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

# YES! YOU CAN BUY A HOUSE

The housing crisis continues to worsen, with Co. Wicklow being hit particularly hard. According to property website Daft, there were just 29 rental properties available in the entire county at the end of February, with rents for loft-style homes in Kilmacanogue reaching a high of €5,500 a month, among many other properties priced at the top end of the market.



Senator Pat Casey

It is getting harder and harder for people to afford their own homes because of the inflated rental market in Wicklow and across Ireland. Rents have grown by 15% while home prices have increased by 20% in the last two years alone. This situation is making home ownership seem like a pipe dream for an entire generation and, as a result, a lot more people are opting to live with their aging parents. Currently, one in ten people live with their parents as adults. That's half a million people, which is greater than all the households in the private renting sector combined. "It genuinely saddens me that so many people have been forced to move back in with their



Shauna O'Shea, Aoife Connolly and Hanna Doyle at the Wicklow Camogie Awards Night in the Arklow Bay Hotel. Pic: Michael Kelly.

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parents," says Senator Pat Casey. "They are adults in their twenties, thirties, and forties, and the majority of them are employed. They should not be in this position, but many of them feel as if they've little choice. I often hear from my constituents that they feel that their dream of buying a home is slipping through their fingers," he adds.

CSO figures show that there are over 458,000 people living with their parents and the average age for buying a first home has reached an all-time high of 34. By bringing attention to the First Home and Help to Buy schemes that were introduced last July, as a part of the Housing for All policy, Casey hopes to "inject hope back into the conversation" and show people that the dream of home ownership is still possible.

"Despite the fact that bad news about housing is always in the headlines, there are new options under these schemes. The First Home Scheme, for example, offers funding of up to 30% of the market value of your new property (up to €142,500 in the case of Wicklow) and can also work in conjunction with the Help to Buy scheme.

Additionally, the First Home Scheme aims to make home ownership achievable for families by bridging the gap for first time buyers and other eligible homebuyers between their deposit and mortgage, and the price of their new home.

In Wicklow, for instance, the maximum house value is €475,000 with an equity support of €142,500. The problem is that many people do not

know about the possibilities provided by Housing for All, which

is categorically a failure on the part of the government's communications department," he admits.

Continued on page 3



**Cllr Dermot  
'Daisy' O'Brien**  
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Jake Keating, Clara Jenkinson, Margaret Kennedy and Louise Farrell at the Wicklow Lions Club table quiz in Wicklow Golf Club.

## The Old Dublin Society

On Wednesday March 8th Rob Goodbody will present 'The Building of Howth Harbour' at 6pm in the Conference Room, Dublin City Library & Archive, 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All are welcome - admission is free and no booking is required.

## Mobile Library

A mobile comes to Laragh every second Thursday from 12.15 to 12.50pm and parks at the back of Lynhams Hotel. Phone on 087 9135229 or email library@wicklowcoco.ie. For people who have difficulty accessing their nearest public library, the Mobile Library Service gives them the opportunity to avail of a public library facility. The mobile library carries approximately 2,500 items with free access to many online resources including downloadable audio books, newspapers and more.

## St. Patrick's Day in Aughrim

St Patrick has arrived in Aughrim for our Spectacular St Patrick's Day Parade. He has been spotted with his sheep visiting The Church of The Most Sacred Heart at Aughrim. This year's parade promises to be the best ever held in the Granite City. A brilliant range of trophies for so many different categories as well as the overall best float of the day Perpetual Cup. Tea & freshly cut sandwiches and refreshments will be available immediately at the Pavilion after the parade. Huge Hamper will be also raffled at the Pavilion after the parade and tickets are currently on sale. There will also be live entertainment so keep this special event in your diary. For float bookings and any further information please contact the following members of the organizing group. Sean Byrne 0864014250; Eilish Byrne 0879445509; Bim Newsome 0868489515.

## My Lovely Horse Rescue

My Lovely Horse Rescue will be attending this year's St Patrick's Day event in partnership with Dog Friendly Ireland and The Avon in Blessington. The event will be held from 1pm to 5pm. There will be a live band "Kybosh" playing from 3pm to 5pm. There will be a treasure hunt, doggie parade, face painting, prizes for best categories and much more! Also attending the event will be Cartoon Our Pets who offer a unique cartoon portrait of your pet! Come and see their stand. Dog treats very kindly sponsored by Positive Dog Training.

## Jam-packed programme for Bray's St Patrick's Festival

This year's St. Patrick's Festival and Parade in Bray is bigger than ever. The Festival will run for five days from Thursday, March 16th until Monday, March 20th. The jam-packed programme includes Bird's Euroshow Funfair, live music, talks, a walk, a treasure hunt, movies at the Bandstand, the St. Patrick's Day Parade and more. The St. Patrick's Day Parade will be a cultural celebration. There are excellent vantage points for all to get an opportunity to marvel at the strong 1,500 participants as they spectacularly make their way through the town.

Again this year, organisers have teamed up with the Bray Autism Friendly Town Team and there will be a quiet zone at the Parade at the junction of Quinsborough Road and Seymour Road.

The Parade Grand Marshall this year is Bray's Person of the Year Dr David Menzies. Dr Menzies is a founding member of Bray Cardiac First responders and a founding member and volunteer with Wicklow Rapid Response. He is also a founder, former Chair and currently Trustee, Board Member and Medical Director of CFR Ireland, a national registered charity for Community First Responders.

There will be road closures in place on Thursday, March 17th from 1 pm until after 3 pm to facilitate the new Parade route. Roads affected include Main Street, Florence Road, Eglinton Road, Quinsboro Road, Seymour Road, Seapoint Road, Strand Road and surrounding junctions.

## Bible Talks

The simple words of Jesus are being shared in

Newcastle Community Centre  
A63 N611

on Tuesday evenings, 8:00 – 8:45 pm.

An invitation is extended to the wider community.

Any enquiries, please contact Kathryn and Danielle on 087 9524 800.

# RNLI calls on new volunteers to join its fundraising crew

The RNLI is looking for new fundraising volunteers to join its lifesaving crew at branches in Wicklow, Arklow, Greystones and Newtown.

Just like the charity's lifeboats, the RNLI's fundraising team need a dedicated volunteer crew. Volunteers are at the heart of the RNLI and make up 95% of its people. They are ordinary people who do extraordinary things and without them, the organisation couldn't continue to save lives at sea.

But it's not all about volunteering on lifeboats or at a station, there are many other ways people can give a little or a lot of their time to support the RNLI and make their own lifesaving difference.

Joe Taylor is the secretary of the Greystones and Newtown Fundraising Branch and has been volunteering for 13 years.

"I am a sailor and have been involved with the sea all my life so when the committee, all of whom I would have known anyway, asked me to get involved, I did."

The branch organises a number of regular events throughout the year including a trophy race through the Greystones sailing club, collections, raffles and car washes, and the group also has a trailer shop on Greystones Harbour.

"I volunteer because I know the people on the lifeboat crew are also volunteers and when you live close to Bray or Wicklow, everyone tends to relate to or have had an experience with the lifeboat and you find those who have had an experience are very generous in giving back. Anyone with a connection to the sea either by living or growing up by it as a kid, knows that the lifeboat crew will look after them if there is an

emergency at sea."

Mary Creedon, RNLI Fundraising Partnership Lead hails the selfless efforts of people like Joe: "Without our volunteers, the RNLI simply would not be able to operate the way it does today. With 92% of the RNLI's income coming from donations, the charity relies on the generosity of supporters and on the dedication of our fundraising volunteers to help raise essential funds. Thousands of community fundraising volunteers organise a wide range of activities and events each year, contributing their time, energy and skills to raise money to save lives at sea. Some of our fundraisers have been volunteering for many years while some just join us for a few months in the year depending on what their commitments allow.

"We now really need to bolster that support and grow our volunteer fundraising crew. If you like to have fun, enjoy meeting new people and want to join a motivated and enthusiastic team, we encourage you to find out more and apply.

"You will learn new skills, gain experience and have the rewarding satisfaction of giving back. The RNLI will also provide all the necessary training and support so you can carry out your chosen role effectively."

To find out more about how you can sign up to be a fundraising volunteer at the RNLI in Wicklow, Arklow, Greystones and Newtown or to apply, go to [rnli.org/onecrewvolunteers](http://rnli.org/onecrewvolunteers)



Joe Taylor, secretary of the Greystones and Newtown RNLI Fundraising Branch

## WICKLOW LOCAL Times

is published by Wicklow Times, First Floor The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. Tel: 01-2869111

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# YES! YOU CAN BUY A HOUSE

## Help to Buy in Wicklow

Here are some samples of new developments in Wicklow in which the Help to Buy and First Home Scheme can be used towards the purchase of your new home:

Ashford/Vartry Wood - Pricing from €350,000  
Rathdrum/Stewart Hall - Pricing from €320,000  
Rathnew/Clermont Grove - Pricing from €345,000  
Meadow Haven - Pricing from €430,000  
Tinakilly Park - Pricing from €430,000  
Roundwood/Causway Meadows - Pricing from €450,000  
Wicklow Town/Murrough View - Pricing from €280,000  
Sessile Oaks - Pricing from €359,000.

Help to Buy is an incentive for first-time buyers. It will help you with the deposit you need to purchase or self-build a new house or apartment. Eligible homebuyers could get up to €30,000, by way of a refund of the tax they have paid over the past four years, towards their deposit. To claim HTB, you must be a first-time purchaser. The home you want to buy cannot cost more than €500,000. The First Home Scheme is a new initiative aiming to support people with home ownership. The Government and participating banks will bridge the gap between the deposit and mortgage a person has access to, and the price of the new home. To avail of the First Home Scheme, you must be a first-time buyer or an eligible person under the 'Fresh Start Principle'. The home must be a new build.

Senator Pat Casey will be holding a Housing Information Evening on Thursday 30th March at 7pm in Bridge Tavern Wicklow Town and a Housing Webinar on Tuesday March 21st at 8pm. His clinics take place Every Monday/Friday in Wicklow Town and Arklow. Please email [pat@patcasey.ie](mailto:pat@patcasey.ie) to register your interest for any of these events or contact his office to arrange an appointment (13 Main Street, Arklow, 0402 42105 / 086 2649483).

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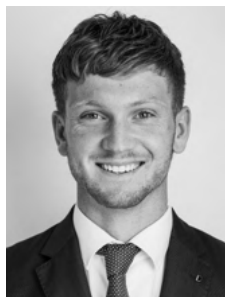
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Emma Zavhorodnia and Zlata Hohol at the Ukraine charity event in the Bridgewater Centre in Arklow

### Continued from Page 1...

To Casey's dismay, the message appears to be getting lost despite the fact that he has made the housing problem his top priority. There have only been 700 successful applications nationwide and only 72 in Wicklow to date.

"I fault the government's communications department for its inability to effectively market the pathways to home ownership that are outlined in the Housing for All policy, despite a significant amount of resources having been spent on program promotion," says Casey.

"People don't know that you can purchase a home in Wicklow through a combination of schemes - €1,240 per month for a house valued at €475,000, €1,016 per month for a house valued at €375,000 or €745 per month for a house value of €275,000," he continues.

"My mission is to let the people of Wicklow know there is hope, and the dream of home ownership is not beyond their reach," concluded Senator Casey.

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Senator Pat Casey

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# New strategy launched for older people in Wicklow

A new five-year Age Friendly Strategy for County Wicklow was launched on Monday 27th February by Minister for Mental Health and Older People, Mary Butler TD, at an event in County Buildings.

The Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023 - 2027 was developed by the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance following an extensive consultation with older people throughout the county.

This is the second Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy and the new strategy was informed by the views of more than 300 people across county Wicklow, aged over 55, from a wide range of ages, with diverse interests and circumstances. Their views were collected through a series of public consultations to ensure that older people's needs were considered and addressed.

In developing the Strategy, the Alliance adopted the Age Friendly Ireland model and World Health Organisation's (WHO)

Age-friendly Cities and Communities framework. This proposes eight interconnected domains that can help to identify and address barriers to the well-being and participation of older people.

The new five-year Strategy includes an action plan which details 72 actions, across eight thematic areas or domains:

1. Outdoor Spaces & Buildings
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Social Participation
5. Respect & Social Inclusion
6. Civic Participation & Employment
7. Communication & Information
8. Community Support & Health Services

The Strategy aims to enhance the quality of life of older people in County Wicklow, using

a multi-agency approach (statutory, voluntary and community sectors) to implement a range of objectives and action designed to significantly enhance the quality of life of older people living in Wicklow.

The Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance is a high-level cross-sector group, chaired by Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council.

Members include representatives from the County Wicklow Older People's Council, Wicklow County Council, Health Service Executive, An Garda Síochána, Local Link, Bray Area Partnership, County Wicklow Partnership, Citizens Information Service, Kildare & Wicklow Education & Training Board, Wicklow Town &



Clodagh Whelan, Leas-Chathaoirleach Aoife Flynn Kennedy, CEO of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson, Minister Mary Butler, Mai Quaid and Senator Pat Casey at the launch of the Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023 - 2027 in Council Buildings, Wicklow town.

District Chamber of Commerce.

Speaking at the launch event, Mr Gleeson outlined the commitment of Wicklow County Council to incorporating age friendly principles into its services, to ensure that Wicklow is a great place in which to grow older adding: "The vision of County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy is to make County Wicklow a great place to grow old, where older people are respected and valued, living full lives, ageing in place within their communities."

Minister Mary Butler said: "The Government is firmly committed to the Programme for Government goal of creating an Age Friendly Ireland and making

Ireland a great place to live as we age. I am delighted to support the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance in its work to make 'age friendly' an ongoing way of being and seeing in County Wicklow, guided by the WHO principles and the county's commitment to creating an Age Friendly Ireland. I had the pleasure of recently visiting the fully accessible Beyond the Trees Avondale in Rathdrum and awarding its designation as the first Age Friendly tourist destination in Ireland."

Ms Mai Quaid, Chair of the Wicklow Older People's Council, welcomed the new Strategy and its benefits to older people, saying: "People are living longer lives, and in many cases, older

people are living more active and healthier lives than in the past. Older people today want to continue doing the things they always enjoyed doing."

Leas Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, thanked Minister Butler for her ongoing support for older people and people with mental health challenges, stating: "As local elected representatives, these two issues are very much to the fore in our constituencies, and having such strong support in Minister Butler and her team in the department is very much appreciated."

At the launch event Minister Butler was shown some highlights of the Older People's

Council Seminar and Open Day which was held on 25th November 2022. Normally an annual event, this was the first time the event had been held live in two years, due to the pandemic restrictions which had a heavy impact on our older people.

Age Friendly Ambassador for County Wicklow, Senator Pat Casey, said: "The Older People's Councils are representative groups of older people who work together and with key state and voluntary agencies to make Ireland a better place in which to grow old. I would encourage older people in Wicklow to engage with the County Wicklow Older People's Council and join the OPC to have their voice

heard at the next AGM, in May. The OPC represents the voice of older people on the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance, which will be responsible for delivering on the actions in the new Wicklow Age Friendly County Strategy."

The County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-27 can be downloaded at [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) or request a copy by email to [agefriendly@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:agefriendly@wicklowcoco.ie).

For more information about Age Friendly Ireland model and the World Health Organisation (WHO) Age-friendly Cities and Communities framework click on this link <http://agefriendlyireland.ie>.



Clodagh Whelan, Minister Mary Butler and Alice Corbett at the launch of the Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023 - 2027 in Council Buildings, Wicklow town

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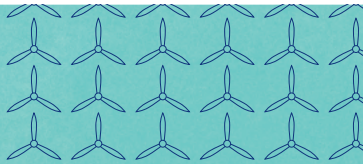
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Senator Pat Casey, CEO of Wicklow County Council Brian Gleeson, Minister Mary Butler, Siobhan Geoghegan, Alice Corbett and Michael Nicolson at the launch of the Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023 - 2027 in Council Buildings, Wicklow town.





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Malvina and Jaroslav Nefidova at the Ukraine charity event in the Bridgewater Centre in Arklow.

# East Wicklow 'shunned' by Connecting Ireland Plan

The recently announced Connecting Ireland Mobility Plan 2023 will see 67 new or enhanced bus routes launched across the country. Despite a booming population, East Wicklow has not made the 2023 list.

Cllr Stephen Stokes has written to the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan, to urge an immediate review of the bus coverage for East Wicklow.

Cllr Stokes stated: "The Government lacks imagination on public transport. They lecture us about the climate crisis, and that we need to reduce transport emissions. Yet when it comes to providing real solutions, it is always too little, too late. For example they are planning to bring the Luas to UCD sometime after 2042. It makes people question the decision making."

The rollout of Phase 2 of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan continues in 2023 and will continue on a phased basis from 2024 to 2026. The NTA will also seek to develop

other pilot programmes such as the rural hackney scheme.

Cllr Stephen Stokes added: "The Government is out of touch with the challenges facing East Wicklow passengers. Everywhere else seems to be getting a boost in services. There is even a planned improvement into Northern Ireland, on the service between Clones and Newry. Meanwhile East Wicklow passengers are being left by the side of the road."

Cllr Stokes is seeking to have East Wicklow treated with higher priority for bus services. He noted: "People want good public transport options. During the launch Minister Eamon Ryan said, if they build it, they will come. I

wish he'd listen to himself when considering East Wicklow. There are so many rural areas that do not connect with bigger towns. Meanwhile it is challenging to get public transport between parts of Charlesland, Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle."

In addition Cllr Stokes wants public transport to sync up better. He concluded: "We need to have a joined up approach to services. One thing that bugs a lot of people is that if they get a train to Greystones, the connecting bus pulls out just before the train arrives. If local bus services were every 15 minutes, it might not be so bad. But when the 184 bus is unreliable, it can be a very long wait."

## New outdoor staff secured for Greystones Municipal District

It's been confirmed by Wicklow County Council that Greystones Municipal District has been awarded two new outdoor staff to carry out maintenance works in the district.

Welcoming the news, Minister Simon Harris said, "It had been brought to my attention by Greystones Tidy Towns that due to the increasingly inadequate resources available, there was a lack of ground staff in the area which had an enormous visual impact on Greystones, and resulted in increased litter and irregular road sweeping."

"I requested that the funding urgently be reviewed and the impact upon the invaluable voluntary services of Greystones Tidy Towns be acknowledged and rectified. I am delighted that both of these matters have been addressed."

Brian Gleeson, outgoing Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council confirmed

that although appointment of two new members of staff does not fully address all the staffing issues in the district, it does represent the first phase of an outdoor review that he initiated in 2022.

Minister Harris added, "I am enormously grateful for all the work of the Tidy Towns Committees throughout Co. Wicklow and I will continue to pursue further funds and allocations of resources in all Municipal Districts in Co. Wicklow."



Minister Simon Harris

## Avoca Mines feasibility study to be reviewed

Jennifer Whitmore TD has welcomed the news from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications that they intend review and update a feasibility study first carried out on the Avoca Mines in 2008.

This was discussed recently at the Committee on the Environment and Climate Action following questions from Deputy Whitmore to Minister Ossian Smyth.

Speaking after the committee meeting, Deputy Whitmore said: "I am very glad to hear that in 2023 the Department will be updating the feasibility report for the Avoca Mines. The initial report was conducted so long ago that technologies available have changed and it is timely that report is updated."

"The initial report in 2008 recommended a major programme of investment of €58.5 million. However, following the financial crash this plan was shelved and was replaced with a much-reduced spending of approximately €5 million over the last fourteen years to simply maintain structures as

they are now was instead adopted.

"The potential environmental impact that the runoff from the disused mines could have on local land and water is a major point of concern of locals in Avoca, Co. Wicklow.

"Technology has advanced significantly since this report was published and our national finances are in a much stronger position now. I welcome the plan to review the feasibility report and I hope that government will decide

it is time to invest the necessary funding into the Avoca Silver Mines in 2023.

"I will keep working to advocate for this important issue for my constituents in Avoca, and across Wicklow."



Deputy Whitmore by the Avoca River

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# GREEN (S)MILES AS THEY FLY AWAY, FLY AWAY!

The leaders of the Green Party who called on us to grow lettuce on our south facing windowsills; and banned us from burning turf and want us to use public transport and bicycles and to Staycation so as to reduce our carbon footprint, seem to have a different set of values when it comes to themselves.

It was expected that the annual exodus by politicians to the four corners of the world on St. Patrick's Day would be shunned by them, but no, it has been grasped with gusto by the party grandees.

This St. Patrick's Day, Party leader Eamon Ryan will be flying to Singapore and China, Hong Kong, Beijing and Shanghai.

Cathrine Martin is off to the US (Los Angeles and San Diego) whilst fellow Green Roderick

O'Gorman is off to India -Delhi, Mumbai, Bangladesh and Dhaka.

Ossian Smith is staying closer to home, only going to Belgium and Netherlands. However Senator Pippa Hackett makes her way to Kenya and Tanzania.

Now do you really feel guilty about burning that bag of turf?

However, Bray Green Councillor, Erika Doyle, who as Cathaoirleach of Bray would be due to make the annual pilgrimage to Dublin in California, told *Wicklow Times* "No I am not

travelling. I am very conscious of my carbon footprint and do all I can to reduce it."

Travelling in her place will be Councillor Melanie Corrigan. Wicklow County Council Cathaoirleach, Cllr Tommy Annesley will not be making the trip to New York and Councillor Aoife Flynn-Kennedy will be standing in.

Wicklow's two Ministers are going to Canada with Simon Harris also visiting San Francisco.

## Commercial Vacancy Rate Rises to 12.9%

The commercial vacancy rate in Wicklow increased 0.2 percentage points (pp) to 12.9% in the twelve months to Q4 2022 according to the latest GeoDirectory Commercial Vacancy Rates Report, published last week.

The commercial vacancy rate in Wicklow was lower than the national average of 14.0%.According to the report the commercial vacancy rate in Ireland hit a ten year high of 14.0%, the highest level recorded by GeoDirectory since the report began in 2013.

Of the towns in Wicklow surveyed, Bray had the highest commercial rate at 15.6%, while Greystones had the lowest rate at 7.9%. The report found that Shannon, Co. Clare was the town with the highest commercial vacancy rate in the state, at 29.8%. Ballybofey, Co. Donegal (29.2%), Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford (28.4%), Boyle, Co. Roscommon (27.7%), and Sligo Town (25.4%) completed the top five towns by highest commercial vacancy rate. Gorey, Co. Wexford and Greystones, Co. Wicklow were the towns with the lowest commercial vacancy rate in the country, at 7.1% each.

Within the Dublin area, Dublin 17 recorded the largest year-on-year increase in vacancy, growing by 1.5% to 14.6%. Dublin 9 had the highest vacancy rate of 17.2%, increasing by 0.4% from Q4 2021.



Grace Henkel and Rebecca Murphy with the Sam Maguire Cup at Avondale Community College in Rathdrum.

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Arklow Bay Conference & Leisure Hotel, Sea Road, Arklow, Y14 DX02

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

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

**Wednesday 5 April, 7.30pm**  
Online webinar – [sserenewables.com/ArklowBankPhase2](https://sserenewables.com/ArklowBankPhase2)











Greystones ready for Spring Clean

# Wicklow volunteers needed for the National Spring Clean

An Taisce is asking volunteer in County Wicklow to join the National Spring Clean 2023 and help our circular economy keep turning! Register now to take part in Ireland's largest anti-litter campaign and to learn more about our circular economy.

Registrations are now open for the National Spring Clean 2023. Throughout the month of April, the National Spring Clean will encourage communities in County Wicklow to tackle the problem of litter in local areas and to see the benefits of a litter-free environment. National Spring Clean is operated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce in partnership with Local Authorities and supported by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Mars Wrigley.

Over the past 24 years, the National Spring Clean has been focused on the message of the collective responsibility we share in tackling and preventing our national litter problem. By participating in organised clean-ups, groups and individuals of all ages come together to make a meaningful and positive contribution to their communities - to date this has resulted in the collection of almost 45,000 tonnes of litter across Ireland!

This year, the National

Spring Clean is also raising awareness about how the adoption of a circular economy model, will reduce our litter, and climate impact.

The circular economy is a waste prevention approach to keep resources in use for as long as possible, enabling us to extract the maximum value from them before recovery and regeneration. This is based on three principles: eliminating waste and pollution, keeping materials and products in use (through re-use and recycling), and protecting nature. This means that as we transition to a more circular economy, we'll see less waste, less litter, and lower emissions, and thus, cleaner planet.

These principles of a circular economy have been central to the ethos of National Spring Clean for the past 24 years. Last year some 35% of all waste collected was recycled, thanks to recyclable waste bags provided to groups and individuals who register, while the removal of litter from our natural environment has helped



Volunteers cleaning up on Bray Head

tackle biodiversity loss.

Throughout this year's campaign, National Spring Clean also hopes people will consider their waste output and moderate consumption behaviours that produce excess waste, and look at

alternatives that will move us away from a throw-away culture to a more sustainable circular culture.

In 2022, almost 150 registered for the initiative in County Wicklow. With the support of people all

around Ireland, the National Spring is hoping to have an even bigger campaign this year.

To register to be part of Ireland's largest anti-litter campaign, people can visit [www.nationalspring-clean.org](http://www.nationalspring-clean.org).

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You don't have to be an unscrupulous Wall Street Broker to be good at sales. Wicklow Times, County Wicklow's largest circulation free paper, are looking for Sales Executives who can work with businesses and organisations in the community to find the best advertising solutions to allow them to grow their brand and customer base. Experience is helpful but not essential. If you think this might be you, and you like the idea of a good salary, commission and bonuses, contact [shay@localtimes.ie](mailto:shay@localtimes.ie)

## Clean Coasts Roadshow visits Arklow South Beach

Volunteers in Arklow came together recently for an afternoon of environmental activities and networking opportunities.

Clean Coasts were delighted to team up with Arklow Coastcare Group for an event organised as part of the Clean Coasts Roadshow series. The event entailed a series of environmental and educational activities at Arklow South Beach. The Roadshow included topics like water quality, marine litter, marine biodiversity, and many of the group did a beach and amenities clean up as well. Clean Coasts was delighted to support Arklow Coastcare Group who meet weekly to ensure a clean beach, good facilities, and a social catch up.

The Clean Coasts Roadshow are a

series of free talks and workshops for coastal communities which take place all around the coast of Ireland between February and May each year. The Roadshow aims to bring together all those with an interest in protecting their local beaches, seas and marine life and environment.

The Roadshow events are a mix of talks and workshops covering topics such as biodiversity, dune systems, marine litter, wildlife, sustainable developments, work by local groups and organisations, and more. Usually, Roadshows are an occasion to discuss how community groups can

build capacity with volunteers, attract new members and share the workload amongst the group, as well as look at various funding streams groups can avail of, including our Clean Coasts grant scheme for 2023.

In 2023, Clean Coasts is celebrating its 20th birthday. Since 2003, Clean Coasts has been working with communities to help protect and care for Ireland's waterways, coastline, seas, ocean and marine life.

In 2023, the Clean Coasts Roadshow represent the first opportunity for the programme to connect and celebrate the communities and volunteers who have contributed to the growth and success of Clean Coasts over the years.



Arklow Coastcare volunteers



# Greystones gaming licence 'not valid'

On Tuesday, February 28th, Greystones Municipal District discussed rescinding Part 3 of the Gaming and Lotteries Act (1956). This targets the operation of any potential casino in Charlesland, Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan or Newcastle. Councillors were advised by Town Manager Michael Nicholson that this had already been rescinded in 1989, in non Town Council areas including Greystones.

Cllr Lourda Scott tabled the motion to rescind the resolution which adopted Part III of the Gaming and Lotteries Act, 1956, in respect of the administrative area of the entire Greystones MD. Speaking after last week's meeting, Cllr Scott said, "For a bit of context for this, in order for a gaming licence to be issued by the District Court, a local authority has to have adopted Part 3 of this Act, and this fact is referenced on the gaming licence. In fact the District Court notifies the Local Authority when applications for gaming licenses are made to ensure that the Act hasn't been rescinded. I brought forward my motion following news that a gaming license was granted by the District Courts to a premises in Greystones allowing for 50 slot machines and opening hours from 10am to 2am.

"This caused a huge amount of concern in the community and I have been inundated with people contacting me about this. The highly addictive nature of these types of casinos is well documented and there has been overwhelming support from the public in trying to get this plan stopped. Local campaigners have collected over 2,600 signatures on a petition and there was a packed town meeting at St. Patrick's School, where every



Cllr Lourda Scott

speaker spoke against the proposed casino. With an ever increasing population we have a need for many facilities here, community spaces, parks, youth centres. However a highly addictive casino is not one of them.

"This was clearly a moment to stand up and make a difference to protect our community and I was happy to support by tabling this motion. During the discussion at this evening's meeting I was surprised to be informed by the Council Executive that the resolution had already been rescinded in the late eighties. This information wasn't given to Councillors before the meeting. Indeed I had specifically asked for confirmation that the resolution was adopted on several occasions and had been told by the Council that the process for applying for a Gaming Licence as set out in part III is being followed. However, although surprising, this new information is very welcomed as it means that the current gaming license issued by the District Court is not valid. As there has been so much conflicting information we still elected to vote on the motion which

passed 4 in favour and 1 abstention. I will continue to follow up with the Council and District Court to ensure that all parties are aware that no gaming licenses can be lawfully issued within the Greystones District. This is a great result for the wider community and I thank all the campaigners who have helped along the way."

Cllr Stephen Stokes said "[In 1989] Greystones had a Town Commission, rather than a Town Council. A majority of Councillors proceeded to a vote on February 28th, 2023, to rescind Part 3 of the Gaming and Lotteries Act (1956), to make certain of this.

"There was a lot of concern in the community. Some the concerns raised included; late night activity, proximity to schools / addiction services, parking and more. In the lead up to this outcome, I listened carefully to local people. I hope that this is a step in the right direction to allay those concerns."

The outcome of the meeting means that Wicklow County Council is expected to write to appropriate bodies to advise them of the outcome, and to take appropriate action.

Cllr Stokes added: "We will need keep focused on this issue, like a laser." In 2014 Local Government changes saw the abolition of Town Councils, and the establishment of Municipal Districts. Part 3 of the Gaming and Lotteries Act (1956) became a reserved function of Councillors at the Municipal District level.

"A licence for a casino had been secured in the Harbour area of Greystones in 2022. On Thursday, February 9th, several hundred people attended a public meeting in St. Patrick's National School. At that time Cllr Stephen Stokes advised the meeting that Cork County Council had rescinded Part 3 of the Gaming & Lotteries Act (1956) for Carrigaline."



Cllr Stephen Stokes

## NTA announcement on 133 and 131 bus routes welcomed

Sinn Fein TD John Brady has welcomed the announcement regarding plans from the National Transport Authority (NTA), that the 133 Bus service is set to be significantly upgraded from 2nd April.

The 133-bus service ran from Wicklow Town to Dublin City Centre, servicing Kilmacanogue, and Bray. The new upgraded route will save ten minutes journey time, and the introduction of the new 131 bus service from Wicklow Town to Bray on an hourly basis will address the difficulties of commuters travelling from Wicklow Town to Bray Town Centre.

Deputy Brady said: "Having highlighted many of the difficulties and problems faced by commuters over the years on the bus-route. I want to welcome the news

from the NTA that from the 2nd of April the 133 bus-route is to be upgraded. With the 133 now bypassing Bray, commuters travelling to Belfield and Dublin City Centre will save ten minutes on their journey time.

The introduction of a new service from Wicklow Town to Bray Town Centre is particularly welcome to those passengers that relied on the 133 to get into Bray. Particularly, students from the Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFI), and the many other commuters who were dependent on the 133.

"The new 131 route will address the difficulties encountered by passengers who were previously dependent on the 133 through the provision of an hourly service directly to the centre of Bray Town. The fact that the 133 was the most complained about and maligned route in the country, with buses running late, and sometimes not turning up at all, means that there is a responsibility on the NTA to ensure that there is continued investment in the route in order to continue to improve the service.

"That said, I also want to welcome the considerable investment in a new fleet of buses by the NTA. The addition of 35 new vehicles is very welcome. This along with plans to invest in new and improved infrastructure such as shelters at Bus stops is a step towards meeting the needs of commuters.

"I will continue to campaign for improvements to public transport and infrastructure in Wicklow and will continue to work with the NTA to ensure that Wicklow commuters receive the service that they merit."



Alina and Veronika Stoilovska at the Ukraine Charity event in the Bridgewater Centre in Arklow.

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Aobhe Traynor, Laura Doyle, Emma Nesbitt and Martha Lackey at the Wicklow Camogie Awards Night in the Arklow Bay Hotel

## Harris meets with IFA delegation

Minister Simon Harris recently met with a delegation from the Wicklow IFA to discuss a range of issues, most particularly the need to support our county's sheep farmers.

Speaking after the meeting, Minister Harris said, "I was delighted to have an opportunity to meet with the Chair of Wicklow IFA, Tom Byrne and Wicklow Sheep Committee Representative, Selena MacKenzie, and Jackie Whelan Fagan from the IFA. We discussed a range of important issues for rural Wicklow and for our farming community. Most importantly, on this occasion, I was briefed by them on the real pressures being faced by our sheep farmers.

"I have undertaken to rely their views and concerns to the Agriculture Minister and to work with them to make progress. I am very conscious of the importance of farming to our county and the many farm families who depend on it for a livelihood. I always engage with the Wicklow IFA as their local TD and hope to be able to make progress for them."



Minister Harris with Selena MacKenzie, Tom Byrne, and Jackie Fagan Whelan

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# Farmers fearing dog attacks during lambing season

A deputation from the Wicklow Cheviot Sheep Owners Association will attend this week's meeting of Wicklow County Council to discuss the issue of dog control during lambing season.

The request was made by Cllr Pat Kennedy at February's Council meeting. The association represents the interests of over 400 hill sheep farmers across Wicklow, Dublin, Kildare and Wexford.

Speaking at the meeting, Cllr Kennedy said "It's something I feel strongly about and I have been approached by the association to see if they could come in and make a presentation.

"Sheep farming is a way of life in Wicklow and the lambing has already started. While we know how many sheep there are in Wicklow we certainly don't know how many dogs there are in Wicklow. Farmers are under enough strain and pressure without having dogs with no dog control in the county."

Seconding the proposal, Cllr Shay Cullen said "It's quite obvious that sheep farmers are taking a hit in their income (because of dog attacks) and it's important for us as a sheep-rearing county that we listen to the people providing that particular industry and work in that industry at the moment. So I would be delighted to hear what they have to say to us."

Wicklow County Council last month issued advice on the responsibility of dog owners during lambing season.

"Make sure you know where your dog is at all times," they said. "Please observe and respect local signage and leave dogs at home if accessing land where livestock are present or close by. Some landowners forbid dogs entirely, whereas others including the state, may request the use of leads.

"The presence of dogs, even with playful intent, can cause great anxiety within a flock of sheep. During the winter months this can prevent ewes from coming into season. In lambing season it is the main cause of stillbirths and miscarriages, which can occur 2-3 days after contact with dogs.

"Know where your dogs are at all times - attacks often occur at night. Report wandering dogs and suspicious sights to your local authorities. Make sure that your dog(s) are registered and microchipped and that a current licence is in place for each of them - this is now a legal requirement for ALL dogs."

The Council has launched its awareness campaign to remind dog owners of their responsibilities and the vulnerability of sheep to dog attacks during lambing season.

The Council is working in partnership with the IFA, Wicklow Uplands Council and Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee to raise awareness of the issue.

Mr Tom Byrne, Wicklow IFA Chairman, welcomed the collaboration with the relevant parties, stating: "This is a critical time of year on sheep farms as lambing season is now upon us. It is the time that sheep flocks are at their most vulnerable to incidences of worrying and attacks by dogs and where dog attacks are causing unimaginable



suffering for sheep and lambs and huge economic losses for farmers."

As recreational use of the Wicklow Uplands increases, the presence of dogs close to farmland areas and the hills used for sheep farming, requires a greater awareness of responsible dog control, according to Brian Dunne of Wicklow Uplands Council, who further noted that "It is also an important breeding season for ground-nesting birds and wildlife which along with sheep, can become startled by the presence of dogs."

Aaron Byrne, Rural Recreation Officer, County Wicklow Partnership, in acknowledging that outdoor recreation enhances daily life and improves physical and mental health, reiterated the need for environmental and community awareness, noting that "Respect for the rural community is a core principle of the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy and all participants are asked to be responsible when accompanied by their canine friends."

Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, also welcomed the partnership approach and stated that "this awareness campaign is highlighting the role that all dog owners must play in tackling this serious issue" and asked that "dog owners be vigilant in keeping dogs under control and knowing where their dogs are at all times, especially at night when most attacks occur".

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Brian Gleeson, commended the interagency approach to the awareness campaign and asked that all dog owners and dog walkers responsibly comply with the guidelines for visiting farmland areas.

The following guidelines should be followed by all dog owners living or visiting farmland areas to ensure that they continue to play a crucial role in making them a safer place for all to enjoy.

\* Please observe and respect local signage and leave dogs at home if accessing land where live-

stock are present or close by. Some landowners forbid dogs entirely, whereas others including the state, may request the use of leads.

\* In situations outside of the home, dog owners must legally ensure that their dogs are under 'effectual' control at all times. Attacks on sheep can result in financial losses to the farmer, for which the dog owner can be held liable.

\* The presence of dogs, even with playful intent, can cause great anxiety within a flock of sheep.

During the winter months this can prevent ewes from coming into season. In lambing season it is the main cause of stillbirths and miscarriages, which can occur 2-3 days after contact with dogs.

\* Please respect and be aware of wildlife as the presence of dogs can disturb ground-nesting birds and other animals during the breeding season.

\* Know where your dogs are at all times as attacks often occur at night

\* Report wandering dogs and suspicious sights to your local authorities.

\* Make sure that your dog(s) are registered and microchipped and that a current licence is in place for each of them as this is now a legal requirement for ALL dogs.

\* Dog fouling is the responsibility of the owner. Please collect and dispose of all faeces in an appropriate manner as this includes plastic bags used in the process. Failure to clean up is a public health concern and is an offence under section 22 of the Litter Pollution Acts.

\* Share this advice with others.  
\* Enjoy and experience nature responsibly and respectfully.

*If you witness an incident of sheep worrying or damage to livestock in Wicklow, please report it immediately to Wicklow County Council. It is important that all incidents be reported as soon as possible following the incident.*

Call: 0404-20236  
[env@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:env@wicklowcoco.ie)



## 'Irony, tragedy and a farce' as NTA funding handed back unspent

At the recent Municipal District meeting in Bray it was reported that NTA funds secured for a number of schemes were returned unspent at the end of 2022. The Bray schemes include: Vevay Road cycle route, Killarney Road cycle route, Kilmac to Bray greenway, Southern Cross vulnerable road users improvements, improvements to the Scalp.

Sinn Féin Councillor Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien expressed his dismay at the news.

"It was a case of irony, tragedy and farce at the Bray meeting. How ironic that on the night when we receive a presentation about the new eBike scheme coming to Bray that we also hear about the scrapping of the NTA schemes which were promoting cycle lane infrastructure!

"How tragic it must seem to the electorate when they see some of

their elected representatives discussing boarded up houses and the lack of funds to refurbish them, while at the same time seeing their Council handing back unspent money!?"

"It's hard to avoid the farcical nature of this experience. We are the politicians who push for funding, work with communities to develop projects or propose ideas. We celebrate the announcement of funding allocations, and we buy into the positive anticipation with our communities.



Cllr Dermot O'Brien

"Then we have a scenario where a County Council decision was made without the involve-

ment of any elected members to hand back unspent money and scrap a whole series of important projects! I have asked why the money wasn't spent? I have asked how the decision was made to scrap certain projects? I have asked how much money was handed back?"

"Far too often elected members are caught in the middle and judged harshly about decisions that they are not involved in making. This is not a way to build confidence in local democracy."

## Matthews calls for 'urgent review' of hospital parking charges

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has requested a review into hospital parking charges and has called for a free parking pass to be given to charity and voluntary groups that bring patients to and from hospital appointments.

Discussing the issue, Deputy Matthews said: "In recent months, I have been fortunate enough to witness first-hand the incredible work that volunteer groups such as Rathdrum Cancer Support Group do for their communities. One of their most crucial undertakings is the pickup and drop off service which they provide to their members who are unable to transport themselves to the hospital for treatment. I was extremely disappointed to learn that the financial cost of hospital parking charges falls on these volunteer organisations,

oftentimes, on the volunteers themselves.

"I acknowledge that there is an ongoing review into the parking charge system as a whole, however in the short term I am calling on the HSE create a free pass for these volunteers and volunteer groups so that they can carry out their selfless work without facing financial strain. While I am aware that the HSE is dealing with many issues at present, the introduction of such a pass would be a small, easy to implement change to ease a significant burden on these groups. I believe that an intervention from the HSE in the matter would be broadly welcomed and I will continue to work towards getting this resolved.

"If any local healthcare groups want to get in touch to discuss this matter, I would be happy to meet with them," concluded Deputy Matthews.



Aimee, Laura and Bea Clancey with the Sam Maguire cup at Avondale Community College.

## Funding for rural roads

Improvement works for rural roads and laneways in Wicklow will receive crucial funding to improve accessibility and boost connectivity.

Overarching funding of €12.4 million was announced recently today by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys. The boost comes under the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS), which aims to help communities improve non-public roads and lanes that are not typically maintained by local authorities.

Minister Simon Harris said: "This landmark fund is the first of its kind, the first time we've seen time dedicated funding for island communities. Our homes, farms, and local amenities here in Wicklow will reap the benefits of this investment. We will see funding of over €350,000 for our rural roads and laneways. Furthermore, the Minister has announced the ring-fencing of €500,000 to support rural roads on our offshore islands. The overall announcement by Minister Humphreys means some €112 million has now been allocated to local authorities under the Local Improvement Scheme since it was re-introduced in 2017."

Minister Humphreys added: "Local connectivity is absolutely vital for our rural communities and this investment will benefit the lives of families in every single county. We all know parts of rural Ireland that can be difficult to access because the road or laneway is in need of repair and this funding will go towards making essential improvements."

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# A call for peace from Greystones

*The Tiglin Charity, The Minister for Justice - Simon Harris, the Archbishop of Dublin and Greystones Show that Ukrainian Refugees are most welcome to Ireland*

The Archbishop of Dublin and Wicklow, The Minister for Justice Simon Harris, pupils from St. Patrick's Primary school, and people from the Greystones community recently joined Tiglin in a call for peace in Eastern Europe. Minister Harris released doves while the Ukrainian guests called for peace.



Archbishop Michael Jackson releasing the doves with Minister Simon Harris



Poster calling for peace

The special event was held in Tiglin's Coolnagreina Refugee centre in Greystones on Friday 24th February to mark one year since Russia invaded Ukraine. Many diverse speakers and performers marked the occasion. Speakers included Aubrey McCarthy (Tiglin) and Archbishop Michael Jackson (Church of Ireland).

A quarter of the country's population fled in fear; their paternal instincts drove them to protect their children and those close to them. The ones who arrived in Coolnagreina in Greystones are the protectors - protecting and providing for others.

Remembering how the invasion has brought displacement, fear and trauma into the lives of those from Ukraine, Tiglin invited Archbishop Michael Jackson to pray for those who have been impacted and remember those who have been lost.

The Archbishop Jackson extended the good wishes and encouragement to the Ukrainian guests, one year after fleeing their homes.

Chair of Tiglin Aubrey McCarthy welcomed the Archbishop of Dublin, Michael Jackson, who addressed the Ukrainian community saying: "we all over the world know what today is, we stand in sadness and in solidarity with you. On a day of devastation of your country, on a day of devastation for you as individuals. There is a story each of you carries, of the totality of your family, here and in Ukraine. Living and who are no longer living. This is a tragedy that is unimaginable to so many of us. We appreciate the fact that you came to meet us in neighbourliness and friendship, in a country that you never thought

you would be and may have never wanted to be. Our solidarity is with you as we mark this anniversary of something we never wanted to happen."

Tiglin welcomed several music performers who wished to commemorate this occasion, while the Minister for Justice Simon Harris released doves in a call for Peace.

This was complimented by the 'Tree of Peace' - championed by St. Patrick's Primary school.

Aubrey McCarthy Chairman, Tiglin commented: "Minister Simon Harris released six doves as a symbol of what we hope will happen, Peace in Ukraine. Aggression should never win; it should never displace

innocent people or tear families apart."

In his speech, addressing those who gathered at the 16-year-old old Ukrainian resident Tim remarked: "On the night of February 24th, 2022, at 4.00am, for the first time in 75 years, Ukraine heard the sound of an air raid alarm. It heard the sounds of air engines, the sound of tanks, the sound of firing and rockets. We are again being told what to do. We are a free and independent country that can decide what it wants for itself."

Tim also thanked the government of Ireland, the principal of St. Patrick's Primary School Rachel Harper for the opportunity to access

high quality education, and Tiglin for the accommodation of the kind volunteers for their help.

CLlr Stephen Stokes attended the event and stated: "It was important to mark the occasion. The people of Greystones stand united with Ukraine. I would like to commend Tiglin for their continued efforts in the community, and for organising the event. Back in March 2022, myself and Viv Collins organised the Rally for Ukraine in the Burnaby Park. It's simple, people in Greystones are against this illegal act of aggression. I am hoping that Ukraine will have a full and unequivocal victory in 2023."



Some of the younger members of the crowd



Phil Thompson, Ukrainian teenager Tim, CLlr Stephen Stokes, Tatiana, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Aubrey McCarthy, and Christina



# Sod turned on Dominican College's new building

**Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris recently visited Dominican College in Wicklow Town in order to celebrate various successes the school has had, turning the sod on the school's new development and speaking to students.**

Speaking about his visit, Minister Harris said, "I am delighted to have had the opportunity to visit Dominican College and speak with the school's staff and students today. Being able to turn the sod on the school's new development is a privilege and I am glad to see all the effort over the past number of months start to bear fruits. The school's new Science and Technology building will be a fantastic asset to the school and its stu-

dents, and I know that it is an asset that will not be wasted." Minister Harris continued, "I want to thank the school's sports captains for meeting with me and showing me Dominican College's newly upgraded Hockey pitch, which was funded under the Government's Sports Capital Programme. This Programme was aimed directly at improving facilities such as these at Dominican College and enabling young people and communities to

further develop their sporting skills and abilities. I can't think of any other County with more deserving sportspeople than our home of Wicklow, and I am sure that the Sports Capital Programme, and others like it will be a boon to the development of Wicklow's current and future athletes.

"Along with this, I also want to say a big thank you to the school's diversity team. It is very encouraging to see young people thinking and working actively towards establishing an inclusive environment in their schools, and it is something I want to encourage. My own Department of Further and Higher Education has an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Unit which is dedicated towards ensuring that people of all backgrounds have access to the same opportunities, and that students are rewarded for their ambition, hard work, and talent, rather than due to the circumstances of their upbringing.

"Diversity is one of our nation's strengths, and I want our schools to reflect the open and welcoming reputation which our people are so famous for. I am proud to see that Dominican College have really taken this message to heart, as has been made clear to me today, with 19 different cultural identities and 7 faith denominations and no faith denominations, diversity is truly incorporated in every part of this school.

"My department is focused on ensur-



*Minister Harris talking with Dominican College students*



*Minister Harris turning the sod on Dominican College's new Science and Technology building.*

ing that accessibility becomes one of the pillars of our country's education system. We are working to create a Unified Tertiary Sector, where students can see clear paths for progress in their education, where joined-up thinking encourages and enables students to get the most out of their studies and develop their skills in meaningful and rewarding ways.

"I do not want anyone in this country to be discouraged from walking

down the path of education and strive to make the process as seamless as possible. To this effect, we have now managed to have apprenticeships listed on the CAO's website, so that students can recognise that there are multiple pathways to success available to them. We have launched the Action

Plan for Apprenticeships, which is working to deliver high standard and sought-after qualifications.

"A number of new apprenticeships have also been created, in order to encourage a wider range of students to realise that an apprenticeship can work for them too. I cannot understate the importance and value which these work-based approaches to learning can provide to students, and I urge everyone to research and see if one of the many new educational opportunities, might be the right fit," Minister Harris concluded.

# St.David's refurbishment works near completion

**Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris recently visited St. David's Secondary School in Greystones for a tour of his old school, to see the refurbishment works nearing completion and speak with students.**

Speaking after his visit, Minister Harris said, "I want to thank St. David's Secondary School's principal, Simon Carey, for inviting me back to visit my old Secondary School. It is super to see the amount of work that has been during the school's refurbishment which is finally nearing completion. The schools new four-storey building will be a fantastic resource for staff and students, providing them with the space and facilities to further develop the school's high standard of education.

"Along with this, after working closely with Principal Carey and Minister Josepha Madigan, we have successfully managed to obtain an extra SNA allocation for St. David's to support its students, and I am looking forward to seeing this new position filled as soon as possible.

"This year I was delighted to hear that the level of co-operation between the three secondary schools in Greystones had been raised to a new height, as the schools began to work on a co-ordinated school admissions plan,

to reduce waiting lists and reassure parents."

Minister Harris spoke to Leaving Certificate Cycle Students regarding the many opportunities available to them after the Leaving Certificate. Minister Harris said, "I want every student in St. David's, across County Wicklow, and across the country, that there are options out there for them in third level education. I do not want a sin-

gle student to feel intimidated or discouraged by the idea of furthering their education, and developing their skills and talents. My Department and I have worked tirelessly to create new avenues and paths for students to take which can help them to learn and grow. Recently we launched a number of Further Education and Training (FET) Colleges of the

Future across the country, and one right here in County Wicklow. Since 2016, we have created a total of forty-one new apprenticeships, and even more are in the works. Each of these courses where the focus is on work-based learning will give you the same qualifications as you would have graduating college. I am glad to say, and I am sure that many students here will have noticed,

that now the CAO's website displays apprenticeships too, so that every student can see that an apprenticeship can be a viable pathway towards the future.

"I want encourage every student here, to research the wide range of opportunities available, as I know that there is a course out there to suit every student," Minister Harris concluded.



*Minister Harris viewing the refurbishment progress*



*Minister Harris with St. David's staff and pupils*



# Screen industry networking at Clermont

*Over 100 members of the Irish Film & TV industry met at Clermont Screen Hub to connect and build their screen industry network*

On Saturday 25th February 2023, over 100 Film & TV crew-members across all departments met on Wicklow County Campus, in Rathnew, Co Wicklow to network and learn about the newly launched 'Screen Crew & Services Database' from Screen Ireland. This hugely successful event, run by the National Talent Academies: Film & TV Crew Academy East, in collaboration with Screen Guilds of Ireland and in partnership with Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, connected aspiring new entrants, return to work crew, and existing crew, all hoping to gain networking tools and build their own networks within Ireland's rapidly growing Film & TV industry.

The event began with an interactive networking skills session led by Noel Davidson of The Entrepreneurs Academy. Following this, Fran Keaveney (Screen Ireland Skills Development Executive – Film and TV Drama Production) delivered a presentation on the 'Screen Crew & Services Database', an online platform that will connect film crew seeking work with current employers, a vital resource in ensuring Ireland's expanding Screen Sector grows in line with the increasing demand for content. Finally, the 100+ attendants were split into pods based on their respective crew departments and guided through a structured networking session, where participants were given the chance to speak with one another and build connections likely to spark future employment opportunities within the industry.

Lionel Deverell (Trainee - Assistant Director) said: "It was great to meet so many different people across different departments, both new entrants and those who have been in the industry for a long time. I found the presentations really great, especially that regarding the newly launched Crew Database. It's very encouraging to see that there's something like that in place to allow crew-members to be found by different employers."

Katarzyna Horzela (Trainee – Art Dept, Props, Set Dressing) said: "This event was so helpful. I met so many wonderful, talented people. I think this kind of event is really needed in the Irish Film & TV industry right now. It's an opportunity for us all to connect, share our skills, and hopefully work together on future creative projects. I'd love to see it run again."

Jade Travers, Manager of the National Talent Academy Film & TV Crew East said: "The phenomenal turn-out at our inaugural network event blew us away. We knew that there was a situation in the Film & TV industry where there was a lot of aspiring new entrants looking to access the industry AND experienced crew looking for enthusiastic, passionate and committed new entrants. Our objective was to bring these two cohorts together and facilitate a mutually beneficial network to support the sustainable growth of the industry. In supporting network event attendees with a network tools training session and a guided network session, attendees left with real measurable benefits. We hope they will confidently go forth and grow their Screen Industry Network. Our inaugural event is the first of many to come, we intend to curate a number of network events in 2023 that will support the Screen Industry, crew, and aspiring new entrants in the year to come."

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, said: "We are delighted to partner with the National Talent Academy Film and TV Crew East in this event, as we have been working closely with businesses operating in the screen industry and know how they are looking for new crew to recruit into this expanding sector. With the expansion of Ardmore Studios, Ashford Studios and construction commencing on Greystones Media Campus, we are all conscious that we need to increase the local crew numbers and attract new talent into the screen sector. The networking event today has given us a clear indication that there is strong interest from both young and mature people, looking to change careers, into taking up roles in the industry. Wicklow County Council has been instrumental in the development of a brand new Enterprise Hub dedicated to supporting the screen sector at Wicklow County Campus in Rathnew. The Clermont Screen Hub has been part funded by Enterprise Ireland through the Regional Enterprise Development Fund and we were delighted to tell the audience all about this new venture which will open its door in the next couple of months. Once the Clermont Enterprise Hub is up and running, it will host many more of these type of events."

Jess Drum (Chief Executive of Screen Guilds of Ireland), Jessica Whelehan (Skills Development Liaison with Screen Guilds of Ireland), Vibeke Delahunt (Head of Enterprise at the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow), Noel Davidson from The Entrepreneurs Academy, Jade Travers (National Talent Academy Crew East Manager), and Eoin Naughton (Clermont Screen Hub Manager).



Jess Drum (Chief Executive of Screen Guilds of Ireland), Jessica Whelehan (Skills Development Liaison with Screen Guilds of Ireland), Vibeke Delahunt (Head of Enterprise at the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow), Noel Davidson from The Entrepreneurs Academy, Jade Travers (National Talent Academy Crew East Manager), and Eoin Naughton (Clermont Screen Hub Manager).

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## Network Ireland welcomes Ray Goggins as guest speaker

Network Ireland Wicklow branch welcomed Ray Goggins as a special guest speaker to the Bridge Tavern in Wicklow Town.



Christina Clerkin and Emma McKiernan at Network Ireland's 'Being Effective' event in the Bridge Tavern.

Ray Goggins is a retired Irish Army veteran who served for 26 years, with 17 years in the Army Ranger Wing as a special forces operator and leader. Having been deployed to conflict areas and war zones worldwide, he understands the qualities that make people effective in their lives. Ray is also an author and the Chief Instructor on RTE's Special Forces Ultimate Hell Week.

Not to mention he also runs his own training and leadership company, Coreskill (coreskilltraining.org). During the event, Ray spoke about the importance of teamwork, community, and having support in our lives. He shared invaluable insights on improving leadership skills and behaviours, resilience, and coping skills to stay positive and focused.

Ray's presentation was well-received, and attendees were motivated to take on challenges with renewed vigour. As



Ray Goggins pictured with the Network Ireland Wicklow Committee

always, the event also served as an opportunity for attendees to network and connect with like-minded professionals.

### International Women's Day Wicklow Celebration

On the 8th of March, Network Ireland Wicklow will celebrate International Women's Day in Tinakilly House Hotel, providing attendees with an opportunity to network and connect with like-minded professionals over a two-course lunch.

The event will feature a presentation by Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise of the Wicklow

LEO, on the range of business supports on offer for micro-enterprises and sole traders through the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow. In addition, there will be presentations on ChatGPT for business and a fashion show featuring the latest SS23 Collections from leading Irish and local boutiques.

The event promises to be an exciting and informative celebration of women in business and is open to all.

For more information and to register, visit the event page on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/network-ireland-wicklow-international-women-s-day-celebration-tickets-547159989257>.

low-international-women-s-day-celebration-tickets-547159989257.

### Become a Member of Network Ireland

If you would like to join a growing group of tenacious, dynamic, ambitious women in business who lead, support and collaborate, you can get in touch with our Membership Officers, Jean and Dawn at [wicklow@networkireland.ie](mailto:wicklow@networkireland.ie).

Network Ireland Membership comprises of a diverse group of women, from budding entrepreneurs, SME owners, professionals and

leaders in indigenous and multinational organisations to non-profits, charities, arts and the public sector. Membership costs E195 per year, per person, and membership covers 12 months from the date you join.

Network Ireland offers more than 24 events per annum, with the chance to meet 80 businesswomen in Co. Wicklow and over 1,000 members country-wide in the 14 Branches in Ireland.

For all event details, you can also follow Network Ireland Wicklow on your preferred network, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.



# Wicklow Student Enterprise Awards winners announced

Student enterprises across the County gathered at the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow on Thursday 2nd March for this year's Wicklow Student Enterprise Awards.



Kelly's Cookies from Arklow CBS was announced as the Intermediate Category Winner



Gonk Up Your Life from Arklow CBS won the award for Best Junior Display Stand

A total of 36 teams showcased their enterprises, which they developed over the course of the academic year as part of the Student Enterprise Programme. Students from 1st to 6th Year showed high levels of innovation, creativity and hard work as they displayed their enterprises to the judging panel.

Previous Student Enterprise Programme National Winner, Ciara Whooley, was a guest speaker at the award ceremony which was hosted by Noel Davidson, Director of Services Enterprise, HR and Corporate Services Lorraine Gallagher as well as Leas Cathaoirleach Aoife Flynn Kennedy were also in attendance.

In the Junior Category, The Crafty Pair from Avondale Community College were awarded 1st Place. Kelly's Cookies from Arklow CBS was announced as the Intermediate Category Winner. In the Senior Category, TR Technologies from Glenart College won 1st Place. The winning enterprises will advance to the next stage, where they will represent Wicklow at the National Student Enterprise Awards on May 5th in Croke Park.

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise at the



Ryan Timmons, Tom Byrne, and teacher Orla Keane from Glenart College, the Senior Winners at the Wicklow Student Enterprise Awards

Local Enterprise Office Wicklow says "We are delighted with this year's event, the standard was excellent and all of the students showcased their skills through their presentations and interviews, which will stand to them throughout their careers. We would like to wish TR Technologies, The Crafty Pair and Kelly's Cookie the very best of luck as they now represent Wicklow in the national final in May."

## Other awardees

**Best Junior Display Stand:** Gonk Up Your Life from Arklow CBS  
**Junior Special Commendation:** Jig Spell and Winter Wonders from Greystones Community College, Scented Snowmen from Coláiste Craobh Abhann, and The Hurl Girls from Avondale Community College

**Junior Runners Up:** Alpha Stands from Greystones Community College, The Sugar Shake from Coláiste Craobh Abhann  
**Most Innovative Project:** Artefact Colouring from Coláiste Craobh Abhann  
**Best Senior Display Stand:** H202GO from Arklow CBS  
**Best Presentation Award:** Texture Therapy from North Wicklow Educate Together  
**Sustainability Award:** Stamped from Dominican College

**Excellent Product/Service:** Wool La La Boutique from Coláiste Bhride Carnew.  
**Social Media Award:** Pelican Crafts from Loreto Bray  
**Intellectual Property Awareness Award:** The Brushinizer, Glenart College  
**Special Senior Commendation:** The Dress Circle, St. Kevin's Community College  
**Senior Runners Up:** The Mad Hatter, Coláiste Bhride Carnew and The Brushinizer, Glenart College

## The Student Enterprise Programme

For over 20 years, the Student Enterprise Programme strives to introduce secondary school students to the world of entrepreneurship through creating, marketing, and running their own businesses. Run by the network of Local Enterprise Offices and supported by Enterprise Ireland and local authorities, the programme has grown to become the largest enterprise programme for secondary students in the country.



The Crafty Pair from Avondale Community College were awarded 1st Place in the Junior category. They are pictured with Vibeke Delahunt, LEO Wicklow



The Best Presentation Award went to Texture Therapy from North Wicklow Educate Together



The award for Most Innovative Project went to Artefact Colouring from Coláiste Craobh Abhann. Also pictured are Vibeke Delahunt, LEO Wicklow, and Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Leas Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council



# Open call for artists to participate in 2023 one-to-one coaching

Wicklow County Council's Artist one-to-one Coaching Sessions are returning for 2023. Open to applications from Tuesday 28th February, the deadline to apply is Thursday 16th March at 4pm.

One-to-one coaching is a rich process based on deep listening and active reflection. It has the potential to support personal, professional and/or artistic practice development. It provides a safe and open environment in which artists can explore the scope of their experiences and aspirations, identify areas of growth, and establish goals.

The coach will support the artist to create informed and sustainable plans to realise strategies with confidence. Ideal for an artist at any career level, the one-to-one coaching initiative offers artists the opportunity to find direction, energy and creative resilience for change and growth.

A past participant stated that the Artist one-to-one Coaching Sessions helped "to clear away the fog to see where I am and how I might proceed from here." Another said that the coaching "taught me how to set boundaries with my time, recognise my worth as an artist and the work I create, and find a new voice within my work."

The panel of coaches this year sees the return of Katherine Zeserson, a strategic advisor, coach, facilitator, artist and educator; Susan Coughlan, independent facilitator, coach and arts consultant; Helen Meany, arts writ-

er, arts consultant and coach, and the addition of a new coach Paula Phelan, arts consultant and founder of Traverso Coaching and Training.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, said that he was happy to see the return of the Artist one-to-one Coaching Sessions adding: "This essential support focuses on building the confidence and capacity of artists and arts professionals in the county."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Brian Gleeson, said that he welcomed the coaching sessions return and that it enables artists find direction, energy and creative resilience further enhancing the quality of the artistic ecology of Wicklow.

To take part, applicants must submit an expression of interest through an online application process. If successful, they will receive three one-to-one coaching sessions between April-September to support their thinking, prioritisation and goal orientation for 2023. The coaching is free subsidised by Wicklow County Council and the Arts Council.

Closing date for applications is Thursday, 16th March at 4pm. Apply today by visiting [www.wicklowcoco.ie](http://www.wicklowcoco.ie).



Norman McGee (Baron Backstop) and Se Nolan (Sir Desmond Dashing) in Roundwood Variety Group's recent panto 'Jack & the Beanstalk' in the Brockagh Centre.

## Imagining Animals: an exhibition by Andrea Byrne

Signal Arts Centre, Monday 29nd May to Sunday 11th June 2023

The starting point for this series of drawings comes from the artist's interest in the complex and sometimes troubling relationships humans have with animals. Their docility, fearfulness or predatory nature have an effect on us in the wild or through contact as domestic pets.

Along with animals the artist has used graphite on paper to illustrate life models in a fictional location. As a distortion of the real figure drawing environment, things are cluttered with chaotic objects and beasts that the sitter looks out on. In staying still the model must detach themselves from their surroundings.

The artist's intention is to make the ink on paper work appear more decorative. The cat's bed displays the remains of its prey, like a collage. A microcosm of its life and a symbolic representation of the cat's nature. One that appears cruel and detached.

Andrea Byrne graduated from the National College of Art and Design in Dublin studying Fine Art. She returned to drawing a few years ago. Decorative arts have been one of the artist's many interests and ornamental work influences much of the body of her work. Over the years the artist's studies have included stone carving, textile print and glass work. She has explored drawing in different materials for the exhibition such as ink, pencil and charcoal which are flexible and perfect for quick expression.



Cat's bed by Andrea Byrne

## Swinging into Bray, 60s style

Want to ensure you are the Mama's favourite? How about booking Sunday lunch and a trip to the Mermaid Theatre one week before the official Mother's Day? And have her back in front of the fire in time for Dancing with the Stars.

On Sunday 12th March, at 3pm, the walls of the Mermaid Theatre Bray are guaranteed to reverberate with the sounds of hundreds of theatre goers singing along to the songs of the Swinging 60s.

Brought to Bray by the brilliant team behind the Great Singalong Songbook, who this year are celebrating 20 years of concerts and whose unique brand of shows, celebrating the lives of movie and musical icons, continuously sell out the National Concert Hall, the Civic Theatre and Cork's Everyman Theatre.

The Swinging 60s celebrates the story of that psychedelic era and features a veritable feast of chart-topping songs! Ya Baby! They even project the lyrics, so there is no excuse not to join in! The Sixties hit London like a tsunami and soon the beat was reverberating all around the world.

Even the US couldn't keep up.

And the music? Cilla Black, Dusty Springfield and Mary Hopkin were vying with Cliff Richard, Tom Jones and Engelbert Humperdinck for that coveted spot on Top of the Pops but they all took a back seat when the latest Beatles record hit the air waves.

Dust off the vocal cords, unearth those long-retired bell bottoms or knee high boots, because the 60s are swinging into Bray. Starring ex-RTE veteran Alf McCarthy, Linda Kenny, Damian Smith, Alan Carney (MD) and the Songbook band. Written and directed by Cathal MacCabe. Stage manager Yvonne Cronin.

The Swinging 60s, tickets €24 full price and €21 early bird from [www.mermaid-artscentre.ie](http://www.mermaid-artscentre.ie). March 12th at 3pm





# Helena Byrne Presents Scéal - An Evening of Story & Song

*Mermaid Arts Centre, Saturday 11th March 8pm, €16/€14*

Mermaid Arts Centre will welcome renowned Irish singer and storyteller Helena Byrne to the stage for an enchanting evening of stories and songs.



Helena Byrne

For the past ten years, Helena has combined her passion of music and singing with her love of Irish folklore, performing as a seanchaí (storyteller) and singer for audiences of all ages across Ireland and further afield. Akin to the travelling seanchaí of times past, Helena performs regularly across the Atlantic, and was honoured to perform for the Irish Ambassador to the U.S. Daniel Mulhall in Washington D.C.

Helena interweaves tales of Irish folklore and history, with traditional Irish songs and wonderful insights into an Ireland of days gone by. She has also released four studio albums, the fourth of

which was released on December 1st 2019.

Singer, storyteller, actress and songwriter; Helena Byrne grew up in Ballyhale, county Kilkenny, in the south east of Ireland, a village well known for its phenomenal hurling players. But from a young age, it quickly became evident that Helena was not drawn to the field, but to the stage.

With both parents coming from musical families, Helena grew up surrounded by music of all kinds, from Irish folk songs to blues, country and pop. Family gatherings would progress into sing-songs that often carried on til the wee hours of the night.

There was nowhere that Helena felt more at home than when singing and performing. This remains true to this day.

As a young singer/songwriter, Helena quickly established herself in Ireland as a unique talent, playing as a support act for James Taylor, Katie Melua and Bob Geldof at the Source Festival, Kilkenny and Glenstal Abbey Sanctuary Concert alongside renowned Irish singers Moya Brennan and Cara O'Sullivan. She was a third place winner in the 2fm Young Songwriter's Contest, Vicar's Street, Dublin and performed as a 'Lady of the Castle' for Knappogue Castle Medieval Banquets. She performed as a session vocalist for both Rónán and Colm Ó Snodaigh,

founding members of Irish group, Kila and is fortunate to have worked with them on three of her studio albums.

"If you don't get goosebumps when you hear her beautiful voice then you

may need to consult a medical professional because chances are, you're dead inside," said Travel Ireland Magazine.

"She is a gifted storyteller, performer & singer, bringing to life Irish folklore & culture interwoven

with Traditional Irish songs. The audiences at the embassy, young & old alike, were very impressed with Ms. Byrne's performances & storytelling," said Daniel Mulhall, Ambassador of Ireland to the USA.

## Wicklow kids encouraged to follow local child's success in national fossil art contest

Dino-digging kids from across Wicklow are being encouraged to follow in the footsteps of 8-year-old Lyra Pickering in entering Ireland's National Fossil Art Contest - with a grand prize of a fossil-hunting trip with real palaeontologists up for grabs.

Lyra Pickering, from Wicklow Town, was among last year's awarded artists, winning a prize in the Under 8 age category in the annual competition, and was among a total of 22 children to win a prize in 2022.

The contest, run by the Ireland's Fossil Heritage programme at University College Cork, is open to children from 4 - 18 years old. The theme of the contest is 'Irish fossils ALIVE', and the winning entries in each age category will be exhibited in UCC's Glucksman Gallery in June 2023.

Proud parent Mark Pickering said: "Lyra

loved putting together her painting for the competition and thinking of interesting ways to show fossils, but the most exciting part was getting to see her art in real gallery."

Program manager Professor Maria McNamara, Professor of Palaeontology at UCC, said "Fossils make science accessible to people from all walks of life. We want to celebrate our curiosity in the natural world in a creative way through art."

Prizes include fossil-branded T-shirts, fossil kits and behind-the-scenes tours of

the UCC fossil labs. The grand prize includes an overnight trip to Hook Head, Co. Wexford for the overall winner plus a parent or guardian, with B&B accommodation and meals included. Nicole Kerber, mother of last year's overall winner Braden McDonnell, said the fossil fieldtrip was 'mind-blowing' making memories to last a lifetime'.

For more information see <https://www.ucc.ie/en/fossil-heritage/fossilart/>.

Entries must be submitted as digital photographs by 5pm Friday 31st of March.

## Karan Casey at Mermaid Arts Centre

**Friday 24th March 8pm. €21/€19. Duration: 1 hours 45 mins approx.**



Karan Casey

**Singing songs charged with a sense of social responsibility in a career spanning over 25 years, Karan Casey has released 11 albums as well as contributing to numerous other artists' projects.**

She has toured extensively throughout the world, performing with her own band as well as diverse collaborations. Founding member of FairPlay her Hieroglyphs That Tell the Tale album was released by Vertical Records in 2018. Her song iDown in the Glen was nominated for Best Original Folk Song at the RTE Folk Awards and she completed a PhD in 2019. Her new album Nine Apples of Gold will be released February 2023

"Karan Casey's latest album is revelatory. She's always been a singer of songs that tell a story and show their muscle...This is a strikingly three-dimensional work that stands the test of intensive and repeated listening with ease. A vivid and dazzling snapshot of Casey invincible, at the height of her powers," said Siobhan Long, Irish Times.

## PLANNING PLANNING PLANNING

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning permission for retention of a takeaway / hot food facility with exterior signage is sought by Mr Jing Wang for the ground floor of the Green Tree Takeaway, Herbert Road, Bray, County Wicklow, A98 H954. 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

Clodagh Ryan and Damien Clarke intend to apply for full planning permission for a porch extension to the front of their property at 16 St Peters Road, Bray, County Wicklow, A96EY99. The proposal will incorporate an entrance lobby and WC, with storage accommodation over the WC. Permission is also sought for off street parking for two cars, with electrical charge points and for a dished kerb to facilitate the parking. The planning application may be inspected or purchased, at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may also be viewed online at [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie), under planning online enquiries. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**Significant Information/Revised Plans**  
I hereby give notice of the submission of significant further information to Wicklow County Council in relation to planning application ref no: 22/924 for Claire Driver who is applying for permission at Naomh Antoin, Holybrook, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Significant further information/ revised plans have been furnished to the planning authority in respect of the proposed development and are available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the further information or revised plans may be made in writing to the planning authority within the period of 2 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the revised notices. A submission or observation must be accompanied by the prescribed fee except in the case of a person or body who has already made a submission or observation.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### EVENT LICENSE APPLICATION WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**CUPOLA EVENTS LTD.** of 6-9 Trinity St, Dublin 2 give notice of intent to apply to Wicklow County Council within the next two week period for a license to hold an outdoor music event in accordance with part XVI of the Planning Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Beyond The Pale will comprise of live music, comedy, arts & wellness entertainment (for both adults and children) with associated camping to be held at Glendalough Estate, Co. Wicklow on Friday 16th June, Saturday 17th June and Sunday 18th June 2023 with entertainment from 4.00pm on Friday June 16th to 12.00 midnight on Sunday June 18th. Associated parking and campsites will be available from 12.00pm on Friday June 16th until 3.00pm on Monday June 19th.

The event will have a maximum attendance of 10,000 persons plus 1000 staff and artistes with camping for a maximum of 10,000 persons

The license application may be inspected at the offices of Wicklow County Council during office hours for a 5 week period from the date of receipt of the application. Submissions or observations may be made to Wicklow County Council within a 3 week period from the date of the receipt of the application

Signed: Cupola Events LTD. Date: 10th March 2023

## ATTENTION

### Architects, Planners & Builders

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Amey and Joan Bermingham at the Wicklow Hospice 10k Half Marathon in Avondale Forest Park.

# Newtown fly the flag for Wicklow at Comórtas Peile Páidí Ó Sé

Newtown ladies lined out in the junior ladies' cup and while they didn't win, they got two competitive matches and a weekend of bonding at the Lidl Comórtas Peile Páidí Ó Sé 2023 which took place all across the Dingle Peninsula on February 25th and 26th.

The Wicklow ladies were up against it as they faced two strong Kerry teams in the one day. Firstly, it was Dingle Ladies in a knockout semi-final which they lost on a scoreline of 5-10 to 1-3. It was a quick turn-

around then before they faced Annascaul / Castlegregory, another strong West Kerry side to see who would win the junior ladies shield final. Tired legs got the better of them though as they lost by 4-4 to 1-1.

Comórtas chairman Pádraig Ó Sé commented, "Thanks to Newtownmountkenedy for joining us and keeping a link the tournament has with the Wicklow. This is a massive showcase for West Kerry and we are happy to

say the power and draw of this tournament for those interested in Gaelic games is still massive. I'd like to also extend a thanks to all the referees, volunteers and of course our partners for helping to run the football festival each year."



The Newtownmountkenedy ladies team

## Nature enthusiasts urged to apply for grants

Applications are being invited for the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government's grant scheme to ensure Ireland's natural history is captured and recorded.

The scheme, managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, aims to help established naturalists recording in Ireland to maintain and enhance their expertise in species identification, and to develop the next generation of natural history recorders. Applications under the scheme for 2023 are now being sought.

Grants are available for volunteer, unpaid recorders, or groups, societies and associations of recorders who have limited or no access to financial supports for their work. This is the fifth year of the grant scheme and it has supported over 70 projects to date.

In 2022, a record number of grants received funding offers and these included Bee identification courses in County Wicklow.

The data generated by these recording exercises is utilised by the NPWS to inform its understanding of the distribution and ecology of many species and to assess their status. In turn, it informs advice on nature conservation objectives and practical measures to protect species and habitats.

This scheme also supports the work of the

NPWS in recording many aspects of individual species and provides great value to our Department in establishing useful data to support conservation. Applications should be submitted by 5pm on 31st March 2023. The form and further details can be found at [npws.ie/news/npws-grants](https://npws.ie/news/npws-grants)

small-recording-projects-2023. Application forms will ONLY be accepted by email submission to [biodiversitypolicy@housing.gov.ie](mailto:biodiversitypolicy@housing.gov.ie).



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

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REF: 20/2023

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

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON on THURSDAY 23RD MARCH, 2023 SHARP**

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

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\*Okay, maybe there's a little hustle, but nothing you can't handle



# Daata Tandoori scoop Silver at award ceremony

Daata Tandoori took home Silver at the annual Just East Awards, in the Best Indian Award category.

The awards, which celebrate and recognise Ireland's favourite restaurants and takeaways, were hosted by TV presenter and podcaster, Muireann O'Connell at Dublin's iconic Mansion House.

A total of 150 restaurants were nominated under 16 categories, with shortlisted representatives from all over the country

in attendance at the glamorous black-tie event.

Over 35,000 votes were cast for local and independent takeaways across Ireland in recent weeks. The ceremony saw a delectable array of restaurants commended for their hard work and dedication to delivering the highest standard of service and delicious food.

Taking home SILVER in the Best Indian award category was Daata Tandoori, Bray and Greystones. Daata have been dishing up truly authentic Pakistani food, well known Indian cuisine classics, and some uniquely Daata dishes to customers since 1999. Since then, they have expanded to locations in Glashule and Greystones where they have continued to serve delicious dishes made fresh to order.

## 'New legislation will see credit unions grow as a key provider of community banking'

New legislation will help credit unions grow as a key provider of community banking in Wicklow, Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris said.

Minister Harris said the legislation, currently before the Dail, will enable a wider availability of products across credit unions and enable members to access the widest possible range of financial services through their local branch.

Minister Harris: "Our local credit unions and the role they play in both the Wicklow and national economy and our local communities is more important now than ever before. A strong and collaborative credit union movement can take advantage of the opportunity afforded by banks withdrawing from Ireland and from branch closures in Wicklow. This legislation will

enable greater collaboration through the ability to establish corporate credit unions, these are credit unions whose members consist of other credit unions. It will enable wider availability of products across the movement through changes to the common bond. It will give credit union boards a greater focus on strategic issues, through practical governance changes.

"The Bill will see member services improved by providing flexibility to the common bond in four aspects - to allow for referral of members to other credit unions to provide a service not provided by the referring

credit union; to allow for loan participation; to allow for more businesses to be members; and to allow credit unions to lend to certain public sector entities designated by the Minister."



Jacinta Breen and Liz Hipple at the recent coffee morning in aid of Purple House Cancer Support in McCabe's Pharmacy.

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