



UKRAINE MARCH
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BLESSINGTON WASTEWATER
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VOLUNTEER AWARDS
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Tuesday 28th February 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray, A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

'YOU CAN'T CHANGE YOUR PLANS'

After the recent good news that Penneys had finally committed to opening a store in Bray's new shopping centre, last week it was bad news as the planners dealt the developers a hammer blow.

A plan by the developers of the Florentine Centre in Bray to throw in the towel and abandon retail development on the upper floors of the new shopping centre and instead to build apartments, has been firmly refused by the council.

The planning application for 25 apartments would in the view of the planners lead to a 'sub-standard' development and be inconsistent with the objectives to promote the vitality and viability of the retail role of the town centre and would be contrary to proper planning and sustainable development. The application from Navybrook sought permission for the change of use from existing retail/retail storage and plant room use (approx. 2,128sqm) to residential use to provide for 25 apartments in the form of 10 one-bed units, 9 two-bed units, and 6 three-bed units on the first and second floor level of existing blocks 1 and 2 of the overall Bray Central Development. There were no revisions proposed to the existing external elevations of Blocks 1 and 2. Existing basement (Level 1) would have provided for the designation of 10 existing car parking spaces to cater for the new residential proposal. The development would also provide for communal open space at Level 2 of Block 2, provide open space in the form of balconies and associated boundary treatment.



Pupils of Lacken National School Aela Coughlan, Isabella Duggan, Mia Finan, Lorelei Smith, and Eabha Anderson, who were the winners of the Wicklow Naturally October Feast Challenge. See page 12.



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and all associated site development, infrastructure and landscape works.

Navybrook stated that the rationale behind the proposed change of use is the lack of commercial appetite or demand for the upper floor commercial retail space. To avoid the space remaining vacant, the applicant is seeking a change of use to more 'in demand' residential use, the planning report stated.

In recommending refusing permission, the Council's Planner's Report stated: "The proposal to change the use of retail (including ancillary plant) to residential use at a strategically important new town centre development within the designated retail core of Bray, would materially contravene objectives in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 to expand comparison retail floor space at this

key 'Florentine' site in order to allow Bray town centre to function as a 'Level 2' Major Town Centre, and would be inconsistent with the objectives to promote the vitality and viability of the retail role of the town centre and would be contrary to proper planning and sustainable development."

The report went on to say, "It is considered that the proposed development would be sub-standard and would seriously injure the amenities of future occupants and properties due to; the failure to comply with the standards set out in the Sustainable Urban Housing Design Standards for new Apartment Guidelines for planning authorities; the lack of information to show that the amenity of future residents would not be compromised by adverse noise or vibration; the lack of informa-

tion to show how the development would not result in overlooking

adjoining properties. The proposed development would therefore be contrary to proper planning and sustainable development."

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For further details or to book GO TO:
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

Commemoration Walk and flag raising for Ukraine

Members of the Ukrainian community were joined by people from the wider community in Bray on Friday 24th February for a poignant Commemorative Walk to mark the first anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine.



Candles for Ukraine lining the Quinsborough Road in Bray

Staff from the Ukrainian Community Centre in Bray had asked members of the community to walk in remembrance and solidarity with them on what would be a very emotional day for so many Ukrainian people, living away from home and experiencing the grief of loss and separation.

The walk started at 10am outside the Civic Centre and made its way down Main Street to the Ukrainian Community Centre in the Quinsborough Road, where candles and flowers were laid in commemoration. Members of the community sang Ukrainian songs as they walked, and chanted 'Thank you Ireland'. People who were not able to attend the walk were

invited to drop by with candles and flowers during the day to show their solidarity and support.

A Facebook post written by staff from the Ukrainian Community Centre described the feelings of the people from the Ukrainian community marking this anniversary: "Anguish and pain for our Ukraine was hidden behind our smiles this year - for Ukraine as it was a year ago. No matter how incredibly we are welcomed in Ireland, no matter how we try to distract ourselves, the heart of every Ukrainian has been broken by grief and separation this year."

The Ukrainian Community Centre for Bray and North Wicklow is a project of the Bray Area Partnership located in St. Andrew's Church Hall in the Quinsborough Road. The centre provides a welcoming space, information and support and a

range of activities for the Ukrainian community. The project is funded by the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), which is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021 -2027.

In the afternoon, a Ukrainian flag was raised in the foyer of Bray Municipal District Offices, alongside the Irish flag. The flag was sent by Slava, who's currently fighting on the front lines in Ukraine. Slava's family who are now living in Bray helped to raise the flag in Bray.

Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Erika Doyle said "Communities across Ireland, no more than here in Bray, set



The start of the march at Bray Plaza

about welcoming those who 'found shelter in our land' as President Zelensky said in his address to the Dail last year.

"We stand here now one year on from that first unprovoked and immoral act. I want to reassure you here today, that the people of Bray are here for you

for as long as you need us. The war has forged an unbreakable bond between us, and this will only deepen with time. By raising this Ukrainian flag today, alongside our Irish flag, we state our continued support and solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

"With us today, our

brothers and sisters in Ukraine are represented by Slava's family - Elena, her son Yarak and daughter Evalina. Three members of their family are not present here today. Leopold Bloom the cat is at their home in Bray, son Rusland is living in Odessa and Yelena's husband fights on the front line in Ukraine."

A huge 'Thank You' from Bray Rotary

The members of Bray Rotary Club sincerely thank the people of Bray and surrounding areas for their very generous support for their collection to send Shelter Boxes to the Turkey and Syria earthquake disaster relief.

Bray Rotary Club President, Therese Morgan said "We were overwhelmed and humbled by their outstanding generosity and we are truly grateful and deeply appreciate their generosity and kindness. The sum collected was just short of €11,000 which far exceeded our expectations. This will send Shelter Boxes, which include tents, sleeping bags, warm blankets, coats, cooking equipment, basic tools and water purification tablets, for families affected by the earthquake."

Celebrating Women in History

As part of their International Women's Week celebrations, Wicklow Library are delighted to welcome Historian Rosemary Raughter to present her talk on 'Preaching The Suffrage Gospel In County Wicklow: A Local Perspective On The Women's Suffrage Campaign, 1908-1918'.

This talk on Thursday 9th March at 7pm will examine the most eventful phase of the women's suffrage movement in Ireland as it related to Co Wicklow. After decades of dogged but relatively low-key activity, the 'votes for women' campaign intensified sharply from 1908. While activity, both constitutional and militant, was concentrated mainly in larger urban areas, Wicklow's proximity to Dublin as well as the existence of a body of support within the county made it a favoured focus for suffrage agitation. These years saw visits from leading campaigners like Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, Margaret Cousins, Louie Bennett and Charlotte Despard, to centres such as Bray, Greystones, Wicklow, Arklow, Baltinglass,

Dunlavin and Kilcoole. Reports in the suffrage press and in local newspapers record drawing-room and outdoor meetings, dramatic presentations, garden parties, debates, and even the very occasional act of militancy, as well as the heckling and hooliganism with which speakers routinely had to contend. While the outbreak of war in 1914 and the rise of nationalist feeling after 1916 tended to overshadow the suffrage campaign, 1918 saw the achievement, in part at least, of suffragists' primary aim, and in conclusion we will look at the 1918 general election as it involved and affected women in Wicklow. This talk will take place at Wicklow Library, in the Exhibition Space on the third floor. To book your place contact Wicklow Library on 040467025 or email Wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie

RNLI AGM

The AGM of RNLI Wicklow Fundraising Branch will be held on Monday, 13th March in Wicklow Lifeboat Station, East Pier, Wicklow Town at 8pm. All are welcome to attend.

First Saturday Book Sale

The March First Saturday Book Sale, which supports the Shankill Old Folks Association, will take place from 10am to 1pm on Saturday March 4th in the Shankill Day Care Centre, Lower Road, Shankill, and all are welcome to attend.

The First Saturday Book Sale continues to adhere to strict safety guidelines with all precautionary health measures in place. Donations of books, which must be in a clean and good

Estate Development Grants

Wicklow County Council is inviting applications from Social Housing estates for funding in relation to the upkeep of green areas within the estates. Private housing estates in which there are a number of local authority properties are also eligible to apply. An application form can be downloaded from Wicklow County Council's website.

Wicklow Community Directory

The Wicklow Community Directory lists not-for-profit community and voluntary organisations, clubs and agencies and education providers across Co. Wicklow - and the activities, services and supports they provide in your local community.

With a wide range of listings, it's the go-to place to find out what's on offer in communities across the whole of the Garden County.

You can search or browse under a wide range of categories such as Arts, Culture & Heritage, Sports & Fitness, Health & Wellbeing, Recreation & Social, Education & Training and Employment & Enterprise.

There's also a vibrant News section with articles on upcoming community events, initiatives and activities.

It's free to list your community organisation on the site and well worth doing as - with around 26,000 unique individuals logging on every year - you will have a ready-made large audience of local Wicklow folks.

The Wicklow Community Directory is supported with funding from Wicklow County Council and funding and staff time from Bray Area Partnership under their Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP).

Log on today at www.wicklowcommunitydirectory.ie.



Melissa Byrne from Sunbeam House presenting an award to Bernadette Archer for her outstanding work as part of the organising team for a very successful Sunbeam House Services Film Festival called ARDÚ. See page 15.

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Greystones councillors to consider motion on gaming licence

A Motion is being put forward at this week's meeting of Greystones Municipal District councillors, by Green Party councillor Lourda Scott, asking that "Greystones Municipal District rescinds the resolution which adopted Part III of the Gaming and Lotteries Act 1956 in respect of the administrative area of the entire Greystones MD".

The motion, to be discussed on 28th February, would prevent future issue and renewal of gaming licences in the district. In 2014 there were numerous changes to local government in Ireland, including the abolition of all Town Councils. The power over Part 3 of the Gaming and Lotteries Act (1956) has been devolved to the Municipal District level.

The powers have previously been used in Cork where an application for a gaming licence by an arcade in Michelstown in 2019 was dismissed in court.

Cllr Scott's motion follows the news that Sweeney's at Greystones Harbour has renewed its gaming licence, allowing for up to 50 slot machines and a potential 2am closing time.

A public meeting was held with many local residents, especially parents, voicing concerns about gambling addiction among young people.

Speaking about this week's Municipal District meeting, Cllr Stephen Stokes said "In 2012 Cork County Council repealed Part 3 of the Gaming and Lotteries Act (1956) Act for Carrigaline, Co. Cork. As a Councillor I have received numerous representations from concerned local residents. I share the concerns of the



Cllr Stephen Stokes

community in relation to late night activity, proximity to addiction services / schools, parking and more."

Cllr Stokes also pointed to the increased residential nature of Greystones Marina area. He added: "The Harbour area has changed in recent years. Growing up in Greystones in the 1990s, there were much fewer options for young people. The gaming

facility in the proposed site attracted a youth following back then, and was nowhere near a full on casino. Fast forward to 2023, and we have much improved facilities for young people, such as the Shoreline Centres in Charlesland & Mill Road, and Greystones Youth Café. However the Harbour area is also much more residential. I do not believe a casino would be appropriate."

Cllr Stephen Stokes concluded: "I will be standing up for the community on this matter. I also want us to re-double our efforts to work towards positive infrastructure in the Greystones Municipal District. The message I have is that Charlesland, Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle are open for business. But new business ventures need to work with the requirements of the community."



Cllr Lourda Scott



Georgia Kelly and Aisling Walsh at the recent Wicklow Lions Table Quiz in the Bridge Tavern, Wicklow Town.

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Opens daily from 12 noon to 10pm (except 2pm on 16th).

Upgrade to Blessington Wastewater Treatment Plant successfully completed

Increased capacity will serve a population equivalent of 9,000

Works to upgrade Blessington Wastewater Treatment Plant have now been successfully completed, Irish Water announced last week.

This investment will increase the capacity of the plant to serve a population equivalent (PE) of up to 9,000 in a town of just over 4,000 people. This will enable future growth and safeguard the environment by ensuring compliance with national and EU legislation.

The project involved the construction of a new primary treatment system including a pump station, upgrades to the existing aeration tanks, and the installation of a new odour control system. Treatment processes at the existing wastewater treatment plant in Blessington have also been upgraded.

Speaking about the project Dawid Wozniak, Regional Lead with Irish Water, said "Uisce Eireann is committed to providing a safe and reliable water supply, protecting the environment and supporting the growth of homes and businesses across Ireland. We are working in partnership with Wicklow County Council on a number of significant projects to continually improve wastewater treatment throughout Wicklow and are delighted to announce the completion of this essential upgrade for homes and businesses in Blessington."

Dawid added, "The completion of these works will provide Blessington and the surrounding areas with the infrastructure needed to support future growth by increasing the capacity of the plant as well as safeguarding the environment."

Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, welcoming the completion of the project said, "This project will provide significant benefits for the people of Blessington, future-proofing social and economic development for the town for current and future generations. Blessington needs modern utilities to attract new businesses and to facilitate growth. We would especially like to thank the community and businesses for their patience and cooperation as we worked to deliver this vital wastewater improvement project."

The project was carried out on behalf of Irish Water by Veolia Water Ireland. This project forms part of Irish Water's investment plan where works have been prioritised to address the most critical issues in line with commitments outlined in Irish Water's business plan. The building, repair and upgrading of Irish Water's water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, water and sewer network requires a multi-

billion-euro investment programme over many years."

Minister Simon Harris said, "As Blessington has been growing so rapidly, the wastewater treatment infrastructure in Blessington was no longer able to meet the needs of the area."

"I want to commend both Irish Water and Wicklow County Council for their efforts in addressing the issues with Blessington's Wastewater Treatment Plant, and after engaging with Irish Water, I am glad to say that the project has ensured that water quality standards meet the strict guidelines of regulatory bodies such as the Environmental Protection Agency."

"One of the Government's main targets is to address the ongoing housing crisis, however in doing so it is

vital that we make sure that the supports and infrastructure that are integral to successful housing developments are established and upgraded at the same time. I will continue to work for and represent the people of Wicklow so that every aspect of our county's infrastructure receives the investment and attention it needs, so that no part of our county or infrastructure is forgotten."



Blessington Wastewater Treatment Plant

SSE Renewables outlines commitment to collaboration with Irish fishing industry

SSE Renewables has published a report that sets out the company's vision to better co-exist with fisheries when building and developing offshore wind energy in Ireland. The report, launched at the Irish Skipper Expo in Limerick, outlines the steps taken by SSE Renewables to build upon the existing relationship within the fishing industry and how both sectors can positively co-exist in the environment.

with the fishing industry as it works to deliver an offshore pipeline of up to 5GW by 2030.

The Irish Skipper Expo, Ireland's leading commercial fishing industry event, was selected as the preferred occasion to launch the report, following an insightful Irish Seafarer's Conference on the previous day, during which the need for meaningful engagement and communication between both industries was highlighted by key sector representatives.

Barry Kiline, Head of Offshore (Ireland) for SSE Renewables, said:

"The transition to net zero must be fair which is why we are working proactively and collaboratively with commercial fisheries across all jurisdictions that we operate within to understand their needs and concerns."

"The development and building of offshore wind energy at scale and pace is essential for meeting global net zero

targets, however, it is crucial we appreciate that there are other marine users who may be affected by our activities."

"We are committed to working with commercial fisheries which is why we've published a report of this nature for the first time. It underlines our vision to build upon our existing relationships with our neighbours in the marine environment as we continue

to accelerate the growth of our offshore wind portfolio."

Fingal McKiernan, SSE Renewables Commercial Fisheries Manager, said:

"Offshore wind will form the backbone of the transition to net zero. If we are to decarbonise our world, we must ensure we also safeguard the needs of our fisheries sector for future generations. We believe we can

only achieve this if we work together; through transparency, co-operation and understanding. We can learn from the past, but we must now look forward."

"We hope this report, outlining our vision, will lay the framework for strengthening our relationships with the fisheries sector and facilitate successful co-existence in the marine environment."



Fingal McKiernan, Commercial Fisheries Manager SSE Renewables, Bryan O'Connor Development Project Manager launching the SSE Renewables Principals For Co-Existence With Commercial Fisheries report at the Irish Skipper Expo in University of Limerick.

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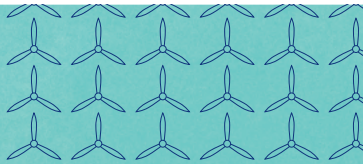
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Comedian, writer and actor Sean Burke with Erin Mullally and David McGowan at Bray Seafront for the recent Lyons Tea Sea Swim. Pic: Joe McQuillan.

Irish Rail to convene design team for DART+ to Wicklow Town

In an update from the National Transport Authority on the Dart+ service extension to Wicklow Town, the NTA confirmed that they have requested and funded Irish Rail to convene a design team for the expansion.

Deputy Jennifer Whitmore said: "The latest update I received from the National Transport Authority (NTA) relating to DART+ service extension to Wicklow Town is very welcome and has the potential to deliver significant improvements in the rail service for Wicklow Town.

"In answer to a parliamentary question I put down to the Department of Transport on this issue I have been told that the recently adopted Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042 provides for the delivery of electrified train services to Wicklow. In the long run, it is intended to provide full electrification of the line between Greystones and Wicklow, providing an overhead power supply for a fully electric train service.

"The NTA has provided an allocation to Irish Rail to commence the planning and design works associated with the provision of an electrified service to Wicklow using battery-electric fleet. Irish Rail will now assemble a design team to commence work on that project later this year."

These works will involve:

(1) Battery-electric train fleet;

(2) Charging provision at Wicklow Railway Station to allow battery charging;

(3) Possible track and platform alterations at Wicklow Railway Station to facilitate the charging arrangements; and

(4) The installation of a train protection system compatible with the new train fleet.

Deputy Whitmore continued, "I will continue to push for their inclusion on Wicklow town services into the future. People in Wicklow want more transport options, but they also want sustainable transport options. Battery operated electric carriages offer that.

"The news that Irish Rail are now funded for, and can assemble, the designer team on the project later this year is a positive step forward. However, while this news is welcome, we need to see this move quickly. Will be keeping in touch with Irish Rail and the NTA on this matter in the weeks and months ahead.

"For years now people in Wicklow Town have been very limited by the train service available to them. It is an issue I have been working on since I was elected as a T.D. and it has a major impact on residents."

€750,000 for Kilmacanaogue to Southern Cross Greenway

Cllr Rory O'Connor, local representative of Bray West, has welcomed the recent announcement from the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) regarding the funding of €750,000 for the Kilmacanaogue to Southern Cross Greenway project.

This funding comes as a significant relief for the project, which was facing an uncertain future after the National Transport Authority (NTA) cut its funding. The Kilmacanaogue to Southern Cross Greenway is a crucial infrastructure project for the local community, and Cllr Rory O'Connor has been a vocal advocate for its development.

Cllr O'Connor expressed his gratitude to TII for recognizing the importance of this project and supporting it with the necessary funds. "I am delighted that the TII has stepped in to provide funding for the Kilmacanaogue to Southern Cross Greenway," he said. "This project is essential for the local community, and its completion will benefit both residents and visitors to the area."

The Kilmacanaogue to Southern Cross Greenway will be a cycling and walking route, connecting the village of Kilmacanaogue to the Southern Cross junction on the N11. The greenway will provide a safe and accessible route for commuters, tourists, and recreational users and is expected to boost tourism in the region.

"I am delighted to see that the Kilmacanaogue to Southern Cross Greenway is now back on track. Currently the people of Kilmacanaogue have no where safe to walk to Bray and I think this would be great to have as an option to them. Currently the whole of Kilmacanaogue is very much car dependent and we need to move away from that completely and get good active travel and public transport for the area."

Two acres for Éire Óg GAA Club

At the February meeting of Wicklow County Council it was agreed to transfer two acres of land to Éire Óg GAA Club in Greystones.

The land had originally been acquired from the Gallagher Group. The land is now being transferred to Éire Óg at a market rate, after two valuations. To finalise the process it needed to be approved by Councillors at a full County Council meeting. Cllr Stephen Stokes proposed the motion at the meeting.

Cllr Stokes welcomed the agreement. He stated: "Éire Óg is a tremendous sporting club. Their members offer an invaluable service to the community. I wish everyone associated with Éire Óg the very best of continued success in their endeavours."

Permission refused for Newcastle housing development

Wicklow County Council has refused permission for a development of eight houses on Newcastle main street.

The application, lodged by Lauraigh Property Investments Ltd, was for eight 2-storey houses; a 2-storey mixed used building containing three commercial units and three apartments; on-street car parking and bicycle spaces; and the provision of a new entrance located off the existing oratory entrance.

Racefield Residents Association made a submission objecting to the development.

The Council's Planners Report stated that the development would be "premature" due to the deficiency in the provision of sewage facilities serving Newcastle at this time.

The report also concluded that the houses would provide an insufficient density of development on the site, resulting in an under-utilisation of the site and therefore putting it at odds with the aims of the County Development Plan.

The report also said the development would pose a risk to public safety by creating a traffic hazard, and that there were concerns about access and parking.

Regarding the commercial units in the development, the report said that "insufficient detail" had been provided as to the need and viability of them.





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€14m for Wicklow roads and bridges

County Wicklow is set to receive €14 million in funding for Regional and Local roads. It forms part of a €626 million investment in 2023 for regional and local roads. Some of the funding will also be used for bridge repairs, 329 climate change adaptation projects, and over 300 safety projects across the country.

Minister Simon Harris said "The funding package will allow approximately 3,100kms of regional and local roads to be maintained and 2,550kms to be strengthened. In our own area, I am pleased to see such a significant amount of funding being invested for the protection and renewal of our existing regional and local road network. This funding will be utilised for a range of schemes from larger strategic road improvements to smaller scale road improvements, as well as critical bridge rehabilitation works.

"An important part of this allocation is the climate change adaptation grant, which was introduced for works on roads at risk due to the impact of climate change and severe weather events."

Other features of this year's investment programme include: Road pavement strengthening works; Drainage works; Preventative surface dressing work; Safety improvement works.

Minister Harris added, "The protection and upkeep of our road network is hugely important and protecting and repairing our roads quickly is much better than allowing them fall into more expensive disrepair. I look forward to seeing Wicklow County Council utilising this funding to the maximum benefit for Wicklow's road users and pedestrians."

Fianna Fail Senator Pat Casey said, "The regional and local roads program is vital for addressing economic, social, and political issues. These roads play a crucial role in Ireland's economy and serve as valuable assets for communities. In Ireland, there are 94,000 kilometres of regional and local roads, which make up 94% of the country's road network. These roads carry approximately 55% of all traffic, and for many local businesses, they are the only means of accessing customers.

"This significant funding increase will enable us to repair, strengthen, and maintain our roads across the region, ensuring that they are suitable for their intended purposes. We are committing resources towards initiatives such as road repairs, bridge rehabilitation, road safety measures, community engagement, drainage improvements, and climate change adaptation.

"Improving and maintaining our road network is essential to the sustained development of local economies in rural Ireland. These roads are critical for children getting to school and people travelling to work safely. Rural regeneration is a top priority for the government, and this investment programme for 2023 is further proof of that commitment."

Senator Casey emphasised that this investment demonstrates the

government's dedication to investing in roads and rural infrastructure. He added, "These grants, in addition to local authorities' own resources, will play a vital role in supporting rural businesses, communities, and connectivity."

Cllr Stephen Stokes also welcomed the announcement: "Geographically Wicklow is a large county, with an extensive road network. There is significant investment going into scenic areas, which is important from a tourism viewpoint. Just over €7 million will be invested in restoration improvements."

Cllr Stokes has written to the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan, urging more investment in urban and suburban areas. Cllr Stokes added: "Financially it makes sense to protect and renew the existing regional and local road network, rather than letting them fall into disrepair. However I have written to Minister Ryan seeking more investment in the Greystones Municipal District. In particular we need decisive funding in roads and footpaths. I would like to see the restoration of the annual footpath grant that used to exist in the days of Greystones Town Council. In addition I have specifically highlighted that Church Road, Greystones needs investment. This would be good for local people, and help to boost tourism."



Declan McNerney and Dave Shannon at the Wicklow Lions Club Table Quiz held in the Bridge Tavern, Wicklow Town.

IT'S TIME TO POWER UP ARKLOW




Your views will help shape our plans for the next generation of Arklow Bank Wind Park. Join our in-person and virtual events to take part in our public consultation.

WE POWER CHANGE



SCAN ME
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OUT MORE

or visit sserenewables.com/ArklowBankPhase2

Public Consultation Dates

Thursday 16 March, 5-8pm
Arklow Bay Conference & Leisure Hotel, Sea Road, Arklow, Y14 DX02

Tuesday 21 March, 5-8pm
Wicklow Sailing Club, South Quay, Wicklow, A67 WV82

Wednesday 29 March, 5-8pm
Courtown Sailing Club, South Beach, Courtown, Y25 X9D0

Wednesday 5 April, 7.30pm
Online webinar – sserenewables.com/ArklowBankPhase2



Wicklow's dedicated volunteers honoured at awards ceremony

February had a spring in its step last Thursday night at the fabulous Wicklow Volunteer Awards. Over 190 people watched as volunteers from across Wicklow were presented with awards for their outstanding service to the community. While there were winners in the 11 award categories, the evening celebrated every nominee, and every volunteer in Wicklow.

The strength of the Wicklow volunteering community could be felt in the laughter and chat in the Parkview hotel as the ceremony took place. Organised by the County Wicklow Volunteer Centre and supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Wicklow County Council, sponsors of prizes included SSE Renewables, DNG Wicklow Town, AnniePooh, Fishers of

Newtownmountkennedy, The Ultrasound Suite and County Wicklow Public Participation Network.

The winners from a packed field were:

- **Local Volunteer Arklow MD** - Laura Coey - Arklow Sea Scouts
- **Local Volunteer Baltinglass MD** - Jason Mulhall, Blessington Tidy Towns.
- **Local Volunteer Bray**

MD - Joe Fitzpatrick, Bray Community First Responders.

- **Local Volunteer Greystones MD** - Ciara Perks - Newtown Community Forum.
- **Local Volunteer Wicklow MD** - Ann Lyons, Croi Rath Naoi.
- **Volunteer Under 18** - Xavier Alexander, NWETSS, for his work with Bray Tidy Towns.
- **Innovative Environmental Project Volunteer** - Clare Hayter

RHAI, Russborough Gardens

- **Corporate Volunteer Team** - Elavon Ukrainian Support Team
- **Ukrainian Response Award** - Anne Byrne and Siobhan Launders, Road to Lough Dan.
- **Volunteer Team Award** - The Gardening Team, Wicklow Hospice
- **Volunteer from a migrant, asylum seeking, refugee community** - Vumani Moyo, Bray Tidy Towns.



Members of the Arklow Community Action Resource Centre at the Wicklow Volunteer Awards in the Parkview Hotel

If you are thinking about volunteering why not join these amazing people in their great efforts to make Wicklow a better place for us all by contacting the County Wicklow Volunteer Centre on 086 325 8803, or 085 862 1525 or registering on our website www.volunteerwicklow.ie. We look forward to hearing from you.

The County Wicklow Volunteer Centre (CWVC) is an independent organisation committed to the promotion, development and support of volunteer participation in Wicklow county and its natural environs.

CWVC supports the development of volunteering through the provision of services to volunteers, voluntary and community groups and the local community and by participation at national level in Volunteer Ireland.

Contact Leah 085 862 2051 or email leah@volunteerwicklow.ie



Becky Harrison and Ruth Prenderville with Ciara Perks (centre) who received the Local Volunteer Award for Greystones Municipal District for her work with Newtown Community Forum.



Jason Mulhall of Blessington Tidy Towns who received the Local Volunteer Award for Baltinglass Municipal District.



Cllr Gerry Walsh and Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson with the Tiglin team - Anne Thompson, Phil Thompson, Rachel Harper and Aubrey McCarthy.



Siobhan Launders who received the Ukrainian Response Special Projects Award along with Anne Byrne.

SSE Renewables completes Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 survey with Green Rebel

SSE Renewables, in partnership with Green Rebel, has completed a survey of the seabed off the east coast of Ireland, to collect high resolution geophysical data at the proposed 800MW Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Wind Park site. Green Rebel, a Cork based offshore survey service company, was awarded the tender following a competitive process.

The completion of the survey is a key milestone for the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 project and will help progress the ongoing design development of the project. The data collected from the survey will inform important engineering decisions and help to de-risk the project which will make a significant contribution to Ireland's climate action target of 7GW of offshore wind by 2030.

While the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 is a challenging site to survey due to the metocean conditions in this area of the Irish Sea, Green Rebel successfully managed to acquire almost 2000km of data supported by its vessels, the Roman

Rebel and the Lady Kathleen (a specialist nearshore survey vessel).

The collaboration was built on the value that the two companies share on putting safety first, highlighted by the nomination of Green Rebel for a prestigious internal SSE health and safety award.

This collaborative approach extended to other stakeholders in the area, as demonstrated by the team diverting from surveying activities to help local fishers identify lost fishing gear.

John O'Sullivan, Project Manager for SSE Renewables, said: "The completion of this phase of survey work represents another important milestone for

the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 project. Green Rebel's support has allowed us to secure this important site data to progress design development and keep the project on track to support delivery of the Irish Government's target of 7GW of offshore wind by 2030. The Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 team is now focussed on bidding into ORESS ahead of making a planning application to An Bord Pleanála later this year. We will also be running a public consultation in the coming months."

Eoin Cotter, Head of Business Development with Green Rebel said: "We were delighted to partner with SSE Renewables on this project which will play a

significant role in helping Ireland to make the transition from fossil fuels. While the Arklow Bank presents unique challenges as a site, the local experience and industry expertise of our offshore and onshore teams ensured the successful and safe completion of the survey works. Using non-invasive sensors and Green Rebel's fleet of survey vessels, our team collaborated with multiple stakeholders to ensure we acquired and processed the data to the highest international standards. This will enable SSE Renewables to progress with the environmental and engineering design of this critical project for Ireland's energy transition.



Eoin Cotter, Green Rebel and John O'Sullivan, SSE Renewables on board the Lady Kathleen specialist nearshore survey vessel used by Green Rebel during the survey of the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 project. The completion of the survey is a key milestone and will help progress the ongoing design development of the project. Photo Darragh Kane

'Immediate action needed to address Ashford water supply issue'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has welcomed the response from Irish Water following his representations on behalf of residents in the Hawthorns, Ballinahinch Wood, Ashford in the county, due to the degradation of water quality in the area. However he stressed that Irish Water must act immediately to replace the affected pipeline that was responsible for the contamination.

Such was the extent of the water discolouration caused by the degradation, which was a result of a length of aged 300 mm cast iron pipe rusting into the water supply, that it was causing damage to appliances belonging to residents.

Deputy Brady said: "I welcome the commitment that I received from Irish Water to address this issue. It is important that repair work to replace the affected mains pipeline takes place immediately. There can be no rationale offered that could justify a delay in addressing what is in effect a public health issue. While Irish Water have given a commitment to replace the affected pipe, they claim that this is pending availability of funding and the prioritisation of other emerging needs across county Wicklow.

"While making representations to Irish water on behalf of residents, I also furnished the company

with photographic evidence of the damage that the contaminated water was doing to appliances in their homes. Which were completely discoloured and will have to be replaced.

"Irish Water must act immediately. They must remove the affected pipe. And they must ensure that residents will not be affected by similar problems in the future. Irish Water customers have a fundamental right to a clean, clear water supply, free from contamination or discolouration.

"Irish Water has a responsibility to carry out an assessment of the standard and quality of other existing pipework, not just in Ashford, but across the county to ensure that we do not witness a recurrence of the current problem. It is unacceptable at any level that residents, wherever they may be located, would be exposed to a contaminated water supply."

Aughrim frustrated by power cuts

Residents and small businesses in Aughrim have been by recent power cuts impacting the village, often on Saturdays, with the power outages lasting all day long in some cases.

There have also been instances of power surges causing damage to electrical appliances, one resident told *Wicklow Times*, and contents of fridges and freezers being lost due to the outages. Concern has been rising among the elderly, families with young children, and those who rely on power for medical equipment. Local residents have described the frequency and duration of the outages as "abnormal".

It's understood that the outages have been planned power cuts by the ESB to allow for extensive tree cutting along the power lines and that residents were given notice. There were however reports of a number of technical faults which were unplanned and also left residents without power unexpectedly, for 26 hours in one instance.

In correspondence with a local resident, an ESB Networks spokesperson said that if any cus-

tomers was not notified about the planned outages, they should contact their electricity supplier and ensure that their home and mobile details are on their records.

"Unfortunately, some outages are faults outside of our control that we need to react to, and carry out necessary repairs at short notice," the ESB said.

"ESB Networks has also been experiencing substantial birdlife damage (namely woodpeckers) to its poles in the Aughrim/Tinahely area. As these hazards are being found, we can plan some outages but some have had to be done under emergency in which case no notification would be possible. ESB Networks is also engaged in an extensive tree cutting programme along the lines to mitigate outages caused by tree branches interfering with the lines.

"Works on the line to the Woodfab plant near Aughrim were

successfully completed, while continuity works on the Avoca/Tinahely line were also completed. This is in addition to substantial works throughout last summer in the area. Unfortunately, customers in the Aughrim area lost power on Saturday and Sunday due to two unplanned technical faults on separate sections of the network, related to the backfeeding arrangements in place for the works. ESB Networks accepts the frustrations of locals in the area and apologises for the inconvenience caused."

The next part of the project is to complete upgrade works of Kilmagig substation outside Avoca to improve the continuity of supply. While the works will not impact on customers in Aughrim, they're expected to impact customers in the Woodenbridge, Knocknamohill, Ballymorris, Knockenree, Tigrone and Avoca areas.

Planned maintenance is usually carried out during daylight hours as workers need to have good visibility to ensure the safety of their technicians and contracting partners.

Concerns raised over West Wicklow modular home sites

'Council urged to 'drop veil of secrecy''

Councillor Edward Timmins (FG) says he has "major concerns" regarding the information supplied to the Office of Public Works (OPW) by Wicklow County Council, regarding two sites for modular homes in Baltinglass and Dunlavin.

"I have major concerns about the information Wicklow County Council may have given, or not given to the OPW," he said. "Wicklow County Council recommended two sites to the OPW for consideration for modular homes, one in Baltinglass and one in Dunlavin.

"I queried the OPW and council to establish why these sites were chosen. I have also raised the matter at council meetings. I succeeded in having the zoning changed on the site at Lathaleer, Baltinglass for a sports centre last March. This was before the council received any request from the OPW. It's the only remaining council owned land in the town.

Wicklow has always been willing to accommodate those in need and fleeing persecution. To maintain this goodwill the council must drop its veil of secrecy.

"The council informed me that they had identified five sites in the county (which were not zoned for housing). Four of these are in the Baltinglass Municipal District. I was also told that these were the only possible sites.

"I submitted a freedom of information request to Wicklow County Council asking what sites they own (excluding land zoned for housing). I received a list and to my amazement I discovered that there are 137 sites listed which are larger than 4.5 acres



Cllr Edward Timmins

(the size of the site in Baltinglass). I feel that the Council has not been forthcoming with information and this discovery has made me question the whole operation. I have informed the OPW of my concerns and will continue to follow this matter."



Julie Martin and Charlotte Dowling with members of the Arklow Girl Guides at the official opening of the Primary Care Centre in Arklow.



SUCCESSFUL WOMEN IN BUSINESS



Gillian Rijke and Sarah Condon

Canopy

Gillian Rijke and Sarah Condon

Canopy lifestyle store opened in Wicklow in September to a very warm reception from the locals of the town.

Prior to opening Canopy, the owners Gillian Rijke and Sarah Condon each had their own successful separate online businesses but were interested in having their own retail spaces. Faced with the crippling rents and rates to open a retail space in their own locality of Greystones, the pair decided to come together to rent a unit in Wicklow town, the name Canopy signifying the fact that there are two.

Located in the old health food shop on Church street, Canopy has allowed both businesses to showcase their individual product offerings whilst also sharing the rent and the associated costs. Both Gillian and Sarah are busy mums and so it's the perfect arrangement with Gillian working mornings and Sarah working afternoons whilst alternating Saturdays between them. Canopy sells gorgeous and unique home-wares and beautiful leather handbags and fashion accessories.

"We are delighted to be contributing to the ongoing development of Wicklow town and look forward meeting more of the local people in the near future."

(WWW.LILYPADHOME.IE and WWW.LALLIANDMOO.COM)



Canopy, Wicklow Town

Is your toddler late talking? Does your child need help speaking?



Optima Speech Therapy opened in March 2020 providing online therapy for children during the pandemic and now, face-to-face, with the new clinic opening recently in Wicklow Town

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Speech Therapy for Kids in Wicklow

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- Articulation Therapy
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- Toddler Late Talking
- Language Delay
- Language Disorder

Soon to be a published author with Speechmark (Routledge) Publishing - book release date September 2023.

I am very happy to work with HSE Speech and Language Therapists. Your place on the HSE speech therapy waiting list is not affected by working with Optima Speech Therapy.

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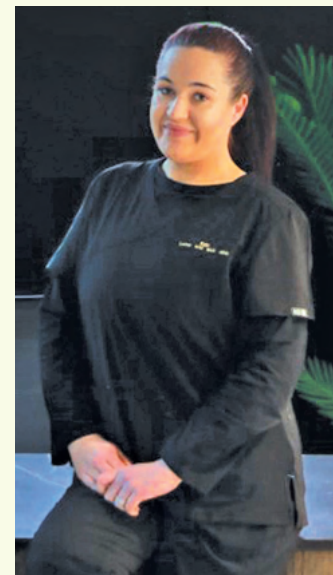
Shauna O'Neill

Aesthetics practitioner Shauna O'Neill from Greystones has launched Edit Laser Skin Clinic.

People across Ireland who are seeking tattoo removal or rejuvenation of problematic skin will now have a less painful option available to them in the capital city. Representing an investment of over €700,000, Edit Laser Skin Clinic is located at The Cubes Offices, Beacon South Quarter, Dublin 18 and is Ireland's first clinic to offer tattoo removal and various skin treatments using the PicoSure Pro Laser.

Speaking about the launch Shauna O'Neill said, "There is a real gap in the market to treat and remove unwanted tattoos and to use laser technology for various skin conditions. I have worked with laser skin technology for over 6 years, and I am thrilled to introduce to Ireland the best laser tattoo removal and skin rejuvenation technology on the market. The PicoSure Pro is the only laser in the world that can successfully remove tattoos of any colour without damaging the skin and I am immensely proud to be the first clinic in Ireland to use this industry-leading laser technology."

"For those with more complex skin conditions, Edit Laser Skin Clinic offers effective treatments from our secondary laser technology - the PicoSure ICON. A separate machine to the Pro, the ICON also avoids the use of heat and is an excel-



Shauna O'Neill

lent choice for treating various problematic skin issues including vascular lesions, broken capillaries, acne scarring, wrinkles, leg vein clearance and stretch marks."

Shauna has a VTCT Cert in Laser and Intense pulse light and a VTCT Cert in Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology for complimentary therapies.

Freda Kavanagh - Beds of a Feather

"A good sleep, for a great day', a phrase we covet here at Beds of a Feather in Fishers, Newtownmounckennedy. So, what makes for a good night's sleep?," says Freda Kavanagh, founder of Beds of a Feather.

"There are many factors that influence your sleep; the lighting in the room, the sounds around you, your stress levels, eating habits and so much more. But there is a starting point to building a strong foundation for a good sleep and that is good quality beds and bedding.

"Beds of a Feather start-

ed as I bought a featherbed in the U.S. that I cherished for many years. I later discovered, on my return to Ireland in 2000, that featherbeds or 'toppers' didn't exist here. In an attempt to bring luxury bedding set and comfort to Ireland, I set about manufacturing them in the Wicklow Enterprise Centre on The

Murrough in Wicklow town. To achieve excellence in Irish Bedding, it had to be made of the best materials from the get-go, no shortcuts and lots of learning.

"By 2004, the company was a finalist in the Export Industry Awards hosted by the Irish Exporters

Association.

"At Beds of a Feather we ensure luxury and quality of sleep from using the absolute best of raw materials. We are fortunate to be able to source these from County Monaghan for our pillows and duvets and our very healthy pocket sprung mattresses with

all natural fills are manufactured by Respa in County Meath.

"Our experience spans from stately homes to private jets, from super yachts to 5/6 star hotels. Why? Because of our quality, knowledge, and affordability. Everyone deserves a good sleep for a great day!"

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SUCCESSFUL WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Louise D'Arcy

Louise D'Arcy was appointed PGA Head Professional of Wicklow Golf Club in December 2017, and comes with a wealth of golf acumen and coaching experience.

Having qualified in 1999 at the renowned city centre golf course of Elm Park Golf Club in Dublin, Louise moved to Germany to coach at Golfanlage Hummelbach-aue Golf und Sport in Neuss.

Louise worked alongside the German Junior Golf Forband which produced tour pros such as Marcel Siem and Martin Kaymer, who was a junior golfer at the time Louise was coaching those up and coming juniors. Throughout the years

Louise has specialised in coaching golfers of all skill levels. She has mastered the ability to not only teach a technique to players, but can teach players to play their best golf and be the best golfing version of themselves!

Thanks to this Louise was employed to conceptualise, run and manage the GUI junior golf programme, in conjunction with Junior Golf Ireland, at the Golfing Union of Ireland's National Academy in Maynooth from 2008 to 2013. There



Louise D'Arcy

she also coached all levels of male and female golfers from high to mid to low handicappers with countless major club prize winners over the years.

Louise also coached many young people to embark upon a professional golfing career and has had a plus 5 as her lowest player!

Louise spotted a gap in the market and is now one of the first PGA pros in Ireland to have this Xpos Caddie App for our members. The app is for golfers who love their pro shop! Download the app from the App store or Google Play. The Caddie app will automatically connect with the Wicklow Golf Club pro shop. If this doesn't happen, you can call Louise on 0877510727.

International Women's day is 8th March and Louise has a great day lined up for this celebration of women starting at 10am with a Golf Clinic for complete beginners to enjoy until 1pm and then indulge in a lunch. It will be a great day of celebrating International Women's Day - call Louise on 087 751 0727 for enquiries.

The Beauty Garden

Lisa Vickers

"My name is Lisa Vickers and I own and solely run The Beauty Garden salon in Little Bray. I have lived my whole life in Bray and started my holistic and beauty career here too in Healing Hands on the main street. I've been a practicing therapist for 20 years and I love and enjoy what I do. I set up The Beauty Garden in 2021 with the purpose of offering salon treatments at affordable prices so that people like me in my local community could access high-end treatments that didn't cost the earth.

"I am a teacher trainer and have taught in Ireland, the UK and even as far as the Seychelles! The Beauty Garden is a quaint, purpose built sum-

mer house situated to the back of my property. The decision to do this was based on having a young family (a boy, 6, and a girl, 3, and a baby girl who is 9 months old). They are my absolute everything so to be able to work around my Fiancee's schedule and be there for my children was ultimately the best decision I have ever made. My clients are wonderful, so supportive and really appreciate my efforts to bring them the best skin and body care I can. My passion for beauty therapy keeps me pushing myself and constantly upskilling. I offer beauty treatments, eyelash extensions, some holistic therapies along with more advanced skincare such as Dermaceutic



Lisa Vickers

skin peels, microdermabrasion, galvanic and high frequency facials and something special coming very soon which I am so excited to announce! I am grateful to have the opportunity to work from home and haven't looked back since. I hope to meet many more lovely clients in the years to come."

Lorna Gammell

Gammell Financial Services Limited continued to operate throughout the financial downturn and are operating from their premises in Arklow to this day and as they operate a very personal service, they can arrange to call to you too. Call today to make an appointment 012 876 345.

Lorna is a qualified Financial Advisor with over 20 years' experience in the insurance and mortgage industry. Having initially gained her experience working in the Permanent TSB Bank for a period of 6 years, Ronald & Lorna opened a Banking Agency for Permanent TSB in Arklow in 1999, together they

successfully operated the '3rd' Bank in Arklow alongside AIB and BOI offering full banking services to Arklow and the surrounding counties, with



Lorna Gammell

a large customer base to service. Call 0402 91900 today and book a free meeting.

Optima Speech Therapy

Kate Beckett

"Helping families support speech difficulties is hugely rewarding," says Speech and Language Therapist and mum Kate Beckett.

"As a therapist I know the massive difference home practise makes to therapy working, but as a Mum I understand how hard it is to fit everything into your busy life. I also know that as a Mum I would do anything to help my children. I wanted to tackle this issue by making home practise as easy and quick as possible. Little and often rather than marathon sessions are my aim.

"Waiting lists are a huge challenge for parents and therapists! I started developing my Home Programmes in 2019 when it was estimated there were over 40,000 children wait-



Kate Beckett

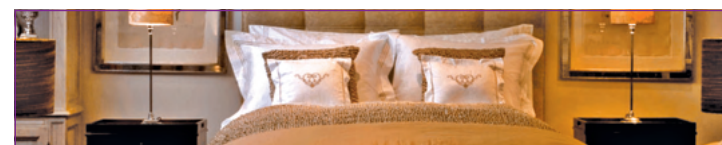
ing for Speech and Language Therapy in Ireland. Professionally and personally I feel this is simply is not good enough. Our children deserve better. The experts and research agree that getting help as soon as possible can make the difference between therapy being successful or not.

There is a window of opportunity when it is best to help your child and waiting lists may mean this window gets missed! The knock-on effect of waiting on the list is difficult to measure, but it is linked with difficulties developing friendships, relationships, school engagement and even academic success can be affected. I believe I can help. I want to do something about this. I have created a way of combining my clinical skills with my parenting knowledge to make Speech and

Language Therapy accessible for all our children; a way to offer therapy at home in quick, fun activities that suit busy lifestyles and beat the waiting list. So, my business Optima Speech Therapy was born. Optima meaning 'my best', as that is what I want to provide. The best therapy I can provide keeping it quick and fun!"

Optima Speech Therapy opened in March 2020 providing online therapy for children during the pandemic and now, face-to-face, with the new clinic opening recently in Wicklow Town. Online bookings available for an initial consultation and can be booked on the website (optimaspeechtherapy.com/speech-therapy-wicklow-clinic/).

Kate is a Master of Science in Speech and Language Therapy, and Bachelor of Science in General Nursing.

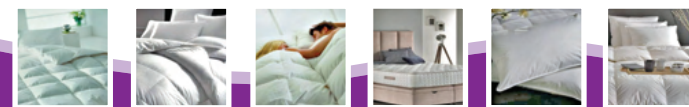


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Lacken National School wins Wicklow Naturally October Feast

In 2022 Wicklow Naturally once again ran its October Feast Schools Challenge. Students were invited to design a 3-course menu or school lunch item using ingredients produced or made in County Wicklow. There are two categories which consist of Transition Year students and the other is for fifth and sixth-class students from primary school.



Mia Finin from Lacken National School, winners of the Wicklow Naturally October Feast Challenge

Last week Wicklow Naturally announced the 2022 competition winners. The winners were chosen by a panel of professionals. Sixth-class student Mia Finin from Lacken National School, Blessington won first place for her 3-course menu consisting of vegetable soup served with a slice of local Artisan bread as a starter, for mains she chose Wicklow lamb chops stuffed with a jús and home-made mint sauce followed by a rhubarb and apple tart served with ice cream and a raspberry couli.

Four further projects from Lacken National School were also recognised by the Wicklow



Aela Coughlan, Isabella Duggan, Mia Finin, Lorelei Smith and Eabha Anderson from Lacken National School who were winners of the Wicklow Naturally October Feast Schools Challenge.

Naturally judging panel and they include Aela Coughlan and Lorelei Smith who came in joint second place while ...abha Anderson and Isabella Duggan came in joint third place. Wicklow Naturally's coordinator, Paul Smith, said, "Congratulations to all of the participating schools and winners who took part in our student challenge last year. I was

impressed by the students' ability to create some fantastic new menus using ingredients produced or made in County Wicklow. This enthusiastic cohort of students encouraged healthy food choices, some great recipes and some really impressive use of different locally sourced produce. Thanks also to the teachers and staff of the Lacken National School

who helped coordinate entries."

Each winner received a certificate of achievement with first place winner Mia Finin representing their school at the Taste of Wicklow 2023 where she will recreate their 3-course menu/lunch item with assistance from a surprise celebrity chef.

Wicklow Naturally is proud to support and

nurture the voices of the next generation. We know that students can express themselves and demonstrate knowledge in new ways and our student challenge allows this to happen while helping them to develop healthy eating habits that can last well into the future. We're really looking forward to increased participation in the student challenge which

will take place in the autumn as part of the October Feast 2023 celebrations," concluded Paul.

October Feast is about telling the story of Wicklow Naturally's members, promoting sustainability messages, letting people know what we do and showcasing the beautiful food and drink products from County Wicklow.

Wicklow students busy preparing for Student Enterprise Awards

Students across Wicklow are busy preparing for this year's Wicklow County Final as part of Student Enterprise Programme, which will be held on March 2nd in Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew.

The programme is run through the network of Local Enterprise Offices, supported by Enterprise Ireland and the local authorities. It is the country's largest enterprise programme for secondary school students, with over 300,000 students taking part since it first began.

Recent ambassadors for the programme have included Derval O'Rourke, Josh Van Der Flier and Limerick All-Ireland winner Sean Finn.

Throughout the programme, students learn how to create and run their own business. In doing so,

they learn what it's really like to be an entrepreneur and develop key skills along the way in innovation, marketing and financial literacy.

A total of 21 schools have taken part in Wicklow this academic year. Many fantastic enterprises have been created by students during the

year and a lot of hard work and effort has been put in by both students and teachers alike. Over 40 teams will get the opportunity to advance to the County Final.

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, said: "Every year we're really impressed by the quality of the small business created by the students and the innovation that we see coming through their business ideas. We're very excited that this

year we will be celebrating the Student Enterprise Awards in person and are looking forward to having the students back at Wicklow County Campus to showcase their mini companies and the learning journey they have been on all year. It is shaping up to be an inspiring event and a celebration of young entrepreneurship at its best".

Wicklow has had great success over the years with the Student

Enterprise Programme. Last year, in the Senior Category of the competition, Dominican College with their enterprise Wood on Fire represented the County at the 2022 National Final. In the Junior Category, students CCA Junior Ornaments from Coláiste Chraobh Abhann represented Wicklow. On March 2nd, the Wicklow Finalists who will go on to compete at National level in May will be revealed.

Wicklow, Kildare students begin term as ISSU Regional Officers

Jason Tamayo of Woodbrook College, Bray and Oisín Dolan of Colaiste Chiarain, Leixlip have been elected as Kildare/Wicklow Regional Officers for the Irish Second-Level Students' Union, the Republic of Ireland's national representative body for second-level students.

The officers were elected to the ISSU's Regional Officer Body by their peers from Kildare/Wicklow schools last November at Regional Councils in Maynooth University. They began their terms on January 1st and will work alongside each other for the year ahead.

Jason and Oisín have been training for the past month in preparation for the start of their new roles, which they were elected to by their peers in November. Jason and Oisín have been working as a team since January 1st, along with 35 other ISSU Regional Officers.

This is both officers' first term as Regional Officers, and they say

they are both excited to get started on issues affecting students in County Kildare & County Wicklow.

"I think the most important thing about the role of Regional Officer is that it's working on issues that affect students in your region, and I really plan on trying to fix these issues affecting students," said 3rd Year student Jason.

Oisín and Jason both thank the students of Kildare and Wicklow for electing them as their representatives. Throughout their term, the Regional Officers intend to collaborate with local politicians and organizations, as well as to represent the over 5,000 second-level

students from Kildare and Wicklow on a national level.

For the coming year, Jason and Oisín intend to ensure that student voices are heard at the local level. They will be working on issues such as school budgeting for low-income schools, anti-bullying, mental health, and other topics.

The two strongly encourage any local students, politicians, or organisations to contact them in order to further the cause of student representation in Kildare and Wicklow. Students can contact the team via email at kildarewicklow@issu.ie or by visiting the ISSU website at www.issu.ie.



Oisín Dolan, Colaiste Chiarain, Leixlip



Jason Tamayo, Woodbrook College, Bray

Shillelagh school needs safe walking route

Social Democrats TD for Wicklow Jennifer Whitmore visited Scoil Mhuire na nAird recently to meet with principal Rory Healy to talk about the difficulties faced by students and parents in getting to school, and the fact that it is simply not safe for them to walk or cycle to school due to poor road and path infrastructure.

Speaking on the issue, Deputy Whitmore says, "It's a safety issue first and foremost because of the lack of footpaths and cycleways available to safely to access their school. The school is approximately 1 kilometre outside of the village with 76 pupils. The entire school community including the pupils, their families and the staff have no option but to travel to the school in their cars. The parents, pupils and staff would love to be able to either walk / cycle to and from the school, which would encourage physical activity, reduce the carbon footprint, and contribute towards an improved sense of wellbeing in the entire community of Shillelagh.

"Due to the layout of the footpaths, and an absence of a cycle

path, parents are understandably not allowing their young children to either walk or cycle to and from school. The R749 is a busy route with commercial traffic, agricultural traffic, general traffic and the school traffic with Parents, pupils, and staff having to stand on the side of the R749 and navigate the fast-moving traffic when dropping and collecting their children. The intensity of school traffic also puts a strain on resources with management at the school gates a huge concern.

"The school has applied to the Safer Routes to School Scheme, but as of yet have not received feedback from the Department of Education and geographically the school doesn't qualify for the CLÁR scheme.

"Future transport measures for the Area include a greenway from Arklow to Shillelagh, which will go some way to alleviating the issue and encourage the community out of their cars and onto the footpaths and cycle lanes. The public consultation for the Greenway is due to take place this year with construction expected to commence in 2024. A priority of this project should include the area from Scoil Mhuire na nAird to the village. The people of Shillelagh can only get out of their cars and participate in the Active Travel to School Programme if it's safe to do so. I will continue to work with the school community and the Council to try progress this matter," concluded Deputy Whitmore.



Deputy Whitmore with Scoil Mhuire na nAird principal Rory Healy

Final phase of the MyEU50 youth competition launched

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola have launched the final phase of a major youth competition celebrating 50 years of Ireland's membership in the EU.

Students from Third Level Institutions are being invited to enter the competition on the subject of the EU's core values - human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law, human rights. The winner will be awarded €2,000 and entries can be in the form of a podcast, newspaper column / opinion piece, speech, or a poster.

Marking the launch, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola met some students from across Third Level institutions in Ireland in the Long Room of the Old

Library at Trinity College Dublin.

The Taoiseach said: "I am delighted to launch the MyEU50 Youth Competition for students in third level institutions. The founding values of the European Union included respect for personal dignity; freedom; democracy; equality; the rule of law and human rights.

"As we mark 50 years of Ireland's membership of the EU through the Government's EU50 programme and as we face the challenges ahead, we need to draw strength and guidance from those values.

"Through the MyEU50 competition, students will be given the unique opportunity to reflect on the enormous progress made by the EU over the past 50 years, and explore how Ireland can best contribute to the Union over the next 50 years."

The President of the European Parliament said: "The MyEU50 competition is a wonderful initiative. Ireland's 50-year membership of the European Union is a success story. It is important that young people from across Ireland be aware of the benefits of EU membership, so that

they can avail of the opportunities and rights that the EU brings. Our union is a union of values of freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law."

European Movement Ireland CEO Noelle O'Connell said:

"The MyEU50 youth competition gives students the opportunity to explore their relationship with the EU. Young people are often described in the clichéd term as 'future leaders'. I believe they are already the leaders of today.

"Young people deserve to have their voices heard and this competition

allows them to do just that. We are delighted to be working with the Government to roll this competition across the country."

The deadline for submissions is Friday 31st March and the winner will be announced at a ceremony in April. To find out more, go to europeanmovement.ie

480 Ukrainians enrolled in Wicklow schools

480 Ukrainian students are currently enrolled in Wicklow schools, the Department of Education has confirmed.

306 are attending Primary schools and 174 are in post-primary education. Current data indicates an enrolment rate of 92% among Ukrainian children aged 5-18. To assist with the transition of Ukrainian students and their families into Irish schools Regional Education and Language Teams (REALT) continue to operate, hosted by the 16 regional education and training boards around Ireland and staffed by regionally-based education support personnel.

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

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

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



European Youth Parliament members Teniola Shittu, Grainne Condon, Gabriele Rimkute and Emma Gorey.



3rd and 4th class boys recently travelled to Roundwood to take place in the Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin Hurling Blitz. There were some great skills displayed in an atmosphere of sportsmanship and enjoyment. Pictured is the team from St. Cronan's that took part.

Over 100 teens attend first ever 'Active Girl Guide' event at BIFE

Over 100 girls from all over the county gathered at the Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE) campus on Thursday 16th February as Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership hosted its first ever Active Girl Guide event.



Students from St. David's, Greystones, at the Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership Active Girl Guide event at BIFE.

The day was packed with classes led by top Irish experts including, Irish international basketball player Hannah Thornton; Dr Kiera Ward and Ruth Kavanagh of EduFit; BIFE Sport Co-Ordinator Jennifer Campbell and Bar Monkey founder Jamie Geraghty.

BIFE lecturer Charlie Batt was the MC of the day and opened the event with an inspiring chat with LGFA All Star Mary Hulgaine when she talked about her love of sport, impressive life accomplishments and also about her past battles with drug and alcohol addictions and depression.

She finished the speech with a key message for the girls: "The main thing if you ever have an issue is to talk. You cannot solve the problem on your own, I can't do what WE can do. It took me 28 years to speak about something, and once I did the weight dropped off my back."

The girls were then separated into groups



Kate Meyler at the Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership Active Girl Guide event which was held in BIFE

and attended classes covering topics such as Sports Nutrition, Mobility & Calisthenics, Strength & Conditioning 101 and, Training & The Female Cycle.

"The aim of this event was to help young women better understand their bodies," said

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership's Sports Coordinator, Aisling Hubbard, "We wanted to demystify training around your menstrual cycle and instead teach these young women that it can be something that can actually be used to positively impact their training."

Director of Service with Wicklow County Council, Mr Michael Nicholson, spoke highly about the day stating:

"Unfortunately study after study shows there are continually large portions of teenage girls dropping out of sport. We hope more educational days, like the Active Girl Guide event, will help counter this trend."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson, noted that "Sport plays such an important role in our lives. Aside from its obvious physical and mental health benefits, it brings

people together and offers opportunities to make lifelong friendships."

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, added: "I would like to congratulate the Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership team on organising such an engaging event. The quality of speakers matched with BIFE's fantastic facilities made it a thoroughly enjoyable day for all that attended."



Fionnuala Curry, Sheena Hubbard, Aisling Hubbard and Charlie Batt with guest speaker, Kildare football and GAA All-Star Mary Mulgraine, at the Active Girl Guide event in BIFE.



Molly Campbell at the Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership Active Girl Guide event.

Talents of Sunbeam clients showcased in new film festival

START day service is located on the Killarney Road in Bray, and at present has a team of 17 staff that supports 21 clients with a range of disabilities. START day service is managed by Client Service Manager Melissa Byrne and Deputy Client Service Manager Rebecca McKenna.

The staff team came up with the initiative of producing a short film featuring the talents of the clients of Sunbeam House Services and after they did such a wonderful job, staff Ciaran and Bernadette believed this could be rolled out to other locations across Sunbeam House Services, and so, it

began 'ARDÚ', the 1st Sunbeam House Services Film Festival. ARDÚ translated from the Irish language means 'Rising', which we believe would be a suitable name for a festival that both 'Rises' and 'Remains' for many years to come.

Many of the other locations took part from other

day services and residential units. Start day service, The Core day service, Student Learning Centre day service, Bellavista residential, The Cube day service, Dargle Community Base day service, Garden Team day service, Eolas day service, BRI-NUA day service, and viewers had the pleasure of viewing two documentaries, one from an active member from Sunbeam House Viewpoint advocate group and the other from a lovely family whose son attends START day service, Vanessa Davis and her son Jamie Davis.

They didn't stop there, they decided that because our talented clients had produced films to such a high standard that the public needed to see their extraordinary talent and work, so plans were put into action and the Parkview Hotel was booked as the venue to showcase our client's short film and documentaries while enjoying a beautiful three course meal. This event was a black-tie affair which gave everyone the opportunity to get all glammed up and enjoy a beautiful night of fun and laughter with loved ones.

Advertisements and tickets went on sale for the first ARDÚ Film Festival, taking place in the Parkview Hotel in Newtown Mountkenedy, and were sold out in seconds.

Sunbeam stated: "Thanks to Paul Canna PC Design & Print for the amazing work on the tickets, posters and programs for this event. Thank you to Laura O'Keeffe (The big bash theory) for her beautiful design and arrangements of center pieces and welcome advertisement. Ciaran Coogan an extraordinary social care worker in START day service who has an exceptional talent in the film production area supported the clients in many locations along with Brian Manning who also works for Sunbeam house in the IT department and he also supported the clients in the film production. A big thank you to them both!"

The categories were decided for the awards ceremony and independent judges were asked to judge the film and documentaries. The categories and winners are: **ARDÚ Best Film:** Eolas - Spice Crew



Gratitude of special thanks presentations being made to the START Team

ARDÚ Highly Commended: Core - The Swedish Chef.

Best Group Performance: Student Learning centre - The Big Break

Best Comedy: The Cube - DJ Ger

Most Creative: Dargle Base Community - A Day In the life

Most Original: Bellavista - Another Day in Paradise

Each celebrity cast in every film were presented with certificates for their participation in the ARDÚ film festival and the winners were also presented with trophy awards which are displayed in each service unit. Thanks to Mary and Eamon Burke for the great job on the trophies.

Client Service Manager Melissa Byrne paid special thanks to her wonderful team in START Day service for always putting the clients first.

"Bernadette Archer and Ciaran Coogan were the staff that brought this

dream alive, however without the support of the rest of the team it would have been impossible to deliver. Bernadette played a huge part in organization of this fabulous event and Ciaran will go down in Sunbeam history for his dedication and creativity in film production."

Melissa presented her team with gifts as a gesture of thanks.

Melissa also paid special thanks to Mark O'Brien Co, Artistic Director from the Abby Theatre who was very kind to take time from his busy schedule to join them on the night and launch the 1st Ardú film festival.

"Thanks to the Parkview Hotel especially Helen and her staff team who were very welcoming and were great to work with. The ballroom looked amazing exactly right for the Oscars. A special thank you to everyone that

joined us on the night our fabulous clients, families, and friends of Sunbeam house service."

Sunbeam House Services is a charitable organization which pro-

vides a service to adults with a range of disabilities primarily intellectual disabilities. Sunbeam House offers day, residential, respite and independent living services.



James Gammell with the Highly Commended Award.



Rebecca McKenna and Andrew Mangan

Krapka; KOMA - For Ukraine

Courthouse Arts Centre, Saturday 11th March, 8pm, €15/€13

Krapka;KOMA is a Ukrainian multi-instrumentalist electronic girl duo. Following down the roads of indie-electronica, trip hop and nu-jazz, Ira and Alona break new ground using a crazy amount of instruments both live and on their recordings.



Their sound is somewhere in between atmospheric Bonobo and sonically challenging Radiohead.

Since the launch of the project in September 2019, Krapka;KOMA has released an EP, 3 international collaborations, 5 music videos, composed a soundtrack for a video game, - were released on a vinyl in Los Angeles and to date have had over 70 performances in Ukraine, the Netherlands, Poland, Germany, Spain, Romania, Estonia, France, Slovakia, Czech Republic and the UK, including ESNS, The Great Escape, Waves Vienna and Sziget.

The Russian invasion on the 24th February 2022 has seriously impacted the lives of all Ukrainians, and Ira and Alona are among them. While fundraising money for healthcare needs of Ukrainian defenders, Krapka;KOMA keeps performing abroad to support Ukrainian culture and the music scene as much as possible in these terrible times for their country.



Gerry Kinsella, Eilish Connaghton and Mairead Connaghton at the recent launch of the South Wicklow Drama Festival in Jim Byrne's, Carnew. The festival will take place in St. Brigid's Hall, Carnew, from March 18th to 26th.

Wicklow's biggest singing festival returns

'Wicklow Sings' is back for one night only on Saturday March 11th 2023 in Temple Carrig School, Greystones, doors open at 6pm. Wicklow Sings Festival will bring together 14 of the best choirs in Wicklow, boasting voices from over 400 people from all corners of the county.

This is the fifth year the festival organisers, Dara Mac Mahon and Jamie Lyon have brought this event to Wicklow. Speaking about the event, Festival Founder and Artistic Director, Dara Mac Mahon said: "We started this community arts event in 2016 and it has grown from strength to strength since. We are

so delighted to be back after having to take the last three years off due to Covid restrictions. The 14 Choirs participating love entertaining and are busy preparing for their return to the big stage. Since we have announced our date and venue, we have been inundated with ticket requests. So, I'm pleased to announce our website

is now live and people can go ahead and book on www.wicklowsings.ie."

Festival organiser and co-director of Greystones' very own 'Unity Choir' (alongside

Neville Cox), said: "Wicklow Sings is an uplifting evening of music that really highlights and promotes the wonderful singing communities

around Wicklow. Singing promotes all aspects of well being, happiness and relaxation boosting confidence and promoting social bonding, we are delighted to celebrate all of those things with Wicklow Sings."

The evening event will see performances from: Unity Choir, Greystones: Voices of Bray, Wicklow; Wicklow Parkinsons Choir; Beating Time, Bray; Serendipity, Bray; Avondale Voices, Rathdrum; Temple Carrig School Choir; Wicklow Singers, Wicklow Town; Bella Voce, Delgany; Wicklow Male Voice Choir; Wicklow Town, Blessington Millennium Choir; Wicklow Choral Society, Wicklow Town; Le Cheile Community Choir, Bray; Greystones Community College Choir and the Newtownmountkennedy Male Voice Choir.

Wicklow Sings is hosted by Temple Carrig School, the school principal and Festival Co-Founder, Alan Cox said:



Pictured from Wicklow Parkinson's Choir at Wicklow Sings 2019 were left to right (front): Irene Maher, Peter Carroll, Gerry Quigley, Andy Henry; Back row: Irene Byrne (behind Peter). Photo by Barbara Flynn.



Irene Maher, Peter Carroll, Gerry Quigley, Andy Henry and (back row) Irene Byrne from Wicklow Parkinson's Choir at the Wicklow Sings 2019 Festival. Photo by Barbara Flynn

"We are delighted to host Wicklow Sings again.

Audiences will enjoy the diversity of choirs from all over the County. It is a fantastic evening and provides a great opportunity for the community to use the facilities of the school."

Dara Mac Mahon continued: "We would like to thank Alan Cox and Temple Carrig School for

hosting our special event, also to the Wicklow Arts Office for their continued support over the last few years. We would also like to thank this year's sponsors: The Whale Theatre and Spintelligent Ireland."

Wicklow Arts Officer, Jenny Sherwin, stated that "Wicklow Sings' is a pivotal moment in the Wicklow Arts event calen-

dar, bringing together passionate singers and concert goers from across Wicklow to celebrate choral music. Supporting 'Wicklow Sings' fulfils a key priority in Wicklow's Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023 - 2027 thanks for Creative Ireland funding. "Wicklow Sings' are also pleased to be partnering with the Fields for Life this year

alongside the Transition Year students from Temple Carrig School who are fundraising to support their volunteering trip to Uganda before the summer," Dara concluded.

Check out www.wicklowsings.ie to find out more about the choirs and to buy tickets - €15e per person and €10 for students. .

Film at The Courthouse Arts Centre: Charlotte

Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely, Sunday 5th March 3pm, €7/€6

Charlotte is an animated biopic that follows artist Charlotte Salomon through the most crucial years of her life as she defies incredible odds to create a timeless masterpiece.



Born into a comfortable Jewish household in Berlin, Charlotte is a fiercely imaginative girl who draws and paints almost obsessively. But she is robbed of innocence early. When Charlotte is only eight, her mother dies of influenza. Her father, Albert, a respected surgeon, remarries a few years later to renowned opera singer Paula Lindberg. In 1933, when Charlotte is sixteen, the Nazis seize power, and her world begins to change quickly, and dangerously.

This film follows her in the dreadful times of life under Nazi rule. Over the next few years, she and her parents move to France to live with her maternal grandparents, and other Jewish refugees in a villa belonging to wealthy America Otilie Moore. Her grandmother becomes severely depressed and commits suicide whereupon her grandfather admits that her own mother and 4 others of her family have committed suicide. Aggrieved, Charlotte now fears she too may one day become suicidal. As an act of survival she decides to do something extraordinary, and sets out to paint her life story. She paints away her demons and names this masterpiece Life? Or Theatre? and, through her art, Charlotte heals her life.

But life in Nazi France worsens for all her family and in only a short while, Charlotte newly married and pregnant, is rounded up with her husband Alexander and sent to Auschwitz.

At the age of 26, five months pregnant, Charlotte Salomon is murdered at Auschwitz.

Life? Or Theatre? survives the war and becomes a testament to an extraordinary life. Her autobiographical collection of paintings have been exhibited around the world, including London's Royal Academy, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and the Art Gallery of Ontario. Many consider Life? or Theatre? the first graphic novel and has inspired a live action film (1981), a documentary feature (2011), an opera (2014), a prize-winning novel (2014) an award-winning ballet (2015) and several plays.

Film at Whale Theatre: Alcarràs

(Spain/Italy/TBC/120 mins). Thursday 9th March, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €12 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

Following up her acclaimed debut Summer 1993, Carla Simón here charts one family's battle to save their small Catalonia farm just as this year's crop of peaches ripens on land now set for solar panels as the son of the recently-deceased property owner chooses the future over this 80-year tradition for the Solés.

The first Catalan-language film to win the Golden Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival, Alcarràs is one of those films that succeeds beautifully in telling its tale without, it seems, ever breaking a sweat. This is about place rather than plot, about the hum of everyday life rather than the death rattle of the old being pushed aside for the new. You will be moved.



Carla Simón

Music Network Presents: String Trio

Grammy nominated Maxim Rysanov (Ukraine), violinist Nikita Boriso-Glebsky (Russia) & cellist Dóra Kokas (Hungary) to play Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely, 17th March, €18/€16

March 17th will bring the sonorous delights of a string trio comprised of superb musicians to the Courthouse Arts Centre in Tinahely.



Nikita Boriso-Glebsky

Led by Grammy-nominated violinist Maxim and performing together for the very first time, the trio also features magnificent violinist Nikita Boriso-Glebsky and on of the rising stars of the classical music world, cellist Dóra Kokas. The programme will showcase the elegance and exuberance of Mozart's only string trio, Beethoven's glorious Trio in Gmajor and a thought-provoking work by Bulgarian composer Dobrinka Tabakova which aims to highlight the extraordinary unity of sound created by a string trio.

Maxim Rysanov

Grammy nominated



Maxim Rysanov

Ukrainian-British violinist and conductor Mazim Rysanov has established himself as one of the

world's most vibrant and charismatic musicians. As a violinist, he is principally known as a frequent guest

of the international music scene. In parallel with playing viola, Maxim enjoys a thriving career as a conductor, often combining conduction and directing as a soloist in the same concert.

Nikita Boriso-Glebsky

Having been awarded the silver medal and five special prizes in the XIII International Tchaikovsky Competition in 2007 and subsequently winning the International Jean Sibelius Violin Competition in Helsinki in 2010, Nikita Boriso-Glebsky's international career has reached remarkable heights and continues to go from strength to strength.

Dóra Kokas

Born in Hungary in 1992, Dóra Kokas has



Dóra Kokas

quickly established herself as one of the leading cellists of her generation. She has received multiple awards at notable international competitions including 3rd Prize at The Alice and Eleonore Schoenfeld International Cello Competition (China),

1st Prist at Debut Hamburg International Concerto Competition, 2nd Prize at the International Johannes Brahms Competiton (Austria) and two special prizes at The Pablo Casals International Award (Hungary).

How to Get The Menopause and Enjoy It

Whale Theatre, Friday 10th and Saturday 11th March @ 8pm (doors 7pm) - Tickets €22/€20. See www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550

Anne Gildea is waxing her mustache, slathering on the Oestrogel and boiling with excitement about bringing her fabulous hit show to Whale Theatre. How to Get The Menopause and Enjoy It has been wowing audiences and critics alike, and playing to packed house all over Ireland, since it's sell-out launch last year.



What audiences are saying:

"I enjoyed it so much I went a second time and brought the husband. He had tears streaming down his face with laughter."

"The funniest, most honest, and real show I have ever been to!"

"I'm sitting here today still laughing away to myself... loved every minute of last night ... thank you." "Fab night full of laughs, great for the soul."

Now's your chance to join Anne on this hilarious, informative roller-coaster through all things Menopause and womanly.

Why is so little known about this inevitable phase of lady-life? What is it? Why does it happen? Is there anything you can do about it? And why oh why was everything about our bodies always shrouded in such mystery? Anne answers all these questions and more, as she brings TMI to a whole new level.

"This funny and taboo-busting work blasts the lid right off...utterly punk. Never has the female body been put under such a hilarious microscope" Katy Hayes, Irish Independent.

Approx Duration 2 hours including interval.



Former Wicklow TD and Minister, author Liz McManus is pictured with Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr Erika Doyle at the launch in the Damer Hall, Stephen's Green, of Liz McManus' new book, When Things Come to Light.

SEI launch Changing Ireland Accelerator

Wicklow changemakers supporting marginalised communities encouraged to Social Entrepreneurs Ireland's Changing Ireland Accelerator. €500,000 in support from Google.org and four places available for social entrepreneurs

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland (SEI) has launched the Changing Ireland Accelerator. SEI are looking for leaders and changemakers from Wicklow who have scalable solutions to social problems impacting underrepresented and/or marginalised communities and people across the island of Ireland.

The Changing Ireland Accelerator, supported by Google.org, aims to deliver accelerated social change by supporting social entrepreneurs with a proven solution to a social problem. The programme runs for 12 months from June 2023. The Changing Ireland Accelerator includes tailored supports and consultancy from some of Ireland's leading business minds, in addition to direct funding of €60,000 which will be granted to each of the four successful applicants. This funding will be distributed by programme partner INCO.

The €500,000 donation from Google.org is part of a European-wide commitment to supporting Social Entrepreneurs, through a €20 million Social Innovation Fund, going to wards underserved social innovators

across Europe.

Commenting on the start of the open call for applications to the Changing Ireland Accelerator, CEO of Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Tim Griffiths said "We are delighted with the support of Google.org and INCO to launch the Changing Ireland Accelerator. This programme will accelerate the social impact that is being delivered by social entrepreneurs across the island of Ireland, reaching some of our most underserved communities."

Speaking about the Changing Ireland Accelerator, Rachael Bleakley, Program Manager, Google.org said "We are proud to support this programme with Social Entrepreneurs Ireland. Social enterprise is increasingly important in helping to solve some of society's biggest chal-

lenges, that is why we are committed to supporting social entrepreneurs and are encouraging ambitious change-makers to apply to the Changing Ireland Accelerator programme."

Helene Baudon, Global Head of Operations at INCO added "We thank our partners Social Entrepreneurs Ireland and Google.org for their trust, and we look forward to supporting together in Ireland those who commit into entrepreneurship to help solving communities' biggest challenges." Social Entrepreneurs Ireland will host an information session for potential applicants on Thurs, 2nd March at 12:00 - 13:00.

The event will outline the supports available through the Changing Ireland Accelerator, whilst SEI staff and alumni will be on hand to



€500,000 is available for Social Entrepreneurs Ireland's Accelerator Programme

answer questions about the application process. Registration for this information session for free via Eventbrite.

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland is a not-for-profit organisation committed to the vision of accelerated social change through the power of people. Since its foundation in 2004, SEI has supported more than 550 social entrepreneurs across the island of Ireland.

This support takes the form of direct funding,

bespoke consultancy and additional non-financial supports. Alumni of SEI programmes include AsIAm, CyberSafeKids, Mobility Mojo, Pieta House, the Together Academy and Wicklow based Shapes of Grief.

INCO is a global non-profit on a mission to create a more socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economy.

Across 40+ countries around the world, INCO accelerates the growth of

impact-driven businesses, and offers free education programs to the workforce of tomorrow. Since 2021, INCO has been leading Socia-ITides, an initiative supported by Google.org, to provide funding and capacity-building to over 400

social enterprises across Europe.

The full application guide and more details on how to apply are available on the SEI website. Applications are open from today, 21st February to 14th March. A free information session

regarding the programme and the application process will take place online on Thurs, 2nd March, and can be accessed through registration on Eventbrite. Google.org are fully funding the costs of this programme in 2023 with a grant of €500,000.

Do you know which food you waste the most?

Wednesday 1st March is National Stop Food Waste Day, and many people in Wicklow are wasting money by unnecessarily throwing out food. With just under 250,000 tonnes of household food waste produced in Ireland every year, households can save around €700 a year by taking action and help reduce food waste.

This National Stop Food Waste Day the EPA is asking people to get to know their food waste by taking the seven-day Stop Food Waste Challenge. EPA food waste expert Odile Le Bolloch explains: "Our research shows that 88% of people believe we all have a responsibility to minimise the food we

throw away, so first things first - do you know what food you waste the most? For National Food Stop Food Waste Day, we are challenging you to record your food waste for one week.

"You could keep a pen and pad by the food waste bin to take note of the food you waste each time you use it, or keep track using the notes app on your phone. You could also use

the Weekly Food Waste Recording Sheet on the stopfoodwaste.ie website. At the end of the week, tally up your results and see which types of food you wasted the most. By knowing what food you waste, you can see where you can take action and make savings on your food bill."

According to EPA research, the types of food that people waste the most are bread (41%), fruit (39%), and vegetables (38%).

Odile continues: "Once you have identified your most wasted food types, you can take action. You can buy less, store it better, eat it or freeze it. If plans change, or you have too much, freezing food is one of the easiest ways to preserve it, and the types of food that can be

frozen are endless, including the most wasted food - bread.

Storing fruit and vegetables properly will keep them fresh for longer. You can store apples in the fridge so they last longer, up to a month - or use over-ripe fruit to whizz up a quick and delicious smoothie. Try to only buy the amount you need - a large bag of spuds is only good value if they are eaten. With a small amount of effort, you can cut your food waste and your food bill! Check out the Stop Food Waste website for tips and information and follow us on social media for updates."

Whether you're joining the EPA on the seven-day challenge starting on National Stop Food Waste Day on 1st March, or you're taking this challenge in your own time, the EPA want to hear how you get on. So come on Wicklow take the Stop Food Waste Challenge and share your results on social media by using the hashtag #KnowYourFoodWaste and tagging @stopfoodwaste.ie and @EPAIreland.

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Kaibin Huang and Lin Min seek permission for a Two Storey Flat Roof Extension To Rear of Existing House To Include 2 New Bedrooms, Utility, Kitchen / Dining / Living Space, Internal Alterations And All Associated Site Works at Vico View, 85 Deepdales, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 HC66. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Paul & Orlaith Cullen seek planning permission for Construction of new three bedroom single storey dwelling, new roadside entrance, waste treatment system with percolation and soakaway areas and associated site works at Bahana Whaley, Ballinacash, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Annamma Kuruvilla, seek planning permission for conversion of existing garage / store to a 'Granny Flat' and Store and also the construction of a new Sunroom to rear of existing house at No. 2, Kingsbrook, Ballygannon, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

RECRUITMENT

Sugarloaf Gymnastics in Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow, are hiring qualified

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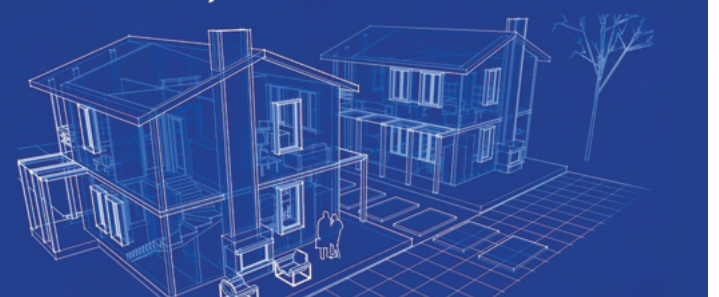
to join our team to coach gymnasts in our Mini Gym, Recreational, Competitive & High Performance programs. Interested candidates should submit a CV & cover letter to: info@sugarloafgymnastics.ie by 30/3/23.



On Thursday 23rd February there was a great day of indoor hurling/camogie for 1st and 2nd classes in An Tóchar GAA hall in Roundwood. Pictured is the Holy Rosary team that took part.

ATTENTION Architects, Planners & Builders

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'Improvements to TBESS scheme are long overdue'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has welcomed the changes made to the Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme by the government, but said additional structural improvements are necessary.

CLASSIFIEDS
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THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

Deputy Brady said: "For several weeks Sinn Féin have been telling the government that the Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme (TBESS) scheme was failing SMEs and microbusinesses, in particular the interlinked problems caused by the qualifying threshold being too high and the relief too low.

"As a result, SMEs and microbusinesses struggled to access the scheme. This is evidenced by the fact that as of 17 February only €38m in relief was issued to businesses from a €1.2bn support scheme.

"For instance, in Wicklow just €817, 143 has been issued to 568 businesses. Which

averages out at less than €1,438 per business.

"Thankfully, the government has brought forward welcome changes in line with what Sinn Féin and others have been calling for.

"The lowering of the threshold and increasing of the relief rates, as well as raising the payment limits, will ensure that the support fund achieves its aim of providing much needed assistance to SMEs and microbusinesses struggling with energy costs.

"However, there are additional structural issues which also need to be addressed. Businesses have stated that the application process is too convoluted, with guidelines explaining the scheme running to over 100 pages and the process itself taking hours, and often necessitates paying for an account.

"These structural dif-

ficulties have not been addressed, and I would implore the Minister for Enterprise, Trade, and Employment to speak to small businesses as well as business groups like ISME, the Family Business Network, and the Small Firms Association about how the process can be simplified and shortened.

"We also welcome the commitment given by the government to investigate how SMEs and microbusinesses who rely on kerosene oil and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) can be included in the TBESS scheme.

"These are improvements which we in Sinn Féin have been calling for since the scheme went live, and they would make a significant difference for many businesses in Wicklow and across the State."



Small businesses and budding entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to sample a number of events aimed at helping them to start or grow their business as part of this year's Local Enterprise Week in Co. Wicklow. The initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices nationwide, supported by Enterprise Ireland and the local authorities, takes place from the 6th-10th March this year across the country. Details for all the events taking place across the country during Local Enterprise Week are available at www.localenterprise.ie/week

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