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Tuesday 13th December 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

'AN ATTACK ON RURAL WICKLOW'

An angry Wicklow Council chamber was last week left struggling to accept a draft direction issued by the Minister for Local Government which prevents housing units from being built in a number of rural areas around the county.

Councillors vented their frustrations with the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD following the Draft Direction issued by the Minister regarding Wicklow's recently adopted County Development Plan for the years 2022 to 2028.

The Minister, on the advice of the OPR, made a number of recommendations which overrules

decisions taken by councillors in relation to several sites in rural areas. The council has been instructed to omit boundary extensions on sites in Kilpedder, Johnstown outside Arklow, Ashford, and Carnew that would allow for a small number of housing units to be built, and a zoning objective in Aughrim to allow for a low-density residential development. The Council has also been instructed to delete from the plan the objective for

a nursing home at Kilmullen Lane in Newcastle.

The Council must now prepare a report for the OPR and the Minister. A transcript of last week's meeting and a summary of the points raised by councillors will be included with the report. However, Chief Executive of the Council, Brian Gleeson, doesn't have the power to reject what the Minister is requesting.

Chair of the Council's



Cara McNerney pictured on Napoleon at Maltfield Stud riding school in Redcross, which is celebrating 20 years in business. See page 7

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'It's ridiculous' - Cllr Edward Timmins

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on Planning, Cllr Edward Timmins (FG), said "Is the planning regulator aware that in all of these small towns all over the county that are affected by this development plan, that there's been practically no housing built in them? The vast bulk of the housing is happening and will happen in the five big towns. There's nothing being built in a lot of these smaller towns and there's nothing for sale. The planning regu-

lator just strikes me as totally out of touch with what is happening in these small towns. Removing a little boundary extension in Carnew for four or five houses...Come on...It's ridiculous."

Cllr Shay Cullen (FG) said "There's a total inconsistency in the entire process. There were probably 30 amendments that were supposedly taken out by the OPR and then they whittled it down to six. Nobody can understand how those particular six

were chosen and it has left a lot of questions. We have spoken about this

being our plan for the last three years. We have put enough work into it to

suggest that it should be our development plan.

Continued on Page 3



'It's an attack on rural communities' - Cllr Shay Cullen

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Pictured at the launch of the book produced by 6th class pupils in Roundwood National School were Kath and Holly Gummerson. The children produced the book and a calendar in celebration of the centenary of the school. See more, page 12

The Giving Tree says a big thank you to the people of Bray

Bray Rotary Club hosted their annual Christmas Giving Tree over two weekends and on the steps of the Holy Redeemer Church, 3rd and 4th December and again last Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th.

The weather was very unkind, however, this their 20th year, was still a huge success with about 400 presents donated to the value of £10,000 plus. Thanks to the generosity of the people of Bray Rotary helps in excess of 300 people each year.

How the Giving Tree works is that Gift Tags are placed on the tree with first names and ages of local needy children and adults.

Bray Rotary get the names from the four St Vincent de Paul Conferences in Bray, Purple House Cancer Support, Five Loaves Soup Kitchen, Ark Housing, Bray Community Helpers, Open Door Day Centre and CASA, the Caring and Sharing Association.

The public take a gift tag; buy that person a



Pictured collecting at Bray Rotary's Giving Tree were Rudy Montejo, Luz Montejo, Pat Hastings, Una Whelan, John Whelan, Therese Morgan and Michael Noble

suitable present, bring it back to the tree and Rotary distribute them to the Charities.

Organiser Una Whelan said "We realise people

have many calls on their generosity especially at this time of year and were a little concerned that the weather might keep people away, but

the opposite seems to have been the case. People came out to support us, especially young families and we are very grateful to them."

Greystones South Beach Boardwalk proposal



Greystones South Beach

It is proposed to construct a boardwalk at South Beach Greystones which will improve access for all users onto the beach.

Plans may be inspected at Greystones Municipal District until 23rd December 2022. They may also be inspected online at Part 8 - Blueway Project - Greystones South Beach Boardwalk (wicklow.ie).

Submissions and observations may be made online, part8ccsd@wicklowcoco.ie. And also to: Caroline Fox, Administrative Officer, Community, Cultural and Social Development Section, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town.

The deadline for submissions and observations is 14th January 2023 at 12 noon.

Little Bray remembers the floods

Local and family history comes alive in NEVER AGAIN? - a collection of stories from victims of the '65 and '86 floods in Little Bray.

United in the belief that such devastation must never be allowed to happen again, the storytellers recount their experiences with insight, and even an occasional touch of humour, as illustrated by local artist, Brigid O'Brien.

Recorded by Noeleen McManus, these stories provide a fascinating (and sometimes terrifying) account of the devastation that flooding brings - and the vital flood relief that the former Bray Golf Club lands provide.

They recall the generosity, courage, and good neighbourliness demonstrated by Bray's people, from both sides of the Dargle, when most needed.

All profits from the sale of 'Never Again?' will go directly to SaveBray's campaign to challenge Wicklow County Council's proposal to build a suspen-

sion bridge across the Dargle River, accessed by a four lane road built on a 4m high embankment across a floodplain.

'Never Again?' is already available from many local businesses in Bray. Price - €16.

NEVER AGAIN?



Stories from the Floods of Little Bray

Free Genealogy Advisory Service in Wicklow Library

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 a free drop-in advisory evening at Wicklow Local Studies, Salthouse Lane, Wicklow Town on Thursday 15th December 6.30 to 8.30pm, 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

Shankill Community lantern walk

On Saturday 17th December, there will be a Community Lantern workshop in Shankill followed by a walk, from Crinken Church through Shanganagh Park. Come along for some carols, hot chocolate, and a little gift for each family. The lantern making workshop takes place at 4.30pm, followed by the walk at 5pm.

Soup and sandwiches

The last Soup and Sandwich Lunch for the year will be held in the Swann Hall, St. Patrick's Church Greystones on Tuesday 20th December from 12.30pm until 2pm. Everyone is welcome so come and join in the festive cheer. Donations go to local charities supporting the homeless.

Laragh Christmas Carols

Pause for a while in the week before Christmas, and come and join the Celebration of Old and New Christmas Carols on Tuesday 20th December in St Kevins Church at 8pm. A time to share our tradition of bringing in the feast of Christmas with song. A time to remember old friends and make new ones, with a cuppa and mince pies afterwards. The St. Kevin's Choir look forward to seeing you there.

Ukraine Support Groups

A new support group for Ukrainians has been started by a group of women from Greystones. The central hub is Greystones Evangelical Church on Hillside Road. The first project is the assembling of 50 welcome packs. More activities will follow. See the group's Facebook page for updates. In Arklow, Kyiv psychologist Tetiana Tymchuk has announced a new Ukrainiann Support Group in Arklow Library. The group is open from 12:30pm to 2:30pm on Thursdays, providing psychological support to Ukrainians who are in need of it.

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'AN ATTACK ON RURAL WICKLOW'



'This is the thin edge of the wedge' - Cllr John Mullen

"I sadly believe that the decisions that are being made by the OPR in the main are against developing rural areas. I go as far as to say I believe it is an attack on rural communities across Wicklow. We need our villages to develop, we need our villages to grow. We need our people to stay in their communities. This type of situation that we're faced with here today shows us that the upper echelons of regulation doesn't want our communities to develop. They're against rural communities. They're against people being able to build a home in their own community, being able to live in their own community."

John Mullen (FF), said "The OPR has picked out these insignificant sites, which are relatively small in the context of the overall Plan. I think this is the thin edge of the wedge. If it's three objections this time, it could be 33 next time. We're not handing out planning permissions when we do a County Development

Plan, we are only suggesting the appropriate sites that can be looked for in terms of planning permissions. There are three houses for sale in Carnew today, only three. There's nothing to rent in Carnew. In the western district we have a massive shortage of private rental accommodation. The housing crisis affects all parts of Wicklow, we need to offer flexibility in building houses."

Cllr Derek Mitchell (FG) disagreed with the removal of the zoning for the nursing home, saying: "This land is not in the middle of nowhere as some suggestions would appear. It's right next to Druids Glen which has a lot of



'It's like the Nice Treaty' - Cllr John Snell

facilities which older people could use and which is a large resort, and I think it is appropriate to have a nursing home next to that".

Cllr John Snell (Ind) said, "It's our Plan, but if we don't agree one-hundred percent with the OPR they're going to do what they want to do anyway. It's like the Nice Treaty all over again - we can vote provided we do it the way they want, and if we don't vote the 'right' way we will have the referendum again. We are just being used as pawns in the system. Council chambers are turning into talking shops with no power. As far as I'm concerned the mask has slipped and we as public



'The housing crisis must take priority' - Cllr Mary Kavanagh

representatives now know our true value: We are not valued at all. We are walked all over here, and can have our way providing we agree with those in power - The Office of the Planning Regulator."

Mary Kavanagh (Ind) said "We are in a housing crisis, and must plead with the Minister to allow these quite small negligible developments - three houses here, two houses there - to be allowed. They're not going to make a huge impact. The housing crisis has to be the first priority in this country. These houses would take people off the housing list, take pressure off the housing list. We should stress in whatever report we make that the housing crisis has to take priority over everything."

Cllr Dermot O'Brien (SF) said "We've been told that we've 'failed' to implement recommendations. I thought that recommendations were recommendations. Should we now just consider every time a recommendation is presented by the OPR that it's going to become a directive? The biggest question of all on



'Is this our plan or not' - Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien

some level is: Is this our plan or is there a hierarchy of decision making and power that sits way above us and somewhere down the bottom we get the scraps of the responsibility. When we consider the thousands of pages that have been read, the hours and hours of meetings and consideration and contribution we've all put in, only to be told that we've failed to set out an overall strategy, that doesn't sit well at all, considering that we are elected to this structure and that we have taken a responsibility to do this."

Cllr Tom Fortune (Ind) said "Whose plan is it, that's what we're wrestling



'We're being treated like we don't matter' - Cllr Tom Fortune

with. We're being treated as if we don't matter. They may hear what we're saying but they're not listening. As far as I'm concerned, we do matter. Fundamentally we don't agree with what the Minister is saying, and the Minister is guided by the planning regulator, all we can do is express our disappointment. At a time when we haven't enough houses or accommodation for our residents, it doesn't make sense. The Minister is just rubberstamping what the Planning regulator has said. Why don't we get the planning regulator down here instead of going through a pointless exercise."

Cllr Joe Behan (Ind) said "We were told it was our plan, we were told we were getting recommendations, but in fact they're



'We shouldn't accept diktats from civil servants' - Cllr Joe Behan

instructions. Local Authorities all across the country are being told by civil servants that we have to do what we're told. In addition to sending the transcript, I think we should say we reject these recommendations on principle and say we're not willing to accept diktats from civil servants."



Lana Byrne and Nadia Ramoutar at the opening of the 4 02 exhibition in Arklow Library. 4 02 are a collective of artists and their inaugural exhibition consists of a giant mosaic cup. Their name comes from the number prefix for the Arklow area.

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Get your Wicklow Passport collector's pin



The Wicklow Passport Pin

VisitWicklow has just launched its new Wicklow Ambassador Collector's Pin to celebrate anyone collecting 15 or more stamps on the Wicklow Passport challenge.

The Wicklow Passport project has been extremely popular over the past couple of years with many visitors 'stamping' their journey around Wicklow. There are 23 stamps to choose from all representing a town or a village around Wicklow.

In each location, there are various stamping locations where to get the stamps. Collecting 15 or more of the Wicklow Passport Stamps is quite a challenge, and the new pin is a great reward to mark such an achievement.

Go online at <http://visitwicklow.ie/passport>, order your Wicklow Passport and start planning trips around Wicklow. With 15 or more stamps collected, send an image of your Wicklow Passport and VisitWicklow will send your Ambassador's

Certificate and your well-earned in a goodie. Why not offer a Wicklow Passport for Christmas: Visit Wicklow will send it anywhere in the world!

The Award Winning Wicklow Passport initiative has been successful at bringing visitors to some of the remotest places in the county," says Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council and Chair of Wicklow County Tourism.

"It is a great way to discover the hidden gems around Wicklow in a fun and entertaining way."

Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, added: "The Wicklow Passport is a great Christmas present to give to friends and families and can be sent to anyone around the world. The Passport



Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, and Senator Pat Casey at the launch of the Wicklow Passport Pin

showcases the great variety of things to see and do around the county and offers a great way to (re)discover how fantastic Wicklow is. To obtain a Wicklow Passport go to visitwicklow.ie/passport and stamp each journey through County Wicklow.

Wicklow showcased as fairy-tale location in behind-the-scenes look at Disenchanted

The beautiful scenery of Wicklow is wowing viewers of the musical comedy *Disenchanted* - the sequel to the box office hit *Enchanted* - which is now available on Disney+ around the world.

Filming took place in Wicklow last year and to celebrate the film's connections with Ireland, Tourism Ireland has created a short behind-the-scenes film in which actors Patrick Dempsey, Maya Rudolph, James Marsden, Jayma Mays and Idina Menzel, as well as director Adam Shankman and producer Barry Josephson, describe

and praise the special locations used in filming.

To view the behind-the-scenes film, go to the Discover Ireland YouTube channel.

The behind-the-scenes film will be shared with Tourism Ireland's fans and followers on social media in the United States, Great Britain, Germany, France and Spain. Tourism Ireland's

aim is to highlight our stunning scenery and to remind potential holiday-makers in our biggest tourism markets that *Disenchanted* was filmed here.

In *Disenchanted*, Enniskerry represents 'Monroeville', a fictional suburban town in upstate New York which is then magically transformed into 'Monrolasia', a fanta-

sy and magic-filled version of the town.

An 1850s period house in Greystones was the location for Robert (Patrick Dempsey) and Giselle's (Amy Adams) 'Monroeville' home. Filming also took place at the Powerscourt Waterfall and Powerscourt Estate.

Niall Gibbons, Chief Executive of Tourism Ireland, said: "The fact that '*Disenchanted*' was filmed here is a fantastic coup for Irish tourism. Following the success of '*Enchanted*', this highly anticipated film is a great way to bring Ireland and, in particular Wicklow, to the attention of viewers around the world. We are delighted to share this behind-the-scenes video with our fans and followers on social media, celebrating the film's connections with Ireland."

In the behind-the-scenes film, producer Barry Josephson praises Wicklow, saying: "We went from this beautiful village of Enniskerry to beautiful waterfalls in Powerscourt - every location was remarkable because there are so many places in Ireland that just look like a fairy-tale as they are!" Speaking about



A still image from the behind-the-scenes film

Ireland, Patrick Dempsey, who plays Robert, said: "It's just breathtakingly beautiful. You see the woods and the fields - and the architecture of all of that is very magical. It really lends itself to a fairy-tale life."

Maya Rudolph, who plays Malvina, added: "I feel like I got in on a little secret of such an incredible place and I've just fallen in love. It feels like a fairy-tale."

Filming of the sequel to 2007's *Enchanted* took place during the summer of 2021 and it was released on Disney+ in November of this year. It takes place 10 years after the first film and sees Giselle question her happiness, inadvertently turning the lives of those in the real world and Andalasia upside down in the process.

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Illegal burning leads to successful prosecution

Wicklow County Council has welcomed the recent successful prosecution against a landowner involved in a dangerous and uncontrolled burning incident at Ballyreamon Commons, Kilmacanogue.

The burning took place in September 2020 and saw local residents and farmers fearful for their properties and livestock while road users experienced poor visibility as a result of the levels of smoke on the roadway. Wicklow Fire Services had to attend the location on numerous times throughout the day. The Council successfully instigated legal proceedings against the defendant and evidence was given for the prosecution by the Council's Waste Enforcement Team, members of the Fire Services and local residents/landowners from the area, who had CCTV

footage of the burning incident.

At the District Court this year the Judge imposed the maximum fine of €5,000 together with a prison sentence of three months, to be suspended for 12 months on condition that the defendant does not come to any further attention. The Judge also awarded costs to the Council in the sum of €4,400 to cover the costs of the fire service and legal costs.

The severity of the conviction was appealed by the defendant to the Circuit Court and the case was heard during October this year. The Circuit Court reduced the fine imposed to €1,000 but affirmed the remainder of the District Court Order.

In commending the work of the Waste Enforcement Team, the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson, stated that "Wicklow County Council is sending out a clear message to polluters that the Council will pursue these offenders and take swift action against them."

Brady calls on Council to intervene to Save the Arklow Schooner

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has appealed to both the government and Wicklow County Council to act immediately to purchase the iconic three-masted auxiliary schooner, DE WADDEN.

The vessel is a symbol of the long history of the sea trade between Ireland and Liverpool. It is also the last trading ship to visit the port. She is one of only three surviving Irish Sea schooners and the only surviving steel auxiliary schooner.

DE WADDEN has close and historical links to Arklow and would make an exceptional addition to the Maritime Museum in the town. It has huge tourist potential. DE WADDEN has also featured in a number of films and was used in the production of the famous BBC series 'The Onedin Line'.

DE WADDEN operated out of Arklow under the ownership of Richard Hall, who purchased it in 1922 and remained in the Arklow fleet of merchant sail vessels until 1961 when it ceased trading. DE WADDEN is held currently in dry dock in Liverpool under National Museums Liverpool, which

recently announced its intention to commence to deconstruct the famous and historic vessel unless a viable alternative solution is brought forward before a deadline on Monday 6th February.

Deputy Brady said: "I have written to the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Brian Gleeson, and the Minister for Marine Charlie McConalogue asking that they make every effort to ensure that DE WADDEN is purchased for the people of Arklow."

"Failure to act will mean this famous and historic connection to Arklow, and Ireland's maritime history will be lost forever, following the announcement by National Museums Liverpool that they intend to deconstruct the vessel if no alternatives can be found before a 6th February deadline. For the authorities in Ireland to allow this to happen would constitute an act of historical vandalism."

"It is an iconic example of mar-

itime history which has featured in a number of Movie and TV productions. DE WADDEN was the last merchant schooner to trade in the Irish Sea. Only three Irish Sea merchant schooners have survived into the 21st century, each the only representative of their particular type; the Kathleen and May, a traditional wooden topsail schooner; the Result, a steel hulled schooner representing the move from wood to metal hulls and the DE WADDEN, a steel auxiliary schooner, representing the transition from sail to mechanical propulsion. All three are unique and on the Historic Ship List.

"DE WADDEN's association with Arklow would make it a great addition to the Arklow Maritime Museum. It is a symbolic representation of the historical sea trading connections between Ireland and Liverpool. And while there would be costs involved in bringing the vessel back to sea-worthy status, the value it would add to the town of Arklow and to rich maritime history of the southeast would more than compensate for this."



Pictured are Tony Lawlor, Vice Chairman Bray Credit Union, and Ned Whelan, Chairman Bray Credit Union, congratulating Jason Doyle, winner of The Pat Woods Scholarship 2022.



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Maltfield Stud celebrates 20th anniversary

Maltfield Stud, a riding shool and livery yard based in Redcross, is celebrating 20 years in business.



Darby Condren on Erin and Ali Condren on Apache at Maltfield Stud, Redcross

Its owner and manager, Alison Whittaker, is the primary instructor and continues to teach both young and old.

"We believe in offering instruction to small groups of riders in a safe and secure setting, providing encouragement while focusing on progression," says Alison.

Maltfield continues to be a valued member of AIRE (Association of Irish Riding Establishments), the governing body that regulates the safe and efficient provision of equestrian activities to the general public - a must for all parents to check when considering sending their child horseriding.

Nestled in the Wicklow hills, Maltfield Stud provides its clientele, both adults and children, with lessons, treks and of course beach rides. Easter and Summer pony camps are always a favourite, with the inclusion of a beach ride for advanced riders.

Some of its past pupils have continued their

equestrian passions both in the racing and showjumping industry. Indeed many students are currently successfully competing in the national interschools showjumping programme.

Darby and Ali Condren are two Maltfield livery owners who compete in secondary interschools showjumping competi-

tion leagues for St. Gerard's school. They are pictured here on their ponies Apache and Erin.

Past pupils also include Lilly May Gallagher who currently rides for the Wicklow hunt. Current students are also pictured last weekend at Maltfield Stud enjoying their lessons. Each have a favourite pony.

The riding school ponies include Napoleon, Dudley, Ebony and Oreo to name but a few.

To celebrate 20 years in business Maltfield Stud are offering Wicklow Times readers an introductory offer of a voucher, which when presented allows 4 children's group lessons for 100 euro

(See voucher below).

For those who would prefer private instruction, this is also available to both children and adults.

For further information, check out the Maltfield Stud Riding School Facebook page and website: www.maltfield.com or contact Alison on 0876800187.



Alison Whittaker and Meabh Williams pictured with ponies and students at Maltfield Stud, Redcross

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Horse Riding in an Association of Irish Riding Establishments (A.I.R.E.) approved Riding Centre will tick all the boxes for you or your child.

A.I.R.E. closely monitors all the Riding Schools that are members of the Association through yearly inspections to ensure that the quality of teaching, child protection, safety standards and welfare of the animals are all up to standard. The Association of Irish Riding Establishments is

the body authorised by the Department of Agriculture to maintain standards in the leisure horse industry and is also recognised by Failte Ireland as the authority on this matter. AIRE has responsibility for the inspection and registration of Horse Riding Schools and Establishments in Ireland.

Not only are the prices of lessons reasonable (€15-€25) but all riding schools that are members of AIRE provide everything from the horse, to your riding helmet, boots and tack so that all you will need to bring is yourself.

Many AIRE riding schools also run BHS training courses where you are coached in stable management, horse-riding and teaching; pony camps are plentiful around the country during the holiday period.

Students who are serious in improving their skills may take part in the AIRE Amateur Tests and upon successful completion will receive certificates. Most AIRE approved riding schools will take children for lessons from the age of five years old but it is best to check this with your local AIRE approved riding school.

Horse riding is a risk sport however AIRE go to every length possible to ensure that the risk of injury is limited. AIRE schools must have first aiders present and all instructors are monitored and approved with the necessary qualifications. It is also a requirement that

AIRE approved staff have taken a Child Protection Course.

There are many different disciplines to the sport of Horse Riding:

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AIRE instructors are trained to help you achieve your personal

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with all capabilities.

For more information on getting involved in horse riding or even to just have a chat to A.I.R.E about the sport don't hesi-

tate to contact A.I.R.E on 045 854518 or visit www.aire.ie. Click on Riding Centres at the top and then scroll down to your relevant county.

5 Things you should know about taking up horse-riding

- 1) 'Approved' riding equipment must be used; kite marked riding helmets and safe tack.
- 2) AIRE is the Association of Irish Riding Establishments that monitors riding centres around the country.
- 3) Riding is open to people from all walks of life and is not limited to a certain few.
- 4) Horse riding lessons range in price from approximately fifteen euro upwards.
- 5) Riding is a risk sport.



The Association of Irish Riding Establishments is the body that regulates standards at Riding Schools and Equestrian Centres in Ireland.

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€100



Over one million litres of water saved through backyard water service replacement programme in Wicklow

Since 2018, Irish Water in partnership with Wicklow County Council have saved over one million litres of water through the backyard water service replacement programme. These works have brought significant benefits to communities across the county in terms of water conservation, improved water quality, and enhanced security of supply.

Co. Wicklow has seen over 900 homes benefit from the successful completion of backyard water service replacements. The water savings achieved since 2018 equates to the equivalent water usage of over 8,000 people (per day), which is comparable to the daily required water supply for the Wicklow towns of Baltinglass and

Blessington. Backyard water services are found in older areas, often installed to the rear of a customer's property, and typically made of cast iron or lead. Due to the age and deteriorating condition of the pipework, they are often a significant source of leakage and supply disruption for customers.

They are usually shared, running through several neighbouring properties making it difficult to detect and repair leaks. Where homeowners share a connection, leaks and bursts impact all connected properties, resulting in low pressure and/or outages.

Speaking about the benefits of the project, Joe

Carroll, Regional Delivery Lead at Irish Water, said, "Aged backyard water service connections are a huge source of leakage and continue to impact communities right across Ireland, causing low pressure, supply disruption, and issues relating to water quality."

"Replacing these old water mains and service connections in poor condition, strives to eliminate existing leaks and significantly reduce the amount of clean drinking water lost into the ground. It is vital to future proof water supplies and provide resilient networks across Wicklow."

Joe added, "Without the support of local communities getting behind these projects this essential investment would not have the desired effect. We would like to thank each homeowner who has engaged with us over the past number of years, leading to the success of the programme, and we look forward to continuing to work on replacing backyard water services into the future to provide a more secure and sustainable water supply across Wicklow."



Map of backyard service replacement programme in Wicklow



to work on replacing backyard water services into the future to provide a more secure and sustainable water supply across Wicklow."

"Irish Water would like to thank all the communities from Bray in the North to Arklow in the South of the county who have engaged with us and assisted in the provision of our backyard water services programme. This will not only result in significant water savings but will also reduce the number of bursts and outages, future proofing the water supply for generations to come."

The successful completion of these strategic projects has resulted in approximately 17km of new water mains being installed across the county.

Noel Doody, Water Inspector with Wicklow County Council says he is fully aware of the challenges but also the overwhelming success of backyard water services throughout his native county; "Each year millions of litres of clean drinking water are lost into the ground due to old and damaged pipes throughout the network. The only solution in many

cases is to replace the pipes entirely. In communities served by aged backyard water services, it can be extremely difficult to detect and repair leaks when the issue is on private property and there are neighbouring properties involved," Noel said.

Noel added, "These issues coupled with historic challenges whereby unknowingly homeowners have built extensions or patios over water networks can lead to more complex repairs. That is why the backyard water service replacement programme provides the solution to upgrading the

network and largely eliminating legacy issues such as frequent bursts and low water pressure in these communities while improving the water quality."

A regularised and efficient service supplied by the installation of new mains to the front of these properties has provided the necessary solutions to these ongoing problems for hundreds of customers in Wicklow. Irish Water and its appointed contractor Ward & Buke Construction say they are looking forward to continuing this essential work into 2023 and beyond.

Gift trees this Christmas with ReWild Wicklow



ReWild Wicklow volunteers at their first tree planting of the season in Knockree, Enniskerry

Local community group ReWild Wicklow has launched a tree planting initiative in collaboration with the Wicklow Mountains National Park rangers and the Native Woodland Trust to plant over 2,000 native trees across the Wicklow Uplands this winter.

To support this initiative they are asking the public of Wicklow and beyond to gift trees to loved ones this Christmas. They are offering three beautifully illustrated gift certificates for Scots pine, oak and hawthorn trees.

"We are delighted to be partnering with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Native Woodland Trust to be planting hundreds of trees across Wicklow this winter. All funds raised will be used to buy the chosen trees and materials for planting in one of the sites in Glendalough, Laragh or across the Wicklow Mountains. We set the group up to make a real difference to biodiversity in Wicklow," said chairperson Danny Alvey.

"We're delighted we can now work with NPWS and the Native Woodland Trust to

plant hundreds of trees this winter. We have over 500 volunteers on our list already and to date we've already helped to plant 2,000 trees. We can't wait to get to work and plant another 2,000 this winter! Please consider donating to our cause or joining our volunteer list and lending a hand!"

The certificates have been brought to life by beautiful illustrations donated to the initiative by Wicklow artist Emily Robyn Archer from her Native Circles collection (see more from Emily at native-circlesart.ie). Each certificate will also be personalised with the recipient and sender names and emailed in high res PDF for printing at home or sending virtually. They can be purchased on the community group's website at rewildwicklow.ie.

Wicklow joins with Meath and Kildare to launch Mid East Energy Unit

The three local authorities of Wicklow, Meath, and Kildare County Councils have come together to address their combined climate mitigation ambitions through the formation of the Mid East Energy Unit.

The establishment of the Mid East Energy Unit will provide a platform for the three local authorities to work collaboratively to bring about measurable climate action mitigation, encourage a culture of energy saving and carbon reduction in the region and, with the SEAI, to provide support services for energy management, awareness, auditing, opportunity identification, and project development and delivery in the region.

Speaking at the launch, Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, stated that: "The Energy Unit will progress and deliver agreed public sector energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects in the region of the three Local Authorities. These projects will demonstrate best practice, build capacity for the three local authorities and allow for scalable models for future projects."

Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, also acknowledged the work of the Eastern and Midland Climate Action Regional Office who collaborated with the three local authorities and the SEAI in driving this initiative, emphasised that Climate Action "needs to be a whole of organisation effort and in coming together as a region, the potential to effect even greater change is further enhanced."



At the launch of the Mid East Energy Unit in Wicklow County Buildings last week were Marc Devereux (Senior Engineer, Wicklow County Council), Paul Murphy (E&M Caro), Dara McGowan (Meath County Council), Joe Bolard (Kildare County Council), Mary Cahill (Climate Action Officer, Wicklow County Council), Declan Mealy (SEAI), Nick Killian (Cathaoirleach, Kildare County Council), Donna Gartland (Codema), Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Breege Kilkenney, and Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Tommy Annesley.

Wicklow hoteliers send open letter to TDs highlighting challenges

Local hoteliers in Wicklow, representing 25 businesses, sent an open letter to Wicklow's five TDs last week highlighting the growing economic challenges facing the sector over the next 12 months and calling for retention of the 9% VAT rate.

They stated: "As a country, it is essential that we do everything possible to secure the long-term, sustainable recovery of Irish tourism. This is crucial at the current juncture as we grapple with record levels of inflation, skyrocketing business costs and a global economy that is edging towards recession. We must ensure nothing is done that would undermine the recovery, such as increasing consumer taxes on holidaymakers and visitors to our shores.

"Simply put, the pro-

posed 50% increase in tourism VAT next year makes no sense during a cost-of-living crisis. It would only add to inflation and undermine our Irish tourism's competitiveness internationally when the focus should be on safeguarding jobs. We cannot afford to be complacent about tourism and hospitality given the vital role it plays in spreading employment opportunities and prosperity across the entire country.

"Tourism businesses are collectively our largest indigenous

employer. Prior to the pandemic, our industry supported some 14,700 jobs throughout Wicklow, generating €135m in tourism revenues annually for our local economy. Since the lifting of Covid restrictions earlier this year, we have seen a welcome upturn in tourism. Some of this is tentative having been boosted by short-term factors including high levels of pent-up demand during the summer and hotels catering for a large amount of displaced business previously contracted for 2020

and 2021. The recovery to date has enabled us to make enormous progress in restoring employment.

"Most hotels and guesthouses, however, are still recovering having come out of an exceptionally challenging two years of Covid during which time the hotels sector alone lost over €5 billion in revenue. Overall occupancy levels this year are significantly down compared with 2019 and overseas tourism is expected to be down 25% on pre-pandemic levels. A full recovery is likely to be delayed until 2026, and it will be further impacted by a softening in demand as a result of downturns

in the global economy.

"Every day we hear worrying economic news, with our key overseas tourism markets expected to experience significant slowdowns over the next 12 months. A particular cause for concern is the UK, which is facing a bleak economic outlook with inflation hitting a four-decade high and the country heading into a prolonged recession. This is very worrying for tourism businesses given the UK has traditionally been our largest source market for overseas visitors. The outlook for the rest of Europe is also very concerning as is the ongoing war in Ukraine, which is having an impact

on tourism capacity.

"From a tourism perspective, the rising cost of living - both at home and internationally - means we are facing a potential tipping point with consumer confidence reaching decade lows across key overseas markets. Reduced disposable income will inevitably have a negative impact with potential visitors less likely to spend money on discretionary items such as holidays and breaks away. Tourism and hospitality is particularly vulnerable

and will be first to take the hit.

"At the same time, the energy crisis is having an enormous impact on tourism and hospitality with many hotel businesses seeing increases of upwards of 300% in energy bills compared with 2019 levels. It is not just energy hikes that are hitting hotels and other tourism businesses as we have faced escalating increases across our entire cost base this year. Hotels are reporting average increases of 25% in the cost of food supplies,

beverage costs up 16%, linen and laundry costs up over 30% and insurance costs up 18%.

"On behalf of hoteliers throughout Wicklow and our wider local tourism community, we are urging local TDs to support our call on the Government to retain the 9% VAT rate. This should be part of a concerted effort to bed down the recovery and safeguard tourism businesses and livelihoods. Now is not the time to jeopardise the recovery by increasing taxes on visitors."



Minister for Higher Education Simon Harris, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence Simon Coveney, Tom Byrne, Selena McKenzie and Cllr Sylvester Bourke at the Fine Gael Wicklow Budget Roadshow in the Arklow Bay Hotel last Friday. This was a roundtable Stakeholder Engagement for small businesses, enterprises and community groups following the announcement of Budget 2023. The Budget Roadshow forms part of Fine Gael's campaign on building stronger, safer communities and aims to provide Ministerial engagement opportunities at a local level.

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Community centres to benefit under investment fund

A number of Community Centres across Co. Wicklow are to receive funding under the new Community Centre Investment Fund.



Steven Matthews TD at Rathdrum Cancer Support Centre

The new Community Centre Investment Fund forms part of a range of measures being undertaken by the Department of Rural and Community Development to support the community and voluntary sector, and to empower thriving, sustainable communities across Ireland.

The funding is not strictly limited to community centres but also includes Family Resource Centres, Parish Halls, Scouts Clubs, Sports Complexes and Youth Hubs.

In Co. Wicklow, funding will go to Newcastle Community Centre CLG (€60,561); Rathdrum Cancer Support Group (€100,000); Stratford/

Grangecon Local Development Company Limited By Guarantee (€74,825); Purple House Cancer Support Centre Company Limited By Guarantee (€67,669); Newtownmountkennedy Community centre (€85,172); Wolfe Tone Community Centre (€74,624); An Taisceach Cuideachta Faoi Theorainn Ráthaíochta (€69,616); Imaal Hall (€148,067); and Tinahely Courthouse (€285,000).

Green Party TD Steven Matthews who recently met with Rathdrum Cancer Support Group, and has been advocating for grant funding on their behalf in recent months has welcomed the news.

Discussing the news,

Deputy Matthews said "I had the opportunity to meet with the group in their existing premises in Rathdrum recently and I got to see first-hand the extraordinary work that they do to offer support to those suffering with cancer and their families.

"One of the key issues raised with me was that the group had outgrown their current premises and their service would benefit hugely from a new, central location in Rathdrum to cater to their clients.

"I know this funding is going towards upgrading, retrofitting and adapting a new building to fit the needs of the group and the services they provide which is excellent news for the people

who use this incredible service and for their friends and families.

"The incredible voluntary service they offer in terms of information sessions on supports for families, putting on social evenings for patients undergoing cancer treatment, offering lifts to hospitals for people without access to other transport options amongst other vital supports.

"This service provides a genuine support network for people in Rathdrum and the wider area and I hope this funding will help the group continue to flourish in the community. To see this funding come to fruition is a wonderful development and is a reflection of the years of hard work put in by all those involved with RCSG and this must be acknowledged.

"I look forward to continuing my work with both Rathdrum Cancer Support, Wicklow County Council and the Department of Community Development to ensure that this funding is allocated as quickly as possible so that they can get this project moving," concluded Deputy Matthews.

Stephen Stokes, Independent Greystones councillor, said, "Community centres are often at the heart of communities, and provide an invaluable resource." Welcoming in particular the €60,500 for the Newcastle Community Centre in his own Municipal District, he added, "I would like to pay special tribute

to everyone who is involved in the Newcastle Community Centre. It is an excellent facility, and this funding will boost their efforts further."

Some of the work includes energy retrofitting, extensions to current facilities, upgrades to fire safety, provision of meeting rooms, upgrading disability access, and more.

Cllr Stephen Stokes concluded: "This is one of the largest ever capital investments in community centres. I will continue to push for more funding for community based facilities. These are urgently needed in the Greystones Municipal District. I am particularly pleased to see disability access improvements and energy retrofitting in the funding announced.



Cllr Stokes at Newcastle Community Centre which is to benefit under the investment fund

More than €1m in Marine Funding for Wicklow

Minister Simon Harris has welcomed the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine's approval of the second tranche of the Brexit Adjustment: Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme (BALAMI) 2022-2023. This decision has resulted in County Wicklow receiving over €1 million for eight projects across the County.

Minister Harris said, "I welcome this massive investment into Wicklow's maritime sector, which will help those in the industry to adapt to the challenges and impacts brought about as a result of Brexit.

"I greatly support the decision to increase the funding rate of the Brexit Adjustment: Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme, to the maximum rate of 95% of the total cost for eligible projects. This capital injection will provide vital benefits for

Wicklow's coastal communities, especially in the current economic environment.

"The remaining 5% of funding must come from local authorities. However now that the funding for these projects have been approved, I would encourage Wicklow County Council to ensure the completion of the eight projects included under this scheme."

The BALAMI Scheme arose as a result of a recommendation from the Seafood Taskforce cre-

ated in 2021. This taskforce examined the impacts of Brexit specifically on the fishing sector and coastal communities.

"The rejuvenation of Ireland's coastal and marine infrastructure will be vital in order to offset the implications of Brexit on the Irish fishing industry. Wicklow's history has been long connected

to fishing industries and I believe it essential that these industries are preserved and encouraged," Minister Harris concluded.



Owen Carton, Larry O'Loughlin, Ella McSweeney, Pat Dunne, Faith Wilson, Brian Dunne, Julia Aglinoby, Declan Byrne and Davy McCaracken are pictured at the SUAS Project Conference in the Glenview Hotel. The packed event programme explored the key findings of the five-year project with a host of guest speakers, panel discussions and a guided field trip to see the innovative work currently being undertaken across the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands. Launched in 2018 by Wicklow Uplands Council, the ambitious project was established to develop innovative and sustainable solutions to the environmental and economic challenges facing hill-farmers in the Wicklow and Dublin uplands.

Cecil Beare Carol Singers are back in Greystones

The Cecil Beare Ecumenical Carol Singers are back walking the streets of Greystones again this year after two Covid enforced silent years.

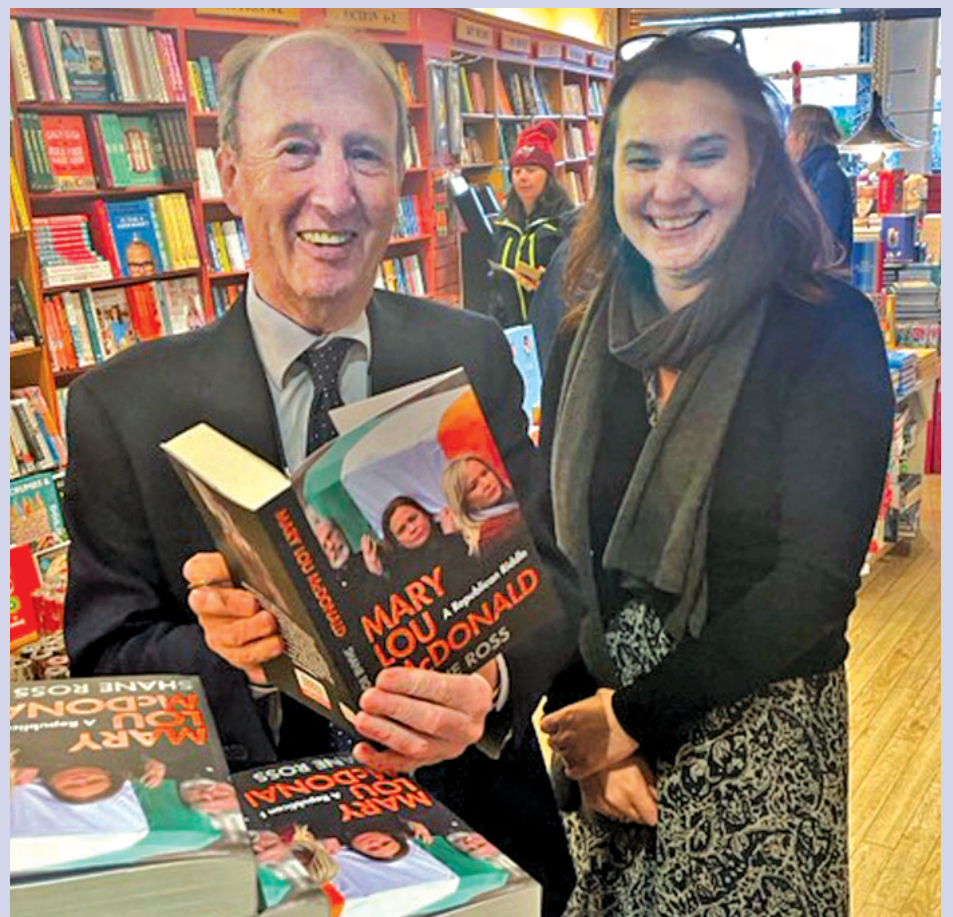
They sing around various estates in Greystones to bring some Christmas cheer to people and also to collect money for various local charities such as Greystones Cancer Support, Tiglin, Five Loaves and St. Catherine's school. They always welcome singers, instrumentalists and can rattlers so, if you have some free time, please join them.

The schedule is as follows: Wednesday, 15 December, meet at the VET CLINIC in Applewood Heights; Thursday, 16 December, meet at the entrance to Grattan Park near Donnybrook Fair; Monday, 19 December, meet at Brady's Hardware near the New Road; Tuesday, 20 December, meet at Fenton's Shop to sing in Hillside; Wednesday, 21 December, meet at Fenton's Shop to sing in Heathervue; Thursday 22 December, meet at the top of Rathdown Park for Rathdown and Redford.

The meeting time each evening is 7.20pm. Please remember to wrap up warmly and to bring torches. Unfortunately it has to be cash only so please start collecting up your coins now to have something ready for the collectors! Any queries to Ruth Handy, 087 278 3327.



The Cecil Beare Ecumenical Carol Singers



Pictured is Shane Ross with Fenella Murphy of The Village Bookshop in Greystones

Shane's view of Mary Lou

Shane Ross visited a number of book stores in County Wicklow last week to sign copies of his latest best selling book 'Mary Lou McDonald - a Republican riddle'.

Shane lives in Enniskerry and served as a county councillor on Wicklow County Council. He had a long career as a politician having been a Senator, TD and Cabinet Minister.

A former business editor of the Sunday Independent he's had a number of successful best-selling books published including Wasters; The Bankers; The Untouchables and Living with the Blueshirts.

In this his latest book he researches and charts the career of Mary Lou McDonald, raising many unanswered questions.

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Roundwood NS marks centenary



Pictured at the celebration to launch the publication of their book to celebrate 100 years of Roundwood National School were Max Casserly Byrne and Eoin Davis.



Pictured with their publication celebrating 100 years of Roundwood National School were 6th class students Niamh Lowe, Ava Davis, Ella Cunningham and Mary Kate Nolan.



Pictured at the launch of the book and calendar produced by 6th class in Roundwood National School to mark the school's centenary were Andrew Curley and Noel and Marie Kavanagh.



Pictured at the launch of the book and calendar produced by 6th class of Roundwood National were Bridie Nolan and Maureen and Don Ferguson.



Pictured with Cllr. Shay Cullen at the launch of their book were Rosie Gaskin Kelly Roisín McGuirk, Lorcan Byrne and Cllr Shay Cullen.

New framework clarifies Kildare & Wicklow ETB schools as multi-denominational and equality-based

The Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) Patrons' Framework on Ethos was launched at an event in the Killashee Hotel in Naas, Co. Kildare recently. This Ethos Framework is the culmination of 10 years of empirical research, critical reflection, consultation, and visionary policymaking involving all ETB schools, their 16 patron ETBs, ETBI and other relevant stakeholders.

The Framework clearly sets out that all ETB schools in Wicklow are state, co-educational, multi-denominational schools, underpinned by the core values of excellence in education, care, equality, community and respect.

In the last decade, Ireland has experienced major cultural, religious, political, social and demographic changes, and ETB school leaders have been consistent in their request for clarity from their patron ETBs on how to articulate the ETB ethos, in particular, the place of religions and beliefs in ETB schools.

The Framework provides ETB schools in Wicklow with a shared language to communicate what their ethos is and how it can be lived out on a daily basis.

Commenting on the Framework, Dr Seamus Conboy, Director of Schools at ETBI, said: "I am delighted that we are at this significant milestone in clarifying with and for our schools in Wicklow what it means to be a state, multi-denominational school underpinned by the values of excellence in education, care, equality, community and respect.

"As ETB schools in Wicklow are state schools, they have particular responsibilities in respect of the common good in

an increasingly diverse society. Research carried out across ETB schools in 2016 found that although values such as equality, respect and care are evident throughout the schools, there was little coherence within or between schools with regard to their understanding of their overall ethos, or what it meant to be an ETB school. ETB school leaders called on their patron ETBs to provide clarity on the overall ethos of the state school sector. This Framework provides this clarity and answers the calls from school leaders for clarity in relation to the ETB school ethos."

"With 279 ETB schools around the country at both primary and post-primary level, we needed to be clear on our ethos. Kildare and Wicklow ETB has an Ethos Coordinator who will support schools in their ETB with the implementation of the Framework. Each school has an Ethos Leadership Team, who is responsible for the implementation of the Framework at a school level."

Dr Conboy also stated "There are approximately 55 ETB post-primary schools with legal agreements with other religious and secular patron bodies which provide for their participation in the organisation and management of these specific schools. Discussions are still ongoing at

both national and local levels with the other bodies involved in these schools in terms of the use of the Patrons' Framework in these contexts."

Keynote Address

The launch brought together parents, students, school leaders and ethos coordinators from within the sector, as well as other school patron and management bodies, academics from various universities, and other educational stakeholders.

It included musical performances by students from schools under the patronage of Kildare and Wicklow ETB. The day saw a variety of presentations on the development and implementation of the Patrons' Framework, a panel discussion on 'Ethos in Action', and a keynote address from Professor Anne Looney, Executive Dean of Dublin City University's Institute of Education.

Delivering the keynote address at the event, Professor Looney, said: "The historical importance of what is being celebrated and launched cannot be underestimated; for too long, schools under the auspices of Vocational Education Committees and the subsequent Education and Training Boards have been defined by what they were not. In towns around

Ireland, they were seen as not 'the sisters', not 'the brothers' and 'not for the likes of us'.

"For the last decade, these schools and those who manage them have been wrestling with the complex task of establishing a positive identity built on who they are, what they value and promote, and how they serve their communities. The ETB sector has shown that the articulation of ethos in a contemporary pluralist Ireland is hard work, requires critical engagement and is an ongoing and continuous process. Ethos does not hang on a wall, or adorn a blazer; it is reflected and embodied across all aspects of school life. ETB schools, primary and post primary, now have not just a Patron's Framework but an identity and an identifiable voice and presence.

"The most effective frameworks - as this one is - are grounded in a process, not in a product. This framework represents a proposal for how schools can use and own it, so it becomes a genuine support for quality in school ethos."

The ETBI Patrons' Framework on Ethos has been developed by ETBI and Dublin City University (DCU), in conjunction with Ireland's 16 ETBs and ETB schools, primary and post-primary.



Pictured at the launch of the ETBI Patrons' Framework on Ethos at Killashee Hotel was Grainne O'Connor, Andrew Purcell and Dr Deirdre Keyes from Kildare and Wicklow ETB. Photo by Marc O'Sullivan

Wicklow student receives STEM scholarship at Trinity

Trinity College Dublin has announced the first five student recipients of Three Ireland Connect to STEM Scholarships for Women. The awards were given at an evening ceremony on Monday December 5th. Among them was Manpreet Kaur, Chemical Sciences (formerly of Colaiste Chill Mhantain in Wicklow Town).

They are the first recipients of a total of 25 Three Ireland Connect to STEM scholarships for women to be awarded at Trinity over the next five years.

Administered by the Faculty of STEM and Trinity Access and worth €20,000 each over a four-year undergraduate degree programme, the scholarship scheme aims to attract women from Ireland to study STEM subjects at Trinity. By working in partnership with Three Ireland, we can create a more diverse student population studying STEM undergraduate degree programmes and create the conditions for greater innovation and diversity in the workplace.

Applications were invited from first year students on selected courses in 2022/3 and recipients were chosen on the basis of a written application.

The successful students will also receive mentoring and other supports from Three Ireland.

Three Ireland is also funding two Trinity Access Teacher Fellowships for three years, designed to encour-

age the study of higher-level mathematics in schools by supporting the Access Maths initiative.

The first Three Ireland Teacher Fellow, Eleanor Byrne from Dublin's Firhouse Community College, has started work on the project.

Dr Linda Doyle, Provost, Trinity College Dublin, said: "I want to warmly congratulate the five recipients of the 'Connect to STEM' scholarships and wish them every success in their studies. As an engineering graduate myself, I know how hugely rewarding it is to engage with STEM subjects."

"I also want to thank Three Ireland; this is a fantastic initiative to encourage more diverse participation in STEM. In order to understand and challenge power in today's world, an understanding of STEM is vital. And it is hugely important that we have many women studying and working in this sphere."

Elaine Carey, Chief Commercial Officer, Three Ireland and Three UK said: "As a large employer in

the STEM sector, at Three we know we have an important role to play in ensuring the talent pool is as diverse as possible. Our partnership with Trinity is supporting these efforts and I am delighted that the first five very-worthy scholars have been chosen. I would like to wish them every success in their studies over the next four years and I look forward to continuing our partnership with Trinity and future scholars as well as the teachers appointed as part of Three's Trinity Access Teacher Fellowships."

Eligible applicants (who must be resident in Ireland for 3 of the last 5 years and first year students on a specified list of courses) were invited to submit an on-line application in early October. The applications were then assessed by academic and professional staff in the Faculty of STEM, Trinity Access, the Dean of Students, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Science Education, and Trinity Disability Service. The scholarship recipients were selected on the basis of their written applications.



Pictured are Manpreet Kaur (on left), Prof Sylvia Draper, Dean of STEM, Trinity College Dublin, Elaine Carey, Chief Commercial Officer, Three Ireland and Three UK and Dr Linda Doyle, Provost, Trinity College Dublin

457 Ukrainian pupils currently enrolled in Wicklow schools

The Department of Education has confirmed that as of 1st December, 13,323 Ukrainian pupils have been enrolled in schools across Ireland.

Out of that figure, 8,522 of these pupils have been accommodated in primary schools while 4,801 pupils have enrolled in post-primary schools. In Wicklow there are 288 enrolled in Primary schools and 169 in post primary.

To assist with the transition of Ukrainian students and their families into Irish schools Regional Education and Language Teams (REALT) continue to operate, hosted by the 16 regional education and training boards around Ireland and staffed by region-

ally based education support personnel.

These teams are ensuring that clear, accessible information flows are in place between schools, local education support services and national support structures in relation to people arriving from Ukraine.

Information for parents in Ukrainian and Russian on accessing school places is available on gov.ie/Ukraine.

The Department will continue to publish figures on the enrolment of Ukrainian children each month.

International Consent Day: Training to roll out in Wicklow

Active Consent programme launched across Further Education and Training sector

A programme to equip staff in the Further Education and Training sector with the information, skills and support they need to promote positive, active consent among learners, has been launched by Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI). The new Active Consent programme will be rolled out across its Further Education and Training (FET) schools and colleges in Wicklow.

The announcement coincides with International Consent Day, which highlights the importance of consent as a practice and a tool for changing lives.

The Active Consent programme will empower staff across the FET sector to facilitate workshops in their institutions, as well as training them on how to deal appropriately with a disclosure of sexual violence.

The initiative also aims to reach marginalised communities by adapting resources to engage traditionally hard to reach groups, such as communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage and members of Ireland's immigrant communities.

All courses are now available online to staff across the FET sector and consist of a number of training options, including: Facilitator Training, First Point of Contact Training and a Continuing Professional Development module on Sexual Consent Promotion.

Commenting on the launch of the Active Consent programme in the FET sector, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Simon Harris said, "It has been part of my mandate all year to highlight the importance of active consent programmes in further and higher education. After the stark findings of a survey on sexual harassment and sexual violence experienced by college students and staff last year, I'm

delighted to see that the FET sector has come on board.

"It's important that we start to embed cultural change around the topic of consent and staff and educators are at the frontline on this. Staff in further and higher education need to be trained in how to firstly, encourage open and honest conversations around consent, but also, how to deal with a disclosure of sexual assault or violence."

"There is a particular responsibility on those charged with educating the next generation in ensuring that their learners are equipped to lead the change more widely across society. The rollout of Active Consent in the FET sector is a huge step in enacting this change in our society."

Dr. Fiona Maloney, Director of Further Education and Training at ETBI, said: "Our FET programmes are delivered in a wide range of settings in Wicklow and across the country, including Post-Leaving Certificate and Further Education Colleges, Training Centres, Youth Reach and Adult Education Centres. Further Education and Training is also delivered through community and voluntary groups, commercial training providers and in workplaces. It's important that our FET staff across Wicklow have the tools they need to support learners and feel equipped to deal with difficult and emotive

situations should they arise.

"While schools and higher education have had dedicated programmes on consent, sexual violence and harassment, up until now there had been no formal programme within the FET sector. This will set a standard within the sector and ensure that we can foster a culture of agency, autonomy, and positive, active consent."

"It's inspiring to see the significant uptake we've already had for this programme after a very successful pilot in July and the interest shown by staff across the FET sector. The feedback from staff undertaking the training has been hugely positive, which is reflected in the level of care for our learners."

Aideen Lyster, Guidance Counsellor at Inchicore College of Further Education, said: "As a guidance counsellor in a busy college of further education, I am in direct contact with learners on a day-to-day basis. Participating in the Active*Consent programme was very rewarding with sessions that were informative, skills-based, engaging, and supportive. Not only does the programme address all the issues, concerns and questions regarding active consent, it has also given me the skills to be a first point of contact for anyone who has experienced any form of sexual trauma and to support them in an empathic, compassionate and professional way."

The Active Consent programme is an initiative run by NUI Galway and funded by the Department of Justice, together with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.



Minister Simon Harris with St. Savior's school principal Antoinette Doyle during Minister Harris' recent visit to the Rathdrum school to see the new extension



Arklow Lawn Tennis Club's annual Sean Kelly Memorial Tournament was won by Laimis Subacius and Sarah Waldron, defeating Paul Sutton and Alison McElheron in the final on Friday December 2nd. Sean's granddaughter, Ella, presented the winners with the trophy and the club would like to thank the Kelly family for their annual support of this event. On the night, club president Kay Hickey thanked Frank Dennehy for organising the event, Jim Murphy for speaking about Sean Kelly's involvement in Arklow Lawn Tennis Club and everyone who competed and came to spectate the night of the final. Pictured is Club president Kay Hickey, Alison McElheron, Sarah Waldron, Laimis Subacius and Paul Sutton

Bray Emmets All Stars celebrate end of a successful season

Bray Emmets All Stars team were delighted to welcome their friends from Bray Lions Club and Bray Credit Union to the Old Connaught club recently to help celebrate the end of their first - and very successful - season.

Bray Lions President Joe Codyre and Secretary Karl O'Broin joined Victoria Bradshaw, Bray Credit Union Marketing Manager on a very exciting day, when the club also welcomed Santa to the club!

Bray Emmets All Stars, which is an inclusive academy for children with additional needs, was established in the ever-growing Bray Emmets GAA Club in the Spring of this year. The team meets weekly for a fun filled session and it gives their members and their families an opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends and feel part of the wonderful Bray Emmets community. With close to 20 members, the group is going



Pictured at Bray Emmets were (L to R) Bray Lions Club President Joe Codyre, Bray Emmets All Stars founders and coaches PJ Cunningham, Robert Lackey and Jenny Lackey; Victoria Bradshaw, Bray Credit Union Marketing Manager and Karl O'Broin, Bray Lions Club Secretary.

from strength to strength and is now an important team within the club. Bray Emmets All Stars were very pleased and

proud to have sponsorship support from Bray Lions Club and Bray Credit Union this year, who's support has allowed the

team to purchase equipment for their sessions and will continue to help the team's development further into 2023.

Entries invited for Cumann na mBunscol National Awards

The Cumann na mBunscol National Awards is a great opportunity for schools to showcase the work they are doing promoting Gaelic games in their schools and the prizes are fantastic.

This year the National Awards will be held on Friday March 3rd 2023 at the Mount Errigal Hotel in Letterkenny. The closing date for applications is January 11th 2023. Some of the categories open to schools include:

Category 4: Promotion of Gaelic Games and Culture - Schools: 1st Prize €500 2nd Prize €400 3rd Prize €300 Schools are asked to show their work in promoting Gaelic Games and Culture since September 2020. This can target a single area or a number of areas - including football, hurling, camogie, handball, rounders, Respect Initiative, Go Games, Table Quizzes, Club School Links, Coaching Initiatives. Submission in this category can only be via a digital submission in one of the following formats: Powerpoint or Short Movie (Compatible with Quicktime) of no more than 5 minutes in duration

Category 6 and 7: School of the Year

Schools that promote Gaelic games in their schools are asked to submit entries to this section. Your work should show how you have promoted and participated in Gaelic games in your school since September 2020. The work can be presented through articles/photographs and children's work via a Powerpoint, 5 Minute Movie (Compatible with Quicktime) or Scrapbook, presentation folder, ring binder etc.).

Category 6 - School of the Year: 1st Prize as below 2nd Prize €500 3rd Prize €500 Schools with a roll of 150 pupils or less.

Category 7 - School of the Year: 1st Prize as below 2nd Prize €500 3rd Prize €500 Schools with 151 or more pupils.

Winning Schools will be invited to Croke Park for a day where their award will be presented. Stadium and Museum Tour for 30 pupils per school. €500 to each school towards bus transport. Lunch for 30 pupils and 3 staff. Closing Date for all Entries: Wednesday 11th January 2023. Leinster entries to be sent to: Gerry O'Meara, 35 Beaufort Downs, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, D14P8F1



Pictured with children, parents and coaches from Bray Emmets All Stars are Bray Lions Joe Codyre and Karl O'Broin and Victoria Bradshaw of Bray Credit Union.

Coláiste Chill Mhantáin to receive serious sport support



Lidl has announced the 26 schools (one in every county in the Republic of Ireland) that have been chosen to participate in its Serious Support Schools Programme for the 2022-23 school year. This represents an investment of €120,000 in local schools across the country. In Wicklow, Coláiste Chill Mhantáin is the chosen school.

Supported by the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) and delivered by Youth Sport Trust and their specially trained athlete mentors, the programme is designed to educate teenage girls about the positive mental and physical health benefits of playing ladies Gaelic football. The programme also aims to increase participation and reduce drop-out rates for teenagers in the sport.

Colaiste Chill Mhantain will have the opportunity to benefit from the programme along with receiving a brand-new set of jerseys for their school team.

The athlete mentors, all of whom are current or former inter county ladies Gaelic football players, are committed to using

sport to transform the lives of young people. The mentors will introduce students to the programme's values of Respect, Trust, Responsibility and Recognition. The mentor for Wicklow is Ann Marie Doran.

Taking place over the course of 2 visits to each school, the programme will be delivered via workshops and team-building sessions.

President of the LGFA, Micheal Naughton, commented: "It's wonderful to be in a position to confirm the schools selected for Lidl's Serious Support schools programme. We look forward with keen interest to following the journey of these schools as they gain invaluable insights and

experience from our inter-county stars, who are working once again as athlete mentors.

"The benefits of the Serious Support schools programme are wide-ranging and of vital importance to our young students, who will develop key life skills at such an important time in their lives. Who better to learn from than our athlete mentors, who have been through so much themselves as adolescents and into their adult lives. I would like to acknowledge the superb input from Lidl Ireland and Youth Sport Trust in a programme that has already benefited so many young people."

This year, the programme aims to include a wider representation of lower ranking schools for Income Affecting Children's Deprivation (IACD) in a bid to level the playing field for disadvantaged areas and to support schools to build healthier, happier and more resilient students.

St. Catherine's and Ballinacarrig named County Winners in Someone Like Me national art competition

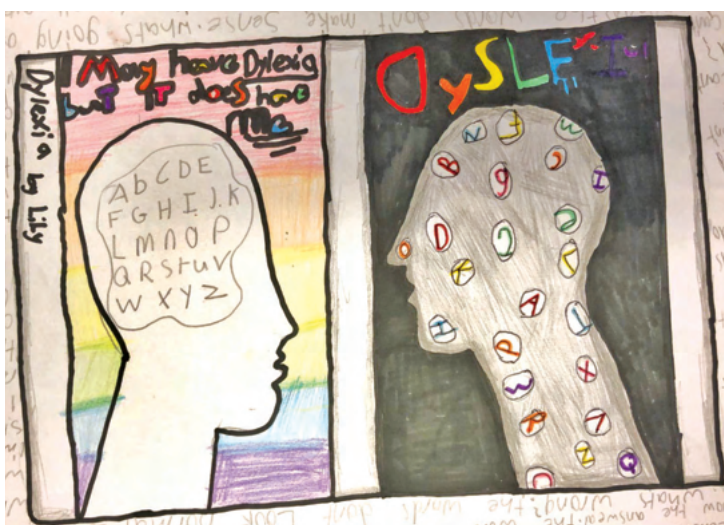
St. Catherine's Special School, Newcastle, Greystones and Ballinacarrig National School, Brittas Bay are celebrating being named Junior and Senior County Winners respectively of the prestigious national art competition, *Someone Like Me*, which will see them join 48 other schools to compete for the much sought-after national title at the national awards ceremony to be held at Dublin City Hall on Wednesday 18th January 2023.

Fittingly, the announcement was made by Minister of State with special responsibility for disability, Anne Rabbitte TD on Saturday 3rd December, as Ireland joined the rest of the world in marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Now in its seventh year, the *Someone Like Me* art competition, which is organised by the National Disability Authority, attracted more than 2,700 entries from national schools across the length and breadth of the country.

The competition was created as part of the National Disability Authority's work to nurture more positive attitudes towards persons with disabilities and, to date, it has seen more than 12,500 children take part in lesson plans and pupil activities designed to challenge our young people to appreciate and respect similarities and differences in people.

The three-person judging panel comprising Caoimhín Mac Con Ionmaire from the National Gallery of Ireland, Principal Ann Higgins from the Hospital



The Senior County Winner was Ballinacarrig National School, Brittas Bay (Teacher: Frank Clinte. Class Group: 6th Class). This artwork is in the form of a book, featuring a collage of brightly coloured individual pieces with inspirational messages. An example of a piece of art in this book depicts two cherries with the words 'We are better together' written around it. Another shows two side-by-side images of people's minds with different portrayals of the alphabet, one of which belongs to someone who has dyslexia. This is set on a background of examples of negative self-talk in someone who that one may say to oneself with this disability like 'Why Can't I Read?' and 'What is wrong?'.

School CHI at Temple Street and Niamh Fawl from the National Disability Authority was particularly impressed with the entries from St.

Catherine's Special School and Ballinacarrig National School, selecting them as County Winners based on their insightful and inspirational responses to the

theme of 'Someone Like Me'.

Congratulating St. Catherine's Special School and Ballinacarrig National School on being named

County Winners, Minister Rabbitte said that the number of entries this year is a tribute to the commitment not just of the National Disability Authority, but also to Ireland's primary school teachers, who continue to play an important part helping to create a more inclusive Ireland.

"I am hugely encouraged by the growing interest in the *Someone Like Me* art competition. It shows a real commitment on the part of teachers and pupils to helping to develop a shared understanding of how we should treat others in a caring, sensitive and inclusive way, promoting a sense of belonging and connectedness," she said.

"The standard of entries has been extremely high this year, presenting the judging panel with a real challenge as they worked their way through each and every submission. Selecting the county winners was not an easy task and choosing an overall winner will be an even harder job.

"While I know it will be an anxious wait for the pupils and teachers to hear which of the 48 county



The Junior County Winner was St. Catherine's Special School, Newcastle (Teacher: Fiona Wilson. Class Group: ASD Unit). This piece is about friendship, despite differences. The centre of the poster shows a large tree with autumnal coloured leaves made of handprints. At the bottom there are pictures of the students involved in the piece and pictures of other artworks the class created.

winners will be awarded the national title, every pupil should be congratulated for helping to enable each and every single person in Ireland to feel a valued member of society."

St. Catherine's Special School and Ballinacarrig National School will now go on to compete with 48

other schools from around the country for the overall national *Someone Like Me* award which will be announced at the national awards ceremony to be held at Dublin City Hall on Wednesday 18th January 2023.

The competition, which offers a range of prizes up to the value of €1,250,

was open to all primary school pupils from junior infants to sixth class and more than 2,700 entries were received from individual pupils, class groups and whole schools right across Ireland. Entries ranged from posters and collages to large sculptural installations and multimedia pieces.

Three Wicklow winners in Irish Book Awards

Wicklow authors Ellen Ryan and Charlie Bird were both winners in the An Post Irish Book Awards, while Bridge Street Books in Wicklow Town picked up the award for Bookshop of the Year.

The An Post Irish Book Awards were held in the Convention Centre Dublin. Charlie Bird claimed victory with his biography *Time and Tide*, while Ellen Ryan won the award for Children's Book of the Year (Senior) for *Girls Who Slay Monsters* (illustrated by Shona Shirley). The Eason Novel of the Year Award was won by Louise Kennedy for her novel *Trespasses*.

First awarded in 2006, the An Post Irish Book Awards celebrate and promote Irish writing to the widest range of readers possible. Each year it brings together a vast community passionate about books - readers, authors, booksellers, publishers and librarians - to recognise the very best of Irish writing talent and 2022 is no different.

The An Post Irish Book Awards also presented Anne Enright with the 'Bob Hughes Lifetime Achievement Award'. The writer has occupied a central position in the cultural life of Ireland for over three decades, with her literary

career spanning seven novels, three short story collections, a memoir of motherhood and the 2007 Booker Prize for her fourth novel, *The Gathering*. The author was also named the inaugural Laureate for Irish Fiction between 2015 - 2018.

Brenden Corbett, Chairperson of the An Post Irish Book Awards, said: "Our industry has worked so hard to grow the awards from something quite small into the behemoth it has become today and we are immensely proud of what we've achieved through a broad coalition of readers, writers, publishers, sponsors, booksellers and librarians."

"Some wonderful books have been published this year, many by established literary stars, but also by an astonishing number of talented newcomers who seem to spring fully-formed on to the Irish literary scene every year. We are delighted to congratulate the winners with their An Post Irish Book Awards."



Wicklow Heritage Officer Deirdre Burns, Cllr Peir Leonard and Johanna Keene at the opening of the 4 02 Exhibition in Arklow Library. 4 02 are a collective of artists and their inaugural exhibition consists of a giant mosaic cup. Their name comes from the number prefix for the Arklow area.

Music Network's Spring 2023 tour in Wicklow

Music Network have announced their Spring 2023 tours schedule. For the season, they're working with 25 different partners and venues in 18 counties across the country to bring audiences world-class music and unforgettable concerts. The first tour in February which features four of Ireland's finest on the folk and traditional music scene, will set the bar high for the array of superb artists from the worlds of classical, contemporary, opera, roots, jazz and traditional music that follow.

In Wicklow, the tour will begin on 11th February in The Courthouse Arts Centre with a powerhouse of performers who have been involved in some of the country's most lauded ensembles: **Noriana Kennedy** of The Whileaways and Solas on vocals and banjo, Cherish the Ladies' **Mirella Murray** on accordion, **Donogh Hennessy** who is one of Lúnasa's founding members on guitar, and Téada's **Oisín Mac Diarmada** on fiddle. This quartet will bring sublime songs, energetic tunes and captivating arrangements to audiences around the country on their tour.

Noriana possesses an engaging and unique songbook that crosses oceans from Waterford to America, Scotland and a thousand heart-worn places in between. With a voice that The Irish Times described as "a knockout: translucent and tenacious in equal measure", she has earned a prominent place in Ireland's rich roots and folk music scene.

Oisín Mac Diarmada is an All-Ireland winning fiddle player, and founder of the internationally renowned group Téada. He has been described by The Irish Echo's Earle Hitchner as "one of the



Brian Connor will join Claudia Boyle and Niall O'Sullivan in The Mermaid

most gifted and creative traditional fiddlers playing today".

Long-standing member of Grammy-nominated and Emmy award-winning band Cherish the Ladies, Mirella Murray is an All-Ireland winning accordion player and has long been recognised as one of Ireland's leading traditional musicians. As well as being a member of Cherish the Ladies for nineteen years, Mirella has toured the world with an array of wonderful musicians including Laoise Kelly, Mary Shannon, Collette O'Leary, Michelle O'Brien, Carl Hession &

Rhythm of the Dance, John Joe Kelly and Jarlath McCartney.

Founding member of Irish super-group Lúnasa, Donogh Hennessy is an award-winning guitarist and composer. As a member of Lúnasa, described by the Irish Voice as "the hottest Irish acoustic band on the planet", Donogh played a key role in crafting the band's complex arrangements and shaping their unique sound which pushed the boundaries of traditional music and energised audiences the world over.

The string trio of **Maxim Rysanov, Nikita Boriso-Glebsky** and

Dóra Kokas will bring their unique brand of magic to the **Courthouse Arts Centre (17th March)**. Led by Grammy-nominated violinist Maxim Rysanov and performing together for the very first time, the trio also features magnificent violinist Nikita Boriso-Glebsky, and one of the rising stars of the classical music world, cellist Dóra Kokas. The programme will showcase the elegance and exuberance of Mozart's only string trio, Beethoven's glorious Trio in G Major, a thought-provoking work by Bulgarian composer Dobrinka Tabakova and a new Music Network commission by Irish composer Ed Bennett.

Grammy nominated Ukrainian-British violist and conductor Maxim Rysanov has established himself as one of the world's most vibrant and charismatic musicians. As a violist, he is principally known as a frequent guest of the crème of the international music scene. In parallel with playing viola, Maxim enjoys a thriving career as a conductor, often combining conducting and directing as a soloist in the same concert.

Having been awarded the silver medal and five special prizes in the XIII International Tchaikovsky Competition in 2007 and subsequently winning the International Jean Sibelius Violin Competition in Helsinki in 2010, Nikita Boriso-Glebsky's international career has reached remarkable heights and continues to go from strength to strength. In 2019 Nikita was the first violinist to record the previously unknown Violin Concerto in D Minor by Eugène Ysaÿe, together

with Liege Philharmonic Orchestra and Jean-Jacques Kantorov. The recording featured on A Tribute to Ysaÿe CD which was awarded the much-coveted Diapason d'Or.

Born in Hungary in 1992, Dóra Kokas has quickly established herself as one of the leading cellists of her generation. She has received multiple awards at notable international competitions including 3rd Prize at The Alice and Eleonore Schoenfeld International Cello Competition (China), 1st Prize at Debut Hamburg International Concerto Competition, 2nd Prize at the International Johannes Brahms Competition (Austria) and two special prizes at The Pablo Casals International Award (Hungary).

April brings the stunning Irish soprano **Claudia Boyle**, who is joined by **Niall O'Sullivan** on trumpet and **Brian Connor** on piano on what is sure to be an unmissable tour. On **26th April in Mermaid Arts Centre**, the trio will present an eclectic programme, with dazzling interpretations of Handel's 'Let The Bright Seraphim', Haydn's Trumpet Concerto in Eb, Mozart's Exsultate Jubilate, in addition to operatic favourites by Donizetti and Verdi, music by the ever popular Piazzolla and a new Music Network commission by Irish composer Solfa Carlile.

A former member of the Salzburger Festspiele's prestigious Young Singers Project, Irish Soprano Claudia Boyle has won both 1st Prize and the Critics Award at The Maria Callas Competition in Verona where the Callas Estate presented her with the miraculous medal once owned and worn by the legendary singer. She was also chosen by acclaimed film director Mike Leigh to star in his first ever venture for the operatic stage as the leading heroine Mabel in Gilbert & Sullivan's The Pirates of Penzance in London's Coliseum.

One of Ireland's foremost classical musicians, Niall O'Sullivan has performed all over Europe, Asia and the USA appearing in prominent concert halls to sell-out crowds with his ensemble of world class musicians.

Esteemed pianist, pro-



Dóra Kokas, part of a String Trio with Maxim Rysanov and Nikita Boriso, will play the Courthouse Arts Centre on 17th March.

ducer and arranger Brian Connor has been Musical Director of shows in London's West End, Chicago and on Broadway. He was Musical Director of Riverdance - The Show and the National Theatre of Ireland's centenary celebrations - Abbey100.

Music Network are proud to bring such a rich and varied programme to Irish audiences. Chief

Executive Sharon Rollston says, "As whole new year of musical possibilities beckons, we're excited to bring you our brand new season of tours, running from February to June 2023. Music Network would like to express our gratitude to our principal funder The Arts Council, our Friends and our network of partner promoters across the country. Your

continued support helps us to bring affordable, exceptional quality live music to venues throughout Ireland and to provide professional opportunities for musicians."

To see the full programme and buy tickets for all tours please go to <https://www.musicnetwork.ie/news/music-network-announces-its-spring-2023-national-touring-programme>



The quartet of Noriana Kennedy of The Whileaways and Solas on vocals and banjo, Cherish the Ladies' Mirella Murray on accordion, Donogh Hennessy who is one of Lúnasa's founding members on guitar, and Téada's Oisín Mac Diarmada on fiddle will play The ourthouse on 11th February



Claudia Boyle, who is joined by Niall O'Sullivan on trumpet and Brian Connor on piano, in the Mermaid Arts Centre on 26th April

Whale Theatre presents the premiere of Tilly & Winks Magical Adventure

By Dry Rain Theatre Group

Following the success of their sold-out show 'The Queen who Cancelled Christmas', Dry Rain Theatre Group returns to the Whale Theatre in Greystones this Christmas, with their enchanting tale of Tilly & Winks Magical Adventure.

Written and directed by local playwright David O'Brien Tilly & Winks Magical Adventure promises to be a visually beautiful and entertaining performance for children and their grownups.

Set in a world of wacky witchcraft and noisy wizards, all Tilly wants is silence! When her magic spell goes terribly wrong, Wizards Winks helps her to fix it...but will they succeed? Follow Tilly and Winks as they set sail across pirate seas, journey deep into shadowy caves and get back to shore in time for the Spellbound Race. With

original music by Irish composer Donal Rafferty, get ready for a brand-new spellbinding adventure about friendship, courage and the importance of finding your inner silence.

Dry Rain Theatre Company is renowned for its innovative approach to theatre and the Whale expressed their delight at having another Christmas show produced by Dry Rain. Founder of the Whale Theatre, Ross McParland, commented "We are thrilled to welcome Dry Rain Theatre back to the Whale after the success of their 2018 production 'The Queen who Cancelled

Christmas'. Dry Rain have always produced engaging, high-quality and thoroughly entertaining theatre for young audiences. We are very excited to see this year's show, which promises to be uniquely colourful and the perfect show

for all the family." Tilly & Winks Magical Adventure takes to the stage for 3 days only at Whale Theatre, Theatre Lane, Greystones, Co. Wicklow so pick up your tickets today and share a magical theatrical experience with the entire family. The show runs from Wednesday 28th - Friday 30th December 2022 at 12pm & 3pm each day. **Tickets:** €15 (adult) /€13(children).Recommended for ages 4+. For Box Office reservations contact Whale Theatre on: (01) 2010 550 or for free online booking visit whaletheatre.ie



Emma O'Brien (Tilly) & Ciaran Coogan (Winks). Photos by Keith Gordon Photography

It's a Wonderful Life

Mermaid Arts Centre, Monday
19th December, 8pm

Frank Capra's moving and beautifully told film from 1946 is a true masterpiece of cinema. The story finds George Bailey (James Stewart) in emotional and financial turmoil, torn between his own desires and aspirations, his business sinking, but struggling to always do the right thing. This inner conflict proves too much for George, who sees suicide as the only option. In classic Hollywood style, Heaven sends a guardian angel Clarence (Henry Travers) to remind him how worthwhile his life has been and to treasure the good times when the going gets tough. Nothing quite sums up the spirit of Christmas like this film, which reminds us that nobody is a failure who has friends. The movie also stars Donna Reed as the everloving Mary and Lionel Barrymore as the villainous old miser Mr Potter.

€9 Full Price | €7 Concession Price
Duration: 129 mins. Cert: 12A



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

ORDÚ CEANNACH ÉIGEANTACH UIMHIR 9 - 2022

2 HARBOUR ROAD, AN TINBHEAR MÓR, CO CILL MHANTÁIN, Y14 RK82

Tá an Ordú luaite thuas, déanta ag Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin (as seo amach luaite mar "an tÚdarás Tithíochta"), de réir an chumhacht a thugtar dóibh faoi réir Alt 76 den Acht um Tithíocht 1966, agus an Triú Sceideal den Acht chéanna (arna leasú ag an Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000) atá ar tí chur ós comhair Bord Pleanála le haghaidh daingniúcháin. Má daingnítear an t-ordú, beidh an tÚdarás Tithíochta ceadaithe an talamh atá sa Sceideal a cheannach go héigeantach le haghaidh cuspóirí an tAcht um Tithíocht 1966.

Is féidir cóip den Ordú agus an léarscáil atá luaite ann, a fheiceáil ag gach uair réasúnta ag:

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

Gheobhaidh úinéirí, léasaithe agus áititheoirí an talún luaite sa Sceideal fógraí scríofa ar leith.

De réir an tAcht um Tithíocht 1966, arna leasú, ní féidir leis an Bord Pleanála an tOrdú a dhaingniú maidir leis an talamh má ndéantar aon agóid i gcoinne an cheannaigh ag aon úinéir, léasaí nó áititheoir agus gan é a tharraingt siar acu, go dtí go bhfuil Éisteacht ó Bhéal curtha ar bun maidir leis an agóid agus go dtí go bhfuil an agóid agus tuairisc an duine i gceannas ar an Éisteacht o Bhéal scrúdaithe ag an mBord.

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 léarscáil curtha ar fáil ag oifigi an Údaráis 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)
22/06/74/100 Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Ordú Ceannach Éigeantach Uimhir 9 – 2022 2 Harbour Road (Merdenville) Arklow, Co Wicklow, Y14 RK82	Teach cónaithe agus talamh ar 186 m2 (0.0186ha).	Denis Kavanagh 77 Roebuck Castle, Roebuck, Dublin 14	Duine ar bith (teach folamh)	Duine ar bith (teach folamh)

An 14ú Lá Nollaig 2022

Joe Lane, Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 9 OF 2022

2 HARBOUR ROAD ("MERDENVILLE"), ARKLOW, CO WICKLOW, Y14 RK82

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

A copy of the order and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow

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

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

Schedule

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

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)
22/06/74/100 Wicklow County Council Compulsory Purchase No 9 Order 2022 2 Harbour Road (Merdenville) Arklow, Co Wicklow, Y14 RK82	Dwelling house and land of 186 m2 (0.0186 ha)	Denis Kavanagh 77 Roebuck Castle, Roebuck, Dublin 14	None (vacant house)	None (vacant house)

Dated this 14th day of December 2022

Joe Lane, Director Services, Housing & Corporate Estate



Learners from a school in Turkana, Northern Kenya, greet Mary's Meals Ireland's Executive Director, Patricia Friel.

Irish volunteers making a difference for starving children in northern Kenya

More than 150 volunteers across Ireland are making a significant and enduring contribution towards the provision of school meals for thousands of starving children in Northern Kenya where communities are experiencing the worst drought in 40 years.

According to Donegal native, Patricia Friel, Ireland's Executive Director of global school feeding charity, Mary's Meals, the support and action of volunteers across Ireland is now more vital than ever. Roundwood woman Jeannie Higgins is the fundraising co-ordinator for Mary's Meals and is calling on people in Wicklow to contribute to the charity's Big Family Christmas Dinner fundraiser.

Following a (self-funded) visit to Turkana, Northern Kenya, Patricia witnessed devastating scenes where, for many children, the daily school meal provided by Mary's Meals would be all they ate that day. She says: "We are all feeling the pinch of the cost-of-living crisis, but the scenes I witnessed in Turkana were nothing short of heart-breaking."

Each school day, Mary's Meals serves nutritious meals to more than 2.2 million children in the world's poorest communities across 20 countries. The school feeding programme would not be possible without the dedication of volunteers all over the world. According to Patricia, the support and action of those who freely give their time and skills is crucial. Whether it's volunteers in Ireland spreading word of the charity's work and arranging events to raise vital funds, or community members giving up their time to cook and serve the meals for children, their contribution enables Mary's Meals to keep running costs low and commit to at least 93% of all donations being spent on charitable activities.

The charity recently expanded its successful school feeding model to primary schools across Turkana, enabling a further 60,000 children to benefit from a daily meal in their place of learning. This news is especially heartening given that the region is reported to be on the brink of famine, following four failed rainy seasons that resulted in crop failure and low-yield harvests, further compounded by the spiralling cost of living worldwide. The resulting food insecurity means children rely on school meals for their very survival.

Until recently, Mary's Meals had only been able to serve meals to

very young children, mainly of pre-school age, in Early Childhood Development and Education centres (ECDEs) across Northern Kenya. "It was heart-breaking to visit the ECDEs and to see how protective these tiny little children were over their bowl of food. But then to look towards the primary school and see those older boys and girls longing to have that same bowl of food; that was a truly heartbreaking scene. It was a scene that I felt totally helpless in, so that is why today is such a wonderful day!", says Patricia.

Mary's Meals is delivering the programme in partnership with local communities, and volunteers - often parents of the schoolchildren - who take turns to cook and serve the meals with guidance and support from the charity. Patricia continues to be inspired by the work of the Irish fundraising volunteers too, people from all walks of life, united by the belief that no child should endure a day without a meal.

One such volunteer,

Anna Conroy from County Cavan, says: "Just €18.30 feeds a child for a whole school year with Mary's Meals. I can do simple fundraisers, like making pots of jam to sell or raffling a Christmas hamper, and I know that the lives of so many children will benefit from me giving just a little of my time."

This year, Mary's Meals is inviting people to set a place at their virtual Big Family Christmas dinner table. A gift of €18.30 will set a place in your own name or in the name of a loved one and serve nutritious, locally sourced daily meals to a child in a place of education for an entire school year.

For other ways to give with Mary's Meals this Christmas, visit the website to view a selection of Christmas cards and digital gift cards: Christmas gifts | Mary's Meals Ireland (marys-meals.ie)

To find out more about Mary's Meals' Big Family Christmas campaign, please visit the website: Big Family Christmas | Mary's Meals (marysmeals.ie)

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Craig Britton seeks permission for a proposed glazed entrance porch and glazed frontage to existing dwelling, the development will also consist of revisions to window openings and finishes plus a connecting roof over the link between the storage building and the main dwelling as previously approved under application no.18667, at 'Derravara' Killadreenan, Newtownmountkenedy, Co. Wicklow, A63RH95. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

FULL PLANNING PERMISSION sought for:
1. Proposed Ground & First Floor Extension (580 Msq) to Rear East Facing Elevation of Existing Shoreline Leisure Facility to provide for extra Studio Space.
2. All ancillary site works at Shoreline Leisure, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. A63 HD25.
Signed: Wicklow Recreational Services Ltd.
The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Significant Information/ Revised Plans

I hereby give notice of the submission of significant further information to Wicklow County Council in relation to planning application ref no: 22/106 for Jonathan Taylor who is applying for permission at Cactus, Cornagower East, Brittas Bay for 'proposed single storey extension to front of dwelling to accommodate additional kitchen space and single storey extension to side of existing dwelling to accommodate a bedroom, loft conversion to accommodate a bedroom with dormer roof extension to front of dwelling, & elevational changes to window openings'. Significant further information/ revised plans have been furnished to the planning authority in respect of the proposed development and are available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council during its public opening hours.

A submission or observations in relation to the further information or revised plans may be made in writing to the planning authority within the period of 2 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the revised notices. A submission or observation must be accompanied by the prescribed fee except in the case of a person or body who has already made a submission or observation.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Katarzyna Markocka & Przemyslaw Markocki, intend to apply for permission for development at this site 29 Hollybrook Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow

The development will consist/ consists of Alteration of existing roof profile and the construction of new gable wall over the existing wall to the side elevation of the property and the construction of new dormer roof space to the rear of the property with total second floor area of 31 Sq.m. Also the addition of two roof light windows to the front of the property with all associated site work.

The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at www.wicklow.ie, under planning online enquiries.

A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Philip Carroll seeks planning permission for: New single vehicle garage to the side of existing dwelling at Green Meadows, Ballycapple, Redcross, Co. Wicklow. A67 F597.

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

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Barry and Nuala Ahern intend to apply for Retention Permission for a single storey extension to the rear of a detached dormer bungalow at 'Littlefell', 26, La Touche Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. The Works comprise an extended Kitchen Dining room and a Living Room together with associated site works and services. 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 Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Krisztian Gulyas seeks planning permission for: Attic Conversion including new roof lights to front and rear roof slopes along with new frosted windows in existing gable wall at 22 Archers Wood Drive, Delgany, Co. Wicklow. A63DC99

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



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form a panel from which future temporary and / or permanent positions may be filled.

• PERMANENT, TEMPORARY & SUBSTITUTE PART TIME BRANCH LIBRARIAN, (TINAHELY & BALLYWALTRIM)

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REF: 47/2022

• PART TIME SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL TRAFFIC WARDEN (BRAY, ENNISKERRY, NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY, GREYSTONES)

Salary €45.73 gross per day.
REF: 48/2022

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS THURSDAY 12th JANUARY 2023 AT 12 NOON SHARP.

Application Forms and further details may be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20159 or by emailing recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie and on the Wicklow County Council website www.wicklow.ie

Wicklow County Council reserves the right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate

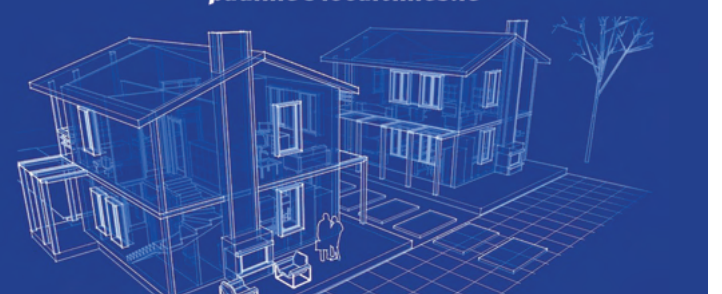
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Energia appoints Neary as Offshore Stakeholder and Engagement Manager

Irish energy company Energia Renewables has announced the appointment of former Wicklow Social Democrats councillor Jodie Neary as Offshore Stakeholder and Engagement Manager for its proposed North Celtic Sea offshore wind farm project, off the Waterford coast, and its South Irish Sea wind project off the coast of Wexford and Wicklow.

Ms Neary will lead engagement with all stakeholders to ensure that local communities, public representatives, the fishing community and anyone with an interest in the projects are informed and have all the information they need to hand as the projects continue to develop.

This will add further to Energia Renewables' engagement with local communities, which has taken place over the past two years, including public

information clinics and consultation. It also comes at an important time as Energia Renewables recently successfully completed surveying for both offshore wind projects making them the most advanced projects in Ireland both regionally and nationally.

Speaking on her new role, Jodie Neary said, "I'm delighted to start my new career with Energia Renewables working on our exciting offshore wind projects which are really

important for the future of our country. With over 12 years' experience in politics, including as a local representative, climate action has been a huge focus of mine and I have been involved with many local projects contributing to sustainability and biodiversity. Now as part of the Energia Renewables team, I'm really pleased that I can continue to support local communities on their decarbonisation journey. It's very important to me that these projects will

contribute to a better and more sustainable Ireland for everyone.

"As we continue to engage with local communities, I want to maintain a focus on local solutions. In Wicklow, I will work to maintain my close working relationships with community groups and extend these relationships into Wexford. In Waterford, there are brilliant community groups who are doing amazing work on the ground to protect local biodiversity and

marine health. Already, I've met with local environmental groups in Tramore and other towns and villages and we will continue to engage with local stakeholders around the coast to learn about their work and hear their views.

"All of us at Energia share people's concern for Ireland's future. We want the North Celtic Sea and South Irish Sea offshore wind projects to be part of a collective response to our national and local cli-

mate goals. Together, we can revolutionise the path to decarbonisation and I'm looking forward to working with everyone who is interested in this climate action imperative."

As a leading Irish energy provider and long-term renewable energy infrastructure investor, Energia currently supplies approximately 20% of all electricity on the island of Ireland to over 823,000 homes and businesses. Energia Renewables is responsible for providing electricity from approximately 25% of all wind power on the island.

Ms. Neary served most recently as an elected Wicklow County Councillor for the Social Democrats prior to which she was a Parliamentary Assistant in Dail Eireann for over a decade.



Jodie Neary

Climate Ready Academy to host open session for Wicklow businesses on sustainability upskilling courses

The Climate Ready Academy is hosting an open session for all Wicklow businesses interested in upskilling in the areas of sustainability and climate action in 2023.

To give businesses an insight into the type of courses and training available, the Climate Ready Academy is providing a free open session on the topics of sustainability management, biodiversity, waste and the circular economy. The online event, hosted by broadcaster Ella McSweeney, will take place on Wednesday, 14th December at 13.00 to 14.00 and is open to businesses of all sizes and across all sectors.

The open session will provide an introduction to the following available courses, as well as the expert mentors delivering the programmes:

- Waste and Circular Economy Leaders Programme, hosted by Gerry Higgins: This programme aims to

support businesses to improve their waste management policies and develop a detailed action plan for their business anchored in Ireland's Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.

- Sustainability Leaders programme, hosted by Angus Mitchell: The Sustainability Leaders programme seeks to assist businesses and Sustainability professionals to embrace responsible and sustainable business practices towards a decarbonised economy and identify the key organisational levers that facilitate change.

- Biodiversity Essentials Programme, hosted by Anja Murray: A programme designed to give participants an introduction to biodiversity and what first steps

their business can take to become more biodiverse, and develop a unique approach tailored towards each business for positive and effective action.

- Energy Leaders Programme, hosted by Richard Morrison: A course which aims to equip businesses and energy professionals with the knowledge and expertise on how to reduce energy waste, optimise cost savings, and protect the environment.

- Transport Leaders Programme, hosted by Raoul Empey: The Transport Leaders training programme aims to support businesses and professionals by providing training on how to reduce their transport emissions, increase fuel performance, deliver cost savings, and protect the environment.

Further details on available courses and resources can be found on the Climate Ready Academy website: <https://www.climatereadyacademy.ie/>

CLASSIFIEDS

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

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