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**ARKLOW AWARDS**  
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Tuesday 4th April 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# SMOKE FIRES KILLING 47 IN WICKLOW

Forty seven lives a year could be saved in County Wicklow if authorities adopt international guidelines on air pollution, a new report claims. The major cross-border assessment reveals that around 2,600 premature deaths can be attributed to air pollution - 1,700 in the Republic and 900 in Northern Ireland - annually.

In Wicklow, the data shows that 47 premature deaths a year are linked to dirty air - with 18 people in the county dying from heart disease as a result of air pollution. The study, Air Pollution and Mortality on the Island of Ireland, launched by Environment Minister Eamon Ryan on Thursday March 30th, was commissioned by the Irish Heart Foundation and British

Heart Foundation Northern Ireland and compiled by experts from Queen's University Belfast and Technological University Dublin. The World Health Organisation recommends air quality guideline levels for harmful particulate matter, largely caused by the burning of solid fuels, of 5 micrograms per cubic metre - but the level in Wicklow is 7.2 micrograms.

"We know that across the island of Ireland, poor air quality is continuing to have a detrimental impact on public health," said Irish Heart Foundation CEO and Bray resident, Doctor Tim Collins. "This report estimates that there could be almost 1,000 fewer premature deaths per year attributable to air pollution on the island of Ireland if we are to achieve fine particulate



Robyn Harvey, Hayley Thornton and Amy Doyle at the launch of the 'The Past is My Place' exhibition by students from Colaiste Chill Mhantain in Wicklow Library. See page 3 for more details.

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matter pollution levels in line with the updated 2021 WHO guideline level.

"The findings within this report (funded by a grant from The Community Foundation For Ireland), make for stark reading and serve to shed some light on the size of the problem of air pollution.

"We hope that decision makers on the island will utilise it to move forward with bold action on air pollution to protect our health."

He called for an all-island strategy to make the WHO guidelines enforceable on both sides of the Border - and help for households experiencing fuel poverty to lessen their reliance on solid fuels to heat their homes.

"Air pollution does not respect borders, therefore, to truly improve our air quality,

governments must work together with co-ordinated policy interventions and legislation to protect our health, including to completely phase out the most health-harming solid fuels and transition to cleaner, more sustainable forms of home heating," he said.

Particulate matter or PM2.5 can damage blood vessels, causing them to become narrower and harder, and can also cause abnormal heart rhythms and increase blood pressure, increasing the risk of heart attacks and stroke.

The report found the biggest risk to life from air pollution is heart disease, with 680 heart deaths in the Republic and 300 in Northern Ireland linked to the inhalation of PM2.5.

Green Party TD for Wicklow Deputy Steven Matthews welcomed the

report saying it set out in stark terms the impact of solid and fossil fuel

heating and transport on air quality.

"We have known for

a long time that poor air quality caused by

*Continued on page 3*



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Patrice Brady Carton with Danny, Theo and Max Carton at the East Wicklow Branch of MS Ireland's AGM, awards presentation and afternoon tea event in the Parkview Hotel in Newtownmountkenedy. See Page 4 for more.

## Wicklow Lions Club activities

After a winter of very successful Quiz Nights organised by Wicklow & District Lions Club to raise vital funds for 17 local charities the members continue their voluntary work over the coming summer months.

Besides supporting people in need on a local basis the club also supports the displaced people of Ukraine and more recently the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Over the next few months the club will be organising 3 major fundraising projects.

The first on May 6th will be Darkness Into Light in Wicklow Town. The organising committee consists of Lions members who support Pieta which provides free, therapeutic approach to people who are in suicidal distress, engage in self-harm, or bereaved by suicide.

On June 9th the annual Lions Golf Classic will take place at Blainroe Golf Club. This is an extremely important fundraising event for the club and it depends on the support of all golfers and local business's. The third major fundraiser and the first of its type for the local club will be a Gala Ball for Move4Parkinsons. It will be held in the beautiful Druid's Glen Hotel and Golf Resort on June 17th. More details on this exciting event will be announced very soon.

## BirdWatch Ireland events

**Tuesday 11th April:** Indoor Talk - Garden Ponds: a haven for Biodiversity by Aoife O'Rourke, Ashford Heritage Centre, 7.30pm.

**Saturday 22nd April:** Outing to Kilcoole with Jason Monaghan from the NPWS to look for breeding waders and to hear about recent conservation work. Meet in Kilcoole Train Station carpark at 10.30am.

**Tuesday 9th May:** Indoor Talk: Bats in Wicklow by Enda Mullen, Ashford Heritage Centre, 7.30pm.

## SCFE Flower Show

An exhibition of wedding flower designs by the professional floristry students from Sallanoggin College of Further Education (SCFE) will be held on Wednesday 19th April from 5pm to 7pm. Refreshments will be provided and all are welcome to attend.

## 65 Roses Day

Wicklow people are being urged to support Cystic Fibrosis Ireland's annual fundraising day 65 Roses Day taking place on Friday, 14th April. 65 Roses Day derives its name from the way in which young children often first say the words "cystic fibrosis" and seeks to raise much-needed funds for cystic fibrosis services and supports for people with cystic fibrosis in Ireland.

Volunteers will be out in force selling purple roses in Co Wicklow and across the country, in Dunnes Stores or other participating outlets.

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is an inherited chronic disease that primarily affects the lungs and the digestive system. Ireland has the highest incidence of CF in the world and some of the most severe types. There are more than 1,400 people living with CF in Ireland and the number is increasing each year as a result of improvements in treatment and care.

People can donate to the 'Breathe Easy' 65 Roses Day fundraiser on Just Giving at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BreatheEasySoc](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BreatheEasySoc) ng.

## Bereavement support

On Tuesday 11th April, Anam Cara bereavement support group will hold their South East meeting in The Brandon House Hotel, in New Ross at 7.15pm. All bereaved parents are welcome, regardless of the age of the child or circumstances of death. Any bereaved parent in the South East area and surrounds are welcome to attend. For further information, Anam Cara can be contacted on 085 2888888 or by email [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)

## Council issues notice to dog owners

Dog wardens will be calling to the owners of unlicensed dogs.

Please ensure that your dog is licensed before they call. Failure to produce a current Dog License may result in the issue of a €100 on the spot fine. Dog licenses may be purchased at Greystones Post Office or [www.licences.ie](http://www.licences.ie)

Responsible dog ownership: Dogs must be kept under effective control at all times; Dogs must be microchipped and registered; They must wear a collar engraved with owner's name and address; Always poop-scoop after your dog to keep our footpaths, parks and beaches clean; Spay or neuter your dog to prevent unwanted puppies.

# Wicklow RNLI undergo intensive casualty care training

Getting their lifeboat to a casualty and getting them home is the basis of what Lifeboat volunteers do, but when they have an ill or injured person to care for what kind of training do they have for that?

A group of eleven Wicklow RNLI volunteer crew took on the challenge of learning the skills, procedures and techniques required to pass the RNLI's rigorous Casualty Care training course. They gave up approximately 30 hours of their time over the course of two weeks to enable them to successfully complete the training.

Wicklow RNLI were delighted to welcome Stephen O'Flaherty RNLI Casualty Care Trainer to the station to conduct the training.

"The course is designed to enable our crew to provide correct and effective care to a casualty until such time as they can be handed over to the expert care of paramedics or doctors," said Wicklow RNLI.

"Sometimes the care given takes place in hostile and unrelenting conditions adding an extra layer of complexity to the training required by our volunteers. The training revolves around hands on practical applications rather than concentrating on complex theory. The RNLI employ the use of check cards to assist its volunteers in carrying out the proper care. This allows the crew to concentrate on the practical application of Casualty Care without having to try and remember complex procedures in the middle of a difficult rescue.

"During the training each crewmember must pass practical and written assessments to demonstrate their own individual skills. The final part of the assessments



Keeping clear for the defibrillator

involves the crew members working in pods together to assess and treat a casualty in a practical scenario.

"The Casualty care course goes beyond basic first aid and gives our crew the confidence to know that when the time comes, they are well prepared to deal with whatever illness or injury comes their way."

Wicklow RNLI Lifeboat Operations Manager Mary Aldridge said "I would like to thank Stephen for the training he provided and to the crew who gave up their valuable time. Training like this is what allows us to Save Lives at Sea."

# 'Greystones needs an artistic hub'

A group of well-known artists has proposed a multifunctional space in Greystones for artistic expression such as workshops, education, an exhibition and gallery facility, creative programming and engagement with the community.

Supporting the proposal, Cllr Derek Mitchell said, "There are many interested in creative arts and it needs to be fostered in the rapidly growing community. This space would provide a valuable resource for artists and the general public for many arts and crafts disciplines. I would like to see this happen and I think it would fit in well on the hotel site.

"It could potentially provide a working space that directly develops a cultural tradition and fits in with the hotel."

Greystones Councillors supported this motion and asked the management to try to include this in proposals for the hotel site.

# Applications open for Community Safety Innovation Fund

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris has recently announced that new applications can now be made for the Community Safety Innovation Fund. The Fund established in April 2021, uses money seized by An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau as the proceeds of crime to fund new and innovative projects to support community safety and honour the Government's commitment to building stronger, safer communities.

Speaking after the announcement, Minister Harris said, "I am delighted to open applications for the 2023 Community Safety Innovation Fund. Last year, the Government funded 22 new projects, and this year will fund even more projects, as the Community Safety Innovation Fund has been increased to €3 million. The Fund highlights the successes of An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau, with their hard work and success going towards building stronger, safer communities. The Fund is open to bodies involved in community safety and will work towards supporting local needs and opportunities for innovation not provided for in other funds. I want to encourage all of Wicklow's eligible bodies to apply for the fund, as it will provide grants ranging from €20,000, all the way up to €150,000. The deadline for applications is at 5pm on the 19th of May this year. I hope to see many applications coming in from all across Wicklow and look forward to seeing the innovative and exciting opportunities that this Fund provides for."

Completed Application Forms are to be returned by 5pm on 19th May 2023 to [CommunitySafetyInnovationFund@justice.ie](mailto:CommunitySafetyInnovationFund@justice.ie).

## Cllr. Stephen Stokes

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# School build delays raised in The Dail

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called on the Minister for Education to provided certainty for school building programmes in Wicklow. She raised the issues of delays in delivery of schools with the Minister for Education last week in the Dail.

Speaking last Thursday Deputy Whitmore said: "Greystones Community College, North Wicklow Educate Together, Blessington Community College, Gaelcholaiste na Mara, Arklow, Blessington Educate Together National School, Wicklow Town Educate Together National School. These are all schools in my constituency of Wicklow that have had either their permanent builds delayed or their temporary accommodation delayed with no information as to when those projects will resume.

"This disruption to school building has devastating effects on a school community. It leaves principals and boards of management

unable to plan for intake. It leaves teachers unsure of which parts of the curriculum they will be able to teach depending on what facilities they have available to them. And worst of all it leaves students without school halls, Sports Grounds, Science Labs, Libraries, Home Ec rooms, Music Rooms, canteens and classrooms. The people who suffer the most from this decision are the kids.

"Earlier today I heard government TDs, in a debate about housing, say that cost is not an issue when it comes to tackling the housing crisis. I believe that cost should never be allowed to become a factor when it comes to delivery of kids education. The cost to them, to their education,



Jennifer Whitmore TD

Speaking after their meeting, Minister Harris said, "Greystones Community College has been an incredible addition to our community, and I am absolutely determined that the new building project that has been promised for the school is delivered as a priority. This week I discussed this matter with the Minister for Education and other Government colleagues to ensure that Greystones Community College does not get left behind.

"This morning's meeting with Principal Farrell was very useful to gain an update from his perspective, and I intend to vigorously pursue this issue and make sure we receive concrete timelines as to when progress will be made. The staff along with the current and future students of Greystones Community College deserve no less.

"In recent years, we have seen a very significant amount of investment and progress in Greystones school buildings, and indeed across County Wicklow. Greystones, my own hometown, has gone from being a town with only one secondary school to now having three. We have seen expansions in Temple Carrig, refurbishments and an expansion in St. David's, and now the final piece in the jigsaw is that we see Greystones Community College receive its permanent home and a state-of-the-art building. I will endeavour to continue to keep the residents of Greystones updated on this matter and will keep working to ensure that this vital facility is delivered for the Greystones community," Minister Harris concluded.

to their development, to their ability to thrive, is far too high a price to pay.

"I have been working with principals and schools around Wicklow for years now who are trying to get their schools up and running. They are trying to teach children in insufficient accommodation, manage growing intakes every year and keep their school communities going. They should be able to plan in the knowledge that the Department will deliver what they have promised.

"The stall to the development of so many schools has pulled the rug out from under communities across Wicklow. I called on the Minister to do everything in her power today to get these plans back on track. I will continue to do so for as long as is needed. Wicklow students deserve better than this from government."

Last Friday Minister Simon Harris met with Principal Ruairi Farrell of Greystones Community College and reassured Greystones Community College of his total and full support for the school's building project.



Minister Simon Harris with Greystones Community College Principal Ruairi Farrell



Bogdan and Laura Cuca at the launch of the 'The Past in My Place' exhibition in Wicklow Library. 'The Past in My Place' is a collaborative exhibition by Wicklow County Council Library Local Studies and local secondary school Colaiste Chill Mhantain. The exhibition features the works of 2nd year students which were completed as part of their History Class Based Assessment (CBA) and aims to showcase the rich history of the county and highlight the diverse heritage of the students. It features over 40 displays from around the Wicklow district and from as far afield as the Republic of Moldova, Lithuania and South Africa. The exhibition was launched in the Exhibition Space at Wicklow Library and will be available to view until the 17th April.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Wicklow County Council Joint Policing committee will hold a public meeting on  
**Wednesday 26th April 2023**  
**At The Bay Suite, Arklow Bay Hotel, Sea Road, Ferrybank, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Y14 DX02**  
**Commencing 7.00 p.m.**

The purpose of the JPC is to provide a forum where the local authority and the senior Garda officers, responsible for the policing of that area, can consult and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area and in particular to keep under review the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour occurring and the factors underlying and contributing to it.

Membership of the committee consists of the Chief Superintendent, Senior Members of the Gardaí, Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Elected Members and representatives from the voluntary and community sector.

The focus of the public meeting will be on policing, rather than individuals and obtaining the co-operation of the public in preventing crime. The local community will have the opportunity to make their views known and ask questions and all are welcome to attend.

To increase the productivity of the meeting and encourage greater participation written questions may be submitted prior to the meeting to [hpurcell@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:hpurcell@wicklowcoco.ie) or in writing to the undersigned.

Questioners should give their name and contact details, which will not be publicised. While every effort will be made to provide the information requested in certain circumstances it may not be possible for legal reasons or because it would not be in the public interest to do so.

Helen Purcell,  
Senior Executive Officer,  
Wicklow County Council,  
County Buildings, Wicklow.

30th March 2023.

## SMOKE FIRES KILLING 47 IN WICKLOW

Continued from page 1

burning solid fuels has a negative impact but to hear it set out like this measured in deaths of our family members, friends and neighbours in Wicklow really drives it home. 47 premature deaths in the county linked to dirty air is devastating and unacceptable.

"As this report measures levels in 2019 I'm hopeful that the introduction of new solid fuel regulations last year will impact the quality of air and that this will be reflected in future reports. The Green Party in government managed to extend the ban on smoky coal to a nation-

wide ban and banned the retail selling of turf (while retaining turbarry rights). For anybody interested in changing the way we heat our homes the SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) is a fantastic resource for information and support and they have established several 'energy communities' in County Wicklow. I'd also like to see a ramping of up the retrofitting scheme for local authority housing in Wicklow. These schemes have a positive impact on air quality while reducing energy bills for tenants.

Environment, Climate and

Communications Minister, Eamon Ryan, welcomed the 'valuable report', which he said shines a spotlight on the impact of residential heating and transport on air quality. The report also reaffirms what I and this Government have always acknowledged is that there are no safe levels of air pollution, and taking into account all its negative effects, the onus is on us to move towards the new WHO guidelines," he said.

The new figures are based on mortality data gathered in 2019 - the last year research of this type was carried out unaffected by Covid-19.



# Awards handed out at MS Ireland's East Wicklow branch AGM

East Wicklow Branch of MS Ireland committee hosted a beautiful Spring Afternoon Tea for all branch members followed by their AGM on Sunday 26th March in The Parkview Hotel Newtown Mount Kennedy. At the event they also had the Branch Awards Presentation with Branch Person of the Year going to Patrice Brady Carton and Branch Carer of the Year going to Michael Leonard.



Tara Donnelly presents Mick Leonard with the Carer of the Year Award.

Patrice Brady Carton did more work last year for the East Wicklow Branch and people with MS in Wicklow than just about anyone. Not only was she branch committee secretary but she brought to the East Wicklow branch the most innovative and successful fundraising initiative that it has ever had. At a time when flag days and supermarket collections were for obvious reasons not possible, she came up with Seeds of Hope, lovely packets of wild-flower seeds with a positive and hopeful message that could be sold online when everything was closed and also sold in shops and stores when they re-opened. To date, her Seeds of Hope initiative has raised no less than €345 for the East Wicklow Branch.

Meanwhile, Michael Leonard was fully deserving of the Branch Carer of the Year Award.

Michael cares for his wife Andrea who lives with MS. He is a very kind hearted person who takes on the duties of the role of carer among many other things. He also helps other east Wicklow branch members living with MS and does so without a second thought.



Jean Woolmington (right) presents Patrice Brady Carton with the MS Ireland East Wicklow Branch Person of the Year Award

## Wicklow supported training provider leading the way in creating opportunities for autistic people

Specialist education body National Learning Network has supported almost 800 people with autism and Asperger's into employment or further education in the last five years.

National Learning Network (NLN) is the education and training division of the Rehab Group. NLN provides inclusive education and training opportunities with specialist supports to promote student success in personal, vocational, and occupational goals.

To coincide with World Autism Awareness month, NLN colleges nationwide, including NLN Bray and NLN Arklow, are hosting a National Open Day on Wednesday April 5th at 11am focussing on

autism support. People can visit NLN locations in every county to see the various learning options with pathways to further education, higher education, and jobs.

In recent years, significant progress has been made in increasing awareness and acceptance of autism. However, autistic people still face discrimination and barriers to access and participation in all aspects of society, including education and work in Ireland. NLN has a large autistic community,

with almost 40% of the student population identifying as autistic.

Lucianne Bird, Director of Learning at NLN, says: "Autistic advocates such as AsIAM, Ireland's National Autism Charity have worked tirelessly to bring the lived experience of autistic people to wider society. It is our responsibility, to play a role in Irish society as Autism allies and shows leadership, to move beyond autism awareness to autism acceptance.

"NLN training centres

adopt a neurodiversity affirmative approach in working with all students. Put simply this means we respect that students vary in how their brains take in, process, and respond to information. It's just what makes each of us unique ñ staff and students. And the difference between people in

how we learn is natural. There is no one better way to learn or no correct way to be, all neuro-types are equally valued," explained Ms Bird.

"Autistic individuals have a wide range of abilities and needs, and NLN staff are skilled at providing the specific support required; of

course, the type and level of support varies from person to person. In NLN, we often meet autistic people who have been masking personal traits in order to fit in with people around them. This can be exhausting and negatively impact on mental health and wellbeing. In all our training centres,

we welcome and support people to be their true and authentic selves without pressure to conform to traditional social norms," added Ms Bird.

"Autistic students are not just following their own paths. They are headed to different destinations, and NLN staff work in a student-centred way to help autistic students reach their chosen destinations. We also work with important stakeholders in the community, such as employers, to promote an understanding of neu-

rodiversity in the workplace."

If you or a member of your family is autistic and looking for an autism-friendly route to pursue your career goals, drop into your nearest National Learning Network centre on April 5th at 11 am, meet the staff and find out how NLN supports autistic students to gain qualifications, progress to further education, get jobs and pursue careers.

Go to [www.nln.ie](http://www.nln.ie) to find your nearest centre.



Senior Cycle and Junior Cycle Students from New Court school present a cheque of €1000 to Bray Rotary Club to support the Shelter Box Campaign The students ran a bake sale and weekly cafe in school to raise money for those affected by the earthquake in Turkey & Syria.

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\*In contentious business, a solicitor may not calculate fees or other charges as a percentage or proportion of any award or settlement



# St. Nicholas Montessori College open new campus in Dun Laoghaire

**M**EP Barry Andrews officially opened the new campus of St. Nicholas Montessori College (SNMCI) in Cumberland Street, Dun Laoghaire. The new campus building represents an important step in the development of SNMCI as it moves into a second half century of education provision to students in Ireland. From today, students will be able to access much improved facilities, a new student lounge, the Síghe Fitzgerald library, double the number of classrooms and dedicated Psychology laboratories.

Barry Andrews MEP, former Minister of State for Children and a former secondary school teacher, said, "This new facility will help address the serious shortfall in graduates of Early Years and Montessori Education and in Psychology. As a former TD who represented Dun Laoghaire, I am very glad to see the expansion of Higher Education opportunities in this area, and particularly at SNMCI which is well regarded for its exceptional support of all learners."

Situated just 5 minutes' walk from the Monkstown/Salthill DART station, the new campus provides sufficient space for the

College's existing programmes in Early Years and Montessori Education and its B.A. in Psychology which was recently accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland.

Dr. Nicholas Breakwell, CEO, said, "This new dedicated space provides much improved teaching and learning space for both students and faculty and will allow for our ambitious growth plans which include the launch of new programmes such as the forthcoming B.A. in Health and Wellbeing."

Barry Andrews also officially opened the new College library, named in honour of the Society's founder, Síghe Fitzgerald. Mrs. Fitzgerald began the first Montessori training programmes in Ireland in 1970. Paula Glasgow, former Director of the College and current Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, said, "It is such a pleasure to recognise the work, dedication and commitment of Síghe Fitzgerald in this way."

SNMCI is a QQI accredited Higher Education Institution offering degrees at Level 7 and 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications in both full time on campus and flexible blended learning modes. The College is a part of the wider society, a not-for-profit charity which also is the patron of three Montessori schools in Dublin. The College is an approved institution for the purposes of SUSI grant funding and its courses are listed on the CAO. Each of the College's programmes is recognised by the relevant professional body which results in 100% employment rates. The College is currently accepting applications for programmes beginning in September and for bridging programmes, starting in April, which lead to advanced entry to early years degrees in September.




Pictured are Dr. Nicholas Breakwell, CEO and Barry Andrews MEP at the opening of the new Dun Laoghaire premises.



Pictured are the staff of the new Dun Laoghaire College.




Pictured are Barry Andrews MEP, Síghe Fitzgerald, Founder and Paula Glasgow, opening the new library.



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## €4.5m funding package to repair Wicklow's built heritage

Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD, last week announced that 95 heritage projects across the country will benefit from a total of €4.5m under this year's Historic Structures Fund (HSF), with €44,956 being awarded to two projects in Wicklow.

In addition to supporting owners and custodians of historic and protected structures to safeguard and maintain their properties, this funding will also provide a welcome boost to local construction and heritage trades by facilitating works with a total value of over €8m and generating more employment (an estimated 11,250 days of labour), including for specialist heritage roles such as thatching and stone work.

The HSF is one of two built heritage funding schemes which work in partnership with owners and the 31 local authorities to protect our built heritage. A key aim of Heritage Ireland 2030, the new national heritage plan launched by the Minister last year.

Last week's announcement follows the awarding earlier this month of €4.5m in funding under the Department's other built heritage grant scheme – the Built Heritage Investment Scheme.

By providing grants of between €15,000 and €200,000, the HSF assists owners of heritage structures – including those on

the local authorities' Record of Protected Structures and those in Architectural Conservation Areas – to meet their obligations to care for their properties.

The scheme provides assistance to a wide range of heritage structures, including castles, churches, mills, bridges, shopfronts, and thatch structures, as well as to private houses. This year's HSF includes awards to:

- The Old Crusher House, Rathdrum: funding of €35,000 for conservation of heritage masonry comprising remedial works with consolidation by skilled masons.

- Gardeners Cottage, Ashford: funding of €9,956 for lime rendering and plastering patches of the cottage to ensure appropriate breathability.

In cooperation with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, a grant has also been offered under the Irish-language shopfront stream. Nine larger projects awarded funding over two years under HSF 2022 will also be funded this year.

Announcing the awards, Minister Noonan said: "I am delighted to announce another €4.5m investment in our built heritage. This year's Historic Structures Fund will assist 95 owners and custodians of historic and protected structures across the country as they carry out hundreds of conservation projects to repair and safeguard our built heritage. I am particularly pleased to announce the increased number of awards made to vernacular structures.

"Through this investment, this Government continues to celebrate the value and diversity of our built heritage, while also supporting traditional building skills. These actions also continue to help us deliver on our commitments to built heritage under Heritage Ireland 2030, the national heritage plan which I launched last year."

Commenting on the announcement, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, said: "It is great to see the increased number and range of projects which

will be supported by this investment of €4.5m under the Historic Structures Fund. Along with the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, this Government is continuing its commitment to safeguard our rich built heritage, keeping many buildings in use and helping to bring many others back into use.

"The funded works will also have an economic benefit by generating employment for heritage contractors and other skilled crafts and tradespeople across the country."

Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Kieran O'Donnell TD, also welcomed the announcement, stating: "Thanks to the close working relationship between the Department and the Local Authorities, particularly the Architectural Conservation Officers, Heritage Officers and planning and administrative staff, schemes such as the Historic Structures Fund continue to be successful in the repair and renewal of our shared built heritage."



Natasza Berlowska and Alex Hyland at Wicklow Educate Together National School's food festival.

## Action on vacant and derelict Wicklow properties

Green TD for Wicklow Steven Matthews has helped launch a report on derelict and vacant properties, the actions of which would return hundreds of properties in Wicklow back to housing stock.

The report by the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland, which was launched in Leinster House outlines a series of recommendations on this regarding the need to amend existing Government 'Croí Cónaithe' grant supports

to bring as many vacant or derelict properties as possible back into residential use.

This follows a series of meetings on this issue in the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, chaired by Deputy Matthews and a Bill

sponsored by the Deputy that seeks to support individuals and families in making these properties into homes.

Discussing the report, Deputy Matthews said: "Tackling vacancy and dereliction is one of my priorities as TD for

Wicklow. While there are huge steps forward being taken in terms of building new homes, there is a large potential stock of housing that lies empty or derelict in every town and village in Ireland that could be brought back to use in a much

faster, cheaper and environmentally conscious way than a new build.

"If you walk through any town or village in Wicklow, you will find boarded up properties that were once family homes. It's not only a serious blight on the streetscape but a huge waste of potentially viable homes that already have the necessary related services like street lighting, shops,

nearby schools, public transport options and other key infrastructure.

"What the report from SCSi outlines is that the Government supports under the Croí Cónaithe scheme which have been useful and in part effective to date, need to be amended to allow for greater flexibility to reflect the unique nature of bringing derelict buildings back into use. This includes options to go above the existing €50,000 grant cap for more challenging pro-

jects and an option to conduct a feasibility study to assess the viability of bringing a particular building back to use.

"There were also important recommendations in relation to the need to review existing building regulations and calls for increased options from banks and other lenders to accommodate for renovation projects for residential use.

"I was delighted to be in a position to help launch the report and I look forward to working

with the Minister for Housing on implementing many of the recommendations. If we are serious about bringing vacant and derelict units back into the housing stock, we need to be flexible in how we support people to do so. If anybody is considering taking on a renovation of a derelict or vacant property, I would be more than happy to offer them advice in relation to planning matters and grant opportunities," concluded Deputy Matthews.



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Launching the report on vacant and derelict properties



# 'Housing for All in action'

An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Housing Minister Darragh O'Brien visited Wicklow's first cost rental housing scheme, Archer's Wood in Delgany, last Thursday. The scheme offers security of tenure to long term renters, at a third below market rent.

Fine Gael councillor Derek Mitchell, Fianna Fail cllr Gerry Walsh, Fianna Fail Senator Pat Casey, Green Party TD Steven Matthews and Green Party councillor Erika Doyle were also in attendance. Cost Rental was championed by the Green Party in negotiating a programme for

government and is a cornerstone of the party's Housing Policy.

Deputy Matthews said, "It was great to visit the Archers Wood development. A number of constituents had been in touch with me for information about the scheme which was massively oversubscribed, showing the demand for this type of housing. The development is extremely high quality and set in a beautiful location with views that have to be seen to be believed. The next round of apartments is due to be allocated soon and the development will start to take shape as a new community."

"We took our lead from Vienna, where despite a strong economic climate, housing remains affordable for most, due in no small part to the provision of cost rental housing. It is important to note, that unlike private rentals, as long as the terms of the lease are adhered to, the property is your home



Cllr Erika Doyle, Steven Matthews TD, Minister Darragh O'Brien, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Senator Pat Casey and Cllr Gerry Walsh at the Archer's Wood development in Delgany.



Cllr Derek Mitchell with An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Minister Darragh O'Brien.

for as long as you wish. Tenants can feel secure in planning their lives, jobs and children's schooling around their home, knowing they will not be asked to move. It is an excellent option for those who are working and privately renting but do not qualify for social housing. Rent is set at 30% below market price.

"I would like to see these cost rental developments rolled out across the county. They are one in a suite of measures needed to address the housing crisis."

Increased protections for private renters came into effect on April 1st and schemes to bring vacant and derelict properties back to the housing stock are being ramped up.

An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar described Archers Wood as a wonderful place to raise a family and said he hoped to see more of this type in the near future. Minister Darragh O'Brien praised Deputy Matthews chairing of the Oireachtas Housing committee and said Archers Wood is

'Housing For All in action'.

Meanwhile, Minister Simon Harris has welcomed the news that County Wicklow has surpassed its social and affordable housing delivery targets for 2023.

Minister Harris said, "I am delighted to announce that County Wicklow is on course to surpass its targets for building brand new social and affordable housing in order to continue to support those in need of housing assistance. Solving the housing crisis is one of the

Government's highest priorities, and it is encouraging to see that the work we are doing across County Wicklow is now showing results.

"We are now on track to exceed social housing delivery by 67% across the county, an incredible result and one I would like to commend and congratulate everyone who is working hard to address this issue and continue to honour the Government's commitment to tackling the housing crisis.

"Along with this, County Wicklow is also

now en route to deliver more than five times the original target set for 2023. In conjunction with nearly 100 homes set for completion by the Land Development Agency, these developments will be fantastic additions to our communities, enabling and supporting those over the social housing threshold to secure their own homes. Although our work is by no means finished, it is great to see such positive developments, and I hope to see this trend continue well into the future."

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# Communities across Wicklow come together to celebrate the launch of Spring Clean '23

*April 1st marked the official launch of The National Spring Clean 2023*

Registrations for the National Spring Clean are well underway and 2023's campaign is on track to be the biggest yet with over 100 Wicklow groups registered to date.

National Spring Clean is operated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce in partnership with Local Authorities and supported by the Department of Environment, Communications and Climate Environment and Mars Wrigley Ireland. This year An Taisce celebrates its 75th Anniversary and the largest ever Spring Clean would be a fitting way to mark the occasion.

Throughout the month of April communities from across Ireland will take

part in the National Spring Clean to tackle the problem of litter in local areas and to see the benefits of a litter-free environment.

Over the past 24 years, National Spring Clean participants of all ages have volunteered over 12 million hours of their time, with almost 45,000 tonnes of litter collected to date.

This year the campaign also wants to raise awareness about the Circular Economy Act and how the adoption of a circular economy model will reduce our litter and cli-

mate impact.

The 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 participating groups and individuals, while the removal of litter from our natural environment helped to tackle biodiversity loss. National Spring Clean hopes that these litter collection initiatives will prompt people to consider their waste output and moderate consumption behaviours that produce excess waste and look at alternatives that will move us away from a throwaway culture to a more sustainable circular culture.

Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD, said: "I am delighted that my department continues to be in a position to support the An Taisce National Spring

Clean Programme. The efforts of local volunteers, many of whom come back year after year, are to be highly commended as they continue to make a real positive contribution to their local community and wider environment. It is particularly pleasing to note that a significant proportion of the waste collected is also recycled, again due to the efforts of these volunteers.

"I would like to congratulate An Taisce on its 75th anniversary and I look forward to continuing to see their positive environmental impact for many more years to come."

National Spring Clean Manager, Emlyn Cullen, commented: "This is an important year for An Taisce as it celebrates its 75th Anniversary and it would be fantastic if we can make this the largest National Spring Clean to date as part of the celebrations. So far, the numbers of volunteers already registered is huge but there's still time for



Pupils from Ballycoog National School cleaning up

people to register online and get involved this year."

To make sure that each community clean up can run as smoothly as possible the National Spring Clean has also provides downloadable information packs on their website for their volunteers to read. The clean-up information pack containing details on how to organise an event, health and safety information, litter facts, useful contacts, media and publicity advice, a guide on how to recycle and information on litter and the law.

An Taisce's National Spring Clean is inviting people to visit the website [www.nationalspringclean.org](http://www.nationalspringclean.org) and register for a free clean-up kit.



Members of Greystones Tidy Towns at a recent clean up.

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To Report Dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands

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Pure is a partnership project and the first of its kind in Ireland which incorporates statutory and non-statutory organisations, including: Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council. Funded by The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Pure was established to combat illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.





# PURE urges public to report illegal dumping

Pure is the first project of its kind in Ireland incorporating statutory and non-statutory organisations and stakeholders, including, the Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications, Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council. This unique partnership project was established to combat illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and was officially launched in September 2006.



Dumping in the Uplands

Pure would like to inform the public that they can report illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands by calling 1800 365 123.

The Pure Truck is on the road every day, and since the project was established, Pure has collected over 3,800,000kg (3,800 tonnes) of rubbish from over 14,000 illegal dumping sites in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands with the project processing over 15,000 reports. If you were to put all the rubbish that Pure has removed from the uplands into standard household rubbish bags, they would fill over 400,000 bags. If you lined up all these bags on the road, they would stretch all the way from Dublin to Dingle.

Pure has been recording and mapping every location and incident of illegal dumping in the Wicklow / Dublin Uplands since 2007 and have built up a baseline-data of all illegal dumping activity in this region, the location of dumping, type of dumping, landowner, and amount of dumping, and for a number of years



The PURE truck patrols the uplands

now they have been recording an annual reduction. The data that Pure collect is valuable information providing indicators into the nature and extent of illegal dumping in Wicklow/ Dublin Uplands, and statistical evidence for all illegal dumping incidents in this region.

Pure utilises a multi-disciplined approach in combating illegal dumping, incorporating a

number of educational initiatives, environment/community projects - The Pure Mile, public awareness campaigns, regional/national media campaigns, enforcement and preventative measures, GPS/GIS data-base to record all illegal dumping sites, covert CCTV operations, and a dedicated vehicle - The Pure Truck, that removes all illegal dumping from

the Wicklow/ Dublin Uplands.

The Pure Project Partnership approach, incorporating statutory, non-statutory organisations, and members of the public, has proven extremely successful in combating illegal dumping in the Wicklow/ Dublin Uplands and over the past six years they have recorded an annual reduction in illegal dumping activity. This

reduction in dumping coincides with the huge increase of Pure Mile groups and areas, with hundreds of miles of roads, mountains, woodlands, valleys, forestries, upland amenities, car parks, and beaches, currently being adopted.

**TO REPORT DUMPERS AND DUMPING IN THE WICKLOW/DUBLIN UPLANDS - LO-CALL 1800 365 123**

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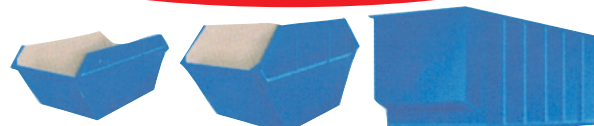
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# Greystones woman witnessed plight of Syrian refugees as conflict enters 13th year

**A Greystones woman has described the heart-breaking plight of refugee children in Syria and Iraq after returning from the conflict-torn countries.**

Jennifer Nolan she also saw the positive impact aid from Ireland is having when she travelled to parts of Iraq and Syria, where a conflict that has killed an estimated 580,000 people has entered its 13th year.

Jennifer, who manages the Enniskerry Youth Club Girls Under 8s football team, said derelict

schools and homes are being rebuilt and children are learning about ways to cope with the trauma they have been through.

The experienced humanitarian worker, who has witnessed many crises and disasters throughout her career, travelled with Irish aid organisation Concern Worldwide, who she has

worked with in media-related roles for the last 20 years.

"Getting there was obviously challenging for us with so many security and safety aspects and we had to drive past many checkpoints, but that also revealed how difficult it is for aid to reach these areas," said Jennifer, recalling her trip with

other Concern colleagues.

"We were in a freezing cold part of Syria wearing at least seven layers of clothing to try stay warm. Many people live in tents so need heavy blankets, heaters and other items provided by Concern, thanks to funding from Ireland, Britain, Europe and other parts of the world. Families told me it gets so cold that they burn whatever rubbish and other items they could find. They use them

as fuel for a fire inside their tent. One woman, Fatima, told me that they had to burn their own shoes to stay warm, which meant the children are barefoot now.

"Then in the summer they have extreme heat to deal with temperatures reaching near 50C at times. I was in awe of the development work my colleagues were doing. They helped prevent cholera, which can be life threatening, from spreading amongst thousands of people by providing drinking water in trucks and checking it each day to make sure it was clean.

"They provided hand-washing facilities and went door to door to teach people how to maintain good hygiene practices. The water trucks delivering clean water to the camps mean so much to the people I spoke to. One boy, Hani, drew me a picture of a water truck and told me he gets so excited to see it everyday because it means he can be clean going to school."

Jennifer said schools and other buildings that were badly damaged or half built are now filled with children and families thanks to a huge rebuilding programme. Getting children back to school has been a large



**Jennifer Nolan (left) Concern Multimedia and Donor Visibility Manager from Greystones speaks to caregivers of children who take part in the protection programme in Syria**



**A protection session where children learn life and emotional skills where Concern supports displaced families in Syria**

aspect of our work," she said.

"We run a non-formal education programme that teaches children reading, writing and maths. The school walls are full of pictures and the children love it. The programme has been very successful and is helping children return to formal schools. A lot of Syrian families are also moving out of tents and into houses thanks to the work we do with property owners.

"We have created partnerships with landlords to get homes rehabilitated, fitted out and provided with essential utilities like water, electricity, heating, so they could be let to families made homeless from conflict.

"There is also a protection programme, which is a child friendly space in a very large tent for children dealing with trauma. It is full of happy decorations and creates a feeling of positivity where children can deal with their feelings and learn about emotions and how to cope with them. One girl I met told me she had nightmares after she was injured in an accident, which was so sad, but she said the bad dreams are not as frequent as they used to be.

"Some of the adults I spoke to told me about their ordeal over the last 12 years since the Syrian conflict began. A 26-year-old man told me he was

orphaned after his house was bombed at the start of the conflict when he was a teenager. The people my Concern colleagues support in Syria and Iraq have lost many loved ones. They need peace and safety and they deserve it after all they have been through, especially the children."

Jennifer will be using the stories and images she has collected in Syria and Iraq to help Concern fundraise and inform the public about their work and the issues affecting displaced people. Concern has almost 4,000 staff working to reduce extreme poverty and responding to humanitarian disasters in 25 countries around the world.

## Delgany family to walk 120km in Support of Wicklow Dementia Support and St. Joseph's Shankill

**Wicklow Dementia Support are delighted to announce that Delgany locals Ronan, Brian, Anna and John Fennessy are going to walk 120 km of the Camino over five days to raise funds for Wicklow Dementia Support and for St. Joseph's Shankill, Dedicated to Dementia Care. The family wanted to support the work of both charities as their wife/mum has been and is supported by both organisations.**

"We at Wicklow Dementia Support had the privilege of getting to know their mum, Helen when she and her husband John would join us at our weekly Musical Memories sessions every Friday morning in St. Patrick's Church Hall, Greystones. Music can be used to communicate and engage with people with dementia and research is increasingly demonstrating the positive effects of music for people with dementia in improving general attention, cognition, memory, speech and communication skills. For people with dementia music can also help the person of express feeling and connect with past memories."

The family started their Camino journey in Spain on Monday, 27th March.

"We would like to wish them every success and to extend our immense gratitude to them for their generosity to us and our friends in St. Joseph's Shankill," said Wicklow Dementia Support.

If you would like to donate please go to <https://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/WalkforDementia>



**The Fennessy family from Delgany**



**Marie Cullen and Eileen Costello out on the streets of Arklow collecting funds for the Irish Cancer Society for Daffodil Day, on 24th March.**



# 5th Anniversary SALE



# 5th Anniversary SALE

Since opening in April 2018 over the last 5 years The Shoe Box has become well known both locally and beyond not just for their superb selection of children's and ladies shoes and clothing, but above all, their excellent customer service.

Having won retailer of the year 2021, 1st runner up 2022 and nominated in three categories of the prestigious Footwear Industry Awards 2022. Owner Stephen Delaney believes that respect and attentiveness towards the customer is key to a suc-

cessful business and this is an attitude shared by trained and certified staff members Catriona Kavanagh & Katrina Deegan.

The concept behind The Shoe Box has not changed in the last five years, wanting to give a small store

service while providing big store brands and value. We often hear of people wanting to shop locally but complaining of lack of choice. Well The Shoe Box has grown to offer over an incredible 250 styles of shoes for toddlers, right the way up to a stunning array of adult ladies footwear and men's Skechers. With prices starting at €24.95 for adult's footwear and €29.95 for children's

designer brands, Stephen says their selection offers

'quality and value, not disposability and cheapness'.

Among the children's shoe brands offered are Lelli Kelly, Superfit, Startrite, Geox, Bio Mechanics, Sketchers and more. For back to school wear The Shoe Box stocks sizes for both primary and secondary school pupils. They have a large range including Startrite, Dubarry, Angry Angel, Rhino, Lelli Kelly, Miss LK, and DV8.

Their adult range includes Sketchers, Refresh, Shoes by Emma, Joe & Joe, Carmela, Heavenly Feet, with the new additions also arriving in store this Autumn.

The clothing range goes from new born right up to 10 years for both boys and girls. With customer service at the fore, The Shoe Box offers initiatives to make shopping there even easier.

They offer a fantastic loyalty scheme whereby each purchase gains a loyalty stamp. Upon receiving your sixth stamp you are entitled to 20% off your next purchase. Also in store you can avail of an all year round savings club where you can simply put by your selected item and pay off at no extra charge.

Stephen says he is blown away by the support shown to him and his team since taking the plunge 5 years ago and especially during Covid lockdown.



The Shoebox, Wicklow Town

He told Wicklow Times that the key to keeping towns alive is to provide a great range of local stores so that people can shop local and support local businesses but to never forget to give your customers the service they truly deserve.

Why not pop by and see for yourself the great range of stock and friendly service at The Shoe Box on Wicklow Town, Main Street during their 5 year Anniversary Sale that starts this Thursday (6th April) 9.30am.

They are open from 9.30am to 5.30pm from Monday to Saturday. Check out their Facebook page for up to date news on stock and special offers.

Congratulations on 5 years in business, wishing you continued success from Mark and Sandra at

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# Arklow Municipal District presents the Cathaoirleach's Special Recognition Awards

Twelve people were honoured for their outstanding achievements recently by the Members of Arklow Municipal District at an event to present the Cathaoirleach's special recognition awards.

The individuals honoured at the event were: Aaron Bermingham, Reece Doyle, Carmel O'Toole, Nancy Quinn, Tiernan Kavanagh, Jimmy Dunne, Sean Molloy, Sionna Healy, Michael Dowling, Liam Kelly, Valerie Cox and Martin O'Toole.

Municipal District Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pat Kennedy, said he was delighted to make these presentations to some very special recipients adding that it was a truly memorable event with recipients representing a varied spectrum of talents including music, literature, sport and charity work.

He stated: "None of the recipients here this

evening sought recognition, rather, their deeds are worthy of it. From writing books to completing marathons. From covering great distances to competing on the world stage. Each and every one of you should be proud of what you have accomplished. You deserve this award tonight.

"I was delighted to be able to invite along your family and friends to be here, for the value of achievements is added to when you can celebrate with those closest to you. I would like to acknowledge the support that they have given to you over the course of your endeavours. To them I say there is no

greater power and support you can give someone than to look them in the eye, and with sincerity and conviction say, I believe in you."

Leonora Earls, Arklow District Manager, gave a short profile of each individual which gave an insight into the effort, skill and courage being recognised.

Along with a certificate of recognition, each recipient was presented with a gift of a beautiful hamper of locally made produce from Orlaís kitchen, an Asgard Turning Cheese board by Brendan Tracey as well as a special piece of pottery celebrating Arklow Pottery by Hilary Jenkinson of Cranmmor Pottery.

## The Recipients

- Aaron Bermingham**  
In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the raising of funds from his cycling challenge and in so doing bringing honour to the District.
- Reece Doyle**  
In recognition of him winning the World Karate and Kickboxing Championship and in so doing bringing honour to the District
- Carmel O'Toole**  
In recognition of her recent publication Glenmalur: The Wild Heart of the Mountains: A Valley and its People and in so doing bringing honour to the District
- Nancy Quinn**  
In recognition of her recent publication 'I, Julia' and in so doing bringing honour to the District
- Tiernan Kavanagh**  
In recognition of winning the World Solo Drumming Championship and in so doing bringing honour to the District
- Jimmy Dunne**  
In recognition of his recent publication 'From the Sea to the Summit' and in so doing bringing honour to the District
- Sean Molloy**  
In recognition of his outstanding contribution at the Drum Corps International World Championships and in so doing bringing honour to the District
- Sionna Healy**  
In recognition of her outstanding contribution to rowing and the promotion of her sport and in so doing bringing honour to the District
- Michael Dowling**  
In recognition of his outstanding contribution when he cycled from Malin Head to Mizen Head and in so doing bringing honour to the District
- Liam Kelly**  
In recognition of his outstanding completion of 4 Marathons in 24 Hours and in so doing bringing honour to the District
- Valerie Cox**  
In recognition of her outstanding contribution to Media work and in so doing bringing honour to the District
- Martin O'Toole**  
In recognition of his achievement of completing a Marathon and in so doing bringing honour to the District



At the Arklow Cathaoirleach's Special Recognition Awards in the Arklow Bay Hotel were; (back row) Alvina Brehony, Liam Kelly, Oisín Molloy, Sionna Healy, John Bermingham, Carmel O'Toole, Michael Dowling, Jimmy Dunne, and Leonora Earls, with Cllr Pat Kennedy; and (front row) Reece Doyle, Valerie Cox, Nancy Quinn, Martin O'Toole, and Tiernan Kavanagh

# Arklow native appointed as Partner in Matheson

Arklow native, Aisling Kavanagh has been appointed by Matheson LLP as a partner in its Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution Department.

A past pupil of St. Josephs Templeraíne, Aisling studied Law in Trinity College Dublin. Her sister is actress, Niamh Walsh, who starred in Jamestown on Sky, and is currently on screens in Smother on RTE.

Aisling is a commercial litigator specialising in insurance disputes. She manages high value, large scale complex disputes, and has acted in high-profile litigation in both the English and Irish Courts. Before joining Matheson, Aisling spent over six years as a litigator with a leading firm in London, where she acted in energy, construction and insurance disputes.

She is one of fourteen lawyers whom Matheson has recently promoted to partner across nine different practice areas. The appointments bring the total number of partners and tax principals in the firm to 121.

The new partners, who have already taken up their positions, have been appointed in the following practice areas; Asset Management; Commercial



Aisling Kavanagh

Litigation and Dispute Resolution; Commercial Real Estate; Corporate M&A; Energy and Infrastructure; Finance and Capital Markets; International Business Group; Financial Institutions Group; and Tax.

Three of the partners are based in Matheson's new central London office. Alan Bunbury and Finnbahr Boyle work in the Finance and Capital Markets team while Ian O'Mara works in the Financial Institutions Group.

Michael Jackson, Managing Partner of Matheson said, "We are delighted to welcome these 14 skilled lawyers to our partnership. It is particularly pleasing to see such a large and diverse range of practice areas represented in these appointments, something which reflects the broad sectoral composition of our client base and the continued growth and success of the firm across all practice areas.

"These promotions are a further endorsement of Matheson's people strategy and our ongoing investment in talent. They are representative of the breadth and scope of the technical and legal knowledge which is nurtured across the firm. I congratulate them on their appointments, and I look forward to working with them closely over the coming years."



Paul Lynch of 8020 Consulting has taken on the reigns as Arklow and District Chamber of Commerce President. While Paul has over 20 years' experience working with multinational companies in both commercial and finance leadership roles he has also spent the last 5 years supporting clients in the SME sector in areas of company strategy and business performance. "We would like to wish Paul the very best for the year ahead," Arklow Chamber stated. Paul is pictured receiving the chains from the outgoing President James Kelly of LMH



# Kilmacanogue NS gifted Tony Lawlor Cup



Tony Lawlor with Ms Montgomery, Captain Sam Moraghan and Ms Bourke.

Kilmaanogue NS are grateful to Tony Lawlor, who gifted this brand new silver cup to their school this year.

Principal, Anne Marie Burke declared "It is a privilege to know this proud Kilmaanogue man, a giant of humanity and kindness who has time for others. Tony's generosity of spirit is truly remarkable in never forgetting where it all begins and bringing the best to his local community. His altruistic spirit has meant that literally generations of children who attended/attend this school have been part of a Gaelic Games league each year, culminating in the presentation of a beautiful silver cup for their team. This year, the 38 year old cup was replaced by Tony personally, with this shiny new

one pictured to the right. The benefits of the playing of sport are well known and Tony Lawlor has promoted these benefits to the health and well-being of our children over generations now. This year, we followed suit with Croke Park's All Ireland games and broke with tradition to run our Tony Lawlor Cup league at a later season of the year, in the Autumn. However, we had to be very patient with the weather and finally had the optimum opportunity to play the Finals just three weeks ago. Tony was nearby to present the cup at our most recent Assembly in the school hall to the

winning Captain, Sam Moraghan and his dedicated team of Zoe T, Bryn, Aimee, Senan, James, Nathan, Mia Grace, Kaylah, Charlotte. Of course, our runners up are extremely important too, there would not have been a game without them: Taidgh, Ava, Ethan, Juliette, Bradley, Blake, Elaine, Aoife and Ella. Our subs were amazing and versatile and always played in the spirit of good sport. To our Young Whistlers, Seán and Eva and all of the referees, Thank You and well done to everyone, in particular Ms. Montgomery and the other teachers who helped her.



The Tony Lawlor Cup



Tony Lawlor, pictured with the winners of the Tony Lawlor Cup, an annual Gaelic Games football event



The runners up with their medals

## Youth nutrition programme for Wicklow GAA players announced

Details of an innovative nutrition programme for young camogie players, hurlers and Gaelic footballers in Wicklow has been announced.

The details were announced by John West, sponsors of the GAA's under-15 annual Feile na nGael (camogie and hurling) and Feile Peile na nOg (football) competitions.

The company has also revealed the extension of its Feile sponsorship until 2025 and a partnership with SuperValu to promote John West Feile in stores. The competition is one of the biggest underage sporting events in Europe. This year's John West Feile na nGael and Feile Peile na nOg national finals will both take place at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence at Began, Co Mayo.

The John West Feile na nGael finals will be played on Saturday, June 24th, with the Feile Peile na nOg finals taking place on Saturday, July 1st.

To coincide with the launch of John West Feile 2023 at Croke Park, the company said its 'Eat Strong Go Strong' strength and resilience through natural nutrition message is part of a campaign to build awareness among young athletes of how and when to refuel, particularly before and after matches and training. Developed in partnership with expert dieticians who are key opinion leaders in the nutrition field, John West said its high-quality natural protein products help optimise the physical growth and development of young players.

Throughout its sponsorship of Feile, John West has focused on the importance of natural nutrition in fuelling young athletes, whilst encouraging children to participate in Gaelic games.

Regional finals in all four codes for counties outside of division one will also take place on the last Saturday in June (Feile na nGael) and the first Saturday of July (Feile Peile na nOg), at venues nationwide.

John West Feile Peile na nOg county competitions will be played over the weekend of April 15-16 with Feile na nGael county competitions taking place over May 6th-7th.



Pictured is the Holy Rosary team that took part in the Coughlan Cup finals day, which returned after an absence of 3 years. Having been graded from Day 1 all seven divisions proved to be very competitive, with many positions only settled by score difference! Congratulations to St. Kevin's Team 1 who were worthy winners of the Division 1 Coughlan Cup. Roundwood N.S. pushed St. Kevin's all the way in what was a very competitive division. Kilcoole P.S. and St. Laurence's Team 1 completed this highly skilful group. St. Cronan's Team 1 were victorious in Division 2 taking home the inaugural O'Riordan Cup with a fine display of skill and team work. Ashford Team 1, Gaelscol na gCloch Liath 1 and Newtown 1 pushed St. Cronan's all the way with Ashford ultimately claiming the runner's up position. This group were a pleasure to watch play with some lovely point taking on display in windy conditions. With over 300 children playing across the 14 pitches this was a fantastic day for Gaelic Games in the county. Well done to all the children who competed today and served up a truly magnificent feast of football!



# St. David's pupils take part in Speak Out Tour

They are among 5,000 secondary students from across Ireland taking part in the Speak Out tour last week, speaking out on social issues affecting them and their communities. Among the topics being tackled are mental health, the housing crisis, gender equality, domestic violence, online safety, upcycling, green spaces, loneliness and much more. The tour stopped off at Griffith College in Dublin last Monday, and has also visited Sligo, Cork, Kilkenny, Limerick and Drogheda.

Among the students taking part in the Griffith College event were St. David's pupils. Young Social Innovators is a non-profit organisation that believes in the power of youth. Its vision is to empower, equip and inspire young people to change the world for good. Through its programmes, training and events, Young Social Innovators enables young people to grapple with difficult social issues, advocating reform and advancing change.

Each year, circa 15,000 young people are supported to explore social issues that concern them and come up with a variety of responses to these. In this way, Young Social Innovators builds social capital and helps young people create a fairer and more caring Ireland.

The core values of YSI are social justice, sustainable development fairness & inclusion and equality & respect.

The YSI movement began in Dublin

in the 1980s when Sr Stanislaus Kennedy and Rachel Collier began working closely with homeless women, developing a programme around things they wanted to do and learn. This led to Focus Point opening its doors in 1985, which went on to become Focus Ireland.

Their experience of working with young people and of building strong civic and social change initiatives evolved their thinking around social innovation. The seeds of Young Social Innovators were sown with its strong principles of collaborative human-centred design, experiential learning and social justice.

Young Social Innovators began as a small programme in 2001 and evolved into an innovative organisation and purveyor of social innovation education for thousands of young people and educators in 2005.



Pictured at the Young Social Innovators' (YSI) nationwide Speak Out Tour during its stop-off at Griffith College in Dublin on Monday, 27th March were: (top row, l-r) Nathan Donlon, James Kelly and Samuel Escure; (bottom row, l-r) Paul McGloughlin, Noah Browne, Alannah Gallagher, Aoife Ryan and Freya Duffy from St David's Holy Faith Secondary School, Greystones, who spoke out on the topic of 'The importance of learning first aid and how to use defibrillators for fellow students and sports'.

# Wicklow schools back bid to plant a million trees

School children from 10 Wicklow national schools took part in a nationwide campaign during the month of March to plant a million trees as a way to combat climate change.

The Wicklow schools joined over 300 schools from across Ireland to take part in development charity Self Help Africa's One Million Trees campaign - planting trees in their local school grounds while supporting a wider initiative to plant trees in Africa, and highlight the impact that climate

change is having on poor and vulnerable communities on the African continent.

The local schools tree planting initiative is supported by the Irish National School Teachers Association (INTO), who provided native Irish tree seedlings for distribution to classrooms across the country to support the charity initiative.

Trees were planted in Wicklow at Scoil Naomh

Iósaf, Baltinglass, Scoil San Eoin, Redcross, St Mary's Senior National School, Blessington, Scoil Mhuire RÉalt na Mara (Brittas Bay MXD N.S.), Brittas Bay, St. Patrick's NS, Greystones, Our Lady's School, Rathdrum, Greystones Community National School, Greystones, Woodstock Educate Together National School, Newtown Mount Kennedy, Ss Michael and Peter JS, Arklow, and St Joseph's Glenealy, Glenealy, to coincide with National Tree Week.

Many of the schools involved also arranged collections and donations to Self Help Africa's campaign, which aims to plant One Million Trees in Africa and 100,000 native trees in Ireland each year, to support communities affected by climate change, offset the effects of harmful greenhouse gases, and also highlight the importance and value of tree planting as a means of combatting global warming.

"Children are extremely passionate about the environment. They're alarmed by the stories that they read and hear about global warming, and want change," said Sean McMahon, who is coordinating the schools campaign for Self Help Africa.

More information is available about Self Help Africa's schools tree planting initiative is available at: <https://selfhelpafrica.org/onemillion-trees/schools>



RTE Presenter Kathryn Thomas, an ambassador for Self Help Africa's One Million Trees campaign.



Grace Sexton and Aoife O'Malley are pictured at Wicklow Educate Together National School's recent Food Festival.



# Harris launches free online course 'Energy & You: Reduce Your Use'

Wednesday 29th March marked the launch of 'Energy & You: Reduce Your Use' - a free 90-minute online course developed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) in partnership with eCollege, the national online learning service for the Further Education and Training (FET) sector, funded by SOLAS.

Welcoming the launch of 'Energy & You: Reduce Your Use', Minister for the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science, Simon Harris said: "This new online course is a really important tool, which will empower people with the knowledge they need to save energy and reduce their bills too.

"This initiative will bring the necessary expertise to the public in an accessible format, completely free of charge through the eCollege learning platform. We all have a role to play and this course will offer people the tools they need to drive down the cost of their bills and help save our planet.

'Energy & You: Reduce Your Use' provides bill payers with practical tips and information to encourage new energy saving habits in their homes and businesses that will help to reduce their energy bills and minimise their impact on climate change. More information can be found at [www.ecollege.ie/courses/energy-you-reduce-your-use/](http://www.ecollege.ie/courses/energy-you-reduce-your-use/)

Delivered in a flexible online learning format through eCollege, free of charge, learners can complete the course on their own schedule. Key course modules include Energy & Climate Change, Electricity Bill Analysis, Oil & Gas Bill Analysis, Lighting Efficiency, Home Energy Challenge, Electric Vehicles and Eco-Driving.

"This course forms part of a broader suite of national Green Skills programmes designed to progress the green transition in the FET sector and support climate action in Ireland. These include NZEB (Near Zero Energy Building) construction training, the Skills to Advance initiative which provides subsidised upskilling and reskilling opportunities to extend career opportunities in the green economy, as well as updating the current FET provision to include Green Skills modules."

Sign up at <https://www.ecollege.ie/courses/energy-you-reduce-your-use/>



Liudmyla and Artem Babenko at Wicklow Educate Together National School's food festival.

## Wicklow preschool spotlighted as trailblazer in outdoor education

**Curious by Nature Outdoor Preschool, based in Stratford in Co Wicklow, has been spotlighted as an Irish trailblazer in outdoor education and care for early years at a special event held by Early Childhood Ireland, the leading organisation in the early years sector, at the Ashling Hotel in Dublin City on 29th March.**

The event, 'Valuing Outdoor Play', explored current attitudes to outdoor education at early years in Ireland, and the potential for more early years settings in Co Wicklow and across the country to embrace high-quality outdoor play and education.

Curious by Nature was highlighted at the event as an example of best practice in outdoor educa-

tion. Established by Michelle Lavelle in 2018, the preschool operates fully outdoors and currently accommodates 44 children between the ages of two-and-a-half and six years.

Ms Lavelle says she decided to adopt the outdoor model because she has a deep appreciation for nature and could see the health and developmental benefits of outdoor

play and education in her own children. There was also no comparable service available in the local area, and she wanted to raise awareness of the value of outdoor play and education in the early years. The initiative was influenced and encouraged by international research and pedagogy in places like Scandinavia.

She said: "When we set up the outdoor preschool in 2018, it felt like a bit of a risk because it's a relatively new model in Ireland, but we received great interest from parents from the start. In fact, after only a couple of months we were fully subscribed, and we soon

added an afternoon session to our offering to meet the demand.

"The preschool is very child-centred and set in a large natural environment with wooden structures in which we can take shelter in inclement weather. There is a covered outdoor classroom and lunchroom, but rain or shine, the children absolutely love being engaged in nature and thrive in the outdoor setting, which makes us all more resilient. Our setting presents itself to the children as a multi-sensory space for endless learning opportunities, such as engagement in éiriský play, and the children make decisions in directing their

own learning. This builds a sense of achievement and develops self-regulation and problem-solving skills, which help children to cope with and overcome challenges. Developing these key skills has a major impact on positive mental health and physical well-being."

Speaking ahead of the event, Frances Byrne, Director of Policy at Early Childhood Ireland, said: "We're delighted to shine a spotlight on Curious by Nature in Co Wicklow as part of this event. The pedagogical value of outdoor experiences for young children is recognised and promoted by the regulatory framework for Early Years in

Ireland and Curious by Nature is a testament to the high-quality outdoor play and education that can be achieved, but we need to break-down any barriers that are preventing others from following in their footsteps.

"Every child has a right to outdoor play and adventure and our aim with this event is to ensure that remains at the heart of all future policy and regulation considerations in our sector. Imagine if we could make it possible for every family in Ireland to have the option of sending their child to an amazing outdoor setting like Curious by Nature?"

## Bray student wins 3rd Prize at SONAS Bathrooms 2023 Bathroom Design of the Year

SONAS Bathrooms and TU Dublin (Technological University Dublin) last week announced the winners of the 2023 Bathroom Design of the Year. The overall winner is Anna Szwagrzyk from Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, followed by Niamh Tighe of Knocklyon, Dublin 16 in second place, and Georgia Robinson from Bray in third.

Students of the Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Design, led by one of Ireland's best known Interior Designers Dr. Neville Knott, were tasked to create a luxury bathroom for a contemporary hotel and they cer-

tainly did not disappoint. Third year award-winning students, received a certificate along with a cash prize. The overall winning design will be brought to life in a Sonas Studio display at one of the Sonas Retailers.

Dr. Knott said "This has been a really exciting competition for our students. As Sonas are the largest supplier of bathroom products in Ireland, the students had the opportunity to explore a variety of themes and

styles in bathroom design with products from their extensive range. Working on real life commercial projects is always a great experience for tomorrow's designers and these students have really risen to the occasion with a wide

range of amazing designs. I extend my congratulations to Anna, Niamh and Georgia."

Jackie Carton, President of the Interiors Association of Ireland said "It is wonderful to see Irish companies investing in the designers of the future. And what a future that is - I have been blown away by the talents I witnessed as part of the judging panel. The Interiors Association also appreciates Sonas Bathrooms sponsoring student membership for this entire class."

According to the judges Georgina Robinson's design is "An ambitious, original design with boutique hotel vibes. There was a strong art deco revivalist feel to it, with brave use of materials, great layout and storage options. Georgina's room was considered a real showstopper by the judges."



Georgina Robinson's bathroom design



Georgia Robinson from Bray with her bathroom design.



# Drama is alive and well in South Wicklow

**Drama sure is alive and well in South Wicklow with full houses in St. Brigid's Hall Carnew for the nine magical nights of the 2023 South Wicklow Drama Festival.**

Back stage crews transformed the stage each night setting the correct dramatic scenes for each of nine plays. Add amazing lighting designs, sound, costumes and makeup and the scenes were set for the Actors and Actresses to perform. Appreciative audiences were treated to simply wonderful week of drama. A welcome cup of tea was provided next door at the interval, where they enjoyed an extra treat in the form of an Art Exhibition, provided by Carnew Community Art Group. They also had the chance to share their own views on the merits of each performance.

Anna Walker, ADA, Adjudicator for the week attested to the very high standard attained by all of the groups during the week. She said she enjoyed every minute of her time in Carnew and thanked the organising committee. She then gave her final adjudication and the much awaited results of the 2023 South Wicklow Drama Festival as follows....

## **The Winners of the 2023 South Wicklow Drama Festival**

### **Confined Section**

- 1st - Kilmuckridge Drama Group - 'Sive'
- 2nd - Wayside Players - 'The Field'
- 3rd - Lislea Dramatic Players - 'See How They Run'

### **Open Section**

- 1st - Thurles Drama Group - 'The Seafarer'
- 2nd - Wexford Drama Group - 'The Father'
- 3rd - Bunclody-Kilmyshall Drama Group - 'The Night Alive'

### **Confined Section:**

Best Supporting Actor - Ben Murphy, Wayside  
Best Supporting Actress - Ellen Hannaway, Lislea

Best Actor - John Hearne, Kilmuckridge  
Best Actress - Margo Whelan, Kilmuckridge  
Best Director - Anthony O'Connor, Kilmuckridge

### **Open Section:**

Best Supporting Actress - Margaret Farrell, Bunclody-Kilmyshall  
Best Supporting Actor - David McElgunn, Thurles

Best Actress - Seona O'Connor, Wexford  
Best Actor - Andy Doyle, Wexford  
Best Director - Margaret McCormack, Thurles  
Adjudicator Award 1 - Enniscorthy Drama Group for putting on a production by one of their own

Adjudicator Award 2 - Eugene McLoughlin as Bull McCabe, Wayside.

Adjudicator Award 3 - Stage Management Team from Lislea Dramatic Players.

Best Comedy Performance (Jim Tighe Trophy) - Matt Tracey as Ivan, Thurles.

Magic Moment in Theatre (Pat Connaughton Award) - Director Kieran Tyrrell & amp; Actor Billy

Canning for the finding of the turnip. (Bunclody-Kilmyshall)

Audience Cup (Altura Credit Union Award) - Thurles Drama Group - 'The Seafarer'

Best Presentation - Bunclody-Kilmyshall DG, The Night Alive



Rosie and Neville Cox at the Wicklow Sings concert in Temple Carrig School in Greystones. Wicklow Sings represented a significant moment for the Wicklow singing community. The evening featured performances from thirteen choirs from all over County Wicklow. 13 choirs with 400 singers performed to an audience of 500 people. Wicklow Sings was filled with community spirit, laughter and beautiful singing. The choirs gathered, performed and were able to showcase their talents in a non-competitive, inclusive and multi-generational event which featured community, school and gospel choirs, choral societies, barbershop, and more.

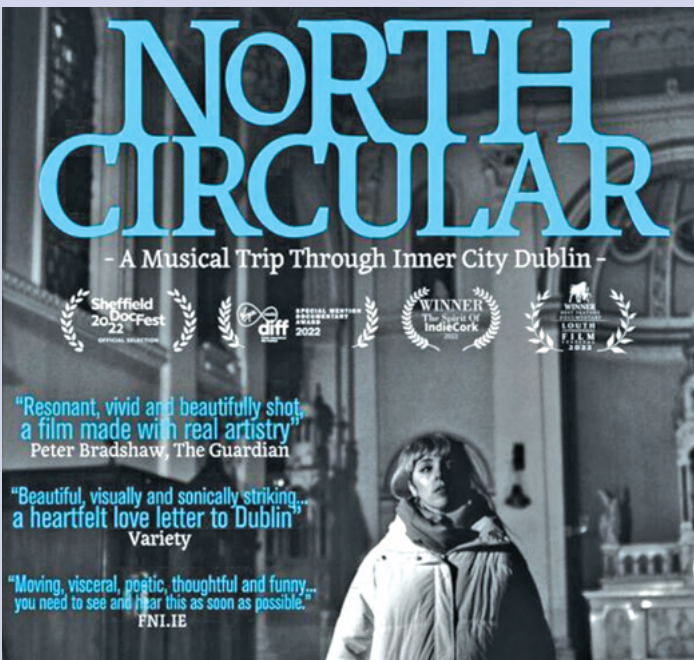
## Film at Mermaid: North Circular (Cert:15A)

Mermaid Arts Centre, Thursday 13th April, 8pm, €10 Full Price. English with Open Captions (Subtitles). Duration: 86 mins & a Q&A after the screening.

North Circular is a documentary musical that travels the length of Dublin's North Circular Road, from the Phoenix Park to Dublin Port, exploring the history, music and streetscapes of a street that links some of the country's most beloved and infamous places. Told in black and white 4:3 Academy ratio, the film evokes many narratives from the history of the city and nation, from colonialism, to mental health, to the struggle for women's liberation while also engaging with urgent issues of today, including the battle to save the legendary Cobblestone Pub, centre of Dublin's recent folk revival, from destruction at the hands of cynical property developers. The film also includes musical performances from artists local to the North Circular, including John Francis Flynn, Seán Ó Tuama, Eoghan O' Ceannabhain, Ian Lynch and Gemma Dunleavy.

Featuring: Gemma Dunleavy, Johnny Flynn, Ian Lynch.

The evening will start with cellist, Kevin Murphy playing a short overture, then the screening of North Circular and a Q&A will follow the film with director, Luke McManus in discussion with Mark O'Brien of the Abbey Theatre and IFTA winning director Hannah Quinn.



## The Whale

Whale Theatre, Thursday 13th April, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €12 and available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

**Given its potentially sensationalist and exploitative subject matter - a morbidly obese shut-in looking to do one good thing with his life before his imminent demise - it's hardly surprising that The Whale has divided critics.**

No one seems to doubt the power of Brendan Fraser's performance in the leading role, or the directing, the writing, the supporting cast...

They just have a problem with a premise that might be more voyeuristic than altruistic.

That The Whale started out as a play ten years earlier with writer Samuel D. Hunter and enjoyed four major productions across the US since whilst suffering few slings or arrows suggests that having Hollywood turn its electric eye on this tale changed the perspective. Which is a shame, given that, once you get over that initial feeling that you could be watching a Channel 5 exclamation mark TV documentary, The Whale has a slow-burning emotional centre that gradually builds to a punch. Or two.

Fraser plays Charlie, a 600-pound man hiding from the world in his apartment and making his living as an English professor working online and keeping his laptop camera firmly switched off. His only companionship is Liz (Hong Chau), who's more than a nurse - she's also the sister of Charlie's late partner, Alan.

Refusing to spend the money on doctors and hospitals, Charlie is moving ever-faster to an early grave, much to Liz's anger and objections. Realising he's Elvis '77 heading for Elvis '78, Charlie reaches out to his estranged teenage daughter, Ellie (Stranger Things' Sadie Sink), in the hope of reconnecting, having walked out of the family home when she was just five to be with Alan.

Throw in a young missionary (Ty Simpkins) for the New Life Church determined to save Charlie's soul, and it doesn't take long for The Whale to go Full Mamet.

It's the small details about being this big, this helpless, this frightened, this alone, that The Whale captures so well. Fraser has deservedly won two major awards for his performance already, and there's a possible Oscar on the way come March 12th.

USA/16/116mins.

## PLANNING

### **WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

We, Ian Mathews & Tatsiana Senkevich seek Permission for the proposed amalgamation of two small dwellings into one larger dwelling, the removal of both chimneys and all associated site works at 19 & 20 Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application

### **WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

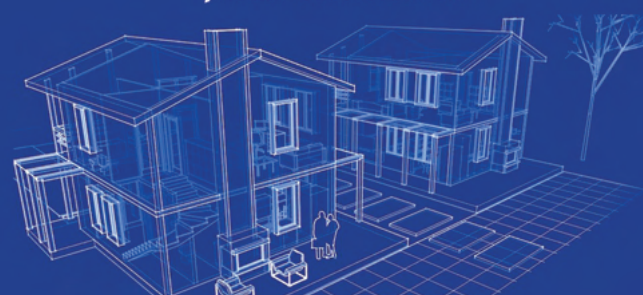
Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: [eugene@alphaplandesign.com](mailto:eugene@alphaplandesign.com)) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling, waste water treatment system to EPA standards, garage, entrance and associated works at Ballyraheen, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow for C. Doyle. The planning application 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 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 intends to apply for full planning permission for a porch extension to the front of their property at 16 St Peters Road, Bray, County Wicklow, A98 EY99. 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 dishd 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.

## ATTENTION Architects, Planners & Builders

Reach the widest readership for your planning notices in County Wicklow with Wicklow Times  
Call 01 286 9111 or email [paoline@localtimes.ie](mailto:paoline@localtimes.ie)





# Sean-Nós Workshop with Inni-K



Mermaid Arts Centre, Saturday  
8th April | 2pm - 4pm, €16  
Full Price

Join Inni-K for this interactive, fun 2 hour workshop in Sean-Nós and traditional singing, where Eithne will teach two songs - one in Irish and one in English in her characteristic informal, welcoming and informative manner.

No previous experience required. Lyrics and recordings will be provided. Failte roimh gach Éinne / Everyone welcome.

Fluency in Irish is not necessary to participate, just an interest in the language and an interest in learning a song.



The Maguires performing at the St. Patrick's GAA Patron 500 launch. The new fundraising project is aiming to provide additional pitches at the club's facility at Dunbar, which currently just has one pitch. The club has been granted planning permission for a flood-lit pitch on a 29-acre site at Greenhill Road, as well as a clubhouse and dressing rooms, but must raise €350,000.

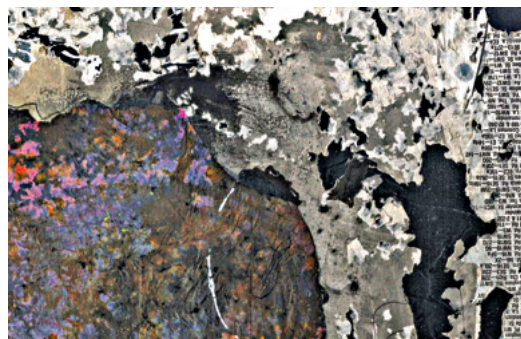
## Not About any one Thing: An exhibition by Mo Roantree

Signal Arts Centre, Monday 26th June to Sunday 9th July

'Not about any one thing' is an exhibition where Mo Roantree explores how she can reconcile her fears for the planet and her work as an artist.

She addresses concerns about the despoilment and scarring of the Landscape and questions about the human condition. She is guided by Carl Jung's quote "All energy can only proceed from the tensions of opposites". Through her work she explores how Forms emerging through chaos interact, how neighbourly or unsettled they become. How these disparate forms and tensions become reconciled or not. Her work is based on her immediate surroundings living on an organic smallholding on the Galway Mayo borders. She arrives at images through play and experimentation allowing the material to speak, sometimes leaving her pieces outside for weathering and chewing by snails. The effects of wear and tear are important. Her work is made with recycled paper, old envelopes, rice paper, leaves, canvas, Guache, tempera, inks, emulsion.

These landscapes of the imagination are redolent of her memories and her experiences. A feeling connected by a tenuous memory might be rediscovered through reconciling each individual image with its Title. They may be surreal and abstract; the title shifts them into the real world.



The Other Planet I

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# Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland celebrates Autism Awareness Month

As we enter Autism Awareness Month, Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland (AADI) is collaborating with colleges and universities across the country to educate students about autism and the use of service dogs.

Confirmed at 8 universities already, the Fáilte Campaign aims to increase inclusivity for families living with autism by educating students who are entering public-facing industries about the different effects of autism and the legal rights of service

dogs and responsibilities of public institutions. The effort was started by a collaboration between AADI and several hotels who were eager to train their staff to ensure their guests with service dogs were more comfortable and welcomed during their stay.

Niall D. O'Halloran, Purchasing Manager at The Rochestown Park Hotel in Cork said, "It became apparent to me that our hospitality and retail colleagues did not know how to modify their behavior around families with autism." So, he asked AADI for help, and the Fáilte Campaign was born.

The education campaign targets industries like education, hospitality, and retail, but is open to



## Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland

all who are interested in learning more. "We are trying to build a grass-roots movement around inclusivity and access for families who rely on service dogs," Harmon noted. "That starts by educating people, and embedding this knowledge into the foundations of their professional skills."

Families who benefit from an Autism Assistance Dog report that their dog enables them to live more connected and fulfilling lives, because they no longer have to worry for their child's safety.

The knock-on effect of this is transformational, for both families and their respective communities. With 56 Autism Assistance Dogs already working in every corner of Ireland, AADI will open their waiting list in May for another 35 families to get an assistance dog. Last year, more than 400 families applied for 26 spots.

For more information and to speak with a family who has benefited from an Autism Assistance Dogs, please contact Nuala Geraghty, CEO of AADI at [nuala@aadi.ie](mailto:nuala@aadi.ie) and (087) 7998179 or Jacob R Harmon, AADI's Head of Fundraising at [jacob@aadi.ie](mailto:jacob@aadi.ie) and (083) 0129549.



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WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Lorgaítear iarratais ó dhaoine atá cáilithe go cuí chun painéal a chruthú óna bhféadfar folúntais bhuana agus folúntais shealadacha a líonadh amach anseo:

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REF: 23/2023

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CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATIONS IS THURSDAY 20TH APRIL 2023 AT 12 NOON SHARP.

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

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Enterprise & Corporate Services,

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## RECRUITMENT



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Gach eolas ar fáil ó [www.etbvacancies.ie](http://www.etbvacancies.ie) agus ar KWETB gréasáin <https://kildarewicklow.etb.ie> swipe ar dheis chuig na Folúntais don Mhúinteoireacht Iarbhunscóile 2023/2024 – déan iarratas anseo – leathanach.

An dáta deiridh le hiarratais chomhlánaithe ar líne a fháil: 12 meán lae Dé Máirt 11 Aibreán 2023.

An Dr. Deirdre Nic Aoidh,  
Príomhfheidhmeannach.

Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board invites applications from suitably qualified persons for:

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which may arise from 1st September 2023 in its 23 Post Primary Schools across Counties Kildare and Wicklow.

All details are available at [www.etbvacancies.ie](http://www.etbvacancies.ie) and on the KWETB website <https://kildarewicklow.etb.ie> swipe right to the Vacancies for Post Primary Teaching 2023/2024 – apply here – page.

Closing date for receipt of completed online applications: 12 noon on Tuesday 11th April 2023.

Dr Deirdre Keyes, Chief Executive.



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Bray Area  
Partnership

Bray Area Partnership is recruiting for three positions:

### Social Prescribing Link Worker

The role is to connect people to community groups, organisations and statutory services for practical and emotional support with the overall purpose of improving health, wellbeing and social services.

### Community Tobacco Worker

The role is to address health inequalities in relation to tobacco smoking, increase tobacco awareness and prevention opportunities and support the delivery of We Can Quit and Quit for Youth programmes.

### Community Facilitator: We Can Quit

The role is to support people to quit smoking and improve their overall health and well-being. The work is sessional and involves facilitating weekly group-based sessions and providing one-to-one support to participants.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 19th April 2023.

See [www.brayareapartnership.ie](http://www.brayareapartnership.ie) for more information.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann  
Local Government Ireland



# East Wicklow Business Network host Spring event

The East Wicklow Business Network held a spring event on Monday, March 27th at the Greystones Golf Club. The event featured a keynote speech by Neale Richmond, the recently appointed Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

The event began with a networking coffee and pastries, offering attendees the chance to connect with other local business leaders in the area. The Minister's speech covered a range of topics relevant to the audience of business owners, entrepreneurs, and professionals.

In his speech, the Minister discussed challenges and opportunities facing small businesses, government initiatives to support entrepreneurship and innovation, and strategies for building a resilient and sustainable business in today's rapidly evolving marketplace. He also discussed exciting developments in the Wicklow area, including the

upcoming Film Studio and Wind Farm projects and the soon-to-be-opened Local Enterprise Office in Charlesland, which will offer a wide range of amenities for business owners.

Following the Minister's talk, there was a Q&A session. This was

followed by additional networking opportunities, allowing attendees to deepen their connections and exchange ideas with other like-minded professionals.

Mark Atkins, Chairperson of the East Wicklow Business Network said the Minister's "

insights and expertise are invaluable to our audience of business owners and professionals".

East Wicklow Business Network is a member driven organisation repre-

sented by business owners across East Wicklow. Headed up by local business owners Feargal McKenna, Mark Atkins, Elaine Harding, Derek Byrne, Gordon O'Neill,

Peter O'Faherty and Louise Gaskin, the network will seek to drive economic growth for the region of East Wicklow representation on local committees, lobbying of

the local municipal council and county council and engagement with large corporate groups looking to base or operate from the East Wicklow area.

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