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Tuesday 20th December 2022 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

VULTURE FUNDS BLOCKED

In a landmark decision that could have significant implications and set a precedent for Local Authorities across the country, Wicklow County Councillors have succeeded in blocking the sale of apartments to vulture funds anywhere in Co. Wicklow.

Wicklow's County Development Plan for 2022-2028 was adopted in September containing an amendment which makes it an objective of the plan to prohibit the sale of all residential developments (houses, duplexes and apartments) to institutional investors. Approved housing bodies are to be exempt.

The amendment was inserted into the Plan

at the request of Independent Councillor Joe Behan and was voted into the plan by a majority of councillors against the recommendation of the Chief Executive and against the advice of the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR). Twenty-two builders and developers objected to Wicklow's CDP and in October it was revealed that Ireland's two largest home-

builders had applied to the High Court to seek a Judicial Review of the plan.

In correspondence with Minister of State for Local Government and Planning Peter Burke TD last Tuesday, the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson stated that he has sought legal advice on the matter of the amendment in Wicklow's County



Ben Cannon, Deborah Coughlin and Claire Kealy are pictured at Bray National Learning Network's Christmas market which raised funds for the Irish Guide Dogs Association. See page 4.

Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028 which seeks to block the sale of apartments to vulture funds.

"I have been advised that unless there was a variation of the (now adopted) Plan amending this objective or unless the adoption of the entire Development Plan, or the relevant part thereof, was quashed by the High Court, Objective CPO 6.2 enjoys the presumption of validity and remains valid," Mr Gleeson wrote to Minister Burke, "and the Chief Executive and executive management have to give effect to it even if there is a risk that by doing so it may lead to a legal challenge."

Speaking last week, Cllr Behan said "In a letter from the Council Chief Executive to the Government, he confirms that our amend-

ment to the County Development Plan earlier this year is legally valid and must be implemented by Council Planners.

"We succeeded despite the opposition of the Council Chief Executive. The Planning Regulator and some of the biggest Property Developers in the Country. It is a victory for the people of this country who reject everything Vulture Funds stand for.

"It sets a precedent for all other local Councils in the country whereby they too could amend their Development Plans to rid this country of the scourge of Vulture Funds once and for all.

"I would like to acknowledge the overwhelming support I received from my Councillor colleagues in Wicklow County Council and especially

my three Independent Colleagues, Cllrs. Leonard and Tom and encouragement Mary Kavanagh, Peir me fantastic assistance throughout the entire process."

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There was great excitement and festive cheer at Wicklow RNLI Lifeboat Station on Saturday 10th December as Santa Claus arrived for his annual visit. Many of the crew's children gathered on the East pier to greet Father Christmas as he arrived on the Shannon class all-weather lifeboat. Santa Claus then made his way into the Station where he handed out presents to everyone in a specially decorated grotto, and listened intently to each child's present wishlist for this Christmas. After a quick cup of tea to warm himself up, Santa headed back to the North Pole to put the final touches to his busy Christmas schedule.

Speaking after the visit, Wicklow RNLI Press Officer, Tommy Dover said; "For the past couple of years the annual visit was cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions, so we were delighted to meet up with Father Christmas this year, and while Santa will finish work early on Christmas morning, our volunteer crew will remain on call all over Christmas ready to answer the call for help should their pagers activate."

Wicklow woman fundraising for all-terrain wheelchair

Wicklow woman Lesley Timmins (44) has had multiple sclerosis since she was 25. Her disease has now progressed to the point where it is impacting her life a lot - she can't work or walk and she needs mobility aids. She's started a GoFundMe campaign to try and raise money to buy an all-terrain wheelchair so she can go out with her sons and dog on walks in the forest to try and maintain some normality.

"My disease started off as the relapsing remitting kind where I had increases in symptoms followed by recovery," says Lesley. "My disease started to change to Secondary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis around 2015, around 18 years after I was diagnosed."

"My disease has progressed to where it has now completely changed my life, I am unable to work, and I require assistance with normal everyday tasks. I am unable to walk any distance without using mobility aids such as a Cane and a mobility scooter."

Because of the state of my health I am unable to live an outdoor life and accompany my two sons on things like forest walks. This is very disappointing to me as I am left alone at home and can't enjoy these outings with my sons or my Labrador Loki.



Lesley Timmins

I would like to purchase something like an eTrike - an electric assist all terrain wheelchair. This would allow me to participate in activities that my Multiple

Sclerosis does not allow me to do.

"Unfortunately an all terrain wheelchair is an expensive item and would not be covered under the Irish health system, so I

have no choice but to ask for help to purchase."

Lesley is hoping to raise €8,000. To donate, go to [Gofundme.com/f/help-me-buy-an-all-terrain-wheelchair](https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-me-buy-an-all-terrain-wheelchair)

Outdoor 'care crib' in Greystones raising funds for MS Ireland care centre



The 'Care Crib'

Outside of no.28 Crispins, Redford Park, Greystones, there is a contemporary crib scene. Mary, Joseph baby Jesus are waiting for visitors. you will spot two individuals wheelchair users already there. This Christmas the 'care crib' is collecting for MS Ireland respite care centre.

"We would like people to bring a small (new) gift that could be a prize

for bingo regularly enjoyed by residents on repite in the MS Ireland respite care centre in Bushy Park, Rathgar. A basket is out for the collections," said Dr Margaret Kennedy.

"It's such a wonderful resource, recently fully opened following covid. People with MS and other neurological diseases may attend for a week or two, and it is much valued as a welcome break from daily difficulties living with a progressive disease. There are trips out, bingo, massage, ciropody, yoga, floor arranging, art and more. Myself and twin sister recently had two weeks there where we celebrated our 70th birthday. It was a great time. Please visit the crib and bring a small gift (no more than €12) or donation. The children will love it."

All of the figures in the crib were made by Dr Kennedy.

Sea Swim to aid local charities

Bray Lions Club annual Charity Sea Swim, to be held on New Year's Day 2023, will this year support four local charities: Wicklow Hospice, Wicklow Rapid Response, Bray Lions Club Schools Breakfast Clubs and Bray Women's Refuge.

The Charity Swim has been part of the New Year tradition in Bray since 1984 when it was established with the dual purposes of having some fun and raising funds for local charities. The annual event has to date realised more than €370,000 for a long list of worthy local causes. This year Bray Lions have introduced some modifications designed to ensure the health and safety of swimmers and spectators

A new wider swimming area will be allocated and both swimmers and spectators will be encouraged to observe social distancing. A team of Bray Lions will provide stewarding, communications and safety services and Lions will also take up a bucket collection on the seafront. Indoor, secure dressing facilities and after-swim snacks will be provided at the Esplanade Hotel. Swimmers can collect sponsorship cards from Quinn's Pharmacy, Quinsborough Road, Bray and can also register on the day.

Bray Lions President Joe Codyre said: "We are delighted to be able to host the Charity Sea Swim again this year. We are confident of the good turn-out of swimmers and spectators and we look forward to the traditionally generous response of the people of Bray to our fund-raising on the day."

Christmas Gift Ideas!

Kevin Burke
Thursday 12 January '23
8pm | €21/19

Neil Delamere - Delamerium
Friday 17 March '23
8pm | €26

mermaid
mermaidartscentre.ie

Bray Comedy Festival:
Tony Cantwell, Shane Daniel Byrne & Guests
Friday 17 February '23
8pm | €23

Sharon Shannon & Alan Connor
Saturday 8 April '23
8pm | €32

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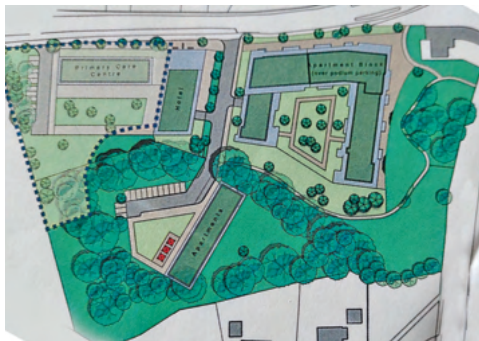
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Hotel proposal for Greystones

Wicklow County Council has drawn up a development plan to work towards a hotel for Greystones.

The total size of the site being considered is 4.8 hectares along Mill Road beside the Park n Ride. As part of the preferred plan it is expected that there will be 128 apartments. A Primary Care Centre is due to be located nearby also.

Cllr Derek Mitchell said "I welcome this and have long sought a hotel in Greystones. The Council outline plan suggested a 75-bed one, though I think it should be larger, have conference facilities and provide some extra space to add to the 450 Park n Ride spaces. The plan also suggests some apartments could be built and preserves many of the trees."



Plans for the Greystones hotel

Cllr Stephen Stokes said, "I have been advocating for a hotel for some time. The plan indicates that the hotel will be around 2500 square metres. In addition I am pressing for it to incorporate conference facilities."

"Greystones must be one of the largest towns in Ireland without a hotel. We need to put that right. Of course it will take time to find the right company to make this a reality."

"Infrastructure is vital for the Greystones

Municipal District. However we do need to ensure that we care for our environment, including many of the tall trees in the area. In addition Wicklow County Council will need to listen to the views of local residents, to ensure a smooth development process.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to bring employment to our area. Frequently visitors from Holyhead comment that we lack hotel beds for tourists. This is even more pressing with the anticipated Greystones Media Campus."

"I would like to thank Michael Nicholson, Brian Gleeson and all of the Wicklow Council Officials for their hard work on this. I will be working to make this a success."



Pictured are Alannah Fitzmaurice, Ballinastoe, Roundwood and Emmet Bollard, Greystones, who were married last Friday at Station House Hotel, Kilmessan, County Meath.

'Wicklow the worst hit by teacher shortage'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called on Government to do more to assist principals in the midst of a substitute teacher shortage, which is being keenly felt in Wicklow.

The Social Democrats brought a Private Members' Motion before the Dail recently calling for a range of measures to address the serious shortage of teachers in primary and secondary schools.

Deputy Whitmore said, "Here in Wicklow we are feeling this teacher shortage more acutely than most other counties. Principals are finding it nearly impossible to provide the most basic requirements - simply keeping classrooms open. This is causing significant problems for all pupils but particularly those with additional needs. I have spoken to principals across Wicklow with some telling me they cannot even get applicants for permanent positions in schools at the moment."

"According to a recent Irish Primary Principals Network survey, we know Wicklow is the worst

hit county by teacher shortages. The impact the lack of substitute teachers is having on schools is immense. Minister Foley and the whole government need to seriously ramp up their action to help schools keep their classrooms open."

"Every primary school in Wicklow is struggling to recruit substitute teachers. As a result, 96 per cent of Wicklow schools had resorted to moving a special education teacher from their core duties to cover an absence. Earlier throughout Covid, those children were left behind because classrooms and education were not available to them. We cannot leave them behind again now."

The Social Democrats' motion called on the Government to establish an emergency teacher supply

taskforce to identify tangible solutions to the shortages, informed by stakeholders.

"Among the other actions we want to see from government are for the Minister for Education to work with Higher Education Institutions to facilitate 3rd and 4th year student teachers, and master's students, to engage in increased substitution work and to eliminate delays surrounding the re-registration of teachers with the Teaching Council."

The ASTI recently demanded radical action on the teacher supply issue. ASTI General Secretary Kieran Christie said that the Minister for Education Norma Foley must take radical action to encourage teachers to come back to Ireland and to ensure teachers currently living in Ireland stay

Free training for employment and education

A year ago, Cian (not his real name) struggled to get a job. His anxiety and chronic shyness meant he struggled to get past the interview stage. Then Intreo - the public employment service - referred him to National Learning Network in Bray and it was there he found the support he needed.

Working with his instructor on the job seeking programme, a good work placement was negotiated for Cian. The job-seeking instructor acted as his support in conversations with the employer.

One of the key features of the job seeking course - JobStart- Training in the Workplace - is that the employer agrees to a training plan for the student so the student gets the most out of the placement.

The placement was a success and Cian integrated well with the other workers and gained a confidence he hadn't had before.

With his enhanced CV and new positive attitude, he landed a great job with a local employer.

Colette O'Loan, JobStart and Job-seeking instructor, says 'that's an amazing performance from the team here. It's the combination of the determined

job seeker like Cian and expert supportive training instructors here in NLN that make these results happen".

National Learning Network is funded by the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) to provide training, education and work placements to those who need extra support to progress to further education or employment.

"Cian says we opened the doors for him and the rest was up to him and no matter how tough he found being in the workplace initially, he knew he had the support of both his instructor and the employer."

National Learning Network has a range of courses for job seekers and for those who want to resume their education and get qualifications.

See their ad on this page.

National Learning Network

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Oonagh Hodkinson, Colette O'Loan, Carmel Bennett, Brian McSorley, Roseanna Doherty, Shay Hiney and Claire Kealy are pictured at the Bray National Learning Network Christmas market

National Learning Network Bray raise funds for Irish Guide Dog Association



Cian Walsh, Ray Devlin and Shay Hiney at the Bray NNL Christmas Fair

The students and staff from NLN Bray held a Christmas Market on Friday 9th December in aid of The Irish Guide Dogs Association.

The market stands included hot dogs, hot chocolate, mock mulled wine, cakes, crepes, crafts including cards, logs, decorations, knitted decorations, stocking fillers and reindeer hot chocolate sachets. They also had a very popular tombola drum game, with over 30 spins and great prizes. They raised the huge amount of €2800 for the Irish Guide Dogs.

A greener Christmas for all

Wicklow County Council is encouraging people to celebrate Christmas more sustainably this year as more than ever we need to enjoy the festivities without generating extra waste and cost.

Over the Christmas period we buy more food, give and receive many gifts and use much more energy. Care with planning for the big day and a focus on reducing our use of energy will help us keep our spending down.

Food expenditure increases dramatically in the run up to Christmas. We buy the best of foods for our table and for friends and family gatherings. While most will be eaten, Christmas is a time when more food gets thrown out than at any other time of the year.

Good planning and a shopping list can help keep the bill and waste down. Don't buy food for tradition if nobody will eat it, make plans to save, store and reuse the leftovers and remember that the shops will reopen quickly after Christmas so no need to overstock on essentials.

Do remember to put some great local Wicklow products in the trolley. www.wicklownaturally.ie is a great place to check out what's available.

"Food is one of the big contributors to our green-

house gas emissions. Cutting waste and buying local is a simple cost-effective climate action we can all undertake," explained Jim Callery, Environmental Awareness Officer with Wicklow County Council.

However, with the best will in the world there

waste correctly. Visit mywaste.ie for further information on recycling and waste management. Remember all recycling should be clean, dry and binned loose.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, commented:

need to heat our homes increases our energy consumption over the Christmas period. Big cost increases over the last 12 months are challenging for all, but most of all those households who can least afford it. Everyone can take steps to reduce energy use and save money in the process.

Start with simple steps like reducing the amount of time lights are on and getting into the habit of switching them off when a room is not in use. Turning the heating down by one degree can cut heating bills by 10% per cent.

Mr Brian Gleeson, CEO of Wicklow County Council, stated: "Staff in Wicklow County Council are undertaking the Reduce your Use campaign and we also aim to reduce our carbon emissions 50 per cent by 2030. We will continue to invest in energy efficiency and encourage all householders to take similar action within their means to reduce their use and our climate impact from energy."



will have extra waste for the bin over Christmas. Extra packaging, gift wrapping and food peelings will all end up in the bin so the advice is to make good use of all three bins, minimizing what goes in general waste, while maximizing our recycling or use of brown bins and composting.

Make sure all in the house are aware of how to segregate and recycle

"Every household should have a recycling bin provided by their bin collector and Wicklow County Council provides a network of five recycling centres which take a greater range of materials for recycling including free recycling of electrical goods. Christmas trees are also taken free-of-charge after Christmas in our recycling centres."

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Christmas Day:	Closed
St Stephen's Day:	Closed
27th & 28th Dec:	10 am to 12 noon
29th, 30th, & 31st:	10am to 4pm
1st January:	Closed
2nd January:	10am to 12 noon

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Wicklow is a winter wonderland this year so why not enjoy the magic of Christmas in County Wicklow.

This Christmas, challenge yourself to shop locally where possible, support small local businesses and think differently about gifts. Wicklow has everything you need for a magical Christmas so why shop anywhere else?

Save money on fuel, take the stress out of Christmas shopping and reduce your carbon footprint by supporting small businesses in your home county.

For a wide selection of delicious artisan food and drinks produced in County Wicklow, look out for the Wicklow Naturally label on products; think Wicklow Naturally www.wicklownaturally.ie. A voucher for a Farm to Fork trail will give the recipient the experience of fine dining in historic houses, vegetable growing in walled gardens, visits to traditional farms producing Wicklow beef and lamb, to innovative producers, brewers, distilleries and even a winery.

Why not visit the online Christmas Campaign on VisitWicklow.ie, offering various experiences such as Christmas Trains, meet with the Elfs, slide down a zipline to Santa's Cabin, look after Santa's Animals, and meet with the Man Himself!!! Experiences include Christmas Island in Rathdrum, Santa's Cabin in Russborough, Christmas Market in Wicklow Town, Clissmann's Winter Wonderland, Santa Train in Rathwood and many more. See blog at <https://visitwicklow.ie/christmas-in-wicklow-wonderlands/>

Christmas Gift Ideas the Wicklow Way

Special focus is given on promoting Christmas Gift ideas from Wicklow. Over the month of December our online channels are pushing the following items:

- **Wicklow Experiences:** Learn Mountain Navigation, rent a Mountain Bike, offer a Green Fee to one of the many Wicklow Golf Courses, get an Arts & Craft Class, run the EcoTrail: giving the gift of an experience is something truly special. See suggested experience list at <https://visitwicklow.ie/christmas-gift-ideas-experiences/>
- **Wicklow Annual Passes:** Offering an Annual Pass to some of Wicklow's Top attractions would make the ideal gift for many families. Who doesn't like an open invitation for a pre-paid day out? Powerscourt, Clara Lara, Russborough and more, all offering varied, year-round fun and entertainment for all. See passes at <https://visitwicklow.ie/wicklow-christmas-gift-ideas-annual-pass/>
- **Gift Vouchers:** If you can't decide then why not give a gift voucher. A gift voucher is guaranteed to be spent locally supporting the various businesses around Wicklow. Pick from the many Accommodations, Restaurants, Shops and Stores around Wicklow.
- **Offer a Wicklow Passport:** The Wicklow Passport is the ultimate Wicklow Experience. A Wicklow Passport is a great gift to include in any stocking. The Wicklow Passport is a great present to send to friends and families all over the world. Order your Wicklow Passport Online at <https://visitwicklow.ie/passport/> Anyone collecting 15 or more stamps on their Passports, becomes a Wicklow Ambassador. To celebrate such achievement, we have commissioned specially designed Ambassador Pins which will only be given to people who have completed the Ambassador's challenge.
- Wicklow is home to some of the best food and drink producers. Why not gift a bespoke Wicklow Naturally hamper to your loved one? Visit their website <http://wicklownaturally.ie> for ideas

Vouchers always make a great present; support your local businesses by buying vouchers for your loved ones. From hairdressers to mechanics, pharmacies to boutique clothes and shoes, painting and decorating, landscaping, baking and beauty, your local town has all you need. If you want to treat that someone special in your life, think about the many experiences that County Wicklow has to offer; a cookery class in Ballyknocken, tasting local craft beers on a brewery tour with Wicklow Wolf or the Wicklow Brewery, whiskey tasting in Powerscourt Distillery, meeting the furry friends on a K2 Alpaca tour, wine tasting with Wicklow Way Wines, afternoon tea at Victorian Tea Times, a visit to SeaLife aquarium or Wicklow's Historic Gaol, tickets to a live show at Tinahely Courthouse, the Whale Theatre or Mermaid Arts Centre. The opportunities in County Wicklow are endless.

Christmas trees grown in County Wicklow, wreaths and garlands made from locally sourced materials can be found at Conor Browne Wreaths and Mountain View Farm, Kavanaghs Christmas Trees, Wicklow Way Christmas Tree Farm, Potters Farm, Glendalough Christmas Trees, Glenealy Christmas Tree Farm, among many others. You won't have to travel far to bring some natural greenery into your Christmas celebrations.

For beautiful crafts and bespoke decorations and gifts handmade in County Wicklow, look no further than <https://designireland.ie/designers/county/wicklow/categories/all/all/20> to see some of our talented local crafts businesses. There are many local shops, cafes and galleries showcasing locally made arts & crafts and every euro spent locally supports people living locally.

The Local Enterprise Office Wicklow "Look for Local" campaign aims to highlight small Wicklow businesses in every sector, asking that people continue to build on the recent groundswell of support shown to local businesses when looking to buy goods or services. Research carried out on behalf of the Local Enterprise Offices as part of their "Look for Local" 2020 campaign has shown that 96% of County Wicklow consumers were now more likely to buy local, either online or in-store, as a result of recent campaigns to highlight local businesses. Please continue this trend in 2022 as everything you spend local, stays local and ensures local jobs.

For ideas of local businesses that you may not be familiar with but that have enhanced their website in the last year: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Enterprise-Development/Look-For-Local/>

Arklow Shop Local 2021

Festivities in Arklow include the annual Window Display Competition, so remember to call into the shops to compliment them on their display - retailers have been encouraged to run in store draws for the month of December. The Festival Committee will be running a Christmas Movie Trail competition on the 17th December to increase footfall in the town for the Christmas period. The prizes are sponsored by SSE Renewables. Details of the Christmas trail will be posted on the Festival Committee's Facebook page. Arklow Library are encouraging children to visit and sign up for The Bells of Christmas Reading Challenge and to post their letters to Santa.

There will be two hours free parking provided in Council owned car parks from Thursday 1st December 2022 up to Tuesday 3rd January 2023 inclusive. Pay and display will remain as normal in other areas.

Bray Bounces Back

The festive season is fast approaching so Bray Chamber, Bray.ie and Bray Municipal District have launched their Christmas marketing campaign for 2022. The campaign is designed to encourage the Bray community to shop, buy, hire and source locally first and for everyone to enjoy the array of seasonal events and activities returning this December. There is free car parking at weekends throughout December in the Council owned portion of the Herbert Road Car Park.

Throughout the festive season there's an array of events in Bray to keep the family entertained, including Christmas Cracker Concerts, Town Centre Christmas Lights, Christmas Projections on the Town Hall and Civic Offices, Santa's Post Box, Colouring Competition. For further information please check out www.bray.ie

Wicklow Working Together

Shoppers will enjoy two hours free Christmas parking in all Pay and Display Parking areas in Wicklow town from 21st November 2022 to 31st December 2022 inclusive. Free parking is also available at the Murrough and St Manntans Car Park for the Christmas period.

Wicklow Municipal District together with Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the Best Dressed Christmas Window Competition.

Wicklow Town vouchers make a great Christmas present and help to support businesses in your local town. Vouchers can be purchased from Bridge Street Books, Connolly Menswear and from the Chamber of Commerce office in Wicklow Enterprise Centre.

Wonderful West Wicklow

West Wicklow has everything you need this Christmas, with free parking available in all towns and villages. From Tinahely to Blessington, Baltinglass to Carnew, Dunlavin to Shillelagh and everywhere in between, you'll find a friendly face and warm welcome throughout the West. With a range of shops to choose from, you can get everything you need for a magical Christmas for all the family.

In welcoming the shop local initiatives throughout County Wicklow, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Tommy Annesley said "Now more than ever, it's important to shop local and buy in County Wicklow, where possible. It's also easier than ever before with many Wicklow businesses, small and large, now selling online. With Christmas just around the corner, you're sure to find that perfect gift in County Wicklow."

We may not have a white Christmas but every Christmas in County Wicklow is merry and bright

LOOK FOR LOCAL
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Green light for Kilcoole Skate Park



Jake Mitchell discussing plans for the skatepark with Minister Simon Harris and Cllr Tom Fortune.

€250,000 of funding has been secured for the construction of a Skate and Scooter Park in Kilcoole, it was announced last week. The skate park is to be adjacent to the existing playground.

The campaign for the skate park was conceived by local teenager Jake Mitchell, who was recognised for his efforts at the Greystones People of the Year Awards this year.

Making the announcement, Minister Simon Harris said, "Today I am glad to announce that €250,000 in funding has been secured for the construction of a skate and scooter park in Kilcoole under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. I have been working for the past two years in order to secure this amenity for Kilcoole, working closely with Cllr Tom Fortune and the incredible local teenager, Jake Mitchell, who started the campaign for this facility."

"I strongly believe that communities should have access to a wide variety of local amenities and facilities, especially facilities geared towards young people."

"As Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, I am constantly working to improve access and opportunities for young people. However, I also am very conscious

that often some of the most important aspects of life are learnt outside the classroom.

"I am always glad to welcome any investment into County Wicklow, but I must thank and congratulate Jake Mitchell for his work in getting this project over the line. He has made a real difference in his community, and it has been an honour to have the opportunity to work closely with him over the last two years."

"I am very much looking forward to being able to continue working with Jake, Cllr Tom Fortune, and Wicklow County Council on this project until the day its construction is finally complete."

Independent councillor Tom Fortune said "Jake Mitchell lobbied Minister Simon Harris and myself over two years ago to provide a skatepark in Kilcoole. He was so enthusiastic, he interviewed us, made a video and had many meetings with us. He researched different types of parks. Minister Harris was fantastic and immediately supported us. We talked about where it might go, how it could be

made to happen.

"I spoke with Wicklow County Council, then again with Minister Harris and back to Wicklow County Council. Deirdre Whitfield in Wicklow County Council was a great help and put in the submission for the funding."

"Yesterday we got the news that we were successful. A big thanks to all involved: Thanks firstly to Jake, whose idea this was and who worked relentlessly on the project. Jake has had a great 2022, he received a Garda Youth Award and a People of the Year award, and now this fantastic project. He is a wonderful young person with a bright future. Also thanks to Minister Harris for his enthusiasm for the project and for all he does for Kilcoole, I find him a great help to me. Thanks to Deirdre Whitfield for submitting the project for approval and for meeting us on sight with consultant and for her support."

"I am delighted that the project has been successful and have enjoyed working with Jake, Minister Harris and Deirdre Whitfield to make it happen."

Acquisition funding granted for former Bank of Ireland building in Carnew

Funding has been allocated to allow Wicklow County Council purchase the former Bank of Ireland building in Carnew and carry out refurbishments, it was announced last week.

The former Bank was put on the market by the Bank of Ireland, and Wicklow County Council were able to secure funding through the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme to purchase the premises. The funding will allow the building to become a remote working hub.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady said: "It is fantastic to hear that funding is to be allocated to refurbish the former Bank of

Ireland building in Carnew. When the Bank of Ireland announced the closure of 88 of its branches across the state, including three branches in Wicklow, Carnew, Rathdrum and Tinahely, I made repeated representations to the Bank of Ireland at the behest of the community in Carnew that the former branch building in the town would be allowed to be used by the local community."

"Wicklow County Council subsequently secured funding through the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme, which offers grants up to €400,000 in order to bring older buildings back into use as multi-purpose spaces."

"I want to acknowledge the efforts of Wicklow council in securing the building for the community in the manner which they did. While I welcome today's



John Brady TD

announcement of funding amounting to €49,999.50 to carry out design, cost

and planning for the refurbishment of the building to become a remote working hub, I believe that there is scope to allow for the development of a community space within the building."

"I believe that the next step is to ensure that there is a comprehensive program of consultation with the local community to ensure that the building is maximized to the full benefit of the whole community."

Green Party TD Steven Matthews said "This is something I have been working towards since

my election - the revitalisation of our rural towns and villages in Wicklow is hugely important. I'm committed to ensuring that rural Wicklow gets its fair share of funding and attention."

"The closure of this bank was hugely disappointing for the people of Carnew but the potential of the building remained. I undertook discussions at the time with Ministers Paschal Donohue and Heather Humphreys as well as Bank of Ireland and Wicklow County Council to examine future enterprise use."

"I'm delighted that government colleagues saw the potential in the proposal and this finding has come through," concluded Deputy Matthews.



Deputy Steven Matthews outside the former Bank of Ireland building in Carnew.



Chief Executive of the KWETB Deirdre Keyes, Minister for Higher Education Simon Harris, Tiglin CEO Phil Thompson, CEO of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson, Tiglin Chairman Aubrey McCarthy, and Paul McKenna are pictured at Tiglin in Ashford for the launch of the HEA funded project between the South East Technological University's (SETU) Lifelong Learning programme and Tiglin. The project will allow Tiglin's service users impacted by homelessness and addiction to complete Higher Education courses. On the day, Minister Harris also officially opened 'The Granary' at Tiglin.

GREEN CHRISTMAS

RECYCLING IN DECEMBER/JANUARY



CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING JANUARY 2023			
Bring your Christmas Tree to any of the collection points below. They will be shredded, composted and used again!			
No wreaths, plastic trees or decorations please.			
AREA	LOCATION	TIMES	DATE
Arklow Municipal District			
Arklow	Arklow Recycling Centre, Croghan Industrial Estate	Mon – Thur: 9.00am – 4.00pm Friday: 9:00am – 3:00pm Saturday: 9.00am – 1.00pm	3rd-21st Jan
Avoca	Avoca Recycling Centre,	Mon – Thur: 9.00am – 4.00pm Friday: 9:00am – 3:00pm Saturday: 9.30am – 1.00pm	3rd-21st Jan
Baltinglass Municipal District			
Baltinglass	Rampere Recycling Centre,	Mon – Thur: 9.00am – 4.00pm Friday: 9:00am – 3:00pm Saturday: 9.00am – 12.30pm	3rd-21st Jan
Hollywood	Church Carpark, Hollywood	9:00am – 4:30pm	7th Jan
Blessington	County Council Yard, Naas Road	Mon – Fri: 9.00am – 4.00pm	3rd-21st Jan
Bray Municipal District			
Bray	Bray Recycling Centre, Beechwood Close, Boghall Road	Mon – Thur: 9.00am – 4.00pm Friday: 9:00am – 3:00pm Saturday: 9.00am – 1.30pm	3rd-21st Jan
Bray	Ravenswell Road Car Park adjacent the Dargle	Mon – Sun : 9.30am – 4.00pm	3rd-21st Jan
Greystones Municipal District			
Greystones,	Carpark in front of the Council Offices on Mill Road adjacent to the bottle banks	Mon – Fri: 9.00am – 4.00pm Saturday: 9.00am – 1.45pm	3rd-21st Jan
Wicklow Municipal District			
Wicklow	The Murrough Recycling Centre, Wicklow	Mon – Fri: 9.30am – 4.00pm Saturday: 9.30am – 1.00pm	3rd-21st Jan

COUNTY WICKLOW RECYCLING CENTRES		Christmas Opening & Closing Times	
Arklow			
Friday 23rd Dec	9am-1.45pm	Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed	Christmas Day	Closed
Stephen's Day	Closed	Stephen's Day	Closed
Tuesday 27th Dec	Closed	Tuesday 27th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 28th Dec	Closed	Wednesday 28th Dec	Closed
Thursday 29th Dec	Closed	Thursday 29th Dec	Closed
Friday 30th Dec	9am-1.45pm	Friday 30th Dec	9am-1.45pm
New Year's Eve	9am-1.45pm	New Year's Eve	9am-1.45pm
New Year's Day	Closed	New Year's Day	Closed
Monday 2nd Jan	Closed	Monday 2nd Jan	Closed
Tuesday 3rd Jan	9am-4.30pm	Tuesday 3rd Jan	9am-4.30pm
Avoca			
Friday 23rd Dec	9am-1.45pm	Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed	Christmas Day	Closed
Stephen's Day	Closed	Stephen's Day	Closed
Tuesday 27th Dec	Closed	Tuesday 27th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 28th Dec	Closed	Wednesday 28th Dec	Closed
Thursday 29th Dec	Closed	Thursday 29th Dec	Closed
Friday 30th Dec	9am-1.45pm	Friday 30th Dec	9am-1.45pm
New Year's Eve	9am-1.45pm	New Year's Eve	9am-1.45pm
New Year's Day	Closed	New Year's Day	Closed
Monday 2nd Jan	Closed	Monday 2nd Jan	Closed
Tuesday 3rd Jan	9am-4pm	Tuesday 3rd Jan	9am-4pm
Bray			
Friday 23rd Dec	9am-1.45pm	Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed	Christmas Day	Closed
Stephen's Day	Closed	Stephen's Day	Closed
Tuesday 27th Dec	Closed	Tuesday 27th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 28th Dec	Closed	Wednesday 28th Dec	Closed
Thursday 29th Dec	Closed	Thursday 29th Dec	Closed
Friday 30th Dec	9am-1.45pm	Friday 30th Dec	9am-1.45pm
New Year's Eve	9am-1.45pm	New Year's Eve	9am-1.45pm
New Year's Day	Closed	New Year's Day	Closed
Monday 2nd Jan	Closed	Monday 2nd Jan	Closed
Tuesday 3rd Jan	9am-4pm	Tuesday 3rd Jan	9am-4pm
The Murrough			
Friday 23rd Dec	9am-1.45pm	Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed	Christmas Day	Closed
Stephen's Day	Closed	Stephen's Day	Closed
Tuesday 27th Dec	Closed	Tuesday 27th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 28th Dec	Closed	Wednesday 28th Dec	Closed
Thursday 29th Dec	Closed	Thursday 29th Dec	Closed
Friday 30th Dec	9am-1.45pm	Friday 30th Dec	9am-1.45pm
New Year's Eve	9am-1.45pm	New Year's Eve	9am-1.45pm
New Year's Day	Closed	New Year's Day	Closed
Monday 2nd Jan	Closed	Monday 2nd Jan	Closed
Tuesday 3rd Jan	9am-4.30pm	Tuesday 3rd Jan	8.30am-4pm
Rampere Baltinglass			
Friday 23rd Dec	8.30am-1.45pm	Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed	Christmas Day	Closed
Stephen's Day	Closed	Stephen's Day	Closed
Tuesday 27th Dec	Closed	Tuesday 27th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 28th Dec	Closed	Wednesday 28th Dec	Closed
Thursday 29th Dec	Closed	Thursday 29th Dec	Closed
Friday 30th Dec	8.30am-1.45pm	Friday 30th Dec	8.30am-1pm
New Year's Eve	8.30am-1pm	New Year's Eve	Closed
New Year's Day	Closed	New Year's Day	Closed
Monday 2nd Jan	Closed	Monday 2nd Jan	Closed
Tuesday 3rd Jan	8.30am-4pm	Tuesday 3rd Jan	8.30am-4pm



Stop Food Waste for Christmas

One third of the food we buy goes into the bin with twice as much waste over Christmas. Try to plan your shopping better, store the food more carefully, cook a bit less for the main meal and parties and save the leftovers by freezing. All help to reduce food waste.

Check out the 12 days of Christmas recipe book for leftovers on www.wicklow.ie or ask for a copy from eao@wicklowcoco.ie or **Locall 1890 222276**

For more tips on avoiding food waste visit www.stopfoodwaste.ie

Composting at home is great for the environment but don't forget to ask your bin collector to provide you with a brown bin for food waste which will result in lower bin charges.



YOUR COUNTY. YOUR WASTE?

Dumping waste is a crime. Let's all take responsibility.

#StopIllegalDumping





LET'S HAVE A GREEN CHRISTMAS.



Gardai issue seasonal safety advice

For most people the Christmas Period is an enjoy-able and festive season. Unfortunately for some, the month of December sees assaults rise by almost a third more than in January or February.

The peak time for assaults are weekend nights and research shows you are more likely to be assaulted if you have consumed alcohol. There is a clear correlation between assaults and incidents of drunkenness. Most reported assaults tend to happen around pubs, clubs or town centres. The Garda National Crime Prevention Unit have issued the following safety advice:

Staying safe on nights out

- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be home.
- Carry your mobile phone (Charged!)
- Drinking - if one of the group has too much to drink - ensure they get home safely!
- If out with a group - watch out for one another. Remember there is safety in numbers
- Plan your trip home or arrange a lift. If you have to walk home use well lit routes.
- Remember never drink and drive
- If you're the designated driver, park your car in a well lit area and don't leave property visible.
- If you see someone in trouble call 999, 112 or the local Garda Station.

Festive celebrations

- Everyone is responsible for safety whether you are having a house party, office party or other celebration.
- Be a great host and serve alcohol responsibly.
- Don't serve alcohol to drunk people.
- Don't serve alcohol to under 18's.

To stay safe while you're out Shopping:

- Take extra care when using a cash point or chip and pin.
- Don't let anyone see your pin number, never write down your pin number
- If you carry a handbag, keep your purse at the bottom
- Never keep your wallet in your back pocket
- Keep your handbag zipped at all times - crowded shopping areas are very popular with pick-pockets
- Don't leave your handbag in the shopping trolley while you shop
- Stay alert when using your mobile phone. It's very easy for someone to snatch it out of your hand
- Don't return to your car to leave purchases in the boot before continuing with your shopping, as thieves may watch car parks
- Don't leave valuables on the seat of your car - they attract thieves
- Keep the car door locked, even when travelling
- Don't leave your house keys in your car.
- In December most of these incidents occur between 2pm and 9pm - Christmas shopping time!



NDFEM issues fire safety advice for the festive season

The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) has begun a new campaign to create awareness of the increased risks of fire over the festive period and to advise the public of fire safety practices to prevent fires in the home. Statistically, the highest number of fire fatalities occur the winter months, particularly in the month of December.

The campaign reiterates existing fire safety advice to ensure you have at least one working smoke alarm in your home and to have a plan in place with your household for what to do if a fire breaks out.

Additionally, over the festive period, with increased socialising and celebrating in the home, more use of candles and a greater number of electronic devices in use, the NDFEM advises people to have a fire safety routine before going to bed. This should include extinguishing all candles and fires, turning off electrical appliances and closing all doors in your house to stop the spread of fire if it does break out.

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, said: "This is the time of year when many of us are hosting or socialising more in our homes or hopefully taking some time out to unwind with our families and enjoy the festive season. However, tragically, a higher number of fire fatalities are recorded in December than in any other month of the year and NDFEM is launching this campaign to cre-

ate awareness of simple fire safety tips we can all take to keep our homes safe while we enjoy the festivities.

"Measures such as having a working smoke alarm, getting your chimney cleaned and having a plan for your household should a fire break out are always important.

Over the Christmas period, with more candles in our homes and more electronic equipment in use, it is extra important to take care around open flames and to examine electronic devices that are not often used for signs of wear and tear, such as frayed wires. I encourage people to

familiarise themselves with the fire safety advice carried in this campaign to keep us all safe and well."

Call 999 or 112 in case of fire.
Full fire safety advice can be found at fireireland.ie



Wicklow players celebrate after winning the Rugby All Ireland League Conference final against Galwegians at Ashtown Lane. Wicklow won by a score of 22 to 17.

Marrakesh

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

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Benville Robinson LLP

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

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



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

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



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Season's Greetings from your local representatives



John

BRADY TD

**Nollaig Shona
agus
Athbhlíain
Faoi
Mhaise**



Sinn Féin Office
1st Floor, 27 Main Street, Bray,
Tel: 01-276 2623 Mon-Fri 10am-3pm
* Accessibility needs accommodated by request.

Sinn Féin Office
18a Upper Main, Street, Arklow
Tel: 0402-41853.
Tues-Thurs 10am-3pm

Email: john.brady@oireachtas.ie



SENATOR

Pat CASEY

*Wishing
everybody in
Co. Wicklow a
Happy & Safe
Christmas*



FIANNA FÁIL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Stay Local & Shop Local

Seanad Éireann, Leinster House
Kildare Street, Dublin 2. ☎ 01 618 3516
The Bluebell, 13 Main Street,
Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

☎ 0402 42105 📠 086 264 9483

@ pat.casey@oireachtas.ie

🌐 www.patcasey.ie



NOLLAIG SHONA!

My priorities for 2023

I hope that this Christmas is an opportunity for you to enjoy gathering with family and friends. 2023 will be a challenging year for the EU, but I will continue to work hard for my constituency of Ireland South in Europe.



Seán
KELLY MEP
YOUR VOICE IN THE EU

📧 seankelly.eu
📧 sean.kellymep
📧 @seankellymep
📧 eppgroup.eu
📧 EPPGroup
📧 @EPPGroup



A green Europe that provides economic opportunity:

Let's seize the opportunities that the green transition provides. I am calling for the roll out of Solar PV, green renovation loans and a national strategy on anaerobic digesters. Planning laws and administration must be streamlined, particularly for energy projects.



An open Europe that protects Irish consumers:

We must have an ambitious, fair, outward-looking trade policy that significantly improves living standards and opportunities for those in Ireland. I am a leading voice in the Parliament promoting constructive relations with one of our closest trading partners, the UK.



An equal European Union that promotes human rights:

Human rights must be at the forefront of EU policy. I have advocated for the EU to promote gender equality in its external relations, and called for enhanced citizen engagement in EU decision-making. I highlight urgent human rights situations at each Parliamentary session.



STEVEN MATTHEWS TD

**Wishing
everybody
a Happy, Safe
and Peaceful
Christmas**

**Please shop local
to support Wickow traders**



STEVEN MATTHEWS TD

TO BOOK A CONSTITUENCY CLINIC PLEASE CONTACT:

✉ steven.matthews@oireachtas.ie

🐦 @stevensgreen1

📘 STEVEN MATTHEWS TD

🌐 www.stevenmatthews.ie



**green
party**
comhaontas glas



Stephen Donnelly TD

Minister for Health & TD for Wicklow

Happy Christmas to you and your loved ones.

Over the past two years we've been working hard in Government to transform our health service.

We've seen a **revolution in Women's Health** care with menopause clinics, free contraception and funding for IVF while we are working hard to bring down waiting lists.

We are making healthcare **more affordable and easier to access** by abolishing hospital charges, extending the GP card to half the population, increasing beds and hiring a record number of healthcare staff.

In Wicklow we have **new Primary Care Centres** in Bray, Baltinglass and another soon to open in Arklow with plans well underway for one in Greystones.

We are not there yet but real progress is being made and will continue to be made.

Please support your local businesses this Christmas!

Seasons Greetings

Tel: (01) 201 7300 / **Email:** Stephen.Donnelly@oireachtas.ie

 **FIANNA FÁIL**
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY



Season's Greetings from your local representatives



INDEPENDENT Cllr Tom Fortune VOTE No.1

Wishing Everybody a very
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
Stay Safe • Support Local



#TheVoiceOfReason

Ph: 0862488195 Email: tom.fortune49@gmail.com

Web: tomfortune.ie Twitter: @CllrTomF

Facebook: Cllr Tom Fortune #TheVoiceOfReason #LE19



Wishing
Everyone
a Safe &
Peaceful
Christmas



Cllr Irene Winters

23 Wicklow Heights Court, Wicklow Town

087 244 3610

EWinters@wicklowcoco.ie

FINE GAEL

Cllr. Erika **DOYLE**
Cathaoirleach of Bray
Municipal District

Working for you in Bray

Seasons Greetings to
all my Constituents

087 263 9516
erikadoylegreen
erikadoylegreen
@MissErikaDoyle
erika.doyle@greenparty.ie

green party
comhaontas glas

Councillor Edward Timmins

Wishing everyone a
very merry Christmas
and a peaceful
New Year

ETimmins@Wicklowcoco.ie

087 235 7914



FINE GAEL

Cllr. John
Mullen

Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy
New Year
to all

FIANNA FAÍL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

E: jmullen@wicklowcoco.ie

T: 086 417 7808

Wishing everybody
a Very Merry
Christmas
and a Safe and
Healthy '23

Cllr. **RORY
O'CONNOR**

INDEPENDENT

Tel: 083 461 0357



Cllr. Vincent BLAKE

Wishing everyone
Merry Christmas &
a happy & healthy
New Year for 2023

0402 38256 /
087 2322 521

vblake@
wicklowcoco.ie



FINE GAEL

Cllr. Shay CULLEN

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**
& a Happy
New Year
to all

FINE GAEL

Tel: 086 7275000

shaycullen2014@gmail.com



Season's Greetings from your local representatives



Cllr. Joe BEHAN
INDEPENDENT

Happy Christmas & Peaceful New Year

Mobile: 086 8375602
Email: joebehan@outlook.ie
Facebook: indjoebehan
Twitter: @indjoebehan
Instagram: indjoebehan

Cllr. Melaine CORRIGAN **Cllr. Aoife FLYNN KENNEDY**

Warmest Wishes for a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New year

☎ 083 364 2439 ☎ 083 090 7689
 ✉ melaniebraywest@gmail.com ✉ Aoife.flynnkennedy@gmail.com
 📌 Melanie Corrigan For Bray West 📌 @AoifeFlynnKennedyFG
 📌 @MelanieBrayWest 📌 @Aoife Flynn Kennedy FG
 📌 MelanieCorriganFG 📌 www.aoife-flynnkennedy.com
 www.melaniecorrigan.ie **FINE GAEL**

Cllr. Anne FERRIS
Peace Commissioner

Wishing everybody a Happy Christmas & a Peaceful New Year

Labour Women

Contact me at
 086-2364780 or Email:
 AFerris@wicklowcoco.ie

Cllr. Mary KAVANAGH
INDEPENDENT

Wicklow Co. Council
 Wicklow MDC

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and Safe New Year

✉ mkavanagh@wicklowcoco.ie
 ☎ 087 782 3513
 📌 Follow me on Facebook
 Mary Kavanagh Cllr

Cllr. TOMMY ANNESLEY
Cathaoirleach Wicklow County Council

Wishing everybody a Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year

FIANNA Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Email: tannesley@wicklowcoco.ie
 Tel: 087 250 8205

Cllr. Pat KENNEDY

Please Shop Local and Support Wicklow this Christmas

FIANNA Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

✉ patkennedy1@outlook.com
 ☎ 087 419 8022

Cllr. GAIL DUNNE

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FIANNA Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Email: gDunne@wicklowcoco.ie
 Tel: 086 821 4368

Cllr. Gerry Walsh
Greystones Municipal District

Wishing everybody a Happy Christmas and best wishes for a safe & healthy 2023

FIANNA Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Ph: 085 863 9848
 E: gerrywalsh00@gmail.com
Sensible Politics with Practical Solutions

Season's Greetings from your Local Businesses



The McElheron family meeting Santa and one of his elves at the RNLI station in Wicklow

Laragh 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 Kevin's 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.

Christmas eve fireside session

There's great Christmas Eve entertainment planned at the Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones. You are invited to come along, sit beside the fire and listen to some of the great folk songs from past ad present, as well as jazz and blues, ragtime, Irish trad and ballads. Guest musicians will join in. Come along and listen, play a tune or sing a sing everyone knows. Doors open at 3pm. Admission is free. See thehotspot.ie for more details.

Happy Christmas

A poem by David P. Carroll

*On a snowy Christmas night
And the little children are smiling
So bright and Santa Claus was hear
Last night and there's happiness
Peace and love in the air tonight
And there's parties and songs
Sung all through the night
And Everyone is getting drunk all
Through the snowy Christmas Night and the
Colorful lights that Twinkle on the Christmas tree
And Christmas is a special
Time of year and the sadness
We've had along the way and
Christmas is filled with special
Joys and so much love and
We're wrapped in the excitement of it all and I
wish you all a very Merry Christmas
And a beautiful and
Peaceful Happy New Year too.*

WISHING ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
AND FRIENDS A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS FROM

**KEELEYS
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our selection of Lights
and Decorations

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Nollaig Shona
Daoibh go Léir

Best wishes,
John McEvoy

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PHARMACY**

We would like to thank all our customers
for their support over the last year.

Wishing you all a Healthy and
Happy New Year 2023

Stay safe from all the staff here at
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Thank you to all our customers
for your loyalty and support.
Have a Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year

**THE
ROUNDWOOD INN**

Roundwood,
Co. Wicklow

Ph: 01 281 8107
or 01 281 8144

Happy Christmas

and a Peaceful & Healthy New Year
to all our Readers, Customers & Friends

LOCAL Wicklow Times

Season's Greetings from your Local Businesses



Ola, Anastasiia and Lidiia Roretska with Santa celebrating Christmas in Arklow

Mind your mental health over Christmas

Turn2Me, a national mental health charity, is encouraging people to reduce their social media usage over Christmas. The charity stated that comparisons to the perfect 'Instagram Christmas' can lead to unrealistic expectations and disappointment. Turn2Me emphasised that social media can be very damaging for our mental health and that deleting the apps from our phones, deleting social media accounts, or reducing the amount of time we spend on social media can have mental health benefits.

A British 2015 study called The Children's Well-being 2015 publication, found that Children who spent more than three hours using social networking websites on a school day were twice as likely to report high or very high scores for mental ill-health. The 2016 Journal of Adolescence found that Social media use in adolescence is associated with poor sleep quality, anxiety, depression and low self-esteem.

"The research is clear: social media can be very detrimental to our mental health," Fiona O'Malley, CEO of Turn2Me, said. "What we see on

Instagram is a very filtered and edited version of people's lives. People don't put up the difficult, the mundane or the tedious parts of their lives on social media because it's not as interesting, and people don't want to wash their dirty laundry in public.

So, when we compare our own reality to the apparently perfect 'Instagram' lives, it's an unfair comparison because it's comparing your life to the edited glimpse of someone else's life. Christmas can heighten this imbalanced comparison and make people feel even more dissatisfied with their

own lives, because there are moments of celebration over the Christmas period for so many - people get engaged, move into their new dream homes, announce pregnancies, get or gift luxurious presents, and capture precious moments with close family members. This isn't reality. Most people have at least one dysfunctional or damaging relationship in their family, most people won't mark the Christmas period with a life-changing celebratory event, and particularly with the rising cost of living, most people won't be getting or gifting over-the-top luxury pre-



Mikey Mulvihill beating the drum to celebrate the festive season in Wicklow Town

sents. It's important not to compare your own life to the lives you see on social media because it's an unfair comparison - it's like comparing your reality to what you see in an advertisement. It's not real and that type of comparison can be really

damaging to our mental health."

Turn2Me is encouraging anyone who feels anxious, depressed, or lonely over the Christmas period to sign up for their free mental health services on Turn2Me.ie.

Augustus Cullen Law

Wishing all our clients and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



ACL is one of Ireland's leading law firms, with expertise across a range of practice areas including medical and professional negligence, employment, corporate and family law. The firm currently employs 50 people in their Wicklow, Gorey and Dublin offices.

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Telephone counselling service to open every day over Christmas

Telephone counselling and support service Connect is to extend its hours during Christmas to open every evening until Sunday, January 1st.

Connect is a free, confidential and professional telephone-based counselling and support service for adults who were abused in childhood and will open from 6-10pm each evening.

People can call Connect for free at 1800 477 477. Callers will get to speak with a trained counsellor who can listen and provide professional counselling and support.

Christmas can be a lonely time and Connect wants to ensure that the service is there for people if they need support.

Connect's normal opening hours are 6-10pm Wednesday to Sunday.

Connect was established in 2006 following demands from groups representing survivors of institutional abuse that an independent and professional out of hours telephone-based service be established. It is funded by the HSE.

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Tuesday 3rd Jan 2023

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Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir

Wishing all a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas

The office will be closing on 22nd December (half day) for the Christmas Holidays and reopen on the 3rd January 2023

German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs meets with Glencree team

The German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ms Annalena Baerbock met with the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Team at the German Ambassador's residence in Ballsbridge on Friday 9th December as part of her two-day visit to Ireland.

Ms Baerbock and the German delegation, along with the German Ambassador to Ireland H. E. Mr Cord Meier-Klodt, met with Glencree's Community and Political Dialogue Team as well as political representatives from across the island and

discussed the impact that Brexit and the Northern Ireland Protocol have had on the island.

Ms Baerbock was interested to engage with senior political and community leaders from across the island to discuss and learn more about

how Brexit and the Northern Ireland Protocol have affected people's identities and communities on the ground. Representatives analysed the current political impasse in Northern Ireland, as well as ways in which the blockages and

difficulties can be managed and / or mitigated in addition to the opportunities that the Protocol presents to the island.

The Foreign Minister was also keen to learn more about issues pertaining to the Legacy of the past conflict during

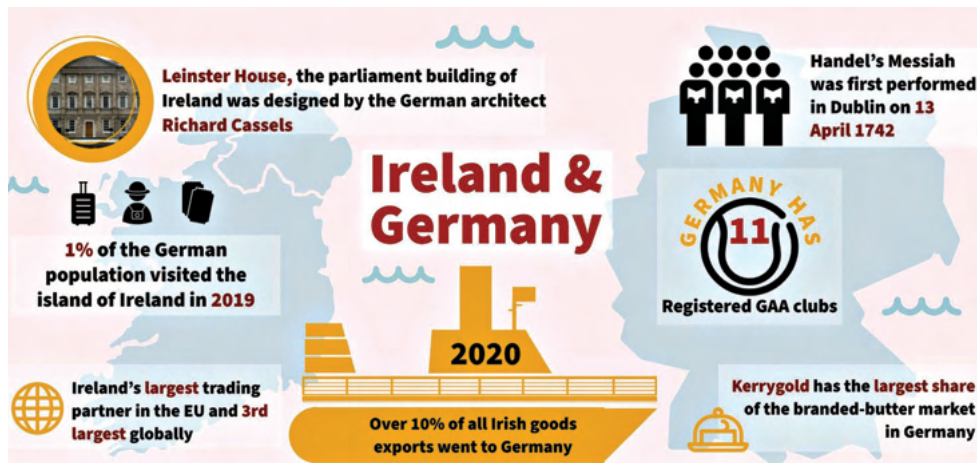
the 'The Troubles' and of how best to create appropriate structures and arrangements to help people come to terms with the loss of their loved ones.

Born in Hanover, West Germany in 1980, Annalena Baerbock has held the position of German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs for a year now since December 2021. From 2018 to 2022, Ms Baerbock served as co-leader of Alliance 90/The Greens. She was the party's chancellor candidate in the 2021 federal election, making her the first such candidate for the Greens and, after Angela Merkel, only the second woman to be nominated for chancellor by a major German political party. She was first elected to the Bundestag



German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ms Annalena Baerbock

in 2013. From 2012 to 2015, she was a member of the party council of Alliance 90/The Greens and from 2009 to 2013 attended the University of Hamburg and the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Delegations from Aberystwyth and Chateaudun visit Arklow

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley and Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District, Cllr Pat Kennedy welcomed delegations from Wales to Arklow on 11th December.

Cllr Annesley welcomed the Deputy Mayor of Aberystwyth, Ms Kerry Ferguson, and her fellow Councillors Mr Steve Davis and Mr Emlyn Jones. The Cathaoirleach recalled the many links both sporting and cultural over the years between Aberystwyth and Arklow and wished the respective Twinning

Associations well in the future. He also wished the Mayor of Chateaudun, Mr Fabien Verdier, a 'Céad Míle Fáilte' and welcomed Councillors Ms Hanane Tag and Mr Jean-Marc Gaudichau as well as members of Chateaudun Twinning Association. Cllr Annesley recalled that he had visited Chateaudun in 2013 and thanked the three Twinning Associations for all their work.

In response, Mayor Fabien Verdier thanked the members of Arklow Municipal District for the warm welcome and pointed out that Arklow and Chateaudun had much in common: similar sized population, both towns had important rivers, the Loire and the Avoca, and both towns were in a republic that are members of the European Union.

In addition, both countries have a common currency through which to do business and have



Mayor of Chateaudun Mr Fabien Verdier, Claire Lawless, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District Cllr Pat Kennedy, Deputy Mayor of Aberystwyth Ms Kerry Ferguson, Leonora Earls and Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Tommy Annesley, at the reception hosted by the Arklow Municipal District Twinning Association

obligations to give humanitarian aid to the Ukraine. He said he had enjoyed his brief visit to Arklow and thanked members of Arklow Twinning Association who had welcomed him and his delegation into their homes.

Local historian, Mr Pat Power, gave a fascinating account of the history of the Parade Ground, which was once used by soldiers and militia but is now a part of the Main Street, located in the area between the remaining walls of the Ormond Castle, the Courthouse and the Catholic Church. This important public

space has been refurbished to be used by the people of Arklow.

The visitors then viewed the newly refurbished Parade Ground where magicians, fire-eaters, the Arklow Shipping Silver Band, the Arklow Pipe Band, the Inbhear MÚR Performance Ensemble the Arklow Baton Twirlers and The Colour Club entertained young and old.

Later in the Arklow Bay Hotel, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, thanked the visitors from Chateaudun and Aberystwyth for

accepting Arklow Municipal Districts invitation and for travelling in such wintry weather conditions to attend the Parade Ground launch event. He thanked again the work of the three Twinning organisations.

Deputy Mayor of Aberystwyth, Ms Kerry Ferguson, replied and paid tribute to fellow Councillor Steve Davis who had taken part in some of the Celtic Challenge races between Arklow and Aberystwyth over the years.

Councillor Hanane Tag spoke on behalf of the Mayor Verdier of Chateaudun (who had

returned home) after the Parade Ground launch event. She referred to the economic struggles of the countries in Europe in the aftermath of two World Wars and the fall of the Berlin Wall. Now current events demanded that all countries in Europe be vigilant, ready to share our knowledge, our experiences and our friendship. The Twinning of Towns is part of this process.

In June 2023, the Council of Chateaudun will welcome a group from Arklow to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Twinning of the two towns.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

MOTOR TAX OFFICES

WICKLOW, BRAY & BLESSINGTON

Motor tax can be renewed online at www.motortax.ie

Wicklow Motor Tax Office – Christmas Opening Times

Monday 19th December	9.00am – 3.30pm
Tuesday 20th December	9.00am – 3.30pm
Wednesday 21st December	9.00am – 3.30pm
Thursday 22nd December	9.00am – 3.30pm
Friday 23rd December	9.00am – 3.30pm
Monday 26th December	Closed
Tuesday 27th December	Closed
Wednesday 28th December	Closed
Thursday 29th December	Closed
Friday 30th December	Closed
Monday 2nd January	Closed

Normal office hours (9.00am – 3.30pm) will resume on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Bray Motor Tax Office – Christmas Opening Times

Tuesday 20th December	10.30am – 2.00pm
Wednesday 21st December	10.30am – 2.00pm
Thursday 22nd December	10.30am – 2.00pm
Tuesday 27th December	Closed
Wednesday 28th December	Closed
Thursday 29th December	Closed

Normal office hours (10.30am – 2.00pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday) will resume on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Blessington Motor Tax Office – Christmas Opening Times

Tuesday 20th December	9.00am – 12.30pm and 2.00pm – 3.30pm
Tuesday 27th December	Closed

Normal office hours (9.00am – 12.30pm and 2.00pm – 3.30pm Tuesday's only) will resume on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Voices of Bray Community Choir Returns with 'Welcome to Christmas' Concert

After a three-year absence due to Covid restrictions, Voices of Bray Community Choir were delighted to return to St. Fergal's Church on December 4th.



The choir, under the direction of John Ivory and accompanied on piano by Justin McCann, performed a programme of songs. The packed audience responded enthusiastically to the choir's singing of many Christmas favourites supplemented by a selection of songs from the musicals including "The Sound of Music", "The Wizard of Oz" and a medley of hits from "My Fair Lady".

The concert was staged for the benefit of the local St. Clare's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul.

Thanks to the huge turnout for the concert, €5,600 was raised for the charity. The choir also made a donation to St. Fergal's parish which has hosted the choir's Christmas concerts since 2015.

Voices of Bray now turns its attention to 2023 and in January will begin preparations on a new programme of songs for its summer concerts which take place in the Mermaid Arts Centre from June 8th-10th



THISISPOPBABY presents Una Mullally's GRIANSTAD

Wednesday 21st December, 3:30pm. Free, registration is necessary through the booking link. Suitable for 12+ years. Duration: 30 mins

The darkest time of the year is upon us. Now it's time to face the sun. The winter solstice, grianstad (literally: sun stop), is once again gaining potency in Irish Culture as an important marker of time, possibly the most important marker, as we are compelled to connect with our ancestral land, language and light.

While the earth begins its bi-annual axial tilt, this time of letting go, where the dark night of the soul invites us to rest and look inward, is also occurring at a cosmic moment of great solar energy.

"At THISISPOPBABY, we are closing out our epic fifteenth anniversary year with Una Mullally's GRIANSTAD - an audio experience celebrating and marking the sunset of the winter solstice on 21 December."

With a bespoke soundscape composed by Jane Arnison and Julie Fogarty, and original music

by MayKay, Ben Castle, and Adam Matthews, GRIANSTAD is a delicious audio ritual treat from writer Una Mullally; a moment of connection, reflection and collective joy.

Join people across the island and the world with this warm, funny, surprising and moving audio art work, for THISISPOPBABY's final presentation of the year.

This is a free event, aged 12+ and registration is required. Enjoy with family, friends, or alone, on speaker or headphones, at sunset on December 21st.

Credits:

GRIANSTAD

Created, written, and narrated by Una Mullally.

Composition and sound design by Jane Arnison and Julie Fogarty

Solstice Song created and performed by Adam Matthews, Ben Castle, and May Kay

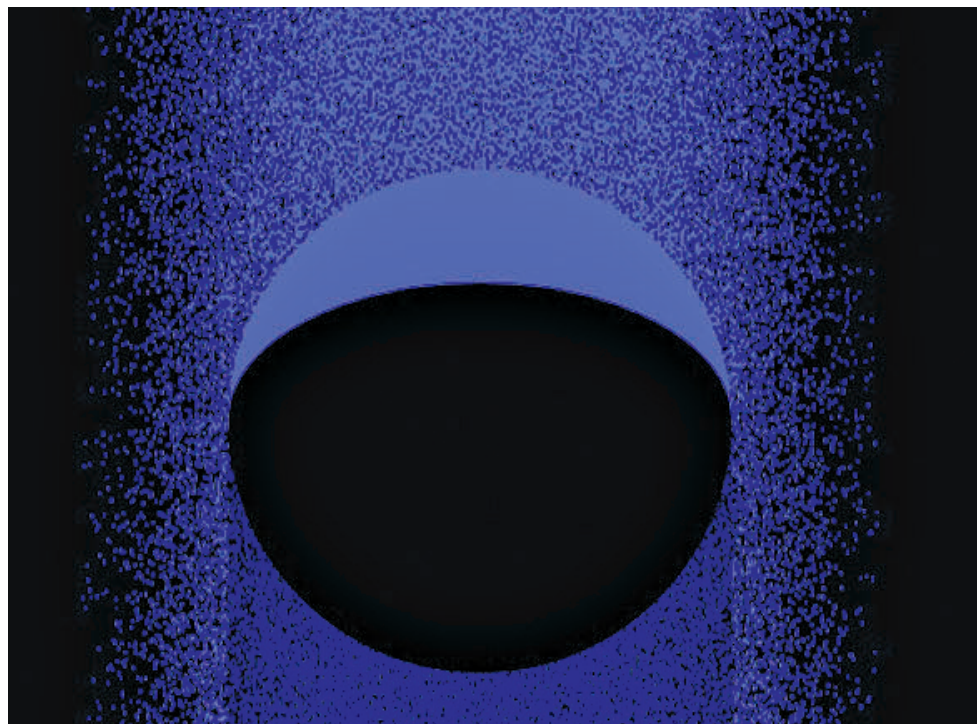
Mixed by Jane Arnison

Visual design by Niall Sweeney

Produced by Emily Brennan

For the audio on demand link, see

mermaidartscentre.ie



Residential Zoned Land Tax

Unlocking land for more homes

Deadline for Draft Map submissions approaching

The deadline for landowners and others to make a submission about whether lands on the Residential Zoned Land Tax Draft Map meet the criteria for being subject to the new tax is Sunday 01 January 2023.

The Draft Map showing lands in Wicklow County that will be subject to the tax is available to view on the Wicklow County Council website. Landowners should check if their land is on the Draft Map. Homes that are subject to the Local Property Tax are not liable for the Residential Zoned Land Tax.

The Government has introduced the Residential Zoned Land Tax with the aim of increasing housing supply by activating zoned, serviced residential development lands (including mixed-use lands) for housing.

To view the Draft Map, visit www.wicklow.ie



www.gov.ie/rzlt

RECRUITMENT



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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(Includes 2nd LSI)
REF: 50/2022

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

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED
APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON on
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RNLI crew member looking forward to his first Christmas on call

Being a part of the RNLI is a real family affair in Wicklow. While crew member Peter Byrne is looking forward to his first Christmas on call since becoming the station's new mechanic in August, his partner Rachel who sits on the committee of the fundraising branch will be busy supporting the team as they look after the sale of Christmas cards, calendars and other RNLI souvenirs which always prove popular at this time of year.

As the charity launches its Christmas appeal asking for the public's help to continue its lifesaving work at sea, Peter will be among the wider station teams both at Wicklow and Arklow RNLI who will be prepared to drop their own Christmas festivities this year if the paper sounds.

But for the mechanic who fell in love with everything RNLI and lifeboat related since joining the crew at Wicklow three years ago, being on duty is something Peter will relish and should that call come at Christmas, he like hundreds of other volunteers around Ireland, who sign up to save every one from drowning, will reap the reward of being able to give back, having helped someone in need.

In fact, he swapped his day job of 24 years as a full-time electrician to take on the full-time station mechanic role when long serving mechanic Brendan Copeland retired earlier this year.

Among his many duties, Peter carries out routine maintenance of the station's Shannon class lifeboat and its launch and recovery equipment.

"I fell in love with the



Peter Byrne, Wicklow RNLI

RNLI when I joined as crew, and I know it sounds like a cliché, but I really do enjoy a bit of everything that is involved with being the mechanic for the station. Brendan took me under his wing in April before he retired, and I worked through all my training from then until August when I became a fully-fledged all-weather lifeboat mechanic. During that time, I was impressed and indebted to the volunteer mechanics who dedicated their time to the lifeboat ensuring it was on service at all times until I fully transitioned into the role.

"I love that we can save lives or bring someone to safety. I love that the mechanic role allows me to be hands on with the lifeboat and I love being a part of the team, part of the crew. And through my involvement, my partner Rachel signed up to be a volunteer and is now an active member of the Wicklow RNLI fundraising branch."

This Christmas many like Peter will leave their loved ones behind to answer the call, each time hoping to reunite another family, and see those in trouble at sea safely returned.

During the festive period from Christmas Eve to New Year's Day over the last five years from 2017-2021, RNLI lifeboats in the Irish region launched 55 times and brought 43 people to safety.

Peter said: "Even at Christmas, our lifesavers are ready to drop everything at a moment's notice and rush to the aid of someone in trouble on the water. At this time of year, the weather is at its worst and lives are on the line."

"We know that every time our crews go out they hope for a good outcome, but sadly this sometimes isn't the case."

"There's no feeling quite like bringing someone home safe to their families - especially at Christmas."

As lifeboat crew we couldn't rescue people without kind donations from the public which fund the kit, training and equipment we need to save others and get home safely to our families."

To make a donation to the RNLI's Christmas Appeal visit: RNLI.org/Xmas

MOWLAM HEALTHCARE

Applications are invited for the position of Healthcare Assistant with Mowlam Healthcare. This position will be based in our Nursing Home in Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow. This is a fantastic opportunity for the successful candidate to further their career with Ireland's largest and most respected independent healthcare provider of quality nursing home care in Ireland.

Candidates must possess

*QQI Level 5 in Healthcare or equivalent.

Job Type: Full time, 39 hours per week

Salary: €27,000 per annum

Location: Kilcoole Lodge Nursing Home, Lott Ln, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow

Contact:

recruitment@mowlamhealthcare.com

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Ross Spillane seeks planning permission for the construction of a new single storey rear and side extension plus all associated site works, at 4 Ardmore Wood, Herbert Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Shane & Karen Barends wish to apply to the above council for Outline Planning permission for a two story dwelling house, new site entrance, installation of a wastewater treatment system & associated site works @ Newcastle Middle, Co. Wicklow A63 K792. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Patricia Kelly 13 Kindelstown Road Lower, Greystones, Co Wicklow A63 EY76 seeks full planning permission for:- Construction of front porch to existing cottage with partial attic conversion to create bedroom with lift shaft. Alterations to existing entrance gates. Installation of wheelchair ramp to new front door position, including all associated site works. 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.

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Bray Area Partnership hold community lunch

Around 150 people from the local community attended Bray Area Partnership's recent Festive Community Lunch in Bray, where they got the chance to network and browse information stands from a wide range of local services and community groups.



Jennifer Jones, Jane Cahill and Michelle Rogers at the Bray Area Partnership community lunch

The idea was to provide a space where people from community groups and statutory services, and public representatives, could network and make connections that enable them to work together more collaboratively for the benefit of the whole community.

Bray Area Partnership's CEO, Peter Brennan, said: "It was fantastic to see so many people here today to celebrate our local communities in Bray and north Wicklow and all of the collaborative work over the past year that has made such a difference to the lives of local people and communities."

He also highlighted a new Accessibility



Jennifer Darcy, Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Orla Finn and Helen Howes at the Bray Area Partnership community lunch in the Little Flower Hall

Toolkit for Community Groups that had been launched recently by the Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee of

Wicklow County Council, of which Bray Area Partnership is an active member. The toolkit is a useful new

resource for community groups to help them make their services and activities more accessible and inclusive.

To find out more about Bray Area Partnership's services in the community, see www.brayarea-partnership.ie.

Wicklow minister uses frankincense to spread message about looming famine

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.**

A Wicklow church leader is raising awareness of the hunger crisis raging in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya by hanging a bag of frankincense on her Christmas tree this festive season.

Rev Katherine Kehoe, minister at Arklow Methodist Church, hopes her gesture of solidarity will also encourage people to give a gift this Christmas to support the work of Christian Aid Ireland as they respond to the severe drought in the Horn of Africa where more than 23 million people are short of food after five failed rainy seasons.

Frankincense is a fragrant resin obtained from trees native to the Horn of Africa and is famous as one of the gifts given to the baby Jesus by the three wise men.

Rev Katherine Kehoe has supported Christian Aid Ireland throughout her ministry. She serves the congregations of Arklow Methodist Church and Gorey Methodist Church in County Wexford. To support Christian Aid's work this Christmas, please visit caid.ie/ChristmasDonate.



Rev Katherine Kehoe, minister at Arklow Methodist Church

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