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The Garda situation in County Wicklow is a growing concerns with local opposition public representatives.

"Falling Numbers in Wicklow bers rising from 136,640 are an Indictment of to 155,258. The worst Minister for Justice affected areas are Bray Simon Harris " accord- and Greystones. ing to John Brady TD Brady expressed consince 2019. There are less Gardaí in the counwere in 2019. Correspondingly in the period Garda Stations in the from 2011 to 2022, cen-state report staff reducsus figures indicate a tions. Incredible over population increase of 40 Garda Stations are

Tuesday 18th April 2023

Garda over 13.5%, with num-

Brady said: "In the Sinn Féin TD John last five years Garda numbers in Wicklow cern at revelations that have fallen from 360 to Garda numbers for 310. Representing a County Wicklow have loss of 50 serving dropped significantly Gardaí, or just under 14% of the force in the currently approx. 14% county. The ongoing drop in Garda figures ty in 2023 than there in Wicklow comes at a time when a quarter of

not staffed. In the last five years Bray has lost 23 Gardaí. This despite the increasing growth of the town, and its proximity to South Dublin. In total 14 of the 17 Garda Stations in Wicklow have seen their numbers decrease over the last decade.

"It was reported before Christmas that there are approx. 200 retirements, and approx 400 resignations from the Garda per year. Last year there were only 94 recruits in Templemore. This is clearly an unsus-



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11th Wicklow Delgany scout group was officially re-opened by Cill Mhantain County Commissioner, Dermot Moore recently in the old school house on Church Road in Delgany after being closed for nearly two years. Following 12 months of recruiting and training 15 new adult volunteers, the group is back up and running with 25 Beavers and 25 Cubs and hopes to expand further later this year.

tainable situation.

"We have an acting Minister for Justice here in Wicklow. He has the power to act in this situation. Gardaí need to be resourced. They need the numbers to carry out their role safely, and to guarantee the safety of our communities. Minister Simon Harris needs to act immediately, the running down of Garda numbers in Wicklow is unacceptable and cannot be allowed to continue."

Meanwhile, Independent councillor, Joe Behan has raised concerns around the location of the Garda head-Wicklow and the apparent abandonment of community policing.

"I am extremely concerned at the Government decision to transfer the Headquarters of the County Wicklow Garda Force to County cognisant of the con-

Wexford," said Cllr Behan. "The most recently appointed Chief Superintendent and his predecessor have been based in County Wexford not in County Wicklow. This has obvious repercussions for the policing of County Wicklow especially as we are so close to Dublin, the capital city, which is the source of much of the drug related and other crimes currently experienced in this country. "In fairness to

the incoming Chief Superintendent, Derek Hughes, he comes with an excellent track record of professional quarters for County policing and a strong commitment to positive interaction with local communities and their public representatives. I have already spoken with the Chief Superintendent and I believe he is extremely

cerns of the people in ing with him to ensure ten with this relatively County Wicklow and I that we in County new arrangement. look forward to work- Wicklow are not forgot-Continued on page 3



Check out Your Local Enterprise Office Wicklow for the 2023 Spring/Summer Training Schedule for small businesses & the self-employed in Co. Wicklow

😵 Effective Marketing for SMEs

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www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/ **Online-Bookings**



Pic: Iohn McGowan

charities.

us

A.J. Connors art

exhibition

Local Bray independent artist Adam J. Connors

will launch his new exhibition 'Turbulence' in his

gallery on Saturday, April 22nd, at 5pm. The exhi-

bition explores themes of physics expressed

through large alcohol ink artworks. Adam's

gallery is located at Unit 7, Goldsmith Terrace, Quinsborough Road, Bray.

Soup & sandwiches

The next Soup and Sandwich Lunch in

Greystones will be served up on Tuesday, 18th

April in the Swann Hall at St. Patrick's Church,

from 12.30pm until 2.00pm. Everyone welcome

to enjoy home baked goodies and excellent chat Suggested donation of €7 for local homeless

Wicklow PPN catch up

meetings

Wicklow PPN is inviting community groups and

volunteers to come along to their community catch ups in April and May. Helen Howes PPN

Resource Worker said "Last year Wicklow PPN and Wicklow County Council asked communities, What is Your Vision for Co Wicklow? We got a

great response, and we want to let communities

know what we did with the information they gave

"There will also be an opportunity to meet mem-bers of the Wicklow Disability & Inclusion

BRAY

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Quote

Times

The Ashford Guild of the Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) fund raise each year for a nominated charity. Red Cross for Ukraine was chosen for 2022/2023.

During the year, a raffle was held for a superb patchwork quilt hand-sewn by Anne Hobbs. Guild members attended and received money from the Lions Club Table Quiz and also sold incidental items, with proceeds going to the charity. In March, guild member Bernadette Flynn organised a fantastic gala concert in Glenealy. The entertainment was provided by Classic Harmony, Unity Gospel Choir, Delgany Players, Spotlight Studios Dancers, Ashford ICA choir and drama, St. Cecilia's choir, and two special guests from Ukraine

Guild President Anne Newton presented a cheque for €6,000 to Charlie Lamson from the Red Cross to help their efforts in Ukraine. This was the largest amount ever raised for charity by Ashford ICA and is due to both the extraordinary efforts by members and also the huge generosity of the public.



Tuesday 18th April 2023

Wicklow Town Heritage Trail

weekly guided walks restart The Free weekly guided walk of the new • The construction of St. Patrick's church, which com-

Wicklow Town Heritage Trail restarted on Saturday 8th April and will continue every Saturday morning until the end of September.

For Tourists visiting Wicklow Town, the new Heritage Trail provides a new attraction and a great insight into the rich heritage of the town.

Locals, Visitors and Tourists are all welcome to take part in what is a very informative walk detailing the rich history of Wicklow Town, from the landing of St. Patrick in 432 to the end of the Civil War in 1923.

This Free guided walk commences from Fitzwilliam Square at 11am and will take approximately 2 hours to complete. This walk covers 18 key sites of Historical interest and will enable participants to learn more about the significance of each location.

There are 7 story-boards (lecterns) with beautifully illustrated artwork showing the following

• WICKLOW

is published by Wicklow Times,

menced in 1839.

• The story of the Franciscan Abbey, which dates back to the 12th Century. • Robert Halpin's achievement in laying the first Trans-

Atlantic cable • The story of Billy Byrne and the 1798 rising in Wicklow Town.

• The history of the Black Castle.

• The attempted landing by St. Patrick at Travelahawk Beach

• The history relating to the Barrow Green, including stories of the secret burials that took place there.

On each storyboard, there is a QR code which enables participants to watch a video on their phone, telling them the story of each key location. The actors featured on the videos are members of the local dramatic society

For further information on the Wicklow Town Heritage Trail, visit www.wicklowtown.ie.



Denise Rowlands and Roly at the Easter 'SonRise' event, the Ecumenial Prayer Service at Arklow South Beach.

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Steering Committee and find out about the Toolkit that was developed to help community groups to be more accessible to People with Disabilities. People will also find out about the Age Friendly Programme and meet the team from Co Wicklow Volunteer Centre to find out how they can help community groups. Groups are also welcome to share information about their work, events, and fundraisers.'

Pictured at the recent Table Quiz in aid of Greystones Community First Responders held in Greystones Golf Club were Quiz Master Mike Morrisey and Score keeper Aaron Johnston.

> The meetings will take place in ;rus Lorcain, Arklow 19th April, Lalor Centre, Baltinglass 26th April, Bray Family Resource & Development Centre 3rd May, Kilcoole Community Centre 3rd May and CEART (Crinion Park) Wicklow 17th May. Meetings start at 7.30pm but the kettle will be boiled from 7pm for early tea and chats.

For more information and to register Email info@countywicklowppn.ie or call Helen 087 189 5145 or Grainne 086 048 7434

Bray Chamber Golf

The Bray & District Chamber 2023 Golf Classic & Social Evening will be held on Friday 26th May 2023. The day promises an enjoyable game of golf with plenty of fun and interaction followed in the evening by socialising, meeting fellow members and perhaps making new business contacts. Bray Golf Club is the venue again this year. Even if you are not a golfer, why not join the festivities in the Club House for a BBQ at 6 p.m. (≤ 25 Per Person) when you and your guest(s) will be made very welcome. If you are interested in promoting your company on the day, you can sponsor a Tee box for €50. Tee teams are between 1 p.m. and 3pm. To book your slot (book early for best Tee-Times) please contact Kathy O'Toole in the Chamber office on 2828248, 0858512455 or email info@braychamber.ie. Costs for a team is B00 for four golfers and includes dinner.

Greystones Flower Club

The next meeting for Greystones Flower Club is on Tuesday 25th April at 8pm with guest demonstrator Christine Hughes. All welcome to attend. The Venue is The Evangelical Church Hall, Hillside Road, Grevstones

The Importance of Being

Square One Theatre Group present The Importance of Being Earnest at the Mermaid arts centre in Bray Tuesday 18th April - Sat 22nd. Starting at 7.30pm nightly. 2.5 hours of fab live theatre and lots of laughter! Tickets available from Mermaid box office ($\in 21/\in 19$ 01 2724030) or via website. Group discount available Tues & Wed only. $(10+ \in 17)$: An Oscar Wilde classic comedy, don't miss it! Free parking underground at the Mermaid for attendees.

CIIr Doyle secures funding to make Bray seafront playground accessible for children with disabilities

Green Party councillor and Cathoirleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr Erika Doyle is delighted to announce that her ambition to make Bray seafront playground inclusive and accessible for children with disabilities will soon become a reality after a funding approval from the Department of Children and Disability.

the playground as an the redesign. amenity that did not cater for children with disabilities and has been working to secure funding to ment, and have an impor-enhance the amenity. Last tant social aspect for paryear, Cllr Doyle secured ents, who can often feel $\in 10,000$ from the annual isolated in parenthood. budget towards the works. Last week, this was topped why any playground up by funding approval should be non-inclusive, following a successful and steps should be taken allocation for a 'Play and to retrofit any existing Recrearion Capital Grant'.

"I'm delighted that this grant application that I children with disabilities. I worked on with the team recently submitted a at Bray Municipal District last year, this means we ones are retrofitted where issues in Bray."

Cllr Doyle identified can start making plans for "Playgrounds are so important for children and

young people's develop-There really is no reason playground that do not include any equipment for

motion to Wicklow council was successful and County council stating that tions where inequalities we have been granted the we create a policy to full amount of $\in 17k$. ensure that all playgrounds Added to the funding I are made inclusive at have suggestions about secured from our budget design stage, and existing how we can address these

possible. No child should be left out of any facilities that can be used by their friends and siblings simply because they have a disability.

"This is a fantastic first step - addressing the dearth of inclusive equipment in the biggest and most popular playground in our district. However there is still much to be done to address both accessibility and inclusiveness in our town. "I will work with our

engineers to identify and help fund and find soluexist. I'm always happy to hear from people who



Cllr Erika Doyle at the playground on Bray Seafront

WICKLOW GARDAI - A GROWING WORRY

Continued from Page 1

"It is deeply disturbing that successive Governments have also allowed a depletion in Garda numbers across the country and none more so than in County Wicklow where we have seen a net end of 2022. In this time our reduction of 100 Gardaí since population has increased as on the beat and visible in Covid but I was left with the 2009. Most of the reduction have the pressures on the their community. However, distinct impression that the

has been suffered in the Bray Gardaí but the decision mak- the sight of a Community Enniskerry, Greystones and Newtownmountkennedy. In 2009, the number of Gardaí adopted by the Government posted to the Bray District has resulted in a shift away was 184. That number was from a dedicated community reduced by 73 to 111 at the policing model. Many people

District which includes Bray, ers at the top don't seem to care "A new policing model

still want to see the Gardaí Policing Committee during

Garda, walking on our Main the past would not be Streets is now a rare one indeed. I raised this matter take as the success of com-Garda with the Commissioner, Drew Harris, at an online meeting of the County Wicklow Joint

community policing model of restored. This is a huge mismunity policing relies on the Community Garda getting to know people in their area and being then able to engage in positive working relationships especially with our young people.

"I have expressed my concerns on this matter publicly licenses etc is moved to because it is just another example of County Wicklow being downgraded in favour of other counties. In recent years, the responsibility for national roads strategy in our county is under the control of Kildare County Council. The headquarters of the Ministers who don't appar-Education and Training ently have any interest in Board (formerly the VEC) is also now in County Kildare. The supervision and provi- elected to serve.'

sion of waste management County Offaly and recently the management of two large parcels of land for housing in Grevstones and Brav has been given over to Dublin City Council. This is happening under the gaze of, not one, but two Cabinet the Ministers who don't appardefending the strategic interests of the County they were

Garda allowances bill exceeded €205m

Gardaí were paid more than €205 million in allowances last year, including boot allowances, Gaeltacht allowances, and payments for serving in the ministerial pool of drivers.

Almost a third of the money - or €73.2 million - was paid out in a Sunday allowance to more than 13,500 members, for an average of around €5,400 per person. Another €43 million was paid out in rostered night duty to more than 13,000 members, with the average payment working out at just over €3,200 for each member.

There was also a payment of around €18.9 million in public holiday allowances, shared between over 13,360 individual gardaí. Annual premium payments worth €12.47 million were paid as well to 13,804 different people according to figures released under FOI.

Boot allowances totalling €2.1 €2.16 million were paid out to 408 million were paid to more than 14,000 individual gardaí, each worth about €150 per person. There were also a variety of uniform allowances paid, which together came to a cost of around $\in 2.9$ million, the garda figures showed.

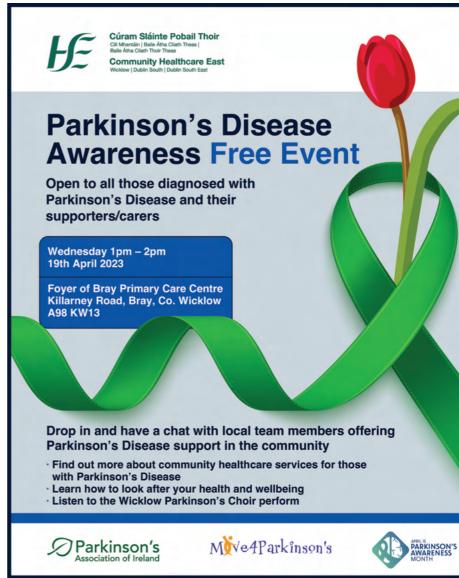
were made to gardaí in particular jobs with €3.57 million paid in a "detective allowance" to 4,879 different gardaí.

which came to a combined $\in 2.18$ million, or around €6,900 per person. Instructor allowances totalling

gardaí, while 3,440 members shared €1.875 million in a "plain clothes allowance"

Payments totalling €960,000 were paid to 82 gardaí for working in the minister's pool, providing driving and security services to Other more specific payments officeholders. Gaeltacht allowances cost €789,859 and were paid to 194 members serving in Irish-speaking regions, or an average of €4,071 per person.

There was an "availability Other payments made last year allowance" paid to 318 members, included €712,661 in transport allowances, €615,119 in overseas allowances, and €487,821 in a "scene of crimes allowance"





Sgt Gerry Browne, stationed in Greystones, retired last week on 12th April. He was thanked for his service by Minister for Justice Simon Harris at the Annual Delegate Conference of the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors in Salthill, Galway.

Times Easter joy in Avoca as pre-Famine chalice rediscovered



Fr. Michael Murphy with the chalice

A silver and gold pre-famine chalice has been rediscovered in the parish of Avoca. The chalice, dating from 1811, was discovered during a major clear out in a parish house.

Parish priest, Fr Michael Murphy, who was appointed to Avoca parish last August, has already undertaken renovation work on the chalice and says it is 'part of the county's heritage and will be used in the parish in the future.

The chalice is engraved with the old name for Avoca, "Newbridge Chapel". Newbridge chapel itself was a tiny building adjacent to the present cemetery whilst the present Church, built by the miners of the area, wasn't finished until 1862. The details of the chalice match the Catholic diocese inventory of the period with intricate details confirming its age and authenticity.

The chalice, along with a sister chalice, went missing some decades ago and parishioners are hopeful that their 1826 chalice may also be rediscovered in the future

It's an exciting time in Avoca as the parish prepares to repair and renovate its four churches in Avoca, Templerainey, Barniskey and Ballycoog. Fundraising kicks off on 21st April with an Evening of Song in Avoca church.



The Newbridge Chalice

Wicklow Sinn Fein hold annual Easter 1916 commemoration

Wicklow Sinn FÈin held their annual 1916 Easter commemoration in Bray on Monday 10th April. Over 100 people attended the commemoration which was led by a piper down Bray Main Street to the 1916 garden in the People's Park in Little Bray.

Proceedings were chaired suit of Irish freedom, to by Muireann Dalton, and Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O' Brien read the Wicklow Republican Roll of Honour.

Fein TD John Brady, he said that. "We can never take the

promise of the republic ment are worsening the for granted. It is why we remember all of those

down on people have not by Cllr Grace McManus: remind us of their sacri-the Proclamation was read fice and to recommit ourbeen solved. Indeed, things are getting worse. The right to secure shelter selves to the republic that they dedicated their lives for citizens and their families has been eroded and for and to making their hopes and dreams a realichipped away by a housing crisis that has been In the main oration ty for this generation and which was given by Sinn for generations to come." created and deepened by Deputy Brady said that Fianna Fail and Fine Fianna Fail, Fine Gael Gael. and the Greens in govern-

"Secure and affordable housing is the cornerstone welfare of citizens. of so many other rights. "Since taking office the Today, we have a generawho struggled in the pur- crucial problems pressing tion of our people locked

into insecure and unaffordable rental markets, locked out of any real hope of owning their own homes. This affects young and old, parents and children, men and women, those working and those vulnerable.

"Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, supported by the Green Party have chosen to unleash the worst consequences of their housing failure by ending the eviction ban, shame on them. families through anxiety. insecurity and indeed homelessness. A cruel and inhumane decision, the very antithesis of the Easter proclamation to which we pledged our-

selves today." Deputy Brady added "In 2020 the establishment bought itself time. They can delay change, but they cannot stop it and change is coming and we in Sinn Fein are more determined than ever to deliver that change. Sinn Fein will lead govern-ment, North and South, on both parts of this island sooner rather than later and we are determined to deliver a government for the people, a real government of change building a united Ireland.

He said the Good Friday Agreement provided the right to a referendum and that time to exercise that right was com-

ing. "Momentum is building every day towards that opportunity, to reunite our country and to control our own destiny for once and



Deputy John Brady and Cllr Grace McManus marching in the 1916 commemoration in Bray

for all. The interests of the ties await us, and a new people of Ireland have not and united Ireland are there to be seized. Now is and never will be served by any government in the time to lay those foun-

deliver on a Citizens Assembly that is required to prepare for constitutional change. "Referendums can be

London. New opportunidations, now is the time to who gave their lives." LIL ST

Children holding pictures of the signatories of the proclamation at the 1916 Garden in the People's Park

won and won well but nothing can be taken for granted. Change is coming. The demand for change is growing. Our responsibility is clear, to rededicate ourselves to the mission of the proclamation. Irish Republicans today are as committed to that mission as those who read that proclamation on the steps of the GPO in 1916 and all of those who strove to achieve its noble

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a republic, a united Ireland with social justice and equality as its foundation stone - a fitting tribute to each and every one that gave so much for Irish freedom. We have the means, we can do it, let's do it together, let's rededicate ourselves to finishing the journey, to finishing the job of building a republic as a fitting tribute to the legacy of all of those

aims "Our mission is to build

condemning thousands of



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Brian Robinson B.B.L.S., L.L.M. State Solicitor Eilish Bradshaw B.A., L.L.B., L.L.M. Clare-Ann Temple L.L.B.

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Delivery of Greystones Community College building confirmed

Funding to complete the new school building for Greystones Community College has been confirmed, it's been announced.

Norma Foley TD confirmed an agreement has is crucial that no more been secured to guarantee delays to this project are and support the rollout and continuation of the staff and Principal hvae Department's ambitious been doing amazing work school building programme.

continued rollout of urgently required school building projects in both mainstream and special education settings, includ-ing those that were temporarily paused due to capital funding pressures.

of the 58 schools in relation to the formal arrangements and next steps in respect of the delivery of their individual projects.

Welcoming the news, Chairperson of Greystones project time line to be pro-Community College Board of Management Cllr next meeting." Lourda Scott said, "I am delighted to receive offihas been secured to enable the permanant building to news for the whole school community who were frustrated and anxious at important programme of this most reent delay. I am delivery. told that our building plans

tender and construction. It encountered. The school in the temporary accomo-

dation. However, in order This will facilitate the for GCC to continue to

"I want to thank the parents, school staff and Board members as well as our local TDs who have worked closely together to The Department of ensure that our school's Education will update each future is prioritised. I will continue to work with the Department of Education and KWETB to ensure that the new school building is promptly delivered and will be requsting a the delivery of these

vided to the Board for our Minister Foley said: "The Department of officials in the Department an ambitious Capital proof Education that funding gramme that delivers new and modernised facilities in school communities and progress. This is good Government is absolutely supportive of continuing this very ambitious and

"This will include pro- with over 180 projects

schools that were temporarily paused to progress to tender and construction stage and Department officials will contact those schools directly. "These projects will provide new and modernised facilities for our

grow and expand it is vital that it's permanent home is built as soon as possible.

delivery Development Plan. I would like to thank my for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform, Paschal Donohoe who worked tirelessly with me and my Department officials in order to facilitate

urgently required school building projects." Minister Madigan said: will be able to deliver on cial confirmation from Education is committed to the planned school building projects. Many of these will support and dents with special educafacilities.

The Department of

Minister for Education, will quickly proceed to vision for all of the 58 completed last year within a challenging environment. This year alone, over 300 school building projects are currently under construction, including 40 new school build-

ings and 260 projects at existing schools. There are also over 1,000 other school building projects in school communities and are an important aspect of the Department's pipeline at various stages of develthe Departmentís overall under the opment. The Department Governmentís National also continues to support schools with the successful integration of over 15,000 Cabinet colleague Minister Ukrainian students within the school system.

Welcoming the annuncement, Independent Greystones Councillor Stephen Stokes said "Our schools in North Wicklow are under tremendous pressure. Our students and school staff deserve to have permanent facilities to maximise their educa-"I am very pleased that we tional experience. This is good news, but it is just

the start. As our population booms, we will need continued investment in many enable the inclusion of stu- key areas "I will continue to push

tional needs, in modern for more infrastructure and educational facilities for Charlesland, Delgany, Education has a proven Greystones, Kilcoole, track record of delivery, Killadreenan and New-



Pictured at the recent Table Quiz in aid of Greystones Community First Responders held in Greystones Golf Club were Garrett, Melanie, and Stephen Fitzpatrick and Ronan McCabe. Pic: Iohn McGowan

'Urgent investment needed to cut **CAMHS** wait times'

Sinn Fein TD for John Brady has called on the Minister for Health to prioritise investment in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to reduce extreme wait times for urgently needed mental health services in Wicklow.

Brady was responding to new data released by Parliamentary Question to Sinn FÈin spokesperson on Health David Cullinane TD which shows that waiting lists for CAMHS are up 60% since January 2020 in CHO areas 6 and 7, which cover Wicklow.

Deputy Brady said: "Child and adolescent mental health services are desperately underfunded. There are significant vacancies across existing CAMHS teams, and we do not have enough CAMHS teams across the state

"Waiting lists for CAMHS have risen by 60% to 1194 in January 2023 from 478 in January 2020. Urgent investment is needed in CAMHS to expand capacity and reduce wait times. Over five percent of children in community healthcare areas 6 and 7, which cover Wicklow, are waiting longer than a year for their first appointment.

There are more than 65 children waiting longer than a year, and more than 540 waiting longer than 3 months for an appointment. The Minister must produce a plan for capacity expansion and workforce planning to address these waiting lists."



Located at Mountain View House, Vevay Road, Bray, Co Wicklow. To find out more contact Tara on 0872485061 or by email at lpabray@gmail.com

LDA seeks applications for 94 cost rental apartments in Delgany

The Land Development Agency (LDA) has announced the launch of the application process for 94 cost rental apartments in Delgany, Co Wicklow with monthly rents starting at €1,220.

The apartments are part of a Government initiative where the affordable purchase. total delivery of 142 cost rental LDA homes at Archers Wood. Applications close on April 18th. The homes are being delivered ments and then makes the homes Project Tosaigh, a available as either cost rental or under

steps in to complete unviable or stalled private housing develop-

The Archers Wood apartments in Delgany

The 94 units, which are now owned by the state, include 37 onebed, 53 two-bed and four three-bed apartments. Monthly rents are \in 1.220 for a one-bed, \in 1.445 for a two-bed and €1,530 for a three-bed.

A total of 48 duplex homes have already been released in Archers Wood. Applications for these homes have closed. Tenants have already been allocated the first 24 homes and offers have been made for the second 24. The 48 involve 24 twobed and 24 three-bed duplexes with rents of €1,455 for a two-bed and $\in 1.550$ for a three-bed.

The apartments are located between three blocks, Archers Wood View, Archers Wood Manor and Archers Wood Gate, with a mix of underground and surface carparking as well as bike sheds.

John Coleman, chief executive of the LDA said: "The LDA is delighted to announce the release of these apartments in Archers Wood and we look forward to handing over the keys to successful applicants. Project Tosaigh is proving to be a significant initiative and is now delivering affordable purchase and cost rental housing throughout the country."



Dargle Bridge Club raised €900 through their Christmas and Easter raffles. The Bridge Club kindly donated this towards activities at Open Door. The members, staff and Board of Trustees said thy want to thank everyone involved. Pictured are Celine McCabe from Dargle Bridge Club, Suzanne Cox from Open Door and Anne Mullen from Dargle Bridge Club.



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- Granite Pebble Sand



Wicklow awarded over €100,000 by Community **Monuments Fund**

5 Wicklow projects allocated funding under this year's scheme

Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan, TD, has announced the award of €8 million in funding for 140 archaeological heritage projects throughout the country as part of the Department's Community Monuments Fund for 2023. This year's fund represents an increase of 33% over last year's allocation, with €107,652 being awarded to five projects in Wicklow.

the Community Monuments Fund is to support the conservation, maintenance, protection, and promotion of local monuments and historic sites, in alignment with the aims of the Government's new heritage plan, Heritage Ireland 2030, and the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan. The scheme contains a range of measures that seek to enable conservation to be carried out on archaeological monuments in need of urgent support, encourage access to these monuments and improve their presenta-tion, and build resilience to enable these monuments to withstand the effects of climate change.

The scheme offers three funding streams to support a broad range of measures aimed at protecting and promoting archaeological monuments, including emergency conservation repair works at monuments, masonry repair, the development of Conservation Manage-ment Plans, access infrastructure and installation of interpretation signage, and communication projects aimed at disseminatknowledge

The core objective of Church; €30,000 in ported over 330 projects have grown this Fund yet funding for South West Wicklow Graveyards; €29,983 in funding for Newcastle Castle; €12,669 in funding for Derralossary Church & Graveyard; €5,000 in funding for Drumgoff

Welcoming the fund-ing allocations, Independent councillor in Greystones Municipal District Stephen Stokes said, "The castle in Newcastle was originally constructed in the period between 1177 and 1184, by Hugh de Lacy. At the time Hugh de Lacy was the Governor of Ireland. This funding is a positive development. Preserving and promoting our historical sites serves as a gateway to understanding the

Barracks

past. The investment for 2023 is up by a third from last year across Ireland. County Wicklow is rich in archaeological heritage. As such we should continue to pursue positive investment in this area."

Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD said: "I am delighted to announce funding for 140 archaeological heritage projects across the country under the Community Monuments Fund to a

total of E8 million, an increase of 33% on last in funding for Kilpipe year. This fund has sup-

since its establishment in again from last year, 2020, making a tangible, building year on year positive impact to the since its establishment. I medieval forts and am also delighted to see churches and the historic many archaeological monuments in private graveyards and castles into which the lives of ownership benefitting ñ a recognition of the custoour ancestors are woven, along with our own, condianship which is so necting us to our ancient important to the protection of Ireland's archaeopast.

"It is also, of course, logical heritage. an investment in our future: in the ongoing care, conservation and promotion of these remarkable monuments and historic sites, and in the communities and heritage professionals who expertly manage the effort to conserve, protect and share them. I'd like to thank all of this year's applicants for their efforts, and wish the successful grantees the very best of luck with their projects.'

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, TD, said: 'When we established highlighting their importhe Community Monum-ents Fund in 2020, we did so with the objective of supporting the heritage sector and providing an effective way to assist Local Authorities and custodians in protecting Ireland's remarkable yet vulnerable archaeological heritage

"With my colleague, of



Minister of State

Minister Malcolm Noonan TD, we

State villages and towns all around the country.



Royal Castle, Newcastle

ing Ireland's archaeological heritage This year's CMF awards include: €30,000

Showcase Event for Regenerative Tourism Programme for Microenterprise & Community Groups

The CUPHAT (Coastal Uplands: Heritage and Tourism) project held a Showcase Event at The Orchard Centre in Tinahely on 4 April 2023 to celebrate the achievements of start-ups, microenterprises and community members from the Wicklow and Blackstairs Mountains. Over the past 2 months, CUPHAT, in collaboration with Mary Cronin from UpThink Innovation Agency have delivered a Regenerative Tourism Programme to facilitate a collaborative space for participants from the Arts, Outdoor Recreation, Heritage, Food and Accommodation sectors to co-create circular designs and regenerative tourism offerings within their local communities.

Regional Development Fund reaching exposure of the talent in through the Ireland-Wales the area". Karen Codd, the Cooperation programme, CUPHAT seeks to showcase the shared and distinctive heritages of the Blackstairs Mountains and Wicklow Mountains in Ireland, and the Cambrian Mountains and Preseli Mountains in Wales. This programme was a response to tion and growth". feedback gathered from focus groups held in late 2022 from community members about the local challenges they faced. As a result, the programme targeted regenerative tourism, circular economy, design-thinking, routes to funding, creating compelling stories, and approaches to building partnerships.

At the Showcase Event, 12 participants from the programme pitched their projects to their peers, as well as to representatives Wicklow from County Partnership, Wexford Local Development, Wicklow and Wexford Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), Visit Wexford, Carlow Tourism, Wexford PPN. Ireland's Ancient East, Fáilte Ireland, Design and Crafts Council Ireland, the EPA and Wicklow and Wexford County Councils.

Reflecting on the evening, local farmer Tom Burgess of Coolattin Cheddar, who joined the programme as an established enterprise, said it was "a thoroughly

Supported by the European enjoyable experience, with a far- learning environment. I learnt a lot Secretary of Rathnure Development Group and a community project participant on the programme, said it was "inspiring and thought-provoking to hear how other communities and businesses are approaching regenera-

Bermingham, from Tom Wexford Local Development, said "it was great to witness the passion, determination, and resilience of the diverse range of businesses and community representatives at last night's event. The LEADER Programme is a key funder of niche rural businesses and voluntary community groups and in preparation for the next round, we are currently in the consultation phase for the development of a high-quality local development strategy that reflects the needs of businesses and communities. I was delighted to meet the Wexford (Blackstairs) representatives to discuss how LEADER can assist in bringing their plans to fruition in the coming years. I also encouraged them to make their voices heard at our public consultation meetings in the coming weeks".

Amongst the start-up participants who pitched on the evening was a local artist, Sally Dunne. She said, "the course leaders cultivated a very open, encouraging

of invaluable lessons from my fellow participants who kindly shared their own expertise and experiences. There was a genuine community spirit. I have made contacts and developed some exciting opportunities as a result of this fantastic programme. Nicky Butler, who is also starting up a microenterprise in Wicklow, Tir na Glass heritage walking tours, said "it was great to have the opportunity to share my business and get to network and make connections with other people in the industry. I feel like some valuable connections were made Hurley marker, David Moran who also pitched on the evening said the programme was, "a great opportunity for my business to open up new avenues and collaborate with like-minded people

The CUPHAT Regenerative Tourism Programme team are now identifying next steps to provide support to microenterprise and community projects going forward. The programme is also currently underway in the Cambrian and Preseli Mountains in the Welsh project areas and running in collaboration with Menter a Busnes. A similar Showcase Event is scheduled in Wales for June. More information about the wider CUPHAT project, which runs until end of August 2023, can be found at https://cuphat.aber.ac.uk/.



Rev Michael Anderson, Fr Padraig O'Cochlain and Rev Canon Arthur Barrett at the Easter 'SonRise' event, the Ecumenial Prayer Service at Arklow South Beach.



Attendees at the Showcase Event for CUPHAT's Regenerative Tourism Programme for Microenterprise & Community Groups

Bus Éireann delivers the school transport scheme on behalf of the Department of Education



School Transport 2023/24

The Bus Éireann family portal is now open for all applicants who wish to be considered for the allocation of a ticket for the 2023/24 school year.

Payment for all applicants must be made by Friday 9 June.

2023/24 school year charges:

€50 per student at primary level

€75 per student at post-primary level

€125 cap per family

To check eligibility, make your payment or enter your medical card details, go to buseireann.ie/schooltransport by Friday 9 June.

Families are strongly urged to make sure that they register and pay on time. Late applications or payment may mean that a ticket is not available.

New Applicants' Deadline: 28 April

All new school transport applicants for the school year 2023/24 must apply by Friday 28 April.

New applicants are:

- Pupils attending junior infants in primary school or first year in post-primary school for the first time in 2023/24
- Pupils with a new home address or attending a new school in 2023/24

For more information, visit gov.ie/schooltransport



Times **8** NEWS Tuesday 18th April 2023 Hidden disabilities sunflower initiative launched 8 NEWS Tuesday 18th April 2023

Sunflower lanyard across all of its public offices and libraries. The lanyard is intended to alert County staff that the person wearing it has a hidden disability and may need extra assistance with whatever they want to do.

ble disabilities living in or visiting County Wicklow are able to collect a Sunflower Lanyard free of charge from any of the public offices or libraries.

Welcoming the announcement. Annesley, Tommy Cathaoirleach of Wicklow Hidden County Council, said he was proud to officially launch the Hidden Council and Triple A Disabilities Sunflower Alliance during the lanyard in Wicklow organisation of the was especially relevant Awareness training is passed.

He wished local group Triple A Alliance continued success in spreading the availability of the lan- County Council and yards in other public Library Service." buildings and businesses around County Wicklow thanked and the Department of Rural and Community Development he was especially delightfor providing funding for ed to welcome the comthe initiative through the Programme

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, County Council, joined with Annesley in welcoming the initiative stating: "It is Wicklow County Council County Council in Ireland to recognise the Sunflower across all of its public offices and libraries. This had come about because of the tireless efforts of Triple A Alliance Group to promote the Sunflower especially Lanyard, Aisling Foran who had working Programme Team in Community Cultural & Cultural and Social

People with non-visi- Social Development to Development department Wicklow County Council in the Sunflower Lanyard Initiative.'

She added: "I would also like to thank Tristan Casson-Rennie, Regional Cllr Director, Ireland & Northern Ireland for Disabilities Sunflower for his support for Wicklow County lanyard in Wicklow organisation of the for a county, and a huge County Council. This scheme in the Council. leap for inclusion. For given that World Autism available to all staff and I Wicklow Triple A Awareness Day had just am confident that Hidden Alliance have cam-Disability Sunflower Lanyard wearers will feel comfortable in interacting

with staff in Wicklow Michael Nicholson, Director of Services for Community Cultural & Social Development, said

mencement of the Hidden Community Enhancement Disabilities Sunflower lanyard in Wicklow County Council stating: Wicklow iThe Library Service in Wicklow has been proac-Cllr Tommy tive in providing sensory facilities where possible for its members. And it is a great achievement that no surprise to me that the Librarian is the first County Brendan Martin and his staff have been especially welcoming to taking the Sunflower lanyard on board." He thanked Margaret

Birchall, the lead contact for the library for the project and also Aisling Foran of Triple A Alliance and Tristan Cassonbeen the forefront in Rennie from the Hidden with the Disabilities Sunflower for Community Enhancement the assistance given to the staff in Community,

ensure registration of and the Library Service in bringing about the launch of this very important initiative.

Rebecca Galligan of Triple A Alliance thanked Wicklow County Council and its staff for their commitment towards making Wicklow an inclusive place for all and stated: "The introduction of the Sunflower lanyard across County Wicklow is a first years many we in paigned for inclusion and equality for the hidden aspects of autism which can often cause so much unintended stigma. The beauty of this system is that it includes all persons

who have a hidden (or obvious) disability and goes to show that a little can go a long way when people work together." She said they were

immensely proud to be able to support families with a disability to further engage with their community adding: "We look forward to the next phase of this project and thank the many businesses and organisations who have reached out to join us in becoming a Sunflower supporter. We are currently in contact with other Councils who wish to make their counties more inclusive by recognising

the Sunflower system." Tristan Casson-Rennie, Regional Director, Ireland & Northern Ireland for Hidden Disabilities Sunflower said: "I am delighted that Wicklow County Council and Triple A Alliance have worked together on this lic office or a library



Clara Jenkinson, Michelle Lyons-Doyle, Michael Nicholson (Deputy CEO, Wicklow County Council), Emer O'Gorman (CEO, Wicklow County Council), Tristan Casson-Rennie (Director of Hidden Disabilities), Sophie Doyle, Cllr Tommy Annesley (Cathaoirleach, WCC), Alfie Galligan, Charlie Galligan, Rebecca Galligan, Aisling Foran (Wicklow Triple A Alliance), Cian Kelly and Annmarie Kelly at the launch of the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard Initiative in Council Buildings, Wicklow Town

joint venture to introduce this initiative. Wicklow County Council becomes the first County Council in Ireland to recognise the Sunflower across all of its offices public and libraries

He particularly wanted to thank Aisling Foran from Triple A Alliance and Maire Halvey from Wicklow County Council for their work on the project and added: "All the team at Wicklow County Council have participated or are currently participating in Sunflower Training and I am confident that Sunflower wearers will be met with kindness, patience and understanding by the Council team whenever visiting a pub-



Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Tommy Annesley and harlie Galligan at the launch of the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard Initiative



Pictured at the recent Table Ouiz in aid of Greystones Community First Responders held in Greystones Golf Club wereRamona Maher-Reilly, Ruby and Emma Day, Yvonne O'Neill and Bairbre O'Heidain. Pic: John McGowan

'Is your business missing out on talent?'

Disability Inclusive Employer Breakfast Briefing

A free breakfast briefing for local employers on Becoming a Disability Confident and Inclusive Employer is being held in the Glenview Hotel from 8.30am on Wednesday 26th April.

The event is being run by Bray Area Partnership's Disability Network and Employers for Change, a national employer disability information service funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

The panel on the day will include Christabelle Feeney, Director, Employers for Change, and Edel McSorley, Operations Director, Mr. Price, who will both be sharing their considerable expertise and experience in this area

Speaking in advance of the event Christabelle Feeney said, "In today's world prospective employees are driven towards companies based on their values and whether or not they will belong. There is an opportunity for employers to actively tap into more diverse talent pools and to showcase how representative they are of greater society.

We know that in total, disability touches 73% of consumers. A 2018 Report by Accenture found that companies who were disability inclusion champions achieved - on average - 28% higher revenue over a four-year period than those who were not. So, the business case for disability inclusion is strong and it is

proven This event will look to address the knowledge gap for local employers. We will give practical steps and hear lived experience from speakers Topics covered will include:

- Diversity of disability,
 - Business case for disability inclusion,
 - Inclusive recruitment processes,
- Implementing reasonable accommodations,
- Available grants and supports.

An Irish Sign Language Interpreter will be present. Employers can register for the event at: https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/breakfast-briefing-becomea-disability-confident-and-inclusive-employer-tickets-602378729997.

This event is funded by the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), which is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021 -2027, with support from Employers for Change.

Times 'Reneging of promised facilities in Greystones district is unacceptable'

Green Party TD for Wicklow Deputy Steven Matthews has spoken of the need for community facilities in the Greystones district, following the decision to allow Archers Wood to proceed without a community centre, which was included at the initial design stage. This decision comes on top of similar reneging of promised facilities in Churchlands. He says the former HSE building in Delgany must now be given to the community for a local centre.



Deputy Matthews at the former HSE building in Delgany

Deputy Matthews said, "Grevstones has undergone a massive increase in residential development but community facilities which are important and were expected by residents have not been provided.

dismayed by "I am Wicklow Country Council's decision on Archers Wood to permit the removal of a planning condition to provide a community building facility which was granted in 2019. Every community needs this type of facility, and it was described by the applicant Cairn Homes as a building that will provide an important amenity asset for the new residential community and will also provide passive surveillance to the open space area. Despite this, it will now not be provided.

"In its reasoning the developer said that there were several clubs in the area which could facilitate occasional meetings for residents, however it appears they didn't in any way consult with or assess those clubs' availability.

"It is unacceptable to apply for planning permission which includes community facilities, construct and sell all the houses and then seek to avoid proving those facilities.

Matthews spoke of his concern about a similar problem of community facilities failing to materialise in the Churchlands area where two creches lie idle.

He said, "Residents in these locations have bought or rented in the expectation that facilities advertised by the developer will be provided but in both these instances they have been badly let down. Developers can not be allowed to build and profit from the thousands of new houses in the Greystones and Delgany area but walk away from the community gain and provision aspect of proper planning. "Considering the councils

decision to let Cairn away with providing a community facility I am insistent that they redouble their effort to secure the old HSE building in Delgany for use as a community centre. Much has been promised on this building, but I have organised a meeting for the HSE to report on all its unused buildings in Wicklow and to allow Wicklow County Council to assess its needs in those locations. Delgany community will greatly benefit from this central location for a community centre and I am working with all involved to secure it

concluded Deputy Matthews



Pictured is Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr Erika Doyle with actress Jane Seymour, on location at Bray Library for filming of season 2 of Harry Wild. Harry Wild will be filming at various locations around Bray and Wicklow and Cllr Doyle welcomed Ms Seymour back to Bray and spoke to her about the many selling points the town and county has as a filming location. The first season of detective show Harry Wild was a hit and it is expected that season 2 will be aired on RTE. Jane also visited Purple House Cancer Support while in Bray. Jane is known for her roles in Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman. Live and Let Die. and The Onedin Line.



Opening Times Mon - Sat (10.00am - 5.00pm) Sun & Bank Holidays - Closed Unit B7, South City Business Pk, Tallaght, D24



Opening Times

Mon - Sat (10.00am - 5.30pm) Thurs 7.30 pm Sun - Closed (Bank Hols 2.00pm - 5.30pm) Church Road, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin



Times Enniskerry takes part in **National Spring** Clean



Cllr Melanie Corrigan with members of the Enniskerry community who took part in the Spring Clean

Saturday morning 25th March saw the Enniskerry Community take part in the An Taisce National spring clean. The Enniskerry Tidy Towns, Pure Mile, Enniskerry Football club, Bog Meadow group and The Business Association all came together with the community to take part.

The areas concentrated on where litter picks in the Bog Meadow, The R117 (20 bends), Village Centre and the weeding and clearing around the new Community Garden

Cllr Melanie Corrigan, one of the organisers said "It was a lovely sociable morning where neighbours and friends all came together to meet new people in the area and all with the added bonus of cleaning and making our Village an even more beautiful place to live. It was lovely to see so many young children from the football club help ing their parents and getting involved as well as new volunteers



Bags of litter collected in Enniskerry

Public urged to reduce use of pesticides this growing season

As we approach a new growing season Wicklow County Council is asking the public to avoid the use of glyphosate and other harmful pesticides.

Glyphosate is the active chemical in many commercially available herbicide (weed killer) products. Curbing the use of poisons in our environment will allow biodiversity that naturally occur in our green to flourish and we can still use other techniques to manage vegetation when needed.

Almost 50 years after first coming to the market, glyphosate is alternatives that are not damaging now recognised as being harmful to to biodiversity. biodiversity and posing a possible risk to human health.

In a shift away from the use of pesticides, gardeners and land managers are learning instead to embrace the diversity of wild plants spaces. Where it is not possible to retain vegetation, which is the preferred approach, areas can generally be managed using non-chemical

is committed to protecting green

infrastructure and ensuring the respond to the Climate and tion and avoidance of glyphosate- Executive of Wicklow County maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Allowing native wild plants to flourish is crucial for the health of our bee populations and the maintenance of the pollination services they provide. This is a key objective of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, of which Wicklow County Council is a partner.

Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, said: "Wicklow County Council signed up to the All-Ireland Wicklow County Council says it Pollinator Plan as part of the commitment made by members to decisions, advocating the elimina-

with

Biodiversity emergency."

Insecticides pose a major threat to bee and other invertebrate populations, but herbicides containing and in public parks, playgrounds glyphosate are much more commonly used, and are thought to have a detrimental impact on bees through direct toxicity, the contamination of wildflowers, and the depletion of sources of food and shelter as a consequence of killing

wild vegetation. Wicklow County Council's Glyphosate Use Policy, adopted in

June 2022, outlines a hierarchy of

based products. Where vegetation Council, stated: "Wicklow County requires removal or control, such as along roadsides, in town centres and cemeteries, mechanical weeding will be used where appropriate, and alternative products are being trialled for hard surfaces.

In certain circumstances, mainly where invasive species are concerned, there is no feasible option but to use glyphosate, but this must be done only by trained personnel, in accordance with strict monitoring protocols.

O'Gorman, Chief Emer

Council is committed to eliminating use of glyphosate-based products and our teams on the ground are trialling new technologies which do not rely on harmful chemicals."

Tuesday 18th April 2023

Wicklow County Council is also committed to encouraging and supporting other groups such as Tidy Towns groups, Residents groups, Residents Associations, Coast Care and PURE Mile groups in their move towards biodiversity-friendly management practises and the trialling and implementation of alternatives to herbicides.

EPA's review of 2022 shows desire for action

In its Review of 2022 the Environmental being generated, with Protection Agency (EPA) highlights its the rate of recycling work in addressing environmental chal-barges in Wicklew and earress Ireland Circular Economy Circular lenges in Wicklow and across Ireland.

live sustainably in a healthy environment tected by all. There is particularly high value must quickly back our quality. values up with actions."

review reports that:

* An overwhelming public are either want to see real change. According to the EPA Climate Change in the Irish Mind Climate Opinion Maps, 87% of adults in Wicklow are

Programme in collabo Launching the report, worried about climate ration EPA Director General, change, and 91% think Government, local gov-Laura Burke said: "The Ireland has a responsiernment, industry, busi-EPA's vision is that we bility to act on climate ness and social enterchange. prises is supporting the

* Particulate matter transition to a low carthat is valued and pro- from burning solid fuel, bon circular economy and is calling on the and nitrogen dioxide good evidence that peo- from traffic, continues ple in Ireland place a to cause poor air quality. People in Wicklow on having a clean, can check the air quali-healthy environment. ty index here. Changes But the EPA Review of in how we heat our 2022 shows that we homes and finding must do more than alternative ways to travexpress our convictions el can immediately and aspirations. We impact our local air

* New radon risk The EPA's 2022 maps show 170,000 well tested at least homes nationally have radon concentrations majority of the Irish above the national reference level. While alarmed or concerned there was an increase in by climate change, and people testing, the EPA asking more people in Wicklow to test their homes and reduce their risk from this cancer-

people of Wicklow to improve waste separation when recycling and increase the use of brown bins for food waste. *Over half (53%) of septic tank systems failed inspection in 2021.People should visually check their

septic tank and get their annually to satisfy themselves that their septic tank is not posing a risk to the health of their families, their neighbours and the environment.

Where problems are detected, householders need to take the neces causing gas. sary steps t * Too much waste is septic tanks. sary steps to fix their

MEP O'Sullivan welcomes Citizens Assembly Report on Biodiversity Loss

MEP Grace O'Sullivan has welcomed the recommendations of the Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity Loss, launched by Chair of the Assembly Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin. The report, crafted over several meetings of 99 participants from May 2022 to January 2023, contains over 150 recommendations that will improve the quality of biodiversity and allow nature to regenerate on the island.

Having just recently complet-ed a biodiversity-focused field trip to Bray, Green Party MEP O'Sullivan noted the importance abundance and variety of biodiversity that Ireland has to offer. A trained ecologist, she said she recognises the significance of this report in a country that has a poor track record of protecting wildlife and the unique biosphere of the island of Ireland.

"Our natural environment forms the foundation on which we can build our societies and economy. I feel that unfortunately many of us - particularly policymakers - have lost touch with this natural side of Ireland in recent years, and its importance in ensuring that we have a healthy, viable place to live. By ensuring that this landscape is healthy and thriving, we will be ensuring that Ireland's people can be healthy and thriving. The biodiversity report released by the Citizens Assembly echoes this and will play a key role in protecting the future of Ireland's biodiversity," the MEP shared.



the State must take prompt, decisive and urgent action to address biodiversity loss and restoration and must provide leadership in protecting Ireland's biodiversity for future generations. Another recommendation signifies the urgency of protect-The Report recommends that ing areas and species of High have a right to a clean, healthy, an Irish and EU level."

Nature Value across Ireland, through management plans which include restoration programmes.

The report that was conducted by the Citizens Assembly also proposes a series of changes to the Constitution to ensure people

and safe environment. The reality of needing to protect nature in order to protect humans is highlighted through the Assembly's recommendation that nature be provided with protections within the constitution to allow it to continue to provide the necessities of life. These necessities include food, clean freshwater and air, in addition to a clean and healthy environment, which sup ports all of our communities.

Some sectors which were mentioned in the report as a result of their connection with biodiversity include that of agriculture, freshwaters, marine and coastal environments, peatlands, forestry/woodlands/hedgerows, protected sites and species, invasive species, and urban and built environments. O'Sullivan, who works directly with ocean protection at an EU level says that "the importance of biodiversity within our oceans is often an aspect which is overlooked, but healthy oceans are integral to an overall healthy environment, and I will continue to fight for this on both

imes

Croke Park didn't just see the Wicklow Senior Football team compete on Saturday April 1st, as another Wicklow resident, Stephen Kearon from Ballinaclash was there from early morning competing in the ZeroDays.ie capture-the-flag event.

Ireland, France, and Norway attempt to solve over 50 unique attempt to solve over 50 unique ZeroDays. I called our team 'Orac challenges on the day, from Bandits' as Orac was the superdomains such as web security, network security, wireless and IoT Blakes 7 that could hack into any security, cryptography, exploitation, reverse engineering, forensics, puzzles, trivia and gaming.

evening honours degree course in to come in the top half of the Cybersecurity and Digital teams, despite it being our first Forensics with TU Dublin last year, and as a number of my lecturers were recommending we take part, I decided to get a team

This event saw teams from together, and for all us it was our first time to participate in computer in the SciFi series computer in the Galaxy. While many of the challenges were difficult, it was an amazing day, and Stephen explained "I started an great fun, plus we were delighted time there, and are already looking forward to next year." Stephen added "as ZeroDays

was taking place on the 5th floor, I

had a bird's eye view of the Wicklow vs Sligo match, and have to congratulate all the players on an excellent performance in this closely fought match."

Stephen concluded "as part of my 4th Year's Thesis I am carrying out a survey to determine the cur-rent level of awareness and preparedness of small businesses in Ireland against cyberattacks, and as such would really appreciate business owner in Co Wicklow to take just 5 minutes to complete this survey by going to http://CyberSurvey.ie."



Pictured is team Orac Bandits at ZeroDays with Sarunas Kucys, Andrei Prian, Stephen Kearon and Marcin Jurkowski (clockwise from top left)



Corrigan gets the key to City of Dublin, California

Leas Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Councillor Melanie Corrigan, was recently given Key to City of Dublin, California.

Councillor Corrigan led a delegation of officials and community representatives to Sister City, Dublin California to take part in the annual St. Patrick's day celebrations 2023.

Councillor Corrigan with Bray Municipal District Manager Lorraine Gallagher, District Administrator Linda Healy and Eugene Finnegan of Bray Tourism availed of the opportunity to meet with Mayor of Dublin California, Melissa Hernandez, Alemeda County Supervisor David Haubert, Linda Smith Dublin City Manager and officials from the City Managerís office working in Economic Development and Tourism. Presentations were made by the officials of Dublin City and the Bray District Manager, where ideas were exchanged and possible mutual future collaborations were explored around tourism, enterprise, culture education and community.

At this meet Councillor Corrigan was bestowed the honour of being presented with the key to the City of Dublin by Mayor Hernandez. She was also presented with a miniature replica of public art piece 'Conversation' located at the Dublin Sports Ground intended to ëembrace shared humanity and designed to highlight a fundamental human interaction, the ability to listen and the ability to dialogue and engage in conversation. In accepting the piece of replica art Councillor Corrigan said "it is an honour and a

privilege for me to accept this gift on behalf of the community of Bray which will be displayed with prominence at the Bray District Office." At the meeting representatives from Bray Municipal District and Dublin City California signed a

charter to reaffirm the twinning relationship between both communities. Dublin which has a population of 72,932, has been twinned with Bray, Co Wicklow since 1985. In 1987 Bray Council became officially involved as a twinning partnership.



Times **Huge community spirit of Wicklow** Family Club commended as they celebrate first birthday

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore recently commended the huge community spirit of Wicklow Family Club as they celebrated their first birthday.

play such a key role in our towns and villages around asset to Wicklow Town,"

county and The encouragement and perabout the playgroup plans,

"Community Groups said Deputy Whitmore. "It especially the integration "I've always been of Wicklow Town Family sonal development and it's the opinion that a local

Deputy Whitmore with Rebecca, Danielle and Deirdre of Wicklow Family Club

and as provides a safe space for of different sectors of increase from people bank donations that were families seeking support, society together. moving into the town, collected from our con-

community groups like Wicklow Family Club Club is such a valuable very exciting to hear community's growth is that provide an environwhere children are dependent on its people ment does not need to restrict someone's interest or pasthe community in many

ays. "People want to engage "It is incredible the more locally, you could wavs amount of work that tell that by the outpouring Wicklow family club and of community spirit at the the volunteers have undertaken to provide a safe space that is suitable for have no doubt that all family members to interact with other families in a similar position. That could be as simple as needing friendly encouragement, health & wellbeing care, adult communication, upskilling with various courses and CV building. "Getting to see the dis-

populations tribution of the Hygiene stituency office reach the families that they were intended for was really satisfying and a reminder welcome and childcare that community projects run by community people for the people of the comsions allows parents to munity are the corner-develop and contribute to stone of our society here in Wicklow.

group while they celebrated their first birthday. I Wicklow Family Club will grow from strength to strength and I will be raising the issue of support for community clubs like this one with the Minister to ensure that there is a proper framework of support and funding for the future," concluded Deputy Whitmore

anis

Deputy Whitmore with Rebecca and Sophie at Wicklow Family Club

Saint Joseph's Shankill launches the Dementia Right Project

Leading Dementia Care Home Saint Joseph's Shankill has called for the government to prioritise the setting up of the long promised **Commission on Care.**

to the Oireachtas by clini- are calling for a more cal staff, persons living patient-centred policy with dementia and family approach to improve the members of the people living at Saint Joseph's inclusion and dignity of Shankill, all of whom are people living with demenurging the government to revisit Ireland's approach family members. to the care of people liv-

It coincides with a visit ing with dementia. They quality of life, social to bv tia, their caregivers and Saint Joseph's Shankill

which is the Irish partner in the pan-European 'Dementia Right' initiative, and had been invited Leinster House Senator Fiona O'Loughlin, Chair of the All-Party Oireachtas Group on Dementia to present their case to both

eagues The Dementia Right Project commenced in 2020 and is a European project with partners in

Portugal, Spain, Greece, and Turkey. The project has four key objectives: Improving the quality of life, social inclusion and dignity of people living with dementia, their caregivers and family members;

political and sectoral col-

Developing a new approach to dementia that is human rights-based, with effective guidelines for implementing and supervising the care provided in health/care facilities to people with dementia regarding their rights; • Improving the professional competencies of health and social care pro-

fessionals, social educators and other carers to revamp their care skills and their approach to dementia;

• Making care centres more inclusive and efficient to cope with the diverse needs of people

living with dementia. The team at Saint Joseph's are positively committed to changing the way people living with dementia are treated and cared for and say national policy must now be reviewed and modernised to support more progressive models of care.

Siobhan Grant, from Saint Joseph's Shankill explained why they are making this call "The long-awaited Commission on Care promised under

the Programme Government, can play an important role in commencing a national discussion on dementia and this should be expedited. Senator O'Loughlin informed the crowd at the event that terms of refer-

ence were being developed for a Commission on Care and she assured the audience that there is a commitment to delivering the new model of care pathway that the National Dementia Office will be launching very

soon "Saint Joseph's Shankill itself introduced signifi- more

Approach model of care. that uses a person-centred model of care focusing on the social, emotional, psychological, and physical ter" needs of each individual. in as real a home environment as possible. It seeks to put human rights at its core. Throughout the implementation of this innovative approach over the past years, the home has witnessed significant clinical improvements across a range of care metrics amongst its sixty-one residents. This individualised Dementia Right Project, taken into consideration.

for cant changes with the iniapproach to care encour- by sharing how they tiation of our Butterfly ages questioning and value each person using innovation, empowering people to make changes, and accepting what those changes bring for the bet-

"It is challenging to maintain that excellence, but we have a wonderful team of staff and volunteers who believe in making every person feel valued, needed and most importantly loved. The project team at Saint Josephs have drawn on their own experience of culture and systems rights and preferences are changes to inform the always respected and

the service, and their own uniqueness." concluded Siobhan.

The Dementia Right Project seeks to influence people at all levels; from social and healthcare professionals to family members of people living with dementia, to politicians, law professional and the media at large. Inspiring policymakers to support a better future for people living with dementia, where their

Saint Joseph's Shankill Dedicated to Dementia Care

Deirdre Lang speaking about her family's experience of loving someone living with dementia

Senator Fiona O'Loughlin, Elaine Byrne, Normas Sheehan and Siobhan Grant from Saint Joseph's Shankill

Kilcoole student a finalist in national essay competition

Lena Rose Fennell from Coliste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole, was among the 32 finalists that attended the recent final of the Law Society's inaugural national Grainne O'Neill Memorial Legal Essay Competition.

80 essays from 38 schools across 14 different counties. Each student submitted a 1,500-word essay examining the topic, 'The law and social media: striking a balance between freedom of expression and responsible usage.'

McDonagh Sharkey, St Vincent's Secondary School, Dundalk, achievements." Louth, ultimately took the top prize. The announcement was made at an event at the Law Society, Dublin.

Chairperson of the Law

The competition received over law and consider their own legal life and especially during her years rights, how the law impacts society. This competition aims to inspire students' learning and develop their creativity in an engaging way. We were delighted to welcome our student finalists, their parents, guardians, and teachers, to the Transition Year student Saorla home of the Law Society of Ireland at Blackhall Place to celebrate their

The Grainne O'Neill Memorial Legal Essay Competition honours the life and legacy of the late Judge Grainne O'Neill. In 2014, Grainne became the youngest Society's Education Committee, judge in Ireland when she was Richard Hammond SC, said, "This appointed to the District Court. competition aims to encourage Grainne died in 2018 following a young people to engage with the period of illness but, during her Hammond SC said.

as a judge, Grainne worked diligently to apply the law in a fair, rigorous and compassionate man-

The competition was initiated The Hon Mr Justice Keenan Johnson of the Circuit Court, in collaboration with the Midland Solicitors' Bar Association in 2019. This is the first year the competition invited entries from transition year students across the country

"It's fitting that we can bring Grainne's legacy to a national platform, and to continue to make a difference to young people, their learnings and their lives," Mr

€2.5m for Kildare and Wicklow **Education and Training Board**

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris has announced the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) is set to receive €2.5 million in further education capital grant funding

Minister Harris said, "I am glad to announce that Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board KWETB is set to receive €2.5 million in funding from capital grants under my department. This money will enable KWETB to make discretionary investment decisions in how to best to support and address local needs in the further education and training sector. County Wicklow has a fantastic amount of further educational opportunities and networks, and now KWETB will be able to use this money to carry out improvements and upgrades to a number of their facilities and educational resources such as the upgrade of computer and science labs." Minister Harris continued, "This funding sits at the heart of my department's commitment to support further

education and training centres, and I am delighted to be able to continue working to honour this commitment. I look forward to seeing how KWETB utilise this funding in further developing our county's already outstanding resources and work towards ensuring that everyone in Wicklow will have access to state-of-the-art educational

Wicklow Educate Together a winner at PExpo '23

Wicklow Educate Together has taken one of the top awards at PExpo '23 held in DCU. Wicklow Educate Together students Conor Martin and Aaron Fitzsimons took the junior award in the Nutrition category for their project on 'Nutrition for Footballers'. It was a first ever award for the school, which submitted three projects to the exhibition



Conor Martin and Aaron Fitzsimons, from Wicklow Educate Together receiving their award from Cameron Molloy Moules of Sport Ireland.

association with the Physical Education Physical Association of Ireland, was first held in 2015 and is now in its ninth year. Its aim is to promote a better understanding of PE, sport, fitness and health among second level school students.

PExpo, developed in

For the exhibition. based loosely on the Young Scientists format, students are invited to submit projects under one of nine headings, including the power of sport, technology in sport, wellbeing, components of fitness, nutrition, games development, psychology, and two categories linked to the physical education curriculum for the Leaving Certificate. Prizes are divided into two age groups - junior for up to third year and senior for fourth year and higher.

As well as the Physical Education Association of Ireland, and 'Dare to Believe' other supporters of PExpo '23 include Sport Ireland, Dublin City Sport and Wellbeing, South Dublin County Sport Partnership and DCU Sport.



Lena Rose Fennell from Coliste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole receiving her finalist's certificate

Free school book scheme guidelines published by Department of Education

As the Department of Education releases its guidelines for the new Free School Books Scheme for primary and special schools, Bookselling Ireland welcomes their publication, and bookshops throughout the country are already working with local schools to in assisting them with the purchasing of schoolbooks for their pupils.

The bookshop sector has voiced its concerns over the potential risks inherent in the new system which could disrupt the smooth delivery of schoolbooks in readiness for the new school year in September. To help manage these risks, booksellers across Ireland are already working with local schools to offer advice, support, and assistance with this new responsibility to make the process as straight forward as possible.

Ongoing support for school leaders and their teams will be vital over the coming months to ensure that all pupils have their books in time for the start of the new school year. Bookselling Ireland members have a presence in every county in Ireland and possess extensive knowledge and experience of school book supply, they can therefore provide a highly reliable and expert service to schools. From offering advice on compil ing booklists, helping with streamlining ordering and invoicing, to readily supporting additional stock orders throughout the year, local bookshops are ready to help school staff in every way possible.

Therefore, Bookselling Ireland encourages schools to liaise directly with their local bookshop for their orders, to ensure that all pupils will have all their book requirements for the first day of the new school term in September.

Dawn Behan, Chair of Bookselling Ireland, commented, "Bookselling Ireland members have an enduring commitment as booksellers to supporting educators in securing the joys of reading for children across Ireland. Bookshops provide enduring social and cultural value to local communities, and we hope that this will be a meaningful factor as decisions are made on school book supply. Our members look forward to working with local schools to ensure that the new system works well and doesn't create too much of a burden for school staff."



Pictured is the St. Laurence's team who were the Division 1 winners at Day 2 of the Girls' Football Wicklow Times Shield held in Bray Emmets. This was the final competition of the girls' football schedule this year. There were 24 teams participating split into six divisions for the competition with the top team in each division crowned winners

Times **14** ARTS Tuesday 18th April 2023 Spring comes to Avoca with an Evening of Song



Fr Michael Murphy with some of the performers who will take part in the concert



Fr Michael Murphy with one of the deteriorating walls.

Four nineteenth century churches in the parish of Avoca are to be refurbished through the efforts of the county's singers and musicians in a spring concert to be held on Friday, 21st April.

Locals became alarmed vital, we have wonderful at the pace of deterioration in two of the churches in particular where the water is pouring through the roof in Templerainey and the ancient plaster is crumbling off the walls in Avoca. This has resulted in the historic buildings falling into a steady decline and, without repairs and the installation of a proper heating system, the county could lose a big part of our heritage.

to come.

Kenny, who has been

a piano into the church for

the concert, "we will have

songs from musicals and

operatic aias, there will be

music to suit everyone.

During the pandemic, when Masses were held online, locals used the churches as a safe place for personal meditation and prayer, a quiet space to counteract the chaos of the world outside. Parish priest, Fr Michael Murphy, has described the toll that time and weather have taken on the churches and on the parishioners who have been known to carry hot water bottles to church in order to stay warm!

The oldest of the four churches, Ballycoog, dates from 1816 joined by Avoca, Templerainey and Barniskey, all of which have played a major role in the history of the area.

Local singers and musicians are supporting the concert from their hearts. Geraldine Wadden, who conducts two youth choirs and who has sung with the Opera Serenade Quintet for the past 18 years, says she has become involved because "these repairs are

Soprano Mary Merrigan "It's really important churches and they need to says be here for the generations to get this work done, it's been cold and damp for so Geraldine will perform long, the money hasnít with Barbara Duffy and Jennifer Lee. Brigid been there even to fix O'Connor.

everyday things." Another highlight will playing the organ since the age of 16, will be moving be the popular Harper-Lambert group which has two sets of twins in their ensemble. The group, led by Lar Harper on double bass, are part of the Wicklow Miners Ceoltas

group. Also performing on the night are Avondale Voices, Avril OíToole, Denise Brennan, Dynamics, Johnny Stafford and Niamh

Tickets for the event are available at €20 from Hendley's shop, the pharmacy and post office in Avoca, Delaney's in Woodenbridge, Kinsellaís on the Beech Road and Brennanís Electrical, Arklow.



The Avoca Minors Ryan Harper, Cian Harper, with Fiach and Cormac Lambert who will take part in the Spring Comes to Avoca concert.

Adaptation of Joyce's Molly Bloom to come to Wicklow in honour of Chieftains legend Paddy Moloney

A thrilling new adaptation of James Joyce's, Penelope Chapter, 'Yes! Reflections of Molly Bloom', is en route to Wicklow. Described as "expertly performed" by The New York Times, this one woman performance promises a daring theatrical journey into the mind and heart of the beloved Ulysses character.

The show is starring New York ouring my dad and his immense ing: "I've been fascinated by based, Irish actor, Aedín Moloney, who adapted the piece in collaboration with Irish author Colum McCann. Traditional Irish music fans are in for a treat as the accompanying

music to the show was especially recorded by Moloneyís father, Paddy Moloney, legendary founder and leader of The Chieftains, who passed away in 2021.

The show was awarded Winner of the Outer Critics Circle Award for best solo performance during its premiere run in New York. Now the piece will tour multiple venues in Ireland including a show at The Wicklow Heather, May 11th and a closing run at The New Theatre, reanimate that love, and ends up Dublin (June 13 - June 17) for what promises to be a theatrical highlight of this year's Bloomsday Festival. relevant, even after that love is over Speaking ahead of the tour, Moloney remarked that the show is in honour of her late father: "Bringing our adaptation of Molly Bloom back home to Ireland is a truly remarkable experience for us all. It's an emotional journey hon-

contribution to Irish music with the incredible score he arranged and recorded especially for this show. Now it will be heard by audiences across the homeland, making this return extra special."

The show is a unique take on James Joyce's masterpiece set in Dublin in the early 20th Century: "With an empty nest, an unfulfilling affair, and a marriage long past its prime, Molly Bloom contemplates the love that she and her philandering husband, 'Poldy', once shared. Her unsentimental stream of consciousness is a song of songs that reaches backward and forward across the centuries. She seeks to discovering herself - as a woman seeking purpose and a desire to be and her children are gone. Through reflections, Dublin becomes Gibraltar, age becomes youth, and a small room in Ireland becomes the world," remarked Moloney.

Moloney describes how the project has been 30 years in the mak-

Ulysses since my youth, and after 30 years of exploring the character's depths, it was author Colum McCann who inspired me to turn those musings into reality - and in 2003, I began work on the adaptation. I recorded the full monologue with music by my father in 2017. Colum partnered with me to complete the adaptation in 2019, and his involvement in this project has enabled us to bring together a show that will captivate fans of James Joyce as well as introducing new generations to one of literature's greatest works."

Molly Bloom is a fictional character in the 1922 novel Ulysses by James Joyce. The character was modelled on Joyce's wife Nora Barnacle and the day upon which the novel is set in 16 June 1904 is now called Bloomsday.

Yes! Reflections of Molly Bloom will come to The Wicklow Heather, May 11th. Audiences should be age 16+. Tickets available from yesreflectionsofmollybloom.com



Actor Aedln Moloney pictured on Howth Head rehearsing a scene from 'Yes! Reflections of Molly Bloom', ahead of the show's nationwide tour. Photo by Julien Behal

Times Tuesday 18th April 2023 **Orla Gartland explores** the music of Joni Mitchell

Jameson Black Barrel Classic Album Nights comes to Bray this month The Harbour Bar, Bray, Wednesday 19th April

Jameson Black Barrel has announced a Bray date for the popular Classic Album Nights series, with Irish singer Orla Gartland exploring one of her favourite all time classic records, 'Blue' by Joni Mitchell.

events in Dublin and Belfast, Orla Gartland albums and the smoothest whiskey. discussed in depth how 'Blue' helped to shape her own musical journey before mesmerising audiences with stunning renditions of a selec-tion of her favourite songs from the album, which is widely regarded as one of the greatest folk records of all time.

Now, the Choice Music Prize nominated month. The new series of the phenomenally popular Jameson Black Barrel Classic Album both in Ireland and the UK. Her career has

In November, at Classic Album Nights Nights, blends musical talent, timeless classic The intimate event will be hosted by Irish

Times writer Una Mullally, who will chat to

her interpretations of some of the record's classic songs. Orla, who is best known for her quirky folk Irish singer will bring the intimate and eclec-tic show to The Harbour Bar, Bray, this melodies, released her debut album 'Woman on the Internet' in 2021 to critical acclaim

continued its upward trajectory since, amassing over 1 million monthly listeners on Spotify.

Curated by Jameson Black Barrel, the Orla about the influence that ëBlueí has had must-attend show looks to bring a new flavour on her music before treating the audience to to how we experience timeless records, each

enjoyed with the smoothest of cocktails. Limited tickets for the event are available now via Jameson Connects. Tickets are free and limited to two per person. To become a Jameson Connects member sign up at www.jamesonwhiskey.com/en-IE/connects/sign-up

How to Get The Menopause and Enjoy It!

The Courthouse, Tinahely, Saturday 6th May, $\in 21/\in 19$, 8pm. Doors open 7.30pm

Following her sold out gig last October, the Courthouse is pleased to announce a second chance to see Anne Gildea in this topical, informative and extremely funny show.

on the Oestrogel and boiling with excitement about bring her hilarious new show on the road. Join her on this fabulous, informative, wet-your-pants excursion through one of life's last great mysteries - The Menopause!

What is it? Why does it happen? How come some women sail through it and it turns others into offthe-scale nutjobs? Is there anything you can do about it? Why is it named after men? And why oh why is so little known about this inevitable phose of lady-life?

Anne answers all these questions and more as she

Anne Gildea is waxing her moustache, slathering rips through every angle and embraces Menopause's greatest gift; THE SUPERPOWER OF NOT GIV-ING A S%@TE! Join Anne for this unique and hilarious show, it's a classic in the making!

Audience comments: "I haven't laughed so much for so long." "Outrageously & wonderfully funny. She gets a conversation going instead of all the shushing everyone goes on with." "Seriously funny and hilariously clever." "Go See It!" Anne Gildea is a comedienne and writer, known

of her unique brand of humour. A founde and member of the popular comedy-musical trio The Nualas, this ne show is her most ambitious project to date

Anne Gildea Film at The Courthouse: Unsinkable

Friday 28th April, 8pm , \in *7*/ \in *6*

The story of Alan Corcoran's unprecedented 500-kilometre sea swim from Antrim to Waterford for charity has all the hallmarks of a fascinating documentary. With the stunning backdrop of Northern Ireland and Ireland's wild coastline, the story tells the succession of challenges faced during such a monumental undertaking. Raising €30,000 for cancer and stroke charities in memory of his dad, it's a film that explores a person's journey through grief, using the swimming project to channel negative emotions into a meaningful, hopeful, inspiring adventure

'Alan's length of Ireland sea swim epitomises the spirit of outdoor swimming. Unsinkable is an inspiring tale of family, adventure, triumph and hope.' - Outdoor Swimmer Magazine

'Unsinkable is a sincere and emotional story of resilience and determination...extremely positive and kind viewing experience ... very enjoyable to watch unfold.' 4/5 Stars - Film Carnage (Critic Review)

'Unsinkable is a tale of glory and achievement borne from loss and pain.' - Swimming World Magazine



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Rebecca Kelly at the Wicklow Simgs concert held in Temple Carrig secondary school, Greystones. The community arts festival for choirs was established in 2016 and is held annually in Greystones each Spring.

Times 16 ARTS Tuesday 18th April 2023 'This project has brought my love for music back to life again'

Making music again with Trio Táin at the Wicklow Teaching Residency

Earlier this month in Rathnew 15 county Wicklow residents graduated from the Wicklow Teaching Residency. The budding musicians embarked on a journey with the group Trio Táin, which features renowned musicians Aisling Ennis, Vourneen Ryan and Robin Panter.

The residency, a partner- world to folk, pop and this new journey with ship between Wicklow County Arts Office and Music Network, invited residents of County took that first step of apply-Wicklow aged 55 and over ing" I think after the ripe to reconnect with an instrument they used to play. It lose a lot of your confiprovided participants with dence in your musical abilfree tuition from professional musicians and project has brought my access to instruments for love for music back to life the duration of the programme.

Since November the participants have been Baumann said, "It has also receiving tuition on harp, been wonderful to link in flute, recorder, violin and with other like-minded viola and have been having fun exploring all kinds of ing up their instruments music together - everything from baroque, classical and delighted to have started

more. "I am really loving the course and so glad that I old age of 65, you tend to ity, and I can truly say this again," said participant Mary Walsh. Participant

project has ended. Justine musicians who are also takfunded after long absences. I'm by Ireland.

Music Network."

At their graduation the participants spoke about much they had how enjoyed the classes while gradually growing more confident as the weeks progressed. The residency has ignited new friendships among the participants too and the group are already making plans to get togeth er and practice now that The Wicklow Teaching

Residency is presented by Wicklow County Council Arts Office and Music Network. This initiative is Creative



County Wicklow residents aged 55 and over have been reconnecting with the instruments they use to play with Trio Tain as part of the Wicklow Teaching Residency, a partnership with Wicklow County Council Arts Office and Music Network.





The Jeremiahs at the Hot Spot Hot Spot Music Club, Greystones, Friday April 21st



Irish folk band, The Jeremiahs are heading to the Hot Spot Music Club Greystones on Friday April 21st.

The band comprises 4 fantastic musicians who have come together with the common goal of writing, composing and performing folk songs and music. They have travelled extensively, bringing their music far and wide and are heralded as a live band not to be missed. With a wonderful mixture of newly composed songs and tunes in the folk genre as well as a well selected catalogue of older folk songs, they are sure to rouse all the emotions. Doors 8pm Show 9pm. Tickets www.thehotspot.ie

Winners of the 2015 Best Vocal & Instrumental Album Live Ireland Male Vocalist of the Year 2015 Chicago Irish American News Winners of 2015 Christy Moore Songwriters Showcase Winners of the 2013 Ballyshannon Folk Festival Showcase

"Great songs, poignant, emotional vocals, masterful guitar and fiddle/flute conversations that work like fine embroidery ñ no wonder critics love them. You will too!" - Larry Groce NPR Mountain Stage

"They are all the real deal. A great band." - John Taber KVMR Celtic Festival

"One of the most exciting bands to come out of Ireland in many a vear. Their new album is a cracker" - Mike Harding

"This is the most creative and important group we have heard in Irish music in years, they are special" - Chicago Irish American News

"One of the freshest bands in Irish traditional music" - Sean Laffey Irish Music Magazine

Lisa Richards Presents: **Stephen Mullan - Ouch!**

Whale Theatre, Friday 21st April 2023 @ 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €18 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

Stephen Mullan's brand-new hour is a brilliant celebration of all the things that make us go Ouch! From the places our crazy heads can take us, to dating, Love Island and life as a single dad, Ireland's favourite cheeky son is guaranteed to make you howl with this silly and ridiculous spectacle. Duration: 90 mins approx.



Times Water Coulour: In Conversation a photographic journey

'Water Colour: In Conversation' is a photographic journey that started in 2010. The official launch had to be postponed due to Covid and instead an online exhibition attracted an international audience in 2021.

'Water Colour" was spotlighted lists, met two Irish artists. The at the fourth online Show & Tell Visual Artists Cafe, where visual artist Elis Taves, one of the panel- bition was held in Co Waterford.

Art pieces of the Water Colour decision to collaborate was made collection were integrated into immediately and in 2021 an exhigroup shows around Co Wicklow. Finally in 2023, three works were



Donal Enright, Elis Taves, Pat Killilea and Anne Marie Byrne. Pic: John McGowan

Kinda Mental, a stripped-back version of Pure Mental

Whale Theatre, Saturday 22nd April, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets $\in 18/\in 16$ and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

Kinda Mental, a stripped-back version of Pure Mental

Keith Walsh is Pure Mental. Having finished up a 5-year stint presenting on National Radio, in the pressure cooker that is a breakfast show, Keith has finally found a bit of time for himself.More importantly,he's found time to check in with his mental health

Midlife Crisis? Midlife awakening? Breakdown? We'll find out. This show is part of his therapy and you're his therapist!

Join him on a journey of introspection and exploration, as he locates his demons and traumas in order to try and find the real person underneath the fuzzy mess of stress.

Pure Mental is a live theatre show put together with the help of acclaimed performer, writer and director Janet Moran (A Holy Show, Swing and My Romantic History) in the strangest of Covid times -sometimes working in different rooms, often in different counties.

But like many others, they got there in the end. We have a show

"You will laugh, you might cry, the voices in my head are telling me that you might want to throw rotten fruit at me? Is that still a thing? In the end we'll all feel a lot better. I hope," says Keith Walsh



showcased at the Arklow Maritime Museum in February. In March, Water Colour was at Arklow Librar

WATER COLOUR, In conversation and closure exhibition, hap-pened on the 31st of March.

"Thanks to Arklow Library and the staff," says Elis. "At the event In conversation, Bill Murphy facilitated the discussion. Thanks to 402 and Bray Camera Club groups that supported the event and artists who attended."

Local businesses promoted the event, and pages on social media also shared the invite, which integrated Elis's work as part of the community.

Elis Taves has participated in group shows in Europe, Asia, and North and South America. She is a Brazilian visual artist based in her Bray studio. Water is her source of creativity and inspiration. Water Colour is an ongoing photographic project composed of images of aspects of Water inspired by abstract impressionism.



Elis Taves with Bill Murphy at the Water Colour In Conversation event in

the Arklow Maritime Museum. Pic: John McGowan

More than €7.5m in funding approved for broadcasters under Sound & Vision Scheme

Coimisiún na Meán has announced the outcomes of two recent Sound & Vision funding rounds. More than €7.5m of funding will go to broadcasters and independent producers to make high-quality programmes about Irish culture, heritage, and experience for broadcast on a range of national, local and community Irish radio and TV services

This was the final tranche of and 10% to animation profunding awarded by the grammes. Contemporary soci-Broadcasting Authority of Ireland ahead of its dissolution on 15th March 2023, and the stablishment of Coimisiún na Meán, Ireland's new commission for regulating broadcasters, online media, and supporting

media development. Round 47 of the Sound & Vision 4 Scheme received 140 applications seeking funding of just over E12.8m. Of those, 96 projects were successful, with a total value of approximately €7.29m. This comprised funding of €636,000 to 67 radio projects and €6.66m to 29 TV projects. Some 35% of the funding will support the production of programmes in Irish/bilingual

Regarding format, 38% of the funding will go to documentaries, 20% to dramas, 18% to and activities for their commu-

ety (38%) was the most popular genre recommended for funding, followed by Children's (25%) and Arts / Culture (22%). Of the projects recommended for funding, 81 will be produced by independent producers/production companies, amounting to approximately 95% of the total recommended funding.

The allocation of €7.29m in this round includes an additional $\in 1$ m in funds secured by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media, Catherine Martin, to support the scheme's operation in 2023.

Scheme, funding of €645,000 is being offered to 17 community broadcasters nationwide to enhance social benefit content entertainment, 13% to education nities. This round was open to

the community TV sector for the first time, marking the sec-torís adoption of the include an additional allocation Community Media Social of $\notin 1$ million which was pro-Benefit Framework. The pack-vided to the Broadcasting Fund age of recommendations will provide for a diverse range of programme productions, out- demand in the sector.' reach and training activities, by a variety of community stations, groups, and individuals across the community broadcasting sector.

Minister for Tourism, said: "I am delighted to welcome this announcement from to congratulate all of the sucacross all formats and genres is important in its inclusivity, and ability to attract viewers of all ages with a broad range of programming, from drama to docu- ing round.

by the Exchequer in order to continue to meet the increased

ARTS 17

Commenting on the allocation of €645.000 to 17 community broadcasters under Round 48 to enhance social benefit content and activities within the community, Minister Martin added: "The funding of Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport added: "The funding of and Media, Catherine Martin Community broadcasting, not only for programme production but also for outreach and train-Coimisiún na Meán, and I wish ing activities, reinforces the importance of the Sound and Under Round 48 of the cessful applicants on their Vision Scheme in its ability to cheme, funding of $\in 645,000$ is awards. The funding of projects identify and support areas of importance within the sector. I particularly welcome the inclusion for the first time of Community TV in such a fund-

Greystones Vocal Academy Student Showcase

Whale Theatre, Sunday 23rd April, 4pm (doors 3.30pm). Tickets available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

Join students from Greystones Vocal Academy for a showcase end-of-year concert. These talented young local singers will perform a variety of songs from pop and rock to musicals, jazz and the classics. A wonderful treat on a Sunday afternoon and a chance to hear upcoming stars of the future! Accompanied by Justin McCann on piano

Offering excellent vocal tuition for everyone, Greystones Vocal Academy was founded by local singer and vocal coach, Dara MacMahon and helps each student gain confidence and achieve their full singing potential.



Keith Walsh

The new Alfa Romeo Tonale had the honour of being the very first model of the vast Stellantis group to be unveiled at the magnificent new headquarters of the Gowan Group in City West, off the M50. By Martin McCarthy

Stellantis Peugeot / Citroen, Opel and ers of Royal Hotel Bray) with Fiat/Alfa/Jeep and Gowan the Alfasud being a very strong Group have mirrored the manufacturing set up by representing all the brand here and building a state of the art parts, training and business HQ to service Irish customers.

Stellantis - and Gowan - have high expectations for Alfa and new SUV is very keenly priced with entry level self-charging Tonale being under €50,000.

The test route was all over West Wicklow and the Tonale is impressive on an interesting mix of mountain passes, motorways and urban roads in varying states of repair.

Alfa has an immense heritage - going back to 110 years. They won the first two Grand Prix world Championships (1950 & 1951) with Farina and Fangio ñ and thereafter built up an immense record in Sports cars and F1. The team are currently competing in F1 - and sign that the brand has a strong future within Stellantis. In

incorporates by Frank Caveyís family (ownseller. In more recent years models such as the 164 and 166, the Spider and GTV sold in decent numbers and now

appear at Classic Car events such as the Monthly Bray Show and the Kilmacanogue Garden of Ireland Club show The Tonale Plug-In Hybrid combines maximum efficiency and Italian sportiness: the allelectric range (AER) is 56km, up to 80km all-electric range city (AER city), 600km in the

total cycle and emissions reduced from 29g/km. The Plug-In Hybrid Q4 TI retails €55,495 (MHEV from E49,995), plus delivery. John Saunders, Managing Director of Alfa Romeo in Ireland, and part of Gowan Auto said: "Alfa Romeo are making considerable advancements towards a new era of connectivity and electrification; but it is important to note that we are also staying true to our DNA Ireland, Alfa where assembled of Italian style and dynamic Romeo.

driving experience."

The Plug-In Hybrid Q4 sys tem is best in class in terms of performance and battery efficiency. The advanced hybrid system combines a 280HP, 1.3L turbocharged MultiAir, 4-cylinder engine coupled to a 6-speed automatic transmission, which provides traction to the front axle, with an electric motor capable of supplying 90kW of max peak power and 250 Nm of torque to the rear axle.

The self-charging, 2WD version uses a 1.5 litre engine with variable geometry turbo which provides sprightly performance from its 160hp output.

Available in six exterior colours and three interior trim levels, two standard TI, Veloce and an exclusive EDIZIONE SPECIALE allows customers to personalise their Alfa Romeo to their desired preference. With a wide array of technological features, low emissions, and Alfa Romeoís trademark sportiness. the Tonale is truly the begin ning of a new future for Alfa



The new Alfa Romeo Tonale

only two weeks left until Alzheimer's Tea Day 2023



With just a couple of weeks to go until Alzheimer's Tea Day, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI) and Ambassadors Bryan Murray and Una Crawford-O'Brien call on the people of Ireland to have the most powerful cup of tea of the year on Thursday, May 4th.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form a panel from which future permanent positions may be filled.

PERMANENT CARETAKER GRADE III (COUNTY BUILDINGS)

Salary: €704.63 - €725.77 gross per week (includes 2nd LSI) REF: 17/2023

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

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS12 NOON on THURSDAY 4th May 2023 sharp.

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

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Lorraine Gallagher, Director Of Services, **Enterprise & Corporate Services,** Phone: 0404 20159 Wicklow County Council, Fax: 0404 20112 **County Buildings**. Wicklow. e-mail: recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie

Bryan was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease three years ago. Bryan and his partner Una have teamed up with The ASI to invite everyone to come together for a cuppa, a chat, and mavbe a treat or two on May 4th to help raise vital funds for families living with dementia nationwide.

Bryan and Una ask everyone to get involved with local Tea Day events in their homes gardens, workplaces, schools, local community centres or somewhere special.

Alzheimer's Tea Day is The ASI's biggest and most important fundrais-

Traditional Tea Day events in the past have raised Ä500,000. The ASI hopes to continue rebuilding Tea Day and, this year, raise €300,000.

Many of The ASI Day Care Centres nationwide will celebrate with Tea Day parties in May.

ASI's services provide necessary reprieve for people with Dementia and their families, and allow family carers time for themselves; for their own needs and health and well-being.

Each year more than 11,000 people develop dementia across the country - at least 30 people every day. However, there is one thing you can do to help -you can put the kettle on and host your very own Tea Day!

The ASI Head of Fundraising, Mairead Dillon, said: "As we get closer to Tea Day, we're so excited to celebrate



the campaign with many different Tea Day parties in our Day Care Centres across the country - and we urge you to get involved in Tea Day as well and host your party! Tea Day is a day of fun and hope. The funds raised through our campaign go a long way to helping people with dementia continue to live well in the community and allow people to avail of our vital services. Every cuppa raised - and funds raised - will help families living with dementia in Ireland; and allow people living with Dementia like Bryan to continue living in the

community."

KLOW COUNTY COUNCIL Mr Jing Wang seeks retention permission for: -(1) Material change of use of shop by reason of use of premises for the operation of a fast food takeaway and by reason of extended opening

hours (2) Erection of signage (3 Material change of use of (3 Material change of use of lands by reason of the use of the external area to the front of

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. thority of the applica

 (A) Construction of a new home office and garage / storage area, (B) All associated site works, all at above address

cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours. A submission

the skerna area to the front of the shop for outdoor seating. Located at 'The ' Green Tree ' Herbert Road, Bray Co. Wicklow A98H954 The planning application may be inspected or purchased

ATTENTION Architects, Planners & Builders

Reach the widest readership for your planning notices in County Wicklow with Wicklow Times Call 01 286 9111 or email pauline@localtimes.ie



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL Vicklow County Cour Knockanree Upper

Avoca, Co, Wicklow I, Patrick Kinsella Intend To Apply To Wicklow County Council For Planning

Permission To;

This Planning Application may be inspected at a fee not exceeding the reasonable

or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee of \in 20 within the period of 5 weeks

beginning on the date of receipt by the Authority of the application. 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.



LOCAL BUSINESS / CLASSIFIEDS 19



Pictured in the attached is Zoë Daly and Lionel Mackey of Ériu receiving the award from Neale Richmond TD, Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with special responsibility for Employment Affairs and Retail Business.

Times Wicklow company highly commended at Irish Business Design Challenge

Ériu from County Wicklow, were announced last week as the 2023 highly commended business in the Micro Category at the Irish **Business Design Challenge.**

The winners of Design & Crafts Council Ireland's Irish Business Design Challenge 2023 (IBDC) were announced last Thursday at an awards ceremony in Tangent, Trinity College Dublin by Neale Richmond TD, Minister

KATIE CHADWICK

State of Department of Enterprise. Trade and Employment with special responsibility for Employment Affairs and Retail tainability into business Business; and at the Department of Social Protection.

The three category ... winners, micro, small ety. and medium, will each receive a prize of €15 000. Three runnersup prizes of €2,000 each were also awarded, and two entries were highly nies applying design commended by judges.

at the Business Design Challenge is focused on raising awareness of the importance of incorporating design and susstrategy, and the benefits it brings to those businesses and the wider

> the Irish Business Design Challenge from Design & Crafts Council Ireland supports compa-



THE MIRACULOUS 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

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

PRAYER





At the **Talbot Group**, we are leading providers of adult and children's intellectual disability services in Wicklow North County Dublin, Meath, Louth and Kildare. To support continued expansion, we are currently recruiting

NURSES • SOCIAL CARE WORKERS DIRECT SUPPORT WORKERS

Permanent full-time and part time opportunities for candidates with experience are available in our residential services in Wicklow, Meath, Louth, Kildare & North Dublin.

If you would like to join us in making a difference to the lives of our residents, please come along to our

WALK-IN INTERVIEW DAY

Parkview Hotel, Main Street, Newtown Mount Kennedy, Co. Wicklow

on 3rd May 2023 from 9.30am – 4.00pm.

The Hamlet Court Hotel, Gorteen, Johnstown Bridge, Co. Meath

on 9th May 2023 from 9.30 am to 4 pm.

Please bring an up to date copy of your CV with you.

Further details can be obtained on the careers tab on our website **www.talbotgroup.ie** or by email to **recruitment@talbotgroup.ie** or **elainehr@talbotgroup.ie**.