



**CODLING WIND FARM**  
Page 4



**PIANO CAMPAIGN**  
Page 8



**FAIR TRADE TAPESTRY**  
Page 14

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Tuesday 10th January 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# FAMILIES NEED ANSWERS

## DEMAND FOR ENQUIRY INTO NURSING HOME DEATHS

Last week Sinn Fein TD John Brady stated that the families of the twelve former residents of a care home in Wicklow who died of Covid-19 don't need any more generalisations, they need details.

He called on Leo Varadkar to provide certainty and specifics in relation to a public inquiry. Deputy Brady claimed that the Taoiseach's comments last week amounted to a "political kite flying exercise", raising people's hopes following a broad statement where he spoke of the 'potential for a future inquiry'. Ireland had one of the world's highest Covid death rates in nursing homes. Deputy Brady said: "The families of the twelve former residents of St. Brigid's Nursing Home in Crooksling,



Michael O'Reilly with Eamonn and Mary Burke at the St. Stephen's Day charity swim in Arklow in aid of the Liver Unit at St. Vincent's Hospital. The event is organised annually by Eamonn and Mary Burke.. Pic: Michael Kelly

who died of Covid-19 deserve more detail. I have repeatedly called for a public inquiry and make that call again.

"The treatment of our elderly citizens in nursing homes during the Covid-19 crisis was nothing short of a political disgrace. I believe that it is in the public interest that there be a public enquiry. What happened to the former residents of St Brigid's Nursing Home in Crooksling needs to be specifically looked at as part of a public enquiry.

"Twelve former residents of the Nursing Home died. We need answers. The only way that lessons can be learnt from what happened in nursing homes during the pandemic is through a full public inquiry.

"There appears to be a suggestion that while the proposed inquiry

would address things like the procurement of PPE, it might also look at issues like PUP payments and I'm not sure if it's sufficiently all-encompassing and wide-ranging enough that the families will get the specific answers that they require.

"We don't need any more generalisations, what we need from Leo Varadkar now are specifics - when will it happen and what will the scope of the inquiry be."

As early as the summer of 2020 it was revealed there were 31 deaths at six different nursing homes across County Wicklow. Those included the deaths of 24 people in Bray, with 10 in just one nursing home in the town, and five people in the rest of the county.

The first confirmed case of Covid-19 in a

nursing home in Ireland was on March 13, 2020. On the 23 March the

first Crooksling resident tested positive for Covid-19. 46 of the res-

idents were transferred to Tymon North, two

*Continued on Page 3*

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April Donohue, Aoife O'Sullivan, Rosie Donohue and Ria Dalton pictured at the 'Field of Dreams' run in Wicklow Town. Over 300 people took part in the 5km run on St. Stephen's Day, to raise funds Inbhear Dee's Field of Dreams project seeking to develop a trail on The Murrough

### Kilmacanogue History Society

Kilmacanogue History Society's next Talk is on Monday 9th January in Kilmacanogue Parish Hall at 8p.m. The Speaker is Dr. Pat McCarthy. In 2021 he spoke to the society on the lead in to the Civil War, this month's Talk will focus on the events of 1922-23.

"Much of this history will sound unfamiliar to us, as it wasn't taught in our schools' history class. Pat McCarthy, from listening to his previous Talk is amazingly knowledgeable on the subject and presents his information in an unbiased way that holds one's attention," Kilmacanogue History Society said. "With the high amount of viruses circulating in the community presently, mask wearing is encouraged. We would like to wish all our members and supporters a Happy New Year."

### Soup and sandwiches

A Soup and Sandwiches lunch will be served in the Swann Hall at St. Patrick's Church, Greystones on Tuesday, 17th January from 12:30pm until 2pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Donations welcome for local homeless charities.

### Killincarrig Village Improvement Scheme

Wicklow County Council is proposing improvements to Killincarrig Village. These improvements include signalised junction, new footpaths, new zebra crossing, improved junction layouts, improved footpaths, cycle climbing lane, loading bay and realignment of road carriageway. Plans may be inspected at Greystones Municipal District until 16 January 2023. Also online at [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie). Submissions and observations may be made via Online Consultation Hub ([wicklow.ie](http://wicklow.ie)). They must be received by 30 January 2023 at 12 noon.

### Physical activity open days for cancer patients

Purple House Cancer Support Centre will be holding a number of Physical Activity Open Days in January. Come along to one of their Physical Activity Open Days and learn more about how physical activity can help you while on treatment for Cancer, or pre- or post-treatment.

"At our informal open days, you will have a chance to meet with our team of Physiotherapists and Physical Activity Tutors, and to see our state-of-the-art Cancer Rehab Facility in Bray."

The Open days will take place on: Tuesday 10th January 2023 11am-12 noon; Wednesday 11th January 2023 7pm-8pm. For more information, please call us on 01-2866966 or email: [info@purplehouse.ie](mailto:info@purplehouse.ie)

### Community Monuments Fund 2023

This fund helps owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to safeguard them. Details and application forms are available at [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie). Application forms should be returned by 27th January 2023 at 4 pm. Queries to Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, [dburns@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:dburns@wicklowcoco.ie).

### Built Heritage Grant Schemes 2023

Wicklow County Council invites applications from owners of historic buildings, protected structures and structures within Architectural Conservation Areas. There are two grant schemes: Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2023; Historic Structures Fund 2023.

Details of each scheme can be found at [www.Wicklow.ie](http://www.Wicklow.ie) or from WCC Planning Office, 0404 20100, [plandev@wicklow.ie](mailto:plandev@wicklow.ie). Closing date for applications is 27th January 2023 at 4 pm.

### ICA Drama Festival

The 67th Wicklow ICA Drama Festival will take place from January 20th to 22nd in Glenealy Village Hall. This is an open festival with a section for one-act plays and a section for short plays/sketches. For more information contact Festival Director Hilda Roche at [hderoiste@gmail.com](mailto:hderoiste@gmail.com).

### Christmas tree recycling in Greystones

You can recycle your Christmas Tree at South Beach Car Park in Greystones until 21st January. They will be shredded, composted and used again. No wreaths, plastic trees or decorations. The hours are Monday to Friday (9am - 4pm) and Saturday (9am to 1:45pm).

# 'Aim for progress, not perfection, in resolutions!'

*Mental health charity encourages people to set realistic goals to avoid disappointment*

Turn2Me, a national mental health charity, is encouraging people to 'aim for progress, not perfection' in their New Year's Resolutions. The charity said that many people set unrealistic New Year's Resolutions for themselves, which often leads to disappointment and a feeling of failure.

The charity said that setting a small number of realistic goals is more achievable. The charity also stated that starting something new, instead of 'giving something up', can be a healthier goal.

"Everyone associates New Year's with resolutions, such as losing an extreme amount of weight, restricting your diet, not watching TV in the evenings, or exercising every day," Fiona O'Malley, CEO of Turn2Me, said, "Instead of setting lots of unrealistic New Year's Resolutions, which often lead to disappointment if they can't be maintained or achieved, setting a smaller number of realistic goals can be more achievable. For example, if you only go to the gym once a month, instead of committing to the gym every day, commit to going twice or three times a week. That is more maintainable

and realistic. Goals that aren't realistic can lead to feelings of disappointment and failure. It might also be a good idea to consider starting something new, instead of giving something up, like starting a new part-time course, signing up for a walking or hiking group, joining a book club or a drama society. New Year's is a good time for new beginnings or starting a new project. It doesn't have to mean detoxes and rigid diets."

Turn2Me is running free support groups on anxiety, depression, grief, and relationship issues for anyone struggling with their mental health in 2023. Turn2Me also offers free one-to-one counselling sessions and a free 'Thought Catcher' mood diary.

To sign up for any of these free mental health services, go to [Turn2Me.ie](http://Turn2Me.ie).

## Telephone counselling service to open every day until end of March

Telephone counselling and support service Connect is to extend its hours to provide a seven-day-week service from today until the end of March.

The extension is a trial period to test the service and demand across seven days. 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.

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

Connect also extended its service to open seven days during the Christmas period and there was strong demand, and is now going to trail maintaining additional availability outside of the festive period.

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. More information at [www.connectcounselling.ie](http://www.connectcounselling.ie)



Marrakesh Ltd were delighted to present a cheque to Open Door Centre in December. Pictured are Antonia Lawlor from Marrakesh, Suzanne Cox (Open Door Development Officer), Peter Lawlor and Rudy Montejo - Manager. "Open door is a cause close to our heart and offers a fantastic service to all of its members. The staff and volunteers of Open Door go above and beyond everyday," said Antonia.

WICKLOW  
LOCAL Times

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

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

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

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# ‘Immediate action needed to keep Wicklow Port open’

**Sinn Féin TD John Brady to act immediately to carry out the necessary works to counter the greatly diminished depth of the water level in Wicklow Port, which is affecting accessibility to the Port due to the continued build-up of silt.**

The matter is approaching a critical level, he said, and failure to act will result in the Port being left inoperable.

"There has been an absence of practical and useful engagement with port stakeholders and frustration at the lack of progress is at unprecedented levels," said Deputy Brady.

"While Wicklow County Council has submitted plans to apply for licence to carry out a dredging operation, which could run up until 2032, the urgency surrounding the deterioration of the Port demands immediate action be taken now, to create space for the dredging to take place later.

"There is a clear and obvious responsibility on the government parties to act here to prevent the situation around Wicklow Port deteriorating any further. The current situa-

tion poses serious commercial risk. Despite repeated calls on the government to act now for several years, the coalition has once again failed the people of Wicklow.

"Wicklow Port has been an active commercial Port for centuries. Yet, because of the failure of the government, the future viability of the Port is being placed in jeopardy. I have written to the responsible Minister on this matter, and I repeat my call on the government to immediately allocate funding for a temporary levelling operation to be carried out at the Port, which can be carried out within weeks. And which experts estimate would cost less than €100,000.

"Following which the long-awaited dredging of the Port can take place at a later date. Failure to do so will result in serious economic and commercial damage to the Port

and the region.

"It is estimated that there are over 100 local jobs reliant on the Port, with a further 800-1000 indirectly connected to the Port. International customers of the port who rely on local facilities are now being forced to reconsider their options and are actively reviewing their commitment to the port and to the Irish market.

"Wicklow Port has traditionally been a major site for the import of building materials. The fact that deeper draught vessels are having difficulty accessing the Port is already leading to supply chain difficulties, which will only worsen. It is now only possible for one commercial ship to berth in the port at a time, previously three to four ships could berth at a time. Plans to use Wicklow Port as the base for the Operations and Maintenance of the

multi-billion Codling Wind Park could also be jeopardised unless dredging is done.

"The issue also raises significant safety concerns, including the impacts on the capacity of the RNLI to operate safely in Wicklow Port if no action is taken. The RNLI Lifeboat needs to be guaranteed unobstructed access to the open sea. The potential for other vessels to be grounded and hence obstructing the lifeboat are very real.

"There is also the danger that lifeboats' water-jet propulsion system would get fouled through the ingestion of materials from the seabed, possibly crippling a lifesaving rescue operation. We need to see the immediate carrying out of a levelling operation, followed by the long-awaited dredging. Otherwise, Wicklow Port will cease to function as a commercial entity."



*Eimear Tunney and John Tyrrell at the St. Stephen's Day charity swim in Arklow in aid of the Liver Unit at St. Vincent's Hospital. The event is organised annually by Eamonn and Mary Burke.*

## Appeal lodged against Bray apartment block refusal

**An appeal has been lodged with An Bord Pleanála against Wicklow County Council's decision to refuse planning permission for an apartment block development on Castle Street in Bray.**

The Council refused permission last November for the seven-storey development at the former Everest Centre which would consist of 49 apartments, as it would result in the 'overdevelopment' of the restricted site. The Council also has fire safety concerns about the development.

The appeal was lodged with ABP by Bray Property Development Ltd and a decision is due in early May.

The Council refused permission for the development, stating that it contravened the development objectives of the site which include a mixed use development including commercial, retail, residential, community and cultural uses. The Council noted that the proposal failed to provide active street frontage onto Castle Street and active commercial use at the ground floor. The proposed devel-

opment would "set an undesirable precedent" for similar types of development in the area and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the Council said.

The Council was also of the opinion that the size and scale of the development would have an "overbearing impact" on adjoining properties and sites, and would impact on the future potential of adjoining residential and town centre zoned lands.

Furthermore, the Council stated that the proposed residential development would be 'substandard' in quality and residential amenity. The Council also deemed the applicant to have failed to demonstrate that fire brigade appliances would be able to access all areas of the building in the event of a fire, given its height and site coverage.

## House prices up 7% from a year ago

**In Wicklow, prices in the final three months of 2022 were 7% higher than a year previously, compared to a rise of 12% seen a year ago, according to the latest Daft.ie Sales Report released last week. The average price of a home is now €409,000, 16% below its Celtic Tiger peak.**

Nationally, housing prices rose by 6.1% during 2022. The average listed price nationwide in the final quarter of 2022 was €309,941, down 0.4% on the average for the third quarter of the year and 16% below the Celtic Tiger peak. The 6.1% increase in 2022 compares with increases of 8.1% in 2021 and 7.7% in 2020 and a fall of 1.2% in 2019.

Compared to a year previously, prices in Dublin in the final quarter of 2022 were 5% higher, similar to the increase seen in Galway city (5.4%). The increase in the last 12 months was larger in Galway city (8%) and Waterford city (6.4%), while prices in Cork city were 3.3% higher than a year ago. Outside the cities, prices rose by 7.1% on average with similar increases seen in Leinster, Munster and Connacht-Ulster.

The number of homes available to buy on December 1st stood at just over 15,200, up 33% on the same date last year but still significantly below the 2019 average of 24,200. The increase in availability on the market has been greatest in Leinster (up 51%) and smallest in Munster (up 19%).

The average listed price nationwide in the final quarter of 2022 was €309,941, down 0.4% on the average for the third quarter of the year and 16% below the Celtic Tiger peak.

## FAMILIES NEED ANSWERS

*Continued from page 1*

residents were moved to Baltinglass Hospital and one resident to the Maynooth Community Care Unit. The transfer of residents happened while eight of the residents were awaiting test results for the virus. Twelve of these residents

died, and a further thirty-four members of staff would test positive.

In December 2020 four retired members of the Augustinian religious order died from a Covid outbreak in Bray Manor 'retirement home' in Bray over an eight-day period. 10 in total contracted the virus. The order had

taken possession of the premises as accommodation for its retired members, moving them from their former residence in Rathfarnham. A private company had been engaged to manage it under the order's supervision. The property had lost its registration as a nursing home and became a 'retirement home'.

## Major cut in childcare fees

**Parents in County Wicklow will potentially save thousands on the cost of childcare thanks to increased subsidies that kicked in on Wednesday January 4th, Green Party Councillor Erika Doyle has said.**

The reduction was made possible after the Green Party Minister for Children, Roderic O'Gorman, secured funding in Budget 2023 to increase the minimum subsidy for registered early learning and childcare from €0.50 per hour to €1.40.

The change means that families that were previously in receipt of the lowest level of financial support will now be in line to save an additional €2,106 off their annual childcare bill.

"This is a major development for childcare in Ireland and will represent a significant saving for parents who often say that paying for childcare is like paying a second mortgage or rent," Councillor Doyle said.

"Having secured a freeze in childcare fees last year, Minister Roderic O'Gorman has gone a step further and cut them by an average of 25% this year and is aiming to secure a similar cut next year. This will go a long way towards making the cost of childcare in Ireland more manageable for the first time ever."

The increased subsidies for parents have gone hand-in-hand with greater funding for childcare providers in recent years as well as an improvement in pay and conditions for childcare workers. These have encouraged providers to increase capacity while also encouraging staff to stay in the sector.

"Childcare was neglected for too long in Ireland with the result that parents were faced with enormous costs after having children. No-one should be financially penalised for having children but this is changing rapidly thanks to the Green Party being in government," Councillor Doyle said.

Parents can find out more about the increased subsidies under the National Childcare Scheme by visiting [ncs.gov.ie](https://ncs.gov.ie) or calling the Parent Support Centre on 01 906 8530 or talking to their early learning and childcare provider.



*Cllr Erika Doyle*



# Codling Wind Park will require maximum of 100 turbines

Ireland's largest Phase One offshore wind project, Codling Wind Park, which will be located off the County Wicklow coast, will require almost 30% fewer wind turbines than originally proposed. Notwithstanding this significant reduction in wind turbines, the development will still generate enough renewable electricity to meet over 20% of Ireland's 2030 offshore wind targets.

While the initial estimate for the number of turbines required had been put at a maximum of 140, the project team says advances in wind turbine technology, combined with a more detailed understanding of the wind farm site, means a maximum of 100 turbines - almost a third less - will now be required.

It has also been confirmed, by EirGrid, that Poolbeg in Ringsend will be the location of the project's electricity grid connection with 1,450MW - enough electricity to power up to 1.2 million Irish homes - confirmed as the maximum amount of electricity it will generate. The project had previously indicated that it hoped to generate between 900MW and 1,500MW.

Codling Wind Park is a

50/50 joint venture between Fred. Olsen Seawind and EDF Renewables and will be located approximately 13 to 22 kilometres off the Co. Wicklow coast between Greystones and Wicklow Town.

New details about the project were announced ahead of the second round of public consultation, which is taking place from the 11th of January to the 8th of February. The consultation will include a number of face-to-face exhibitions in Wicklow and Poolbeg, together with an online virtual exhibition and a series of dedicated information clinics.

The consultation process will provide further details on various onshore and offshore environmental, technical and feasibility surveys being carried

out as part of the project. Feedback gathered from the public as part of this consultation process will feed into the ongoing development of the project, and updated proposals will be presented at a third phase of public consultation later this year.

Co-Project Director Scott Sutherland said everyone at Codling Wind Park was looking forward to the consultation and the opportunity to engage with, and hear from, local communities and other stakeholders.

"We have made significant progress since our first phase of public consultation in March 2021 and we are looking forward to updating people, in Wicklow and Poolbeg in particular, and receiving their thoughts and feedback on a range of topics,

including the design of the project, the Environmental Impact Assessment we are working on, the best way we can deliver benefits to local communities through the Community Benefit Fund over the next 20 years and how best we can continue to engage with the fishing and sailing communities."

Codling Wind Park was recently awarded a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Together with the grid connection agreement it has received from EirGrid, this enables the project to participate in the first Offshore Renewable Electricity Scheme (ORESS) auction in the coming months. If successful, the project will

then submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála later this year.

Mr Sutherland said this first auction will be a seminal moment for Ireland's offshore wind industry. "We are excited not only to deliver one of the largest energy infrastructure investments ever seen in Ireland, but to also help the country realise its enormous potential and become a world leader in offshore wind. Our total focus now is on progressing the Codling Wind Park project through the ORESS auction and into planning. The awarding of a MAC and the confirmation of our grid location and capacity were key steps in that process.

"On its own, Codling Wind Park can help Ireland deliver over 20% of the country's 7GW renewable energy target by 2030. This demonstrates the importance of this project - and the other Phase 1 projects - in supporting the country's future energy security and in helping Ireland achieve its target of generating 80% of its electricity from renewable energy by 2030," he said.

When developed, Codling Wind Park will be Ireland's largest offshore wind farm. The project is expected to create over 1,000 jobs in the construction phase and 75 new, long-term jobs associated with its proposed Operations and Maintenance Base at Wicklow Port. Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling Wind Park could begin construction in



Blyth Offshore Wind Farm off the Northumberland coast



Teeside Offshore Wind Farm

2026, and is expected to take two to three years to complete.

To find out more about Codling Wind Park and the public consultation process which is taking place from January 11th to February 8th please visit [www.codlingwindpark.ie](http://www.codlingwindpark.ie).

In a statement, Fine Gael councillor for Greystones Derek Mitchell stressed the need for engagement with the coastal communities.

"The Codling Windfarm has recently been awarded a Marine

Area Consent by the Government and will be undertaking public consultation up to the 8th February," he said.

"The largest windfarm in Ireland and Greystones. We need to get this renewable power but the promoters need to do more to reduce the visual effect and to explain and involve the affected communities and to provide benefits and trade.

"Three windfarms are planned to meet off Greystones, it will be 'wind farm central'. The turbines will occupy most of the sea horizon, 115 degrees arc of view. The operators have been asked to leave a visual gap of at least 15 degrees between windfarms so there is not a continuous line of them. I have also asked them to open an Interpretive Centre at Greystones Harbour to show both the effect and need for this. It is essential to provide benefits and involvement for those who will have to look at it. I have also asked them to provide subsidised trips to see it during construction."

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## Funding for organisations supporting victims of crime

**The Minister for Justice, Simon Harris TD, has announced funding totalling €5.25m for more than 65 organisations to support victims of crime.**

The allocations range from €3,000 to €740,000, and they cover:

- National and larger organisations such as Women's Aid, Ruhama, and One in Four.
- Local organisations across the country working with victims such as Offaly Domestic Violence Support, Bray Women's Refuge and Wexford Rape Crisis;
- General victims support organisations including Victim Support at Court; and
- Specialist organisations including Migrant Rights Centre and Dignity 4 Patients.

There is an increased budget of €5.8m allocated to the Department of Justice specifically for victims of crime in 2023, and the remaining funding will be made available later in the year once further service need assessments have been completed.

This budget compares with an allocation of €4.6m in 2022 and €1.712m in 2019.

Minister Harris said, "The work of so many organisations across the country that help victims of crime is outstanding, and I'm delighted to provide this funding to help ensure these services are

available to all victims who need them, to a consistently high standard, and throughout the State.

"We recognise the significant difficulties faced by many through increased costs and inflation. Where organisations sought an increase on last year's funding, they have been granted a 5pc cost-of-living increase, at a minimum.

"We are committed to building a victim-centred criminal justice system and, in general terms, this funding will increase the organisations' ability to provide supports and services as victims engage."

Last October, the Department invited applications for funding from registered charities, voluntary community

groups, and other organisations which provide services or plan to provide services - supporting victims in the criminal justice system.

## Cllr. Stephen Stokes

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An Independent Voice for the Greystones Municipal District



# 'Minister for Health must take the lead in tackling hospital crisis'

**Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said that the Minister for Health must show 'real leadership' and take the lead in tackling the crisis in public hospitals impacting on Wicklow.**

Deputy Brady called for a series of measures which would marshal all available healthcare resources across the entire system to alleviate pressure on acute hospitals and improve management of emergency care.

He said that this means the Health Minister must convene daily meetings with HSE leadership and regularly engage with regional management to ensure all public and private healthcare resources are being used to the best effect.

Deputy Brady said: "I am deeply concerned by the huge pressure that St. Vincent's University Hospital South Dublin, which is the main hospital for emergency admissions for North Wicklow, is under.

"Staff at the hospital are doing their very best, but are struggling to cope and far too many people are being left on trolleys for far too long, instead of receiving the timely care they need.

"There are currently 34 people on trolleys at St. Vincent's, the fourth highest number in the state. One Wicklow family were forced to watch for 50 hours as a terminally ill loved one was left waiting on a trolley at St. Vincent's before getting a bed. Not only is this unacceptable, it is cruel and inhuman."

On Friday 6th January, Naas General Hospital released a statement saying its Emergency Department was under "significant pressure": "Naas General Hospital is experiencing very high attendance and admissions. The Emergency Department (ED) is under significant pressure with many patients requiring admission and with very high numbers of COVID-19, flu, and other RSV infections.

"Where possible management at Naas General Hospital is asking patients with non-emergency conditions to seek assistance from other parts of the health service such as their local Pharmacist, GP, GP out of hours service, or a local injury unit. Unfortunately, patients who are presenting at the ED in Naas General Hospital with non-urgent conditions are experiencing very long waiting times to be seen.

"Any patient who needs emergency hospital care will be seen and Naas General Hospital would urge such patients not to delay attending the ED. Do not delay in seeking

medical attention if you suspect you are having a heart attack or stroke, please dial 999 or 112 in an emergency.

"We would like to remind the public if you have to attend the ED in an emergency please ensure: You wear a mask; practice social distancing and ensure you tell the triage personnel if you have any signs/symptoms of Covid-19. Naas General Hospital apologises for any inconvenience caused and once again thanks the public for their support and understanding."

Deputy Brady continued: "The Minister for Health needs to convene daily meetings with senior HSE management to ensure that all available public and private healthcare resources are being used to the best effect.

"The Minister should also engage frequently with regional management to ensure they are fully supported to use all capacity in their areas to support emergency departments. Best practice from other hospitals should be followed where appropriate including prioritising emergency and urgent care, redeploying staff from elective care to emergency departments, and using hospital capacity normally reserved for day-case and elective care to provide surge capacity.

"The health service must maximise the use of smaller and private hospitals to provide elective care and surge capacity, where appropriate, to alleviate pressures on major acute hospitals.

"The Minister should maximise the deployment of senior doctors and appropriate specialists to emergency departments and wards to ensure that experienced decision makers are available at all times. There must be greater collaboration between community healthcare and acute hospitals to ensure that recovery and transitional care beds are available in the community for speedy discharges and the provision of care outside of hospitals where appropriate.

"There must also be greater engagement with GPs, especially those providing out-of-hours services, to better support primary care which is also overwhelmed with respiratory infections.

"It is clear that there is an emergency care crisis in acute hospitals and people across Wicklow are extremely concerned by

the government's slow response. This level of overcrowding is due to Government failure to sufficiently invest in healthcare capacity and staffing over the last decade."



Lucy Meagher, Alex Sheehan, John Margush, Niamh Meagher and Andrew Moran at the NMH Foundation New Year's Day Swim in Wicklow Harbour

## GLENDALOUGH AND WICKLOW MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK VISITOR EXPERIENCE

### Public Consultation on A Strategic Environmental Assessment of a Draft Masterplan for Glendalough & Wicklow Mountains National Park



Public Meeting will be held on the 10th of January 2023, at The Brockagh Resource Centre, between 2 - 4pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm.

This event is a drop-in consultation, with chance to discuss the proposals and a 20 minute presentation commencing at 2:30pm and 7pm.

This is a Public Workshop to discuss proposals of the Draft Masterplan for Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park and Visitor Orientation.

Fáilte Ireland, in partnership with Wicklow County Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Office of Public Works, National Monuments Service and Coillte, has commissioned a Masterplan for Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park and Visitor Orientation Recommendations for County Wicklow. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Draft Plan is required by European Directive 2001/42/EC and Irish Law SI 436 of the 2004 Planning and Development SEA Regulations amended by SI 201 of the 2011 Planning and Development (SEA)(Amendment) Regulations.

In accordance with Article 13(1)(b) of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, notice is hereby given that Fáilte Ireland and its partners has prepared a SEA Environmental Report, Appropriate Assessment and a Natura Impact Statement on the Draft Masterplan. These documents are available for public consultation and comment from 11th November 2022 on the website of Wicklow County Council, 'wicklow.ie.'

The consultation period runs from 11th November 2022 until 18th January 2023. A display of the Draft Plan proposals will be available in Libraries and other public buildings throughout the County and details will be available on the website.

Details are on the wicklow.ie website or available by emailing wicklow@paulhogarth.com



OPW  
Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage



An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta  
agus Fiadhúlra  
National Parks and Wildlife Service







Anna Meredith pictured on Coco at Maltfield Stud equestrian centre in Redcross.

# NTA provide updates on transport projects

The National Transport Authority has corresponded with Catherine Murphy TD, providing answers to a number of queries Deputy Murphy submitted last August in relation to transport projects in Co. Wicklow.

Regarding the construction of the Bray Dart Interchange (the renovation and upgrading of the taxi/bus and set down forecourt of Bray Daly Rail Station), the NTA stated that Wicklow County Council anticipates appointing a contractor to undertake these works in the early months of next year. "Subject to contractor availability, the works should commence during Quarter 2 of 2023. At present, the works are expected to last approximately 12 to 18 months, which would see the area completed during 2024," the NTA stated. "We will have a clearer timeframe when tenders are received from contractors."

Deputy Murphy also asked if the NTA has been consulted and/or made a submission in respect of a proposed bridge construction in the Bray harbour area. The NTA said it has had discussions with Wicklow County Council in relation to the Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge Project and did make a submission in respect of this scheme.

Asked about plans to upgrade existing cycle lanes and the installation of new cycle lanes in Bray town Main Street and adjoining roads, the NTA said, "Under the BusConnects Dublin Bray to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme, segregated cycling facilities are proposed for the Dublin Road on the north side of the town. These works will then tie-in to proposed plans to provide cycling and pedestrian facilities at Bray Bridge over the River Dargle at the entrance to the town centre, under a project titled 'Bray Bridge Footbridges'. While there are no plans at present for further works on

Main Street, the Council is progressing other proposals elsewhere in Bray."

Asked about the progress on new train station at Woodbrook / Shankill, the NTA said "Planning permission for the new DART station at Woodbrook was received in August 2021. The detailed design has now been developed and it is expected that a request for tenders for the construction of the new station will be issued by Irish Rail in the coming weeks. It is expected that the contract for the building of the station will be awarded in Quarter 2 of next year, with construction to commence within a short period thereafter. Construction will take approximately two years.

"When completed in 2025, it is intended that all existing DART services operating from Bray / Greystones will stop at the new Woodbrook Station. At present there is a 10 minute frequency DART service serving Bray.

"The initial order of DART fleet placed in December 2021 includes for additional DART carriages that will facilitate the extension of all existing DART trains to 8 car trains (or equivalent) increasing the capacity of the existing service. It is expected that the new carriage will begin to be delivered in 2025.

"The further increase of DART services on this section of the Irish Rail network is being considered as part of the DART+ Coastal South element of the DART+ Programme.

"All of the new DART fleet will include dedicated bicycle storage space. Full length train units (or equivalent composition of carriages) will provide 8 bicycle

parking spaces. The design of the new fleet is on-going at present."

Deputy Murphy asked the NTA about its plans to address traffic congestion in Bray town Main Street, Quinnsboro Road and Florence Road in the context of the BusConnects rollout in order to mitigate delayed journey times for buses.

The NTA replied: "The NTA is currently providing funding to Wicklow County Council to advance the planning of the Bray Main Street Bus Priority and Decongestion Project - however, this project is at an early stage of development. The NTA does not have any bus related (or other) schemes on Quinnsboro Road or Florence Road at present but the junctions of those roads with Main Street will be considered as part of the above project. As advised earlier, the BusConnects Dublin Bray to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme does extend along Dublin Road to Bray Bridge on the north side of the town, and will provide bus priority in both directions north of the bridge.

"It is worth noting that, in the initial redesign of the bus network under BusConnects, it was proposed to run the Spine service - Route E1 - along Quinnsboro Road and Florence Road to connect to Bray DART Station as an intermediate stop. Following feedback from the initial round of public consultation, and our own review of the likely journey implications, we decided not to deviate Route E to the railway station, but instead continue the service along Main Street without deviating to the train station.

## 'Questions remain over Bray Air Display rail nightmare'

**Cllr Stephen Stokes (Ind) has continued to express concern over Irish Rail's handling of the Bray Air Display rail transport on Sunday, July 24th 2022. He is continuing to seek answers after recent disclosures.**

The day of the Bray Air Display was a hot sunny day, which was critical to the chaos that unfolded as passengers disembarked the train as it waited between Shankill and Bray for clearance, and walked along the tracks.

Since then Cllr Stokes has been engaging with the Irish Rail Freedom of Information Team. It is now confirmed that there was no security provided at Greystones Railway Station. He has also asked to meet with Irish Rail Senior Management to discuss the matter in full.

Cllr Stephen Stokes corresponded with the Customer Care Team in July 2022. After several weeks, he was provided with a partial grant of his freedom of information request.

He stated: "Some of the files disclosed by Irish Rail were heavily redacted, with multiple lines blacked out. However Irish Rail have now confessed that there was no security provided at Greystones Railway Station. It's really quite shocking. I appealed the decision to only part grant the disclosure to Irish Rail, but it was essentially upheld by their internal review."

Cllr Stephen Stokes is critical of the lack of provision for Greystones. He added: "On the day we had the Bray Air Display, and the All Ireland Senior Football Final. The packed crowds at Greystones Railway Station could also have turned into a dangerous situation. I have not seen anything like it. It's common sense that people going to the Bray Air Display would park in Greystones, and commute the short hop into Bray. I have now written to Irish Rail to find out in writing, what the security arrangements were at all Dart stations."

On July 24th, the day of the Bray Air Display, Irish Rail had put on an extra nine Dart trains.

Cllr Stokes added: "It was obvious to everyone in advance that the Bray Air Display would be hugely popular. It's not rocket science that with the removal of Covid restrictions people would want a nice summer day out. However nobody in Irish Rail said stop to the escalating passenger numbers from Dublin, that snowballed all the way to Bray."

Cllr Stokes also noted that there were reported issues with Dublin Bus and Go Ahead services on the day. He added: "Considering it was a Sunday service in operation, the lack of other alternatives from other providers did not help the situation. However it should be noted that Finnegan buses came in for praise on social media, for putting on excellent shuttle services, and made a positive impact. I would like to commend Eugene Finnegan and Team."

Cllr Stephen Stokes is also unconvinced by the Irish Rail timeline of events. Cllr Stokes noted: "Irish Rail Senior Management were quick to shift blame to passengers. Yet their timeline is all over the place about when the first passengers disembarked. One media outlet reported that it was 5.5 minutes. The Customer Care Team advised me that it was 6 minutes. A disclosed email from Irish Rail said 6.5 minutes. However in the same email, the €268 train parked up at 14.47, while the call that people were disembarking came in at 14.56. In my book that is 9 minutes. That's a big issue for families, especially those with distressed young children. It must be remembered July 24th was baking hot, with overcrowded trains, that became backed up. People were left to cook in hot boxes, for an indeterminate time. Irish Rail need to accept full responsibility for this situation."

Cllr Stephen Stokes has written to Irish Rail seeking more disclosures. His questions include Dart station staffing, advance meetings, levels of security staff, external security companies and general disclosures.

Cllr Stokes would welcome insight from members of the public who were caught up in the Bray Air Display transport issues at [stephenstokes101@gmail.com](mailto:stephenstokes101@gmail.com).



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# Public Consultation

11th January 2023 to 8th February 2023

**The second phase of public consultation on the Codling Wind Park offshore wind project gets under way on 11th January and runs until 8th February.**

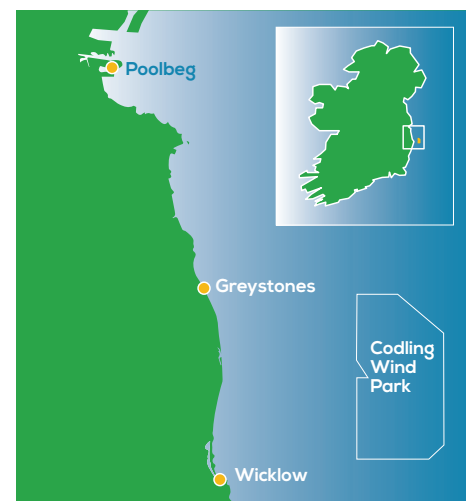
## What is Codling Wind Park?

Codling Wind Park is a proposed offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea, located approximately 13-22 kilometres off the County Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town. The project is a 50:50 joint venture between EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Seawind, two global companies with many years' experience in the offshore wind and renewable energy sectors.

With a capacity of 1,450 megawatts (MW), it has the potential to supply the equivalent of up to 1.2 million Irish homes with low-carbon, locally-produced, low-cost electricity, and to save up to 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Representing one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade, the project will deliver substantial benefits to the regional and national economy, including more than 1,000 construction jobs and around 75 long-term, locally-based jobs.

Subject to the receipt of all relevant consents, the project could be ready to commence construction in 2026. Construction is expected to take two to three years to complete, which means that the wind farm could export power to the Irish grid system by 2028.



## Consultation: virtual and in-person

There are three strands to the Codling Wind Park public consultation process, as follows:

### Virtual Codling Wind Park exhibition

Accessible via the project website, [www.codlingwindpark.ie](http://www.codlingwindpark.ie), this online exhibition will contain a number of exhibition boards with information on our latest project proposals. It will also contain useful visuals, such as maps of the project site and proposed onshore grid infrastructure, and indicative photomontages of the wind turbines from a range of coastal locations. It will also contain a feedback survey, through which you can provide us with your thoughts on the project to date. This will be live from **Wednesday, 11th January 2023 until Wednesday, 8th February 2023.**

### In-person public exhibitions

There will be four face-to-face exhibitions in January 2023, during which you can view our latest project proposals, speak to members of our project team, ask questions and provide feedback via our feedback form. These are as follows:

- **18th January:** Kilcoole Community Centre: (18:30-21:30)
- **19th January:** The Bridge Tavern, Wicklow: (09:00-14:00) and (17:00-20:00)
- **24th January:** Greystones Sailing Club: (09:00-14:00) and (17:00-20:00)
- **25th January:** Clanna Gael Fontenoy GAA Club, Ringsend: (09:00-14:00) and (17:00-20:00)

### Dedicated information clinics

Having viewed our virtual exhibition or attended one of our in-person exhibitions, if you still have further questions you can book an appointment to meet with us at one of our dedicated public consultation information clinics. Ten hours of appointments are available as follows:

- **26th January: 11:00-13:00**
- **31st January: 13:00-15:00**
- **31st January: 19:00-21:00**
- **1st February: 09:00-11:00**
- **4th February: 11:00-13:00**

To book, simply visit our website or call Gráinne on **087 1011 473**.

## Providing feedback

Your feedback is important to us and, during this consultation, we would like to hear your views on our updated project proposals, including on the following topics:

- The proposed design of the offshore and onshore elements of the project
- Our Environmental Impact Assessment studies for our onshore and offshore work
- How we should work with and deliver benefits in the local community
- How we should continue to engage with the fishing community
- Any other thoughts you have on the project

## You can provide your feedback in the following ways:

- Virtual Consultation Room – here you will find all of the project information and the option to provide your feedback online. This will be live on our website, [www.codlingwindpark.ie](http://www.codlingwindpark.ie), from 11th January;
- In person – feedback forms will be available at our physical exhibitions (dates and venues provided above);
- By email: [contact@codlingwindpark.ie](mailto:contact@codlingwindpark.ie);
- Call our information line: **087 1011 473**;
- By post: please fill out our feedback form and return to: Codling Wind Park Ltd., Trintech Building, 2nd Floor, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin D18 H5H9.

## What happens next?

- Following this consultation, all feedback will be reviewed by the project team and considered as part of our ongoing project development work.
- A public consultation report, summarising all the feedback received as part of this consultation, as well as responses from the project team, will be completed and made available to the public on the Codling Wind Park project website: [www.codlingwindpark.ie](http://www.codlingwindpark.ie).
- A third phase of public consultation will be held later in 2023 prior to us submitting our development consent application to An Bord Pleanála.





*Pictured at the recent Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA) and Wood Fuel Quality Assurance (WFQA) Scheme AGM's at Mount Wolseley Hotel in Carlow is Julie Anne Ennis of Coillte, Newtownmountkenney, receiving her WFQA annual certification. WFQA suppliers are certified to meet the new Solid Fuel Regulations for woodfuels, ensuring clean and efficient burning. Pictured L to R: Eugene Hendrick, WFQA Chairperson, Julie Anne Ennis, Coillte, Fergus Moore, Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine and Noel Gavigan, IrBEA Technical Executive and WFQA Manager. Photo by Thomas Sunderland Photography*

# Fortune calls for oral hearing on proposed Kilcoole supermarket

**Independent councillor Tom Fortune is calling for an Oral Hearing on the development of land on the Main Street in Kilcoole located at the rear of Molloy's pub.**

A planning notice has gone up for a proposed supermarket at the site.

"The latest planning notice only appeared before Christmas, there was no notice to the community," said Cllr Fortune. "This is for a proposed supermarket. We have yet to get the detail. This land if not developed with full consideration for the community will negatively impact Kilcoole as the village is located on a Regional road, the R761.

"The current planning notice can not be allowed exit on to the Main Street. In addition there is already another planning proposal on this land with On Bord Pleannala, Wicklow County Council went back on three separate occasions for additional information to the developer who has now gone to ABP.



**Cllr Tom Fortune**

This really concerns me on behalf of our community.

"So far the land owner has not engaged with the community which in my opinion is wrong and really

not acceptable. The development of this land is comparable to the development of the Harbour in Greystones back in 2004 from a community impact perspective. It involved an Oral hearing. We therefore hope and expect that Wicklow County Council will ensure an development is decided sensitive to the environment of the community and that an Oral hearing is facilitated.

"Any development must include the by-pass road at the rear of the land which is essential to the longterm development of Kilcoole. If this is not an essential part of any decisions it would be environmental,infrastructural and community sabotage. I would be shocked if ABP were not to order an Oral hearing for the development of this land."

# Campaign for public piano at Greystones railway station

**Greystones musician Niall Woods and local independent councillor Stephen Stokes have teamed up to campaign for a public piano in Greystones.**

The preferred location is Greystones Railway Station. Niall Woods has now secured a piano which is being restored. Meanwhile Cllr Stephen Stokes has written to Irish Rail to seek permission to locate the piano in Greystones Railway Station. However the campaign will be willing to consider other suitable locations. Niall Woods of Greystones Music

Academy stated: "I think an open access piano like the one in Pearse station would be a great addition to Greystones. There are lots of great piano players in the town and it would be great to get to hear them give a few brief, spontaneous concerts from time to time. As a listener you sometimes get lucky when a great musician sits down and does their thing, but it's also nice to hear beginners or

even people who've never learnt the piano trying out a few things and maybe getting a feel for it." Cllr Stokes has experience of working towards creative facilities such as outdoor chess tables. Cllr Stokes noted: "When we work towards amenities that support creative pursuits it can only enhance the vibrancy of our area. Public pianos are increasingly popular around the World, and I believe this could bring a bit of extra joy to our area." Niall added: "We've got a suitable old piano in

Greystones Music Academy now, and the next steps are for me to tune it up and fix a few broken keys. I'm also hoping that some of the students or teachers at the school can paint it with one of those funky colourful designs like the piano in Pearse Station or other street pianos around the world." Niall and Stephen would welcome input from anyone with experience in this area to help this campaign. Cllr Stephen Stokes can be reached on [stephenstokes101@gmail.com](mailto:stephenstokes101@gmail.com)



**Niall Woods and Cllr Stephen Stokes**

# Fibre broadband rollout commences in Redcross

**National Broadband Ireland (NBI), the company rolling out the new high speed fibre broadband network under the Government's National Broadband Plan (NBP) has announced that construction has commenced to deliver high-speed broadband to 3,300 premises in the Redcross deployment area.**

In Wicklow, there are approximately 16,000 premises in the Intervention Area (IA), which includes homes, farms, commercial businesses and schools. Under the National Broadband Plan, County Wicklow will see an investment of €59M in the new high speed fibre network. This will enable e-learning, remote monitoring of livestock or equipment, e-health initiatives, better energy efficiency in the home, and facilitate increased levels of remote working.

Having successfully completed the Survey and Design phase of the project, 3,310 Wicklow premises in Redcross deployment area are now under construction to have high-speed fibre delivered.

Works have already been completed in other parts of Wicklow and there are 3,480 premises that are available to order or pre-order high-speed, reliable broadband across the county, with 890 connections already made to the network. National Broadband Ireland is calling on Wicklow people living near Blessington and Kilcoole to visit [nbi.ie/map/](https://nbi.ie/map/) and enter their Eircode to see if they are ready to connect.

National Broadband Ireland's website is regularly updated to show estimated connection dates. Signing up to the NBI email notifications at

<https://nbi.ie/eoi/> is the easiest way to get the most up to date status of premises during the rollout and when premises will be ready for order.

Peter Hendrick, Chief Executive Officer, National Broadband Ireland said: "Our teams continue to work on the rollout plan and substantial progress has been made from surveying, design, build to connection works. We are confident that the rollout will continue to gather pace as our ability to move premises from the construction phase to the order phase ramps up. We are currently working closely with retail service providers, and other stakeholders, to connect homes in County Wicklow. Minimum speeds of 500Mbps will be available.

"Our mission is to end the digital divide across the country. Digital connectivity is critical to many of our activities, and this new Fibre-to-the-Home network, will be a key enabler for the sustainability of local businesses and communities."

Under the National Broadband Plan, 559,000 premises nationwide are included in the Intervention Area, which was established by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to identify areas where commercial operators are not currently providing access to high-speed broadband or do not intend to.





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- NEW LI** Hospitality & Business Management Advanced

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# Kick off 2023 in Wicklow by tackling Climate Change

**New Year, New You: The end of the year is always the best time to start thinking about what we want to achieve in the next year and to write down our New Year's resolutions. Despite our best intentions, these resolutions can sometimes be hard to stick to.**

With climate change and climate action being hot topics at the moment, some people might choose for their New Year's Resolution in 2023 to be greener and help our planet and marine environment. However, making a huge commitment or pledging to do too many things to be greener in the New

Year can feel overwhelming and could end up discouraging people from achieving their goals.

For this reason, with the 'New Year, New You' video campaign, Clean Coasts are asking people in Wicklow to choose a realistic and achievable New Year's resolution, that people can stick to

through the year: a #2minutebeachclean.

The video - produced by Clean Coasts and Cube Media - shows Dave (played by Bryan Quinn) trying to go into 2023 being better and greener by being more conscious of the environment. However, after several failed attempts, he begins to lose hope

until he comes across a #2minutebeachclean board on the beach and realises that being green can be just as simple.

We have all seen marine litter along Ireland's coastline and for all the beach lovers out there, the new year is an opportunity to do something about it in just 2 minutes!

Taking part in the campaign entails taking two minutes when you are outdoors to remove litter that you see along the way. We ask for all participants to share images of what they collect on social media, adding the #2minutebeachclean hashtag to the photos to spread the word and inspire more people to take action.

The campaign's aim is to let people know that they don't need commit to a huge New Year's resolution that they may not be able to sustain to the end of the year, but a #2minutebeachclean is an easy pledge to make that is flexible, doable and can be built on as your green year moves forward.

To help people stick to their pledge, Clean Coasts is giving away #2minutebeachclean kits to the first 200 people to pledge to this New Year's Resolution.

Sinead McCoy, Coastal Community Manager, said: "The #2minutebeachclean is such a great initiative to get involved in. People may think 2 minutes is a



*The beach clean kit bag*



*Still image from the 2 minute beach clean video*

## Walk 150,000 steps for brain injury survivors this January with football legend Paul McGrath

**This month, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland invites you to make a New Year's Resolution that will make a life-changing difference to thousands of individuals and families across the country. As part of its annual Step Up for Brain Injury campaign, the organisation is seeking participants to walk 150,000 steps between January 1st and 31st, to raise vital funds for those impacted by acquired brain injury.**

Football legend Paul McGrath will take on the challenge and encourages others to 'Step Up' in solidarity with brain injury survivors: "19,000 people in Ireland acquire a brain injury every year - people of all ages whose lives are turned upside down overnight and who need the right support, at the right time to get things back on track.

"Stepping Up for Brain Injury is a chance to get out and get active in the new year, but more importantly it's a chance to make a real difference to the future of survivors and their families. This is the third year I've 'Stepped Up' for Acquired Brain Injury Ireland and I want 2023 to be the most successful yet. So, get involved, register to take part, and join me on the journey to 150,000 steps in January."

Paul will be sharing his journey across social media throughout the month and invites all participants to do the same. His video message to those interested in taking part can be viewed on Acquired Brain Injury Ireland's YouTube channel, [here](https://www.abiireland.ie).

Registration for the third annual Step Up for Brain Injury campaign is open now. Participation is free and all that's required is a simple sign-up via Facebook or JustGiving. All those registered will receive a free Acquired Brain Injury Ireland neck buff, and those who raise €150 or more will receive a commemorative 'Step Up' medal. Details about how to get involved can be found online at [www.abiireland.ie](https://www.abiireland.ie)

An estimated 120,000 people in Ireland are living with a disability as the result of an acquired brain injury. Every step taken as part of the 'Step Up' challenge and every euro raised will benefit those impacted, as well as their families and carers.

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland is the country's leading provider of specialised, community-based brain injury rehabilitation services. The organisation's mission is to empower and support people with a brain injury to live their fullest and most independent life, with confidence. This is made possible by vital donations, including through campaigns like 'Step Up for Brain Injury'.



*Join Paul McGrath in doing 150,000 steps this month.*

## Make joining the Library your New Year's Resolution

**Make joining the library a New Year's resolution. That's the message from Wicklow County Council Library Service.**

"We would like to see everyone in County Wicklow get their free library card so they have access to all of the wonderful resources on offer," says Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson. "Our libraries really do have something for everyone."

Going far beyond books alone, the library provides so much in terms of community need:

- Free high-speed internet access keeps people connected to school or work
- Access to the online genealogy resource eFind My Past
- Sensory spaces and kits for young people with neurodivergent conditions
- Literacy supports
- 'Mathletics' maths support
- Online language learning
- Book clubs
- Virtual and in-person parenting programmes
- Musical instruments to borrow
- The FAST collection - a collection of sensory educational toys for borrowing

The library has also recently installed story trails in Baltinglass and Roundwood for families to enjoy when out and about in the fresh air.

All of this is available with library membership along with further events and facilities such as author visits, story times, art, music and cultural events, talks on a range of topics, watch a film, play games and enjoy a host of other activities completely free-of-charge.

Libraries are also the place to go for lifelong learning: whether you are working on a school project, looking for a new book, or simply want to gain a new skill, your public library has free, easy-to-use resources that can be accessed in person or online.

Endorsing the campaign to encourage everyone to get a library card, Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, said: "You will never be asked why you're in a library - it's one of the last places on this planet along, with the great outdoors, where you will not have to justify your presence."

Currently there are two choices of library card: the traditional card and also the My First Library Card for young children.

The library is now running a competition in secondary schools to get a brand-new card designed for young adults. Information will be sent to all secondary school art departments this week to encourage teens to get their submissions in.

So, celebrate libraries and all they have to offer by contacting your local library branch and get hold of what is surely the smartest card in town.



Flu &amp; COVID-19 vaccines

# HAVE YOU TOPPED UP YOUR PROTECTION?

**COVID-19 and flu viruses are circulating in the community. Keeping up to date with your recommended vaccines will make sure you have the best possible protection from serious illness.**

## People aged 18 to 49

Everyone aged 18 to 49 can now get a second COVID-19 booster vaccine from a HSE vaccination centre or a participating GP or pharmacy.

## Other groups

It's especially important to keep up to date with your vaccines if you have a health condition that puts you at high risk of serious illness from COVID-19 or flu, you're pregnant or aged 50 or over.

If you're a healthcare worker, getting your recommended vaccines is the best way to protect yourself, your colleagues and your patients this winter.

## More information

See what vaccines are recommended for you and your family and make an appointment today.

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



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



# Make every kilometre count this February

Looking to challenge yourself while also helping a good cause this new year? Whether you're a daily walker or looking to up your steps as part of your new year's resolution, there's something for everyone in this challenge.

LauraLynn, Ireland's only Children's Hospice, is calling on people across Wicklow to join them for their 150K in February Walking challenge.

LauraLynn currently provides care and supports to more than 460 families and children nationwide with life-limiting conditions and is currently supporting 20 families in the Wicklow area.

Those looking to take part can do so in three easy steps:

1. Register here to receive your pack Registration Form.
2. Activate your iDonate Fundraiser.
3. Invite your family, friends and colleagues to sponsor you and support you on your journey.

Further details can be found on the LauraLynn website.

Speaking about the 150k challenge Cathy White, Community Fundraising Executive at LauraLynn said: "We are delighted to kick off 2023 with our 150k in February challenge. We are calling on the people across Wicklow to join thousands of others from all over Ireland who have committed to walking every day while raising vital funds for LauraLynn. It's a challenge that anyone can do, there's no time limits and you can clock up your kilometres in a way that works for you."

By signing up you will not only be making a huge impact on the lives of the children and families LauraLynn supports but you will also receive a special LauraLynn t-shirt which will raise awareness for LauraLynn whilst on your walks.



RNLI members Craig O'Reilly and Liam O'Neill at the St. Stephen's Day charity swim in Arklow in aid of the Liver Unit at St. Vincent's Hospital. The event is organised annually by Eamonn and Mary Burke.

# Children's mental health care reaches crisis point in Wicklow

Sinn Fein TD John Brady has accused the government of failing in children's mental health in Wicklow. The numbers of young people waiting for appointments with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) has risen this year to over six hundred in Wicklow with unacceptable increases in those waiting for longer than a year.

Deputy Brady has called for a solution focused approach to ensure children in get the timely support they need. Deputy Brady said: "Figures received by

Sinn Fein, reveal that there is a substantial increase in young people waiting for mental health services in 2022. Over six hundred children are waiting on

appointments for CAMHS in Wicklow.

"Early intervention is critical to reaching an improved outcome. More and more of our young people

are not receiving this timely care and there is an increase in the amount of young people presenting to CAHMS for treatment and the amount of time they are waiting on an appointment.

"These long waits are totally unacceptable. Children and young people in Wicklow deserve better. We need to move away from

the postcode lottery for services. Treatment should be based on need, not on where you live.

"We are at crisis point now for young people's mental health. The government is failing to address this very serious situation.

"These services are nothing without their staff and I want to commend the

invaluable work that they do in our local communities under huge pressure. However, they are being let down by the government's failure to recruit and retain staff, which in turn adds to this increase in waiting lists.

"Sinn Fein in government would prioritise our young people. We would prioritise early intervention in their

mental health care.

"We are committed to delivering on these solutions and it will be a priority for a Sinn Fein government. The government must act now and end this scandal. Young people cannot be expected to pay the price for government failure to plan and adequately resource these crucial health services."

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# Trocaire unveils powerful tapestry at Glencree Centre

A powerful hand-made tapestry highlighting corporate and human rights abuses around the world will be unveiled by Trocaire at the Armoury Cafe at the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, this week on Thursday January 12th.

Created by 12 Trocaire volunteers from all over Ireland, the powerful piece of solidarity art will support the overseas aid agency's Business and Human Rights campaign, which calls for stronger regulation for companies responsible for human rights violations and environmental harms.

The 'Threads for Corporate Justice' tapestry was developed by Trocaire under the guidance of textile artists Deborah Stockdale and Roberta Bacic from Conflict Textiles in Belfast, which holds a large collection of international textiles reflecting conflict and human rights abuses.

Conflict Textiles facilitated four online workshops to guide the volunteers as they created their individual tapestry panels with themes including fast fashion, violent evictions, the impact of tobacco farming, pollution of rivers, and brave activists who struggle for justice despite facing grave danger. The panels, created from scrap and sustainable materials, were then brought together into one large textile.

Local volunteer from Greystones, Niamh Darcy, who has been a Trocaire volunteer for over four years, used the theme of Fair Trade in her tapestry panel.

"My 'Threads of Corporate Justice' panel

illustrates the benefits to farmers and workers in the developing world when they partner with the people who buy their products through Fair Trade movement. It provides them with an opportunity to improve their lives and plan for their future."

Marie-Anne Michel, Trocaire's Volunteer Officer, said: "Art can be a powerful tool to help create positive social change. It can shine a light on injustice or help us imagine a better world. This exciting project aims to do just that. Through their handy work the volunteers are standing in solidarity with impacted communities around the world."

Trocaire is part of a global campaign which calls for stronger corporate regulation. This includes urging Ireland to introduce a new law to hold Irish companies to account for harming people and the planet, a vital step in ending corporate abuse.

The textile is on exhibition in the Armoury Cafe, Glencree for just over two weeks until Sunday 29th January. It will then be brought to various locations around Ireland to encourage action to help ensure people and the planet are prioritised over profit. The Armoury Cafe is open Wednesday to Sunday from 9.30am to 5.30pm weather permitting.



The 'Threads for Corporate Justice' tapestry, on display at Glencree Centre for Reconciliation until 23rd January.

## New journeys in the new year

**Something we all say and hear going into January is "I will start that in the New Year". Anam Cara is inviting all bereaved parents to start their journey with them this January.**

Operating fourteen face to face meetings across the country along with online support, their door is always open to new attendees.

CEO Shane O'Dwyer reminds us "that those that come along for the first time can just be present, there is no obligation to speak. The first time joining a meeting can be the toughest part of the journey."

Another journey Anam Cara is launching in January is, 'Miles that Matter'. The challenge involves participants completing 280,000 steps in the month of February. People can do this any way they wish i.e. 10k steps a day, series of 10k runs, marathon etc. Participants register free of charge but are encouraged to fundraise. All participants receive a branded Anam Cara t-shirt and are fully supported on their fundraising journey. Contact Jamie on j.conway@anamcara.ie for further information.

On Monday 16th January, Anam Cara will hold their Wicklow meeting in The Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkenedy at 7:15pm. They welcome any bereaved parent, regardless of the age of the child or circumstances of death to the meeting, free of charge.

Registration is not required to attend the meeting. Anam Cara would welcome any bereaved parent in Wicklow and surrounds. Anam Cara can be contacted on 085 2888888 or by email info@anamcara.ie.

## Last chance for students in Wicklow to enter national speech writing competition

**Friday 13th January is the final day for students from Wicklow to enter the ActionTalks national speech writing competition.**

The competition, now in its ninth year, is an opportunity for young people to explore the root causes of local and global injustices and inequalities. This year's themes focus on the climate emergency, unpaid care work and economic injustice.

Entries to the competition can be submitted to ActionAid by email in written form and fifteen successful entrants will go forward to the regionals final, with six regional winners winning a €50 voucher each. At the national final in March, the six finalists will be asked to present their speech to a panel of esteemed judges. The national prize is a €500 voucher for the winner and a €100 voucher for their teacher.

ActionAid is hoping entrants will come up with innovative, well-researched, and creative speeches, using their own unique perspective. The competition is designed to build students' skills such as researching, writing, critical thinking and public speaking.

Karol Balfe, CEO of ActionAid Ireland said: "We've heard from teachers across the country that students have been writing speeches on economic and climate justice. We're excited to read the speeches and to hear what young people have to say on important issues like unpaid care work, how we can promote education as a human right, and on climate loss and damage. Today we are reminding students to be sure to enter their speeches before the deadline of Friday 13th January."

ActionAid works with women and children, as they take the lead in claiming their human rights to build a more just world. ActionAid's Women's Rights programme, funded by Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs, works to eliminate violence against women and girls. Irish Aid programmes are funded by Irish citizens and are part of Ireland's important global role.

To enter, students can ask their teacher for

details or visit <https://actionaid.ie/speech-writing-competition/>

To take part in the ActionTalks competition, students aged 14 to 18 are invited to write a 600 to 800 words speech on one of the following topics and submit them to ActionAid via email.

- Current efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt are not enough to tackle the speed and scale of climate change, meaning that some losses and damages from climate change are inevitable. Women and children in particular on the front line. Rich countries should pay their fair share for the loss and damage their energy consumption has caused in poorer nations.
- Care, both paid and unpaid, while largely a burden for women, is the responsibility of everyone in society and there should be a human right to care. Discuss.
- Education is a right for all children. Beyond aid and charity, what are the ways that the Irish government could support children accessing education (for example through tax structures, debt and economic policies).



Coaches and the Glencormac U15s are pictured with former Irish International Damien Duff at the Molloy Shield charity match in Ryder's Field, Glencormac. €850 will be split between the Irish Heart Foundation and Purple House Cancer Support.



# Three Wicklow sportswomen honoured at awards

Three Wicklow sports stars were among those honoured at The Irish Times / Sport Ireland Sportswoman Awards which took place in the Shelbourne Hotel just before Christmas.

This is the 19th year of the awards and the three Dublin sportswomen who were recipients of monthly awards included boxer Katie Taylor, rugby player Lucy Mulhall and soccer player Aine O'Gorman.

Undisputed world champion Katie Taylor, who has won the Sportswoman of the Year award a record 5 times, picked up her latest monthly award in April. The Bray boxer did so after bringing her unbeaten professional record to 22 with two more victories during the year. The first, April's epic split decision win over Amanda Serrano in front of a crowd of 20,000 in Madison Square Garden,

the first time a women's bout had headlined a card at the famous venue.

Rugby player Lucy Mulhall won the monthly award for January after she captained Ireland to their first ever World Rugby Sevens Series final in Seville where they only lost to an injury time try by Australia, having beaten England 29-0 in the semi-finals. The Tinahely woman's strong performances also earned her a place in the team of the tournament. Later in the year she led the team to qualification for the World Cup where they reached the quarter finals.

Lucy was unable to attend the Awards ceremony

and her teammate Stacey Flood accepted the award on Lucy's behalf.

This year's Outstanding Achievement Award went to the Ireland women's soccer team after they qualified for the World Cup for the first time after beating Scotland 1-0 in a playoff in Hampden Park in Glasgow.

A penalty save by Courtney Brosnan and a second half goal by substitute Amber Barrett of Turbine Potsdam secured a memorable victory for the 'Girls in Green' and booked their ticket to next year's World Cup in Australia / New Zealand.

Barrett whose grandparents were born and bred in

Creeslough and who spent a lot of time in the village growing up, dedicated the goal to the ten people who died following an explosion at a petrol station in the village just four days earlier.

The Glasgow win was the culmination of a long qualifying campaign which featured two wins over group second seeds Finland, a 1-1 draw away to world number two side Sweden and an away win over Slovakia.

Led ably by Katie McCabe the campaign featured strong contributions by players like Diane Caldwell, Abbie Larkin, Saoirse Noonan and Wicklow's Aine O'Gorman who were on hand to receive the trophy on behalf of the team from Irish legend Olivia O'Toole, who was capped over 130 times for her country, the most appearances for the Irish national team of any player male or female.

Vera Pauw's team, who have been drawn in Group B alongside Australia, Canada and Nigeria will travel to their Brisbane base determined to make more history.

Boxer Amy Broadhurst, the first Irish female boxer to take gold at the World Championships, European Championships and Commonwealth Games



Diane Caldwell, Abbie Larkin, Saoirse Noonan and Wicklow's Aine O'Gorman who were on hand to receive the trophy on behalf of the Irish Women's Soccer team from Olivia O'Toole



Stacy Flood accepts the Rugby award on behalf of Lucy Mulhall

was crowned The Irish Times Sport Ireland Sportswoman of the Year for 2022 at the gala lunch.

In what was a fantastic year for boxing, Broadhurst became only the second Irish fighter to land the three titles - Michael Conlan being the only other to achieve the feat. For good measure the 25-year-old Dundalk woman was named 'Boxer of the Tournament' at the Europeans.

Broadhurst is a close friend of Katie Taylor, and the Bray boxer invited her to Connecticut to spar with her in the run-up to Taylor's fight against

Amanda Serrano. Those couple of weeks clearly proved to be highly useful for both with Broadhurst claiming that she learnt a lot from Taylor who she described as 'a big role model' and 'the best female boxer ever'. While Broadhurst, who was recently named best light welter weight boxer in the world, will no doubt be looking to turn professional at some point, for now she says her eyes are firmly set on the Paris Olympics in 2024.

Other monthly award winners included athlete Ciara Mageean, golfer Leona Maguire, parawalker

Katie O'Brien and boxer Lisa O'Rourke.

The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD said: "This has been an excellent year for Irish sport, and it is important to recognise and celebrate the success of our many sportswomen across such a broad range of sports during the year. Their dedication and commitment to their sport and their determination to succeed is so inspiring and is such an example for young girls all over the country. I want to congratulate all of this year's award recipients and

acknowledge their enormous contribution to Irish sport."

Dr Una May, CEO of Sport Ireland, paid tribute to all the award winners. "Over the past year we have witnessed some remarkable successes in a wide range of sports with our athletes making history and breaking records on a regular basis. Sport Ireland are a proud partner of The Irish Times to mark their achievements. I would like to congratulate all of the award winners and thank them for being such fine ambassadors for both their sport and their country."

## Funding for therapeutic horticulture programmes feasibility study at Festina Lente

Equestrian-based charity Festina Lente has been awarded €10,000 for a feasibility study into the development of social and therapeutic horticulture as a means to improve people's physical, psychological and mental wellbeing.

Festina Lente provides a unique range of equestrian, horticultural, training, employment services.

Senator Victor Boyhan a member of the Oireachtas

Committee on Agriculture has welcomed the funding saying he hope more financial support from government will be forthcoming.

"Festina Lente is committed to

empowering people to achieve their personal best in the natural world of horses, horticulture and community. The Festina Lente social and therapeutic horticulture and horse programmes support physical, psycho, social and mental wellbeing along with a range of occupational, learning and employment opportunities for people whose needs have not been met in mainstream services, the outcomes are truly inspirational."

Senator Boyhan has taken a keen interest in the charities activities which place a strong emphasis on social inclusion, choice and personal development and said he was committed to raising to promoting its holistic therapeutic programmes involving horses and horticulture. Festina Lente recently completed a €2.85 million purchase of a 40 acre site, in Belfield, Kilquade, for a national education centre for the provision of wellbeing programmes through the medium of equine-based and social and therapeutic horticulture.



Festina Lente, Bray



Former Bray Wanderers striker Ciaran 'Tarzan' O'Brien in action at the Glencormac United Charity Match in Ryder's Field, Glencormac





Wicklow singer Noel Boland

# Wicklow singer to compete on country music show

Ireland's Next Country Music star will be among the eight contestants taking part in TG4's hit series, Glór Tíre, which returns next week for its 19th season.

Wicklow singer Noel Boland will be competing against Molly O'Connell from Tipperary on January 31st, mentored by Louise Morrissey.

Glór Tíre is back on our TV screens on Tuesday January 10th at 9.30pm, and for the first time in more than two years, the performers will play before an audience. As always, the show will be presented by Aoife Ní Thuairisig and Séamus Ó Scanláin.

Eight emerging talents of Irish Country Music will fight it

out to win the title of Ireland's Glór Tíre Country Music champion, with contestants being mentored by a leading figure from the Irish Country scene.

Each week, two contestants go head to head for the right to take part in the live elimination shows in February.

To progress, they must impress resident judges, Jó Ní Chéide and Caitriona Ní Shuilleabháin, as well as this year's guest judges, who will be Eddie Rowley of the Sunday World; singer-songwriter Marc

Roberts; and Country and Irish artists John Hogan and Matt Leavy.

Each episode will also see the contestants duet with their mentor, giving Country & Irish fans plenty to look forward to in being able to see favourite artists and check out the new and emerging talent.

Glór Tíre, produced by Gael Media, is TG4's longest running and most successful country music series. It is acknowledged as a vital platform for Country and Irish Music per-

formers and essential viewing for fans of the genre.

"Glór Tíre is the backbone of Country music in Ireland," says Mike Denver. "To me, people expect to turn on TG4 and see Country music on it. It's our national station for Country music."

Radio na Gaeltachta's J6 Ní Cheide, says: "Glór Tíre is unbelievably important. It has done an amazing job in showcasing, over 19 years, the talent we have and that we might not have seen."

## Bray One Act Drama Festival returns

Mermaid Arts entre, 24th - 28th January, 7:30pm, €16 Full price



**Bray One Act Drama Festival is delighted to be back after a break of two years.**

"We have a full programme of one act plays which will bring a wonderful mix of comedy to drama to the stage. These plays will be performed by both newcomers and seasoned performers and are sure to provide 5 nights of varied entertainment.

"All proceeds from the Festival will go to charitable causes. We are very pleased to welcome our adjudicator, Anna Walker, once again, along with our loyal audience. The Festival will take place from Tuesday 24th January to Saturday 28th January 2023 at 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 24th is our dedicated Youth Night with three groups performing. We look forward to seeing you there!"

## Ham Sandwich in Tinahely

Courthouse Arts Centre, Friday 13th January, 8pm. €30

The Courthouse welcomes back Hamsandwich for the venue's first concert of 2023. A roaring success when they last played in 2019, the Courthouse look forward to hearing work from their latest album MAGNIFY, as they celebrate their 20th year as a band.

One of Ireland's most enthralling live acts in recent times, Kells, Co. Meath band Hamsandwich are well known for their incendiary live performances which has established them as one of the top touring acts in the country. Featuring their signature calling card of Niamh Farrell's powerful yet sweet vocal, Podge McNamee's juxtaposing baritone, and Darcy's soaring guitar riffs, if ever there was a band to feed off their audience it is Hamsandwich; melodic, hook-laden, and heartwarmingly charming.

Having sold out Dublin's prestigious Olympia Theatre three times, supported Arcade Fire and The Pixies, played on the main stages at the Electric Picnic, Longitude Festival, and IndiePence Festival, performing at the legendary Slane Castle with Bon Jovi, and been personally invited by Mumford & Sons to support them in Phoenix Park, to selling out their legendary acoustic show Dublin's Christchurch Cathedral on the day tickets went on-sale, Hamsandwich continue to thrive having established themselves in the upper-echelon of must-see acts on the road today.



## Cinema at Mermaid: The Banshees of Inisherin

Monday 6th February, 8pm. €9 full price, €7 concession price. Duration: 113 minutes

Set during the Irish Civil War, on a coastal Island, lifelong friends Pádraic and Colm, suddenly find themselves at an impasse when Colm unexpectedly ends their friendship.

A stunned Pádraic, endeavours to repair the relationship, refusing to take no for an answer. But when Colm delivers a desperate ultimatum, the whole village become involved in the standoff, with events swiftly escalating, with shocking consequences. With his latest film offering Martin McDonagh brings us a gentle and brutal

tale of a broken friendship, a rich, soulful journey, full of agony, laughter and big, haunting questions. Boasting standout performances from Brendan Gleeson, Colin Farrell, Kerry Condon and Barry Keoghan, the chemistry between the entire cast is the beating heart of this tragicomedy.



Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson in The Banshees of Inisherin

WICKLOW

ARTISTS

SALON

Connecting  
Conversing  
Collaborating

Mermaid Arts Centre, 7th February, 7:30pm. Free (booking is required). Duration: 2 hrs approx.

"How do artists get by? What paid work do they find most compatible with their art, and which do they find least compatible? What do artists believe should be done to assist the creative community in the future? These and other questions will be explored by Salon guests and participants in what we hope will be an informative, enjoyable and helpful evening. All welcome!"

"For this Salon, Susan Coughlan (Consultant, Coach, Facilitator and Trainer in the Arts and Culture sector) will be in conversation with Mia Gallagher (Writer), Yurika Higashikawa (Multi Disciplinary Artist and Writer) and Emmet Kirwan (Actor, Playwright and Screenwriter)."



# Emma Roche - Lined Out

*Mermaid Arts Centre, 21st January - 12th March. Opening reception 6-8pm  
Friday 21st January - all welcome*

**Lined Out is a solo exhibition of new work by Emma Roche at the Mermaid Arts Centre which will include a new large scale commission by Small Night.**

Lined Out is a solo exhibition of new work by Emma Roche at the Mermaid Arts Centre which will include a new large scale commission by Small Night.

Being 'lined-out', according to the Urban Dictionary, refers to the kind of anxiety felt by an assembly line worker. The stress caused by simple tasks and the monotony of

"the line" is a particular type and one which is exacerbated by repetitiveness.

The imagery in these new paintings and preparatory drawings denotes the repetitious multi-tasking

that is expected from us all in our daily lives. The myth of the 'together' person who can do it 'all' is also present in the work. The drawings are made quickly and obsessively and are

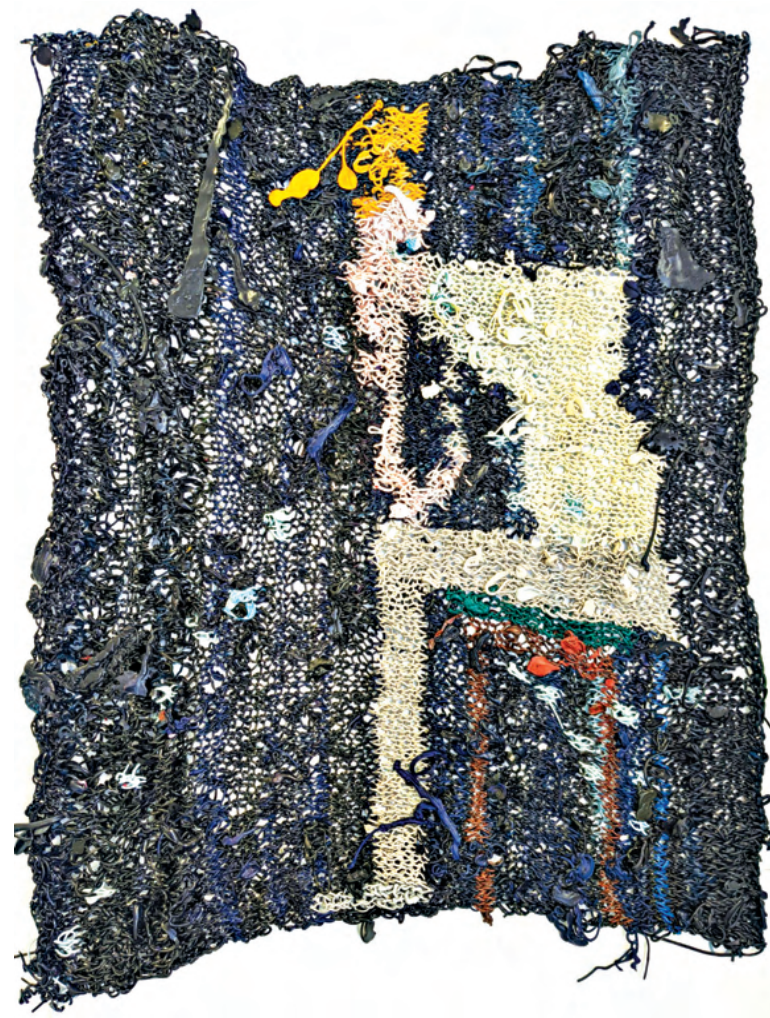
informed by a daily hum-drum.

In contrast, the processes in the knitted paintings are slow and arduous, where long lines of dried paint are used like wool or thread. The 'should-be' liquid material is forced to behave in an impossible but measured way. Working with these physical lines can treat or induce anxiety depending on the day.

Emma Roche is the 2021 recipient of The EMERGENCE Award, Wexford Arts Centre; Visual Arts, Arts Council Bursary Award, 2021 and 2020, Creative Ireland Bursary Award, 2020 and was shortlisted for the Zurich Portrait Prize, National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, 2021.

Recent exhibitions include Spiders and Cheerleaders, The Complex, Dublin, Ochre, two-person show with Ciara Roche at Wexford Arts Centre, 2021 and Forward Slash at the LAB Gallery Dublin, 2018.

Selected group shows include Generation '22, Butler Gallery, 2022, We Are Fetishists, Small Night Zine, Garter Lane, Waterford, 2022, Artworks, VISUAL



*5 Minutes, knitted acrylic paint on wooden panels, by Emma Roche, 2022*



*Sea Swim 2, acrylic paint on wooden panels, by Emma Roche, 2022*

## Blue Rose Code

*Whale Theatre Friday 20th January, 8pm (Doors 7:30pm)*

**A proud son of Leith, Ross Wilson aka Blue Rose Code writes songs straight from - and to - the heart.**

They address universal themes of love, loss, travel, home, accepting the past and embracing the future in a deeply personal way and seamlessly blend folk, Americana, jazz, soul and pop influences into something truly unique.

His fifth and most recent album, With Healings Of The Deepest Kind was released in 2020 to huge

acclaim. Taking his emotional honesty to new levels, it's the most fully realised expression of his singular vision to date. Its predecessor, The Water Of Leith was The Skinny's Scottish Album Of The Year. Scottish Album Of The Year. It was also nominated for both the SAY (Scottish Album of the Year) award and SAMA (Scottish

Alternative Music Award). Blue Rose Code will celebrate ten years since the release of the debut album North Ten in 2023

A magnetic performer who loves to connect with his audience, Ross and Blue Rose Code are now firmly established as one of Scotland's most uplifting and powerful live bands.

## Luke Carrig

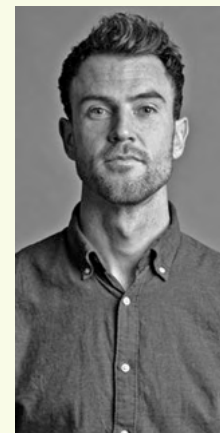
*Whale Theatre, Saturday 21st January, 8pm (Doors 7:30pm)*

Luke Carrig is a singer-songwriter from Wicklow, Ireland. After a near eight-year hiatus from music-pursuing study and living in the US-Luke is easing back into the Irish music scene with a self-titled EP released and some live shows in 2023.

Luke was a founding member of the original Raglans line up, and co-writer of the popular track "Down" from the Raglans' debut album, reaching #5 in the Irish Album Charts.

With the Raglans, Luke was signed to Glenn Tilbrook's

(Squeeze) Quixotic Records, recording and touring with Tilbrook across the UK. Now an independent solo artist, Luke fuses together his folk sensibilities with catchy pop and an Americana feel; delivering energetic and impassioned performances. Often accompanied by instrumentalist Joshua Courtney, and piano player Fiachra White (Kammerpop); a blend of talent sure to entertain.



## PLANNING • PLANNING • PLANNING • PLANNING



### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Craig Britton seeks permission for a proposed glazed entrance porch and glazed frontage to existing dwelling, the development will also consist of revisions to window openings and finishes plus a connecting roof over the link between the storage building and the main dwelling as previously approved under application no.18/730, at 'Derravara' Killadreenan, Newtownmountkennedy, Co.Wicklow, A63RH95. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

## ATTENTION

### Architects, Planners & Builders

Reach the widest readership for your planning notices in County Wicklow with Wicklow Times

Call **01 286 9111** or email **pauline@localtimes.ie**



# Preparing your car for harsh winter motoring

Wicklow is one of the most mountainous counties in Ireland and the weather can change very quickly so motorists here need to check their car components to ensure their vehicle survives the harshness and additional risks of winter weather.

By Martin McCarthy

With heavy rain and snowstorms expected over the next few months, the coldness of winter weather can worsen the condition of car components quicker. Driving in winter can already be quite a challenge for motorists

but following the five steps below can help to ensure motorists are protected and don't have to worry about their car breaking down.

Winter can be one of the toughest times for drivers on the road as the

disruptive change in weather can damage a vehicle's durability. Battery Electric cars needs special consideration - as the cold reduces driving range and getting stranded with no power in a remote area as night time

approaches can be exceptionally dangerous.

In general, if your car is in need of a service anyway, ask your local professional to do it for you as he or she will generally check the following items and know what they are looking at. There are a number of top class main dealers in Wicklow who will do this excellently.

The top items that Wicklow motorists should keep an eye on in the coming weeks are:

## 1. Tyres

In colder weather, tyre pressure tends to drop significantly and if you notice your car starting to sway, this could be down to underinflation. Tyre pressure decreases as temperature falls - so check the levels every two weeks and inflate when needed, otherwise it can lead to difficulties when braking and accelerating.

## 2. Oil

Oil tends to thicken in chilly temperatures, which can make it difficult to pump through the engine. It's recommended to use 5W30 oil in winter to help with thinning the oil to ensure the car runs smoothly. If the temperature is below 0C, give the engine a minute or two to heat up before setting off.

## 3. Car battery

Turn on the car for a few minutes before setting off to decrease the chances of the batteries stalling. Once the temperature drops, less power will be omitted which can make it difficult to start the vehicle up in the cold winter mornings. If the problem

repeatedly happens, immediately take it to a mechanic, as it could mean the battery has broken from the cold and will need replacing.

## 4. Bulbs

As the days are short and dark for the next few months, make sure the front lights and brake lights are fully working before setting off on your journey. Lights not only give us a clear view of the road but they ensure we're visible to other drivers. Failure to check your lights can lead to a fixed fine if your brake lights aren't working. If broken visit the nearer garage as soon as possible.

## 5. Heating

The feeling of warming up in the car when the weather is freezing outside is indescribable, however it can become quite easy for the heating to stop working during these conditions. This will mean there is a fault with the engine coolant, which could be blocked or even worse, a leak, which would mean it needs to be taken in for repairs. A skilled mechanic will check.

In remoter areas of Wicklow, the mobile phone is a vital safety tool and keeping a charged phone power bank can be a life saver, if the phone battery dies. A tow rope and set of jump leads + Hi Viss jacket are very useful in an emergency and well worth pulling into the boot 'just in case'.

Planning your journey and especially checking the weather forecast and letting others know where you are heading are important, especially if heading up over mountain passes.



## RECRUITMENT



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

County Wicklow Volunteer Centre is recruiting for...

## VOLUNTEER CENTRE COUNTY MANAGER

**Reporting to:** County Wicklow Volunteer Centre Chair and board of trustees

**Location:** Wicklow county

**Type of Role:** 30 hours a week, permanent

**Role:** The core responsibility of the county manager is to direct, lead and deliver on the CWVC strategic and operational plans which are developed in the framework of continuous quality improvement (CQI) and align with the National Volunteering Strategy (NVS.). This role requires skills in Leadership and Operational management, HR and Governance.

For a job and person specification, please see <https://volunteerwicklow.ie/>

**Deadline for applications: 20th January 2023**  
Please apply with a CV and covering letter to [leah@volunteerwicklow.ie](mailto:leah@volunteerwicklow.ie)



**COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN**  
**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

### • TEMPORARY & PERMANENT CLERICAL OFFICER

Salary €26,614 – €43,245 per annum gross  
(Includes 1st LSI)  
REF: 01/2023

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

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 2ND FEBRUARY, 2023 SHARP.**

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

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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Director Of Services,  
Enterprise & Corporate Services,  
Wicklow County Council,  
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Phone: 0404 20159  
Fax: 0404 20112  
e-mail: [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie)



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**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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### • REGIONAL ENERGY SERVICE MANAGER (5 YEAR FIXED TERM CONTRACT)

Salary: €71,093 – €88,727 (2nd LSI) gross per annum  
REF: 02/2023

### • ENERGY OFFICER (5 YEAR FIXED TERM CONTRACT)

Salary: €53,636 – €74,544 (2nd LSI) gross per annum  
REF: 03/2023

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

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### • ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER (GRADE IV)

Salary: €30,932 – €49,358 (2nd LSI) gross per annum  
REF: 04/2023

### • STAFF OFFICER (GRADE V)

Salary: €46,411 – €55,609 (2nd LSI) gross per annum  
REF: 05/2023

### • SENIOR STAFF OFFICER (GRADE VI)

Salary: €51,526 – €62,950 (2nd LSI) gross per annum  
REF: 06/2023

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

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# 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.

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. It has been in operation since 2018 and has supported heritage-led regeneration projects in 27 towns across the country since then. 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.

Visit the Heritage Council website for further details on the schemes.

## 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. T.C.

## LOCAL BUSINESS



JJ Sweeney and Jackie Hudson at the St. Stephen's Day Charity Swim in Arklow in aid of the Liver Unit at St. Vincent's Hospital. The event is organised annually by Eamonn and Mary Burke.

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