

# LOCAL Wicklow Times

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Tuesday 23rd May 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

## THREE BLUE BUT NO GREEN FLAGS

An Taisce announced the recipients of the International Blue Flag and the National Green Coast Awards for 2023 last Friday, with mixed news for Co. Wicklow. While Brittas Bay North and South Beaches and Greystones South Beach all retained their Blue Flags, Bray has yet again missed out and failed to regain the award.

Also, a record-breaking 65 Green Coast awards were handed out at the ceremony, however none of them went to beaches in Co. Wicklow.

Bray South Promenade lost its Blue Flag status in 2022, and has failed to get it back, though Wicklow County Council said it was 'determined' to do so.

Reacting to the news,

Cllr Joe Behan said he was "very disappointed" that Bray failed to regain its Blue Flag and "mystified" that Co. Wicklow got no Green Flags. "This will have to be addressed," he said.

The aim of the Green Coast Award is to recognise beaches of high environmental quality. To achieve the award, beaches must have excellent water

quality and have effective and appropriate management to ensure the protection of the natural environment. The Green Coast Award aims to acknowledge and promote environmentally sensitive management of beaches. It places a strong emphasis on community involvement and encourages Local Authorities to work together with local



Jane, Julie and Andy Sutcliffe at the Scoil San Eoin Family Fun Day in Redcross. Pic: Michael Kelly

### Cllr. Erika DOYLE

Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District

Working for you in Bray

Please feel free to contact me with any constituency queries



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communities in the management of sites.

The Blue Flag is an international award for beach excellence and means that a beach has achieved "excellent" water quality to standards set by European and National Regulations, and a very high grade across a wide range of other criteria.

Bray Coastcare were disappointed when hearing the news and founder and chairperson Séamus Connor commented "It is a real shame that once again Bray has failed to achieve this award. Bray Coastcare have worked tirelessly over the last 16 years to improve our coastal areas of our town and we have made massive improvements. But it is must be clear that to achieve a Blue Flag it is a massive team effort and although amazing

work has been done and progress has been made by our group and other shareholders such as our local authority more needs to be done to ensure we meet the high standards."

About the Green Flag Award he added: "Bray Coastcare has received awards from An Taisce in the past such as the 'Best Coastcare Group' for the whole of Ireland in 2008 but interestingly I had never heard much about this award. I think it would be great for Bray to achieve a Green Coast Award but at the same time I must be realistic as most beaches that have a Green Coast Award are small beaches or coves with very little human footfall and as we know Bray can become a very busy place especially during the summer months. I think it is worth looking into though and I will do my

best in the coming weeks to get the ball rolling on this by con-

tacting An Taisce and also our Town Engineers to see if we

can work together to achieve our shared goals."

### Bray Credit Union Welcome Week

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Abbi, Des and Rebecca Cole with Naomi Doyle at the official opening of the Arklow Community Action Resource Centre, located in the newly named 'New River Walk House' on River Walk Lane. The local community put in the time, work and resources to refurbish and restore the building. A launch event was held on Saturday 13th May where local people were invited to view the new premises.

## Fashion & Gin evening for St. Francis NS sensory room

There will be a 'Fashion & Gin' evening taking place in Fishers of Newtownmountkerry this week on Wednesday 24th May, as a fundraiser towards building a sensory room in St. Francis National School in Newcastle. It's going to be a brilliant night of fashion, with food and drinks included in your ticket. Raffle prizes include a hotel stay for two, afternoon tea vouchers, festival tickets, dinner vouchers and lots more. So bring a friend and have fun! Tickets (€32) can be reserved and paid online or on the door: <https://FishersGinNight.eventbrite.ie>.

## Book launch in Arklow

People are invited to the book launch of The Traditional Catholic Family by John Lacken, in the Arklow Bay Hotel on Thursday 25th May at 7pm.

## Greystones Flower Club

The next meeting for Greystones Flower Club is on Tuesday 30th May with guest demonstrator Christine Hughes. All welcome to attend. It begins at 8.00pm in The Evangelical Church Hall, Hillside Road, Greystones.

## 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.

## Soup & sandwiches

The next soup & sandwiches lunch will be held on Wednesday, 31st May in Kilian House Family Centre, Greystones from 12.15 to 2pm. Everyone is very welcome to come along and enjoy good home-made food and a friendly chat. The suggested donation is €5. All proceeds are given to local charities. This is the last lunch until next September.

## 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."

## Heart of the Community Fund

This is an open grant round designed to meet the needs of not-for-profit organisations. The Heart of the Community Fund 2023 will provide Organisational Investment Funds. The fund will prioritise applications from organisations working in the following areas: Facilitating re-engagement with Education & Learning, both formal and informal; Building Community Resilience; Designing & Delivering Grassroots Peace & Reconciliation Activities; Protecting & Promoting the Arts; Supporting Local Solutions to Global Challenges. Full information and details from [Irelandfunds.org](http://Irelandfunds.org).

## County Wicklow Older People's Council AGM

The County Wicklow Older People's Council AGM will be held on Friday 26th May in the Glenview Hotel, from 10am to 1pm. Followed by light lunch. The Council's vision is to 'make County Wicklow a great place to grow old', where older people are respected and valued. Further details from: [www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Community/Age-Friendly-Wicklow](http://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Community/Age-Friendly-Wicklow).

Booking for the AGM is essential at Eventbrite. Email [AgeFriendly@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:AgeFriendly@wicklowcoco.ie) or call Lisa on 0404 20208.

# Darkness Into Light a success in Wicklow

After another very successful Darkness into Light event in Wicklow Town, the committee would like to thank the many people who helped to make it the success it has become every year.

On behalf of Pieta and the organising committee they would sincerely like to thank the following:

"First of all the walkers and runners who got up so early to help raise vital funds for Pieta and suicide awareness.

"To the local important Wicklow services; Gardai, Fire Service, Order of Malta. To the many members of Wicklow & District Lions Club who organised the event with the support of the students and staff of CCM.

"Thanks to Robbie and staff in SuperValu for their continuous ongoing support. Robbie was also one of the fastest walkers on the day. A very special thanks to Cheoltas Chill Mhantain for the use of their premises this year and every year.

"To the group of Ukrainian ladies who so kindly offered their sup-



Lions members Jim Molloy and Joe Kirwin with Leo the Lion at the Darkness into Light 5K walk in Wicklow for Pieta

port as always to the Lions Club which was a very new and very exciting early morning event for them. Their help was very much appreciated.

"Some coffee shops opened up at 4am to help out tired hungry and thirsty walkers. They were: The staff at Nick's Coffee and the early morning staff at The

Good Life. They both kindly donated to DIL. The Brass Fox staff who opened up to facilitate the volunteers serve teas and coffees and a selection of refreshments.

"The print media always very supportive with words and pictures. Thanks to Robbie and staff in SuperValu for their continuous ongoing

support. Welcoming music was kindly supplied by Fergal Canterbury which greatly added to the atmosphere while Laura warmed up the huge crowd with her special dance moves

The members of the Wicklow committee have received a special thanks for their efforts directly from Pieta.



A group of Ukrainian volunteers who helped out with the Darkness into Light event in Wicklow Town

# Bray Credit Union to hold 'Welcome Week'

Bray Credit Union are holding a 'welcome week' from Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June.

The event welcomes new and existing members to ask questions or do business such as opening a current account with debit Mastercard, applying for a loan or mortgage, or opening an account. Insurance is now provided across car, life, travel and mortgage protection by calling 0818 293 451. There will be daily spot prizes for members doing business online or at the counter. For further information go to [www.braycu.ie](http://www.braycu.ie).

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# 'A tsunami of surrenders'

*Plight of Wicklow dog rescues highlighted in The Dail*

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore highlighted the pressures on dog rescues in County Wicklow in the Dail last week and called upon the Government to act swiftly in delivering promised dog welfare legislation.

Deputy Whitmore was speaking on a dog welfare motion where she took the opportunity to highlight the alarming increase in the number of dogs being surrendered in the county and emphasised the urgent need for comprehensive legislative measures to protect these vulnerable animals and prevent the overbreeding of puppies through unregulated breeders.

Deputy Whitmore said "The escalating number of dog surrenders in Wicklow has reached a crisis point, placing an overwhelming burden on local dog rescues. These organisations, which work tirelessly to provide shelter, care, and rehoming services, are stretched to their limits as they struggle to cope with the surge in surrendered dogs. Many factors contribute to this alarming trend, including changing family circumstances, financial strains, and behavioural challenges. The recent lifting of the eviction ban has also seen an increase in dogs being surrendered as many rentals do not accept pets, meaning many much-

loved animals are being surrendered.

"This has resulted in rescues in the county being full to capacity, with one rescue saying that they received 28 calls yesterday alone from owners wishing to surrender their dogs."

Deputy Whitmore underscored the urgency of the situation and called on the government to fulfil its commitment to introducing comprehensive dog welfare legislation to deal with the issue of puppy farming and overbreeding in particular.

"The large number of dogs being surrendered in Wicklow is deeply concerning, and those working in the rescues are at breaking point. They care deeply for these animals but are unable to cope with the tsunami of surrenders. It is imperative that the government delivers on its promise to bring forward dog welfare legislation through the Dail, providing a robust framework to safeguard the rights and well-being of these animals."



Deputy Whitmore with Daisy the dog

Deputy Whitmore believes that comprehensive legislation is crucial for regulating dog breeding practices, setting welfare standards, and promoting responsible ownership. By enacting such legislation, the government can help prevent the abandonment and mistreatment of dogs, ensuring they are treated with the care, compassion, and respect they deserve.

Deputy Whitmore also asked that those wishing to take in a family pet look in first instance to local rescues as there are so many lovely animals waiting for their forever home. Having just rehomed a dog herself from Wicklow Animal Welfare in Rathdrum, she believes that often-times rescues are overlooked as families don't believe that they could get a suitable dog through a rescue. However, Deputy Whitmore said "Wicklow has many fantastic

rescues with dogs of every breed, shape and size ready for a new home. I have just rehomed my third dog from a rescue and I can safely say that the love you get from a dog that was rescued cannot be matched. They innately know that they are lucky to find their new family and repay that a thousand-fold. So, if you are looking, please consider checking out some local rescue pages. I think you'll be surprised how quickly you see the dog that is perfect for your family."



Minister for Justice Simon Harris and Garda Commissioner Drew Harris meeting with Gardai at Bray Garda Station.

## Harris welcomes Garda Commissioner to Wicklow

On Friday, Wicklow Fine Gael Minister for Justice Simon Harris visited Bray Garda Station with Garda Commissioner Drew Harris.

Both the Minister and the Commissioner discussed Wicklow policing matters and took a tour of Bray Garda Station.

Minister Harris said, "I am always very impressed by the commitment and professionalism of the Gardai, and the job they do for us all. It is great to have the opportunity to sit down and directly discuss policing County Wicklow with the Commissioner and the Garda of Bray Garda Station, who are out on the streets every day working towards creating stronger, safer communities."

"As Minister for Justice, I am keen to support An Garda Síochána and the important work they do, and being able to do so for our local Gardai is an honour," Minister Harris concluded.

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# Council promotes active travel for staff with installation of ebikes

Wicklow County Council has installed two ebikes in County Buildings for use by staff. The bikes were launched on Monday 15th May to mark National Bike Week. The bikes can be used by staff to make local work trips in and around the town of Wicklow and Rathnew. The aim is to promote active travel amongst staff and reduce the number of car journeys made by staff.



Wicklow County Council Environmental Awareness Officer Jim Callery and CEO of Wicklow County Council Emer O'Gorman

Almost 74 per cent of all journeys in Ireland are made by car and while car usage may be necessary for many journeys there is a great opportunity to shift to more active travel options for shorter ones.

Seventy per cent of journeys are less than 15 minutes in length, with an estimated 20 per cent of the total being no longer than 2kms. The statistics demonstrate that there is huge scope to reduce car dependence and the associated greenhouse gas emissions by switching to active travel options such as walking and cycling.

Ebikes are a technology that can help to extend the distance commuted, shorten the times-



Environmental Awareness Officer Jim Callery, Denise O'Shea, Clara Jenkinson, Ashley Wynne of the Wicklow Sports Partnership and CEO of Wicklow County Council Emer O'Gorman at the launch of the Council's ebikes.

pan of journeys, help less experienced cyclists get back into cycling and assist with the sometimes steeper terrain experienced in Wicklow. An ebike is also easier to park in town centres.

Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, com-

mented: "The bikes are a fast and efficient way to undertake shorter journeys and will be very useful for connecting staff from County Buildings to the many local services we operate within the town of Wicklow including the library, the recycling cen-

tre, the Municipal District offices, the depot, our water laboratory services and the Local Enterprise Office in Clermont Campus, Rathnew."

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, commented: "New technologies like

ebikes are easier to use around town and can play a significant role in improving access to our town centres and services around town. It great to see Wicklow County Council celebrating National Bike Week with this promotion of active travel for its staff."

## 'Better CCTV needed at Greystones train station'

Green TD Steven Matthews is concerned about bike theft and is working with Gardai and Irish Rail to improve CCTV coverage around Greystones DART station.

"I have been approached by local residents concerned that the CCTV coverage around bike parking places at the railway is insufficient," said Deputy Matthews.

"I have surveyed the area and been in contact with Irish Rail management who have in turn been in contact with the Gardai and I am expecting an improvement and expansion of the security system. I want safe secure and sheltered facilities for cyclists who commute from our rail stations," said Matthews. "It's not much to ask that a valuable bike can be sheltered and locked safely and that the

racks have good CCTV to deter theft. We have seen a huge return to public transport use following Covid, due to improved services and a massive reduction in rail fares and I want to encourage users to walk and cycle to transport hubs like Greystones Railway Station. So many people are availing of e-bike grants and the bike to work scheme allowance as well as a huge interest in e-scooters and I am committed to providing the safe routes, cycle paths and shelters for users. This is climate action, but we can't expect people to ditch the car or even use it a little less if we don't provide

attractive alternatives.

"There is funding available through the NTA and the county council to install bike shelters and racks across our towns, at our clubhouses and our transport hubs and I would be happy to assist anyone seeking good secure and safe parking for their bikes. My advice is to invest in two good bike locks and try to park and lock it at a secure well-lit location. The bike racks at Greystones DART station are perfect and with the improved CCTV it will be an ideal location close to bus, rail and main street shops," concluded Deputy Matthews.



Deputy Matthews at Greystones train station

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

## Cyclists want safer access to N11

Bray Wheelers have reached out to councillors from the Bray and Greystones Municipal Districts regarding the need for safer cycle access to the N11 from Willow Grove.

Bray Wheelers believe this approach road is an accident waiting to happen and have suggested a cycleway with a separate contraflow on the one-way portion of the local access from Junction 10.

Cllr Derek Mitchell however believes this suggestion to be 'dangerous'.

"Vehicles already do not have an adequate turning circle and sometimes move from the slip road lane into the main carriageway because of this," he said. "This proposal would make this worse. Also they do not have visibility of the downhill road as they would have to crane their necks 180



Cllr Derek Mitchell

degrees. Thus they could not see cyclists coming down, possibly at speed.

"The problem stems from closing the median break in the N11 20 years ago. A local crossing bridge should have been built to connect Willow

Grove to Delgany as before. Instead the present convoluted arrangements were put in place. The N11 upgrade proposals had that bridge in place for locals, bus, cycles and pedestrians. This would have enabled the downhill road to be changed to allow a cycle lane, and be much safer for all.

"Unfortunately the Minister for Transport, Eamonn Ryan has cancelled the N11 project including this bridge. Access will thus have to be maintained from Delgany, etc. to Willow Grove on the present route.

"I lobbied extensively for the N11 improvement



The N11

scheme and the studies started six years ago and E5m has been spent on studies. The section from Kilmacanogue to Fassaroe has also been cancelled by minister Eamonn Ryan. This would have had two local access lanes on each side of the N11 through traffic and would have been much safer for all,

especially cyclists. "Instead the present system of traffic merging and turning in all directions will remain and get much worse with the population growth. The solution to this is to get the Minister for Transport to reinstate the scheme which has already had €5m spent on it."



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Claire Flannery pictured at the Scoil San Eoin Family Dun Day in Redcross.

# Fundraiser to help family complete home following father's hospitalisation

The family and friends of Wicklow man Aidan Losack have begun a fundraising campaign as Aidan recovers from a severe illness which nearly took his life.

The father of two was working on a house that he's been building for him and his family, when a dog bite on March 8th resulted in septic shock. Aidan had to be rushed to ICU, almost losing his life.

During this life threatening emergency, two weeks later Aidan had a bleed to the brain. He was rushed to Beaumont hospital for emergency life saving surgery. After this, he spent two weeks in an induced coma. Since coming out of the coma, his progress has been slow. Aidan has not been able to regain full consciousness or physical movement. The medical professionals cannot be certain what his recovery pathway will look like, physically or cognitively. Aidan will be in hospital or rehabilitation for at least 6 months or up to a year, the doctors cannot give certainty around this which is causing distress for his immediate family. Jeannie is travelling to the hospital seeing Aidan for over the past 2 months.

Aidan and Jeannie are childhood sweethearts who have two young children and a third child on the way. Over the last two years Aidan has built their house to the stage of roof and windows being fitted, laying the blocks solely by himself. The week before Aidan got critically ill, they were at the final stages of mort-

gage approval. Their family's life-long dream to build their own home was about to be fulfilled. Since this life threatening incident, Aidan cannot finish the house build and Jeannie cannot get mortgage approval on her own.

To GoFundMe page states: "This go fund-me has been started to give Jeannie and her family the security needed for their future family home and so they have a place to support Aidan's recovery from Brain Injury. Any tradesmen who are willing to volunteer some time for the house build please send an email and we will develop a timeline of works to be completed around volunteers available. Just click on 'message fundraiser' and this will be sent to the email address we have set up. All the funds raised will be used towards materials for the house build and volunteers will be relied on to do the labour. A sincere thank you so much to everyone for coming together in our community to support Aidan and Jeannie during this tragic time."

So far over €57,000 has been raised.

The GoFundMe page can be found at [gofundme.com/fj318q65ip4o](https://gofundme.com/fj318q65ip4o)



Aidan and Jeannie and their two children

## Carers and family members of brain injury survivors invited to National Carer's Day

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland's On With Life Programme has announced a national event for carers and family members of brain injury survivors on National Carer's Day.

This event will take place on June 24th at the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise and is designed to give carers and family members time to reflect, learn and gather together.

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (ABII) helps survivors to rebuild their lives after brain injury. It also provides support to carers and family members of brain injury survivors through its On With Life Programme.

On With Life is hosting the National Carer's Day event to give

carers and family members a chance to meet others in similar situations, share experiences and to learn how to manage their role as a carer or family member.

The day will be structured to suit all carers and family members over 18 who are supporting a loved one with an acquired brain injury.

The morning will include three guest speakers: Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Eddie Murphy, Head-first UK's Dr. Mark Holloway and Principal Social Worker at the National Rehabilitation Hospital,

Anne O'Loughlin.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. After lunch, there will be fun activities, workshops, and holistic therapies to help restore and rejuvenate. The workshops will include Health and Nutrition, Music For Life and Chair Yoga.

If interested in attending, people can register or find out more on ABII's website [www.abiireland.ie](http://www.abiireland.ie), email On With Life Programme Co-Ordinator Dolores Gallagher at [dgallagher@abiireland.ie](mailto:dgallagher@abiireland.ie), or call (086) 010 2361.

If to attend a carer needs assistance with respite, for any other supports (e.g. assistance with travel costs), contact Dolores Gallagher.

## Dare to be brave for sick children

Ultimate Hell Week's Ray Goggins and Pete the Builder are calling on the people of Wicklow to be brave this year, by taking part in Children's Health Foundation's 'Dare to be Brave' adventure series, which will raise vital funds to support sick children and their families in Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin, Temple Street, Tallaght and Connolly.

The exciting series of adrenaline-inducing events includes a 13,000 foot skydive, abseiling from Croke Park's iconic Hogan Stand, a 24-hour wilderness survival challenge and Hell & Back. The events will take place between June and September 2023, and will provide participants with exciting, once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

• June 29th & 30th - Skydive Challenge in Edenderry, Co. Offaly  
• July 14th - 24 Hour Wilderness Survival Challenge - Glendalough  
• August 25th & September 16th - Hogan Stand Abseil Challenge - Croke Park  
• September 30th - Hell & Back - Kilruddery Hou

Not only are Ray and Pete daring the people of

Wicklow to be brave; they are also daring each other! Reminiscing on Ultimate Hell Week when Ray put Pete through his paces, Ray has dared Pete to be brave and take on a challenge to support sick children.

Ray Goggins said "This series will raise money that will help so many sick children and families from right across Ireland. As a proud Ambassador for the series, I would like to call on everyone to be brave this summer, get out of your comfort zones, and take on one or more of the challenges! Not only that, but I'm daring Pete Finn to take on a challenge and raise vital funds for sick children!"

For more information, visit [www.childrenshealth.ie/daretobebrave](http://www.childrenshealth.ie/daretobebrave) or email [daretobebrave@childrenshealth.ie](mailto:daretobebrave@childrenshealth.ie)

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# Supreme Court comes to Greystones - remotely

**R**osemary Scallan, Solicitor, Greystones, was recently appointed a Notary Public by the Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr Justice Donal O'Donnell, upon the Application of Greystones Barrister and colleague Bernard Rogan B.L. on the 8th December, 2021. The Application was formally made remotely from the Offices of the Barrister on Church Road, Greystones deemed for the purposes of the Application as an extension of the Supreme Court formally sitting in the Four Courts, Dublin.

Rosemary in joining the faculty of Notary Publics, holds this role in addition to her being a practicing solicitor in Greystones, County Wicklow, her individual practice being predominantly in family law, ranging from the District Court, Circuit Court and including the High Court.

In her own words "I am greatly honoured" to be a member of the faculty of Notary Publics. This follows having attended at the Law Society, pursuing a period of study and training under esteemed members of the Faculty of Notary Publics.

Rosemary, when in practice exercising her authority as a Notary Public, has the capacity to certify documents used internationally, witnessing signatures, and the preparation of Notarial certificates.

Rosemary in referring to this new addition to

the services from her firm, Rosemary Scallan & Company, Solicitors in Greystones, "I am very happy to be able to provide this service which includes witnessing signatures, certifying documents, preparing Notarial Certificates and corresponding with the Department of Foreign Affairs. In the last year, since my appointment, I have met with many local families, individuals, couples and post graduate students. An example of this service would be, certification of passports, witnessing signatures on a Power of Attorney and sealing the document to assist in the sale or purchase of property abroad. For me personally it is particularly rewarding to think that I can help people in this way.


Of particular note as to the significance of this service is illustrated when documents require a notarial certificate and submission to the Department of Foreign Affairs for an 'Apostille under The Hague Convention'.

Rosemary Scallan & Company, solicitors are situated above Sonny's Restaurant on Church Road, Greystones, County Wicklow.

While providing this new service to Greystones, Rosemary runs a general practice with her business partner Ed Allen, Solicitor, which includes conveyancing, re-mortgaging, Wills, general litigation and family law. A special Part of the practice service is to provide house calls on request. Rosemary can be contacted through email at [rosemary@rosemaryscallan.ie](mailto:rosemary@rosemaryscallan.ie) or on (01) 2872905



*Pictured at the Graduation event at the Law Society on the 20th January, 2023 are (left to right) Danica Murphy, Greystones, solicitor and Notary Public Rosemary Scallan, Greystones and Elizabeth-Anne Woollam, also from Greystones.*



**Rosemary Scallan  
& Company Solicitors**



*Pictured at the Graduation event at the Law Society on the 20th January, 2023 are Rosemary Scallan with daughter Laura Murphy (at left).*



*Pictured is solicitor Rosemary Scallan, newly appointed Greystones Notary Public.*



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Ed Allen  
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Rosemary Scallan  
Partner

**[www.rosemaryscallan.ie](http://www.rosemaryscallan.ie)**



# Deep concern over findings of report on young people's mental health services

**TDs Jennifer Whitmore and John Brady have expressed concern over the findings of the Ombudsman for Children's report on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).**



John Brady TD

The findings are based on a major survey of 2,166 young people aged 12-17. The survey conducted by Red C Research asked them if they experienced mental health challenges, what the reasons were, and what supports they availed of, and what they believed is needed to address the mental health needs of young people.

The report found that 78% of children rate their mental health as not good or sometimes low/stressed/anxious. That the top five causes of mental health difficulties for children were pressure in school (74%), body image (65%), friendships or relationships (61%), social media pressure (48%) and bullying (47%).

A staggering six in ten children who attended Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in the past year had difficulty accessing the service. A total of 42% who accessed CAMHS said the service they received didn't help with their

mental health issues.

Reacting to the report, Deputy Brady, Sinn Féin spokesperson for Equality, Youth, and Integration said, "I want to first off commend the young people who took part in this important survey and the Ombudsman for Children's Office which commissioned and published the survey. I believe that this report provides an important insight into how the Government is failing to provide for the needs of young people.

"However, I am deeply concerned at the failings outlined in the report.

"These figures are wholly unacceptable. They represent an indictment of a government which has neglected the needs of children and young people. The report by the Ombudsman for Children reveals huge shortcomings in services for young people. 12,000 are waiting for access to psychology services. We have a Minister for Health here in Wicklow who has serious questions to answer in respect of the failure of the government to address these failures.

"Minister Stephen Donnelly needs to do

more. He needs to prioritise the mental health needs of teenagers. I am calling on all of the government TDs here in Wicklow to give a commitment to tackle these failures."

The Government must act immediately to address the range of issues identified in the Ombudsman for Children's 2022 report, according to Deputy Whitmore, the Social Democrats' spokesperson on children.

"The report, based on over 1,800 complaints received last year, confirms that children across the country continue to be failed by the State on multiple levels," she said.

"It is clear from the report's findings that Ireland is starting to fall behind when it comes to children's rights, with concerns across a range of areas, including education, poverty and mental health.

"Serious shortcomings in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are again highlighted. This comes just weeks after a survey published by the Children's Ombudsman revealed that six in ten children experienced difficulties



Jennifer Whitmore TD

accessing CAMHS, with almost 12,000 now waiting for primary care psychology services.

"The Children's Ombudsman, Dr Niall Muldoon, should be commended for his excellent work and dedication to child welfare issues. However, he deserves action, not platitudes, from the Government.

"The Taoiseach previously said he wants Ireland to be the best country in Europe in which to be a child. He also vowed to set up a child poverty unit within his department.

"We are growing tired of these headline grabbing statements. The Government needs to act on Dr Muldoon's findings and ensure that this report does not end up on a shelf like previous ones."

## Purple House welcomes new Model of Care programme

**Purple House Cancer Support has welcomed the new HSE and National Cancer Control Programme Model of Care for Psycho-oncology for Children & Adolescents living with Cancer.**

The primary aim of the Model of Care is to provide a plan for the provision of psychosocial and psychological support services for children, adolescents and young adults (CAYA) with cancer over the lifetime of the current National Cancer Strategy (2017-2026).

Purple House Cancer Support welcome the announcement as it will give a framework to further develop the range of psychosocial and psychological support services for children, adolescents and young adults provided by the charity.

Conor O'Leary, Director of Operations at Purple House says "Each year in Ireland, around 200 children up to the age of 16, a further 69 adolescents between the ages

of 16 and 19, and 111 young adults between the ages of 20 and 24 are diagnosed with cancer. Over the past 33 years of Purple House, we have seen and heard from hundreds of families the need for increased psychological support services.

"This was the main reason why Purple House was founded in 1990. At Purple House we have a dedicated CAYA Team of childcare practitioners, a psychologist, and a team of child & adolescent counsellors who work with over 1,700 families per year. We welcome the launch of a new model of care for this cohort of children and adolescents and we look forward to working with the HSE and NCCP to further expand our services in this area."



Eve McDonnell and Meda Eljosiute from Scoil Nioclais Naofa, Dunlavin, pictured at the Wicklow County Council Inter Library/Schools Table Quiz held in the Woodenbridge Hotel. See page 15.

## Positive children's mental health discussion takes place at The Whale

**A panel discussion on children's mental health was held in the Whale Theatre, Greystones on Friday 12th May to discuss child mental health and the need for more resources at a community level. The event, organised by Principal of St. Patrick's National School, Rachel Harper, and which involved all the principals of the local schools, was part of a campaign for a play therapist for schools in the area.**

Speaking after the event, Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore, who participated in the panel discussion, said: "The event on Friday night in the Whale Theatre was a great example of the Greystones and Delgany community coming together to talk about solutions at a local level in the face of rising levels of anxiety among our primary school aged children.

"On the night, I got to join Niall Breslin (Bressie) on a panel where we discussed the fact that children's mental health is at a crisis point as children are facing pressures like never before due to several factors such as social media, remaining stress from the pandemic and peer pressure.

"There are huge gaps in the supports services available for children struggling

with their mental health. It was great to see community coming together through the local schools to try and fill the gaps, with practical supports and tools that could be applied. It was an immensely positive night to see all the schools working so closely together to make things better for the students, their school communities, and the wider Greystones community.

"One of the key take aways from this event was sense from other parents that this is an issue for them too but we are not talking about it, or addressing it adequately. These challenges are not just felt by the children themselves, but their siblings, friends, wider families and school community. Government Ministers on the night were very supportive of the idea for a therapist for Greystones but we shouldn't limit ourselves to this community. We need access to therapist for families across all of Wicklow and I hope to see more of a focus on this issue nationally and county wide into the future."

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# Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue Team celebrate 40th Anniversary

On Friday, Wicklow Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris attended the 40th anniversary celebrations for the Red Cross Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue Team along with Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to honour to the incredible work the Mountain Rescue Team has done.

Speaking of the event, Minister Harris said "I am delighted to be able to attend such an important celebration along with Commissioner Harris, to mark the dedication of the Glen of Imaal's volunteers. Despite the team consisting entirely of volunteers, the Glen of Imaal team operate a

twenty-four-seven, three-hundred and sixty-five days a year service. The professionalism displayed by the Glen of Imaal team can be clearly seen from the amount of lives saved since its foundation.

"While operating in tandem with An Garda Síochána, the Glen of Imaal team work in some of the

most arduous conditions, striving to protect and safeguard the vast number of people who visit the Wicklow Mountains on a regular basis.

"Developments in technology have assisted the Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue team, but I was genuinely surprised to hear that they are responsible for 110 rescues every year, that means there are lives saved every year by the work the volunteers do. The Wicklow Mountains contain some of our county's most iconic landmarks and spectacular natural reserves, however it is vital that we take the safety concerns seriously," Minister Harris concluded.



Minister Simon Harris and Garda Commissioner Drew Harris with members of the Red Cross Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue Team.

## Devastating fire at Kindlestown House in Delgany



Kindlestown House, Delgany

A large fire broke out in the early hours of Saturday morning, May 13th, at Kindlestown House in Delgany. Cllr Stephen Stokes has condemned what he believes to be an arson attack. Cllr Stokes visited the area around 9am, when he arrived at the Dr. Ryan Centre for his monthly clinic.

Cllr Stokes stated: "This fire is devastating to the property. The roof seems to be utterly destroyed. One local resident advised me that they thought that it was started at around 5am. They had also reported fires on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. It took them ages to get through. The Government urgently needs to invest in our emergency services."

Cllr Stokes paid tribute to the County Wicklow Fire Service. He added: "They are amazing professionals. I counted four fire trucks attending the Kindlestown House fire. Some of our firefighters were visible from the top floors. They literally put their lives on the line for us. I thank them for their service."

Cllr Stokes further stated that every time a fire is deliberately set, it takes resources away from dealing with other emergencies. Cllr Stokes is appealing to people to refrain from setting fires. He concluded: "People who get a kick out starting fires should take a close look in the mirror. There are plenty of positive activities that they should switch their attention to across Greystones, Charlesland, Delgany, Kilcoole, Killadreenan and Newcastle."



Eanna, Emily, and Ruari Flannery enjoying themselves at the Scoil San Eoin Family Fun Day in Redcross.




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# Second phase of desirable Newcastle development brought to market

The second phase of Chancel Way, a 44-home development of hi-spec, energy efficient new builds in the highly desirable village of Newcastle has been brought to the market by Dwellings and will be sold by agents Derek Byrne Property Consultants.

Located only 3km from Junction 13 of the N11 and 10 minutes from Greystones the houses all have the highly prized A2 Building Energy Rating (BER) rating, which reduces ongoing

energy costs for homeowners.

Interest in these energy-efficient three and four-bedroom homes has been extremely high with phase 1 nearing completion and selling out off

plan. With prices commencing from €495,000 the development is one of the closest eligible developments to Dublin on the East Coast which still qualifies for the Help to Buy scheme.

Selling Agent Derek Byrne said he is experiencing lots of enquiries from would-be buyers and expects this to continue with the imminent launch of the second phase. "It is a fantastic location in the picturesque village centre and is ideal for both young families and busy professionals, whether trading up or down. Dwellings have delivered a fantastic product, the standard of finish of the units both internally and externally is exceptional in comparison to other developments in the area" he added.

Newcastle offers a quieter alternative to Greystones while still offering access to all the amenities close by. Phase 1 units feature a south west facing rear aspect with large gardens.

The units feature high quality sash windows and slate roofs which complement the existing aesthetic of the village. Built with high-quality insulated timber frames and high-performance grey uPVC double-glazed windows and doors, all the homes feature high ceilings on the ground and first floors, coving to hall and living/dining room, solid timber white finish staircase with varnished teak handrail, chamfered style skirting and architraves while high quality flooring is provided as standard on the ground floor.

Designed with the



Chancel Way, Newcastle

needs of modern living in mind, the properties all have broadband ducting, TV points in the kitchen, USB charging points in the main living area and bedroom and telephone and data connections in hall areas.

Modern, fitted kitchens with stone counter tops and tiled splashbacks are standard throughout the development with a generous separate utility area. Fitted wardrobes have been installed in all the bedrooms which complement the theme of the kitchen units in colour and door furniture.

All bathrooms and ensuite rooms come fully tiled and have been fitted with high-quality sanitaryware, heated towel rails and vanity units.

The bathrooms are fitted with electrical shower and shower screen, while the ensuites have

pump showers and shower doors installed.

All the properties to be approved under the Government's Help to Buy scheme, where first-time buyers are entitled to a tax-refund of up to €30,000.

Prospective buyers can arrange viewings of the show house with the Derek Byrne Property team or register their interest by contacting Derek Byrne Property Consultants on 01 9081470 or emailing info@dbproperty.ie



## Positive momentum continues for Housing For All

*Q1 2023 completions highest since records began*

**Housing for All contains a projected housing output of 29,000 new homes in 2023 and 33,450 in 2024. The latest new home completion figures for Q1 2023, published by the CSO show progress in reaching those targets.**

CSO figures show 6,716 new homes were completed in the first three months of this year, representing a 19.1% increase on the same quarter in 2022. "This is really strong progress from Housing For All and I'm delighted that the positive momentum that's now behind Housing for All is continuing," said Wicklow Senator Pat Casey.

There were 3,092 scheme dwelling completions in Q1 2023, up 10.1% from Q1 2022, with 1,197 single dwellings completed, up 7.7% from Q1 2022. Completions increased by 41.0% for apartments from 1,721 in Q1 2022 to 2,427 in Q1 2023.

Senator Casey said, "Housing targets were exceeded in 2022 and with the current progress for this year it looks likely targets will be hit again. It's imperative Housing For All delivers for people across the country and Minister O'Brien's plan is now bearing fruit. This is evident in the strong completion figures released by the CSO which show a nearly 20 per cent increase for quarter one of 2023 with over 6,500 homes completed.

The latest commencement notice data show that 7,349 homes commenced on-site in the first three months of 2023. This is the highest Q1 commencement level of activity since records began in 2014.

There is also a strong pipeline of social and affordable housing, with over 19,000 social homes at various stages of construction and over 2,700 more affordable homes already approved for funding.

"These figures also pre-date the Government's announcement to waive development levies and rebate Irish Water connection charges for the next 12 months. Both of these measures will encourage the commencement of thousands of new homes, from large-scale developments to rural one-off houses.

"This latest positive data precedes the recent moves by the Government to stimulate further housing supply by reducing the cost of construction and increasing the supply of derelict and vacant properties back into the market. Fianna Fáil is committed to solving the housing crisis and I'm looking forward to seeing the impacts of these positive measures in the months to come," concluded Senator Casey.



# Date announced for the return of the SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race 2024

The start date for the biennial SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race has been announced and will start from Wicklow Sailing Club at 2pm on Saturday 22nd June 2024.

The SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race 2024 will leave Ireland and its islands to starboard, while starting and finishing at the scenic port of Wicklow on the east coast of Ireland after racing for at least 705 nautical miles.

The 2024 edition of the race marks the 22nd running of Ireland's premier offshore sailing event and the continued title sponsorship of the race by SSE Renewables, the leading renewable energy developer, owner and operator in Ireland.

The race will offer both competition and personal achievements for boat owners and crews alike and has been described as the 'Kilimanjaro of Sailing' for its bucket-list appeal.

The SSE Renewables Round Ireland Race is the pinnacle of the ISORA (Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association) series and is the second longest race in the Royal Ocean Racing Club calendar while

also alternating with the Rolex Fastnet Race.

The race is also a calendar event of France's National Offshore Racing Union (UNCL) and Classe 40 series.

The 2022 edition saw 52 entries despite being the first event to take place in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. Large crowds were drawn to Wicklow Town for the race and festival with a significant economic benefit for the local community.

"With the support of SSE Renewables once more, our ambition has increased, and we hope to reach upwards of 70 entries for the 2024 race," commented Karen Kissane, Commodore of Wicklow Sailing Club.

"With Kyran O'Grady, who has competed on several occasions himself, taking on the role of Race Director, we are in safe hands.

"SSE Renewables is delighted to

continue to support Wicklow Sailing Club in the delivery of yet another eagerly anticipated Round Ireland sailing event," said Barry Killine, Head of Offshore (Ireland) for SSE Renewables.

"We're looking forward to building on the success of our involvement in last year's sporting spectacle and local festival event by extending the excitement associated with the Round Ireland not just throughout Wicklow but amongst sailing communities all around the island. In this way, our sponsorship of the Round Ireland is an ideal fit as we continue to advance our pipeline of offshore wind projects off Ireland's east, south and west coasts."

The Notice of Race for the SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race 2024 will be published on 31st July 2023 and the competition will officially open for entries 8th January 2024.



Announcing the date of the 2024 SSE Round Ireland Yacht Race were Kyran O'Grady (Race Director, SSE Round Ireland Race), Karen Kissane (Commodore of Wicklow Sailing Club), and Barry Killine, Head of Offshore (Ireland) for SSE Renewables. Pic: David Branigan

## 'A momentous occasion for offshore wind'

Speaking last Wednesday at the Wind Energy Ireland Offshore Conference, Maria Ryan, Director of Offshore Development of SSE Renewables, commented: "The result of last week's ORESS auction was a momentous occasion in the storybook of offshore wind in Ireland, and many years in the making. It provides certainty not only for the successful projects but also the supply chain, investors and the industry."

She continued, "While we are disappointed with the auction result, Arklow Bank Wind Park II is a hugely important project in our offshore pipeline, and we remain committed to its delivery. We are now taking time to assess the outcome of this result and the options available to us to secure a route to market and we believe that Arklow Bank, as one of the most progressed offshore developments on the island, has a critical role to play in contributing to Ireland's climate action targets, to Ireland's homegrown energy security, and to the national and regional economy and in particular, to the economic wellbeing of County Wicklow and North Wexford. It is also well placed to deliver on our more immediate goals and supporting the state to secure 5GW of connected offshore by 2030.

"So, we will continue to progress the Arklow Bank project and work towards the preparation of a planning application which we will submit later this year. With this in mind, setting the planning system up for success will be essential. Ensuring sufficient

resources are in place across planning and consenting to support projects to go through the process, in a fair and thorough manner, but at pace.

"But we also need to look beyond this first, albeit, crucial stage of offshore development, to what comes next. We have been calling for stepping-stone targets to set a path out to our 2050 target of 37GW for some time. So, while it is hugely positive to see a 20GW target for 2040 included in the recent Policy Statement, we need more granularity on the how, and what comes next.

"Now we need to set out the pathway to meeting our 2040 and 2050 targets. We need clarity on Phase 2, and the enduring regime, and how these next phases will be implemented. Key to this will be maximising confidence and competition and future-proofing our policies to enable innovation.

"We have the opportunity now to push ahead and set Ireland up for success so we can deliver on our long-term climate ambition. Let's not waste a moment."



Issac Lett, Clodagh Duffy (Birdwatch Ireland Wicklow Branch), Gretta Doyle (Avondale Forest Park), and Joe Lennon (Birdwatch Ireland Wicklow Branch), are pictured at the National Dawn Chorus in Avondale Forest Park.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024-2029

Wicklow County Council is preparing the first draft of a Local Authority Climate Action Plan for Wicklow. The plan will set out how Wicklow County Council can lead on Climate Action in how it delivers services for the people of Wicklow and how it works with communities, enterprise and other sectors to implement action. A baseline emissions inventory and a climate risk assessment have been undertaken with a view to shaping action to where it is most needed in order to reduce emissions and respond to the impact of our changing climate. A summary of the two reports is available on [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie). Printed copies are on display at the following locations from 17th May 2023 to 12th June 2023.

Wicklow Town	County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town	0404 20100
Arklow	Arklow Municipal District Office, Castle Park, Arklow Town	0402 42700
Blessington	Blessington Civic Offices, Blessington Business Park, Blessington	045 891 222
Bray	Bray Municipal District Office, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray	01 274 4900
Greystones	Greystones Municipal District Office, Mill Road, Greystones	01 287 6694

#### Have your say

You can contribute by completing our survey on Climate Action which is available via Wicklow County Council's consultation hub <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub>

You can also submit any written observations to the Climate Action team by post to the below address. Please clearly mark submissions as 'Climate Action Plan Public Consultation' Climate Action, Environment Department, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town.

1. Submissions may be made in any one of the following ways:  
Via the Consultation Portal <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub>
2. Write to: 'Climate Action Plan Public Consultation' Climate Action, Environment Department, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 5:00pm 12th of June 2023

Wicklow County Council is committed to Access For All. Please contact Wicklow County Council on 0404-20100 should you have any specific access requirements.





# Wicklow teacher to run for Fine Gael in local elections

Graham Richmond, a Wicklow town-based teacher has just been announced by Fine Gael as the local area representative with future plans to put his name forward in next year's Local Elections. Graham (49), a local family man of Wicklow Town has worked as a history, resource and games teacher in East Glendalough Secondary School for over a decade. He is the brother of Junior Minister Neale Richmond.

"My family and I have been lucky to be able to call Wicklow our home for over a decade now. We've got so much from this wonderful area and, for me, it feels like it's time to give back. Politics for me is about serving the community and putting the needs of families front and centre when it comes to decision making," commented Richmond after the announcement.

"We are all delighted and are looking forward to working with Graham in the future, he is a fine addition to the Fine Gael team in Wicklow," commented Minister Simon Harris.

Graham, who has been heavily involved in the community in

Wicklow town through his school life and links with Wicklow Rugby Club is passionate about becoming a strong voice and delivering investment, especially sports facilities for communities across Wicklow Town.

"Living and working in this great town has given me a brilliant insight into the challenges and opportunities facing us in the coming years. Being heavily involved in a number of local sports groups and having three young daughters, I know the importance of our outdoor amenities such as playgrounds, parks and sports facilities for our town and how they can be improved. We have such potential

in Wicklow, so let's capitalise on it," said Graham.

Marie Culliton, Chair Fine Gael Wicklow Constituency, said "I am delighted that Graham Richmond has been selected as a local area representative in Wicklow, he has a wonderful record of community service in Wicklow both within the school community and local sport. Wicklow Fine Gael is looking forward to Graham working with our team of a TD, Councillors and members helping us to build on the successes of Fine Gael in Wicklow. Graham will listen to all the people, rural and urban, hearing their concerns and helping to create a better future together."



Graham Richmond, Local Area Representative for Wicklow Municipal District, with Marie Culliton, Chair of Fine Gael Wicklow

## Bray Coastcare's Seamus Connor 'honoured' to be selected again by Aontú

Seamus Connor has been selected by Aontú to represent the party in Co. Wicklow. Born and bred in Bray, Seamus is passionate about his town, its people and its environment. Seamus is a secondary school teacher and in his spare time he both volunteers and helps raise money for multiple causes, including Bray Coastcare of which he is the founder and chairperson.

The group of volunteers work to keep Bray clean and beautiful and have been involved in organising and completing monthly clean ups over the last 16 years mainly focusing on, but not confined to, the coastal areas of our wonderful town.

Seamus has also been involved in or fundraised for Bray Carers Association, Bray Charities Sea Swim, Holy Redeemer Youth Centre, AWARE mental health charity and Epilepsy Ireland.

Speaking on his selection, Mr Connor said, "I was motivated to get involved in politics back in 2019 and joined Aontú because I identify with the Party's core values and believe in a society that takes care of ordinary citizens, the vulnerable and the marginalised. I contested the 2020 General Election for the party and secured 1,351 votes. I am delighted and I feel honoured to have been nominated and selected to be the Aontú

Representative in County Wicklow once again. Aontú's positive outlook and vision and the sincerity and integrity of Peadar Tobin TD, Aontú's leader, convinced me to put my name forward once more to represent and campaign for Aontú in Wicklow."

Seamus continued; "Another key reason for continuing to be involved in politics is that I see so much potential to make a real and positive difference to individuals, families, and small-medium businesses in Bray and across our county and I have lots of ideas that can help to bring about positive change in Bray and beyond.

"The key issues I will be focusing on as Aontú Representative are the Cost-of-Living-Crisis, the crisis in healthcare

and mental health, the rise in crime and anti-social behaviour, the housing and rental disaster and the environment and tourism potential of Bray and Wicklow.

"Throughout Ireland, many people are now afraid to say what they feel, many are afraid to respectfully engage on a range of different topics. Many feel there is a new censorship and a new political correctness in Ireland, that opposition to the establishment is being deleted. Respectful opposition and constructive criticism is not the enemy. Respectful opposition is a critical element of a functional democracy. Aontú and I as your Aontú Representative in Wicklow, will have the backbone to stand up, without fear, for you."



Seamus Connor, Aontú representative for Co. Wicklow

## New training for Traveller women to run for election

The Women for Election and National Traveller Women's Forum 'More Traveller Women for Election' began in late April, supported by IHREC.

Women for Election said they are delighted to be working with the National Traveller Women's Forum (NTWF) to deliver a programme to support more Traveller women into politics.

"Ireland has a long way to go to tackle under representation of Traveller women in political office, with Senator Eileen Flynn being the first Traveller woman to be appointed to the Seanad," Women for Election said.

"Following consultation with Traveller women and based on work in collaboration with the NTWF, this six-week political leadership programme is co-designed with participants, and will offer a mix of in-person and online sessions. This programme has a second stream where politicians and their staff undergo cultural awareness training. We are training people to be bystanders and call out racism when they see it within our political institutions."

Broad topics being covered include: media skills, presentation skills, introduction to politics, introduction to campaigning, confidence building, and realising

your own power and political potential.

CEO Caitriona Gleeson has said "It is crucial to our democracy that not only do we elect more women but that we elect a diversity of women. This includes women of colour, LGBTQ women, women with disabilities and Traveller women. We need to ensure our democracy reflects the society we live in. We are excited to be bringing this programme forward with the NTWF to address this critical underrepresentation of the Traveller community."

Maria Joyce from the NTWF has also said "our research (Different Paths, Shared Experience) shows that the range of current interventions to increase the number of women in local politics will increase gender parity there, but they will not deliver the change required for minoritised women to access local politics such as the issue of Traveller political participation which remains the issue hiding in plain sight. A variety of responses are needed including bespoke training addressing the obstacles experienced by Traveller women."

## Count Her In Conference 2023: Mobilising for equality for women for election in 2024

In the lead in to the 2024 local elections, Women for Elections are holding a national conference in Cork City to champion solutions to make politics more accessible, inclusive, safe and equal for women across Ireland.

The Count Her In Conference will showcase new innovations being launched by Women for Election as well as creating the spaces for dialogue and new thinking.

"We will have a series of panel discussions, speeches from political leaders and the launch of our Women for Election DataHub. Supported and curated by AIRO (Maynooth University), Claire Mc Ging, Dr. Fiona Buckley and Dr. Lisa Keenan. Our MC for the day will be the wonderful Ciara Phelan from The Examiner.

"This data hub is a dive into comprehensive repository of statistical data, curated to provide you with unparalleled insights into the state of gender equality in

Irish Politics. With this powerful resource at your fingertips, you can make informed decisions, drive meaningful change, and contribute to a more equitable future for all.

This is the first time this data has been gathered and centralised in one place, that is accessible to everyone. It will show the story of gender equality in Ireland and the amount of work still to do.

"We have a list of amazing speakers: Ambassador Trevor Mallard, Ambassador Raili Lahnalampi, Ciara Phelan, Lord Mayor Deirdre Forde, Senator Eileen Flynn, Deputy Holly Cairns, Caitriona Gleeson CEO Women for Election, Dr Salome Mbugua AKIDWA, Minister of

State Kieran O'Donnell, Eric Ehigie Black and Irish, Maria Joyce National Travellers Womens Forum, Deputy Ivana Bacik, Claire Mc Ging IADT, Dr Fiona Buckley UCC, Dr Lisa Keenan Trinity, Justin Gleeson AIRO, Maynooth University, Prof Yvonne Galligan TU Dublin, Deputy Mary Lou Mc Donald, Deputy Brid Smith, Cllr Uruemu Adejinmi, Green Party, Fianna Fáil and other speakers to be confirmed.

The link to the conference is on <https://www.womenforelection.ie/conference-2023/>. Women for Election is a non-partisan non-governmental organisation which is working to achieve full representation of a diversity of women in Irish politics.

Women for Election inspires, equips and supports women to enter and succeed in Irish politics.



# EU Year of Skills launched by Minister Harris with Skillnet



Paul Healy, CEO Skillnet Ireland, Eimear Noone, Composer, Conductor and Producer, and Minister Simon Harris

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris last Tuesday announced the launch of the EU Year of Skills in Ireland, with Paul Healy, Chief Executive, Skillnet Ireland.

The EU Year of Skills, which will run from May 2023 to May 2024, is a pivotal commitment from President of the European Commission, Ursula Von Der Leyen, and signals the importance of skills and talent development throughout member states. The European Year of Skills 2023 will give a fresh impetus to lifelong learning and upskilling, empowering people and companies right across our economy to contribute to the green and digital transitions, supporting innovation and competitiveness across Ireland and the European Union.

Minister Harris said, "I am very pleased to mark Ireland's launch of the EU Year of Skills today with Skillnet Ireland, which is promising to be a very exciting time to acknowledge Irish talent and to shine a light on the importance of Ireland's highly skilled workforce to our economy and society. Skillnet Ireland has achieved a strong track record since it was established in 1999, and continues to spearhead the provision of skills, talent, and workforce development through partnership with industry, other government agencies and our education and training ecosystem. I look forward to celebrating lifelong learning and the provision of innovative upskilling supports to assist businesses and our workforce to contribute to the green and digital transitions."

Paul Healy, CEO Skillnet Ireland said, "Given the rise of new technologies and the growing importance of green-skilled jobs, now is a great time for the EU to choose Skills as the theme for its 'European Year'. It is designed to put fresh impetus on upskilling and lifelong learning and to encourage companies, in particular small and medium firms to invest in the training of their teams. Skillnet Ireland works with industry sectors and companies to ensure they have a pipeline of in-demand skills so that they can compete and thrive. We are pleased to be joined at today's launch by the new Cultural & Creative Industries Skillnet, together with our Minister Simon Harris, to mark the beginning of the Year of Skills."

The latest addition to Skillnet Ireland's business supports is the newly formed Cultural & Creative Industries Skillnet which was created to support the growth of Ireland's animation, visual effects, games, film, TV, documentary, post-production, immersive technologies, AR/VR, virtual production, digital media, entertainment events, music, theatre, and visual arts sectors, through the provision of bespoke training and professional networking events.

Gareth Lee, Network Manager, Cultural & Creative Industries Skillnet, said; "We are pleased to launch the new Cultural & Creative Industries Skillnet and look forward to contributing to the EU Year of Skills."

"The arts, culture, media, and creative sectors are critically important to Ireland both in terms of economic value and social and cultural value in representing Ireland's reputation globally. This year alone saw 14 Oscar nominations for Ireland's screen sector, a significant milestone. The cultural and creative sector faces challenges and opportunities related to skills and talent development, especially in areas like digital transformation, sustainability, and leadership. The new Skillnet network will help the sector to address these challenges and capitalise on future opportunities."

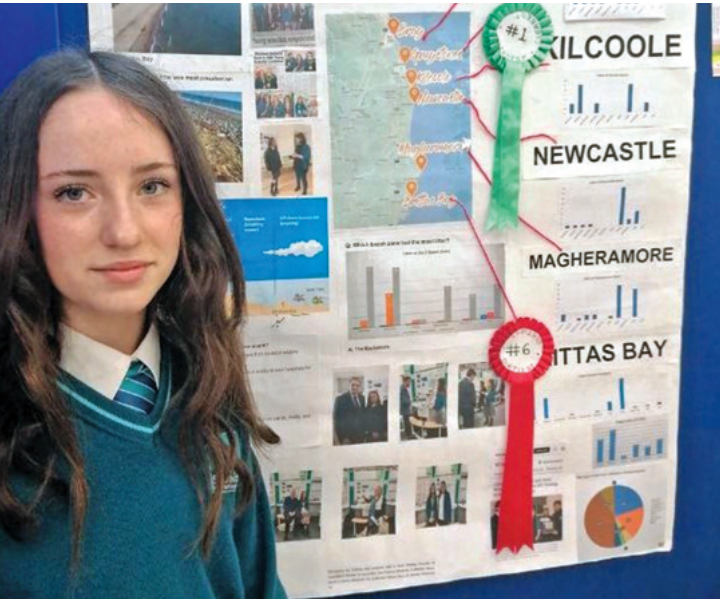
Over the course of the EU Year of Skills, Skillnet Ireland will provide upskilling and talent development supports to over 20,000 businesses of all sizes across the economy, providing a pipeline of highly skilled talent for future business needs. The European Commission and the OECD have identified the Skillnet Ireland model as a best practice public-private cooperation example for workforce development and a means of incentivising SME investment in skills.

## Greystones student scoops SciFest award

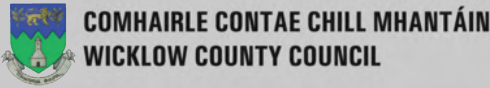
Alannah Lynch (14), a 2nd year student at St David's in Greystones, recently took part in Scifest and won 1st place in the Junior category for biology and also the Sustainability award.

Alannah's project title was 'A Comparative Analysis of Beach Litter in Wicklow, Its Environmental Effects, and Solutions for a More Sustainable Future'. The study determined kilcoole to be the cleanest and Brittas Bay to be the dirtiest beach. Litter consisted primarily of plastic, cardboard (e.g. coffee cups), aluminium, and glass. Dean Barry and Ella Andrews from St. David's also competed at this year's Scifest.

Scifest is Ireland's largest and most inclusive STEM fair programme for second-level students. It attracts 10,000 participants annually. At Scifest, second-level students showcase STEM projects at a series of one-day science fairs. The winners from each regional STEM fair will go on to compete at the National Final this November. The winners from the National Final will represent Ireland at the Regeneration International Science and EngineeringFair in Los Angeles, California in 2024.



Alannah Lynch is pictured alongside her winning Scifest project



### COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO 3 OF 2021- CONFIRMATION ORDER NO. 108 CHARNWOOD, BRAY, CO WICKLOW.

Wicklow County Council has on the 8th day of May 2023, made a confirmation order confirming the above named compulsory purchase order as respects the land described in the Schedule hereto. The said order, as so confirmed, authorises Wicklow County Council to acquire the said land compulsorily for the purposes of the Housing Act 1966. It will become operative three weeks from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the order as so confirmed and of the map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at:

Housing Section, County Buildings, Wicklow

An application for judicial review of the decision of Wicklow County Council, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (SI No 15 of 1986) may be made to the High Court within eight weeks of the date of publication of this notice in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

If such an application is made, the court:

- (a) May by interim order suspend the operation of the compulsory order as so confirmed either generally or in so far as it affects any property of the applicant until the final determination of the proceedings;
- (b) If satisfied upon hearing of the application that the compulsory purchase order as so confirmed is not within the powers of the Housing Act 1966 (as amended), or that the interests of the applicant have been substantially prejudiced by any requirement of the Act not having been complied with, may quash the order as so confirmed either generally or in so far only as it affects any property of the applicant.

#### SCHEDULE

##### LANDS BEING PERMANENTLY ACQUIRED

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

Number on map deposited at the offices of the housing authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land	Owner or reputed owners	Lessees or reputed lessees	Occupiers (except tenants for a month or a less period than a month)
21/06/50/100 Wicklow County Council- Compulsory Purchase Order No 3 of 2021	Dwelling house and land of 279 m <sup>2</sup>	Edel Bannon (otherwise Mrs Edel Bannon-Lyons) of Lackan, Rahara, Co. Roscommon	None – vacant house	None – Vacant House

Dated this 11th day of May 2023.  
Joe Lane, Director Services.





### *Bone Machine: Mermaid Arts Centre, Saturday 27th May, 8pm. €21*

*Bone Machine are a band of internationally renowned touring and recording musicians who perform a rebrand, melancholic, and punk jazz set of Tom Waits songs. From songs such as 'Martha' and 'I hope that I don't fall in love with you', to 'Downtown Train', Bone Machine bring the heart, sweat and soul to performances brimming with a ramshackle sophistication and honesty as well as the renowned Waitsian monologues full of the funny anecdotes*

## BIFE end of year SHOWCASE

The Performing Arts Department of BIFE are delighted to announce their end-of year show – SHOWCASE 2023.

Performed by the Acting and Dance students of Bray Institute, SHOWCASE 2023 is guaranteed to be an entertaining night of comedy, drama, music and dance.

SHOWCASE 2023 will present the talents and hard work of the performing arts students from the acting and dancing courses.

With actors performing popular scenes and monologues from acclaimed productions of the stage and screen – The Crucible, The Producers, The Cripple of Inishmaan, Saturday Night Live.

While the dancers will present energetic and original choreographed pieces – with Jazz, Contemporary and Commercial.

**TWO NIGHTS ONLY! FREE ENTRY!**

**WEDNESDAY 29th and THURSDAY 30th MARCH, 8pm**

**Booking: 01 282 9668**

*Places Limited so Booking is Essential*

# Cruinnú Na Nóg returns to Wicklow with bigger and better programme

Children and young people across County Wicklow are invited to get creative and take part in Cruinnú na nÓg 2023 on Saturday, 10th June.

Cruinnú na nÓg highlights and encourages participation by children and young people in the artistic and creative activities. This day of free creativity for children and young people features a broad range of offerings which will give the whole family the opportunity to try something new.

Following the recent 'Voice of the Child' research conducted by Wicklow County Council's Arts Office, this year's programme features a diverse and extensive line up of events, activities and workshops designed to inspire and delight.

With over 40 activities and workshops across nine locations, there is plenty to choose from.

Arklow Music and Arts will present an afternoon programme of activities in the Arklow Library to welcome and connect with local young people. Activities range from a percussion workshop with percussionist and composer Tony Byrne, to an artist workshop with Julie Fee and musical performances from Roisin Vigors, Fionn Vigors and Teddy Guilfoyle.

To mark 'Creative Places Baltinglass,' Wicklow County Council Arts Office has created a unique Cruinnú na nÓg programme for Baltinglass on Saturday, 10th June. This will feature workshops and activities by local artists including painting with Maura O'Halloran; candle making with Karen Allison; jewellery making with Rosella Doherty; archaeology with Mairéad Ní Cheallaigh and a cooking demo by local chef Maggie Roche. Activities will take place in the Tearmann Community Garden.

The Arts Office has partnered with The Whale Theatre and Greystones Library to provide activities ideal for young creatives. ArcLight Drama Studio will lead two unique interactive theatre experiences in The Whale Theatre while Susie Fortune from White Doodle Art will lead two drawing workshops exploring collage art inspired by Christ Judge's 'The Beast Baby' book which was recently installed as a Story Trail in Burnaby Park.

In Rathdrum, a diverse range of activities and workshops from around the world have been selected for Cruinnú na nÓg. The programme includes a Ukulele workshop with Ronan McCauley; Japanese Arts and Origami activity with Azumi

Uchitani; Clay and Pottery workshops with Christien van Bussel; Mindful Monsters story time and drawing with Rachel Tyrrell - all activities will take place at the RDA Hall.

Building on last year's success, Irish Street Art & Circus Spectacle are providing free Spinning Plates sets to every county in Ireland. A QR code linking to a video tutorial is included with each set. Children and young people can learn how to spin a plate virtually with fellow young circus enthusiasts from the partnering organisations. Spinning Plate sets are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the following libraries: Aughrim, Carnew, Enniscorthy, Tinahely and Ballywaltrim.

Blessington Library is hosting three fun-filled events as part of Cruinnú na nÓg. Join Rachel Drew of Let's Sing for a Toddler Sing-A-Long featuring music-making activities with percussion instruments, movement to music, bubble time, parachute games and lots more! Sew Fun Studios are providing a Hedwig the Owl Sewing Workshop where young people can create their very own magical creation to bring home. Finally, to mark the end of a series of Music

Generation Wicklow workshops with young Kippure Lodge Residents, the Rhyme Island Showcase is perfect for the whole family to enjoy.

Two hands-on workshops are scheduled for Tinahely as part of Cruinnú na nÓg on Saturday 10th June. Join Wicklow County Council's Biodiversity Officer, Laura Kehoe, for an immersive experience for all ages at Tomnafinnoge Wood. Just as our ancestors did, families will slow down and listen to the cryptic messages of these ancient woods. The Courthouse Arts Centre has invited artists Cressida Lynch and Riona Hartman to make crazy colourful instruments and to take part in a fun song writing session. Once the instruments are made and the songs are complete participating children will perform as a big band for parents on the Market Square to mark the end of a fun filled day of musical exploration.

In Wicklow Town Library, Paper Folds - Mind Unfolds will enable children to learn the Japanese art of folding paper into different objects, shapes, and animals. Miriam Brady will also lead a Textile Art Workshop. This unique workshop will explore the art of sculpting a beautiful felted bowl using a mix of

wool and silk fibres. Unleash your creativity and dive into the world of textile art!

As part of Youth Theatre Ireland National programme for Cruinnú na nÓg, Mr Sands Youth Theatre and Making Waves Youth Theatre are both providing two taster workshops each. These introductory sessions will feature a range of activities and exercises such as drama games, movement, improv, and more. Ideal for aspiring young actors and performers aged 13 plus.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, said he was "pleased to see such diverse range of unique activities, workshops and events and the number of locations that the programme will reach across the county this year."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman, added: "Excited to see so many Wicklow artists and creatives featured in the 2023 Cruinnú na nÓg programme as it highlights the level of experience and exemplar quality of artistic practice based in the county." All events are free and people are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. See the full programme of Cruinnú na nÓg events at [cruinnu.creativeireland.gov.ie](http://cruinnu.creativeireland.gov.ie)

# The Wicklow Artists Salon

*Courthouse Arts Centre, Sat 24th June 2pm - 4.30pm. Free - booking essential*

The Wicklow Artists Salon comes to Tinahely as part of the Stone Soup collaboration with Kunstverein Aughrim. Attendees can look forward to a lively discussion with the invited panel on 'Taking The Initiative' - how they individually started up a publishing house, a new festival, and two arts centres.

GroSpeaking about the event, The Courthouse said, "Gundbreakers, innovators, mavericks. For our next salon, we have an exciting lineup of artists and cultural practitioners who took the bold step of establishing a new pub-

lishing house, a new festival, and two arts centres. Why did they do that? What were the challenges? How do they sustain their projects...and themselves? And what advice do they have for others who might be

thinking of...taking an initiative? And for this event, The Wicklow Artists Salon itself will be getting in the innovative spirit by moving from Mermaid to a new host venue: The Courthouse Arts Centre in Tinahely. For those travel-

ling from the Bray area, we will be providing bus transport to Tinahely and back.

The Wicklow Artists Salon is an artist-run event which explores important themes affecting artists and cultural practitioners. A friendly, inclusive space, each salon consists of a moderated discussion with invited guest artists which then opens into conversations with attendees. It aims to seed learning, interactions and perhaps collaborations among participants. The programme is curated by visual artist Joanna Kidney and writer Philip St John. Crucially, it is supported by Wicklow County Arts Office, Mermaid Arts Centre and The Courthouse, Tinahely.

### PRE SALON

12.30-2 pm. Come and join your fellow artists in a local café (food not included) venue to be confirmed.

### BOOKING

This Wicklow Artists Salon itself is a free event, but booking is essential [www.mermaidartscentre.ie](http://www.mermaidartscentre.ie)

### TRANSPORT

Artists in the Bray area can travel in a special Wicklow Artists Salon Bus leaving Mermaid at 10.30 and returning at 6 pm. The fare is 7 Euro. As the bus capacity is limited, early booking is advised <https://www.mermaidartscentre.ie>

### STONE SOUP

Stone Soup is Kunstverein Aughrim's friendly takeover of The Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely, temporarily reimagining the former courtroom as a community café and loitering space in advance of major upcoming renovations. An exhibition will run from 20th May to 24th June 2023, and features work by artists Isadora



*Courthouse Arts Centre*



*Wicklow Artists Salon*

Epstein, Yurika Higashikawa, Jennie Moran and The 1798 Club (a collaboration between members of Aughrim Active Retirement Group, photographer Louis Haugh, and Kunstverein Aughrim).

Stone Soup launched on Saturday 20th May with a writing workshop by artist Yurika Higashikawa with a brief introduction by curator Kate Strain, a presentation on Softening Corners and Institutional Hospitality by artist Jennie Moran, and a live perfor-

mance titled Spooned! by artist Isadora Epstein. Refreshments will be served.

Epstein's wall works, Higashikawa's words, Moran's table lumps and The 1798 Club's postcards will remain on display throughout the month-long duration of the exhibition, during which time visitors to the Courthouse are invited to bring picnics and packed lunches from local cafés. D'lish and Tinahely Farm Shop, to be enjoyed on site.

Stone Soup takes its

name from an 18th century French folk story in which hungry strangers, with no more ingredients than a stone, convince the people of a town to each share a small amount of their food in order to make a meal that everyone can enjoy. Stone Soup at the Courthouse holds a space in which to test the potential of reciprocity in practice, by blurring the relationship between guest and host, and asking what hospitality means in the context of a local arts organisation.



# Newtown musician announced as Blackwater Valley Opera Festival Bursary Award Winner

Young musician and Fionn Ó hAlmhain, a German-born bass who grew up in Newtownmountkennedy and went to school in Bray, has been named as this year's Blackwater Valley Opera Festival Bursary Award winner along with violinist Phoebe White from Rathfarnham.

Blackwater Valley Opera Festival established the bursary award in 2020 with the support of a private donor. The winners are selected by the festival's Artistic Director and Co-Founder, Dieter Kaegi, who says "the programme is in keeping with our mission to discover and support exceptional talent, helping to define a new future for Irish artists that have the potential to develop successful solo careers."

White and Ó hAlmhain will each receive an award of €5,000 to help further their musical careers and performing ability. They will also act as ambassadors for the festival, and will perform at a special recital as part of Blackwater Valley Opera Festival in 2024.

Fionn Ó hAlmhain is a German-born bass who grew up in Ireland and is now based in London. He completed a BMus at the TU Dublin Conservatoire and studied singing with Dr. Robert Alderson. Since then, he has performed across Ireland and the UK, including work with Irish National Opera, Opera Collective Ireland, the Blackwater Valley Opera Festival, the Salford Choral Society and Piccadilly Symphony Orchestra. Fionn is now undertaking an MA at the Royal Academy of Music and is a recipient of the

Elton John Scholarship. He is an alumnus of the Glyndebourne Academy where he was nominated for the Gus Christie Award.

He said, "I am delighted and honoured to be awarded the Blackwater Valley Opera Festival bursary this year. I am going through a period of development at this time which is crucial to my career in many respects, and it would not be possible without this support."

"I have enrolled in a Masters degree at the Royal Academy of Music in London under Professor Mark Wildmann which provides me with some of the most excellent tuition available to me anywhere in the world. The BVOF Bursary allows me to pay fees and to dedicate much more time to my studies. I have been able to get the coaching and practice resources at a time where they are having a huge impact on what I hope will be the beginning of a long and improving career."

"As a young bass, one of the biggest challenges I face in my professional development is the time it takes for my voice to mature and come into its own. BVOF has been hugely supportive of me in my development both by offering me suitable professional opportunities since 2021 and by supporting

me now with this bursary.

"This investment in my time and in my development has enabled me to do work which will make a huge difference when my voice comes to its full maturity. I will be a much better singer and artist than I would have been if these resources were not available to me at this stage."

The Blackwater Valley Opera Festival is Ireland's Summer Opera Festival, joyfully engaging audiences through a creative and imaginative programme of opera and classical music in the beautiful Blackwater Valley. The festival showcases emerging Irish talent alongside established international artists and delivers memorable and inspirational experiences which enrich the cultural life of the region. Blackwater Valley Opera Festival takes place from 29th May to 5th June 2023 at stunning venues throughout the Blackwater Valley (Waterford and Cork), with Lismore Castle at its heart. The festival is supported by grants from the Arts Council, Waterford City & County Council, and Fílte Ireland. The festival's lead sponsors are Kildare Village, Marsh, AIB and the John Pollard Foundation. For more see blackwatervalleyopera.ie



Fionn Ó hAlmhain

# Hot Spot Music Club venue closure announced

The Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones has sadly been informed that the venue owners have an alternative business idea for the premises where the music club has operated for the past nine years. From its early days as an internet cafe-venue (formerly Chartbusters) on the main street to its present location above the Beach House, the Hot Spot has been operating for over 13 years.

Aside from its early origins in 'Internet Cafe' activities, the venue initially offered a platform for emerging as well as established artists where there was none available, in addition to providing

a much-needed community space. As you will know many of Greystones' young musicians gave their first public performances at the monthly Open Mics in the old village cafe,

including Hozier.

Since spreading its wings down to the Harbour in 2014, the Hot Spot has established itself as an integral part of the vibrancy and nightlife of Greystones, offering an

eclectic live entertainment programme, as well as providing a space for community events and life celebrations. It has also continued to provide a Sunday afternoon platform for local musicians

regularly accommodating informal folk sessions and monthly jazz & blues jams on stage.

The Hot Spot has hosted the cream of Irish performers including Mick Flannery, Daoiri Farrell, Mary Coughlan, Andy Irvine, Steve Cooney, Luka Bloom, Sonny and Leo (Tir Na Nog), Scullion, Freddie White, along with such legends

as Martin Carthy - the master folkie who gave Paul Simon - Scarborough Fair; even Christy Moore and Paul Brady came along to pay homage at that gig.

Regular performances have included world-trad musicians, Kila, No Crows with Steve Wickham etc in addition to all the sold-out Tribute Bands. More recently the

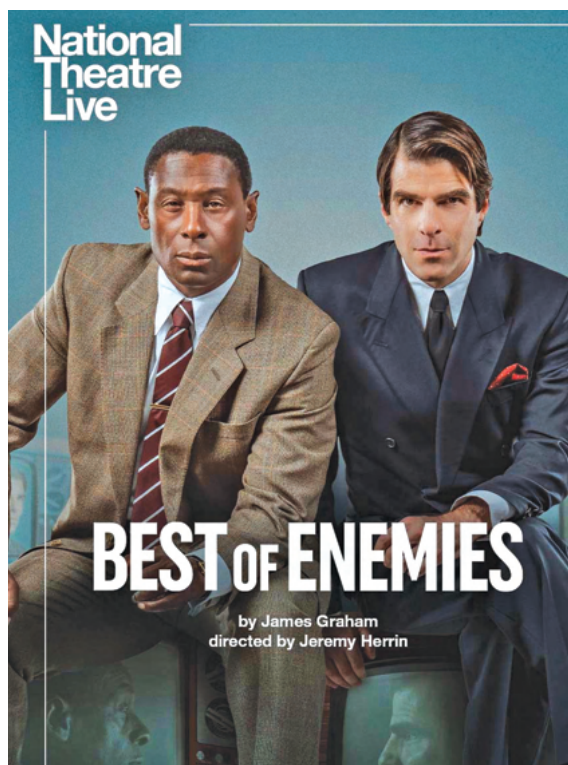
Hot Spot established a monthly comedy club to great success, and brought several of Ireland's top comedians to the stage including - Al

Porter, Deirdre O'Kane, Dave McSavage, Fry & Sunderman etc.

Ailbhe Skay from The Hot Spot said, "All these shows will be gone, and when they are gone, they are really gone! Unless

we can find another venue to host The Hotspot Music Club brand! We are looking for ideas! So if you have a suitable premises, a space to use as a venue, an upstairs empty room, a convent or church, an old house, or even a cowshed we can store our stuff till we find our venue, please email: thehotspotgreystones@gmail.com."

# NT Live: Best of Enemies



by James Graham  
directed by Jeremy Herrin  
inspired by the documentary by Morgan Neville and Robert Gordon

Whale Theatre, Friday 2nd June, 7pm (doors 6.30pm). Tickets €17.50 and available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

**David Harewood (Homeland) and Zachary Quinto (Star Trek) play feuding political rivals in James Graham's (Sherwood) multiple award-winning new drama.**

In 1968 America, as two men fight to become the next president, all eyes are on the battle between two others: the cunningly conservative William F. Buckley Jr., and the unruly liberal Gore Vidal.

During a new nightly television format, they debate the moral landscape of a shattered nation. As beliefs are challenged and slurs slung, a new frontier in American politics is opening and television news is about to be transformed forever.

Jeremy Herrin (All My Sons) directs this blistering political thriller, filmed live in London's West End.

# Hyde Park Brass

Whale Theatre, Saturday 3rd June, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €28 and available at [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

**Hyde Park Brass is a cutting-edge brass band - redefining the genre by blending traditional brass sounds with groundbreaking electronic music. Their unique sound is unlike anything else, and their live shows are an experience not to be missed!**

Having toured extensively throughout Europe, and having worked with clients such as Manchester United, they are unrivalled in their field.

Through their pioneering use of high-end tech, and collaboration with top producers, Hyde Park Brass smash through musical barriers, challenging preconceptions of what a brass band can be.

Hyde Park Brass was born in 2015 as the product of a one-off performance at the University of Leeds. The boys immediately decided there was more to the band than just one gig, and that's where the journey began. Building their name around their home city of Leeds, Hyde Park Brass began to curate and develop a repertoire combining a range of varied musical inspirations. This culminated in the production of their eponymous debut album in 2018, and since then the boys



have expanded nationwide, bringing their unmistakable party style to audiences across the UK and beyond.

Throughout this incredible journey, Hyde Park Brass has worked with incredible clients and performed for the BBC on Breakfast and the 2019 BBC Sports Personality of the Year. The band is also a key fixture on the UK festival circuit, having performed at Kendal Calling, Lost Village and many more. 2018 saw the band go viral, with their infectious performance of "It's Coming Home" in the Peak District being seen by over 1 million people. This was followed by their explosively original Powerhouse EP, released in 2019, which firmly placed the group at the pinnacle of the emerging UK brass band scene.



# €1m investment in new EV chargers across Wicklow

Wicklow County Council is delighted to partner with EasyGo and air on the installation of a network of new fast electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across County Wicklow.

The investment of €1m by EasyGo is one of the largest investments in any county in Ireland to date.

The investment at zero cost to Wicklow County Council will see a mixture of 75kw, 50kw DC (Rapid) chargers and dual 22kw AC (Destination) chargers installed in the county.

Commenting on the agreement, Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council said: "Wicklow County Council is committed to playing its part in ensuring Ireland meets its climate goals, including its role in decarbonisation of transport. To enable people

make the change to electric vehicles, there must be sufficient EV chargers in the county. We are delighted to enter into this partnership to provide this much needed infrastructure for the

people of the county."

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley added: "Wicklow County Council is proud to be contributing to the provi-

sion of EV chargers in the county to make the transition to EV vehicle ownership more realistic across the county, while also providing benefits to visitors to the Garden of Ireland."



Dermot O'Toole, Pat Clarke, Breege Kilkenny, Michael Flynn, Pat O'Sullivan (eir), CEO of Wicklow County Council Emer O'Gorman, Cathaoirleach of WCC Tommy Annesley, and Chris Kelly (EasyGo) are pictured at the signing of the contracts for the EV charging points.

## Mercedes-Benz Citan van arrives

Choice in the popular and competitive 1-tonne panel van segment has gone up a notch with the arrival of the new-to-Ireland Mercedes-Benz Citan.

Aimed largely at urban delivery ser-

by *Martin McCarthy*

vices, small business, trades and repair specialists, Citan is priced

from €23,245 (ex VAT). Its 2.9 cubic metres load area is large enough for two Euro pallets and is acces-

sible via twin rear-opening doors with the option of side sliding doors as required.

An array of safety and driver assistance elements includes Mercedes-Benz's own MBUX infotainment and driver assistance feature drawn from other models in their passenger car range.

Available initially in standard wheelbase, it comes powered by a 4-cylinder, 1.5-litre tur-

bodiesel engine in two power ratings, with versions soon to follow that include an all-electric eCitan and a longer wheelbase version.



**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
We, Joseph and Maria Kinsella, seek outline planning permission for a total of (20) twenty no. residential units [(18) eighteen no. three bedroom houses and (2) two no. four bedroom houses] at Parkmore, Baltinglass, 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**  
Planning permission is sought by Sean Gillick and Lisa Vickers for alterations and extensions to existing two-storey semi-detached house, at 11 Pearse Square, Bray, Co Wicklow, Eircode A98NW82. The application includes the addition of a two-storey extension to the side of the house to accommodate a kitchen/dining area at ground floor level, and a master bedroom, en-suite, and bathroom, at first floor level. It includes the provision of a single storey extension to the rear of the house to form a new open plan living area, complete with high-efficiency triple glazed lifting/sliding doors, and small external patio area. It also includes the addition of a new front porch to the front of the house, and a two-storey high panel of louvered doors. It includes the provision of one rear-facing Velux roof-light, and one front-facing Velux roof-light. Finally, it includes the provision of a new napp-plaster-finished external insulation system around all three external walls, as part of a new retrofit energy upgrade. The planning application may be inspected or purchased for a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Planning Authority, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow, during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority, on payment of a fee of €20 within 5 weeks of receipt of the application by the Planning Authority.



The Mercedes-Benz Citan

## COOK / CLEANER REQUIRED

*for Bray crèche.* Clare Elizabeth Crèche

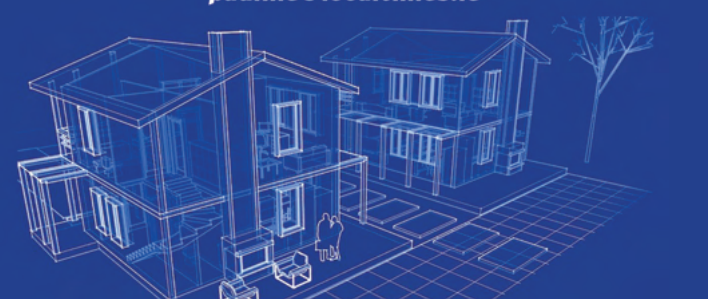
Applicant must have a full, clean driving licence and their own car. Part-time morning position. Competitive rates. For more information please send your CV and expression of interest to Caroline at: [caroline@clareelizabethcreche.ie](mailto:caroline@clareelizabethcreche.ie) or through our website on: [www.clareelizabethcreche.ie](http://www.clareelizabethcreche.ie)

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REF: 24/2023
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REF: 25/2023
- CREATIVE COMMUNITIES ENGAGEMENT OFFICER (5 YEAR CONTRACT)**  
Salary: €47,339 – €56,721 per annum gross (Includes 2nd LSI)  
REF: 26/2023

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

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATIONS IS 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 15TH JUNE, 2023 SHARP.**

Wicklow County Council reserves the right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate.  
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Wicklow County Council,  
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e-mail: [recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie)



# Two Wicklow men acknowledged for notable entrepreneurial achievements

Now in its 7th year, over 500 people from across Ireland's business community recently gathered for the annual All-Ireland Business Summit. Taking place at the iconic Croke Park, the event programme featured an impressive line-up that included mentalist and mind-magician Keith Barry, Brent Pope, a harpist who holds an interesting Guinness Book of Records and some of the leading lights of Irish businesses.

Organised by the All-Ireland Business Foundation, its annual flagship gathering welcomed business leaders and innovators hailing from across the 32 counties for the one-day event on May the 10th that featured exhibitors, networking opportunities

and an agenda exploring topical issues and valuable business insights.

The event proved to be a high point for two Wicklow entrepreneurs whose notable entrepreneurial achievements were acknowledged and celebrated with the full audience.

Greystones-based Justin Caffrey was warmly welcomed as a Fellow to the All-Ireland Business Foundation (AIBF). With a 25 year career, and a sizable online audience, Justin is considered one of Europe's leading minds in resilience, leadership, business strategy, psychological safety and neuroscience performance. The induction follows Justin recently receiving the prestigious accolade of the Business All-Star Leadership & Executive Coach Of The Year 2023.

Also gracing the stage was Wicklow man Josh Loveridge, the Managing Director of Stratton Studios and Loveridge Digital, who was named as the Little Learners

Business All-Star Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2023.

Founding the company while still at secondary school, Mr Loveridge is considered a seasoned entrepreneur, international speaker, and expert in Web3, blockchain, business, and software development. The Newtownmountkennedy resident and BIFE graduate was chosen from a shortlist of ten for his expansive work with an impressive global client list ranging from SME's to Fortune 500 companies that includes brands like, PlayStation, BMW, McLaren, HitTV and Red Bull.

Speaking at the event Josh Loveridge said, "As the winner of the Little Learners Business All-Star Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2023 award category, I feel an incredible sense of gratitude, accomplishment and validation for the hard work, dedication and perseverance that went into building my business. Winning such a prestigious award is a significant milestone in my

entrepreneurial journey.

"I am overwhelmed with emotions and pride in myself, my team and our business. The recognition from the All-Ireland Business Foundation, a respected organization has boosted my confidence and provided me with a sense of motivation to continue growing and expanding my business. It is truly a moment to cherish and celebrate, as it reflects my commitment to excellence and dedication to achieving my goals."

Also featured on the packed schedule were the Leadership Sessions, which explored themes such as leadership at times of crisis, expansion and steering a long-term vision. Founder of the 'Sculpted by Aimee' brand and beauty industry innovator, Aimee Connolly; former HSE CEO Paul Reid and managing director of ISS Ireland, Eric Doyle, all individually joined broadcaster Ivan Yates for a series of thought-provoking and insightful fireside chats.

The Summit also provided the backdrop for a new mental health initiative 'The Elephant in the Room' to be introduced in advance of its nationwide rollout, with co-founder and well-known sports commentator Brent Pope passionately appealing to audience members to start the conversation about The Elephant In The Room.

In addition to the wide range of speakers and performers, the 2023 All-Ireland Business Summit also recognised long-

standing accredited members of the Foundation's Business All-Star Accreditation Programme.

The programme, which acknowledges and profiles Irish companies and individuals that have distinguished themselves in the conduct of their business, currently has over 600 accredited companies that have undergone a comprehensive and independent audit demonstrating their commitment in the areas of Trust, Performance and Customer Centricity.



Justin Caffrey



Josh Loveridge along with proud parents at the recent All-Ireland Business Summit. Also featured is one of the elephants from the mental health awareness initiative Elephant In The Room

## 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. I.W.

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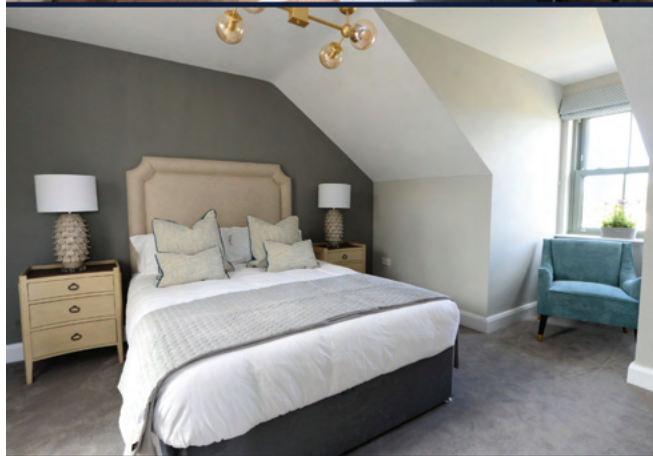
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