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AN ILL WIND FOR ARKLOW

There was shock and surprise last week in County Wicklow at the outcome of Ireland's first competitive 'wind auction' which saw SSE Renewables - Ireland's and the UK's leading renewable energy developer - fail to secure a contract for renewable energy generation under the Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (O-RESS 1). However one of the successful bidders was from Codling Wind Park, based in Wicklow Town.

While Wicklow Town will benefit, the result is a heavy blow to the area of Arklow, where the SSE project would have reduced unemployment. The result of the auction has now also cast doubt on whether the planned data centre for Arklow, which was tied to the project, will now go ahead. The deal between SSE and Echelon Data Centres to develop a substation in Arklow would create 250 jobs for the Arklow region. Once operational the wind farm would also deliver a multi-million-euro annual community fund. SSE Renewables will now proceed to submit a planning application later this year to An Bord Pleanála, whilst it explores ORESS contracts and other routes to market. Construction of Arklow Bank Wind Park II would require an investment of up to €2.5 billion and had been targeting first power in 2028 and completion in 2029, subject to securing a route to market and a



The Tancred family at the Colour Run which took place at East Glendalough School, Wicklow Town. Pic: Michael Kelly

final investment decision.

In 2022, SSE achieved separate planning permissions from An Bord Pleanála for the onshore grid infrastructure necessary to connect the project to Ireland's electricity transmission grid, and from Wicklow County Council for the development of an Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) at South Dock, Arklow Harbour. The offshore wind energy that could be generated at Arklow Bank would have the potential to power almost 850,000 Irish homes each year and offset around 830 billion kilos of harmful carbon emissions annually - contributing significantly to Ireland's climate action target of 5GW of offshore wind energy by 2030, to Ireland's security of energy supply, and to

the national and local economy.

Stephen Wheeler, Managing Director of SSE Renewables, commented: "While we are disappointed with the auction result, Arklow Bank Wind Park II is an important project in our offshore pipeline, and we remain committed to its delivery. We will now take time to assess the outcome of this result and the options available to us to secure a route to market for this project which, we believe, has a vital role to play in contributing to Ireland's climate action targets, to Ireland's homegrown energy security, and to the national and regional economy in particular, to the economic wellbeing of County Wicklow and North Wexford.

"In the meantime, we will continue to progress the Arklow

Bank II development including preparation of a planning application

which we will submit to An Bord Pleanála later this year seeking per-

mission to construct the project."

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Joy Crosbie and Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Tommy Annesley at the Pieta House Darkness Into Light walk in Arklow

Bereavement Support for parents

On Monday 15th May, Anam Cara will hold their Wicklow meeting in The Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy @ 7:15pm. All bereaved parents are welcome, regardless of the age of the child or circumstances of death. Any bereaved parent in Wicklow and surrounds are welcome to attend. For further information, Anam Cara can be contacted on 085 2888888 or by email info@anamcara.ie

National Biodiversity Week

National Biodiversity Week (19th-28th May) is all about connecting people with nature, communicating the importance of biodiversity and motivating people to play their part in protecting it. National Biodiversity Week is entertaining and inspiring. Local events are taking place at Powerscourt Waterfall and Altadore Castle in Kilpedder. Details of these and all events can be found at biodiversityweek.ie.

GARA Tea Dance

The Greystones Active Retirement Association Tea Dance takes place on Saturday 20th May in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy from 2pm to 5pm. Music by Tommy Carroll. Tickets are €15, available each Tuesday morning at the Kilian House Family Centre, 10.30am to 11.30am, or from Kathleen Redmond, 086 323 8536. Also at Greystones Active Retirement Association, garagreystonesplus@gmail.com.

Non GARA members are most welcome to come along for this special event. Grab a friend or two and join the party!

Rathdrum Cancer Support AGM

Rathdrum Cancer Support Group are holding their annual AGM in the RDA Annex Rathdrum on the 24th May at 7.30pm. Open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Bray Cualann Historical Society

Peadar Curran will present 'A History of Dalkey Island' at 8pm on Thursday May 18th in the Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray. All are welcome - admission for non-members is €8.

Duck Race

Fun event to raise funds for Scoil Chaoimhin Naofa. Starts at 10am on Sat 27th May at the Glendalough Hotel. Tickets available to purchase from the Parents Association at €10 per entry. Limited entries available. Great prizes on the day.

World Bee Day

World Bee Day Event on at 11am sat 20th May. Join a talk and walk and learn about Ireland's Bumblebees. At the Education Centre, by the Upper Lake Glendalough. Adults and children welcome. No dogs. This event is free of charge but please be aware that there is the Upper Lake car park charge of €4. Booking essential. Email wickloweducationcentre@npws.gov.ie

Urgent fundraising appeal from First Responders

Roundwood Laragh Cardiac First Responders have issued an urgent fundraising appeal as they currently have €0 in their bank account. "We would very much appreciate any donation you can make! Donate to Roundwood Laragh CFR Group. We came back online with NAS exactly two months ago, after a long stand-down during the Covid pandemic. Since going live, we have responded to TWELVE emergency 999 calls made by our neighbours in the community. That's a callout every 5 days (before Covid we would have 1 or 2 callouts a month). I'm sure you can agree that this is an exceptional increase. We currently receive NO grant funding of any type. We must urgently fundraise to replace outdated equipment and to buy replacement parts - AED pads, Batteries etc."

Africa Day in Wicklow

African Day festivities will be held in Greystones Burnaby Park, opposite the train station on the 20th of May from 12pm-5pm.

The Africa Irish Society of Wicklow (AISW) committee members have planned a fantastic line up of activities, that will entertain the whole family. The day will feature African music, dancing, interactive learning, comedy and a flag-ship exhibition of several African nations. At the same time as Cakamu and KcITU will facilitate cultural programs through music, drumming,

storytelling, and entertainment and workshops. DJ. Spazq will have you on your toes playing records from across Africa with you viral and catchy tunes. The incredible Anitchie Band will be rocking the Balafo tunes as they perform their eclectic repertoire. The moving skirts and Zoryana will perform their mesmerizing fusion dance and the NoWahala Dance crew will have you learning African moves with a lovely TickTock dance tutorial.

"We have the hilarious Obaro Tiblaze, our MC for the day who will have you rolling around laughing with his humor and big smile as he runs throughout the days program," say the AISW. "Join the energetic Medi as he does dance-



Anne Waithira Burke of the African Irish Society of Wicklow (AISW)

cise which will leave you energized and rejuvenated and the brave and strong Tanzanian acrobats who will wow you with their stunts and show."

Africa Day, which will officially

falls on Thursday 25th May, celebrates the richness of African cultures and the contribution of people of African descent to Irish life. Africa Day celebrations are organized by Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs in partnership with African embassies in Ireland and local authorities and non-governmental agencies around the country.

"We can't wait to welcome you all to the family-friendly day celebration that is Africa Day, we have been delighted and honored to organize and facilitate Africa Day in Wicklow County for 5 years now," the committee of the Africa Irish Society of Wicklow said. "We anticipate a large turnout this year because of the event's success the year before. We think that this event gave the county a chance to engage with, discover, and take advantage of all that the African continent and its people have to offer. We thank you everybody."

If you are interested in taking part, joining, representing and or working with AISW please contact AISWgroup@gmail.com. For more information visit www.AfricaDay.ie.

Martin Gibson O'Gara Memorial walk

There will be a memorial walk in Newcastle on Sunday 21st May to mark the 2nd anniversary of the sad death of Martin Gibson O'Gara, who passed away two years ago aged 10.

The walk will start from 3pm at Newcastle GAA grounds. The walk is in aid of the Little Blue Heroes Foundation, the Gardai who help children who are seriously ill.

Martin was the son of Marty and Sarah Gibson O'Gara, and brother to Patrick, who's now aged 10. All donations are greatly appreciated. See littleblueheroes.enthusie.com/pf/sarah-gibson-o-gara

"Little Blues Heroes made Martin a little Honorary Garda in 2020," says Sarah. "We were very grateful for the support given to Martin by Our local Gardai in Newtownmountkennedy and Little Blue Heroes during Covid times. Finally we will be forever grateful for Martin's Final Farewell from The Gardai in Dublin & Wicklow organised by LittleBlue Heroes."



Ciara McQuillan and Isabelle Callinan from St. Patrick's School on their Confirmation day at the Holy Redeemer Church in Bray.

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Shay Fitzmaurice, Managing Editor - shay@localtimes.ie

Ian Colgan, News Editor - ian@localtimes.ie

Sales / General enquiries - info@localtimes.ie

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Arklow commuters 'thrown under the bus'

Arklow Fianna Fail councillor Pat Fitzgerald has asked Wicklow County Council to write to the National Transport Authority (NTA) to request that the 133 services from Arklow be reinstated. Cllr Fitzgerald's request was made last Monday after more than 10 commuters from Arklow were left stranded that morning, unaware that the service had ceased to operate.

An announcement on Bus Eireann's website on May 3rd stated that an 'enhanced' service and consolidation of the 133B, 133L and 133X routes will mean that the 133X will ease to operate from 8th May. However this information was buried midway through a long statement and was missed by many people.

One commuter, a public servant who relied on the 133 from Arklow to attend meetings in Dublin, told Wicklow Times, "There was no mention that the morning 133 from Arklow had also ceased. I spoke to some people at the stop, one man had a

yearly TaxSaver ticket for the bus and a woman who is currently on probation and due in work at 9:00am. No one had a clue this was happening, there was no messaging on the bus prior, nothing posted on the stop board. Everyone was shocked that an important service was totally cancelled without proper communication. The two buses that get workers into the centre before 9:00 were gone. Everyone piled onto the Wexford bus to Dublin and paid full fare even though they'd been sold tickets for services that were ceasing to exist, it arrived in Dublin at 9:15.

"Now no bus from Arklow starts out at a respectable time to get people into town before 9:00am. If you want to reach the centre of Dublin by bus you have the option of the 5:09am Expressway and the 740A Wexford bus at 6.20am. Dublin is only around 1 hour 15 minutes by bus. In the evening there is now no Bus Eireann/Expressway to Arklow between 16:25 and 18:30 as the evening 133 also ceased, leaving another big empty chunk in the timetable.

"The cost involved is also a factor, you can't chop and change between

services to get the best of the worst travel times so you have to buy from one service provider leaving more expenses and ridiculous starting out times. One last option is the train, but that's more expensive with an additional 5 hours per week added onto peoples commuting time. Luckily I live a TaxSaver but some don't have that option and some can apply only every six months. It's a disaster. The way this 'enhanced' service was communicated to the people of Arklow makes me feel Arklow commuters have truly been thrown under the bus."



Michelle and Ria Dalton at the Colour Run at East Glendalough School, Wicklow Town

New rail service between Gorey and Connolly



Deputy Matthews

A new later evening Monday to Friday return service between Dublin Connolly and Gorey will commence from Monday 22nd May, Iarnrod Eireann announced last week.

The new services have been approved by the National Transport Authority, and follows commitments given from timetable public consultation in September and October 2022, to introduce such a service at the earliest opportunity.

They will operate as follows:

- 20:05hrs Dublin Connolly to Gorey (arrive Gorey 21:59hrs)
- 22:25hrs Gorey to Dublin Connolly (arrive Connolly 00:08hrs)

Initially the train from Gorey returning to Dublin at 10:25pm was going to return empty, however Green Party TD Steven Matthews advocated for it to make the return journey as a passenger train.

The new service will give commuters greater flexibility for work and leisure for customers in Kilcoole, Wicklow, Rathdrum, Arklow and

Gorey, bringing the service frequency to six trains each way daily. It will also provide an additional service for customers travelling to/from Tara St, Pearse, Dun Laoghaire, Bray and Greystones Stations.

A later evening service on this route was the subject of the greatest feedback in last Autumn's timetable consultation, in which over 1,500 people participated.

A spokesperson for Iarnrod Eireann said "we are delighted to introduce this new service, which will be warmly

welcomed by commuters on the route. Enhancing services across our network to meet customer demand is a key priority for us, and we look forward to enhancing services on other routes in the future, as new driver training and new fleet allows."

Deputy Matthews said "This is a brand-new option for Wicklow commuters and will enable them to travel back to Wicklow or Arklow in the evening by train. Whether it's to stay late at work or college, socialise after work, attend late

appointments or visit patients in hospital in the city there is now an option to travel back to Wicklow safely and efficiently by train.

"I made a commitment to deliver on public transport when I was elected to Dail Eireann. In that time public transport costs have been slashed, new and enhanced bus services have been introduced and rail improvements are taking place.

"There is still more to do, and I will work with my colleagues in the Department of Transport to ensure Wicklow gets

its fair share of transport improvements. My biggest project is that of extending the DART to Wicklow Town. At the time of my election this proposal was not on the table. It now is, and while it will take some time before this service is live, I am making significant progress with Irish Rail to make it happen. I am enormously grateful to the people of Wicklow for putting me in a position to make this happen. I'm delighted too to see the other TDs in Wicklow supporting my work on this."

AN ILL WIND FOR ARKLOW

Continued from Page 1...

Wicklow Fianna Fáil Senator Pat Casey welcomed the decision that Codling Wind Park based in Wicklow Town and reaching as far as Greystones was successful in the auction.

"Up to 75 new jobs are expected at Wicklow Town's long-term base for Ireland's largest Phase One offshore wind farm," he said, "Construction of the new base, will see the creation of an additional 40 temporary jobs. This is a significant investment to be made in development of Wicklow port and town. The Project is now well advanced with potential to start construction by 2024 should planning be completed.

"This Government is making the necessary transition to Green Energy and this brings massive opportunities for the coastal towns of Wicklow and Arklow. As a councillor, TD and now Senator I have worked closely on the development of Wicklow and Arklow Towns for these massive opportunities in green energy production and I welcome this

announcement as a great achievement for Wicklow Town.

"The success for Wicklow Town represents a major economic boost for the area, with significant investment to be made in the development of the port facilities in readiness to support Ireland's flagship offshore wind project.

"However it is a very mixed day for County Wicklow as the much anticipated and game-changing project based in Arklow with SSE Renewables has been unsuccessful at auction. Having worked closely with both projects I am devastated that this news is for the future development of the Green and high-tech economy in South Wicklow."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady welcomed the announcement of Codling Wind Park as one of the successful bidders but expressed bitter disappointment at the failure of SSE Renewables Project base off Arklow to secure a licence.

The announcement of the O-RESS 1 offshore wind auction results represent a milestone in

our energy transition but have delivered high prices reflecting ongoing, systemic and concerning problems here, Deputy Brady said.

"The announcement of the results represents both a good and bad outcome for Wicklow. The success of Codling Wind Park is to be celebrated, but the fact that SSE Renewables project off Arklow was unsuccessful is bitterly disappointing. Particularly with the potential that the project in Arklow had to address unemployment in the area.

"The development of the wind energy industry has the potential to provide an economic boon to Wicklow. The fact that Codling Wind Park which was one of the successful bidders, and will be based in the county offers opportunities for community benefit. Which will bring jobs, and ancillary services.

"However, this is tempered by the economic loss that the announcement represents to Arklow."

'Carbon neutral' air show comments spark debate

Green Party councillor and Bray Cathaoirleach Erika Doyle's recent comments about the Bray Air Show have sparked some debate among Bray residents.

In a submission on the air show's license application, Cllr Doyle said that the air show should be 'carbon neutral'.

As reported in *Wicklow Times* on 9th May, Cllr Doyle said "In a time of climate crisis, we need to look at the carbon print of an event like this - now extending to two full days of air display and pleasure helicopter flights. Thousands of litres of jet fuel will be used during the event. A similar show in the seaside town of Bournemouth - Europe's largest air show, recently committed to offsetting their carbon emissions using various initiatives and other air shows have followed. I see no reason why the Bray air show cannot follow their lead. It's disappointing to see no reference to environmental impact in the application."

In response, Bray resident Art Ó Laoghaire said "I was struck by [Cllr Doyle's] comments about the Bray Air Show. At first glance I am inclined to agree with [her], but on further consideration I have some questions.

"I don't know how to begin to calculate the numbers, but I would hazard a guess that compared to the amount of air-fuel used annually by the people of Bray and North Wicklow, whether on business travel or on holidays, the amount of carbon emitted over Bray during the airshow does not amount much.

"If we - me, you, the Green party - are seriously concerned about pollution from aircraft emissions we should be campaigning to have kerosene taxed in the same way as petrol and diesel. That would put an end to low cost air-travel.

"We should be encouraging people to holiday at home, or use sea-travel if going abroad. We should be helping those depending on tourism from North America to re-organise their business model (The Joe Biden visit was a travesty).

"As for carbon off-setting, like the Bournemouth airshow, I am inclined to agree with the European Greens/EFA and others who argue that the notion of carbon-credits is nothing short of green-washing.

"I think in the greater scheme of things, the Airshow is a minor issue. When people as a whole begin to realise the problems from air travel, the Airshow will lose its appeal."

Speaking to *Wicklow Times*, another Bray resident praised Cllr Doyle for speaking out on the issue: "We need more politicians like Cllr Doyle who want to save the environment and preserve it for future generations and are willing to put forward possible solutions to help towards this goal."

World Maternal Mental Health Day celebrated in Wicklow

County Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee, Healthy Wicklow, Slaintecare Healthy Communities and Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership came together recently to raise awareness of maternal mental health across the county.

World Maternal Mental Health Day took place on Wednesday 3rd May. It is an international campaign dedicated to talking about mental health problems during and up to one year after pregnancy.

One of the key messages of the campaign is to Let's Break the Silence - it's time to start a conversation about maternal mental health and in the process reduce stigma. In Ireland we want to empower women to look after their mental health in pregnancy and beyond by connecting women and families with the information, care and support they need.

Fionnuala Curry, Co-ordinator, County Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee, said: "The Minding Me group are working to break the silence and raise awareness of an issue that affects one-in-five women during or after the birth of

their babies. We want women, their partners and families to know that they are not alone, help is available, and they can access a range of resources on www.parentingsupport.ie/mmh."

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, stated: "It's important that as many people as possible are aware of maternal mental health and the supports and services that are available."

Michael Nicholson, Director of Service, Wicklow County Council, expressed his support for the campaign saying: "By raising public awareness it helps spread the campaign's messages across the County."

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Cllr Tommy Annesley, added: "Maternal mental health is everybody's business and this campaign advocates for women affected."



Meadhbh Cahill, Slaintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officer; Fionnuala Curry, Co-ordinator Co. Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee; Lorraine Dunne, Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator; Aisling Hubbard, Co-ordinator Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership and Denise O'Shea, Sport Development Officer Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership.

'My final wish has happened'



Charlie Bird and his wife laire meeting The Boss backstage at the RDS, Dublin

Journalist and broadcaster Charlie Bird was 'blown away' to meet Bruce Springsteen backstage before his concert in the RDS on Friday 5th May, the first of three Dublin shows for Springsteen and the E Street Band.

During the encore, Springsteen played 'Land of Hope and Dreams', dedicating it to "my friend Charlie Bird". The song was not originally included on the planned setlist but was added specially for Charlie.

Taking to Twitter the next day, Charlie said "We had a couple of hugs and I used my voice app to talk to him. Bruce is a great human. My final wish has happened. What a magical moment for me and my beautiful wife Claire. Bruce was so kind and I really believe we connected. I told Bruce 'Land of Hope and Dreams' was on my bucket list and he said he would play it for me, and God, he did. I love him."

2023 Wicklow tourism map is out

The latest edition of the very popular Wicklow Tourism Map is out now. Distribution of the map has already commenced and will soon be available at various points around the County, Dublin, Ireland and beyond.

The Wicklow Tourism map is widely used by visitors to find their way around the County. The map lists the many attractions, points of interests and activities on offer in Wicklow.

The production of the map is made possible thanks to the support of the local tourism trade through advertising on the map. Any monies raised are dedicated to the promotion and development of Wicklow as a tourism destination.

"There are great expectations for the 2023 tourism season in Wicklow," said Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, who added: "The Wicklow Tourism map has been a great asset over the years to help promote the many attractions, activities around the County, as well as places to eat, drink, shop and stay."

Cllr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, commented: "Although internet and social media have taken centerstage in tourism promotion, a tourism map remains very popular amongst visitors. The Wicklow Tourism map along with the Wicklow Passport also have the potential to help visitors discover some hidden gems around the County."

This year's front cover image was provided by the Celtic Routes Project and features West Wicklow and the Blessington Lakes.

For collection or further info, contact the Wicklow Tourism office at info@visitwicklow.ie



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Emer O'Gorman, with the 2023 Wicklow Tourism Map.

Benville Robinson LLP

Riverview House
Seapoint Road,
Bray, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 01 276 1330 Fax: 01 276 1336
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Olivia Knight, Marie McElheron, and Racheal Tyrrell at the Darkness Into Light walk in Arklow in aid of Pieta House.

The battle to save Magheramore

Green TD Steven Matthews and Sinn Féin TD John Brady have submitted critical planning submissions on the proposal to develop a holiday resort at the beautiful and ecologically sensitive Magheramore Beach in Wicklow.

"I know this area well, I know how sensitive the local environment is and I know how much residents and visitors treasure this special place," said Deputy Matthews. "I have met with community activists and residents seeking to protect the area and have had contact from far and wide from those that use the beach. The area is a Special Area of Conservation SAC and as such it has the highest European conservation designation to protect nature and ecology across Magheramore Beach to Magherabeg beach to the south.

"I am highly surprised that the applicant feels that their proposal supports the conservation objectives of the site and I am doubtful that their environmental assessments have captured the negative impacts associated with their proposal. There is a petition circulating that has attracted thousands of signatures and the feeling amongst many is that this development is in unsuitable to the area. In my view it is completely inappropriate, it runs foul of our obligations to protect SACs, it seeks to commercialise a beautiful natural amenity, it potentially could restrict public access to a safe and high quality bathing area and contravenes many national, regional and local planning objectives. I am most concerned about the impact on the Qualifying Interests of the SAC, the impact on groundwater and surface water impact on coastal water quality, the impact on Curlew feeding grounds, artificial light impact and the loss of habitats and mature trees lining the access lane all associated with intensification of use by the proposed development.

"I visited the site again recently to gather some information for my planning submission and met on site with the organisers of the petition. I can't describe the level of objection to this, the thought that one of the most pristine local amenities would be



Steven Matthews TD

commercialised and the negative impacts on the local ecology. Wicklow has an abundance of outstanding natural beauty locations for residents, visitors and tourists and I have always worked with businesses to enhance, and to protect these attractions whilst supporting those business opportunities. However, this proposal is not acceptable, it is a speculative attempt to corner an amenity enjoyed by locals, surfers and visitors for generations and I will fight all the way to protect its ecology and access for the public.

"My planning submission is available on my website stevenmatthews.ie and I would urge people to contact me, sign the petition and lend us support to protect our beautiful beach.

"We simply don't need this development; the area could do with some accessibility improvements and toilets and bins but it doesn't need commercialisation and privatisation. I was involved with the Council in a recent failed attempt to purchase the site to keep public access and I will be pursuing other ideas depending on the outcome of the planning decision and I will stand with the community on this to the end," concluded Deputy Matthews.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady also furnished a submission to Wicklow County Council in opposition to the planning application. He argued that the planning application, submitted on behalf of Creatively Pacific Ltd. was wholly unsatisfactory, and if the application was granted would have negative impact on Magherabeg Dunes Special Area of Conservation. The application is also contrary to the Wicklow County Development Plan and lacks a full Environmental Impact Assessment.

Brady had previously been vocal in urging Wicklow County Council to purchase the site due to public concerns over the future of the site. Particularly in relation to continuing access to the beach, and in relation to the

conservation of the wider area.

"To its credit the Council agreed to try to acquire the site but were outbid by a private commercial entity who paid half a million euro over the asking price for the site," said Deputy Brady. "Wicklow County Council originally intended to purchase this site to ensure public access to Magheramore beach was safeguarded, and that the unique environmental conservation concerns around the whole area of Magheramore beach would be protected but were essentially gobbled up by developers who paid almost half a million euro above the asking price for the site.

"However, I believe that the proposed development at Magheramore beach is not compliant with the County Development Plan or the County Biodiversity Action Plan for Wicklow. The location of the proposed development is rural and located in an environmentally sensitive area. The site is not zoned for commercial activity in the Wicklow County Development Plan.

"It is my strong belief that a full Environmental Impact Assessment should be carried out due to the environmental sensitivity of the location. The location of the proposed commercial development means that it will be car dependant and completely unsustainable. The provision of just 49 parking spaces for 48 pods, a surf school, a restaurant, gym, cinema, swimming pool and staff will lead to considerable issues with parking on the R750.

"This is a rural area, and with the level of commercial development envisaged by the developers it will drastically transform the whole kilter of the area. The application provides for no safeguards to protect the public right of way that exists to Magheramore Beach through this site contained in the application.

"A petition on Change.org is as of today running at over 12,000 and growing by the day. This is reflective of the broad opposition amongst members of the public to the proposed development.

"It is imperative that the general public of Wicklow, who are the real custodians of our environment maintain their support to preserve the amazing area of natural beauty and conservation. It is also imperative that there is free and unre-

stricted public access to Magheramore beach."

Independent Councillors Mary Kavanagh and Peir Leonard have also made submissions to the application.



Netflix's series Vikings, being filmed at Magheramore



Open Day

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John Brady TD





Holly Dixon at the Colour Run at East Glendalough School, Wicklow Town

Bray Municipal District launches new community open space enhancement scheme

Bray Municipal District has announced the launch of the Community Open Space Enhancement Scheme, an initiative proposed by Cllr Rory O'Connor during a recent Bray budget meeting. This scheme aims to transform underutilised public spaces into vibrant community hubs, fostering pride and positive community engagement.

The Council has allocated a total budget of €21,000 for the scheme in 2023, which will be distributed among a maximum of 3 selected sites. The financial support funding available for each site is €7,000, with a requirement of match funding of 20% from Residents' Associations.

Cllr O'Connor stated, "This grant is an excellent opportunity for resident associations to come together and create something they can be truly proud of for their community. It allows them to maximize their space for the betterment of the community, promoting a sense of ownership and shared responsibility."

He further highlighted the council's commitment to expanding the scheme if the demand is high. "I firmly believe that if this grant sees high demand, as a council, we should explore avenues to expand its reach. By covering more community projects, we can have a significant impact at a grassroots level, empowering residents to actively shape their surroundings and contribute to the overall betterment of the community."

The Community Open Space Enhancement Scheme invites Residents' Associations within the Bray Municipal District to submit their applications for consideration. Projects may include biodiversity enhancement, planting initiatives, community gardens, seating areas, play areas, football fields, and spaces for intergenerational interaction.

To participate in the scheme and obtain further details, Residents' Associations are encouraged to contact BrayMD@wicklowco.ie. The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, June 9th, 2023.



Cllr Rory O'Connor

Newtown's 7th century church wall damaged in crash

Paul Kavanagh of Newtownmountkennedy Tidy Towns and chairman of the 1798 Festival Committee got the shock of his life when he saw the damage caused by the crash at Kiladreenan 7th Century Church Wall last Thursday night.

"We hope those involved are safe and well and thanks to all the emergency services," he said. "However it underlines the danger on our roads and we urge people to slow down on our country roads."

He seeks to underline that the 1798 Ecumenical service at the site on the 28th May at 2pm will proceed as planned.

"This illustrates the need for road closures at public events" he said. "We have applied as advertised on May 3rd that we have sought permission to close this road, the L5050 at R772 and Kilmullen Lane on the 28th May from 8am to 6pm. Also we sought the closure of main street Newtownmountkennedy from 8am to 6pm to facilitate the reenactment by Kildare Lord Fitzgeralds own and Enniscorthy Reenactment group of the Battle of Newtownmountkennedy. Please see www.1798.ie for all details."

Paul Kavanagh urges



Paul Kavanagh of Newtown Tidy Towns at the site of the crash

drivers and pedestrians to be heedful of road conditions and take care.

He also requests that anyone interested in getting involved to contact newtown1798@gmail.com. "We need stewards and volunteers to help out

on the weeknd of 26th - 28th May. See www.1798.ie for all details.

This the biggest event Newtownmountkennedy has ever hosted. Please volunteer and help us make it a success. It's

your town and county. Please get involved, especially if you are new to the area. We welcome you and need your help."

Newtown's 1798 Festival of Remembrance takes place from 26-28th May. See www.1798.ie



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NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING WEEK

15th to 21st May 2023

Volunteer Ireland
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Arklow Cancer Support would like to thank all of their volunteers

Arklow Cancer Support offers confidentiality, understanding, and an open door.

They give free practical and emotional support to those who find themselves affected by a cancer diagnosis.

"Our ability to offer our services relies solely on the volunteers, donations, and fundraising events that our community so generously provides.

"The close-knit relationships we have nurtured with both patients and volunteers over the years have empowered Arklow Cancer Support to provide the many therapies, courses, services, and events that have helped make a difference in the lives of those affected by cancer.

"Whether you or a loved one is learning to cope, or just needs a safe place to speak or listen, we're here to welcome you to our family."

Their services include counselling, monthly meetings, specialized therapies, play therapy, a men's group, one to one counseling, and complementary therapies. They also provide free transport for patients to and from hospital appointments in Dublin on a daily basis thanks to a team of 25 volunteer drivers.

"If you have been recently diagnosed with cancer or are bereaved, and would like find out more about our supports we can gladly arrange an appointment safely for you at our Centre. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0402-23590 or 085-1100066. Once you make that first call, we will always be here to help wherever possible."

National Volunteering Week 2023 takes place from Monday 15th May - Sunday 21st May and there are lots of ways to get involved! Organisations around Co. Wicklow are taking this opportunity to thank their volunteers who give up their time selflessly to help others. Organisations can download the National Volunteering Week 2023 resources to celebrate and promote National Volunteering Week. Record a quick video thanking volunteers and sharing why they're important to you or your organisation. Host an event for your volunteers - it could be a coffee morning or maybe a fun activity like a quiz or scavenger hunt. Give your volunteers a certificate of appreciation. Let volunteers know the impact they have - were you able to provide more services because of your volunteers? What difference do they make to your organisation and the community? Let them know! If you already volunteer, why not encourage a friend to join you? Be an ambassador for the organisation you volunteer with! If you're thinking about volunteering but aren't sure what to do, National Volunteering Week is the perfect time to take the plunge. Contact your local Volunteer Centre.

Volunteers needed for Citizens Information Centre in Bray

Bray Citizens Information Centre is seeking volunteers to provide information to the community on topics like social welfare entitlements, medical cards, consumer affairs and employment rights.

The numbers using the service continues to grow and volunteers are urgently needed in our Citizens Information Centre in Bray.

"Volunteers will be trained in all aspects of this interesting and rewarding work and no previous experience is required", said Martina Cronin, the Development Manager with South Leinster Citizens Information Service/Co. Wicklow.

"We have over twenty volunteers in our centres who enjoy the challenge of doing something new. They are valued members of the team and we could not provide the service without our

Volunteer Information Providers" she said.

If you would like to make a difference in your community please telephone Martina Mobile 087 617 2802 or Tel 0818 07 6780.

South Leinster Citizens Information Service /Co Wicklow provides an independent and confidential information, advice and advocacy service on people's civil and social rights and entitlements on topics such as Social Welfare, Employment, Health, Consumer Issues and more. It is a free service. There are centres in Bray and Arklow. www.citizensinformation.ie



Open Door says thank you

The members, staff and Board of Trustees of Open Door Day Centre in Bray would like to sincerely thank the dedicated group of volunteers who help out at the Centre on a regular basis.

"Their time and effort is very much appreciated and helps considerably with the day to day running of the Centre. Volunteers help with day to day duties as well as assisting with the many activities available and also with fundraising events."

This year Open Door Day Centre is proud to celebrate 39 years of caring in the community. The Centre provides activities for adults with physical disabilities in

North Wicklow and South County Dublin. Open Door also offers a much needed break to families and carers. Members get great enjoyment and a sense of achievement from the activities including Physiotherapy, Art, Crafts, Ceramics and Woodwork as well as the social aspect of attending the Centre.

For further details on Open Door Day Centre visit www.opendoor.ie or Tel: 01 286 7123 or email info@opendoor.ie



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Citizens Information

Volunteers needed in Bray Citizens Information Centre

Be active in your community and meet new people!

Do you have some computers skills and want to learn how to use them to help people? Do you want to share skills you already have and learn new ones? Bray Citizens Information Centre provides free and confidential information to the public on subjects like Social Welfare, Health, Housing, Consumer Affairs, Employment Rights as well as information on local organisations and services.

Applicants will be trained in all aspects of this interesting and rewarding work.

This could be your opportunity to make a real difference!



Contact Martina at 0818 07 6780. Mobile: 087 617 2802.
Email: martina.cronin@citinfo.ie for further information

Sunbeam House Services

Sunbeam House Services (SHS) is a local voluntary organisation registered as a charity.

"We offer services to over 450 adults with intellectual disabilities, including training, employment, day and residential services. We have approximately 40 locations in operation throughout County Wicklow and south County Dublin. A big aspect of our services is that we want them to be 'person-driven', meaning we endeavour to gear what we offer to each individual's choices and goals. We use a 'Personal Outcomes' quality system to achieve this.

"Volunteers make a huge difference in SHS, and they bring lots of skills and experience with them. This means that our service-users make new friends, and have a chance to learn something new. Volunteers can give individualised one-to-one time, which we know greatly assists our service-users' mental health and progress. Our volunteers enjoy the opportunity to give something back to others, and to make use of their gifts and experience, meet new people and make new friends.

"Volunteers aged 18 and above are welcome to apply to SHS, and do not need to have experience in a particular area. Of more importance is a genuine interest in people, a friendly disposition, a willingness to cooperate and learn as part of a team, and flexibility. The amount of time commitment expected will depend on the volunteer's availability, and on the area they are volunteering in.

"The volunteer application process is robust and lengthy due to the requirements under legislation around providing services to vulnerable people. It includes completion of an application form, reference checking, provision of original identification documents, Garda vetting and completion of two training courses. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with us, please telephone (01) 286 8451 and leave your details with the receptionist."



Open Door caters for adults with physical disabilities on a daily basis. Our modern, purpose built **Activity Centre** is situated on the Vevay Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

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Email: info@opendoor.ie

www.opendoor.ie



Sunbeam House Services

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If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with us, please email volunteers@sunbeam.ie, or telephone (01) 286 8451 and leave your details with the receptionist.

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OUR TRACK RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

SocDems select local election candidates

The Wicklow branch of the Social Democrats formally selected Blessington resident Deirdre McCormack and Wicklow Town native Danny Alvey to represent the party in the upcoming local elections at a selection convention on Saturday April 29th.

Deirdre, the current Vice-Chair of the Social Democrats Wicklow branch, is known in the Baltinglass Municipal District for her work on the campaign for a local swimming pool for the area. As the founding member and Chairperson of the Community Pool for West Wicklow campaign Deirdre has been actively campaigning for the development of community facilities and amenities in West Wicklow since 2018.

Deirdre has experience working with community groups, local sports clubs, schools and businesses and has been involved in the delivery of projects such as the Pop-Up Pool in Blessington with Wicklow County Council and Swim Ireland. She was awarded the County Wicklow Volunteer Centre 2021 Local Hero Award for the Baltinglass Municipal District.

On being selected Deirdre McCormack commented "I am delighted and honoured to have been selected to represent the Social Democrats in the Baltinglass Municipal District local election next year. We have an amazing community in West Wicklow but time and time again we are let down by our lack of facilities and amenities such as parks, playgrounds, sports pitches and of course the lack of a swimming pool.

"Many of our towns and villages have poor public transport options, if any. Our schools are finding themselves having to lobby and fight to be granted the necessary resources to expand and grow with our communities. Sometimes it feels like West Wicklow has been forgotten or left behind. We need a strong voice to represent West Wicklow and speak up to make sure we get the facilities, amenities and services that our community needs. I believe that I can be this voice for West Wicklow and I look forward to getting out and meeting as many people across the Baltinglass Municipal District as possible over the next year."

Danny, a native of Wicklow Town has been living in Newtownmountkennedy with his young family for the past four years and has been an active member of the community there. He is particularly known for founding the community group ReWild Wicklow with his siblings and other local people passionate about improving biodiversity. In less than two years their group has recruited over 1,000 volunteers and now partners with 14 other conservation organisations in Wicklow, restoring our damaged habitats through the practical means of tree planting and peatland re-wetting.

Danny is also vice-chair of Newtown Tidy Towns, and recently created and launched a wildflower corridor and walk around the town. In addition, Danny has been involved with many other community groups in the district over the years including South Wicklow Together for Yes, Wicklow Welcomes and the Greenway committee of the Wicklow Town Team.

"I am delighted and honoured to receive the backing

of the branch here today to put myself forward as a candidate to the Wicklow County Council in 2024," said Danny. "With the demands of a young family and a busy job, it can be hard for people of my generation to make the commitment to community life.

But I have been spurred into action by my love of nature and our beautiful county and the sad condition I see it in now. And unfortunately, the biodiversity crisis is not the only one in this country, we also have crises in housing, healthcare and education, all of which have impacted my own family and so many others across this district. But I am an optimist and a doer and I believe by working together and adopting social democratic policies as a route forward for Ireland we can overcome these issues and make our communities and environment so much better."

Social Democrat TD for Wicklow Jennifer Whitmore congratulated both Danny and Deirdre on their selection and spoke about the exciting times ahead for Wicklow. "Today is a very exciting day for the Social Democrats in Wicklow, we have formally selected two very strong candidates for next year's local elections in the Wicklow Town and Baltinglass Municipal Districts," she said.

"Danny Alvey has been a member of the Social Democrats for many years and has played an active role in a number of local community groups carrying out important work which has benefited both the community in Newtown and his native Wicklow Town community. Danny's passion for the environment is clear from his work with ReWild Wicklow and his enthusiasm and dedication to ensuring social justice for all is evident through his professional career in the charity sector.

"I have worked with Deirdre McCormack as a community activist, a member of the Social Democrats and most recently as part of my team here in Wicklow. Deirdre's commitment to the campaign for a swimming pool in West Wicklow and her drive and passion to see the provision of better facilities and services for her community is obvious to all who meet her. We have worked together on several issues from helping Blessington Community College and Blessington Educate Together NS receive approval for their much-needed expansions, to supporting Hyperemesis Ireland in their call for a fair and accessible Cariban Reimbursement Scheme for all Hyperemesis patients. Her dedication to helping people and calling out social injustices are evident in both her personal and professional life.

"I am delighted that Deirdre McCormack and Danny Alvey have been selected to represent the Social Democrats in next year's local elections in Wicklow. Both will make outstanding Councillors and I look forward to us working together as a Team for Wicklow."



The Social Democrats' local election candidates Deirdre McCormack and Danny Alvey with Deputy Whitmore

Bray Institute Abolish Fees for the new academic year

The cost of living has reached a record high this year, families and businesses are struggling and interest rates are rising. It is for this reason that Bray Institute of Further Education has decided to abolish all tuition fees, exam fees, course material fees, and kit fees for the 2023-2024 academic year. Students will only have to pay an acceptance fee of €50 and a flat registration fee of €150.

If you missed their recent Open Days, you will have the opportunity to visit the Institute again on Thursday May 25th for our Open Evening which will take place between 7 pm and 9 pm. You will be able to view the extensive range of courses and facilities available and browse through our Graduate Exhibition. Staff will be on hand to answer any queries that you might have or to discuss courses on the night.

This year, the Institute has launched several new courses at levels 5 & 6:

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- Podcasting & Streaming Level 5
- Dog Obedience & Training – Start Your Own Business Level 6
- Payroll & Office Administration Level 5
- Hospitality & Business Management Level 6
- Optician Assistant Level 5
- English Language and IT Skills for International Students Level 5
- English Language and Business for International Students Level 5

Work Experience is a vital part of the BIFE courses and now all students in the College have the opportunity to complete a 3-week or a 3-month work placement abroad in countries such as Spain, Portugal, Italy, Finland, Malta or Czechia under the Erasmus+ Programme which is sponsored by the European Union. This is a terrific opportunity for BIFE students, not only to gain valuable work experience in a European country but also to experience a different culture and to broaden their horizons.

National Women's Council launch toolkit

The National Women's Council (NWC) launched its Family Friendly Toolkit for local government in Wicklow County Council on Monday 8th May.

Speakers included: Wicklow Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Tommy Annesely; Wicklow Council CE Emer O'Gorman; NWC Director Orla O'Connor; Toolkit developer Sinead Doody; Cllr Grace McManus Toolkit steering group; Wicklow Women's Caucus Cllr Lourda Scott.

Women continue to be underrepresented in local government and make up just 25 per cent of all councillors nationwide. In Wicklow, that figure is 34%. Women from minority backgrounds are even less represented in local government and there are stark geographical variations.

This research examined the current issues for councillors with caring and family responsibilities and makes practical recommendations and guidance on how to address these barriers in a toolkit.

NWC invited the views of local councillors, local authorities, and other relevant stakeholders to identify

what supports and measures need to be put in place to ensure entering and remaining in local political life is a realistic, accessible option and choice for women in all their diversity.

Sinn Féin Cllr Grace McManus spoke at last Monday's event, as a member of the steering committee for the project. Speaking on the significance of the toolkit, she said "I remember at an early meeting of Wicklow County Council, there was an unexpected time extension called, and I saw the Councillors who were also parents take out their phones and text under the table, presumably to babysitters and partners at home saying they'd be late. It struck me how difficult it must be to balance this role and caring responsibilities, and this motivated me to reach out to the National Women's Council to contribute to this work.

"A huge amount of work went into this toolkit by NWC, the steering committee, and Doody Facilitation and

Consulting Limited. It centres the experience of Councillors, while keeping an eye for the needs of those who might not yet be at the table, and offers practical ideas of how to change how we do local democracy to better support the contribution of parents and carers.

"I believe a more Family Friendly Local Government is important for a few reasons. Firstly, we will have richer policy outcomes and better decision making if we have a wider range of voices at the table, and that includes parents, lone parents, and carers. Secondly, so that we can ensure any Councillor who plans to have family or caring responsibilities in their future are able to sustain their role and balance their responsibilities. Finally, I think of the next generations of people who will sit in the chamber, and I believe it is important that we leave it in a better position, so that they can have a sustainable work/family balance in their role.

"As with all reports, documents and toolkits, the challenge will be in the implementation. But there are many

reasons to be hopeful in that regard, as there is widespread support for this change, and I see a chance for Wicklow to take a leading role in being mindfully Family Friendly in the way we run our Council business."

Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien also attended the launch and spoke about how the toolkit represents a transformative piece of work.

"I think of a quote from Audre Lorde which states that 'the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house', which for me is a reminder that we can not continue a business as usual approach with a few tweaks here and there if we want to create an inclusive and family friendly County Council. We also cannot leave it to chance and hope things will improve but take no responsibility for doing what's right. We need to undertake some transformational work which recognises the enablers and obstacles to participation for those cohorts who are not represented. Change doesn't happen just because we want it to, it happens because we pursue it together."



Sinn Féin councillor Grace McManus speaking at the launch of the toolkit last week

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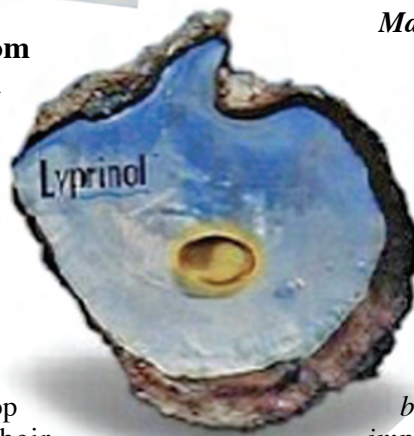
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Joe, Laois

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Zero pesticide exceedances in Wicklow public drinking water



There were no exceedances for pesticides in the public drinking water supplies in Co Wicklow in 2022, Uisce Eireann has confirmed. However, the utility is urging domestic gardeners, farmers, grounds keepers and other users of pesticide products to consider the environment and whether pesticide use is necessary in the first instance.

MCPA is still the most commonly detected pesticide in drinking water sources and is present in many commonly used herbicide products used to control thistles, docks and rushes. However, it often ends up in drinking water supplies. Uisce Eireann is asking users of any herbicide or pesticide products in Co Wicklow to consider the vulnerability of the water supplies to pesticide contamination and the importance of these supplies to the local homes and businesses in the community.

Uisce Eireann and the NPDWAG are asking the farming community, greenkeepers, grounds keepers, and also domestic users of pesticides, to consider in each case whether they need to use pesticides at all.

Pesticides must only be used where strictly necessary and only after the possibility of using other control methods has been carefully considered. Minimising pesticide use not only helps to protect water quality but also has multiple wider environmental benefits.

For example, leaving areas unsprayed can help native flowering plant species to grow and support a range of insects including bees and other vital pollinators. One third of Ireland's bee species are threatened with extinction and by helping the bee population survive and thrive we are also helping to protect our precious water sources. For more information on practical ways to help bees and other pollinators, check out the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan at pollinators.ie. Farmers should also bear in mind that the application of herbicides reduces sward species diversity and could negatively impact on payments through agri-environmental schemes.

Where pesticide use is considered necessary, the NPDWAG continues to work with local communities to ensure that best practice measures to protect drinking water sources and biodiversity are always followed. Farmers and other landholders dealing with the challenge of rushes should note the Department of Agriculture, Food and the

Marine (DAFM) guidance on the sustainable management of rushes. This approach is based on the concepts of containment or suppression and aims to minimise the use of pesticides. More information on this can be obtained from your local farm advisor or on www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/waterprotection.

Edward Haythornthwaite, Uisce Eireann's Regional Drinking Water Compliance Specialist said: "The Drinking Water Regulations set limits for pesticides in drinking water. These legal limits have not been exceeded in Co Wicklow in the past year. This is good news, and it's important that users of pesticides continue to follow best practice when using herbicides or pesticides, and that they consider alternative weed control methods where possible."

Adding to this, Dr Aidan Moody, DAFM and Chair of NPDWAG, commented: "It is important that we maintain our focus on this issue and that there is a sustained effort by stakeholders to continue the good progress that has been made in recent years. Users of pesticides must always consider the possibilities for alternative control methods in the first instance and if the application of pesticides is considered essential make sure that they follow best practice measures to protect water quality."

ReWild Wicklow partners with Wild Acres to grow oak

On Saturday 6th May, forty volunteers from the community group ReWild Wicklow visited the Wild Acres Nature Reserve in Scratenagh, Arklow for a very special task. Gilly Taylor and Brian O'Toole, the owners of Wild Acres, had collected 400 acorns from local Wicklow oak trees.

These acorns germinated in their polytunnel and the volunteers helped clear some old raised beds and transplanted the seedlings into them. When these oak trees have grown in size they

will be donated to ReWild Wicklow to be planted in other sites and help reforest Wicklow with native, locally-grown oak.

"Thank you so much to Gilly and Brian," said ReWild Wicklow

Chairperson Danny Alvey, "They have created such a wonderful nature reserve and it was full of life and colour when we visited on Saturday. This new initiative of theirs is a great

idea and will help us so much with our vital work at this turning point in the biodiversity crisis. We would love to see these small local tree nurseries popping up all over the county. I look forward to

returning again later in the summer, and to all of our other rewilding projects across the county, for more volunteering. Biodiversity is currently one of our biggest weaknesses here in Ireland but in Wicklow we can make it one of our biggest strengths. I want to expand the land set aside for nature in this county, connect it together into a network and create local business through ecotourism."

"Last year was a mast year so there was an abundance of acorns on our local mature pedunculate oak trees," said Brian O'Toole of Wild Acres. "We gathered 500 of them and in autumn a group of friends helped us plant them in seed



Danny Alvey ReWild Wicklow with Brian O'Toole of Wild Acres



ReWild Wicklow Volunteers at Wild Acres Nature Reserve

trays and approximately 400 germinated. We are so grateful to all the wonderful people that came out on Saturday and worked hard in the sun to transplant these oaklings and do a number of other important tasks for nature around the reserve."

Wild Acres was established in 2017 when Brian and Gilly purchased 17.5 acres of undulating agricultural land in Scratenagh, on the beautiful Redcross river, with the aim of transforming it into a nature reserve, honey farm and

biodiversity education experience. The couple now organise workshops, courses and guided walks for all sorts of groups and of course sell locally-produced honey! You can find out more about the reserve at wildacres.ie.

Over 1,000 miles signed up to 2023 Pure Mile project

The environment/community/heritage initiative, The Pure Mile, have collected over 2,000 bags of waste from the beautiful, scenic, Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, since the beginning of this year.

The initiative encourages communities and groups living in rural areas of Wicklow, South Dublin, and Dun-Laoghaire, to adopt a mile of road, or miles of road, in their local area, or in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and organise litter picks, clean-ups, anti-dumping campaigns, and work together to keep these areas litter and rubbish free.

There are now over 1,000 miles of road, mountains, woodlands, valleys, forestries and upland amenities, signed up to the 2023 Pure Mile Project, the largest number ever since the initiative began. Thousands of litter picks and clean-ups undertaken by Pure Mile volunteers, ranging from individuals, family groups, community groups, walking groups, cycling groups, running groups, hiking groups, scouts, beavers, primary schools, businesses, and organisations, have removed hundreds of

tonnes of illegally dumped waste and thousands of bags of litter and rubbish from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands since the initiative was started in 2010. The success of the Pure Mile demonstrates the importance and necessity of the initiative and the need for continued collaboration and engagement to protect the Wicklow/Dublin upland environment.

Ian Davis, manager of Pure Mile commented, "The Pure Mile was established in 2010 and the project has grown from 5 miles to over 1,000 miles this year. Now that all Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted we are able to organise large scale clean-ups of the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and we have seen an increase in people getting involved. Since Covid-19 people have become much more aware of the amount of litter and rubbish on roadside verges, hedges, and drains and they want to do

something about it. Pure Mile groups are contacting us every day to organise litter picks and clean-ups, and the Pure Truck has been extremely busy collecting the rubbish on a daily basis, ensuring that no bags are left on the landscape. It's amazing the amount of litter and rubbish the Pure Mile Volunteers are removing from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and we would like to thank all of them in assisting us to Clean-Up Wicklow/Dublin Uplands."

Pure are currently engaging with all types of groups and businesses who are interested in assisting Pure to 'Clean Up The Wicklow/Dublin Uplands' by organising litter picks and cleanup events of the Wicklow/Dublin Mountains.

Pure are looking for groups, communities, individuals, schools, walking groups, cycling groups, running groups, scouts, businesses, organisations, EVERYONE, to get



The Trekers Pure Mile Walking Group

involved in the Pure Mile. People can contact Pure at info@pureproject.ie or download an application from www.pureproject.ie/what-we

do/the-pure-mile/. You can also write to; Pure Project, Unit 6 B, Riverside Business Centre, Tinahely, Co Wicklow, Y14 R978, and they will post out all the information, or request an application form and information pack by phoning Pure on 0402 28662.

Wicklow woman calls for greater action on sustainable development goals

Coalition 2030 publishes report on how Ireland can progress the SDGs and calls for appointment of Future Generations Commissioner

Wicklow woman Dearbhail Lawless played a key role in the launch of a report by Coalition 2030 last week.

Coalition 2030 is an alliance of 70 civil society organisations collaborating to ensure Ireland keeps its promise to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Coalition has published a new report, 'Furthest Behind First, or Falling Behind Further?', documenting Ireland's progress on the SDGs from the perspective of those 'left behind'. The report parallels the Irish Government's SDG Review, which is due for presentation to the UN in July.

Dearbhail Lawless, who lives in Bray, is the CEO of AONTAS, a member organisation of Coalition 2030, and is currently serving as a member of the Coalition's Steering Committee. She attended the report launch in Buswell's Hotel in Dublin this week, as well as addressing a briefing for members of the Oireachtas in Leinster House.

The key recommendations in the Coalition 2030 report include:

- The appointment by Government of a Future Generations Commissioner to ensure no public policy

actions undermine the quality of life of future generations;

- Responsibility for the SDGs to be moved from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to the Department of the Taoiseach;
- All new public policies to be SDG-proofed to ensure they are aligned with the Goals; and
- The annual Budget process to become linked to progressing the SDGs.

Commenting on the report launch, Dearbhail Lawless praised the Government for the international leadership it has shown on the SDGs but called for similar action and ambition to be demonstrated at home.

"Few countries can claim to have been as influential on the SDGs on the global stage as Ireland," she said. "Under Irish and Kenyan leadership, the Goals were painstakingly negotiated before being agreed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. Since then, the Government has been a vocal advocate for the SDGs. This

summer, Ireland and Qatar will lead a series of high-level discussions in advance of presenting a political declaration at the SDGs Summit in September.

"However, Ireland's international commitment to the SDGs is not matched by the same ambition at home. We remain the only country in western Europe without universal primary healthcare. Our ongoing housing crisis is forcing families into homelessness and creating enormous collective anxiety and stress. Our employment rate for people with disabilities is one of the lowest in the EU. Our Direct Provision system violates multiple human rights. And the State is yet to live up to a long-standing promise to contribute 0.7% of Gross National Income to overseas aid.

"Our failings at domestic level run the risk of undermining Ireland's moral leadership on the SDGs while also contributing to sections of Irish society falling further behind. In the lead-up to the UN Summit this September, the



Louise Finan, Chair of Coalition 2030; report author Sorley McCaughey; and Wicklow woman and Coalition 2030 Steering Committee member Dearbhail Lawless, pictured at the launch of the 'Furthest Behind First, or Falling Behind Further?' report, which documents Ireland's progress on the Sustainable Development Goals from the perspective of those 'left behind'. Photo: Julien Behal.

Government has an opportunity to demonstrate real commitment to the SDGs by making policy choices at home that align with their international rhetoric.

"The SDGs provide us with a powerful blueprint and pathway to create a fairer, more environmentally sustainable Ireland, where everyone has access to quality healthcare, quality education, quality housing and does not fear a life lived in poverty. Alignment with the SDGs should be the driving objective of State policy from this point forward. We are calling on the Government and the Opposition to ensure that the Goals are embedded in all new national policies, in local authori-

ties' city and county plans, and in the work of community-based structures such as Public Participation Networks, Local Environmental Networks, and Education and Training Boards."

Case studies of 'the furthest behind'

The report published by Coalition 2030 features the real-life stories of people in Ireland who, according to the Coalition, are being 'left behind' as the country continues to develop. These include disabled people; current and former residents of the Direct Provision system; people experiencing poverty and

homelessness; lone parents; and older people.

Commenting at the report's launch, its author, Sorley McCaughey, said: "An underlying principle of the SDGs is to 'reach the furthest behind first'. But the case studies featured in our report show there are many people in Ireland being left even further behind as the country develops.

With a General Election to be held by March 2025, and the Goals due to expire in 2030, now is a critical juncture for the Government and opposition parties to put the necessary measures in place to help Ireland play its role in progressing the SDGs and leaving no-one behind."

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Church Road, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin





Emily Rose O'Toole of Wicklow and Saoirse Loughlin of Dublin pictured before competing in the B final during a Leinster LGFA Minor Championship captain's evening at Bloomfield House Hotel in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. Pic: Sportsfile.

Flying Fionn fights for first

Wicklow Native 12-year-old Fionn Stephens is at it again, defying the laws of gravity and accomplishing spectacular racing results. In his final year at St Laurence O' Tooles National School, Fionn bagged 10 wins from 10 starts over the weekend of 6th and 7th May.

The 3rd round of the championship took place last Saturday at Athboy Karting, Fionn racing in two classes, the Jnr Mini-GP and the jnr Elite Class.

In the Jnr Mini GP Fionn qualified in pole position and won both races on board the Bikeworld Ohavle 140.

In the Elite class Fionn qualified again in pole position and again won the first race on board the Bikeworld SY Moto 140. All other races were cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, leaving Fionn increasing his championship lead in both classes.

Sunday saw a fund-raising event being held for fellow rider Casey O' Gorman.

Fionn entered the Jnr 140 class, taking all 3 wins, he also entered the Snr 140 class, a first-time, racing against adults, but was unfazed and again managed to bag all Snr class wins by 3.

As if 9 wins wasn't enough that weekend, Fionn then entered a 2-hour endurance race with friend and fellow competitor Finn whertity, the boys held tight and clenched a victorious endurance win, giving Fionn a



clean 10 out of 10 wins over the 2 days.

Fionn has been chosen to ride for the Irish talent team and will be competing in the Mir Racing Cup Moto 5 Championship,

throughout Spain this year, and is under-going pre-season testing and training with Gamon Racing.

Here back home he's mission is to add to his tally of Irish

Championships, this year so far has entered 21 races wining 19.

If you would like to keep up to date with Fionn's progress, you can follow him on facebook on fsracing17 or Instagram.

Delighted winners of the Kilquade Cup Parish Fundraiser

Colin Watchorn from Newcastle was the driving force behind the winning 2023 Kilquade Cup team on Thursday 4th May.



The Eddie Rockets 2nd place team: Andy Webb John Burke John and Karl Donohoe

Almost forty teams competed in this year's golf competition, enjoying a beautiful sunny day on the immaculate Delgany Golf Club course.

Generously sponsored by Arboretum Kilquade, Colin's winning team also included David Gillett, Paul Clery and John Lanerell, who accepted their prize from Barry Doyle of the award-winning Arboretum garden-centre business.

The winners of the newly inaugurated Kilquade Plate, the 9-hole competition sponsored by Seamus Fitzpatrick of Delgany, were the Grandstand Sports team, Mahon Murphy, Michael Gibbons, Yvonne McGovern and Rosemary Gibbons.

Kilquade Parish Priest, Fr. John Daly, thanked major sponsors Arboretum, and all the competition players and supporters, as well as Delgany Golf Club for generously giving over the course and club facilities for the day.

Funds raised will see improvement works in each of the parish churches, including upgrading technology systems to make ceremonies more accessible to parishioners.

Other big winners on the day included:

Kilquade Cup 2023

1st - Colin Watchorn, David Gillett, Paul Clery and John Lanerell

2nd - Eddie Rockets team, Karl Donohoe, John Donohoe, Andy Webb and John Burke

3rd - Colliers team, Sam Collier, Conor Martin, Gerard Gilroy and Luke O'Connor

Kilquade Plate 2023

1st - Grandstand Sports team, Mahon Murphy, Michael Gibbons, Yvonne McGovern and Rosemary Gibbons.

In the Kilquade Cup raffle, amongst dozens of prize winners, the lucky top prize recipients included Austin Prior, who won a Luxury Spa Break at Monart in County Wexford, sponsored by MJS Engineering, Lydia Sasie who won €500, and Terry Miley, winner of a Kitchen Aid Stand Mixer, sponsored by Newcastle Design.



The Kilquade Plate winners were the Grandstand Sports team, Mahon Murphy, Michael Gibbons, Yvonne McGovern and Rosemary Gibbons



Pictured above and below, the 1st place winning team of Colin Watchorn, David Gillett, Paul Clery and John Lanerell

Ukrainian ladies' kickboxing and self defence classes in Bray

Master's Temple Martial Arts Academy is currently hosting an all female Kickboxing and Self Defence class on Fridays at its studio in Bray, in solidarity with the Ukrainian women who are being hosted in accommodation nearby.



Olya at the women's kickboxing class at Masters Temple. Pic: Joe McQuillan

The class is being taught by Shihan Ann Hargaden who currently holds a 4th degree Blackbelt in Ultimate Kickboxing. The class is vibrant and there is no communication problem as Martial Arts is a universal language.

Asked for a comment about her new sport Anna from Ukraine said:

My father used to say to me: "Healthy body will give you healthy minds" and I totally agree with him. A few weeks ago I found an information about kick-boxing and self-defence classes and met Ann. It was love from first fight — this class gives much to me and my friends: it's energetic, it's useful, it's time with your body and your thoughts. We happy to spend our time in a good company, practicing not only in sports but also in English. Great thanks to our coach Ann for our classes and joy! We are happy to have such a great community!"

Master's Temple Martial Arts offers a wide variety of classes and styles including Ultimate Kickboxing, Ultimate

Hapkido and Escrima Filipino.

For more information about daily classes at the club:

WhatsApp Grand Master Massan Ghorbani on 086 835 0062 Masters Temple, Perfect Theatre Studios, Bray Bowl, Quinsborough Road, Bray, County Wicklow



Lindsay, Anna, Daryna, Liubov, Hanna, Olya and Irina with their coach Ann Hargaden at Masters Temple. Pic: Joe McQuillan



Daryna, Liubov and Hanna at Masters Temple. Pic: Joe McQuillan

Impressive skills on display at Wicklow Hockey Club Awards Day

Wicklow Hockey Club, based out of East Glendalough School in Wicklow Town, held its Awards Day on Saturday 6th May along with a number of mini tournaments which took place throughout the day.

Impressive hockey skills were on display on the day from players across the club's many age groups and awards handed out in a number of categories for the 2022-23 season.

In the Junior categories, Ava Warrington was named the outstanding Girls Junior Player, and Samuel Rodriguez-

Borlado was named the boys outstanding junior player.

Other girls nominated for the award were Katelyn Johnson, Rosie Cox, Ellen Culens, Yazmin Hatton, Ellen Cannon, Juliet Devereux, Rosie Ludlow, and Grace Woodroffe. Other players commended were Amelia Chatterjee, Maia Johnson, Scout

Dynes, Eimear Dewar, Juno Fallon, Anna Ni She, Tara ul, Lucy Curran, and Olivia Dietz.

In the boys category, the other nominated players were Leon Kelly, Mark Gallagher, Dara Walker Butler, Fin Fleming, Kevin Kingston and Ewan Lennox. Commended were Cathal Ward, John O'Dwyer, Malcolm

Murphy, Charlie Woodroffe, Sam Goodbody, Jason Ashley and Sean Courtney.

In the Senior category of awards, the winners were as follows:

*Club Person of the Year (CUP): Neil Horner:

*Coach of the Year (PLATE): Stephen Roberts

*Umpire of the Year (PLATE): Alex Costello

*Goalkeeper of the Year (HOPKINS CUP): Grainne Molloy

*Women's Players' Player of the Year 1st XI (SHIELD): Naomi Cairnduff

*Women's Players' Player of the Year 2nd XI (SHIELD): Rachel Byrne

*Women's Most Improved Player (PLATE): Ava Warrington (1st XI); Anna Delahunt (2nd XI)

*Men's Players' Player of the Year 1st XI (SHIELD): Adam Shepherd & Zak Hastie

*Men's Players' Player of the Year 2nd XI (SHIELD): Chris Smith

*Men's Most Improved Player (PLATE): Tim Hastie & Ruairi Jenkinson

(1st XI); Conor Williams (2nd XI)

Golden Stick Award

Ladies 1st XI:

Emma Curry, Naomi Cairnduff, Rhiannon Wynne O'Sullivan (3 goals each)

Ladies 2nd XI: Lauren Hasler (17 goals)

Men 1st XI Adam Shepherd (12 goals)

Men 2nd XI Chris Smith (8 goals)



Annette Heffernan, Malcolm Murphy and Cormac McGraine at the Wicklow Hockey Club Awards Day



Hloe Johnson, Yazmin Hatton, Euan Lennox, Jeanna Murphy, Malcolm Murphy and Eoin Murphy



The mixed u16 team with Marc Devereux, Cormac McGraine and Margaret Leonard at the Wicklow Hockey Club Awards Day at East Glendalough

Bray artist Tony Gunning's exhibition about Dereliction

Bray artist Tony Gunning's exhibition, running at Ardgillan Castle, Balbriggan, focuses on dereliction. Titled 'Something of it Remains', the exhibition looks at abandoned homes, cottages, outhouses and on the traces of lives once lived but now forgotten.



Derelict Farmhouse Kilfenora, by Tony Gunning

Speaking at the exhibition, Gunning said: "I began focusing on dereliction about 20 years ago as a reaction to the demise of rural Ireland following the removal of Post Offices, Garda stations and schools. Over the years, I have continued to paint dereliction but now my interest is centred on the lives that were once lived there, the stories that these places can tell and the fact that nature is now reclaiming these abandoned buildings for herself."

Tony, who lives in Bray, was joined by friends and neighbours Kenneth Carton (Killarney Road) and Liam McGrath (Vevey Road) at the opening.

Tony Gunning is an established Irish artist who had exhibited widely. This is his fifteenth solo show. His work has also been included in numer-



Bray boys Kenneth Carton, artist Tony Gunning and Liam McGrath

ous group shows, including the Royal Academy London, Royal Hibernian Academy Dublin and the Royal Ulster Academy Belfast. His paintings are also included in many corporate and private collec-

tions worldwide. He has exhibited solo at the European Parliament, Brussels, and was part of the Irish representation at the Florence Biennale in 2005. He won the Curator's

Award and the Bank of Ireland Emerging Artist Award at EV+A in 2007.

Tony is exhibiting twenty five paintings on the theme of dereliction. He is joined by Colette Cronin who is also

exhibiting five pieces on a similar theme. The exhibition runs until Sunday 21st May and is open to the public, Wednesday to Sunday 10am - 4pm. Admission is free.

Wicklow Choral Society is back!



Soprano, Sarah Power

Wicklow Choral Society is back in full swing and looking forward to its first full concert in four years. The concert will take place on Sunday May 21st at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Church in Wicklow.

The concert is a wonderful mix of old and new. In the first half the choir will sing short works by Mozart and Bach, and then Haydn's Little Organ Mass. After the interval the tempo and tone change completely with an exciting new work by American composer Dan Forrest, the intriguingly titled 'Requiem for the Living.'

Wicklow Choral is delighted to be singing under the direction of new Musical Director James Bingham and to welcome guest soloist the much loved soprano Sarah Power. Sarah is from Bray. She now has an international reputation and sings in concert venues all over the world. The orchestra will be led by Alan Smale, former leader of the RTE Concert Orchestra.

The choir is delighted to be back after the long break from singing imposed by Covid. Come along and celebrate this rich evening of choral singing.

Tickets are €20/€15. Available from Earls Newsagent in Wicklow and at the door.



Wicklow Choral Society's new Musical Director James Bingham

Wasabi Club

Courthouse Arts Centre, Saturday 27th May 8:30pm - 11:30pm, €5

Wasabi Club comes to The Courthouse this month. DJ Andy Leathem has been running his all vinyl Soul and Funk night, Wasabi, in Belfast and Dublin on and off for over 20 years. On 27th May he brings his love for Soul and Funk music to Tinahely and the Courthouse Arts Centre.

The premise is very simple, the purest Soul, the filthy Funk, bit of Latin, bit of Hammond Groove some 60s Beat and then some! all aimed squarely at the dance floor.

With a tune selection the likes of which you've never heard before, expect to hear: Marlena Shaw, Gil Scott Heron, Nina Simone, Ananda Shankar, Jimmy Castor Bunch, James Brown, Joe Bataan, Stevie Wonder, Irma Thomas and Ann Sexton amongst many many others.

If the tunes don't make you want to dance, check your pulse!

A backdrop of Blaxploitation and Cult movie visuals complete the Wasabi Club experience. Think Cleopatra Jones, Barbarella, Blacula, Rollerball, Dolemite and Superfly. If you like dancing and like Soul and Funk music then this is a night for you. Even if you don't like dancing, you're still welcome to enjoy the tunes in a sitting position, if you can!

Fabian Willmann Trio feat. Jeff Ballard

Whale Theatre, Friday 26th May, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €20 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book



Niall 'Bressie' Breslin

Berlin Saxophonist Fabian Willmann finds the perfect balance between perception and memory. He is a subtle chronicler of the eternal moment, finding the right tone in order to make himself undeniably heard.

His trio with Jeff Ballard (known for his collaborations with Brad Mehldau, Chick Corea or Mark Turner) and Arne Huber leaves no doubt that they not only know exactly where they come from, but also where the journey should go. They strip themselves down to the essentials, yet with something to say in every breath.

Doug Collette (all about jazz) called their debut album 'Balance' a „most auspicious start for an enterprise aiming for progressive credibility,“ and added: „This is already one of the most unassuming albums of 2022 and may end up being as one of the Best of the Year as well.“ Wolfgang Fricke (that jazz) states that „the album casually celebrates the beauty of melody and magically gets better with every listen“ and Lutz Vössing (skug) doesn't "want to accuse [Willmann] of just wanting to remind you that the saxophone is the best of all instruments", but adds "he managed to do so nonetheless."

At their concert in Whale Theatre, the trio will perform songs from their newest album as well as new compositions by all band members.

Music Network presents leading Jazz players

Linda May Han Oh (Malaysian-Australian) on bass & Fabian Almazan (Cuba-US) on piano

Wednesday 14th June, Pavilion Theatre, Dun Laoghaire; Thursday 15th June, Riverbank Theatre, Newbridge; Sunday 18th June, National Opera house, Wexford

Music Network brings Spring 2023 to a close with two of the leading jazz artists of our time, bassist Linda May Han Oh and pianist Fabian Almazan. Hugely accomplished performers, improvisers and composers, they have worked together in a variety of stunning musical collaborations for over a decade. This highly creative duo will perform mostly original works, with Almazan drawing inspiration from his Cuban heritage and musical training in jazz and classical idioms and Oh showcasing the skills and innate musicality which have seen her collaborate with some of the biggest names in the industry. A night of awe-inspiring musical brilliance awaits - this concert will be truly special.

Based in New York City, Linda May Han Oh is a prodigiously gifted bassist and composer who has performed and recorded with renowned artists such as Pat Metheny, Kenny Barron, Joe Lovano, Dave

Douglas, Terri Lyne Carrington, Steve Wilson, Geri Allen and Vijay Iyer.

Born in Malaysia and raised in Perth, Western Australia, Linda has received many important awards including 2nd place at the BASS2010

Competition, semi-finalist at the BMW Bass competition and an honorary mention at the 2009 Thelonious Monk Bass Competition. She also received the 2010 Bell Award for Young Australian Artist of the

Year and was 2012 Downbeat Critic's Poll Rising Star on bass. In 2018 and 2019 she was voted Bassist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association, as well as being Up-and-coming Artist of the Year in 2019. A recipient of both the Jerome Foundation Fellowship and the Chamber Music America New Jazz Works Grant in 2019, she was also voted 2019 Bassist of the Year in Hothouse Magazine and won the Margaret Whitton Award in 2020.

As a leader, Linda's five album releases have received widespread critical acclaim. Her most recent release *Aventurine* is a double quartet album, featuring string quartet and vocal group *Invenio*. Jazz Trail stated "Oh's compositional virtuosity is on display throughout the record, generating layered and risk-taking new music" while Downbeat wrote "it's a testament to her

musical vision that even after a dozen or more listens, the album continues to reveal additional depths". Linda has written for large and small ensembles as well as for film, participating in the BMI Film Composers Workshop, Sundance Labs at Skywalker Ranch and Sabrina McCormick's short films, *A Good Egg* and *FracKtured*. Linda was recently featured as the bassist in the Dorothea Williams Quartet in the Pixar movie *Soul* under the musical direction of Jon Batiste (*The Late Show* with Stephen Colbert) alongside drummer Roy Haynes.

As an active educator, Linda has created a series of lessons for the BassGuru app for iPad and iPhone. She is currently on faculty at the New School - School of Jazz, as well as Berklee College of Music. Celebrated Cuban-American pianist and



Linda May Han Oh

composer Fabian Almazan found his musical roots as a child in Havana where he was first introduced to the classical piano tradition. During the completion of his jazz piano bachelor's degree at the Manhattan School of Music, Fabian immersed himself in the realm of orchestral composition, studying instrumentation and orchestration with Mr. Giampaolo Bracali, and his musical journey took off from there. He has received two Grammy nominations and additional accolades include the SWR New Jazz Meeting Commission, Copland

Fund, Jerome Fund for Emerging Composers Award, Jazz Gallery Residency, Rockefeller Brothers Residency and Cintas Foundation Award in Composition.

As a performer, Fabian has developed a personal voice through the electric manipulation of the acoustic piano in live and studio settings. He has toured his music extensively as well collaborating with artists such as Terence Blanchard, Gretchen Parlato, John Hollenbeck, Mark Guiliana, Dave Douglas, Avishai Cohen and Ambrose Akinmusire. Most recently, Fabian

can be heard in films *Harriet*, *Chi-Raq*, *Red Tails* and *Miracle* at St. Anna.

As an environmentalist and naturalist, Fabian travelled back to his birthplace where he made field recordings of endemic Cuban birds which were then incorporated into *This Land Abounds With Life*, his most recent album as a leader. He is the founder and director of Biophilia Records and has worked diligently towards ensuring a continued dialogue of awareness concerning music and environmental justice.



Fabian Almazan

The Bonk with Elaine Howley

Whale Theatre, Thursday 25th May, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €20 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

The Bonk is an experimental music project led by songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Philip Christie.

Taking elliptical rhythms and repetitive ritualistic wordplay as a framework, the group uses improvisation to explore the fringes of traditional forms. Their debut *The Bonk Seems To Be A Verb*, has attracted a loyal following since its release in 2017 with shorter digital-only releases following in the intervening years while the band's live show has become increasingly in demand. Their second LP *Greater Than Or Equal To The Bonk* is due for release in May 2023 and will see the band collaborating again with boutique imprint thirty-three45.

Bandleader and songwriter Phil Christie has long been involved in music in Ireland. As a principal songwriter in the collaborative group *O Emperor* (2008 -2018), he recorded and toured internationally with the band, sharing the stage with the likes of Beck and MGMT along the way. The group were awarded the Choice Music Prize Irish Album of The Year in 2018 for their final longplayer *Jason*.

Since then, while developing material with *The Bonk*, Phil has maintained fruitful collaborations in studio and on stage with several acts including Mick Flannery, Junior Brother, Cal Folger Day (whose verbatim pop-opera *Moondog* and Irene he produced) and Dan Walsh's improvisational project *Fixity*. His first solo recording 'Affricative Speech Sounds' was released in October 2022 on 7 "vinyl as part of MOOT TAPES Signs of Life series.

Originally hailing from Tipperary Ireland, Elaine Howley is a vocalist, musician and pro-



ducer who merges an expansive tapestry of experimental, analogue processes with a love of classic songwriting and emotive melody, to create a sound world that is distinctly her own.

Immersed in both the experimental music scenes in her adopted home of Cork, and the DIY ethos of Ireland's alternative rock community, Elaine's music grew out of years of varied, extensive collaborative practise, performance and experimentation. She has toured regularly across Europe and the UK as the singer in the acclaimed psychedelic rock group, *The Altered Hours*, sharing stages with the likes of Fontaines DC, Wooden Ships, Clinic and the Brian Jonestown Massacre. Closer to home, she has played in ambient trio *Crevice* and folk group *Morning Veils*. It was through playing with these groups and performing with the improvisatory collectives *The Dark Arts Orchestra* and *HEX* and collab-

orating with composer Irene Buckley and musician Roslyn Steer that Elaine began to explore vocal layering and manipulation, sampling, stretching and slowing things down to uncanny, enigmatic layers of sound.

This improvisatory impulse led to Elaine's solo debut *The Distance between Heart and Mouth*, which was released to widespread acclaim in 2022 on Touch Sensitive Records. With Pitchfork praising the album as "a spectral slow burn that refuses to trip over itself to get anywhere in particular. By absorbing the wisdom of the process, Howley permits her craft to resound deeper than ever". For her first solo album Elaine used tape to process voice, drum machines and synthesizers, creating rich, analogue textures which work in tandem with her songwriting to weave an intimate sonic tapestry that feels warm and esoteric all at once.

BIFE Art & Design Graduate Exhibition is back

BIFE welcome the return of the annual BIFE Art and Design Graduate Exhibition on Tuesday 23rd May 2023.

The BIFE Art and Design Graduate exhibition is an opportunity for students to showcase their processes and work.

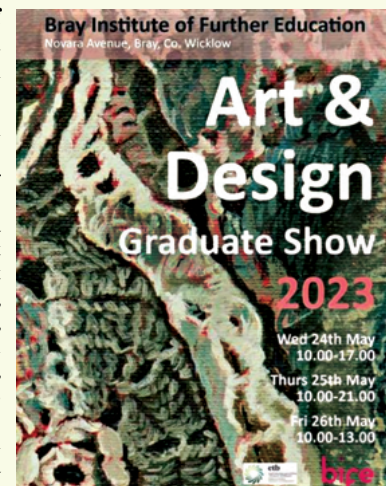
The exhibition represents a variety of courses including Art Portfolio Preparation, Art Craft and Design, Fine Art Practice, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Furniture Design, Architectural Design and Technology, Performing Arts and 3D Games Design.

The exhibition opens on Tuesday 23rd of May with a reception in the college from 19.00-21.00.

The exhibition is open to the public from 10.00 - 16.00 Wednesday 24th May, 10.00-21.00 Thursday 25th May and 10.00-13.00 Friday 26th May.

BIFE offers influential Art and Design courses and aims to develop the necessary knowledge, commitment, and creative skills for students to engage in the many facets of the Art and Design World.

For further details see www.Bife.ie.



73% of adults are more inclined to donate to local charities than national ones

AIB Group launched the second annual AIB Community €1 Million Fund on Wednesday, 10th May to support a further 70 charitable organisations in communities across Ireland. The bank is asking its customers, employees and the wider public to nominate registered charities that connect with causes that matter most to them and their communities.

AIB will allocate €700,000 to charities chosen by its customers and the public, while €300,000 will be donated to charities chosen by the bank's employees.

A recent iResearch survey, carried out on behalf of AIB, showed that of the 61% who donate to charity, 71% are women and 51% are men. When asked if they felt the economic

environment impacts on what they donate, 32% are giving less due to economic pressures. But of the those who have not changed the amount they donate, 21% have chosen to give only to a local charity. The survey also revealed that the majority of adults (73%) are more inclined to make donations to a local charity rather than a national one, with

the inclination highest among women at 78%. Of those people who do not donate (31% of respondents), 61% say they cannot afford to at the moment.

This year's AIB Community €1 Million Fund will be distributed following an online nomination process, one for customers and one for employees, and will be

split across five regions in Ireland: Munster, Ulster, Greater Dublin, the rest of Leinster, and Connacht. Nominations are open from 10 May 2023 for five weeks. The nomination form and full details on the AIB Community €1 Million Fund are available on aib.ie/community. Customers, and the public, are required to submit the registration number of the charity they are nominating to complete the form.

AIB Chief Sustainability and Corporate Affairs Officer Mary Whitelaw said: "We are delighted to launch the second AIB Community €1 Million Fund to support the charitable organisations that matter most to our customers, our colleagues and the wider public across the country. So many charities benefited last year, and our hope is that this funding will continue to help make a real difference to those who are working tirelessly for the benefit of their local communities and the most vulnerable in society. Today, we are asking our customers and the public to nominate the charities they wish to see supported by this fund."

The employee nomination process for AIB employees wishing to nominate charities in their communities will launch in line with the public fund and is open to all AIB employees.

Once nominations are confirmed, the top six nominees for each of the five regions will be asked to present to an AIB regional panel. Four charities in each region will each receive €28,000, while two will each



Kendra Hopkins, Eileen O'Leary, Thomas Dunne, Anne Reyburn, Kyle Kennedy, Sinead Hussey, Cass Kane, Brigeeta Mulvihill, and Rian Manuel at St. Catherine's Special School in Newcastle.

PLANNING PLANNING PLANNING

APPLICATION FOR RIGHT OF WAY

Folio: WW26182F

Servient folios

WW2989F, WW752, WW7863F, WW7863, WW10083, WW41724F, WW29891F, WW8469, WW9192F, WW9783, WW9793F, WW9896, WW10288, WW10762, WW13367F, WW18211F, WW20161F, WW20438F, WW23238F, WW23964F, WW25762F, WW28007F

COUNTY: WICKLOW

In the matter of The Registration of Title Acts 1964 to 2006
In the matter of the Application of Emmett Porter and Laura Mahony Porter for the Registration of a Right Acquired by Prescription.

Application No. D2021LR049181y

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

Take Notice that Murphy Solicitors have lodged an application on behalf of Emmett Porter and Laura Mahony Porter, the registered owners of Folio WW26182F, under Section 49A of the above Act for the Registration of a Right of Way to pass and re-pass over the area coloured yellow and marked 'a' on the map, on foot or otherwise with all nature of vehicles laden or unladen at all times by day and by night for the residential use, enjoyment and convenience of the dwelling house and lands.

The original map showing the right of way may be inspected at Taitte Éireann, Chancery Street, Dublin 7.

All persons objecting to such Registration are hereby required to file their objections in writing duly verified within one calendar month from the date of publication of this notice.

In the absence of objection or in the event of any objection not being sustained the application will proceed without further notice.

Dated this the 16th day of May 2023

Isabelle Lyons, Taitte Éireann, Chancery Street, Dublin 7.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Paul & Maria Byrne seek Permission for the proposed relocation of Driveway Access Wall opening and all associated site works at No. 4 Glenhorn Close, Killarney Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

FULL PLANNING PERMISSION
Sought for:
1. Proposed Change of Use of 2 of 3 No. Existing Tennis Courts to 2 No. Padel Courts complete with Proposed Covered All Weather Enclosure. 1 No. Tennis Court retained.
2. All ancillary site works at Shoreline Sports Park, Charlesland, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. A63 CA18.
Signed: Wicklow Recreational Services Ltd
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.

Biodiversity Week in Wicklow

A detailed list of interesting events has been put together by Wicklow County Council's new Biodiversity Officer, Dr Laura Kehoe, to celebrate Biodiversity Week which runs from Friday, 19th to Sunday, 28th May.

The line-up includes a morning of Sustainable Gardening at Ballyraine Campus, Arklow; a field session on marine ecology in Wicklow harbour; hedge bothering at Kindlestown woods; a nourishing forest school for kids in Blessington; learning about what we are doing for the elusive Barn Owl in Baltinglass, and chats about a world on fire with activists and forest gardeners at Glencree.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, stated: "We are committed to protecting and enhancing our environment, we look forward to welcoming community members on this journey."

The majority of events are free-of-charge, check out the details and booking information for what is happening near you at www.biodiversity-week.ie or at www.wicklow.ie/latest-news.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SECTION 75 – ROADS ACT, 1993 PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROAD

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice that it proposes the temporary closure of the following public roads.

Road to be closed

L-5050 To the junction of R-772 and to the Junction of L-5049, Kilmullen Lane.

Period of closure

From 12.00 noon to 05:00pm Sunday 28th May 2023.

Alternative Routes

R-772 and N11.

Reason for Closure

This closure is to facilitate the public Ecumenical service at Killadreenan Church ruins.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SECTION 75 – ROADS ACT, 1993 PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROAD

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice that it proposes the temporary closure of the following public roads.

Road to be closed

R772 – Main Street Newtownmountkennedy.

Period of closure

From 08:00am to 06:00pm Sunday 28th May 2023.

Alternative Routes

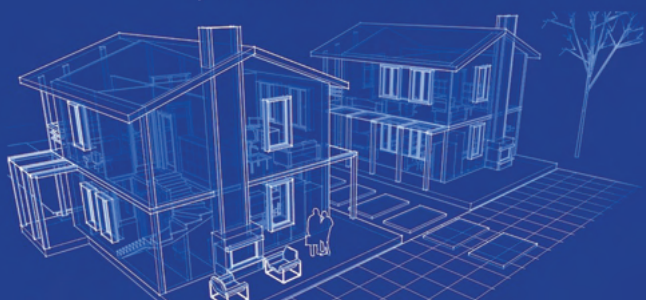
Northbound – via R765 (Rossmore) and L-1050.
Southbound – via L-1050 and R765 (Rossmore).

Reason for Closure

This closure is to facilitate the Battle of Newtownmountkennedy Re-enactment.

ATTENTION Architects, Planners & Builders

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Wicklow farm families paid €81m for milk

Tirlan (formerly Glanbia Ireland and Glanbia Co-op), paid €81 million to farm families in Wicklow for the milk they supplied last year.

Payments of €1.9 billion were made to over 5,000 family farm milk suppliers across the country, demonstrating the huge importance of the farmer-owned co-operative as a major economic driver of the rural economy.

The data was released as the co-operative announced its first

Annual Report and Accounts as Tirlan, showing a revenue rise of 36% to €3 billion, primarily driven by strong ingredient sales internationally.

Speaking about the 2022 report and results, Tirlan

The co-operative reported record farmgate prices of 63cpl (incl VAT) paid for milk, with green feed barley reaching €310 tonne. However, prices were mirrored by a sharp rise in farm input costs, with

significant increases in energy, fertiliser and feed.

As the largest buyer and user of Irish grains, Tirlan paid farmer Members over €100 million with an excellent harvest boosting intake to 290,000 tonnes. A focus on a specialised premium grains portfolio delivered over €3 million in premium payments to growers.

In 2022, Tirlan Co-op Members benefitted from a spin-out of 12 million shares in Glanbia plc which returned €168 mil-

lion in value to Members. In addition, over €6.5 million was paid in Share Interest (dividends).

Tirlan recently marked a year since the transaction was completed to acquire the remaining 40% of Glanbia Ireland from Glanbia plc to create a 100% farmer-owned operating co-operative. It was the largest acquisition by an indigenous Irish company in 2022. In August 2022, the Co-op launched its new identity Tirlan which signifies a 'land of abundance'.



Pictured at the announcement of Tirlan's first Annual Report and Accounts 2022 are John Murphy, Chairman; Lisa Koep, Chief ESG Officer; Jim Bergin, CEO and Michael Horan, Chief Financial and Secretariat Officer.

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. M.D.



Grainne Duffy with Maggie and Cleo at the Pieta House Darkness Into Light walk in Arklow.

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