

LOCAL Wicklow Times

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UKRAINIAN AMBASSADOR
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Tuesday 8th November 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

NO HOPE FOR N11 COMMUTERS

Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan met with Wicklow County councillors on Friday 28th October to discuss the shelving of the N11 upgrade project and other transport issues in the county.

Green Party TD Steven Matthews told *Wicklow Times*, "I'm glad that Minister Ryan was able to take time from his extremely busy schedule to meet and discuss transport and environmental issues for Co Wicklow. Minister Ryan has fully backed my DART extension to Wicklow Town. We are seeing a big increase in rural bus services including a new Wicklow route to Bray and an extension from

Naas to Arklow will be introduced shortly. Wicklow County Council has been recently selected for 'Pathfinder', an ambitious integrated transport plan, which will receive priority backing from the Department and I'm hopeful that improvements to the N81 will be assessed as well as express bus routes on the N11.

"The council, in the last two years, has received huge increases

in funding and many extra staff to deliver improved walking, cycling facilities and road safety measures across the entire county and this will continue with Greens in government."

Fine Gael councillor Irene Winters questioned Minister Ryan about Wicklow's railway, telling him it was essential that the two existing rush hour trains from Arklow are kept as direct trains to Dublin



Minister Mary Butler on the new slide in Avondale Forest Park, where the *Beyond the Trees* experience was last week awarded Age Friendly recognition, making it the first age friendly tourist destination in the country. See page 5

and are increased to eight carriages, and that a third train also be added.

Cllr Derek Mitchell told *Wicklow Times*, "In 2018 I produced a rail plan for Wicklow which had three direct eight carriage trains from Arklow at rush hour. Since then there are rumours of a shuttle train but no plan. At rush hour commuters don't want to spend 10 minutes changing trains.

"The other part of my 2018 plan described how to get 50% more trains to Greystones, by partial double tracking. An NTA study validated this and it should be in DART+ Coastal South. We have been told consultation will start this year but there is no news of this.

"The Minister seems to have cancelled the N11 project but not produced a plan to make the rail line work. The N11

plan he cancelled was as much about getting express buses past Bray and Greystones, doubling public transport mode share from Arklow and many places. Mostly it provided proper overbridges on the Bray by-pass so cross traffic was safer and didn't mix as now, correcting the bad design 50 years ago."

A frustrated Joe Behan (Independent) said "The minister offered no hope to commuters on the N11 who drop kids into creches at 6.30am every morning and are at their wits end trying to make it back to collect them at 6.30 that evening. The Minister's department has spent over €5 million on studies and feasibility plans to upgrade the N11 and now it's all wasted. And as for the Luas to Bray, first promised back in the time of Dick Roche, there again appears to be

no hope of this. So the 40,000 angry daily commuters will have to suf-

fer several more years of crawling along the N11 or may be they can get a

tandem with a baby seat and cycle the 20 or 30 miles to work."

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NO MIDDLE MAN, WE SELL, MANUFACTURE AND INSTALL



Lucy Doyle and Cara Collins at the Wicklow Arts Halloween Parade in Rathdrum. See more, page 13

Greystones MD Clinics

CLlr Stephen Stokes will be offering monthly clinics on the second Saturday of each month, in Dr Ryan Community Centre, Greystones (9:15am-10am); Newcastle Community Centre (11am-11:45am); and The Wicklow Arms in Delgany (12:30pm-1pm).

Soup & sandwiches

There will be a Soup and Sandwich Lunch in the Swann Hall in Greystones at St. Patrick's Church on Tuesday, 15th November from 12.30pm until 2pm. Everybody is welcome. A suggested donation of €5 is given to local charities.

Free Genealogy Advisory Service

A Free Genealogy Advisory Service is available at Wicklow Library on Thursday 17th November from 6.30 to 8.30pm.

Are you interested in tracing your family tree and don't know where to start or maybe you've hit a brick wall in your search? Come along to our free drop-in advisory evening at Wicklow Local Studies, Salthouse Lane, Wicklow Town where local expert genealogist will be on hand to guide you through your search, answer your family history questions and point you to the right resources. This service is provided on a first-come-first-serve basis and no appointment is necessary. For further information email Wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie or phone 087 2683724

Joint Policing Committee meeting

The Co. Wicklow Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

meeting will be held in Little Bray Family Resource Centre, Upper Dargle Road, on 10th November at 7pm. The purpose of the meeting is to provide a forum for discussion of matters relating to policing. The local community will have their chance to make their views known and ask questions. All are welcome to attend. It is helpful - though not necessary - if questions are submitted before the meeting. Questioners should provide their name and address which will not be publicised. Email questions to hpurcell@wicklowcoco.ie.

Redford Cenetery Blessing of the Graves

Blessing of the graves at Redford Cemetery in Greystones takes place on 13th November. This annual, well-attended community ceremony will begin at 3pm. All are welcome.

Brockagh Christmas Market

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

The Old Dublin Society

The Old Dublin Society will host a lecture by Clifton Flewitt recalling 'Dublin's Trams - The First Generation' at 6pm on Wednesday November 9th in The Conference Room, Dublin City Library & Archive, 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All are welcome - admission is free.

ADHD support group

Turn2Me, a national mental health charity, and ADHD Ireland, have launched a free support group for people in Ireland living with ADHD. The charities said that many people with ADHD struggle to find supports for their ADHD and this online free support group will be a great place for adults and parents to share their experiences and common struggles. The online support groups will be a platform where people can talk about problems they face in school, college, employment, and social situations; and they can also share tips on what has worked well for them in the past, and positive coping mechanisms. The support groups will begin on Tuesday 6th December, at 7pm; and will run every 4 weeks. The following group will be on the 3rd of January. Adults and parents who want to sign up for the free support group for ADHD can do so on Turn2Me.ie

Rotary 'Bikes for Africa' repaired and shipped by Shelton Abbey

Well done to Industrial Supervisor Tom Gregan and Work & Training Officer (WTO) Declan McCabe and the team of workers on the farm in Shelton Abbey Prison in Arklow.

On 8th September they loaded another container of bikes which is destined for Africa in partnership with the Rotary Club Bikes for Africa scheme, packing the container full, fitting a record total of 308 repaired bikes in. These bikes were donated by the public in County Wicklow in varying conditions to Rotary. Over the last number of months Shelton Abbey inmates worked on these bikes to ensure they are fully operational and safe, ready to be shipped.

These bikes are then donated to school going kids who normally have to walk many miles to and from school to attend



The bikes lined up ready to be shipped

education. The gift of these bikes makes the daily commute to and from school a lot easier for the students, and helps them maintain their education.

A big thanks to the lads who man the bike repair shop especially the

2 lads who have been ever present over the last couple of months. They enjoy the work of repairing these bikes knowing the bike will help a child in Africa and make a difference to them and their family. Bikes for Africa is a Rotary campaign that hopes to transform the lives of people in Africa, the project collects unwanted bikes that are in good condition and forwards them to people in Africa for who this simple mode of transport can transform their daily lives.

Old bikes give new lives to families in Africa. An unused bike in your garage could be life changing for a student in Gambia. Donations of bikes can be left at the local recycling sites across the county or through Bray and Wicklow Rotary Clubs.



Industrial Supervisor Tom Gregan Supervises the loading of the bike's ensuring they are packed tight.

Fundraiser to refurbish Kirkee Hall

A GoFundMe page has been created in order to help raise some much needed funds for the refurbishment and upkeep of Kirkee Hall.

"Kirkee Hall is an intricate part of our local community and has been known to be a social hub for many many years," says local resident Shelley Burke. "It's played host to card games, dances, drama for young and old, gaelic football and camogie training, badminton, a polling station and loads more.

"Over the last number of years the hall is being used by less and less organisations in the community as its damp, cold and just not very inviting anymore.

"We want to raise funds to sort out the warped floors, leaking roof, damp walls and just get it back to a standard that will see more people use it over the coming months and on into the future. Any donation would be greatly appreciated."

The fundraising page can be found by searching for 'Kirkee Hall' on GoFundMe.com



Kirkee Hall

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Bird Flu found in captive coastal Wicklow flock

An outbreak of Avian Influenza has now been confirmed in a captive bird flock in a coastal area of Co. Wicklow, the Department of Agriculture has confirmed. Until recently the bird flu had only been confirmed in wild birds along Wicklow's coastline.

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr Charlie McConalogue TD, has announced he is introducing regulations as a precautionary measure due to the increasing risk levels as colder temperatures and shorter daylight hours as well as recent confirmation of disease in a wild bird inland.

The presence of the bird flu in captive flocks in Wicklow and Dublin recently highlights an increasing risk to all poultry flocks and captive birds and by extension the poultry industry, the Department said.

Clinical signs that poultry keepers should look for in their birds include a swollen head, discolouration of neck and throat, loss of appetite, respiratory distress, diarrhoea and fewer eggs laid - although these vary

between species of bird.

Outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza have also been identified in poultry flocks in Great Britain and a number of other European countries in recent weeks.

The new regulations, under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013, come into effect on 7th November. They require flock keepers to confine all poultry and captive birds in their possession or under their control in a secure building to which wild birds, or other animals do not have access.

The Department previously introduced regulations on 19th September making it mandatory for all keepers of poultry and captive birds to adopt enhanced biosecurity measures for poultry and other captive birds.

"It is important to note that housing is a support to biosecurity, not an alternative. Stringent biosecurity remains key to protecting poultry and captive bird flocks from disease," the Department said.

"Poultry flock owners should remain vigilant for any signs of disease in their flocks, maintain strict biosecurity measures and report any disease suspicion to their nearest Department Veterinary Office."

"The Department continues to closely monitor and assess the disease situation and is in regular contact with industry stakeholders. It is important to note that there is no evidence of risk to humans associated with consumption of poultry or poultry products. Properly cooked poultry products, including meat and eggs

are safe to eat."

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre has confirmed that although the H5N1 subtype can cause serious disease in poultry and other birds, the risk of infection to humans is considered to be very low. However, members of the public are advised not to handle sick or dead wild birds and to report sick or dead wild birds to the Regional Veterinary Office or notify the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine through its Avian Influenza Wild Bird App.

An early warning system is in place with Birdwatch Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the National Association of Regional Game Councils with regard to surveillance for signs of disease in wild birds.



Minister Simon Harris with Dr Mags Crean at Greystones Family Resource Centre's 20th anniversary celebrations last Friday

Failure to consider renewable energy for Glendalough Visitors Centre

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has raised concerns regarding the continued use and replacement of oil tanks at Glendalough Visitor Centre and initial plans to forgo a flood assessment at the site, a decision that the OPW reversed following enquiries from Deputy Matthews.

"This development is concerning to me on a number of levels," said Deputy Matthews. "Firstly, I am disappointed about the lack of consideration for the installation of alternative, more sustainable

sources of energy. Also, it seems highly irresponsible that a flood risk assessment was not carried out at the location of the new oil tanks. There were three serious incidents of flooding in Glendalough between

2010 and 2012 that caused extensive damage to the centre.

"The installation of new oil tanks is not in line with the Government's Climate Action Plan and following engagement with the OPW, it was confirmed to me that renewable energy upgrades were not considered for the project. Given the significant resources available at a government level for improving the environmental impact of public

buildings, it is concerning that the OPW did not go down this route.

"Glendalough is one of Ireland's most popular tourist attractions, and as a site owned by the OPW it should set an example for sustainable energy practices. It is clear to me that there was a lack of forward planning in the decision. Renewable energy systems such as solar PV panels should have been considered and will likely be

installed in the coming years and if so, will make the new oil tanks redundant. I can't understand why this couldn't have happened now instead.

"After discussions with the OPW and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, it is welcome that a Flood Risk Assessment will now be carried out at the location that the oil tanks are being replaced. I have also asked that they

consider a full retrofitting for the visitor centre. I believe this site would be a prime candidate for such a retrofitting project due to the high volume of visitors it attracts each year.

"I look forward to working with the Minister and the OPW to ensure that this important Wicklow heritage site is sustainably powered," Deputy Matthews concluded.

Raw sewage in Wicklow waters

A report released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has shown that in 2021, half of Ireland's wastewater was not treated to EU standards.

While much of this was related to Dublin's Ringsend wastewater treatment plant, Arklow in Wicklow was also noted in the report. Arklow is noted in a list of just 12 urban areas not meeting EU standards.

Green Party MEP Grace O'Sullivan, Spokesperson on the Marine, and works in the European Parliament, said "While Irish Water have said they are playing catch-up since their setting-up in 2014, I don't believe it's acceptable that we are still missing European targets from 2005 in this day and age. Work on adequate treatment of our urban wastewater must be fast-tracked as soon as possible."

The settlements of Arklow and Avoca were also noted in the report as not having adequate sewage treatment in place, and so therefore are releasing raw sewage

into nearby rivers or directly into the sea.

"I'm an avid sea swimmer, and as an Island nation we should have a closer relationship and be taking care of our natural waters," continued MEP O'Sullivan.

"There's a public health risk here too, as well as an economic one for some tourist hotspots - we've seen some beaches being closed down in the peak of summer in recent years due to inadequate water quality."

Irish Water have stated that they plan for all sewage outflows to be treated by 2025 at the latest, with sewage from Arklow and Avoca to be treated by this latest date.

They also stated that since 2014, 60% of raw sewage discharges by volume have been eliminated through targeted investment in new sewerage infrastructure.



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COUNTY WICKLOW ARTS CENTRE



**Wicklow
Volunteer Centre**
Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Cill Mhantáin

**COUNTY WICKLOW
VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2022**

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

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

Nomination Categories include

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

Each category requires you to nominate ONE volunteer. If you would like to nominate more than one volunteer, please submit your entry in the Volunteer Team Award category. Nominations close on December 8 at 5.00 pm. To make your nominations and for further information visit our web-site

www.volunteerwicklow.ie

Ukrainian Ambassador welcomed to Greystones

On Saturday 29th October the Ukrainian Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Gerasko Larysa visited the Tiglin Centre in Greystones that has become home to 109 people who have fled their homes and their towns in search of safety.



Ukrainian Ambassador to Ireland Larysa Gerasko meets with Coolnagreina residents

She was greeted by Ukrainian residents from across all generations who are currently residing at the facility and were proudly displaying some traditional food and children's crafts. On a tour of the facilities, the Ambassador met with staff and residents and heard stories from the past eight months. The youngest resident at the facility was born in Ireland and is now two months old. Buggies lined the reception at The Rise at Coolnagreina. A vivid reminder that as tanks

rolled into towns and villages in Ukraine, buggies and wheelchairs fled.

It was late into the night on St Patrick's day that the centre owned by Tiglin, The Rise at Coolnagreina, started to welcome its first number of families. Throughout the night, the phone rang and more and more people arrived.

The Wicklow-based charity that is entrenched within the community has worked closely with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to provide a network of supports were mobilised to attend to the needs of those displaced by the war in their land.

"The impacts that this war is having and will continue to have will be felt for many years to come," says Aubrey McCarthy, Tiglin Chair. "Our staff, volunteers and counsellors have created a network of willing people who are trained in trauma informed care, children's therapy, job activation and community integration."

Ireland has always been the land of a thousand welcomes. As we help to support Ukrainian people find their feet in Ireland, we do so knowing that our willingness to support hails from a rich heritage of both being the giver and the receiver of generosity, love and charity.

"The local people have been amazing,



Minister Simon Harris, Tiglin founder Aubrey McCarthy, and Rachel Harper are pictured with Ukrainian Ambassador to Ireland Larysa Gerasko during her visit to Coolnagreina in Greystones

sports clubs, schools, Lions clubs, Rotary Club and local business have gone above and beyond to ensure that while they live in this town that they are a welcome part of this community," says CEO of Tiglin, Phil Thompson.

Aubrey McCarthy continued: "We have worked hard with the relevant government agencies to

create 109 beds spaces. When a family is separated under such tragic circumstances, there will be layers of support and care needed. Our children's therapist and family support services have been a vital source of help and support to those who have come."

Local Independent councillor Stephen Stokes has commended the Tiglin Team on an excellent welcome for the Ukrainian Ambassador.

"The Ambassador was

very generous with her time. It was good to meet the Ambassador again. When the invasion of Ukraine broke out, the community came together with a Rally for Ukraine, in the Burnaby Park, Greystones. There is a bond of friendship between Ireland and Ukraine that was further strengthened with the visit of the Ambassador.



Local Independent councillor Stephen Stokes with Ukrainian Ambassador to Ireland Her Excellency Gerasko Larysa



Ukrainian Ambassador to Ireland Larysa Gerasko and Minister Simon Harris meeting with Coolnagreina residents during her visit to Greystones



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Beyond the Trees recognised as a World Leader

New status makes Avondale the First Age Friendly tourist destination in Ireland

Age Friendly Ireland has awarded Age Friendly recognition to Beyond the Trees Avondale located in Avondale Forest Park, acknowledging it as the first age friendly tourist destination in the country.



Director of Services at Wicklow County Council Michael Nicholson makes a presentation of a Wicklow Naturally hamper to Minister Mary Butler at the Age Friendly recognition ceremony for Beyond the Trees.

Beyond the Trees Avondale received its official Age Friendly Charter at a launch event last Thursday and will now also be recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as an international model of good practice for age friendly development. A case study publication was also launched on Thursday by Age Friendly Ireland, outlining the work undertaken at Beyond the Trees Avondale.

Beyond the Trees is a new visitor destination, developed in partnership between Coillte, Failte Ireland and EAK Ireland in Avondale Forest Park, County Wicklow, combining a 700 metre Treetop Walk with a 12-storey high Viewing Tower, created for the project by EAK Ireland.

Age friendly principles were incorporated into Beyond the Trees Avondale in order to ensure its ease of use and accessibility across the life course.

Under its Age Friendly Programme, Wicklow County Council, in partnership with the key stakeholders, co-ordinated the age friendly four stage process to ensure that older people's needs were considered in the development. This work included consultation with a diverse range of older people and a walkability audit.

In undertaking the improvements, Beyond the Trees Avondale referenced the guidance material provided by Age Friendly Ireland for the development of outdoor

all. By making our outdoor spaces pleasant, clean, accessible, and safe for older people, we can create inclusive communities and age-friendly spaces across the State for everyone. I would like to congratulate all involved in this project for creating this unique offering within the tourism sector that has been specially tailored to the experience of Ireland's ageing population."

Imelda Hurley, Chief Executive, Coillte, said: "We are very proud to achieve Age Friendly recognition status for Beyond the Trees Avondale. At every stage of the planning process, we wanted to ensure that this unique visitor destination would be fully accessible, offering visitors young and old and of all levels of ability the opportunity to witness the beauty of Avondale and the surrounding Wicklow countryside in a fascinating new way that brings drama and excitement to the simple exploration of the forest."

"Alongside our project partners, Failte Ireland and EAK Ireland, we were delighted to collaborate with Wicklow County Council and Age Friendly Ireland to successfully ensure that this wonderful environ-

space and buildings and the World Health Organisation's checklist for age friendly cities and communities."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson, said that the ambitious project to incorporate age friendly principles into the unique Beyond the Trees Avondale visitor experience stemmed from a desire to ensure that Wicklow is a great place in which to grow older.

Speaking at the official recognition ceremony today, Mary Butler TD, Minister for Mental Health and Older People, said: "I am delighted to be here at the Launch of Ireland's First Age Friendly Tourist Destination Beyond the Trees Avondale. As Minister of State with responsibility for Mental Health and Older People, it is wonderful to be able to visit and see in person this extremely impressive world class amenity where you can journey through the forest and above the canopy of the trees. The Government is firmly committed to the Programme for Government goal of creating an Age Friendly Ireland and making Ireland a great place to live as we age. This age-friendly tourist destination brings us one step closer to achieving this goal."

She added: "The importance of creating age-friendly public spaces cannot be overstated. Design that takes an age friendly perspective can help to create environments which provide enhanced access for



Minister Mary Butler with local elected representatives, Wicklow County Council officials and Coillte staff at the Age Friendly recognition ceremony for Beyond the Trees.

ment could be experienced by everyone. Since Beyond the Trees Avondale was officially opened by President Michael D. Higgins in July, we have been delighted to welcome visitors of all ages and abilities to enjoy this unique and beautiful visitor destination."

The age friendly elements of Beyond the Trees Avondale include:



Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Tommy Annesley, Clodagh Whelan, CEO of Coillte Imelda Hurley, Tom McArdle, Orla Carroll from Failte Ireland, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District Pat Kennedy, and CEO of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson at the Age Friendly Recognition ceremony for Beyond the Trees.

- 22 Age Friendly car parking spaces as well as 25 Disabled Parking bays and 6 Electric Vehicle charging points.
- Changing Places toilet facility (which includes an adjustable bench, hoist and shower)
- Fully accessible Treetop walk aligned to age friendly principles
- New age friendly signage

on the website

A substantial number of Age Friendly Car parking spaces are provided close to the entrance. These are suitable for any older person who has mobility, sensory or cognitive issues that make walking longer distances difficult. They are suitable for people with arthritis, dementia, vision limitations, people

Beyond the Trees Avondale enables people to reconnect with nature and witness the changing seasons at first hand. Older people from across Ireland and our international visitors will really enjoy the experience."

Speaking at last week's ceremony, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, said the recognition of Beyond the Trees Avondale as the first tourist destination of its kind in Ireland was "a very significant development for Wicklow as it continues to promote Ireland as a world leader for Age Friendly Communities."

He added: "The work that has been carried out to ensure that Beyond the Trees, Avondale is Age friendly gives us all a reason to feel even more proud of our county, because it ensures that this facility welcomes and accommodates people of all abilities and ages. As a result of this initiative, everyone in our community, in Ireland and our international visitors, regardless of age, will be able to visit and enjoy this very special corner of County Wicklow."

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, said 13 per cent of Wicklow's population was aged 65 and over and this was going to increase. "We must be ready for this change. People are living longer lives, and in many cases, older people are living more active and healthier lives than in the past. Older people today want to continue doing the things they always enjoyed doing. This was why Wicklow County Council had developed its first Age Friendly County Strategy, for 2017-2022."

Consultation is now taking place to develop a new Age Friendly Strategy for County Wicklow which will run from 2023-2027.

- Concessions on ticket prices for 65+ age group
- Accessible trails including a multi access route that is suitable for wheelchair users
- Age Friendly seating along the route
- Pedestrian access from village and railway station
- A family cycle trail
- Dedicated accessibility content

recovering from operations, and their carers.

Mai Quaid, chair of the Wicklow Older People's Council, explained how this will be of benefit to older people: "Avondale is a wonderful facility here in the Garden of Ireland. It is tailored to suit the needs of many ages but is geared to cater for older people who will appreciate its many amenities."



Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien

Serving the people of Bray and Co. Wicklow



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STRIVING FOR POSITIVE CHANGE THROUGH POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT



President of Soroptimist International Bray, Tanja Haak O'Riordan, presenting the gift of a framed copy of their original Charter in 1960 to Deirdre, Aide de Campe to President Higgins

Bray Soroptimists visit Áras an Uachtaráin

The Bray & District branch of Soroptimist International received an invitation to Áras an Uachtaráin in 2020 to mark their 60th anniversary however their visit was deferred due to the pandemic. In October of this year they finally got to make their visit.

They were greeted at the front courtyard by President Michael D. Higgins' two Aides de Campe. The Bray Soroptimists were part of a group of 22 Soroptimists from Bray, Dublin & Wexford, plus a few social members. They were warmly welcomed into the Áras, and were offered delicious treats, tea and coffee, before starting the tour of the official rooms, the Visitor Centre and gardens.

SI Bray gifted a framed copy of their original Charter in 1960, along with a copy of the original letter signed by Senator J. F. Kennedy, to Mrs Peggy Hunt, SI Bray's first President. Peggy had written to congratulate Senator Kennedy on winning the US Presidential Election, and he sent a letter of thanks to her just days before he was inaugurated on 20th January 1961.



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Funding for Men's Sheds

14 Men's Sheds in Wicklow to get €2,000 grant

Funding of €2,000 will support 14 Men's Sheds in Wicklow, it was announced last week, assisting them with running costs such as electricity or insurance bills.

The funding will be given to: Bray Men's Shed, Rathnew Men's Shed, Shelton Abbey Men's Shed, Blessington Men's Shed, Roundwood Men's Shed, Tinahely Men's Shed, Greystones Men's Shed, Newtownmountkennedy & Newcastle Men's Shed, Wicklow Men's Shed, Arklow Men's Community Shed, Baltinglass Men's Shed, Kilcoole Men's Shed, Vale of Avoca Men's Shed, and Purple House Cancer Care Mens Shed.

Minister Simon Harris said: "Our Men's Sheds provide an absolutely invaluable service in communities the length and breadth of the county of Wicklow. They help

tackle isolation and provide a welcoming and comfortable space for men to come together and socialise.

"And as we enter the winter period, the supports that our Men's Sheds provide are even more important. So I'm delighted to be in a position to support our Men's Sheds with funding. This will assist our Men's Sheds with grants of €2,000, which they can use to cover their running costs or carry out small improvements at their premises."

Minister Harris added: "Our Men's Sheds have gone from being a small organisation just a few years ago to a national representa-

tive body with over 400 members.

"I know that like any voluntary organisation, Men's Sheds are facing larger bills due to the Cost of Living.

"And so I hope this funding will assist them over the winter months and help bring our Men's Sheds from strength to strength."

Also welcoming the funding, Independent Greystones councillor Stephen Stokes said "Our local community groups give so much to the community. I warmly welcome this Men's Shed Funding. They give back multiple times over what they receive."

CLlr Stokes also praised the efforts of Kilcoole Men's Shed, who are currently fundraising for premises with the Post 21 of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association.

Supports for cargo bikes

Changes to the Cycle to Work scheme will make cycling more affordable and accessible for workers and families across County Wicklow.

From 1 January 2023, employees whose employers are registered with the Bike-to-Work scheme can avail of up to €3,000 to purchase cargo bikes and associated equipment such as helmets, bells and lights tax-free. Cargo bikes are larger than standard bikes and can carry more than one person.

Speaking following the announcement from the Department of Finance, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said: "This is wonderful news for all of us who would like to leave the car behind and cycle more often to work, school and other activities. Cycling is an excellent way to keep active, spend less on transport costs, reduce our carbon emissions and meet our objectives under the Climate Action Plan.

"As announced in the Finance Bill 2022, the threshold for purchasing a cargo bike under the cycle-to-work scheme will be doubled from €1,500 to €3,000 from January 2023. This will help more people to purchase cargo bikes, which are typically more expensive than standard bikes or even electric bikes. Cargo bikes can be used for shorter journeys including shopping trips and to bring children to creche/school as an alternative to the car.

"The Green Party is committed to increasing access to cycling and active transport for people across the country and we are delivering on this in Government. In addition to increasing supports available under the Bike to Work scheme, we have

launched the Pathfinder project which will provide funding for 35 walking, cycling and public transport projects including one I was proud to support in County Wicklow.

"If anyone would like to find out more about the Pathfinder project for Wicklow or the Cycle to Work scheme, I would encourage them to get in touch with me directly and I will offer any support I can," Deputy Matthews concluded.

Speaking about the improved Bike to Work scheme, Independent councillor Stephen Stokes said: "The big scheme improvement on this occasion is the increased support for cargo bikes. The substantial new increase to a €3,000 limit was sought by the Department of Transport to encourage greater use of cargo bikes in particular."

However he believes that cost is a big barrier

for many potential cyclists. CLlr Stokes noted: "Cargo bikes cost substantially more than regular bikes or e-bikes, both of which saw increases in the limits applicable to the Bike to Work Scheme in 2020."

The Bike to Work Scheme aims to encourage the public to cycle to and from work. The initiative allows employees to give part of their salary for a bicycle and/or safety equipment, which should be used primarily for journeying to and from work. Such purchases can be made in any shop.

There are now three limits, depending on the type of bicycle purchased, under the Bike to Work Scheme: For cargo bikes and safety equipment, the limit is €3,000; For pedelecs or e-bikes and related safety equipment the limit is €1,500; For other bicycles and related safety equipment the limit is now €1,250.



Carnew Musical Society's production of *Guys and Dolls* will take place in St. Brigid's Hall in Carnew on 21st November. Pictured are Karen Matthews (Committee member), Conor McCarthy (Musical Director), Lorna Doran McEvoy (Chair, Carnew Musical Society), and Paula Hall (committee member). Tickets (€10-€20) are available from www.gr8events.ie

Council on the up and up

Wicklow County Council improved its performance across a range of indicators during 2021, despite Covid-19 and other challenges, and while providing additional innovations and services.

Additionally, along with five other local authorities, Wicklow County was selected to participate in the National Oversight and Audit Commission's (NOAC) annual Quality Assurance Review of Data in July 2022. This process aims to assess the accuracy and reliability of a subset of indicators and to assist NOAC in getting a clear understanding of how data is compiled by Councils and, in particular, the approach that is used to return data as part of the annual validation process.

The NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2021 presents the 2021 performance indicators for the local authority sector in Ireland. The performance indicators deliver a uniform approach to measurement and benchmarking and the availability of the information is intended to support all local authorities to improve the services they provide to local communities.

The indicators are collected and analysed by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) on behalf of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) as part of the Commission's role in monitoring the performance of local authorities. The report presents the performance of local authorities in 2021 indicators identified by NOAC. The performance indicators are categorised by local government functions; housing, roads, water, waste/environment, planning, fire services, library/recreation, youth/community, corporate, finance and economic development.

While the indicators address the core functions of local authorities, it is acknowledged by

NOAC that they do not reflect the extensive range of services delivered by city and county councils throughout the State.

At the review process Council Chief Executive, Brian Gleeson, emphasised that "the provision of housing is a priority for Wicklow County Council with developments being fast-tracked and stock increasing year on year adding that certain parts of the county such as Bray and Greystones are more challenging as land prices are high."

Essential services were delivered throughout 2021, even as Wicklow County Council played a vital role in the national response to the pandemic.

Wicklow County Council provided a range of new supports and grants to the public and businesses during the pandemic, including resilience and wellbeing community supports and changes to the public realm in the interests of public health and safety and local businesses. Trading online vouchers and mentoring supports were provided by the Local Enterprise Office.

Alongside this, Wicklow County Council continued to deliver essential services throughout, as the Performance Indicators Report 2021 shows:

- Wicklow's expenditure on housing maintenance in 2021 showed an increase of 32.85% to €4,196,215.51 in 2021 from €3,158,619.54 in 2020
- At the end of 2021, Wicklow County Council owned 4,786 social housing units, having added 145 units to its housing stock in 2021
- The overall percentage of Wicklow County Council housing stock that was vacant at the

end of 2021 was just 3.8%

- In 2021, a total of 445 private rented dwellings were inspected
- Wicklow County Council's library visitor numbers had the highest number of visits per head of population since 2014 with 443,798 borrowings in 2021 with 16,618 registered members
- The rate of participation in Comhairle na n'g scheme is high across the County at 80% with the number of schools participating increasing in 2021 by 2 to 20 out of 25 schools
- The percentage condition surveys for local secondary roads was greater or equal to 98% over a two-year period
- The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online increased with a total of 91% motor tax transactions being conducted online in 2021
- In 2021 93.28% of the registered private water schemes in County Wicklow were monitored by the local authority
- Environmental pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2021 was 2,262 and Wicklow County Council closed 2,327 cases during that same period
- The median number of minutes taken to mobilise the fire brigade in fire stations across County Wicklow for 2021 was 5.14 minutes
- Of the planning cases referred or initiated by Wicklow County Council 185 were investigated and 188 investigations closed during 2021
- Of the 61 Wicklow County Council planning decisions appealed to An Bord Pleanála in 2021, 75.41% confirmed (either with or without variation of the Plan) the decision of the Council

As Wicklow County Council continues to focus on energy efficiency and climate targets, the percentage of the public lighting using energy efficient LED lights in the county represented 38% of a total billable wattage of 5,533

Commenting on the report, Mr Gleeson, Chief Executive, paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of Wicklow County Council employees, saying: "Wicklow County Council continued to provide hundreds of services throughout 2021. At the same time, we played a vital role in the national response to the pandemic, supporting communities, businesses and local economies."

"We are continually seeking to improve services and increase efficiencies and we made significant progress in a range of areas last year. We will build on our progress, continue to innovate and deliver quality public services."

Welcoming the Report, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, acknowledged the improvements in service delivery of the Council notwithstanding the challenges faced by the elected members and staff of Wicklow County Council over the last 24 months as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

He stated: "I would like to thank the entire staff of Wicklow County Council across the five municipal Districts who continuously strive to deliver improved services to the citizens of County Wicklow, the elected members and I look forward to working closely with the Executive to identify and implement service improvement across the districts in 2023."



Charlie Galligan officially cuts the ribbon to open the new Triple A Alliance Community Sensory Room in the Little Bray Family Resource Centre, with Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr Erika Doyle and his mum Rebecca.

'Developers seek Judicial Review of Development Plan as it used old Census figures'

Ireland's two largest homebuilders, Cairn Homes plc and Glenveagh Properties plc, are seeking a judicial review of Wicklow County Council's development plan due to the Plan's use of old census figures, Cllr Derek Mitchell has said.

The plan will result in a 7,000 reduction in houses which can be built compared to the old plan, according to Cairn and Glenveagh.

"The plan takes many years to make and Councillors were told that this year's Census figures could not be used as the process started so long ago," said Cllr Mitchell.

"The Census shows Greystones is at its 2028 target figure of 21,700 and with all the current building and existing permissions is likely to be 3,000 over that target by 2028. I wanted to change the target to a realistic figure but was told it could not be done. Instead I got the plan changed to note that Greystones 'will exceed its target range before 2028'.

"It is important to let service providers (education, transport, water, etc.) know the population they need to provide for.

"It is also noted in the Plan that Rathdrum and Newtown will exceed their target growth rate."

Protesters support Greystones fishermen

Protesters lined the north pier at Greystones Harbour Marina last week in support of the 'Save the Greystones Fishing Fleet' campaign.

The campaign has again kicked into gear in recent days due to the gates on the pier being locked, preventing local fishermen from unloading their catch. On the Friday before the Bank Holiday weekend one of the fishermen found himself locked into the harbour.

The Harbour Master has maintained that the gates are locked for health and safety reasons. A protest was held last Tuesday which was attended by local Independent councillor Tom Fortune as well as Independent councillors from Wicklow Municipal District John Snell and Mary Kavanagh.

Cllr Fortune said that the prevention of the fishermen from doing their work "is unfair and has to stop immediately".

"It was great to see so many people there supporting them," said Cllr Fortune after Tuesday's protest, "and thanks to councillors Snell and Kavanagh for also turn-

ing up to lend their support. I expected more political support."

Gardai were present at the protest which lasted from the afternoon until the evening.

Negotiations with the Gardai resulted in the gates eventually being opened and the fishermen were permitted to bring their catch by van from their boats to the truck waiting beyond the pier. The gates were then relocked.

"The guards should not have to get involved as they did this evening, but did so to help and ensure everything was calm," said Cllr Fortune. "The people that should have been there were representatives from Wicklow County Council and John Sisk & Sons. This has gone on far too long and I am once again calling on Wicklow County Council & John Sisk to immediately sort this out. In order to facilitate this I am prepared to offer my services to mediate. I am asking that



Cllr Tom Fortune

Wicklow County Council and John Sisk engage with me in order to resolve this situation. This debacle is so unfair on the fishermen, in fact it is disgusting."

Access issues for the fishermen have been ongoing since the redevelopment of the harbour. When work on the new harbour began in 2008, the local fishing boats were deprived of access to their moorings, but say that they were promised that berths would again be provided to them once the new harbour opened.

However, the subse-

quent harbour by-laws drafted by Wicklow County Council officials effectively excluded fishing boats by preventing them landing any catch and imposing high fees.

In July 2020, the long-running conflict appeared to be resolved when it was agreed that the fishermen would be allowed to land at the South end of the North Pier, bring their lorry to the end of the Pier to unload their boats, and tie up their boats at the North end of the North Pier.

The dispute resurfaced in early 2021 however when one of the fishermen received a letter from the harbour master regarding safety issues and the alleged breaching of bye-laws.

The 'Save the Greystones Fishing Fleet' campaign is encouraging its supporters to write to Wicklow County Council calling for 'workable designated fishing facilities to be provided for fishermen in Greystones immediately'.

Cllr Fortune wrote to the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson last Thursday, stating: "I am really surprised and find it baffling the situation that is ongoing with the Fishermen at Greystones Harbour. With this mail I am requesting a meeting with you, the senior person in John Sisk & Sons, the fishermen and myself to decide on a win/win outcome. I am fully versed with the history and progress of this project. It is my duty and responsibility as a public representative to ask for and expect such a meeting urgently takes place."

"I would be surprised that two large organisations, Wicklow County Council and John Sisk & Son, a company whose turnover last year was over €1.4 billion euro, would really stand over what I have witnessed regarding the treatment of the fishermen and surely would want such a meeting to urgently take place."

Cllr. Stephen Stokes

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Lidl Greystones store re-opens

The re-opening the newly refurbished Lidl store in Blacklion, Greystones, took place olast Thursday. The new store sees 15 new jobs created, bringing a total number of 35 jobs to the area. The development has also seen an €11 million investment in the locality.



Valerie Taylor at the re-opening of the Greystones Lidl store.

The sizeable investment plan reflects Lidl Ireland's commitment to support local residents with nutritious and high-quality foods at market leading value.

Wicklow LGFA player and intercounty player, Jackie Kinch, joined the Lidl Greystones team to officially open the newly upgraded store and welcome back their loyal customers. The new store has been fully modernised, including upgrades to both store and car park facilities offering customers an improved shopping experience.

To mark the re-opening, Lidl Greystones will

welcome two representatives from two local charities, the Greystones Cancer Support charity and Gavin Glynn Foundation, to accept a donation of €500 each to support the ongoing work they do for those in need in the Greystones area and beyond.

The store will be open from 8am to 10pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 9pm on Sundays.

Speaking about the upcoming official re-opening, Lidl Greystones Store Manager, Kenny Trentzsch, said: "The past few months have been a whirlwind to say the least but it has all



Wicklow LGFA intercounty player, Jackie Kinch and Lidl Greystones Store Manager, Kenny Trentzsch officially open the store, with staff member Liam McEntee.

been more than worth. We're looking forward to being warmly welcomed back by the local community and see so many familiar faces through the door. We have had many

excited customers eagerly enquiring about our newly modernised store over the past few months, so we are thrilled to finally be opening the doors.

On behalf of the entire team, I want to thank our customers and local community for their patience during the construction works ñ I know they will agree that it was worth it!

Although our store may look different, one thing that has not changed is that our customers are guaranteed the same great range of products at exceptional value."

'Dr Ryan Park needs to be fenced'

Halloween night saw much disorder in Dr Ryan Park in Greystones, with the area left looking like 'a war zone', according to Cllr Derek Mitchell.

Cllr Derek Mitchell said "On many nights before there has been bad disorder on this Council property. People were forced out of their houses by fireworks and stones were being flung at their houses and cars by a group of over thirteenagers. The Gardai and fire brigade were unable to control this. The videos of it looks like a war zone.

"I walked through the area at 11am next morning and it still looked like a war zone with fires still smouldering and a few youths still hanging around.

"A long term plan is needed but this will take time so a fence is needed now at least 7 meters north of the existing one to take any disorder further away from the houses. The Council must get this fenced now."



Dr Ryan Park in Greystones, the morning after Halloween

Barriers removed on Bray Central as one restaurant opens

Sinn Fein TD John Brady welcomed the removal of the barriers at the Main Street entrance for the new 'Bray Central' shopping centre development in Bray.

The barriers were removed on Friday 28th October and the car park along with one of the restaurants, were finally opened.

Deputy Brady said "I welcome the news that the barriers for the new shopping centre on Bray Main Street 'Bray Central' have finally been removed and that one of the restaurants and the carpark are finally open. Hopefully this is the beginning of the end of this sorry saga regarding a shopping centre on Bray Main Street that has dragged on for over 25 years, a saga that has unfortunately stifled the development of the town centre.

"Now that the red tape that has delayed the opening of the long-awaited shopping centre has finally been removed, I hope that the other retailers that are lined up can quickly move in and open also. The history of the shopping centre site has unfortunately had a negative impact on the Main St for far too long, I hope that when the remaining retail units along with the cinema are fully open it will be the catalyst for rejuvenating the entire town centre."



The Main Street entrance to the new shopping centre

Wicklow communities see the benefits from highest ever annual investment in wastewater treatment

The latest EPA Urban Wastewater Treatment Report for 2021 recognises the ongoing progress being made by Irish Water in upgrading the public wastewater infrastructure while also highlighting the need for continued investment in our essential wastewater services.

Since 2014 when Irish Water assumed responsibility for public water services, 60% of raw sewage discharges by volume have been eliminated through targeted investment in new sewerage infrastructure where none existed previously, and we are on target to eliminate nearly all of the remainder by 2025.

In Wicklow, investment in wastewater infrastructure in Arklow, Avoca, and Blessington will ensure significant improvements in water quality, while also supporting housing and economic development in these areas.

Irish Water is on track to eliminate the vast majority of raw sewage discharges in Arklow by 2025 with the construction of a new state of the art wastewater treatment plant at the Old Wallboard Factory, North Quay, Ferrybank in Arklow. When completed, the new treatment plant will result in significant improvements to water quality in Arklow by ending the discharge of raw sewage directly into the Avoca River, safeguarding the environment and facilitating growth and development in the town.

The Avoca Wastewater

Treatment Plant will bring benefits in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality. The proposed works will require planning permission and Irish Water recently submitted a planning application to Wicklow County Council. Commencement of works is subject to planning and statutory approvals and is scheduled to commence in late 2023 and take approximately two years to complete.

Irish Water, working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, is progressing plans as part of an upgrade to the Blessington Wastewater Treatment Plant. When completed, the project will increase the capacity of the plant to serve a population equivalent (PE) of up to 9,000, enabling future growth

and will safeguard the environment by ensuring compliance with national and EU legislation. Works are due to be completed in early 2023.

Paul Fallon, Programme Manager at Irish Water added, "The scale of delivery of this critical infrastructure is unprecedented: last year we invested €367 million in Ireland's wastewater ñ the highest ever in a single year ñ and we are on track to increase that further over the coming years as we strive to deliver best in class wastewater services and infrastructure for Ireland now and in the future.

"The largest remaining location that is not compliant with the Directive is Ringsend, which treats 44% of the country's wastewater load.



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Wicklow healthcare projects recognised at HSE awards

HSE Community Healthcare East (which provides community healthcare services to the Wicklow, Dublin South and Dublin South East areas), recently showcased and celebrated two local projects that gained national recognition at the 2022 Health Service Excellence Awards. A local ceremony was held in the Glenview Hotel to recognise this achievement and present the winning teams with their certificates.

The Health Service Excellence Awards are an HR-led initiative to encourage and inspire people to develop better health services. The awards also promote shared learning for other teams through award success stories.

Speaking at the national event, which took place in September, Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly said: "The projects short-listed and the category winners of the annual HSE Excellence Awards are great examples of the work that happens every day across our health service. Congratulations to all involved and many thanks for your commitment to improving services in both a patient-centred, innovative way."

HSE Community Healthcare East had a 'Category Finalist' and a 'Highly Commended Project' at national level, (from Mental Health Services and Primary Care respectively). At the local ceremony, Martina Queally, Chief Officer, HSE Community Healthcare East, congratulated the local nominees on their success: "Community healthcare services have benefited from increased investment in recent years to facilitate the roll out of the Enhanced Community Care Programme.

"These two Wicklow-based projects are prime examples of how this programme works in action. They involve integrating

systems and services across various healthcare disciplines, ultimately for the benefit of our service users. I wish to congratulate these teams on being shortlisted for a Health Service Excellence Award. It is clear that a huge body of work has gone into bringing these projects to fruition and this recognition is well deserved."

The 'Highly Commended Project' in the Excellence in Quality & Patient Safety category involved the introduction of an electronic GP referral system.

Dawn Tyner, Community Healthcare Network Manager for North Wicklow explained where the inspiration from the project came from: "In



The Electronic GP referral system team

2019, stakeholder engagement sessions identified that a myriad of referral pathways between GPs and Primary Care services existed which often lead to confusion and administra-

tive inefficiencies. The inspiration for this project came from the response to COVID-19 and the use of Healthlink system for COVID-19 testing and referrals to community

assessments hubs. We realised that this system could also be utilised to help link multidisciplinary primary care teams with GPs. The result is a streamlined, single referral method and robust communication pathway between GPs and Primary Care Services. This not only maximises the efficiency for patients but also reduces administrative time and reduces the margin for error." Electronic referrals via Healthlink are now accepted for Social Work, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Adult Speech and Language Therapy and Podiatry, with Nursing due to follow.

In addition, The PARC Project, an Advanced Nurse Practitioner initiative supported by the Bray Community Mental Health Team, was named a Category Finalist in the Innovation in Service Delivery category. This category recognises projects that implement a

solution to make services better, demonstrating efficiency, sustainability and value for money.

The PARC Project (which stands for Positive Advanced Recovery Connections) provides a bridging service between primary and secondary care with the introduction of Registered Mental Health Advanced Nurse Practitioner (RANP) specialist clinics. These clinics are supported by a Consultant Psychiatrist and the community Mental Health team. The PARC pilot started on the Bray Community Mental Health Team in 2019 with the aim of reducing waiting times for assessment and psychosocial interventions for people with mild to moderate mental health disorders. Under the PARC model of care, anyone referred to the RANP specialised clinics benefits from quick access to a psychosocial assessment as well as mental health nursing interventions and com-

munity supports.

Ann Cunningham, the Mental Health Advanced Nurse Practitioner comments: "We know, quantitatively and qualitatively, that these specialist psychosocial interventions really work. The PARC Project pilot resulted in virtually no waiting times for psychiatric assessment or psychosocial assessment with most people referred to the service being seen within a week. In addition, 60% of patients recovered, 28% improved and 12% remained the same but reported that they benefited from having a safe place to talk. This in turn helps to reduce admission to hospital and provides a high standard of mental health support and in the community, close to people's homes."

People can be referred to the PARC Project for an assessment with an Advanced Nurse Practitioner via a Bray-based GP.



The PARC Project team

Wicklow pharmacists gather to discuss community care

Pharmacists from across Wicklow recently gathered in Newpark Hotel in Kilkenny for an Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) meeting focussed on growing the healthcare pharmacies can provide in communities.

The meeting in late October was attended by many of the 50 pharmacists currently based in Wicklow. Key items on the agenda were expanding the availability of contraception in pharmacies, the need for a Chief Pharmaceutical Officer in Ireland and proposals on how to address a growing shortage of pharmacists in Ireland.

IPU President Dermot Twomey said, "Community pharmacy is the most accessible part of the healthcare system. Each year there are 78 million visits to community pharmacy outlets, or 19 visits per annum per man, woman, and child in the State. Community pharmacy is at the heart of practically every community with over half of the Irish population living within one kilometre of their local pharmacy.

"A key priority for the IPU is providing women in Wicklow with convenient access to oral contraception without prescription direct from a pharmacy. This is already available to women in the UK, USA,

Canada, New Zealand and other countries, Ireland should not be an outlier. The essential role that pharmacies play in delivering healthcare in the community has been ably demonstrated during the COVID pandemic and in particular over the course of a series of national lockdowns.

"A poll released by Ipsos MRBI last year found that local pharmacists were the most trusted professional group in the country with a trust rating of 98%. However, pharmacies are under increasing pressure to sustain the level of service locally. A growing shortage of pharmacists and increasing challenges attracting and retaining suitably qualified people within the profession is fast becoming a major concern," warned Mr Twomey. "We need government action to increase the number of education places in Ireland for pharmacists. We also need to examine the regulations the profession operates under to remove time consuming red tape that provides no

benefit to patients."

Mr Twomey said that with adequate resources including additional pharmacists, this sector is ripe for expansion, "and we all want to be empowered to do more for our patients".

Pharmacists are also campaigning for the introduction of a range of new clinical services in community pharmacies. This includes the roll-out of a national Community Pharmacy-based Triage Programme including a Minor Ailment Scheme, use of Emergency Medicines, and Minor Injuries.

Concluding Mr Twomey reminded the people of Wicklow to think pharmacy for their healthcare needs: "With over 1,900 pharmacies nationwide the pharmacy sector is at the heart of providing healthcare in every single community. Pharmacists provide a wide range of services from general advice on healthcare and medicines, to treating minor ailments, providing winter flu vaccinations and conducting a variety of health screenings. Your pharmacist is always happy to help and provide whatever advice you may require."



Dean Murphy with Minister Simon Harris at the opening of the new Triple A Alliance sensory room at Little Bray Family Resource Centre.

145 Wicklow graduates make history

First conferring ceremonies take place at SETU

November 2022 will hold a special place in the memory of 145 Wicklow graduates of South East Technological University (SETU) who have the honour of being the first graduates to be conferred with awards from the south east's first university.

The first of the conferring ceremonies took place across the University's Waterford and Carlow campuses last week with more than

2,300 graduates conferred with awards in a range of disciplines, from technology, business and engineering to the arts, humanities

and science. The Wexford campus conferring takes place on Friday, 11th November with further ceremonies taking place on the

Carlow and Waterford campuses in January 2023.

Speaking at the ceremonies, Prof Veronica Campbell, President of SETU told graduates that they hold a very special place in history: "You are the pioneers. Generations of graduates will be conferred at ceremonies just like this but you will always be the first to sign your name in the SETU graduate roll book."

"As new graduates of our new university, you are the first alumni of SETU and the reputation of any university is built upon the quality of its alumni. I hope you continue as pioneers in your chosen careers, continue to be bold and ambitious, make your mark on society and stand proud with what you achieve."

The conferring ceremonies follow on from another milestone date in the new university's history. Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD recently joined staff, students and stakeholders to officially launch South



At SETU's Carlow Campus were Joshua Moore from Carlow and Michael O'Dea from Wicklow, who was conferred with a BA in Management Practice



Pictured at the SETU Waterford campus were Caoilfhinn Doyle from Arklow, Keeley Curran from Waterford, Zoe Lynch from Tipperary, Louisa Malone from Kildare, Lorraine Kearns from Waterford. They were conferred a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Applied Social Studies in Social Care.

East Technological University, invested in our region and working for our region.

"It was a moment to thank those who have helped to establish SETU as the University for the south east and to set out some of our ambitions for the future," explains Prof Campbell.

"We are a multi-campus university and that brings great opportunities for synergies and new ideas. We aspire to be a leading European

University, invested in our region and working for our region.

"We will continue the strong ethos of supporting access to higher education and in having in place enablers to ensure that our students reach their academic potential. We will expand our research and innovation activities and engage regionally, nationally and internationally to drive regional economic, cul-

tural and social prosperity."

"Over the next few years, we aim to deliver new academic buildings, affordable student accommodation and digital infrastructure. We will seek continued investment to support our transformation as a European university of impact and appropriate contracts to enable research."

SETU is a truly

regional university, with campuses across the south east in Carlow, Waterford and Wexford, as well as a presence in Kilkenny and Wicklow. Bringing together over 50 years of experience in higher education, research, innovation and stakeholder collaboration, today SETU serves over 18,000 students and employs over 1,500 staff with ambitions to grow over the next 10 years.

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The Crack of Dawn Social swimmers : Barry Kavanagh, Lance O'Brien and Tommy McGauley, taking a dip in Wicklow Harbour on day 3 of the November Cold Water Challenge

Cold water challenge comes to Wicklow

This November Pieta are asking supporters to swim, shower, or dip in cold water for 30 seconds everyday. Your support will help maintain their free, nationwide services for people who are experiencing suicidal ideation, engaging in self-harm or those who have been bereaved by suicide.

Pieta first opened its doors in Lucan, County Dublin in 2006. Since they have seen and helped over 60,000 people in suicidal distress or engaging in self-harm. They now operate 20 locations across Ireland and employ over 200 therapists and support staff, and the demand for service is increasing.

Everything is free of charge and staff are fully qualified, providing a professional one-to-one therapeutic service for people who are experiencing suicidal ideation, people who have attempted suicide and people who are engaging in self-harm. A doctor's referral or a psychiatric report is not required.

All funds from Pietas Cold water challenge will go back into supporting front lines services and help create hope for those who need. Pieta would also like to remind everyone that is partaking in the challenge to not take any unnecessary risks, if the weather is too bad outside, feel free to do it in your shower.

Pieta want to give a special thank you to the Crack of Dawn social swimmers in Wicklow Harbour for supporting the challenge. A group of swimmers who meet early morning in Wicklow Harbour, called 'The Crack of Dawn Social swimmers' will be doing the November challenge to raise funds for Pieta.

Tommy McGauley, Barry Kavanagh and Lance O'Brien are getting involved in this very worthwhile event. They said: "we like so many in our community have lost relatives and friends sadly through suicide, and we would appreciate any donations to our efforts."

To support or donate to the challenge go to

https://www.facebook.com/donate/802662407639407/?fundraiser_source=whatsapp_share

Vikki's Brave Shave

Fundraiser raises money for campaign group's judicial review



Barber Alan Clarke shaving Vikki's head.

Sometimes fundraising is hard work - and sometimes it's just great craic altogether! That's what SaveBray found on Thursday night, 27th October, when the community collaborative group held Vikki's BraveShave in the Boomerang Pub.

Vikki Rogers raised a generous €476 euro in sponsorship towards the cost of SaveBray's Judicial Review of An Bord Pleanála's decision that the proposed suspension bridge across the flight path of the swans on the Dargle River, and its access road across the floodplain on the old Bray Golf Club lands, would have 'no effect on the environment'.

It's a serious campaign, and needs serious money to fund a Judicial Review, but there was no lack of craic on the night. SaveBray stated, "Thanks to Alan Clarke, the 'Barber of Bray'; Sandie and her amazing crew at the Boomerang; a clatter of super Karaoke singers; some very generous sponsorship - and, not least, Vikki herself - from all at SaveBray. They did us proud."

A Night of Irish Rock to help Alice beat cancer

A fundraising event will take place in Lee's pub in Kilcoole on Friday 18th November, in aid of nine-year-old Alice Hayes who was diagnosed with Stage 4 High Risk Neuroblastoma last Easter.

Alice is currently undergoing intensive treatment in Barcelona. She underwent an 8-hour surgery in early October to remove the tumour which was intimately wrapped around her organs. This surgery was deemed successful and Alice ended up out of ICU sooner than anticipated.

Her family have funded her trip to Barcelona and need to raise €550,000 to enrol her on a clinical trial in Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York. This programme starts early 2023 and the funds are needed by Christmas to secure her place.

The 'Night of Irish Rock' will open with a Trad set and then Crest of a Wave - A Rory Gallagher tribute act, will take to the stage. Following that we will have Thinner Lizzy - a Thin Lizzy tribute act see the night out.

Tickets are €10, payable on the door. Music starts at 9pm. There will be a raffle on the night and all proceeds will go directly into the Help Alice Beat Cancer Fund.

On her GoFundMe Page, Alice's parents Norah and Dylan write: "Alice is a bright, beautiful, and brave 9-year-old. In April 2022, her world was turned on its head. Alice was diagnosed with stage 4 high-risk neuroblastoma. Neuroblastoma is a rare, aggressive, and complex cancer of the nerve cells. Chances of relapse are high, and it carries low survival rates. We're certain she will beat these odds but we need

your help. Please donate now to help our beautiful Alice get the treatment she urgently needs.

"We're raising €550,000 to get Alice access to life-saving cancer drugs in a clinical trial at the Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) Cancer Centre in New York. We need to raise this amount by Christmas 2022 to ensure that she is enrolled in the next available trial group (early 2023). This specialised treatment will help Alice Beat her Cancer. And your donations will help us get there. On behalf of Alice and all of her loving family, we offer our heartfelt thanks in advance for your support.

"Alice is a bubbly, bright girl, bursting with energy and a real sense of fun. She loves to sing and act, and entertain. She adores animals, horses, hamsters, Basil her beloved bunny, and Fern her dog. She's also a natural athlete and loves running and swimming.

"Alice attends Carysfort National School in Dublin, Ireland, and loves going there, especially to play with all her friends. Alice has missed her friends so much during treatment and pleads with her Mom to go to school between treatments. This can be a real balancing act as Alice's immunity has been severely damaged by the high doses of chemotherapy she has received so far.

"Alice loves singing and acting with Ciara Phelan (Arclight Drama) in Carysfort N.S. and Dublin Stage



Alice Hayes

School. She has a beautiful voice. She loves running for her Athletics Club, Blackrock Athletics Club (BAC), horse riding in Carrickmines Equestrian, playing hockey, tennis, gymnastics, or swimming in the sea... even in the winter!

"Alice is a kind and loving little girl, who adores and is adored by all her family and friends, especially her big sister, Laragh. Alice wants to be an ordinary girl again. She wants to be able to play with her friends and participate in all the activities she loves."

The GoFundMe page created by Dylan Hayes can be found by searching for 'Help Alice Beat Cancer Fund' on GoFundMe.com.



Children's Health Foundation Ambassador Rob Kearney with CHI patients Shay and Chloe Treacy launching Christmas Jumper Day 2022

Don your festive finery for Christmas Jumper Day

Children's Health Foundation are asking families, communities, schools, creches, clubs and companies across Co. Wicklow to host a Christmas Jumper Day fundraiser, to tote their tinsel and sport their sparkliest Christmas fashions, all while raising funds that will be put to work where they are needed most to help sick children and their families.

The charity's Christmas Jumper Day 2022 campaign takes place on Friday, 9th December. This year, the Christmas campaign will help more children than ever, by raising vital funds to support Children's Health Ireland (CHI) hospitals and urgent care centres across Crumlin, Temple Street, Tallaght and Connolly.

Denise Fitzgerald, Chief Executive of Children's Health Foundation said, "With your support, we can continue to support Children's Health Ireland hospitals and urgent care centres - to fund vital equipment, patient and parental supports, make innovative new services possible and invest in ground-breaking paediatric research. We hope that you will join us on 9th December, put on your festive finery and be part of our extraordinary community of care that helps transform young lives."

For more information and to sign up today for your free Children's Health Foundation Christmas Jumper Day pack, simply visit www.childrenshealth.ie/xmasjumper or call 01 709 1700.

Six film festival selections for Arklow director's 'Aretha'

In just over a week, six film festivals, from New York, Turkey, Ukraine, and Lithuania, have chosen to include the short film titled 'Aretha' on their programmes. The film was written, directed, and co-produced by Arklow-based filmmaker Dave Thomas.



The most recent Official Selections were awarded for Best Short Film, Best Drama Film and Best Director for Dave at the Iconic Images Film Festival which takes place in Lithuania in November. Also recently, Dave was awarded Finalist for his new short screenplay called 'Seven Moments in Time' at the Waterford International Film Festival that takes place between 21st and 27th November with online and physical screenings this year. The screenplay is one of only twenty finalists.

"I am totally blown away by the Official Selections from these great festivals all over the world. It's a great honour to receive the recognition, wherever that may be. I love to work with a great team, and I certainly did on Aretha, so any accolade given is credit to my wonderful cast and crew. Also, thanks to the FilmOffaly Bursary that I won in 2018, which enabled me to make this film." Says Dave.

"When I make a film or write the screenplay, it's all about the story. The story is key to the film's success. For me, it has to have emotion, a heart, a really strong reason to tell the story. That's what drives me to mak-

ing a film. The story is the foundation of it all, and that foundation needs to be solid.

"Aretha has a strong story about a young woman with Down Syndrome starting out in life and we witness the challenges she faces. The film has drama, comedy, action, and overall, a story with a strong emotional message.

"My next film I will make is called Seven Moments in Time. This is also a film with drama and a lot of comedy, but overall, a heart-warming story with a message. It's about an older man crossing paths with a teenager as they clash over a public park Bench. The older man, will be played by well-known Irish actor from stage and screen Pat Nolan, clearly does not like Teenagers, or is weary of them, and the teenager has very much the same feelings towards the older man. So, from the very start, there are sparks between them, a sort of war of words and put-downs. The audience get to see the two meet and exchange comments, jibes and more over seven moments in time.

"Short films are not commercial, they are not supported by major film studios, they are usually made on a shoestring and by dedicated talented



film people who share one common goal, to tell an engaging story. Crowdfunding for Seven Moments in Time has started, and we have 35 donations. Three businesses also kindly donated, Unique Café and Patisserie in Arklow, Woodenbridge Hotel and Resort and TJ O'Mahony's. Individuals can donate

any amount, and we have two options for businesses, with all the details on the GoFundMe Page."

Dave and his team hope to commence production of the film during next Summer. Auditions for other roles will commence in the new year. The GofundMe page can be reached at <https://gofund.me/93f42f8b>

Wicklow County Arts Office returns to Rathdrum

To celebrate Halloween this October Wicklow County Arts Office returned to Rathdrum to deliver a new pilot Primary School Creative Programme funded by Creative Ireland.

Building on last year's Halloween Playfest and the August Summer Songs event, Wicklow Arts Office recently partnered with three local primary schools: Our Lady's Girls

School, Rathdrum Boys' School and St Saviours, to design and deliver a comprehensive programme of creative workshops culminating in a Halloween event in the Rathdrum Development Association Hall.

Taking inspiration from the spooky season, the creative workshops took place over a three-week period in the schools and featured mask making workshops facilitated by Whitedoodle Art,

Bodhr'n drumming workshops provided by Bodhr'n Buzz, and lantern making workshops delivered by Wicklow Willow.

On Thursday 27th October students from all three schools took part in a spooktacular Halloween event in the Rathdrum Development Association Hall to showcase their creations and creativity. With over 350 students and teachers participating, the atmosphere was electric as students were cheered on by family members and surprised with special performances by the Wicklow and Arklow Ukulele Players.

The Arts Office is also launching a Cultural Engagement Survey. The survey is designed to capture the views, insights and ideas of the citizens of Rathdrum and surrounding areas on recent and future creative programmes and to ensure that all future outcomes are deeply rooted and shaped by the community.

To participate complete the survey visit www.wicklow.ie by Sunday 20th November 2022.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, said he was happy to see the continued commitment to community development in Rathdrum as part of the recently



Students from Our Lady's National School at the Wicklow Arts Halloween Parade in Rathdrum

launched Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Wicklow County Arts Office's Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson, stated that participation in the survey will help Wicklow County Arts Office to build a detailed picture of arts and cultural engagement in the area. These programmes are provided by Wicklow County Arts Office under the Creative Ireland Programme with the support of Rathdrum Development Association.



Students from St. Saviour's National School at the Wicklow Arts Halloween Parade in Rathdrum



Iris Dunne and Meabh Farrelly at the Wicklow Arts Halloween Parade in Rathdrum

Greystones Players present: The Cripple of Inishmaan



By Martin McDonagh. Whale Theatre, Greystones,
December 8th-11th Thursday – Saturday 8pm . Sunday 4 pm.
Tickets €20, see 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!

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. Flaherty's *Man of Aran*, and Billy is determined to be in it, come hell or high water.

Since its premier in 1996, *The Cripple of Inishmaan* has been produced countless times, and this dark comedy has taken its rightful place as one of the great Irish plays of the modern era.

Founded in September 2016, Greystones Players is a non-profit communi-

ty theatre group based in Greystones, Co. Wicklow that aims . to bring people together from Greystones and environs to work collaboratively on making great drama, and . to enrich the cultural life of our town and area.

Some of their previous productions include *Arsenic & Old Lace* by Joseph Kesselring, a radio play - May 2021; *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, adapted by Aideen Walton - December 2019; *The Playboy of the Western World* by J.M. Synge - April 2018; *Dancing at Lughnasa* by Brian Friel - May 2017.

THE CAST (in order of appearance)

Caolfionn Murphy - Kate Osbourne
Niamh Clancy - Eileen Osbourne
Lórcan Malone - Johnnypateenmike
Máiréad Levi Lawlor - Billy Claven
Ivan Cox-Kearns - Bartley McCormick
Katie Lacey Curtis - 'Slippy' Helen McCormick
Conor Horan - Babbybobby Bennett
Andrew Scales - Doctor McSharry
Aileen Ascoli - Mammy O'Dougal

Donal Kirk Band at the Hot Spot

*Hot Spot Music Club, Greystones, Friday 11th November.
Doors 8pm, show 9pm.*

Donal Kirk is a great vocalist backed by a cracking band and together they explore a host of musical styles, from Lowell George Little Feat, Bonnie Raitt, Free, Bad Company, Crosby, Stills & Nash, Beatles, Bobby Bland, Vince Gill, Ray Charles, Etta James, Elvis, Ry Cooder, Dobie Gray, Guy Clarke, early ZZ Top, Dave Edmunds, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Willie Nelson to name but a few.

This cracking band features Donal Kirk (guitar/vocals), Anto Drennan (guitar), Keith Duffy (bass) and Jason Duffy (drums).

See thehotspot.ie for tickets and upcoming events.



Illegal Smile Ireland present: A John Prine celebration Show

Mermaid Arts Centre, Saturday 26th November, 8pm. €25

When John Prine passed away in 2020 due to Covid 19 the world was bereft at the passing of a multi grammy winning artist widely revered as one of the most gifted American singer song-writers of our time with the ability to channel humour and heartbreak into his observations on the human condition in all its characteristics from the cradle to the grave.

John was no stranger to Ireland. His wife Fiona is from Donegal and they lived on and off in Kinvara, Galway. 'Illegal Smile (Ireland)' are a 5 piece band from Northern Ireland and are without doubt the foremost aficionados of John Prine's music in Ireland.

They do not set out to look or even sound like John Prine rather they skilfully reproduce his songs with integrity, sincerity and with the musical skill listeners associate with John's songs.

Barry Johnston on



acoustic guitar and main vocal is well known for playing in the Travis picking style of John Prine which gives this music its integrity. Sam

brings a superb American Country backline. Michael Conway on drums and percussion adds a special magic to the show.

Ali Mooney has the voice of an angel and not only adds to the bands wonderful harmonies but she covers several songs in the set.

Enjoy two hours of the very best of John Prine's songs in the company of Illegal Smile including the classics Sam Stone, Hello in There, Angel From Montgomery and Lake Marie.

Once Upon a Time in Donnybrook - An Evening with Paul Howard (aka Ross O'Carroll-Kelly)

*Whale Theatre, Saturday 12th
November, 8pm (doors 7pm).*

Tickets €27.50 available at
www.whaletheatre.ie or call the
booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

Leinster House had been burned to the ground. All that was left was a smouldering ruin and the blackened remains of an Irish flag.

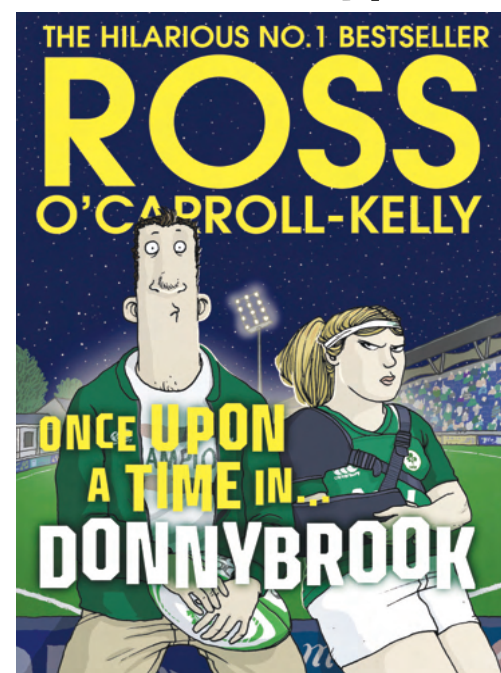
The old man was trying to pin the blame on Brussels, but I knew the actual truth? Unfortunately, Sorcha was too angry with me for having sex with our daughter's Irish teacher to listen.

But I had, like, other irons in the - pardon the pun - fire. I'd just become Head Coach of the Ireland rugby team - albeit, women.

The country might well have been focked. But very soon, we had everyone believing in fairy tales again.

And it all happened once upon a time in . . . Donnybrook.

Approx Duration: 90 minutes plus interval



Square One Theatre Group present: Death of a Salesman

*Mermaid Arts Centre, Tuesday 8th - Saturday 12th November , 7:30pm.
€20 full price, €18 concession price. Duration: 3hrs*

Considered to be one of the greatest plays of the 20th century, Arthur Miller's classic, *Death of a Salesman*, heralds Square One's long awaited return to the Mermaid stage. Our story tells of the road-weary salesman Willy Loman; his greatest flaw is believing in someone else's dream.

Square One Theatre Group was founded in Bray in 1976. We are an energetic group of talented people with a wealth of great productions behind us. New members are always welcome. Search for us on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter, and be part of our story.

Original Music composed, recorded and produced by IFTA award winning composer James Mahon.



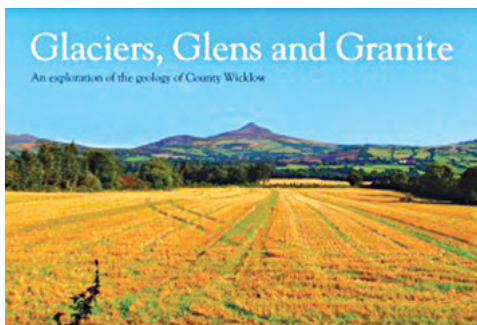
Glaciers, Glens and Granite

Glaciers, Glens and Granite is now on bookshop shelves around the country! Published by Wicklow County Council, it will illuminate the fascinating Earth Science and geological background behind the amazing scenery of our Garden County.

The book's title describes the three geological characteristics that define the Wicklow landscape - glaciers, glens and granite.

'Glaciers', explores Wicklow's Ice Age, and the effect it had on the 'geomorphology', or topographic features, across our county's landscape. The deep, glacial, U-shaped valleys of Glendalough, Glenmalur and Glenmacnass are well known, but Lugnaquilla, Lough Bray, Lough Ouler, Lough Nahanagan, Powerscourt Waterfall and Greystones Beach, among others, have hidden Ice Age signatures, seen in the vibrant array of colour photographs that span the book's pages.

'Glens' dives into potentially, and justly, the most famous aspect of our county. With names like Devils Glen, Glen Ding, Glen of the Downs, the Glencullen River and Hollywood Glen, glens play an important role in our understanding of the county's geological history, whether formed by ice itself or by meltwater. This deep dive into the



geological history of oddities like the Blessington and Enniskerry Deltas, the Dunran Channel, The Scalp and the Toor Channel - along with the stunning scenery - will have you pulling on your hiking boots to get out and discover Wicklow's incredible valleys, soaring mountains and mysterious glens.

'Granite' takes the reader on a journey into the many, many weird and wonderful granite sites within the county, all accessible and all fascinating. Locals around Ballyknockan, on the west side of the Blessington Reservoir, are living in what was probably the most important area for supplying cut stone blocks

of granite for the construction of many of Dublin City's major public buildings. And anyone around the Glendalough-Glenmalur district is living near a significant number of old lead mine sites and structures. And if you're in Kippure, along the Dublin-Wicklow county boundary, you're in one of only few pieces in Leinster that stuck up above the ice sheet of the last Ice Age!

Glaciers, Glens and Granite is a research journey into the geological wonders of places like the Upper River Liffey, the Great Sugar Loaf and Bray Head. Learn about the rock cuttings in Service Areas beside the

M11 Motorway, the important wellfields used as water supplies in Wicklow and what might be right underneath your feet - even if you don't realise it!

Geological heritage is a fundamental asset of Wicklow. It provides a very visible backdrop to the landscape, the scenery and the fabric of people's lives in the county. It is almost impossible to miss the geological essence of Wicklow, yet somehow it is often overlooked or ignored, or simply misunderstood.

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 plain language. It is hoped that the explanations here will illuminate the details in over 60 special places, that collectively make up the geological story of Wicklow.

The book can be bought in all good bookstores or on the Wordwell Books site.

The authors are Matthew Parkes (1962-



Powerscourt Waterfall

2020), Assistant Keeper for Earth Science at the National Museum of Ireland; Robbie Meehan, geologist from County Meath, who has published extensively on the last ice Age in Ireland, both nationally and internationally; Ronan Hennessy who's co-authored books on geological heritage in counties Mayo, Galway and Clare; Sarah Gatley, who headed up the Geoheritage Programme from 2006 to 2019, and is currently a Director of the Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark and its delegate on the European Geopark Network Co-ordination Committee; and Vincent Gallagher who works mainly for Geological Survey Ireland as a geochemist.



Lough Tay

Greystones artist points the way to Art Source

A self-taught artist whose paintings consist of up to 100,000 individual dots will be showcased at Ireland's premier art fair, Art Source, at Dublin's RDS from November 11th-13th.

Greystones resident Kris Kirwan utilises the acrylic dotting technique of Pointillism, which uses tiny dots of various pure colours that become blended in the viewer's eye to form an image.

"Pointillism requires patience, discipline and preparation. Every dot must have its own unique size, place and colour and each dot is equally important," said Kris, who came to Ireland 20 years ago from Lithuania.

"Some of my paintings take weeks to complete and I completely surrender to it, not knowing till the very end how the finished work will look. I often compare the dots with human thoughts or emotions. It's like chemistry that connects atoms into molecules to create a visual form.

"Cycles and repetitive patterns that are always arranged in certain numbers become a story behind the painting. I often use bright colours



Self Portrait, by Kris Kirwan

and very dark background to make it look more dramatic and playful. I love adding glitter, crystal stones as finishing touches to mandalas.

"I have a medical education and up until I began pointillism in 2018,

I was working as a psychotherapist. I then decided to become a full-time artist. Being an analytical, organised and introverted person, I was intuitively looking for any form of creative expression which would allow my energy to

flow naturally.

"Pointillism does exactly that. It requires preparation, technique, patience, self-control and vision. Some of my paintings are very geometrical, while others are more free-flowing. But I only paint one painting at a time and I always finish it."

An exhibition by Damien Hirst, the English artist who recently burned hundreds of his artworks, will be the centrepiece of Art Source. The fair will also play host to a unique sculpture garden featuring over 40 top Irish and international artists.

This year's Art Source showcases painting, sculpture, photography, illustration, prints and ceramic art. The show will also feature Source Your Own Art a free children's pop-up art workshop where youngsters are invited to express themselves creatively in response to the art they see at the fair.

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

ORDÚ DÍLSEACHÁIN
ALT 81 DEN ACHT UM TITHÍOCHTA 1966
COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
ORDÚ DÍLSEACHÁIN UIMHIR 2 DE 2022

ÓS RUD É gur talamh atá imscríofa sa Sceideal seo a leanas agus atá taispeánta ar an léarscáil ceangailte, an léarscáil ráite céanna a iompraíonn an marc 20/7/31/101 agus atá faoi shéala Chomhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin (as seo amach luaite mar an “Údarás Tithíochta”), talamh leis a mbaineann Ordú Ceannach Éigeanta Uimhir 4 de 2020, agus go bhfuil an tOrdú sin i bhfeidhm maidir leis an talamh sin:

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

AGUS ÓS RUD É –

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

ANOIS DÁ BHRÍ SIN Ordaíonn an tÚdarás Tithíochta de bharr cumhachtaí a bronnadh air ag Alt 81 den Acht um Tithíocht 1966, go ndílseofar an talamh ráite, i mbith-dhílse, saor ó hualaithe agus ó ghach eastáit, ceart, teideal agus leas d’aon saghas (seachas aon Ceart Slí Poiblí) ón 5ú Nollaig 2022.

SCEIDEAL
TAILTE LE nDÍLSIÚ

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

Uimhir an léarscáile i dtaisce ag oifigí an Údarás Tithíochta	Cainníocht, ainmníocht agus suíomh na talún	Úinéirí nó úinéirí ainme.	Léasaithe nó léasaithe ainme.	Áititheoirí (seachas tionóntaí ar feadh mí nó am níos lú ná mí)
20/7/31/101 30 South Green, Arklow Co Wicklow	Teach chónaithe agus talamh 134.4 m².	Henry Kinsella 30 South Green, Arklow	Duine ar bith – teach folamh	Duine ar bith – teach folamh

Faoi shéala oifigiúil an Údarás Aitiúil, an 1ú Lá Samhain 2022, i láthair:

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

VESTING ORDER
SECTION 81 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1966
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
VESTING ORDER SERIAL NO 2 OF 2022

WHEREAS the land described in the Schedule hereto and shown on the map attached hereto which said map has been marked 20/7/31/101 and sealed with the seal of Wicklow County Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Housing Authority”) is land to which Compulsory Purchase Order No 4 of 2020 relates, and the said order has become operative in so far as it relates to the said land:

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

AND WHEREAS –

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

NOW THEREFORE the Housing Authority in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 81 of the Housing Act 1966, hereby order that the said land shall, on the 5th of December 2022, VEST in the Housing Authority in fee simple free from encumbrances and all estates, rights, titles and interests of whatsoever kind (other than any public right of way).

SCHEDULE
LANDS BEING VESTED

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

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
20/7/31/101 30 South Green, Arklow Co Wicklow	Dwelling house and land of 134.4 m².	Henry Kinsella 30 South Green, Arklow	Not known	Not known

The official seal of the Local Authority was affixed hereto this, the 1st day of November, 2022 in the presence of:

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

Kiltimon Hub taking part in Digital First Day



Huw O'Toole and Caroline Costigan outside Hub13

Hub 13 at Jacksmill, Kiltimon, Co Wicklow is one of 50 Connected Hubs around the country that are involved in Ireland's first ever Digital First Day.

Taking place on November 16th, it's a nationwide movement to host a range of free events for communities and businesses on the benefits of digital growth to attract investment, remote workers, clients, home buyers etc to their local community and advance sustainable regional development. For more information log onto www.digital-ireland.ie.

Hub 13 with super speed fibre optic wifi opened in 2019 in the offices of a sawmill and joinery workshop. It is the first rural remote working hub in County Wicklow and provides office spaces, dedicated desks, meeting rooms and creative studios in a unique and beautiful setting of 8 acres of rich biodiversity, including a fresh planted forest garden and allotments.

Jacksmill housed different trades of wheelwrights, coffin makers, farmers, joiners and carpenters. Now as it adjusts

to the digital revolution, it aims to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to live, work and grow in an inspiring and sustainable local environment.

On Digital First day it will host a series of talks on the theme of rural connectivity, smart village development and how digital connectivity can turbo charge rural communities' success and assist rural life especially small farm diversification.

It will address the impact of Town Centre First initiatives and how Smart Village will be a large part of LEADER funding in the coming session. Speakers include Donal Kearney of Grow Remote and representative from the Local Enterprise Office to talk about Trading Online Vouchers and Green Transition Assistance. On the day organisers will highlight local initiatives and how they tie in with Farm Diversification,

inter-village connectivity and re-energise our communities.



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We David and Eva Rice are seeking planning permission to build our family home, a single storey cottage type dwelling with associated Domestic Waste Water Treatment System, at Dunran Hill, Newtownmountkennedy, 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 Town 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

‘New Planning and Environment Court will reform appeals process’

A new division of the High Court is to be established to specialise in environmental and planning issues.



Steven Matthews TD

This is a major reform that will allow planning law to operate in a more efficient and environmentally friendly manner.

Steven Matthews TD, Green Party Spokesperson for Planning and Local Government, explained the aim of the new court: "The goal is to ensure that our judicial system has the capacity to decide cases as quickly as possible within a growing and increasingly complex body of Irish and EU environmental law. Timely access to justice is a cornerstone of the effective rule of law and an international legal

commitment Ireland has entered under the Aarhus Convention. This is extremely pressing given the urgent need to ease the pressure on the housing system and develop the infrastructure we need to transition to a zero-carbon economy.

"The Green Party is committed to ensuring the new Court will have the resources to fulfil its role. The Government will pass new legislation to allow the number of judges to be increased and provide the necessary exchequer funding to pay for these judges.

"The new Court will hear all the cases currently taken by the High Courts Commercial Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Development List and other major environmental cases.

"This is likely to include all major infrastructure cases as well as many cases relating to EU Environmental Law such as Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Birds/Habitats, the Water Framework Directive and the Industrial Emissions Directive."

Renewable energy initiatives support the Blue Economy

Businesses in Wicklow's coastal communities are being encouraged to apply for the **Brexit Blue Economy Enterprise Development Scheme, with funding of up to €200,000 available for Renewable Energy Initiatives.**

Under the Scheme, blue economy businesses operating within 10 kilometres of the coastline are being encouraged to go green and can apply for funding to support plans for controlling their energy costs and improving their sustainability.

With rising energy costs, renewable energy initiatives are a smart solution to reducing our carbon footprint, cutting costs, and improving energy security to enable development today without risking that of future generations.

With €25 million available, the aim of the Scheme is to stimulate growth in rural coastal communities post-Brexit. The Scheme is an initiative of the Government of Ireland and the European Union, and is being administered by Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) and delivered through Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs).

Brenda O'Riordan, BIM Regional Officer, said the scheme has already received some promising and innovative proposals across a range of blue economy businesses from seafood, coastal tourism, boat building and repair, to marine leisure and sport.

The largest of its kind ever, the scheme is open to three streams of projects: Capital Investment, Business Mentoring & Capacity Development, and Upskilling & Training. Full details about the Brexit Blue Economy Enterprise Development Scheme, including how to apply, can be found at www.bim.ie



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

CEANNACH ÉIGEANTA TALÚN

ORDÚ CEANNACH ÉIGEANTA UIMHIR 3 – 2022 – ORDÚ DAINGNIÚCHÁIN –
53 SOUTH GREEN, AN TINBHEAR MÓR

AGUS ORDÚ CEANNACH ÉIGEANTA UIMHIR 4 – 2022 – ORDÚ DAINGNIÚCHÁIN –
53A SOUTH GREEN, AN TINBHEAR MÓR

Ar an 12ú Deireadh Fomhair 2022, rinne An Bord Pleanála Orduithe Daingniúcháin a dhaingníonn na hOrduithe Ceannach Éigeanta ainme thuas, maidir leis na tailte sna Sceidil leo. Ceadaíonn na hOrduithe, mar a dhaingnítear, Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin chun na tailte sin a cheannach go héigeanta le haghaidh cuspóirí an Acht um Tithíocht 1966. Rachaidh siad i bhfeidhm trí seachtain ón lá a foilsíodh an fógra seo. Is féidir cóip de na hOrduithe mar a daingnítear agus an léarscáileanna dá dtagrítear iontu, a fheiceáil ag gach uair réasúnta ag:

An Rannóg Tithíochta, Áras an Chontae, Baile Chill Mhantáin.

Is féidir iarratas a dhéanamh ar an Ard Chúirt, maidir le hAithbhreithniú Bhreithiúnach ar chinneadh An Bord Pleanála faoi réir Ordú 84 de Rialacha na hUaschúirteanna, lastigh d'ocht seachtain tar éis dáta foilsíúcháin an bhfógra seo, faoi réir Alt 50 den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000.

Má ndéantar iarratas mar sin, is féidir leis an Chúirt:

- (a) Na hOrduithe Ceannach Éigeanta mar a dhaingnítear a chur ar ceal, trí mheán ordú eatramhach, i gcoitinne nó go háirithe maidir le h aon bhealach a chuireann sé isteach ar mhaoín an iarrthóra, go dtí go ndéanfaí cinneadh deireannach ar na himeachtaí.
- (b) Na hOrduithe, mar a dhaingnítear, a neamhniú i gcoitinne nó go háirithe maidir le haon bhealach a chuireann sé isteach ar mhaoín an iarrthóra; má tá an Chúirt sásta tar éis an iarratas a chlosteáil, nach bhfuil na hOrduithe Ceannach Éigeanta mar a dhaingnítear, laistigh de chumhachtaí an tAcht um Tithíocht (arna leasú) nó go bhfuil dochar déanta do leasanna an iarrthóra de bharr neamhaird ar aon cheanglas an Acht.

SCEIDEAL

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

Uimhir an léarscáile i dtaisce ag oifigí an Údarás Tithíochta	Cainníocht, ainmníocht agus suíomh na talún	Úinéirí nó úinéirí ainme.	Léasaithe nó léasaith ainme.	Áititheoirí (seachas tionóntaí míosa nó níos lú ná mí)
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Ordú Ceannach Éigeanta Uimhir 3 – 2022.	Teach chónaithe agus talamh 178m ² .	Henry Barber, Croghan View, Ashwood Upper, Arklow.	Duine ar bith – teach folamh	Duine ar bith – teach folamh
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Ordú Ceannach Éigeanta Uimhir 4 – 2022.	Teach chónaithe agus talamh 151m ² .	Henry Barber, Croghan View, Ashwood Upper, Arklow.	Duine ar bith – teach folamh	Duine ar bith – teach folamh

An 1ú Samhain 2022.

Joe Lane, Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 3 OF 2022 – CONFIRMATION ORDER – 53 SOUTH GREEN, ARKLOW

AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 4 OF 2022 – CONFIRMATION ORDER – 53A SOUTH GREEN, ARKLOW

An Bord Pleanála has on the 12th day of October 2022, made confirmation orders (Board Order ABP-313373-22 – 53 South Green and ABP-313374-22 – 53A South Green) confirming the above named compulsory purchase orders as respects the lands described in the Schedules hereto. The said orders, as so confirmed, authorise Wicklow County Council to acquire the said lands compulsorily for the purposes of the Housing Act 1966. They will become operative three weeks from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the orders as so confirmed and of the maps referred to in them may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow.

An application for judicial review of the decision of An Bord Pleanála, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (SI No 15 of 1986) may be made to the High Court within eight weeks of the date of publication of this notice in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

If such an application is made, the court:

- (c) May by interim order suspend the operation of the compulsory orders as so confirmed either generally or in so far as they affect any property of the applicant until the final determination of the proceedings;
- (d) If satisfied upon hearing of the application that the compulsory purchase orders as so confirmed are not within the powers of the Housing Act 1966 (as amended), or that the interests of the applicant have been substantially prejudiced by any requirement of the Act not having been complied with, may quash the order(s) as so confirmed either generally or in so far only as they affect any property of the applicant.

SCHEDULE

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

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
22/06/21/100 Wicklow county Council Compulsory Purchase Order No 3 of 2022.	Dwelling house and land of 178m ² 53 South Green, Arklow.	Henry Barber, Croghan View, Ashwood Upper, Arklow.	None – vacant house	None – vacant house
22/06/22/100 Wicklow county Council Compulsory Purchase Order No 4 of 2022.	Dwelling house and land of 151m ² 53A South Green, Arklow.	Henry Barber, Croghan View, Ashwood Upper, Arklow.	None – vacant house	None – vacant house

Dated this 1st day of November 2022.

Joe Lane, Director Services.



Pictured at the South East Technological University's Carlow campus last week were Thomas Pollard from Carlow and Sean Mulligan from Wicklow who were conferred with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Sports Rehabilitation and Athletic Therapy. Pic: Mary Browne

Dormant accounts funding to benefit Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership projects

Sport Ireland has announced an investment package of €186,000 in Dormant Accounts funding for Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership.

The investment aims to engage communities and groups across the county to become more active and focuses on removing barriers to participating in physical activity. People living in marginalised and disadvantaged communities, people with a disability, women and girls, and people who are educationally disadvantaged are specifically targeted with this investment.

Rathdrum will be developed as an 'Active Community' with an initial investment of €60,000 towards physical activity interventions for the area, with the potential for this to increase to €170,000 over a five-year period.

Mr Michael Nicholson, Director of Service, Wicklow County Council, welcomed the announcement and the timely investment alongside the sports masterplan for Rathdrum which has been commissioned by the Council and which is due to begin shortly.

Carol Coad, Chairperson, Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership, outlined that the Sport Ireland investment will act as a catalyst

for the development of Rathdrum as an outdoor recreation hub for the county which will contribute to achieving the strategic aims of the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2020-2025.

There will be a further investment of €61,000 in Volunteer training and education, Youth leadership and Sports Inclusion Disability projects throughout 2023.

Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, highlighted the importance of investment in at grass roots level for clubs and community groups to ensure they have the capacity to grow and welcome new members.

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council said, the "significant investment, specifically around sports inclusion, will facilitate the sports partnership helping clubs and community groups become more accessible an open to a diverse membership."

Wicklow Travellers Groups, based in

CEART, Wicklow Town, will benefit from a €45,000 investment as part of the Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative from Sport Ireland. In conjunction with Wicklow Sports Partnership, they will deliver a series of running, cycling and swimming programmes to the community.

Aisling Hubbard, Coordinator, Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership, thanked Minister Jack Chambers TD; Minister Joe O'Brien, TD and Chief Executive of Sport Ireland, Dr Una May for their continued investment and support of the network of Local Sports Partnerships.

She said this was the highest once-off investment Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership have received through Dormant Account funding and that was testament to the delivery capabilities of the committee and partner agencies in Wicklow.

Information on all Wicklow Sports & Recreation activities can be found at www.wicklowsp.ie.

Two hours free parking available in Wicklow Town for the Christmas period

Shoppers will enjoy two hours free Christmas parking in all Pay and Display Parking areas in Wicklow town from Monday 21st November to Saturday 31st December.

There will be free parking at the Murrough 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 of Wicklow Municipal District 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."

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.

Best Dressed Window

Wicklow Municipal District together with Wicklow Town & District 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.

Customer Appreciation Weekend: Customer appreciation weekend begins on Thursday 17th November and will run until Saturday 19th November.

Turning on of Christmas Lights: Santa Claus will be present for the switching on ceremony which will take place on Saturday 19th November at 4pm.

RECRUITMENT



Music Generation Wicklow Chill Mhantáin

Kildare and Wicklow Education & Training Board on behalf of Music Generation Wicklow invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced persons interested in being selected as:

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/ CONDUCTOR OF MUSIC GENERATION WICKLOW YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Applicants should have a demonstrated track record as a conductor/artistic director.

Application is by means of a 500 word proposal outlining relevant experience and a current curriculum vitae.

For further information contact: Anne-Marie Beaumont at Annemariebeaumont@kwetb.ie

Submit applications to musicgeneration@kwetb.ie by 12.00 on 11th November 2022

For more information on Music Generation Wicklow see www.musicgeneratonwicklow.ie



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA
CHILL DARA AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN
KILDARE AND WICKLOW
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WICKLOW
ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES



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For further information please visit www.stcatherines.ie or follow us on Facebook

Lidl launch annual Trolley Dash

Lidl Ireland has teamed up with Celebrity Duo Brian Dowling and Arthur Gourounlian to announce the return of Trolley Dash.

The retailer's biggest and most loved fundraiser of the year that offers shoppers the opportunity to win their entire Christmas food shop for just €1, in aid of charity partner Jigsaw.

Every store across the country will have one winner who will be challenged to a 'Supermarket Sweep' style dash around their local Lidl store to grab as much of their Christmas shopping as possible in just 2 minutes. Tickets will go on sale in all Lidl stores across Ireland on Saturday 12th November for two weeks only.

100% of the proceeds from the ticket sales will be donated to Jigsaw, whose mission is to support youth mental health in Ireland. Jigsaw provides vital support to more than 250,000 people in schools, communities, workplaces and clubs across Ireland, whether that be a listening ear, giving expert mental health advice and offering families, teachers, and those who support young people ways to cope.

Running for its 8th year Lidl's Trolley Dash has raised more than €2million for charity partners since its inception. Commenting at the launch Brian Dowling highlighted that

all the funds raised from the Trolley Dash ticket sales, go to Lidl's charity partner.

"It's fantastic to see Lidl Ireland continue to support its communities through initiatives like the Trolley Dash. 175 lucky shoppers will get the chance to bag their Christmas shopping for just €1, and with all proceeds from ticket sales going directly to Jigsaw we are thrilled to be part of this festive fundraiser."

Speaking about Lidl's Trolley Dash this year, Joseph Duffy, CEO of Jigsaw said: "On behalf of the team at Jigsaw I would like to say thank you to Lidl Ireland for their ongoing support and for the opportunity to be part of the Trolley Dash initiative again this Christmas. Through our ongoing partnership with Lidl Ireland over the last four years the generosity of its staff and customers exceeds all expectations every year. This year, the festive season brings its own unique challenges and the significant funds raised from Trolley Dash will continue to make a huge difference to the welfare of future generations we support through our foundation. The support from Lidl



Brian Dowling and Arthur Gourounlian

Ireland makes that possible."

All winners will be contacted directly by their local store and invited to take part in the Lidl Trolley Dash at their Lidl store, before store opening. This gives the participants a clean run at the aisles to grab as many items on their Christmas shopping list as they can. Dashes will take place on Saturday 3rd December and Saturday 10th December. For more information about Lidl's Trolley Dash competition and terms and conditions, see <https://www.lidl.ie/trolley-dash>

PLANNING
PLANNING
PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We David and Eva Rice are seeking planning permission to build our family home, a single storey cottage type dwelling with associated Domestic Waste Water Treatment System, at Dunran Hill, Newtownmountkennedy, 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 Town 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.

IN MEMORIAM

In Memoriam Kinsella 31st Anniversary

In loving
memory
of John & also
my mother
Daisy Bradfield
Both lovingly
remembered
& sadly missed
By Anne &
Family

In Memoriam 1st Anniversary



Fitzmaurice Ailish

Harbour View
Wicklow Town
Fondly remembered
and greatly missed
by her brothers and
sister, sisters-in-law,
nephews, nieces,
cousins and a wide
circle of friends.
May her gentle soul
rest in peace.

Powerscourt Estate joins 'Flavours of Ireland' event in London

Some 60 tourism companies from Ireland attended 'Flavours of Ireland' 2022 in London recently - including Powerscourt Estate. 'Flavours' is Tourism Ireland's annual B2B tourism workshop, where tourism companies from Ireland meet and do business with top global inbound tour operators.

Now in its 20th year, Flavours took place in the Guildhall, in the City of London, and was attended by around 100 global inbound tour operators who deliver business from all over the world, including the United States, Mainland Europe, Asia, Australasia and Africa.

Flavours provides an excellent opportunity for the participating tourism providers from Ireland to highlight and sell their tourism product and build valuable relationships with the key decision-makers in attendance. The global inbound operators are preparing to sign contracts for 2023 and beyond; it is, therefore, a key time to influence the addition of new tourism products to their programmes that have the potential to deliver more regional and longer-stay business for Ireland.



Andrew Guthrie, JacTravel; Mark Henry, Tourism Ireland; and Lisa Moran, Powerscourt Estate, at Flavours of Ireland 2022.

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Important Branch Closure Notice

Ulster Bank is closing and as a bank that is closing, the following branches will close on 6th January 2023 and 13th January 2023 at 1pm and will re-open as a Permanent TSB branch shortly after.

Branches closing 6th January 2023 are

- Ardee • Ballyjamesduff • Blackrock • Blanchardstown
- Celbridge • Enniscorthy • Kilcock • Lucan • Ranelagh
- Rochestown Avenue • Swords Pavilion • Trim

Branches closing 13th January 2023 are

- Athenry • Ballybofey • Ballyconnell • Belmullet • Buncrana
- Donegal • Eyre Square • Killybegs • Shannon • Thurles • Tuam
- Westport • Wilton

Your current/deposit accounts will not transfer to another provider automatically and you must make the necessary arrangements to move and close your Ulster Bank accounts. Please visit our Customer Support Hub at www.ulsterbank.ie for details of branches within our network that remain open and consider alternative services available to you, such as our online banking and telephony services.

If you need extra support closing your account, please call our vulnerable customer line on 1800 656 001. Lines open 8am to 8pm, every day.

Call costs may vary and calls from mobiles may not be free.

Close at any Ulster Bank branch, or log on to ulsterbank.ie

