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HOPES FOR THE NEW YEAR

COUNTY WICKLOW'S WISH LIST FOR 2023

With 2022 coming to a close, Wicklow Times asked Wicklow County Council's Chief Executive and public representatives what their hopes are for County Wicklow in the year ahead.



Chief Executive Brian Gleeson

Chief Executive Brian Gleeson said, "Housing, and in particular the delivery of social housing, continues to be a priority for Wicklow County Council in 2023. Having exceeded our delivery targets for 2022, we will aim to repeat this achievement again in 2023. 2023 will also mark the commencement of our new Affordable Housing Scheme, which will be a very welcome development for Wicklow residents trying to enter the property market. "Climate Action is also a huge priority and progress is being made in this area following the recent establishment of a Mid-East Energy Unit led by Wicklow County Council, energy retro-

Affordable Housing Scheme, which will be a very welcome development for Wicklow residents trying to enter the property market.

"Climate Action is also a huge priority and progress is being made in this area following the recent establishment of a Mid-East Energy Unit led by Wicklow County Council, energy retro-



Winners of Wicklow County Council's Creative Christmas Decoration competition for primary schools are pictured with Wicklow County Council Environmental Officer Jim Callery, CEO of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson, and Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy. See Page 6



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fitting of Council housing stock and buildings, and the provision of Active Travel solutions throughout our Municipal District areas. Moreover, in 2023 we will commence the development of our Climate Action Plan which will map out a way to build a better and more sustainable future for our County.

"During 2023 we expect further progress on major projects such as the Blessington Greenway, the East Coast Greenway and the Arklow Shillelagh Greenway, the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme, the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme.

Public Realm upgrades will continue to be rolled out across our towns and villages and these works will be complimented by the appointment of a Town

Regeneration Officer next year to oversee the implementation of the Government's Town Centre First policy.

"Wicklow County Council continues to provide strong support to address the ongoing challenges of the Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis. To this end, I would like to express my gratitude to all the agencies and volunteer groups represented on the Council's Community Response Forum for their incredible work and commitment throughout the year in supporting Ukrainian families fleeing the war, and also to the local communities for providing them with such a warm welcome."

Cathaoirelach of Wicklow County council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, said "Housing was a number one priority for Wicklow County Council and will contin-

ue to be the main focus in 2023. The upgrade of the N11/M11 is a strate-

gic priority for us and we will keep highlighting this as an important

issue to central government.

Continued on page 3

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The O'Hannaidh boys celebrate Bray Emmets' win over Trim in the Leinster hurling final

'Mother Earth' Course at Luisne

Luisne Centre for Spiritual Wellness, Bray is offering a five-week programme on 'Sustainable Living'. Under the title 'Mother Earth and Me', the programme will explore the birth of Planet Earth, the impact of Global Warming, the role of fossil fuels, the global environmental crisis and the international and Irish responses.

Over five Tuesdays in January, participants will also be given presentations on Biodiversity Loss and Recovery, Irish and world farming practices, community action, citizen science, tree planting, composting, energy use and conservation, sustainable transport and travel, waste prevention and management, 'Fast Fashion' and other related topics. There will also be a presentation and discussion on 'Laudato Si', the acclaimed encyclical on the environment, written by Pope Francis.

The course facilitator is Frank Corr, author of 'Bray Lions Club's 'Little Green Book' and guest speakers will include Cllr Erika Doyle, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Mary An Parsons, chair of Bray Tidy Towns, Jono Sexton of The Headlands Community Garden and Sr. Colette of the Holy Faith Sisters 'Mother Earth and Me' opens on Tuesday 3rd January and continues on Tuesdays January 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st. Each session runs from 8pm to 7.30pm. The course fee is €50 for all five sessions and all proceeds will be donated to Luisne Bookings - call 086 0517575 or e-mail: office@luisne.ie

Community Monuments Fund

Wicklow County Council invites applications to the Community Monuments Fund 2021, as operated by the Department of Housing Heritage and Local Government, National Monuments Service. The Community Monuments Fund is investing essential capital in our archaeological heritage to help owners and custodians of archaeological monuments safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public. Applicants should read the CMF guidance circular carefully and ensure that method statements and relevant consents are included with the application. Applications should be returned by email to wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie or by post, clearly marked 'Community Monument Fund Application' c/o Heritage Office, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town by no later than 4 pm on January 27th 2023. Hard copy application forms are available by request to above email or by Tel: 0404 20100. Other queries to Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council via dburns@wicklow-coco.ie

Built Heritage Conservation Grants

Conservation grants under Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2023 now open for application. Wicklow County Council invites applications from owners of historic buildings, protected structures and structures within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) under the following two grant schemes as operated by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2023, and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2023.

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme will be administered from a total allocation for County Wicklow of €96,000. Grants of between €2,500 and €15,000 will be awarded, with applicants required to provide a minimum of 50% of total costs. Smaller grants to support the upkeep and maintenance of historic properties will also be considered, and up to €2,000 of the county allocation may be reserved for this purpose (subject to applications received). The Historic Structures Fund focuses on caring for and restoring historic structures and buildings for the benefit of communities and the public. Please note applicants cannot avail of funding under both the Historic Structures Fund and the Built Heritage Investment Scheme in the same year.

Full details of each scheme including guidelines and application forms are available on www.wicklow.ie (under latest news).

Plot your course for Hurry to the Curry

Following a two-year gap, Arklow Lifeboat's Hurry to the Curry (Dans Lifeboat special) is back! This wonderful annual fundraiser in aid of Arklow RNLI has gone from strength to strength and continues to be one of the most enjoyable and well supported nights out in the events calendar.



The Arklow RNLI team at the 2019 Hurry to the Curry in the Arklow Bay Hotel

Why not get your ticket nice and early and then get there nice and early on Friday January 27th 2023.

The culinary masterpieces prepared by Anne and her team of volunteers, ranging from hot curry dishes, a wonderful array of fresh sea food - prawns, lobster, crab, monkfish, salmon - cold-meat platters, vegetarian dishes & salads of all

kinds. Advice is come to the bash good and hungry, it's the best value meal you'll have had since last years event and quite simply the best "craic" to be had on the East Coast.

There are spot prizes galore and some lovely raffle and auction items. Music will be provided by the Joe Dolan Experience followed by a DJ till late. There might even be some

special guests.

Arklow RNLI's crew are pulling out all the stops to ensure a magical night is had by all.

Mark Corcoran Arklow RNLI Volunteer Press Officer said "Without volunteers like our fundraising team and our lifeboat crew, who still to this day, give of their own time, our boat couldn't function and continue to be rescue

ready, we'd love to see everybody at the Arklow Bay Hotel on Friday January 27th."

So plot your course for the Arklow Bay Hotel for a night not to be missed.

Tickets are still only €20.00, available from Arklow Bay Hotel, Lifeboat Station & Fundraising Committee members, or you can email arklow@rnli.org

Arklow Cancer Support thank Michelle & Aonghus Hannon

Arklow Cancer Support would like to say many thanks and congratulations to Michelle Hannon and her husband Aonghus on their recent fundraising event.

Michelle & Aonghus swam in the sea every day for 28 days regardless of the weather in memory of their dear friend Michelle McLaughlin from Arklow and together they raised €3,530.16 on their Go Fund Me page. In addition, Aonghus's place of work, Phoenix Group standard Life Ireland donated an additional €1750.00, making a grand total of €5280.16. This is a wonderful gesture and shows the outstanding friendship both Michelle's had for each other. This wonderful donation will go towards the daily running of our services at Arklow Cancer Support.



Members of the Voices of Bray Community Choir present a cheque for €5,600 to the local St. Clare's conference of St. Vincent De Paul. The money was raised from the choir's recent concert in St.Fergal's Church

WICKLOW
LOCAL Times

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HOPES FOR THE NEW YEAR



Cathaoirleach, Cllr Tommy Annesley

Continued from page 1

The Council has done tremendous work in implementing the objectives of its Climate Action Strategy, an excellent example of which is the construction of solar panels at County Buildings carpark and we will continue with the work in this area in 2023. There are huge opportunities for County Wicklow in the area of Film and Tourism and we look forward to the opening of the Content Creation Hub, at Wicklow County Campus in early 2023.

"Mental Health is an important issue for us all to be mindful of and Christmas time is a great opportunity for people to enjoy and make use of our wonderful outdoor amenities, tracks and trails, beaches and walkways. As Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council I would like to wish everyone a prosperous new year and I look forward to working with the elected members and staff of the Council for the benefit of the citizens of County Wicklow in 2023."

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said, "As 2022 draws to a close, it's a great time of year for public representatives to think about wish lists for the coming year. It helps us consider how we can help their constituents when they are in need. In Wicklow we can take pride in our community and the resilience with which we face our challenges and it's been a privilege to be able to assist and advocate for so many Wicklow residents as they were faced with the toughest of times."

"When thinking about my wish list for 2023 I've referred back to the issues that the people of Wicklow have faced in 2022. In essence, people have contacted my office because the very systems that they rely on have failed them, particularly Housing, Health, Education and Community Welfare. Because of that, my wish list for 2023 includes: A guaranteed school place for every child in Wicklow. The demand for school places all over Wicklow is growing, coupled with the

staffing issues in schools at the moment, we need to see this government step up and deliver for schools in 2023!

"Housing for every resident of Wicklow; The provision of health services for every person who needs them including the provision of timely medical services and community based health services here in Wicklow."

"A reliable transport service for Wicklow; There are very simple but effect changes that could be made to our local bus services to make connections between towns in Wicklow quicker. I have been working hard in the Dail to hold government to account on climate and biodiversity. The Climate Action Plans produced so far have not had the kind of ambition we need."

"One of the highlights for me this year, as the chair of Oireachtas group on international surrogacy, was the progress we made on the issue while working with local activists. With all the hard work and determination, government are now taking our recommendations on board from the committee report."

"In 2023 I will continue to voice the concerns and represent the needs of Wicklow people in the Wicklow. Connection with



Jennifer Whitmore TD

our community is invaluable in helping us deliver positively and address all the needs that arise in a timely fashion."

Senator Pat Casey (FF), said "My wish list for 2023 centres on continuing the increased supply of affordable homes for all who need them in Wicklow. This year we have seen a substantial increase in social house builds in Wicklow and we have launched our first affordable home scheme in Wicklow Town. Reform of the cumbersome and unacceptably slow planning system is another urgent matter to be resolved during next year. I also want to continue my work with the sporting and community and voluntary groups throughout Wicklow. Working with many groups in every part of Wicklow we have been successful in



Senator Pat Casey

securing substantial Government funding for vital projects that benefit all the people. As the only National politician outside of Bray and Greystones I am also conscious of the massive political deficit that exists between the rural Towns and Villages in Wicklow compared to northern more urban areas. I will continue to highlight the issues that matter to all of the people of Wicklow."

Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District John Mullen said, "My work plan for the Baltinglass Municipal District is to continue the delivery of vital projects and more importantly to get shovels into the ground on key infrastructure developments. The Baltinglass Rural Regeneration project must start building the vision for the town centre in 2023. I also will be working to ensure that the Arklow-Shillelagh Greenway completes the public planning process during 2023 along with the Blessington Greenway. On housing I am confident that more social homes will be built such as in Shillelagh and Tinahely but we also need to ensure that rural communities have access to sustainable home builds in all areas. Working with community groups in all areas of the district I hope to continue the progress we are making on many projects such as the re-purposing of the Bank in Carnew, and the new community building for Kiltegan."

Greystones Municipal District Cathaoirleach Gerry Walsh said, "Overall I hope to see a continuation of the good work carried out across the Municipal District this year. With Greystones, in particular, having experienced significant development in recent



Cllr John Mullen

years, there remains a distinct lack of housing options under the affordable and cost rental schemes."

"Wicklow County Council is in the process of designing much needed affordable schemes at Kilcoole and Greystones. I sincerely wish to see the Bray/ Greystones Cliff Walk reopened to users before the summer season, with consensus from local landowners required to facilitate the rerouting of the walk and allow funding already acquired under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme to be spent."

"Also welcomed is the progression of the acquisition of a significant Enterprise Space from Cairn at Charlesland, which will provide opportunities for remote working hubs etc. Work is due to commence on the site for the Greystones Media Campus in early 2023, which when complete, will create much needed job opportunities for the area. The new studios will be supported by the Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Clermont Campus, Rathnew, providing skills training for the film sector."

"The Council's recent



Cllr Gerry Walsh

decision to advertise a site on Miill Road, for the development of a Hotel is long overdue and if delivered will help meet the accommodation demand in the area, which will only increase with the film and offshore wind sectors developments."

"The upcoming completion of the Greystones Transport Study should focus on the requirements for an enhancement of the public transport offering in the area, with an emphasis on an improved rail service. The current Speed Limit Review process, when completed, should be targeted at producing a safer environment for all road users in towns/ villages and in the vicinity of our schools. It is important that Municipal District Outdoor staffing levels keep pace with increasing development and the associated growth in population."



Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson with Oisín Kilbride from Coolafancy NS, one of the winners in the Council's Recycled Christmas Decoration competition. See page 6.

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHTÁIN
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Mimi Megannety, former chairperson of Bray Tidy Towns, with Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Cllr Joe Behan, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Linda Healy, Cllr Anne Ferris, Cllr Dermot O'Brien, Lorraine Gallagher, and Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr Erika Doyle

Civic reception held for former chair of Bray Tidy Towns

A Cathaoirleach's Reception was hosted by the Members of Bray Municipal District on Monday 12th December in honour of Mimi Megannety, former Chair of Bray Tidy Towns.

The reception marked her commitment and leadership over 10 years being involved with Bray Tidy Towns. During this time under Mimi's stewardship Bray Tidy Towns has gone from strength to strength.

Not only have they continually scored well in the National Tidy Towns Competitions and the County Council Awards, but they have become a champion for the environment and for addressing climate change on a local level

with initiatives such as the paper straw distribution, the conscious cup campaign, clothing swap shops, the refill campaign and various biodiversity initiatives. Cllr Erika Doyle, Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, stated: "While these projects are easy to list, the value of a volunteer group like Bray Tidy Towns is perhaps more intangible. The connection it

offers its members, the sense of engagement with one's own environment, the benefits to mental health, these are all present in the work of this group. "I can't think of a better example of giving back to the community than Bray Tidy Towns, chaired for over a decade by Mimi. While this reception is for Mimi, I must include Tidy Towns

as a whole, firstly because they deserve the recognition, but also because Mimi would insist on it, being a team player and never looking for individual recognition." Acknowledging the contribution made by Bray Tidy Towns to the town, the Municipal District Manager, Lorraine Gallagher, said that the achievements of Bray

Tidy Towns were outstanding and their success was down to the volunteers who work tirelessly for the community. She added that Bray Municipal District Members and staff will continue the excellent working relationship with Bray Tidy Towns Committee and its volunteers and look forward to collaborating on many more projects in the future.

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Creative Christmas competition winners announced

Prizes for the annual Christmas Decoration Competition were presented by Wicklow County Council at a reception held on Tuesday 20th December.

The aim of the competition is to create a Christmas decoration out of junk items that would normally end up in the bin, with nothing added except imagination. The competition is open to all primary school in County Wicklow.

Each student submitted their decorations in school from which the best was selected for the county final.

The winners ranged in age from six to 12, with all of them showing skill, creativity and great innovation in the decorations they created. There was a great diversity of ideas on display covering a range of Christmas themes but

also great diversity in use of materials.

Christmas trees were a common theme coming in all shapes and sizes and made from cardboard, coffee cups, toothpicks, plastic bottle tops, metal lids and paper with some great ideas for use of junk items to add glitz.

Textiles featured strongly this year including a repurposed sock, a hand stitched polar bear, a colourful wreath and a shoe reimagined as Rudolf. Stars were created from intricately cut paper and a clever piece of engineering from plastic bottle ends.

Some entries choose to recreate a whole Christmas

scene, one made from ice lolly sticks, another from a fruit box and a bird cage made from a cereal box stuffed full of the most beautifully crafted pieces of art.

Snowmen, penguins, Santa Claus and an angel all made an appearance while one of the youngest contestants made tinfoil gloves to keep her angel's hands warm.

Each winner was presented with a voucher for Beyond the Trees in Avondale.

Speaking at the reception, Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, congratulated the winners on their creativity noting that each

year the decorations get more innovative and creative and show how items that normally end up as waste can be given new life through reuse."

Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, paid tribute to the students and offered her thanks to the schools of County Wicklow and the teaching staff for nurturing a strong sense of environmental stewardship through the Green Schools Programme.

The Christmas decoration competition for schools has been an annual tradition in Wicklow since 2005. It continues year after year to put a focus on waste at Christmas as everyone can take steps to reduce waste and make better use of our resources.



Wicklow County Council Environmental Officer Jim Callery presents Eabha Pipitt from Gael Scoil Chill Mhantain with her prize

Christmas Tree Decorations winners:

1. Alice O'Brien, Sacred Heart NS
2. Parker Cannon, Sacred Heart NS
3. Alanna Healy, St Mary's and Gerard's NS
4. Annabelle Griffiths, Delgany NS
5. Megan Ferris, The Glebe NS
6. Anna Kravchenko, The Glebe NS
7. Lily Callagy, The Glebe NS
8. Ayshea Nolan, Wicklow Montessori NS
9. Anika Smith, St Brigid's NS
10. Anna Russell, Greystones Educate Together
11. Lara Doyle, Greystones Educate Together
12. Oisín Kilbride, Coolafancy NS
13. Aileen Mulhall, Coolafancy NS
14. Alisha Quinn, Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara
15. Iona Mae Smith, St Francis's NS
16. Maia Johnson, Carysfort NS
17. Evanna O'Halloran, Kilcoole Primary School
18. Lauren Martin, Scoil Mhuire Realt na Mara
19. Eabha Pippet, Gael Scoil Chill Mhantain
20. Milo Joyce, Gael Scoil Chill Mhantain

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Cllr. Derek MITCHELL
"Turning Vision into Reality"
Happy New Year



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Cllr. Patsy GLENNON

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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

| Centre | Date | Time |
|---------------------|--------------------|---|
| Arklow | Friday 23rd Dec | 9am-1.45pm |
| | Christmas Eve | Closed |
| | Christmas Day | Closed |
| | Stephen's Day | Closed |
| | Tuesday 27th Dec | Closed |
| | Wednesday 28th Dec | Closed |
| | Thursday 29th Dec | Closed |
| | Friday 30th Dec | 9am-1.45pm |
| | New Year's Eve | 9am-1.45pm |
| | New Year's Day | Closed |
| Monday 2nd Jan | Closed | |
| | Tuesday 3rd Jan | 9am-4.30pm |
| | Avoca | Friday 23rd Dec |
| Christmas Eve | | Closed |
| Christmas Day | | Closed |
| Stephen's Day | | Closed |
| Tuesday 27th Dec | | Closed |
| Wednesday 28th Dec | | Closed |
| Thursday 29th Dec | | Closed |
| Friday 30th Dec | | 9am-1.45pm |
| New Year's Eve | | 9am-1.45pm |
| New Year's Day | | Closed |
| Monday 2nd Jan | Closed | |
| | Tuesday 3rd Jan | 9am-4pm (Closed for lunch 1-2pm) |
| | Bray | Friday 23rd Dec |
| Christmas Eve | | Closed |
| Christmas Day | | Closed |
| Stephen's Day | | Closed |
| Tuesday 27th Dec | | Closed |
| Wednesday 28th Dec | | Closed |
| Thursday 29th Dec | | Closed |
| Friday 30th Dec | | 9am-1.45pm |
| New Year's Eve | | 9am-1.45pm |
| New Year's Day | | Closed |
| Monday 2nd Jan | Closed | |
| | Tuesday 3rd Jan | 9am-4pm |
| The Murrough | Friday 23rd Dec | 9am-1.45pm |
| | Christmas Eve | Closed |
| | Christmas Day | Closed |
| | Stephen's Day | Closed |
| | Tuesday 27th Dec | Closed |
| | Wednesday 28th Dec | Closed |
| | Thursday 29th Dec | Closed |
| | Friday 30th Dec | 9am-1.45pm |
| | New Year's Eve | 9am-1.45pm |
| | New Year's Day | Closed |
| Monday 2nd Jan | Closed | |
| | Tuesday 3rd Jan | 9am-4.30pm (Closed for lunch 1-1.45pm) |
| Rampere Baltinglass | Friday 23rd Dec | 8.30am-1.45pm |
| | Christmas Eve | Closed |
| | Christmas Day | Closed |
| | Stephen's Day | Closed |
| | Tuesday 27th Dec | Closed |
| | Wednesday 28th Dec | Closed |
| | Thursday 29th Dec | Closed |
| | Friday 30th Dec | 8.30am-1.45pm |
| | New Year's Eve | 8.30am-1pm |
| | New Year's Day | Closed |
| Monday 2nd Jan | Closed | |
| | 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.





Cllr Stokes at Charlesland Dog Park

Greystones dog park to open on bank holidays

Cllr Stephen Stokes has thanked Shoreline Leisure Greystones and Wicklow County Council for supporting access to Charlesland Dog Park on bank holidays. Cllr Stokes has now been provided with a key, to open and close the dog park on bank holidays.

Cllr Stephen Stokes stated: "I raised the issue of dog park access on bank holidays as it was normally closed. It is a tremendous facility, and it seems a good opportunity to utilise it further. So I made representations, and offered to coordinate a volunteer team to open and close the dog park on bank holidays. I am delighted to announce that a key has been provided. Charlesland Dog Park will now be open for business on bank holidays."

It is envisaged that Charlesland Dog Park will be open on New Year's Day and all other bank holidays until further notice. The times will be from 10am to 4pm.

Cllr Stokes added: "I am delighted to be involved in this initiative. If even one dog gets an extra visit, I consider it a worth-

while effort. In these economically challenging times it is nice to be able to support free activities."

Cllr Stephen Stokes has been an advocate for dog facilities since 2012. He successfully submitted the first motion to Greystones Town Council calling on Wicklow County Council to provide a Dog Park for Greystones. That motion was carried on March 27th, 2012. He noted: "The Greystones Municipal District is definitely a dog loving area. I will continue to press for dog facilities in Charlesland, Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle."

Charlesland Dog Park is owned by Wicklow County Council. The opening of Charlesland Dog Park on bank holidays

will be on a trial basis. However it is hoped to be made a permanent arrangement. Cllr Stokes is urging dog owners to make full use of the facility.

Cllr Stephen Stokes added: "I would like to thank the Shoreline Leisure Greystones Team who open and close the dog park almost every day. They do a great job with all of the services that they provide in the community."

Cllr Stokes also praised Wicklow County Council Officials.

He concluded: "I would like to recognise the hard work of Tawnia Kearns (District Administrator) and Michael Nicholson (Director of Services) in helping to secure access to Charlesland Dog Park on bank holidays. It is appreciated."

Whitmore calls for facilities for Bray Rowing Club

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has been working with Bray Rowing Club following the news that their current club house has to be closed due to roof damage.

Deputy Whitmore said: "I have been in touch with organisers from the local Bray Rowing Club in recent days who have expressed their concerns over the loss of their facilities. The recent loss of their club house has been very distressing for members and volunteers. Without a club house to base themselves from, the future operation of the

club will be thrown into doubt. It is a very worrying note on which the club is now ending the year.

"I am wholeheartedly supporting their calls for Wicklow County Council to provide them with a space in Bray as a matter of urgency. The rowing club is a wonderful local resource which helps local families stay active and make the most of

Wicklow waterways. As a coastal community we need to ensure water based activity groups like the rowing club thrive.

"I will be raising this issue on the club's behalf with Wicklow County Council and will be supporting club in their campaign. I want to see this issue resolved as soon as possible."



Jennifer Whitmore TD

Cllrs discuss submissions on draft speed limit bye-laws

The submissions on the Draft County Wicklow Road Traffic Speed Limit Bye-Laws were discussed at December's Greystones Municipal district meeting.

Out of 257 public submissions 158 were from people in the Greystones District. Almost half of these submissions related to reducing the speed limits to a default 30km/h at schools.

Speaking after the meeting Cllr Scott said: "Implementing 30km/h speed limits around all schools within the area was a motion I tabled last year and was passed unanimously. Since then I have been engaging with Council officials to ensure that the speed limits review would reflect this.

"This opportunity only arises every five years. Talking to constituents it seemed an ideal time to act on improving the roads around our schools, particularly as many people told me their concerns about drivers speeding at school collection times. It seems obvious but statistics show us that lower speed limits dramatically reduce the number of people killed and reduce the severity of injury.

"So it seems common sense to make roads safer where children are going to and from school. The feedback from Council officials was very positive. They are working now on how to make these changes. On some roads it may be appropriate to introduce periodic speed limits, on others the change may be permanent. I look forward to pushing this through the next stage of the process and see the area around our schools become a safer more attractive place to be."

Up to €4m available for heritage projects

The Heritage Council is now accepting applications to a number of its funding schemes, offering up to €4m to support heritage-related projects across the country. The four schemes are:

Heritage Capacity Fund

Up to €1m will be allocated in 2023 to this scheme, which aims to foster a stronger heritage sector through the support and development of organisations that provide vital heritage services to communities and professions. The scheme is open to not for profit, non-governmental organisations with a demonstrated national relevance working in the heritage sector in Ireland. Grants of up to €60,000 will be made available to organisations to support their operational costs. The deadline for applications to this scheme is 16th January 2023 at 5pm.

Heritage Stewardship Scheme

Up to €500,000 will be allocated in 2023 to this scheme. Running for the first time in 2022, the scheme supports the work of staff with responsibilities for heritage programmes in State agencies, local authorities and third level institutions. This includes stewardship of and access to collections, archives, buildings, monuments, and habitats. The deadline for applications to this scheme is 16th January 2023 at 5pm.

Historic Towns Initiative

In support of the Town Centre First: a policy approach for Irish towns (2022), the Historic Towns Initiative (HTI) is a joint undertaking by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Heritage Council, which aims to promote the heritage-led regeneration of Ireland's historic towns. The initiative, which is administered by the Heritage Council, is open to local authorities only. Up to €2m will be awarded to a number of historic towns for heritage-led urban regeneration projects in 2023. The deadline for applications is 2nd February 2023 at 5pm.

City and County Heritage Plan Funding

Since the local authority Heritage Officer Programme started in 1999, the Heritage Council has provided annual support for projects in each county that have been identified within County Heritage Plans or through the County Heritage Forum. Up to €37,500 will be available to each local authority with a heritage officer in 2023, with additional funding of up to €20,000 towards a Community Archaeologist Programme in seven counties. This scheme is open to local authorities only. The deadline for applications is 23rd January 2023 at 5pm.



Laurence J Mooney, Pat Walsh and Jerry McCarthy at the opening of Bray Men's Shed's new premises at Kilmantain Place. The group, which was formed almost 15 years ago, was formerly based at St. Kevin's Square. Minister Simon Harris performed the official opening of the new premises on 12th December.

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ART

- KA Art Portfolio Preparation
- KB Art, Craft & Design
- KC Fine Art Practice

DESIGN

- DA Graphic Design
- DD Architecture Design & Technology
- DN Jewellery Making & Woodcraft
- DI Furniture Design & Carpentry/Joinery
- DJ Furniture Design & Cabinet Making Advanced
- DC Fashion & Textiles HND
- DK Garden Design

MUSIC

- MI DJ Techniques & Music Production
- MJ Music Production
- MK Music Performance
- MF Sound Engineering
- MN Traditional Irish and Folk Music Performance

COMPUTING & ENGINEERING

- NA Computer Software Development
- NB Computer Science
- NC Computer Networks and Cyber Security
- HV Engineering Pre-University

SPORT

- EA Sport, Exercise & Fitness Instruction
- EC Personal Trainer, Strength & Conditioning
- ED Soccer Coaching & Sports Management
- EF Sports Injury & Massage Therapy / Pre-University Physiotherapy

ANIMAL CARE

- HA Animal Care
- HI Animal Care & Management Pre-University
- HJ Animal Science Industry
- NEW** HT Dog Obedience & Training - Start Your Own Business
- HX Equine Studies

SOCIAL STUDIES & CHILDCARE

- OA Special Needs Assistant (Primary & Post-Primary)
- HD Early Learning & Care / Childcare
- HF Supervision in Early Learning & Care / Childcare
- HE Social Studies & Community Care

HAIR, BEAUTY & WELLNESS

- HG Holistic & Wellbeing Studies
- FJ Professional Make Up & Hairstyling
- FF Hairdressing - Junior Stylist
- FG Hairdressing - Senior Stylist
- FH Barbering
- FD Nail Technician & Salon Administration
- FC Fashion Theatre and Media Make-Up

SCIENCE

- HS Forensic Science - Pre-University
- HK Science - Pre-University
- HZ Food Science with Dietetics - Pre-University
- JF Pharmacy Assistant
- JJ Pharmacy Technician
- HU Applied Ecology and Biodiversity Studies
- LJ Brewing and Distilling Technology

BUSINESS

- JA Business Management & Administration
- JC Business Management - Advanced Certificate
- JD Accounting Technician
- LD Business Tourism Advanced Certificate
- SD Legal Administration Pre-University Law
- SF Medical Administration (Mornings Only)
- SE IT & Office Administration (Mornings Only)
- EE Security & Pre-Garda
- NEW** JJ Payroll & Office Administration

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

- LA Tourism, Reception & Event Management
- LB Tourism with Airline Studies
- LH Restaurant & Bar Management
- LC Culinary Arts 80 LG Pastry, Baking & Barista
- LE Culinary Arts Advanced
- NEW** LI Hospitality & Business Management Advanced

ADULT LEAVING CERT

- RB Adult Leaving Certificate

HEALTH

- HB Nursing and Midwifery Studies - Pre-University
- HH Healthcare Assistant & Activity Coordinator
- HP Occupational Therapy Assistant
- JK Emergency Care Studies (Pre-paramedic, Fire & Ambulance)
- HL Applied Psychology
- NEW** AD Dental Nursing
- NEW** AE Optician Assistant

FILM & COMPUTER GAMING

- MA TV & Film Production
- MB TV & Film Production - Advanced
- NEW** MO Podcasting & Streaming
- ME 3D Game Design
- MG Games Development

ACTING & DANCE

- PA Acting for Theatre & Film
- PB Acting for Stage & Screen Advanced
- PD Dance Technique, Performance and Choreography
- PE Dance Technique, Performance & Choreography - Advanced
- PF Dance Technique, Performance & Choreography - Advanced

ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- NEW** AA English Language and IT Skills For International Students
- NEW** AB English Language and Business For International Students

APPRENTICESHIPS

- JG/JH Accounting Technician Apprenticeship



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Grand Annual Career Day at BIFE

While in many cases students, schools and parents see the CAO as the 'be all and end all' for those seeking third-level education, nothing could be further from the truth according to Gabriel Allen, deputy principal at Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE).

"Over recent years many new avenues have opened up to students to enable them to pursue their dream career via a different route. BIFE will be showcasing the large variety of courses at our Grand Annual Career Day on Friday 20th January from 10am - 3pm."

He added, "Further Education offers a learner, who may not have achieved the required CAO points, the opportunity to gain advanced entry onto honours degree programmes, both in Ireland and abroad."

The huge range of courses available at BIFE offers learners fabulous opportunities, not only for those looking for additional skills or hoping to go directly into employment, but also as an alternative route on to a college course in a university or institute of technology in Ireland or abroad.

Over the past few years, graduates of BIFE have achieved honours

degrees across a wide range of programmes, opening up a myriad of career opportunities from graphic design to performing arts to psychology.

This year BIFE will offer Higher National Diplomas in the following:

- Fine Art - Art Practice
- Acting
- Dance
- TV & Film (Moving Image)
- Music Production
- Music Performance
- Graphic Design
- Fashion Design

As Gabriel Allen explained, "These eight courses will allow graduating students to proceed to the final year of an honours

Degree Programme in Ireland or Britain if that is their ultimate ambition."

This year, the College has launched a number of

new courses:

- Soccer Coaching in collaboration with Liverpool FC Level 5
- Occupational Therapy Assistant Level 5
- Podcasting & Streaming Level 5
- Dog Obedience & Training - Start Your Own Business Level 6
- Payroll & Office Administration Level 5
- Hospitality & Business Management Level 6
- Dental Nursing Level 5
- Optician Assistant Level 5
- English Language and IT Skills for International Students Level 5
- English Language and Business for International Students Level 5

Work Experience is a vital part of the BIFE courses and now all students in the College have the opportunity to complete a 3-week or a 3-month work placement abroad in countries such as Spain, Portugal, Italy, Finland, Malta or Czechia under the Erasmus+



Louise Fortune (Deputy Principal), Gabriel Allen (Deputy Principal), Ray Tedders (Principal), Erika Doyle (Chair of BMD), Tom Fortune (Chair of BIFE BOM), Ross Lee (Deputy Principal) with Minister Simon Harris who recently announced major developments at BIFE as the College has been chosen for a flagship "FET College of the Future".

Programme which is sponsored by the European Union. This is a terrific opportunity for our students, not only to gain valuable work experience in a European country, but also to experience a dif-

ferent culture and broaden their horizons.

Bray Institute will be holding its **Grand Annual Career Day again this year on Friday 20th January from 10am to 3pm.**

Potential students, parents, and career guidance teachers will have the opportunity to speak to the staff and students who, with their educational knowledge and specialist industry experience,

can guide you in the right direction. Workshops, demonstrations, presentations and career lectures will run throughout the day and visitors can speak to students and get their views on the courses.

Applications for September 2023 Courses are now open. Apply online at www.bife.ie or call the Institute any day during office hours on 01-2829668 for further information.

Funding for Tidy Towns groups

Tidy Towns groups in County Wicklow are included in funding of €1.4m announced by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys.

The funding is provided to support Tidy Town Groups in preparation for the 2023 SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition. It will promote emphasis on projects that emphasise green spaces, parks and biodiversity.

As part of the initiative, grants of between €1,000 and €4,000 will be provided to almost 900 Tidy Towns groups right across the country. Groups who entered the Tidy Towns competition in 2021 or 2022 will be eligible.

Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, welcomed the funding for County Wicklow saying it was an investment in communities and community work across the county.

Council Chief Executive, Mr Brian Gleeson, stated that it was very welcome funding for community groups who were doing their best to improve their local areas with limited money.

Mr Michael Nicholson, Director of Services for Community, Cultural and Social Development, said the funding will be of great benefit to Tidy Towns Groups across the county.

The SuperValu Tidy Towns competition has been in existence since 1958 and continues to grow and attract new entrants each year with some 882 towns and villages entering the 2022 competition.

Speaking about the funding to support

groups entering the 2023 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition, Minister Humphreys said: "I wrote to all Tidy Towns Groups across the country and thanked them for their work and dedication to their community. The efforts of the thousands of volunteers make our towns more vibrant and better places to live, work and raise a family."

All eligible groups will be contacted before Christmas to confirm their funding. Applications for funding must be returned to Pobal no later than February 28th 2023, late applications will not be accepted. All projects and initiatives funded through this support must be completed by July 31st, 2023.

Archaeological and architectural heritage funding grants for 2023

The Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council would like to remind interested individuals and groups throughout the county that applications are currently invited under archaeological and architectural heritage grant schemes for 2023.

The Community Monument Fund (CMF) provides grants to support archaeological heritage while the annual Historic Structure Fund (HSF) and the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) provides funding to support protected structures and architectural heritage.

The CMF is administered on behalf of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government and pro-

vides investment to help owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to carry out essential works to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public.

Stream 1 provides grants of up to €100,000 for capital works; Stream 2 provides up to €30,000 for conservation plans and reports while Stream 3 provides up to €30,000 for enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation (including virtual

/online) at archaeological monuments.

The HSF and the BHIS are administered on behalf of the Built Heritage Section of the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government and provide grant funding to owners of historic buildings, protected structures and structures within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) for essential repairs and conservation works.

There is €96,000 in BHIS funding for county Wicklow in 2023, individual grants awarded will vary from €2,500 to €15,000, with a requirement on applicants to provide at least 50 per cent of total costs. The HSF

provides additional grant aid under three streams as follows; Stream 1 €15,000-50,000 (up to 80 per cent); Stream 2 €50,000-200,000 (up to 50 per cent) and Vernacular Stream €5,000 to 10,000 (up to 80 per cent).

Further information, contact details and application forms for each of these grant schemes is available on www.wicklow.ie under latest news.

Applicants are advised to carefully review the relevant information and ensure relevant consents; method statements and permissions are included with the application as required. The closing date for applications is 27th January 2023.



Tara Bytne pictured on Ebony, at Maltfield Stud equestrian centre in Redcross

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Spring Evening Classes 2023

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BIFE Night Classes - Mondays Starting January 30th 2023



- **Art Sketching, Drawing and Painting** - this course can be a great creative outlet to express yourself. Anyone can learn to draw if they study the basics and develop those skills with practice. A popular introductory course where you will learn the basic skills necessary to unlock your potential.

Time 6.45 pm to 8.45 pm. Fee €130

- **Furniture Making and Woodwork** for Beginners another very popular course where you will explore hand tools and their uses as well as investigating many woodwork techniques. To avoid disappointment, you should enrol early.

Time 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm. Fee €150

- **Pilates (Early Evening Class)** This class is suitable for everyone. It develops and enhances stamina, posture, alignment and core strength.

Places are limited so please book. Fee €100

Time 7.00 to 8.30 pm.

Pilates Later Class. Time 8.30 to 9.30 pm. Fee €100

- **Tai Chi** - Often described as meditation in motion. This is a gentle exercise class good for balance and flexibility

Time 7.00 to 8.30 pm. Fee: €130

- **Yoga for Beginners** -Consisting of breathing exercises concentration exercises slow gentle movement and relaxation.

Time 7.00 to 8.30 pm. Fee €100

- **Bridge Improvers** - This is ideally suited for those who undertook the beginners class in term 1 or those who have a good basic knowledge of Bridge.

Time 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Fee €130

- **First Aid** - Cardiac First Responder This course is run by the Order of Malta and students can obtain a Certificate from the Order of Malta and the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council on successful completion.

Time 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Fee €130

- **French - Beginners** - A useful introduction for interested in the country and language those planning a visit to France

Time 6.45 - 8.15 pm. Fee €100

- **French - Improvers** - for those who have completed the beginners course or those with some basic French language skills.

Time 8.15 - 9.45 pm. Fee €100

- **Italian - Beginners** - A chance to learn the basics of this important language.

Time 6.45 - 8.10 pm. Fee €100

- **Italian - Improvers** - This class is perfect for students who completed the Italian beginners class or those with some prior knowledge of the language.

Time 8.15 - 9.45 pm. Fee €100

- **Spanish - Beginners** - An introduction to the Spanish language for complete beginners. Perfect for planning a trip to Spain or South America.

Time 6.40 - 8.10 pm. Fee €100

- **Spanish - Improvers** - For those who have completed the beginner's course or may have some basic Spanish language skills.

Time 8.15 - 9.45 pm. Fee €100

- **Digital Photography** - This course is taught by a professional practising photographer and aims to introduce participants to the underlying principles of camera technique and visual composition. Students will need to have access to a single lens reflex camera (Digital)

Time 7.30 - 9.30 pm. Fee €130

- **Conversational Irish (Beginners)** -Covering the fundamentals required for achieving a good basis in conversational Irish the course is ideal for adult learners even those with little or no knowledge of the Irish language.

Time 6.45 - 8.10 pm. Fee €130

- **Conversational Irish (Improvers)** - for those with some knowledge of the Irish language or who have completed the beginners course last term. This course is ideal for those who took the Conversational Irish course in the Autumn term and want to build on their knowledge and conversational skills.

Time 8.15pm - 9.45 pm. Fee €130

Further details on courses are available on www.bife.ie/morning-and-evening-courses/evening-classes

Classes begin January 30th at 7.30 p.m. (some may commence earlier see website listing) and end at 9.30pm unless otherwise stated. Please note that classes can only be formed where numbers warrant it. If classes do not form full refunds will be issued promptly. Full Terms and Conditions are published on the Website.

Please go to **BIFE.IE** for full course details

Second round of Safe Routes to School programme comes to five Wicklow schools



Minister Simon Harris

The second round of the Safe Routes to School Programme, which is set to benefit five schools in Wicklow.

The schools are Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Greystones Educate Together, Temple Carrig School, Kilmacanogue National School, and Scoil Nioclais Naofa in Dunlavin.

The programme is funded by the Department of Transport through the National

Transport Authority (NTA) and is supported by the Department of Education. An Taisce's Green-Schools is co-ordinating the programme, while funding will be made available to local authorities which will play a key part in delivering the infrastructure.

€20m has been allocated for projects included in Round 2 with the funds coming from each local authority's annual allocation for Active Travel works.

Welcoming the news, Minister Simon Harris said, "The Safer Routes to School Programme is aimed towards creating safer walking and cycling route within communities, ease congestion at school gates

and increase the number of students who walk or cycle to school. The construction and improvement of walking and cycling infrastructure will greatly benefit the students of both primary and secondary schools, along with the wider community.

"Ensuring children's safety on our roads to and from school is something that I and my colleagues continue to work towards, with the funding for this Programme being secured as part of the Government's Budget 2023.

"This Programme will be delivered by the National Transport Authority's Active Travel Team while working closely with Wicklow County Council. In recent weeks, a number of schools that took part in Round 1 have started seeing their projects come to fruition, and I am eager to see these developments begin in Wicklow as soon as possible," Minister Harris concluded.

Also welcoming the news, Green Party councillor for Greystones Municipal District, Lourda Scott said "I have been lobbying for better safety measures around the three schools in Blacklion, Greystones for some time now. I secured funding from the National Trasport



Cllr Lourda Scott welcomed the introduction of the programme to the Greystones schools

Authority (NTA) last year and I am delighted to hear that additional money is now available through the Safe Routes to School programme.

"Many people have contacted me about near misses as they take their children to and from these schools and have told me that they do not feel it's safe for their children to walk, scoot or cycle in the vicinity. So there is no doubt that this funding will be of great benefit. The improvements to the school mY range from an upgraded footpath to a complete reworking of the road outside a school's entrance. Cycle and scooter parking will be provided to most schools that are part of the programme. There will be a process of engagement now between the schools, Local Authority and NTA around what works will be done and I look forward to hearing more details. In the meantime I will continue

to support the roll out of Park and Stride, walking buses and other active travel initiatives such as. If anyone needs more information on these please do not hesitate to contact me."

Nationwide, 108 schools have been selected for inclusion in Round 2 of the Safe Routes to School Programme. The selected schools were assessed against a range of criteria including demonstrable commitment to promoting walking and cycling to and from school. A designated Infrastructure Officer from Green-Schools will liaise with the schools and local authority as works are planned and carried out. 170 schools were selected for inclusion in Round 1 of the Safe Routes to School Programme. Of the Round 1 schools, 18 schemes have been delivered with another 3 at construction stage and a further 120+ going through the options, pre-

liminary design or planning stage.

CEO of the National Transport Authority, Anne Graham said: "The National Transport Authority is responsible for ensuring the successful delivery of Safe Routes to School projects right across the country. Our Active Travel team is already working closely with local authorities on the rollout of the Round 1 schemes, and it has been encouraging to see more young people cycling, walking/scooting to school as a result.

"In collaboration with An Taisce Green-Schools and the local authorities, we will now begin working on delivering the second tranche of projects. By working with school communities at a local level to make journeys safer than ever before, we can continue encouraging young people to use more sustainable modes of transport."



Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Hildegard Naughton TD, joined students from Scoil Fhursa in Galway for the announcement of the second round of the Safer Routes to School programme

Youth and community groups committed to European cooperation

Depaul Ireland, Good Energies Alliance Ireland and Habitat for Humanity Ireland are among 35 organisations nationwide which were recognised for their commitment to the values and priorities of European cooperation by Leargas, the Irish agency that promotes and manages European exchange programmes.

Over 150 young people and youth workers from across Ireland attended the recent European Youth Fest event in Dublin's Convention Centre. Presenting organisations with Erasmus+ Accreditation in Youth or European Solidarity Corps Quality Labels, Lorraine Gilligan, Executive Director of Leargas said: "I'm hugely excited for the young people of Ireland when I see the breadth and diversity of youth and community groups receiving accreditation and quality labels here today.

"Representing communities from every corner of Ireland, and some working nationwide, these organisations are supporting an inclusive Ireland where young people from right across the country, and from every background, can reach their potential and enjoy the

transformational experience of an EU programme.

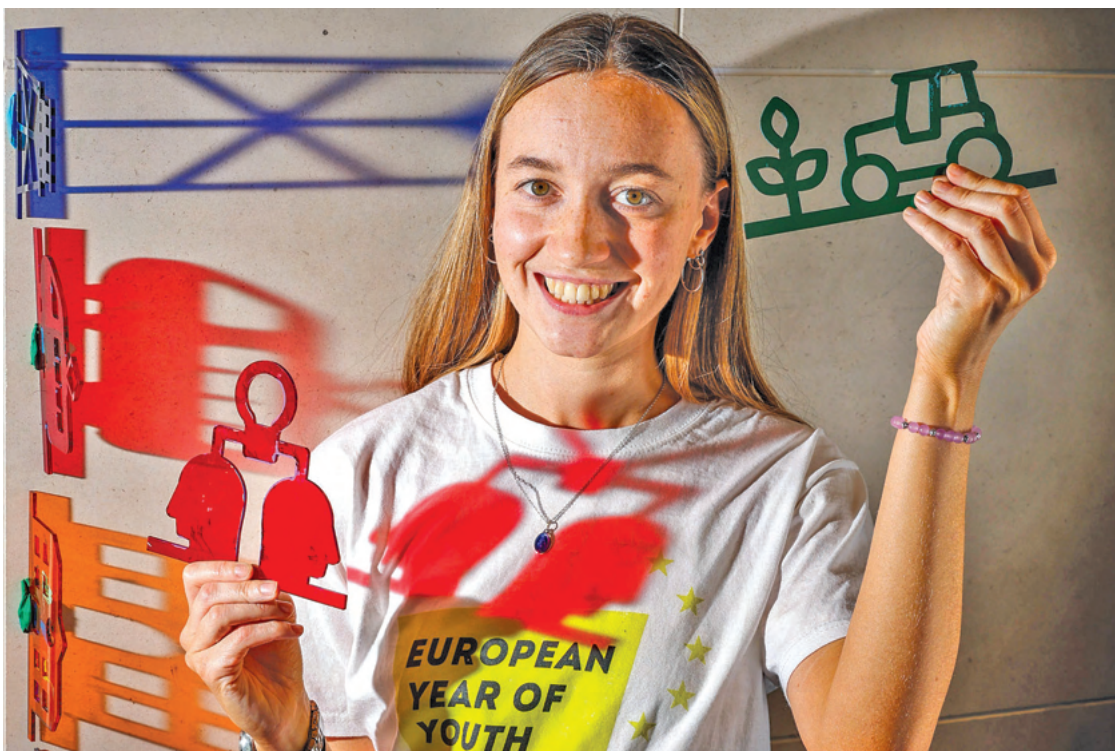
"The wonderful thing about all of the opportunities we provide through LEargas in education, training, youth and sport, is that it's often the first of many experiences for those who get involved. We see the transformative impact that these programmes can have for young people and those who work with them, and we see those individuals and groups come back to explore a new programme year after year."

Over 35 organisations received accreditation and quality labels in two European programmes -Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corp. Other groups include: Camphill Communities of Ireland; Citywise; National Council of YMCAs; Oxfam Republic of Ireland; Sustainable Ireland Co-Operative Society; Voluntary Service International (VSI);

Youth Work Ireland.

The European YouthFest event marked the Irish closing event of the European Year of Youth which has seen a programme of funded events and activities for young people across Ireland in 2022.

Ms. Gilligan said: "We've been honoured to coordinate the European Year of Youth in Ireland this year and to welcome so many newcomers to our European community! It's been fantastic to see more interaction and projects from groups within the Traveller community groups of young people in direct provision centres and from harder to reach communities across Ireland. Guiding these young people and those who work with them to discover the incredible opportunities open to them through the Programmes Leargas operates is a privilege."



Pictured is Megan Atkinson who hosted the recent Leargas YouthFest event which welcomed over 150 young people and youth workers from across Ireland to mark the Irish closing ceremony of the European Year of Youth at Dublin's Convention Centre.

DON'T MISS THE SKC



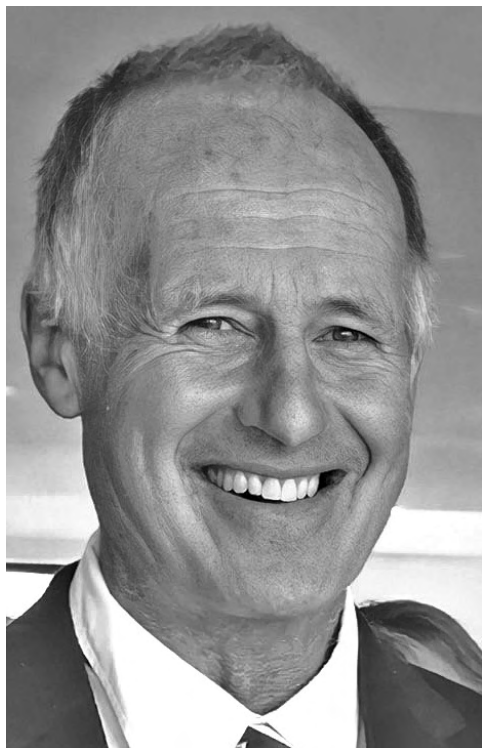
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Outgoing Commodore Kyran O'Grady (left) and new Commodore Karen Kissane

New Commodore elected at Wicklow Sailing Club

Wicklow Sailing Club members elected Karen Kissane as Commodore at their recent AGM. Karen has been hon secretary for the last few years and will move into her new role with immediate effect.

She has spent many years committed and dedicated to helping run WSC and was the overwhelming choice for Commodore.

Wicklow Sailing Club stated: "We wish her much success in her new position. WSC would like to extend a huge thanks to Commodore Kyran O'Grady who has been at the helm of

Wicklow Sailing Club for the last number of years. He led WSC through a massively successful Round Ireland Yacht Race in 2022 amongst many other events and improvements in the club. He

leaves a lasting legacy in this role and we thank him for all his hard work, endless hours of dedication and his valuable leadership.

"We wish all the recently elected officers and committee good wishes for the coming year. And we thank the out going committee for all their hard work over the last 2 years.

"Like many clubs, WSC rely on volunteers and we appreciate all the effort and time our amazing members give to make WSC the wonderful club that it is."

Canadian travel agents discover wonders of Wicklow

Top Canadian travel agents have been exploring Wicklow and Ireland as guests of Tourism Ireland and Fáilte Ireland.

The aim of their visit was to highlight Ireland as a year-round holiday destination for Canadian holiday-makers and to showcase some of our fantastic luxury and culinary experiences.

The group's action-packed itinerary included a visit to Ballyknocken House, Farm & Cookery School, where they enjoyed dinner prepared by celebrity chef Catherine Fulvio.

Sandra Moffatt, Tourism Ireland's Manager Canada, said: "Tourism Ireland was delighted to invite this group of Canadian travel agents to visit Wicklow and Ireland, to experience at first-hand some of our luxury tourism offering including our boutique hotels and luxury resorts - as well as our rich culture and heritage, and not forgetting our superb culinary experiences.

"Working with the travel trade is an important element of Tourism Ireland's promotional activity in Canada, so fact-finding visits for groups like this are really important. Seeing is definitely believing and our aim is that they will be even more enthusiastic about the destination when they return home, helping to secure a greater share of their business for Ireland in 2023 and beyond."

Canada is an important market for tourism to the island of Ireland. In 2019, we welcomed 248,000 Canadian visitors, whose visits delivered €209 million for the economy.



Canadian travel agents at Ballyknocken House, Farm & Cookery School with Lauren Lamond, Tourism Ireland (back row, third right), celebrity chef Catherine Fulvio (back row, second right), and tour guide Barbara Hunter (back, right)

'Public services at Bray Library need to be brought up to standard without delay'

Social Democrats TD for Wicklow, Jennifer Whitmore has called the Minister for Rural and Community Development to immediately release funds from the Small-Scale Capital Works programme in order to bring public toilets at Bray Library up to standard without delay.

Deputy Whitmore says "more and more people are engaging with their public libraries and that has to be welcomed and encouraged which means they need access to acceptable public facilities as a result.

"I have been contacted by constituents who use the library in Bray, some of whom bring their young children there, some of whom are students looking for an environment in which they can study and prepare for exams and some of whom are disabled and need the facilities

to be accessible and safe.

"The toilet facilities at Bray library on Florence / Eglinton Road are unsuited and are not appropriately situated for anyone, including staff, public users and especially those with additional needs. Critically, there is no baby / toddler changing facility. Consequently, library staff are very reluctant to allow library users access the existing bathroom.

"I have been informed that the Library Services have a limited fund for repairs and renovations from its annual

revenue budget, a fund from which repairs such as roof repairs are more often carried out. Because of this, I have asked the Minister for Rural and Community Development if he will immediately release funds from the Small-Scale Capital Works programme in order to bring public toilets up to standard.

"I will continue to liaise with The Library Services and the Minister for rural and community Development until the public services are brought up to standard without delay," concluded Deputy Whitmore.



Gerry Conlon and Aubrey McCarthy, Chair of Tiglin, at Tiglin in Ashford for the launch of the HEA funded project between the South East Technological University's Lifelong Learning programme and Tiglin. The project will allow Tiglin's service users impacted by homelessness and addiction to complete Higher Education courses.



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Kevin Burke at Mermaid

Mermaid Arts Centre, Thursday 12th January 2023 | 8pm, €21 Full Price | €19 Concession Price. Duration: 1 Hour 45 mins approx

From early days with The Bothy Band to his celebrated solo performances, Kevin Burke is considered one of Irish music's luminaries. The recipient of a National Heritage Fellowship from the NEA in the US, and in Ireland the prestigious Gradam Ceoil award, he is acknowledged as a master of the tradition.

Although Kevin has spent much of his life playing in a group context, he has never lost his love for solo fiddle music - the 'naked fiddle' as he sometimes puts it.

A native of London, Kevin inherited his love of Irish music from his parents who emigrated from County Sligo, Ireland. Burke's music career began in 1974 with a move to Ireland and joining seminal Irish group The Bothy Band. Since then, he has formed the renowned bands Celtic Fiddle Festival, Patrick Street, and Open House, and worked with many great artists including Arlo Guthrie, Kate Bush, Tim O'Brien, Christy Moore, Dervish, and Lunasa. His highly ornamented Sligo style of fiddling is beloved in all corners of the globe.



Kevin Burke



'A Perfect Christmas' by the duo Mulled (Eoghan O'Sullivan from Wicklow and David Graham from Clare) has been announced as the winner of the Ryanair Gift Card Christmas FM Song Contest 2022. The song contest attracts hundreds of entries every year in a bid to find the next festive favourite to sprinkle Christmas cheer all around the country. The winning song will be broadcast across the airwaves to Irish and international fans along with the likes of Christmas legends such as Wham, Mariah Carey and Michael Buble. Speaking about their song, Mulled said: "'A Perfect Christmas' has been a firm favourite among friends and family for a while now, so we're both delighted that the Christmas FM listeners chose it as this year's winner. We think it has all the ingredients of a classic Christmas song, but with an indie-pop feel so we hope it can go on to find a wider audience in the years to come. Big thanks to Gavin Glass at Orphan Recording Studios, who did a great job on the production."

Wicklow artists' work on display in National Gallery

The Zurich Portrait Prize and Zurich Young Portrait Prize exhibitions 2022 opened on Saturday 26th November at the National Gallery of Ireland. From hundreds of entries, the shortlists of this year's Zurich Portrait Prize and Zurich Young Portrait Prize are on display in the Portrait Gallery.

Twenty-six artists working across a variety of media, including two Wicklow artists, have made it through to the final stage of the Zurich Portrait Prize, while 20 young artists aged between four and eighteen years old have been shortlisted for the Zurich Young Portrait Prize.

Two Wicklow artists are

shortlisted for the Zurich Portrait Prize - Shane Blount, for his oil painting *Lately I've Been Seeing Rainbows*, 2022; and Patrick Bolger (Dublin-based, but originally from Wicklow) for his photograph *Louise Kennedy*, 2022.

The winner of the Zurich Portrait Prize will receive a cash prize of

€15,000 and will be commissioned to create a work for the national portrait collection, for which they will be awarded a further €5,000. Two additional awards of €1,500 will be given to highly commended works. Judges for the Zurich Portrait Prize are Diana Copperwhite, artist; Nick Miller, artist; and Anna O'Sullivan, Director

of the Butler Gallery, Kilkenny.

Brendan Rooney, Head Curator, National Gallery of Ireland, said, "Now in its ninth consecutive year, the Portrait Prize continues to celebrate the talent that flourishes among artists working in Ireland and Irish artists abroad. This year, the National Gallery of Ireland is delighted to

showcase portraits by twenty-six remarkable artists. These works were shortlisted from hundreds of submissions, as high in quality as they were disparate in character. As we emerge from two years of pandemic, portraiture helps to remind us of the fundamental importance of human interaction and engagement."

The Zurich Young Portrait Prize returns for its fourth year in 2022. Five winners (one from each respective age cate-

gory and an overall winner) will be selected from a shortlist of hundreds of entries from young people aged four to 18 from across the island of Ireland. Winners will receive a bespoke art box and a cash prize. The overall competition winner will be awarded a wooden box of high-quality art materials, and a cash prize of €500. All twenty shortlisted entrants will have their artwork professionally framed and prepared for display. This

year's Zurich Young Portrait Prize judges are: Janet McLean, Curator of Modern Art, National Gallery of Ireland; Nick Roche, comic illustrator; and Una Sealy RHA, artist.

Exhibitions of shortlisted works in both competitions run at the National Gallery of Ireland between 26th November 2022 and 2nd April 2023. The exhibition will then travel to the Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, where it will be

displayed between 3 June and 2 September 2023.

Neil Freshwater, CEO of Zurich, said "Zurich Insurance plc is delighted to see the 2022 shortlist exhibitions on display. These artworks represent the unique viewpoint of the best of Ireland's portrait artists, and the wealth of burgeoning talent of our young artists. We look forward to seeing the exhibitions continue at the Regional Cultural Centre in Letterkenny in June 2023."



Shane Blount, *Lately I've Been Seeing Rainbows*, 2022, Oil on canvas



Patrick Bolger with his photograph of Louise Kennedy

Nominations open for volunteers in sport awards

'Give the gift of nominating a standout volunteer in your club'

The Federation of Irish Sport today announced the return of the Volunteers in Sports Awards to an in-person awards ceremony, recognising the army of volunteers who make sport happen in communities, in every county across the country. You can now nominate your Co. Wicklow based volunteer by filling out the online nomination form at www.volunteersinsport.ie/ The awards are #DedicatedtotheDedicated.

The 2022 awards hosted by the Federation of Irish Sport will be celebrated in Dublin at the beginning of March 2023. Nominations are open from Monday 12th December via the dedicated awards website. Entries will close on Wednesday 25th January 2023. The nominations received will be shortlisted and put forward for consideration by the Judging Panel. Winners are chosen on a county basis, with 32 award recipients and one overall Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Wicklow based winner Ed Randolph founded the Dublin Raiders Basketball Club in 1989 and has been instrumental in the Clubs growth over 32 years, which now boasts of over 400 members. His in-depth knowledge of the game together with his unique coaching style has helped produce some outstanding players over the years, many of whom have gone onto play for Ireland. He is promoter of inclusion and race, religion or disability will not be a barrier to join the

Raiders. As a result, the club has a number of young players with additional needs and they have also welcomed families from 16 different countries into their club and community.

Volunteers are the cornerstone of sporting activities in clubs and communities nationwide. Unpaid, they give freely of their time, energy and are dedicated to the development of their chosen sport. Over 450,000 volunteers are needed on a weekly basis to run club activities, giving on average 31/2 hours per week. The estimated economic value of volunteering in sport and physical activity is worth €1.5bn. Without them sports clubs would not exist.

Commenting on the announcement Minister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht, Jack Chambers, TD said, "It's an honour to be part of the launch of these national awards, recognising the many volunteers who are the backbone of local sports clubs in every community across the

country. They are responsible for making sure weekly training sessions take place, managing teams, organising inter-club matches, ensuring pitches, courts and club-houses are kept operational most importantly bringing communities together through sport. Last years winners represented a wide variety of sports and all

ages of volunteers. I would encourage all club members to reflect on who they know in their club that has made a difference and had a positive impact in their community through their dedication to their sport."

Mary O'Connor, CEO of the Federation of Irish Sport said, "I am delighted to launch the return of the Volunteers in Sport Industry Awards. While the awards were successfully hosted online for the last two years due to the pandemic, nothing beats the warmth and connectivity of gathering in-person to recognise the selfless work being done by volunteers behind the scenes at clubs and sporting organisations.



Jenny Egan, Irish Canoeist and World No.1, launching the Volunteers in Sport awards with Minister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht Jack Chambers TD and Federation of Irish Sport CEO Mary O'Connor. Pic: Sportsfile

There is a strong sense of volunteerism in sport in Ireland. We had been on track to reach the 2027 target of 55% for social participation, club membership or

attendance at a sporting event. However, Covid has impacted this and we need to encourage more participation and volunteering to get back on track to reach

this target. Shining a light on our volunteers in sport is a way to recognise and remind people of the invaluable role they play in society."

Donncha O'Callaghan sends 'closing date' call to Wicklow sports clubs

Former Irish rugby international, Donncha O'Callaghan has issued a call to sports clubs in Wicklow reminding members not to overlook 31 January next, the closing date by which application for a €5,000 award under the Texaco Support for Sport initiative must be made.

Noting the benefit to be gained by the award, the popular broadcaster and

adjudicator confirmed that "entry is open to all clubs irrespective of sporting discipline, size, membership, age, cultural appeal, or gender, including those whose application may have been unsuccessful previously."

Held annually, the scheme has already seen funding of €260,000 distributed to clubs across the 26 counties, of which €10,000 has already come to Co. Wicklow with successful applicants Roundwood & District Athletic Club (2021) and Vallemount LGFA Club (2022) receiving €5,000 in each case.

Further information can be viewed online at www.TexacoSupportforSport.com



Donncha O'Callaghan



Rachel Griffey celebrates Wicklow winning the rugby All Ireland League coinference final against Galwegin at Ashtown Lane



Katie Bradshaw pictured on Cooper at Maltfield Stud equestrian centre in Redcross.

There's still time to plan your 'Hometown Architect' regeneration project

The Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF) is reminding community groups and local architects in Co Wicklow that they have until the 16th of January to submit joint projects for improving aspects of their local town or village under its new Reimagine 'Hometown Architect' nationwide initiative.

Five successful proposals, chosen from the total submitted nationally, will receive €10,000 each in funding, to put towards developing their proposal further.

The open call is inviting community groups to plan and submit a project in partnership with an architect who has a connection to their town or village in Co Wicklow. The architect can either be currently living in the town or village, have grown up there, or have family in the locality.

'Hometown Architect' projects should focus on town centre regeneration and align with the Town Centre First Policy published by the Irish Government earlier this year. This policy aims to promote the regeneration of town and

village centres across Ireland, and to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit.

Commenting on the deadline reminder for the open call, Bernardine Carroll, Engagement Manager, IAF Reimagine, said: "Christmas and new year brings people back to their home towns, and it's a time when local communities bring these towns to life with gatherings, activities and lighting. This is a great opportunity for communities, groups and architects in Wicklow to take a fresh look at their town or village to see what could be improved, energised and transformed to make them better places to live, work and enjoy."

"We are delighted to have support from the Department of Rural and Community Development, whose Town Centre First Policy underpins the type of projects we are encouraging. Ideas can involve ways of, for example, increasing residential occupancy in rural towns and villages, addressing the issue of vacant properties and derelict buildings, and highlighting the economic, social, and cultural importance of Irish towns and villages."

The deadline for 'Hometown Architect' submissions is the 16th of January 2023. The five overall successful projects will be announced in early-February 2023. Submissions will be assessed by a panel of experts, including architects, IAF staff and Town Centre First Policy experts.

Full details about the 'Hometown Architect' open call, including a project brief and application form, are available from the website www.ReimaginePlace.ie/open-call.

Finding archival homes for Church of Ireland primary school records

A Policy for the Appropriate Custody of Primary School Records is now in place to guide Church of Ireland primary schools and their Patrons in how to best keep and share archived information about their work and service to their communities, with the assistance of archivists in local authorities.

The policy was produced by the Representative Church Body's Library, under the authority of its managing Library

and Archives Committee. This has followed lengthy discussions with all organisations involved, and in consultation with the Secretary of the General Synod Board of Education. It will be particularly relevant for schools in the Republic of Ireland. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) takes in all school records for schools located within its jurisdiction.

The five-page document has been produced with the aim of promoting awareness about the importance of primary school records and their value for historical research. The advice it contains seeks to assist School Patrons and Boards of Management with guidance about the historical value of primary school records and ensure that they take the correct steps to arrange and safeguard these materials. This is particularly relevant where records have ceased to be used in the day-to-day administration of a school, or in circumstances where a school is due to close or has already closed.

The school records of any primary school in the State belong to the Board of Management or Patron responsible for that school, with the Board of Management making decisions about what records should be retained for the historical record. Many would have a unique value which may be required for reference for a variety of legal, educational, historical and social purposes in

the future. Whilst the RCB Library is concerned about the preservation of these records, the Library is not itself the custodian of primary school records and is not responsible for the long-term storage of such records.

The Library has, however, been in discussion with colleagues in the National Archives of Ireland and the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers (LGARM) Group representing archivists and records managers at local government level. LGARM has confirmed that it is happy to facilitate requests from any Board of Management or Patron of a Church of

Ireland primary school wishing to deposit their collections in a local authority archive service, subject to available storage and these services being considered as the first place of deposit for these collections.

The policy is available at the following link in the Parish Resources section of our website and at www.ireland.anglican.org/primary-school-records



Miss Stella Greer's class at Killeigh School, county Offaly c.1931. RCB Library P48.28.1

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Blessington student at University of Limerick receives STEM scholarship

Wicklow student Victoria De Brun, from Blessington, was among the students from University of Limerick to receive scholarships at a ceremony held at Johnson & Johnson's Limerick campus.



Victoria De Brun from Blessington, who received a scholarship at a ceremony held at Johnson & Johnson's Limerick campus.

The ceremony was part of Johnson & Johnson's Women in STEM2D (WiSTEM2D) Undergraduate Award Programme in partnership with Lero, the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Software, headquartered at the University of Limerick, marking the seventh year since the awards inception. The Award recognises outstanding female students in STEM2D disciplines: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Manufacturing and

Design. Each recipient will receive a student award, industry mentoring and leadership training, along with the opportunity to attend career workshops, visit Johnson & Johnson sites and participate in WiSTEM2D events designed to support them with pursuing future STEM careers.

The Johnson & Johnson WiSTEM2D programme fuels the development of the female STEM2D talent pipeline by awarding and sponsoring girls and women at critical points in their educational experience and their careers, in STEM disciplines. The Undergraduate programme was first introduced at University of Limerick in 2016. Since then, it has expanded to include University College Cork in 2018, and University of Galway in 2021, and Munster Technological University in 2022, supporting more than 400 female students over the last 6 years.

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Family Fun Day held at Arklow's newly refurbished Parade Ground

Arklow Municipal District hosted a very successful Parade Ground launch event on Sunday 11th December despite the wintry weather conditions.

There was a great turnout at the launch festivities which kicked off with a performance by the Arklow Shipping Silver Band followed by Master of Ceremonies for the day South East Radio's DJ, Phil Cawley.

The jam-packed fun-filled day went down a treat for all generations of the family. Other entertainment included a kids art workshop, the Arklow Pipe Band, the Inbhear Mor Performance Ensemble, the Arklow Baton Twirlers, Christmas decoration making with The Colour Club and fantastic street theatre performers including magicians, jugglers and fire eaters and balloon entertainer.

Many attendees braved the elements and waited for special guest Santa Claus himself to arrive, who didn't disappoint with a sack full of presents for all the children.

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District, Cllr Pat Kennedy, thanked all involved who made this event happen including representatives from Arklow and District Chamber of Commerce, Arklow Traders, Arklow Town Team, Arklow Christmas Festival Committee and Arklow Municipal District.

The aim of the event was to showcase the newly refurbished Parade ground and the town, to increase footfall for the traders and to encourage people to support local businesses. Arklow Municipal District would like to extend a thank you to the traders who opened up on the day.



Justin Fitzsimons and Dave Howick of FHM Accountants with offices in Bray and Gorey were delighted to thank Winnie Chan for her 20 years of service and looking forward to working with her for many years to come.

Funding for GAA clubs walking tracks

GAA clubs in Wicklow will be more accessible to the community due to a funding boost from Healthy Ireland.

Funding of €800,000 will be focused on enhancing walking tracks to ensure they are more accessible to those with mobility issues, older persons, and wheelchair users.

Minister Simon Harris said: "This grant is transformative and will encourage people to utilise the fantastic facilities right on their doorstep. I encourage all GAA clubs in Wicklow.

"This announcement from my Fine Gael colleague and Minister of State with responsibility for Public

Health, Well Being and National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan, will revitalise the community.

"The boost will also allow for the upgrading or installation of lighting, designed to prolong the hours of usage which will prove essential during this cold and dark winter.

"Fine Gael is committed to delivering stronger, safer communities across Ireland. It is essential that people have access to viable walking infrastructure. Our GAA club in Wicklow is at the heart of the locality and generates a real sense

of community spirit. GAA's Ireland Lights Up typically captures this spirit and is a tradition for many.

"The initiative will run in January/February 2023 in conjunction with RTE's 'Operation Transformation'. I look forward to our community participation and would encourage people to sign up and get involved.

"Accessibility and safety are at the core of this upgrade and underpins the work being conducted by Healthy Ireland. The entire community will have access to this facility, and will reap the health and wellbeing benefits."

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