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Tuesday 22nd November 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

'NO LAUGHING MATTER'

Retired community garda and former Independent councillor Brendan Thornhill has been campaigning for several years for the local council and gardai to take a tougher stance against illegal bonfires at Halloween. "They cause environmental pollution, damage local green areas and are a danger property and people," he asserts. However when he visited the site of the bonfire at Oldcourt in Bray he uncovered an alarming new danger.

"In the embers and ashes I found burnt gas canisters that the fire chief was able to identify as Nitrous Oxide canisters. In total I found 10 of them. It's a miracle that none of these exploded. They could have sprayed shrapnel into the crowds.

"But what were they doing there I asked myself. I was disturbed

to be informed that they are now the newest drug for the very youngest of children."

Brendan (now an Aontu activist) explained "Nitrous oxide, more commonly known as 'laughing gas' is used recreationally as inhalation can induce euphoria, relaxation and a hallucinogenic state. Long-term or habitual use can

lead to severe neurological damage.

"Since nitrous oxide can cause dizziness, dissociation, and temporary loss of motor control, it is unsafe to inhale especially when standing up. Imagine how dangerous that was at a bonfire.

"Inhalation directly from a tank poses serious health risks, as it



Anna McAlister, Lauren O'Daly, Aine Brown and Eve Barry at the Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) Graduation Ceremony. Photo by Michael Kelly

can cause frostbite since the gas is very cold when released. For those reasons, most recreational users will discharge the gas into a balloon or whipped cream dispenser before inhaling.

"It is not known if nitrous oxide causes drug dependency but its use can be habit-forming. Death can result if it is inhaled in such a way that not enough oxygen is breathed in. While the pure gas is not acutely toxic, it

inactivates vitamin B12, with continued use causing neurological damage."

From 1993 to 2016, 30 death certificates in England and Wales mentioned nitrous oxide. Of those, 6 were in the 17-year period from 1993 through 2009, and 24 were in the 7-year period from 2010 through 2016.

In 2018, an Ohio University freshman died of asphyxiation as a result of nitrous oxide ingestion from

whipped-cream chargers, allegedly as part of a hazing ritual. In 2020,

a fifteen-year-old Irish boy died after ingesting nitrous oxide, leading to

the Health Service Executive classing it as a dangerous drug.

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Brendan Thornhill with nitrous oxide cannister

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In promoting a 'green Christmas', SSE Renewables, in partnership with the Arklow Christmas Festival Committee and Arklow Municipal District, is running a competition to design a Christmas decoration from recycled materials. The competition is divided into four age categories: 7 and under; 8-10; 11-12; and 13 years and over. Completed competition entries have now been dropped into the Arklow Library and the winning competition category prizes include 'One for All' vouchers. One lucky child, with the overall winning entry, will be selected to help Santa turn on the Christmas lights at the launch of the Christmas Festival on Saturday, 26th November in St Mary's Park, Main Street, Arklow.

Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables Community Engagement Manager for Arklow Bank Wind Park said: "We are delighted to come on board and get people thinking about a green Christmas through our festive decoration competition. Sustainability is close to our hearts, and we are excited to see the creative, colourful, and sustainable decorations that the local children come up with and to pick one lucky winner to be the guest of honour alongside the famous Mr Claus to turn on the Arklow Christmas Tree lights."

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.

The Old Dublin Society

Peadar Curran will present 'A Visit to Dalkey Island' at 6p.m. on Wednesday November 23rd to The Old Dublin Society in The Conference Room, Dublin City Library & Archive, 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All are welcome and admission is free. Immediately after this presentation the AGM of the Society will take place and all members are requested to attend.

Laragh Christmas Tree Lights Parade

The Laragh Christmas Tree Lights Committee say more funding is needed to cover the costs this year and they are appealing to the public to support their fundraising campaign. "We were delighted to have had such fantastic support at our table quiz but unfortunately that

will not cover all our costs this year," they said. "We had to install electrical points to ensure safety this year and we also have insurance and lights replacement and addition to pay for.

"The expected cost this year is approximately €6000. We would be very grateful if you can give any donation towards this cost by going to <https://www.facebook.com/laragh.christmaslights> where you will see a link to the GoFundMe page. Or go direct to GoFundMe for Laragh Christmas Lights 2022."

Local History Talk at Wicklow Library

Thousands of men from Co. Wicklow fought and died during World War One. In his talk in Wicklow Library on 24th November, 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 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.

Sustainable Gardening Course

A free sustainable gardening course, sponsored by Greystones Municipal District, will take place on Saturday 26th November 10am to 4pm, in Burnaby Park and Greystones Library. This one-day course will cover everything from chemical-free gardening, pollinator planting, vegetable growing, mini pond building, pruning and much more. The course will be run by Aoife Munn, horticulturalist and environmentalist. The course is suitable for adults who want to garden for biodiversity, especially those involved with Greystones Tidy Towns, green schools co ordinators and allotment holders. A full set of notes will be sent to all participants after the course. Tickets from Eventbrite.

Greystones Active Retirement

The next Greystones Active Retirement coffee morning will take place in Kilian House Family Centre Hall, from 10.30am on 25th November. Connect with old friends and make new ones. All welcome.

Wicklow's Family Carer of the Year

Family Carers Ireland, the national charity supporting Ireland's family carers, has announced that the 2022 Netwatch Wicklow Family Carer of the Year is Mark McEnroe from Wicklow Town.

Mark cares full time for his teenage son Leo (19) who has autism, an intellectual disability and is non-verbal. He has dedicated his life to becoming an expert on providing the best possible support to Leo, between taking on training courses to advocating for him at every turn and is passionate about taking a person-centred approach.

People around Wicklow may be familiar with Leo who loves getting out and about for walks, often a few times a day, accompanied by his dad. Mark continues to strive for Leo to have the best quality of life possible in his local community.

Now in their 15th year, the Netwatch Family Carer of the Year Awards seek to recognise and shine a light on the remarkable contribution of the more than half a million people in Ireland who provide care at home to loved ones such as children or adults with additional needs, physical or intellectual disabilities, frail older people, those with palliative care needs or those living with chronic illnesses, mental health challenges or addiction.

The 19 million hours of unpaid care provided each week by family carers would cost the State €20bn a year to replace.

Family Carers Ireland Community Support Manager for Wicklow and Kildare, Sarah Houlihan, said, "Caring for a loved one at home can be rewarding but it can also be challenging, particularly in the absence of vital supports and services including respite. This can take a toll on a person's physical, mental, financial and social wellbeing. Often, a person can find themselves taking on the role of a family carer with little or no warning. These are mums, dads, sons, daughters, siblings, relatives, friends and colleagues who sometimes don't even see themselves as family carers. They are doing extraordinary work that is too often unseen and undervalued."



Mark McEnroe, Netwatch Wicklow Family Carer of the Year

"These awards are an important event in our calendar every year as we seek to provide some small recognition to all of those who care at home for loved ones with additional needs and to

ensure their stories are heard.

"As a charity, we want family carers to know that they are not alone and that we are here to help them no matter where they find them-

selves on their caring journey. As a society, we must ensure that family carers are not only recognised for their immense contribution, but truly supported to care safely at home."

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'SSE move welcome...but...'

The recent news that SSE Airtricity will forgo all their profits this year to provide supports to their customers is welcome says Independent councillor Joe Behan. "But other companies need to follow suit or the government needs to act," he added.

"It is only happening because the cat is out of the bag. They have been found out. The big energy companies, particularly in the renewable sector, such as SSE Airtricity, have been making enormous profits from the current artificially EU high price fixing system. This system ensures that all energy wholesale prices are tied to the price of gas even though these companies may not be using gas at all.

"Gas prices rose dramatically

after the Russian invasion of Ukraine and so we are all paying more for our electricity no matter where it comes from or how it is produced. This is an utterly mad situation and the Irish Government seem to be unable or unwilling to fix it.

"If we had a functioning government, it would immediately step in to put a profits levy on all energy companies in Ireland including those we own ourselves such as the ESB. This would

result in a significant boost to the income of the country which could then be returned to the hard pressed citizens of Ireland to help deal with the cost of living crisis being felt by so many.

"However, as with so many other urgent challenges facing this country, our leaders seem to be unable to deal with the problem at its source and therefore we continue to stagger from crisis to crisis with no vision as to how to fix any of them. Change is needed."

Additional train service for Wicklow



Deputy Steven Matthews at Wicklow train station

Following extensive representations to the NTA Green Party Deputy Steven Matthews has announced an additional train service for Wicklow.

Deputy Matthews said, "I have been working for this for the last few years so I am delighted to announce the new service will be introduced as a priority in early 2023. It will be a down direction service departing Connolly Station at around 8pm to arrive at Kilcoole 21.04, Wicklow 21.16, Rathdrum 21.30 and Arklow at 21.45.

"These are approximate times and may shift slightly when the service comes on stream. This extra service will provide a little more flexibility for Wicklow rail commuters who are working late or dining out in the city and would like to use public transport to get home.

"While I'm delighted the NTA has responded positively to my main priority for transport in Wicklow is delivering the DART to Wicklow Town on which I am making consistent progress."



Brianna Murray Colley and Fiona Keane at the Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) graduation ceremony.

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Over 500 children complete fundraising walk for Alice

A Co. Wicklow mum's desperate bid to secure life-saving cancer treatment in the US for her young daughter has been given a massive boost - thanks to the child's golden-hearted older sister and hundreds of her school pals.

Alice Hayes, nine, is fighting stage 4 neuroblastoma, a high-risk and aggressive cancer of the nerve cells that comes with high relapse rates and low survival rates. The youngster's par-

By Nick Bramhill

ents, Norah and Dylan, have faced a daunting race against time to raise €550,000 before Christmas to guarantee her life-saving medical treatment at the world-

renowned Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (stet) in New York.

Mum Norah said both her and 47-year-old husband Dylan's lives have been turned upside-down

since Alice's diagnosis back in April this year.

But they are optimistic their courageous daughter can beat the odds and make a full recovery, if she is enrolled on the New York clinical trial - a non-HSE-funded treatment plan which requires full payment before Christmas to secure enrolment in the next available group.

And now, following a huge community fundraising effort in the garden county over the weekend by 500 secondary school students, including Alice's older sister, Laragh, the daunting fundraising target is finally in sight.

More than €62,000 was raised as 13-year-old Laragh led hundreds of school pals from Loreto Abbey Dalkey on a 19km sponsored walk from Wicklow town to Greystones on Saturday, 12th November.

Norah, 47, who's originally from Greystones, said that she was "blown away" by the collective effort, which has helped her raise over €450,000 in just six weeks. And with less than €100,000 needed to reach the target, the mother-of-two said she now "feels certain" she will achieve her goal of securing a place for Alice on the three-year treatment programme in a matter of weeks.

Speaking from Barcelona - where Alice is currently receiving specialist treatment following six months of gruelling chemotherapy at Our Lady's Children's Hospital in Dublin - Norah said: "I can't put into words how grateful we are to everybody. There are fundraising efforts going on everywhere. People have just taken Alice to their hearts, and it's given us a huge lift."

"Things have been extremely tough since Alice was diagnosed, but she has been brilliant throughout all this. She's the most wonderful child, and we will do everything we can to get her on this trial, as any parent would."

"It's been very hard for my older daughter, Laragh. She's the kindest person you could ever meet, and all she wants is to see her sister get better. Thanks to her efforts and all the other



Hundreds of girls from Loreto Abbey Dalkey took part in a sponsored walk from Wicklow town to Greystones on Saturday to raise money for cancer treatment in the US for nine-year-old Alice Hayes



Alice Hayes, aged 9, was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma in April



Ryan Tubridy visited Alice's school (Carysfort NS, Blackrock) last month for a fundraiser. Alice is also pictured here with her parents Norah and Dylan, and older sibling Laragh

girls at Loreto and everyone else who was involved, we are now very close to being able to secure a place for Alice on the clinical trial."

Norah also said she hopes to reunite her two daughters at their Blackrock, Co. Dublin home later next month for a much longed-for family Christmas.

She added: "The doctors here in Barcelona are liaising very closely with the ones in New York, and she will be evaluated before she's put on the clinical trial. But the first step is to have the funds in place, and thanks to all the overwhelming support we're receiving, I know we're going to get Alice there."

To donate to Alice's fund, go to www.gofundme.com/help-alice-beat-cancer-fund.

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O'Hanlon Herbs marks 30 years in business with Bord Bia Green Gold Status

This year marks a special event for O'Hanlon Herbs as it celebrates 30 years of operations based in Glenealy, Co. Wicklow since 1992.

What started as a small market garden has developed into one of the area's largest food employers and producers, operating from a sophisticated glasshouse and packing facility

The company is proud to supply the Irish Retail market nationwide with a range of sustainably produced fresh living herbs that include popular varieties such as Basil, Coriander and Parsley.

A very significant achievement in 2022 was the awarding of the Bord Bia Origin Green Gold status, in recognition of the business achieving significant targets in sustainability and recognising efforts to reduce single use plastics, lowering energy consumption as well as its contribution to the community.

Tom O'Hanlon commented, "The fan-

tastic story of O'Hanlon Herbs in Glenealy would simply not have happened without the contribution of numerous key stakeholders. I would like to acknowledge and thank each and every one for their integral role in creating an environment that values the team and everyone's individual contribution to our success. I would like to congratulate and thank the people who work here who have always demonstrated the passion, dedication and hard work necessary to grow and package quality fresh herbs for Irish consumers. I am proud of how we have grown together over the past 30 years, from humble beginnings in Glenealy to a state of the art farm and facility and I look forward with excitement to the possibilities of the next 30 years".



Sustainability Programme
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O'Hanlon Herbs is one of the area's largest food employers and producers.



Tom O'Hanlon, founder of O'Hanlon Herbs

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Elaine Porter-Quinn at the Wicklow Family Club Christmas evening and workshop event in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town

New bus route announced

A new east-west Local Link bus service for rural and urban Wicklow will commence shortly, it's been announced.

The route 183 will run from Naas to Arklow and serve the communities of Blessington, Glendalough, Laragh, Roundwood to Ashford, Rathnew and Wicklow Town and on to Glenealy, Rathdrum, Avoca and to Arklow Town and train station.

The new 183 route, extends the current route, adds greater frequency to the 133L, will be one of the longest local link routes and should be operational within the next few weeks. It is the second east-west route for Wicklow, the 800 route introduced two years ago, operates east west in south Wicklow from Arklow railway to Carlow Railway serving Aughrim, Tinahely & Shillelagh. Previously there had been little or no east-west public transport connectivity for Wicklow residents.

Making the announcement, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said "It will certainly be one of the most scenic and longest local link routes and will also supplement and improve frequency on the Wicklow to Arklow 133L service.

"I attended the launch of Connecting Ireland in

Laragh last year with my Green Party colleague, Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan where we promised to deliver better public transport for Wicklow. The Local Link services are improving all the time and providing better frequency and provision of services and options that never existed before. One of the biggest challenges we have in addressing Climate breakdown is reducing emissions from transport. We can only attract car users to public transport if it is frequent, affordable, flexible, and reliable and the provision of better public transport is one of my primary objectives for Wicklow. Recently we have seen the announcement of the new 131 service commencing shortly from Wicklow to Bray town centre and railway station and improvements to running time of the existing 133 to Dublin.

"I am also making good progress on provision of a Local Link service from Roundwood to Bray railway station. I have engaged widely with residents in Laragh and Roundwood and



Green Party TD Steven Matthews

there is a huge demand for a regular public bus to Bray centre. I have discussed this proposal with the Local Link office, the National Transport Authority and the Department of Transport and I have made a good sensible case socially, environmentally, and economically for the delivery of a

service to the Roundwood area.

"In relation to the railway, I am making very good and consistent progress on my plan to bring an electrified rail service to Wicklow Town, also serving Kilcoole and Newcastle and with an integrated cycling network to connect Ashford and

Rathnew to the train station in Wicklow. I also look forward to delivering an extra rail service to Arklow and extra stops at Kilcoole very shortly. Delivering public transport is one of my priorities and will continue to do so with the Green Party in Government," concluded Deputy Matthews.

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Final draft of Glendalough Masterplan goes out to public consultation

The Glendalough Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan will be presented to the public shortly. A consultation website on the masterplan has gone live, and the draft is available for inspection in local libraries and council offices.

A public consultation meeting takes place on Tuesday, November 29th at the Brockagh Resource Centre. Online consultations will run from December 5th to December 9th and the consultation closes on January 18th, 2023.

The process began in 2020 with surveys and consultations, and a first draft was done in March of 2021. The strategy aims to develop 'sustainable tourism' and address the traffic congestion problems in the area.

In a presentation at this month's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Dawson Stelfox from Consarc Design Group said "This summer there was a pilot scheme that the council ran in terms of a shuttle bus to encourage people to get out of their car in Laragh and travel by shuttle bus to Glendalough, that was very successful, it worked well. It avoided the congestion problems we've had in other summers. It points the way forward to trying to encourage people to get out of their cars and spend more time in

the area.

"We've identified potential areas for car parks in and around Laragh. It is part of a strategy to encourage the main visitor arrival point to be in Laragh and people to move either by shuttle bus, bike or walking, up into the Glendalough valley itself at peak times. At off-peak times - this was something that came out of the feedback we got from local people - they wanted to be able to park as normal in the upper lake car park and the middle level car park when there is not a congestion issue.

"There was a lot of feedback at the consultation stage about accessibility to places like the upper car park during the off-peak times. Our initial plan that we put forward was to close the upper lake car park completely. We've gone from that. We are saying we will close it at peak times, except for the shuttle buses and potentially also people who hold blue badges and with accessible transport. At off-peak times, those car



The Round Tower, Glendalough

parks would remain open for people to be used so there is not a congestion problem at peak times. We've taken that from the consultation.

"Another aspect that came out of the local consultation was access to the graveyard and particularly the modern area of the graveyard for local people to gather. We've been talking to the OPW and the National Parks and Wildlife Service about that and we think we have identified an area that could be used for that."

United call for full-time fire service

Bray's eight councillors have come together to release a statement of support for the town's retained fire service, adding that they believe the time is overdue for a transition into a full-time fire service. They say this is a vital step that will ensure the safety of both the people of Bray and the firefighters themselves.

In a joint statement Cllrs Joe Behan, Melanie Corrigan, Erika Doyle, Anne Ferris, Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Grace McManus, Dermot O'Brien and Rory O'Connor said that they have met with Bray's firefighters in recent months and heard of the issues faced by the crew on a daily basis.

The councillors are working together now in a non-partisan way to support their aims.

"We believe that the population and layout of Bray, recent and planned development in the town, along with the limitations of a retained fire service, warrants the introduction of a full-time service in the town. We have already experienced tragic deaths from fires in the town, and as development increases, particularly of high-rise apartment blocks, we are fearful that this already too high figure may be added to.

Many of the developments planned for Bray are high density several storey apartments. The plans for the Fassaroe area and Golf Club

lands alone will see thousands of new homes built in the town.

"We believe that the most recent report into the provision of a full-time fire service used data that was not current. Even using those figures, we heard that Bray station can mobilise a crew in around six minutes whereas a full-time crew can mobilise in under two. We understand that this figure allows for a full complement of retained firefighters however we have heard that the crew in Bray is currently well below capacity. It is thought that conditions are such that there is a difficulty in retaining crew, particularly relating to time off. As older more experienced members age out of the service and others resign to pursue more secure roles (e.g. in Dublin Fire Service or the Airport Fire Service) we are left with a younger crew who find it incredibly difficult to balance the commitment of being on call around their lives. The cost of living adds an additional difficulty to the con-

ditions as firefighters must live in the vicinity of the station and be

available constantly.

"We also heard from the report that the crew in Greystones is available to cover shortfalls in Bray, should they occur. We have concerns about this from a traffic perspective. We also

wonder what would happen should Bray and Greystones face an emergency at the same time.

"We know that Greystones has faced a rapid rate of growth in recent years and the

population is increasing.

"Having met with the firefighters we can see the passion they have for their job. We see that their primary concern is for the people they serve. They are on the ground every day deal-

ing with the difficulties of being a retained service, and one that is currently operating on a skeleton staff. We believe them when they say they want our help. We recognise the risk of unsustainable levels of

occupational stress that may arise if the current situation does not change. As representatives of Bray we are supporting the ask of both the firefighters and the people of Bray for a full-time fire service."



Pictured at BIFE's graduation ceremony last week were Sarah King, Ross Lee, Deirdre Keyes (CEO, Kildare & Wicklow Education & Training Board), Minister for Higher Education Simon Harris, Deputy Principal Louise Fortune, Principal Ray Tedders, Tracy O'Brien, and Head of Education Gabriel Allen. Pic: Michael Kelly

Gerry Mitchell & Son Butchers Kilcoole



'We would like to welcome multi-award winning butcher John Synnott of John Synnott butcher Rathdrum and Newtownmountkennedy who has joined the team at Gerry Mitchell and Son Butcher's Kilcoole Co.Wicklow.'

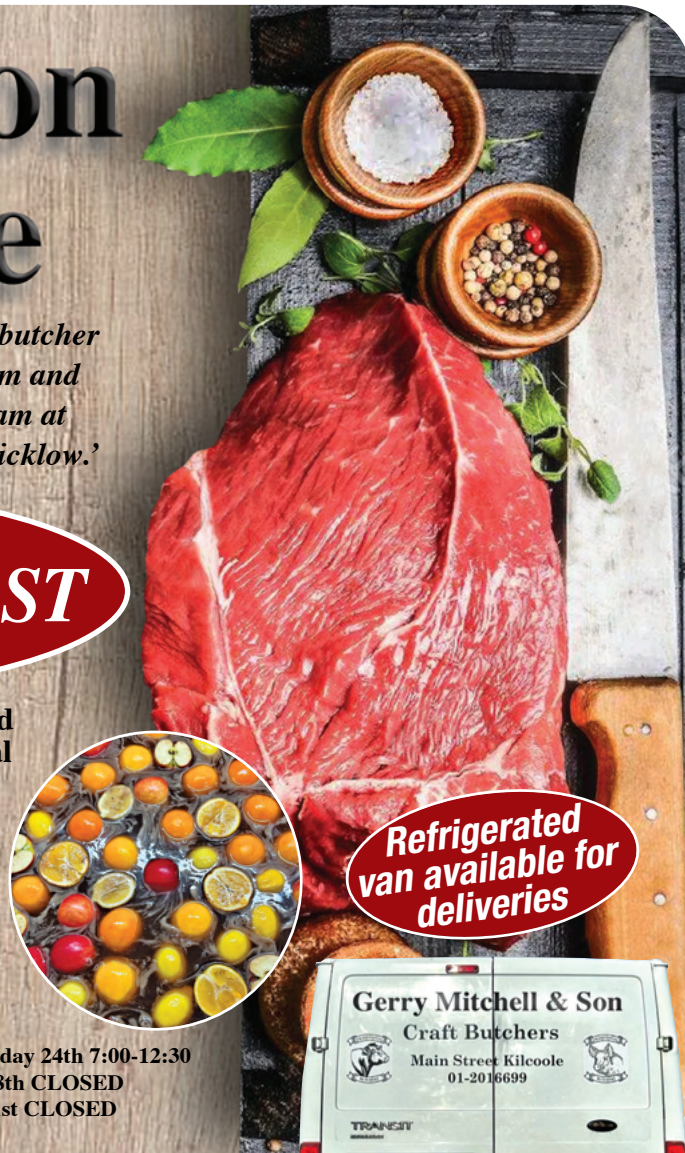
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CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS: Thursday 22nd 7:00-19:00, Friday 23rd 7:00-19:00, Saturday 24th 7:00-12:30
Sunday 24th CLOSED, Monday 26th CLOSED, Tuesday 27th CLOSED, Wednesday 28th CLOSED
Thursday 29th 7:00-17:30, Friday 30th 7:00-17:30, Saturday 31st 7:00-16:00, Sunday 1st CLOSED
Monday 2nd CLOSED, Tuesday 3rd usual opening hours resumed.



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Grants for vacant properties expanded to County Wicklow's rural and urban areas

Grants of up to €50,000 for homeowners of vacant and derelict properties have been extended to both rural areas and cities and will be available under the Croi Conaithé Towns scheme.

Minister Simon Harris has confirmed the scheme, first launched in July to towns and villages, has been expanded so that all areas of the country, including County Wicklow, are within the scope of the scheme.

Minister Simon Harris said: "This expansion is very welcome news for those in County Wicklow, and one which was called for by my Fine Gael colleagues. Grants for property owners are available to apply for from Wicklow County Council with €30,000 being the maximum offered for properties which have been vacant for over two years, and €50,000 for derelict properties which may be structurally unsound.

"My colleague, Minister Peter Burke, has launched the expanded Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, so that even more vacant and derelict properties in County Wicklow, can be brought back into residential use. Furthermore, our existing housing stock can be best utilised to provide more homes for people in County Wicklow.

"The grants can also be combined with the SEAI Better Energy



Minister Simon Harris

Home Scheme that covers works of up to €26,750. They are available to individuals and families who will use the property as their primary dwelling and is another measure being employed to support home ownership and provide more homes for our citizens.

"Fine Gael want to use our experience and energy to help people through this difficult time and are taking further action on housing to ensure that people in their

twenties and thirties have the chance to own their own home," said Minister Simon Harris.

Commenting on the launch, Fine Gael Minister Peter Burke said that the scheme was a much-needed practical measure. Minister Burke said: "The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant will work alongside other key Fine Gael policies such as Town Centre First and Our Rural Future, helping revitalise our communities while providing more people with the opportunity to own their own home.

"My officials are working with our Local Authorities to ensure they are equipped to administer the scheme, with 29 full time vacant homes officers now installed in the sector who are focused on bringing our vacant stock back into productive use. The scheme also promotes sustainability as we know the most efficient home is the one that is already built, limiting emissions from construction, while improving the look of our rural countryside, villages, towns and now cities," concluded Minister Burke.

Draft zoned land map of Wicklow for Residential Zoned Land Tax is published

The Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohoe TD, and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, have announced the publication of a Draft Residential Zoned Land Tax Map of Wicklow, by Wicklow County Council, as part of the implementation of the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT).

The RZLT measure is an important component of the pathway to increasing new housing supply, contained in the Government's Housing for All plan to 2030.

The aim of the tax, which will apply from 2024 to relevant land at a rate of 3% of market value, is to activate land for residential development throughout the country, rather than to raise revenue.

Speaking following the Draft Residential Zoned Land Tax Maps' publication, Minister Donohoe said: "I welcome the publication of the Draft Residential Zoned Land Tax Map by Wicklow County Council. This is an important step in the RZLT implementation process whereby land within scope of the tax

has been identified by Wicklow County Council. Landowners whose land is included on a draft map should now review the map and consider if their land meets the criteria for inclusion and make submissions to Wicklow County Council accordingly. Residential properties, while they might be on the map, are not liable for the tax if they are subject to LPT.

"In the course of 2023, supplemental and a final map will be prepared by Wicklow County Council identifying the land within scope; the final map will be revised annually from 2025 onwards.

"Wicklow requires increased housing supply to meet its housing needs. The RZLT aims to incentivise landowners to activate existing zoned and

served residential development land for housing on identified lands and lead to the building of more homes."

Commenting on the publication of the Draft Residential Zoned Land Tax maps, Minister O'Brien said: "It's estimated that only one-sixth of residentially zoned land is activated for housing during a local authority's six-year Development Plan period. We need to see more suitable land which is serviced and available for housing unlocked for the delivery of homes. Landowners now have an opportunity to make submissions to Wicklow County Council if they consider that their land does not fall into the scope of the tax, or if landowners wish to seek the re-zoning of their land. The publication of

these Draft Maps indicating the land that will be subject to the tax in 2024 is an important step in the process of introducing this measure, a key action in Housing for All." Homeowners will not have to pay the Residential Zoned Land Tax if they own a dwelling which appears on the local authorities' Residential Zoned Land Tax Maps, where the property is subject to the Local Property Tax (LPT). If a homeowner owns such a dwelling, where the land/gardens/yards attached to it are greater than 0.4047 hectares (1 acre), they will have to register for the Residential Zoned Land Tax with the Revenue Commissioners, but they will not be liable to pay the tax. It will be possible to register from late 2023 onwards.



Rhian, Frank and Assumpta Maguire at the Cheviot Sheep Owners Dinner Dance in the Glendalough Hotel



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 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 or by email to 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.

'Government continues to dither while Miley is left on waiting list'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has again called on the Minister Stephen Donnelly to intervene in the case of a Greystones child in desperate need of scoliosis surgery.

Deputy Whitmore, who is the Party's spokesperson on Children, has now raised the plight of 12-year-old Miley McKee in the Dáil on two occasions this month.

"Minister Donnelly

and the HSE need to act now to end this young girl's needless suffering as she has been waiting for an operation for two years.

"Miley, who was diagnosed with scoliosis eight years ago, had her procedure postponed because no tracheostomy nurse was available. This was despite a year of medical preparation, including x-rays and blood work, and a consultant being in place for her surgery.

"Her spine has over 100-degree curvature, which according to experts is rarely seen in the developed world. It is simply scandalous that the only thing standing in the way of her surgery is the lack of a post-op tracheostomy nurse.

"The Minister has received the same letters as I have from Miley's parents, who have revealed she is in con-

stant pain and is profoundly disabled. They have described her treatment by the State as child abuse and it is hard to disagree with them.

"To have Miley linger on a waiting list for any longer would be unforgivable and a stain on our health service.

"Children like Miley deserve access to timely scoliosis treatment. The resources invested in getting her to this point will go to waste if a tracheostomy nurse cannot be provided. This shocking case proves that major efforts are needed to deal with the crisis in scoliosis care.

"It is also regrettable the Minister for Health left the chamber just moments before I raised Miley's case in the Dáil.

"It simply inhumane for a child to be left to suffer like this. What exactly does her family have to do to get the Government to act?"



Jennifer Whitmore TD

Local Authorities need to target enforcement actions more effectively, says EPA

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published its report on the environmental performance of local authorities in 2021. The report shows that the scale of environmental enforcement work carried out by local authorities is significant.

In 2021, over 500 local authority staff handled almost 81,000 complaints and carried out over 205,000 environmental inspections. Local authorities play a vital role in the protection of our environment and are responsible for enforcing much of our environmental protection legislation.

The EPA's Local Authority Performance Framework is crucial to ensuring a consistent national approach to the enforcement of environmental standards.

This is the first year of the revised Local Authority Performance Framework, which assesses the effectiveness of inspection activities in targeting key environmental issues. The assessment is based on 20 priorities, and measures how local authority actions deliver environmental outcomes - such as better segregation of household and commercial waste, cleaner air through controls on solid fuel sales and minimising risks to water quality from farming activities. Most importantly, there is an emphasis on assessing the follow-up and closure of issues detected so that real environmental improvements are achieved.

Commenting on the findings of the report, Dr Tom Ryan, Director of the EPA's Office of Environmental Enforcement said: "Local authorities have a fundamental role to play in protecting the environment within their counties, and their performance in that role needs to improve. The EPA's report shows that less than half of the 620 performance assessments undertaken across 20 national environmental enforcement priorities achieved the required standard in 2021.

"The local environmental challenges are great. The water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters is in decline and there are concerning localised issues that are impacting negatively on the air we breathe. The segregation of waste streams, which is so critical to

supporting materials reuse in the development of a circular economy, is not as good as it needs to be."

He added: "Local authorities need to have a more strategic approach to addressing these issues within their counties so as to protect people's right to the enjoyment of a healthy environment. While local authorities are engaged in a great deal of enforcement activity, they need to have a better focus on priority environmental issues and increase or escalate enforcement action where required."

Our water quality is in decline with just over half of surface waters (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) in satisfactory condition. Agriculture is one of the sectors that is impacting on our water quality. The science has identified areas where agricultural measures are required to prevent nutrients including nitrogen and phosphorus from leaking into our waterways. Local authorities must target farm inspections in these areas. The proper use of fertilisers and the correct management of slurry will benefit both the farmer and the environment.

David Pollard, Programme Manager of the EPA's Office of Environmental Enforcement said: "Local authorities continue to carry out extensive water quality monitoring, however, there is scope to make better use of this monitoring to target enforcement action aimed at improving water quality."

Air and noise enforcement continues to have the lowest level of dedicated resources within local authorities. Better targeting and coordination of resources in this area is necessary to protect public health. It is crucial that local authorities tackle air pollution issues by making sure that only approved solid fuels are sold.

The scale of waste and litter enforcement carried out by local authorities is significant. However, the range of the waste priorities to be addressed is broad and few local authorities managed to cover the full scope in 2021. In particular, there is a need for increased enforcement efforts to improve segregation of domestic, commercial, construction and demolition waste in order to improve reuse and recycling of materials.



Louise Meade with Anna and Pat Mcalister at the Bray Institute of Further Education graduation ceremony

Council opens online book of condolence for Vicky Phelan

CLlr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, has opened an online Book of Condolence, to give members of the community an opportunity to express their sympathies to the family of Vicky Phelan who sadly passed away on Monday 14th November 2022.

CLlr Annesley stated: "As Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council I wish to express my heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Vicky Phelan. There are no words for the sadness we are all feeling at this time. Vicky made an enormous contribution to Irish Society in her campaign on cervical cancer screening. On behalf of the people of County Wicklow I extend our deepest condolences and sympathies."

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, added: "On behalf of Wicklow County Council I wish to extend our sincere sympathies to the family of Vicky Phelan and to acknowledge her courage and bravery in her fight against cervical cancer. The thoughts and prayers of the community of County Wicklow are with her husband, children and all her family at this sad time."

The closing date of the online Book of Condolences is the 2nd December 2022.

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF ADULTS IN IRELAND

Are you aged 45-64 years?

TILDA Health & Life is inviting new study participants

TILDA Health & Life is an internationally recognised study that aims to understand and improve life and health in Ireland. The study is currently bringing in new participants, between the ages of 45-64 years, who want to play a role in shaping a brighter future for adults in Ireland.

We are working with trained interviewers from Behaviour and Attitudes (B&A) and are knocking on doors of pre-selected homes all over the country.

If you have been selected and have received an invitation letter and wish to learn more about what is involved, please don't hesitate to get in touch:

● Email: tilda@tcd.ie ● Phone: 01 8962509 ● Visit www.tilda.ie to find out more.



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The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing

Sir John Boorman honoured by Council

World famous film director and long-time Wicklow resident, Sir John Boorman, was honoured by Wicklow County Council last Wednesday with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr Boorman, who directed such films as *Deliverance* and *The General* has made Wicklow his home for a long number of years. He now plans to return to his native England to be closer to family.

At a ceremony in County Buildings, Wicklow, the Council conferred a civic award for a lifetime contribution to the screen industry and through this and his lifelong commitment to the natural world bringing enrichment and honour to County Wicklow.

Speaking on behalf of Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cllr Paul O'Brien outlined Mr Boorman's long and distinguished career in the film industry, directing such movies as *Point Blank*, *Hell in the Pacific*, *Zardoz*, *Excalibur*, *The General*, *Deliverance* and *The Tailor of Panama*.

He was awarded the BAFTA Fellowship for Lifetime Achievement in 2004 and has won five Academy Award nominations, twice for Best Director. He has also written numerous books. He was the recipient of the IFTA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.

Mr Boorman, he said, not only chose to make

his home in County Wicklow he was also a staunch supporter of the fledgling Ardmore Studios from its early years and went on to become Chair of Ardmore Studios, or the National Film Studios as they were known in 1975 while in 1981 he went on to make *Excalibur* at Ardmore.

Cllr O'Brien added: "Today we have a very vibrant and strong film industry in the county thanks in no small part to John's vision and commitment."

He also praised Mr Boorman's strong connections with his local community: as a neighbour, an employer, a customer and "as one who will take the time to pass the time of day". And also as someone has been responsible for the planting of tens of thousands of trees in his beloved Annamoe.

His passion for his trees and nature, his love of wildlife, said the Cathaoirleach, acts as a reminder to all of us of the importance of nature and the fragility of our planet, said Cllr O'Brien.

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, spoke about the value of the film and television work to Wicklow and to Ireland adding: "In Wicklow we are fortunate enough to

have two excellent studios in place at Ardmore and Ashford and a further studio development - Greystones Media Campus - due to commence construction in a matter of months."

Aside from the Section 481 tax regime, the success of Wicklow's screen industry has been attributed to a number of factors including its outstanding scenery, internationally recognised, experienced crew resident in the area, a range of locations, an excellent road network, proximity to Dublin city and its airport and ports, and Wicklow's existing cluster of film infrastructure such as Ardmore and Ashford Studios and service providers.

Wicklow County Council, he said, had placed the Screen Sector front and centre in its Economic Development Strategy and thanks to the support of industry stalwarts, funding was obtained for the new Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus.

The Campus is also home to the newly established Screen Wicklow, Film & TV Crew Academy East, a partnership with Screen Training Ireland aimed at ensuring that we have the right people, with the right skills, in the right place



Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Tommy Annesley, CEO of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson, Christine Flood, and elected members of Wicklow Municipal District Cllr Paul O'Brien (Cathaoirleach), Cllr Mary Kavanagh, Cllr John Snell, Cllr Gail Dune, Cllr Irene Winters and Cllr Shay Cullen pictured with Sir John Boorman

at the right time.

Mr Gleeson said that while Wicklow had come a long way in the industry, it was thanks to the likes of Sir John Boorman who had provided "that magic ingredient, a sprinkling of stardust, that allows us to shamelessly namedrop with your name at the top of the list as we mention all the greats associated with the industry and with Wicklow - casually mentioning that John Boorman, Daniel

Day Lewis and Jack Reynor are locals. We even had Saoirse Ronan as a resident for a short time."

Mr Gleeson added: "You have been an outstanding Ambassador for the Screen Industry in Ireland and richly deserve this civic honour."

Video messages paying tribute to Sir John were sent by leading Irish actors including Brendan Gleeson who spoke of how John had informed and educated young actors and filmmakers while Gabriel Byrne acknowledged Mr Boorman's contribution to the film industry as "inestimable". Adrian Dunbar said John was regarded as "the Father of the Irish Film industry".

American movie star Jamie Lee Curtis talked about her love for John Boorman and read a poem from John's Nature Diary titled 'Oaks on Slopes'. His son Charley Boorman thanked Wicklow County Council and spoke about "half of Irish Hollywood being there because of Dad".

The citation for Sir John's Lifetime Achievement honour reads: "Be it known that Wicklow County Council, being the Council for the Administrative County of Wicklow, in exercise of its powers under Section 74 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), resolved at its meeting on 7th November, 2022: To confer on Sir John Boorman a civic honour, in recognition of his lifetime achievements in the

Irish and international film industry, championing Ireland and County Wicklow as a premier film-making location, nurturing the careers of Irish actors, directors, writers, producers and crew and in so doing bringing honour to the County of Wicklow."

Sir John was presented

with a basket of Wicklow Naturally produce along with a beautiful cheeseboard and cheese knife carved from windfall timber from County Wicklow by master craftsman Chaim Factor of Hill Picket Studios. He was also given a locally grown oak tree to take to his new home in the UK with its twin has been

planted at Wicklow County Campus near the soon-to-be-opened Content Creation Enterprise Hub.

In addition, the Council plans to provide a bench for filmmakers of the future to sit and dream below Sir John's tree and take inspiration from his outstanding career in the industry.



Sir John Boorman with friends Paul Byrne, Veronica Deasy and Seamus Deasy at his Lifetime Achievement Award ceremony



Sir John Boorman with Margaret and Gerry Traynor at his Lifetime Achievement Award ceremony in County Buildings

Progress on Wicklow coastal route

A major step forward has been made in progressing the coastal walking and cycling route between Wicklow and Greystones with the appointment of a consultancy of engineers, planners and ecologists for a detailed environmental assessment and design.



Steven Matthews TD

Making the announcement, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said, "The coastal route between Wicklow and Greystones is incredible in terms of scenery and ecological diversity and in places has the highest level European environmental protection for birds and habitats.

"From the outset of the idea of a coastal route, I was insistent that the route must avoid the environmentally sensitive locations and provide benefit not just to tourists and local businesses but also to residents. Through my colleague, Minister Eamon Ryan's Department of Transport we secured the funding to carry out a detailed design which should include Environmental and Natura Impact Assessments, public consultations and a route selection to bring to planning

permission stage.

"If we protect the sensitive habitats, this route can bring tourism opportunity to local business in Wicklow Town, Kilcoole, Newcastle and Greystones. It will also provide a designated route for users and reduce the opportunity to stray into sensitive landscapes and habitats causing further erosion or damage.

"Throughout the process over the recent years, I have been engaging with town teams in Greystones and Wicklow, Wicklow County Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and interested residents and environmentalists. The priority of this route will be environmental protection and enhancement followed by accessibility, residential amenity, supporting local business and improving the tourism offering Wicklow.

"I expect that the full assessment and detailed design to bring a planning application will take 12 months and this also allows for seasonal environmental assessments for certain species but especially for bird species. The Murrrough Special Protected Area (SPA) is designated under the Birds Directive for important birds including the Greylag and Brent Goose, Herring Gulls and the Little Tern, whose colony has been brilliantly protected and managed by Birdwatch Ireland over the years.

"Whilst the Murrrough Wetlands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) protects habitats including Alkaline Fens and Salt Meadows. These areas are well protected under EU law and works are not permitted which would impact on the conservation objectives for the sites. We are in an extreme biodiversity loss emergency, and I am insistent that environmental protection will be the priority of this coastal route."



CLlr Pat Kennedy, Peter Behan, Chair of Wicklow IFA Tom Byrne, Minister Simon Harris, John Malone, and Senator Pat Casey at the Cheviot Sheep Owner's Dinner Dance in the Glendalough Hotel.



Jennifer Whitmore TD

Additional 84x service commences

An additional 84x service commenced last week on Monday 14th November. It leaves Dublin every day at 16:15, Mondays to Fridays.

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore welcomed the news, having raised the need for additional services on this route consistently, most recently at the Oireachtas Transport Committee the week before last.

Deputy Whitmore said: "Following on from my discussion with representatives from Dublin Bus and the NTA regarding the need for increased capacity on the 84X bus route at the Joint Committee for Transport & Communication last week I am delighted to have had confirmation from Dublin Bus that additional buses have been added to the 84X bus route.

"These additional buses will operate Monday to Friday during term time. This issue has been a major concern for constituents in Wicklow year on year and while of course we want to see more services added to meet demand, this commitment from the NTA is very welcome indeed. I will continue to monitor the situation closely. I look forward to the upcoming briefing with the NTA to discuss further developments and thank them for their quick resolution of this matter after I had raised it with them."

Funding to support Wicklow's night-time economy welcomed



The Whale Theatre in Greystones

A number of pubs, hotels and venues around Co. Wicklow have been approved grants under the Night-Timer Economy Support Scheme.

A total of 433 establishments are to receive funding, including 17 from Co. Wicklow. These are: The Old Ship, The Ginmill, Woodenbridge Hotel & Lodge, West Wicklow House, The Avon, Brass Fox, The Beehive, The Grey Dog, O'Shea's Corner, The Pal, Butler & Barry, The Boomerang Bar, Schoolhouse for Art Ltd, The Whale Theatre, Glenview Hotel, Murphy's Hotel, and Murphy's Bar.

Welcoming the funding, Independent councillor Stephen Stokes said "This will provide a welcome boost to the

Greystones District and County Wicklow. Applications were received from a wide range of venues including; arts centres, cafés, galleries, museums, nightclubs, pubs, retail outlets, and theatres.

"Thousands of performance employment days have been generated with well in excess of 2000 events, in every county, across the country. Some of the types of events include comedy, dance, live music, photographic exhibitions and more. This funding will help to generate positive momentum in the events industry, especially in these challenging times."

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Bray Lions Club mark World Diabetes Day



Students from Karl O'Brien's 6th class with George Lynch, Frank Corr and Joe Codyre of Bray Lions Club marking World Diabetes Day at St. Cronan's.

Bray Lions joined with 44,000 Lions Clubs throughout the world marked World Diabetes Day on 14th November.

The club distributed apples, as a symbol of healthy eating, to 400 primary school children in the Bray area, together with a Diabetes information letter for parents and a Diabetes Guide book-mark.

Lions Clubs in Ireland organised a variety of projects and events aimed at raising awareness of Type 2 Diabetes and promoting healthy lifestyles.

In response to the growing incidence of Diabetes worldwide, the 1.4 million members of Lions Clubs International have adopted Diabetes as a signature project.

While several types of Diabetes exist, the Lions Signature Project aims to specifically address the risk of Type 2 Diabetes. Eating healthily, increasing the level of physical activity and maintaining a healthy weight, all play a role in preventing or delaying the onset of Type 2 Diabetes.

Bray Lions Club President Joe Codyre, highlighted the importance of this initiative. "Diabetes is the 8th leading cause of death in the

world and it is estimated that worldwide more than 460 million people have Diabetes, and this number is growing," he said.

Diabetes Ireland and Diabetes UK (NI) estimates that there are 340,000 individuals with Diabetes in Ireland of which approximately 80% have Type 2 Diabetes.

Bray Lions club are confident that the project can create awareness of Type 2 Diabetes and greatly reduce the impact of the condition on individual health and that of our children and grandchildren.

The World Diabetes Day website states that "World Diabetes Day (WDD) was created in 1991 by IDF and the World Health Organization in response to growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes. World Diabetes Day became an official United Nations Day in 2006 with the passage of United Nations Resolution 61/225. It is marked every year on 14 November, the birthday

of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922.

"WDD is the world's largest diabetes awareness campaign reaching a global audience of over 1 billion people in more than 160 countries. The campaign draws attention to issues of paramount importance to the diabetes world and keeps diabetes firmly in the public and political spotlight."

"The campaign is represented by a blue circle logo that was adopted in 2007 after the passage of the UN Resolution on diabetes. The blue circle is the global symbol for diabetes awareness. It signifies the unity of the global diabetes community in response to the diabetes epidemic. Every year, the World Diabetes Day campaign focuses on a dedicated theme that runs for one or more years. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2021-23 is Access to Diabetes Care. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2021-23 is Access to Diabetes Care."

Fundraising marathon raises €9,000 for Rathdrum Cancer Support and St. Colman's

Martin O'Toole completed a fundraising marathon (26.2 miles) on 17th September in aid of Rathdrum Cancer Support Group & St Colman's Residential Care Centre.



Martin O'Toole presenting the cheque to Rathdrum Cancer Support, with John McDonald, Andy Kearns and Bill Porter

A total of €8,950 was raised and both groups were presented with a cheque for €4,475.

Martin would like to sincerely thank everyone for their generous donations to his fundraiser.

A special thanks to everyone who supported Martin on the day and to those who joined him at various stages along the walk. A particular mention to Andy Kearns who joined Martin at the start and completed the full Marathon with him.



Martin O'Toole (second from left), presenting the cheque to St. Colman's Residential Care Centre, with Bill Porter, Andy Kearns and Saranna Condell

New Cancer Community Support Services

Cancer Fund for Children and the Katie Nugent Fund have joined forces to launch a new cancer community support service for children across Ireland diagnosed with cancer and their families. Support will be provided to young people aged 0-24 diagnosed with cancer of which there are an average of 340-360 each year, and one of these support specialists will be assigned to Dublin and surrounding counties.

The partnership between the two charities will see them roll out four new Cancer Support Specialist roles nationally to provide social and emotional support to families across the island of Ireland impacted by a childhood cancer diagnosis. Support will be available to all young people who are diagnosed with cancer, regardless of where they live.

Cancer Fund for Children and the Katie Nugent Fund have been working together for over two years to plan for and develop this new service. In April this year they recruited their first Cancer Support Specialist based in the National Children's Cancer Service in Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin to provide informal emotional and social support to children under 16 years old diagnosed with cancer and their parents. The impact of this work is being independently evaluated by Trinity College Dublin. In addition to this, another role will be recruited to provide support to older young people who are in-patients, recognising the unique set of needs that this age range has.

"Charities coming together to work in partnership to support children, young people and their families is the only way to make this happen, it is a much needed and exciting venture," said Neil Symington, Director of Services at Cancer Fund For Children.

"Together with the Katie Nugent



Alice Nugent (The Katie Nugent Foundation), Neil Symington (Director of Services, Cancer Fund for Children), and Kim Murray (Cancer Support Specialist, CFCC)

Fund we are committed to providing flexible, relational and needs led support. The fact that the needs of siblings and the wider families can now be met by a team working in the community goes a long way towards our ambition to ensure that no family should face childhood cancer alone."

"The ambitions of the Katie Nugent Fund are closely aligned to those of Cancer Fund For Children and these community appointments have been made possible by the time, effort and money of many different people. Having seen the benefits that the service already provides within

the National Children's Cancer Service at CHI at Crumlin, I am excited to roll-out these four community specialists nationally. All of this will hopefully prove of immeasurable benefit to many families for years to come," said Alice Nugent of the Katie Nugent Fund.

The community-based staff will work with diagnosed children aged 0-24, their siblings and wider families through informal therapeutic social and emotional support, in their own homes, communities and shared care centres.



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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Gerry Mitchell & Son - Kilcoole's award-winning butchers



Located on Kilcoole Main Street (R761, A63TR62), Gerry Mitchell & Son's butchers is a family-run artisan butchers that's been at the heart of the community for nearly 20 years.

Gerry his son Cormac have been open since 2003, and Gerry has over 40 years experience - both he and Cormac have become masters of their trade. Gerry Mitchell & Son's sell the highest quality Irish meat.

"Our amazing suppliers have been sourcing us the freshest and most delicious meat for years," says Gerry. "We have been happily feeding our community for over 17 years and we can't wait to be online and supplying even more of our amazing community."

Gerry Mitchell's Village Butcher is the winner of the ACBI National Spiced Beef Competition for 2023, and recently multi award-winning butcher John Synnott of John Synnott butcher Rathdrum and Newtownmountkennedy has also joined the team.

'People of Wicklow to receive immediate assistance with cost of living pressures'

Four measures to help with the cost of living will be paid this week and provide huge relief for the people of Wicklow, according to Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris.

Speaking following an announcement from Fine Gael colleague, Minister Heather Humphreys, Minister Simon Harris said the welfare payments will benefit older people, working families and people with disabilities across Wicklow.

Minister Harris said, "Four separate lump sum payments will be paid to over 865,000 people this week, a total of €325 million. My colleague Minister Heather Humphreys announced details of the following payments to alleviate the challenges people in Wicklow face: A €500 Disability Support Grant which will be paid to 216,000 people receiving Disability Allowance, Blind Pension, and Invalidity Pension; A €400 Fuel Allowance Lump Sum Payment

which will be paid to over 370,000 households; A €500 lump sum Working Family Payment which will be paid to 44,000 families; A €200 lump sum payment which will be paid to the 234,000 people in receipt of the Living Alone Allowance."

Minister Simon Harris continued, "As well as the significant supports in the Budget for 2023, people in Wicklow are going to receive immediate help with the cost of living. We know the cost of living is rising and it is more expensive to do the weekly shop, fuel your car, pay your bills, and make ends meet. This range of payments will assist those most vulnerable as we approach a cold winter.

"Whatever happens, you can rely

on the Fine Gael team to make sure that our economy stays strong, so that we have the resources to continue helping you with the cost of living, and continue investing in vital public services and public infrastructure like housing."

Minister Heather Humphreys added, "For example, a person with a disability who lives alone and receives the fuel allowance will receive an extra €1,100 into their account this week. This week's targeted payments are in addition to the Double Child Benefit Payment and the Autumn Double Payment which have already been paid out in recent weeks to assist people with the cost of Living. In addition, from January, all weekly payments will be increased by €12 per week."

Legislation approved to regulate gambling industry

Senator Pat Casey has welcomed Cabinet approval for the Gambling Regulation bill which will regulate gambling in Ireland.

This is the first time major regulation of gambling has been legislated for in Ireland and will establish the Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland. The regulator will have the authority to implement regulations regarding gambling while also being able to levy fines on gambling companies that breach the new rules.

Commenting on the bill, the Senator Casey said: "Today is a really positive step forward as Fianna F'il gets approval for this important legislation which will reform gambling laws in Ireland. I campaigned for this alongside my party colleagues for a number of years outside of Government and I'm thrilled to see it now happening."

"Laws surrounding gambling in this country largely haven't been updated for over 70 years. The online space has changed how gambling companies operate

and this had had very detrimental effects on those vulnerable to problem gambling.

"These new laws will ensure there are appropriate safeguards and measures put in place to protect people from problem gambling in terms of banning inducements and gambling on credit cards. A Social Impact Fund will be funded by contributions from gambling companies and this is an important step. Mandatory contributions will be taken from their level of turnover to fund this which will put in place educational measures and supports for problem gambling."

"We are also implementing important measures to protect children and there will be fines for gambling companies who allow children to access gambling or that entice children to gamble through advertising."

"Many people across Ireland gamble safely and within their means and enjoy it. But, there are people who become problem gamblers and this can have a heavy impact on them and their families. These new laws will put in place consumer protection measures in order to reduce problem gambling."

Ulster Bank opens phased withdrawal redundancy programmes for exits in 2023

Programmes to focus on areas of the bank where work has reduced or ceased, including branch colleagues

On 16th November Ulster Bank announced to colleagues the first redundancy programmes as part of the phased withdrawal of Ulster Bank from the Republic of Ireland. These programmes are opening following a period of consultation with their employee representative bodies (FSU, ECB, Unite and EEC) and the consultation process will continue over the coming weeks.

"This is a significant milestone in our phased withdrawal, and we anticipate that through both programmes, circa 600 colleagues will leave the bank via these redundancy programmes from March 2023," said Ulster Bank, "In both programmes where colleagues want to leave earlier and where we can enable this to happen safely, we will endeavour to do so. Other colleagues have and will continue to leave the Bank through the TUPE element of our transactions with Permanent TSB and AIB. Ulster Bank also expects further redundancy programmes will be opened in 2023 and beyond."

"Both schemes are now open, with a two week window for in-scope colleagues to apply by 30th November. Colleagues who have been accepted to the scheme will be advised of the outcome of their application in the New Year. While Ulster Bank is not currently announcing a firm date for branch closures, 25 branches will close in January and will reopen as PTSB branches, for the remaining branches Ulster Bank expects to be in a

position to update further on this in the New Year."

The two programmes are:

1.) An At Risk Redundancy Programme for c.450 colleagues working in our remaining 63 branches not transferring to Permanent TSB, and for a small number of other colleagues in Personal Banking. In an 'At Risk' process, colleagues have the option to apply for Voluntary Redundancy or enter a period of redeployment where they can look for another role on either a temporary or longer-term basis.

2.) A Business Led Voluntary Redundancy Scheme (BLVR) for c.350 colleagues and teams across the bank in Services, Functions and Personal Banking Divisions where Ulster Bank anticipate that work will cease or significantly diminish during the first half of 2023.

"The BLVR scheme is volunteer-led, and those in scope will be invited to apply for Voluntary Redundancy. If accepted, colleagues will be provided with a leaving date aligned to business needs and we expect that

individuals will begin to leave the bank from Q1 2023 onwards."

Ulster Bank Chief Executive Jane Howard said: "Today is a hugely significant moment for our colleagues as we progress our phased withdrawal. Our colleagues continue to be dedicated to our customers and each other as they work to support customers through all elements of the phased withdrawal, and I remain very thankful for this. While these plans have been well signposted to colleagues as part of our withdrawal communications, the programmes announced today will offer some clarity for those in scope, and for those not in scope today, we expect that further redundancy programmes will be opened in 2023 and beyond, meaning that colleagues who are not in scope today, are likely to be included in future programmes, with exit dates expected to be later in 2023 and 2024. While we have not yet announced a precise date for our 63 branch closures, we expect to be in a position to update further on this in the New Year."



Mary and Helen Whelan pictured at the Bray Institute of Further Education's Graduation ceremony.

HSE launch new relationship & sexuality resources for parents

Research confirms that parents matter when talking to their young children about relationships, sexuality and growing up.

On Tuesday, 15th November, the Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP), HSE Health and Wellbeing, launched new resources to add to their educational range for parents titled 'Making the Big Talk Many Small Talks'.

The range aims to support ongoing conversations between parents and children about relationships, sexuality and growing-up. It was developed in response to studies showing that both parents and children want to communicate with each other about relationships and sexuality topics, but they often face challenges in doing so.

The new resources launched are:

- * Making the 'Big Talk' many small talks, for parents of 13 - 18 year olds: Information booklet. This publication supports parents of 13 to 18 year olds to have conversations about relationships and sexuality with their children. It includes content on: physical, emotional, social and sexuality development; healthy and unhealthy relationships and the importance of boundaries and consent; and relationships and sexual activity in the online and offline world. The booklet is a follow on from previous HSE resources to support parents of 4-7 year olds and parents of 8-12 year olds.

- * Making the 'Big Talk' many small talks Video collection. The collection contains nine animated videos, addressing some of the questions parents of younger children have with regard to talking

about relationships and sexuality. Many of the issues covered are common to parents with children from birth to about 5 or 6 years old but some of the messages are also applicable to parents of older children. The topics include: responding to a child's natural curiosity about the body, explaining how babies are made, and answering their questions about even some of the more mature topics which they may hear about in the media. See below for the list of current titles.

- * Research Summary: The importance of parental communication in supporting children's and young people's relationship and sexuality development. This Summary is designed to support those in parental roles initiate meaningful, useful and age and stage-appropriate conversations with children and young people on relationships and sexuality. It provides an overview of the evidence on the importance of parent-child communication on relationships and sexuality and outlines the health benefits to young people of good-quality, early and frequent communication with parents. Finally, it describes some of the barriers to parent-child communication on this topic, and

outlines ways to overcome these.

Welcoming the launch of the new research summary and resources, Frank Feighan, Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, said: "I am very pleased to see this new research summary and resources for parents being made available. It is vital to understand research and emerging trends to ensure that the supports we are providing for parents, children and young people in the area of relationships, sexuality and growing up have a firm foundation in evidence. The booklet and video series will be a great help to parents, children and young people in helping to initiate on-going and meaningful conversations."

Moira Germaine, Education and Training Manager for the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme, said: "We are keenly aware that parents are the primary carers and educators of their children and as such have a crucial role to play in supporting their relationship and sexuality development. The Research Summary launched today highlights that while parents may face challenges when communicating with their child, most parents want to talk to their children



Madge, Danielle and Noel Smullen at the Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) graduation ceremony.

about these subjects and require assistance from trustworthy sources. The HSE's Making the Big Talk, many small talks, resources have been developed to meet that need. They will help parents to provide ongoing and individualised guidance to their children at all stages of development, enabling them to build positive relationships and express their sexuality in a healthy way."

Maeve O'Brien, Interim Programme Lead for the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme, commented "Children

report wanting to talk to their parents about these issues. Research demonstrates that close relationships and good communication between parents and children about relationships and sexuality leads to young people being more knowledgeable and better prepared when they begin to engage in sexual activity, which in turn can lead to better health outcomes later in life. As the lead Programme for the implementation of the Government's National Sexual Health strategy, the SHCPP places a great deal of importance on supporting effective parent-child communi-

cation in this area, which is fundamental to children and young people's protection and physical, social and emotional development and wellbeing."

The Making the 'Big Talk' many small talks booklets are available to download on <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-parents/resources/>. Copies of the Making the 'Big Talk' many small talks booklets can be ordered from www.healthpromotion.ie.

The Making the 'Big Talk' many small talks videos are available to view on www.sexualwellbeing.ie.

Tallaght Outlet
phone: 01-4940200

Opening Times
Mon - Sat (10.00am - 5.00pm)
Sun & Bank Holidays - Closed
Unit B7, South City Business Pk, Tallaght, D24

Ballybrack Outlet
phone: 01-2720788

Opening Times
Mon - Sat (10.00am - 5.30pm) Thurs 7.30 pm
Sun - Closed (Bank Hols 2.00pm - 5.30pm)
Church Road, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin

Final call for primary schools to enter Someone Like Me art competition

As primary school pupils across Ireland are submitting their entries for the annual Someone Like Me art competition, the National Disability Authority has extended the competition deadline to Friday 25th November to facilitate those who are yet to add the finishing touches to their projects.

The prestigious competition, which is organised by the National Disability Authority, has seen thousands of primary school pupils submit projects over the last six years, all of which were inspired by their learning about inclusivity and diversity through the medium of art.

This year's competition invites Ireland's 500,000+ pupils attending over 3,000 mainstream and special primary schools, as well as those who are home schooled, to take part in what has become an annual campaign to help develop more positive attitudes towards persons with disabilities. It offers a range of prizes up to the value of €1,250 and is open to all primary school

pupils from junior infants to sixth class.

Encouraging pupils to take part, Minister of State with special responsibility for disability, Anne Rabbitte T.D. said that entries are welcome from individual pupils, class groups or even a whole-school as a combined effort.

"This is an important opportunity to learn about disability by placing ability under the spotlight as a way of fostering positive attitudes amongst all our young people to enable everyone to feel a valued member of society," she said.

"Entries can come in all shapes and sizes and can be anything from a poster or collage to a papier-mache or mixed-media sculpture.

And already we have received an exceptional number of incredibly creative entries from pupils who have worked on their projects as part of their classwork.

"I would like to wish everyone who is entering this year's competition the very best of luck and I look forward to announcing the county winners and overall winner in due course."

There will be a junior and senior category winner in every county, along with an overall national winner.

The extended deadline date for entries is Friday 25th November. More information can be found at www.someonelikemecompetition.ie



Minister of State Anne Rabbitte announcing the deadline extension for the Someone Like Me art competition

Maria Doyle Kennedy in Whale Theatre

Saturday 3rd December, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €28 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.



Maria Doyle Kennedy has spent much of her life on the road, touring with her husband Kieran. Their latest album "Fire on the Roof of Eden" was released in May 2021 and was nominated for album of the year by the Irish Times.

Recorded in their kitchen, the album is full of the sounds of their lives, Maria's singing, Kieran's music and the battery of contradictory feelings that seemed to come in waves...Anger, frustration, gratitude, calm, dancing, surrender, tenderness, tears.....It is 28 tracks and 72 minutes of a song into the world.

Most recent acting roles include Birdy in "KIN" for which Maria won an IFTA and Tannie Maria in new Acorn/AMC show "Recipes for Love and Murder".

Maria has directed the short films A Different Kind Of Day and Colour Code.

Irish music magazine Hot Press called her "one of Ireland's greatest vocalists and a national treasure".

Approx duration: 2 hours (including interval)

Wicklow Photography Club announce 10th Anniversary Exhibition



December exhibition at Wicklow Library.

All the images capture a sense of the varied interests of club members, from wildlife and landscape to street scenes, architecture and still life. It is a very active club and members meet at East Glendalough School every second Tuesday from September to June. The members also organise outings and field trips at various times of the year. Wicklow Photography Club welcomes enquiries from prospective members. Contact club secretary Susanna at susannabraswell@gmail.com.

Exciting news for lovers of top class photography has just been announced. Wicklow Photography Club members will hold their own exhibition in the wonderful surroundings of the beautiful Wicklow Library in Wicklow town.

It will take place from Monday Dec 1 right through to Dec 22 which should prove to be one of the best displays ever held in Wicklow.

The club is 10 years strong this year which was founded by Jack Malins ARPS in 2012 and is celebrating this milestone with a special

€32,000 performer scholarship up for grabs

Are you a dancer, a musical theatre enthusiast, or an actor? Have you ever thought about making a career out of performing? An internationally recognized performing arts college in the UK, The Brighton Academy, is offering a full three-year scholarship worth £27,750 (nearly €32,000). Auditions will be held exclusively in Ireland for Irish performing arts students.

The Brighton Academy offers degree, foundation and post-graduate courses in performing arts and musical theatre. In addition to training and talent, the courses will prepare students for the inevitable challenges they will face as they break into the industry, both physically and mentally. Their West End agent success rate is 100%. A patron of The Brighton Academy is Ireland's own West End star Killian Donnelly, famous for Les Misérables and The Phantom.

"We're delighted to be working with Perform to offer this opportunity to the Irish market

and we are excited to see the talent Ireland has to offer", explains Stuart Dawes, Principal of The Brighton Academy.

In partnership with the Perform Festival, the college will award the three-year scholarship to one young Irish performer at the RDS Dublin at the end of November. This scholarship will cover any of their four performing arts courses and will start in September 2023. Auditions will take place on Saturday 26th of November at the Perform Festival and pre-registration through the performfestival.com website is

required.

"Having the chance to award scholarships and bursaries to aspiring performers is one of Perform's driving ambitions", says Alva O'Loughlin Kennedy, Perform's Creative Director. "We are delighted to be working with The Brighton Academy, which has trained many Irish students who have gone on to become successful performers."

Perform is the largest performing arts festival in Ireland and has been running at the RDS for four years. There will be over 3200 performers taking to the main stage from over 100 stage and dance schools from

all over Ireland showcasing the very best talent in Musical Theatre, Singing, and Dance.

Additionally, there will be performing arts workshops with international superstars including Adam Garcia (Coyote Ugly and Wicked), Layton Williams (Everybody's Talking About Jamie and Bad Education), Sophie Isaacs (Six, Heathers) and many more. Moreover, the show features a competition, meet and greets, and international exhibitors.

This year's Perform is open to the public on November 26th and 27th, including a schools' day and a Teacher's Performing Arts Summit on Friday 25th November. For more information regarding Perform and the auditions for The Brighton Academy scholarship go to www.performfestival.com.



Slipped, Fell And Smacked My Face Off The Dance Floor

Film at Mermaid Arts Centre, 23rd November, 7pm

Slipped, Fell and Smacked My Face Off the Dance Floor by Lisa Freeman features actors, a saxophone player and a significant location: the once-busy sea bathing pool at Naylor's Cove, Bray.

This project stems from Freeman's research into sites of failed and poorly designed civic architecture, and how these sites can impact our health, identity and leisure pursuits.

This special screening is accompanied by text readings and an artist Q&A as well as the launch of Freeman's limited edition publication of the same name, designed by the award-winning Or Studio.

This features photographs of the performance, script excerpts, archival imagery and drawings, alongside commissioned texts by Rachel Donnelly, Dennis McNulty and Astrid Newman.

Excerpt from 'Time Slips and

Falls' writer Rachel Donnelly's response to the work: 'Are they trying to excavate the ruins of the baths? To reach pre-internet time, when our primary civic spaces were physical (whether flesh, paper or radio-wave based) and democratic, rather than digital and commodified by Meta and Twitter? The concrete fragments sit heavy on the

beach, guarding their past. The waves break continuously. Two of the performers are sitting back to back on the wall again, heads resting on each other's shoulders. We're on a loop, we're on a loop. It's exactly two metres by two metres and we lie on it sometimes

to feel.'

This event is free but ticketed.

Credits: Written and directed by Lisa Freeman; Video by Collective Film; Director of Photography Kenneth Adams ; Sound Jack O'Donoghue; Editor Georgia Kelly; Performers Biaina Ryan, Niamh McPhillips, Tadhg O'Rourke; Saxophone player Andrea Jones; Publication Design Or Studio; Photography Louis Haugh; Curator Anne Mullen; Special thanks to Dennis McNulty, Anne Mullee, Astrid Newman, Dan Reidy; Additional thanks to aemi (Alice Butler, Daniel Fitzpatrick & Emer Lynch), Bray Town Council, Emma Conway,



Lauren Conway, Padraig Cunningham, Rachel Donnelly, Lana May Fleming, Collective Films, Louis Haugh, Julie Kelleher, Gerlanda Maniglia, Vera

Ryklova, Jenny Sherwin, Or Studio, Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, Claire Walsh, Wicklow Library Local Studies Department Slipped, Fell and Smacked My

Face Off The Dance Floor live performances took place at Naylor's Cove, Bray, presented by Mermaid Arts Centre, on 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th June 2022.



Manchán Magan

Manchán Magan presents: Arán & Im

Mermaid Arts Centre, Friday 25th November | 2:30pm. €18 Full Price | €16 Concession Price. Duration: 70 minutes

Arán & Im is a theatrical performance in which Manchán Magan bakes sourdough bread for 70 minutes while offering insights into the wonders of the Irish language - exploring potent words of landscape, terms of intuition and insight, and the many phrases that bring to life the mysterious glory of our natural world.

The show is a celebration of language, land and local Irish food, with freshly-baked traditional sourdough bread for the audience to slice and spread

with butter they churn themselves from Irish cream. (Knowledge of Irish is not required.)

Arán & Im had a nationwide

tour with the Abbey Theatre in 2018. In Autumn 2019 it toured widely again. In Spring 2022 it toured 16 cities, 13 states and 2 provinces in USA and Canada. It

will tour the west coast of North American in 2023.

Written & presented by Manchán Magan. Set by Tom de Paor. Originally produced by the Abbey Theatre. Production assistance from Once Off Production. Manchán Magan is a writer and documentary-maker. He has written books on his travels in Africa, India and South America and two novels. He writes occasionally for The Irish Times,

reports on travel for various radio programmes, and has presented dozens of documentaries on issues of world culture for TG4, RT... & Travel Channel. His books Thirty-Two Words For Field and Tree Dogs, Banshee Fingers and Other Words For Nature are acclaimed best-sellers. www.manchan.com.

Equus Ferus: An Exhibition by Matea Brekalo

Signal Arts Centre, Monday, 21st November to Sunday 4th December

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

The body of a noble horse animal is its inspired drawing starting point. On the canvases, there is an observation, imbued with her own imagination, guided by a sure hand, with a strong

stroke of the brush she builds a form of her own animalism. The tension and contrasting values of the line which are clean, vivid contours are broken and softened by surfaces of a clear tone,

impasto, or azure but almost always it seems there is a complete absence of colour.

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

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

Matea has a Master's degree in Painting from the Academy of Arts University

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



'Poised' by Matea Brekalo

Glasshouse presents: Favourites

Mermaid Arts Centre, Friday 2nd December, 8pm. €20/€18

Glasshouse are excited to present a selection of their Favourites, songs that inspire and delight them.

The concert will feature new arrangements of songs by the likes of Sufjan Stevens, Bjork, Phoebe Bridgers, LCD Soundsystem, Adrianne Lenker. All richly arranged for their ensemble of strings, keys, bass, drums and two special guest

vocalists. Join them and enjoy a collection of gorgeous tunes!

Vox - Ellie O'Neill & Dan McAuley

Violins - Naoise Dack, Lucia MacPartlin

Viola - Andrew Sheeran

Cello - Caitriona Finnegan

Keys - Ryan Hargadon

Bass - Caoimhe Hopkins

Drums - Brendan Doherty

Glasshouse are a music ensemble and production organisation based in Dublin. They present concerts as a group and commission new work by Irish artists. They create unique live experiences in singular locations.



Glasshouse



Tiny tots from Imagination Station Preschool in Arklow who took part in the recent Beep-Beep Day, the national road safety awareness day for young children.

CLASSIFIEDS

In Loving Memory



Sean (John) Brophy 1st Anniversary

Hollybrook Park, Bray.
Precious memories and much loved to Wife Rita.
Adored Farther to Sons Ian and Erik and adored Grandchildren Tyler Killian, Kyra and Freya.
Forever in our Hearts.
Eternal rest grant unto him
Oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace
AMEN.

In Loving Memory

Paddy Ring 4th Anniversary

Bray and Ballsbridge.
Sacred Heart of Jesus Please Pray for the repose of his Soul.

You left this world too soon.

Forever in our thoughts.

May he Rest in Peace.

In Loving Memory



ERIK BROPHY 6th Anniversary

Hollybrook Park
BRAY / RATHNEW

Forever in our Hearts
Cherished memories of a son, a brother and a brilliant, loving dad to his son Killian.
Sacred Heart of Jesus
Pray for Erik.

Eternal rest grant unto him
Oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace.

Volkswagen ID Buzz wins Continental Irish Car of the Year 2023

Members of the Motoring Media Association of Ireland (MMAI), the grouping that brings together some 32 of Ireland's most experienced motoring journalists, hosted the awards event attended by Ireland's leading car brands, importers and distributors. The Wicklow Times was prominently represented on the selection jury and organizing committee.

By Martin McCarthy

Volkswagen took the top award with its latest all electric ID. Buzz model and, the van version, the ID. Buzz Cargo, won the Irish Van of the Year title at the same ceremony, a first in the history of the awards. Both look outstanding and innovative, and worthy winners of an accolade that goes back 40 years.

Tom Dennigan of awards sponsor, Continental Tyres said: "After the Covid disruption that impacted on the Irish Car of Year awards over the past couple of years, we are delighted to be back with these awards for 2023. The MMAI jurors provide a great service to Irish motorists in providing a really helpful insight into the broad range of increasingly sophisticated car models that are launched here each year."

The all electric ID.

Buzz uses the same 77kWh battery as the Volkswagen ID.4 and delivers a 420km range from a single charge.

Continental Tyres Irish Car of the year category winners:

1. Irish Small Car of the Year: Fiat 500e
2. Irish Compact Car of the Year: Opel Astra
3. Irish Compact Executive Car of the Year: Mercedes-Benz C-Class
4. Irish Compact Crossover / SUV of the Year: Kia Niro
5. Irish Medium Crossover / SUV of the Year: Kia Sportage
6. Irish Large Crossover / SUV of the Year: Citroen C5X
7. Irish MPV of the Year: Volkswagen ID. Buzz
8. Irish Luxury Car of the Year: Mercedes-Benz EQS
9. Irish Large Executive Car of the Year: Mercedes-Benz EQE
10. Irish Performance Car of the Year: BMW i4 M50

Ford's Mustang Mach E all electric SUV was pipped by the Citroen C5X in the large Crossover / SUV category - but is a star new car arrival this year and worthy of consideration.

Opel's new Astra - Irish Compact Car of the Year with a conven-

tional petrol engine and price tag of €28,000 shows that the future will not be just 100% electric for some time to come as does the impressive Dacia Jogger - another conventionally powered new model with a sensible price tag.

Mercedes Benz scooped three class awards while the Kia won in two categories. Overall half the category winners were battery electric powered with the other half being petrol or diesel fuelled, some with a PHEV option.



Volkswagen ID Buzz

RECRUITMENT

sodexo It all starts with the everyday

Coláiste Chil Mhantain are looking to fill the following vacancies:

- **Full Time Care Taker**
(39hrs/week)
- **Full Time Cleaning Supervisor**
(39Hrs/week)
- **Part Time Cleaners**
(20hrs/week)

Please apply to:

Paul McCann, Facilities Manager, Coláiste Chil Mhantain, Burkeen, Co. Wicklow. A67 TV21 or email: Paul.McCann@sodexo.com

Ivan Stanley Ltd
The Square, Tullow. ☎ 059 915 1479

We are currently hiring a Full Time
HARDWARE ASSISTANT

- Working on Trade Counter
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to prioritise work effectively & efficiently
- Ability to build and maintain good customer relationships

To apply, send your CC and cover letter to
ivanstanleyandsons@gmail.com
or drop your CV into the store.

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Shane & Karen Barends wish to apply to the above council for Outline Planning permission for a two story dwelling house, new site entrance, installation of a wastewater treatment system & associated site works at Newcastle Lower, Co. Wicklow A63 K792. 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

Ross Spillane seeks planning permission for the construction of a new single storey rear and side extension plus all associated site works, at 4 Ardmore Wood, Herbert Road, Bray, 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.

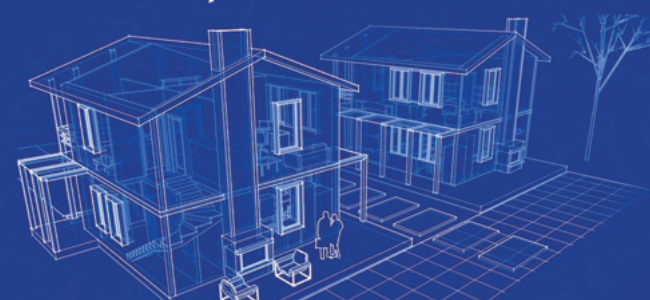
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Elsa Augustenborg, intend to apply for planning permission for development at this site 42 Raheen Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 C3K2. The development will consist/consists of an insulation retrofit, enlargement of the front and rear dormer windows which adds 16 sqm floor space, new windows balustrade and doors to front and rear elevations and alterations to existing fenestration, plus a redesign of a section of the side structure roof to provide for 36 sqm of habitable attic accommodation consisting of 1 ensuite bedroom All the above together with all associated ancillary site works and facilities. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at www.wicklow.ie under planning outline enquiries. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20 within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

ATTENTION Architects, Planners & Builders

Reach the widest readership for your planning notices
in County Wicklow with Wicklow Times

Call **01 286 9111** or email
pauline@localtimes.ie



Enniskerry man named Wicklow's Most Inspirational Person

Stephen Barry from Enniskerry was celebrating last week after being named Wicklow's Most Inspirational Person at this year's Gala Retail Inspiration Awards.

Stephen's extensive and inspirational work in Enniskerry Youth Club earned him the title of Inspirational Person in this year's awards. Established four years ago to celebrate individ-

uals who work to create better communities with their selfless acts and inspirational deeds, Gala Retail awarded inspirational people from every county in Ireland, naming county inspirational people who were each gifted €1,000 in Ireland Hotel vouchers.

Stephen really impressed the judges for his work in the local community and is a worthy winner of the county award for his inspirational efforts.

Chairperson of Enniskerry Youth Club,

Stephen is dedicated to helping the children grow and develop their skills at the football club. After spending years as a coach, Stephen works tirelessly for the community and the club. Much of his responsibilities include, putting the fixtures together, running committee meetings, cutting the grass, marking pitches and refereeing games.

Alongside the daily running of the club, Stephen is constantly coming up with innovative ideas to develop the club and enhance community spirit.

From running family days and other events with local charities, Stephen is always looking for ways to improve the club.



Pictured at King's Gala, Wicklow, are from left, Jennifer Nolan, with Stephen Barry, who was named Wicklow's Most Inspirational Person, Ben McGinn, Fresh Food Executive at Gala Retail, Siobhan Whitty, Store Manager and Mags Kenny of 4 Aces Wholesale

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