



**NEUROREHABILITATION**  
Page 5



**ALICE HAYES**  
Page 6



**UKRAINIAN DAY**  
Page 13

Delivered to 44,500 homes & businesses

DELIVERED TO HOMES & BUSINESSES IN: SHANKILL, ENNISKERRY, BRAY, GREYSTONES, DELGANY, KILCOOLE, NEWCASTLE, KILQUADE, ASHFORD, KILPEDDER, NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY, KILMACANOGUE, LARAGH, MONEYSTOWN, ROUNDWOOD, RATHNEW, WICKLOW, GLENEALY, BRITTAS BAY, AVOCA, WOODENBRIDGE, ARKLOW, SHILLELAGH, TINAHELY, REDCROSS, BALLINACLASH, AUGHIRM, RATHDRUM, DONARD, DUNLAVIN, CARNEW, COOLATTIN, BALTINGLASS, BLESSINGTON.

Tuesday 29th November 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# 'MOVING UP A LEVEL'

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Science Simon Harris TD last Friday announced that the green light has been given to Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) to proceed to the next stage in developing a proposal for a College of The Future (COTF).

The project proposed is for the development of a Wicklow College of Further Education and Training at the existing Bray Institute of Further Education (Bife) campus site. It envisages the creation of a state-of-the-art education and training campus, costing tens of millions of euro, which will also deliver apprenticeship programmes, pre-apprenticeship courses, and establish a proposed

National Centre of Excellence in Film and TV and Media.

The project proposed is for a significant upgrade and extension of Bray Institute of Further Education campus. The college envisages expanding its delivery of Apprenticeship courses and additional pre-apprenticeship courses. The college also envisages moving to a joint degree modelling which would

enable students to move seamlessly between further and higher education.

Minister Harris said: "This is a brilliant day for County Wicklow and for the Bray Institute of Further Education. Wicklow has been chosen as one of ten locations.

"This proposed campus will take what Wicklow is doing well, such as film and media and build on it. A more



Cllr Tom Fortune, chair of the BIFE Board and Vice Chair of the KWETB, with Deirdre Keyes, Chief Executive of the KWETB, and Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, at the announcement on Friday that a Wicklow College of Further Education and Training will be developed at BIFE. See pages 10 & 11.

integrated learning and related supports services is a central part of their ambitions as well as providing opportunities for apprenticeships.

"The College of the Future Major Projects Fund will support the implementation of the vision set out in the Further Education Strategy. This Fund, and the proposed development in County Wicklow has the potential to deliver on a range of strategic objectives. It is great that the proposal will now proceed to Preliminary Business Case Stage."

Andrew Brownlee, CEO of SOLAS, said: "This announcement marks an important step forward for learners and communities in the Wicklow area, but also is an important milestone in the evolution of FET facilities and provision nationwide.

"Wicklow College of

the Future is part of a larger shift towards distinct, integrated colleges of FET around the country, which will serve as beacons of community-based learning excellence. As we continue to deliver cutting edge campuses that showcase the very best of FET, we will start to change the hearts and minds of Irish society with regard to school-leaver and lifelong education options.

"A warm congratulations to my colleagues in Kildare and Wicklow Education & Training Board and all of the potential learners in the County Wicklow area on what is an inspiring day for both the region and the sector."

Chief Executive of Kildare and Wicklow ETB, Greystones resident, Dr Deirdre Keyes said: "This is an important day for the people of Wicklow and for

all the staff in our Education and Training Board.

"This is a major investment in the development of Further

Education and Training in Wicklow and the  
*Continued on p 10 & 11*

## K&K Windows LTD

WINDOWS • DOORS • CONSERVATORIES  
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Our New Virtual Google 360° Showroom.

**CONTACT US NOW FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION**

WINNER  
FAMILY BUSINESS 2021

ALL-IRELAND BUSINESS AWARDS 2019 WINNER

ALL-STAR BRAND 2019

K&K Windows Ltd, Craanford, Gorey, Co. Wexford, Ireland

visit us online  
[WWW.KKWINDOWS.IE](http://WWW.KKWINDOWS.IE)

Freephone: 1800 250 260  
Phone: 053 9383526  
Post Code: Y25 N2T7  
Email: [info@kkwindows.ie](mailto:info@kkwindows.ie)

NO MIDDLE MAN, WE SELL, MANUFACTURE AND INSTALL

## CHRISTMAS TREES

**On Kilcoole Road**

Highest quality Traditional Nordmann and Noble Firs in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, farmed in County Wicklow by multiple award winning grower. Beautiful trees, as fresh as you can get with a lovely, traditional Christmas scent.

Located on Kilcoole Road in Knockroe, just off the Eden Gate roundabout. (A63 K188)  
Ample Parking available

- FREE Local Home Delivery & Call & Collect service available
- Water stands and regular stands available
- FREE Fit or Drill + FREE Netting
- Cash and Card payments accepted

**Donations made to The Gavin Glynn Foundation**

Call/text Dermot on 086 333 1779, or order by PM through our Facebook page

[ChristmasTreesOnKilcooleRoad](https://www.facebook.com/ChristmasTreesOnKilcooleRoad)

Customer RAFFLE  
Win €200  
WORTH OF VOUCHERS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES  
See Facebook page for details



Pictured at Wicklow Local Sports Partnership Trail Run, Avondale, 22 November 2022 are Zack Kavanagh, Jack Higgins, Jessica O'Connor and Liadh Fitzmaurice of St. Laurence O'Toole's National School, Roundwood. Zack came first in 6th class boys, Jack came second. Jessica came first in 5th class girls and Liadh came first in 4th class girls.

## Bray Lions charity auction

More than 100 items, including artworks, hotel and leisure vouchers and hampers are on offer at Bray Lions Club Charity Auction in The Wild Goose, Bray on Thursday 1st December at 9pm. The auction presents an ideal Christmas shopping and bargain-hunting opportunity.

## Greystones Tidy Towns AGM

The Greystones Tidy Towns AGM will be held in the Tennis Club on Thursday 8th December at 7:30pm.

## The First Saturday Book Sale

The December First Saturday Book Sale, which supports the Shankill Old Folks Association, will take place from 10am to 1pm on Saturday December 3rd in the Shankill Day Care Centre, Lower Road, Shankill. Donations of books, which must be in a clean and good condition, will be accepted on the day.

## Glendalough Masterplan

The Glendalough Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan consultation website is now 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, and a meeting with the Glendalough/Laragh

Group has been arranged for December 6th. Online consultations will run from December 5th to December 9th and the consultation closes on January 18th, 2023.

## Brockagh Christmas Market

The annual Christmas Market in the the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh, is on Sunday 4th December from 10am to 3pm. There will be a wonderful selection of stalls this year with many gifts and treats to choose from, making your Christmas shopping experience a pleasure. Traders are now welcome to contact Michelle at brockaghoffice@gmail.com to get a booking form or for more information phone 0404 45600, www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie.

## Two-way traffic returns to Arklow

The Parade Ground works in Arklow have been completed and the Main Street has reopened to two-way traffic. Arklow Municipal District said they would like to acknowledge all residents and businesses and to express appreciation for their patience and co-operation throughout the works.

## National Learning Network coffee morning

There will be a coffee morning at National Learning Network in Arklow (Old Methodist Schoolhouse, Briggs Lane, Ferrybank) on Wednesday 7th December, from 10am to 1pm. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Raffle tickets will be sold on the morning. The staff and students look forward to seeing you on the day.

## N11 bus priority interim scheme

On Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th November, members of the N11M11 bus priority interim scheme project team will be available to meet with in The Glenview Hotel, from 12pm to 8pm. Project team members will be available to provide guidance and answer questions.

## Greystones Flower Club

There will be a Greystones Flower Club Christmas demonstration on Tuesday 29th November in Hillside Evangelical Church at 8pm. The demonstration will be by Brenda Joyce. Admission is €10. All arrangements will be raffled. Tea/coffee and mince pies will be served.

# Bray Rotary Club ask for support for the 'Giving Tree'

Bray Rotary Club has been involved in the Christmas Giving Tree for 20 years and it has become a regular feature at the Holy Redeemer Church's forecourt on the first two weekends in December.

The tree has gift tags with the first names and ages of local needy children and older people. These names are supplied by the four local St. Vincent de Paul Conferences, the Five Loaves Soup Kitchen, Bray Cancer Support Group, Ark Housing and Community Carers.

Bray Rotary asks the public to take a gift tag and buy that child or older person a present and return it to the Giving Tree. The toys and presents are then given to the charities who distribute them

to the relevant families.

Over the years the people of Bray have been extremely generous, and have helped approximately 200-300 children each year and many older lonely people receive a very welcome present.

This year Bray Rotary will be collecting on **Saturday 3rd, Sunday 4th, Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th between 10.30 am to 4.30pm.**

Further information from Club Secretary Una Whelan on 086 8091117

# SSE sponsors Arklow Christmas Lighting

SSE Renewables has partnered with Arklow Municipal District to bring some festive cheer to the district over the Christmas season. The partnership includes sponsorship of the low energy festive lights display for this year's Arklow Christmas Festival.

The Arklow Christmas Festival is in its 8th year and is going from strength to strength, offering a range of activities and events for people of all ages. Festivities commenced on Saturday, 26th November with live music from local artists and groups throughout the day, ahead of the magical switch-on of the town's Christmas lights in St Mary's Park.

Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District, said: "We are very pleased to be able to meet in person again this year and want to acknowledge the support of SSE Renewables and the Arklow Town Festival Committee and indeed all the committees and volunteers who come together throughout the district to create a festive atmosphere for everyone."

The festive celebrations were overseen throughout Saturday 26th November by Master of Ceremonies DJ Oisín Molloy. Entertainment on the day included a recital from the Arklow Pipe Band, Inbhear Mor Performance Ensemble, Arklow Ukulele Players, Arklow Dance Studio and vocalists Christine Dunne and Bri Ellie Finn.

The musical extravaganza hit a festive high note with the arrival of Santa Claus in St Mary's Park in the late afternoon, escorted by the Arklow Fire Brigade, for the magical switch on of the Christmas Tree lights, topped off by a spectacular fireworks display.

The Christmas tree lights were switched on by the overall winner of

the SSE Renewables 'Design a Christmas Decoration' art competition.

Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables Community Engagement Manager for Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 said: "Supporting Arklow Municipal District in its local festive lighting initiative brings benefits to the whole community. Christmas is an important time for everyone, whether families or local businesses. With the difficulties experienced by not being able to meet for important events during the pandemic, we hope that through our support of this year's festival lighting initiative, that the community will be encouraged to come

together again by taking a stroll, supporting local traders, and enjoying the festive cheer.

"Sponsorship towards the low energy festive lights display and Christmas Tree lights is one of the local initiatives SSE Renewables is involved in as part of this year's festival. In collaboration with Arklow Municipal District and the Arklow Christmas Festival Committee, we're delighted to have launched a festive decoration competition from recycled materials, to encourage young people and families to think about sustainability and the ways the community can embrace a greener and more environmentally

friendly festive season."

Other upcoming festival events include: a Christmas Movie trail on 17th December starting at Arklow Library; a Best Christmas Window Display Competition for traders and in-store Christmas draws.

Further details are available from arklowchristmasfestivalcommittee@wickowco.ie. Funding was granted under the SSE Renewables Arklow Wind Park Phase 2 Sponsorship Fund.

This is a voluntary fund available to support projects and initiatives in proximity to the proposed SSE Renewables' Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 development site.

## Christmas Gift Ideas!

**mermaid**  
mermaidartscentre.ie



**Irish National Opera: Don Pasquale**

Thursday 2 February '23  
8pm | €30/27



**Michael Harding**

Friday 3 February '23  
8pm | €25/23



**Bray Comedy Festival: Enya Martin**

Saturday 18 February '23  
8pm | €29



**Bray Comedy Festival: Jason Byrne**

Sunday 19 February '23  
8pm | €26

**BRAY**  
**ACMEblinds** Vevay Rd, Bray

- **Free Fitting**
- **Free Measuring Service**
- **Free In Home Advice & Design Service**
- **No Obligation Quote**

**\*12 Month Guarantee on ALL Blinds\***

Tel: 286 5057 Fax: 201 4335 [www.acmeblinds.com](http://www.acmeblinds.com)  
email: [bray@acmeblinds.com](mailto:bray@acmeblinds.com)

WICKLOW  
LOCAL  
Times

is published by Wicklow Times,  
First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01-2869111

Shay Fitzmaurice, Managing Editor - [shay@localtimes.ie](mailto:shay@localtimes.ie)

Ian Colgan, News Editor - [ian@localtimes.ie](mailto:ian@localtimes.ie)

Sales / General enquiries - [info@localtimes.ie](mailto:info@localtimes.ie)

# More good news for Wicklow commuters

*TFI Local Link route extended to Arklow and Sallins*

**TFI Local Link Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow has announced the enhancement of the Glendalough to Wicklow service which will be extended in both directions now serving Sallins to Arklow.**

Operating four times per day, seven days a week, the enhanced route will serve Arklow, Avoca Bridge, Wicklow Town, Glendalough, Wicklow Mountains to Blessington and onwards to Naas and Sallins - facilitating onward travel to Dublin with improved connectivity to regional bus and rail services.

This enhanced route is part of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan funded by the National Transport Authority, with the aim of increasing connectivity, particularly for people living outside our major cities and towns.

This new route is funded by the National Transport Authority as part of the TFI Network.

The existing service connecting Glendalough to Wicklow has served almost 50,000 passengers since its launch in April 2019.

The service was hit like so many others in March 2020 which impacted capacity on public transport for close to two years. The current service will now bring an enhanced service to the people of Wicklow & Kildare.

Jackie Meally, General Manager, Local Link Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow said: "This is the first bus service to connect West Wicklow to East Wicklow which has been requested for many years, and this is one of the longest Local Link services in the country."

The service will operate two buses starting at each end and is being operated on behalf of TFI Local Link Carlow Kilkenny Wicklow by JJ Kavanagh & Sons.

Welcoming the news, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said "It's great to see yet another improvement to Wicklow's pub-

lic transport. Service additions like this help us get behind the message that taking public transport instead of opting for the car helps improve our air quality, reduces traffic congestion and is better for the planet.

"Constituents tell me they want to use bus and rail but need regular reliable services to do so. The introduction of this extended service will help commuters to get around Wicklow without using their car. This announcement comes on the back of additional rail and bus service announcements in recent months. Meanwhile I continue to work on increasing frequency, introducing new routes where there is a need, and longer term, extending the DART to Wicklow Town."

Minister Simon Harris said "It's great to see County Wicklow's transport infrastruc-

ture receiving more attention and investment from the National Transport Authority. Many communities and towns in Wicklow are lacking accessibility to Ireland's national transport infrastructure, and this new bus route goes some way to remedying this issue.

"This new development will also assist in mitigating the cost of living for the people of Wicklow, providing the option of affordable public transportation in areas where access to a car would have previously been essential. I recently met with the National Transport Authority in order to discuss a range of transport issues across County Wicklow. Improving the interconnectivity of Wicklow's transport links is an important issue and one which I intend to continue pursuing in my work as a public representative."

## National Federation of Group Water Schemes supports EPA recommendations

**The representative body for the community-owned and community-operated group water scheme (GWS) sector, the National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS), welcomed last week's publication by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of its report on Drinking Water Quality in Private Group Schemes and Small Private Supplies - 2021.**

The NFGWS supports the EPA's call to immediately address issues of exceedances on a small number of group water schemes.

Many of the GWS supplies that recorded microbiological or trihalomethane (THM) exceedances in 2021 have progressed plans to bring about solutions.

"Any non-compliance is unacceptable and reflects poorly on an otherwise thriving sector," said the NFGWS.

"Particularly, instances of repeated non-compliance over a number of years must be resolved as quickly as possible to avoid continued risk to the health of individual group water scheme members.

"Robust infrastructure and operational processes are needed to ensure a safe and reliable drinking water supply. This relies on a continued commitment from all stakeholders, including impacted group water schemes and relevant statutory authorities.

"The NFGWS promotes a strategy of amalgamation and rationalisation in order to ensure the sustainability of community-owned group water schemes, built on effective governance structures and

professional expertise. There has been significant delays in completing some complex projects funded under the current cycle of the Multi-annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP). This has been frustrating for all involved but the NFGWS is committed to assisting wherever possible in ensuring the delivery of this essential funding programme.

"The EPA's report provides assurance that the vast majority of group water schemes were once again in full compliance with drinking water standards. Many group water schemes have also been working with their members to implement ground-breaking drinking water source protection initiatives as part of a holistic approach to quality assurance.

"The source protection measures introduced also have co-benefits for biodiversity enhancement and climate action. Through such extensive community engagement, the GWS sector is proving that - along with the provision of potable water - it can play an enhanced role in the future of rural Ireland."

## Wicklow hoteliers meet with TDs and Senators

**Hotel and guesthouse owners in Wicklow met with local political representatives recently to discuss the challenges facing the tourism sector as 2023 approaches.**

While there has been a welcome upturn in tourism this year, businesses throughout the country remain in recovery mode, having survived the worst economic shock in recent memory and who are now confronting skyrocketing energy costs and an expected global economic downturn in key markets next year.

Gerard O'Brien, Chair of the Wicklow of the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF) outlined to Wicklow representatives the crucial importance that everything possible is done to protect and secure tourism livelihoods and support the long-term sustainable development of our wider tourism industry.

"Irish tourism businesses are collectively the largest indigenous employer in the country. Here in Wicklow, tourism accounts for 14700 of jobs, and €135m of revenue annually," said

Mr O'Brien. "Speaking with local TDs and Senators it is clear that they understand the value and importance of tourism to our local communities, but also the enormous impact multiple factors are having on these businesses, right now.

"Over recent months, unforeseen challenges have arisen including the continued war in Ukraine, the increasing risk of a global downturn, and escalating business costs and ongoing energy crisis which in particular is causing real concern for hotels and guesthouses here in Wicklow. Nationally we are seeing hotels reporting increases of upwards of 300% in energy bills compared with 2019 levels. This is unsustainable and will inevitably lead to difficulties in relation to future viability of some businesses in the tourism sector."

Hoteliers also discussed with local political representatives the importance of the 9% Tourism VAT rate and how this is the right rate for the long-term sustainable development of Ireland's largest indigenous industry, which in 2019 employed 270,000 people and returned over €2 billion to the exchequer in direct tourism-related taxes.

"The current 9% rate is the right rate for Irish tourism in a European context. Increasing the tourism VAT rate by half to 13.5% in March 2023 would make Ireland's tourism VAT rate the third highest in Europe, far above other European countries where they take tourism seriously like Portugal (6%), Malta (7%) Netherlands (9%). Tourism is an important part of the local economy here in Wicklow and the continued recovery of tourism and hospitality must be to the fore of Government economic policy as we seek to support these businesses throughout these continued uncertain times," he said.



Aidan Small and Hannah Seane with Ellie (5) and Paddy (2) from Wicklow Town pictured at a special preview screening of Disney's *Strange World* at Movies@TheSquare. Picture by Andres Poveda



**HSE Dementia Specific Day Centre**  
**St. Colman's Residential Care Centre, Rathdrum,**  
**Eircode A67AK06**

### INVITATION TO DEMENTIA INFORMATION SESSION

**Tuesday 6th December 2022 at 3.30pm - 5.30pm**

If you or a loved one is concerned about your memory, think you may have a dementia diagnosis or if you have received a dementia diagnosis, then this information session may be of interest to you.

The HSE Dementia Specific Day Centre is open Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 15:00 on the St. Colman's Campus. The Centre provides dementia specific supports and services to the local community through the day service.

St Colman's Director of Nursing, May Kavanagh will provide an overview of a number of these services and supports which are available to you and your loved one.

Guests from Wicklow Dementia Support, the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland and Family Carer's Ireland will be in attendance to provide information about the valuable supports they offer.

This will be a sociable event intended to provide a valuable opportunity to establish supports for you and your loved one.

Refreshments will be served on the day.  
**To attend please phone St. Colman's - 087 2130131**  
**Pre booking is essential**



Junior and Senior Infants from Cherrywood Educate Together National School celebrate the opening of their new school building earlier this month. Pupils and teachers made the short transition from temporary prefab classrooms into the first phase of the new state-of-the-art school facility. The site for the school was donated by Hines, the global real estate investment, development, and property manager, to the Department of Education in 2018, and the new Cherrywood Educate Together primary school will have twenty-four classrooms and capacity for up to seven hundred pupils when fully completed next year.

# 'Living in County Wicklow is becoming a pipedream for renters'

In Wicklow, market rents were on average 16.6% higher in the third quarter of 2022 than a year previously, according to the latest Daft.ie report. The average listed rent is now €1846, up 127% from its lowest point.

Market rents in Dublin's commuter counties rose 14% year-on-year, reflecting very low availability - just 144 homes were available to rent on November 1st, in line with the very low levels over the last 12 months.

The annual inflation rate of 14.1% nationally is the highest ever recorded in the Daft.ie Report since its launch in 2006, with the quarter-on-quarter increase also a new series high.

Reacting to the report, Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said that renters are finding Wicklow less affordable than ever.

"Wicklow has seen a 16.6% increase in rents in the last year, that is above the national average of 14.1%. Affordability has become a nonstarter nationally, and it's hitting home here in Wicklow. Living in Wicklow is becoming a



Jennifer Whitmore TD

pipedream for renters," said Deputy Whitmore.

"For example, the average rent of a two-bed home in Wicklow is now standing at €1,523 per month. That is a 14.4% increase on rent for a property that size since this time last year.

"What I am seeing locally is that renters are having to move further south and to other counties altogether in some cases. This often requires pulling their children from their schools, having to move away from their extended families and their community, on which they rely. This makes for a lack of social cohesion and fragmented communities.

"The latest Daft.ie report is a stark reminder of the scale of the crisis, both in terms of increased rents and the shrinking supply of properties. With just 27 properties listed for Co. Wicklow on Daft.ie as of this morning, it is clear that the shortage of supply is driving up rents to unsustainable levels.

"The figures show that the Government's housing plan is an abject failure. The Government have been patting themselves on the back on the basis that 28,000 homes are predicted to be delivered this year. This is despite a consensus that at least 40,000 new build homes are needed each year.

"We need an end to constant Government spin on housing and a new focus instead on delivering homes that are affordable to rent and buy."

Sinn Féin put forward a motion in The Dail last week to declare a housing emergency. The

motion also urged TDs to support the 'Raise the Roof' rally, which took place on 26th November to highlight how the housing crisis is devastating people's lives.

Speaking last week, Sinn Féin TD John Brady said "Across the county of Wicklow the housing crisis is having a real impact on people's lives. Rents in Wicklow are sky high and homelessness is far too common. It is clear that there is a housing emergency

homelessness. This government has shown time and time again that it is incapable of getting to grips with the housing crisis. We know all too well here in Wicklow how whole generations are locked out of home ownership, paying sky high rents while house prices soar and the dream of home ownership slips further out of reach. Every night in Wicklow children will go to sleep tonight in emergency accommodation - an appalling situation which must never be normalised."

Threshold CEO John-Mark McCafferty said there is no area of the country that is not affected by soaring rents: "Private tenants in rural counties such as Longford and Leitrim have been subject to incredible rent increases of 24.1% and 22.3% respectively. These tenants are facing a financial dilemma - with rising energy costs, increased inflation and now record-breaking rents all impacting huge-

homes available to rent on Daft on November 1st, this is approximately a quarter of the average level of availability on Daft during 2015-2019. It is clear that the Government must act now to deliver a greater supply of affordable housing and accelerate the roll-out of cost rental housing to alleviate the current crisis.

"Double digit rent increases throughout the country should not be taking place. There are protections for private renters from unfair rent increases, whether they are in an RPZ or not. It is vital that people know that Threshold can assist renters to challenge unfair rent increases and have had success in having overpaid rent returned to renters via the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB)."

Commenting on the Daft.ie report, Ronan Lyons, Associate Professor of Economics at Trinity College Dublin and author of the report, said: "Over the past 20 years, the best predictor of future changes in rents is the number of homes available at any particular point in time. As that has collapsed over the past 18 months, it was apparent that there would be significant upward pressure on rents all across the country. This has been confirmed in these latest figures, which show record quarterly and annual increases in market rents, despite rents already being at very high levels. Government policy recognised a few years ago that supply of new rental homes was critical to addressing the shortage. However, there are signs that the government plans to scrap the build-to-rent planning classification.

"The BTR system had helped generate a pipeline of tens of thousands of new rental homes that are now coming on stream and represent the best hope for alleviating the chronic shortages in the rental market. If the BTR system is to go, policymakers must have a clear plan on how tens of thousands of new rental homes will be delivered this decade in all major towns and cities."



John Brady TD

in our county. Despite this, the government is failing to treat the crisis with the urgency it deserves and in the meantime, people in Wicklow are forced to pay the price.

"Minister O'Brien's shocking comments in a recent media debate, stating that there is no housing emergency, exposed yet again how out of touch this Government is.

"Rents are continuing to spiral, house prices continue to soar and there are record levels of

ly on their disposable income.

"Threshold wishes to see an extension of Rent Pressure Zones (RPZs) to more areas in the country to safeguard against further extortionate rent increases. RPZs can have a moderating effect on rents when enforced, but they are only one part of a solution. More affordable housing is urgently needed.

"A lack of available, affordable housing across all tenures is a root cause for these problems. With just 1,087

**Marrakesh**

Marrakesh Ltd is a family run business specialising in Construction and Demolition Waste Management & Recycling, Site Clearance and Supply of Material from 4" down to Blinding, Recycled Screened Topsoil, Sand, Gravel etc.

**EPA LICENCED FACILITY • ALL TRUCKS CARRY WASTE PERMITS**

**Recycled:**

- Screened Topsoil
- Screened no 2 soil
- 4" Down Crushed Concrete
- 4" Clean Crushed Concrete
- 3" Down Crushed Concrete
- 3" Clean Crushed Concrete
- Crushed Concrete Fines
- Crushed Tarmac Fines
- No 2 Stone

Also available:

- Granite • Pebble • Sand

**Tel: 01 286 8119 Mobile: 087 664 1866**  
**www.marrakeshltd.com**

We also accept for recycling: • Clay • Stone • Concrete • Tarmac • Sand

We can organise SITE CLEARANCES - no job too big or small

# No access to community neurorehabilitation team for Wicklow patients

*'Patients Deserve Better' campaign calls for increased investment*

The Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) is this week launching the 'Patients Deserve Better' campaign calling for investment in community neurorehabilitation teams.



Magdalene Rogers, NAI Executive Director

Community neurorehabilitation teams provide vital care for people with neurological conditions, however currently only 15% of patients with neurological injuries across the country have access to one. Ireland is divided into nine health service areas and currently only two of these have teams in place. Wicklow, located in 'Area 6', is one of the areas which has no such team. Cities Cork and Dublin also have no community neurorehabilitation team.

The campaign is being launched on 28th November and an online zoom meeting will be taking place on Tuesday 29th November, and the NAI is hoping for local elected representatives to attend it.

The NAI point out that nine community neurorehabilitation teams were promised nationwide under the 2019-2021 Implementation Framework for the National

Neurorehabilitation Strategy, a key commitment in the current Programme for Government. "Only two of these teams have been delivered so far," they say.

Magdalene Rogers, Executive Director at NAI, told *Wicklow Times*: "As the national umbrella representing the over 800,000 Irish people who live with a neurological condition, the Neurological Alliance of Ireland is very concerned that there is still no community neurorehabilitation team serving the Wicklow/South Dublin area. This is despite funding being made available in 2020 for a team to be based in Bray. We are calling on the Minister for Health to take immediate action on behalf of people living with neurological conditions in his own constituency."

Also speaking to *Wicklow Times*, local Bray campaigner Bernadette Nolan, whose husband has an acquired brain



Bernadette Nolan from Bray, whose husband has an acquired brain injury, and Caroline Leonard from Enniskerry, a patient representative recovering from brain surgery after a brain haemorrhage, are pictured launching the campaign seeking a commitment from elected representatives and the HSE to tackle the absence of a community neurorehabilitation team in CHO Area 6.

injury, described the current situation as "a complete abandonment of people with neurological conditions".

Twenty-two different organisations are supporting the NAI's campaign, including the Irish Hospice Foundation, Acquired Brain Injuries Ireland,

Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association, and the Neurology Support Centre.

According to the NAI, having just nine Community Rehabilitation Teams nationwide would save up to 42,000 hospital bed days each year, and for every €1

spent on community rehabilitation teams, the health service saves €11.

The campaign builds on the success of the 2021-2022 NAI Patients Deserve Better campaign for specialist neurology nurses.

Founded in 2003, the NAI advocates for the rights of people living

with a neurological condition, which affect the brain and spinal cord and include stroke, migraine, epilepsy and acquired brain injury.

The NAI is encouraging people to join the online conversation with the hashtag #patientsdeservebetter.

## ✱ Ulster Bank

### We have now begun closing accounts

Ulster Bank is closing, and our team has begun to close current and deposit accounts. If your six month closure notice period has passed and your deadline has been reached, your account is now queued for closure. You must take action now. If you are still relying on your personal or business bank account and in need of support, please contact us immediately.

Visit [ulsterbank.ie](https://ulsterbank.ie), your local branch, or call 0818 210 260

Need extra support? Call our Vulnerable Customer Line on 1800 656 001



# Funding target reached for Alice's treatment

The Co. Wicklow parents of a young girl who's fighting cancer have paid an emotional tribute to the Irish public, after raising enough funds to secure life-saving treatment for their daughter in the US.

By Nick Bramhill



Alice Hayes

Alice Hayes, nine, is fighting stage 4 neuroblastoma, a high-risk and aggressive cancer of the nerve cells that comes with high relapse rates.

The youngster's family had faced an overwhelming race against time to raise €550,000 to guarantee her a place on a clinical trial at the world-renowned Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (stet) in New York.

But last week her parents Norah and Dylan, both originally from Greystones, said they were lost for words after reaching their daunting fundraising target a month ahead of their Christmas deadline.

The couple - who also have a 13-year-old daughter, Laragh - said they now feel more hopeful than ever that their younger child can beat the odds and make



More than €62,000 was raised as Alice's 13-year-old sister Laragh led hundreds of school pals from Loreto Abbey Dalkey on a 19km sponsored walk from Wicklow town to Greystones

a full recovery.

In a heartfelt tribute, the couple said: "This is truly incredible. Through the exceptional generosity and overwhelming support of so many, we have reached our target in less than two months."

"We can hardly find

the words to express how much all this hard work and support for Alice means to us. It will give her a fighting chance to overcome her battle with cancer over the coming months and years ahead."

In the meantime Alice will continue with cancer

treatment at a specialist cancer centre in the US, before beginning the clinical trial in the US early next year.

Her parents said in a Facebook post that any additional funds raised would be put towards treatment costs and expenses in Barcelona,

whilst any remaining monies would then be donated to paediatric cancer support charities.

More immediately, the family - including Alice - are counting down the days to returning to their Blackrock, home later next month to celebrate Christmas.

## Open call for town centre regeneration projects

The Irish Architecture Foundation's new 'Hometown Architect' initiative is calling on community groups and local architects in Co Wicklow to team up and submit projects

**The Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF) is calling on community groups and their local architects in Co Wicklow to partner together to develop and submit projects for regenerating their local town or village centres, under a new initiative called 'Hometown Architect' that's part of the IAF's Reimagine placemaking programme.**

The open call is inviting community groups across Ireland, including in Co Wicklow, to create and submit a project in partnership with an architect who has a connection to their town or village. The architect can either be currently living in the Co Wicklow town or village, have grown up there, or have family in the locality. The call focuses particularly on smaller towns and vil-

lages where accessing funding and resources can often be a challenge.

Five successful projects will be selected out of the total number submitted from across Ireland and will be awarded €10,000 each, to bring their proposals to life. Submissions will be assessed by a panel of experts, including architects, IAF staff and Town Centre First Policy experts.

Full details about the Hometown Architect open call, including the project brief and application form, are available from the website [www.ReimaginePlace.ie/open-call](http://www.ReimaginePlace.ie/open-call).

Projects should focus on town centre regeneration and can involve encouraging increased residential occupancy in rural towns and villages, addressing the issue of vacant properties, and

highlighting the economic, social, and cultural importance of Irish towns and villages. Projects can also examine how changing patterns of work can transform the way people live, to reverse the trends of suburban sprawl, commuter belts and hollowed-out town centres.

Submissions should also align with the Town Centre First Policy published by the Irish Government earlier this year. This policy aims to promote the regeneration of town and village centres across Ireland, and to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit.

Commenting on the launch of the open call, Nathalie Weadick, Director of the Irish Architecture Foundation, said: "We are very excited to launch this open call. We are hopeful that community groups in Co Wicklow, in conjunction with an architect who is local to them, will submit projects that have the power to change our town and village centres."

"Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and the advent of widespread working from home, many people have left cities to return to their

hometowns or other towns and villages across the country, including in Co Wicklow. These people bring new energy and useful skills to their local area, and they can work alongside the existing community to revitalise their home."

'Hometown Architect' is part of the Reimagine nationwide placemaking programme by the Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF). The IAF works

with communities across Ireland to co-create and co-design solutions to problems or opportunities they have identified in their locality.

An online information sessions about the Hometown Architect initiative for interested communities will take place from 12.00pm-1.00pm on Tuesday, 13th December. To register, visit the Reimagine Hometown Architect

website at [www.ReimaginePlace.ie/open-call](http://www.ReimaginePlace.ie/open-call).

An in-person Reimagine Cafe event will take place from 1.00-2.00pm on Tuesday, 6th of December in the Science Gallery Dublin, Naughton Institute, Trinity College Dublin, where those involved in placemaking and reimagining their built environment can meet and discuss their ideas for the Hometown Architect initiative.

Booking for this free event is open at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/reimagine-cafe-town-centre-first-tickets-465752657737>.

The deadline for submissions is the 16th of January 2023. The five successful overall projects will be announced in early February 2023. For more information, visit the official website at [www.ReimaginePlace.ie/open-call](http://www.ReimaginePlace.ie/open-call).

**Benville Robinson LLP**

Riverview House  
Seapoint Road,  
Bray, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 01 276 1330 Fax: 01 276 1336  
Web: [www.benvillerobinson.ie](http://www.benvillerobinson.ie)  
E-mail: [info@benvillerobinson.ie](mailto:info@benvillerobinson.ie)

### Personal Injury Lawyers\*

Medical Negligence\* Catastrophic Injuries\*  
Workplace Accidents\* Road Traffic Accidents\*  
Trips and Falls\*

For professional, confidential and expert legal advice regarding Personal Injuries suffered, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Robinson or Clare-Ann Temple.

**Benville Robinson LLP**

Rory P. Benville B.C.L.  
Brian Robinson B.B.L.S., L.L.M.  
State Solicitor  
Eilish Bradshaw B.A., L.L.B., L.L.M.  
Clare-Ann Temple L.L.B.

\*In contentious business, a solicitor may not calculate fees or other charges as a percentage or proportion of any award or settlement



Elizabeth Yelverton, Sarah Reid and Clare Mulligan at the recent Wicklow Family Club Christmas evening and workshop event in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre in Wicklow Town

# Just 21 fines issued in two years for parking in cycle lanes

Figures obtained by Green Party Deputy Steven Matthews show that just 21 tickets were issued by Gardai to vehicles parked in cycle lanes over a two year period in the entire of County Wicklow.



Steven Matthews TD

This equates to fewer than one per month across all five districts in the county. The figures also show that the amount of fines issued by Gardai to vehicles parked in disability bays stands at just 100 while 523 fines were issued to drivers parked on footpaths, approximately 5 per week for the entire county.

Deputy Matthews says that orders need to come from the very top to ensure that the powers held by Gardai to fine those parked in a dangerous manner are utilised in order to keep vulnerable road users safe.

Deputy Matthews said, "I sought this data from An Garda Síochána after witnessing the high level of offences committed daily across every town and village in Wicklow. I am hugely disappointed to discover that only 21 tickets were issued in the entire county for parking

on cycle lanes while tickets issued for parking on footpaths and in disability bays is also extremely low. I witness dozens of these offences on an average morning walking my children to school in Bray town centre.

"The figure for parking on double yellow lines comes in higher at around 1300. However again, consider that this equates to fewer than 13 tickets per week across the entire county.

"The fact is that parking illegally is not just about operating within the law, it is a safety issue for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users, those with mobility issues or visual impairment and parents with buggies and small children. Every time a vehicle parks illegally, pedestrians or cyclists have to step onto the road to get past, putting themselves in danger. I see children cycling to school, having to face oncoming traffic to get around vehicles

parked in cycle lanes. It is worse on rainy days. Consider what it must be like to be a wheelchair user in the pouring rain having to navigate onto a road to get around a car parked on a footpath. I suspect if a bike or

wheelchair were parked on the roadway they would be removed in no time at all. Fines are deterrents to this behaviour.

"Recently fines for parking on cycle lanes, footpaths and bus lanes doubled from €40 to €80.

This was a welcome move. However fines are only as good as the enforcement that goes along with them. It is clear that enforcement in Wicklow is at a ridiculously low level. I know this is not a reflection on our

Gardai as a whole because have seen first-hand the excellent work that they do, but I wonder why there appears to be a lack of will to fine those who are parked illegally and are endangering the safety of others. The instruction needs to come from the top so the message goes out loud and clear - if you park illegally you will be fined.

"I have raised this issue with the Assistant Commissioner of the Gardai and I will now be following up with the Minister," concluded Deputy Matthews.



## COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### BUILT HERITAGE GRANT SCHEMES 2023

Wicklow County Council invites applications from owners of historic buildings, protected structures and structures within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) under the following two grant schemes as operated by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage;

- Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2023, and the
- Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2023.

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme will be administered from a total allocation for County Wicklow of €96,000. Grants of between €2,500 and €15,000 will be awarded, with applicants required to provide a minimum of 50% of total costs. Smaller grants to support the upkeep and maintenance of historic properties will also be considered, and up to €2,000 of the County allocation may be reserved for this purpose (subject to applications received).

The Historic Structures Fund focuses on caring for and restoring historic structures and buildings for the benefit of communities and the public.

There are three streams of funding:

- **Stream 1** €15,000 – €50,000 (max. 80% funding) with a sub stream for Historic Shopfronts;
- **Stream 2** €50,000 – €200,000 (50% of eligible costs) In exceptional circumstances a higher percentage may be sought, subject to a maximum of 80%;
- **Vernacular Structures** – €5,000 – €10,000 (max. 80% funding).

Please note applicants cannot avail of funding under both the **Historic Structures Fund** and the **Built Heritage Investment Scheme** in the same year.

Full details of each scheme including guidelines and application forms are available on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) (under latest news) or by request from Wicklow County Council Planning Office Tel: 0404 20100, e-mail [plandev@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:plandev@wicklowcoco.ie).

All completed applications (Form A) should be clearly marked **BHIS/HSF** and returned by e mail to [plandev@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:plandev@wicklowcoco.ie) or by post to: Planning Section, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town.

Please note that the closing date for applications under both schemes is 4.00 pm Friday 27th January 2023.

### COMMUNITY MONUMENTS FUND 2023

Wicklow County Council invites applications to the Community Monuments Fund 2023, as operated by the Department of Housing Heritage and Local Government, National Monuments Service.

The closing date for applications is 4 pm 27th January 2023.

The **Community Monuments Fund** is investing essential capital in our archaeological heritage to help owners and custodians of archaeological monuments safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public. The core aims of this fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local monuments and archaeological sites. The Department encourages projects to incorporate a traditional skills training element. Local authorities, private owners, community groups and custodians of monuments are eligible to apply under the following 3 streams;

- **Stream 1** will offer grants up to €85,000 aimed at essential repairs and capital works for the conservation and repair of archaeological monuments.
- **Stream 2** will offer grants of up to €30,000 for development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports that are aimed at identifying measures for conservation of archaeological monuments and improving public access.
- **Stream 3** will offer grants of up to €30,000 for enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation (including virtual/online) at archaeological monuments.

Application forms and further details are available at [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) / latest news. Applicants should read the CMF guidance circular carefully and ensure that method statements and relevant consents are included with the application. Applications should be returned by e mail to [wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie) or by post, clearly marked 'Community Monument Fund Application' c/o Heritage Office, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town by no later than 4 pm on January 27th 2023. Hard copy application forms are available by request to above e mail or by Tel: 0404 20100. Other queries to Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council via [dburns@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:dburns@wicklowcoco.ie).



Ross Lee and Natalia Sajid at the BIFE stand at Colaiste Chraobh Abhann's College Awareness event last Wednesday, for 3rd-6th year students, to help them make their college choices.

# Fundraising campaign to protect Knocksink Woods nears deadline

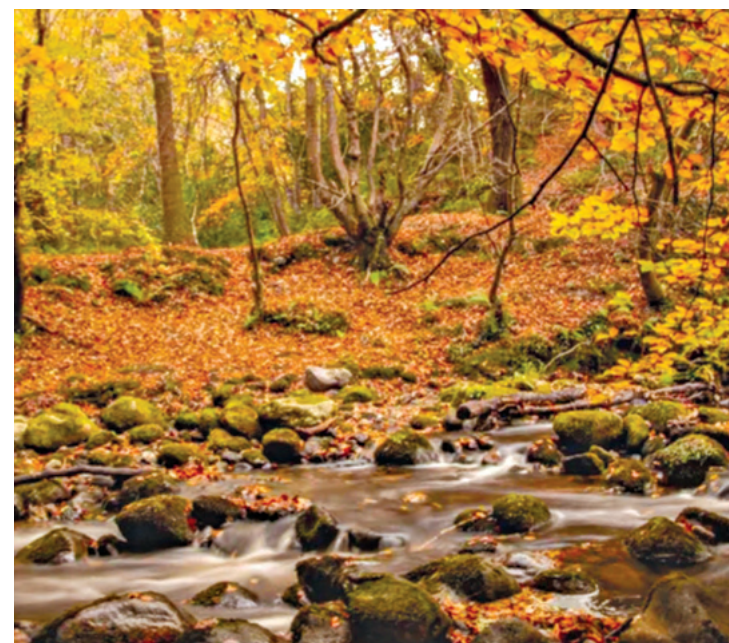
*Just a few days left to raise enough for judicial review*

The recent decision by An Bord Pleanála to grant permission for a high-density strategic housing development at Parcnasilloge, Enniskerry has caused much concern among local residents and Friends of Knocksink. As Knocksink Woods Nature Reserve is located directly below the proposed development site, they are concerned that this decision has the potential to harm to the fragile biodiversity of the woods.



Knocksink Wood bridge

Knocksink Woods Nature Reserve is a Special Area of Conservation, with petrifying springs containing tufa formation and alluvial forests, as well as its protected pristine Salmonid Glencullen River. Located in the beautiful village of Enniskerry, it has been given priority status under the EU Habitats directive and is also a designated Natura 2000 EU Special Area of Conservation and Nature Reserve. It hosts numerous fragile habitats with high biodiversity value and is considered a potential ancient woodland. The Glencullen River that flows through it is one of the few pristine rivers left in Ireland. In October, An Bord Pleanála approved a SHD for a further 219 residential units (135 houses and 84 apartments). The Save Enniskerry



Knocksink Woods, Enniskerry

and Protect Knocksink campaign fear that polluted or contaminated water could flow from the development site into the woods as the site is located directly above it.

"Any change to the hydrology on the site can materially damage or cause loss to the fragile biodiversity that has afforded Knocksink Woods Nature Reserve its Special Area of

Conservation status," they say.

The campaigners are a group of concerned residents who have come together to try to raise €50,000 for legal fees to lodge a judicial review to protect this special area of conservation. €25,000 of this needs to be raised by 1st December.

"Knocksink Woods Nature Reserve is unique to Wicklow and we are

all custodians of this ecological jewel," they say. "It is vital for all of us to ensure that it is protected - not only for its unique flora and fauna, but also for future generations. In this time of bio-diversity crisis we cannot allow harm to Knocksink Woods Nature Reserve."

To donate, go to the 'Save Enniskerry & Protect Knocksink' page on GoFundMe.com.

## New publication explores the geology of Wicklow

The Heritage office of Wicklow County Council has announced a new publication 'Glaciers, Glens and Granite: an Exploration of the Geology of County Wicklow.' This is a joint project with Geological Survey Ireland and is published by Wordwell Books.

The book was officially launched in Wicklow Town Library on Tuesday 22nd November by Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, who stated: "Geological heritage is a hugely important asset for county Wicklow. It provides our distinctive Wicklow landscape and scenery; the building materials for our monuments and buildings and contributes so much to the fabric of people's lives in the county. This new book is a fantastic way to communicate geology to new and wider audiences in a colour-

ful and user-friendly format."

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, commented that the Council is pleased to have had the opportunity to work in partnership with Geological Survey Ireland and the Heritage Council on an audit of sites of geological and landscape significance in 2014.

This new publication, he said, was a welcome progression of that work and will help to shed light on over 60 special places identified in the audit, that collectively make up the geological

story of Wicklow.

Koen Verbruggen, Director of Geological Survey Ireland, and Wicklow native, said: "County Wicklow is fortunate to have an amazingly rich and varied geological heritage and Geological Survey Ireland is keen to promote greater awareness and appreciation of this heritage through this publication. This book is intended to be an accessible point for people to begin to see what is around them with fresh eyes, to have the broad brush of the landscape interpreted in pictures and user-friendly language."

'Glaciers, Glens and Granite: An Exploration of the Geology of County Wicklow' is available to purchase in local bookshops, price €20, or directly from [www.wordwellbooks.com](http://www.wordwellbooks.com)



## Ocean Winds and Bord na Mona announce off-shore partnership

Ocean Winds and Bord na Mona last week launched a major new offshore wind partnership at an event with Leo Varadkar, Tanaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

The partnership will see Ocean Winds and Bord na Mona combine their efforts in leveraging Ireland's off-shore wind power resources. The long-term partnership will see Ocean Winds and Bord na Mona co-own, identify and develop offshore wind energy opportunities around the coast of Ireland.

The joint venture initially incorporates two potential projects, Realt na Mara, off the coast of Dublin and Wicklow, and Celtic Horizon, off the coast of Wexford and Waterford. Engagement on both projects with local communities, stakeholders and the fishing industry is currently underway. The projects have the potential to generate up to 2.3 GW Gigawatts (GW) of clean and renewable electricity to power up to 2.1 million homes by 2030. By reducing Ireland's reliance on gas and oil it will also help safeguard Irish communities from global energy price fluctuations.

Minister Varadkar commented, "The Irish Government recognises our geographic and climate advantages in terms of wind energy and is developing public policy proposals to support this. This joint ven-

ture is a momentous step towards our commitment to produce most of our electricity from renewable sources - up to 80% - by 2030. It also marks a new chapter in Bord na Mona's 90-year history in supplying energy to local communities across the island. I look forward to this partnership helping to ensure a secure, sustainable, and cost-effective energy future for Ireland."

Ossian Smyth, Minister of State with responsibility for Public Procurement and eGovernment at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform said, "Today's launch is a significant step for Bord na Mona in terms of their transition to a leading climate solutions company and supporting and delivering Ireland's objective, to become carbon neutral by 2050. Ireland, and indeed Bord na Mona, has a great track record of building on shore, now we prove our capabilities off-shore. Between creating employment, and providing secure, sustainable and cheaper electricity - the scale and potential benefit to our country is beyond compare."

Bord na Mona Chief Executive Tom Donnellan said "Bord na Mona has always been a cornerstone of Irish energy security. We have been developing renewable energy infrastructure since the early 1990s working with communities to deliver a range of lasting local and regional benefits."

## Funding available for Wicklow Heritage Projects

The preservation of Wicklow's built heritage has received a significant boost with the launch of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) for 2023. The level of funding at a national level is €9 million, 12.5% increase in funding on last year.

Green TD Steven Matthews welcomed this announcement, particularly in relation to the potential it creates for Wicklow.

Speaking after the announcement of funding, Deputy Steven Matthews said: "This funding is brilliant news with huge potential for Wicklow to maintain our built heritage, an extremely important part of our county identity. The funding offers groups and heritage projects in Wicklow a wonderful opportunity to seek support while also boosting the local economy by supporting jobs in sectors such as conservation, tourism and traditional skills."

"It is the responsibility of everyone to ensure that our heritage and

culture is maintained for future generations to enjoy and appreciate. Supporting our communities in their efforts to repair, preserve and restore our built heritage takes significant time, care, expertise, and investment. We in Wicklow are particularly fortunate to be home to many significant sites representing Irish heritage. I hope that this funding will go a long way in ensuring that we can enjoy these amenities into the future."

"I would encourage anyone involved with a heritage project in Wicklow to apply for this funding as soon as possible. If you require any help with the application process or have any questions regarding the scheme or any other matter, please



Steven Matthews TD

do not hesitate to get in touch with me directly," Deputy Matthews concluded.

Applications opened on 11th November, and will remain open until 31st January 2023. Details of the schemes and how to apply are available on all local authority websites and the Department's website [www.housing.gov.ie](http://www.housing.gov.ie).

# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE & MOVING UP A LEVEL

The Board of Bray Institute of Further Education (Bife) have expressed their delight that the Bife Campus has been chosen as the location for a County Wicklow FET College.

On behalf of the Bife Board, Management, Teaching Staff and Students we would like to thank Minister Simon Harris, The Department of Further and Higher Education and the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board for enabling this.

## The proposed multi million project will include

1. Integrated learning services from levels 1 to 6 on the QQI certification framework.
2. Programme curricula that will include social inclusion, progression to Higher Education, advancement into the labour market, and career enhancement courses for unemployed, employed, and non-engaged learners.
3. Renovation and development of the current building on the college campus to improve its future suitability, sustainability and energy rating to ensure that it is fit for purpose for learners of the future.
4. Removal of existing demountable buildings (pre-fabs) and replacement with flexible and specific learning spaces to facilitate consolidated services and expanded craft and non-craft apprenticeship provision.
5. Delivery of 5 Apprenticeship courses (140 places) and 3 pre-apprenticeship courses 60 places per year.
6. Delivery the 2+2 Degree model of FET and HE provision, provide 100 places on new Degree level career base provision in collaboration with Maynooth College, SETU – South East Technological University (Carlow Institute of Technology Waterford Institute of Technology) TU Dublin and UCD.
7. Become a Centre of Excellence with Avoca Film Studios; the Wicklow College of FET will seek to collaborate with DDLETB Colleges, Limerick Clare ETB and Kerry ETB to jointly establish a Virtual National Centre of Excellence in Film and TV and Media.
8. Operate the campus on the Bray site that adheres to environmental best practices and sustainability.
9. Provide 500 places for online/blended courses across all their target cohorts.



**bife**

**BRAY INSTITUTE OF FURTHER EDUCATION**

*Dedicated, Professional, Passionate*

DEGREE, DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES FROM THE SOUTH EAST'S LARGEST COLLEGE OF FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA  
CHILL DARA AND CHILL MHANTÁIN  
KILDARE AND WICKLOW  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

**[www.bife.ie](http://www.bife.ie)**

# 'MOVING UP A LEVEL'

*Continued from page 1*  
integration of our services onto one campus. "Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) has a long tradition of innovation and delivering for the people in the region. We look forward to the development of the new campus into Wicklow College of the Future."

Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, welcomed the announcement by Simon Harris, Minister of Further Education, green-

lighting the KWETB proposal to develop the Bray Institute of Further Education into a Wicklow College of Further Education and Training, a College of the Future (COTF).

"To have such a state of the art educational facility in the county is good news for our children, employees and businesses and will go towards addressing some of the skills shortages for the film and renewable sectors," said Cllr Annesley.

"It's very welcome to

see the expansion of apprenticeship courses and also that this College will model a joint degree approach allowing students to move seamlessly between further and higher education, and that is progressive and visionary."

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, commented that the Council is very pleased with the upgrading of The Bray Institute of Further Education and bringing increased Higher and Further

Education and Training options to the people of the County.

"I particularly welcome the focus on expanding training and education for the Renewable Energy and Screen sectors. In its Regional Enterprise Plan, Wicklow County Council has identified these sectors as offering enormous economic growth opportunities with the imminent development of The Greystones Media Campus and a number of offshore wind energy parks off the coast of

County Wicklow in the pipeline.

"Earlier this year, we established a skills Taskforce by bringing together industry representatives and the education providers with the aim to address skills shortages in these booming sectors. The Task Force is currently commissioning a Skills Audit and Strategy for the county to assist with this aim. The development of a National Centre of Excellence in Film and TV in and Media in Bray complements the training and upskilling courses currently provided by the Film and TV Crew Academy, a training initiative funded by Screen Ireland and Wicklow County Council. These are very exciting times for job creation in the county and we are looking forward in working together with KWETB to allow this to happen."

Independent councillor and former school principal, Joe Behan said "The announcement by the Minister for Higher Education, Simon Harris T.D., that Bray Institute for Further Education is to be upgraded to Third Level College status is momentous and historic."

"BIFE has grown to become a Further Education College of excellence and it has launched many successful careers in a wide range of industries and professions."



Sarah King, Minister Simon Harris and Cllr Joe Behan at Friday's announcement



Members of the BIFE Board of Management with Principal Ray Tedders, and Deputy Principals Louise Fortune, Gabriel Allen and Ross Lee, at Friday's announcement.



Cllr Aoife-Flynn Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Bray Cllr Erika Doyle, Cllr Melanie Corrigan and Cllr Joe Behan at Friday's announcement



Members of the BIFE Board of Management and the KWETB, elected representatives, with BIFE Principal Ray Tedders and Deputy Principals Louise Fortune, Gabriel Allen and Ross Lee, and Minister Simon Harris, at Friday's landmark announcement

"Its reputation for excellence in teaching and learning is a tribute to the leadership skills of its Principal, Ray Tedders, and his staff, as well as the dynamic vision pursued relentlessly by its Board of Management."

"I warmly welcome the decision by the Minister to accord third level status to BIFE as it will allow the College to grow further and provide many more courses geared to prepare our people for the educational, social and economic challenges of the future."

"I particularly welcome the focus the Minister has put on the provision of opportunities for apprenticeships and this will be a game changer for the many young people in Bray and all of County Wicklow who wish to pursue rewarding careers in the many and varied trades and professions now so desperately needed in this country."

"This is indeed a historic day for Bray and County Wicklow and I pay tribute to Minister Harris for his commitment to improving the life opportunities of the people of our county."

Senator Pat Casey said "This fantastic announce-

ment for BIFE represents the well-deserved reward from years of hard work from the dedicated staff and students of Bray Institute of Further Education. As Wicklow's only third level college, BIFE has provided job ready third level courses for thousands of Wicklow students. This multi-million investment by our Government will ensure that BIFE will provide substantial additional courses to tackle the skills and labour shortage in many vital Wicklow industries such as tourism and accommodation, construction and the film sectors. I will continue my work with the Government to ensure that BIFE future growth is secured and enhanced in the years to come."

Cllr Tom Fortune says he is delighted following the news from Minister Simon Harris that BIFE is to be a leader in the field of Further Education. "Great credit is due to Minister Harris for delivering this great initiative for Bray and County Wicklow. This puts the life opportunities of the people of our county."



Ross Lee, Louise Fortune, Eileen Cullen, Ray Tedders, Collette O'Loan and Shay Hiney at BIFE for Friday's landmark announcement

a great advocate for further education and the importance of apprenticeships as a career path. It will also bring economic benefit to Bray and Wicklow."

Cllr Fortune who is

Chairman of the BIFE board of management says it is fantastic news for the principal of BIFE, Ray Tedders, who is the main advocate for what BIFE's potential is and

what it can offer to education.

"Ray could be described as 'Mr Further Education', said Cllr Fortune. "He has an excellent team working with him."

Cllr Fortune said the support for this initiative from the CEO of the KWETB Dr Deirdre Keyes has been vital.

"The ethos of the KWETB plays a key role in education across Wicklow in their eleven second level schools and one primary school. The boards of BIFE and the KWETB are also great advocates of further education, they do great work on a voluntary basis."

"They have been involved in discussions at board level for some time and welcome this great news for Bray and County Wicklow."



Louise Fortune, Gabriel Allen, Ray Tedders, Cllr Erika Doyle, Minister Simon Harris, Cllr Tom Fortune and Ross Lee



BIFE Principal Ray Tedders with Brid Collins and Minister Simon Harris



Minister Simon Harris, Laura Cullen, and Eileen Cullen with BIFE Principal Ray Tedders at the announcement on Friday



Minister Simon Harris, Senator Pat Casey and Frainne McLoughlin at Friday's announcement

# WHAT DO YOU CALL A **bife** GRADUATE ?



## BRAY INSTITUTE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

*Dedicated, Professional, Passionate*

DEGREE, DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES FROM THE SOUTH EAST'S LARGEST COLLEGE OF FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

### ART & DESIGN

Art Portfolio Preparation Course  
Art, Craft & Design  
Architectural Design & Technology  
Graphic Design HND  
Fashion & Textiles HNC  
Furniture Design & Manu. Level 5  
Jewellery Making & design

### MUSIC & COMPUTER GAMING

3D Game Design  
Music Production HND  
Music Performance HND  
Traditional Irish & Folk Music Performance  
Sound Engineering  
DJ Techniques & Music Production

### SPORT

Sports, Exercise & Fitness Instruction  
Personal Trainer, Strength & Conditioning  
Soccer Coaching & Fitness studies  
Sports Injury & Massage Therapy /Pre-University  
Physiotherapy

### SOCIAL STUDIES & APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

Social Studies & Community Care  
Applied Psychology  
Early Learning & Care / Childcare  
Special Needs Assistant

### BODY THERAPIES & HOLISTIC HEALTH

Nail Technician & Salon Administration  
Hairdressing Junior Stylist  
Hairdressing Senior Stylist  
Barbering  
Holistic & Wellbeing Studies  
Professional Makeup & Hairdressing

### NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

Nursing & Midwifery Studies - Pre-University  
Pharmacy Assistant  
Pharmacy Technician  
Emergency Care Services  
Healthcare Assistant  
Occupational Therapy Assistant  
Dental Nursing  
Optician Assistant  
Hearing Care ASsistant

### SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & COMPUTING

Animal Care & Management  
Animal Care  
Animal Science Advanced  
Equine Studies  
Science - Pre University  
Dietetics, Nutrition & Food Science  
Brewing & Distilling Techniques  
Forensics - Applied Science  
Engineering Pre-University  
Computer Software Development  
Computer Science Level 5  
Computer Networks & Cyber Security Level 6

### BUSINESS

Business Management & Administration  
Business Management - Advanced Cert  
Accounting Technician  
Business Tourism & Event Management  
Legal Administration  
IT & Office Administration  
Medical Administration  
Security Studies & Pre-Garda  
Payroll & Office Administration  
Hospitality & Business Management

### ADULT LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Adult Leaving Certificate

### ACTING & DANCE

Acting for Theatre & Film  
Acting-Advanced for Stage & Screen  
Dance Technique, Performance & Chor. HND

### FILM

TV & Film Production  
TV & Film (Moving Image) HND

NEW Streaming & Podcasting

### TOURISM & HOSPITALITY

Tourism, Reception & Event Management  
Restaurant & Bar Management  
Professional Cookery  
Professional Cookery Advanced  
Barista, Pastry & Baking



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA  
CHILL DARA AND CHILL MHANTÁIN  
KILDARE AND WICKLOW  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Apply NOW online at [www.bife.ie](http://www.bife.ie)

01 2829668  
[bifeenquiries@wicklowvec.ie](mailto:bifeenquiries@wicklowvec.ie)

# Temple Carrig celebrates all things Ukrainian

*Greystones' Ukrainian students show the path to integration through positivity*

All things positive about Ukraine were celebrated at a special event at Temple Carrig Secondary School in Greystones recently.

In a move to counteract the sense of sadness that accompanies conversations about Ukraine these days, Temple Carrig secondary school in

Greystones recently organised a 'Ukrainian Day'. The Ukrainian students now attending the school wanted the local commu-

nity to know that there is more to Ukraine and more to them, and Principal Alan Cox decided that a 'Ukrainian Day' would help.

November 17th saw the Ukrainian students exhibit their culture and language to the Irish students. Sinead Mc Keever, who teaches English to nearly 20 Ukrainian students in the school, also helped to organise the day, and around the local community others came on board to ensure it was a success.

A Ukrainian businesswoman who runs a bespoke furniture shop based in Bray, Christina Captina, got in touch with Nina Elenchuk, a Ukrainian TV personality and choreographer. Nina and Chritina worked with the students to devise a programme of traditional songs and dances.

The mothers of the Ukrainian students also got involved and cooked traditional Ukrainian dishes such as Borscht for everyone to sample.

Students also hosted Ukrainian language and



Anastasiia Tretiak, Polina Pervaya, Temple Carrig Prinipal Alan Cox, TD Jennifer Whitmore, Tim Novosolov, and Yulia Balnykh are pictured at Temple Carrig's Ukrainian Day



Katrina and Eva Trachuk with Archbishop Michael Jackson and Tiglin Chairperson Aubrey McCarthy at Temple Carrig's Ukrainian Day

craft workshops and they sourced traditional Ukrainian costumes and were dressed in these throughout the day.

The Ukrainian ambassador Larysa Gerasko

recently visited Coolnagrina in Greystones, where a lot of the students are living. During her visit the students spoke about how they were showing their culture and

language in a positive way and how well they are integrating with Irish students in Temple Carrig.

The ambassador was so impressed she shifted a few appointments in her

diary so she could visit Temple Carrig on Thursday 17th November to see the show that the students put on and to taste some delicious Borscht!

## Extension approved for East Glendalough Secondary School

Minister Simon Harris has announced that the Department of Education has approved a huge extension for East Glendalough Secondary School in Wicklow Town.

On Friday 25th November the Department sanctioned the large-scale extension along with wide-ranging refurbishment and renewal works.

Minister Harris said, "I am delighted to announce the Department of Education's decision to approve an important extension for the East Glendalough Secondary School, providing a great range of new opportunities for the school.

"This extension will enhance the school

experience that students of East Glendalough receive during their time in the school. The additional refurbishment and reconfiguration works will help adapt areas of the school in order to ensure East Glendalough can continue to provide a high-quality education to all of its students.

"As the Minister for Further and Higher Education, I spend every day working to improve the educational opportunities and facilities for students across Wicklow and

the country at large. I warmly welcome this large-scale investment into our country's education system. The extra classrooms included in this extension will go a long way in providing increased school capacity for an area with a growing population.

"I would also like to congratulate the principal and staff of East Glendalough Secondary School, whose hard work and commitment helped in getting this project over the line. I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with the school and staff into the future," Minister Harris concluded.



On Tuesday 22nd November John Healy, maître d' for RTE's 'The Restaurant', visited the Rise at the Cove cafe in Greystones to celebrate the cafe's recent awards and also its first anniversary. Having coffee with Tiglin's CEO Phil Thompson and Chair Aubrey McCarthy along with local Principal Rachel Harper, John said "I have heard from many friends and colleagues about this Rise at the Cove cafe so I had to come and visit. The coffee is amazing and I have seen how the community has embraced this place. I am delighted to be part of this wonderful initiative. Huge kudos to Gavin, Phil and the team." Gavin Murphy and Tiglin were recently recognised for the great work they do at the Greystones People of the Year Awards, where they received a Special Recognition Award. Pic by: Photos by Annie



## Martin's Mosaic for Open Door Centre

For over 35 years, Martin Flanagan has been a member of Open Door, an activity centre in Bray for adults with physical disabilities in North Wicklow and South Dublin.

He thoroughly enjoys the art, woodwork, ceramics, mosaics and physiotherapy at the centre and has made many friends over the years. Martin recently completed a beautiful mosaic after many weeks of work and generously decided to raise funds for Open Door through his work.

On the 3rd of November Martin put a post on social media inviting offers above his reserve of €45. Offers could be made until mid-day on 10th November. Thanks to a generous bid of €250 from Cloud9 in Bray, the mosaic now has pride of place in the window of the shop on Quinsboro Road.

# SUPPORT LOCAL IN WICKLOW

*Think local, spend local and support local is the message this Christmas season*

**Christmas lights are now lighting up Wicklow as towns and villages get ready for Christmas and the busy shopping period.**

Wicklow Town and Greystones have introduced free parking on certain days in the lead-up, meaning there's no reason to head off to Dublin to do your shopping.

Greystones will have free parking on each Saturday in December, starting on December 3rd, and continuing on December 10th, December 17th, and December 24th.

Independent councillor Stephen Stokes said "I was delighted to propose this at the October meeting of Greystones Municipal District. Hopefully it will provide a festive boost to shoppers and local businesses."

Cllr Stephen Stokes is urging people to think local with their Christmas shopping. He added: "It's been a tough couple of years for local businesses. They will need all the support that they can get. It's also nice to create a

relaxed atmosphere for local shoppers too, with this initiative."

During this festive season, there are lots of exciting things happening throughout the town including the creative festive windows, the return of Burnaby the Elf and a very special Christmas installation at the Meridian centre where you can post your letters to Santa in his special post box and take a festive snap in Santa's sleigh.

Greystones Town Team is reminding people that this year also sees the return of the #thinklocal-buylocal campaign. This campaign highlights the range of retail and hospitality offerings available across Greystones allowing people to support local in the run up to the festive season. For more information about these exciting activities visit [greystones.ie](http://greystones.ie) on Instagram and Facebook.

Greystones is ever-changing and new shops and businesses are popping up all the time. From Church Road to the Harbour, from Charlesland to the Meridian Shopping Centre, there are many outlets to explore in Greystones. A look through the advertisements on these pages will illustrate the great choices that are available.

In Wicklow Town, shoppers have been enjoying two hours free Christmas parking in all Pay and Display Parking areas in since 21st November and this will continue until Saturday 31st December.

There will be free parking at the Murrrough and St Manntains Car Park for the Christmas period and shop owners and staff are encouraged to use these car parks to free up spaces for their customers in the

Abbey Street, Church Street Car Parks and the Main Street.

The initiative on special Christmas parking arrangements was agreed by the Cathaoirleach and Members of Wicklow Municipal District.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Paul O'Brien invited people to avail of the free parking over the Christmas period saying: "It's an excellent opportunity to shop local and support Wicklow for the festive season and enjoy a wonderful shopping experience in Wicklow Town."

Please note the Traffic Wardens will continue to monitor and enforce illegal parking during this time. Loading Bay restricted hours between 9am to 12 noon, Monday to Friday, will also still apply.

Wicklow Municipal District together with Wicklow Town & District



Courtney Cullen at the turning on of the Christmas lights in Wicklow Town

Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the Best Dressed Christmas Window Competition. The winner and runner-up will receive a Christmas Hamper and Wicklow Town Vouchers. This year the winners will be decided by members of the public by online voting. Details can be found on Wicklow Town Facebook page.

There is no need to formally enter the competition, but retailers must have their displays ready by Thursday 15th December.

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

across Ireland.

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

**A Groomer's Tail**  
IPDGA Certified Groomer  
Caoimhe Hind  
6 Mount Haven, New Rd, Greystones.  
A63EE98

**Professional Dog Grooming Greystones**  
Call Caoimhe on 087 707 3189  
Facebook - A Groomer's Tail

Christmas Appts. Available  
Gift Vouchers Available

Full & Mini Grooming  
Nail Clipping & De-shedding  
Puppy Pampering Sessions



The 'Light Up Greystones' launch event at the Meridian Centre

**Support Local in Greystones this Christmas**  
from all the staff of the

**WHALE**

THEATRE  
GREYSTONES

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

**Danthe phone**  
iPad & iPhone screen repair!

Danthe phone@gmail.com  
01 255 6006

2 Hillside Rd, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

**AlpacaJoe and his furry friends are back!**  
**K2ALPACAS MINI CHRISTMAS MARKET IS RUNNING FOR THE NEXT 4 WEEKENDS**

You will get a chance to meet and feed the Mums (alpacas of course) and Cria (Baby alpacas) and to get those compulsory photos and selfies. Check out their quirky behaviour and personalities.

Each alpaca (and there are a lot of them!) all have different names and personalities. K2 are mad about alpacas and everything we do and have is based around alpacas.

The gift shop has an abundance of alpaca gifts - Alpaca Slippers, Socks, Teddies, Hats and so much more.

Teas, Coffee & Hot Chocolate will be available from 3rd Dec.

**WHERE:** K2alpacas Farm, google K2Alpacas or search Eircode A63 DX08

**WHEN:** Every Sat & Sun 12-5pm to the 18th Dec.

Wicklow - Ukrainian Hub 'Palyanytsya'

**CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE FOR CHILDREN IN UKRAINE**

Please give a gift to the most vulnerable children in the Ukraine this Christmas who have lost one or both parents to the War.

We are looking for donations of a NEW, UNWRAPPED gift to our drop off hubs:

- Wicklow Town - The Old Library - A67VH48 (Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm, opening Saturday 3rd Dec. 10am - 4pm also)
- Newtown Mt Kennedy Community Centre - A63 H642 (Mon - Fri 8am - 9pm)
- Kilcoole Community Centre - A63 X862 (Mon - Thurs 9am - 6pm, Fri 9am - 2pm)
- Temple Carrig School Greystones - A63KT20 (Mon - Fri 8.30am - 3.30pm)
- Greystones Rugby Club - A63 PA09 (Wed 5pm - 9pm, Thurs and Fri 5pm - 11pm, Sat 12pm - 11pm, Sunday 9am - 7pm)

We need the toys by the 7th DECEMBER 2022, in order for the truck to get them to Ukraine in time for Christmas.

**Ph: +353 86 054 5223**  
[christmasappeal@ukrainians.ie](mailto:christmasappeal@ukrainians.ie)

# SUPPORT LOCAL IN WICKLOW



Greystones lit up for Christmas

By spending and supporting locally we can:

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

Neil McDonnell, Chief Executive at ISME, said: "Christmas 2022 will be the third successive year

of challenged trading conditions for many Irish businesses.

"You can make the difference for many of those affected this year with your spending decisions. Save time, money, and the environment by keeping at least a portion of your festive spending local this Christmas."

ISME has created two online portals for con-

sumers and one for businesses. Consumers can browse a variety of categories such as activities and entertainment, fashion, food and drink, retail, and Irish breaks which offers gift ideas for Christmas and showcases local businesses. For businesses, they can access a directory of B2B products and services such as corporate gifts, legal and

financial services, IT and marketing, transport, training and more.

Alan McGrath is the CEO of Health Stores Ireland which represents over 100 health stores throughout the country. He believes that independent shops do expect a tightening up on basket and big-ticket spending but are appealing to customers not to underestimate the power of even the smallest

transaction with their local shops. "Whether it's a cup of coffee in a local cafe or a single low-cost item from a food specialist, everyone benefits from this interaction, both socially and economically, and the retention of a diverse and sustainable retail offering will be ultimate end result."



Local children at the Meridian Centre in Greystones for the 'Light Up Greystones for Christmas' launch event.



Mary Doyle at the turning on of the Christmas lights in Wicklow Town

**Fenton Fires & Stoves**  
Stoves • Gas Fires • Fireplaces • Electric Fires • Outdoor Fires

Fenton Fires is a family run business in Greystones, Co. Wicklow. The Company was established over 45 years ago and offers a wide range of quality Woodburning Stoves & Inserts, Gas Fires & Stoves, Electric Fires and Fireplaces together with a large selection of Fireside Accessories to complement our product range. We have recently expanded our showroom to include a patio area showcasing our latest range of Outdoor Stove Heaters and Barbeques.

Stanley House, Church Road, Greystones, Co Wicklow T: 01 287 4310  
F: 01 287 5582 E: info@fentonfires.ie W: www.fentonfires.ie

Supporting Local in Greystones this Christmas

**Village Bookshop**

Great selection of Childrens Books and Gift Vouchers

Winter at the **Village Bookshop**

3 Church Road, Killincarrig, Greystones  
Tel.: 01 287 3925  
www.villagebookshopgreystones.com

**NANNIES TREASURES**  
GRAND OPENING  
Sunday the 27th of November  
10am to 7pm  
Curios, Antiques, Gifts, Homemade goodies and much much more

Drop in for a browse and a glass of mulled wine to wish us luck in our new venture.

You might even pick up a Christmas pressie or 2.  
See you there.

Louise x  
Cherrygarth Cottage,  
A98dX38  
Ph: 086-2525860

**THIS INCENSE BRINGS A ROOM TO LIFE**

Hand rolled incense doesn't just smell amazing and provide an ambient aroma, it is used to journey in meditation, calm the mind, generate present moment awareness, in yoga practice, spiritual practice, in many therapy settings and across multiple disciplines.

Many of the ingredients provide relief for numerous ailments such as anxiety, stress, sleep, focus, clarity, pain relief, and even as aphrodisiac!

Be Kind Industries is a celebration of Wicklow, its beautiful surroundings, jaw dropping scenery and deep rooted spirituality. Be Kind have honoured each Wicklow landmark or spiritual site with a hand rolled incense blend.

The truth is in the experience!  
[www.bekindindustries.com](http://www.bekindindustries.com)

**ELEVEN DELI**  
EST 2017

**Burnaby Buildings, Church Rd, Greystones**

• We have a wide range of gift ideas in store from hampers, fine wines, wine glasses, artisan foods, Irish pottery, delicious chocolates and a range of Chillys keep cups and water bottles.

• Cooked Christmas hams available to order.

• Full range of Sheridans cheeses in store.

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK RIGHT UP TO CHRISTMAS**  
**FULL CATERING MENU**  
on [elevendeli.ie](http://elevendeli.ie)  
Hamper and catering inquiries email [info@elevendeli.ie](mailto:info@elevendeli.ie) or call 01 2988394  
Mon-Fri 7.30am to 6pm Sat 9am to 6pm, Sun 10am-4pm

Shop Local in Greystones this Christmas

**BRADY'S**  
OF GREYSTONES  
EST. 1968

Rathdown Road, Greystones  
Ph.: 287 4712  
E: [bradyshomecare@gmail.com](mailto:bradyshomecare@gmail.com)

# Arklow Racquetball players compete at Irish Open



Colm O Caoimh and partner Chris Carey – CD Doubles Winners

Five Arklow Racquetball Players travelled to Ballinrobe for the 39th Irish Open recently. They really showed that the training has been paying off with every player making it to the semifinals and four of them making it to the finals in their respective divisions.

Arklow Racquetball Club said they would like to extend a massive congratulations to the players Brian Byrne, Colm O Caoimh, Reece Young, Scott Young and Toni Neary.

Colm O Caoimh played a storm winning the CD Doubles with his partner Chris Carey (Fermoy) against the well-seasoned players Don Lawlor and Billy Walsh (Kilkenny/Clogh).

Reece Young made it to the finals of every division he entered coming Runner up in the B against one of the Irish National Players Ken Cottrell, taking him to a tie breaker (3-2).

He also made it to the CD Final but was unfortunately beaten by Chris Carey (Fermoy) in a very exciting close match.

Finally, Reece paired up with his brother Scott Young to take on the Irish National Duo of Ken Cottrell and Johnny O Keeney in the Men's Open Doubles but after a hard-fought battle had to settle with second place.

Brian Byrne has really upped his game making it to the Men's Open Semi Finals only to be narrowly defeated by the overall Winner and current number 1 seed Johnny O Keeney (Fermoy).

Toni Neary also had a great competition, making it to the finals of both divisions she entered. She teamed up with Aisling Hickey (Rossmore) in the Women's Open Doubles to take on the Irish National Doubles Team Majella Haverly and Katie Kenny (Castlebar) but were narrowly defeated in the Tiebreaker.

Toni then went on to play the Open Women's final this time battling it out against her Doubles partner and All Ireland Champion Aisling Hickey. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be, and Toni had to settle with Runner up.

"We are immensely proud of our players; their hard work is playing off," said Arklow Racquetball Club. "Our yearly Turkey Competition is also underway with some matches being played at the Club Nights on Wednesday. Please feel



Reece Young- Men's B Runner Up



Toni Neary- Women's Open Runner Up

# Wicklow teen takes to the stage at Leinster House for Child Talks

Wicklow teenager Aisling Murphy told an audience at Leinster House about the impact the Leaving Cert structure had on her, at the recent Child Talks event hosted by the Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO) on Friday, 18th November.



Wicklow Town teenager Aisling Murphy

Now in its fifth year, Child Talks gives children a platform to share their experiences on issues that are important to them. Inspired by the location, the theme of this year's Child Talks was 'If I were Taoiseach for a day'. Aisling who's 17 and from Wicklow Town, spoke passionately about why she decided to take an alternative education path due to the stress she felt when preparing for the State exams.

"There was a lot of people who told me I was doing the wrong thing and that I would never manage to get far in life without a Leaving Cert... I ignored everyone who told me this and with the support of my parents and a few of my friends I decided to leave school and continue my education in a PLC course. Since that day I have never looked back or had a single regret about leaving school."

Aisling was one of a group of young speakers aged 11-17 to take part in Child Talks this year, with other topics on the day including homelessness, autism supports, accessibility, rural transport, female empowerment, the Irish Language and listen-

ing to children. Speaking about the event, the Ombudsman for Children, Dr Niall Muldoon said: "It is significant that our fifth Child Talks took place in Leinster House. We wanted those in power, those

making decisions that affect children, to hear from them directly so that they can fully consider their views.

"My job is to ensure that the rights of children are promoted and respected. I work hard to represent their views but there is no substitution for hearing from children themselves and supporting them to share their experiences, in their own words.

"The issues raised by

the children are topical and relevant; they talked about their personal experience of homelessness, about why they feel supports for children are not good enough, about the constraints they feel the current education system puts on their ability to reach their potential, about equal access for everyone and a lot more."

Children from across Ireland applied to take part in Child Talks to mark

World Children's Day. Some had experience of public speaking and some have never spoken publicly before. Over the past three months, the Ombudsman for Children's Office, with the support of Dublin Story Slam, worked with the young people involved to help them tell their story. Child Talks was also streamed live in classrooms across the country.



Mallaidh Callaghan, Karla Walsh and Kate O'Brien at the College Awareness event at Colaiste Chraobh Abhann last Wednesday for 3rd-6th year students, to help them make their college choices.

# Declan Sinnott & Victoria Keating at The Hot Spot

Renowned guitarist Declan Sinnott & singer Victoria Keating are heading to the Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones on Friday December 9th.

Declan Sinnott is an instantly recognizable guitar player. As well as a long and distinguished career with Horslips, Moving Hearts, Christy Moore, Mary Black, he has released two solo albums and continues to write and produce great songs. Victoria Keating has had three tracks on the RTE Radio Recommends Playlist so far this year.

John Creedon said "I think this woman is quite brilliant, she has a beautiful voice."

Victoria and Declan are very much at home on stage: warm, engaging, irreverent and often hilarious. They both carry a weight of musical and life experience that shines through everything. They sing songs

of their own and re-imagine songs by others with a beauty and sophistication. They are both very excited about the release of their own song 'Let's Go Singing In The Choir'. It marks the beginning of their first album together.

"This is really beautiful. As always, the guitar playing is just perfect. The arrangement and production, the filming and editing are superb. On top of all that, the singing is just gorgeous. I sincerely hope this gets the attention it deserves," said Christy Moore.

*This concert is on Friday Dec 9th. Doors 8pm | Show 9pm. Tickets [www.thehotspot.ie/tickets](http://www.thehotspot.ie/tickets) or on the door*



Guitarist Declan Sinnott and singer Victoria Keating

## The Muppets Christmas Carol

Mermaid Arts Centre, Saturday 3rd December, €5

Gather your friends and family and come along to Mermaid to kick off the festive season with this well loved Christmas classic, The Muppet Christmas Carol!

Brian Henson directs his late father's creations in the Charles Dickens classic, the best known (and most oft-filmed) Christmas story of all time. Michael Caine plays

the old miser Scrooge with Kermit as his long-suffering but ever-hopeful employee Bob Cratchit, Miss Piggy as Cratchit's wife, and a host of Muppets (including the

Great Gonzo as an unlikely Charles Dickens) taking other primary roles in this bright, playful adaptation of the sombre tale.

Or at least it starts brightly enough--the

anarchic humour soon settles into mirthful memories and a sense of melancholy as the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future take Scrooge on a journey of his lonely, wasted life.

Michael Caine makes a wonderful Scrooge, delightfully rediscovering the meaning of life as fantastic creations from Henson's Creature Shop (developed specially for this film) take the reins as the three ghosts. While the odd mix of offbeat humour and drama undercuts the power of Dickens's drama, this kid-friendly retelling makes an excellent family drama that adults and children alike can enjoy.



## BARSS Christmas Concert

Mermaid Arts Centre, Thursday 1st December, 8pm. Tickets €20

Swing into the festive season with the BARSS Christmas concert, featuring lots of seasonal favourites & popular classic with Samantha Brady, Hugo O'Donnell & Aimee Kearney.

All proceeds from the evening will, go to Bray Area Rough Sleepers Support (BARSS), the local Bray homeless charity which provides food to the homeless on the streets of Bray 365 nights a year. BARSS is a voluntary group which relies entirely on donations and local support.

BARSS receives no government funding and relies entirely on the generosity and support of the local community. The group has a 'no questions asked' policy and will feed anyone who needs their service. They sometimes provide other essential items such as sleeping bags, gloves and hats.



The cast of Bray Musical Society's production of Robin Hood & His Merry Crew - The Panto!, are pictured during rehearsals. The show is being performed in St. Patrick's Loreto Primary School on December 2nd, 3rd and 4th, with shows at 8pm (Friday 2nd), 2:30pm (Sat 3rd & Sun 4th), and 7:30pm (Sat 3rd). See [eventbrite.ie](http://eventbrite.ie) to book. The show is written and directed by Eoin Martin. Pictured are Maeve MacMichael, Sarah Jane Fortune, Michelle Murray, Ciara Kenny, Emma Watts, Tom Gallagher, Eoin Martin, Orlaith Dunne, Ciara O'Brien, and Paula Gegan. Photo by Joe McQuillan

# Wicklow represented at Gifted craft fair

A Kilmacanogue-based furniture maker and prints of Wicklow's iconic lighthouses will be in the spotlight at Gifted this week the Contemporary Craft and Design Fair, at the RDS from November 30th to December 4th.

A chance encounter with a 19th century Boat Builder's Chair, based on an old Irish design dating back to 1830, saved Brendan Lawless' career and set him on a new creative path. Kilmacanogue-based Brendan worked for 25 years as a furniture

maker, gaining a reputation as a skilled and experienced craftsman, before the 2008 recession almost wiped out his business.

With work drying up, others in the same boat might have opted for a career change, but Brendan's response was

to start building and selling reproductions of the Boat Builder's Chair lying at the back of his workshop.

"Suddenly I had all this free time on my hands, so I tried to make one just like it and it took off from there. People really like its

simplicity," said Brendan. I bought an original version of the chair at a 2010 RDS show from a gentleman who referred to it as a Famine Chair.

"I wanted it so I could make a version as an anniversary present for Martina. It was lying under a pile of blankets, cushions and stuff. I researched it and I discovered it had originated on the southern shores of

Lough Neagh and had evolved from a boat-builder's chair.

"The curved arms caught my eye. It was just so simple, but attractive. All the woodworking joints are traditional, there are no metal fixings. When I began work on the Boat Builder's Chair, I had to hone my skills in steam-bending and woodturning. During the steam-bending process, I began to think about woodworking machines available today and how my predecessors would feel about such progress.

"But some things never change, I am still standing at the lathe turning the legs of the chair by hand and steaming the wood as it was done 200 years ago."

The chair is particularly popular as a wedding gift and has also been used to seat the bride and groom during marriage ceremonies. The range includes the Baidin, two chairs that interlock together to make a platform for a Moses basket.

## Tintin inspires Wicklow lighthouse prints

Also in the spotlight at Gifted are prints of the iconic Wicklow lighthouses.

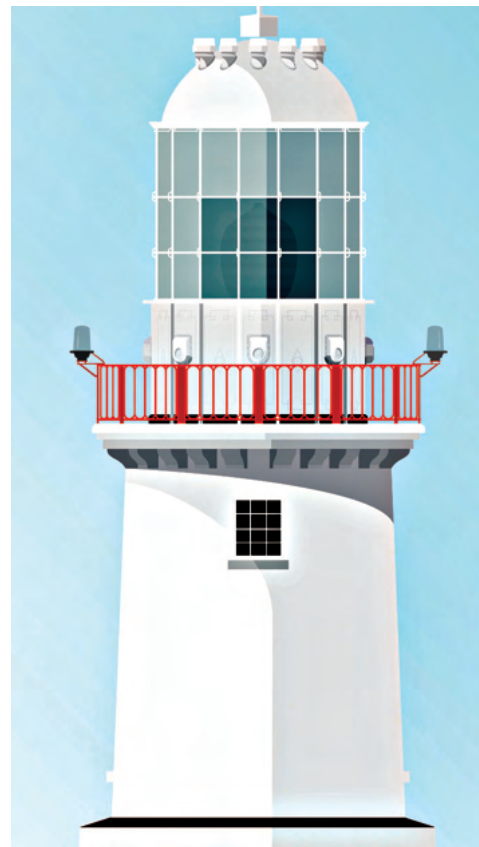
Bert DuFour has spent the last three years and travelled over 2,000km trying to capture all 80 operational lighthouses dotted around our coastline, including Wicklow and Wicklow Head.

Fifty-five lighthouses across the country have so far been framed as artworks - and now his huge project will go on public show at Gifted, Contemporary Craft and Design Fair at Dublin's RDS from Nov 30th-Dec 4th.

"There is a beauty to these towers, and how they stand over the ocean," said Belgian native Bert, who moved to Ireland in 2011. "I am gobsmacked by how these structures were created 150 to 200 years ago. I find how they were built and where they were built utterly fascinating."

Bert, who started design business, The Designer of Things, after moving here, said his work has been inspired by Herge, the Brussels-born graphic artist and creator of The Adventures of Tintin. His illustrations have even been compared to the famous comic books about the boy adventurer and his dog Snowy.

"I have been told by a



Print of Wicklow lighthouse by Bert DuFour

few people that my illustrations reminded them of the Tintin books," said former architecture student Bert. "The comics have had a big influence on how I illustrate. I was a big fan of the books growing up and still have

a full collection in their original hardcover prints."

He hopes to complete the lighthouse mission next year, and said choosing a favourite one is like choosing a favourite child.



Brendan Lawless from Kilmacanogue with his boat builder's chair reproductions

## The Greystones Players present: The Cripple of Inishmaan at Whale Theatre

by Martin McDonagh

Whale Theatre, 8th – 11th December, Thursday – Saturday 8pm, Sunday 4 pm  
Tickets €20, [whaletheatre.ie](http://whaletheatre.ie)

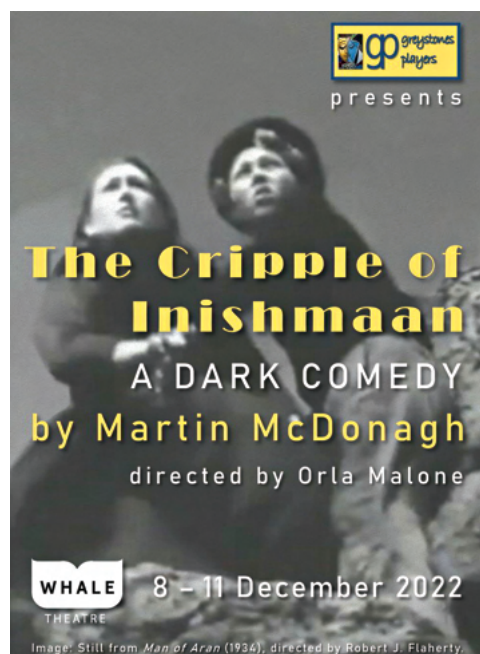
Greystones Players is delighted to present The Cripple of Inishmaan by Martin McDonagh at the Whale Theatre on Thursday – Sunday, 8 – 11 December. Directed by Orla Malone, this acclaimed play by the great playwright, screenwriter and director Martin McDonagh is a must-see for theatre lovers. All of Greystones Players' previous productions sold out, so book this one early to avoid disappointment!

### CLASSIFIEDS

#### THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

It's 1934, and the small Aran Islands community of Inishmaan (Inis Meáin) is abuzz with the news that a Hollywood director and film crew have arrived on the neighbouring island of Inishmore (Inis Mór) to make a documentary about life there. 'Cripple' Billy Claven, a young orphan with big dreams, sees his golden opportunity to escape the poverty and boredom of his life there and make it big. The film is Robert J. Flahertys Man of Aran, and Billy is determined to be in it, come hell or high water. The Cripple of Inishmaan has taken its rightful place as one of the great Irish plays of the modern era.



Paul Ward, Daisy Boorman and Ronan O'Leary are pictured in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, for the presentation of a lifetime achievement award from Wicklow County Council to acclaimed filmmaker and Annamoe resident Sir John Boorman.

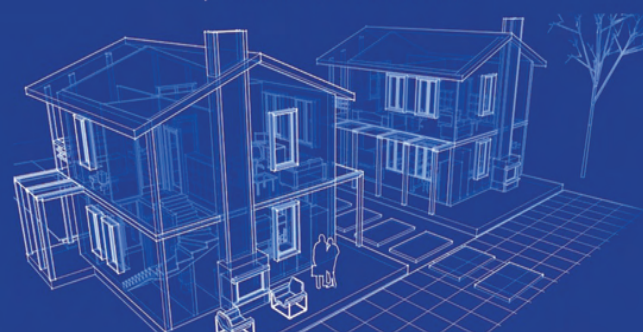
### PLANNING

#### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Mr. Paul Kennedy seeks full planning permission for proposed New Dwelling, Garage, On-site Sewage Treatment System to current EPA standards, New Road Entrance and all ancillary site works at Aughrim Upper, Aughrim, 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.

## 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](mailto:pauline@localtimes.ie)



# Promoting Wicklow in Frankfurt

Wicklow was recently promoted to 25 German, Swiss and Austrian tour operators at Tourism Ireland's 'Ireland Meets Germany' B2B workshop in Frankfurt.

Thirty (30) tourism companies from Ireland - including Powerscourt Estate - were connecting with the tour operators during a series of one-to-one meetings and networking sessions, providing a valuable opportunity for the businesses from Ireland to showcase and sell their products and services and to ensure they're featured in the operators programmes for 2023.

Germany is the third-largest source of visitors to the island of Ireland and one of the largest outbound travel markets in the world. In 2019, we welcomed 749,000 German visitors to the island of Ireland.



Tourism companies from Ireland, including Lisa Moran, Powerscourt Estate (front, seventh left); with Nadine Lehmann (front, third left) and Siobhan McManamy (front, third right), both Tourism Ireland, at the 'Ireland Meets Germany' event in Frankfurt.

# Nominate a volunteer

**ML SECURITY SYSTEMS**

- Intruder Alarms • Home Monitoring
- Fire Alarms • Emergency Lighting
- CCTV Service • 24/7 Monitoring
- Maintenance Contracts • Online Quotes
- Repairs to existing systems

Hillside Cottage, Delgany, Greystones, Co Wicklow. Tel: 01 - 2870043  
 Tel: 053 9136066  
 info@mlsecuritysystems.com  
 www.mlsecuritysystems.com  
 Mobile 087 9912387 24/7 Emergency

People are being urged to nominate a person, group or company for a Wicklow Volunteer Award.

Nomination Categories include

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

Nominations close on December 8th at 5.00 pm. For further information, visit our web-site <https://volunteerwicklow.ie>.



Cara and Mia Nolan at the switching on of the Christmas lights in Wicklow Town

**ANTO'S TREE SERVICES**

Fully Insured Tree Surgeon

Pruning, Reductions and Removal

All Aspects of Tree Surgery

Tel: 087 610 9128

**LOCAL BUSINESS LOCAL BUSINESS LOCAL BUSINESS**

**ALLSHADES BLINDS**

- Roller • Vertical • Wood Venetian
- Pleated • Velux • Roman

Tel: 087 2201600

FACTORY: Unit 10, Block 1, Broomhall Business Park, Rathnew. Tel: 0404 20344

**Affordable Live-in Homecare**

Night and/or Daytime Care available  
 For less than the Cost of a Nursing Home or Private Visiting Care Service

National Enquiry Line:  
**087 744 0729**  
 or call Eileen: 087 991 6791

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS from

**The LARDER**

Bakery, Delicatessen & Sandwich Shop

All you need for Christmas:

Christmas Cake, Pudding, Mince Pies, Baked Ham etc. Also Christmas Vouchers Available - Call in or contact us for more details

19 Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow.  
 T: (01) 286 5093 [the larder bakery bray](https://www.thelarderbray.com)

**Lucas Tree Services**

- Tree Surgery • Tree Felling
- Tree Site Clearance • Stump Removal
- Dangerous Tree Removal
- Hedge/Garden Maintenance

SEASONED LOGS FOR SALE

T: 086 374 2246 E: [lucastreeservices3@gmail.com](mailto:lucastreeservices3@gmail.com)

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

**O'BRIENS**

ROOFING & GUTTERING

Gutters Cleaned & Sealed From €49

Roof Repairs From €199

Call Richard: 087 348 8516

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

YOU SAY IT, WE SPRAY IT

**Sprayit**

COMPLETE KITCHEN RE-SPRAYS

Charvey Lane, Rathnew. Tel: 089 2365271

**man & MACHINE**

Wash and Valet

HAND CAR WASH

DRIVE - IN NO NEED TO BOOK

OPEN 7 DAYS

Rathdown Rd, New Best Drive (beside Circle K). Tel: 087 7888339

10% DISCOUNT WHEN YOU MENTION WICKLOW TIMES

EXPRESS VALETING SERVICES AND FULL VALETING SERVICES AVAILABLE

[www.manandmachine.ie/man-machine-greystones/](http://www.manandmachine.ie/man-machine-greystones/)

**VASS AUTOS**

We Would Love to Have You Visit Soon!

VW AUDI SALES AND SERVICE SPECIALISTS

Ballingen, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow. Y14 N447

Email: [info@vassautos.ie](mailto:info@vassautos.ie). Tel: 087 6371366

**Amanda's Hair Salon**

CHRISTMAS GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE IN SALON

We stock REVLOX Products

KING BRUSHES - Gift Boxes Made to Order

GHD Straighteners Available

9 Lr. Mall, Wicklow Town. Tel: 0404 64562

**PAINTER AVAILABLE**

Irish painter over 25 years experience

Example: Hall, Stairs and Landing, Walls and Ceilings including paint €230

Example: 3 Bedrooms Walls and Ceiling including paint €360

Call Gerry on 085 721 8718

Flu & COVID-19 vaccines

# HAVE YOU TOPPED UP YOUR WINTER PROTECTION YET?

**Hundreds of thousands of people in Ireland have already topped up their immune system, protecting them and their families from flu and COVID-19 in the months ahead.**

Getting your recommended flu and COVID-19 vaccines when they are due is the best way to reduce the risk of serious illness and hospitalisation for both adults and children. They will also help protect your family, friends and anyone at risk of severe illness.

Protection from COVID-19 vaccines reduces over time so it is important to keep up to date with your vaccines to boost your immunity.

So don't delay. Check what vaccines are recommended for you and your family on [hse.ie](https://hse.ie) and book an appointment today.

## Where to get your vaccine

Get your recommended flu and COVID-19 vaccines at participating GPs and pharmacies; children aged 2 to 17 can also get their nasal spray flu vaccine there too, free of charge. Find participating pharmacies using the pharmacy finder tool on [hse.ie](https://hse.ie)

COVID-19 vaccines are also available from HSE Vaccination Centres by making an appointment on [hse.ie](https://hse.ie)

## More information

Visit [hse.ie](https://hse.ie) for more information or call our team in HSELive on **1800 700 700**.



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland

