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Tuesday 7th February 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD PEOPLE

“The revelation that successive Governments have withheld payments for nursing home care which were owed to old and vulnerable people for the past 30 years or more is devastating,” Independent councillor Joe Behan said last week.



Cllr Joe Behan

“The legal advice to these Governments appears to have been that these vulnerable older people might have a good case for compensation and so the matter should be hushed up unless individual older people sued the Government for what was due to them. The strategy seems to have been to settle these individual cases quietly and hope that most older people would never find out about them.

“It is clear that this strategy was Government policy and continues to be Government policy to this day. The Taoiseach defended this strategy in the Dail last week and there wasn't a murmur of disagreement from his FG, FF or Green Party colleagues. What does this tell us about the attitude of our leaders to older and vulnerable people?

“It is also deeply



A graffiti artist puts the finishing touches to a portrait of Marilyn Monroe at Arklow Skate Park. Pic: Michael Kelly

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worrying that so many of the present and former ministers appear to be suffering from amnesia on this issue and are allegedly waiting for documents, files and civil servants to remind them what they knew or didn't know.

“The amnesia defence is not available however to the two Wicklow Health Ministers. One is the present minister, and the other is the previous minister. Their silence on the matter is deafening. It is surely possible for Ministers Harris and Donnelly to come out now and tell us the full truth. Were they aware of this cruel and heartless Government strategy and did they support it and more importantly do they support it now? The people of County Wicklow deserve to know the

answers to these vital questions.

“The entire affair is another reminder to the Irish people that the treatment of older people in this country leaves a lot to be desired. A recent report by the Alliance of Age Sector NGOs describes the effects of ageism in this country including 'shorter lifespan, diminished mental and physical health, isolation, cognitive decline and reduced quality of life'.

“The isolation of older people during the Covid lockdowns is an example of the disgraceful treatment of older people. They were given the false impression that it would be illegal to leave their homes during lockdown and that relatives would be committing an offence if they visited them. This caused

enormous heartbreak and loneliness for many older people and then we were told afterwards that it was only 'guidance' and it had no legal basis whatsoever.

Continued on page 6



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Eileen Mullerm, Carmel Corcoran and Maurice Leahy at the Arklow RNLi's 'Hurry to the Curry' annual fundraising event in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

Bray Bridge Clubs

Three local bridge clubs came together in Bray Golf Club on the 15th December 2022 to enjoy their first Christmas party since 2019.

Cuala Bridge Club, Dargle Bridge Club and East Coast Bridge Club all play in

The Open Door Daycare Centre on Vevay Road, Bray. Bridge is played every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night at 7.30pm. The centre is wheelchair friendly with plenty of parking available. If anyone is interested in joining or would like further information about the clubs please ring or send a message to the following numbers: Wednesday - Dargle BC (Michael 087 9480151); Thursday - East Coast BC (Phil 087 2718505); Friday - Cula BC (Susan 087 9485138).

Darkness Into Light 2023

Darkness Into Light 2023 will take place at sunrise (4:15am) on the morning of Saturday May 6th 2023. It will be fully supported and organised in Wicklow Town by Wicklow & District Lions Club. The officers in charge are Lions Ann Chambers and Geraldine Mooney with full committee.

There lots of ways to get involved. You can take part in a Darkness Into Light event. You can do Darkness Into Light in your Own Way with your family, friends and colleagues in your local area. Or, you can also take on a Darkness Into Light Challenge by walking, running, jogging or swimming and fundraising for Pieta.

There over 30+ venues for Darkness Into Light walks in 2023 across 10+ countries which span 4 continents.

You can also take part in Darkness Into Light In Your Own Way by walking into sunrise in your local area with friends, family or colleagues or simply sharing a sunrise moment with

your loved ones.

Many people choose to take on a challenge for Darkness Into Light. You can jog, swim or kayak for Darkness Into Light. You can also join our Facebook challenge, 5k a day in May or create your own challenge for Darkness Into Light. If you choose this option, you won't have to pay a registration fee. We do ask that you commit to raising €200 for Pieta and people affected by suicide and self-harm. Many people raise much more than this - our average is almost €300!

Genealogy talks

Would you like to trace your ancestors? Wicklow Local Studies Service is delighted to welcome professional genealogist Gay Conroy to Wicklow Library for a series of talks.

Part 1 "Building a Family Tree" will take place on Thursday 16th February @ 7pm. This talk will explain how to start your family history research and construct a family tree using the main resources available locally and online. Part 2 will take place on Thursday 23rd February @ 7pm where Gay will be presenting a case study on a 19th century Irish family. She will be delving into online resources and combining traditional and DNA data to fill in missing pieces of the jigsaw puzzle that is family history.

These talks will take place at Wicklow Library, in the Exhibition Space on the third floor. To book your place on either or both events, contact Wicklow Library on 040467025 or email Wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie

First Saturday Book Sale

The January First Saturday Book Sale which supports the Shankill Old Folks Association will take place in the Shankill Day Care Centre, Lower Road, Shankill, on Saturday January 7th from 10am to 1pm, 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 condition appreciated.

Kilmacanogue History Society

Kilmacanogue History Society's next Talk is on Monday 13th February at 8pm in Kilmacanogue Parish Hall. The Speaker is Ms. Catriona Crowe on the subject of "How did we do during the Decade of Centenaries?" The Decade of Centenaries of our so-called revolutionary period is drawing to a close, with the end of our tragic civil war later this year. It is an opportune moment to look back at how it went and to assess Ireland's success or otherwise in dealing with a very significant and turbulent period in our history, resulting in independence in 1922, at great cost to the country. All welcome.

Volunteers sought for sea buckthorn removal at Brittas Bay

Wicklow County Council is inviting volunteers to participate in the next 'Behind the Beach' event which takes place at Brittas Bay South Beach, on Saturday, 11th February, from 10am to 1pm.

The focus of this hands-on volunteer work event will be on cutting back the young growth of Sea Buckthorn to control its spread into the dune system. Sea Buckthorn, an invasive shrub, is established at Brittas Bay and other coastal areas along the East Coast.

The plant has a de-stabilising effect on dunes, restricting the spread of native vegetation, and making the dunes less

resilient to the damaging effects of climate change such as increased storms and sea inundations.

The volunteer work will involve the use of loppers to cut back vegetation and move it nearby for collection. Onsite co-ordination will be provided by ALC Nature and all equipment needed will be provided for registered attendees. Participants are recommended to wear old

work clothes and sturdy footwear.

Anyone interested in participating should send an email to wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie in order to register.

Co-ordinated by the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council, the 'Behind the Beach' programme is an ongoing initiative to increase awareness of the ecology of this Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and

promote opportunities for citizen science engagement.

The public events programme is part of a wider programme of conservation measures including ecological monitoring and conservation grazing co-funded by the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government and Wicklow County Council through the National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund.



Comedians Paul Marsh and Karl Spain and magician Jack Wise pictured at the Comedy Night in the Brass Fox in Wicklow Town.

Information sought about 1923 incident

John M. Regan, a historian at the University of Dundee, is looking for information relating to an incident in county Wicklow in 1923.

On 5 November 1923, Captain James Murray of the Irish Free State army was court-martialled in Dublin for mistreating prisoners and acquitted. In September, Murray detained Christopher Tuite a commerce teacher from Stillorgan. During Tuite's interrogation Murray claimed to have killed former IRA volunteer Noel Lemass in July (brother of taoiseach Sean Lemass). Noel Lemass' badly decomposed body was discovered in the Wicklow mountains in October 1923.

At the inquest into Lemass' death, Tuite testified to being subjected to a mock-execution by Murray near the bridge spanning the Liffey at Ballyward. Two passers-by, 'Mr Morrin' and 'Mr Sherrin', came across this unhappy scene and later made statements to the civic guard at Blessington prompting Murray's court-martial. Both men subsequently changed their statements for reasons which are unclear.

Can anyone local help identify who 'Mr Morrin' [Moran?] and 'Mr Sherrin' likely were?

John M. Regan can be contacted by email at j.regan@dundee.ac.uk or at Dr John M. Regan, School of Humanities, University of Dundee, Dundee DD1 4HN, Scotland. Any information would be gratefully received.

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Funding allocations branded 'anti-rural'

The National Transport Authority (NTA) has allocated €8.4 million to Wicklow County Council for the delivery of approximately 41 Active Travel schemes in the county, it was announced last week. While many public representatives welcomed the funding, in West Wicklow Cathaoirelach of Baltinglass Cllr John Mullen strongly condemned what he called a 'systematically anti-rural' allocation of the funding.

The funding is for walking and cycling infrastructure in 2023. Projects in Co. Wicklow include cycle and pedestrian improvements for Arklow, Kilcoole, Blessington, Bray, Glenart and Ballyguilmore, a Park and Ride at Wicklow Train Station, Bray DART interchange, River Dargle cycleway, safe school zones in Greystones, Kilmac, Arklow, Dunlavin, a local transport plan for Rathnew and a Pathfinder project for Greystones.

Some of the major projects include the Bray Dart Interchange (€1.7m); the Greystones Active Travel pathfinder project (€1.5m); Wicklow County Council Active Travel Office staff costs (€900,000); WCC rapid development active travel measures (€400,000); Arklow South Active Travel Improvements (€400,000); Arklow North cycle and pedestrian improvements (€415,000); Kilcoole Road pedestrian and cycle improvements (€300,000); the Active Travel Bridge from Wicklow Train Station to Port Access Route (€300,000); and the Delgany village to Mill Road Active Travel Elements (€350,000).

"Rural villages and towns are excluded once again," lamented Cllr Mullen.

He continued, "Following the 2022 allocation of Active Travel funding for footpath and cycle ways I pointed out that Wicklow's rural villages and towns had been excluded

with our own engineering area of Baltinglass receiving zero from the then €9 million allocation to the County, even though we had applied for over €2 million of viable and vital projects.

"At a subsequent meeting of Wicklow County Council I raised this unjustifiable allocation for the rural towns and villages in Wicklow and the then Chief Executive Brian Gleeson committed to addressing this discrepancy and did secure an additional fund exclusively for rural towns and villages. It was also agreed that future Active Travel allocations would work to ensure fairness in the distribution of projects that are funded."

"It was with shock and anger that I read this morning's allocation to County Wicklow under Active Travel where a paltry €220K has been awarded to the entire Baltinglass MD out of a fund of €8.4 million. There has been no funding for any active travel project in most of the rural towns and villages in Wicklow such as Carnew, Tinahely, Roundwood, and Aughrim."

"The Active Travel Fund is systematically discriminating against the rural towns and villages in Ireland and Wicklow where there are urgent footpath and cycle ways needed to protect the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. All four Dublin Council received a total of €123.6 million,

while the entire County of Wicklow receives €8.4 the vast majority of which is being spent in Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow."

"I have requested a special meeting of our District next week to discuss how we can bring some fairness to this completely unfair allocation. When Minister Eamon Ryan visited Wicklow County Council late last year I and other Cllrs argued for the urgent need for a pedestrian bridge in Baltinglass which he agreed was needed to address serious safety concerns. The allocation of €50,000 towards a "report" is frankly an insult to that request."

"There is no TD from outside Bray and Greystones since the election in 2020 and this lack of national representation is resulting in the completely unfair delivery of limited resources. Rural Wicklow will be asked to bear the brunt of climate change measures but instead of being compensated we are faced with continued discrimination. It's time for rural areas to shout stop."

Green Party TD Steven Matthews welcomed the funding, saying "I'm delighted to see so many of the projects I advocated for, receive funding. Safe pedestrian and cycle routes in towns and villages can transform communities. Providing this infrastructure gives an alternative to car dependent journeys and makes walking or cycling a more attractive option. Residents and community



Maxine Strain and the Swim Smooth Ireland Squad make a donation of €10,600 to the Wicklow RNLI

groups that I have met with during the past year will see many of their concerns dealt with by the funding announced today.

"I am constantly meeting with residents across County Wicklow who tell me they would like to walk or cycle but don't feel safe enough. Often in smaller villages there can be areas where there are inadequate footpaths and in some places none at all. Cyclists are forced to take their chances in traffic. Many parents would love to cycle to school with their children but the level of congestion around schools with no dedicated cycle lanes makes them feel unsafe. I have been feeding back to both Wicklow County Council and the Minister, the importance of funding these improvements. It's reassuring that with the Green Party at the helm, huge investment is being made every year into local road,

path and cycle improvements.

"Since the Green Party entered government spending on cycle lanes and footpaths has increased more than six fold. I campaigned on the basis of going into government because I knew it would allow me to deliver locally, and push for vital infrastructure. I'm looking forward to seeing these projects develop during the year. If you live in an area of County Wicklow that is in need of footpaths, safety improvements or cycling infrastructure, please get in touch."

In Greystones, Cllr Stephen Stokes said, "This is welcome news from the National Transport Authority. Promoting cycling and walking has positive benefits. Additionally I would like to see more funding made available to upgrade existing footpaths in housing estates. Around areas like

Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole, Killadreenan, and Newcastle, there are often estates in urgent need of general footpath improvement. We discuss this regularly at Greystones Municipal District meetings. Often I press for urgent trip hazards to be fixed. In fairness the Greystones District Staff do a lot, with limited resources."

Cllr Stokes advised that Greystones Town Council used to receive an annual footpath grant to improve footpaths generally. Cllr Stokes added: "The former footpath grant was useful. It often went into local estates. The local Council staff would make recommendations, which were then voted on by Town Councillors. It seemed to work well, as local people were making local decisions. I'd love to see the Government re-introduce something similar."

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Digital mapping transforms delivery of public services for Council

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) company Esri Ireland has announced that it has helped Wicklow County Council to migrate their geospatial data and GIS services to the cloud, improving internal processes and transforming the delivery of public services.

For more than 25 years, Wicklow County Council has used Esri's ArcGIS solutions in areas ranging from local development planning to highways maintenance. Now, with its ArcGIS Online system, Wicklow County Council's data can be accessed in one central and secure cloud-based location and up-to-date data can be made available to the public faster than before.

The scalable system is underpinning the rollout of services to 142,000 citizens in Wicklow and enabled the council to build a new Residential Zoned Land Tax app in just half a day. User experience is improved as data from planning applications is now updated daily and receives thousands of views per day, while planning queries now load in a matter of seconds. In addition, Wicklow County Council can publish its County Development Plan immediately, as soon as it is formally adopted.

Esri's technology is saving time for Wicklow County Council's 850

employees as it eliminates the need for software updates and server upgrades with additional storage. Without the time-consuming burden of server management, the council's GIS team can focus on creating new web apps to improve public services.

ArcGIS Online also simplifies data management, making it easier for the council to keep its 450 data sets current and available, such as information on vacant development sites. The migration has resulted in a six-fold increase in the performance of the council's web-based GIS apps for both employees and members of the public who engage with these services. The system can handle peaks in traffic without any disruptions and returns search results rapidly.

Paddy O'Flaherty, GIS Officer, Wicklow County Council said: "Managing data and maintaining our GIS platform is so much easier than before. Things that were a chore can now be done with the click of a button. Users can select a

thousand features, and ArcGIS Online will still return the results straight away.

"Not only did we migrate data to ArcGIS Online; we also did a thorough data quality review, to make sure that the data we were sharing online was the primary and most accurate data set available. ArcGIS Online has freed up time to develop more GIS services to improve our delivery of public services."

Ted Taylor, Technical Account Manager, Esri Ireland: "We are delighted to be working once again with Wicklow County Council. It's fantastic to see them embrace new technologies which will ensure resilience for the future. ArcGIS Online provides quick and reliable access to information, streamlines workflows, and improves programme performance, meaning the council can continue to provide vital resources to the public quickly and efficiently. We look forward to continuing to work with them to enhance these services for the residents of County Wicklow."



Ted Taylor, Technical Account Manager, Esri Ireland, and Paddy O'Flaherty, GIS Officer, Wicklow County Council, pictured in Wicklow town Library at the announcement that Esri's digital mapping system is transforming the delivery of public services for Wicklow County Council

Sports clubs invited to apply for funding for EV charging facilities

Sports clubs around Wicklow are being urged to apply for funding being allocated for the installation of EV charging facilities under the 'Shared Island Sports Club EV Charging Scheme', announced last week by Green Party leader Eamonn Ryan.

The €15m scheme will allow sports clubs to apply to install a fast electric vehicle charge point at their grounds which can be used by members and the wider community. The initiative is in partnership with Sports Ireland and Sports Governing Bodies across the island, and administered by Pobal. The scheme is now open for applicants.

Speaking about the scheme, Deputy Steven Matthews said: "This scheme represents the latest measure that the Green Party is taking to tackle the climate crisis. At the core of our policy is a commitment to eradicate the existing reliance on fossil fuels. To achieve this, it is vital that

viable alternatives are provided, and that infrastructure is put in place to support them.

"Sports clubs are at the heart of nearly every community across Ireland, so it makes perfect sense to me that sports clubs will be at the heart of our plans to electrify the transport system. So many of us are frequent visitors to our local sports clubs, whether that's dropping off our children for training or games, helping out or playing sports ourselves.

"This Scheme, which clubs can now apply for, will fund the construction of electric vehicle charging points in clubs with suitable parking facilities. I hope that

making these facilities more and more accessible will create a more seamless transition for people wishing to move away from combustion vehicles in favour of electric alternatives. If any club would like more information about this scheme or requires any assistance with the application process, I would invite them to get in contact with me directly," Deputy Matthews concluded.

Green Party Councillor for Greystones MD, Cllr Lourda Scott praised the benefit of the scheme: "This excellent initiative will plug Greystones MD into the future of electric vehicles and help us progress away from our reliance on fossil fuels. Local clubs are already at the heart of the community, so it will be enormously helpful for people to be able to charge their vehicles while they are out training with or supporting their club. This scheme

will make electric vehicles an option for many people who wouldn't have considered them viable in the past, and I'm delighted to see this opportunity being offered. This is a good example of how communities can be involved in practical ways in working towards a sustainable future."

Cllr Stephen Stokes has broadly welcomed the plans: "This proposal makes sense. We need to diversify electric vehicle charging points. People can charge their vehicles while they are training or playing matches. It is especially helpful if people have driven a long way to participate in an away match, whether this is a car or bus."

Cllr Stokes however expressed a note of caution about the level of funding: "The funding is coming from the Shared Island Fund, with a commitment of €15

million for charging stations. This is for sports clubs and communities across the entire island of Ireland. I envisage that this will be used up quickly. Of course it's worth seeing how this works out as an investment. That said the Government needs to be way more ambitious to halve transport emissions by 2030."

Cllr Stephen Stokes re-iterated his belief that the electric vehicle purchase grant should not be cut by the Irish Government. Cllr Stokes concluded: "France raised their maximum electric vehicle grant to €7,000 in January 2023. Meanwhile the Irish Government is planning to slash the electric vehicle grant, which is currently €5,000. The Government is going down the wrong road with this. I urge them to re-consider. We need to do everything we can to reduce emissions."

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Road safety assessment sought for Shillelagh village

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has written to the Baltinglass Municipal District Engineer seeking a safety assessment of several roads and paths in Shillelagh Village.

Following a recent visit to Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird Primary School in Shillelagh to meet with school principal Rory Healy, Deputy Matthews observed the road safety issues first-hand outside the school. A series of locations were highlighted as a safety concern for residents, students, and the wider school community - particularly on the R749 and the R725.

"This follows my work last year with Shillelagh Football Club to extend

the pathway to Ballard Park which will be carried out shortly," said Deputy Matthews.

"Shillelagh is one of the most beautiful parts of County Wicklow, but many residents shared the view that road safety, road markings and pedestrian safety needed huge improvement.

"I was particularly concerned about safe pedestrian routes to Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird on the R749 and it was the school principal who

wrote to me originally about the lack of road traffic management, safe pedestrian or cycling routes to the school and generally about the need to improve road safety. I am also working with the Department of Education, seeking to get the school included in the Safe Routes to School Programme.

"There are several measures that could make an immediate difference which I have flagged - including the provision of

better, safer footpaths between Shillelagh Village and Scoil Mhuire na n-Aird, the installation of a pedestrian crossing and an overall reduction in traffic speed - particularly at school hours. I look forward to working with the local authority to see a road safety assessment being carried out and I hope

that it will come to the same conclusions on the required work that I and the school principal have set out.

"Separately, having spoken with residents, I have also raised the lack of road markings for the

Shillelagh to Tullow Road - R725 which is a genuine safety concern for those I spoke with. Again, I have sought the intervention of the district engineers and will continue to work to ensure their safety concerns are addressed. I hope to see real progress on the Arklow - Shillelagh Greenway this year and I have been continuously working with Wicklow County Council to ensure on going funding for this fantastic amenity for the Shillelagh and Tinahely area," concluded Deputy Matthews.

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Tinahely's Philip Rothwell was a winner again as 14/1 chance Karen's Gift landed the mares' handicap hurdle at Down Royal on Tuesday, 24th January. Ridden by James O'Sullivan, the Robert Honner-owned nine-year-old led after the third-last hurdle and battled well to hold off the late challenge of the Seamus Fahey-trained Kalanisi Dubh, the 3/1 favourite, by a head.

'Funding for N11 Upgrade must be reinstated'

Fine Gael councillor Derek Mitchell is calling for funding for the N11 upgrade to be reinstated immediately to prevent traffic chaos in Bray.

"Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan postponed work on the N11 upgrade for 2022 & 2023. This would have provided a proper priority for buses, doubling the public transport mode share from Arklow & other Wicklow places," said Cllr Mitchell.

"An Interim Bus only priority scheme was then pursued expecting it just needed painting white lines on the road. This has been worked on by consultants and even a partial bus lane is now projected to cost €112m! Also the Interim plan will hinder the proper separation of crossing traffic, buses, cycles & cars from through N11 traffic on the Bray By-Pass section of the road.

"Wicklow County Council engi-

neers now consider that the Interim Bus scheme is no longer cost effective or viable and that the overall scheme (including Bus Priority measures) from Loughlinstown to the Glenview should be progressed. Thousands of houses are being built in Greystones, Newtown, Wicklow Town & Park n' Ride sites. Neither buses nor cars will be able to get around Bray soon, the M50 traffic jams will stretch back to Tallaght and Bray will be clogged with traffic.

"The present studies started after Minister Simon Harris & I met Leo Varadkar, then Minister of Transport in 2014 and €5m has been spent with no result. I am calling for funding for this design to be reinstated immediately."



Cllr Derek Mitchell

Greystones South Beach Boardwalk progressing

The proposed boardwalk for the South Beach, Greystones was discussed at the monthly meeting of Greystones Municipal District on Tuesday, January 31st. It received the backing of the Councillors present.

Cllr Stephen Stokes stated: "This is a new chapter in the history of Greystones seafront. It is a big leap forward to make our seaside more accessible."

The proposed development is to be a permanent structure. It is planned to be 150 metres in length, with three access points. It will replace the temporary accessibility matting which is currently in place. Cllr Stokes added: "I would like to thank the Wicklow County Council Officials for their hard work. I also welcome that the material used will be recycled plastic. Timber was considered, but recycled plastic will mean it is a lot more durable from sea spray, sunlight and high winds."

The boardwalk is expected to have a lifespan of 40 years. Cllr Stokes also requested action about flooding at the archway, near the South Beach car park. It was agreed to write to Irish Rail, to press them to resolve the issue.

Cllr Stokes added: "While I would like to Irish Rail to deal with this, Wicklow County

Council should consider asking for permission to carry out the work if needed. It makes sense to deal with this flooding

issue now, in preparation for the boardwalk."

The boardwalk is to be made from recycled plastic. Timber was con-

sidered, but was deemed unsuitable due to the exposed coastal location that would cause it to deteriorate quickly.



Entrance to Greystones South Beach



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NO COUNTRY FOR OLD PEOPLE

Continued from page 1

"Heartbreaking evidence of the Government-imposed mistreatment of older people was given at a recent conference organised by Care Champions.

"We heard so many stories of vulnerable older people who died in hospital and nursing

homes during Covid. Many of these older people were left to die on their own without the comfort of family and often in distressing circumstances. The conference heard heartfelt calls for a legal right for people who are seriously ill or dying to have a care partner present with them in their care setting. The

Government should introduce this measure as a matter of urgency.

"We have seen compelling evidence this week that this Government does not fully respect older people. If a society is to be judged by how it treats its most vulnerable people, we have a long way to go."



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Award for Arklow RNLI's 'Infinite Jest' callout

Arklow RNLI lifeboat crew recognised for their roles in challenging service to yacht with three crew onboard

Seven members of Arklow RNLI have been honoured for their roles in a challenging and exhausting service, almost seven hours in duration, which saw a crew of three people, onboard a nine-metre yacht rescued.

For his exceptional display of seamanship in the service, a Signed Letter of Thanks from the Chairman of the Institution was awarded to Arklow RNLI Coxswain Brendan Dillon. For their teamwork in challenging sea conditions and their part in completing a highly effective service, individual Chief Executive Commendations were awarded to 2nd Mechanic Eddie McElheron and volunteer crewmembers Austin Gaffney, Geoffrey Kearns, Trevor Conroy, Craig O'Reilly, Daniel Downey.

The rescue was carried out on 4th August 2020, 24 nautical miles east-southeast of Arklow. The 9-metre yacht, Infinite Jest was on passage from Newlyn, in England to Largs, in Scotland, and was experiencing very poor weather and rough sea conditions, with the crew of three people, suffering from exhaustion and seasickness. It was a demanding service, also involving a tow from the lifeboat, which lasted over three hours, in winds up to Force 8, with upwards of 5-metre swells, at night. The service itself lasted nearly seven hours.

On launching in Force 7 conditions, at 6.58pm that evening, the Coxswain of Arklow lifeboat, Brendan Dillon, headed towards

the last reported position of the yacht, Infinite Jest, immediately feeling the effect of the conditions as they left the shelter afforded by land. On receiving an updated position from the Coast Guard, he adjusted his course to cross the Arklow Bank, to intercept the yacht. In doing this, while operating in such challenging sea conditions, he enabled the lifeboat to significantly reduce their time to reach the casualty vessel.

On successfully crossing Arklow Bank, the lifeboat's primary navigation system was non-operational, with only the secondary GPS fully functional. The Coxswain requested the Navigator, Trevor Conroy, to calculate their position using speed and direction. In Force eight winds and a five-metre swell, the Arklow lifeboat Ger Tigheelaar arrived on scene at 8.20pm, having successfully located the casualty vessel.

The yacht, which was sailing with only her jib set, was instructed to take up a course behind the lifeboat, to be escorted to Wicklow Harbour, as the nearest safe port. After an hour on this course the yacht's skipper informed the lifeboat, by VHF Radio, that it was proving difficult to maintain their course under sail and they were making poor headway. The Coxswain then asked the skipper if

they could take in their sail and use their engine to maintain their course, behind the lifeboat, until they were closer to land.

As darkness was falling, the lifeboat took the yacht under tow, as the crew were exhausted and suffering from seasickness. Three members of the Arklow Lifeboat crew, led by Austin Gaffney, passed a heaving line to the casualty vessel. In very challenging conditions, the tow was established with the lifeboat maintaining radio contact with the yacht every 15 minutes, providing technical guidance, encouraging the tired crew to hydrate, offering support and informing them of progress to safe harbour. Wicklow RNLI were also placed on stand-by to launch if required, with their shore crew ready to receive both vessels into Wicklow Harbour.

As the lifeboat neared the Harbour, the crew of the yacht informed them that due to crew exhaustion, they could not make the berth under their own power and would require further support. The Coxswain requested Eddie McElheron to board the yacht, in full protective equipment to assist. The lifeboat arrived into Wicklow Harbour at 12.55am with the Infinite Jest on an alongside tow.

In recognising Coxswain Brendan



Arklow RNLI Awardees for Infinite Jest Callout. Front Row L-R: Geoffrey Kearns, Coxswain Brendan Dillon, 2nd Mechanic Eddie McElheron. Back Row L-R: Trevor Conroy, Daniel Downey, Craig O'Reilly and Austin Gaffney

Dillon's role in commanding the lifeboat during such a challenging rescue, RNLI Chair Stuart Popham said he "showed excellent leadership qualities and sound decision making under the pressure of knowing what a precarious situation the casualty was in, and the risks presented to his lifeboat and crew. Throughout, he led by example, extolling the core values of the RNLI in all his actions."

In awarding the lifeboat crew for their actions on the service, Mr. Popham added, "This was a demanding service. The sea conditions, towing at night and crew transfer all presented risk and challenges. The crew demonstrated courage and resilience throughout. The deck crew on the Lifeboat performed faultlessly, showing skill, teamwork and a high degree of

professionalism."

The presentations were made during Arklow RNLI's sold-out fundraising event 'Dan's Hurry to the Curry', which was held at the Arklow Bay Hotel after an absence of a few years due to the pandemic. The awards were presented on the night by RNLI Trustee and Chair of the Irish Council, Mr. John Killeen.

Greystones community urged to get involved in Youth Café

A Volunteer Recruitment event was held last Wednesday at the Greystones Youth Cafe at Tiglin's Coolnagreina Centre in Greystones.

St. Patrick's School Principal Rachel Harper and the youth cafe team organised an informational event where all those wishing to get involved with the youth cafe were welcome to come down to Coolnagreina and sign up to get involved.

Some of the youth club teenagers warmly welcomed the volunteers.

They inspired everyone by sharing what the cafe meant to them while giving everyone plenty of food for thought regarding the lack of facilities for teenagers in the area. Their positivity shone through as they shared many fantastic ideas for the team to try and implement in the cafe. The Rise @ the Cove team mem-

bers, Sean and Gavin, kept the cafe atmosphere going by providing baked goods and hot beverages while volunteers Genevieve and Rachel gave a presentation on how to get involved.

Teenagers attending The Greystones Youth Cafe are asking the community to get behind the cafe by volunteering their

time or sharing any particular skills they may have that might relate to young people. Ross McParland from Whale Theatre and Greystones Twon Team said, "There was a brilliant atmosphere in the restaurant last evening where we learnt that volunteering could be in many different areas, not just supervision. These events caught my interest, coming from a theatre background. I

hope we can host special social events in Whale Theatre, too, as treats for the volunteer group."

Everyone that wishes to get involved may contact Rachel or send an e-mail to: youthcafe@tiglin.ie. As Rachel explained, "Similar to a school, the youth cafe must follow stringent child protection policy procedures; everyone who wishes to get involved must go through an interview process, get Garda vetted, and complete Children First Training. But don't let this intimidate you; it's a reasonably straightforward process."

The Greystones Youth Cafe is open twice a week; on Wednesday, 3.00 PM - 5.00 PM and Friday, 7.00 PM - 9.00 PM. Rachel says they would love to see the cafe as "a place for the entire community to get involved"; moreover, she would love to "see it open as much as possible for our young people".

With that in mind, Rachel explained: "we would love to open the cafe a few extra nights, and we're not too rigid; any skill could be put to practice; a couple of the suggestions were to do study sessions on Monday nights, those training to become teachers could get involved in this."

Dearbhla Murphy commented, "As a recent newcomer to Greystones, I

was a little apprehensive about turning up at the Volunteer Evening at Greystones Youth Cafe not knowing anyone, but there was no need to be so! Aubrey, Rachel and the team were so welcoming and encouraging. Last night's introduction was fun, inspiring and informative & I'm very excited to get involved with such a positive, upbeat group & making some new friends too!"

Chairman of Tiglin, Aubrey McCarthy, noted, "What an amazing night seeing the community come together to build something special for the youth of Greystones. What has been a long hard slog to get planning, fire certs, etc. has finally resulted in a multi-purpose building that the young people can call their own. Tiglin is delighted to be part of this community initiative. Huge appreciation must go to Rachel Harper and her amazing team of volunteers."

As Aubrey mentioned, the youth cafe comes from many years of work. What was started years ago by a small group of people has become a place for all of the youth of Greystones from all socio-economic backgrounds, bridging the gap between school and home life in their community. Opening its doors in October of 2022, the youth cafe has been visit-

ed by many local celebrities, such as Niall Breslin ('Bresie'), and Steve and Dave Flynn from The Happy Pear. It has hosted engaging events like the Local Young Scientists Exhibition.

"The youth cafe is a fabulous space for young people, and I love that it is community-led. There is a real sense of care for the young people of Greystones, and the youth-guided approach will be so beneficial for the next generation of young leaders in the com-

munity," said Lynne O'Connor, Coordinator Greystones Family Resource Centre.

"They say it takes a village to raise a child. Last night showed that there are loads of ways to get involved and bring skills to help create a safe and engaging space for our kids- from helping with homework to mentoring with computers or other crafts. And it's a great way to connect with other adults/parents and build community good too," said Barry Ryan



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Tiglin founder and chairman Aubrey McCarthy with Cllr Gerry Walsh at the recruitment event at the Coolnagreina Centre last Wednesday.

'Govt cannot be allowed to throw in the towel on Katie Taylor fight in Croke Park'

Sinn Fein TD John Brady has stated that the government cannot be allowed to throw in the towel in and dash the hopes of the tens of thousands of boxing fans across the country who have been waiting for years to watch Wicklow sporting icon, legend, and undisputed lightweight champion of the World Katie Taylor fulfil her dream of stepping into the ring in Croke Park in front of 80,000 screaming Irish fans.



Katie Taylor

Currently the cost of renting Croke Park, which is reported as being three times the cost of renting Wembley Stadium is prohibiting the holding of a return bout between Katie and Amanda Serrano later this year on May 20. The government has previously intervened to ensure that major women's sporting events could take place, including the Women's Irish Open at Dromoland Castle.

Deputy Brady said: "Former Olympic champion Katie Taylor is an Irish sporting legend. She has inspired a generation of young Irish boxers. She has heralded in a golden age of women's boxing. With Ireland now having gold medal ambitions at all of the major tournaments.

"The image of an Irish sporting legend stepping out on the hallowed ground of the home of Gaelic games, but on a global stage, in front of 80,000 screaming fans would represent a very special moment in Irish sporting history.

"The Government has in the past funded sporting events, such as the Women's Irish Open

at Dromoland Castle, to boost Women's sport here in Ireland. If the Government fail to intervene, Katie's fight will have to be moved to the 3Arena, which has a capacity of approx. 9,000. Which is 10,000 less than the sell-out fight with Serrano in the Madison Square Gardens, in New York.

"This will push ticket prices through the roof, turning what should be a national sporting celebration of a great Irish sporting figure, into an exclusive event. The government needs to step up here. Minister Thomas Byrne needs to give a commitment to ensure that this fight goes ahead in Croke Park.

"Katie Taylor is a sporting legend, who has given the nation some of its greatest sporting moments of recent times. She is also an exemplary model for young people to emulate. She has been an ambassador for Irish sport, and the country as a whole. The Government must not throw in the towel. Every effort must be done to get the fight to take place in Croke Park, it is what the Irish people want, and it is the minimum they deserve."



Fr Padraig O'Cochlain and Rev. Arthur Barrett at the Arklow RNLI 'Hurry to the Curry' fundraiser event in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

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Bray Soroptimists host public speaking competition final

Soroptimists Bray were delighted to host the Regional Public Speaking Competition on Saturday 28th January.

The event took place in Support Centre in Bray and was attended by eight secondary school students from: Gorey Community School, Gorey, Co. Wexford; Scoil Mhuire,



Muireann Murphy, Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford and Sorchá Nic an Bháird, Gaelcholáiste Cheitinn, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, with SI Bray President, Tanja Haak O'Riordan.

Clane, Co. Kildare; Newbridge College, Newbridge, Co. Kildare; Gaelcholáiste Cheitinn, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary; Loreto Secondary School Bray, Co. Wicklow; Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

This Competition has been running for over 40 years and is a three-stage event with local and regional competitions leading to a national final in March of each year. The competition encourages girls to develop the skills to speak effectively with clarity and conviction, thereby enabling them to improve their self-confidence and personality.

Congratulations to the two winners, Muireann Murphy, Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy, and Sorchá Nic an Bháird, Gaelcholáiste Cheitinn, Clonmel, and to the runner-up Faye Ní Chonchúir, also from Gaelcholáiste Cheitinn, Clonmel.

For more information about Soroptimist International please contact us at email Bray.soroptimistsinternational@gmail.com, hq@sigbi.org and website www.sigbi.org.



Local participant from Loreto Secondary School Bray, Rachel Duffy, with SI Bray President, Tanja Haak O'Riordan.



Local participant from Loreto Secondary School, Bray, Sofia Isaic with SI Bray President, Tanja Haak O'Riordan

Schools invited to enter new Irish language competition

Post-primary schools in Wicklow are being invited to join a new Irish language initiative - Spraoi'23 - which is aimed at cultivating a love of the Irish language, by engaging students in activities through the medium of Irish. The initiative is being run by Education and Training Boards Ireland, in conjunction with An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta.

Spraoi'23 invites schools to partake in a range of different competition categories from blogging and rapping to art design and the creation of new seanfhocal. The programme is open to all students in post-primary schools across the country, not just those under ETB patronage. The programme also welcomes engagement from both students in Irish-medium and English-medium schools, with each category carrying prizes for both Irish-medium and English-medium entries.

Speaking at the launch, ETBI General Secretary Paddy Lavelle commented: "At Education and Training Boards Ireland we recognise the importance of the Irish language and the relationship our students have with it. Through this inclusive approach of offering opportunity to all learners to participate, not just within the ETB sector, we feel that it will be a positive step forward in promoting a love of An Ghaeilge. SPRAOI'23 will complement the excellent teaching that goes on in our ETB schools and indeed all schools across the country. Students will be enthused by the vast range of creative and fun competitions afforded to them and should hugely benefit from them."

Spraoi'23 will run through to the end of April with a celebratory prize-giving ceremony in May. All information can be found at <https://events.etbi.ie/SPRAOI23>



Sorchá Ni Chonghaile, Colaiste de hÍde, Tallaght, at the official launch of ETBI's Spraoi'23 initiative

Students take leading role in promoting online safety

Two students from St. Gerard's School in Bray are among more than 140 students from across Ireland who are taking part in the Webwise Safer Internet Day (SID) Ambassador Training Programme.

The peer-led programme equips students with the knowledge and skills to lead their own online safety awareness raising campaign in their schools and local communities.

Charles Kelly and Zack Alexander, who are members of the Webwise Youth Advisory Panel, were among those who attended the in-person training day in Dublin. The theme for Safer Internet Day 2023, which takes place on Tuesday, February 7th, is 'Promoting respectful, inclusive online communication', and aims to empower young people to build positive and inclusive online communities.

The Webwise Safer Internet Day Ambassador Training Programme gives students the opportunity to take a leading role in promoting a safer, better internet and tackle issues that are important to them including online bullying, wellbeing and privacy online.

Safer Internet Day (SID) is an EU wide initiative to promote a safer internet for all users, especially young people. It is promoted in Ireland by the PDST Technology in Education and Webwise, with a record-breaking 183,000 people taking part in last year's celebrations.

Everyone has a role to play in helping to create a safer, better internet. Find out what you can do and get free resources by visiting the Webwise Safer Internet Day Hub at webwise.ie/saferinternetday



Pictured at the Webwise Safer Internet Day Ambassador Training Day were Charles Kelly and Zack Alexander

Success for Arklow school at debating competition

Gaelscoil na Mara from Arklow's senior team won their division at the the Irish Championship of the Uí Chadhain Debating Competition on Wednesday, 25th January in the Park Hotel, Mullingar. Gaelscoil na Mara also had a Junior Team competing.

Comórtas Uí Chadhain is being run by Gael Linn for post-primary schools where teaching is done through Irish, and more schools than ever have participated since the

beginning of this school year.

The competition is organised with the sponsorship of Foras na Gaeilge. It's a big year for Gael Linn as they cele-

brate 70 years since the organisation was founded. Craobh Uí Chadhain was their first major event of the year, its debates have been very popular since the 1960s.

In the junior championship the teams discussed the resolution 'Emigration is the best option for the youth of this country at the moment'. There

were speakers from Gaelcholáiste na Mara, An tInbhear Mór; Chorca Dhuibhne Community School, Daingean Uí Cuis; Chiaráin Comprehensive School, Chathrú Rua; Coláiste Chró Mhuire, An Spidéal involved. In the senior championship there were Coláiste Croí Mhuire, An Spidéal; Gharman Middle School, Enniscorthy; Oiriall College, Monaghan; Gaelcholáiste na Mara, Invermore. The resolution they were discussing was 'The United States of America is defending democracy'.

A panel of five referees (Fergus Ó Conghaile, Máirín Bn Uí Mhuirí, Áine Ní Ghlinn, Liam Mac an Mhaoir and Giollaíosa Ní Mhaonaigh) chose Méabh Ní Ghionnain, Caoimhe Ní Cúinn and Neans Nic Donnacha from Chiaráin Comprehensive School, An Chathrú Rua as winners of the Junior Championship and Ailbhe Ó Monacháin, North West Reporter with Nuacht RTÉ/TG4 was the guest speaker at the event. Ailbhe himself took part in the competition in his youth while attending Pobalscoil Ghaioth Dobhair, and brought home the main prize in 1986.



Alex Connor Muntean, Andrea Ní Fhearaíl and Rónán Ó hÍcí from Gaelscoil na Mara with their trophy



Pictured is the junior team from Gaelcholaiste na Mara, Arklow, who competed in the All Ireland Final of Gael Linn's debating competition, Comórtas Díospóireachta Uí Chadhain on 25th January: Padhraic O Cíadhra, Cathaoirleach Gael Linn, Ailbhe O Monachain, Nuacht RTE/TG4, muinteoir Eibhlín Uí Chonchubhair, team Cian Chaterjee, Donncha O Raghallaigh, Cillian O Suilleabhain, muinteoir Tiernan de hAl and Reamonn O Ciarain Priomhfheidhmeannach Gael Linn.

ners of the Senior Championship. They praised the speakers very much for the quality they showed.

Ailbhe Ó Monacháin, North West Reporter with Nuacht RTÉ/TG4 was the guest speaker at the event. Ailbhe himself took part in the competition in his youth while attending Pobalscoil Ghaioth Dobhair, and brought home the main prize in 1986.

A permanent trophy and vouchers worth €1,000 were awarded to the winning team in both

divisions of the competition, while vouchers worth €250 per team were awarded to the other teams participating in the event.

While congratulating the prize winners, Tomás Rua Ó Cadhla, Manager of the Gael Linn Schemes Department, said that he was very impressed with the quality of the debates again this year. He praised the excellent preparatory work done by all the teams and thanked the teachers who gave them all guidance and support during the competition.

"The standard of the competition is growing every year and it is very clear that a lot of work goes into the preparations round after round. We are really looking forward to next year's Uí Chadhain Tournament because there is no doubt that we will see the growth and development of the team again".

He also said that Gael Linn is greatly indebted to the teachers who make up the teams year after year for their dedication and loyalty to the competition.

President's Award leader from Wicklow celebrated at Gaisce's Recognition Awards Ceremony

On Saturday 28th January, Gaisce - The President's Award held a special Award Ceremony, in recognition of 34 President's Award Leaders from all over Ireland who have graciously supported young people to achieve their potential. This included Gina Ní Chuinnea, teacher at St Kevin's Community College in Wicklow. The Award Ceremony took place at Farmleigh House in the Phoenix Park.

Gaisce's Civic Merit Award honours President's Award Leaders (PALs) who have supported young people to take part in the Gaisce programme for more than

five years. Retiring PALs and PALs who mentored a Gold Awardee were also celebrated and commended for supporting and encouraging young people on their Gaisce journey.

The ceremony was MC'd by comedian, writer and podcaster Julie Jay and the guest speaker at the event was author and world-renowned immunologist and Professor of

Biochemistry Professor Luke O'Neill.

Speaking about the Awardees, Avril Ryan, Acting CEO of Gaisce - The President's Award said, "Gaisce are delighted to celebrate the work of our President's Award Leaders. Their dedication to the principles and outcomes of the Gaisce programme ensures the continued value society places upon the personal development and wellbeing of young people and their achievements, whilst also promoting Gaisce's vision that young people have every opportunity to dream big and fulfil their potential."

She continued, "For many young people a Gaisce Award is often the first time they receive any recognition for their achievements. A Gaisce Award recognises the skills, volunteering, leadership, and other qualities of Gaisce participants, talents that may never have been discovered and honed without their participation in this unique and holistic non-formal education Award."

A special message from the President of Ireland, Michael D.

Higgins was read by Chair of Gaisce - The President's Award John Cunningham, "The leadership of all of you has undoubtedly played a significant role in the success of the programme and the growth and development of the participants. The dedication and hard work that goes into the planning and execution of the Gaisce journey is given evidence in the distinguished achievements of the participants. It is with great pleasure and a sense of gratitude that I send my warmest congratulations and my sincere appreciation for your valued contribution to Gaisce."

Gaisce - The President's Award is a personal development programme for young people which enhances confidence and wellbeing through participation in personal, physical, community and team challenges. Since its inception in 1985 over 300,000 young Irish people have completed a Gaisce Award, including former Rose of Tralee Maria Walsh and internationally renowned Irish actor Robert Sheehan.

Bray student named as Women in Technology Scholar by Intel

Seventeen years ago Intel in Ireland launched its Women in Technology scholarship program for the first time. Since then, the program has gone from strength to strength. A total of 13 new Women in Technology scholars were selected this year, including Elena Ó Céidigh Hayes from Bray, studying Electronic Engineering at University College Dublin.

The scholarship program aims to encourage a new generation of high-achieving women to take up the challenge of a career in science and technology and to empower them by fostering educational opportunities.

The scholarship program offers a monetary grant, valued at €3,000 per annum, as well as opportunities for work placements at the Intel Leixlip and Shannon campus. Each scholar is also assigned a mentor who is an Intel employee to assist and provide advice on managing their academic career. The scholarship program has created an invaluable link between Intel and the academic network and a number of scholars have gone on to become Intel employees.

In recent years Intel Ireland has driven a unique approach to academic partnership through their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) program.

"We work closely with our partners in Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, Dublin City University, Technological University Dublin, University of Limerick and Maynooth University - as well as with other universities and Institutes of Technology across Ireland to share details of this initiative and identify suitable candidates for the scholarship program.



Elena Ó Céidigh Hayes

"This year scholarships were awarded by numerous business groups across Intel including Movidius, Manufacturing & Product Engineering, Corporate Services and Intel Shannon. This year we are also continuing to offer a eWomen in Construction scholarship awarded by our Fab Construction Enterprise Team.

This new cohort of scholars join Intel's wider scholar network which includes those who are still active scholars as they continue to pursue their studies, and those who have gone on to become alumni of the program.



Gina Ní Chuinnea (centre), with Avril Ryan and John Cunningham

NCBI Bray shop scoops top award

National Council for the Blind in Ireland (NCBI) has scooped two accolades at the UK's Charity Retail Association Awards, the only Irish charity to be nominated and to win, not one, but two of these high profile awards.

The Charity Retail Association held their Charity Retail Awards 2022 ceremony on Tuesday 24th January at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Birmingham. There was an incredibly high standard of nominations across the UK charity

retail sector and NCBI Retail was shortlisted for the two 'The WOW! Factor Awards', which celebrate creativity within the charity retail sector and the amazing work put in by shop managers and their teams.

NCBI scooped both

awards, beating stiff competition from leading UK charities including Oxfam, Blue Cross, DEBRA, Saint Michael's Hospice and many more to win The WOW! Factor Award for Best Shop Interior won by NCBI Capel St, Dublin and The

WOW! Factor Award for Best Shop Window won by

NCBI Bray. An incredible achievement for an Irish charity, which is successfully delivering innovation across the sector as consumers seek more options for affordable and sustainable shopping.

"This is a great achievement for the NCBI retail team, competing against some of the largest and well-established charity retailers across the UK. It's a credit to the hugely talented and creative team that NCBI are fortunate to have on board. Together we have worked hard over the last few years to try to change the perception of shopping pre-loved in charity stores. Our vision is to create a boutique shopping feel in our new stores, elevate our shop environment, and raise the standard of charity retail," says Beverley Scallan, Head of Retail at NCBI.

The NCBI team were also shortlisted (a shortlist of 3 nominees) in two other categories, NCBI CEO Chris White was



Paulo Almeida NCBI Area Manager (Centre) accepting award for NCBI Bray



NCBI Bray's Valentine's Day window display



CBI Bray's 'Maleficent' window display

Sensory toys introduced by Library Service

Wicklow County Council Library Service is delighted to introduce the newest addition to its services: the Fun Accessible Sensory Toys (FAST) Collection.

The collection features over 140 items divided into four functional categories: Gross Motor skills, Fine Motor skills, Language, Social, Life and Play Skills and Sensory & Tactile.

This collection of toys and assistive resources has been established to respond to the growing demand for intervention services for children and young people with additional needs.

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, pointed out: "We are steadfast in our commitment to provide quality resources and services to support parents, caregivers and families in our community. This collection is just one way of doing that."

"Another reason for the introduction of this collection to the libraries in Wicklow is to reduce the impact of climate change," said Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, who added: "The promotion of lending and sharing of the toys will allow people to try the toys before making a decision to purchase."

The Library Service is aware that some of the items in this collection can be prohibitively expensive to purchase and it is hoped that providing library members with the opportunity to try the items first by borrowing them from the library will give people enough information and experience to know if the item would be a useful thing to own before spending money.

The items from this collection can be borrowed on any adult library membership card by people living, working or studying in Wicklow County. One item may be borrowed at a time, for a maximum of 10 days. Terms and conditions apply.

The collection is housed in Wicklow Libraries HQ and cannot be browsed in person - the dedicated FAST Collection catalogue can be viewed online at the Wicklow Libraries homepage or in any Wicklow library branch.

Making 'Time, Safe, Stay' general knowledge for Epilepsy Day

If you witnessed a person having a seizure, would you know what to do? As part of their activities for International Epilepsy Day 2023 on February 13th, Epilepsy Ireland want to make seizure first aid general knowledge amongst the public.

The key words in seizure first-aid are TIME, SAFE, STAY. Epilepsy Ireland have been out on the streets of Ireland and in quizzes across the country in recent weeks, putting the public to the test on their knowledge of seizure first-aid and of the key words - TIME, SAFE, STAY. In the days leading to International Epilepsy Day, they will be launching a new campaign across print, radio, online and social media - so keep your eyes and ears open for the new campaign!

There are over 45,000 people living with epilepsy in Ireland, meaning the condition is one of the most common neurological conditions in the country. However, in a recent public awareness survey conducted by Amarach Research on the behalf of Epilepsy Ireland, it was found that the public totally underestimates the prevalence of the condition with 80% of respondents believing epilepsy to be a rare condition.

"The reality is that the condition affects almost 1 in every 100 people - highlighting why seizure first-aid needs to be general knowledge amongst the wider public. Knowing what to do can potentially save lives, and for people living with epilepsy, not knowing how appropriately a seizure will be responded to remains a major concern for many in their day to day lives," explains Peter Murphy, CEO of Epilepsy Ireland.

So, what does TIME, SAFE, STAY mean?

TIME

The first thing you should do is TIME the seizure. This is because if a seizure goes over five minutes, an ambulance should be called.

SAFE

Keep the person SAFE during the seizure. If a person is having a convulsive seizure, cushion their head with something soft if possible and remove any harmful objects, e.g. furniture from their vicinity. NEVER put anything in a person's mouth or restrain them during a seizure. Be aware that there are also types of seizures where the person does not experience convulsions. Instead, they may 'zone out' or stare blankly, become confused or agitated, display behaviours like chewing, smacking their lips, fiddling with their clothes, or wandering aimlessly. In this type of seizure, the person's awareness of their surroundings is affected, and it is important to gently guide the person away from any danger.

STAY

During the seizure and after it passes, STAY with the person. Often after a seizure, a person with epilepsy will be confused and, in many cases, exhausted. Make sure to stay with them until recovery is complete, explain what has happened and gently reassure them. The person may have experienced an injury if they have fallen, and if this is the case, ensure normal first aid steps are taken.

"We know that the Irish public are receptive to knowing more about epilepsy. Our informa-



tion suggests that 91% of Irish people agree that there is a lack of understanding of the condition, but we equally need people to now take direct action on this. We want to make Time, Safe, Stay synonymous with seizure first aid and make it 'general knowledge' in Ireland. We are asking everyone in Ireland to ask themselves the question - would you know what to do if someone had a seizure in your presence? If the answer is no, it only takes a few minutes to head to our website and learn this vital information," said Mr. Murphy.

"It's likely that there are people with epilepsy within your family, friends, workplace, club, or community and you never know when you might need to respond to a seizure. So please make Time, Safe, Stay and seizure first aid part of your general knowledge today!"

Further information on Epilepsy Ireland, International Epilepsy Day and Seizure First aid can be found by visiting www.epilepsy.ie.

Over 15,000 deer culled

Data released by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to the Irish Deer Commission show 55,008 wild deer were culled in the 12-month period up February 2022. The cull sets a record for the number of wild deer culled, up 24% from the previous record set in 2019 when 44,381 deer were culled. In Co. Wicklow, 15,280 deer were culled in the 12-month period, over three times as many as Tipperary, which recorded the second highest number of deer culled.

Seventy percent of the national deer cull came from the six counties of Wicklow, Cork, Waterford, Tipperary, Kerry, Galway (38,526 deer), County Wicklow, an area believed to have an overpopulation of wild deer in some areas was responsible for 36% of the cull with 19,997 deer.

Hunters must make an annual declaration to NPWS stating the number of deer culled by county, sex, and species, and this data is provided to the Irish Deer Commission annually. While the data is not independently verified, hunters are required to sign a declaration confirming the accuracy of the information returned.

However, Damien Hannigan a spokesperson for the Irish Deer Commission stated "the actual deer cull is likely to be significantly higher as the cull total does not include wild deer killed illegally known as deer poaching, nor does the total include the growing number of deer killed on our roads. Over the last five years over 200,000 wild deer were culled in Ireland under licence from the NPWS and highlights the important role licensed deer hunters play in managing deer at sustainable levels to minimise negative impacts on farming, forestry, and the wider ecosystem. "The Irish Deer Commission actively work with landowners who suffer negative impacts from wild deer, we also support the various agencies who deal with an increasing number of deer vehicle collisions on our roads

through a network of trained members."

Why are more deer being culled? There may be several factors, firstly the number of hunters licensed to cull deer has grown significantly with 6,232 licenses issued in 2022, up 17% from the previous year when 5,344 licences were issued to cull deer during the open culling season from September 1st to February 28th, with dedicated periods when male and female deer can be culled. There is no open season for native red deer in County Kerry due to their national conservation importance, management is undertaken by local NPWS staff. The average number of deer culled per hunter has remained between 6 to 8 deer annually since records began in 1999.

The Irish Deer Commission believe restrictions around the management of deer during the Covid-19 pandemic, combined with a world-wide crash in venison prices, delays by NPWS in the issuing of deer culling permits, poor forestry design for the management of deer, and a rapid expansion afforestation in Ireland, all have created the perfect storm for deer numbers to increase.

The Irish Deer Commission says best practice deer management requires more female deer to be culled than males, and the cull returns show the important job undertaken by licensed deer hunters with 26,216 females culled versus 22,401 males during the regular culling season. 6,751 deer were also culled

out of season by the granting of permits under section 42 of the wildlife acts, with 924 permits granted by NPWS nationally, with 608 permits granted in County Wicklow alone which resulted in 4,717 deer culled.

The population of wild deer in Ireland is unknown, as a population census has never taken place, so calls for culls are often ill informed or from individuals who do understand how to manage deer to ensure they co-exist with other land uses, and many people are not aware we already have a national cull of over 55,000 wild deer each year. The management of wild deer has become an increasingly emotive topic with polarised views from those in farming, forestry, rewilding, tourism, photographers, hunting, and conservationists.

The Irish Deer Commission recently described comments by Minister Eamon Ryan as arbitrary and unhelpful, when the Minister called for a national cull, as one was already taking place.

"It has been suggested certain land use sectors have engaged in extensive political lobbying to have more deer culls increased, seasons changed without regard for animal welfare, or an attempt to reclassify our wild deer as an invasive species without understanding this would cause deer to spread further and become more difficult to manage, while deer management experts have stated it is crucial deer management decisions are well founded and based on factual scientific data, and not as a result of political or land use sector pressure," said the Irish Deer Commission.

Minister Charlie McConalogue and Minister Darragh O'Brien recently launched a deer management strategy group to develop a national deer management strategy, followed by a public consultation on the management of our wild deer through a short online survey. The strategy group is chaired by dairy farmer, Teddy Cashman.

However, the strategy group and survey have concerned the Irish Deer Commission and deer management organisations, who say it lacks stakeholders and deer experts.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

ORDÚ DÍLSEACHÁIN

ALT 81 DEN ACHT UM TITHÍOCHTA 1966

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

ORDÚ DÍLSEACHÁIN UIMHIR 1 DE 2023

ÓS RUD É gur talamh atá imscríofa sa Sceideal seo a leanas agus atá taispeánta ar an léarscáil ceangailte, an léarscáil ráite céanna a iompraíonn an marc 22/06/42/101 agus atá faoi shéala Chomhairle Contae Chill Mhantain (as seo amach luaite mar an "Údarás Tithíochta"), talamh leis a mbaineann Ordú Ceannach Éigeanta Uimhir 6 de 2022, agus go bhfuil an tOrdú sin i bhfeidhm maidir leis an talamh sin:

AGUS ÓS RUD É gur iontráil an tÚdarás Tithíochta, ar a laghad, sé mhí roimh an ordú seo, agus gur ghabh siad seilbh ar an talamh ráite, de réir na cumhachtaí bronnata orthu ag Alt 80 den Acht Um Tithíochta 1966:

AGUS ÓS RUD É –

- (a) Nach n-aistrí leas na talún ráite don Údarás Tithíochta,
- (b) Go bhfuil an tÚdarás Tithíochta den tuairim go bhfuil gá práinneach leis an gceannach talún a chur i gcríoch, maidir leis na cuspóirí a tá sé údaraithe talamh a cheannach go héigeanta.
- (c) Tá fíor - thairiscint scríofa déanta ag an Údarás Tithíochta chuig gach duine a bhfuil leas aige sa talamh ráite agus a chur go leor sonraí cuí maidir leis an leas sin, ar fáil i dtreo is go mbéidís in ann fíor-thairiscint a dhéanamh maidir leis an leas sin.

ANOIS DÁ BHRÍ SIN Ordaíonn an tÚdarás Tithíochta de bharr cumhachtaí a bronnadh air ag Alt 81 den Acht um Tithíocht 1966, go ndilseofar an talamh ráite, i mbith-dhílse, saor ó hualaithe agus ó ghach eastáit, ceart, teideal agus leas d'aon saghas (seachas aon Ceart Slí Poiblí) ón 24ú Feabhra 2023

SCEIDEAL

TAILTE LE NDÍLSIÚ

Talamh seachas talamh is teach nó tithe atá neamhoiriúnach do dhaoine cónaí ann agus nach féidir ar chostas réasúnach iad a dhéanamh oiriúnach do dhaoine cónaí ann.

Uimhir an léarscáile i dtaisce ag oifig an Údarás Tithíochta	Cainníocht, ainmníocht agus suíomh na talún	Úinéirí nó úinéirí ainme	Léasaithe nó léasaithe ainme	Áititheoirí (seachas tionóntaí míosa nó níos lú ná mí)
22/06/42/101 41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry, Co Wicklow	Teach chónaithe agus talamh 495 m ² (0.0495ha)	Mark & Jacqueline Gibson of 41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow	Duine ar bith – teach folamh	Duine ar bith – teach folamh

Faoi shéala oifigiúil an Údarás Aitiúil, an 2ú Lá Feabhra 2023, i láthair:

Brian Gleeson, Príomh-Fheidhmeannach.
Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach.

VESTING ORDER

SECTION 81 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1966

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

VESTING ORDER SERIAL NO 1 OF 2023

WHEREAS the land described in the Schedule hereto and shown on the map attached hereto which said map has been marked 22/06/42/101 and sealed with the seal of Wicklow County Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Housing Authority") is land to which **Compulsory Purchase Order No 6 of 2022** relates, and the said order has become operative in so far as it relates to the said land:

AND WHEREAS the Housing Authority have, at least six months prior to the date of this order, entered on and taken possession of the said land in accordance with the powers conferred upon them by **Section 80 of the Housing Act 1966:**

AND WHEREAS –

- (d) The several interests in the said land have not been conveyed or transferred to the Housing Authority,
- (e) The Housing Authority considers that it is urgently necessary, in connection with the purposes for which it has been authorised to acquire land compulsorily, that the acquisition of the land should be completed, and
- (f) The Housing Authority has made a proper offer in writing to each person having an interest in the said land who has furnished sufficient particulars of his interest to enable them to make a proper offer for such interest:

NOW THEREFORE the Housing Authority in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by **Section 81 of the Housing Act 1966**, hereby order that the said land shall, on the 24th of February 2023, VEST in the Housing Authority in fee simple free from encumbrances and all estates, rights, titles and interests of whatsoever kind (other than any public right of way).

SCHEDULE

LANDS BEING VESTED

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
22/06/42/101 41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry, Co Wicklow	Dwelling house and land of 495 m ² (0.0495ha)	Mark & Jacqueline Gibson of 41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow	None – vacant house	None – vacant house

The official seal of the Local Authority was affixed hereto this, the 2nd day of February, 2023 in the presence of:

Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive.
Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach.

Libraries in Wicklow: a closed book or a new chapter?

By Ben Moore

I would hazard a guess that what springs to mind when you come across the word “library” in your day-to-day life would be dark stuffy buildings and musty old books, images of an institution that is a little out of step with modern society, maybe even a little dated. Is there still a place for libraries in a world where the sum of all human knowledge can be accessed through our mobiles? Is there still a place for libraries when online retailers like Amazon have made it so affordable and so easy to get books delivered right to our doors? Is there still a place for libraries at all?

One man who would wholeheartedly say yes to these questions is Mr Brendan Martin, who has spent the better part of forty years working within Ireland’s library service and the last twenty as the Wicklow County Council Chief Librarian. Over the course of an hour, meeting over Zoom, he spoke to me at length about the history of libraries within Ireland and the changes that he has seen the library service go through while he has been working within it.

Martin is of the belief that “if you build it, they will come” and points to Blessington library as proof. The library there had been operating for years but saw a sharp increase in interest in 2007 after a new building was opened in November 2006. In the years before the new library, they had been averaging less than ten thousand books being taken out annually but in the years after the opening had seen it soar to an average of sixty thou-



Wicklow Town Library

sand books being taken out annually. This is not an outlier either, across Ireland whenever significant funding is put towards library services there is a substantial increase in usage. This may seem obvious, but it

is important to consider when talking about national library usage. There are libraries in various stages of development in Rathdrum and Wicklow Town and Martin believes that the public interest in these

two libraries, once they are up and running, will quadruple and double, respectively.

Many new libraries are popping up across the country. Big, bright, welcoming buildings like the Dún Laoghaire Lexicon for instance that serve more as communal spaces than simply a repository for books. Places like this easily dispel any notions or assumptions you may have about libraries, instead fostering a pride, a belief, in the system. Above a large space for study, wide windows look out to sea, covering the place in strong, warm light. A coffee shop operates from the ground floor and an art gallery exists there too, built with the intention of showcasing the creative works of Ireland’s population. The whole space, books and everything else, exist to show off what the future could be.

One new initiative that Martin brings up during our conversation is the “My Open Library” service. The concept is simple and has already been shown to be effective in various Scandinavian countries. It allows the public access to unstaffed libraries via a fob from eight in the morning

through to ten at night, opening study spaces, allowing the use of IT equipment, and facilitating taking out or returning books. Speaking back in 2019, the then Minister for Rural and Community Development Mr Michael Ring TD talked about how it had allowed “students”, “commuters”, and “families with working parents” the ability to make use of the various library services at times that suit them and their busy lives. Martin has seen this in action himself in the new Arklow library opened back in 2019 and has said that it has had a great impact on the town. The current plans are that the new library building being built in Wicklow Town and the building planned for Ballywaltrim will follow this model too.

An aspect of Wicklow’s libraries that may go under the radar of the county’s population are its various outreach programs.



Greystones Loibrary

Wicklow’s Mobile Library for instance services thirty-one different locations across the county, including nursing homes. Another branch of the service that might not be as well-known as it should be are its online resources. There are more than eighty thousand items available online through applications such as Borrowbox and RB Digital, mainly e-books and audiobooks.

A point that Martin makes more than once throughout our conversation is that while statistics are important to seeing

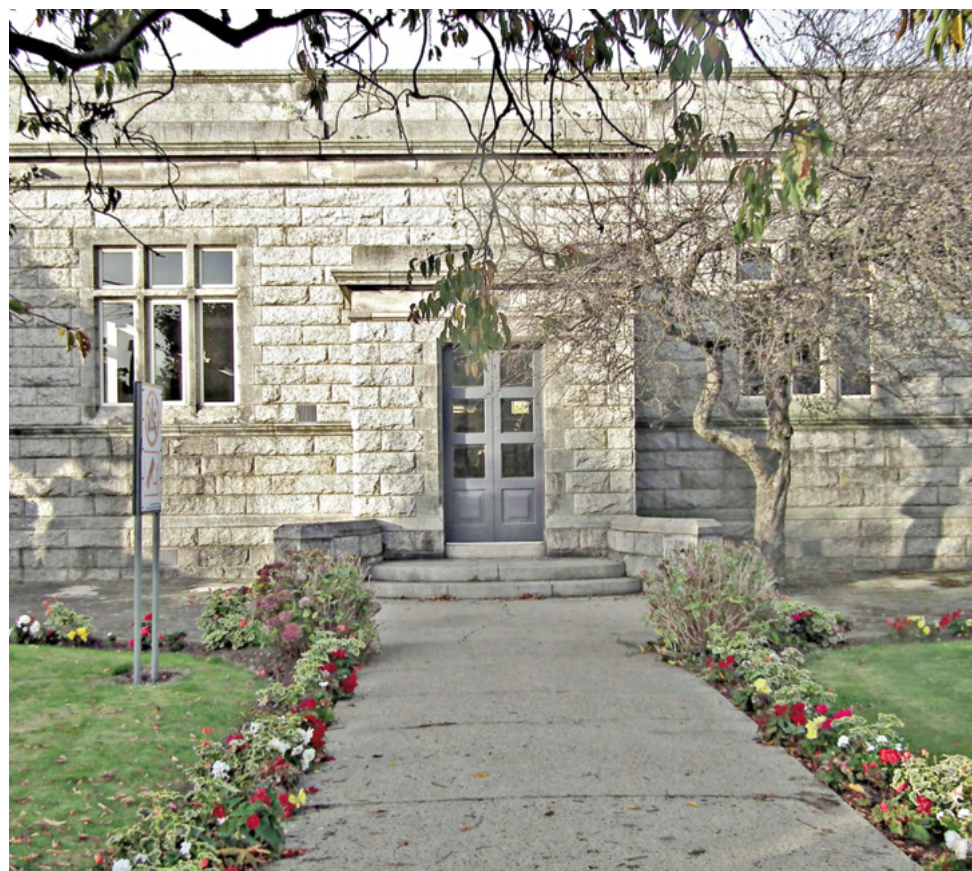
the impact libraries have, they do not cover everything. Certain ways that libraries impact their communities are unquantifiable. Martin recounts “It’s not only about borrowing books, that’s only a part of it really, there’s a train of thought that we measure far too much of the quantitative [impact of libraries] rather than the qualitative [impact of libraries]. Sometimes you might get a note from someone saying they did some study that was invaluable, or they were helped by a librarian, and you

can’t really measure that.”

To finish, I asked Martin what position he felt the Wicklow library service, and the rest of the country, was in for the future. “I would say we’re in a good place nationally,” he said. “We’ve built up well over the years.” The statistics reflect this attitude, showcasing a service that has grown in size and scope significantly over the last twenty years. It stands to reason that, as long as there is funding for libraries, there will be growth too.



Rathdrum Library



Bray Library

Wicklow Artists Salon returns

The Wicklow Artist Salon returns in 2023 and this year's programme is curated and facilitated by artists Philip St John, Joanna Kidney and Olivia Fitzsimons.

The Artist Salon is an artist-led initiative by County Wicklow artists for Wicklow artists and cultural practitioners. It is peer support and takes the form of a series of evening events bringing together artists in person with both a social and professional purpose - to seed learning, support interactions and encourage collaborations.

Each Salon focuses on a particular topic and features invited artists to explore important themes affecting the arts in Wicklow and beyond.

Supported and funded by Wicklow County Arts Office, all Artist Salon events allow time for the contribution of questions and opinions, along with an opportunity to mingle and chat with fellow artists afterwards.

The next Artist Salon is taking place on Tuesday, 7th February at 7:30pm in the Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray, and

features a line up including artists Mia Gallagher, Yurika Higashikawa and Emmet Kirwan joined by facilitator Susan Coughlan to discuss the vital question of SURVIVAL.

Next to their art, money is often the first matter on artists' minds. How do we get by? What paid work do we find most compatible with our art, and which is least compatible? What do we artists believe should be done to assist the creative community in the future?

These and other questions will be explored by guests and participants in what promises to be another informative, enjoyable and helpful evening.

Admission is free but booking is essential. Tea and coffee will be provided but feel free to bring something for the table to accompany it.

For more information about this event and

future salons, plus biographies for each of our marvellous guests and facilitators, please head to Mermaid Arts Centre website.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, said that he was pleased to see the return of the Wicklow Artist Salon adding: "These events offer artists an important opportunity to connect, collaborate and enhance the artistic landscape of Wicklow."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson, said that he welcomes an artist led event series that builds upon the artist supports offered by Wicklow County Arts Office to provide for a rich tapestry of artists and cultural practitioners in the county. To find out more, visit www.mermaidartscentre.ie.



'The Banshees of Inisherin'

Film @ The Courthouse Arts Centre, Friday 10th February 8pm. €7/€6

With Irish Cinema on a wave of success heading towards the Oscars, The Courthouse Arts Centre brings this multi-Oscar nominated and Golden Globes winner film to Tinahely.

Set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland, THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN follows lifelong friends Padraic (Colin Farrell) and Colm (Brendan Gleeson), who find themselves at an impasse when Colm unexpectedly puts an end to their friendship. A stunned Padraic, aided by his sister Siobhan (Kerry Condon) and troubled young islander Dominic (Barry Keoghan), endeavours to repair the relationship, refusing to take no for an answer. But Padraic's repeated efforts only strengthen his former friend's resolve and when Colm delivers a desperate ultimatum, events swiftly escalate, with shocking consequences.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

CEANNACH ÉIGEANTA TALÚN

ORDÚ CEANNACH ÉIGEANTA UIMHIR 11- 2021 – ORDÚ DAINGNIÚCHÁIN 114 HILLSIDE, NA CLOCHA LIATHA, CO CILL MHANTÁIN

Ar an 1ú Feabhra 2023, rinne Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Ordú Daingniúcháin a dhaingníonn an Ordú Ceannach Éigeanta ainme thuas, maidir leis an talamh sa Sceideal leis. Ceadáíonn an tOrdú, mar a dhaingnítear, Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin chun an talamh sin a cheannach go héigeanta le haghaidh cuspóirí an Acht um Tithíocht 1966. Rachaidh sé i bhfeidhm trí seachtain ón lá a foilsíodh an fógra seo. Is féidir cóip den ordú mar a daingnítear agus an léarscáil dá dtagrítear ann, a fheiceáil ag gach uair réasúnta ag:

An Rannóg Tithíochta, Áras an Chontae, Baile Chill Mhantáin

Is féidir iarratas a dhéanamh ar an Ard Chúirt, maidir le hAithbhreithniú Bhreithiúnach ar chinneadh Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin faoi réir Ordú 84 de Rialacha na hUaschúirteanna, lastigh d'ocht seachtain tar éis dáta foilsíúcháin an bhfógra seo, faoi réir Alt 50 den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000.

Má ndéantar iarratas mar sin, is féidir leis an Chúirt:

- An tOrdú Ceannach Éigeanta mar a dhaingnítear a chur ar ceal, trí mheán ordú eatramhach, i gcoitinne nó go háirithe maidir le h aon bhealach a chuireann sé isteach ar mhaoín an iarrthóra, go dtí go ndéanfaí cinneadh deireannach ar na himeachtaí.
- An tOrdú, mar a dhaingnítear, a neamhniú i gcoitinne nó go háirithe maidir le haon bhealach a chuireann sé isteach ar mhaoín an iarrthóra; má tá an Chúirt sásta tar éis an iarratas a chloisteáil, nach bhfuil an tOrdú Ceannach Éigeanta mar a dhaingnítear, laistigh de chumhachtaí an tAcht um Tithíocht (arna leasú) nó go bhfuil dochar déanta do leasanna an iarrthóra de bharr neamhaird ar aon cheanglas an Acht.

Sceideal

Talamh seachas talamh is teach nó tithe atá neamhoiriúnach do dhaoine cónaí ann agus nach féidir ar chostas réasúnach iad a dhéanamh oiriúnach do dhaoine cónaí ann.

Uimhir an léarscáile i dtaisce ag oifigi an Údarás Tithíochta	Cainníocht, ainmníocht agus suíomh na talún	Úinéirí nó úinéirí ainme.	Léasaithe nó léasaith ainme.	Áititheoirí (seachas tionóntaí míosa nó níos lú ná mí)
21/06/69/100 Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Ordú Ceannach Éigeanta Uimhir 11 – 2021. 114 Hillside, Na Clocha Liatha, Co Chill Mhantáin	Teach chónaithe agus talamh 189 m2 (0.0189ha).	Maurice Kenny, 2 Páirc Albert, Cuas an Ghainimh, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Baile Átha Cliath	Duine ar bith – teach folamh	Duine ar bith – teach folamh

1ú Feabhra 2023

Joe Lane, Stiúrthóir Seirbhísi

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 11 OF 2021 – CONFIRMATION ORDER 114 HILLSIDE, GREYSTONES, COUNTY WICKLOW

Wicklow County Council has on the 1st of February 2023 made a confirmation order confirming the above named compulsory purchase order as respects the land described in the Schedule hereto. The said order, as so confirmed, authorises Wicklow County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily for the purposes of the Housing Act 1966. It will become operative three weeks from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the order as so confirmed and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow

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

If such an application is made, the court:

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

Schedule

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owners or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
21/06/69/100 114 Hillside, Greystones, Co Wicklow	Dwelling house and land of 189 m2. (0.0189ha).	Maurice Kenny, 2 Albert Park, Sandycove,, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin	None (vacant house)	None (vacant house)

1st of February 2023

Joe Lane, Director Services,
Housing and Corporate Estates

County winners named in Someone Like Me national art competition



ASD Unit class pupils from St Catherine's Special School, represented by class-mates Noah and Conor, were presented with a Junior Category County Winners' plaque for their entry in the 'Someone Like Me' art competition. Pictured are Aine, Noah, Conor, Director of the National Disability Authority, Dr Aileen Hartney and teacher Fiona Wilson. Pic: Finbarr O'Rourke.



Sixth Class pupils from Scoil Mhuire Realt na Meara, represented by teacher Frank Clune, were presented with a Senior Category County Winners' plaque for her entry in the 'Someone Like Me' art competition.

The presentation was made at the first in-person national final to take place for two years which saw representatives from 50 primary schools across the country gather at Dublin City Hall. The fully accessible event was also livestreamed on the Someone Like Me website so classmates, family members and friends could join in remotely.

The competition, which is supported by the National Disability Authority, attracted over 2,700 entries from primary school pupils and their teachers right across Ireland - almost 1,000 more than last year - bringing the total number of children who have taken part over the last seven years to almost 15,000.

The prestigious competition which is now in its seventh year is a national celebration of the things that unite children of all abilities,

helping to nurture more positive attitudes towards persons with disabilities.

The competition was created as part of the National Disability Authority's work to nurture more positive attitudes towards persons with disabilities and, to date, it has seen more than 12,500 children take part in lesson plans and pupil activities designed to challenge our young people to appreciate and respect similarities and differences in people.

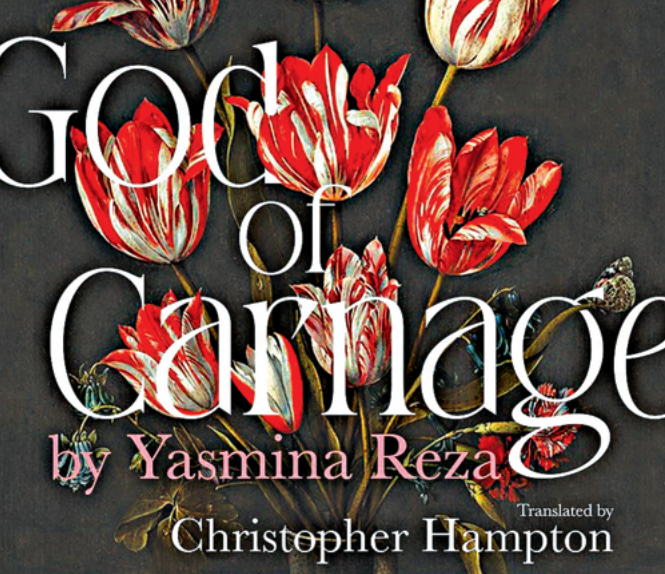


Artwork from Ballinacarrig National School

God of Carnage

By Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton. Production by Don't Think Twice Theatre Company
Whale Theatre, Friday 10th & Saturday 11th February, 8pm

What happens when two sets of parents meet up to deal with the unruly behaviour of their children? A calm and rational debate between grown-ups about the need to teach kids how to behave properly? Or a hysterical night of name-calling, tantrums and tears before bedtime?
This amateur production of "God of Carnage" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk



Julie Byrne and Pauline Merry at the launch of Julie's 402 art exhibition in Arklow Library. 402 is a collective of local artists and creatives from the Arklow area

The legendary Rob Strong returning to Greystones

He may be 75 years old this year but Rob Strong, is STILL GOING STRONG! The Derry native, with the sensational blues/soul voice, celebrated an amazing 60 years on the road in 2022 and is returning to the Hot Spot Music Club on Friday February 10th.

From fronting The Plattermen to The Rockets, Rob actually turned down an offer to join Deep Purple! Not many Irish artists can claim to have continuously played LIVE for the last six decades! His son, Andrew Strong, became world famous as he starred as Deco, in the smash hit 1991 movie 'The Commitments'.

In the early 1970's nobody in Ireland personified the raw energy of rock and blues music like Rob

Strong, one of the most unique voices of the era. Rob and the overdrive brass section of the Plattermen laid down some of the funkier sounds ever heard in an Associated Ballroom. Their powerhouse interpretations of the likes of "Blood Sweat & Tears" and James Brown material as well as their own tunes swiftly gained the band a huge national following. Setting a high standard of musicianship, their sound and

style, although often emulated by subsequent Irish Bands was rarely equaled.

With the disbandment of "The Plattermen" in 1974 Rob eager to broaden his horizons moved to the states where he played the club circuit both in Kansas City and Las Vegas for several years. Returning to Ireland in 1976 Rob decided to embark on a solo career and founded the "Rob Strong band".



Rob Strong

Despite an absence from the Irish live circuit, the band quickly developed a sizeable and loyal following with Robs gravely vocal and incredible range. Often

compared to the likes of Joe Cocker and Ray Charles, the R.S.D became renowned for delivering a high energy, rocking set. Rob is father of Andrew

Strong, who starred in the well known film, 'The Commitments'.

For tickets go to www.the-hotspot.ie/tickets or phone 087 2917519

Social Fabric: From Couch to Eternity

Whale Theatre, Friday 17th February, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €20/€18 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

Andrea Splendori's Social Fabric Podcast returns to the Whale Theatre to talk about all things running!

Is running really a worthwhile pursuit? How good is it for us? From couch to 5km and then half marathons, marathons and ultras!! What's it all about?

We will look at running from a scientific point of view as well as any health benefits, how to get started, how to improve and how to go the distance. Andrea will be joined by experts in the field to shine a light on these and many other questions.

These include Emmett Dunleavy, René Borg and Prof. Barry Smyth (Founding Director, Insight Centre for Data Analytics).

Emmett Dunleavy is the coach behind PerfectPacing, which was founded in 2014. He's been immersed in the world of athletics since the age of 10 and has been Head Coach of Kilcoole Athletics Club. "Perfect Pacing's mission is to make every athlete we work with run faster," they say. "From 1500m, to 10k to the marathon, success and satisfaction at all running

levels are determined by finishing position and the stopwatch. Our goal is to improve both.

"The training principles used are based on a combination of evidence-based physiology and the art of well-established training techniques, used by the best coaches and athletes in the world."

René Borg has been Head Coach of Glendalough Athletics Club, Secretary of the Irish Mountain Running Association (2009) and Supervisory Head Coach of West Waterford AC (2015) and Consultant Coach (2016-2017). He has coached athletes such as o Barry Minnock (2:17 marathoner and hill running international) and Jason Kehoe (2015 and 2017 Irish Mountain Running champion, 2012/ 2017/2020 Carrauntoohil race winner). He's also the inventor of the ChampionsEverywhere Training Method.

Approx. Duration: 2 hours plus interval

WHALE THEATRE

FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY @ 8PM

TICKETS €20/€18

SOCIAL FABRIC PODCAST LIVE

FROM COUCH TO ETERNITY

EMMETT DUNLEAVY

BARRY SMYTH

RENÉ BORG



Sunflower by Marie Hannon

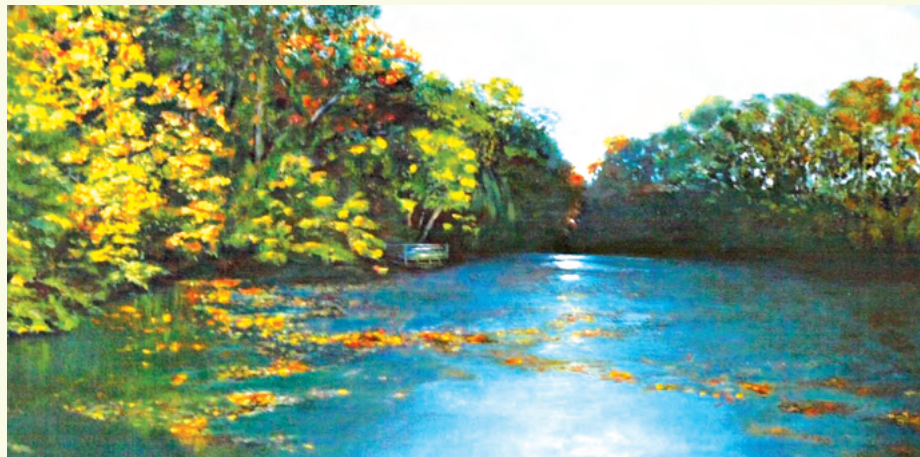
Different Strokes by Bray Artists' Circle

Bray Artists' Circle painting group has been operating since 2003, and provides an opportunity for local artists to meet once a week where they can share and develop their artistic talent.

A good cross section of styles and media preferences from oils to watercolour, acrylics to pastels is displayed within the group. While there is no formal teaching, more experienced artists are willing to give a helping hand as members work on their own subject preferences in a relaxed atmosphere.

Some members of the group have travelled to workshops in Italy, France, Spain, and of course at home. Plein air painting, which is challenging, is encouraged from spring throughout the summer, as long as weather permits. It is so rewarding to paint outdoors, as you cannot capture in a photograph what's you see in front of you.

"This exhibition includes a selection of work in oils, watercolour, acrylics, pen/ink and pastel by our artists, all of whom have their very individual styles - different strokes!"



Marley Park by Clare Tracey



Eamonn and Michelle Esmonde are pictured at the Comedy Night in the Brass Fox in Wicklow Town

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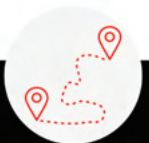
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LEO Wicklow clients created over 131 jobs in 2022

Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Simon Coveney TD, recently announced the annual results of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) for 2022 which showed that Local Enterprise Office Wicklow supported companies created 131 jobs in 2022. This figure was up significantly from the 117 that were created by LEO Wicklow in 2021.

The net jobs created by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow supported clients in 2022 was 64 which takes into account companies that amalgamated, ceased trading and those that transferred on to Enterprise Ireland.

The new figures show that the LEO Wicklow financially supported 159 small businesses in their portfolio across the county these companies in turn employ 696 people.

The total national figures for the Local Enterprise Offices across the country were announced with the LEOs now supporting 37,863 jobs across 7,221 companies. In 2022 there were 7,870 new jobs created by LEO clients companies with a net jobs creation figure of 3,447. This was up 10% nationally on 2021. From the jobs created, 84% were outside of the Dublin region.

The LEOs also provide substantial funded supports to thousands of other small businesses across the country with programmes such as the Trading Online Voucher, Lean for Micro and Green for Micro along with training and mentoring.

The Local Enterprise Offices were to the fore in supporting small businesses across the country in 2022, helping thousands to pivot online or adapt their products and services through a large suite of supports. They Local Enterprise Offices offering training and mentoring in a range of areas from financial skills and product innovation to starting your own business and maximising your presence online.

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, LEO Wicklow said; "The results announced today are a testament to

Ireland's small business community. When faced with adversity, they have adapted, pivoted, upskilled and did whatever it took to sustain themselves. The figures show that companies have seen the opportunities in the challenging trading conditions they have faced. The Local Enterprise Offices across the country have gone above and beyond in their support of small businesses but there is renewed optimism. We are seeing new opportunities for Irish businesses here and as always with tough economic periods we see new ideas and companies emerge and flourish. This year will be no different and as we continue to work closely with Enterprise Ireland and the local authorities to ensure our small businesses get the best possible supports there are."

Welcoming the strong employment results, Enterprise Ireland CEO, Leo Clancy said; "These are very positive employment results from the Local Enterprise Offices. It demonstrates the close relationship that exists between the LEOs and the companies they support and how they are able to navigate a challenging business environment, such as we witnessed in 2022. Enterprise Ireland and the LEOs are engaged in an exciting work programme to increase alignment between both organisations so that we can better serve businesses at all stages of growth and development and help them to create prosperity and jobs throughout Ireland. I look forward to continuing to work on that agenda in 2023."

Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow

County Council added: "We're delighted to see a growth in jobs in companies supported by the LEO year on year, especially after the challenging times that companies were faced with during the Economic lockdown. Micro and SMEs make up the largest cohort of

employers in the county and make a significant contribution to the local economy and we have a fabulous range of innovative small companies across a wide range of sectors. Wicklow County Council will continue to support economic development through a number

of support measures and new infrastructural developments".

The Local Enterprise Offices located in the local authorities and funded through Enterprise Ireland support thousands of small Irish businesses and entrepreneurs nationwide.

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Permission is sought by Stephen Burke and Jennifer O'Connor to provide flat roof dormer accommodation to the rear over existing ground floor with ridge higher than existing, and a new single storey extension to the rear of property with pitched roof and all associated works. The property is located at No. 6 Coburg, Upper Dargle Road, Bray Co. Wicklow. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Planning Authority during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks of the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, John McAteer am applying for Planning Permission for the Construction of a new 18sq.m. single storey pitched roof extension to an existing office/recreation room in the rear garden of the existing two storey detached dwelling at 6 Druids Avenue, Druids Glen Golf Resort, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow. A63 N257. 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, Hillside Evangelical Church are applying for Planning Permission for the construction of a new 28sq.m. two storey flat roofed extension to the rear of the existing two storey semi detached dwelling and to include ancillary works at 20 Redford Park, Greystones, 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, Colin Culliton seeks Outline Permission for a three storey detached dwelling with connections to private access road, drainage services, landscaping, soakway and all associated siteworks at Site A, Glenora, Fassaroe, Bray, County Wicklow, A98 NX45. 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, Colin Culliton seeks Outline Permission for a three storey detached dwelling with connections to private access road, drainage services, landscaping, soakway and all associated siteworks at Site B, Glenora, Fassaroe, Bray, County Wicklow, A98 NX45. 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, Colin Culliton seeks Outline Permission for a three storey detached dwelling with connections to private access road, drainage services, landscaping, soakway and all associated siteworks at Site C, Glenora, Fassaroe, Bray, County Wicklow, A98 NX45. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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'Why did I gain a kilo overnight?'

How many of us end up hating ourselves after a big day of overeating on the weekend? We jump up on the scales the day after to see our weight up a kilo. But how?

By Micheál Penston, Transformation Coach

You feel like you have been adherent to the diet that will take you towards your goals, but your heart sinks as you see the number increase on the sad step.

We end up feeling deflated and that our diet is ruined.

But how much body fat can you gain in a day of overeating?

Have you gained a kilogram of body fat, or are there other factors at play?

If your goal is fat loss, your calorie target should put you into a deficit. Think along the lines of:

- If you consistently eat at maintenance, you will neither gain nor lose body fat.

- If you consistently eat below maintenance in a deficit, you will lose body fat.

- If you consistently eat above maintenance in a surplus, you will gain body fat.

However, let's assume you DID overeat in a surplus. How much body fat did you really gain?

As a guide, it takes around 7,700 calories to burn/gain 1kg of body fat.

So, if your calorie maintenance is 2,000 kcals/day and your day of overeating resulted in you exceeding that number by 7,700 kcals, then that would mean you ate a total of 9,700 kcals for the day.

At most, the 7,700 kcal surplus would result in 1kg of body fat gain.

Although, this assumes none of those excess calories went to building muscle or any other processes and functions in the body.

If you haven't eaten in a 7,700kcal surplus (which is the most likely option), what else could be occurring here to cause such a jump on the scales?

The answer can relate to sodium, carbohydrate, and water.

In reality, a spike in your weight overnight is unlikely to be solely body fat, if at all.

Typically, when we consume large meals, we tend to have more meals rich in sodium and carbohydrates than on an average day.

This leads to water retention and the replenishment of glycogen.

Glycogen is stored in the muscles, liver, and blood to varying degrees and is depleted during a calorie deficit.

You also store 3g of water for every gram of glycogen.

When successfully dieting, your body can use glycogen stores to fuel the deficit.

A bout of overeating can cause your glycogen to be partially/fully replenished, potentially leading to weight gain.

However, water retention and body fat are separate entities.

So even if the scales jump by a kilo overnight, your body fat gain will only be 1kg if you ate in a 7,700kcal surplus.

If you consistently eat in a surplus, then your body fat will increase over time.

You can't defy the laws of thermodynamics. If you overeat, all is not lost!

The best thing you can do is put it behind you and move on.

Tying yourself up in knots and punishing yourself is NEVER the right approach.

More importantly, with a structure around your weekly nutrition, you can even have the best of both worlds and have your cake and eat it, literally!!!

Micheál Penston is the Head Transformation Coach and Nutritionist at FM Fitness & Nutrition based in Arklow. They specialise in helping busy people create the healthiest versions of themselves by educating and empowering them around all areas of their lifestyle: fitness, nutrition, recovery, and behaviours.



Deirdre Keogh and Brendan Dillon at the Arklow RNLi 'Hurry to the Curry' fundraiser event in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

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