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BEATING HEARTS
Page 8



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Tuesday 14th February 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray, A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

COMMUNITY SAYS 'NO' TO CASINO

Concerns are growing in Greystones over a planned 'casino' at the Harbour Marina, with a licence having been secured in December allowing up to 50 gaming machines and opening hours of 10am to 2am. A public meeting was held last Thursday evening in St. Patrick's School, with several hundred people attending. An online petition objecting to the project, meanwhile, has gained nearly 2,500 signatures at the time of going to press.

During the meeting Cllr Stephen Stokes advised those in attendance that that Cork County Council had rescinded Part 3 of the Gaming and Lotteries Act (1956) for Carrigaline in 2012. This prevented arcades and casinos from operating in Carrigaline.

Cllr Stokes told *Wicklow Times* after the meeting: "It was

great to see a strong turnout of several hundred people in attendance. There was a moving speech from a person that had experienced gaming addiction. There are genuine concerns in the community. As public representatives we must listen carefully and act in the best interests of community."

Cllr Stokes last week

voiced major concerns about the casino, which is to be located in the former chipper, Sweeney's. The application was submitted by Muiralan Ltd.

A gaming licence has been in place at Sweeney's for decades, though it's been several years since there were any gambling machines in operation there. The gaming licence has



On the new bank holiday celebrating St. Brigid, over 600 people turned out in Bray to Stand Strong against domestic abuse by taking part in a yoga and mindfulness session. See page 6.



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now been renewed.

Some of the concerns raised include the close proximity to schools & addition recovery services, the effects on young people, and late night activity.

"This is a peaceful area," said Cllr Stokes. "I don't consider myself to be the morality police, but it is out of sync with the area. Many people have been in touch, and I share their concerns. I'm backing their campaign to stop this."

Cllr Stokes added: "We don't need a slice of Las Vegas in this residential and scenic area. In addition I have a long standing concern about illegal parking in the Harbour area. I want to see parking in the Harbour geared towards Harbour users and residents."

The operator already has significant gaming operations in Dublin. Cllr Stephen Stokes believes that this could encourage further expansion in the future. He added: "It's important that people are aware of this issue. I would like to commend the local residents who have started a campaign against an all-out casino. It is encouraging to see so many people sign the Uplift petition."

Cllr Stokes stressed that he wants the Greystones District to be friendly towards positive business development. He concluded: "Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle are open for business. But any development needs to work with the needs of the community. I have written to the owner. I

would urge them to come up with a fresh space that could benefit the owner and the community."

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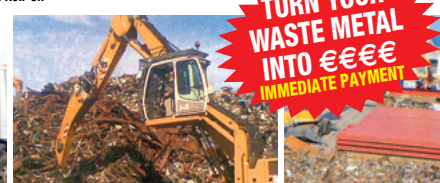
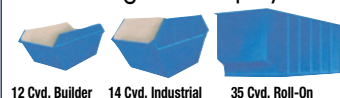
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Wicklow St Patrick's day parade committee are delighted to announce that this year's Grand Marshalls will be recently retired business couple, Sean and June Leonard, married 45 years, both born and brought up in Wicklow Town. June is the daughter of George and Maud Power who lived on Church Hill. They owned and ran Butlers medical hall since 1985 until retiring two years ago. Throughout the years they have been members and supporters of many community groups including the St Patrick's day parade. And gave opportunities to local students to gain work experience in their shop. In his younger days, Sean rowed for wicklow rowing club he now enjoys clay pigeon shooting.

Don't Discard, Donate preloved items

This February, Enable Ireland launched its Spring Clean Campaign for 2023! The national charity for people with disabilities is encouraging the public to show their once-loved items one last act of love and donate them instead of discarding them. Enable Ireland provides services to over 13,000 children and adults with disabilities across the country and their shop on Main Street, Bray helps to raise funds to support these vital services.

Oonagh O'Connor, Commercial Manager at Enable Ireland explains, "Spring is a time of year when people look to declutter their homes and what may no longer have use for you, could be exactly what someone else is looking for. We're asking people to go through their wardrobes, kitchen presses and chest of drawers and give your unwanted items a second life! By donating your preloved items to Enable Ireland, you are not just supporting our vital services but you are also extending the life cycle of clothing and supporting sustainable fashion. It's a win-win for everyone!"

Sustainable fashion helps the environment by reducing waste, reusing clothes and recycling what we cannot sell responsibly. Last year, Enable Ireland recycled over 1,600 tonnes of donated clothing through their charity shops, textile banks and warehouse.



The charity can take donations in multiple ways through their nationwide chain of textile banks, in any TK Maxx store nationwide, directly into any Enable Ireland charity shop. Visit www.enableireland.ie/donationbanks for further information.

Enable Ireland loves to accept donations of clean, good quality clothes, shoes, handbags, accessories, towels, linens, homeware, glassware, collectables, books, loose toys and unwanted gifts. Unfortunately, the charity can not accept donation of electrical items, dirty or soiled items, broken items, mattresses, duvets or pillows due to the high cost of disposal.

Ashford ICA Gala concert for Ukraine

Ashford ICA are holding a Gala Concert for Ukraine on Saturday 25th February at 8pm in Glenealy Hall, Greystones, 12:30pm-2pm, suggested donation E7 for local charities. An opportunity to indulge before Lent and enjoy some chat at the same time. On Wednesday 22nd February there will be a Soup & Sandwiches lunch in Kilian House Family Centre from 12.15 to 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come along for good home-made food and a friendly chat. The suggested donation is €5. All proceeds are given to local charities.

Soup and Sandwiches

The next Soup & Sandwiches lunch is on Tuesday 21st February in Swann Hall, St. Patrick's Church, Greystones, 12:30pm-2pm, suggested donation E7 for local charities. An opportunity to indulge before Lent and enjoy some chat at the same time. On Wednesday 22nd February there will be a Soup & Sandwiches lunch in Kilian House Family Centre from 12.15 to 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come along for good home-made food and a friendly chat. The suggested donation is €5. All proceeds are given to local charities.

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

The Shankill Bethany Bereavement Support Group are running a free five-week support programme starting on Monday February 20th until Monday March 20th from 8 p.m. to 9.30pm in St. Anne's Resource

Centre, beside St. Anne's Church, Shankill. If you are feeling the pain of any loss, this series of meetings may offer support and consolation. Any loss can cause grief including: Loss of a loved one; Loss of health; A miscarriage; Death of a pet; Loss of safety after trauma; Divorce or relationship breakup; Loss of a job or financial stability; Retirement; A loved one's serious illness This is a FREE listening service provided by trained volunteers in the community. Bethany offers a safe and confidential environment for listening and sharing. If you would like more information or to book your place on the programme please ring St. Anne's Resource Centre on 01-2822704 and leave your details for the Bethany team. All are welcome. www.bethany.ie.

Bray Historical Society

Professor Gary Murphy will present 'C.J. Haughey, Saint or Sinner' at 8pm on Thursday February 16th in the Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray. All are welcome - admission is €8 for non-members.

Wicklow County Libraries

Gay Conway will present 'Researching your Wicklow Ancestors - Part 1' at 7pm on Thursday February 16th in Wicklow Library Exhibition Space, The Mall, Main Street, Wicklow Town. Admission is free but booking is required. To book a place contact Wicklow Library at 0404-67025 or email: wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie.

WWHS honours three committed members

The West Wicklow Historical Society recently marked the commitment of three of its longest serving active members. Peadar Cullen, Phyllis Flanagan and P.J. Hanlon were given Honorary Membership of the WWHS in recognition of their years of service. Peadar and Phyllis were among the first members of the organisation, which was founded in 1980. Peadar served as Hon. Treasurer in 1980-1982 and 1995-2000, and as Chairman in 2001-2003. He has been on the Society's committee every year since it was established, while Phyllis has been on it every year since 1981. She served as Hon. Treasurer on three separate occasions, amounting to a total of 21 years. P.J. Hanlon joined the WWHS a little later than his fellow recipients. He served on the committee for a very long period, being Vice Chairman in 1997-2003 and Chairman in 2004-2005. The WWHS previously granted Honorary Membership to five individuals: Ben Case, Jimmy Doyle (Parkmore, Baltinglass), Paul Baker, Joe Doyle (Tuckmill) and Dorothy Leonard.

Lions quiz nights are going strong

Ernie's Lounge in Wicklow was full to the rafters on Thursday before last for the weekly Lions Club Quiz Night. "Thanks to Liam Byrne for organising the venue at very short notice," Wicklow Lions Club said.

Rachel Flood, Neal Martin, Emma and Simon Tyrell came out on top on the night with a huge score closely followed by Declan McNerney Pat Sheehy Ray St John and Bosco Guinan in second place. Both teams handed back their winnings to their chosen charities which is always appreciated.

Charity beneficiaries were Wicklow Lifeboats and Dominican College. Over the coming weeks these are the venues and the charities supported by Wicklow Lions Club. **Feb 16th**, Bridge Tavern Wicklow - Move4 Parkinsons Wicklow Town Team and Wicklow ICA. **Feb 23rd**, Wicklow Golf Club - Educate Together Wicklow First Responders



In Ernie's Lounge in Wicklow Town, Rachel Flood, Neal Martin, Emma and Simon Tyrell came out on top on the night with a huge score closely followed by Declan McNerney Pat Sheehy Ray St John and Bosco Guinan in second place

Ashford ICA and Holy Rosary.

March 2nd, The Grand Final will take place in the Golf Club which will be the biggest night of the year when all charities will be represented and cheques will be presented to every charity directly involved. Start time is 8.30pm sharp. It is very advisable to come along early as all venues will be full due to the popularity of the Quiz Nights.

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What number should replace (?) ? 4 > 13 > 40 > 121 > ? Use the middle digit of the missing number for your answer

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Shay Fitzmaurice, Managing Editor - shay@localtimes.ie

Ian Colgan, News Editor - ian@localtimes.ie

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Illegal use of quad bikes results in community service for three young men

Three young men have pleaded guilty to the illegal use of Quad bikes (ATVs) in the Wicklow Mountains.

On Thursday 2nd February Mr. Brian Keogh (20), Mr James Traynor (19) of Donard

European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2021.

The case involved the illegal use of quad bikes within the Wicklow

Mountains Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and was brought before Carlow District Court. Mr. Gerald Meaney, state solicitor, presented the case. A National Parks

and Wildlife Service Ranger outlined the evidence to the court and highlighted how damaging quad bike use can be to the fragile habitats in the SAC.

The NPWS Conservation Ranger stated that on 23rd January 2021, he responded to reports from concerned members of the public that quad bikes were causing damage to the Wicklow Mountains SAC near Slievemaan Mountain. With a member of An Garda Síochána, the NPWS Ranger intercepted the quad bikers near Ballinfoyle Upper.

District Court Judge Geraldine Carthy offered the chance for the three defendants to put their mistake behind them and to carry out habitat restoration work in order to make amends. She reserved her judgement, and said that if they satisfactorily carried out 30 hours of community service and made a €400 donation to a local wildlife charity, she would strike out the charges later in the year.



Defendants on ATVs in Wicklow Mountains

New housing estates left without creches

New housing estates have to have a certain number of creche spaces depending on their size.

However, Cllr Derek Mitchell says, "developers are leaving building them till last and house buyers have to go elsewhere to get a place which is awkward for them and adds to traffic congestion.

"Glenheron in Greystones, built by Cairn, has been occupied for five years but the creche has not been built, never mind opened. The children will be past the creche stage by the time it is opened! This is not fair on parents who both have to work to pay the big mortgages to buy the houses.

"It must be made a condition of planning that creches are opened at the beginning of developments. This is a problem in many developments and I put down a motion for Greystones Municipal District which is now writing to the planners and the Minister for Housing to get this changed.



Cllr Derek Mitchell



Jimmy Byrne (Bobby) and Mia Gilmore (Maisey Muffet), who took part in the Roundwood Variety Group's panto 'Jack and the Beanstalk' in the Brockagh Resource Centre.

Jobs Open Evening



Wednesday 1st March
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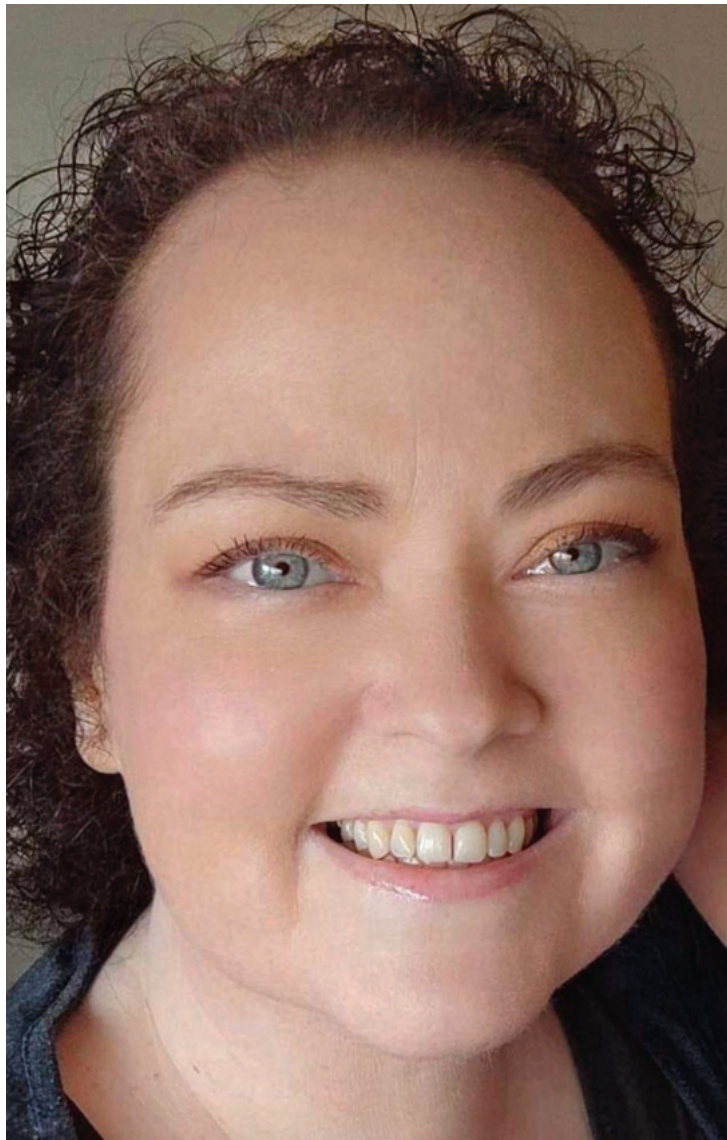
We have lots of new opportunities for Instructors and Health Care Workers in Adult Day Services. Come along to our recruitment evening and chat with some of the team!

Bring your CV along on the evening

Check out our vacancies on www.sjogdse.ie/jobs

Register at www.sjogdse.ie





Lauren Quinn

Charity Dinner Dance for Lauren Quinn

The community that Lauren Quinn dedicated so much of her time to helping is now being called on to help her.

Lauren Quinn (Keogh) is someone who is known to so many in Wicklow Town and surrounding areas. As Medical Receptionist in the Westmount Clinic she is a very familiar and well loved face in the town.

Lauren is one of those women that nothing is too much to ask of. She just does what is needed, silently (unless she needs a raffle prize). Lauren always stays in the background, and takes absolutely no thanks for it. Her motto in life is "just be kind and helpful. So simple".

Lauren is the daughter of Fidelma Murphy & the late Nick Quinn. Aged 41, she has turned her hand to help so many in the area and also much further afield. Lauren has initiated many community initiatives.

She was a founder member of Wicklow Christmas Together, and an invaluable supporting friend to the late Cllr Pat Kavanagh. She initiated Tesco & Lidl Food Cloud, where she brought food and clothes to The Homeless Run on Grafton St every Sunday. Lauren also helped to set up Wicklow Youth Café and Hillviews Wobbler Toddler Group amongst many other community initiatives. The list of community groups that she has helped to fundraise and gather donation for is endless. Groups like Tiglin, Simon and Womens Aid. She is also involved in so many of our local clubs and community events like Wicklow Rugby Club, Wicklow Arts Festival, FYI

dance club, the St Patrick's Day Parade, Wicklow Welcomes, Hillview Community Centre. If you were to define the term community spirit in one word it would be "Lauren".

Last year Lauren found herself feeling inexplicably tired. She had a lot going on but she just thought her energy was a bit low. She opted to go for blood tests to see what her iron and blood levels were like. On Nov 15th, unexpectedly, Lauren received devastating news. After lengthy investigations it was discovered that Lauren had a Cancer called Cholangiocarcinoma. Cancer of the Bile Duct.

Lauren is now undergoing palliative treatment and her friends and family have rallied together to make sure that they can do their absolute best to try give Lauren something back. Lauren has a huge journey ahead of her. Anyone who has been through illness knows, the costs are endless.

On Saturday 25th February they are holding a Charity Dinner Dance in The Parkview Hotel in Newtownmountkennedy. The event will raise much needed funds to help Lauren, her 12 year old daughter Gracie and her Mum Fidelma care for Lauren through her treatment. Since the news has hit the

streets of Wicklow Town, people are keen to help. Most know Lauren because of her endless generosity, positive outlook and beautiful manner. Well known local band, Fusion, will be joined by Tony O Reilly on the night! The tickets are flying out.

More help is still needed though. Some ways in which you can help:

*Organisers are looking for businesses to sponsor a table at the Charity Dinner Dance. You could team up with another business to sponsor a table.

*Donate a raffle prize or item for the silent auction

*Attend the night and make a bid in the silent auction and/or buy raffle tickets

*Donate to the GoFund me appeal <https://gofund.me/c1fa48b8>

Tickets for the night are available for €55. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Claire on 086 082 0882, Holly on 085 7058028 or Judy on 085 8127469. A bus is being organised leaving Wicklow Town and returning from Newtownmountkennedy. Tickets are also available from La Locandina on the Main St, Wicklow Town or from Wings of Wicklow by email on wingsofwicklow@gmail.com.

Man dedicates Everest climb to Wicklow grandfather

Carlow man Paul Norton recently climbed to Mount Everest base camp and beyond as a tribute to his dying Wicklow grandfather, bringing back a stone which he placed in his grandfather's coffin.



The prayer flags that Paul hung on Mount Everest

When Paul heard that his grandad only had just days to live, he was inspired to travel to Nepal to undertake the climb.

From Kathmandu it took him over 12 days to get to Everest, and then he made it from Lukla to base camp in just six days.

Paul climbed 400 meters above the base camp,

reaching 5,800 meters. Here he hung up prayer flags for his dying grandfather who was from Wicklow.

Sadly, his grandfather passed away just an hour after Paul completed his descent from the mountain. While on the mountain Paul recorded a podcast in tribute to his grandfather.

Paul braved the -20 degree winter Nepal temperatures wearing just a pair of shorts and no top,

while carrying a 15kg backpack, making the task even more arduous for himself.

"This was the biggest challenge and I've never done," Paul told *Wicklow Times*.

"I've never done a climb like that before in such harsh conditions, but as my grandad was taking on the biggest challenge of his life, it was only fair I challenged myself and did the climb in shorts and no top."



Paul at Everest base camp



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Astrophysicist and software developer Dr. Patrick Kavanagh from the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies (DIAS) recently visited his old school St Joseph's in Templaraine, Arklow, to give a talk on space and the universe.

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Over 600 people turn out to stand strong against domestic abuse

On the new bank holiday celebrating St. Brigid, over 600 people turned out in Bray to #StandStrong against domestic abuse by taking part in a yoga and mindfulness session led by yoga instructor Jen Healy and wellness and positivity coach Niamh Cullen.

As a way to show solidarity with anyone subjected to domestic abuse, attendees were invited to hold the yoga warrior pose together, a non-confrontational symbol of focus, confidence and courage.

Organised by Allianz Insurance and Women's Aid, #StandStrong aims to become a new annual key date in Ireland's cultural calendar. It aims to engage, educate and empower people to combat domestic abuse, remove stigma surrounding it and drive for zero tolerance, while raising much-needed funds for Women's Aid.

"Through the #StandStrong movement we aim to drive greater awareness of the issue of domestic abuse, which affects 1 in 4 women in Ireland, from all backgrounds and ages, with wider, long-term effects on families and communities. I'd like to thank everyone who committed their time to be here today and show solidarity with victims of domestic abuse," said Sarah Benson, CEO Women's Aid.

For more information and to donate, visit StandStrong.ie



Attendees at the event on Bray Seafront, 'standing strong' against domestic abuse.

Lions respond to earthquake

The whole world is shocked and very aware of the earthquake that has struck Turkey and Syria.

It is one of the strongest quakes to hit the region in more than 100 years, it has left entire communities destroyed. When a humanitarian crisis of this magnitude strikes, Lions Clubs worldwide and particular Lions Clubs Ireland are always ready to help.

Lions Clubs International Foundation at the time of going to press is mobilising funds including a \$200,000 Major Catastrophe grant to empower Lions throughout the impacted area to help their communities recover.

Wicklow & District Lions Club will also be directly involved. The local club has a long history of responding very quickly not only to local causes but also to worldwide humanitarian disaster appeals.

The District Governor Lion Gerald Cashman has appealed to every club in Ireland and hopefully the 100 plus clubs will respond generously to support the unfortunate people of Turkey and Syria.

Bereavement support meeting in Newtown

Bereaved parents support charity, Anam Cara, continue to offer their services both online and face-to-face to those whose child has died.

During Covid restrictions, Anam Cara took the decision to reconfigure their support groups and deliver their services online. Anam Cara are delighted that they remain in a position to continue and offer their services, in a blended way. This gives bereaved parents a space to talk, listen and engage with their peers. Other services offered by Anam Cara include bereavement information evenings, training for frontline staff and they can provide infor-

mation packs for bereaved parents.

In 2023, Anam Cara plan to continue offering their full suite of services and would thrive to add to them. They will begin their fundraising efforts this year with 'Miles That Matter'. 280,000 steps in 28 days. Whether it is a sunrise walk, a lunchtime run or a sunset jog, they want their supporters to make every mile matter this February and raise vital funds for their services. If you wish to support Anam Cara this February, check out their

'Miles That Matter' fundraiser on www.anamcara.ie.

On Monday 20th February, Anam Cara will hold their Wicklow meeting in The Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy at 7:15pm. They welcome all bereaved parents, regardless of the age of the child or circumstances of death to the meeting, free of charge.

Registration is not required to attend the meeting on Monday 20th February. Anam Cara would welcome any bereaved parent Wicklow and surrounds to attend. Anam Cara can be contacted on 085 2888888 or by email info@anamcara.ie



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Caragh Quinn, Niamh O'Brien, Bronwyn Hogan and Emily Dover at the Wicklow Lions Club Table Quiz in Ernie's bar, Wicklow Town

Turkey & Syria Earthquake appeal

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Bray Rotary Club are organising a collection **from 10am to 5pm** next **Saturday** (18th) and **Sunday** (19th) at the Holy Redeemer Church in Bray
Please come out and support, especially if you have made a collection in your work place or school.

Or send donations by bank transfer to
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Marked earthquake appeal.
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Innovative new defibrillator development

On Friday 3rd February Minister Simon Harris visited the new Meadow Gate housing development in Wicklow Town and praised the work of Beating Hearts, the local voluntary groups whose work has enabled the establishment of this vital equipment.

Minister Harris said "I am honoured to be able to attend the unveiling of the first developer led public access defibrillator. Beating Hearts are doing outstanding work in their local community, going as far to work with Wicklow County Council to pass a motion requiring all future housing devel-

opments to establish a public access defibrillator for their residents." Minister Harris also recognised the contribution of local developer Pat Redmond, who engaged with the ESB for the defibrillator's connection and constructed a purpose-built access wall in order to enable all residents in the estate to reach the defibrillator.

Minister Harris continued, "It is heart-warming to see the commitment Beating Hearts and Pat Redmond have for their community, and any investment or action towards making our homes and localities safer is very welcome. I applaud Beating Hearts' aim to encourage developers to place publicly accessible defibrillators in new housing estates and am keen to support them in this goal however possible.



Caolan O'Connell and John Fitzgerald pictured with Minister Harris



First Responders and local representatives pictured with Minister Simon Harris at the launch of the Beating Hearts Defibrillator at Meadow Gate

"When invited to be a part of Beating Hearts' work, I knew it was an opportunity which no-one could ignore. I now want to encourage all local residents' associations to send expressions of inter-

est to Wicklow County Council, so that this opportunity created by Beating Hearts' dedication can be offered to as many communities and estates across Wicklow as possible.

I once again would like to thank and congratulate Chris, Pat, and the rest of the Beating Hearts team for this ground-breaking success, without whom, would not have been possible. I also look forward

to this work being continued as we explore opportunities to have estates retrofitted and make this life-saving equipment more widely available." Minister Harris concluded.

Hollywood bus stop to be reinstated

The return of the long-awaited Hollywood Bus Stop has finally been announced said Green Party TD Steven Matthews.

"I have been working with Wicklow County Council, the NTA, the Department of Transport, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, and Councillor Patsy Glennon for a few years on funding and design to have this bus stop reinstated and the creation of safe pedestrian access and stopping zone for bus services," said Deputy Matthews.

The final design will include a park and ride area, traffic calming, improved sight lines and safe stopping zones for the bus, secure bike parking, pedestrian accessibility and lighting.

"Hollywood deserves this investment to assist residents and visitors use public transport and to safely walk, cycle or drive to the stop and a place to securely leave their car or bike.

"I think this will be approached in two phases. The first stage is to get the bus stops, shelters, sight lines, crossing points and traffic calming measures in quickly and I am confident that TII will fund that very soon.

The second stage will address the park and ride, secure bike parking and good pedestrian linkage and will involve the NTA.

"A little further north at Blessington I have also received good news on safety improvement measures at the N81 and Burgage Mor Road. I have met with concerned residents a few times over the last 2 years with a view to putting in traffic calming, a safe crossing point for the bus stops and improving sight lines and speed limits. It's a busy route for schoolchildren, traffic moves fast and there are more houses going into the area, so TII are agreeable to safety measures. The next step is to secure funding and produce a design and I am working with the council engineers on both of these aspects.

"Safety improvements on the N81 are a priority for me as is delivering the Blessington Inner Relief Road. Taking the traffic off the Main Street in Blessington will allow us to really improve pedestrian safety,



Deputy Matthews in Hollywood

create a nicer calmer street for residents and this will be good for local business, children and elderly residents walking to school, shops, and community services," concluded Deputy Matthews

O'Connor calls for public consultation for unused Design Centre in Bray



The 'Design Centre' in Bray

Councillor Rory O'Connor has called for a public consultation on an unused building in Bray Town. The building known as the 'Design Centre' is located across from the Royal Hotel.

The former craft centre is currently sitting idle but was previously used to host over thirty Wicklow craft makers.

The motion wants Bray municipal district to maximize the use of the building known as the "design centre" for the public by doing the following actions:

1. Organise a council visit to the building with the members to see the inside and evaluate the building.
2. Do an online public consultation of what should be done to maximise this amenity for the public.
3. Have an online meeting to discuss the findings of this public consultation and follow up with actions.

Speaking on this motion Cllr O'Connor said "I believe this building in Bray, could be put to much better use with it having such a perfect location, being directly in the middle of the main street. I think it could be used for sorts of ideas and I think getting these ideas from the public, is the best way we can begin transforming the building into something, that the people of Bray are proud of and maximising a council asset to its full potential to the benefit of the community."

Castle Inn quiz night raises funds for Newcastle Community Centre

A fundraising quiz was recently held in the Castle Inn, in aid of Newcastle Community Centre. The event took place on Friday, January 27th and raised €1325. In further good news Newcastle Community Centre was recently awarded €60,561 under the new Community Investment Fund.

Cllr Stephen Stokes was in attendance at the fundraising quiz. He stated: "I would like to commend all of the volunteers associated with this facility. It is an amazing resource. The recent refurbishments are a testament to the value it provides to the community."

The fundraising quiz was a big success, with a strong turnout from the local community. Cllr Stokes added: "It was a packed event, with lots of fun questions. More chairs had to be brought in to the room to cater for the demand! I would like to wish everyone associated with Newcastle Community Centre the very best of continued success."



Cllr Stokes with his aunt Carmel and mother Bernadette in the Castle Inn for the quiz which raised €1,325 for Newcastle Community Centre

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Pictured are the vintage harmony trio The Victory Dolls who performed at the Wicklow Naturally Market and St. Brigid's Day Festival on Sunday 5th February which was held in the Powerscourt Distillery, Enniskerry.

Wedding romance supported by Ashford on Valentine's Day

Medbh Boyle is an Interfaith wedding celebrant from Bray, now living in Ashford. Leona and Sean are a young couple who last September 2022 had to cancel their wedding day at the last minute because one of their two little boys had to be rushed into hospital with respiratory difficulties, which he has thankfully now recovered from.

Unfortunately the couple's venue in Galway was unable to return their booking payments and a good few of their guests had travel plans etc that could not be rescheduled. They didn't have extra funds to book a new venue during the 6 months that the marriage registration form is valid, so Medbh took to knocking on doors to see where she could hold their ceremony, with a small group of friends and family, at a low cost to them.

Fortunately for the young couple, local businesses around Ashford came to the rescue to save the day.

N11 at The Ashford House came up trumps, offering their function space at no charge for the ceremony, which is taking place this week on Valentine's Day. Flower Power at Mount Usher Gardens have given a generous flower gift too and Medbh's father-in-law Gerry Byrne is going to sing a few live



Medbh Boyle. Photo by Dave Keegan



Photo by Dave Keegan

tunes to serenade the bride.

"We are going full romance this Valentine's day in Ashford with a wedding ceremony. Leona and Sean will say 'I do' with an exchange of rings, and their two little boys will be included with a Celtic hand-fasting ritual," said Medbh. "Then everyone will enjoy a delicious meal at the venue. A big thanks to all of the local suppliers who have lent their support! We will be sure to post a few pictures on our social media.

"If you have a Valentine's wedding or proposal story to share, I'd love to hear from you on Facebook or Instagram @soulfulceremoniesire www.soulfulceremoniesire.com

The unfinished business of peace & reconciliation

Glencree centre invites you to 2023 Peace Summit

The John and Pat Hume Foundation and Community Dialogue, in partnership with the Glencree Peace & Reconciliation Centre, Youth Action NI, Holywell Trust, Ulster University and Integrated Education Fund wish to invite you to the Peace Summit 2023 on Friday 3rd March 2023 from 10.30am to 4.30pm at Ulster University Magee Campus, Derry/Londonderry.

The Peace Summit is being supported by the International Fund for Ireland. The Good Friday Agreement will be 25 years old in April 2023. Therefore, it is timely that preparations are underway for a Peace Summit that will: take a stock check of the unfinished business of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland over the past 25 years, hold a mirror up to those with responsibility for its delivery and produce recommendations for a way forward for the next 25 years; consider what

government policy; decide how current peace building advocates can support a new generation of peace builders to deliver a united and shared society.

In advance of the summit, the partner organisations have been engaging with young people across NI, peacemakers, community and minority groups.

A draft Peace Summit report will be presented on 3 March 2023 with panel and roundtable discussions.

You can register for the conference through the Microsoft form, at <https://forms.office.com/e/nfPnJyFyG2>

"We look forward to welcoming you at our event and encourage you to register early as places will be limited," Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation stated.

The Glencree Centre is dedicated to transforming violent conflict and building peaceful, inclusive societies across the island of Ireland, within Northern Ireland, between Ireland and the UK, and internationally.

Established in 1974 in response to the conflict in Northern Ireland, Glencree played a key role in the peace process bringing together those in conflict for confidential

dialogue and building relationships across divides.

Today, they work with victims and survivors in Northern Ireland; women from marginalised communities who experience political conflict/violence, migrants, refugees and members of ethnic and faith minority communities; students and young adults north and south of the border; and policy-makers, politicians, diplomats and civil society leaders who work to find solutions to sustainable peace. We also continue to share learnings in conflict and post-conflict societies internationally.

Glendalough Visitor Centre recognised by US tourists

After a two-year hiatus due to the covid-19 pandemic, senior representatives of Ireland's tourism sector came together to, once again, celebrate the diversity and richness of experiences offered by Irish tourism at the CIE Tours annual Awards of Excellence.

Launched in 1990, the Awards recognise Ireland's hospitality ambassadors - the people and businesses throughout the country who put Irish tourism on the global stage through the warmth of welcome and quality of service provided to our international visitors. CIE Tours, which celebrates 91 years in business is the largest operator of guided tours to Ireland in the North American market, bringing over 25,000 visitors here last year.

Glendalough Visitor Centre received a merit award in the visitor attraction category. Merit Awards are presented to hotels and visitor attractions who achieved a customer satisfaction rating of 92%

or higher from CIE Tours visitors to Ireland in 2022.

Speaking at the presentation of CIE Tours Annual Awards of Excellence Elizabeth Crabill, CEO said; "The Irish holiday experience is unique, and its popularity is very evident in the strong rebound we witnessed once international travel re-opened following the pandemic. I want to acknowledge the resilience of our tourism partners who, having had a very difficult few years, enthusiastically welcomed back our visitors once restrictions were lifted. Your professionalism is reflected in the feedback from our visitors and in these Awards this evening. Overall

satisfaction levels in 2022 were only slightly less than 2019 despite a very challenging year for travel.

"We are very encouraged by the pipeline of bookings for the coming year, which are ahead of expectations, and we look forward to ensuring that our partners and our host communities continue to benefit from our success in attracting visitors to travel with us to Ireland."

Ms Crabill concluded by warmly congratulating this year's winners of a CIE Tours Award of Excellence on their achievements and thanked all the company's partners who work closely with CIE Tours throughout the year.



Elizabeth Crabill, CEO, CIE Tours, Stephen Cotter, COO, CIE Tours pictured with Eamon Neenan and Aodan Clarke, Glendalough Visitor Centre

Decision due soon on Newcastle Main Street houses

A decision is due to be made on 18th February regarding the development of eight houses in Newcastle village centre.

Wicklow County Council is due to make the decision on the application, which was lodged in December by Lauragh Property Investments Ltd.

The development would consist of eight 2-storey houses; a 2-storey mixed used building containing three commercial units and three apartments; on-street car parking and bicycle spaces; and the provision of a new entrance located off the existing oratory entrance.

The deadline for public submissions was 28th January.

Racefield Residents Association made a submission objecting to the development. "We fully support new development in Newcastle, but it must be done in the context of proper infrastructure development. Schools, healthcare, and public transport are already inadequate for the current population," they stated.

In their submission they went on to say that they believe the development, as proposed, is in breach of Wicklow's County Development Plan and the National Planning Framework.

The site density of the development is lower than the previous application, which was refused, however the Racefield Residents Association argue it's still inappropriate for the site. They also say the provision of car parking is inadequate and they have concerns about traffic hazards.

Raising concerns about the effect on residential amenity, the Racefield Residents Association point out that there's a number of empty shops in the village and five more under development in Lawnfield. "If the shops are not let, the visual amenity of the village will be adversely affected," they say, "and the site could attract anti-social behaviour".

They also have concerns about the protection of the wall and monuments at the entrance to the site. "These are of historical importance and significance to the heritage of the village and the plans do not adequately explain how these will be protected," they say.



Prendergast Maguire in Newtownmountkennedy have been awarded Brokers of the Year for the Leinster Region by Avant Money. Pictured left to right are: Ian Duffy Avant Money, Dylan Delaney, Sean Cleary, Ciara Walsh Leonie Greene Avant Money, Paul Prendergast and Brendan Maguire

111 vacant social homes returned to active use

Figures released last week show Wicklow County Council brought 111 vacant social homes back into active use under the Voids Programme, recouping €1.221m from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage through the Voids Programme in 2022. The Voids Programme support local authorities in preparing vacant homes for re-letting.

Nationally in 2022, 2,307 vacant social homes were brought back into active use in 2022 under the Voids Programme. This is just above the anticipated figure of 2,273 vacant social homes, indicating that the intensive work in 2020 and 2021 by local authorities in this area has reduced the number of vacant social homes.

Making more efficient use of existing housing stock is a key action in the Government's Housing for All plan. The Voids Programme builds on the ongoing work to tackle vacancy and dereliction and bring vacant properties into re-use for housing.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien said: "Apart from the obvious advantages of meeting demand for social housing, the return of these 111 vacant homes in Wicklow has a positive impact on communities and avoids vacant homes becoming run down and derelict in some instances and the source of anti-social behaviour."

"Wicklow County Council seized the opportunity to bring these homes back into active use in 2022 and this will make a real difference to the lives of 111 households."

"It's important to note and welcome the fact that nationally the number of vacant

social homes requiring pre-letting works was lower in 2022 than in 2021 or 2020.

In 2022, local authorities recouped almost €29 million in funding for stock improvement programmes for the refurbishment of vacant local authority-owned social housing. Of the €28.9 million, €3.6 million supported the transition to planned maintenance and included funding towards stock condition surveys. The number of vacant social homes that had works done to prepare them for pre-letting was lower in 2022 than in 2021 and 2020. It was always envisaged that the programme would revert to more normalised levels in 2022. Local authorities are continuing to transition from a response-based approach to a strategic and informed planned maintenance approach to social housing. This is based on stock condition surveys. The planned maintenance/voids programme in 2022 supported this.

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What's real and fake online? Young Wicklow competition winner has the answer

A Co.Wicklow student has emerged triumphant in Trend Micro's annual 'What's Your Story?' Competition to Coincide with Safer Internet Day.

Trend Micro provide support through educational resources such as their free Internet Safety for Kids & Families (ISKF) programme. An annual highlight of Trend Micro's ISKF programme - which in 2023 places focus on tackling media literacy and misinformation among kids and teens - is the What's Your Story? video competition.

The competition welcomes entries from both primary and secondary school students in the form of a two-minute video that can be created using live action, stop action, animation, original music and more. While the sky is the limit in terms of imagination and originality, each video must address a specific question, which this year asked: How do you know what's real or fake online?

Entries for the 2023 competition spanned seven categories, including the newly added 'Individual Irish Category', which encouraged submissions entirely as Gaelige. With interesting and thought-provoking shorts coming in from all corners of the country, including Westmeath, Kerry, Tipperary, Dublin and Cork, it was Bray teen Felix Doherty (13), who attends John Scottus School, who scooped a category victory.

The daunting task of choosing the competition winners, along with the overall winner was down to a panel of expert judges from independent bodies such as Media Literacy Ireland (MLI), Webwise.ie, Cyber Safe Kids, Smart Futures and Young Irish Film Makers.

Avril Ronan, Trend

Micro Global Programme Manager for Internet Safety for Kids and Families praised this year's winners, saying: "The internet is an infinite source of information, yet the question is, do we critically evaluate it for truthfulness and reliability? From suspicious emails and pop-ups to opinions and news stories that play fast and loose with the truth, each winning entry tackled misinformation with a thought-provoking perspective, creativity and humour. More importantly, they stressed the role of critical thinking; how we evaluate and question content online is after all the key to making informed choices."

Avril continued: "Our latest episode at the kids Cyber Academy focuses on misinformation - what it is, how it can be harmful to others and what to do about it. Arming your children with this knowledge and explaining the dangers surrounding misinformation enables

them to be better equipped to navigate the internet in a safe and responsible way. And when it is done in a fun way with videos, quizzes and activity sheets, children don't even realise the important educational and safety lesson they are absorbing."

If the What's Your Story? winners are anything to go by, it appears that the next generation thankfully have their wits about them when it comes to finding their way around the world wide web.

Felix Doherty, winner of the Individual Category for 8-12 year-olds, is a prime example. His video, entitled 'Computer Issues?' emphasises the importance of taking a breath when using the internet and pausing before clicking on any suspicious links. Working independently on all aspects of the video, Felix created his winning entry by starting on the storyboarding, moving on to filming,

and finishing with graphics, soundtrack and editing.

"I got a new camera for Christmas and I was dying for an opportunity to use it on something!" he said. "Then my dad sent me the details of this competition and I decided that it would be a good one to enter. It was a great opportunity to learn new stuff and just create things and get my ideas and projects out there. I've really enjoyed the whole experience."

He added: "I plan on putting my €500 prize-money towards a faster computer and getting a better monitor and set up! That will really make a huge difference to me."

So impressive was the work of Felix and his fellow triumphant entrants, that they are being encouraged to give their creations another moment in the spotlight by entering the Media Literacy Ireland Awards.

The MLI Awards programme recognises and



Competition winner Felix Doherty

raises awareness of the great work being done in Ireland to promote media literacy. It has four award categories including the Best Youth-led Media Literacy Intervention category, which is being touted as another excellent platform for the budding filmmakers.

Commenting on this year's incredible submis-

sions, Martina Chapman, What's Your Story Judge and National Coordinator for Media Literacy Ireland (MLI) said: "I was so impressed by the very high standard of the entries. Making a two-minute video that communicates a sometimes complex message is not easy, and it was wonderful to see how

creative and engaging the entries were.

"We hope that the entrants, and other young people around the country, will also consider entering the MLI Awards, which are open right now until the 10th of February. All information can be found at medialiteracyireland.ie/awards."



NWETSS students with their prizes

Success for NWETSS students at STEM awards

North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School students had great success at the recent Stemettes Women in STEM awards on February 1st at Engineers Ireland.

NWETSS students won both the Judges Prize (mixed group) and the Peoples' Prize (NWETSS group) for the websites they built on "Science for good" research and their presentations.

"Our students mixed well with the other schools and during the panel part and the speed networking were engaged and asked insightful and interesting questions," NWETSS said.

Stemettes is an award-winning social enterprise working across Ireland and the UK and beyond to inspire and support young women into Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths careers.

Stemettes has worked with almost 45,000 young women February 2013.

Stemettes co-founder Anne-Marie Imafidon decided to start Stemettes after hearing a keynote whilst attending the

Grace Harper Celebration of Women in Computing in 2012. It made her reflect on her experience of being one of only three girls in a class of 70 studying Maths and Computer Science at university.

One to one digital tuition for adults in Wicklow Town Library

Wicklow County Council Library Service has long known that many people find the ever increasing need to be online an uphill battle.

A person may own the necessary device but have difficulty figuring out how to use it to access the many services that are now offered online. As a solution, Wicklow Town Library is teaming up with Transition Year students from East Glendalough School to show people how to use their own device to access the internet and carry out ordinary everyday online activities.

This is how it works; the students will receive training from 121 Digital to become tutors capable of demonstrating to older people how to carry out various online tasks on their personal laptop, tablet or smartphone. Then under the supervision of their teacher the tutors will link up with their learner in Wicklow Town Library where the learning will take place. Do get in touch with the library at 0404 67025 if you feel this one to one approach will work for you. The classes will run over 6 weeks, starting on Thursday February 23rd from 2-3.30 pm. Participants will be required to come to every class. #YourCouncil #121Digital



The NWETSS students mixed well with the other schools and during the panel and speed networking they were engaged and asked insightful and interesting questions.

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- DK Garden Design

MUSIC

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- MJ Music Production
- MK Music Performance
- MF Sound Engineering
- MN Traditional Irish and Folk Music Performance

COMPUTING & ENGINEERING

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

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- EA Sport, Exercise & Fitness Instruction
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Film at The Courthouse: The Rose Maker

'Every garden blooms in its own season'

Courthouse Arts Centre, Sunday 19th February 3pm, €7/€6, French with subtitles
Gifted and eccentric horticulturalist Eve Vernet (Catherine Frot) honours her father's legacy by continuing the family business, breeding exquisite roses that compete in showcases all over France.



But her stubbornly artisanal approach struggles to compete with the mass market production from her corporate rivals. Facing imminent bankruptcy, Eve's trusted assistant Vera (Olivia Côte,) makes a last-ditch effort to turn things around by secretly hiring three new employees from a prison rehabilitation program.
Fred (Melan Omerta,) Samir (Fatsah Bouyahmed,) and Nadège (Marie Petiot,) are misunderstood outcasts with fresh ideas, strong work ethics, and



absolutely no gardening skills. After resisting the newcomers' presence, Eve warms up to their idiosyncrasies, and, banding together, the team comes up with a zany and risky plan to try and save the business.
A charming and witty comedy-drama, The Rose Maker is a crowd-pleasing tale of the fight for independence in the cut-throat world of artisan floristry. A fierce lead performance from Catherine Frot proves a particular highlight here, with the Marguerite star once again proving herself to be one of France's most compelling screen performers.
Variety said of the film, "A sweet, gently scented French diversion that is likely to teach you far more than you already knew about hybridizing flowers", while the Los Angeles Times called it "An engaging tale about competition, cooperation and creativity".

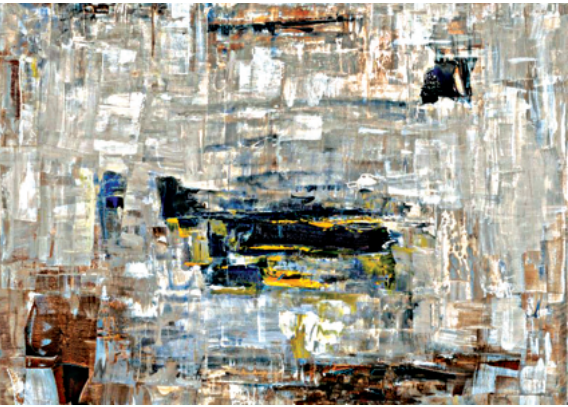
Between Worlds: An exhibition by Liz Levey at Signal Arts Centre

Monday 20th February to Sunday 5th March

This is an exhibition of paintings where Liz Levey explores and hopes to raise awareness around the distress 'Acquired Brain Injury/ Stroke and Non-verbal Autism' can cause to families and home life.

The working of the brain is so complicated and so intricate we take all it manages for granted when everything is working right. Brain responses are connected to the heart and soul of the body. When one part gets damaged it affects every other part: movement, speech, emotions.
These are just words. You cannot see any of them or notice but if one does not work properly, it has so many implications to fitting into society.

This work is informed by parts of Liz's own life highlighting the isolation, loneliness and sometimes overwhelming fear that accompanies medical expertise. Working through trauma is an uncharted part of life. No one gets through it without support.
"We are all caretakers of each other," say Liz. "Walk gently in the lives of others. Not all worlds are visible."



Broken, by Liz Levey

An Cailín Ciúin Film @ The Courthouse

Sunday 26th February 3pm, €7/€6

The Courthouse is pleased to present this award-winning film on Sunday 26th February.

Nine year old Cáit (Catherine Clinch) is sent by her dysfunctional family to spend the summer with an Aunt and Uncle she has never met before. Through the tender care of her aunt Eibhlín (Carrie Crowley) Cáit feels loved and safe. Despite himself, her uncle Séan (Andrew Bennet) forges a bond and for the first time, Cáit experiences the warmth of a loving home. The once quite Cáit blossoms in their care, but in this house where there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one.

Wonderfully recreating the feel of a country home in 1980's Irealnd, An Cailín Ciúin, adapted from Claire Keegan's acclaimed short story, Foster, is a genuine, deeply felt portrait of the bonds that sustain us.



Kathrina Shine, Marja van Kampen, Olivia O'Keefe and Julio Goddy are pictured at the opening of the 'Meanderings of a Colourful Mind' exhibition in Wicklow Library.

Making Waves Youth Theatre presents: Space Race & The Audition

Whale Theatre, 24th – 26th February, Friday – Saturday at 8pm. Sunday, 4pm.
Tickets €12 / €10 at whaletheatre.ie

Making Waves Youth Theatre is delighted to present our two new productions in one evening's exciting theatrical entertainment at the wonderful Whale Theatre in Greystones.



To open each evening, our new Junior Group, launched in October 2022, presents *Space Race*. Devised by its members and scripted by Ciarán Purcell (Senior Group member), this dynamic theatrical adventure portrays a lively and comic take on a race to the moon for precious metals that could alter the course of the future and inevitably pits the political powers of the world one against the other. Will it be the US, Germany, Japan or another country who pushes the others off the global A-list of political muscle?

Next up, in our Senior Group's production of *The Audition* by acclaimed playwright Don Zolidis, you'll find yourself backstage amongst a group of aspiring, competing, talented, challenged (sometimes unhinged) high school actors vying for parts in A Chorus Line or

'The Greatest High School Show in the History of High School Shows!' ... well ... maybe! Though the hopefuls range from shy to outrageous, and from diva-like to determined, you'll be moved to laughter and tears as you witness this hilarious and heart-breaking look at the madness of auditioning and the actors who brave the process for that perfect part.



The Making Waves Senior Group



Making Waves Junior Group members rehearsing for *Space Race*

We are also delighted that our two fabulous plays are benefitting from the production talents of Making Waves' own in-house talent. Archer Bradshaw (now Youth Leader and former member, currently studying at

the Lir National Academy of Dramatic Art), has designed our set and lighting; Katie Lacey-Curtis (Youth Leader and former member, currently studying Drama and Art History at UCD) is Assistant Director; and Alice Jolyet-

Cunningham (current member, studying Design for Film at IADT) has designed all of our publicity and programme materials.

Founded in 2018, Making Waves Youth Theatre is a community initiative generously supported by Ross McParland, the Whale Theatre and Tiglin. The group is facilitated by Ciarán Coogan and Aoife Connolly, supported by Aideen Walton and administered by Joanne O'Shea. Making Waves aims to provide teenagers between the ages of 12 and 20 in Greystones and its environs with the opportunity and space to learn about and make great theatre, through

workshops, productions and attending other theatrical productions. Our new Junior Group of 12-14 year-olds, which launched in October 2022, makes its debut in this production.

Making Waves' previous productions at the Whale Theatre include *Juliet of Verona* (February 2019) and *Lost In Transit* (December 2019), both devised and directed by Ciarán Coogan; Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (December 2021), adapted by Aideen Walton and directed by Ciarán Coogan; and *First Takes: An Evening of Scenes and Sketches* (May 2022), curated and directed by Aoife Connolly and Ciarán Coogan.

Daoirí Farrell releases new album and returns to Greystones

Hot Spot Music Club, Friday 24th Feb, Tickets
www.thehotspot.ie/tickets

Daoirí Farrell is returning to the Hot Spot in Greystones on February 24th. He is just about to release his new album on Feb 20th - *The Wedding Above In Glencree*. At the forefront of the current Irish music scene - armed with a strong belief & passion for authenticity, this album is the much anticipated fourth solo album from Dublin's own Daoirí Farrell.

'Sonny's Dream' is the first single to emerge from his upcoming fourth album, *'The Wedding Above In Glencree'*, due for release on 24th February. The track is a perfect example of the focus on the song - voice, words and the art of storytelling - which is at the core of the album.

Written in 1976 by Ron Hynes from St. John's in Newfoundland, Canada, the song tells of the hopes and dreams of a young boy whose lot in life is to work the family farm and support a lonely and ailing mother while an absent father

remains at sea. Perhaps a parallel to be drawn with the familial and enforced ties that bind many of us in contemporary society.

"I first heard Ron's version of the song five or six years ago from Dublin guitarist Tony Byrne," says Daoirí of a song which sees him on his signature bouzouki and vocals, accompanied by Manus Lunny (guitar), Pat Daly (fiddle and harmonium), Trevor Hutchinson (upright bass) with a tastefully warm cameo from one of the world's greatest bluegrass dobro players, Jerry Douglas.

Daoirí Farrell's fourth solo album, in his own words, "combines the rawness of my first album, the impact of my second album and the beauty of my third album." The culmination of those three albums and over a decade of recording and touring, *'The Wedding Above In Glencree'* is a landmark album for Daoirí; Crafted and honed over two and a half years, it is the work of a mature artist who has succeeded in taking on the challenge of recording an acoustic album that heads deep into the heart of the songs.

Not tempted to latch onto musical trends, Daoirí has instead trodden his own path, founded on a deep respect for folk music's oral tradition with a number of the songs on *'The Wedding Above In Glencree'* collected from long-time members of Dublin's, An Góilín Traditional Singers club.

The album's traditional songs are complemented by original works from Pecker Dunne, Ron Hynes, Paddy Ban O'Brien as well as Canon Charles O'Neill's *'The Foggy Dew'*, the latter initially appearing as his contribution to the RTE One TV production, *'Ireland's Favourite Folk Song'*. Also featured is the first self-penned tune by Daoirí, a track called *'Damien Walsh's'*.

The album is drenched with a powerful and evocative sense of place, set squarely in the country



Daoirí Farrell

of Daoirí's birth. *'Young Emmet'* tells of Irish Republican Robert Emmet, while the 1798 rebellion is at the heart of *'Father Murphy'*, while the nine-verse extravaganza title track is described by Daoirí as, "recounting the tale of a chaotic wedding, celebrated to excess, that may well have been held in the Glencree valley."

Not without its light-hearted

moments - along with the ring of his bouzouki and his unmatched vocal, a signature feature of a Daoirí Farrell album is "a song about a dog", in this case the cautionary tale for betting folk *'Murphy's Running Dog'*, whilst *'Clasped To The Pig'* comes complete with a chorus that will surely be a bring-the-house-down moment when played live.

Daoirí performs unaccompanied on *'Slieve Gallion Braes'* and *'Murphy's Running Dog'*, respecting and continuing the tradition of social singing and harking back to 2013 and his coveted prize as All Ireland Champion Singer. *'The Wedding Above In Glencree'* truly bears the fruits of everything Daoirí Farrell has absorbed to date.

The Gloaming's Iarla O'Lionaird returning to Greystones

Iarla O'Lionaird, vocalist with The Gloaming is returning to the Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones on Sunday 8th October accompanied by Cormac McCarthy. Tickets are on sale now.

From his iconic early recording of the vision song 'Aisling Gheal' as a young boy to his groundbreaking recordings with Dublin's Crash Ensemble, Iarla O'Lionaird has shown a breadth of artistic ambition that sets him apart in the Irish Music fraternity. He's a child of traditional music, born and bred in the belly of the West Cork Gaeltacht, with Sean O Riada a neighbour and indisputable early influence; and his great aunt, traditional singer Elizabeth Cronin, who forged a reputation for rich interpretation before him.

Twice Grammy nominated artist, O'Lionaird has worked with a stellar cast of composers internationally and has performed and recorded with such luminaries as Nick Cave, Sinéad O'Connor, Peter Gabriel, and Robert Plant. His unique singing style has carried him to New York's Carnegie Hall, the Sydney Opera House and beyond. He has performed as soloist with Irish and international concert and symphony orchestras including The National Symphony Orchestra at the US Kennedy Centre.

O'Lionaird's own voice has also graced the silver screen, with film credits extending from 'The Gangs of New York' to 'Hotel Rwanda' and most recently as featured singer in the film 'Brooklyn' starring Saoirse Ronan. He is the vocalist with the critically acclaimed Irish /American band The Gloaming.

Cormac McCarthy is a pianist, composer, arranger and conductor from Cork. Noted for a diverse stylistic palette, his compositions and arrangements have been performed and recorded by artists including Phil Woods, Jeff



Iarla O'Lionaird and Cormac McCarthy

Hamilton, Mick Flannery, Martin Hayes, Andrea Corr, Gavin James, The DePaul Jazz Ensemble, The RTE Concert Orchestra, The Crash Ensemble and The New Irish Jazz Orchestra.

As a pianist, he has performed extensively throughout Europe and the US, sharing the stage/recording studio with artists including Peter Washington, Nell Ni Chroinin, Billy Drummond, Liz Carroll,

Donal Lunny, The RTE National Symphony Orchestra & The RTE Concert Orchestra. He is also a member of Martin Hayes' most recent project, The Common Ground Ensemble.

Jarlath Regan: Jarzilla

Bray Comedy Festival presents new standup show

Whale Theatre, Saturday 18th February 2023, 8pm (doors 7pm). SOLD OUT, register at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 for waiting list.

Ireland's Favourite Irishman Abroad Recorded His First Standup Special In Vicar Street Just Before Everything Went Crazy. Now, At Long Last, He Is Coming To Greystones For The Bray Comedy Festival.

Making sense of bizarre British behaviour was the seed from which his world-beating Irishman Abroad podcast was grown and now it forms the basis of "an exhilarating hour of standup you'll find hard to beat for sheer laughs per minute, depth and size" (The Metro). Jarzila is the new standup show from the man responsible for the multi-million download podcast phenomenon Irishman Abroad, and standout tv appearances on Tonight At The Palladium, Russell Howard's Good News, How To Win The Eurovision and The

Apprentice "You're Fired". Following a sell-out run at the Dublin Fringe, being named Irish Comedian Of The Year in 2017 and supporting Jack Whitehall on his arena tour, Jarlath brings his newest and most political hour of standup to the nation's favourite comedy festival for one night only.

Since moving to London Jarlath Regan has produced the iTunes award winning, multimillion downloaded podcast, An Irishman Abroad, become one of the most talked about names in comedy and become an activist for organ dona-

tion when he donated a kidney to his brother. His last show Organ Freeman won him rave reviews and a standing ovation last time he visited Vicar Street. This time around he didn't need to remove another part of his body to write a show. With Jarzilla he sets his comedy gaze on the most bizarre three years in the history of these two islands.

Edinburgh's Festivals Magazine said, "Had the audience shaking so violently with laughter they probably could have charged their phones".

Jarlath left Dublin for the streets of London 10 years ago and hit the ground running. While booking major television appearances on Tonight At The Palladium, Russell Howard's Good News, Standup Central and tour support for comedy supremos Jack Whitehall and Marc Maron, he has been lauded by the press for his interviewing masterclasses with the some of entertainment's most reclusive characters including Boy George, Gabriel Byrne, Dylan Moran, Hozier, Aidan Gillen and Stewart Lee. The Guardian went as far as to say that "Every single young person reading this should go download this podcast and listen to it every week for the rest of time."

Known for his ability to spin a yarn while rinsing a subject of every punchline available, Jarlath has become a headliner in every major comedy club in the UK while also selling out two dozen of solo shows at his last Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In Jarzilla he returns to Ireland and finds that things are not what he expected. Come and see Jarzilla, a one of a kind show from "a very funny man at the peak of his powers" (The Irish Post).

*Approx. Duration:
2 hours plus interval*



Jarlath Regan

Mid-term children's show at Mermaid:

Theatre Lovett Presents The Teddy Bears' Picnic by Louis Lovett

Thursday 16th February, 11am & 2pm. €10 Full Price. Suitable for ages 5+ years. Duration: 1 hour

If you go down to the woods today you're in for a big surprise. The teddy bears' picnic! Where can we find it? What's the address? Are we invited? Do teddies eat food? Is the tea they drink real? It's hard to digest, this mythical meal.

Theodor is a detective who found Timbuktu and a two headed llama that lives in Peru. Now Theo's hot on the trail of the famous teddy bears' picnic, a tricky puzzle to pick.

"Come join us and together, we'll try our best to help Theo on this cuddly quest."

The Teddy Bears' Picnic is a theatrical treat for children aged 5+ and everyone else is welcome too. (Teddy bears are especially welcome!)

The Teddy Bears' Picnic is funded by The Arts Council and supported by Riverbank Arts Centre.



Wicklow local shortlisted for Children's Books Ireland Awards

Wicklow author Ellen Ryan has been selected as one of ten picture books, short story collections and young adult novels shortlisted for the 2023 KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards, which were announced last week, by RTE broadcaster Rick O'Shea at the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast.

Ms Ryan's shortlisted book, *Girls Who Slay Monsters*, is a collection of short stories which puts strong female characters back at the heart of Ireland's ancient myths and legends. The collect is illustrated by Shona Shirley MacDonald.

This year's shortlist will compete for the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year and five other awards, including honours for fiction, illustration and a Junior Juries' Award which will be decided by young readers from across the country.

A total prize fund of €16,000 will be awarded to this year's winners, who will be announced at a special ceremony at the International Literature Festival Dublin on Wednesday, 24th May.

Founded in 1990 and sponsored since 2020 by KPMG Ireland, the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards are recognised as the most prestigious awards for children's books in Ireland, celebrating the best of Irish writing and illustration for young people.

Children's Books Ireland, the national charity and arts organisation which administers the awards, has assembled an independent panel of expert judges for the 2023 Awards, including a Young Judge, aged 15+, and a network of Junior Jurors nationwide.

Speaking at the announcement of the 2023 shortlist, Elaina Ryan, CEO of Children's Books Ireland, said: "Year after year, we are blown away by the incredible talent in Irish children's writing and illustration, and this year's shortlist raises the bar yet again. The shortlisted books announced today represent voices from across the island of Ireland, drawing on some of our most ancient myths and legends and the diverse experiences of children and young people today. We're delighted that our Junior Juries will have such a rich tapestry of Irish writing and illustration to dig into!"

Seamus Hand, Managing Partner of KPMG Ireland, said: "We're delighted to once again support these awards and to help promote the benefits and enjoyment children gain from reading from an early age. The quality of the shortlisted nominees is fantastic and it highlights the great writing and illustration talent that we're so fortunate to have here in Ireland."


The KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards and Junior Juries programme are supported by the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland National Lottery Fund-ing.

Damian Smyth, joint Head of Literature and Drama at the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, said: "We are lucky to have a wealth of hugely talented writers and illustrators here on the island of Ireland. These awards recognise some of the most outstanding books of the last year - the picture books, stories and novels that have captured the hearts and imaginations of young readers."

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is delighted to be associated with these important awards and offer our congratulations to all those who have made this year's shortlist."



Ellen Ryan



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

ORDÚ DÍLSEACHÁIN
ALT 81 DEN ACHT UM TITHÍOCHTA 1966
COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
ORDÚ DÍLSEACHÁIN UIMHIR 2 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 22/06/15/101 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 bronnta orthu ag Alt 80 den Acht Um Tithíochta 1966:

AGUS ÓS RUD É -

(a) Nach n-aistrítí leasa 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 ndíleofar 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 25ú 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 oifigí 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
22/06/15/101 2 Lakeview Grove Baile Chill Mhantáin	Teach chónaithe agus talamh 150 m2. (0.0150ha)	Barbara Jones (ors Bobbi Jones) 2 Lakeview Grove, Baile Chill Mhantáin	Duine ar bith – teach folamh	Duine ar bith – teach folamh

Faoi shéala oifigiúil an Údarás Aitiúil, an 1ú 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 2 OF 2023

WHEREAS the land described in the Schedule hereto and shown on the map attached hereto which said map has been marked 22/06/15/101 and sealed with the seal of Wicklow County Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Housing Authority”) is land to which Compulsory Purchase Order No 2 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 –

(a) The several interests in the said land have not been conveyed or transferred to the Housing Authority,

(b) 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

(c) 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 25th 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)
22/06/15/101 2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow.	Dwelling house and land of 150 m2. (0.0150ha)	Barbara Jones (ors Bobbi Jones) of 2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town, Co.Wicklow.	None – vacant house	None – vacant house

The official seal of the Local Authority was affixed hereto this, the 1st day of February, 2023 in the presence of:
Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive
Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach

Mary's Meals co-ordinates emergency response with partner in Aleppo

International school feeding charity Mary's Meals has launched an urgent appeal to help feed vulnerable children affected by the recent earthquake in Syria.

The country is already one of the poorest in the Middle East. Plagued by civil war since 2011, most young children have never known peace or stability in their lifetime and face enormous challenges in being able to attend school and get an education.

Mary's Meals has been providing food to children in the city of Aleppo since 2017, working in collabo-

ration with its experienced and trusted partner Dorcas. The school feeding programme normally reaches 5,024 children across 18 places of education.

As a result of Monday's earthquakes, many schools are now being used as shelters for those who have lost their homes, leaving children out of class and more vulnerable than ever. It is vital that Mary's Meals continues to reach those children with a daily meal in order to give them a sense of security as well as much-needed nutrition.

Graeme Little, Chief Programmes Officer at Mary's Meals says: "The experienced and highly skilled team at Dorcas is already mobilised and going out into communities with food supplies. We are determined, despite the earthquakes' devastation, to keep our promise by providing children with essential daily meals. Our emergency appeal will ensure the continuation of our work under these deeply challenging and unstable circumstances."

To donate to the Crisis in Syria appeal, please visit www.marys-meals.ie



Skoda battery electric Enyaq Coupe arrives



The Skoda Enyaq Coupe

SKODA have suffered supply line problems - especially chip shortages - over the last three years and this, coupled with excess European demand, has hit the delivery schedules of some of its models.

By Martin McCarthy

Most notably Skoda's Irish dealers have been anxious to get their hands on the latest, top end, long range SUV coupe and examples are starting to arrive this week. Skoda are big sellers in Wicklow thanks to a combination of toughness, sensible design, price competitiveness and having a superb dealer in Trinity Skoda in Wicklow Town.

Being all electric, with a long range battery pack, the new Enyaq is expensive, listing at €56,710 but this is well under its competitors. The list price is inclusive of a 3-year maintenance and

tyre plan. The SKODA ENYAQ COUP features an even more emotive design, sporty lines, generous amounts of space and a boot capacity of 570 litres.

Depending on specification, the ENYAQ CoupE has a range of up to 545 km on the WLTP cycle. There is a choice of two battery sizes, rear- and all-wheel drive, plus power outputs ranging from 132 kW to 195 kW.

Libor Pavlas, SKODA Ireland, Product Manager, says: "The Irish launch of the ENYAQ COUP

was delayed by more than 12 months as result of excessive worldwide demand. We are delighted to finally confirm prices and specifications and would encourage customers to place their orders now. The original ENYAQ iV, SKODA's first fully electric vehicle, was first revealed back in 2020, with Irish sales pre-booked online by way of a €1,000 deposit. Three years on and demand continues to outstrip supply so early ordering is strongly advised for the COUP version."

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

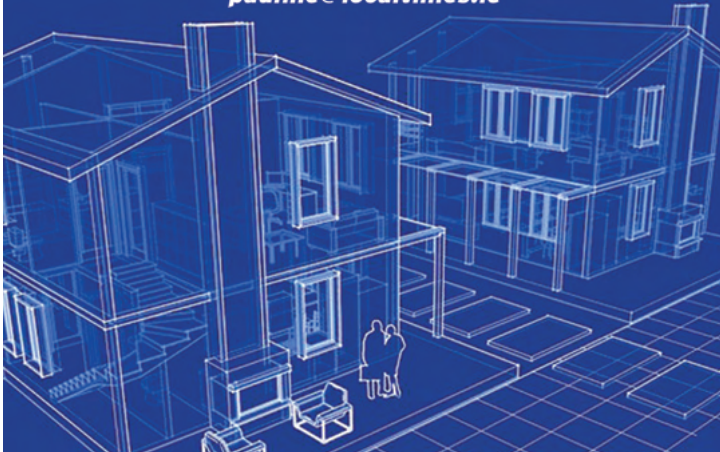
We, Joseph and Maria Kinsella seek Outline Planning Permission for the construction of fifteen (15) no. three bedroom houses, one (1) no. four bedroom house, nine (9) no. two bedroom apartments and three (3) no. one bedroom apartments and all ancillary works and services at Parkmore, Baltinglass, Co. 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.

ATTENTION Architects, Planners & Builders

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

Call 01 286 9111 or email

pauline@localtimes.ie



Astrophysicist and software developer Dr. Patrick Kavanagh from the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies (DIAS) recently visited his old school St Joseph's in Templaraine, Arklow, to give a talk on space and the universe. He is pictured talking with 3rd class pupils.

Job opportunities in Wicklow to grow by 20% in 2023

The number of job opportunities in Wicklow will grow by 20% in the coming year, according to a new forecast from FRS Recruitment. This follows on from the 34% increase experienced in Wicklow in 2022.

Wicklow experienced one of the strongest levels of growth in the country last year. Other counties to experience high increases in 2022 included Dublin (up 36%), Clare (up 31%), Sligo (up 15%), Cork (up 15%) and Roscommon, which recorded the highest year on year increase with the number of roles more than doubling (up 101%).

18 of the 26 counties in the Republic experienced an increase in openings in 2022. The largest decreases came in Kerry (down 10%), Leitrim, (down 9%) and Louth (down 7%).

Nationally the number of job postings handled by FRS Recruitment rose by 32% in 2022, reaching a total of 107,802 - up from 81,528 in 2021. Year on year the monthly increase was across 11 of the 12 months and illustrated the return of the market to post pandemic normality, with the level of jobs aligning with 2019, the last pre Covid year of activity.

Despite the surge in opportunities available, the number of people applying for jobs was down last year.

FRS Recruitment recorded a total of 123,305 job responses in 2022 as it became a 'candidates market' in some sectors. This

meant the average response rate per role was at 1.14, down from 1.66 in 2021.

On a sub sector level the largest increase in roles experienced in 2022 was in Banking & Financial Services, which were up 106%. This was followed by opportunities in IT & Software Development (up 67%) and IT - Support Services (up 46%). Significant growth was also recorded in arts, entertainment and recreation (up 43%), education & training (up 31%) and professional services & practices (up 25%).

FRS Recruitment is also forecasting further growth in IT, construction and healthcare recruitment for the year ahead, describing these sectors as 'relatively inelastic'.

The analysis is contained in FRS Recruitment's '2022 Review and 2023 Trend Forecast' Report. Speaking about the report, Lynne McCormack, General Manager with FRS Recruitment said, "We are confident that we will see further growth in recruitment opportunities in Wicklow for the year ahead. We experienced a good year in Wicklow last year and our belief is that this will continue over the coming 12 months.

"Both in Wicklow and nationally we believe there will be strong opportunities in the IT, healthcare and construction sectors. There has been such a build-up in openings across these sectors over recent years that they have become relatively inelastic and that will continue throughout 2023. Not all parts of the economy will rise in 2023, but we are very optimistic about the prospects in those particular sectors.

"Another trend we saw in Wicklow and across the economy last year was that the level of applications did not keep up with the number of openings. With the economy reaching a 20 year low for unemployment and nearing full employment, this impacted the market. For some high demand sectors it became a candidate's market. This, coupled with the rising cost of living, meant significant pressure on salaries in some high demand sectors over 2022. With the economy likely to be less buoyant in the next year, we expect this pressure will diminish as candidates in Wicklow and nationally focus more on job security and work life balance considerations," Ms. McCormack concluded.



Santina Kennedy and Anke Klitzing at the Wicklow Naturally Market and St. Brigid's Day Festival held on Sunday 5th March in the Powerscourt Distillery, Enniskerry.

Free workshops for small businesses

Have you ever thought about setting up your own business but don't know where to start - or are you looking for new ideas for your existing business? And, given the importance of social media these days, could you do with some training on using TikTok to promote your business?

Bray Community Enterprise is offering two free workshops that may be able to help. The first is a Business Ideas Generation workshop via Zoom on 28th February from 10am-1pm. The workshop will help you identify business ideas that will suit your talents and fill a market need. The second workshop is a beginner's guide to using TikTok that will help you create and manage a business account that gets real results. It takes place via Zoom on 14th March from 10am-1pm.

You have to be living in, or running a business in, the Bray or Greystones Municipal District areas to take part in these free workshops and certain other criteria may apply. See www.brayareapartnership.ie for more information or call the team on 01 205 0111.

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

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