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Tuesday 25th April 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

## N11 TRAFFIC CHAOS TO CONTINUE

“Green Party ideology is condemning thousands of Wicklow motorists to continued delays on their journey to and from work every day,” declared Independent councillor Joe Behan last week.

Members of the Transport Special Policy Committee of Wicklow County Council discussed this ‘unacceptable’ situation at its meeting last week, Cllr Behan said.

“We know that millions of euros of taxpayers’ money has been wasted because Green Party Leader and Transport Minister, Eamon Ryan, has refused to allow the N11 to be upgraded. €5m has already been spent drawing up plans to increase

the capacity of the N11 but because of the anti motorist ideology of the Greens, the people who depend on the N11 have been left in a cul-de-sac where the plans to improve the capacity of the N11 have been abandoned. This is not good enough and should not be accepted by the people of County Wicklow.

“The Transport Committee will continue to work to change Government’s stance on this

issue and plans are being made for Committee Members to meet the Chief Executive of Transport Infra-structure Ireland in the near future to impress on him the urgency of resolving this impasse.”

Responding to Cllr Behan’s comments, Bray Cathaoirleach and Green Party councillor Erika Doyle said “It’s interesting to hear people talk of green ideology as though it’s a bad thing. I would suggest that populist



Lydia Slazenger and Charlie Miller pictured among this year’s 35 thousand strong Tulip Display at Powerscourt Estate as they celebrated Earth Day and Powerscourt receiving an award for being Ireland’s Premier Sustainable visitor attraction. See more, Page 8. Pic: Brian McEvoy

politicians acquaint themselves with the meaning of green politics and also the outlook for our planet if we don’t move away from a fossil fuel dependent society.

“Talk of being anti motorist is ridiculous. The Green Party has always acknowledged the need for motor vehicles. What we are working towards is a reduction in unnecessary journeys, more options for public transport to reduce lengthy commutes and safe connected cycling infrastructure. All this has a net effect of making the air cleaner and of reducing traffic congestion.

“A glance into cars during rush hour will show thousands of single motorists all heading in the same direction. It makes sense to improve the public transport network so they can commute collectively in a cheaper and more

efficient manner. The Green Party’s policies on transport and indeed everything else are readily available. Much work and research goes into developing policy positions. This is unlike some politicians whose ideology is never committed to record and changes with the breeze.”

Green Party TD Steven Matthews said, “The work to improve the N11, make it safer and provide express bus routes is going ahead. I’m working with the Council and Department of Transport and it is progressing well. There are some who want a 3rd lane, tunnels and roads across greenfield sites but this is 1970s thinking that has never solved congestion. Climate action doesn’t even register with those who want massive road building projects. Better public transport,

reduced fares, new bus and rail services and maintaining our roads is

my objective, with a particular emphasis on delivering the DART to Arklow.”



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Ruthanne Kelso and Kristen Crowe at the St. Patrick's vs Rathnew GAA clash in Wicklow Town.

## Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee Public Meeting

Wicklow's Joint Policing Committee meeting takes place this Wednesday, 26th April in the Arklow Bay Hotel at 7pm. The purpose of the meeting is consultation and recommendations on policing matters. Membership consists of senior Gardaí, Elected WCC Members, voluntary and community sector representatives. All members of the public are invited to come along and join the meeting.

The meeting will focus on matters in general, rather than specific items. The local community will have an opportunity to make their views known and ask questions. Questions can be submitted before the meeting to Helen Purcell, [hpurcell@wicklow-coco.ie](mailto:hpurcell@wicklow-coco.ie). You can also write to Ms. Purcell at Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow.

## Greystones Camera Club Photographic Exhibition

Greystones Camera Club Photographic Exhibition takes place from 25th to 29th April in Hillside Evangelical Church, Hillside Road; from 11am to 4pm. This superb annual exhibition is not to be missed. Genres of photographs include portrait, landscape, wildlife, architecture, still life and creative compositions.

Exhibition photographs have been professionally mounted and framed. Many on display are for sale. New members are always welcome at Greystones Camera Club. Full details and information from: [info@greystonescameraclub.ie](mailto:info@greystonescameraclub.ie); [www.greystonescameraclub.ie](http://www.greystonescameraclub.ie)

## Holy Rosary Soup & Sandwiches

The next soup and sandwiches lunch in Holy Rosary, Greystones, will be held on 26th April in Kilian House Family Centre, beside Holy Rosary Church; 12:15pm to 2:00pm. Meet your friends for delicious home-made soup and sandwiches followed by tea/coffee and cake. Suggested donation, €5.00. All proceeds go to local charities. Everyone is most welcome for good food and a friendly chat.

## Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Health Unit

The Irish Heart Foundation's Mobile Health Unit will be at Greystones Library on 5th May from 10.30am to 3.45pm. Services include; Blood pressure and pulse checks; Private consultation rooms; Nurses to give heart information; Personal record card. The Mobile Health Unit is FREE. High blood pressure is a major cause of stroke. Heart attack is one of the most prevalent risk factors in the population. Once identified, it is easily managed. Blood pressure check is simple, quick and non-invasive.

An irregular pulse can be an indicator of atrial fibrillation, a condition which increases risk of stroke. The Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Health Unit is an excellent opportunity. All are most welcome to come along and have a chat about heart health.

## LEADER Public Meeting

A LEADER public meeting will be held in the Glenview Hotel on 10th May from 7pm to 9pm. LEADER aims to improve the quality of life and encourage economic activity in rural areas.

## KWETB Local Youth Club Scheme 2023

One off grants are available to local youth clubs/groups. Grants are to assist with their development needs including: Supporting administration; Programme costs; Services costs. Maximum grant available to any club is €3,000. Clubs/groups whose primary focus is sport are not eligible under this scheme. Application forms are available from [LYCGS@kwetb.ie](mailto:LYCGS@kwetb.ie). Application forms are also available at [www.kwetb.ie](http://www.kwetb.ie).

Details and queries to Eric Caffrey, [ericcaffrey@kwetb.ie](mailto:ericcaffrey@kwetb.ie); 086 600 2258. Closing date is 12th May 2023.

## Walking group in the Brockagh

On Monday mornings weekly at 10am join the Laragh walking group at the Brockagh Resource Centre for a walk around the Glendalough area for approximately one hour. No need to book, just show up on the day.

# 33rd La Touche Legacy Seminar: The 8th Festival of History

The 8th Festival of History - 33rd La Touche Legacy Seminar will be back with a bang this year! In addition to the weekend event there will now be a Launch Lecture given on Monday 15th May at 7.30pm in Greystones Golf Club.

The Chairman of the La Touche Legacy Committee George Jones said: "there are two very important items that I would highlight, firstly our delight that Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society will once more be our partners in the weekend, and secondly that, as the longest running seminar in the country, we have again put together a great line-up of speakers".

The Theme of this year's event is "Social Discourse of the 20th Century in Ireland".

The Launch Lecture will be given by the Chair of the 'Decade of Centenaries' Committee, Professor Emeritus Maurice Manning, in Greystones Golf Club on Monday May 15th at 7.30 p.m. He will give a review of the decade and what we have learnt.

The Seminar Festival of History will be held on Friday & Saturday 15th & 16th September, 2023 in Greystones Golf Club, Whitshed Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. Speakers will include Felix Larkin, Professor Paul Rouse, Dr. Ian d'Alton, Dr. Emma

Lyons, Professor Emeritus Michael Laffan and Dr. Emily Mark Fitzgerald.

Chairman of Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society Jim Smith said he was delighted with the great line-up of speakers and the very exciting range of subjects that they will be speaking about ranging from 'The Fourth Estate', Sport, the La Touche Family and Horse Racing and Ireland & Wicklow in 3D. Jim confirmed that full details would be provided at the launch on May 15th. The seminar weekend will also include the 'Jim Brennan Memorial Lecture'.

George Jones concluded that over the past 32 years of the Seminar it had received great local support and he hoped the 2023 event would be equally well supported both at the Launch on May 15th and at the Seminar / Festival of History on the 15th & 16th September 2023.

Bookings: Kay Coughlan Tel: 01 2876694 Email: [Greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:Greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie)

## Non-profit organisations invited to apply for 'Heart of the Community' funding

The Ireland Funds, the global philanthropic network, has opened applications for its Heart of the Community Fund 2023, which will provide funding in response to the needs of non-profit organisations across the island of Ireland.

The Heart of the Community Fund 2023 will provide Organisational Investment Grants with a total of at least €500,000. Applications are open until 9th May 2023.

The Heart of the Community Fund 2022 provided support to the Wicklow-based non-profit organisation Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, which works with individuals, groups and communities to transform conflict, promote reconciliation, encourage healthy relationships and build sustainable peace.

The Heart of the Community Fund 2023 will continue to respond to the non-profit sector by encouraging organisations to present their unique needs for funding consideration, be that operational or programmatic. Grants between €5,000-25,000 will be awarded.

For more information on The Ireland Funds Heart of the Community Fund 2023, please visit - [www.ireland-funds.org](http://www.ireland-funds.org).



On May 6th huge numbers from the community of Wicklow Town and surrounding areas will wake up very early and give their support to Pieta as they walk/run for Darkness into Light 2023. It is estimated that up to 3000 people will come together at 4.15am on Fri night/Sat morning. Members of Wicklow Lions Club are the organisers of this annual event and over the past few months have put a lot of work into making it the success it has become.

Pieta provide a professional one-to-one therapeutic service to people who are in suicidal distress, those who engage in self-harm, and those bereaved by suicide. All services are provided free of charge and no referral is needed. Wicklow Lions say they are proud to be so involved in helping such a wonderful organisation and as a result actually saving lives.

See page 12 for details of the Bray Darkness Into Light walk.

WICKLOW  
Times

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is published by Wicklow Times,

First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01-2869111

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# Greystones Community College goes to tender

The Department of Education has announced that Greystones Community College went to tender last week. The date for tender return is the 14th July 2023, providing there are no extensions.



Minister Simon Harris

Greystones Community College was one of the fifty-eight school projects nationwide delayed recently. Gaelscoil An Inbhir Mhoir, and Gaelcholaiste na Mara, both in Arklow, Co Wicklow are also on the list. Additional schools such as North Wicklow Educate Together, Blessington Community College, Wicklow Educate Together National School and Colaiste Bhríde remain waiting on the Department to move forward critical plans for their schools.

Minister Simon Harris had previously advised this would be a short delay and the project would be back on track by Easter, this proved to be the case as the pause was lifted before Easter and the project has now gone out to tender.

Minister Harris commented "Greystones Community College (GCC) is essential and long awaited, we have Temple Carrig completed, St David's almost finished and now GCC entering tender. I want to thank the Principal Mr Farrell, the Board of Management, the staff and the pupils for their continued support and patience for this state-of-the-art new secondary school for Greystones."

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore, said "The news that the tender has gone out for the permanent building for Greystones Community College is very welcome. It has been a long road for



Jennifer Whitmore TD

their school community. It is no doubt a huge relief that the project is progressing now.

"I have been working with Greystones Community College and school community for many years on this project, and there has been many false dawns. I hope that this latest news represents a period of certainty and plain sailing for them now with regard to the urgent need for their building.

"I am always so impressed with the dedication of their parents association, staff, students, and principal, Ruairi Farrell. I look forward to being there the day that the school's permanent home opens its doors.

"Knowing their school buildings are on the way will allow Greystones Community College plan for future years intake. It also means teachers can plan to deliver the curriculum in years ahead knowing they will have the facilities they have need in their classrooms."

Deputy Whitmore also commented: "There are still several other schools across Wicklow which are waiting to hear from the Department about their own building projects. These include North Wicklow Educate Together, Blessington Community College, Blessington Educate Together National School, and Wicklow Town Educate Together Secondary School, amongst others. The Department must now move to quickly reassure those school communities that their accommodation needs will be met and provide concrete plans for doing so.

"School accommodation and places is one of the biggest concerns for families all across Wicklow. This should not be the case. Parents and principals should not have to fight so hard for the basic of things - a school in which to be educated. I will continue to advocate for the needs of students around the county."

Minister Stephen Donnelly said he would be working hard to get the project progressed: "I'm absolutely delighted to see the school getting the go ahead to move to the tender stage. My understanding from talking to officials within the Department is that it

should proceed pretty quickly as it is a much sought after project.

"It has been a long road for the school to get to this point but today's announcement is a huge step in the right direction.

"The parents and school management have rightly been pushing hard to see building work start as soon as possible. I'll continue to work closely with them to make sure the project continues to progress. The parents and pupils as well as staff at GCC deserve



Minister Stephen Donnelly

their new state-of-the-art school to be open at the earliest possible time. Today is a brilliant day for the school but there's still a lot of work left to be done to get to where we need to be."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady said "It is important that this process is completed as soon as possible as the project has already been subject to significant delays due to financial constraints placed on the Department of Education by government. While I welcome the confirmation from Minister Foley, following questions which I submitted to her, that the development of a permanent school building for Greystones Community College will now finally go ahead, it is imperative that the project which has been subject to significant delays due to government failure to approve funding is progressed as quickly as possible.

"Tenders for the new school were scheduled to be out last year, but the project was left in flux due to financial constraints placed of the Department of Education despite the revenue windfall enjoyed by the government. Greystones like many areas across Wicklow faces considerable educational pressures. The new school on Greystones will cater for 1,000 pupils, with 37 general classrooms, 20

specialist classrooms, a PE hall, a special education unit, 6 hard play courts, with additional pupil and staff facilities.

"Minister Foley must now act to ensure that work on Gaelscoil An Inbhir Mhoir, and Gaelcholaiste na Mara in Arklow, also commences as soon as possible. Both schools are part of a list of 58 schools across the country on which work plans were frozen by the government. The Minister must also act to clarify the status of any other schools in Wicklow which have suffered the misfortune of falling into the same funding delay.

"The crisis in Education in Wicklow which I have raised repeatedly with both the Minister, and the three government TDs in Wicklow continues. Other schools such as North Wicklow Educate Together, Blessington Community College, Wicklow Educate Together National School and Colaiste Bhríde remain in the dark as to if and when the Department will move forward with critical plans for their schools.

"There is evidence across the whole area of



John Brady TD

Education of a failure of government planning. This is nowhere more evident than in Wicklow. It cannot be allowed to continue, and it most certainly cannot be allowed to continue to impact on the educational opportunities offered to young people across our county.

"We need to see proper planning, followed by action with the necessary funding to address the needs of young people in education in County Wicklow. The three government TDs in Wicklow, two of which are cabinet Ministers must use their positions to push deliver for education, and for young people and their families in Wicklow."



Ali Butterworth enjoying the sunshine at Kilmacurragh Arboretum last week.

## LEADER PUBLIC MEETINGS

### For the formulation of Wicklow Local Development Strategy

County Wicklow Partnership, on behalf of Wicklow LCDC, are inviting all those interested in sharing their ideas on what the next LEADER programme should focus on, to a series of public meetings. Please come along to any of the meetings to let us know your proposals on what is important to your local economy, your community and your environment.

For any queries on the events, please contact:

[info@wicklowpartnership.ie](mailto:info@wicklowpartnership.ie)

Open to all Wicklow people interested in the future of Wicklow's communities, economy and environment

#### Tinahely May 2nd

Location: Tinahely  
Community Hall  
Time: 7pm - 9pm

#### Rathdrum May 3rd

Location: RDA Hall  
Time: 7pm - 9pm

#### Arklow May 4th

Location: Arklow Bay Hotel  
Time: 7pm - 9pm

#### Blessington May 9th

Location: Coimin Centre  
Time: 7pm - 9pm

#### Glen of the Downs May 10th

Location: Glenview Hotel  
Time: 7pm - 9pm

#### Baltinglass May 11th

Location: Parish Centre  
Time: 7pm - 9pm



# Old Bray dump no longer leaking into the sea

The old Bray Town dump is fixed and is no longer eroding into the sea, following coastal remediation works between Bray and Woodbrook, it was announced last week.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has been campaigning since 2005 to force authorities to deal with the more than 104,000 cubic metres of waste, which included asbestos, excessive levels of ammoniacal nitrogen, potassium, and manganese. During his 18-year campaign Brady took his fight from Europe, to the Dail, also called in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to deal with the environmental and health dangers posed by the dump.

Deputy Brady said: "I am delighted to see this

long running campaign brought to a conclusion with the project, with a budget of E2 million, to contain the 104,000 cubic metres of waste successfully shoring up the landfill, preventing further erosion, which was exposing dangerous and toxic substances, and contaminating the sea and shoreline where refuse was being washed away.

"Beginning in 2005 I have led out, for many years alone, on the campaign to deal with the dangers presented by the North Beach Dump. I have campaigned here in

Wicklow, in the Dail, and through my colleague Liadh Ní Riadh in Europe.

At one stage I was forced to make a formal complaint to the EPA, which led to Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's whose area covers a large part of the dump being forced to put in place the Coastal Protection Scheme.

"By placing armoured stone at the base of the cliff at the toe of the cliff at the landfill site, and stabilising the cliff face above the stone barrier, engineers were able to regrade

the cliff face to a long-term stable slope.

The landfill site at North Beach, is a legacy of practices of the past, and while it has not been in use since the 1960s, the erosion of the coastline along the shore facing side of the dump was exposing and releasing refuse, and toxic and dangerous material to the environment. The material which included asbestos, excessive levels of ammoniacal nitrogen, potassium, and manganese presented a threat to members of the public and the environment.



John Brady TD at the old Bray Dump at the North Beach



Deputy Matthews at Bray North Beach

"And while I welcome the recent addition of support from local representatives, even at this late stage, this has been a long campaign, stretching to almost two decades, where local authorities had to be forced to act every step of the way, as a result of my taking a formal complaint to the EPA, alongside challenging Government Ministers and the Dail, and getting Liadh Ní Riadh the then MEP for Ireland South, to raise the issue at a European level, where she also called on local and European authorities to act to end the pollution in the area.

"We can now look forward to seeing this invaluable stretch of our coastline being returned to its state of natural beauty for the public, and future generations to enjoy."

Green Party TD Steven Matthews said, "The North Beach dump is a legacy landfill site utilised by Bray up to the late 1960s and pre-dates environmental and waste management standards. The site had been back filled when the dump closed but for the last 20 years it has been eroded by the sea and the stratified layers of waste were visibly leaching into our marine environment. Following my request to Wicklow County Council, they partnered up with Dun Laoghaire County Council and carried out site investigations and devised a coastal protection scheme. I worked with my Green Party colleague in Dun Laoghaire, Minister Ossian Smyth to ensure that both councils progressed the project through design, funding, planning and construction

stage and it is now almost complete and the marine pollution has been stopped."

Deputy Matthews said that "The main task was to stabilise the sandy cliff face which was being eroded year on year exposing the landfill. After every storm event more waste became visible and ended up on the beach and in the sea. The remedial works consisted of constructing a rock revetment which is now almost completed."

Green Party Councillor for Bray Erika Doyle said "The site is now protected and presents the opportunity for an amenity site and to form part of a north harbour coastal cycle path. I am working with my Green Party colleague Cllr Tom Kivlehan in Dun Laoghaire to ensure that there is good pedestrian and cycling linkage

through the harbour towards Shanganagh lands, the new DART station at Woodbrook and through the new housing development proposed across the former Bray Golf Lands. I submitted this as an objective for inclusion in the Wicklow Co Development Plan."

The Bray North Beach Works is part of the Bray Woodbrook Landfill Remediation Project. The main task is to stabilise the cliff face which was being eroded and exposing landfill debris on to the beach.

The landfill area as an amenity will require additional treatment in terms of Capping and Topsoiling, the extent of this is under negotiation at present, pending a positive outcome the construction should be substantially complete by September 2023.

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



A clean up of the Dr. Ryan Park took place on Saturday, April 15th. The event was organised by Cllr Stephen Stokes. It formed part of the National Spring Clean, which is being organised nationally by An Taisce. An estimated 150kg of waste was removed from the Dr. Ryan Park in Greystones.

Cllr Stokes praised all of those who took part. He stated: "We had a brilliant turn out. It was a great team effort. People came from all over including Kindlestown Park, Churchlands, Kenmare Heights, Eastmount, Bellevue Heights, Charlesland and more. There was a great community spirit. Hopefully we can build on this momentum for future clean ups." The volunteers removed quite a wide range of material including carpets, bottles, a metal sign and more.



# 'Democracy ditched again'

## Locals excluded from decision on Bray/Kilmacanogue Greenway

"I was shocked to discover last week that the people of County Wicklow, especially the people of Kilmacanogue and Bray, are unlikely to have their say in a major project which will affect their lives for a very long time" said Councillor Joe Behan last week.

"The proposed Bray to Kilmacanogue Greenway is currently being designed by Consultants employed by Wicklow County Council. It appears that these Consultants will recommend that Councillors will not have the final decision on the project in the traditional manner and that the power to decide will instead be given to An Bord Pleanala.

"Traditionally, projects such as this are displayed to the public by the Council, people give their opinions and then the democratically elected Councillors make the final decision on the project. If this power is taken away from the Councillors, the people will have to send their opinions to An Bord Pleanala. This unelected organisation will then decide on whether the project proceeds and what form it will take.

"The same thing happened in the Blessington area in West Wicklow last

year where many local people were outraged at plans to reduce their access to their homes and farms. This was because Consultants, employed by Wicklow County Council, proposed reducing the traffic on bridges around Blessington

Lakes to one way, stop/go systems. Local Councillors weren't even shown the plans and only found out by accident that the Blessington Greenway plans were sent directly to An Bord Pleanala for decision and their powers to decide were removed from them.

"This should not happen with the Bray/ Kilmacanogue Greenway and I will be making this very clear at the upcoming meeting of Wicklow County Council. Democracy cannot be ditched again."

The Greenway is being developed as part of the Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Greenway Scheme, linking Kilmacanogue to Bray Rtail Park at the Southern Cross via

a pedestrian and cycle routes.



Charie Bird with his wife Claire and dog Tiger lead the way in Avondale Forest Park for Charlie's 'Hand of Friendship' 5k fundraising walk in aid of Samaritans.

## 'Bray Seafront mayhem looms'

"The ridiculous plan by Irish Rail to close the Level Crossing at Bray Dart Station will lead to utter mayhem if it goes ahead. The diversion of all seafront traffic from Quinsboro Road on to the Seapoint Road is just one of the crazy elements of this plan. It will mean thousands of cars, buses and trucks being turned away at the Level Crossing and being forced to crawl along an extremely narrow Seapoint Road and then to squeeze under a narrow bridge at the Harbour Bar," declared Councillor Joe Behan.

"This project is led by the National Transport Authority, another body under the political control of the Green Party Leader, Eamon Ryan. Apart from the traffic chaos the work will involve removing the arches of the bridge on

Seapoint Road as well as lowering the level of the road in order to increase the height/depth of the bridge. One can only imagine how much money and disruption this will cause.

"It will have a devastating impact on residents of the Seapoint Road as well as businesses all along the seafront and harbour area. It will impede access for people with mobility issues and ruin the trip to the seafront for many people.

The plans for this project are due to go to public consultation soon so it is important that people be aware of what is proposed and give their views on this matter when the plans go on display."



Cllr Joe Behan

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Oisín Franey at the St. Patrick's vs Rathnew GAA clash in Wicklow Town.

# Opportunity to shape the next LEADER Programme in Wicklow

Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) along with partners County Wicklow Partnership (CWP) and Wicklow County Council are preparing a new Local Development Strategy for the next LEADER Rural Development Programme.

They are holding a series of public meetings and inviting anyone interested in influencing what is included in the strategy to come to voice their thoughts and opinions at these meetings. Suzanne Campbell, RTE's food and farming reporter and Wicklow native will preside over the events.

The meetings are being held across the county in the following locations: Tinahely Community Hall (2nd May); Rathdrum Development Association (RDA) Hall (3rd May); Arklow Bay Hotel (4th May); Comin Centre Blessington (9th May); Glenview Hotel (10th May);

Baltinglass Parish Centre 911th May). All meetings take place from 7pm to 9pm.

The LEADER Rural Development Programme in Wicklow will have a budget of €5.2 million to spend on local projects between Autumn of 2023 and 2027. The Local Development Strategy will be the guide on how this money is spent.

The LEADER Programme can fund projects in three thematic areas including Economic Development and Job Creation; Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion; and Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate

Change Mitigation and Adaptation.

Suggestions are being sought from the Wicklow Public on what should be included in Wicklow's Local Development Strategy and what should be prioritised for funding.

Speaking about the launch of these public meetings, Wicklow LCDC Chairperson Pat Kennedy said "We are really eager to hear from as many people as possible to help shape the next LEADER programme. LEADER is a community led programme and requires input from as many individuals and groups from Wicklow as possible."

County Wicklow Partnership CEO Brian Carty further added that "CWP has been involved in delivering LEADER for nearly 30 years and are always excited to hear from Wicklow's communities and individuals about their changing needs and how to use the LEADER programme to help meet those needs. We would encourage as many people as possible to attend our public meetings to have their say in Wicklow's next LEADER Programme".

For anyone who would like more information on the meetings, contact CWP on [info@wicklowpartnership.ie](mailto:info@wicklowpartnership.ie) or ring (0402) 20955

## Frustration over delays in completion of Kilmacanogue bus shelter

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has expressed his frustration at the announcement by the National Transport Authority (NTA) of delays to the promised provision of a bus shelter at the bus stop in Kilmacanogue, due to a breakdown in negotiations between the NTA and the preferred civil contractor.

Deputy Brady said: "I have been engaged with the NTA since 2021 in an effort to secure the installation of a shelter at bus stop 4533 in Kilmacanogue. In April

2022 I secured an agreement from the NTA for the provision of the bus shelter. Which was scheduled to be completed last summer, or early Autumn at the latest.

"Now, after repeated inquiries by myself in relation to the progress of this project, I have been informed by the NTA, that progress has been delayed due to the withdrawal from the process by the preferred civil contractor. The NTA are now in the pro-

cess of appointing an alternative contractor, which in itself will undoubtedly lead to more delays.

"I find this absolutely frustrating, members of the public who use the bus stop will be forced to continue to brave the elements at the bus stop - unnecessarily in my opinion, as there are no acceptable excuses for the delays in questions. Failure and delay in completing this project will result in children



John Brady TD

arriving in school cold and soaked, after being forced to brave the elements as they waited by the side of the road for a bus in Kilmacanogue.

"We are not talking about the National Children's Hospital here,

this is a simple bus shelter, which is needed to provide shelter to commuters from the elements. I don't understand how or why the process of completing this project can fall victim to the perils of bureaucracy.

"It is not too much to ask that the NTA place a focus on the completion of the bus shelter in the next while. If members of the public are going to be asked to use public transport more and more, there is a need and a responsibility to ensure that it is an attractive and comfortable option. Not one that leaves commuters standing in the wind and the rain at the side of the road."

## O'Connor calls on Transport Minister to intervene in Wexford bus service issue in Kilmacanogue

Independent Councillor Rory O'Connor has written to Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan, asking for his intervention in a licensing issue that has prevented the Wexford bus service from collecting passengers at Kilmacanogue.

Currently, the bus service only drops off passengers in the area, leaving residents of Kilmacanogue without a reliable means of transportation to the airport.

According to Councillor O'Connor, the lack of a pickup service in Kilmacanogue has caused significant inconvenience for residents who rely on public transportation to travel to the airport. As a result, many residents have been forced to use their own cars, contributing to traffic congestion and carbon emissions.

Councillor O'Connor is calling on Minister Ryan to work with Wexford Bus Service and the appropriate authorities to resolve the licensing issue and provide a pickup service at Kilmacanogue. He believes that this will not only benefit the residents of Kilmacanogue, but also contribute

to the wider goal of reducing carbon emissions by encouraging the use of public transportation.

"I think getting rid of this small piece of red tape around the bus service could have a huge impact on the people of Kilmacanogue and cause a massive increase in people travelling to the airport by bus and reduce car dependency," said Councillor O'Connor. "I am calling on Minister Ryan to work with us to resolve this issue and provide the people of Kilmacanogue with a pickup service. This will not only benefit the residents, but also contribute to our collective efforts to reduce carbon emissions."

Councillor O'Connor's letter to Minister Ryan highlights the urgency of the situation and the need for swift action. He hopes that the Minister will respond positively and work with Wexford



Cllr Rory O'Connor

Bus Service and the appropriate authorities to find a solution that benefits everyone.

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# Major announcement for Blessington Community College

Last Friday Minister Simon Harris confirmed that sanction has been received from the Department of Education for Blessington Community College to have a major capital development to bring it to a 1000 student school plus six additional SEN's.

I would like to thank everyone who has been working tirelessly with me and my team on this project and I will continue to pursue improved accommodation and services for all the schools in my constituency," he said.

"It is vital that education is a priority, and I will continue to work with my colleagues within government to increase funding in these areas."

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly also welcomed the news Blessington Community College has been given the green light to expand to a 1,000 pupil school. In addition the Department of Education has signed off on six Special Education Needs classrooms being part of the permanent build. The news comes after lengthy negotiations between the school and the Department over the future capacity of the school.

Minister Donnelly said: "I'm absolutely delighted to see Blessington Community College getting the go ahead for a 1,000 student school. The school had rightly made the argument that the growing population in the area would mean the school would need to be able to increase capacity.

"I would like to congratulate the work done by the school principal Kieran Burke on collating the figures to show how numbers are expected to grow substantially over the coming years as a number of new houses are built in the area. Board of Management Chairman Patsy Glennon has also done an immense job in protecting the school's interests.

"And parents at the school have also been extremely effective at highlighting the need for the first-class education their children are receiving at the school is matched by state-of-the-art facilities. In the near future the school is of course still pushing hard to get a number of temporary classes in place as the build project progresses." The Minister added: "I will continue to work with both the school and the Department to make sure the project progresses as swiftly as possible".

Local Fine Gael councillor, Edward Timmins also welcomed the news saying it was a testament to the Principal, Board of Management, staff and parents who had all pulled together to make this happen.

Also welcoming the news

Social Democrat TD Jennifer Whitmore said: "It was good news all round for Blessington schools. I was delighted to hear that Blessington Community College has formally been approved for a 1,000 student new school. I have been working with the parents, teachers and school staff towards this over the last few months and it is fantastic to see all of their hard work and determination bare fruit. "I will continue to work with the community here to ensure the prompt delivery of the urgently needed temporary classrooms for this September's intake of First Year students and ultimately the delivery of a permanent 1,000 student school for Blessington.

"It is equally good news that Blessington Educate Together National School received approval for the arrival of their fourth mainstream classroom for this September. BETNS is the only Educate Together School in West Wicklow and has been steadily growing over the last few years. The approval of a fourth mainstream classroom for the school is fantastic news for this school community and I am delighted to have supported them."



Holly Prestage, Bri-Elle Finn, Doireann Hurley, Leah O'Hare, Leah Byrne and Roisin Vigors from the Studio 55 Dance Academy performed the Irish school premiere of the musical 'SIX', and received standing ovations. The show 'SIX The Musical' was held in St. Mary's Hall, Arklow.

## Charlesland playground to be resurfaced

Wicklow County Council is planning to re-surface the playground in Charlesland. The matter was discussed at a recent meeting of the Greystones Municipal District.

Cllr Stephen Stokes stated: "This is an important issue. Several local residents wrote to me about the condition of Charlesland playground. In essence there are a number of holes, which have grown steadily. The playground surface is over 10 years old, and is in need of freshening up."

Cllr Stokes has warmly welcomed the commitment to resurface the area. He added: "Providing safe play areas for children is vital. Wicklow County Council advised that it may take some time though, as it is a special project to organise."

Cllr Stokes concluded: "We much stay focused on maintaining our local amenities, like the Charlesland playground. In addition I will continue to press for more facilities in Charlesland, Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle."

# 'First of its kind' Parkinson's Disease awareness event held in Bray

HSE Community Healthcare East hosted a free, drop in awareness event in Bray Primary Care Centre on Wednesday 19th April to highlight the range of community support services that are available for those who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. Guests at the event were also treated to a special performance by the Wicklow Parkinson's Choir.

Parkinson's Disease is widely considered the second most common neurodegenerative condition after Alzheimer's Disease in Ireland. Martina Queally, Chief Officer, HSE Community Healthcare East comments: "A diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease can be a very overwhelming and worrying time for patients and those that care for them. We wanted

this event to reassure these people that there is a full range of community support out there that can help."

The idea originated from Fiona Craven, Adult Speech and Language Therapist in North Wicklow, who runs a Parkinson's Speech Therapy Support Group in Bray Primary Care Centre. Having seen how beneficial this group was

to Parkinson's service users and their carers, Fiona initially approached Dawn Tyner, Community Healthcare Network Manager for North Wicklow, with the idea.

Dawn reflects: "I thought it was a great idea and something new that we haven't done before. Given that April is International Parkinson's Disease

Awareness Month, we thought this would be the perfect time to hold our own first-of-its-kind local awareness event. We wanted to give patients and carers the opportunity to speak directly to local support services to help them find out what support is out there and how to access it."

At the event, representatives from HSE Community Healthcare East (including Speech and Language Therapy, Public Health Nursing, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Social Work, Psychology and Dietetics) were available to advise attendees about the full range of community healthcare support that is available to those with Parkinson's Disease. A number of complementary HSE services also shared information on fall prevention and health and wellbeing.

One of the highlights of the event was a performance by the Wicklow Parkinson's Choir. Speaking about the event, Choir Master Dara MacMahon said: "Our choir were thrilled to be invited to perform at this

event. Group singing is so beneficial for people with Parkinson's and the event was a wonderful opportunity to share our joy of singing. We also really enjoyed connecting with other members of the Parkinson's community on the day and hope that they will come and join us - our doors are always open to new members!"



Martina Queally concludes: "The event was an excellent example of Slaintecare and our Enhanced Community Care Programme in action. It demonstrated how our multi-disciplinary teams in the Community Healthcare Networks work together, alongside our community organisations, to benefit

the individual needs of our service users. GPs and Consultants have excellent knowledge of the range of support that is available and are often the first point of contact for referrals to community-based services like these, but I also encourage people to reach out to us directly for advice and support if required."

For more information about Parkinson's Disease support in Wicklow email CHN7.Cheat@hse.ie. To find out more about the Wicklow Parkinson's Choir email daramacmahon@gmail.com. Other community support organisations include www.move4parkinsons.com/ and https://www.parkinsons.ie/.



Members of the Wicklow Parkinson's Choir performing at the HSE Community Healthcare East Parkinson's Disease Awareness event in Bray Primary Care Centre

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# Thousands sign petition calling for withdrawal of Magheramore planning application

A petition launched earlier this month in Wicklow in opposition to a planning application by a subsidiary of the Oakmount development company, the purchasers of twenty one acres of land near Magheramore beach, four miles south of Wicklow Town in 2021, has quickly gained over two thousand signatures.

The petition was launched by the poet Martin Dyar, who has also announced a public meeting to discuss the controversy at the An Tairsearch Organic Farm and Ecology Centre in Wicklow Town on Tuesday April 25th at 7pm.

The signatories are calling on the current owners of the land, Paddy McKillen Jnr and Matt Ryan, to withdraw the planning application. The petition also proposes that the land be sold to Wicklow County Council, so that its public access and biodiversity can be appropriately managed, and protected for future generations.

Responding to the Magheramore controversy, RTE Broadcaster Ella McSweeney wrote on social media: "It's so utterly depressing to think of private enrichment on the back of ruining this exceptionally beautiful, tranquil and ecologically important site which is currently there for all to enjoy."

The acclaimed Wicklow poet Jane Clarke, a regular visitor to Magheramore, has said: "We need nature for our own survival but nature will not survive unless we protect it. I was a proud citizen when in May 2019 the Dáil declared a National Climate and Biodiversity Emergency; that declaration is rendered meaningless if we are powerless to prevent the destruction of yet another precious habitat."

She added, "From my first visit to Magheramore over thirty years ago I have known it as a haven for both people and wildlife. In this small area of land and beach a wide range of birds, wildflowers, bees and butterflies thrive."

Wicklow County Council was

widely praised in 2021 for their effort to acquire the land for conservation, when they bid €500,000 in a BidX1 auction which received national attention. The initial asking price had been €200,000. McKillen Jnr and Ryan were successful with a bid of €700,000.

Two previous developers who owned the land failed to develop it, with the ecological richness and vulnerability of Magherabeg Special Area of Conservation (SAC) presenting an insurmountable planning obstacle in both cases.

The planning application submitted this month by a newly formed Oakmount company called Creatively Pacific Ltd., outlines a forty million euro budget for a 'boutique resort', with an eighteen-month construction period.

A cinema, swimming pool, gym, and restaurant are proposed, as part of a complex which includes forty caravan-like pods, each with a maximum occupancy of two people, placed around the headland to capitalise on views of Magheramore beach, and the famous dunes at Magherabeg to the south. The main hotel building, campaigners say, will impinge on rare tufa petrifying springs which are covered by the EU habitats directive. An ecological report submitted with the planning application acknowledges the risk of damage in multiple categories including 'habitat loss' and 'species fragmentation' and 'water quality'.

To facilitate vehicular access it is proposed to widen the half mile long tree-lined avenue that leads down to the beach, a remnant of the Lesley Ellis estate. The lane was historically

known as 'the avenue' and appears on a surveyor's map from 1840 housed in the National Library of Ireland.

The petition's signatories claim the Oakmount plans are a threat to wildlife, habitats, and heritage. Bats, kites, woodpeckers, and seals will be negatively impacted or displaced, the petition states. The fact that Magheramore is a renowned wintering ground for curlews has been also emphasised.

Martin Dyar has remarked: "The curlews are a major prize for the people of Wicklow. Every year Magheramore gets four months of unearthly music, and daily sightings of a bird that has come back from extinction more than once. We should realise that miracles of this kind are good for tourism, just as it should be remembered that ecosystems are the mothers of economies. The fact that curlews are not mentioned in this planning application could be viewed as sinister, but it is also another example of the developer's distance from the locality. There is an imagined planet."

Asked why he thought the objections have been so widespread and so quick, Dyar said: "I think it's partly to do with trust. It's clear that habitat bashing for unsuspecting visitors is not a credible answer to Wicklow Town's lack of hotel beds. It's also clear to those who have read the plans that convenient public access to the beach will be lost permanently, whatever people are expected to believe."

"But there is also a keen sense of ecological responsibility mixed in with the expressions of anger towards the developers. We are in a



Magheramore has provided locations for many productions, including Vikings

fresh phase of history, which despite being war-torn and doggedly unequal, offers us a new understanding of our relationship to the natural world. Everyone knows we need to accelerate into a more widespread defence of biodiversity. Ireland will soon appoint a national team of biodiversity officers. Wicklow will have, to borrow a phrase from the CEO of the Heritage Council, its own 'permanent voice'. That person will have an education mandate, and they will find themselves surrounded by willing and informed communities.

"But I think, at root, we're seeing an expression of love for animals and landscapes. The love comes out as activism and resistance and people power."

The proposed resort has also been viewed as a significant loss to the Irish film industry. The beach and the twenty one acres have provided locations for many productions, include Netflix's Vikings, and last year an adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's Long Day's Journey Into Night, starring Jessica Lange and Ed Harris, led by Ardmore studios, the set for which included a 1920s style Connecticut holiday home, the appearance of which on the contested headland prompted a planning

enforcement probe by Wicklow Planning Office.

Dyar concluded: "The most recent buyers of the Magheramore lands have a battle on their hands. They and their partners are effectively standing on sacred ground."

It's expected that the completed development will facilitate a vibrant rural tourism offering and will employ approximately 160 people throughout the year.

It's stated in the planning application by the promoters of the development that the existing pedestrian access for the public to Magheramore beach will remain unaffected. The planning report accompanying the application states that "it was imperative to the applicant that the community benefit from this development just as much as the tourism industry. For this reason, the development includes a complete enhancement of the current access pathway to the beach, a cleaner and safer beach, as well as innovative surf facilities to replace the old shipping container currently in use at the beach and the addition of vital facilities including WC, showers and a defibrillator."

The report, by Manahan Planners, further states that "the applicant has appointed a team of experts in their

respective fields to ensure that the proposed tourism development respects and protects the amenity of Magheramore beach and the surrounding area [...] protects and enhances the ecological biodiversity, landscape quality and amenity of Magheramore beach and the surrounding area [...].

"It is submitted that the proposed development will provide a high quality, sustainable tourism and recreation facility which is sensitive to the character and distinctiveness of Magheramore beach [...] It is evident that the proposed development has been carefully and strategically designed to capture all that the scenic location has to offer without unduly detracting from the character of the landscape. The scenic landscape that the proposed development is surrounded by is a vital part of the design in itself."

The 'Save Magheramore' petition can be viewed at [www.change.org/savemagheramore](http://www.change.org/savemagheramore). A Save Magheramore public meeting will take place at the An Tairsearch Ecology Centre, Kilmartin Hill in Wicklow Town, at 7pm on April 25th. All are welcome. The deadline for public submissions on the application is 8th May and the Council is due to make a decision by 29th May.

## Powerscourt Estate receives award as Ireland's premier Sustainable Visitor Attraction

Powerscourt Estate has become Ireland's first premier visitor attraction to be certified by Sustainable Travel Ireland whose criteria are recognised by the UN mandated Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). Powerscourt, House, Gardens and Waterfall is the first major Irish visitor attraction to achieve such an accolade.



Powerscourt Estate Managing Director Sarah Slazenger with the award for being Ireland's premier sustainable visitor attraction

The certification is for the touristic elements of the Estate - House, Garden & Waterfall. This is phase 1 of the sustainability strategy at Powerscourt. Phase 2 will incorporate the Garden Centre, Golf Club and Distillery.

Powerscourt Gardens in County Wicklow was named no. 3 in the World's Top 10 Gardens by the National Geographic, second only to the Palace of Versailles and Kew Gardens in London. A pioneering spirit has always existed for environmental and nature protection on Powerscourt Estate with the Estate originally purchased for the use of hydroelectric power at Powerscourt Waterfall - Ireland's highest Waterfall.

Sustainable Travel Ireland is Ireland's leading

sustainable tourism training and certification organisation. The award to Powerscourt House and Gardens and Waterfall is based on a detailed online submission and an in-depth in-person assessment by an independent auditor using criteria recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). The GSTC is an independent non-profit UN-mandated organisation that has developed criteria that serve as globally accepted standards for sustainable tourism.

Over the last few years some of the sustainability initiatives which have been implemented on the Estate include an integrated energy management system (developed in association with Cool Planet Group), a waste reduction plan and

biodiversity rewilding initiatives such as wildflower meadows, a tree planting programme, and a bee sanctuary at the walled gardens. The long-term overarching mission at Powerscourt Estate is for the Estate to be recognised on a global stage for its sustainability initiatives, and to be Net Zero by 2025.

Speaking about the certification, Sarah Slazenger, Managing Director, Powerscourt Estate: "We are delighted to be Ireland's first Visitor Attraction to be certified by Sustainable Travel Ireland. Over the last few years as a team, we have worked collectively on the Estate to make this happen."

However, sustainability was always front and cen-



Lydia Slazenger and Charlie Miller pictured among this year's 35 thousand strong Tulip Display at Powerscourt Estate

tre of everything we do at Powerscourt. In 1961 Powerscourt Estate was bought with sustainability in mind. Our grandfather, Ralph Slazenger, saw the potential for creating renewable energy from Powerscourt Waterfall, which is the highest in Ireland. He was an innovative thinker and we have carried forward his open-minded attitude in the development of the Estate. The bottom line is that nature and the environment are integral to the estate and sustainability is vital for the future of Powerscourt. We see ourselves as custodians of Powerscourt for future generations and our aim is leave it in a better state for them. We see sustain-

ability as vital for the future of Powerscourt."

Speaking about the certification, Rob Rankin, Director of Sustainable Travel Ireland stated: "We are thrilled to see one of Ireland's landmark visitor attractions blazing a sustainability trail and showing such great example to other Irish tourism businesses. And Powerscourt should be well rewarded for their efforts to do good. The bottom line is that pursuing true sustainability is not just beneficial to the environment and local community, it's also great for the actual bottom line too. Amongst other benefits, research shows time and time again that customers want to spend their money with

caring companies. And that those companies attract and retain better employees too. They also save lots of money by reducing their use of energy, waste and water."

Sustainable Travel Ireland's mission is to transform the Irish tourism industry into a regenerative business sector that respects and protects the environment, but also supports local communities and makes better places for people to live and work in. Powerscourt's vision is for it to be known as one of Ireland's most iconic sustainable visitor attractions, which is recognised on a global stage as a place of immense beauty and biodiversity.



# Netflix filmmaker and paralympic cyclist lined up for live podcast at Whale Theatre

Award-winning filmmaker Paddy Slattery and Paralympic cyclist Michael Timothy will share their remarkable stories at The Whale Theatre for a live podcast on Thursday night. Both guests will share how they managed to make it to the very top of their different fields against all the odds.



Award-winning filmmaker Paddy Slattery

Social Fabric podcast host Andrea Splendori says he's excited to host the evening which he said is aimed at reshaping attitudes towards disability.

"Their stories show how having the right mental attitude can help you cope with even the most extreme challenges life throws at you," said Andrea.

"I'm really looking forward to the night because seeing what Paddy and Michael have done will not only help transform how people view disability but also provide lessons we can all learn from".

Filmmaker Paddy Slattery, who has dozens of award-winning shorts and music videos to his name including the critically acclaimed thriller *Broken Law* which was recently picked up by Netflix, will share the importance of having a dream to chase.

Paddy fell in love with filmmaking at an uncertain time in his life, after

he was restricted to a bed for almost a year, following a serious car accident. He suffered a severe spinal cord injury that has left him paralysed. In Paddy's own words he said "my body switched off and my imagination switched on. It's almost like when you deprive certain senses in the body, other ones become amplified. I felt like I was seeing, hearing, tasting and touching life in a completely different way."

The second guest, Michael Timothy is one of the country's most talented cyclists having represented Ireland at the Paralympics Games in Tokyo and won a bronze medal at the 2020 World Track Championships.

Growing up in Roscommon, Michael's athletic talent shone through as she represented her country as an Irish underage soccer international and inter-county footballer.

However, her world was turned upside down

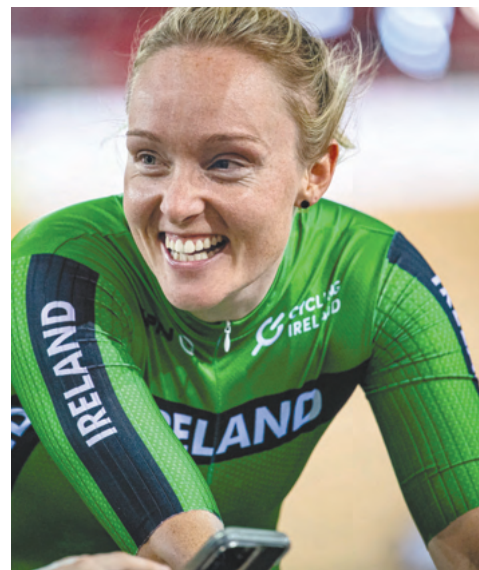


when an acquired brain injury left her with severely impacted motor function on the right side of her body.

She said: "[After leaving the hospital] I still couldn't walk. If I got out of bed my face would droop. I'd walk and drag my foot. I couldn't lift a cup with my right hand."

Today, Michael is not only training to make the Paris Paralympics but has a degree in sports science and is doing a masters in performance coaching.

Tickets for the fundraising event on Thursday April 27th at 8pm can be found on The Whale website.



Paralympic cyclist Michael Timothy

# Ombudsman finds that HSE refused to reimburse patients' legitimate costs for treatment abroad

An investigation by the Ombudsman, Ger Deering, has found an unreasonable and inflexible approach by the HSE in administering schemes that fund treatment abroad for healthcare which the State is either unable to provide, or unable to provide in a timely manner in Ireland.

In his report, 'In Sickness and in Debt', [published Tuesday 18 April] the Ombudsman says that some patients faced a fight to be reimbursed for the legitimate costs they had incurred for necessary treatment they received abroad - with many borrowing money and some falling into debt as a result. In other cases, approval to have treatment abroad was unreasonably refused or delayed.

The Ombudsman has set out 21 recommendations to improve the administration of the schemes for the benefit of patients who need these critical treatments. Following discussions between the Ombudsman and new HSE Chief Executive Bernard Gloster, the HSE has agreed to implement the 21 recommendations in the Ombudsman's report.

Ombudsman Ger Deering said: "I very

much welcome the decision of the HSE to implement the recommendations.

"Their implementation will have a significant positive impact on the lives of those who need to access treatment abroad, and will help ensure that decisions under the schemes are focused on the patients' needs."

The Ombudsman's investigation included an examination of the EU Cross Border Directive scheme. Under the scheme, the patient pays for necessary treatment in another EU or EEA country upfront and then applies to the HSE for reimbursement of the cost of the treatment.

The investigation identified instances where the HSE refused to reimburse patients for treatment they had paid for and received abroad because:

- A patient's GP had not

- designed a letter of referral he emailed to a hospital in Northern Ireland. This was despite the fact that it was clear that the letter was sent from the GP's email address, and the GP had assured the HSE in writing that the referral was genuine.

- A letter of referral from the Irish GP was addressed to the relevant section of a Northern Ireland hospital (the 'ENT' Department) and not a named individual in the hospital. The HSE refused to accept a subsequent amended referral letter from the GP.

- While treatment of a patient took place in Belgium, an initial consultation took place while the Belgian consultant was in Ireland. (The waiting list for treatment in Ireland was four years.)

- Prior to treatment in Poland, an outpatient consultation with a Polish consultant took

place by phone, and not in person. The patient was in urgent need of treatment for chronic back pain.

- A number of elderly patients who sought refunds for treatment were in receipt of UK pensions. Due to the lack of information provided by the HSE these patients were unaware that the fact they were in receipt of a pension from another EU country would negatively affect their application. The patients had borrowed significant amounts of money to have the treatment but received no reimbursement.

The Ombudsman's report also contains recommendations in relation to two other schemes: the Treatment Abroad Scheme and the Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme - a scheme brought in to provide for treatment in Northern Ireland following Brexit.

A small number of recommendations are relevant to the Department of Health. It has accepted these recommendations.



Wicklow siblings Senan Ring (4) and sister Fia (7), from Lacken, pictured enjoying Ireland's National Fitness Games held at Dublin's National Sports Campus. Now in its seventh year, the initiative was devised to combat obesity by encouraging healthy eating and an active lifestyle, especially amongst young and growing children.



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#### Current Students showcase their work

*Performing Arts and Musical Theatre and Dance Students on stage at the LexIcon Studio*

On Thursday 23rd March, a sold-out event at the LexIcon Studio in Dun Laoghaire showcased the exceptional talents of the Sallynoggin College of Further Education (SCFE) students from the Performing Arts and Musical Theatre and Dance courses. The first performance of the

evening was an abridged version of The 39 Steps by Patrick Barlow, performed by students on the Performing Arts Course QQI Level 5.

Following this was Songs and Scenes from The Greatest Showman performed by students on the Musical Theatre and Dance Course QQI Level 5.

These two performances demonstrated the range of skills and disciplines that are taught in the Performing Arts, Musical Theatre, and Dance courses in SCFE. The courses offer rigorous and challenging programs of study that provide students with the essential knowledge, skills, and understanding

of the craft of the performer.

*Professional Floristry Students display their skills at Annual Flower Show in SCFE*

On 19th April, students from the Professional Floristry course put on a wonderful display of Wedding Flowers Designs. The show which was open to the public was well attended and visitors were treated to a wonderful array of displays, with themes varying from Romantic Woodland to Edwardian Wedding Breakfast.

A panel of Judges, which included past student, Sharon O'Connor of Sweetpea and Willow

Flowers, awarded prizes for the best exhibit in various classes. Visitors also had the opportunity to vote for their favourite on the night.

#### SCFE Great Painting Challenge

Students from the Level 5 and Level 6 Art and Design courses spent two days painting in the picturesque Lexicon Library. Students were given 4 hours per day on 28th and 29th March to complete a painting of either the library's interior or exterior. The paintings are on view in the Lexicon until the 30th April. Viewers can vote for their favourite and the winners will be announced on Monday 8th May at the launch of the SCFE Art and Fashion Exhibition, which will take place at 6pm in the Lexicon Library. The exhibition, which will showcase students' work from throughout the year will run until Sunday 14th May. Anyone considering studying Art or Fashion at QQI Levels 5 or 6, should visit and see what they could achieve studying in SCFE.

#### The Student Experience

According to the recent CSO evaluation of the Further Education Sector

students who complete a PLC course and progress to third level education are less likely to drop out and generally perform better in their degree programmes. With this in mind, SCFE supports a holistic approach to education with students becoming involved in many learning experiences above and beyond the curricular requirements.

#### SCFE International learning with Erasmus+

SCFE recognises the importance of valuable work experience and the potential of the Erasmus+ programme to enhance learning for all. SCFE is continuing to expand the international aspect of our programmes by promoting partnerships with other European colleges.

The college has established a partnership with KVT College in Trondheim Norway where our Early Childhood Care and Education students undertake a two-week work experience placement in Norwegian early years education services, most recently in February 2023. As Norway is considered a world leader in the provision of early years education this opportunity will really enhance our students' expertise in their field.



*Laura Harper, student on the Art, Craft and Design Portfolio Preparation course, participating in the SCFE 8 Hour Painting Challenge in the Lexicon Library*

Social Studies and Youth Work students travelled to Porto in Portugal to complete work placements in a variety of community-based projects for people from a variety of different backgrounds.

Students from the Travel and Tourism courses completed a three-week work placement in top hotels and resorts in Tenerife. Tenerife is one of the leading tourist destinations in Europe guaranteeing that the students get the best international experience available in the tourism sector.

#### Next OPEN DAY 29th August, 10am to 2pm

SCFE's next OPEN DAY is on 29th August 10am to 2pm. There will be a range of presentations, demonstrations and exhibitions and college staff and students will be on hand to answer any queries. "All our courses are recognised for the SUSI Grant and Higher Education Authority (HEA) fund for learners with learning difficulties.

The college, located

within walking distance from Dun Laoghaire, is well served by public transport and free secure parking is available to students.

"Check us out at

www.scfe.ie for a full list of courses. Contact us: reception@scfe.ie / 01 2852997.

"Follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @SCFEOfficial."



*Eric Byrne and Daniel Corrigan in the 39 Steps*



*Frank Oudwater from Hoek Flowers and Margaret Irwin, Winner in the Best use of Colour category*

## Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg attends national showcase

Over 500 young people involved in Comhairle na nÓg, including members from Wicklow, gathered at Croke Park stadium on Tuesday April 4th to showcase and celebrate their wide range of achievements and be inspired by a host of speakers and entertainers.

The National Showcase is a biannual event that highlights the work of the members of Comhairle na nÓg and how young people have had their voices heard on policies, services and issues that impact on their lives.

The event gave the 31 Comhairle na nÓg groups the opportunity to exhibit their work and engage directly with local and national decision makers to inform them about the topics and issues that are important to them.

Speaking about the event, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said: "The National Showcase is about recognising the valuable work of Comhairle na nÓg and its contribution to the lives of so many young people around the country. It gives me great hope to

witness the enthusiasm and commitment of the young people involved, who should have their voices heard on a wide range of policies and issues.

"The Government recognises the valuable work of Comhairle na nÓg and we are committed to ensuring that young people continue to be engaged in decision-making that affects them."

Commenting on the importance of the event, Roderic O'Gorman, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth said "Comhairle na nÓg plays a huge role in ensuring the voices of young people are heard around the country and its members have made great strides over the years, both at a local and national level. Today's gathering is especially important in order to celebrate

the achievements of Comhairle na nÓg and the tremendous impact of the work being done."

Radio and television personality Doireann Garrihy led proceedings during the day along with hosting a panel of young people to discuss how they have had the opportunity to engage with decision makers and influence decision making through Comhairle na nÓg. The Dublin Gospel Choir provided the entertainment with special renditions of some well known songs.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Minister Roderic O'Gorman and government officials addressed the large gathering of young people as well as reaffirming their commitment to ensuring they are listening to the important issues discussed and raised by them.



*Pictured at the Comhairle na nÓg National Showcase at Croke Park were members of Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg: Emily, Kate Macadam, Cayden Elliott, Oisín Núñez O'Brien, and Louisa Tyrell*



# Kilquade Cup fundraiser tees-up again after three years

*Major fundraiser for local parish of Kilquade - Delgany, Kilcoole, Newcastle and Newtown*

2023 sees the return of The Kilquade Cup, the annual golf outing held in Delgany Golf Club as a fundraiser for the local parish of Kilquade, which includes Delgany, Kilcoole, Newcastle and Newtown parishioners.

Sponsored by Arboretum Kilquade, this year's golf competition takes place on Thursday 4th May on the Delgany parkland course, and entries are now open.

Teams of four can play in one of two competitions; a morning 9-hole Scramble, with a shotgun start at 9.30am, or the 18-hole Kilquade Cup, also a Stableford Scramble, which tees off at 1.30pm to a shotgun start.

Team entry for the morning 9-hole competition is €120, with a light lunch served in the clubhouse afterwards.

Players in this competition will compete for the newly inaugurated Kilquade Plate, with many additional team prizes presented. Entry for the prestigious Kilquade Cup competition is €300 for a team of four players, which also includes dinner and entertainment in Delgany Golf

Club afterwards, at 7.30pm. Up to a dozen separate team prizes are in the mix on the day.

Non-golfing guests are also invited to book for the dinner and social evening in Delgany Golf Club, on May 4th, which features music and entertainment, a Golden Ticket Raffle and an auction for fabulous prizes. Individual tickets for the Kilquade Cup gala dinner are priced at €35.00.

Parish Priest, Fr. John Daly thanked sponsors Arboretum for their support, and encouraged local companies and groups to enter teams and to sponsor holes and prizes at the fundraising event. He thanked Delgany Golf Club for generously giving over the course and club facilities for the longstanding parish fundraiser, as well as parishioners who are buying raffle tickets and

entering teams in the golf outing.

"After a three-year break, the renewal of the Kilquade Cup is a welcome opportunity for local golfers and businesses to, once again, help our parish meet the needs of the local communities. The money raised will see improvement works in each of the parish churches, including upgrading technology systems to make ceremonies more accessible to parishioners," he said.

Barry Doyle of Arboretum garden-centre said the family business has been warmly welcomed into the local community in the last eight years, and is happy to contribute to parish life: "We are grateful to our customers in the wider Kilquade area who support us, and our sponsorship involvement in the Kilquade Cup since 2016 is just one way of thanking the local community,"

Barry Doyle said at the competition sponsorship launch.

Golf club or society membership is preferred for Kilquade Cup participation, and the competition is open to all ages, including junior members. Teams for the 9-hole or 18-hole competition on Thursday 4th May can be booked now on: kilquadecup@gkpastoralarea.ie, or by calling the organisers, June, on 087-2469924 or John on 087-2592538.

The parish office at Kilian House Family Centre in Greystones can be contacted about sponsorships, or to attend the Kilquade Cup gala evening celebration in Delgany Golf Club on Thursday May 4th.

For more information; email kilquadecup@gkpastoralarea.ie or call the parish office on 01 2874025.



Pictured at the launch of the Kilquade Cup golf fundraiser for the parish, which happens on Thursday 4th May in Delgany Golf Club, are Karl and John Donohoe from Greystones.

# Bray Lions look forward to Darkness Into Light walk

RTE presenter Claire Byrne and Richie Murphy, head coach of the Ireland U20s Grand Slam team, last Thursday launched the 2023 Bray Lions Club Darkness into Light Charity Walk.

Darkness into Light, which supports Pieta, the suicide counselling and support charity, returns to Bray on the morning of Saturday 6th May commencing at 4.15am. It will take walkers from and back to the Seaford via Putland Road, Vevay, Church Road, Lord Edward Road, Herbert Road and Quinnsborough Road, ending as dawn rises.

The Bray event, one of many throughout the country, is organised by Bray Lions Club which has supported the event over many years, resulting in local walkers raising some €500,000 for the charity. Bray Lions will provide stewarding, logistics with hot beverages, water and snacks at the conclusion of the walk. Members of Greystones

Orchestra will also play at the Bandstand.

Walkers can register on-line at [www.darknessintolight.ie](http://www.darknessintolight.ie).

In 2009, in the Phoenix Park in Dublin, 400 people set off on the inaugural Darkness Into Light 5km walk to raise funds for Pieta. From small beginnings, the movement has continued to grow, and now the walk attracts

more than 200,000 participants.

Each year the walk provides an opportunity for people to connect with their local community and to bring hope to people who have been impacted by suicide.

Since Darkness Into Light began, the annual walks have helped Pieta raise more than €30 million. These funds have

enabled the charity to keep its doors open and to operate a 24/7 free helpline open for people in crisis.

Bray Lions look forward to welcoming thousands of walkers over the route on the morning of 7th May. In addition to organising the event Lions will undertake administration and stewarding.



Pictured at the launch of Bray Lions Club 'Darkness into Light' walk are (from left), Frank Corr, pro, Bray Lions Club,, Tracy O'Brien, Darkness into Light committee, Claire Byrne and Joe Codyre, president, Bray Lions Club.



Eoin and Charlie Fleming in Avondale Forest Park for Charlie Bird's 'Hand of Friendship' 5k fundraising walk for Samaritans



# German students return to Glencree cemetery for QR code project



German students Palena Junge and Fiona Kliemann place a QR code on the grave of a German soldier, with their teacher Christian Luebke.

ed from England to Canada in July 1940. Their ship 'The Arandora Star' was torpedoed by the German submarine off the coast of Donegal.

"Just inside the wrought iron gated entrance, a poem by Professor Stan O'Brien, a dedicated supporter of the Irish-German Society, set in polished stone, captures the poignancy of this quiet resting ground.

"A pathway leads to the 'Hall of Honour', a place of reflection and prayer. Just beyond the Hall the grave-stones are laid out in eight gently curved arcs, while a mosaic Pieta, designed by Berlz, the Munich born painter, adorns the interior wall. Seton a height above the cemetery is a fine Celtic cross."



Nils Karius, Timo Kutsche and teacher Susanne Wolf at the grave of a German soldier

A group of students from Germany and their teachers visited the military cemetery at Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation on 15th April to lay QR codes next to some of graves, containing information about the people buried there.

The visit was part of a continuation of a project that began last year. The students, from Eichendorffschule school in Wolfsburg, visited Glencree in the summer of 2022. Their aim was to kickstart a project, in conjunction with local schools, where regular visits are carried out to the graveyard and necessary work is carried out.

The students last year were recipients of the Sara-Frenkel-Prize donated

by Volkswagen, which is awarded for displays of Respect, Tolerance and Civil Courage, named after Sara Frenkel-Bass, a Jewish Polish forced laborer at the Volkswagen plant in Wolfsburg from 1943 to 1945.

In the time between that previous visit and now, the students, with the assistance of the German War Graves Commission, conducted research on some of the people buried at Glencree's military cemetery:

Dr. Hermann Görtz (a German spy in Britain and Ireland before and during World War II), two soldiers, and German civilians who were on board the SS Arandora Star, a British passenger ship that was torpedoed by a British submarine.

On the QR codes, the students wrote texts in both German and English.

The war cemetery at Glencree, one of many German war cemeteries in Western Europe, serves as

a stark reminder of the devastation of the First and Second World Wars. 134 German military servicemen and civilians are buried there, many of them Luftwaffe pilots who flew off course while flying over England, or crashed as a result of damage to their aircraft or fuel loss.

The Glencree website states, "Interred here also are a number of regular naval personnel (Kriegsmarine) whose bodies washed up, sometimes in remote coastal locations. Of the eighty-one air and naval servicemen buried in Glencree, the identities of twenty-eight remain unknown.

"Those who engaged in the 'secret side of war' are also buried here. Dr. Hermann Görtz, who took his own life to avoid arrest as a spy, has the only individual memorial - a finely carved stone relief - in the cemetery.

"Six soldiers of the First World War are also interred. These soldiers died while in a British prisoner of war camp based in Ireland from 1915-1918.

"The cemetery is also the final resting place of forty-six German civilians who were being transport-



German students Paul Koehne and Paula Thoenebe place a QR code at the entrance of Glencree's war cemetery.



Teachers Benedikt Melzig, Harald Jon, Christian Luebke and Susanne Wolf with their students



# Wicklow students win top prizes in national art competition



Hannah Mariam Jaison (14), from Colaiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole



Wen Xiang Lin (Chris) (16), from Woodbrook College, Bray

Six Wicklow students have won top prizes in this year's 69th Texaco Children's Art Competition.

They were: Aidan Bolger (aged 17), a pupil at Colaiste Bhride, Carnew; Martyna Gabriel (17), from Dominican College, Wicklow; Wen Xiang Lin (Chris) (16), from Woodbrook College, Bray; Hannah Mariam Jaison (14), from Colaiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole; and Pola Kedziora (14) and Freyja Ryan-Dockrill (13), both pupils at Greystones Community College.

All were winners of Special Merit Awards for artworks that Final Adjudicator, Professor Gary Granville said were imaginative and displayed high levels of skill and creativity.

No stranger to the Competition, Aidan won also won a Special Merit Award last year.

The Texaco Children's Art Competition is popularly regarded

as the longest-running sponsorship in the history of arts sponsoring in Ireland, with an unbroken history that dates back to the very first Competition held in 1955. This year, as has been the case throughout its life, it has been a platform on which young artists from Wicklow and counties throughout Ireland have had their talents recognised and their creativity commended.



Aidan Bolger (aged 17), a pupil at Colaiste Bhride, Carnew



Martyna Gabriel (17), from Dominican College, Wicklow



Freyja Ryan-Dockrill (13), Greystones Community College



Pola Kedziora (14) from Greystones Community College

## Courthouse Art Studio Exhibition

*Runs until Saturday, April 29th, 4pm*

This exhibition is a first for the Courthouse Art Group. Displaying work together in a professional art setting is an acknowledgement of how far they have come as artists.

Although some members have been making art for many years, others had never seriously attempted drawing or painting until coming to the group. They all share a strong desire to express their creativity on paper or canvas.

Fridays at the Courthouse function like a studio with everybody working on their own projects. Some choose to perfect their drawing skills while others tackle oil or watercolour.

Key to this group's success is the support they give each other. Discussing the work and offering suggestions is a valuable part of the group experience. Each work chosen for the exhibition represents a major step in their progress as artists.

**THE COURTHOUSE ARTS CENTRE**

### Courthouse Art Studio Exhibition

You are cordially invited to the opening on Sunday, April 16th, 3pm to 5pm  
Runs until Saturday April 29th

Tinahely, Co. Wicklow 0402 38529  
www.courthousearts.ie  
Email: pr@courthousearts.ie  
Opening Times: Tues to Sat, 10am to 4pm

Logos for sponsors: pobal, ArtLinks, Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Arts Council, Wicklow County Council, Wicklow County Council, Wicklow County Council.

## Wicklow filmmakers scoop two awards

Avondale Community College students from Wicklow had a double success at the Fresh International Film Festival, RTE and Screen Ireland's national Young Filmmaker of the Year 2023 competition.

Avondale Community College won the Best School Award with director Maria Nogales Cid. Their winning short titled Vivamus, Moriendum Est is a stunning paper-cut based animation following the growth of a person as the different seasons go on, while Killian Foley from Avondale Community College was awarded the RTE 60 Second Award for A New Terrain about a young man who wants to be a professional mountain biker.

17 year-old Dublin student Max Hendrickson has been named Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year 2023 for his short animated film The Tell-Tale Heart, a re-telling of Edgar Allan Poe's famous short story.

Presented annually by Fresh International Film Festival, RTE and Screen Ireland, the IYFTYs celebrate the filmmaking work of young people aged 7 to 18 years. They reflect both

the unique stories and shared experiences of global youth from Ireland to Austria, Spain to Senegal, Peru to Palestine, Ukraine to Korea, Brazil to the USA. This year, Fresh International Film Festival, generously supported by the Arts Council and many other partners and sponsors, welcomed more than a thousand short film submissions.



Killian Foley won the RTE 60 Second Award



Avondale Community College students with their Best School Award





Polish painter Nina Ruminska in Signal Arts Centre for her exhibition which was titled 'Outside of Now'. Pic: Joe McQuillan

# 'What's New' - Ian Shaw, Iain Ballamy & Jamie Safir

Whale Theatre, Saturday 29th April, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €20 and available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

**Bray Jazz Festival returns to the Whale Theatre for 2023, with two incredible live performances featuring top class Irish and international musicians.**

A two-times UK Jazz Singer of the Year Award' winner, Ian Shaw is one of the most highly regarded vocalists in contemporary jazz, lauded internationally for his musicality, his ready wit and his sensitive interpretations of classic songs.

Here he teams up with renowned Loose Tubes and Quercus saxophonist Iain Ballamy and fast-rising piano star Jamie Safir for a magical trio celebrating some of the best-loved songs from the Great American Songbook, from composers like Burt Bacharach, Antonio Carlos Jobim and Leonard Bernstein.

BBC Radio described the trio as 'captivating... three great jazz voices entwining'.



Ian Shaw

## West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival returns with a stellar programme



Evanna Lynch who will be the narrator at the Carnival of the Animals Family Concert in Tramway Theatre.

**The West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival returns with a stellar programme that promises to take audiences on an exciting musical voyage from Bach to Bowie and beyond.**

It takes place from Wednesday 17th to Sunday 21st May at Russborough House, Tramway Theatre and at St. Mary's Church, Blessington.

Highlights include: Saxophonist and broadcaster Jess Gillam's debut performances in Ireland; Debut Irish performance from acclaimed vocal ensemble Apollo5; First Co. Wicklow performance for the Irish Chamber Orchestra to perform a Carnival of the Animals family concert with pianists Fiachra Garvey and Soo-Jung Ann and actor Evanna Lynch.

### Jess Gillam Ensemble

After a nearly sold out run of concerts last year, the Jess Gillam Ensemble is heading out on a 14-date summer tour, including a stop at the West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival for their debut Irish performance. The group of eight musical friends have a bold, uplifting and open-minded approach - although they are rooted in classical music, they take inspiration from

musical worlds far and wide. Expect to hear a new spin on CPE Bach, the drive and groove of music by John Harle, Will Gregory (Goldfrapp) and Barbara Thompson, folk infusions and the soaring beauty of music by Sakamoto, Debussy and maybe even some Bjork! On paper, it might seem like a strange collection of music but the ensemble aims to find emotional through lines in music spanning centuries. Jess is joined by Ciaran McCabe & Michael Jones (violins); Eoin Schmidt-Martin (viola); Gabriella Swallow (cello); Sam Becker (bass); Elsa Bradley (percussion)

and Leif Kaner-Lidstrom (piano). Together, they will aim to take audiences on a voyage of discovery in an electrifying programme inspired by showcasing the diversity, dynamism and versatility of the saxophone.

Saturday 20 May 8pm  
Tramway Theatre, Blessington  
Tickets €20 / €10 student concessions

### Apollo5 Vocal Ensemble

Described by Gramophone as 'hugely

impressive', by Classic FM as "Exceptionally beautiful" and by BBC Music Magazine as 'inspired', the critically acclaimed a cappella five-piece Apollo5 is one of Britain's smallest but most formidable vocal groups.

Comprising a soprano, mezzo-soprano, two tenors and a bass, the ensemble - which takes its name from the ancient Greek god of music - has delighted audiences around the world with its rich, dynamic sound, demonstrating how powerful five voices alone can be. With a versatile approach to music programming, and a repertoire spanning renaissance, classical and contemporary choral works to folk, jazz and pop, the group's five voices bring the music of five centuries to life.

For their West Wicklow Chamber Music Festival appearance, Apollo5 have selected a programme that includes music from their acclaimed album, Where All Roses Go. An energetic exploration of the joy and despair of human love, their performance will include choral music spanning 500 years, from some of the earliest known polyphonic writing through to pop favourites like 'Your Song', 'The Way You Look Tonight' and 'Only You'.

Sunday 21 May 3.30pm  
St. Mary's Church, Blessington  
Tickets €20 / €10 student concessions

### Carnival of the Animals Family Concert

Packed with humour and mischievous fun, Saint-Saens Carnival of the Animals is adored by children and grown-ups the world over.

The brilliant Irish Chamber Orchestra, performing for the first time in Co. Wicklow, will be on hand to bring all the various animals to life, with the help of actor Evanna Lynch (Harry Potter, Fantastic Beasts) and Soo-Jung Ann and Fiachra Garvey fighting it out on two grand pianos. From the Tortoise's lumbering Can-Can, to crazy Wild Donkeys and the graceful Swan, music and animal-lovers of all ages will be in for a fantastical musical treat!

Sunday 21st May 12.15pm  
Tramway Theatre, Blessington  
Tickets €10 adults / €10 children

See [westwicklowfestival.com](http://westwicklowfestival.com) for details of the full programme



Saxophonist Jess Gillam



# Against All Odds

Whale Theatre, Thursday 27th April, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €25 and available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

Social Fabric podcast host Andrea Splendori speaks to two remarkable people who have made it to the very top of their different fields against all the odds.

Filmmaker Paddy Slattery has dozens of award-winning shorts and music videos to his name including the critically acclaimed thriller Broken Law which was recently picked up by Netflix.

Paddy tells how he fell in love with filmmaking at an uncertain time in his life, after he was restricted to a bed for almost a year, following a serious car accident.

He suffered a severe spinal cord injury that has left him with life-changing injuries. In Paddy's words "my body switched off and my imagination switched on. It's almost like when you deprive certain senses in the body, other ones become amplified. I felt like I was seeing, hearing, tasting and touching life in a completely different way."

Richael Timothy is one of the country's most talented cyclists having represented

Ireland at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo and won a bronze medal at the 2020 World Track Championships.

Growing up in Roscommon, Richael's athletic talent shone through as she represented her country as an Irish underage soccer international and inter-county footballer.

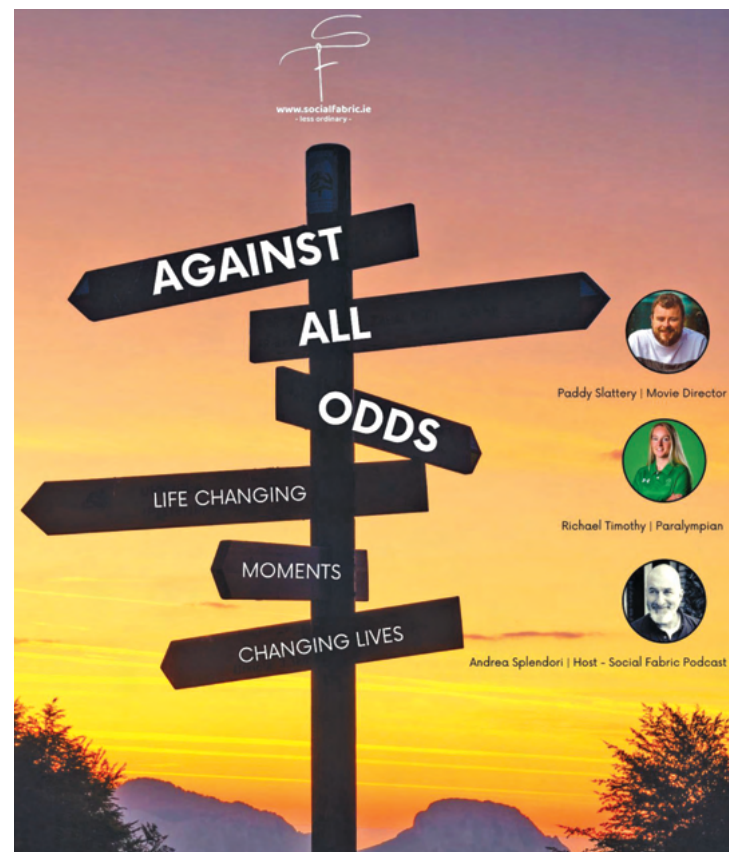
However, her world was turned upside down when an acquired brain injury left her with severely impacted motor function on the right side of her body. "(After leaving hospital) I still couldn't walk. If I got out of bed my face would droop. I'd walk and drag my foot. I couldn't lift a cup with my right hand." Today, Richael is not only training to make the Paris Paralympics but has a degree in sports science and is doing a masters in performance coaching.

This event is part of a fundraising campaign

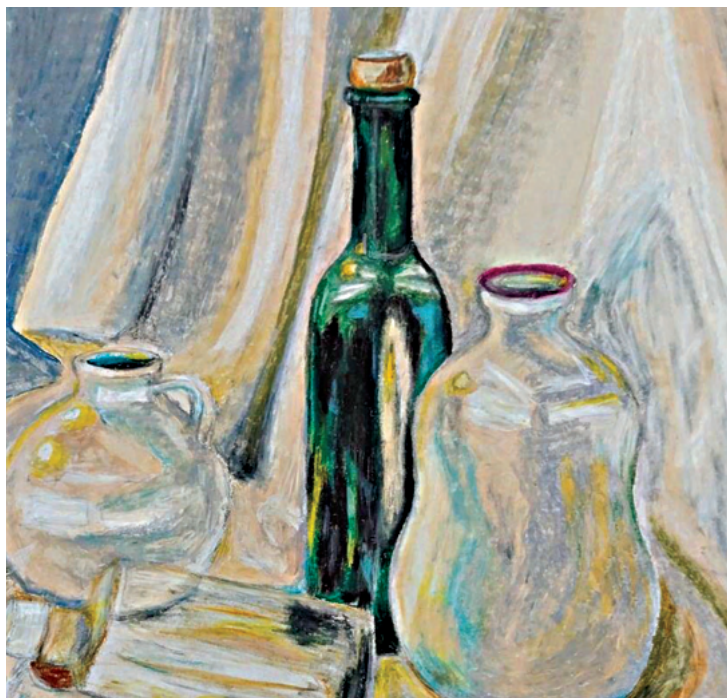
to help our friend Galen get a racing handbike. Galen was training for the Ironman in Australia when he was involved in a cycling accident that left him paralysed from the chest down. One of the unseen impacts of being in a wheelchair is your world shrinks but the handbike has been a life saver.

Handbiking has opened up incredible opportunities to travel across Europe to do incredible events like the Berlin and Rome marathons. It is also incredibly good for both the mind and body. Unfortunately, like most specialised equipment for people with disabilities it is very expensive. Galen has been training hard with the aim of getting to a level to race but he will need the right equipment to make it happen.

To make a donation, please go to: <https://gofund.me/7433c766>



## ArtFX - an exhibition by Bray Adult Education Centre



The Signal Arts Centre hosts Bray Adult Education Centre's annual exhibition, a selection of artwork created by first- and second-year art groups, 'ArtFX'. The collection of work reflects personal journeys through various art disciplines.

The artwork captures a wide range of diverse themes. Using Art and Design elements, the students explore their creative voice.

The work embraces a vibrant range of mixed media pieces, including Mosaics, Printmaking, Painting, Drawing, Textile Art, Felt Making, Fabric Printing and Ceramics, Wood, Sculpture and Mixed media. The use of colour, texture, surface pattern and form, play an integral role in individual self-expression.

Most of our artists come from Bray and the surrounding areas. Their work demonstrates the courage to learn, discover and explore.



## H. I. P. - The Art Blakey Charts

Whale Theatre, Friday 28th April, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €20 and available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.



Cormac O'Brien

Bray Jazz Festival returns to the Whale Theatre for 2023, with two incredible live performances featuring top class Irish and international musicians.

The music of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers - the tightly arranged horn section, the hard-swinging rhythm section, the scorching solos - is classic jazz at its most exhilarating.

The Hibernian Improvisers Pool (HIP) is a new repertory ensemble featuring some of Ireland's foremost jazz musicians which has been set up specifically to explore the music of jazz's classic period in the 1950s and 1960s. The group includes Australian saxophonist Daniel Rorke, trombonist Colm O'Hara, trumpeter Bill Blackmore, pianist Scott Flanigan, bassist Cormac O'Brien and drummer Kevin Brady. Drawn from all over Ireland, together these marvellous musicians have racked up appearances with everyone from Van Morrison and Paul Brady to jazz legends like Larry Coryell and Ian Shaw.

Cormac O'Brien | bass  
Linley Hamilton | trumpet  
Daniel Yorke | saxophone  
Colm O'Hara | trombone  
Scott Flanigan | piano



Tracy Shanahan Gilbert and Tommy Fitzgerald at the Signal Arts Centre for Nina Ruminska's exhibition which was entitled 'Outside of Now'. Pi: Joe McQuillan



PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR A FORESHORE LICENCE

ALSO INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS OR OBSERVATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Sunrise Wind Limited has applied to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a Foreshore licence under Section 3 of the Foreshore Act 1933, as amended, for consent to undertake site investigation activities to establish the detailed site parameters to feed into the design of an offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea. Sunrise Wind Limited intends to undertake a survey campaign at the Foreshore Licence Application Area in order to inform the location and design of the proposed offshore wind farm. The marine surveys will include geophysical, geotechnical, environmental, metocean and archaeological marine surveys.

Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, that an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of the proposed plan or project. A copy of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/a102b-fs007151-sunrise-wind-ltd-site-investigations-for-the-proposed-sunrise-offshore-wind-farm-off-counties-dublin-and-wicklow/>

The Minister will make a determination as to whether or not the proposed plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site in accordance with Regulation 42(11) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and, in doing so, shall have regard to the matters in Regulation 42(12). In this regard, in accordance with Regulation 42(13), any person may make a submission or observation to the Minister concerning the proposed project during the period of consultation detailed below. The Minister shall have regard to any submissions or observations received during this time.

A copy of the application, map of the proposed project, location map coordinates, the determination that an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of the project, the Natura Impact Statement, and the other information and documentation relevant to the application, are available for inspection for 30 calendar days, between 27 April 2023 and 26 May 2023, free of charge at:

- **Bray Garda Station**

Convent Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 E093, Ireland

+353 1 666 5300

Open 24 hours a day
- **Fingal County Council**

County Hall, Main Street, Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 X8Y2, Ireland

+353 1 890 5000

Open times as follows:

Monday – Thursday 9am to 5pm

Friday 9am to 4.30pm
- **Wicklow Library**

The Mall, Main Street, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, A67 X504, Ireland

+353 404 67025

Open times as follows:

Monday 10am to 5pm

Tuesday 10am to 8.30pm

Wednesday 10am to 5pm

Thursday 10am to 8.30pm

Friday 10am to 5pm

Saturday 10am to 5pm

This documentation and information is also available on the Department’s website, at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/a102b-fs007151-sunrise-wind-ltd-site-investigations-for-the-proposed-sunrise-offshore-wind-farm-off-counties-dublin-and-wicklow/>

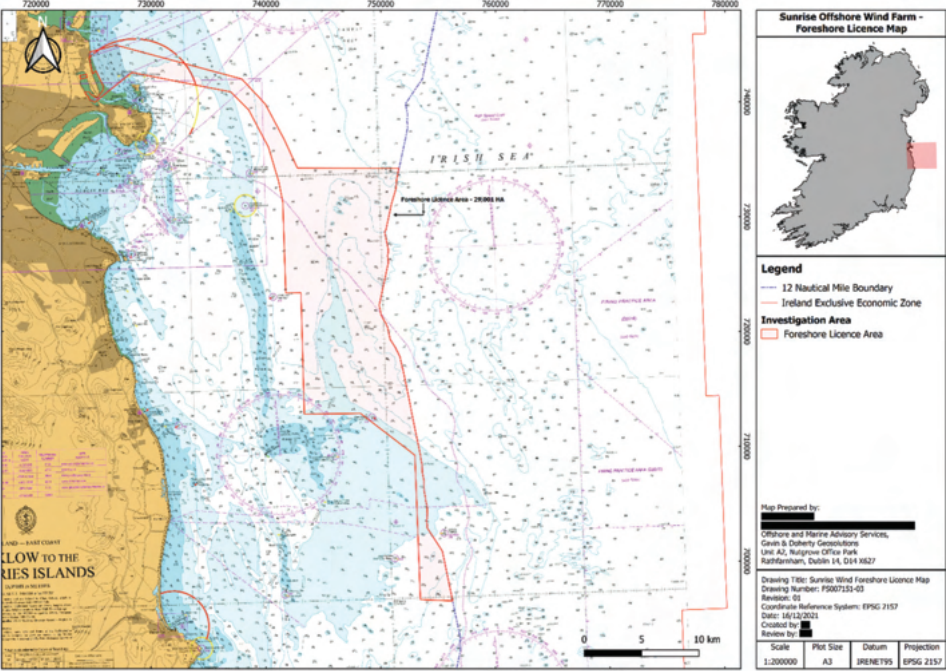
Members of the public who wish to make a submission or observation in writing concerning the proposed project may do so between 27 April 2023 and 26 May 2023 (quoting ref: FS007151) to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Foreshore Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or [foreshoreORE@housing.gov.ie](mailto:foreshoreORE@housing.gov.ie)  
The closing date for submissions is close of business (17.30) on 26 May 2023.

Take notice that material to which the Minster shall have regard in making the Appropriate Assessment determination will be published on the Department’s website. In this regard, the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at: <https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process>

**REVIEW PROCEDURE**  
A review procedure is available before the High Court whereby the substantive or procedural legality of the Minister’s Screening for Appropriate Assessment determination may be challenged. The review procedure is governed by Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts, 1986 (S.I. 15 of 1986). A person wishing to avail of the review procedure must first file (i) a statement of grounds; and (ii) a verifying affidavit, in the Central Office of the High Court. It is then necessary to make an application for leave to apply to the High Court.

An application for leave to apply for judicial review shall be made within three months from the date when grounds for the application first arose under Section 21(1) of the Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts as amended by S.I No 691 of 2011. The time-limit for such a review commences from the date that this public consultation starts. Practical information on the review mechanism can be obtained from the Citizens Information’s website at [citizensinformation.ie](http://citizensinformation.ie)

Section 50B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended applies inter alia to Judicial Review Proceedings. The matter of costs is addressed under Subsections (2),(2A),(3) &(4). Notwithstanding anything contained in Order 99 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. 15 of 1986) and subject to subsections (2A), (3) &(4), in proceedings to which this section applies, each party to the proceedings (including any notice party) shall bear its own costs. The full text of Section 50B is available at: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2010/en/act/pub/0030/sec0033.html#sec33>



Coordinates of the Foreshore Licence Application Area are provided in the following table

ID	LATITUDE (Deg Min Sec)	LONGITUDE (Deg Min Sec)	ID	LATITUDE (Deg Min Sec)	LONGITUDE (Deg Min Sec)
1	52°59'47.83"N	5°40'18.66"W	19	53°24'1.75"N	6°7'20.01"W
2	52°59'54.22"N	5°42'48.84"W	20	53°23'53.31"N	6°6'56.67"W
3	53°6'41.35"N	5°42'53.23"W	21	53°24'15.68"N	6°6'27.22"W
4	53°8'43.73"N	5°47'1.76"W	22	53°24'27.76"N	6°6'26.65"W
5	53°8'46.88"N	5°51'25.11"W	23	53°25'8.78"N	6°6'56.92"W
6	53°14'28.87"N	5°51'24.06"W	24	53°25'8.57"N	6°7'2.93"W
7	53°14'29.37"N	5°52'35.61"W	25	53°25'1.28"N	6°7'12.08"W
8	53°18'45.20"N	5°52'36.75"W	26	53°26'3.54"N	6°7'24.70"W
9	53°19'43.27"N	5°52'53.00"W	27	53°26'20.99"N	6°5'20.60"W
10	53°21'21.40"N	5°53'36.59"W	28	53°24'35.72"N	5°55'32.54"W
11	53°23'7.58"N	5°55'4.08"W	29	53°23'23.00"N	5°53'45.16"W
12	53°23'59.99"N	5°56'25.16"W	30	53°21'41.65"N	5°52'21.27"W
13	53°25'2.59"N	6°4'9.59"W	31	53°20'20.28"N	5°51'22.95"W
14	53°23'41.43"N	6°7'7.37"W	32	53°20'10.75"N	5°43'26.50"W
15	53°23'48.65"N	6°7'31.16"W	33	53°24'52.23"N	6°7'40.78"W
16	53°24'11.80"N	6°7'52.47"W	34	53°24'47.86"N	6°8'11.73"W
17	53°24'10.69"N	6°7'32.12"W	35	53°24'57.42"N	6°8'15.21"W
18	53°24'4.23"N	6°7'24.32"W	36	53°25'1.28"N	6°7'43.46"W

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION – SECTION 19 OF THE FORESHORE ACT**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 19 of the Foreshore Act, 1933, as amended, that Sunrise Wind Limited has applied to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a Licence under the Foreshore Act 1933, as amended, for the purposes of the above project. In this regard, in accordance with Section 19, public submissions are invited on the proposed plan or project.

**INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS OR OBSERVATIONS ON APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 42(13) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, of an application for a foreshore licence in relation to the above project The Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage is responsible for making a decision on the application and the Minister may either grant, approve or consent to the application with or without covenants, conditions or agreements, where applicable, or refuse the application.

The Minister has determined, in accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European

25 April 2023

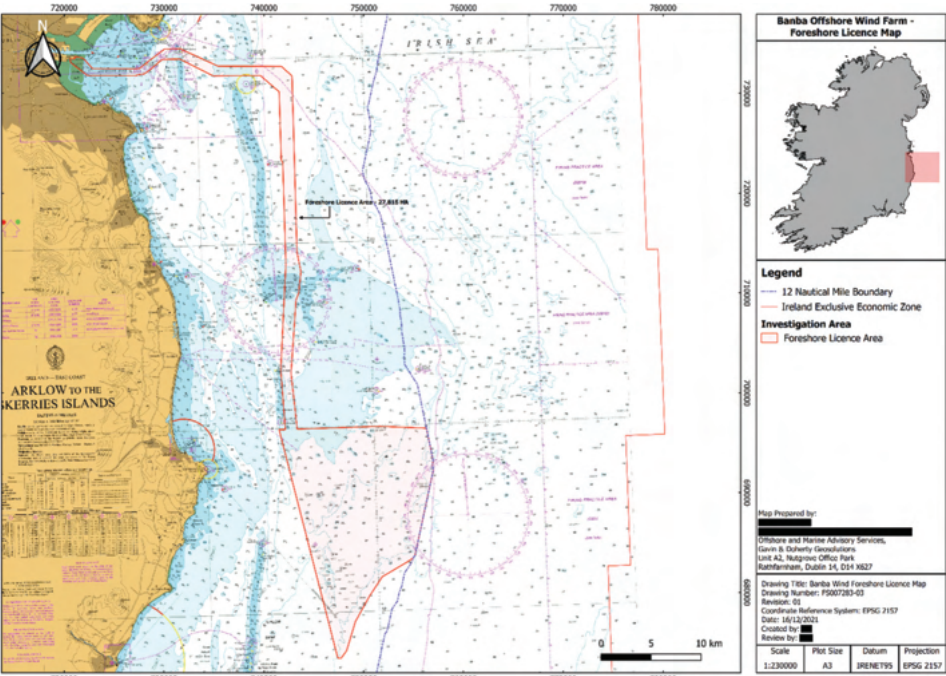


PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR A FORESHORE LICENCE

ALSO INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS OR OBSERVATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Banba Wind Limited has applied to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a Foreshore licence under Section 3 of the Foreshore Act 1933, as amended, for consent to undertake site investigation activities to establish the detailed site parameters to feed into the design of an offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea. Banba Wind Limited intends to undertake a survey campaign at the Foreshore Licence Application Area in order to inform the location and design of the proposed offshore wind farm. The marine surveys will include geophysical, geotechnical, environmental, metocean and archaeological marine surveys.



Coordinates of the Foreshore Licence Application Area are provided in the following table

ID	LATITUDE (Deg Min Sec)	LONGITUDE (Deg Min Sec)	ID	LATITUDE (Deg Min Sec)	LONGITUDE (Deg Min Sec)
1	52°59'55.97"N	5°52'56.44"W	33	53°20'39.21"N	6°2'48.71"W
2	53°3'9.90"N	5°53'11.79"W	34	53°20'38.69"N	6°1'24.03"W
3	53°8'49.33"N	5°52'27.74"W	35	53°19'39.11"N	5°58'2.47"W
4	53°14'19.37"N	5°52'27.64"W	36	53°19'32.18"N	5°52'19.64"W
5	53°14'29.37"N	5°52'35.61"W	37	53°19'0.05"N	5°51'23.42"W
6	53°18'10.05"N	5°52'35.93"W	38	53°14'6.67"N	5°51'24.13"W
7	53°19'4.53"N	5°54'14.71"W	39	53°9'29.22"N	5°51'24.97"W
8	53°19'7.84"N	5°58'30.46"W	40	53°8'25.38"N	5°51'7.14"W
9	53°20'5.48"N	6°1'27.99"W	41	53°7'16.65"N	5°51'22.43"W
10	53°20'5.57"N	6°3'3.86"W	42	53°6'54.70"N	5°51'37.79"W
11	53°19'30.38"N	6°4'15.66"W	43	53°2'58.26"N	5°52'16.32"W
12	53°19'20.43"N	6°4'43.10"W	44	52°59'56.13"N	5°51'52.20"W
13	53°19'18.71"N	6°5'8.07"W	45	52°59'56.95"N	5°44'26.90"W
14	53°19'15.50"N	6°5'31.22"W	46	52°59'46.03"N	5°40'18.14"W
15	53°19'20.05"N	6°9'49.34"W	47	52°58'1.28"N	5°39'48.20"W
16	53°20'2.90"N	6°11'17.77"W	48	52°57'58.03"N	5°39'48.26"W
17	53°20'14.68"N	6°11'22.07"W	49	52°57'45.31"N	5°39'53.01"W
18	53°20'14.96"N	6°11'12.53"W	50	52°57'31.11"N	5°39'49.51"W
19	53°20'15.12"N	6°11'9.84"W	51	52°57'29.96"N	5°39'49.98"W
20	53°20'15.12"N	6°11'4.77"W	52	52°57'28.21"N	5°39'49.55"W
21	53°20'15.12"N	6°11'0.80"W	53	52°57'28.01"N	5°39'49.50"W
22	53°20'14.98"N	6°10'58.01"W	54	52°52'55.76"N	5°41'40.98"W
23	53°20'15.68"N	6°10'56.50"W	55	52°52'47.43"N	5°41'51.10"W
24	53°20'19.12"N	6°10'56.64"W	56	52°52'32.64"N	5°42'31.44"W
25	53°20'20.48"N	6°10'55.69"W	57	52°51'49.46"N	5°44'41.03"W
26	53°20'20.59"N	6°10'47.87"W	58	52°50'47.57"N	5°45'52.81"W
27	53°20'21.57"N	6°10'46.35"W	59	52°49'27.07"N	5°47'11.99"W
28	53°20'17.03"N	6°10'11.58"W	60	52°47'53.48"N	5°48'3.66"W
29	53°19'41.72"N	6°9'18.90"W	61	52°47'29.08"N	5°48'35.27"W
30	53°19'37.44"N	6°5'18.54"W	62	52°47'31.25"N	5°48'52.33"W
31	53°19'39.71"N	6°5'4.18"W	63	52°59'55.89"N	5°53'29.97"W
32	53°19'55.70"N	6°4'29.49"W	64	52°59'55.97"N	5°52'56.44"W

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION – SECTION 19 OF THE FORESHORE ACT**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 19 of the Foreshore Act, 1933, as amended, that Banba Wind Limited has applied to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a Licence under the Foreshore Act 1933, as amended, for the purposes of the above project. In this regard, in accordance with Section 19, public submissions are invited on the proposed plan or project.

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS OR OBSERVATIONS ON APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 42(13) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, of an application for a foreshore licence in relation to the above project The Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage is responsible for making a decision on the application and the Minister may either grant, approve or consent to the application with or without covenants, conditions or agreements, where applicable, or refuse the application.

The Minister has determined, in accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, that an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of the proposed plan or project. A copy of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/8e2a2-fs007283-banba-wind-ltd-site-investigations-for-proposed-offshore-wind-farm-off-counties-wicklow-and-dublin/>

The Minister will make a determination as to whether or not the proposed plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site in accordance with Regulation 42(11) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and, in doing so, shall have regard to the matters in Regulation 42(12).

In this regard, in accordance with Regulation 42(13), any person may make a submission or observation to the Minister concerning the proposed project during the period of consultation detailed below. The Minister shall have regard to any submissions or observations received during this time.

A copy of the application, map of the proposed project, location map coordinates, the determination that an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of the project, the Natura Impact Statement, and the other information and documentation relevant to the application, are available for inspection for 30 calendar days, between 27 April 2023 and 26 May 2023, free of charge at:

- **Kevin Street Garda Station**  
41 Kevin Street Upper, Dublin  
+353 1 666 9400  
Open 24 hours a day
- **Wicklow County Council**  
County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town,  
Co. Wicklow, A67 FW96  
+353 404 20100  
*Open times as follows:*  
Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm
- **Arklow Library**  
Main Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Y14 PY61  
+353 402 39977  
*Open times as follows:*  
Monday 10am to 5pm, Tuesday 10am to 8.30pm  
Wednesday 10am to 5pm, Thursday 10am to 8.30pm  
Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 5pm

This documentation and information is also available on the Department’s website, at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/8e2a2-fs007283-banba-wind-ltd-site-investigations-for-proposed-offshore-wind-farm-off-counties-wicklow-and-dublin/>

Members of the public who wish to make a submission or observation in writing concerning the proposed project may do so between 27 April 2023 and 26 May 2023 (quoting ref: FS007823) to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Foreshore Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or [foreshoreORE@housing.gov.ie](mailto:foreshoreORE@housing.gov.ie)  
The closing date for submissions is close of business (17.30) on 26 May 2023.

Take notice that material to which the Minster shall have regard in making the Appropriate Assessment determination will be published on the Department’s website. In this regard, the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at: <https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process>

**REVIEW PROCEDURE**  
A review procedure is available before the High Court whereby the substantive or procedural legality of the Minister’s Screening for Appropriate Assessment determination may be challenged. The review procedure is governed by Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts, 1986 (S.I. 15 of 1986). A person wishing to avail of the review procedure must first file (i) a statement of grounds; and (ii) a verifying affidavit, in the Central Office of the High Court. It is then necessary to make an application for leave to apply to the High Court.

An application for leave to apply for judicial review shall be made within three months from the date when grounds for the application first arose under Section 21(1) of the Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts as amended by S.I No 691 of 2011. The time-limit for such a review commences from the date that this public consultation starts. Practical information on the review mechanism can be obtained from the Citizens Information’s website at [citizensinformation.ie](http://citizensinformation.ie)

Section 50B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended applies inter alia to Judicial Review Proceedings. The matter of costs is addressed under Subsections (2),(2A),(3) &(4). Notwithstanding anything contained in Order 99 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. 15 of 1986) and subject to subsections (2A), (3) &(4), in proceedings to which this section applies, each party to the proceedings (including any notice party) shall bear its own costs. The full text of Section 50B is available at: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2010/en/act/pub/0030/sec0033.html#sec33>



# Charity seeking people from Wicklow with an idea to solve a social problem

Accelerated social change is possible through the collective power of people, says Social Entrepreneurs Ireland. The charity is seeking people from Wicklow with an idea to solve a social problem. Social Entrepreneurs Ireland (SEI) is encouraging people from Wicklow who have an innovative idea to solve a particular social problem to apply for a place on its two support programmes valued at €500,000.

Last Wednesday, SEI launched its national campaign for applications, encouraging people to apply for its two support programmes; the Ideas Academy - aimed at those with an early-stage idea to solve a social problem and the Impact Programme - which provides high-potential social entrepreneurs' bespoke

support to grow their impact and embedded best practice.

SEI seeks out people with unique insight and scalable ideas to social problems. Through a mixture of funding, mentorship, training and a community of change-makers, SEI helps organisations to grow and deepen their impact. Since its foundation in 2004, SEI has supported more than 550 social entrepreneurs around the island of Ireland who have directly impacted the lives of millions of people.

SEI does not discriminate in organisational or funding structure and encourages anyone with an idea to accelerate social change in Ireland to apply.

The Ideas Academy has up to 30 places for people with innovative early-stage ideas to solve social problems. The three-month programme will be delivered online in 2023 and will provide participants with the support and direction they

need as they take the first steps from idea to action, sparking a new generation of social entrepreneurs. Participants will be supported to clearly articulate, refine and progress their solution, to build skills and accelerate learning in core areas of importance to social entrepreneurs, and to move from idea to action. Participants also have the opportunity to pitch for seed funding at the end of the programme to pilot their idea. Recent alumni of the Ideas Academy include Blessington social entrepreneur Malu Colorin, founder of Fibreshed Ireland. Other alumni include The Together Academy, FASD Ireland, Wicklow Family Club and Education for Sustainability. There are five places available on Social Entrepreneurs Ireland's prestigious Impact Programme, aimed at high-potential social entrepreneurs who



Social Entrepreneurs Ireland are inviting applications from people across the country who have an innovative idea to solve a social problem. Applications are open for places on SEI's Ideas Academy - aimed at those with an early-stage idea who want to move from idea to action, and SEI's Impact Programme - aimed at high-potential social entrepreneurs looking to grow their impact. Pictured are students of the Together Academy.

## RECRUITMENT

## Daata 4 CHEF DE PARTIE AND 4 COMMIS CHEFS

required to work with Mirha & Aliha Limited T/A Daata at 7 Strand Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. A98 DC04.

**MUST HAVE 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE SPECIALISING IN PAKISTANI/ INDIAN CUISINE**

**39 hours per week at €30k p/a.**

Contact -  
Fahid Saleem on [bray@daata.ie](mailto:bray@daata.ie)



Avonmore Electrical, Ireland's Largest Repair Workshop with bases in both Dublin and Cork, has been providing industry with a variety of electro-mechanical repair services, since 1958. We pride ourselves on our business ethics, technical knowledge and customer satisfaction. We are looking for dynamic and competent individuals for the following positions to carry out onsite works in the Leinster area, primarily in water treatment and pumping maintenance and repair:

## Electricians / Mechanical Fitters

### ELECTRICIANS:

- Fully qualified Electrician registered with Safe Electric in Ireland
- Highly competent in perform electrical testing and verifications of electrical installations.
- Proficient in the repair and maintenance, installation, calibration and servicing of a range of onsite instruments.

### MECHANICAL FITTER/MAMF

- Fully qualified MAMF.
- Highly competent in perform installations and maintenance on pumps, motors, etc.
- Maintenance and repair of broken work parts, servicing, checking components etc.

### GENERAL SPECIFICATION:

- Working primarily in water treatment and pumping maintenance and repair.
- Travel to work sites will be required, sites will be within your geography area (Van supplied).
- Working diligently to Health, Safety and welfare standards and procedures.
- Recording co-ordinates & photos, completion of forms, paperwork as required.
- Must be willing to learn new skills and have a positive work attitude.
- Must be able to work well with others, and on your own initiative.

Please note: Due to the nature of the work undertaken, emergency call outs may occur in the evenings/weekends.

### KEY REQUIREMENTS:

- Flexible working hours will be required due to the nature of the works.
- Willing to travel to work sites.
- Ongoing training and upskilling provided.
- Full clean Irish B driving license or European Equivalent is mandatory.
- Good spoken and written English.

This list is not exhaustive, and the works will change somewhat in line with work requirements. Salary on application.

The successful candidate will receive on the job training in our processes and procedures. Avonmore Electrical Co. Ltd are an equal opportunities employer.

**Apply with CV and cover letter to [brid@avonmore-electrical.com](mailto:brid@avonmore-electrical.com)**  
**Closing date for receipt of applications: Close of Business, Friday, May 12th**

are looking to bring their organisation to the next level.

Awardees will join the nine-month accelerator programme, where they will receive mentorship, bespoke training, and consultancy in leadership development, fundraising, governance, strategic planning, and communications. They will also each receive €20,000 in unrestricted funding to grow their impact and will access to pro-bono support from SEI's partner organisations. Recent alumni of the programme include Greystones social entrepreneur Liz Gleeson, founder of Shapes of Greif. Other alumni include ASIAM, Grow Remote, The Two Norries, and Jiminy Eco Toys.

Commenting on the national call for applications, CEO of Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, Tim Griffiths said: "Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, and our dynamic community of supporters, are determined to provide

support and help accelerate the pace of social change in Ireland. We believe that there are people from Wicklow who have solutions to social problems, and would encourage anyone with an idea, or who is taking action to make their communities better, to apply to one of our programmes."

DCC plc, the international sales, marketing and support services group, is the flagship supporter of Social Entrepreneurs Ireland's national call for applications.

Commenting, the Chief Executive of DCC plc, Donal Murphy said: "Over the past twelve years, the team at DCC plc have personally and

professionally seen the incredible power and community that Social Entrepreneurs Ireland has had by harnessing the transformative impact that social entrepreneurship has to solve Ireland's social problems."

On Thursday, 4th May 2023 Social Entrepreneurs Ireland will host an online information session for potential applicants that will outline the supports available through the two programmes. Participants will hear from alumni of the Ideas Academy and Impact Programme, and will have the opportunity to join a live Q&A session with SEI Programme Managers. More details can be found on [socialentrepreneurs.ie](http://socialentrepreneurs.ie) or the Eventbrite page.

Applications for the Ideas Academy are open until midnight on Tuesday, 16th May and applications for the Impact Programme close at midnight on Tuesday, May 30th. Interested candidates can apply or find out more at [socialentrepreneurs.ie](http://socialentrepreneurs.ie).

## PLANNING

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Niamh and Mark Bownes intend to apply for permission for development at this site at Raheen, Hawkins Lane, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

The development will consist of the construction of a new two storey, four bedroom detached dwelling house with rooflights within the pitched roof, plus single storey detached garage to the side, that will be facilitated by the creation of a new vehicular access and new driveway off Hawkins Lane, as well as all associated ancillary, including underground attenuation tank and all site development works.

The development is located within the Burnaby Architectural Conservation Area. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, John Cullen, intend to apply to Wicklow County Council for planning permission for the construction of a livestock underpass with effluent holding tank and all associated siteworks at Mountlusk, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow.

The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Planning Department, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the Planning Authority in writing, on payment of the prescribed fee, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Planning Authority of the planning 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.

## ATTENTION Architects, Planners & Builders

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





# Arklow-based company crowned 'Best Micro Start-Up' in prestigious national awards

Aqualicense, who are supported by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, were this year's 'Best Micro Start-up' winners at the recent LAMA (Local Authority Members Association) Community & Council Awards.

Aqualicense, is an Arklow based company

## CLASSIFIEDS

### THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

that provides consultation, planning, legal compliance and project delivery services for firms in the aquaculture and offshore energy industries.

In 2021 Aqualicense expanded their operations into the highly regulated offshore renewable energy sector which has helped the company grow considerably and they are now looking to expand their expertise into new markets internationally.

Established in 2019 by Kate Dempsey the company has gone from strength to strength. Kate firmly believes that any business operating in the marine space can be cognisant of the resultant environmental pressures so that mitigation is built into the initial project planning.

This ethos is evidenced

by the focus of Aqualicense on marine restoration and sustainability while providing consulting services to the Offshore Aquaculture and Offshore Renewables industries. Kate holds honours Irish Law Degree, HDip in business in Aquabusiness and is an Irish Aquaculture Nuffield Scholar.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, said: "As a fellow Arklow native it is fantastic to see an Arklow-based company competing against Ireland's most enterprising companies, and being recognized as the best. Aqualicense is contributing to a new and exciting chapter of economic diversity in the maritime sector. Congratulations to Kate and her Team."

Chief Executive of

Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman, stated: "Kate Dempsey's entrepreneurial talent and skills and her passion for Irish marine development have been instrumental in her success to date. Supported by the Local Enterprise Office and working together with Wicklow County Council to delivery on strategic opportunities in the Marine Sector, we are delighted to see her work celebrated once again on a national stage. She is driving high value job creation in County Wicklow, and helping to ensure environmental sustainability is at the heart of Maritime development. Congratulations to Kate and her fantastic team."

The awards provide a great opportunity to highlight the work done with



L/R - Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Tommy Annesley; Maura Derrane of RTE, the Awards MC, and Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman along with Ciaran Farrell, CEO of Aqualicense, accepting the award from the sponsor Andrew McCarthy, Chief Sponsorship and Mission Officer, Bon Secours Health System, and Cllr Michael Anglim, Chairperson, LAMA (Local Authority Members Association).

in local communities, to reward unsung heroes and recognise the remarkable contribution they've made to our lives as well as acknowledge achieve-

ments by County Councils, partnerships and projects across Ireland.

In its 17th year these awards continue to grow

nationally celebrating communities and Councils working together. The 2023 awards saw a record number of nominations across the 31

Councils which were whittled down to 100 shortlisted projects, of which Wicklow County Council had 4, in 25 categories.

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