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Tuesday 6th June 2023 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

CURLEWS SEE OFF DEVELOPER

Planning permission for a €40 million development above Magheramore Beach has been refused by Wicklow County Council. The application from Creatively Pacific, a subsidiary of Oakmount, sought permission for a tourism leisure complex consisting of 48 'accommodation pods', surf school, gym, sauna, pool, cinema, bar and restaurant.

Oakmount are also the developers behind Bray Central (Florentine Centre), the long awaited shopping centre in Bray. They also recently purchased McDaniels pub and restaurant in Brittas Bay.

A petition on Change.org asking Creatively Pacific to withdraw their plans and sell the land to the Council, on the grounds that the development

would eradicate wintering grounds for the Curlew, received over 12,000 signatures. Ninety submissions were also made to the Council during the planning process.

In its decision, the Council noted the visual impact of the proposed development which would "be injurious to the unspoilt beach setting of Magheramore Beach". The Council's decision

also stated that the "Ecological Impact Assessment carried out had failed to demonstrate that the proposed development would not have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors."

The Council concluded that "insufficient evidence has been submitted to demonstrate beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the pro-



Cliona Kavanagh at the 2023 Wicklow County Fleadh in Avoca. Pic: Michael Kelly

posed development would not adversely affect the integrity of the of the Magherabeg Dunes Special Area of Conservation (SAC)."

A previous owner of the site, the developer Nial Mellon, had offered the 21 acres to Wicklow Council for free if they gave him permission for a bungalow on the site. The Council refused his offer.

Welcoming the Council's decision, John Brady TD said "I made a submission outlining serious concerns that I had with the proposed development. In refusing permission I'm glad that the arguments that I along with nearly 100 other submissions had put forward have been upheld by the council in arriving at their decision."

"I believe that the site should be protected into the future, the best way to do that is for the site to come into public owner-

ship. Wicklow County Council had tried to purchase the site before being sold privately, I believe the council must immediately initiate dialogue with the owners with a view of taking ownership of the site. I will be also writing to the Minister for the Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport, Eamon Ryan and asking him to work with the council on securing this important environmental site."

Green Party TD Steven Matthews, and Independent councillors Mary Kavanagh and Peir Leonard also made submissions to the Council outlining their concerns.

Also welcoming the decision, Minister Simon Harris said "Commercial developers should not be permitted to come to Wicklow and build hotel complexes on the Wicklow coastline, this only serves to deny the

people of Wicklow some of the most picturesque land in the county."

The twenty-three-acre site will now be the subject of an appeal if the

developer wishes to avail of that option or failing that its future is unclear.

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Wicklow man's 32 Swim Challenge

On the 16th June Greystones man Damien Wilder will set off to swim 1km in every county over one weekend.

Following on from completing the first prone circumnavigation of Achill Island in 2021 and the first prone paddle crossing of the Irish Sea from Wicklow to Wales in 2022, this new attempt also looks to complete something that, as far as he knows, has not been done before.

The effort will be made in aid of the RNLI and Make a Wish. Taking months of training and planning, the effort is entirely self run and self funded all being done while having a family and working a full time job.

Damien says "If people are interested to see what I am up to they can follow me on Instagram (@flowstateswimming) and if they wish to donate they can do so through searching for 'Damien Wildes' on iDonate.

North Wicklow RNLI fundraising branch recently asked Damien a few questions about the challenge:

Q: When and where do you train?

A: Training for The 32 began last October when the idea first came about. At the moment I'm covering up to around 35km a week between the pool and open water. Having a family and working a full-time job can make things quite challenging but you just end up training super early or super late and maximise your time when you can.

Q: What sort of water will you be swimming in across the counties?

A: Rivers, lakes, the Irish Sea or the Atlantic, I'll be in each one at one time or another. Each brings its own complication, tides, swell, flow, temperature, buoyancy and that's before you add the complication of weather.

Q: The schedule must be pretty tough...

A: Very hectic particularly on the first day. Friday will be a 4.30am swim in Balbriggan and



Damien Wildes

we have 14 Counties to get through so that equates to 13 1km repeats. This means less drive time so less recovery time. Saturday will be around 11km including 3 2km swims where we cover 2 counties in a single body of water such as the Barrow for Kildare and Laois. Sunday is the shortest day in terms of swims at about 7km but with big Counties like Cork and Kerry to get through. Our support crew is in place but safety during the drive is just as important as during the swim so we have to make sure people are resting and eating well at all times. We should finish in Greystones around 6 or 7pm on the Sunday.

Q: What's going to be harder, all the swimming or the driving?

A: Probably the driving. It's frustrating when you know you just have to sit there and can't make any ground in the

water. It also means your shoulders and whole body cool down so trying to keep everything loose and easy will be difficult.

Q: And finally which swim are you looking forward to the most?

A: Even I swim there all the time, I'll be

looking forward to Greystones as it will be the last swim and I'll get to see my wife, Sarah Jane, son Dylan and Daughter Easkey.

Scenery wise though, there's plenty of places I haven't swam in so just looking forward to the adventure as a whole.



Street Feast, the national day of street parties and community celebrations, takes place on Sunday 25th June. Get together with your neighbours to share food and enjoy some conversation and camaraderie this summer. It doesn't matter if you live in an apartment or house, all you need is a space to bring people together. Street Feast aims to bring communities together and promote a sense of togetherness across the country. This is a fantastic opportunity to get to know your neighbours and create a friendly and welcoming space. Established in 2010, Street Feast has grown steadily over the years. Last year some 1,000 Street Feast events were held nationwide and close to 100,000 people took part. Pictured above is a Street Feast in Wicklow. Organisers are calling on everyone to register their interest on StreetFeast.ie and get a free party pack which includes bunting, invitations, posters, stickers and all the information needed to have a brilliant Street Feast.

Free Support Groups for Leaving Cert Students

Turn2Me is a national mental health charity conducting free online support groups until the end of June. These support groups will be a space where young people and parents can share their struggles anonymously and receive tips on how to deal with stress, panic attacks and other issues.

The support group for Leaving Certificate students runs on Wednesdays at 6pm. The Support group for Leaving Certificate parents runs on Thursdays at 6pm.

Greystones Fire Brigade CPR Challenge

The Greystones Fire Brigade's CPR Challenge will be held on 10th June at Greystones Fire Station, Victoria Road, 12 Noon. There will be two categories to the Greystones Fire Brigade CPR Challenge - A Rescue Professional category and a Community category. You can test your skills on the day or simply try out CPR with professionals. A BBQ lunch will be provided. You can register your team here for free: GreystonesFB@gmail.com. Donations may be made at: Defibrillators for Greystones (gofundme.com). Greystones Fire Brigade manages 18 public access defibrillators around Greystones. Come along to learn more about using a defibrillator and to support our Greystones Firefighters in getting more. Full details and any queries to 087 804 5651.

National Park Wildflower Walk

Take part in a gentle walk on June 11th and learn how to identify some June wildflowers and some of their folklore. At the Information Office, by the Upper Lake, Glendalough. Adults and children welcome. No dogs. This event is free of charge, but please be aware that the Upper Lake car park (Wicklow Country Council, Eircode A98W778) has a E4 charge. Booking essential. Bookings will be taken from Saturday 27th May. To book, email Wickloweducationcentre@npws.gov.ie.

Tour de Roundwood

Roundwood and District Athletic Club is asking you to please support its 'Tour de Roundwood' fundraising cycle which takes place on Saturday June 24. Monies raised will help complete the club's long-awaited new track and club building. So far Anita McKenna, Brian Higgins and Sheila Donelon will be embarking on the 'Tour de Roundwood' cycle challenge to raise these much-needed funds. "Please support our summer fundraiser - it would make a huge difference to the local children to have their own local track to train on, as well as their own club building. For details or to register to be one of cyclist fundraisers please visit <https://eventmaster.ie/event/bLQmU9AHjr>

Whitedoodle Art Workshops

Whitedoodle Art Workshops (Greystones Library, 10th June) will explore collage art inspired by Christ Judges's book, The Baby Beast. This book was recently installed as a Story Trail in Burnaby Park. Please ring 01.2873548 to book a place. This event is part of Cruinniú na nÓg. It takes place from 10am to 11:30am.

Finding Wicklow in the Virtual Record Treasury

On 15th June in Wicklow Library, Main Street, Wicklow Town, (6:30pm to 8pm), Hosted by Wicklow County Archives, this is a special talk with speakers on a wide range of topics:

Ciaran Wallace, Deputy Director, Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland: Ireland's Public Records: Destruction and Recovery. **Brian Gurrin**, Virtual Record Treasury Research Fellow: Wicklow Records in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland. **Catherine Wright**, Archivist, Wicklow County Archives: Local History Resources at Wicklow County Archives. All are most welcome. Booking is essential at archives@wicklowcoco.ie or 0404 67025.

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'Government squeezes Wicklow taxpayers yet again'

Independent councillor, Joe Behan has slammed the government for hiking up the price of fuel on hard pressed Wicklow commuters.

"It is absolutely incredible that this discredited Government has decided to increase the cumulative price of petrol by 21c and diesel by 16c starting last Thursday, June 1st," said Cllr Behan.

"This increase is coming at a time of continuing inflation where prices of basic necessities like food and clothing are still causing hardship for many families. "The impact of this huge increase will be felt most keenly by the thousands of commuters in County Wicklow who must use their cars every day to get to and from work travelling up the N11 which the Green Party has vetoed any improvements to. Also affected will be hauliers, taxi drivers, delivery companies and any small business that needs transport for their business. It is another example of the aggressive anti-motorist policies of the Green Party but sadly it is being facilitated by the surrender of Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, many of whose supporters will also suffer from this



Cllr Joe Behan

fuel price hike and the resulting upward inflation. "This is a Government which cannot even spend the money it already has in its coffers and boasts about the surplus of almost €70 billion it will have taken from the taxpayers over the next few years. "At the same time, the Government has joined forces with one of the richest companies on earth, Apple Inc, to fight for the

right to refuse another €13 billion in corporate taxes that is due to Ireland. "We, as a nation, are suffering a housing and homelessness emergency, a shockingly inadequate health service, a serious shortfall in the number of Gardaí needed to keep our growing communities safe, town centres in many places dying with dereliction and a mental health crisis which is ruining the lives of many individual people and their families. "Many of these problems would be solved if the money in the public coffers were put to proper use in addressing the people's priorities. We urgently need a Government whose Ministers would put the people's priorities first rather than engaging in the politics of spin, virtue signalling and self promotion. "I am hearing every day from people across County Wicklow that this Government's days are numbered and people can't wait to pass their verdict as soon as they get the opportunity. Tick Tock!"



Sarah Gleeson, Ella Roberts and Nicole Humby pictured at the Wicklow Rugby Club's Dinner Dance in Ashtown Lane, Wicklow

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NPWS issues summer fire safety appeal



The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Housing has appealed to the public not to light fires or barbecues in public places this summer.

As they appeal to the public to exercise renewed care and responsibility when outdoors the National Parks and Wildlife Service has increased ground crews on fire patrol and has ramped up aerial monitoring with helicopters and drones.

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O'Brien TD advised: "If you notice a fire, please call the emergency services on 112 immediately. NPWS teams are upping their patrols to identify potential fire incidents and act quickly should one break out. However as we know, prevention is better than cure, and we're asking all members of the public to avoid lighting fires in open areas."

Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform Malcolm Noonan TD commented further: "Our National Parks and Nature Reserves, coastal sand dunes, mountains and upland areas, forests, meadows and urban parks are all places where we enjoy spending time in nature, but they are also home to our precious wildlife and their vulnerable young. This is a really important time of year for wildlife, especially vulnerable ground-nesting birds and mammals who are now rearing their



young. We all want to get out and enjoy the good weather but let's do it responsibly - without putting nature at risk."

The Director General of the NPWS, Niall Ó Donnchú, has also asked for everybody's cooperation to protect nature and said: "While NPWS has increased ground crews and monitoring from the

air this week, we still need to enlist your help to protect nature at this high risk time.

"We ask that members of the public not light fires or barbecues in any National Parks or Nature Reserves, or indeed in nature generally. We are also asking that the public be vigilant and report any fire activity without delay."

Dog owners warned of dangers of summer heat

Dogs Trust Ireland is reminding the public to keep their furry friends safe in the sun. The charity is urging owners not to take any risks when it comes to their dog's safety in hot weather, especially when it comes to exercise.

A veterinary study commissioned by Dogs Trust in 2020, found the most common cause of potentially fatal heatstroke is dogs being exercised by their owners. This can include dogs walking, playing, or running with their owners and was responsible for 74% of heat stroke cases.

Over two thirds of these cases occurred after simply walking in the heat so, Dogs Trust is appealing to owners to avoid taking their dogs out during the hottest times of the day. The charity recommends

walking dogs early in the morning or late in the evening instead.

Common signs of heatstroke to watch out for in dogs include panting heavily, drooling excessively, appearing lethargic, drowsy, or uncoordinated, vomiting, collapsing or diarrhoea. If

heatstroke is suspected, seek veterinary attention immediately, the sooner this happens, the better chance the dog has of making a full recovery.

Niamh Curran Kelly, Veterinary and Welfare Manager, Dogs Trust Ireland, explains: "Dogs

aren't able to cool themselves down as effectively as people, and they have to rely on panting or releasing small amounts of heat through their paw pads. When the air and ground temperatures rise, it becomes much more difficult for them to do this so, they can overheat very easily.

"If you think your dog might be suffering from heatstroke, it's vital that you quickly move them to a cooler location and contact your vet immediately for advice. Describe your dog's symptoms to your vet, while making an

active attempt to cool them down. Offer them cool, but not cold, water to drink and pour small amounts of room temperature water on their body. The main goal is to return their body temperature to normal as quickly as possible, but not so quickly as to cause shock."

Corina Fitzsimons, PR & Communications Manager, Dogs Trust Ireland, continues: "While many of us look forward to the warmer weather, we are able wear lighter clothes, but dogs don't have this option. That's why it's safer to

leave your furry friend at home in the shade if you're heading out for a day in the sun. It's especially important not to walk older, overweight or dogs with squishy faces in hot weather as it's more exerting and therefore more dangerous for them. For these dogs, even sitting outside in hot weather can lead to heatstroke. In heatwave weather, we would advise walking very early in the morning, after sunset or avoiding walks altogether."

The charity is also reminding dog owners of the ever-important mes-



sage; never ever leave your dog alone in a car on a warm day. Just a few minutes in a hot car can be fatal to your dog, with temperatures inside rising from 22 to 33 degrees in just 10 minutes. Contrary to what some people may think, parking in the shade and leaving windows down, does very little to keep temperatures low, so please don't put your dog's life at risk.

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'Warm air doesn't mean warm water' - advice to reduce your drowning risk

People warned not to underestimate the dangers of swimming in cold water

Wicklow County Council and Water Safety Ireland are cautioning people not to underestimate the dangers of swimming in cold water as the county enjoys fine weather.

Although air temperatures are rising, water temperatures are still cold. Swimming in cold water can result in the rapid cooling of muscles needed to swim and stay afloat.

Swimmers are urged to swim within their depth, swim briefly and be mindful that any cooling of the muscles can make it more difficult to swim safely.

Advice to reduce your drowning risk:

1. Swim within your depth, stay within your depth and enter the water slowly to acclimatise as sudden immersion in cold water can result in cold shock which

can lead to deep gasping, uncontrollable rapid breathing and panic.

2. Swim at Lifeguarded waterways this weekend in locations at <https://watersafety.ie/lifeguards/>.

3. If you cannot get to a lifeguarded waterway, swim in areas that are traditionally known to be safe and have ringbuys available for rescues.

4. Never use inflatable toys in open water as they can be swept away by currents and offshore breezes.

5. Children require close, uninterrupted, adult supervision at all times near water.

6. Swim within your depth and stay within your depth. Make sure that the edges are shallow shelving so that you can safely and easily enter and exit the water.

7. To escape a rip current, swim parallel to the shore and then swim back ashore. See www.watersafety.ie/rip-currents/.

8. Never swim in quarries or reservoirs.

9. Alcohol is a factor in one third of drownings in never mix alcohol with water activities.

10. Beware of stranding by incoming tides. Carry a charged phone at all times and in an emergency, call 112 and ask for the Coast Guard.

11. Always wear a correctly fitting lifejacket when boating and have a means of communication in a waterproof pouch.

Also, if you see somebody in trouble in the water: SHOUT - REACH - THROW

A. SHOUT to calm, encourage and orientate them

B. REACH with anything that prevents you from entering the water (clothing/stick)

C. THROW a ringbuoy or any floating object to them

Know The Lifeguard Flags:
No Lifeguard flag means that there is no Lifeguard on duty. A red flag means that a Lifeguard is on duty but has deemed conditions to be too unsafe to swim. The red and yellow flags mean a Lifeguard is on duty and the Lifeguard is patrolling between those flags. Visit www.watersafety.ie for more information.

Cruinniú na nÓg

Free Events for Children & Young People

Ireland is the first, and only, country in the world with a national day of free creativity for young people.

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Wicklow Saturday 10th June

Local Events include

Have a blast in Baltinglass

Paint, make, dig, cook, learn, explore and more! Have a blast in Baltinglass with a very special Cruinniú na nÓg programme this Saturday 10 June.

cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/events/location/wicklow

Get up and go in Greystones

Get up and go in Greystones this Cruinniú na nÓg with activities for young creatives from The Whale Theatre and Greystones Library, White Doodle Art, and many more!

cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/events/location/wicklow

Around the world to Rathdrum

Travel around the world without ever leaving Rathdrum this June with a special international creativity programme for Cruinniú na nÓg. There's music, origami, pottery, drawing and more!

cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/events/location/wicklow

National Events include

This is Art!

You won't want to miss all the colour and creativity as the winners of Ireland's national young people's art competition are announced! Tune in to This is Art! June 10th. rte.ie/thisisart

Rhyme Island

Rap is for everyone so why not raise your voice and let's make some noise together! Take part in the 'Show Your Flow' rap challenge by Rhyme Island. rhymeisland.ie

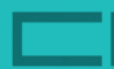
Circus Explored

Ever dreamed of running away with the circus? You don't have to! You can master the art of plate spinning from home with this fun programme presented by Ireland's youth circus artists. circusexplored.ie

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Katelyn Johnson and Leon Kelly were the Outstanding Junior Players at the recent Wickow Hockey Club Awards Day at East Glendalough School.

Pilot community open space enhancement scheme for Bray

Bray Municipal District has launched a pilot Community Open Space Enhancement Scheme for Public Spaces and Green Areas in Residential Districts. The Elected Members of Bray Municipal District introduced this new initiative in order to enhance the community's experience of increased use, and improvement of, public spaces immediate to their own residential environment.

A lot of these spaces are often under-utilised in terms of their intended visual and social function. Enhancement measures could include biodiversity enhancement, planting, community gardens, seating areas, play areas, football areas, meeting areas for young and old to simply meet up.

Welcoming this initiative, the Cathaoirleach of Bray MD, Cllr Erika Doyle, stated: "I would like to encourage

all Residents' Associations within the Bray Municipal District who have an interest in exploring the enhancement or functional improvement of open spaces and to offer a community space that facilitates pride of place, fosters positive community engagement to consider submitting an application under this new scheme."

Lorraine Gallagher, District Manager, Bray MD, added: "I am delighted that the

Bray Municipal District Members have allocated funding for this worthwhile project, which is a very innovative approach in the delivery of improved open spaces by collaborating closely with residents associations within the district."

Application forms and further details can be requested by emailing BrayMD@wicklowcoco.ie Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 9th June 2023.

Demand grows for Cliff Walk to be opened as we enter busy summer period

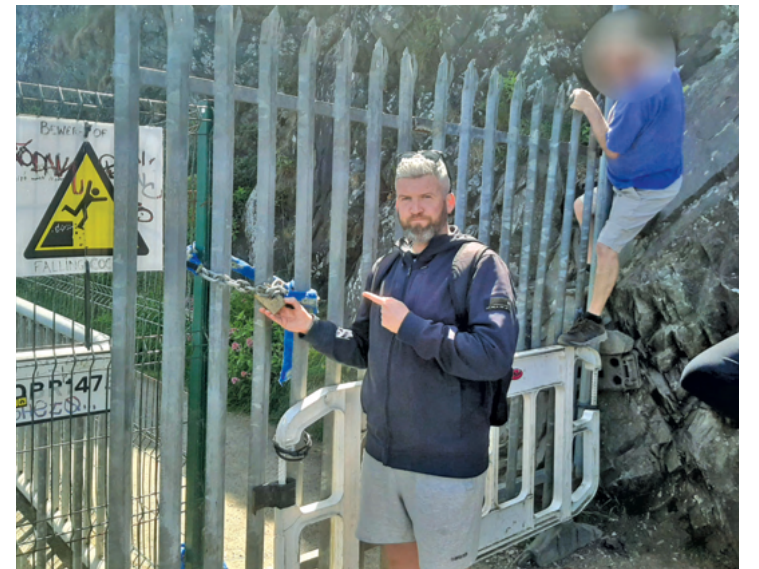
Aontú Wicklow Representative Seamus Connor has called on Wicklow County Council and Bray Municipal District to reopen the Cliff Walk from Bray to Greystones as a matter of urgency.

He said "The reopening of the Cliff Walk has taken far too long and it continues to be closed as we head into the busy summer months once more with thousands of tourists coming to Bray to complete this beautiful walk. Of course the safety of the public has to, and should always, be the priority but the fact that for over two years the Cliff Walk as been partially or completely closed is not acceptable and simply not good enough."

He explained; "The Cliff Walk was partially

closed in March 2021 following landslides on the Greystones side following heavy rain. It was then completely closed at the end of October 2022, following a very serious rock fall onto the path on the Bray side.

"In terms of the problem of landslides on the Greystones side the fact that a lack of staffing resources within Greystones Municipal District is delaying the process of acquiring land in order to move the walk further inland and away from the areas affected by landslides is extremely disappointing. The purpose of local government is to ensure that appropriate amenities and services are delivered to citizens in their local area. If our Local Authorities are understaffed this needs to be addressed and rectified urgently. I acknowledge that acquiring land can be a slow and painful process but after 2 years the public are rightfully getting frustrated by the lack of progress being made and need to hear more than just 'discussions are ongoing' and 'It is taking longer than expected'."



'Accident waiting to happen': Aontu representative Seamus Connor at the cliff walk in Bray, where a man is climbing over the gate

and 'It is taking longer than expected'."

"In February 2023, contracts were signed for works to be carried out on the Bray side which would stabilize overhead rocks. This could mean that a section of the walk could finally be reopened, though the full 7km route would still be impassable due to

remaining issues on the Greystones side. We are now nearly in June - 4 months later and there is still no sign of any progress with the public still gated out."

"I visited the Cliff Walk again at the weekend and was not surprised to see members of the public climbing over the locked

gate. This is an accident waiting to happen and is another reason why Wicklow County Council, Bray and Greystones Municipal Districts and our towns officials need to make meaningful progress now to reopen this vital amenity loved by so many."

€100,000 for biodiversity projects

Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, has announced a combined €2.7m in funding for local biodiversity projects, with €100,000 going to 5 projects in Wicklow.

Over €2.5 million is being awarded to local authorities to carry out biodiversity projects through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) and E193k is being granted to the natural history recording community through the Small Recording Grants scheme.

The Local Biodiversity Action Fund is operated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The scheme was first launched in 2018. Since then, a total of just over €6m has been granted to local authorities through the LBAF for projects that support actions in the 3rd National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP). This year's grants will build on

that investment. Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD: "Given that it's Biodiversity Week, I'm especially delighted to announce funding of over €2.5 million for 188 biodiversity projects."

"The Local Biodiversity Action Fund is an enormously impactful scheme that supports local authorities and communities to deliver on Ireland's national objectives for nature, from invasive species to habitat restoration to awareness-raising to surveys and monitoring work."

"As more and more Biodiversity Officers join the ranks of our local authorities, I know that the benefits for nature and people that this Fund provides are

only going to grow."

A total of 188 projects have been approved across all 31 local authorities, covering a range of biodiversity-related activities, including invasive alien species control, dune restoration, wetland surveys and biodiversity awareness and training.

Local Wicklow projects approved this year include:

- €34,170 for the Brittas Bay Conservation Project
- €20,000 for restoration and enhancement of two ponds
- €20,000 for a County Hedgerow Survey
- €18,830 for a project to connect communities with nature and encourage local biodiversity action
- €7,000 for a Bat Survey.

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Housing demand driven by Dublin 'doughnut'



Jennifer Whitmore TD

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has pointed to the development model of Dublin City as a contributing factor to increase demand in housing in across Co. Wicklow.

Recently released CSO figures highlight an increase in demand for homes in counties such as Wicklow, fuelled in part by lack of homes in Dublin city and suburbs. Last week in the Dail the Social Democrats used their private members time to bring forward a motion on home ownership, in light of dwindling ownership rates for younger generations.

Speaking about the impact of this, Deputy Whitmore said: "Demand for housing in Wicklow has risen in recent years, reflecting the national trend. A major contributing factor to this is that people who rent in Dublin, many of them from the capital themselves, cannot afford to buy there, so have to

look to other counties such as Wicklow, Meath and Kildare, if they want to try and own their own home.

"Government are over-seeing a 'doughnut' style of housing development by hollowing out the city centre of any affordability and therefore pushing everyone out to the surrounding areas which is leading to increase household prices in Wicklow. The use of the build-to-rent model is also driving people to Wicklow, many of whom

want to own their own homes, even if it means having to leave their communities.

"In 2022, for example, 82% of planning applications in Dublin city were for build-to-rent, up from 15% in 2018. None of those homes will be available to buy. This strategy is contributing to the robbing a generation of the opportunity of home ownership.

"As a result we have to keep on repeatedly building schools to meet ever increasing demand,

people cannot get on GP lists to meet demand locally, and there is a dearth of facilities. It is also contributes to additional demands being placed on services in Wicklow such as schools, GPs, transport and public amenities.

"As my colleague Catherine Murphy rightly pointed out in the Dail this week tenure type matters. It is the determining factor in who lives in an area and what kind of services are needed. The knock on

affect in Wicklow is obvious, as since getting into politics I have seen the demand for school places across the county jump year on year.

"We are developing our east coast as a doughnut. We are building an American car-dependent capital, which is completely lacking in affordability and that is having a ripple effect on surrounding counties like ours. And worse still, we are doing so based on Government policy."

'Homelessness fears become reality as ban on evictions ends'

Wicklow Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called for the Government to immediately reinstate the ban on no fault evictions. His call was made in response to the latest homeless report from the Department of Housing showing that a total of 298 Adults and children were officially homeless in the Mid-East region which includes Wicklow in April.

Deputy Brady said: "The latest homeless figures from the Department of Housing confirm a high level of homelessness in Wicklow. 298 people, including 157 children were in Department of Housing funded emergency accommodation in the Mid-East region in April.

"There has been a significant increase in homelessness in the first month since the ending of the ban on no fault evictions. I am concerned that people in Wicklow will continue to face homelessness as the housing crisis keeps spiralling.

"These figures confirm once again that the Government's decision to end the ban on no fault evictions was

wrong. It also highlights the fact that they simply did not have the emergency measures in place to deal with the ending of the ban.

"The tenant-in-situ scheme is still moving too slowly. The output of social and affordable homes is too slow. No additional supply of social housing using emergency planning and procurement powers has even been initiated.

"The Government must immediately reinstate the ban on no fault evictions. They must increase and accelerate the delivery of social homes, including a significant number of high-grade modular homes delivered with emergency planning and procurement powers. They must also provide councils



John Brady TD

with additional staff to speed up the processing time for the tenant-in-situ scheme.

"Failure to do this will see homelessness continue to rise in Wicklow in the coming months. The Government must

change their approach to this ever deepening homeless crisis before things get even worse.

"The official figures are alarming on their own, but it is important to recognise that these only represent those in emergency accommodation. It does not take into account those that are forced to sleep in their cars, sofa surfing with friends or family, or who have been forced to move home with parents.

"It is clear that ordinary workers and families in Wicklow are facing dire situations due to the Government's failure to get to grips with the housing crisis. Behind these figures are real people who have been left distraught by this Government's poor decisions."

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



School Transport 2023/24

All applicants who wish to be considered for the allocation of a School Transport ticket for the 2023/2024 school year must pay or register their child's medical card details by **Friday 9 June**.

2023/24 school year charges:

€50 per student at primary level

€75 per student at post-primary level

€125 cap per family

To make your payment or enter your child's medical card details, go to buseireann.ie/schooltransport by **Friday 9 June**.

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

For more information, visit gov.ie/schooltransport



Minister Pascal Donohoe, Minister Simon Harris, and Jamie Fitzmaurice at the Fine Gael Breakfast Meeting in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy, last Monday.



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Fianna Fail select Greystones candidate

Greystones Fianna Fáil held its Selection Convention last week for the 2024 Local Elections and confirmed local man, Jack Commons, as their candidate for the Greystones Municipal District.

Jack was joined on the night by Senator Pat Casey, Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Finance, Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, Jim O'Callaghan TD, Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Justice, Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Gerry Walsh, Cathaoirleach Greystones Municipal District, Fianna Fáil colleagues, family members and friends.

Fianna Fail stated that Jack comes to his candidacy with a strong local background and a wealth of experience. Jack's family has been in

Greystones for three generations. He and his fiancée, Zoe O'Shaughnessy, are expecting a baby at the end of the month, which will very shortly make it four generations of Commons locally.

Jack's family connections run from Newcastle, through Kilcoole and Delgany to Greystones.

Jack is a member of the teaching profession, teaching Mathematics at second level, and he's also had a varied sports background which includes playing both hurling and Gaelic for Éire Óg Greystones, Greystones RFC and

Greystones United AFC from the age of 4.

Minister Donnelly praised Jack, saying "Jack Commons is exactly the kind of young, exciting and dynamic candidate Greystones needs. He has immense experience working with young people through his years as a teacher of Mathematics at second level. He has also shown incredible innovation during Covid by setting up a free online grinds system. Jack established a website which contained over 50 hours of videos with solutions to every single Higher Level Maths paper question for both the

Junior and Leaving Certificates for the past ten years.

"Jack is determined to help build a brighter future for the town as it undergoes unprecedented change and growth. I am excited to welcome him to Fianna Fáil and look forward to working with him in the future."

Cllr. Gerry Walsh has made the decision not to put his name forward for selection to contest the Local Elections in 2024. Cllr Walsh said he "wishes to warmly welcome the Fianna Fáil candidate selection of Jack Commons. It is both encouraging and refreshing to see a young person of Jack's calibre, putting themselves forward for



Jack Commons (2nd from left), with his father, Larry, fiancée Zoe O'Shaughnessy, and brother Brian.

election to public office. As recipient of a Greystones Municipal District Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2022 for his online maths grinds website, I have known Jack to be a young man of high intellect, integrity, with a breadth of understanding

and empathy. I wish him well in his forthcoming local election campaign."

Minister Donnelly paid tribute to outgoing Cllr. Walsh saying, "Gerry has been an immense force for good for the people of Greystones over the past 10 years. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of his

constituents both in the town and across the county during his time in office.

"At all times Gerry has remained an absolute gentleman to deal with. His door has always been open to offer help and advice. Gerry will be sorely missed, not just by

me, but also by his constituents, as he has been a fantastic servant to his community.

"I would like to wish him well in his well earned retirement from politics. He may be leaving, but he and the impact he has had certainly won't be forgotten."

Greystones development refused as town exceeds target population

Wicklow Council has refused Cairn planning permission to build 98 houses at Coolgad, Greystones. The reason for refusal is that Greystones has exceeded its population target for 2028 and thus there is no need to build on peripheral greenfield sites on the edge of town, even if they are zoned residential.

Cllr Derek Mitchell (FG) said, "Last year's Census showed that the population was 300 below the target of 21,727. There are over 1,000 houses with permission, many being constructed, so when occupied the population will be at least 23,000, probably 24,000.

"Cairn have applied on the same, but larger, site for 586 houses as a Strategic Housing Development to Bord Pleanála in April 2022 but no decision has yet been made.

"There has been a huge expansion of Greystones but this is the first time I have

seen a refusal based on being over target population. The challenge for the local authority is to get the infrastructure, transport and budget to support all this development."

These population targets come from Government & Regional Policy and

Applications invited for €16m Outdoor Adventure support fund

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris has encouraged people to submit applications to the 2023 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS).

The ORIS will aim to boost rural and adventure tourism and will focus on supporting outdoor activities such as walking, hiking, cycling, swimming, kayaking, sailing, paragliding and kite-surfing.

Speaking last week, Minister Simon Harris said, "The facilities and

amenities we are delivering under this scheme are making a real difference in communities across rural Ireland, and I want to see County Wicklow benefitting from this as much as possible.

The scheme will invest in and develop our natural amenities such as

our mountains, lakes, rivers, beaches and forest walks. Both new and existing projects funded under the scheme will be designed to develop the health and wellbeing of the communities in which they are located and will also add value from a tourism perspective."

Contractor to be appointed soon for Bray Dart station upgrade works

Chief Executive of Irish Rail Jim Meade has confirmed that tenders are currently being assessed for upgrade works to Bray Dart Station.

In response to a Parliamentary Question from Catherine Murphy TD, seeking information about the retrofitting and restoration of Bray train station, Mr Meade said, "The National Transport Authority/Wicklow County Council (WCC) project which will upgrade the current Station forecourt/Bus connect area was due onsite late September 2022, however this was delayed to Covid 19. Wicklow County Council went out to tender for the works contract and have advised that they are currently assessing the tenders. They envisage to be in a position to appoint a contractor this month. A start date will be finalised once the contractor is appointed and WCC expect works to commence at the end of Q3 or early Q4 of this year. The land is currently being transferred to WCC and they should be in a position to provide an update when the Contractor is appointed.

"There are currently 2 retail outlets in Bray station, a kiosk unit which closed before Christmas with the closure of AMT Coffee, and Insomnia will be re-opening this unit later this month. The other unit is a mini market/general convenience store, and this is trading. The toilets will be retrofitted to modern standards, we have just received the tender returns and envisage to be on site in July/August."



€1m Community Fund open for nominations

A €1 million community fund has opened for nominations of charitable organisations with a closing date of 14th June.

AIB will allocate €700,000 to charities chosen by its customers and the public, while €300,000 will be donated to charities chosen by the bank's employees. In total, 70 charities will benefit across five regions - Munster, Ulster, Greater Dublin, the rest of Leinster, and Connacht. Nomination forms and more details can be accessed at www.aib.ie/community.

Pictured are Lizzy Carroll (left) with Stuart and Aoife Crowley holding Stan at Dogs for the Disabled, who received funds from the AIB Community €1 Million Fund in 2022. Photo by Cathal Noonan.



Minister for Public Expenditure Pascal Donohoe and Minister for Justice Simon Harris are pictured with Evanne, Barry and Emma Cahill at the Fine Gael breakfast meeting in the Parkview Hotel last Monday, 29th May.

Community encouraged to get involved in Heritage Week

Heritage newcomers, enthusiasts and experts of all ages in county Wicklow are being invited to register in-person events and digital projects for inclusion as part of National Heritage Week 2023.

National Heritage Week, which will run from Saturday, 12th August to Sunday, 20th August, has become one of Wicklow's, and indeed Ireland's, largest cultural events. Events and digital projects can now be uploaded via the Organisers' Portal on www.heritage-week.ie.

For an opportunity to be promoted in local media in the run up to National Heritage Week, you should submit your event before 15th June, though events may be submitted up to the beginning of National Heritage Week on 12th August. Digital heritage projects should be submitted by 22nd August.

In-person events can consist of walking tours, lectures, film screenings, exhibitions, craft workshops or other interactive activities. Digital project formats may vary from online talks or exhibitions, to videos, podcasts, presentations or blogs, a dedicated website or social media account.

Living Heritage is defined as the "practices, knowledge and skills that have been passed from one genera-

tion to the next and are still in use today". Events and projects might involve the exploration of the traditions of hurling, camogie or Gaelic/Ladies football; a deep dive into the beauty of traditional Irish music, dancing or singing; the preservation of our crafts and skills such as Traveller tinsmithing, lace making and basket weaving; the showcasing of our built heritage traditions such as thatching, lime plastering and dry-stone walling.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, stated: "National Heritage Week is always a hugely popular part of the events calendar for County Wicklow and is a wonderful way for communities and individuals to shine a light on their local place and their local efforts to protect their natural and built heritage."

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Emer O'Gorman, re-iterated Wicklow County Council's support for National Heritage Week as a means of promoting and celebrating our living heritage through demonstrations, music, re-enactments,

tours and talks, saying: "National Heritage week 2023 will create truly memorable experiences for domestic tourists and locals alike across the country."

Chair of the Heritage Council, Martina Moloney, explained: "As well as living heritage, we also want to encourage event and project organisers to view built and natural heritage through the lens of cultural heritage this year. There are back stories to every holy well and ruin across the country, traditions associated with our pilgrim paths and their beautiful natural heritage, and skills associated with our water heritage, from currach making to seine boat building to snap net fishing. As custodians of this heritage, it is incumbent on all of us to examine how we can preserve, sustain and share these unique skills, traditions, art forms and ways of life, while engaging contemporary audiences."

For advice on hosting and promoting events in county Wicklow contact Deirdre Burns, Wicklow County Council's Heritage Officer at dburns@wicklowcoco.ie.



Luna Keenan, Fionn Oireachtaigh and Sean Bailey at the 2023 Wicklow County Fleadh in Avoca.

Wicklow communities invited to explore Archive Network

An event was held in Wicklow last Wednesday to mark a new chapter for the award-winning Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN), the leading organisation championing and supporting community archives in Ireland.

Since 2009, iCAN has supported the creation of 33 online digital archives in Clare, Cork, Galway, Mayo, including 7 in Co Wicklow. Over 180 volunteers are involved in managing and supporting the existing community archives.

iCAN was established by the National Museum of Ireland and has been developed in partnership with participating local authority Heritage Officers and with support from Creative Ireland. The Heritage Council is joining iCAN as a new funding partner, which will facilitate an expansion of the initiative and the iCAN team. Together, they have ambitions to support the development of at least 80 digital

archives across Ireland by 2028.

iCAN community archive websites are contributory, which means that anyone, anywhere in the world can contribute their photos, maps, letters, records, stories and documents to help build the collections.

As well as documenting information about local heritage sites, traditions and well-known local people, the archives are also a valuable source for genealogy and ancestry projects.

Many of the archives also include oral histories and videos and valuable resources such as local 'census' documents dating from before the Famine, and visitors can access digi-

tal and searchable archives relating to specific graveyards, townlands, and even houses - which in turn gives a unique and valuable insight into family records.

The diaspora uses the iCAN community archives to connect with local groups, who in turn assist with their family history enquiries. These connections frequently result in visits to Ireland with the local group bringing visitors to ancestral homes and graves and re-connecting them with unknown or lost family members.

Several of the archives also have volunteers who are based abroad in countries such as the US and Australia. The iCAN network has been visited 2,244,000 times by visitors from 215 countries, or 16,000 cities, across the world - more than 5,750,000 pages of Irish heritage content have been explored.

Members of the iCAN network from around the country gathered in Wicklow yesterday to celebrate the continued expansion of the network.

Speaking at the event in Wicklow, volunteer, Karen Allison, Donard Imaal History Group, Co Wicklow said; "For anybody out there who is interested in local history, in their community, iCAN is fabulous and the support is incredible.

We're learning so much about our area, and we now have an archive where history is being kept forever and that is the important thing."

Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow said; "Wicklow County Council is delighted to be involved in this initiative. Our participation in iCAN is helping us to deliver on actions of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan by creating a living archive for county Wicklow, a way to connect landscape, people, and places. As an open access digital platform, it is transformative for all involved, supporting the work of local communities and giving them the tools to curate the heritage of their local area and to share this with the global Wicklow diaspora."

Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, Virginia Teehan, said: "Volunteer archivists can so often be the unsung heroes of a community, doing incredible work to safeguard knowledge, collections, stories and local history. The information they gather and preserve is crucial in providing people with a broader sense of themselves and where they come from, and The Heritage Council is proud to be in position to contribute to this important work."

Lorna Elms, Development Officer



Pictured at the iCAN event are: Back, left to right Dr Martina Moloney, Chairperson of the Heritage Council, Conor McDermott, Glendalough Heritage Forum, Lorna Elms, Development Officer, iCAN, Oonagh McElligott, Donard Imaal History Group, Lynn Scarff, Director of the National Museum of Ireland, Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, Sheena Gogarty, Delgany Tidy Towns (Delgany Heritage Village), Maurice McGuire, The Medieval Bray Project, Therese Hicks, The Medieval Bray Project, Pat Reid, Glendalough Heritage Forum, Karen Allison, Donard Imaal History Group, Graeme Warren, Glendalough Heritage Forum; Front, left to right: Mary Hargaden, The Medieval Bray Project, Catherine Wright, County Wicklow Archivist, Deirdre Burns, County Wicklow Heritage Officer, Gerlanda Maniglia, County Wicklow Local Studies Librarian, Cllr John Snell, Wicklow County Council, Joan Kavanagh, Glens of Lead, Colin Love, Greystones Tidy Towns (Ancient Rathdown)

with iCAN, said; "iCAN provides volunteers with practical and technical training to support them as they establish a digital archive for their local community."

"The work being carried out by volunteers around the country to create and maintain these rich repositories is so valuable. They're documenting local history and heritage in a special way that brings people from all generations together to celebrate, record and preserve their shared history, and to enjoy a shared pride of place."

In 2020, iCAN was awarded the eBest

Network of Archives Award at the highly competitive UK and Ireland Community Archive and Heritage Group (CAHG) Annual Awards.

Individual members of the iCAN network have also been the recipients of county, national and international awards for their heritage work and projects. Members of the public are invited to visit, contribute to and to volunteer with the digital archives in the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN).

The full list of archives is available at ouririshheritage.org

After a successful week of shows in the Mermaid Arts Centre, **Action Arts Stage School** (established 2001) is running three weeks of **SUMMER CAMPS** for children aged 5-12!

With new owner, Aoife Morrison at the helm, this fun-filled camp will focus on confidence boosting, team building, and self expression through Drama, Song, Dance, Arts & Crafts and lots of interactive and fun activities. With friendly and supportive staff, each child will be welcomed and encouraged to shine! First responder on site.

Camp One: 3rd- 7th July, 1:30pm-5:00pm, Villa Pacis Bray - €90
Camp Two: 10th-14th July, 1:30pm-5:00pm, Villa Pacis, Bray - €90
Camp Three: 31st July- 4th August, Presbyterian Hall, Greystones - €90

To sign up, email Aoife at amacting19@gmail.com

MAD DRAMA SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

10:00AM - 12:00PM
MINI GROUP Ages 4-6
1:00PM - 3:00PM
JUNIOR Ages 7-12
3:00PM-5:30PM
SENIORS Age 12+

SIGN UP NOW!

3rd - 7th July
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MILK TEETH

Wicklow Older People's Council reconnect at AGM

Over 120 older people from across County Wicklow attended the annual general meeting of the Older People's Council. This was first such event to be held since pandemic restrictions forced the postponement of the 2020 AGM.

Outgoing Chair of County Wicklow Older People's Council, Mai Quaid, welcomed the new Chair of the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance, Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, to the even in the Glenview Hotel on Friday last (26th May). Both welcomed the

attendance from a wide range of community groups and networks across the county.

Mai Quaid said that it had been a challenging few years for older people stating: "There have been a lot of changes since the last AGM in 2019. But it has been a busy and productive few years for the

Older People's Council Executive with new faces and structures at the Age Friendly Ireland Programme and on the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance. The OPC Executive team in County Wicklow have been working closely with the members of the Alliance to develop this

new five-year strategy to make County Wicklow a great place to grow old."

Staff from the multi-agency Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance attended the event to provide information on service and supports for older people, including: Health Service Executive, An Garda Síochána, Citizens Information Services, County Wicklow Libraries Services, Local Sports Partnership, County Wicklow Partnership, Bray Area Partnership and the Public Participation Network.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council and Chair of the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance, Emer O'Gorman, said: "Wicklow County Council has made significant progress in embedding an age friendly approach to all of its work and is committed to the Age Friendly Programme in the county. As Chair of the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance, I can confirm that the other Agencies represented on the Alliance are also committed to implementing the new Wicklow Age Friendly County Strategy,



Margaret Birchall, Emer O'Gorman (Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council) and Deirdre Priestly.



The County Wicklow Older People's Council committee at the AGM in the Glenview Hotel.



Age Friendly Ambassador for County Wicklow Senator Pat Casey, Martina Cronin, Peter Prunty and Pat Brennan at the County Wicklow Older People's Council AGM in the Glenview Hotel.

for 2023-2027, and it is great to see so many of them here today to connect with the older people they serve."

Senator Pat Casey, Age Friendly Ambassador for County Wicklow, stated: "Older People's Councils play a vital role in representing the authentic voice of older individuals throughout the country. They provide valuable advice to agencies and service providers, on the services and facilities that older people need in their communities. In County Wicklow, the Older People's Council is the channel for that voice, and an active participant on the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance."

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, emphasised: "It is important that we honour diversity in our older population, listen to the voices that represent diverse groups and different locations - both urban and rural."

The World Health Organisation 'Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme' has been running for nearly 15 years and has been implemented by all 31 Local Authorities in Ireland. The programme is built on the recognition of the valuable role that older people can and should play in shaping their communities for the better and it aims to make Ireland a truly great place in which to grow old.

Alice Corbett, Regional Manager Southeast, for Age Friendly Ireland, provided an update on the new operating guidelines, developed by the National Network of Older People's Councils. She commended County Wicklow's innovative and creative approach to making Wicklow a great place



Hilary Taylor, Betty Kelly and Alice Corbett

in which to grow old and called on older people, over 55, to volunteer for active engagement with the OPC Executive, to support the implementation of the actions in the

new Strategy. County Wicklow residents, aged over 55, who would like to find out more about volunteering for active engagement with the Older People's Council

Executive group should contact the County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme Manager, County Wicklow, by email at : agefriendly@wicklowcoco.ie



Inspector Colm Corrigan, Mai Quaid (outgoing Chair of County Wicklow Older People's Council), Emer O'Gorman (Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council and Chair of the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance), and Samantha Seabrooke.

A farewell to John Dillon

Pres woodwork teacher retires after 42 years

After about 42 years teaching he's finally had enough. How does anybody last that long? If you knew John Dillon, you'd agree it's only with a smile, and a grin that it can be done. "Don't take it too seriously", he'd often say, "Sure this isn't work lads - I've worked on the sites now that's hard work!" Teachers often debate about vocation, meaning, influence, learning, professional matters and so on, but if you were to ask John about the most important thing in teaching, he'd likely say "the cheque every second Thursday". And that's not being glib. John knows what's important and what's not. Maybe that's how he survived so long with a smile firmly planted on his face.

By Clifton Rooney, Pres Bray art teacher

As a teacher, speaking about another teacher, it's always a funny thing. You don't really know if they are good, bad or indifferent because you don't get taught by them. What I can say is that John is a marvellous person and a great friend. I've not really known John that long. Maybe 15 years or so, but I remember well one of my earliest memories of him. I had just joined the school from Loreto. I was working out of a small prefab that may have even been older than John himself! A few days earlier, he had shown me a service tunnel that ran under the main school for maintenance. It was a dark and grimy place full of detritus. He came into my prefab and pointed out the buckling floor. Years of moisture from the sink had obviously caused it to warp badly. He announced his position, Health and Safety Officer for

Presentation College, and with that warned me of the imminent danger to my students. He told me that the service tunnel lay directly underneath that sink (which it didn't) and that that floor could fall through any minute right down into the tunnel with a drop of over 10 ft. He told me I couldn't bring students into the classroom with such a glaring safety infringement. 'What kind of place have I come to?' was all I could think. I marched straight to the principal, to express my disgust with the safety in my classroom. Gerry, the principal at the time, explained that I had been 'got'. It took me 10 years before I 'got' him back!

I've learned a lot from John over the years. While I could never call John a 'wise elder', he always cut straight through the nonsense.

One of the first things you'll notice in his wood-



John Dillon

work room is that there are no chairs, about which I of course enquired. "Well Clifton, it's like this, they're not here to sit around, they're here to work" - and work they do. John brought 75 3rd year

students through Junior cycle this year alone!

As a woodwork teacher, John has always taken safety very seriously. But again, in a manner befitting John, he is not heavy-handed in his method. His

oblique techniques are far more memorable than reading the text of a safety sheet. One such involves a glass jar in which a rotting, gnarled carrot is sitting. The jar is neatly labelled 'Fingers'. This jar is presented at the beginning of each year to remind students where to place their fingers should they lose one.

But accidents do occur; both in the woodwork room and in every other corner of the school. I've more than once had the need to call for John's help, and his 'old school' demeanour melts to that of a kindly nurse. I've watched him wheel students up the corridor on a swivel chair, attend emergencies in the fields and administer lifesaving assistance in the school and beyond.

In more recent times, new specifications and courses have not phased John in the slightest. The new Junior Cycle has introduced all sorts of



John Dillon (left) with art teacher Clifton Rooney.

new terminology, one of which is 'Learning Intentions'. needless to say there are many of them, and they can get very specific and confusing. John has had one and only one intention for all classes: 'Learn to Listen'.

He never embraced the computer. But he was truly 'old school'. He took his roll by hand. I input his exam results from what he calls his 'slate'; a piece of wood with each student's name written on it alongside their results for three years. And emails...he has never once read a school email. Last time we checked in to see how many were unread, it

was in the tens of thousands. I asked him how he felt about it: "delighted! Sure, think of the amount of time I would have spent reading all of them!"

John isn't just a teacher, though. He's mad about his (I know family should follow here) Óscars. He has rebuilt from scratch a Ford Escort Mark II and also helped to rebuild an original early 1900s Ford Hearse. While most would bring this to shows and speak about its history, John likes to drive around at Halloween in it. In the back, is a coffin (that he of course built) fitted with a remote control Velux

window opener in which there is a mannequin.

John has always cut through the nonsense. And maybe this ability is what has enabled him to remain so positive, so energetic and so happy - or maybe it's just how he recharges at the weekend. I don't know how often he's told me on a Monday morning: 'great weekend, drove to Cork and back Friday night, down to Wexford and back Saturday and off to Ballybackarse on Sunday.' "What were you doing, John?" "Dancing, windsurfing, rallying. John's a man who lives life fully. It'll continue far beyond Pres.

Greystones principal receives Teachers Inspire Award

Ruairi Farrell, principal of Greystones Community College, has received the prestigious Teachers Inspire Ireland Desmond Award. At a special ceremony in Dublin City University, hosted by RTE Broadcaster Miriam O'Callaghan, Mr. Farrell was recognised for the inspirational role he played in the lives of his students, alongside three other teachers from across Ireland.

Mr. Farrell was nominated by past pupil Ciara Nolan who was struggling with an eating disorder during her time in school. Mr. Farrell took action and made an appointment for then 17-year-old Ciara to see a counsellor, which helped her get the help she needed.

Ciara says: "Mr. Farrell

would always pull you aside if he thought you were having a bad day, and really took the time to sit and listen to anything you had to say." With his help and support Ciara said that Mr. Farrell saved her both mentally and physically.

Organised and run by Dublin City University,

Teachers Inspire is an Ireland-wide initiative that seeks to

celebrate teachers and recognise the transformative role they play in our lives and in our communities.

Acclaimed Author, Louise O'Neill, returned as this year's curator and host of the Teachers

Inspire podcast where she spoke to some of the nominees about the challenges they faced at school and how

their teachers helped them overcome them. On her involvement with the Teachers Inspire initiative,

Louise said: "It is an honour to curate and host the Teachers Inspire podcast once again. I have loved and felt immensely privileged to listen to and to share the stories of the nominators and nominees from across Ireland. Coming from a family of teachers, I have seen first hand how much love, passion and effort goes into the job, and every single teacher deserves to be recognised for the work that they do when it comes to shaping the lives of future generations."

The Teachers Inspire initiative is generously supported by a philanthropic donation from Mr. Dermot Desmond. Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Desmond said: "In all that they do, teachers have a profoundly positive influence on the lives of our children and young people. They are true heroes of Irish society. For that reason, I have been genuinely delighted to support the Teachers Inspire initiative since it launched in 2019.

I want to congratulate this year's worthy recipients and indeed, every teacher who was nominated."

Professor Anne Looney, Executive Dean of Dublin City University's Institute of Education, said: "Teachers Inspire celebrates the incredible contribution teachers make to

young people and their communities across Ireland. The podcast has received a huge response, and to listen to the remarkable stories of teachers influencing lives in such positive and profound ways, is truly inspiring. These stories are part of Ireland's great

teaching heritage and our reputation for producing some of the best teachers in the world. These are the stories that inspire the next generation of teachers - especially the thousands studying with us in DCU Institute of Education, and the many more who apply each year

to join our teacher education programmes. And these stories are also a reflection of the calibre and status of teachers and teaching in Irish society. We need to keep telling these stories: our children and young people deserve great and inspiring teachers."

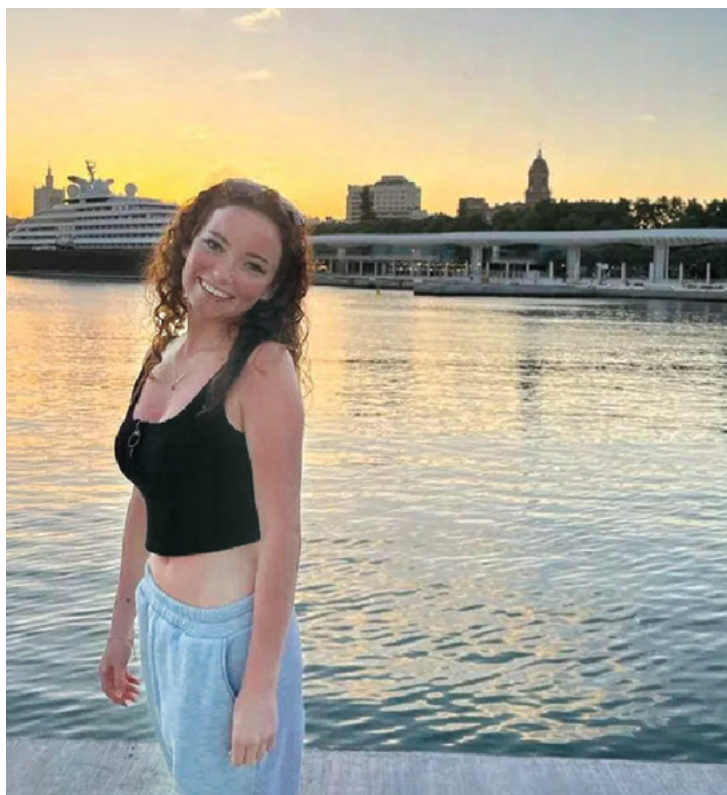


Ruairi Farrell, principal of Greystones Community College, with author Louise O'Neill and broadcaster Miriam O'Callaghan



Theatrical Media and Fashion Makeup Blackrock Further Education Institute students Chaeli McCarthy from Rathdrum and Ciara Kelly from Tinahely

BIFE Erasmus+, the experience of a lifetime



Abby Goodwin in Malaga

My experience with Erasmus+ in Malaga was undoubtedly the best I've ever had. It helped me realize that the small, quaint town I'm used to is not the only place in the world. I would love to go back in time and do it all over again.

By Abby Goodwin

I was assigned to Alina Saginbaevs Real Estate agents to complete my work experience as I am currently enrolled in the Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE)'s legal administration program. They treated me with the utmost respect and professionalism. We completed things including making PowerPoint presentations, scanning documents, researching their website, and assisting them with adding contacts to their phonebook. Although the language barrier made things a little challenging, they were very understanding and did their best to guide us. I really liked working here, and I'd certainly suggest their company for further Erasmus students.

Here comes the fun part.

What transpired after our days in work. The Spanish culture is very intriguing and distinct from Irish culture, including their cuisine. Personally, I'm used to having a roast beef dinner and a rasher sandwich for lunch. In Spain, things are really different. They provide a meal called "Tapas," which consists of a few finger-sized bits of food to keep you satiated.

We also had the opportunity to observe Semana Santa, also known as Holy Week, a significant aspect of Spanish culture. We initially found it strange since we assumed the people were dressed as Ku Klux Klan members, but they actually represent the numerous brotherhoods that take part in the processions. The music was excellent, and it was

engaging. People travel from all over the world to view the Semena Santa, therefore, if you have a dinner reservation, make sure to leave 30 to 40 minutes early to allow for navigating through the crowds.

We also had the chance to travel to new destinations thanks to the Erasmus program organised by BIFE, such as Gilbrafrao, which required a strenuous hike to the summit of a mountain. I climbed this mountain twice, and I must admit that the second time was much better because it was at night and the sun wasn't scorching us. We also went to nearby seaside town of Nerja, which was fantastic. We took a stroll along the beach, had dinner at a restaurant with an excellent view of the ocean, and then went down to the water's edge to sunbathe for a while. We also

went to Frigiliana, which had a stunning view of Malaga as its entirety. They had a boat trip planned for us as well; just remember to pack a jumper because it gets chilly on the boat. We enjoyed ourselves so much that we had a few beers on the boat and met a lot of Erasmus students from Ireland's Donegal region. We all became extremely close, and I've kept in touch with the Erasmus trip participants to this day. Even though I'm not a morning person and several of these trips required us to rise early, I'd definitely do it again. It was quite easy to get out of bed when the sun was shining through your window when you first woke up.

We enjoyed going out to clubs like "bubbles" and "Bambu," but "Sala Gold" was our absolute favourite. We spent a lot of evenings here drinking, having a great time, and dancing to Spanish tunes, which I'm still listening to now that

I'm at home. The traditional dancing in Irish clubs is just leaping up and down and pumping our fists in the air, but Spanish dancing is completely different; it's all in the hips. I have to say that Spanish clubs are far superior to Irish clubs.

I've learned a lot from this Erasmus trip, including the importance of wearing sunscreen and that you should seize every opportunity that comes your way because you never know when it might turn out to be the best experience of your life. I almost declined this opportunity because I didn't want to take any more time off work, but I urge you to take that time off and go enjoy life instead.

As the BIFE teachers instructed us, "make sure to have fun as well as working," I can assure you that we most definitely did. I want to thank everyone in BIFE for this wonderful experience. I will undoubtedly always treasure those memories.

'Clarity needed on Blessington Community College accommodation'

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore is calling on the Department of Education for clarity on the provision of temporary classroom accommodation at Blessington Community College for the September intake of First Year students.

At a meeting in late February, TDs and local representatives were told by the Blessington Community College teaching staff and Parents Association that the school would need an additional six classrooms to accommodate the large number of First Year students due to start secondary school in September 2023. Following this meeting the school received confirmation from their patron KWETB that these six additional classrooms had

been approved by the Department of Education. "Blessington Community College have been waiting over three months for details about the arrival of these six additional classrooms which are urgently needed for this September. We have repeatedly asked the Department of Education for a timeline for this project and now with only a few days left in the school year we still don't have a start or completion date for this project," commented Deputy Whitmore.

"The lack of clarity or a confirmation that these classrooms will be in place and ready for students at the start of the new school year is causing a huge amount of anxiety among parents and students in Blessington and the surrounding area. I am calling on the Department of Education to take immediate action and offer the community here some reassurance that there will be room for their children when they start school in September," added



BCC parents and principal with Deputy Jennifer Whitmore and Deirdre McCormack

Deputy Whitmore.

Social Democrats Local Area Representative for West Wicklow,

Deirdre McCormack remarked, "we were delighted at the announcement in April that Blessington Community College had been approved to be developed into a 1,000 student school. This was fantastic news for our growing community here in

Blessington but our attention really needs to be focused on this September and the urgent need for these six additional classrooms.

"Starting Secondary School is a big step for young people and their parents. They should be looking forward to this

new start instead of anxiously waiting to hear if there will be enough classrooms for them in September."

Deputy Whitmore concluded: "We have been working with the parents, teachers and school staff at Blessington Community College since

February and their determination and commitment to ensuring that this school gets the facilities it needs must be applauded. Blessington is a growing community and needs its schools to grow with it. We will continue to work together to support the community here."



Students from Rathdown School - Class of 2023 - at Graduation Day. Picture: Jason Clarke

St Laurence O'Toole's N.S. Centenary

St Laurence O'Toole's NS, Roundwood is celebrating its Centenary year. The old school on the main street was built in 1923 and on June 11th 2023, the school is holding a Centenary Celebration.

The school says, "In November 2022, we began the Centenary Celebrations with the production of The Roundwood Review. This book was developed by our 6th class mini-companies and contains articles on past pupils, teachers, local community members and organisations and local historical articles. It is a tribute to the school and the community in which the school is very much a part of. The Roundwood Review is a must read for anyone with either links to the school or an interest in history.

"The Centenary Celebration promises to be a very enjoyable day for all and will consist of keynote speakers, entertainment and refreshments. Everyone is invited to attend with the doors opening at 12pm and speeches beginning at 12.30pm sharp."



St Laurence O'Toole's pupils with Cllr Shay Cullen and a copy of the Roundwood Review

72 students receive National Learning Network Bray certificates

More than 70 students were awarded QQI awards at the National Learning Network (NLN) Bray Certification Ceremony in the Parkview Hotel last week.

The 72 recipients included both past and present students in the first event for the Bray centre following the Covid pandemic and who all received certificates in

a range of subjects from Business Administration to Employability Skills. Family and friends joined both students and staff to swell the number in the Newtown venue to

well over 100 attendees on the night, making for a great atmosphere. Former students Sarah Larkin, Stuart Brierton and Ben Hoskin gave inspired speeches outlin-

ing their experiences during their time in NLN Bray, while centre manager Alison Gapaert also spoke of her and her colleagues' immense pride at the achievement of the recipients.

"I would like to offer my congratulations and thanks to all concerned for their hard work and dedication," Alison said.

Sarah told how she had enrolled in NLN Arklow before moving onto the Jobstart course in Bray which worked "as a stepping stone to boost her confidence" and how she is now working as a training instructor in NLN Park House, Stillorgan.

Ben, who has just completed his first year in Trinity College through its Access



Alison Gapaert, Centre Manager - NLN Bray, Oonagh Hodgkinson, Instructor, Councillor Tom Fortune, Emily Campbell Fogarty, Student, Carmel Bennett, Instructor, and Leo Carton, Student



David Kelly, former student, Shay Hiney, instructor, Bray Cathaoirleach Cllr Erika Doyle, and student Darren McGrath

Certificates presented at New Court School

Bray Area Partnership's IMPACT Initiative was delighted recently to present students from New Court School with certificates for an IMPACT skills-based training programme they had completed.

The programme included modules in Customer Care, Manual Handling, HACCP Food Safety, Safe Knife Handling Skills, Career Guidance and Health & Safety in the Workplace.

The idea was to increase the students' job-readiness to support them to progress into paid employment.

Presenting the certificates, IMPACT Initiative Coordinator, Orla Butler, congratulated the students on their achievements, thanked the school's teachers for their engagement, and trainer Finola Dolan for working so supportively with the group.

"We're delighted to have collaborated with New Court School to provide this skills-based training", she said. "IMPACT is all about supporting people with disabilities to get the job



New Court Certs tutor teachers team: Finola Dolan, Food Safety Network Ireland; Sinead Darby, teacher; Louise Egan, Deputy Principal; Orla Butler, Coordinator IMPACT Initiative; Renee Sutton, IMPACT Initiative; Hilery Conway, teacher and Kevin Kelliher, IMPACT Initiative.

they want and progress in their careers. We will continue to support the students through their ongoing career journeys".

The IMPACT initiative is a free service that supports people with disabilities in the Bray and North Wicklow area to find jobs, progress in their careers or

set up their own business. They also work with employers to help them make their workplaces more inclusive and accessible.

IMPACT was set up as a Consortium of local organisations, led by Bray Area Partnership, with funding under the Measure

to Support the Employment of People with Disabilities - a Department of Social Protection programme resourced by the Dormant Accounts Fund.

To find out more about IMPACT, see www.brayareapartnership.ie or call 01 963 3342.

Programme, expressed his thanks to his "family, friends and the NLN instructors who helped him get there".

Meanwhile, Stuart who progressed through NLN and onto BIFE and is now working full-time in security, wished the current students "the best of luck for their futures".

Also in attendance on the night were councillors Tom Fortune, Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Joe Behan and Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Erika Doyle.

National Learning Network Bray is based in Beechwood Close, Boghall Road and provide specialist training and education programmes for people who, because of an accident, illness, a mental health setback or a disability, need extra support to move on to work or further education.

The centre can be contacted on 01 282 9643, while there is an Open Morning every Tuesday between 10.30am and 12.30pm to give information about their training courses.



Claire Kealy, Instructor, Elaine Whyte, Canteen Assistant, and Carmel Bennett, Instructor



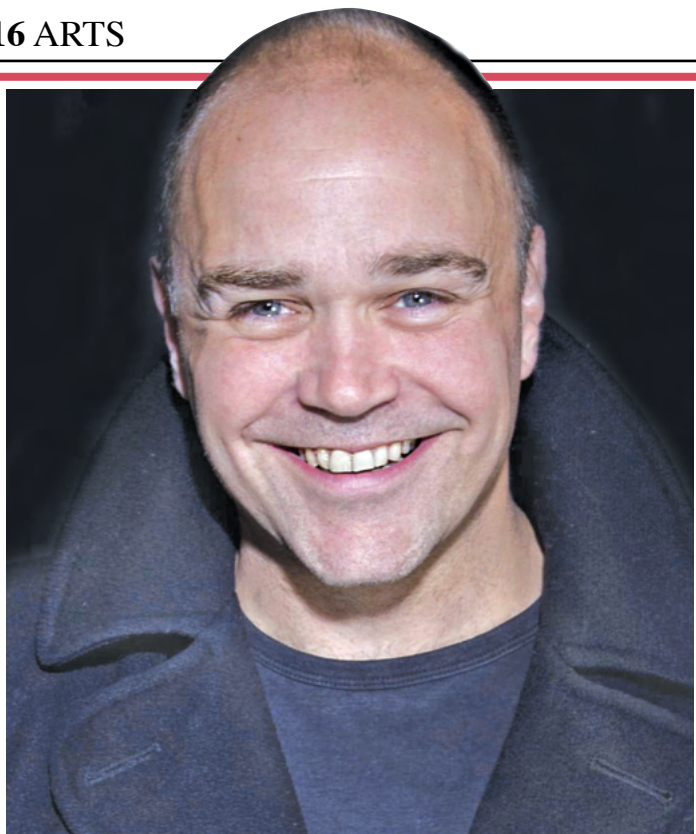
Guest Speakers - students Ben Hoskin, Sarah Whelan, and Stuart Brierton



Sinead Darby, teacher New Court School; Louise Egan, Deputy Principal New Court School; students; and (on the right) Hilery Conway, teacher New Court School.



Preuniversity Arts and Social Science students from Blackrock Further Education Institute (BFEI), Clive Murphy, Conor Fullerton and Daniel Talbot - all 3 are from Bray.



West End singer Chris Holland (*Les Miserables*, *We Will Rock You*, *Miss Saigon*) returns to The Whale Theatre in Greystones on Friday 16th June with his one man show, singing songs from the greatest musicals, and some other all time classics, with some laughs along the way. With an all acoustic backing of wonderful musicians, it's the perfect way to kick start the weekend! 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets Sold Out but register a at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 for waiting list.

11th Annual Signal Open

Over the last 250 years 'Open Submission' exhibitions have become established as an essential element of Arts infrastructure. They act as one of the most accessible routes for artists to have their work seen by the public and are almost invariably amongst the stepping stones in an artist's career.

These exhibitions provide an opportunity for artists to come together as a community to show and sell their work and provide the public with an eclectic insight into what's happening in the arts both locally and nationally.

A founding tenet of Signal Arts Centre in Bray is the belief that there is a huge amount of talent that goes unrecognised and that an opportunity should be there for all artists to exhibit their work. The Signal Open is just such an opportunity.

The Signal Open Exhibition is now in its 11th year and has become an annual event in artists' calendars. We have been delighted by the response and the quality of work submitted each year and we are very grateful to all of the artists for their support.

The 11th Annual Signal Open Exhibition takes place at the Signal Arts Centre from Tuesday 8th - Sunday 20th August 2023. The 'Best in Show' winner will be awarded

€1,000 and will be announced at the Exhibition Opening Reception on Friday 11th August 2023 from 7pm to 9pm. Submission details: www.signalartscentre.ie or 01-276 2039



"Fanta, Lemons" by Michael O'Leary. Best in Show 2021

Wind: an exhibition by Andrew Freeland

Signal Arts Centre, Monday 24th July to Sunday 6th August

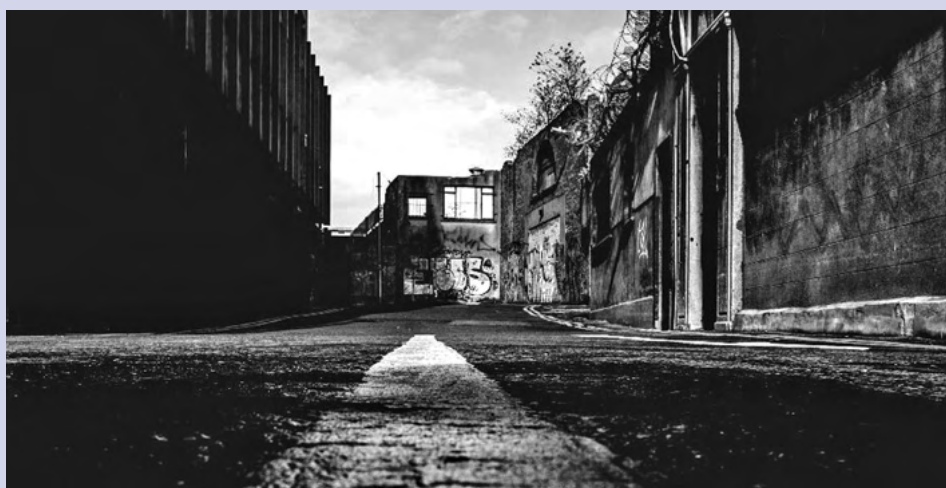
The act of strolling is the role that the flâneur holds within the world. While remaining hidden, lost among the crowd. During the act of strolling the flâneur accumulates knowledge of the urban space.



Metro by Andrew Freeland

A Photograph taken within the confines of the street reflects the feelings from the photographer. So an unintentional self-portrait can be created and hidden within the imagery.

Wind is a Photographic Exhibition that will open from 24th July to 6th August. The artist Andrew Freeland is an IADT Graduate, former Staff Artist at Signal and is a local Wicklow Artist. The underlying element for the exhibition will be exploring the flâneur of street photography and other new elements. Andrew invites you to



Stoneybatter by Andrew Freeland

critic and enjoy his work while it is being hosted by the Signal Arts Centre.

"Freeland's montage of street photographs had a terrific, gritty, open-ended narrative quality. Working in Dublin and

Paris, he became a 'flâneur', absorbing and capturing the energy, drift and flow of urban life and character," said Aidan Dunne, The Irish Times.

When you start a project that has elements of

new and old work, certain questions you must ask. How it is different from before and how it is the same?

Andrew's show will have three different elements. The Imagery still retains traditional ele-

ments of street photography as a flâneur and moves into more colourful burnt and overexposed images and some new imagery. His showcase will also include a series of photographic books.

Martin Angolo

Whale Theatre, Saturday 17th June, 8pm (doors 7pm).

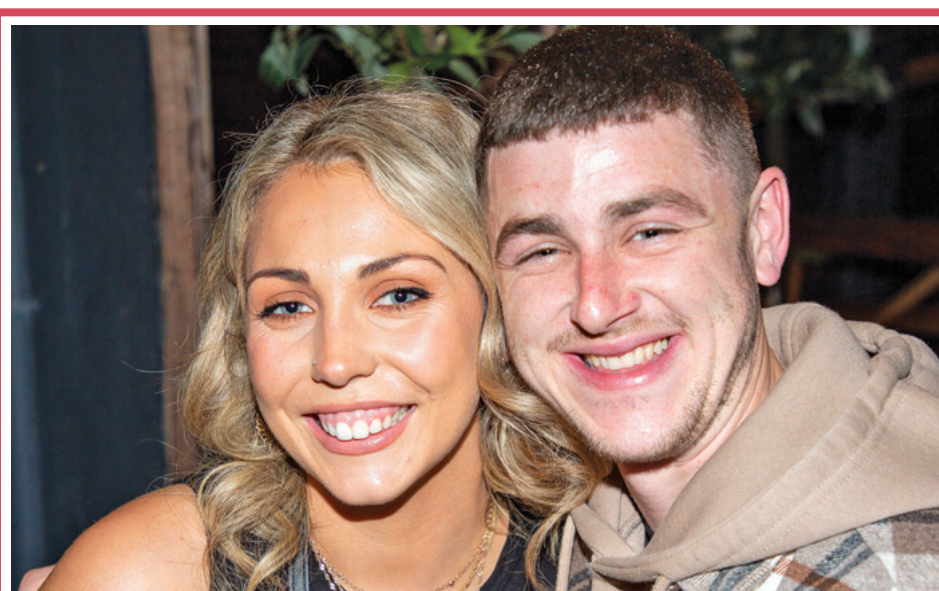
Tickets €15 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550

Break-out stand-up star Martin Angolo embarks on his first tour of Ireland.

Fresh from a hugely successful tour of 20 North American cities last March and a European tour in November Martin brings his unique brand of intelligent one liners and stories home to Ireland.

Well known for his appearances on RTE, SKY and BBC Martin also hosts his own podcast "The Substantial Meal" and has had millions of views weekly as a regular contributor of the "Try" Youtube channel. Come along, say hello, bring a Brunch.

"One of the city's most exciting emerging comics" - *Totally Dublin*



At the recent comedy night in the Brass Fox in Wicklow Town were Courtney Phelan and Nathan Hamilton.

Cruinniú na nÓg takes place this weekend

This day of free creativity for children and young people returns to County Wicklow on Saturday 10th June 2023.

Each year Cruinniú na nÓg becomes more firmly embedded into the lives of young people with a huge programme of free creative activities planned for 10th June that will really stretch the imagination.

In Wicklow alone there are more than 40 activities, events and workshops taking place across nine locations.

With an array of creative activities including a BrickFlicks Stop Motion Workshop with Create School and Animal Willow Weaving with Wicklow Willow at the Mermaid Arts Centre; Plan-It-Play Science and Art Workshops at Bray Library and a special 'Jukebox' Family Concert at Killrudey House, there's something for everyone in Bray this year.

As part of the Cruinniú na nÓg programme, in Dunlavin 'Let's Drum with the Mobile Music School' involves interactive, hands-on drumming workshops that introduce children to a range of percussion instruments from different parts of the world. These workshops cover rhythms and patterns that are commonly heard in African and Samba drumming and modern music.

Wicklow Libraries are providing a range of fun-filled events and workshops including:

* Miriam Brady is providing a unique eTextile Art Workshop to

showcase the art of sculpting a beautiful felted bowl using a mix of wool and silk fibres in Wicklow Town Library.

* 'Paper Folds - Mind Unfolds' will explore the Japanese art of folding paper into different objects, shapes, and animals.

* Featuring a percussion workshop from qualified percussionist and composer Tony Byrne, an artist workshop with Julie Fee and musical performances from Roisin Vigors, Fionn Vigors and Teddy Guilfoyle, join Arklow Music and Arts for their special introduction to the Arts event at Arklow Library.

* 'Toddler Sing-A-Long' is a fun-filled interactive session of live-music and song and music-making in Blessington Library.

* Young residents from Kippure Lodge will perform their recent creations for all to enjoy at the Rhyme Island Showcase at Blessington Library.

* Also in Blessington Library, Sew Fun Studios are hosting a 'Hedwig the Owl Sewing Workshop' a Harry Potter themed sewing workshop.

* Join local artist and printmaker Susie Fortune from White Doodle Art for 'Draw, print, cut and Paste' to create a fun collage combining a mix of Gelli printing, painting and drawing in Greystones Library.

'This Is Art', Ireland's national young people's art competition, returns this year as part of Cruinniú na nÓg. With over 120 entries by young artists and creatives from Wicklow alone, a prize fund of more than €10,000 will be awarded across various categories. To mark this incredible number of submissions, Wicklow Arts office is sharing a selection of entries on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in the lead up to the winners being announced on Saturday, 10th June.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman, said: Cruinniú na nÓg is an important collaboration between Creative Ireland, local authorities and RTE to bring colourful, free and creative activities to thousands of young people across the country.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, said: "As the only event of its kind in the world, County Wicklow will be buzzing with activities, events and workshops for Cruinniú na nÓg this year with a special programme designed to surprise and delight young audiences."

All events are free and people are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. See the full programme of Cruinniú na nÓg events at cruinniú.creativeireland.gov.ie



As part of the annual Cruinniú na nÓg celebration of children the ourthouse Arts Centre will hold a dual-purpose workshop - 'Make Your Own Instrument, Write Your Own Song,' from 10am to 1pm, for children aged 0-12. The first workshop by artist Cressida will use everyday recycled items to create and invent the participant's own crazy colourful instruments, (skiffle boards & cigar box guitars are early examples of recycled instruments). In the second workshop they'll then take part in a fun song-writing session with Riona Hartman. Once the instruments are made and their songs are complete, they will perform as a big band for parents on Market Square to mark the end of this fun-filled day of musical exploration. All materials will be supplied. Suitable for ages 0-12, places are limited so booking is essential.

Beyond the Horizon - Irish Pink Floyd Tribute at Mermaid

Mermaid Arts Centre, Saturday 1st July, 8pm, €30 full price

This dedicated tribute Pink Floyd tribute features stunning vocals, musicianship and an amazing Light/Laser Show (Please note that there will be Strobe lighting throughout).

This highly regarded Irish Pink Floyd Tribute is the Show Pink Floyd fans tell their friends about. "My first time attending 'Beyond the Horizon' will most definitely not be the last," said one. "if your into Pink Floyd this is as close as you'll get. For nearly three hours they recreated some iconic pieces played impeccably. Every song was excellent however for me highlights of the evening were 'Great gig in the sky' with stunning vocals by one of the backing singers ... and 'Comfortably Numb' again fantastic vocals and the guitar solo to exit was simply mesmerising rightly receiving a standing ovation! But don't get me wrong every member of the band was brilliant! The Drummer who is also the main vocalist deserves special mention his setup in recreating 'the sound' was just something else."



Yarn storytelling in Bray Town Hall

Join this relaxed storytelling circle with guest teller, Diarmuid Ó Drisceoil.

"Diarmuid will launch our monthly storytelling story circle and then open to the floor. No pressure to tell - listeners welcome!," Mermaid Arts Centre says. "At the Story Circle we are celebrating the oral traditional of storytelling and ask that contributions are not read."

The Yarn Story Circle will take place on the first Wednesday of the month (switched from the first Tuesday).

Venue: Upstairs in Bray Town Hall (enter by the door opposite the Credit Union)

Diarmuid Ó Drisceoil is a retired teacher, a writer, a storyteller, and TV personality. He grew up in a bilingual home speaking English and Irish, and enjoyed listening to stories from his family. He is the author of four books. Diarmuid likes to combine, mix and match stories to create entirely unique tales, often drawing from foreign material such as Italian folklore.

Ages: Adults (14+)



Diarmuid Ó Drisceoil

Unsinkable

15 Official Selections / 8 Countries / 5 Awards

Thursday 22nd June, 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets €10 and available at www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550 to book.

The story of Alan Corcoran's unprecedented 500-kilometre sea swim from Antrim to Waterford for charity has all the hallmarks of a fascinating documentary.

With the stunning backdrop of Northern Ireland and Ireland's wild coastline, the story tells the succession of challenges faced during such a monumental undertaking. Raising €10,000 for cancer and stroke charities in memory of his dad, it's a film that explores a person's journey through grief, using the swimming project to channel negative emotions into a meaningful, hopeful, inspiring adventure.

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

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



Greystones man is the face of MS Day Campaign

RECRUITMENT



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form a panel from which future permanent and temporary vacancies may be filled:

• PART-TIME SCHOOL WARDEN & SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL WARDENS (GREYSTONES & BLESSINGTON)

Salary: €46.64 (daily rate)

REF: 27/2023

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

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF
COMPLETED APPLICATIONS IS 12 NOON ON
THURSDAY 29TH JUNE, 2023 SHARP.

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

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Lorraine Gallagher, Director Of Services,
Enterprise & Corporate Services,
Wicklow County Council,
County Buildings,
Wicklow.

Phone: 0404 20159

Fax: 0404 20112

e-mail: recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie

Mark Mitchell is a proud Wicklow man living with multiple sclerosis since 2000 and was chosen as one of the 'faces' for MS Ireland's World MS Day campaign last week.

The theme of the 'Faces of MS' exhibition featuring Mark Mitchell from Wicklow in partnership with Novartis is to highlight and challenge the perceptions of what people living with MS look like and are capable of.

Mark Mitchell is a 66 year old living in Greystones. He is father to four children, Laura, Emma, Brian and John, and husband to Ros. Mark has experienced a range of MS symptoms over the years such as ongoing fatigue, spasms in legs, speech and walking difficulties etc, and has overcome numerous challenges.

Mark uses a communication device called a Lightwriter to communicate with and receives physiotherapy twice weekly to aid his walking and mobility. Mark is has a positive outlook. He is a keen writer, writing for the MS Writers Group, an avid music fan, thrives on fundraising for his local branch - MS East Wicklow Branch, plays bridge four times a week. He has been involved with MS Ireland for numerous years and is a great supporter of our advocacy activities. He served on the board of MS Ireland and has been chair of his local branch for several years.

MS Ireland is commemorating World MS Day with an exhibition of portraits of eight members of the MS community as part of MS Ireland's schedule of events marking the international MS awareness week all over Ireland.

Multiple Sclerosis is different for each person impacted by it.

They experience different symptoms, with different degrees of severity for different amounts of time. There is no one way to 'have' MS, there is no one way to live with MS. The aim of the exhibition is to showcase a range of experiences so people will better understand that MS is a very individual condition.

Ava Battles, Chief Executive of MS Ireland commented: "There is no singular experience of MS, the journey is unique to each individual. Our community has seen huge developments in terms of treatments and therapies over the past three decades but we still have hurdles to overcome. This World MS Day we want to challenge misconceptions around MS and redefine the face of MS in public perception by shining a spotlight on the full and varied lives of those who live with it."

Caitriona Walsh, Managing Director



Mark Mitchell

Novartis Ireland said: "World MS Day 2023 is particularly significant as it marks almost thirty years of scientific developments and progress in the field of MS in Ireland. Over the past three decades thousands of people's lives have been impacted by the developments in treatments, therapies and

groundbreaking research and development that have changed the face of MS. At Novartis we are dedicated to harnessing the power of scientific research and development to ensure that the progress continues for many years to come and that we continue to support people living with MS in Ireland and

worldwide."

MS Ireland is holding events and activities to raise awareness on World MS Day through its great network of local branches and regional offices throughout Ireland with all details on ms-society.ie/world-ms-day-2023



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Robert and Sylvia Kinsella seeks permission for works to existing main house, including an attic conversion, with new rooflights and 1st floor windows to the front and rear of house, and new glazing to ground floor of the house to accommodate a re-working of the internal plans. Also to include a conversion of the existing garage to office space with new glazing, rooflight and entrance door. All works to house to fall within the existing building ie. no new extension. Development also to include removal of a small portion of the front garden wall to accommodate a new larger driveway. Proposed works at 2 Mountain View, Greystones, 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.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form a panel from which future permanent and temporary vacancies may be filled

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REF: 32/2023

• ASSISTANT PLANNER

Salary: €42,978 – €67,237 per annum
(includes 2nd LSI)

REF: 33/2023

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

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF
COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON
ON THURSDAY 13TH JULY, 2023 SHARP

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

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Lorraine Gallagher, Director Of Services,
Enterprise & Corporate Services,
Wicklow County Council,
County Buildings,
Wicklow.

Phone: 0404 20159

Fax: 0404 20112

e-mail: recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Declan Kelly seeks planning permission for: Proposed Alterations to the existing roof profile including the creation of a gable wall to the side elevation and the introduction of roof lights to the front along with the construction of a new dormer roof space to the rear of the property at 81 Charlesland Grove, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. A63RH31 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

We Stephen Doherty and Neasa Hayes intend to apply for Permission for the conversion of existing attic into walk-in storage space and home office including new internal stairs, gable window, roof lights to front and all associated ancillary works at No. 50 Glenheron View, Greystones. 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

Mark Scoyne seeks Planning permission for the construction of a new 1st storey extension over existing ground floor extension at 7 The Park, Blessington Abbey, Blessington, 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

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 and all ancillary works and services. 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.

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Wicklow company wins at National Enterprise Awards

WHC Labs, who are supported by Wicklow Local Enterprise Office and based in Newcastle, were winners at this year's National Enterprise Awards.

The awards, which took place in the Round Room in the Mansion House in Dublin, were in their 23rd year and are run annually by the Local Enterprise Offices.

Wicklow based Company, WHC Labs, who took home the Innovation Award, are a biotechnology business, focused on yeast fermentation. The team are experts in the brewing and distilling industry, using next-generation methods to grow yeast and bacteria, with an R & D Lab that is home to industry-leading equipment.

Announcing the award winners at the Mansion House, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Simon Coveney said: "The National Enterprise Awards are the highlight of the small business and enterprise calendar. Year on year the diversity of

businesses and the standard of companies that are coming through the process is getting stronger."

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Tommy Annesley, congratulated Tony O'Kane and Philip Woodnutt of WHC Labs, saying: "The company is at the forefront of innovation in the brewing sector which is growing and vibrant in County Wicklow. With their unique range of services and products on offer, coupled with their strategic growth ambition, winning the Innovation Award this year is no surprise."

Speaking after the awards ceremony, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Emer O'Gorman, stated: "WHC Labs is a great success story, operating in a unique biotechnology sector and providing highly skilled jobs based in Newcastle. Everyone in County Wicklow is delighted with their success in winning the Innovation Award in the 2023 National Enterprise Awards and we look forward to following their successes into the future."

Head of Enterprise at Wicklow LEO, Vibeke Delahunt, joined with the Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive in congratulating the company on its ability to conceive, develop and deliver new innovative products and services to its customers. "Every year we are really impressed by the quality of the business that come to the LEO for support and the innovation we see coming through their business ideas. We are very excited for what the

future holds for WHC Labs and we wish them continued success with growing their business."

Wicklow based company Aqualicence, supported by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, was last year's overall winner. Headed up by former Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE) Finalist Kate Dempsey, Aqualicence has positioned itself at the forefront of planning and project delivery in the offshore renewable energy sector.

Several other companies won across a range of categories at the Awards, which were established by the Local Enterprise Offices to celebrate the impact and quality of small businesses across the country.

This year's winners share a €50,000 investment fund and eight regional winners were also announced on the night.

The National Enterprise Awards are one of a number of initiatives that the Local Enterprise Offices run, to foster entrepreneurship across the country. Others include Local Enterprise Week, the Student Enterprise Programme, National Women's Enterprise Day and Local Enterprise Show-case. The Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities are funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland. Established in 2014, the Local Enterprise Offices are the essential resource for any entrepreneur looking to start a business or any small business that is looking for support or advice to help them



Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, Wicklow LEO; Tony O'Kane and Philip Woodnutt, WHC Labs; Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council and Lorraine Gallagher, Director of Services Wicklow County Council, pictured at the 2023 National Enterprise Awards

grow. Since their inception eight years ago, the Local Enterprise Offices have helped create over 25,000 jobs across the country. The LEOs work with thousands of client companies across Ireland in a diverse range of sectors offering mentoring, training, expert advice and financial supports to small businesses.

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. D.W.

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