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Tuesday 24th January 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

SITE AT LAST FOR NWETSS

Sinn Féin TD, John Brady, a 'long-time campaigner for North Wicklow Educate Together', has welcomed the announcement that the Department of Education has reached Agreement in Principle with the landowner of a 9.3-acre site at Fassaroe in Bray, which will accommodate the North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School.

The school was first opened in 2016 in temporary premises in the old Presentation College school on Putland Rd, Bray, and has been searching for a permanent home since then. During which time, Brady says, "they have had to endure repeated setbacks, primarily as a result of failures by Minister Norma Foley and her Department".

to absolutely welcome the announcement that there is an agreement in principle to provide a site for a permanent home for the North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School at Fassaroe, in Bray.

"It represents a huge boost to all that have worked so hard for so long to attempt to secure a permanent home for the school and its

pupils and staff. North Wicklow Educate Together has been engaged in a long, and arduous search for a permanent home since 2016. This announcement is a huge step forward. Although, there could be a wait of up to 3-4 years before the school is fully completed and pupils are able to attend classes.

"I believe that there is now a clear onus on the



Sarah Finnegan, Principal Ray Tedders, Minister Neale Richond and Deputy Principal Gabriel Allen at the BIFE Open Day last Friday. Pic: Michael Kelly

Department of Education and Skills, and Minister Norma Foley to do everything in their power to push the process along as quickly as possible. Since 2016 over €11 million has been spent on temporary accommodation for schools across the country. In 2021 alone close to €6 million was spent. In the period since 2016 €881,325 was spent on rental costs for the North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School, while a further €1,701,807 was spent on refurbishments during the same time frame.

"The Department and the Minister bear considerable responsibility for the lengthy wait forced on the staff, management, and pupils of North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School, having badly let the school down in the past.

tently raising this issue in the Dáil with the Minister since 2016. At one stage when following the ending of its lease in the old Presentation College building on Putland Rd, North Wicklow Educate Together was supposed to reopen in temporary accommodation in the old Ravenswell School in Bray. However, the Department of Education and Skills had neglected to sign a licence agreement with the Religious Order who owned the old school building which was needed to allow contractors to carry out extensive refurbishment work before Educate Together would be able to move in.

"At one stage it looked like the school would not have a building for the start of the new school year, with the Minister attempting to blame Covid for the

delay in signing the agreement. Only strong intervention and the

pressure brought to bear on the Minister and the Department prevented

what could have been a disaster.

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www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings

Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow
Phone: 0404 30800 Email: enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie



Mila and Fianait Duffy at the St. Pat's Legends match in Dunbar Park, Wicklow Town.

Quiz in aid of Newcastle Community Centre

A fundraising quiz is taking place in aid of Newcastle Community Centre on Friday, January 27th in the Castle Inn. Entry is €10 per person, with a start time of 8.30pm. Cllr Stephen Stokes has urged local residents to try to get behind the event. Cllr Stokes stated: "I commend everyone involved in the Newcastle Community Centre for their excellent work. Hopefully the table quiz will raise much needed funds. Getting behind our local community centres is vital. They provide a wonderful service to the community."

Holy Rosary Soup and Sandwiches

Holy Rosary Soup and Sandwiches will be held on Wednesday, 25th January 2023 in Kilian House Family Centre, Greystones, from 12.15 to 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy good home-made food followed by tea or coffee. The suggested donation is €5. All proceeds are given to local charities.

The Soul of Cinema

This six-week series will be facilitated by screenwriter Maria O'Loughlin in The Glendalough Sanctuary. Each session includes a feature film Screening followed by a short talk on theme, group discussion, and reflective meditation. The first will be on 25th January at 7pm. To Book email: info@glendaloughsanctuary.ie

West Wicklow Historical Society website launch

The West Wicklow Historical Society will launch its website on Tuesday 24th January. The website has been designed and created by Rachel Kane of the Baltinglass-based Rachel Kane Design. Rachel has worked with the WWHHS website sub-committee over the past several months. This development is a great step forward for the society, as its only online presence to date has been its Facebook page.

The launch takes place at Baltinglass Library from 6.30pm to 7.30pm, with a demonstration of the site's various elements. All are welcome. The society aims to promote public interest in the history, folklore, genealogy, traditions and archaeology of West Wicklow and its environs, and to encourage the preservation of its archaeological, historical and architectural heritage. The WWHHS's primary area of interest is the four western baronies of County Wicklow.

Wicklow Lions Club quiz

The new season of Lions Quiz Nights will kick off on Thursday January 26th. The venue will be Doyle's Lounge in Rathnew and the deserving charities will be St Coen's school and I am Alex. A full house of quiz tables is expected so it's advisable to come along early.

Rainbows Ireland

The Brockagh Resource Centre is now a registered programme centre for Rainbows Ireland. For more information call 0404 45600 or rainbowsbrc@gmail.com. Rainbows is a free, voluntary service for children and young people experiencing loss following bereavement and parental separation. The Rainbows service is an inclusive service, supporting children and young people experiencing grief and loss resulting from bereavement/parental separation/parental relationship breakdown /divorce. Attending the programme provides children with an opportunity to meet with other children of a similar age and loss experience, at a minimum of 3 months after the loss.

Beekeeping for Beginners

South Kildare Beekeeping Association is organising a course for beginners in Athy, starting on Wednesday 15th February and running for eight weeks. The sessions will be hosted by experienced beekeepers and cover areas such as the bee colony, the equipment needed, the queen, and forage. There will also be practical sessions on making hives and using smokers. There will also be a workshop on honey extraction as the summer draws to a close. The cost will cost €65 and membership of the club is included in the fee. Register and pay on <https://southkildarebeekeepers.org/>

Funding available for coastal communities

Come along to the Information Evening to learn how businesses in Wicklow's coastal communities can apply for funding through the Brexit Blue Economy Enterprise Development Scheme.

With €25 million in funding available, this is the largest Scheme of its kind and is designed to stimulate growth in rural coastal communities.

Funding is available to businesses operating within ten kilometres of the coastline, and involved in blue economy activities including seafood, coastal tourism, boat building and repair, marine leisure

and sport, small non-commercial harbour or pier activities, and renewable energy initiatives.

Find out more about the Scheme, how it can benefit you, your business and your community, and how to apply at the Information Evening on Tuesday, 24th January at 6.30pm in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

Paul Downes, BIM Regional Officer, said the scheme has already

received some very promising and innovative proposals and is encouraging others to come along to the information session to find out more about the funding available and to get advice on preparing a submission. The information session is one of a number of events organised around the country.

For full details of the Scheme visit www.bim.ie

Rewilding talk from Alive - the Irish Living Foods Association

Alive - the Irish Living Foods Association will Host Lord Dunsany Randal Plunkett's talk on 'Rewilding' on Saturday 28th January at 3pm at Healthy Habits Studio, Quarantine Hill, Wicklow Town.

Lord Dunsany has dedicated 750 acres of his land to Rewilding. This ecological restoration has already borne fruit with Red Kites, Woodpeckers, Barn-Owls, Long Eared owls, and Sparrowhawks sighted in the reserve while the renewed grasses, marshes and streams are becoming a home to stoats, hedgehogs, otters, butterflies and bats.

The Dunsany Nature Reserve is the first Irish project to be recognised by the European Rewilding Network. It was also nominated for the 'Farm to Nature' Award for biodiversity in 2021

Lord Dunsany is also a film maker, his first feature 'The Green Sea' is available through all the digital platforms.

The 'Alive' event includes a short food demonstration by Veronica O'Reilly followed by a Living Food buffet. Cost €20. For more information contact veronica.087.146.0812.rawveronica@gmail.com.



Phil Thompson, CEO of Tiglin, with Keith McCabe of Salesforce, at the organisations' joint event on Friday 13th, a sleepout at Carrig Eden in Greystones in aid of the homeless.

WICKLOW
Times

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'Council Chief Executives become planning dictators'

"I received news recently at an The Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) Executive meeting which shocked me and will shock the people of County Wicklow," Independent councillor Joe Behan said last week.

Cllr Behan explained: "In the last days before Christmas, the Dail and Seanad passed the Planning and Development and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 2022. The Act includes a new provision which ends the decision making powers of Councillors under the Part 8 process for any housing development which the Chief Executive proposes on residential zoned land which is in public ownership. It also ends the participation of the public in the planning process for all such developments. There is no submission or appeal process envisaged so therefore the Chief Executive's decision is final.

"This means that the Chief Executive now has the power to propose and impose whatever public housing development he wishes and is no longer subject to the decision of the Councillors on the proposed development. This measure which was rushed through the Oireachtas in the week before Christmas puts absolute power in the hands of an unelected Council Chief Executive. It is effectively



Cllr Joe Behan

giving this Council official the powers of a planning dictator with no oversight or involvement either by the members of the public or the elected Council. It is undemocratic, unwarranted and unwelcome and it

has been supported fully by the Fine Gael, Fianna Fail and Green Parties.

"The new arrangements are due to last until the end of 2024 but who knows if this dictator role will ever be taken back from Council Chief Executives. It also looks likely that this FF, FG, Green Government is drawing up a new planning bill which will end the concept of 5 year County Development Plans. It will be proposed that the life of a County Development Plan will be extended to 10 years and furthermore many Local Area Plans will be scrapped. All of this means less opportunity for the public and councillors to have an input into planning matters and planning policy in County Wicklow.

"It is time to call a halt to this blatant erosion of the democratic powers of the local representatives of the people of this country. Change is needed urgently before we slide into a complete takeover by unelected senior council officials and civil servants."



Naomi Kidd and Pauline Kavanagh with Bagatelle guitarist Ken Doyle at the BIFE Open Day on Friday

No Wicklow walk in clinics for children's flu vaccine

Jennifer Whitmore TD has expressed frustration at the exclusion of Wicklow from walk in clinics for the children's flu vaccine.

Speaking last Thursday Deputy Whitmore said: "Today the HSE wrote to schools in Wicklow asking them to share information of walk in clinics

for the children's flu vaccine to families, however out of a list of 13 sites for walk in clinics, not one was listed as being in Wicklow. The nearest walk in clinic that could be accessed by Wicklow residents is in Enniscorthy on Sunday the 22nd of January. These walk in clinics are specifically for children aged 2-17 years old.

"It is great to see the HSE promoting the children's flu vaccine. However, it is disappointing that the HSE and the Minister have not seen fit to organise a walk in clinic anywhere in Wicklow. We need to be making it as easy as possible for parents to get their children vaccinated.

"The HSE should be asking schools in Wicklow to share details about how to get an appointment through your local GP or pharmacy.

"There should also be consideration for many children in schools right now from other countries. Information on how to access these services should be made available in other languages, including Ukrainian."

Families to share Covid experiences at public meeting

Care Champions represent many families who feel they were treated badly by the Government and its agencies during the Covid pandemic and they will share their experiences at a public meeting on Saturday January 28th in DCU starting at 1 pm.

Independent councillor Joe Behan who will be attending the meeting said "I welcome the work of Care Champions in presenting to the people of Ireland their lived experience during and since Covid. I fully support their call for a human rights led Public Enquiry into the treatment of older people in the health care system during Covid and in particular the separation and isolation imposed by decision makers on families who were about to lose their loved ones forever.

"I also commend Care Champions for their call to give

every hospital and nursing home patient the legal right to have access to a loved one in all care settings as has been done all over Europe since 2020.

"Recent attempts by the Taoiseach and Tanaiste to suggest minimising the scale of a Covid Enquiry by proposing the appointment of an academic to come up with 'lessons for the future' is totally inadequate and unacceptable.

"There must be a full Judicial Enquiry where evidence can be taken from the many grieving and broken hearted families who never got to hold the hand of a dying rel-

ative and were often shut out of any meaningful communication about their loved ones' medical condition.

"The buck must stop with the leaders who made these dreadful decisions and I include the political leaders as well as the leaders in the HSE and Department of Health, even if some of these have left their posts and moved on to other pastures.

"It is time for openness, transparency and accountability as to how Covid was dealt with in this country. The grieving families of Ireland deserve no less."

SITE AT LAST FOR NWETSS

Continued from page 1

"The time for foot dragging and blame avoidance has to come to an end, and the Minister and her Department need to ensure that the Agreement in Principle between the Department and the landowner is set in stone, to allow the process of moving towards the building of the new school and a new era for North Wicklow Educate Together to begin."

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly has also welcomed the news a site has been found for North Wicklow Educate Together.

"The secondary school has been campaigning hard to progress the project for a permanent new school as they have been moved between temporary sites since they were founded over six years ago. Their current school in Ravenswell, Bray has had a lot of work done to improve the facilities but it is still not where it needs to be," he said.

"At present the children have no PE facilities on site while the current size of the school at just under 400 pupils is nowhere near to meeting the demand."

Minister Donnelly said the announcement of the new site is "absolutely fantastic news for the staff, students and parents at NWET. I know they have been anxious to get the plans for the school underway so the brilliant news that an agreement on a site has been reached is a huge step forward.

"I'll continue to work closely with the board and staff to make sure the timelines for the build remain on track.

"The key thing now is to make sure the project progresses as swiftly as possible because the school deserves and needs to have a permanent home."

Deputy Jennifer Whitmore has also welcomed the news saying "It's very welcome to hear reports

that the Department of Education have reached an agreement in principle on a 9.3 acre site for North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School.

"I have been meeting with the school and parents group over many months to progress this and I would like to congratulate them on their determination and the hard work that they have put in over the years to find a permanent home for their school. It really shouldn't be this hard for parents and staff to get a much needed school a permanent home, but this new is positive none the less.

"I have raised the need for a permanent site for NETSS with the Minister for Education many times and I will be keeping the pressure on to ensure that progress is made. After 8 years waiting for a site it is important that things now move quickly as the school and the students have been waiting far too long for this."



NWETSS on the Putland Road in Bray

Funding secured for cleaning of famous Baltinglass monument

Funding was recently secured for the cleaning of the Sam McCallister monument in Baltinglass, one of Co. Wicklow's most iconic statues. The works commenced last week.



The plaque on the Sam McCallister monument

West Wicklow councillor Edward Timmins welcomed the funding and also announced that he has obtained approval for funding for works to secure the structure itself.

The Sam McCallister monument was unveiled in 1904 to commemorate the 1798 Rebellion. It depicts Sam McCallister, a Presbyterian from Antrim who deserted the Antrim Militia and fought with the Wicklow rebel Michael Dwyer. McCallister was killed at the Derrynamuck Ambush.

Paul Gorry of Gorryresearch.com, wrote about the monument in *The Baltinglass Review* in 2004: "The first ceremony at the monument site was the laying of the foundation stone on Sunday 15th June 1902. Special trains ran from Dublin with a return fare of two shillings. Hundreds of people poured into the town. Despite unrelenting rain, there was a long parade before the stone was laid by E.P. O'Kelly, the Baltinglass man who was then Chairman of Wicklow County Council.

"It was almost another two years before the monument was put in place and unveiled. On Sunday 8th May 1904 an estimated 10,000 people crowded into the town. Fortunately it was a sunny

day. A parade started at the railway station, where the Lord Mayor of Dublin and other dignitaries arrived. With flags, banners, costumes and marching bands, it was an exciting day for Baltinglass in an era when entertainment was not to be had at the press of a button.

"So began Sam McCallister's long vigil in Main Street. The railings that once surrounded the base of the statue were removed decades ago to be placed at McCallister's grave in Kilranelagh. In more recent years the area around the statue was paved [...] After a hundred years keeping watch over the town McCallister is recognisable to all Baltinglass people as a symbol of home.

"Little is known about McCallister's life other than that he was a Presbyterian, originally from Ulster, who deserted from the Antrim Militia and joined the rebels. The historian Ruán O'Donnell says that McCallister joined the Antrim Militia on 1 April 1798 in Co. Wicklow and that he may have been resident in the area at the time. That being the case, there is a strong possibility that he was living in Stratford, where there was a significant number of Presbyterians among the weavers working in the textile factory."



The Sam McCallister monument in Baltinglass

New initiative brings locals together with refugees and migrants to enjoy open water swimming

A first-of-its kind community integration initiative is being launched as a joint venture between Swim Ireland and Sanctuary Runners.

'Sanctuary Swimmers' will use the experience of open sea swimming to bring together all in the community - including asylum seekers and refugees currently living

in Direct Provision.

The launch follows the completion of a pilot programme held in Cork in the autumn of 2022 when 18 people, from across 13 different coun-

tries, were taught how to swim by Swim Ireland instructor Deirdre Sheehan.

Building on from the success of Sanctuary Runners, founded in

Cork in 2018 to break down social barriers which exist between migrants and locals across Ireland, the Sanctuary Swimmers initiative will now expand to include six locations in 2023.

"Our hope is to create Sanctuary Swimmer groups in Wicklow, Kerry, Cork, Galway and Dublin this year but perhaps elsewhere too. We're so excited to bring all our learnings from our work with the Sanctuary Runners to the water and to open sea swimming," said Ailís McSweeney, Ireland Lead Manager with the Sanctuary Runners.

Groups will consist of around 18 people and be made up of locals and people who have moved to the area alike - and Swim Ireland instructors, with a specifically designed programme, will teach the participants how to swim and be at ease in the open sea.

Releasing two short films documenting the journey through the recent pilot programme, filmed by documentary maker Clem McInerney, the films conclude with a

message of congratulations from Refugee Olympian and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Yusra Mardini, whose story is told in 'The Swimmers' film on Netflix.

Mardini promises to "One day come swim with you in Ireland."

Swim Ireland CEO Sarah Keane explained the importance of the Sanctuary Swimmers initiative. She said: "The open water can, for some, invoke a feeling of fear, for others a sense of

adventure. Those emotions are heightened for those who have never been in the sea before. Transcending these is the power of the Sanctuary Swimmers' initiative and doing it all alongside people we care about and who support us is what makes it truly unique."

Celebrating the 5th year of the Sanctuary Runners' movement which now has over 10,000 members across Ireland its founder and CEO Graham Clifford said this collaboration

with Swim Ireland offers another vital strand for community integration.

"We live on an island, open sea swimming is a liberating gift we can all enjoy. And even for those who may have developed negative views of the open sea because of their journey to Ireland, conquering those alongside locals is so important. As with our core work with the Sanctuary Runners we believe sport has such a vital role to play in community integration, in bringing people

together no matter their nationality or legal status and helping natural positive friendships develop while always championing solidarity and respect to all."

And Clifford believes the concept could travel:

"There's no reason why we couldn't look to expand this initiative to other countries. Often the best ideas are the most simple and when it comes to bringing people together swimming can achieve that in a healthy and positive way."



'Sanctuary Swimmers' during the pilot programme in Cork in 2022

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Time 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm. Fee €150
- **Pilates (Early Evening Class)** This class is suitable for everyone. It develops and enhances stamina, posture, alignment and core strength.
Places are limited so please book. Fee €100
Time 7.30 to 8.30 pm.
Pilates Later Class. Time 8.30 to 9.30 pm. Fee €100
- **Tai Chi** - Often described as meditation in motion. This is a gentle exercise class good for balance and flexibility
Time 7.00 to 8.30 pm. Fee: €130
- **Yoga for Beginners** -Consisting of breathing exercises concentration exercises slow gentle movement and relaxation.
Time 7.00 to 8.30 pm. Fee €100
- **Bridge Improvers** - This is ideally suited for those who undertook the beginners class in term 1 or those who have a good basic knowledge of Bridge.
Time 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Fee €130
- **First Aid** - Cardiac First Responder This course is run by the Order of Malta and students can obtain a Certificate from the Order of Malta and the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council on successful completion.
Time 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Fee €130
- **French - Beginners** - A useful introduction for interested in the country and language those planning a visit to France
Time 6.45 - 8.15 pm. Fee €100
- **French - Improvers** - for those who have completed the beginners course or those with some basic French language skills.
Time 8.15- 9.45 pm. Fee €100
- **Italian - Beginners** - A chance to learn the basics of this important language.
Time 6.45 - 8.10 pm. Fee €100
- **Italian - Improvers** - This class is perfect for students who completed the Italian beginners class or those with some prior knowledge of the language.
Time 8.15 - 9.45 pm. Fee €100
- **Spanish - Beginners** - An introduction to the Spanish language for complete beginners. Perfect for planning a trip to Spain or South America.
Time 6.40 -8.10 pm. Fee €100
- **Spanish - Improvers** - For those who have completed the beginner's course or may have some basic Spanish language skills.
Time 8.15 -9.45 pm. Fee €100
- **Digital Photography** - This course is taught by a professional practising photographer and aims to introduce participants to the underlying principles of camera technique and visual composition. Students will need to have access to a single lens reflex camera (Digital)
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Time 8.15pm - 9.45 pm. Fee €130

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

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

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

New Hackney pilot scheme for Roundwood

The Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan TD, alongside the National Transport Authority (NTA) has launched a one-year pilot programme for a localised, specially licenced hackney service to help improve transport choices for people living in rural locations across the country. Roundwood is one of twenty-one rural locations included in the pilot scheme.

The Local Hackney Pilot is a grant-aided programme, which is designed to encourage new part-time local hackney services to operate in communities which could not support a full time taxi or hackney operation. Applications to take part in the Pilot Programme can be made at localhackney.ie.

The pilot programme will roll out across 21 rural areas, stretching from Donegal to Cork, for one year. All drivers will be licenced, insured and Garda vetted and will be able to pick people up from their doors to drop them to where they want to go, providing that essential "last mile" connection for people living in more isolated and rural areas.

Commenting at today's launch, Minister Eamon Ryan, said: "One of our key priorities in

transport is to improve connectivity across rural Ireland in particular, not just in towns, but in the areas around those towns where so many people live and farm. This pilot responds to the reality of rural life in Ireland, in a creative and local-based way, connecting people from their doors to local towns, healthcare centres, the post-offices, or onto other transport stops and hubs."

With this new pilot service, rural communities across Ireland will now be given the opportunity to have a part time local area hackney service available to them. We will monitor it over the coming year and learn from it so that we can roll it out across many other areas. This Pilot is an important tenet of the Government's National Sustainable Mobility Plan 2022-2025 and a

key deliverable under Our Rural Future 2021-2025."

Commenting on the new pilot, Steven Matthews TD said "A key priority for the Greens in government is to improve connectivity across rural Ireland, not just in towns, but in the areas around those towns where so many people live. This pilot responds to the reality of rural life in Ireland, in a creative and local-based way, connecting people from their doors to local towns, healthcare centres, the post-offices, or onto other transport stops and hubs."

"With this new pilot service, the community around Roundwood will have a part time local area hackney service available to them. It will be monitored over the coming year, using the learning to ensure that we can roll out similar



Sergeant David Meehan; Wendy Thompson, Director of Publi Transport Regulation, NTA; Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan; Jackie Meally, General Manager, TFI Local Link Carlow, Kilkenny and Wicklow; and NTA CEO Anne Graham in Roundwood for the launch of the new pilot scheme.

schemes in other locations across Wicklow. This Pilot is an important part of the Government's National Sustainable Mobility Plan 2022-2025 and a key deliverable under Our Rural Future 2021-2025."

Each successful applicant for the local hackney license may be granted €6,000 as a subsidy to ordinary fares income, to run the service. This grant is designed to contribute towards the fixed costs associated with providing this service. It is payable by NTA over one

year, in equal monthly instalments, where the service provider can show that the services are being used and the local hackney service is of benefit to the community.

This special limited local licence is designed to ensure that existing taxi or hackney services already operating and providing appropriate service in any area are not displaced.

The local hackney, which exclusively operates on a pre-booked basis, may only pick up passengers within a des-

ignated area of 7 to 10km from a chosen point, normally the residence of the licenced driver. The drop off point has no restrictions, with trips to healthcare facilities and transport hubs further afield anticipated.

Anne Graham, CEO of the National Transport Authority said: "NTA is proud to launch this Pilot programme, which will help people in rural communities across Ireland, giving them access to a safe, reliable, part-time local hackney service in their area."

"I would encourage

anyone with a suitable and appropriately insured vehicle, who has an interest in assisting their community to submit an application for this pilot programme."

Each local hackney service will be partnered with a local NTA Compliance Officer who will be a regular point of contact for any licensing or compliance queries.

The final acceptance date for applications for the Pilot is the 28th February 2023. However, each application will be assessed at the time of receipt.

If the applicant in each area does not complete the licence process, NTA will assess the next applicant on the list. Two separate licences are legally required to operate a local area hackney; a local area hackney vehicle licence issued by NTA for suitable, appropriately insured vehicles and a local area hackney driver licence issued by An Garda Síochána for a driver who has been successfully Garda vetted. NTA will guide applicants through the process.

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Wicklow house prices expected to fall slightly this year

The price of the average three-bed semi in County Wicklow is expected to fall slightly from its current level in the next 12 months, according to a survey by Real Estate Alliance.

Three-bed semi-detached homes in the county now cost an average of €360,000, up 5% on the December 2021 average of €342,000, the REA Average House Price Index shows.

However, house prices in the county fell by -1.1% in the last quarter of 2022 as rising interest rates and cost of living increases combined to dampen the market. Local REA agents are predicting that prices may fall by -4% in 2023.

The survey concentrates on the actual sale price of Ireland's typical stock home, the three-bed semi, giving an up-to-date picture of the second-hand property market in towns and cities country-wide. First-time buyers made up 56% of the market in Q4, with 33% of sales coming from outside the county.

Average prices in North East Wicklow dropped by 2.53% in Q4 to €385,000, with time to sell rising two weeks to six. During this period, prices in Wicklow town also fell by the same amount to €385,000.

"Coupling rising costs with increasing interest rates, the second hand market saw a fall back in the latter part of 2022," said Matt Forkin of REA Forkin, Wicklow.

"We are finding that the values of new homes are stable across the

board due to Help to Buy and First Home Scheme initiatives for first-time buyers. With rising energy costs, purchasers' preferences are for A or B Rated homes and also Green mortgages that carry the lowest interest rates in the market."

Average prices in Blessington were static at €360,000, with homes taking four weeks to sell, while Baltinglass prices were unchanged at €245,000.

"Shortage of supply is helping to hold the market despite less viewings per property," said Simon Murphy of REA Murphy

Baltinglass and Blessington.

The actual selling price of a three-bedroom semi-detached house across the country rose by 0.36% over the past three months to €291,667 - representing an annual increase of 8%.

REA agents throughout the country expect prices to rise by just under 3% on average in the next 12 months. The majority of REA members feel that the scheduled changes to the Planning Acts will have little effect on market supply in 2023, due to the time lag between legislation and enactment.



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The Importance of WELLBEING

Applewood Physio & Pilates, Greystones

Eilis Kinsella M.I.S.C.P

Eilis is currently a member of the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists.

During the past 10 years since graduating Eilis has worked with many League of Ireland and Airticity league soccer teams as well as All Ireland rugby teams and professional golfers. Eilis believes in using the most up-to-date evidence-based practice and uses a combination of treatment techniques including joint mobilisation, deep and soft tissue massage, trigger point therapy, strength and conditioning, and exercise prescription.

The Ethos at Applewood Physio & Pilates

The team at Applewood Physio & Pilates are members of the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists & CORU so you can be reassured you are in the hands of highly trained professionals. Their physiotherapists have attained the highest level of University education. Eilis, Jean and Alison are committed to continued learning in order to keep up to date with the latest evidence-based research so they can deliver the best possible treatment.



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Caroline Burke
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Corinna Tighe
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Dr. Grainne Turley-Gibson
Clinical Psychologist & Yoga Therapist

Burnaby Buildings, Church Road, Greystones, A63 V6F6
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Health & Wellbeing Centre - Greystones

Greystones Health and Wellbeing centre offers a range of services to transform your life from experienced and highly qualified practitioners.

Their Counselling Psychologists provide evidence-based therapeutic interventions for adults' mental health. Their clinical Psychologists offer assessments and therapy for children, adolescents and adults.

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"We also invite you to experience a variety of healing therapeutic massages and reflexology for psychological and physical wellness. We look forward to welcoming you in strict confidence to our comfortable, ambient and safe facilities."

Most of their services are covered by Health Insurance.

Niamh Delmar is the Director of Greystones Health and Well-being Centre. Niamh is a Registered Chartered Counselling Psychologist with extensive experience working with all aspects of mental health.

Greg Dalton offers Career Guidance & Coaching, and Educational Psychology. He has Over 20 years experience in Career Guidance, Coaching & Mentoring, Study Skills & Learning Styles, Teen Anxiety, Career Selection and Psychometric Assessments. Contact: 087 462 6333

Mairéad Phelan has been working in holistic health

since 2001 and continues to add to her skills to provide better healing for her clients. As well as massage therapy and reflexology, an on-site service to the workplace is available.

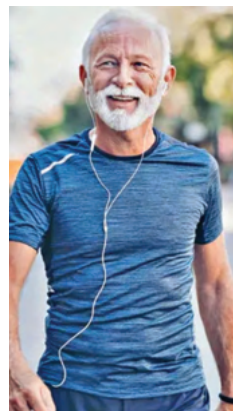
Classes are run periodically to teach holistic treatments for home use. Phone: 086 8526613 or Email: greystonesmassage@gmail.com

Dr. Karen Keogh (DClinPsych, PhD Health Psych, C.Psychol. PsSI M4346R) is the Senior Clinical and Health Psychologist. Email: DrKarenKeoghPsychologist@gmail.com. Telephone: 087 2538740, or see www.clinicalpsychologyireland.com.

Caroline Burke is a fully accredited psychotherapist with IACP. She is also a fully qualified clinical supervisor, personal development tutor, group therapist and wellbeing coach. Caroline works with individuals and couples, providing support around a range of issues from anxiety, depression, stress, self-harm to relationship issues, addiction, abuse and so on.

Email: burkecara@eircom.net or Phone: 0866016535

Dr Grainne Turley-Gibson is a Senior Clinical Psychologist and yoga therapist, who specialises in working with young people, families, and adults; and has expertise in assessing and treating those who have experienced trauma and emotional difficulties.



Arklow Cancer Support Men's Monthly Group

Arklow Cancer Support offer confidentiality, understanding, and an open door. They give free practical and emotional support to those who find themselves affected by a cancer diagnosis.

Their services include counselling, monthly meetings, specialised therapies, play therapy, a men's group, one to one counselling, and complementary therapies. They also provide free transport for patients to and from hospital appointments in Dublin on a daily basis thanks to a team of 25 volunteer drivers.

"If you have been recently diagnosed with cancer or are bereaved, and would like find out more about our supports we can gladly arrange an appointment safely for you at our Centre. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0402-23590 or 085-1100066. Once you make that first call,

we will always be here to help wherever possible."

Arklow Cancer Support are holding a men's Monthly group commencing Wed 8th February at 7.30 pm. This group is for men who are affected in any way by Cancer or newly diagnosed. This group will be facilitated by Mental Health Nurse Sarah Lawlor. You do not have to be a client to attend this meeting. If you would like to find out more information of this group or book a place feel free to contact our office on 0402-23590.



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A 'NEW ME' FOR 2023: Top tips for successful weight loss from Slimming World

January is famous for New Year's resolutions - there's something so motivating about pressing the 'reset' button and starting a New Year with a fresh set of goals - a brand-new year for a brand-new you. If you're ready to make 2023 the year that you take control, lose weight, and find your confidence, here are 4 tips to help you make 2023 healthier and happier.

1. Don't go hungry

The kind of food you're eating is much more important than the volume. Swapping high calorie foods like chocolate, alcohol, pastries for foods that are lower in calories and more bulky, so they fill you up for longer, is key to losing weight in a way that's easy to live with.

2. Be kind to yourself

We all start January with great intentions, but it's all too easy to go off track. It's what you do next that matters most - and the most important thing is not to beat yourself up about it. Being self-critical is more likely to lead to comfort eating and giving up completely. Being kinder to ourselves (imagine how you'd talk to a friend who's had a setback), we're more likely to get back to healthy eating, lose weight and keep it off. So, cut yourself some slack!

3. Strike a balance

An all-or-nothing approach is rarely effective when it comes to weight loss. Restricting yourself when it comes to food and drink might work in the short-term, but pretty soon you'll be fed up, hungry and giving up completely. A little bit of what you fancy is key!

4. Don't go it alone

Studies show that embarking on your weight loss journey alongside other slimmers brings more success than going it alone. In fact, recent research with Slimming World members found that people who are supported to lose weight in a group increase their mental toughness, take on challenges and grow in confidence -- more than those who choose to lose weight on their own.



Bray Holy Redeemer Church (Youth Centre), Herbert Rd.
Wed: 5.30pm & 7.00pm

Dun Laoghaire Evangelical Church, Lower Glengary Rd.
Sat: 8.30am & 10.00am

CALL ALISON ON: **085 272 7541**

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Email: arklowcancersupport@gmail.com



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice



Advice for people at higher risk from COVID-19

Who's at higher risk?

You are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 if you:

- are aged 75 or over, even if you're fully vaccinated
- are aged 65 or over and have a health condition that puts you at higher risk, even if you're fully vaccinated
- are aged 65 or over and you're not fully vaccinated
- are immunocompromised and have a weak immune system
- have a health condition that puts you at higher risk and you're not fully vaccinated

There is a full list of conditions that put you at higher risk on [hse.ie](https://www.hse.ie)

Advice for keeping well if you're at higher risk:

1. Make sure you're up-to-date with all your recommended vaccines, including your COVID-19 vaccines and boosters and your flu vaccine.
2. Act quickly if you have symptoms of COVID-19 – stay at home and take a test if one is recommended for you.
3. Keep a list of any medicines you are taking regularly.
4. Protect yourself day to day – wear a face mask, especially in crowded areas, wash your hands and let fresh air into your home.
5. If possible, stay away from people who have symptoms of respiratory illnesses and ask visitors to your home to delay their visit if they're not feeling well.

When to see a doctor

You should contact a doctor urgently if you are at higher risk and you have COVID-19 symptoms or you have a positive COVID-19 PCR or antigen test.

Treatments for COVID-19

Some people who are at higher risk from COVID-19 may be recommended anti-viral medication which can be effective within 5 days of onset of illness.

If your doctor decides that treatment is right for you, you'll start treatment as soon as possible.

If COVID-19 treatment is not recommended for you, your doctor will provide you with the care that is right for your condition and symptoms.

Treatment for COVID-19 is free of charge through the HSE if it is recommended for you.

Further information

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, testing and treatment, please visit www.hse.ie or call HSELive on 1800 700 700.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

'Govt must pull the plug on Coillte deal'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore and Sinn Féin TD John Brady have raised concerns about Coillte's decision which will see them partner with UK investor firm to meet forestry targets.

The Government must immediately intervene to scrap the controversial deal between Coillte and a UK-based investment firm, according to Deputy Whitmore.

Responding to concerns raised by constituents in Wicklow Deputy Whitmore said: "Coillte's plans to partner with a private investment fund is causing huge concern across the country, including here in Wicklow. I have had people contact my office about this on a number of occasions since the story broke the week before last.

"Under the plans, Coillte will source tens of thousands of acres in

rural Ireland, plant the trees and manage the forests. The State entity will do all the work with regard to this project but private international investors will reap the rewards. This news does make people nervous that locally future Coillte projects here in Wicklow may go the same way. We want our local community to be involved in driving climate action measures, not international investors.

"I recognise that Coillte is an independent state entity which must operate within a statutory framework, however I believe that the responsibility to protect rural communities, meet cli-



mate targets and promote biodiversity lies firmly with government."

Challenging the Taoiseach in the Dail on this issue on January 18th, Deputy Whitmore said: "Why is the Government facilitating this land grab by international investors, subsidis-

ing this through forestry grant schemes and tax incentives, and pushing up land prices across Ireland? Fine Gael has a track record of putting corporates before community and large investors before community, whether it is on housing or health, and

now it appears to be happening on climate action.

"Why is the State not using some of its €5 billion surplus this year to invest in forestry for the benefit of rural Ireland, for the benefit of our climate targets and for the benefit of biodiversity? The Taoiseach needs to knock this deal on the head now."

Deputy Whitmore went on to say: "This is the very opposite of a Just Transition, and at a time when Government should be supporting rural and farming communities to transition to lower carbon way of doing business, they are instead going to put additional pressures on them through higher land prices and reduced opportunities."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called on all TDs in Wicklow to support his call for the gov-

ernment to instruct Coillte to call a halt to the proposed joint venture.

Deputy Brady said: "Since this government has been in office, we have witnessed a rapid deterioration in forestry outputs. There is less forestry being planted now, than there was during WWII.

"Although County Wicklow is the second most forested county in the country, with 17.9% of the land in the county under forest, Ireland is one of the least densely wooded areas in the EU. The EU average is 33.5%, with the global average recorded at 30.6%.

"We are witnessing the outcome of the failure of the Ministers to engage with the forestry and timber sector, with farmers and local communities to address the core issues which have led to the

current situation.

"The proposed sale by Coillte on this government's watch of thousands of hectares of land to the British investment company Gresham House will see the British firm reap the rewards from the labours of Coillte, with 8,000 hectares of its Irish portfolio in existing forestry, as little as 3,000 hectares will be bare land laid out for forestry planting.

"For the Irish people this is an asset to be managed in the states interest. For Gresham House the Irish forestry sector simply offers the opportunity for corporate profits. The hypocrisy of the Green Party in a government that has laboured to punish ordinary workers in the name of a green environment, but cannot reach a single climate objective, which they themselves

have set, is staggering.

"A workable, and robust forestry policy can deliver for the environment, for communities, and for local economies. The deal between Coillte and Gresham House, will deliver in none of these areas, mirroring the failure of the government.

"I am calling on the Minister, and his government colleagues here in Wicklow to ensure that state funds, tax-payer money, potentially €2 billion, is not used to fund the proposed éland grab by asset management funds. The state cannot afford to see a replication of the housing sector in the forestry sector, where investment funds push the market beyond the capacity of ordinary people, workers, and communities. He must put an end to this venture immediately."

Wicklow hotels renew call for retention of 9% VAT

Wicklow hotels and guesthouses last week renewed their call on the Government to retain the 9% tourism VAT rate in response to very challenging economic headwinds facing the sector over the next 12 months.

New industry research carried out by the Irish Hotels Federation indicates that the sector is now at crucial juncture as it grapples with economic slowdowns in key overseas markets, escalating business costs and the impact of inflation on discretionary consumer expenditure.

The potential increase in the tourism VAT rate by

the Government is a major worry for the sector, with 81% of Irish hoteliers stating they are very concerned about the impact this would have on the outlook for their businesses. This is at a time when consumer confidence is close to decade lows across key tourism markets in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis with consumers dealing with

exceptionally high levels of inflation and increases in mortgage interest rates.

Despite an uplift in tourism during the second half of 2022, hotel room occupancy remained significantly lower than pre-pandemic levels. Results for the year as a whole reveal that average room occupancy levels were 70% nationally and 64% for the Mid East. Over the

same period in 2019, however, room occupancy was at 78% nationally, highlighting the extent of lost ground still to be made up. This is largely due to a shortfall in overseas visitors to Ireland, with numbers still down more than 25% last year compared to 2019.

Looking at the year ahead, overseas tourism markets continue to pose a significant challenge for Irish tourism, with many hotels and guesthouses reporting reduced levels of forward bookings com-

pared to the same time in 2019:

- * 57% report reduced bookings from Great Britain versus 2019 (12% report an increase, 31% no change)
- * 48% report reduced bookings from Northern Ireland (9% report an increase, 43% no change)
- * 37% report reduced bookings from the rest of Europe (17% report an increase, 46% no change)
- * 41% report reduced bookings from the US (32% report an increase, 27% no change)

Of particular concern is the bleak economic outlook for the UK with inflation having reached a four-decade high and the country facing the risk of a prolonged recession. This is worrying for hotels and other tourism businesses given the UK has traditionally been our largest source market for overseas visitors. The outlook for the rest of Europe is also concerning as is the impact of the ongoing war in Ukraine. A full recovery to pre-Covid visitor numbers is not expected until 2026 with tourism businesses facing the risk of a softening in demand as a result of a slowdown in the global economy.

Another pressing challenge for the hotels sector is excessive energy costs, with 85% of hotels and guesthouses very concerned about the impact this is already having on their business. Many hotels have experienced increases of upwards of 300% in energy bills compared with 2019 levels. It is estimated that energy costs for the average hotel are now running at 10-12% of total revenue compared with an average of 4% in 2019. Hotels have also experienced unprecedented increases across their entire cost base over the last year including average increases of 25% in the cost of food supplies, beverage costs up 16%, linen and laundry costs up over 30% and insurance costs up 18%.

Gerard O'Brien, IHF Wicklow Branch expressed deep concern about the impact the proposed VAT increase would have on an industry still recovering from the pandemic.

"With many of our key tourism markets experi-



Gerard O'Brien, IHF Wicklow

encing a cost-of-living crisis, the last thing the Government should be contemplating is an increase in consumer taxes such as tourism VAT.

Consumers in Ireland and across our overseas markets are already being squeezed by exceptionally high levels of inflation and other pressures on their finances, which means there is a very real risk that many will pull back from spending on discretionary items such as holidays and breaks away.

"It is therefore very worrying that Government is considering an increase at this time given the impact it would have on inflation and the damage it would cause to our tourism competitiveness - resulting in Irish consumers and overseas visitors having to pay the third highest tourism VAT rate in all of Europe. Now is not the time to jeopardise the recovery by increasing tourism VAT. The focus of the Government should instead be on safeguarding tourism livelihoods

and securing the long-term sustainable recovery of our industry."

Mr O'Brien noted that far from being an exceptional measure, most European countries have a low VAT rate on tourism accommodation. Those European countries that place a high value on tourism as part of their economy, tend to have lower tourism VAT rates. For example, of the 27 EU countries, the VAT rate on accommodation is 9% or lower in 16 countries. In these countries it is settled policy to support tourism with a lower VAT rate as its contribution to tourism jobs, businesses and the wider economy pays its way many times over. He said that this should equally be the case for Irish tourism as our largest indigenous industry, which prior to the pandemic supported over 270,000 livelihoods, including some 14,700 jobs throughout Wicklow, generating €135m in tourism revenues annually for the local economy.



Alison Black, Sean O'Reilly, and Yulia Khyzhniak at the 'Sleep Out to Help Out' at Carrig Eden, Greystones. The fundraising event for the homeless was organised by Tiglin and Salesforce.

Remediation scheme for defective apartments

Chair of the Oireachtas Housing Committee Green Party TD Deputy Steven Matthews has said he is pleased that the government is legislating to help owners of apartments with defects by establishing a remediation scheme for 'Celtic Tiger' era apartments with fire safety, structural safety and water ingress defects.

Deputy Mathews said, "I have been contacted by homeowners in Wicklow whose apartments were built between 1991 and 2013 and have significant issues around fire, water or structural safety. This was a priority for the Green Party when compiling the Programme for Government and I am delighted that we are now addressing these issues and will provide a remediation scheme for the works needed to bring the buildings up to standard. It will come as a relief to those affected to hear that while priority will be given to those buildings with ongoing defects, there is scope for allowing retrospective support to those who have already incurred costs by addressing the defects.

"The cost of this scheme is expected to be up to 2.5 billion euro due to the scale of the problem and this shows a clear commitment from this government to



Deputy Steven Matthews

homeowners to ensure their safety and welfare. While building control reforms have been implemented since 2014, these will be soon be strengthened by the Minister's intention to establish an

independent building standards regulator.

"The scale of the remediation works is huge, with between 50% and 80% of the apartments built between 1991 and 2013 estimated to have defects of some sort, this could be up to 100,000 units nationally. Here in Wicklow, it predominantly impacts the north of the county, which saw apartment construction increase massively during these years.

"Anybody who suspects the presence of defects in their property is advised as a first port of call, to contact their Owners' Management Company who should engage an inspector. The management companies are responsible for procuring remediation works. If you think you may be impacted and would like further information feel free to contact me at any time," concluded Deputy Matthews.



Audrey Glover with Rodney and Audrey Evans at Tiglin and Salesforce's sleepout fundraiser in aid of the homeless at Carrig Eden in Greystones.

Harris pays tribute to former Chief Justice

Minister for Justice Simon Harris last week paid tribute to former Chief Justice John Murray who died aged 79.

"I have learned with great regret of the death of former Chief Justice John Murray and wish to express my deepest condolences to his wife Gabrielle, daughter Caitriona, son Brian, his grandchildren and wider family," said Minister Harris.

"A native of Limerick and a resident of Greystones, Judge Murray was a most distinguished jurist who served twice as Attorney General, and for a remarkable twenty four years as a Judge, including on the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, as a Judge of the Supreme Court, and as Chief Justice of Ireland from 2004 to 2011.

"He was rightly proud of the institutions of our State, and took pride in his own service in one of its great institutions, the Supreme Court. He will be very much missed by his many friends and of course by his family. Ar dheis D  go raibh a anam."

Stokes backs calls for forestry action

Cllr Stephen Stokes is backing Senator Victor Boyhan's calls for forestry action. Senator Boyhan recently attended a briefing on January 19th, by Minister Charlie McConologue and Minister for State Pippa Hackett, in relation to the forestry crisis. In particular he raised a number of concerns with the Ministers.

Senator Boyhan and Cllr Stokes believe that foresters and famers in Wicklow are calling on Government to get forestry back on track.

Senator Boyhan stated: "We need clarity as to what the governments forestry strategy will get approval by the EU Commission. In 2019 the DAFM commissioned a review of the approval processes for afforestation in Ireland, why has this review - the Mackinnon report - not been fully implemented?"

Cllr Stokes added: "Forestry is a key issue in County Wicklow. Increasing forests will boost our biodiversity and offset carbon. I would like to commend Senator Boyhan for pressing for positive solutions."

Foresters and famers are calling on Government to take five important initiatives. All of which Senator Victor Boyhan raised. These include:

1. Reform the licensing system to reduce bureaucracy and bring an end to long delays.

2. Forestry programme schemes need to be simplified.

3. Increase forestry grants and premiums to provide for economic options for farmers and landowners and drive up the afforestation rate.

4. Payments for ecosystem services, such as enhancing biodiversity, habitats and sequestering carbon, will provide additional incentive for woodland creation.

5. Make land avail which is a core issue in increasing afforestation.

Senator Victor Boyhan added: "What we need is a sustainable forestry sector, one that can deliver on commercial, climate and biodiversity goals and one that would contribute to a reduction in the volume of imported timber." Cllr Stephen Stokes fully backs these efforts."

Cllr Stokes concluded: "Working to enhance trees and and biodiversity should be a priority. Wicklow is in a great position to lead in this area, if resources are made available."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANT IN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

RECTIFICATION OF TITLE COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 8 OF 2022 – CONFIRMATION ORDER 10 PARKMORE, BALTINGLASS, COUNTY WICKLOW

Wicklow County Council has on the 11/01/2023 has made a confirmation order confirming the above named compulsory purchase order as respects the land described in the Schedule hereto. The said order, as so confirmed, authorises Wicklow County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily for the purposes of rectification of title in accordance with the Housing Act 1966.

It will become operative three weeks from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the order as so confirmed and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow

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

If such an application is made, the court:

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

Schedule

Map Number Deposited at the offices of Local Authority	Number on map deposited in Local Authority	Quantity, description and situation of land. (Hectares, Townland and Description of Property)	Owner or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers or reputed occupiers
19/06/20(1)/100	1A	0.013, Lathaleere. Part of Road	Folio WW10165 John and Mary Cullen		Wicklow County Council
	1B	0.017, Lathaleere, Rear garden of house No. 2 Eircode W91Y2Y2		Folio WW3058L Patrick Hughes	Occupier Patrick Hughes
	1C	0.017, Lathaleere, Rear garden of house no. 3 Eircode W916C5			Occupier Wicklow CoCo tenant Kathleen Farrell
	1D	0.048, Lathaleere, Rear Garden of house No 5 Eircode (W91E2AD)			Occupier Wicklow CoCo tenant Sinead Barry
	1E	0.013, Lathaleere, Rear garden/Side of house No 6 EircodeW91C6A2		Folio WW3016L Wicklow CoCo	Occupier Keith Pender and Barbara Fagan

15/01/2023
Joe Lane, Director Services, Housing and Corporate Estates



Junior Captain Thomas Dunne, President Tom O'Neill, President Dorreen McGettigan, Captain Christine Ryan, Junior Captain Emma Dunne and Captain Pat Stapleton at the Captain's Drive in Wicklow Golf Club.

'Immediate action needed on Bray's boarded up houses'

At the January meeting of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien requested a detailed report on the status of boarded-up houses in the Bray District.

Cllr O'Brien stated, "As a Councillor I meet vulnerable people every day who are in housing distress. When these people see houses boarded up in their own community they might see a glimmer of hope for themselves so they contact their local Councillor. This is where it gets challenging and frustrating for many people.

"We know houses that are vacated need to be assessed and then whatever work is required needs to be done before they can be allocated. What we don't know is the details of all boarded up houses in the district, the status of each house in terms of repairs required and the timeline for bringing them back into use. This is what I requested because this information would be very valuable as it gives us the capacity to give clear information to constituents. Vagueness does not help vulnerable people one bit."

It is well documented that Government funding falls far short when it comes to the allocation of funding to County Councils for repairs and upgrades on Council houses. This is yet another example of a Govt not respond-



Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien

ing to an obvious and identified need in a housing crisis. It's all well and good for local politicians and officials to highlight the issue but until and unless the national Govt takes action we will still be looking at these houses and wondering why those who need them can't get into them."

Council features in Regulator's overview of planning system

On December 30th 2022 the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) published its Annual Overview of the Planning System 2021. The report reviews key trends and outputs over the year in the wider planning system in Ireland.

It includes a comparison with patterns in previous years and is the only analysis of its kind of the Irish planning system.

The report also identifies and makes observations on some of the key trends which reflect Ireland's and each local authority's planning performance in 2021. It includes key statistics and indicators relating to Wicklow County Council.

Some of the key findings in the

report relating to Wicklow County Council are:

- The planning invalidation rate (the percentage of invalidated planning applications as a proportion of all applications made) in Co Wicklow decreased from 16.9% in 2020 to 14.1% in 2021.
- In Wicklow in 2021, 87% of all planning applications were granted permission while 13% were refused. The national average grant-rate in

2021 was 88.5%.

- In total, there were 1,442 planning applications approved and 260 refused by Wicklow County Council in 2021.

- Overall in 2021, 8.4% of planning application decisions made by Wicklow County Council were appealed to An Bord Pleanála. Of these, 23% were reversed. The national average rate of appeal in 2021 was 6.7%, the average reversal rate was 27.7%.

- Wicklow County Council had a total of 106 sites designated as either vacant and/or derelict. This contrasts with the CSO figure for the county of

3,414.1 (It's noted that the CSO's criteria for considering a dwelling vacant and the statutory criteria for a given site or lands to be considered as vacant and/or derelict are very different).

Commenting on these findings, Planning Regulator, Niall Cussen said: "2021 was a year of very significant activity by local authorities in starting to implement funding streams aimed at securing urban and rural regeneration. However, a critical function to such investment will require concerted action on vacant and derelict buildings. While core planning functions continue to expe-

rience high volumes of activity, more is also being asked of local authorities."

Commenting on these findings, Planning Regulator, Niall Cussen said: "2021 was a year in which local authorities such as Wicklow County Council continued to deliver key statutory planning functions within strict timelines and in an operational environment that was challenging due to public health restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid pandemic. It is a great credit to the planning process in general that high levels of throughput in handling planning applications and appeals contin-

ued despite the pressures. While core planning functions continue to experience high volumes of activity, more is also being asked of local authorities."

"2021 was also a year of very significant activity by local authorities in starting to implement funding streams aimed at securing urban and rural regeneration. However, a critical function to such investment will require concerted action on vacant and derelict buildings.

"While core planning functions continue to experience high volumes of activity, more is also being asked of local authorities."

SSE partners with Bureau Veritas for offshore wind park certification

Renewable Energy specialists Bureau Veritas has announced its partnership with SSE Renewables to its growing Renewable Energy division client portfolio.

Following a competitive tender process, the team at Bureau Veritas has been awarded the Project Certification of Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2, off the East coast of Ireland at Arklow.

Leading renewable developer, owner and operator SSE Renewables will invest up to €2.5 billion to deliver the project which is targeting operation in 2028.

Up to 62 wind turbines and two offshore substation platforms will be developed as part of the project.

Once operational, it will generate up to 800MW of electricity, enough to power almost 850,000 homes with green energy. The wind park will also offset around 830 million kilos of harmful carbon emissions annually.

Bureau Veritas will be responsible for providing project certification during the design phase covering the wind turbines, foundations, towers and sub-stations according to the international standards.

Head of Renewable Energy at Bureau Veritas, Mauricio Pereira, is exhilarated by the collaboration with SSE Renewables: "It's an exciting time for our renewables team as we are continually working hard to grow and develop our leading division. We are thrilled to be working with SSE Renewables to help ensure the safety, quality and performance of Arklow Bank Wind Farm Phase 2 through our trusted certification process.

"We have a specialist team of offshore wind professionals with



John O'Sullivan, Project Manager, SSE Renewables

vast experience and leading knowledge of regulatory requirements, who are looking forward imparting their expertise across every aspect of the design, construction and operation of Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2."

The UK and Ireland's clean energy champion, SSE Renewables awarded the contract to Bureau Veritas.

John O'Sullivan, Project Manager, SSE Renewables said: "We are delighted to partner with Bureau Veritas who will manage Project Certification during the development phase of the project. Safety is a core value at SSE Renewables and it is critical that the highest standards are met and maintained in line with all regulatory requirements."

Delivery of the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 project will make a significant contribution to the Irish Government's climate action target of 7GW of offshore wind by 2030. The project which is one of the first tranche of Irish projects to be developed was recently awarded a Maritime Area Consent (MAC).

The project also holds consents for its Onshore Grid Infrastructure (OGI) and Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) at South Dock, Arklow Harbour.

Planning regulator launches new series of videos

The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) has launched a new series of videos and flowcharts aimed at helping people navigate their way through the planning application process.

Planning Regulator Niall Cussen said: "From the citizen's perspective, making an application for planning permission can appear daunting as people may be unfamiliar with the different processes and procedures.

With that in mind, the OPR has launched a new series of videos and flowcharts aimed at helping people navigate their way through the planning application process. These videos and flowcharts clearly explain the main steps involved in making a planning application and are a great resource if you are thinking about applying for planning permission.

"Enhancing the public's understanding of the planning process is a key function of the OPR. These videos and flowcharts are an important contribution to this process and will be a great practical resource."

The OPR was established in April 2019 on foot of recommendations made by the Tribunal of Inquiry into Certain Planning Matters and Payments (the Mahon Tribunal). Its purpose is to oversee the continuous enhancement of Ireland's planning process and its outcomes by driving the co-ordination of planning policy implementation across national, regional and local levels, building a stronger knowledge base and ensuring regular reviews of the performance of planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.

Work starts on Greystones Media Campus

Exploratory site works have started on the Greystones Media Campus in Killincarrig which received Planning Permission a year ago.

Once fully developed, the state-of-the-art Greystones Media Campus will be Ireland's largest studio complex offering 14 sound stages for use by domestic and international production companies.

"The Campus will contribute to the creation of many jobs and reduce the reliance on commuting though it will be sad to see those field go," said Cllr Derek Mitchell (FG).

International consortium Hackman Capital Partners, Square Mile Capital and MBS Group, will develop and operate the €300m film and TV campus, which will produce movies and shows for the global market, will contribute to the creation of 1,500 jobs, with 450 construction staff to be employed during the building phase.

The group was also behind the acquisition of Ireland's Ardmore Studios



Cllr Derek Mitchell

and Troy Studios in August 2021.

The two-phased development is a joint venture with the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF), Ireland's sovereign development fund and Capwell, a Sisk family investment vehicle.

The partnership's affiliate, The MBS Group, will not only assist in the purpose-built studio design, but will also oversee studio operations and provide

production services and equipment rentals when the new studio campus opens its doors.

When fully developed, Greystones Media Campus will be Ireland's largest studio complex with more than 670,000 square feet of studio space on 44 acres with sea views, including 14 state-of-the-art sound stages. The first 7 sound stages and associated office, workshop and backlot spaces will be delivered in mid-2024.

The development will double the high-end film and television stage capacity in Ireland to help meet current tenant demand as a growing number of international and domestic productions are vying for existing space.

The audio-visual sector is currently worth over €1 billion to the Irish economy, with approximately 12,000 people employed in film, television and animation production.



The new Greystones Media Campus will be located in Killincarrig

Brady calls for action on derelict Anvil store

Sinn Fein TD John Brady has expressed concern at the condition of the former Anvil store on Main Street Bray. The building which has been derelict for a number of years, had been sold, and planning permission was granted in May of last year for fifteen apartments and commercial and retail space on the site.

It now appears to be on the market once again. "In the meantime, it represents an eye sore and a potential danger to the passers-by," said Deputy Brady, "with store frontage and signage in a dangerous state of repair,

and in danger of falling on pedestrians."

Concerns have also been raised by members of the public that the building is being used as a drug den by users in the town.

Deputy Brady said:

"Without reverting to demonising language or painting the Main Street in a bad light, it is important that these concerns are addressed by the appropriate bodies. The reality is that members of the public have observed drug users entering the building and are aware that it is being used for the taking of drugs.

"The immediate concern is that the building in its current state represents a danger to both pedestrians who might be passing by, but also, and in particular those who would illegally enter the building for whatever reason. I have contacted Wicklow County Council and asked that action be taken under the Derelict Sites Act. It is important that this derelict site be made safe, secure, and presentable as soon as possible.

"It is also a truth that our Main Street in the town is very much akin to the front door to Bray, it impacts on visitors, on shoppers, and on investors. There is a responsibility to businesses in the town to make the experiencing of and investing in business as attractive as possible. I would ask the Council to act with haste to ensure the safety of members of the public, and to protect existing businesses in the area."



Deputy Brady with Sinn Fein councillors Grace McManus and Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien outside the former Anvil store on Bray Main Street



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

RECTIFICATION OF TITLE COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 7 OF 2022 – CONFIRMATION ORDER 09 PARKMORE, BALTINGLASS, COUNTY WICKLOW

Wicklow County Council has on the 11/01/2023 has made a confirmation order confirming the above named compulsory purchase order as respects the land described in the Schedule hereto. The said order, as so confirmed, authorises Wicklow County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily for the purposes of rectification of title in accordance with the Housing Act 1966.

It will become operative three weeks from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the order as so confirmed and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow

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

If such an application is made, the court:

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

Schedule

Map Number Deposited at the offices of Local Authority	Number on map deposited in Local Authority	Quantity, description and situation of land. (Hectares, Townland and Description of Property)	Owner or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers or reputed occupiers
19/06/20(2)/100	2A	0.029, Lathaleere. Part of Road and open space	Folio WW10166 Brendan Cullen		Wicklow County Council
	2B	0.009, Lathaleere, Front Garden of House No.2 & house Eircode W91Y2Y2		Folio WW3058L Patrick Hughes	Occupier Patrick Hughes
	2C	0,010, Lathaleere, Font garden of house no. 3 and house Eircode W916C5			Occupier Wicklow CoCo tenant Kathleen Farrell
	2D	0.018, Lathaleere, Front Garden of house No 5 and house Eircode (W91E2AD)			Occupier Wicklow CoCo tenant Sinead Barry
	2E	0.042, Lathaleere, Front and rear garden of house No.6 & House Eircode W91C6A2		Folio WW3016L Wicklow CoCo	Occupier Keith Pender and Barbara Fagan

15/01/2023
Joe Lane, Director Services, Housing and Corporate Estates



Jennifer Fitzmaurice and Helen Sutherland who graduated with a MA in Early Years Education and Care from SETU

83 Wicklow graduates conferred at SETU award ceremonies

History continues to unfold at South East Technological University this month with the final series of conferring ceremonies for the class of 2021/22 taking place on the Carlow and Waterford campuses.

Over 2,000 graduates were conferred in the second week of January with awards in a range of disciplines, from technology, business and engineering to the arts, humanities and science bringing the total number of graduates in SETU's first year to a remarkable figure of 4,733. Among these are 83 Wicklow graduates who will be conferred in these ceremonies.

Graduates will receive awards ranging from level 6 to level 10, showcasing the valuable opportunity SETU offers learners to progress from certificate to doctoral level at any stage of their career.

The January ceremonies will see the award of 31 doctorates to graduates across both campuses and the largest annual military graduation in the State from a higher education institution, with over 220 officers and enlisted personnel being awarded SETU qualifications.

Speaking at the ceremonies,

Prof Veronica Campbell, President of SETU acknowledged and celebrated the evolving nature of how and when our learners access education, "At SETU we promote life-long learning and our students join us from diverse walks of life and through different access pathways. While some of you came to college straight from school, others joined higher education later in life. Regardless of how you entered this institution, you are all leaving with a university level qualification that will allow you to pursue the next stage of your career with the appropriate skills, the ability to continue to learn and as individuals, prepared and ready for the workplace."

Looking to the future, Prof Campbell's address also gave graduates and guests a sense of the global ambition of the south east's new university, "We are a multi-campus university and that brings

great opportunities for synergies and new ideas. We aspire to be a leading European University, invested in our region and working for our region.

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

Prof Campbell concluded by reminding graduates that they hold a very special place in SETU's history, they are the first graduates of South East Technological University. "Your names are among the first signed into the SETU graduates roll book. Generations of graduates will follow you in ceremonies like this but you are the pioneers."

Wicklow takes home two prizes at Young Scientist Exhibition

The winners of the 59th BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) were announced on 14th January.

Grace Delaney from St. Mary's College in Arklow was Highly Commended for her investigation 'Has covid-19 lockdown resulted in increased rates of juvenile sports injuries and what has the psychological impact been?'.

Grace Cullen, Aisling Doyle, and Ava Smith McGarry from Colaiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole won the Display Award for their project on sustainable forest fire prevention.

Shane O'Connor and Liam Carew, aged 19 and

in sixth year in the Abbey School, Tipperary won with their project Assessing the impact of second-level education on key aspects of adolescents' life and development. The coveted prize was presented to the winners this evening in the RDS in Dublin by Minister for Education Norma Foley TD, and Managing Director of BT Ireland, Shay Walsh.

Chair of the Social and Behavioural Sciences Group Judging Panel, Professor Joe Barry said, "What we are looking at

here is a very impressive survey conducted in three waves over 24 months with more than 2,000 responses examining how secondary school students perceived school to impact on their social, physical and mental well-being. One of the key findings coming out of the research was that whilst inequality is prevalent in DEIS schools, exponential improvements in areas of pastoral care and physical health are quickly closing this gap. To quote directly from the students'

research, 'Secondary school is a vital social outlet for students and this can be seen across our interviews, focus groups and in particular in our survey'."

The 2023 Young Scientist & Technology winners received the BTYSTE perpetual trophy and the top prize of €7,500. The winners will also represent Ireland at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists, which takes place in Brussels, Belgium in September 2023. They'll also get to attend the 64th Annual London International Youth Science Forum this summer.

Speaking at the awards ceremony this evening, Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD said "I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Shane and Liam on winning this truly prestigious trophy and award, in what has been another inspiring year of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition. With the BTYSTE back in person for the first time since before the pandemic, I have had the pleasure to witness first-hand the level of innovation and creativity demonstrated by this year's entrants, across a range of important and relevant topics. To every participant ñ you have been an excellent representative of yourself,



Ava Smith McGarry, Aisling Doyle and Grace Cullen from Colaiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole won the Display Award for their project on sustainable forest fire prevention.



Grace Delaney from St. Mary's College Arklow with teacher Joanne English. Grace was Highly Commended for her investigation 'Has covid-19 lockdown resulted in increased rates of juvenile sports injuries and what has the psychological impact been?'.

your family and your school, and you should be incredibly proud of your achievements.

"The calibre of each entry is a testament to the tenacity and talent of the students behind them, and it is this constant high standard that makes BT Young Scientist one of the longest running, and most successful STEM events in Europe. From my time in the classroom, I am aware of the enormous work and support required to participate in competitions like

this, and I wish to acknowledge your teachers and school communities who have also generously given their time and expertise to support you on your journey. A special thank you also to the parents and families of students for their constant encouragement and outstanding support."

Shay Walsh, Managing Director, BT Ireland said, "On behalf of the entire team at BT Ireland, I wish to thank each and every student who took part in this year's exhibition for sharing your

ideas with us. After a long three years, it has been a pleasure to welcome you all back to the event in person.

The past week has been truly inspiring, and I am in awe of your unique and individual talents. The level of creativity, innovation and research displayed over the last number of days has been nothing short of remarkable, and I am humbled and grateful to be a part of it. I would also like to extend my congratulations to all our winners, who join a special group

of some of Ireland's brightest minds. I have no doubt this is only the beginning of all the brilliant work you will go on to do. To all the teachers, parents, guardians and everyone who supported the students who entered on their journeys, I express my sincere thanks. We are hugely grateful also to our panel of esteemed judges, our sponsors and partners, and of course, our own BT team, without whom this magnificent Exhibition would not be possible."

Wicklow rowers set new world record crossing Atlantic

A team of Co. Wicklow rowers set a new world record for the fastest crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by a five-person team, making their way from the Canary Islands to Antigua in 33 days, 12 hours and 38 minutes.

Their time beats the previous record by over two days and they raised €51,000 for charities in the process.

Tom Nolan, Shane Culleton, Derek McMullen, and brothers Gearoid and Diarmuid O'Brien, come from the areas of Rathdrum, Arklow, and Tinahely. They took up rowing just two years ago. They rowed the Brughra under the team name 'Row Hard or Go Home' as part of the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Rowing Challenge.

They crossed the finish line at approximately 8:30pm local time on Sunday 15th January. They rowed 3,000 miles (4,800km), starting on 12th December.

The team took on the challenge to raise funds for the RNLI and LauraLynn Children's Hospice.



Wicklow rowers Tom Nolan, Shane Culleton, Derek McMullen, and brothers Gearoid and Diarmuid O'Brien.



Team Ireland's Alpine Skier, Wicklow-born Eábha McKenna, pictured at the official team day for the European Youth Olympic Festival which takes place in Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy, from the 21st-28th January. The Olympic Federation of Ireland has two athletes competing in the multi-sport event that is run by the European Olympic Committees every two years. The EYOF replicates the senior Olympic Games with a focus on providing valuable learning experience young athletes. Photo by Sportsfile

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Avonmore MS address water issues with 'Urinetown'

The members of Avonmore Musical Society are delighted and excited be back rehearsing for their upcoming production 'Urinetown' (Ur-in-Town), the Musical which will be staged in St. Mary's College, Arklow from Tuesday 11th April to Saturday 15th April, both dates inclusive.



The production team for this year's show is: Stephen Acton (Director), Naoimh Penston (Musical Director), and Martina Lynch (Choreographer) and what a cast and chorus awaits musical theatre goers.

Urinetown is a social and political satire set in a fictional future where a terrible 20-year drought has crippled the city's water supplies. Water is so scarce that the government enforces a ban on all private toilets in an effort to control water consumption.

The citizens must now use the public, pay-per-use amenities owned and oper-

ated by Urine Good Company (UGC) - a private malevolent corporation run by the corrupt Caldwell B. Cladwell. Citizens who try to circumvent the peeing-fee by relieving themselves in the bushes risk being taken away to 'Urinetown', a mysterious place where many have been sent but no one ever returns.

The oppressed masses huddle in line at the poorest, filthiest urinal in town, Public Amenity #9, which is run by the rigid, harshly authoritarian Penelope Pennywise and her assistant, dashing young rebel Bobby Strong. With fee increases in the pipeline, the poor rise up under the leadership of Bobby to fight the tyrannical regime for the right to make the

public amenities free for all to use.

The New York Times said of Urinetown in 2001: "Urinetown is a hilarious and resonating tale of greed, corruption, love, and revolution in a time when water is worth its weight in gold. A declaration of the power of theatre! Everything fits together in the creation of something that feels entirely original. The show's glorious message is: Hey, it's only theatre, but isn't it wonderful? And did I mention it's hilarious? Simply the most galvanizing theatre experience in town."

There's no adult language or sexual innuendo, though there is some brief, cartoon violence when evil is inevitably punished. Urinetown's comedy

extends far beyond toilet humour, as well; the lyrics and jokes are clever enough to appeal to adults, and clean enough for children younger than high school age.

Rehearsals commenced the second week of January and will continue each Monday and Wednesday night at 7.30pm in St. Mary's College, Arklow as well as Sunday evenings. Everyone is excited to be back to what they love doing and the group are currently looking for men to join the show, which is a big show for the chorus with some minor roles still to be cast. If you are interested please contact Patrick Bracken, Secretary or email him at avonmoremusicalsociety@gmail.com for further information.

Tickets for this year's show will be on sale soon through gr8 Events. Ticket prices are: Tuesday 11th April (opening night) all tickets €15 each, downstairs and balcony; Wed - Saturday night Downstairs all tickets €18 and Balcony €20 per ticket, plus booking fee. Wheelchair users to contact box office number which is 087 4333181.

Avonmore Musical Society will hold their AGM via Zoom on Tuesday 31st January, 2023 at 8pm. If you would like to be part of the meeting please email: avonmoremusicalsociety@gmail.com where all are welcome.

If you are interested in sponsoring this year's production please get in contact also.

An Evening with D. Cullen

Whale Theatre, Friday 3rd February, 8pm (doors 7m). Tickets €15 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

D. Cullen is proud to present "An Evening With D. Cullen" in The Whale Theatre. Having just come off of a rip-roaringly successful Irish & UK tour with his band, D. cannot wait to present an intimate, acoustic show to the people of The Whale Theatre.

Singer and songwriter D. Cullen has just released his hotly anticipated new album Sing My Story, Tell My Song on 23rd September 2022. The twelve-track album has been a long time in the making: writing started in 2018, with recording sessions with Boo Hewerdine and Chris Pepper in 2019, and the album was set for release in 2020 when it was derailed by Covid lockdowns.

In 2019 D. Cullen released first single from the album 'Alright' which debuted with a performance on The Late Late Show, and quickly became one of the most played songs on RTÉ Radio One. After a slew of single releases in 2020 and 2021 (including "Radio", which brought him back to The Late Late Show for a barnstorming 2nd performance) during Covid, D. began a two-year process of recording demos, drafting in musicians for remote sessions, sending files and ideas to Roger Bechirian, Conor McLoughlin, Ivan Jackman and Chris Pepper, and essentially making a whole new album's worth of songs. When the time came to finally release the album, he had over forty songs to pick from and the cream of the crop made it onto Sing My Story, Tell My Song.



D. Cullen

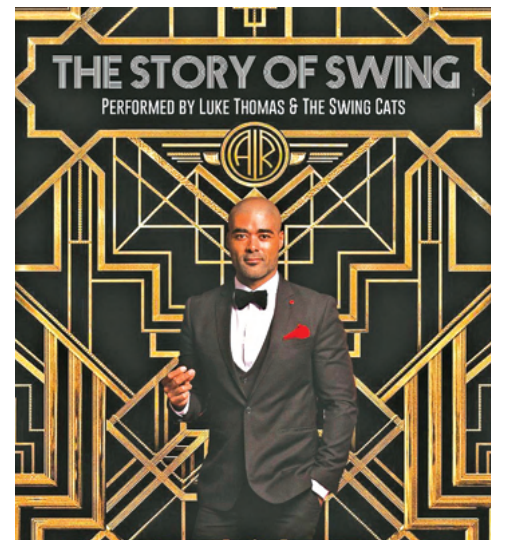
The Story of Swing... Prohibition Edition

Whale Theatre, Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th February, 8pm (doors 7m). Tickets €28 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

DThe Story Of Swing returns to the Whale Theatre on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th February 2023!!! Join Ireland's King Of Swing Luke Thomas and his band The Swing Cats as they perform a very special PROHIBITION EDITION of their hit show The Story Of Swing. A musical timeline of SWING classics from the 1920's to the modern day!!

Featuring all your favourite SWING and Big Band songs like Sing Sing Sing, Puttin On The Ritz, Mack The Knife to Crooning classics like Mr. Bojangles, Fly Me To The Moon, New York plus many more performed by THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS - Luke Thomas & The Swing Cats!! An absolute must for all SWING music fans

Approx. Duration: 2 Hours with Interval.



Lined Out: An exhibition by Emma Roche

Mermaid Arts Centre, 21st January - 11th March, Free admission

Lined Out is a solo exhibition of new work by Emma Roche, recipient of the 2021 Wexford Arts Centre EMERGENCE Award. Roche's unorthodox textural paintings are accompanied by a new large-scale commission of hand-screen printed works on paper by Small Night, an art and text project by James Merrigan.

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' evokes dynamic states of anxiety and comfort, exacerbated by repetitiveness.

Roche's preparatory drawings, made quickly and obsessively, are informed by the humdrum of repetitive daily tasks. In contrast, the processes employed by Roche in the knitted paintings are slow and arduous, where long lines of paint are prepared and dried to be used like wool or thread. The 'should-be' liquid material is forced to behave in an apparently impossible but measured way.



Vote for Noel in Glór Tíre

Noel Boland, originally from Carlow and now living in Co. Wicklow, is an up and coming country singer songwriter and 2023 Glór Tíre contestant mentored by Louise Morrissey. Noel will be making his appearance on the 31st January and then the people can vote for Noel on the 7th february.



Noel Boland with y Louise Morrissey

Noel has hit the ground running on the country scene. He's had a passion for American Country music from an early age, with influences from many of his favourite artists such as Garth Brooks, Keith Urban, George Jones and George Strait. You can hear both old and new styles reflected in his writing style and vocals. His last four original songs - 'Always in My Heart', 'Out Of My Mind', 'Heart Don't Lie', and 'Again with you' - have all hit the No.1 spot on the Charts with phenomenal radio & TV response and as a result of this he signed his first publishing deal with renowned Irish publishing company Bardis Publishing.

In June Noel was crowned 2022 winner in the Cowboys and Heroes Search for a country star competition beating off some stiff competition singing his original song 'This Thing', co-written with non other than Johnny Brady. This upbeat Keith Urban



Noel Boland

sounding song is due for release later this year. Noel is a big fan of the Irish country star and told us it was a great honour to write a song with him and to appear at Bradyfest earlier this year getting to sing on stage in the songwriters round with the man himself.

The Song was produced by the very talented Canadian singer songwriter and friend Dan Washburn and the music was cut in Nashville by none other than Chris Leuzinger who is Garth Brooks' guitar player for the past 30 years. Chris is currently on tour with Garth and played Croke

Park in September. Noel has also penned a song this year with Nathan Carter's Manager John Farry who in his own right is a very talented singer-songwriter. This will be heard on Noel's upcoming album.

Coming up next Noel is releasing a duet and making live appearances

with friend and country legend Bernie Heaney formerly of the Honky Tonk Angels. Later this year Noel's debut album is due for release with 10 original country songs with something for everyone from old style country to modern sounding. This will be one not to be missed!

Sapling: An exhibition by liing heaney at The Courthouse

Courthouse Arts Centre. Opening Saturday 21st January 2pm- 5pm. Runs until Saturday 4th February 4pm.
Please note that for this exhibition opening hours will be Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm

The Courthouse Arts Centre's opening exhibition of the Spring season sapling is a new work by artist liing Heaney. Following a year-long residency in the Courthouse Arts Centre, sapling presents on-going work focusing on the local oak forest, Tomnafinnoge Woods.

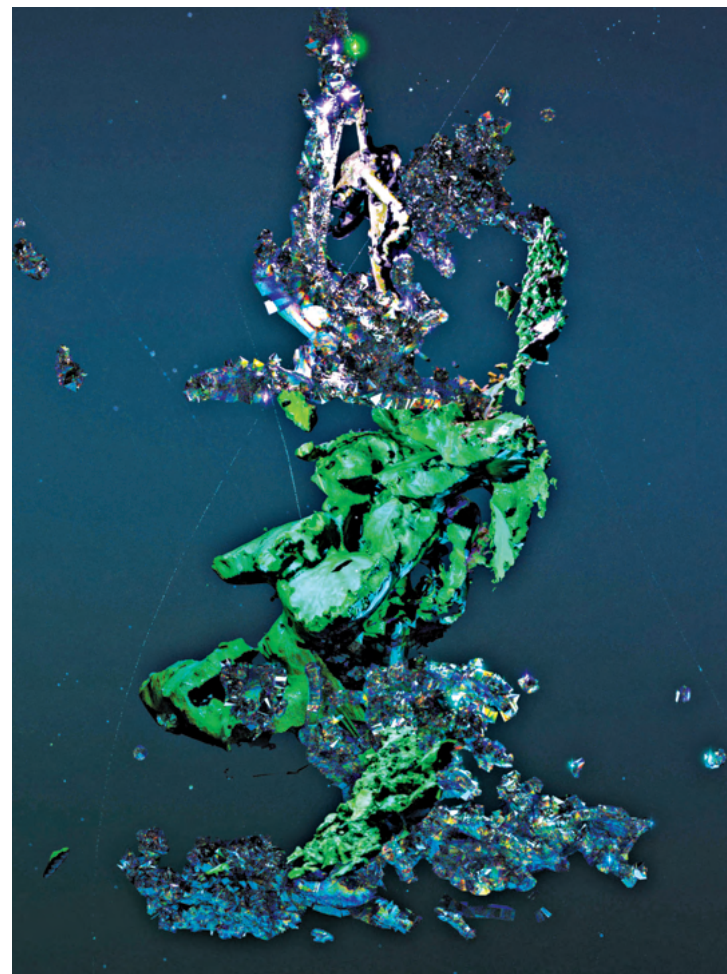


A product of current conservation, Tomnafinnoge Woods remains as one of the last mature ancient oak forests in Ireland. Using the emerging technology of 3D object scanning and CGI film, sapling imagines a parallel growth of these Woods, evolving through digital preservation.

Spanning multiple screens, the CGI film fragments, disperses, and imagines a digital life that organisms such as trees may evolve into. sapling details what data is taken and what is left behind when world-building new digital spaces. This exhibition encourages viewers to consider the parallel lives that organic lifeforms take on when digitised. Sapling is the first presentation with the Courthouse Arts Centre of ongoing research into digital preservation of organic, cultural, folk, and historic objects.

liing heaney is a digital artist from Co. Wicklow. She works with 3D animation and uses it to explore the future of nature in digital space. Recent exhibitions include in suspension, Ballina Arts Centre, Co. Mayo (2022), Caibleadh, online with SFI and iCrag (2021), cciirrecaaddiaann, ZAZ10TS, Times Square, New York (2020), and Hyper-, Pallas Projects/Studios, Co. Dublin (2019). Her work has been supported by the Arts Council of Ireland, Wicklow Arts Office, and Fingal Arts Office. She is currently artist in residence at the Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely.

This exhibition is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland, the Courthouse Arts Centre and the Wicklow Arts Office, with special thanks to 3D Printing Ireland.



Renault Ireland sprints in 2023 after strong 2022

Renault Group finished 2022 in 5th position overall ending the year with 7.5% market share in Ireland and head into 2023 with one of the best model line ups in the market. As an electric pioneer - the Zoe was launched in 2012 and they now offer the full spectrum of PHEV, full electric as well as petrol models.

by Martin McCarthy

In the LCV (light commercials) market Renault Group finished in 4th position last year with 9.3% market share and in the PC (passenger cars) market the Group took 5th position overall with 7.1% market share.

In the competitive B-segment the Group finished in the number one spot in 2022 with 21.1% share - the popular Dacia Sandero was on the podium with 9.8% segment share, up 3.4%, Renault Clio was in 4th place and Zoe E-Tech 100% electric was the number 1 electric car in the segment. The all-new award-winning Jogger was the third best-selling 7-seater in 2022, having just launched in April 2022.

Renault Arkana was the best-selling car in the Renault range in its first full year with the range topping E-Tech Engineered full hybrid arriving for 231 registrations.

In the LCV market, Trafic was the second bestselling medium van



Renault Magane

last year and Master the second bestselling large van in 2022. Mobilize Financial Services (MFS) Ireland, Renault Group's in house bank, lent over €160 million in 2022.

MFS Ireland are continuing to offer new and more flexible terms on their PCP finance product catering for durations from 24 through to 48 months. Since the introduction of the new PCP flexible terms there has been a positive uptake on

the different durations offered, today 50% of all PCPs are at durations outside of the market norm of 36 months PCP.

Blessington native Patrick Magee, Country Operations Director, Renault Group told the *Wicklow Times* "We are very happy with Renault Group coming in at 5th place in the overall market in 2022 given supply challenges earlier in the year. We kept our promise on supply and with our own

bank Mobilize Financial Services lending over €160 million in 2022, it was a good year. Great to see the Group taking first place in the B-segment with Sandero proving as popular as ever with the Irish customer in 2022 and also to see the all new Dacia Jogger achieving great results, in podium place in the 7-seat market truly reflecting its award winning status as the most affordable 7-seater in Ireland.

Businesses urged to apply for energy supports

Minister Simon Harris has urged Wicklow's businesses to apply for the Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme (TBESS). Minister Harris spoke about the importance of the scheme and the opportunity it provides to small businesses across the county.

Minister Harris said, "I want to encourage all eligible businesses in County Wicklow to apply for the Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme. In a recent report published by the Revenue Commission, businesses in Wicklow make up only 2.7% of those who registered for the scheme.

"Many businesses have experienced increased energy costs due to the Cost-of-Living crisis. However, I and my colleagues in government are committed to working to support local businesses. Having met with many business owners across the county, I know that this scheme can go a long way towards mitigating these increased costs.

"I hope to see Wicklow

represent a larger proportion of registrations in future reports and recommend as many businesses as possible apply for the scheme before its closing dates," Minister Harris concluded.

The scheme will operate in respect of electricity and natural gas costs relating to the period 1 September 2022 to 28 February 2023. Claims may be made in respect of each calendar month (referred to as a 'claim period') within this period. The first claim period for which a claim can be made is September 2022 and businesses can make claims through the Revenue Online Service (ROS) from 5 December 2022.

Full details and guidelines for the Temporary

Business Energy Support Scheme can be found at revenue.ie.

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Ashley Newsome at the Vintage Car Rally held recently at The Beehive

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WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

FULL PLANNING PERMISSION Sought for:

1. Proposed Ground & First Floor Extension (580 Msq) to Rear East Facing Elevation of Existing Shoreline Leisure Facility to provide for extra Studio Spaces.

2. All ancillary site works at Shoreline Leisure, Mill Road, Greystones, Co Wicklow. A63 HD25.

Signed: Wicklow Recreational Services Ltd

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

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

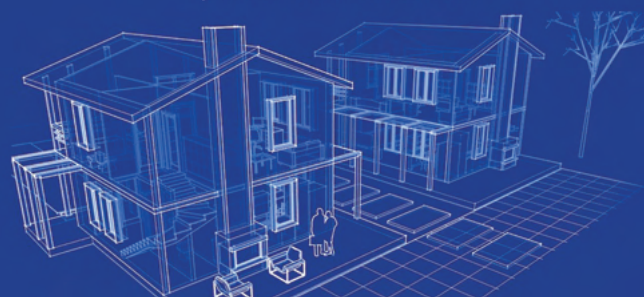
I SIMON QUINN seeks Permission for 'PROPOSED TWO SEPARATE SINGLE STOREY EXTENSIONS TO REAR OF DWELLING, ELEVATIONAL CHANGES TO WINDOW OPENINGS, AND CONVERSION & CLADDING OF EXISTING STABLES TO HOME GYM.' At "BLUE ROCK", KILLOUGH LOWER, KILMACANOGUE, WICKLOW. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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Blessington woman bringing the textile industry back to Ireland awarded €3,000

Malú Colorín, co-founder of Fibreshed Ireland, is one of eight organisations to win a place on Social Entrepreneurs Ireland's (SEI) Action Lab programme. This three-month programme aims to accelerate social change through the power of people. The eight successful participants had previously taken part on the SEI Ideas Academy, an earlier programme, and were chosen for the Action Lab based on their potential and progress since 2022.

Fibreshed, earned their place on SEI's follow-up accelerator, which includes tailored support and a bursary of €3,000. This win shows the continuation of support from SEI, with

Malú graduating from the SEI 2022 Ideas Academy and comes immediately after a successful pitch for seed funding in November 2022, where SEI awarded Fibreshed Ireland €4,000

for their project.

Ireland has a rich textile history, which was once integral to many local communities. However, the de-valuing of Irish wool, alongside the increasing availability of cheap fossil-based textiles and imported fibres, has meant that many skills and jobs related to the textile industry in Ireland have been lost. Today Ireland depends on importing massive amounts of textiles, whilst producing over 170,000 tonnes of textile waste, most of which goes to landfill. Blessington-based Malú and her co-founder Kit Christina Keawwanth, started Fibreshed Ireland in 2022 to turn this cycle around. Their organisation is a registered affiliate of an international, grassroots organisation working towards redefining the textile cultures by developing regional fibre systems which build soil, protect the biosphere and support equitable partnerships throughout the value chain.

Since 2022, and with the support of Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, Fibreshed Ireland has grown and is looking to take on staff. They held a sold-out symposium on 'Designing a local & regenerative framework for Irish textiles', and Malú was featured by the

Irish Times as one of the '50 Ones to Watch' in 2023.

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland's Action Lab support the strategic progress of high-potential solutions and helps social entrepreneurs to develop as leaders by giving them the scaffolding and space to experiment and grow. The programme will do this through consultation, workshopping and by

maximising the expertise available within SEI's extensive network to help each participant progress towards achieving tangible impact.

The other seven organisations' focus area varies from Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, education fitness programmes for children experiencing

homelessness and supporting family carers back into the workplace. Participants were selected for the programme following a period of internal research and

selection on SEI's behalf. At the end of the programme, participants can apply for a share of €21,000 in seed funding to further support their work.



Malú Colorín



Pictured at the sleepout in aid of the homeless, at Carrig Eden in Greystones, were twins Jay and Allen Bobinac who have just graduated with a Masters in Social Care, supported by Tiglin

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