into space where he uncovers a plot to take over the space station. The stakes become high and his friends have to use their coding skills to help save Finn. *Digiboy* finds the children on another unexpected adventure where hackers have edited *Digiboy's* code and locked them into an eternal game.

*Digiboy* is an action-packed story that takes Finn and his friends on a journey full of challenges in a digital world where they have to work together as a team to beat the game.

Marian Brennan is a local writer and scientist living in Wicklow. The book launch event for *Digiboy* is being held in The Studio at the Dun Laoghaire



Lexicon on the 13th of November. The *Adventures of Finn O'Shea* books are available in local bookstores and currently in stock at Bridge Street Books in Wicklow and Halfway up the stairs in Greystones.

Eleven-year-old Aoife said of the book: "I loved the way it was a page-turner with something exciting happening on every page. I liked the way they coded and figured out problems, and the amazing plot twist at the end."

"This is the best book ever! I really like how the dog talks," said Oscar, age 10. "I like it because it's cool to read especially the bit with the volcano!" said Kieran, age 5.

## Cows in the Hood

Wicklow-based artist Kelly Hood grew up on Granny Mae's farm on the rugged Dingle peninsula, wandering through fields and playing with the animals. Now, her nature-dominated artworks, including comical cows, curious sheep, a cheeky little pig and doe-eyed donkeys, can be readily found on the streets of Dublin!

The Irish-owned retailer, Carrolls Irish Gifts, has agreed to stock gorgeous original prints and gifts created by Kelly.

Kelly Hood exclusively launched her latest art collection, created for Carrolls Irish Gifts, earlier this month. The limited-edition prints and printed gifts are expected to move quickly!

Her collections, called Born Wild and Born Mucky, feature photo-realistic farmyard and wild animals, from cows and sheep to foxes and hares, with a very natural and tactile appearance that perfectly captures Irish farm and country life. Framed and mounted limited-edition prints of the most popular works by the contemporary realist painter are priced from €55.00.

Printed Kelly Hood tote bags, also now available, are a funky, fashionable and sustainable choice for day trips and shopping expeditions. Handcrafted in Ireland, the gorgeous art bags feature animal artworks including 'Stay Foxy', a friendly young



fox with kind eyes; 'The Mystic Raven', an enigmatic creature, majestic in blue-black plumage; and 'The Good, the Bad & the Ugly', one of Hood's most popular countryside paintings of three of the cutest

brown cows, peering over a rustic stone wall.

Kelly uses natural pigments for a sustainable art practice, and a percentage of all Kelly's sales goes to animal welfare charities.

Her charming contem-

porary work is sold online too, at [www.kellyhood.com](http://www.kellyhood.com), and Kelly is represented in galleries countrywide. Commissions for original paintings are also accepted.



Prof Marian Brennan



# St. Patrick's Dramatic Society present: Enchanted April

**Enchanted April, Matthew Barber's romantic comedy from the novel by Elizabeth von Arnim, will be staged in the Pavillion Theatre in Dun Laoghaire by St Patrick's Dramatic Society in November - its first production at the theatre since autumn 2019.**

Feeling lost in the shadows of marriage and forgotten in the rush of 1920s post-war society, two London housewives pool their savings to rent a castle in Italy for a ladies-only holiday, reluctantly recruiting a pair of difficult upper-class women to share the cost and the experience. Together under the Mediterranean sun, the four women clash and then begin to bond and bloom, until men once again upset the balance!

Directed by Brenda Donoghue and well-known Director of Amateur Drama, Joan E. Gregg from Wicklow, the cast for this heart-warming play features Lynn Windle, Janet McKennedy, Jilly McDonough and Fiona Darling as the four women escaping a grey London, with Tom Delahunty and Gus Nichols as their husbands, Frank McGovern as the owner of the castle and Anne Döring as the Italian housekeeper.

Enchanted April will be staged nightly at 8pm at the Pavilion Theatre, Dún Laoghaire from **Wednesday 16th to Saturday 19th November** (inclusive). Tickets (€20) are available from Pavilion Theatre Box Office (tel. 01 231 2929) or [www.paviliontheatre.ie](http://www.paviliontheatre.ie) (free booking on line).



Joan Gregg, Fiona Darling and Brenda Donoghue in Enchanted April

# The Songs and Stories of Joni Mitchell

*Whale Theatre, Friday 18th November, 8pm (doors 7pm)*

Their stunning interpretations of her music are performed by vocalist Maura Vambeck, Dave Mulligan on guitar, Dave McCune on percussion and Paul Enright on keyboard.



The show features songs from all across Joni's huge repertoire, including classics from the landmark Blue album, along with numbers like Hejira, Secret Place, Hissing of Summer Lawns and many more from Joni's rock and jazz-influenced phases.

Shadows and Light's hypnotic performance of the lyrics and music of Joni is truly special, bringing you Joan Anderson, the poet, artist and mother.

If you like Joni, you will love this.

Sean Kelly, Director of the Out to Lunch Festival, Belfast, said: "An unquestionable highlight of this year's Out to Lunch was the performance of Joni Mitchell's material by Dublin based Shadows and Light. A sold out Black Box was held enthralled for over two hours by Joni Mitchell's wonderful songs and the audience rose to their feet at the end in appreciation."

Damien Murray of the Belfast Telegraph, said : "If you are a Joni Mitchell fan, you will love Shadows and Light, but if you don't know much about Mitchell, you will soon be a fan due to this band's passionate and informative take on her music combined with great musicianship and vocals to die for!"

Approx Duration: 2 hours (including interval)

Tickets €20 available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

## Voices of Bray Community Choir's 6th Annual Christmas Concert

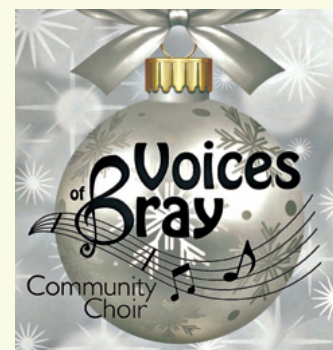
*Voices of Bray Community Choir's 6th Annual Christmas Concert*

After a 3-year hiatus brought about by the Covid pandemic, Voices of Bray Community Choir makes a welcome return to hold their 6th Annual Christmas Concert in St. Fergal's Church, Killarney Road, Bray on Sunday 4th December at 7.30pm.

The Choir is excited to be re-establishing this annual concert, which had become a very popular event in the local Christmas calendar. The programme for this year's event will feature seasonal music spanning from the 16th century to the present day, including many Christmas favourites, along with popular tunes from the world of stage and screen.

The proceeds of the concert will go to St. Clare's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul, a very worthy local charity.

Voices of Bray looks forward to performing to a live audience for the first



time since December 2019. The choir has played to full houses in the past and tickets are now on sale for this year's concert.

Tickets €10 are available from any choir member.

Proceeds in aid of St. Clare's Conference, St. Vincent de Paul.

## Wicklow natives Harry Bradshaw and Elizabeth Le Blond feature in new book on Irish lives in sport

**New book Irish Sporting Lives (Royal Irish Academy, 2022) brings to life sixty figures who, in their individual ways, illustrate the drama and diversity of Irish sporting history. The book features Wicklow natives, golfer Harry Bradshaw and climber Elizabeth Le Blond.**

This collection of biographical essays draws from the Dictionary of Irish Biography and spans 200 years, from the early nineteenth century. It is edited by Dictionary of Irish Biography researchers Terry Clavin and Turlough O'Riordan, with an introductory essay by Ireland's foremost sports historian, Professor Paul Rouse of UCD.

The biographies in Irish Sporting Lives encompass serial winners and glorious losers, heroes and villains, role models and rogues, enduring legends and forgotten or overlooked greats. Trailblazing women feature prominently, and their stories highlight the adversity they had to overcome in pursuing their sporting ambitions. As well as those physically engaged in sport,

the book also includes sporting founders, promoters, coaches, trainers and organisers. The main disciplines—Gaelic games, soccer, rugby, athletics, horse racing and boxing—are well represented, but so too are minority sports such as croquet, cricket, tennis and hockey.

Harry Bradshaw (1913–90), a golf prodigy, shot his first hole-in-one aged 10.

Bradshaw was born in Killincarrig, Co. Wicklow, and played at Delgany Golf Club from an early age, where he caddied. He later became Club Pro at Portmarnock Golf Club in Dublin.

Bradshaw won the Irish professional championship ten times, and almost won the British Open in 1947. His ball

landing on a broken glass bottle led to a major change to the games rules. He went on to win many prestigious championships and appeared in the Ryder Cup three times. Bradshaw was hugely popular in the golfing community before his death in 1990.

Elizabeth Le Blond (1860–1934) grew up in Greystones with a personal maid and a governess.

Having never laced her own boots before her twenties, she took up mountaineering after visiting the Alps to restore her health. Le Blond completed many first ascents over two decades climbing there and in Norway, and was one of the leading climbers of her generation.

She became a skilled photographer, filling her many climbing and travel books with her photographs. As the first president of the Ladies' Alpine Club she did much to promote mountaineering to women. She filmed tobogganing

and other mountain pursuits, making her one of the very first female film makers.

Six new biographies were specially commissioned for the book, including:

\* Brede Arkless (1939–2006), a mountaineer and rock climber of extraordinary longevity, she was the first woman to become an internationally recognised mountain guide.

\* Jack Charlton (1935–2020), this hugely popular Republic of Ireland soccer manager led his team to the world cups of 1990 and 1994, sparking mass outbreaks of national celebration.

\* Clara 'Ma' Copley (1865–1949), a doyenne of Belfast boxing who, aged seventy, became the first woman boxing promoter in either Ireland or Britain.

Irish Sporting Lives is published by the Royal Irish Academy and will be available to buy from [ria.ie/irish-sporting-lives](http://ria.ie/irish-sporting-lives) from mid-November.





# Caring for those in our homes and communities

Are you one of the 500,000+ family carers across the country caring for loved ones? If so, you will be interested to learn on how the recent budget impacted on you and those for whom you care. Development Manager, Martina Cronin, with Bray Citizens Information Centre (CIC) notes that there have been some positive changes to Carer's payments in the budget.

Martina highlights how care begins at home and acknowledges that some people, who need support because of their age, illness or disability, can live reasonably well in their homes and community but they need to be supported to do this. She states that Carer's Allowance is a weekly social welfare payment to people who are caring for a person who needs this support. It is a means tested payment and if you are getting another social welfare payment, you may still get half rate Carer's Allowance.

Martina advises those looking for assistance with eligibility for the Carers Allowance and help with the application form, to pop into their local CIC where staff are happy to assist. Development Manager, Martina Cronin, with Bray CIC says that the Citizens Information Service is here for anyone needing their help. She highlights how this

the €20 rise in Domestic Care Allowance, and a €500 once-off cost of living payment are to be paid in November. She also highlights the annual Carer's Support Grant, which is not taxable, and is currently €1,850 (payable each June).

Martina also wishes also to let readers know that there is a national charity who can also assist you with information on your rights and entitlements if you are a family carer, as well as support you in many other ways to ensure you maintain a healthy, sustainable caring routine.

Family Carers Ireland is the national charity supporting family carers across the country who care for loved ones such as children or adults. Head of Communications and Policy at Family Carers Ireland, Catherine Cox, says 'Caring for a loved one at home can be rewarding but also challenging. Our vision is an Ireland in which family carers are properly recognised, supported and empowered. We believe that no one should have to care alone and we are here to help them throughout their journey'

service is 'free and confidential' and that they are available for drop-ins, appointments or by telephone. 'I am pleased to say that we can speak to all of our clients without too much delay'. Martina concludes 'To find out our opening hours or if you would like us to address a specific query or to book an appointment with a member of our team please contact your local Citizens Information Centre in Bray on 0818 07 6780. We are available from Monday to Friday'.

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Rebecca Lowbridge, Lynne O'Connor, Sarah Mac Artain, Nicola Lawless, and Jenny Kerrigan celebrating Greystones Family Resource Centre's 20th anniversary

## Support services increase for bereaved parents during this traditional month of Remembrance

As we approach the festive season, bereavement charity, Anam Cara, are making additions to their support services offered to bereaved parents. Every Thursday throughout the month of November, they will hold a 30 minute webinar, free of charge. Each webinar will be facilitated by counsellor, educator and Chairwomen of the Irish Childhood Bereavement Network, Brid Carroll.

Commenting on the third series of webinars, Brid Carroll said "I am delighted - for the third year in a row - to facilitate this series of webinars to support bereaved parents on their journey through grief and offer hope in the darkness of their loss. Each week will hold a different title including 'When words are not enough: the reality of losing one's child' and 'Rebuilding Our Lives: Growing around our grief'. We hope to reach out to bereaved parents who are struggling at this time and support them."

The month of November is traditionally a time of remembrance so the extra supports will be most welcomed. Anam Cara will also hold their fourteen Face-to-Face meetings throughout the month across the country. On Monday 21st November, their Wicklow meeting will take place in The Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy at 7:15pm. All bereaved parents from the 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 2888 888, email info@anamcara.ie or see www.anamcara.ie

## World COPD Day

World COPD Day takes place this Wednesday, November 16th. COPD, or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, is perhaps more well known to people as emphysema or bronchitis.

Joan Johnston, General Manager of COPD Support Ireland, told Wicklow Times: "It is hard to believe but, of the 380,000 people estimated to have the disease in Ireland, more than two-thirds of these do not know that they have it. It's probably not surprising then that, according to the National Healthcare Quality Reporting System, between 2019 and 2021, COPD was a cause of 736 hospital admissions of people from Wicklow."

"At COPD Support Ireland, we are encouraging people to get to know the 'ABC' of COPD: A is for those Age 35 and over. B is for ongoing Breathlessness. And C is for a Cough that won't go away, with or without phlegm."

"To mark World COPD Day, COPD Support Ireland has launched a series of expert videos on various aspects of life with the condition. These videos, and details of your nearest COPD support group, can now be found at www.copd.ie."

### 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. P.C.

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## PLANNING

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

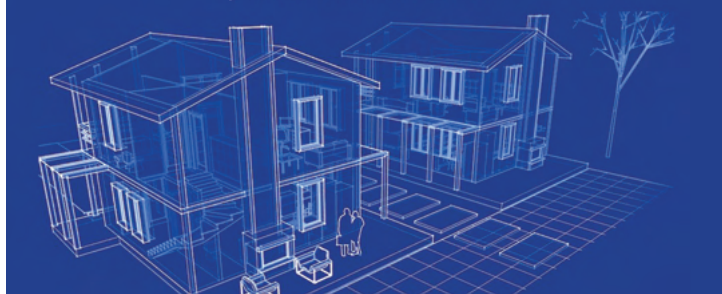
Daniel Hernandez seeks planning permission for: Single Storey Extension with pitched roof over, to Side and Rear of 148 Charlesland Wood, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

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# ISME launches new 'shop local' campaign

The Irish SME Association (ISME) has launched its 2022 Shop Local campaign calling on shoppers and businesses to Think, Spend & Support LOCAL. The campaign has been developed to promote products and services from SMEs across Ireland.

The focus of the campaign is for us all to Think Local before we buy, then Spend locally and Support with recommendations and referrals, not just for the Christmas shopping period, but throughout the year. By spending and supporting locally we can:

- Support our local community
- Reduce our carbon footprint and transport costs
- Access products that are sustainable and traceable
- Get quality and value for money

Neil McDonnell, Chief Executive at ISME, said: "Christmas 2022 will be the third successive year of challenged trading conditions for many Irish businesses. You can make the difference for many of those affected this year with your spending decisions. Save

time, money, and the environment by keeping at least a portion of your festive spending local this Christmas."

ISME has created two online portals - for consumers and one for businesses. Consumers can browse a variety of categories such as activities and entertainment, fashion, food and drink, retail, and Irish breaks which offers gift ideas for Christmas and showcases local businesses. For businesses, they can access a directory of B2B products and services such as corporate gifts, legal and financial services, IT and marketing, transport, training and more. To find out more about the campaign and to explore the businesses involved please visit <https://isme.ie/shop-local/>.

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Josh and Jennifer Barrington with Katelyn and Charlotte in the newly re-opened and refurbished Lidl store in Blacklion, Greystones

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